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COVENE

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College dips into students' fund

Administrators have taken \$264,000 from student activity fees to cover college staff salaries

by Kevin Connor

For the past three years there has been a hushed controversy between student representatives and college administrators on the Council of Student Affairs (CSA) over the allocation of \$264,000 of student activity fees.

Among other responsibilities, CSA is the governing body over SAC and the Students' Athletic Association. CSA budget expense statements starting in the 1989/90 year, show a portion of activity fees are being spent on salaries for full-time college staff.

Rick Bendera, director of Student Life, said, "that (Vice-President of Education and Faculty Services) Roy Giroux's area was in financial problems and he had to look for resourcing of his area. What he did was take a portion of activity fees to cover off salaries."

The money was taken from the athletics division, which is under the jurisdiction of the CSA.

This contradicts the Ministry of Colleges and Universities' Guidelines for Governors' which states: "Each board (of Governors) member should become familiar with the structure and operation of student government. The annual

activity fee is the prerogative of the student council. Neither the board nor the college staff is entitled to dictate how student council funds are to be spent."

Tania Mills was the 1989/90 SAC President when a consulting fee first appeared in the CSA's budget for the Athletic Department. Mills said, "I remember the scandal with the budget, we tried to stop it. Unfortunately the power of students is only so strong and the administration does dictate how the CSA can spend its money. It's not the students' responsibility to relieve the college of its financial problems and it shouldn't still be happening because in my year it was to be a one-shot deal."

The next year the consulting fee again appeared in the athletics budget. Student representatives were given the option of absorbing the costs of salaries or having the hockey team cut.

Lee Rammage, 1990/91 SAC president and a current Board of Governors (BOG) member said, "We felt threatened and didn't want to be responsible for the cutting of the hockey team so we paid the salaries."

Later that year, college administration cancelled the hockey program for financial reasons.

Brett Honsinger, the current SAC president, said, "Giroux ... pushed it through. He had no business getting his hand in it. He stuck to his guns and put the money into the pot for full-time salaries."

In an interview, Giroux said, "Students should share some of the costs of managing activities." He said activity fees from CSA which are directed to the Athletics Department were to be used to hire students in the athletic area. "That's the way the plan was intended to operate," he said.

John Sutton, director of Financial Operations, said, "Rather than have student government hire employees to run their programs we have made an agreement with the CSA that they will provide us with a certain amount of money that helps us administer the athletics area."

In one case, budgets for CSA show \$22,000 a year is being collected for an Associate Director of Student Affairs and Development, a position which has not existed for three years.

Honsinger said, "We don't know where that money is going but it's obviously being pushed

into other areas which have not been approved."

College President Robert Gordon said, "I haven't the faintest idea what's happening. I haven't looked at the CSA's budget this year so I don't know why the salary is still in effect, but I assure you we are fully audited. I presume the money is being spent responsibly, in ways that would benefit the students."

When asked if the salaries were being masked from BOG in CSA's budget, Gordon said they were not.

Rammage said Gordon is the only contact to BOG, as far as the CSA is concerned, and he can use his own discretion in what he tells other members.

David Murray, BOG chair, said that he had no memory of student activity fees paying for college salaries.

Gordon said Murray hasn't been around long enough to understand the nuances.

David Scott, special policy assistant to the Minister of Colleges and Universities said, "If funds are earmarked for a position that doesn't exist then that is an impropriety of funds. The ministry's policy is to rely on BOG to

ferret out and follow up these allegations. As colleges are ministry agencies we are ultimately responsible to step in if a successful conclusion is not met."

The CSA is made up of six student representatives and six college administrators. The position of chairperson for the CSA alternates each year between students and administrators. Chairpersons do not vote. Students have always voted against the issue and administration has always voted for it.

Murray said, "I have difficulty with the fact 12 people sit on the board that deals with the allocation of the money. If people feel strongly opposed to something then they should vote negatively. I think you have to stand up and be accounted for how you feel about an issue."

A survey of Ontario colleges showed Humber is the only college where administrators have voting memberships on student boards.

Drew Nameth, director of Financial Services, College Affairs Branch, said, "I would suggest the CSA look at the structure of their board. I would have some concern if there is any coercion but I'm not aware of any complaints over the nature of their relationship."

Lakeshore fitness fanatics!



PHOTOS BY SASHA PAUL SABGA

Frolicking at the Fair—Lacrosse and karate were a couple of the alternative sporting demonstrations at Lakeshore's Second Annual Sport and Fitness Fair, held on March 11.

HITTING THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Nominees for SAC begin the election race ... see page 3

COMPUTERS ARE HUMAN

Expecting perfection from imperfect machines ... see page 5

THE LAWNMOWER MAN

Cutting into a new reality ... see page 9

SPORTS WORLD HAS OWN ECONOMY

Recession hasn't hit salaries of athletes ... see page 11

Reform policies meet with criticism

by Chris Vernon

Students should be given more control of spending on education, said Reg Gosse, Ontario chair of the Reform Party of Canada.

About 40 people arrived at the Lecture Theatre Monday to listen to his hour-and-a-half political message which focussed on the party's mandate as it pertains to the younger generation. "The party won't be complete without youth," he said.

Gosse laid down the party's proposals for post-secondary education which caused an intense debate in the half-hour question period that followed.

According to Gosse, the Reform Party is studying a policy which may see doing away with the current way in which post-secondary institutions are funded by government.

"We would like to introduce a voucher system for students. Instead of giving money to various levels of government, we'd give it directly to the students through a voucher," said Gosse.

Under the plan, post-secondary

institutions would have to give better service to students because the students would be controlling where the money is spent.

Students can spend the grant only on higher education in Canada. The idea, entitled "Advanced Education Voucher," will force colleges and universities to compete for students. "Students, it seems to me, will become highly desirable to institutions when they bring with them not only their tuitions of \$2,000 or more, but also vouchers worth another \$3,000," he said.

But the proposal drew criticism from the audience who felt that some institutions would then be under-funded because some don't get the same number of students as others.

The students also questioned Gosse about the party's other political mandates and the issue of racism. Gosse went on the defensive when questioned about allegations that the Reform Party was racist.

"The media is partly to blame for these charges. The national media looks for scandal, so they concentrate on a few radicals."

According to Gosse, the Reform Party is growing in popularity which "attracts some radicals who want to be part of something that is successful," said Gosse.

Recently, the Reform Party revoked the memberships of five people who belonged to the Heritage Front, a white supremacist organization.

"Five people out of 110,000 members. It's absurd to call us racist because there are Jewish people in our organization. Blacks, Chinese, women — all are part of our party," said Gosse.

He also mentioned the Reform Party's platform on immigration which would remove the current quota system replace it with a skills quota.

"Instead of setting numbers on how many people we let into Canada, we believe that the economy and the demand for skills dictate our immigration standards."

Gosse said the plan would not eliminate people from third-world countries. "There are some fine universities in India, and South Africa," he said.



Reg Gosse

PHOTO BY CHRIS VERNON

Applications up a third

by Sean O'Connell

Humber has seen a dramatic 36 per cent increase in student applications this year and questions persist as to whether the college can meet the demand.

Richard Hook, vice-president of Instruction, says this figure will continue to rise. Since this year's budget is up only three per cent, he believes it is imperative the college responds to "growth issues."

He addressed these concerns while presenting his Winter Semester Enrolment Report to the Board of Governors last Monday night.

Hook said North campus "can not take in any more students at this point." He said growth will have to focus on the Lakeshore campus, and weekend and part-time activities. "We do not have additional space," stressed Hook.

Due to this year's "huge increase" in applications, the college will "make a determination on each applicant as soon as possible." Hook also said attempts will

be made to "approve, if there's space, all of the students who meet our requirements on the deadline date."

Even so, Hook said the reality is that "students are being let down."

A shortage of jobs due to the sluggish economy is one reason for this year's record number of applications. Hook's research indicates, however, that other colleges in Metro have experienced only about a 20 per cent increase in student applications.

"I'm surprised when I see the relationship to other institutions," he said. He attributes Humber's popularity to its unique programs.

"It's quality in programming that makes the difference," said Hook. He added that Humber is concentrating more on "specialty" programs as opposed to "commodity" programs. (Commodity programs are those that every college offers.)

Hook said programs offered in partnerships with employers are particularly popular, adding that

there are "big bucks coming from industry."

Marlene Roseblade is all too familiar with Humber's booming application rate. She works for Humber Inquiry answering calls from prospective students.

"The phones never stop," said Roseblade. "It's really, really busy." Roseblade added that she sometimes answers up to 100 inquiries an hour.

As of March 10, the Registrar's Office had processed just under 17,000 freshman applications. Associate Registrar Barry Hemmerling said the only choice was to increase part-time staff to pick up some of the workload.

"We don't have the down times anymore," he said. The rush of applications has created "one big peak" of continuous work.

Hemmerling's objective is "to get the offer to students as timely as possible." He agrees that returning to school is a reaction to the acute downturn in the economy. "You do need to acquire more education to survive in the work force."

6-month grace on interest charges gone

by James Cullin

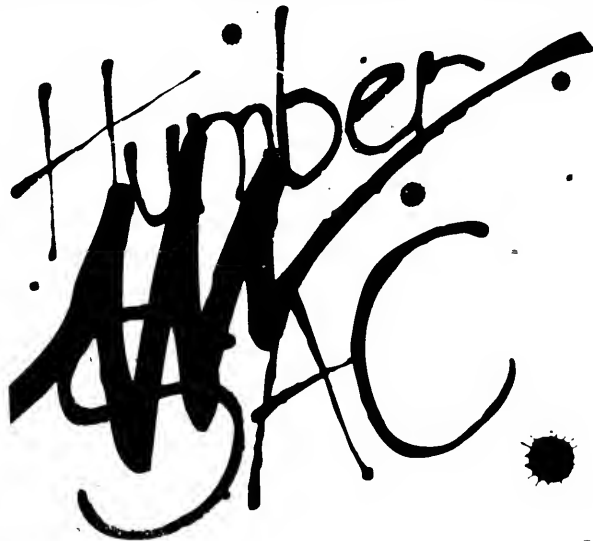
Students who receive Canada Student Loans this fall will be charged interest starting the day they leave school, not six months later as in previous years.

However, students will still be given a six-month grace period after graduating before their first payment is due.

The change was announced by Finance Minister Don Mazankowski during the budget he delivered Feb. 18.

Pat Scrase, Humber's manager of Financial Aid, said the additional interest charges could cost students as much as \$160. She said the estimate is for a student getting a loan of \$3,675 — the maximum any student can receive in one year.

The changes do not affect Ontario Student Loans, Scrase said.



TONIGHT'S PUB!
DON'T BLOW CHUNKS EH!
NO WAY ... WAY!!
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WAYNE'S
WORLD PUB

STUDENTS \$2 **GUESTS \$4**
DOORS OPEN 8 P.M. **I.D. REQUIRED**

TUESDAY, MARCH 24
It's Movie Time with
"DIE HARD"

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p.m.

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the experts that SAC has hired
for you.

for more info come to the
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PHOTO BY JAMES CULLIN

Lakeshore volunteers — (l to r) Thelma Martin — Executive Director of Volunteers Etobicoke, John Liphardt — Lakeshore Dean, Beverly Burke — Volunteer Centre Co-ordinator, and Frank Cappadocia — Students' Association Council President, were all smiles at the official opening of the Volunteer Centre at Lakeshore. So far, the centre has placed 32 students with various volunteer organizations.

ELECTIONS

Residence Life

by Don Jackson

Residence students will be electing a new executive for the Residence Life Advisory Council.

This election will be the first of its kind in Residence.

Polling centres are open from noon to 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 18 and from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, March 19 on the main floor of both residence buildings.

In her bid for Residence Life President, Deborah Eveson is challenging the incumbent Ryan Langlois who was appointed by last year's program co-ordinator, Mike Wixson.

"I feel very successful about it," said Langlois. "(Residence Life) Council's held together pretty well considering we didn't have a Constitution or a mandate. At the beginning of the year, we didn't even have a program director."

The incumbent said he's running for re-election because he wants "to continue to be more involved (in Residence)"

Langlois wants to secure more funds for Residence Life activities citing this year's budget of \$3,000. "I'm working right now with the CSA (Council of Student Affairs) to get Residence Life part of the incorporated body that the North SAC (Students' Association Council), SAC Lakeshore and the SAA (Students' Athletic Association) belong to. That

way, we can get a bigger budget so that we can do more events."

Langlois also said now that Residence Life is established, next year's orientation will be better organized.

The other candidate, Deborah Eveson said, "My main reason (to run) is I want first-year students coming into Residence to have a good time."

Eveson said residence has become "cliquey" and she wants to promote more spirit. "The whole (Residence Life) Council has had a lot of good ideas, but they haven't been executed properly."

Vice-Presidential candidate, Tammy Gonyou, is running her campaign in co-operation with Eveson, and both candidates said if one is defeated, the other would work behind the scenes as an advisor.

Gonyou wants "a lot more activities where you're getting people together, involved and meeting a lot more people."

Perry Smith, who is running against Gonyou, declared his candidacy and added, "In high school, I ran for vice-president ... so I'm into politics."

Smith would also like to see more activities around Residence. "Nothing really concerns me at this point. My election campaign's not really based on any specific issue; it's geared towards having more fun."

Students who wish to vote are asked to bring their student card to the polling station for identification.

Students' Association Council

by Dean J. Brown

Money was the hot topic at the All Candidates forum on Tuesday, as students grilled five candidates vying for executive positions on the Students' Association Council (SAC).

Some students expressed anger over the spending of \$11,000 on the Crash Test Dummies during Winter Madness Week, while others supported the decision but questioned future spending.

Both David Greenlaw and Dennis Hancock, who are competing for the vice-presidency, supported SAC's spending decision "I agree that \$25,000 is a bit much ... but I think students got a good bang for their buck," said Greenlaw. "I believe that students should have the money given back to them and I think this was a great way to do it," said Hancock.

Geoff Ball, who is running for vice-president on a combined ticket with David Thompson for presidency, hotly disagreed. "Instead of spending that \$25,000 on just Winter Madness, I want to see lower food prices here at the college and I will work to see that it happens."

Michelle Penny, running for president, agrees that SAC should work for lower food prices but thought that the money was reasonably spent.

Thompson explained "We only have a certain amount of time to spend the students money before Administration gets its hands on it and I think that this is the driving force behind some of the spending deci-

Presidential candidates



David Thompson
Health Sciences
Representative
SAC (1991-1992)

Believes there should be more smoking areas in the college. Wants to get rid of all secret in-camera SAC meetings. Will set up better communication within SAC, especially committees. Will push the administration to use profits raised from parking fees to repair potholes in the parking areas.



Michelle Penny
Director of Entertainment for
Thursday night
programming at
Caps, (1991-1992)

Wants to have more money spent on security lighting throughout the school. Would like more recycling done in the college. Wants lower food prices in such places as Kites and Caps. Wants to ensure that present smoking areas stay available to students.

Vice-presidential candidates



David Greenlaw
Director of Film,
Video, Satellite
Programming for
SAC, (1991-1992)

Students expressed their anger over the present parking problems such as potholes and

Will push for recycling bins to be placed throughout the school for newspapers such as Coven and Eye. Wishes to have new parking spaces available for students. Promises to be active in raising school spirit.



Geoff Ball
Technology Representative SAC,
(1990-1991)

Plans to have council meetings throughout the college. Wants to continue support of Residence Life Council. Wishes to increase campus safety. Will push for lower food prices in the college.



Dennis Hancock
Director of Excursion Program-
ming for SAC,
(1991-1992)

Promises to have birth control pills made available to students under the health plan. Will push for parking rates that are as low as possible. Through MUCC will try to get a discounted college student rate for the TTC.

high prices. All of the candidates agreed and said that SAC should work with the administration to solve the problems.

Continuing Ed courses face Future Directions

by Ricardo Brathwaite

With the recession raging on, Humber College is looking to improve Continuing Education.

Future Directions for Continuing Education, a report issued by a select Continuing Education (CE) sub-committee, made recommendations toward improving the department.

The December 1991 report is a detailed study into Humber's CE programs outlining three main elements of CE. "The elements for improved Continuing Education are product, marketing, and customer service," said Dave Haisell, chair of Information Systems and Accounting.

The product portion deals with making sure programs are current and meet marketing needs.

Marketing is the way the college's CE is sold, and customer service is the relationship between the students and the administration.

Continuing Education generates more than \$10 million in grant and tuition fees to the college's annual budget, the report shows.

"A lot of these students are students we want to keep," said Kathryn Barber, chair of Continuing Education. "One way to keep them is to service their needs."

A main recommendation made by the report is to fully utilize the facilities. During the week, the college is full which means possibly holding classes on weekends. "We are thinking about Friday evenings and Saturdays, and possibly Sundays to take advantage of some of the facilities and resources we have available," said Haisell.

The influx of CE students is

caused partly by the recession. Courses which are fully or partially funded by private industry or government also rise during a recession. The rate is the highest among Toronto colleges. "Seneca may be getting something like four per cent (more CE students)," said Barber. "It shows we are doing something right."

What the college is doing right is unclear to many in the sub-committee. "Other than the quality of instruction, the choice of programs, and the computer lab, there is little to draw students to Humber's York campus," said Mary Benedetti, CE manager at the York campus.

The course selection is another drawing card that gets Humber students. "One of the major things in Humber's favor is the close relationship between what is offered in the night and what is offered during the day," said Haisell.

"We are a career, adult student college," said Richard Hook, vice-president of Instruction. The average Humber student is over 21 and attends classes eight hours a week or less, he said.

Humber is trying to increase its appeal through marketing its courses. The main marketing tool is Inroads, a guide available to all students who attend CE. "Except for Centennial, Humber distributes the least amount of CE catalogues," said Barber. Since keeping students is the key to Humber's success, the college will increase the production of Inroads.

All of the proposed recommendations will have to get the Board of Governors' approval before any can become college policy.

Man sought in attack

by Jennifer Muir

A young woman was assaulted recently at the North campus.

Detective Richard Awde of Metro's 23 Division, said Monday the young woman was at the college to attend pub night with a friend who is a student at Humber.

He said the woman was not aware that Caps was closed during spring break.

At 9:30 p.m., the woman asked the assailant for directions to a washroom as he was coming down the hall. When she came out of the washroom near the registration office, he was waiting for her, Awde said.

"He grabbed her waist and she pushed him away. He then struck her on the cheek," Awde said.

The woman, who is not a Humber student, ran down the hall and out to the parking lot. Parking and security staff were notified and the police were called.

Awde said there were no reported witnesses when the attack occurred.

John Hooiveld, director of Outside Services,

said Friday that the security schedule did not change during Reading Week and the Humber escort service was in operation. Night school classes also ran through the spring break.

Detective Awde said the assailant was reported to have been carrying books when he was coming down the hall. Metro police have received no calls about the suspect.

A description of the man was provided in the March 6 College Communique newsletter. He is male, South Asian, between 5 feet 11 inches and six feet, slim build, clean shaven, brown eyes, black hair, and approximately 21 to 23 years of age.

He was dressed in a white shirt with a button-down collar, faded blue jeans, white running shoes, and was carrying a dark coat over his shoulder.

If someone fitting this description is observed on campus, please notify Security at ext. 4077 or Metro Police at 324-2222.

This is the second reported assault at the North campus this academic year. The first occurred in November when a student was passing by the grounds east of the school on her way to work.

Improve safety, college told

by Sasha Paul Sabga

Humber has nothing to lose if it improves overall safety, said the college's Special Needs Director, David Thompson.

A conference on campus safety held recently in Ottawa, focused on ways to improve the overall safety on college campuses.

Issues raised during the meeting included walk-home programs and general safety audits, such as building safety, lighting, and locating possible assault sites.

Thompson said in order for there to be a successful implementation of safety programs at Humber, there has to be a representation of different concerns from every student group including women, the

disabled and ethnic groups.

"What might be deemed safe for one person might not be considered safe for another," Thompson said.

"What we need is for students to express their concerns as to what they feel constitutes a safe college. I would like to see a more coordinated effort by the school community."

So far Humber has introduced programs such as Humber Campus Watch and a Residence Walk-Home program. The Students' Association Council has made a commitment to give an undisclosed amount of money for safety programs.

According to Loretta McKenzie, co-ordinator for Residence Walk, the program has had very positive

feedback. At present, the program has 40 volunteers who are equipped with picture identification, flashlights and reflective arm bands. The volunteers are on call seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

"I'm really proud of the people who have volunteered. They are really concerned and are helping other residents to be comfortable and safe," said Mackenzie.

According to Thompson, the college has everything to gain with improving overall safety. Benefits include a reduction in college insurance premiums by reducing the amount of sexual assaults, vandalism and thefts that occur throughout the campuses on a regular basis.

EDITORIAL

Coven

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Reform schools

If the Reform Party has its way, post-secondary education would be subject to the dictates of Adam Smith's invisible hand of the free market.

Reg Gosse, the Ontario chairman of the Reform Party told Humber students Monday that they're considering a policy proposal that would bypass the provincial governments in the funding of post-secondary education by placing it in the hands of students.

Under their scheme, anyone who plans to attend a college or university would receive an Advanced Educational Voucher, worth approximately \$3,000, from the federal government. The student would give the voucher to the school of choice along with their tuition when they enrolled. The school would then cash in the vouchers with Ottawa.

The idea of students being able to exercise financial clout through directly funding the school of their choice may at first glance look very appealing. After all, colleges and universities, often viewed as bureaucratic mazes by many students, would be quick to cater to the whims of its clientele if they are footing the bill.

But there's another agenda at work here.

What the Reform Party is proposing is, in effect, the de-facto privatization of post-secondary education. The federal government would become a clearing house for the vouchers and colleges and universities would be in a dog fight for students.

This should raise a few eyebrows. Schools, in their eagerness to attract students to bankroll the year, could easily lose sight of the purpose of education in favor of the financial bottom line. The scenario could well be one of schools skimping on academic standards and relying on get rich quick schemes to stuff classrooms full of voucher holders. Furthermore, what would happen to the departments which can't attract large numbers of students? Would they go to the wall to make way for the larger more popular cash cows?

There is nothing wrong with competition — it can sometimes bring out innovation in a person or group. But it has its place and it's not in training and educating which requires a longer vision than the marketplace will allow.

The Reformers have been criticized before for not elaborating and following through on what the consequences of their proposals would be and it seems this is the situation again.

Let the buyer beware.

Letters to the Editor

It was much to my dismay when I opened my copy of *Coven* (Feb. 27) to find a review of the movie *Wayne's World* instead of a review of (Theatre Humber's production of) *Top Girls*, especially after you printed my (previous) letter with the headline "Credit due". You wrote a half page review of the (movie), but not even a blurb about *Top Girls*.

I am disappointed that our quality season is ignored and *Wayne's World* and other (events unrelated to Humber) are highlighted repeatedly. I am not judging the movie; I am judging the newspaper.

How can you miss a mainstage? Is it really that difficult to come to a Theatre Humber production? Where are your priorities?

Now, 80 per cent of the season is over. You have reviewed half of the (shows) so far. I do believe by Humber's marking standards that 60 per cent is a passing grade. You figure out the math.

I am beginning to think the only way to get our performances reviewed is to have the play performed outside the door of *Coven's* newsroom.

A review of the final mainstage *Our Town* would prove we are not second-class citizens or ghosts. Maybe I shouldn't have said that, because you review second-class citizens and ghosts.

Marc Morgenstern
3rd year
Performance

see also letter page 5



Sunny Puri
1st year
Computer Engineering

"It's not good. But, if they have to use it to pay some of the staff, then they have to. It won't take away anything from the students."

BACK TALK



Lori Beazer
1st year
Public Relations

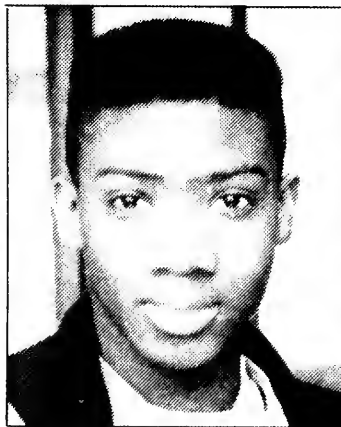
"If giving them the money benefits the school, then I don't see a problem."

"How do you feel about the college using student activity fees to pay the salaries of some staff?"



Ting Chan
2nd year
Fashion Arts

"The money should go to students. It should go to our activities."



Maurice Robinson
1st year
General Arts and Science

"Student activity fees should go to students, not staff. The school is throwing away money to everyone."



Josh Dupuis
1st year
Electronics

"I think it's wrong. Money should go to the students not staff. We pay enough tuition to cover that (salaries)."

OPINION

Questioning authority

by Monique Taylor

Men and women of all colors and nationalities fill the classrooms of Humber College. Unfortunately, not all of the learning materials used in the classrooms reflect Humber's multicultural and multi-racial student population.

After enrolling in Crime and Punishment, a general education course, it was rather disappointing to discover the focus of the course is on four works of literature by white males. Three of the authors are American and the fourth is European. Why doesn't the course include literature by black writers or women? It might be construed that the philosophies, theologies, and writings of white men are the only ones worth studying.

The class is assigned a particular reading, with lectures and discussions regarding various issues to follow. So far, the course has covered *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett and Albert Camus' *The Outsider*. Class discussions on the books cover the author's portrayal of the conflict between society and the individual, and the morality of capital punishment, violence and crime in modern society.

Maybe the persons who designed the course didn't consider it necessary to include other perspectives on these issues. Or maybe it is time to completely revise and update the course content.

The 1992 Human Studies course outline clearly states the purpose of General Education: "The aim of General Education courses, besides broadening your perception, is to help keep you current with what is happening in the areas of Art, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Technology."

Although the outline promotes contemporary and current ideas, Crime and Punishment does not reflect this in its selection of reading materials.

Crime and Punishment is not a political course. Yet, the rise of blacks, women and other cultures in the West should be reflected when selecting books and learning materials for courses.

The Maltese Falcon, a detective novel, provides the class with an example of greed and crime. However, some passages are laced with the author's racist, sexist, and homophobic beliefs. *The Outsider* is a tale of one man's crucifixion

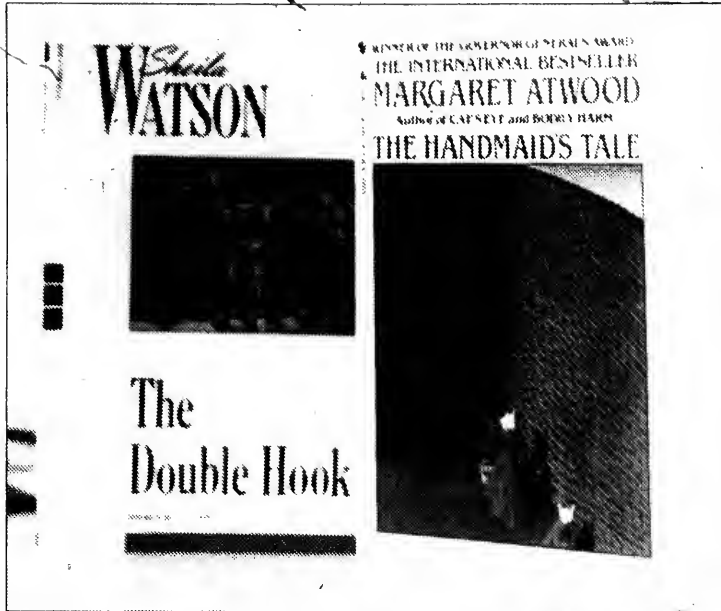


PHOTO BY MONIQUE TAYLOR

Other options — *The Double Hook* by Sheila Watson and *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood are two suggestions made for revamping the focus of the general education course, Crime and Punishment.

for holding morals different from mainstream society. The main character of this book is a white man.

Anthony Burgess' *Clockwork Orange* and *Hiroshima* by John Hersey are the next reading assignments. With bated breath I await the opportunity to study and discuss the writings of two more white men.

What are some of the reasons for selecting these books? It could be argued these are the classics, and therefore should be studied. Or, there aren't any books by people of color or women worth reading. However, good alternative texts do exist and neither of these arguments are sufficient reasons for the narrow selection of readings.

Death of The King's Horsemen by Wole Soyinka, a Nigerian Nobel Prize-winning author, *Native Son* by Richard Wright, *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and *Double Hook* by Sheila Watson, are examples of well-written books by authors who would help to fulfill the goals of General Education. I am not suggesting that these four pieces of literature replace the existing ones. What I do propose is substituting at least one of the present readings with a book written by a non-white

or female author.

Apparently the Human studies division has realized it is not meeting the needs of all their students through narrow course outlines of this sort.

"I would like to see more variety and diversity in the course as well. It is something the department is taking a look at this spring," said Pam Hanft, dean of Human Studies.

Aside from Crime and Punishment, the Human Studies Division offers five other English courses this semester: Caribbean Literature, Human Love, Humour In Literature, Literature: Contemporary Novels, and Tales of Terror. These courses include at least one piece of work by either a non-white or woman author. What happened to the Crime and Punishment course?

Literature is meant to provoke students to discuss intellectual, social and political ideas. Humber can provide Crime and Punishment with literature that reflects its diverse student population and the major changes modern society has undergone. It is a crime to ignore superb works of literature by people of color and women. It is punishment to continue to force total immersion in patriarchal European and Western literature.

letter

Get the facts on school fire safety

Your editorial (Feb. 27) was an interesting, albeit sophomoric piece about fire and life safety devices. You toss accusations at Residence "administration" for supposed injustices against students, without presenting a balanced perspective about the serious issues of fire and personal safety.

The editorial and front page article fail to report the number of fires, fire alarms and accidents which have occurred in Residence due to irresponsible smoking and cooking practices. Perhaps if you looked at the real and documented reasons for establishing and enforcing the policies we have, you might provide a more balanced view of the complexity of running a residence for 720 people.

All students were informed in writing, with weeks notice, about room inspections over the Christmas holiday period. During those

inspections, we found wide open windows, unlocked doors, disconnected smoke detectors and other safety and security problems. Will we be chastised by *Coven* in a future edition because we closed the windows, locked the doors and acted in order to protect the safety and property of residence students?

We are required by legislation to undertake an annual inspection of all heat and smoke detectors. Each student whose smoke detector was found to be disconnected was informed in writing and had the policy explained in writing.

You portray students as innocent victims of big, bad, "administration." You assailed us for "creating" an adversarial relationship within the community. Yet, the adversarial relationship was created by those individuals who chose to jeopardize the safety of

every other student by disconnecting safety devices.

This is not the first time inaccuracies, exaggerations or otherwise scandalous descriptions of "administrative" misdoings in the Residence have been reported in *Coven*. Perhaps *Coven* should attempt to pay greater attention to facts and research in their "news" and editorial pieces.

And, I might suggest that some heed (be) paid to the good news: the numerous positive, successful, fun and educational activities that happen in Residence daily. These activities are sponsored and promoted by the "administration" also.

Or is bad news not worthy of report when "administration" comes out in a favourable light?

Aina Saulite
Director, Student Residences

Computer errors

by Kim Cavanaugh

I was eating out recently when, at the end of the meal, the bill was presented to me. A bill resembling three others I'd received in the past few weeks, in that it contained several miscalculations.

Upon explaining this to the waitress, she smiled politely, told me the computer was "on the fritz" and promised to correct it.

Having looked at many examples of this phenomena, I came to the conclusion computers are carelessly trusted by computer users.

Last week, for example, Humber experienced several episodes of computer technology gone awry, but apparently there wasn't a single real person around willing to share the blame and the computers weren't talking.

According to Pauline McKinney, divisional services coordinator for the Health Sciences division, the entire department was forced to re-submit all its marks due to a problem with computing services. However, Computer Service employees said the problem is not with their department, but rather with incorrect data submitted by the Health Sciences Division.

This resulted in everything from failing students passing to passing students now failing. Even students no longer attending Humber were suddenly revived with A's.

Similarly, students calling Humber College were told by a defiant automated-recording that the school was closed, despite Administration having said otherwise.

Since the computer era began, problems like these have been common, and the extent to which they occur has occasionally been outrageous, or so the stories go.

It was alleged several years ago, that an American man living alone on an isolated hill, saw a convoy of trucks making their way toward his home. The trucks were carrying copies of *Time* magazine. There were a million of them, all addressed to him.

Closer to home, Centennial College recently learned their own lesson in computer mistrust. The word around their faculty these days is they took their Spring Break a week later than other colleges because they were terrified of their own computer system. It seems they were sticking around to make sure nothing else went wrong since last semester. Back then, their timetables were printed incorrectly — every single last one of them.

Meanwhile here at Humber, the Registered Nursing Assistant (RNA) Program has experienced its own episode of the computer nightmare.

All first-year students were given failing grades, some of them rumored to be undeserved.

More often than not, mistakes like these are (or should) be corrected by real people. In people's hands is where the responsibility should be. Nobody ever said it wasn't easier to blame IBM than RNA. After all, a computer is only as good as the person who uses it.

Defending the right to defend yourself

by Eddie Gordon

There's a big difference between defending yourself, your family or business and taking the law into your own hands.

That's the hot-case at hand in the 'news' with the shooting of a man at the North York Steeles Bakery by Metro Councillor Norm Gardner. The "politically correct" question of shooting in the act of self-defence is being equated with vigilantism. The question that has surfaced amounts to whether Gardner was justified or not.

Norm Gardner is not your "average-joe" who is merely acquainted with firearms. Nor is he your "Dirty Harry" stereotype.

Gardner, 53, a Metro Police Commissioner and Councillor is proficient with firearms.

A known gun collector, Gardner is a former president of the Metropolitan Revolver Club. He has also served in the Canadian Military Police and the Queen's Own Rifles reserve unit. It is true he knows how to use a gun effectively. However, was the use of one in this instance justified?

It's difficult to make a judgement of this scale unless you were in a similar position. In most cases people can walk away from a hostile situation. The fact is, when you're in such a situation how easy is it to recall or understand the concept of self-defence? No one is prepared or programmed to act rationally in an explosive situation.

In the Gardner case, he acted in self-defence, preserving himself and his workers. The fact that

Gardner used a gun is irrelevant.

Under provisions of Section 110 of the Criminal Code, Gardner and only 19 other individuals (police officers and ex-policemen) have the right to carry a concealed handgun. Unfortunately, too many people have criticized Gardner's actions, only because of the "gun element".

The fact that many people believe Gardner should step down from his position on the Police Services Board is based on the fear that his actions may encourage others to take the law into their own hands.

The alleged robber who was shot, was in fact threatening Gardner's life and one of his workers at the bakery. The question of whether the robber was armed has led to a police investigation of Gardner and the incident. Vigilantism — taking the law into your own hands — is an extreme method to justify a criminal action. A vigilante will attack someone who shoplifts, as well as one who threatens another's life. Someone who acts in self-defence preserves his/her life or somebody else such as an employee, friend or relative.

The fact that a gun was used in self-defence has raised controversy and has sensationalized the issue to the point of propaganda. Gardner, a firm believer in tighter gun control (Bill C80), now faces the possibility of being a scapegoat. People are seeing the gun and not the man behind it, blowing the issue out of proportion and blowing away a man dedicated to the people he serves.

Dumping on land near college irks owner

by Jennifer Payne

Threats of \$1,000 fines are not enough to keep people from illegally dumping garbage on undeveloped Humberline Boulevard, according to the property owner.

The area is cluttered with empty paint cans, carpet, cardboard boxes, window panes and furniture.

Murphy Hull, owner of the Humberline Boulevard land, said the culprits do not care if they ruin the area.

"They feel that they can get the property owner to clean it up," Hull said. "I guess they're not concerned about it because it's not their own property."

He said his company, Hallmark Development, has spent money putting up City of Etobicoke 'No

Dumping' signs only to have them knocked over or stolen.

Robert Zuech, project manager of Engineering for Greenpark Homes, the subdivision on the land, said it is very difficult to control the problem.

He said a security guard watches the area when possible, but the guard cannot patrol the entire development at once.

Zuech said he does not understand why people dump on the land. "I guess people don't want to spend time to dump stuff in the right places. It's all stuff normal garbage (trucks) would collect."

Janet Denham of Etobicoke's Sanitation Department said large items such as sofas can be collected if a pick-up is booked ahead of time. Etobicoke residents who want to bring garbage to the re-

gion's dump site are charged a fee for the trash depending on the quantity and the time it is brought.

Between 4 and 7 p.m., residents can bring up to 150 kilograms to the site free of charge. If the amount exceeds 150 kilograms, a \$2 fee is charged for each 11 kilograms more.

Elizabeth Brown, councillor for Etobicoke ward 11, said people might be dumping because of the high tipping fees charged on garbage. She said the charge on excessive amounts of garbage is creating this alternative problem of illegal dumping.

"We have put forward a written motion to the province calling for increased fines and adding forfeitures of the vehicles caught dumping material," said Brown.



Dumping ground

PHOTO BY JENNIFER PAYNE

Atwood to teach at North campus

by James Cullin

Margaret Atwood will be teaching at Humber this summer.

The acclaimed author will be in Residence at the North campus Aug. 8 to 16 as a faculty member with the newly created Humber School of Creative Writing.

The college is presenting the program in association with Greg Gatenby, artistic director of the Harbourfront Reading Series.

Gatenby said the Humber program will be different from other workshops because of its emphasis

on the business side of writing.

"There has been far too much emphasis in most creative writing schools on getting in touch with one's emotions and writing deeply about one's largest fears," he said.

Gatenby said he chose to work with Humber because of his long standing relationship with Joe Kertes, the college's marketing director and Ben Labovitch, an English teacher at the Lakeshore campus. He also said Humber "seems to be more on the ball than George Brown or the University of Toronto."

TTC prices anger students

by Stephanie Caley

The TTC fare increase of 18 per cent is the second this year and it has many Humber students angry.

For many students the TTC is the only means of transportation and the increase, which took effect on March 2, is an added financial burden.

No choice

"I don't have a choice but it is an extra \$10 (a month) that I have to spend," said Merle Francis, a Nursing student.

Jerry Young, a Radio Broadcast student said, "I think it is unfair to

students because the students are the ones who cannot afford it. I personally can't afford it but I don't have a choice."

Low Ridership

The fare increase is part of a plan by the TTC to recover a \$35-million revenue shortfall. Despite management's decision to forgo a salary increase in 1992, riders will also be faced with service reductions sometime in May, said Dan Maceluch, the TTC Media Coordinator. Although routes will not be eliminated, users will notice delays between buses and streetcars, Maceluch added.

The TTC has lost 109,000 daily riders since 1990. Maceluch said the decrease in ridership is primarily due to the recession — increased unemployment means fewer people are using the TTC.

Originally the TTC suggested to Metro Council that the Transit Improvement Fund be used as a stabilization fund to cover lean periods.

Metro funding frozen

According to Maceluch, Council objected, refusing to pay for shortfalls. Metro funding to the TTC has been frozen at 1991 levels.

INTERCULTURAL WEEK

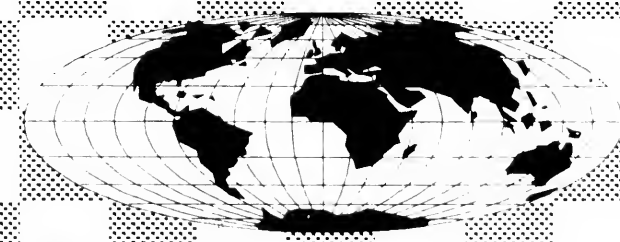
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Support Intercultural Week.
Visit displays on Tuesday, March 24th in the Intercultural Centre,
Wednesday, March 25th in the Concourse.

View films on Thursday, March 26th in the Intercultural Centre.

LIFESTYLE



PHOTO BY NATALIE VUJAKLIJIA

Praising the lord — Campus Advance leader, Dean Brown and group members meet every Wednesday to talk about and study the bible together. Campus Advance is a religious club which was granted formal recognition by SAC in January.

Students study bible

by Natalie Vujaklija

A self-described former alcoholic and drug dealer has found an inner-peace since joining the Toronto Church of Christ and he has brought that peace to Humber.

Dean Brown, a second-year Journalism student, joined the church almost three years ago, after suffering from alcoholism and severe bouts of depression.

After moving from New Brunswick and cutting all ties with minor drug connections and his old life, Brown was introduced to the Toronto Church of Christ through a friend, and went on to lead Humber College's division of the church called Campus Advance.

The group, which was made an official club in January by SAC, has approximately 15 members who read and study the bible together.

"We subscribe to a very basic Christianity," said Brown.

He said the group believes in following the Bible's teachings, in order to become better people.

"We need to obey it. It is the absolute standard," said group member Mary Castellano.

Moral fibre has deteriorated

Campus Advance is against abortion, pre-marital sex and homosexuality.

Brown said he believes the moral fibre of the religious world has deteriorated.

"Now we even have churches which support people being homosexual, yet the Bible itself says that homosexuality is a perversion. The New Testament literally comes out and says it is evil," said Brown.

Brown said group members do not believe homosexuals are evil. They just believe that homosexuals have to change their ways.

Campus Advance members come from various religious backgrounds, though most have converted to the Church of Christ.

The conversion process involves intense Biblical study, and when a minister deems readiness, a baptism takes place.

Group members said they think the church as had a very positive effect on their lives.

"It's been the greatest thing that's ever happened to me. I can have real friendships and I'm not afraid to be myself," said member April Jewell.

The Campus Advance co-ed meeting is led by Brown every Wednesday at 12:40 p.m. A women's meeting is led by Castellano every Thursday at 11:45 a.m.

Tree planting a new solution

by Paul Briggs

A Toronto-based environmental group is looking to Humber College for volunteers to help in its effort to limit the effects of global warming and the "greenhouse effect".

"The Really Effective Environmental Solution" (T.R.E.E.S.), wants to plant 60 million acres of hardwood and evergreen trees worldwide to reduce carbon dioxide accumulation in the atmosphere. The build-up of carbon dioxide contributes to the "greenhouse effect" by trapping heat in the atmosphere.

Lorraine Settle, national director of T.R.E.E.S., said every individual contributes to the build-up of carbon dioxide.

"Because of our lifestyle, the average person is responsible for releasing about a ton of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year," she said.

Settle said she believes planting trees is the logical next step in fighting the problem.

"One acre of reasonably mature trees can absorb one to one-and-a-quarter tons of carbon dioxide annually," said Settle. "Worldwide, we are emitting and excess of approximately 600 million tons of carbon dioxide annually. Our air, water and food supply are in danger due to the effects of the greenhouse gas accumulation on

global climate."

Settle said it is no coincidence that seven out of the last 11 years have been the warmest of this century.

T.R.E.E.S. is dependant upon donations and volunteer workers for the machinery and labor involved in planting the trees. They plan the first planting this spring on marginal agricultural land in Ontario.

The land to be used is privately owned farmland. A contract will be drawn up with the landowners to plant and nurture the trees.

Settle said the incentive for landowners is two-fold. The trees increase the value of the land and they replenish lost nutrients in the ground.

Settle said she doesn't expect any problems with government and industry over the use of the land or its claim, because of the obligation of the landowner and the existence of a legal contract.

T.R.E.E.S. members said the government can no longer be depended upon to "fix it for us." They also said they do not believe in the government's use of chemicals in the planting process.

"The government believes that you can't plant trees without chemicals, but nature proved it for a couple of million years," said Settle.

Humber Environmental Club President, Ynesz Geroly, said

planting is something the club would like to get into.

"I know how beneficial trees are," said Geroly. "I find that there is a lot of apathy within the government so it is up to the people to take it upon themselves."

Jeff Bond, forestry officer at Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources, defended the government's position.

"It's not a matter of apathy at all, it's a matter of economic reality," said Bond.

He also said using chemicals is a necessity. "As a means of cost efficiency, it's the only feasible option."

Bond described T.R.E.E.S.' plan of planting 60 million acres of trees as "a gargantuan project." He said it is possible to plant that many trees without chemicals only if there is a large labour force.

"One of our objectives is to bring together other tree planting organizations and set up a resource base," said Settle.

The planting for this spring has not yet been confirmed. T.R.E.E.S. is looking for volunteers to help with office work, fund-raising and tree-planting.

"I have a feeling that the younger generation is more enlightened about the environment," said Settle. "They think about it more."

Drivers fuel up for less at home with new gas system

by Jennifer Muir

Ontario drivers can now fuel their cars at home by using a device which hooks into the existing natural gas system.

The Fuel Maker was part of the Ontario Natural Gas Association's exhibit at the International Car Show to promote natural gas as a cleaner, less expensive alternative to fueling cars with regular gasoline.

The Fuel Maker "rents for about \$50 a month and your fuel cost is about 20 cents per litre," said Union Gas representative Doug Karr, who is the Natural Gas Vehicle Coordinator for South-western Ontario. "The gas goes towards your rental so as long as you are fueling at home enough, it pays for itself."

One drawback, however, is that it takes four to five hours to fill up a mid-size car. Also, a vehicle needs to be filled twice as often as a regular tank of gas.

Karr said there are about 30 public fueling stations around Ontario that are equipped with natural gas. At these facilities, it only take a few minutes to fill up.

"When you install natural gas to your vehicle you are buying it at 32 cents a litre at public stations where it is available," said Karr. "So if you've got gasoline running at 58 to 59 cents, unless gas wars are on, you are saving about 40 per cent on fuel costs along with the better en-

vironmental aspects."

To make the conversion less expensive, the federal government has been offering a \$500 grant for installing the Fuel Maker. Karr said the cost to convert a car to natural gas is about \$1,100 after the government grant. The provincial government is offering a \$1,000 rebate on the sales tax from the purchase of a new car fueled by natural gas.

Natural gas cars still have a regular gasoline system in them because they are dual-fuel.

"You flick a switch down and you are back on gasoline," Karr said. "Natural gas tanks hold a lot less and that is where the Fuel Maker comes in."

He explained that public fuel stations with natural gas are not always accessible so the regular gas tanks are needed.

Larry Hutzul, a Consumer's Gas sales representative for their natural gas vehicles, said the cost to convert a car to natural gas is not economical for people who drive less than 18,000 to 20,000 kilometres a year. To break even on the conversion a person would have to travel about 29,000 kilometers a year, he said.

But Hutzul said some people are converting because of the environment. Cars fueled with natural gas give off less carbon dioxide, monoxide, and other toxins, compared to gasoline.

Many cultures displayed at exposition

by Monique Taylor

Countries from around the world will display their heritage and culture in an exposition, March 25.

The exposition, which will bring the consulates of various countries to Humber, is being organized by Humber's International Students' Association (ISA). "So far we have nine definite countries. We are still awaiting word on some of the others," said Tameron Rogers, public relations officer for ISA.

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Germany, Guyana, Italy, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines will be represented. St. Vincent will probably attend, but this has not yet been confirmed, and Barbados and Pakistan have expressed interest, said Rogers.

Other consulates are interested in contributing to the exposition, but can not attend because of their size: "Some of the consulates are very small and have only one individual, so they don't have the staff to send," said Dalcyce Newby,

ISA advisor. In this case, the consulate will send the information, and a student will present the display.

Last year's International Day was a success. "Having spoken to people around the college, it generated a lot of interest. It was representative of countries some of the students are from," said Newby.

Flamenco dancers from Spain were an added attraction. This year, the association has plans for a similar attraction. "We are trying for a steel band," said Rogers.

ISA provides Visa students with the opportunity to share the experience of moving to Toronto. In some cases, it also helps the students to adjust. "Some of the circumstances are very similar. Depending on the students, they may come from similar political backgrounds," said Newby.

"It (ISA) especially helps if you are coming from abroad and are new to the country. It is a benefit because it helps you to meet people and to relate to them."

Nursing students head south for work prospects

by Jennifer Muir

A United States sponsored Nursing job fair has enticed some of the Nursing students from Humber College to go south of the border to begin their careers.

The Nursing job fair was held at the Royal York Hotel from February 27 to 29, and had more than 100 exhibitors offering jobs to nurses and Nursing students. The majority of employers were from the southern United States, with only about ten from Canada.

The annual event, sponsored by the Nursing World Journal based in Weston Massachusetts, attracted about 7,000 people in the health care field.

A representative from the Spohn Medical Centre in Corpus Christi, Texas, said there was a huge response. Alberta-born Patricia Loff, now a registered nurse at the Spohn Hospital, said the organization ran out of information packages on the first day.

Michelle Bik, a third-year Nursing student at Humber, said she found the job fair really positive and has already been offered nursing positions from hospitals in

Texas and North Carolina. Bik said a lot of people are disappointed with the job situation in Ontario and are moving to the United States because there is nothing here for them.

"It's a relief to know that I found a job," she said.

Students in touch with reality regarding uncertain job prospects

Bik is taking a nursing position in Houston, Texas, after she receives the results from the Ontario nursing board exam she writes in June.

Rose Cunha, the chairperson for Nursing at Humber, said the students graduating this year are in touch with the reality that there are no jobs anywhere and that they may have to be more flexible than they would want to. There are more advantages than disadvantages in going to the United States, Cunha said. "Certainly we educate those people who cross the border, but in a year or two they will be

back. I think their family ties are there and the jobs will be back," she said.

The nursing profession is cyclical and about every eight to 10 years there is a marked shortage and then a marked surplus, Cunha said.

The nurses that do come back to Canada, come back with experience, she added. "Often your orientation and adjustment costs are included in those early years, the training to your specific unit and that kind of thing, and so Americans are paying for that. Beyond that, they are probably going to come back with all these credentials - which again the U.S. is paying for," said Cunha.

Christine Moniz, a third-year Nursing student said she would prefer to stay in Ontario, but fears she may have to take a job in a nursing home because there are no jobs in hospitals. "You lose a lot of your skills" in nursing homes, she said. "It's better to learn right away."

Moniz said if she has to go to the United States for a job, she will and if she is learning new things, she would be willing to stay.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER MUIR

Crossing the border — Shoppers are not the only ones getting better deals by going to the United States. Nursing students from Humber, and other colleges and universities are being lured away to hospitals such as the Palm Springs Hospital, in hopes of finding a better job market in the U.S.

Health kick creates controversy

Herbs battle with pills

by Dario DeCicco

Fads come and go, but only a chosen few of these fads succeed at becoming an everyday part of our lives. The health kick is one such fad which takes people to vitamin and health food stores in search of herbal remedies.

Herbal remedies are combinations of different herbs combined with vitamin supplements to treat and prevent ailments.

This is a common practice for many who feel ailments of the body can be cured through herbal means, as well as preventing new sicknesses from coming on.

The use of herbal remedies date as far back as the ice age.

Nutritional Counsellor at Mor-Pro Nutrition in Concord, Ontario, Ray Sharma, said almost every ailment of the human body can be

treated through herbal remedies.

"I am distressed by the medical profession who in most cases prescribe synthetic drugs everytime someone is sick," said Sharma.

Many prescription drugs help in treating ailments, but, Sharma said, at the same time the side effects of those drugs may cause other damage to the body.

"Herbal remedies are better for you in the sense that they have no negative side effects for your body, whereas certain drugs may be helpful to you in reducing high blood pressure or other health problems, but at the same time they have serious negative side effects," said Sharma.

But some may ask why herb remedies are not used by everyone if they are so effective. Sharma said he blames the medical profession and the current Ontario Health Insurance Policy (OHIP) system as

the reason why so many people do not use herbal remedies. He said the system favors doctors because they have been put up on a pedestal by people and the government.

"When you go see a doctor, he makes some money. He then he prescribes drugs, and the pharmacist and the drug manufacturers make money," stated Sharma.

However, Dr. Joel Krivy at the Maple Medical Centre said he is not threatened by herbalists hurting the medical profession.

"Some people do not like to be told by doctors that they have a problem, so what they do is go to a herbalist and nutritional counsellor for it," said Krivy.

He also said he thinks many herbalists and nutritional counsellors are taking many people to the cleaners, making them spend big dollars on herbs and vitamins and getting no results.

Despite the controversy, Sharma said the herbal industry is growing at a rate of 20 per cent each year.

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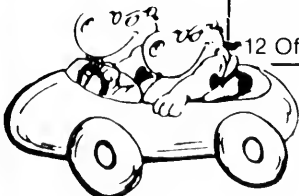
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ARTS

Escape From Happiness play full of hope

S T A G E

by Antonietta Palleschi

The play *Escape From Happiness* is a riveting adventure packed with mystery and comedy that focuses on a family trying to find its way in a chaotic threatening world.

Playwright George F. Walker's latest production *Escape From Happiness* is full of energy, angry humor and a real concern for those simply trying to survive the craziness of urban life.

Walker returns to the Factory Theatre with his self-described, "epic in the kitchen in three acts." In his world, chaotic violence begets humor and exaggerated behavior points to simple truths. *Escape from Happiness* is funny but unsettling.

It is a serious comedy in the form of a mystery. It brings together 10 characters from Walker's past three plays — *Criminals In Love*, which won a 1984 Governor General Award for drama, *Better Living* and *Beautiful City*. The characters are caught in a web of complex relationships and at the centre is the working class family of Nora (Frances Hyland) and her three daughters.

The play charts the family's attempt to make its way through a series of internal and external threats and regain a sense of stabil-

ity. The family must deal with each other and the hostile forces of the neighborhood, city and world. Walker's characters are struggling to come to terms with the world they live in.

As the play opens, Nora's family is in trouble. The outside world has invaded her home and turned it upside down. Junior, her son-in-law, has been beaten to a pulp. Cops are asking strange questions while a pair of seedy crooks are lurking in the back alley. Nora's estranged husband has returned after a 10-year absence but is it really him? Her three daughters are in disarray.

The eldest daughter Elizabeth (Barbara Gordon) is a workaholic lawyer on a crusade against police brutality. Mary Ann (Nancy Beatty), a hopeless therapy addict, keeps abandoning her small daughter because she thinks she is at a crossroads. Mary Ann lacks answers and questions. Her sister Gail is the youngest and sanest but her husband Junior gives her more trouble than their baby.

It is the magnificently conceived comic daughters and their quirky interdependence along with the actors' powerful performances that provide the most amusing moments in the play. Walker's play portrays a world that has gone mad and a family trying to find its way for a moment or two.



Don't Shoot — Actors Greg Spottiswood (left), Susan Hogan (centre) and Barbara Gordon (right) are mixed up in a chaotic world full of violence, insanity and hopelessness in the play *Escape From Happiness*. The play is running at the Factory Theatre until March 29.

Intertwined amidst this crazed family is a cops and robbers mystery. The father and son crooks, Rolly and Stevie Moore (Eric Peterson and Oliver Dennis), have hidden something in Nora's basement. The police on the case are Mike Dixon (J. Winston Carroll), an old timer who plays things by his hunches and Dian Black (Susan Hogan), who is definitely a modern cop.

Women are at the centre of the

play's theme as the eccentric but loving mother, Nora, tries to hold her family together against the odds. Men come across as weak and helpless in one way or another. Nora's husband Tom (Ken James), is a vegetable of sorts. He is an ex-alcoholic who may be dying.

Set in the contemporary confusion of Toronto, *Escape From Happiness* is an unabashedly hopeful story even as Nora faces criminal charges. She deals with every-

thing from a seedy porn king to police toting guns in her kitchen.

The characters live on the margins of society. They are not sentimental and no one is a victim. Walker has created them with a blend of irony and compassion.

Escape From Happiness is about finding hope in hopelessness and sanity in an insane world, with plenty of laughter along the way.

It will be running at the Factory Theatre until March 29.



COURTESY PHOTO

Open your mouth — In this scene of *Imperceptible Mutabilities of the Third Kingdom*, the WUM actors stage a painful tooth extraction. The patient, a dying ex-slave, revisits the past as she undergoes the operation.

Play provokes deep thought

S T A G E

by Monique Taylor

In celebration of Black History Month, Theatre WUM presented *Imperceptible Mutabilities of the Third Kingdom*.

The play was an overview of the struggles and hostilities within the African-American experience over the past 400 years.

The title alone was enough to warn off those who aren't interested in a politically thought-provoking play.

The opening act began with a white professor who had planted a camera in a fake cockroach so that his class would have the opportunity to closely watch the lives of three African-American women. The roach allowed Dr. Lutzky and his class to observe the habits, mannerisms and lifestyles of the women, while remaining undetected. Through the bug the audience learns of hardships the women face on an almost daily basis.

At one point the professor asks "How can we best accommodate these such subjects in our world?" He then concluded, "they need our help."

The play then moves to Act Two. Here we see clips of the Africans' voyage to America. One woman mournfully waves from the slave ship as her homeland slowly disappears, an overseer cracks his whip on a rebellious slave, a slave is thrown overboard to the sharks after he perished in the cramped compartments of the ship.

Throughout the play screen projected slides and written messages provide background information to the audience. One such message was the fact that 600 slaves were transported on the *Brookes*, an English slave ship, although it only had holding space for 451.

The Third Act was set on Emancipation Day in 1865. A dying ex-slave's life flashes back to her while she is undergoing painful tooth extractions. While this scene is serious and sad there is a brutal twist of ironic humor.

In one of her memories, the ex-slave recalls her husband being sold and her unsuccessful search to find him. In the middle of this trip down memory lane an extremely self-absorbed white couple intrudes. They are looking for a slave, preferably one able to care for the many children they plan to have. "Does she grin? Does she shuffle?" they inquire.

The last section of the play illustrated an African-American pilot and his family. It chronicled some of the changes his family underwent after he joined the airforce, and went off to fight. This part of the play was dragged out a little bit and in some parts seemed repetitive.

This play avoided a casual stage and instead had minimal props. Instead the attention was focused on the strong voices of the actors. The play provided a casual, yet emotional scrapbook of the black experience. It successfully captured African-Americans' struggle as strangers in a foreign land and the fight to claim their own identity.

New sci-fi movie, *The Lawnmower Man* cuts a sharp edge

F I L M

by James LaChapelle

The latest film venture into sci-fi, *The Lawnmower Man*, is a must see for anyone starving for a real classic.

The movie is part dramatization of a Stephen King short story and part advancement of an existing technology called Virtual Reality. Virtual Reality is a process where a participant enters a three dimensional computer environment.

The film is about a scientist who makes a major breakthrough using drugs and Virtual Reality as a way to increase a person's intelligence. His subject is a man who is a slow learner and mows lawns for a living. The experiment makes the man super intelligent and a danger to society.

This film is the '90s answer to the 1982 Walt Disney film *Tron*. The Virtual Reality sequences are completely state-of-the-art. Computer graphics are used in a way never seen before. Computer enthusiasts will be completely mesmerized.

The film stars the vastly underrated Pierce Brosnan as the unshaven scientist, Doctor Angelo. This is easily Brosnan's most accessible role since the television show *Remington Steele*. After commercial and critical disasters like *Mister Johnson*, Brosnan has his first breakthrough performance.

Jeff Fahey plays the slow-witted subject of Dr. Angelo, Jobe Smith. Fahey, whose previous credits include *Silverado*

and *White Hunter/Black Heart*, gives a realistic interpretation of a man who gains intelligence as the experiment progresses.

The Lawnmower Man is not a perfect movie. The main characters are interesting, but the secondary characters including the priest who acts as Jobe's guardian, the drunken neighbor who abuses his wife and child, and the macho gas station attendant, are questionable. There seems to be no point to these characters and they cause the storyline to drag.

The most thoughtless role has to be Dr. Angelo's wife. In her three very cliché scenes, she does the most whining and nagging since Talia Shire in *Rocky V*. She conveniently departs early in the film.

There are problems with the script. The conclusion is thought-provoking, but there is no sense of closure. What happens to all the characters who are still alive?

The Virtual Reality theory in the film is at least 10 years ahead of its time. But even then, will it be possible for a person to become pure computer energy and actually enter a computer's main frame? It would have been nice if the film discussed the plausibility of this.

Science fiction film making is a dying art. *The Lawnmower Man* should be popular with sci-fi buffs. The acting is good and the computer animation is awesome. This is the best science fiction film in the past five years that doesn't have Arnold Schwarzenegger as its star.

New way to watch

by Chris Vernon

Eastman Kodak plans to unveil new photographic technology to the consumer this summer, but professional graphic artists and printers are skeptical.

Kodak, in conjunction with Philips Electronics, has created a system which will allow normal 35mm film to be transposed digitally to CD.

The CD can then be viewed on a TV screen using a special player made by Philips.

It can also be used by professional printers using computers with CD-ROM XA drives.

But according to Richard Fuller, art director for True North Graphics, the technology isn't that new.

"Kodak is just trying to invent a better mouse trap," he said.

Fuller said that since the mid 80's graphic firms have been using computers and disks to create images.

But Kodak insists their advancement can surpass anything on the market, including High Definition Television (HDTV) which will be available sometime in the future.

"Our system can hold 10 times more information than present systems and (make it possible) to create a high resolution picture on a TV. When HDTV has entered the market our system will surpass it by four times more information," said Ted Knight, manager of Marketing and Publicity for Kodak.

Kodak's new system will create sharper digital pictures than ever possible before when it comes to computer applications, but according to Fuller, a lot of clarity will be lost because of the limitations of computer printers.

Normal 35mm film will be able to be dubbed to disk at most developers.

"Although a form of this technology has been around professionally, it's the first time it will be taken to the consumer on an affordable level," said Knight.



COURTESY PHOTO

Picture the future — Eastman Kodak and Phillips Electronics will be releasing technology in the summer that will enable consumers to view photographs on their TVs and computer screens.

But John Wesley supervisor of Technical Services for Konika Canada, a film and camera company, said Kodak is trying to take advantage of the consumer.

"All they're doing is taking technology, expensive technology, that's been around for a while and selling it to the general public," he said.

"Kodak's technology is a variation of what's already out there. This type of system is too new and will go through many changes before it is user friendly," said Wesley.

The player will sell for \$500 and a CD which can hold 100 prints may sell for around \$22, but the final price hasn't been confirmed yet.

Mellencamp's show almost stolen by fan

MUSIC

by Andrew Fratepietko

John Mellencamp put the thrill back into living for 24,000 fans when he rocked Skydome last Tuesday, Mar. 10 on his latest *Whenever We Wanted* tour.

Three songs into the show, Mellencamp had the crowd singing along to his hit song Jack and Diane. Mellencamp was so impressed with the crowd's sing-along that he stopped in the middle of the song to applaud the audience. He ended the song with a somber crooning of the song's most famous line, "Oh yeah, life goes on, long after the thrill of living is gone," accompanied by violinist Lisa Germano. It was almost as if they accepted the sad truth of his insight. From that point on they were under his spell.

While the crowd was clearly having a great time, Mellencamp himself seemed to be brooding inside. At one point in the concert he said, "I kinda feel like my country is being sold to the highest bidder. Do you feel like that?" The crowd let out a thunderous roar of approval in response.

Perhaps it was the sinister looking backdrop of medieval figures that cloaked the six-man, three-woman band, yet throughout the show there seemed to be a mood of underlying anger emitting from the stage. Drummer Ken Aronoff played like a man possessed, and new band member guitarist David Grissom seemed intent on proving he belonged on the same stage as Mellencamp, at times overpowering the Indiana rocker.

The show was almost stolen by an enthusiastic fan who jumped on stage midway through *The Authority Song*, but Mellencamp cheered the young man on as he did an impressive little dance step.

Mellencamp's two-hour show took the audience on an emotional roller-coaster, silencing them with the heart-wrenching tune *Jackie Brown*, galvanizing them with the hard hitting *Crumblin' Down*, and electrifying them with the raunchy *Hurts So Good*.

Never lacking energy or intensity, Mellencamp proved that after 11 albums he still has what it takes to be a first-class entertainer.

Don't take band to heart

MUSIC

by DeAnne Oram

The debut album of the rap group FU-schnickens contains looney lyrics and speeding vocals with impressive sound. Their energy, however is slightly overpowering.

The album, titled *F.U. — Don't Take It Personal*, contains numerous verbal techniques. There is a complex mix of hip-hop rap, silly

lyrics with wild expression, speed rapping and speed chatting, substitution of vocalists and rhyming backwards. When combined, these techniques create a unique combination of music.

The three-member band consists of Chip FU (meaning Creative Harmonies Intertwined Perfection), Poc FU (Prophet Overseeing Creativity), and Moc FU (Master of Oriental Culture.)

The group's individual names basically sum up what the mem-

bers strongly believe in — combining their creativity, God, and Oriental culture. The band loves Oriental culture and particularly martial arts.

Besides providing some great dance tunes reminiscent of songs by Naughty By Nature, Ice T, and Public Enemy, the album is fun to listen to.

Their first album release proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that FU-Schnickens will be rapping for a long time.

End the silence

MUSIC

by Terry Auciello

The best thing you can say about *The End of Silence* is that it is an honest and heart-felt effort straight from the twisted psyche of the men behind it.

The Rollins Band is back, and louder than ever with a 10-song effort on Imago Records that may signal the end of hearing for anyone within earshot.

Led by vocalist/screamer Rollins, a former member of Black Flag (the band, not the bug spray), the Rollins Band comes at you as one angry mass of sound that thinks it has a message.

It almost does.

Driven by depression, hate, fury and a whole lot of opinion, Rollins throws all 10 songs at you shouting his messages of loneliness and isolation. He does a fair bit of preaching, too.

In the first cut, *Low Self Opinion*, Rollins screams to no one in particular "Get yourself a break from self-rejection/Try some introspection/And you just might find/It's not so bad and anyway/At the end of the day/All you have is yourself and your mind." That's pretty deep for a man who once screamed lyrics telling people to "Drink! Drink! Drive! Kill!"

From the first cut on, the music behind the lyrics remains the same in sound and structure—sort of Black Sabbath incarnated as a three-toed sloth. This isn't to say the musicians aren't capable. Guitarist Chris Haskins has some good raw sound behind his playing, although his power chord technique gets tiresome.

Andrew Weiss supplies some solid but standard bass playing to go with the average drum skills of Sim Cain.

Theo Van Rock (nice name) is the fifth wheel, and probably one of the few sound engineers in music to enjoy full band member status.

But the problem with *The End of Silence* is how much you'll be begging for silence halfway through the album. Rollins screams like a man with a tumor when he's not boring us with his monotone vocals.

Andy Wallace, the man who mixed Nirvana's *Nevermind*, produced, mixed and engineered this album.

One good thing about *The End of Silence* is the end of the album.

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SPORTS

Opinion

Sporting world recession non-existent

by Renée Shute

You can't have something for nothing, unless you're a professional athlete that is.

A sports career doesn't last a lifetime and athletes want to make as much money as they can during their glory days.

But what constitutes a multi-million dollar salary anyhow? Let's see ... maybe some skill, endurance, a hard body and a team jersey! I guess that explains why every Toronto Blue Jays player earns more than, say, Brian Mulroney.

Last month, Texas Rangers outfielder Ruben Sierra, signed the richest single season contract in baseball history. He will be raking in \$5 million for seven months of what? Of ball catching, hitting and throwing is what! Sierra will average \$30,865 a game. Eighty per cent of our population earns less than that in a year.

I love sports as much as the next guy (or gal), but really?

Get a load of Cecil Fielder. His endurance is smothered in fat. A hard body he certainly isn't, yet this season the Detroit Tigers will hand him \$4.5 million to smash a ball out of the park.

Professional sports may be a not-so-cheap thrill during the economic rut this country is in. We, the fans, are the ones who pay these outrageous salaries:

Team owners get millions, players get millions and fans get something to believe in.

Let's be honest. There's a certain amount of pride involved in rooting for the home team. Team owners cry that they're barely able to afford good players (get out the violins) to justify upping ticket prices. Do we kick up a stink and refuse to pay? Not a chance.

Last year, a record breaking 4 million fans attended Sky-Dome in one, single, measley season! Who can blame a person for getting addicted to the rush of a good game?

After all, the "wave" can be a very powerful tool. The thrill of being in a crowd all rooting for the same result (kind of rare in the apathetic 90s) is out of this world.

You bet I was one of those red-faced fools who paid my \$18.50 to scream "Moo" to Mookie Wilson last summer. I jumped up, waved my fists and booed the ump! I've given Roberto Alomar (who'll pull in \$20,000 a game this season) more standing O's than I can count. And I always stay the full nine innings.

But on the way to the park didn't I hear something about a recession? I guess the R word doesn't exist in sportsland.

Hawks fight to 1-1 draw

by Chris DiCesare

The mens indoor soccer Hawks ran their record to 9-3-1, with a tie last weekend against Barrabases, of the Hispanic American League of Toronto.

The Hawks were lucky to escape with a tie, as they fielded only seven men.

Barrabases got on the score board early as they caught the Hawks laying back and put early pressure on to score the opening marker. Once the Hawks got into the flow of the game, they played Barrabases even for the rest of the first half. The Hawks were up against an opponent who plays a style similar to the opposition they will be playing in the provincial finals next weekend.

"The reason I got this team is they are South American and they control the ball a lot," said Germain Sanchez, coach of the Hawks.

Defensively the Hawks filled the passing lanes in the neutral zone, causing many a skirmish at the midfield stripe for control of the ball.

At the offensive end, the Hawks had difficulties mounting an attack because they were unfamiliar with new positions and linemates.

In the second half, the Hawks fell victim to fatigue, which gave the opposition many second and third chances to score.

"I expected a lot of work tonight. Those guys can really shoot the ball. They had a manpower advantage, and I just tried to do my best," said Humber netminder, Jason Lakhani.

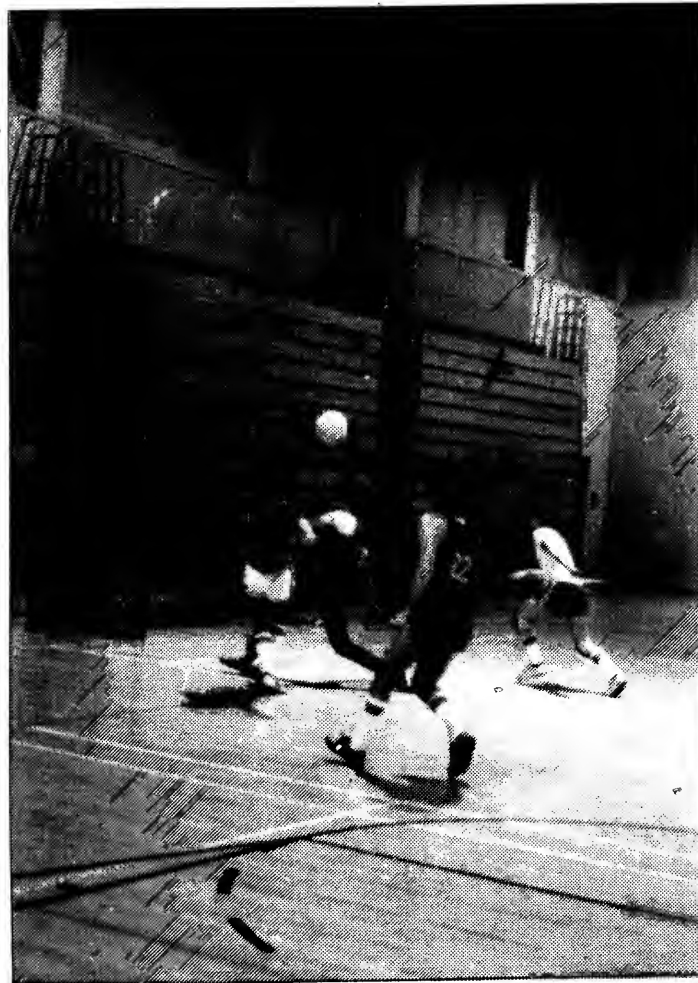
The bright lights were few for Humber offensively until the Sergio Valentin/Dave Novis connection got rolling. Valentin and Novis are a dangerous combo that can score in the blink of an eye. They had a couple of good chances but were unable to convert their chances.

Humber's lone goal was credited to Louis Moran, which was scored on a fluke play.

"I was trying to pass to Sergio (Valentin), and the pass was intercepted by their defence, and the defence tried to pass to the goalie — the goalie misjudged the pass and the ball went into the net. I was the last one to touch it (the ball)," said Moran.

Coach Sanchez tried to downplay the importance of Sunday's game by saying it was a "practice game" and if everybody showed up there was "no question we would have beat them."

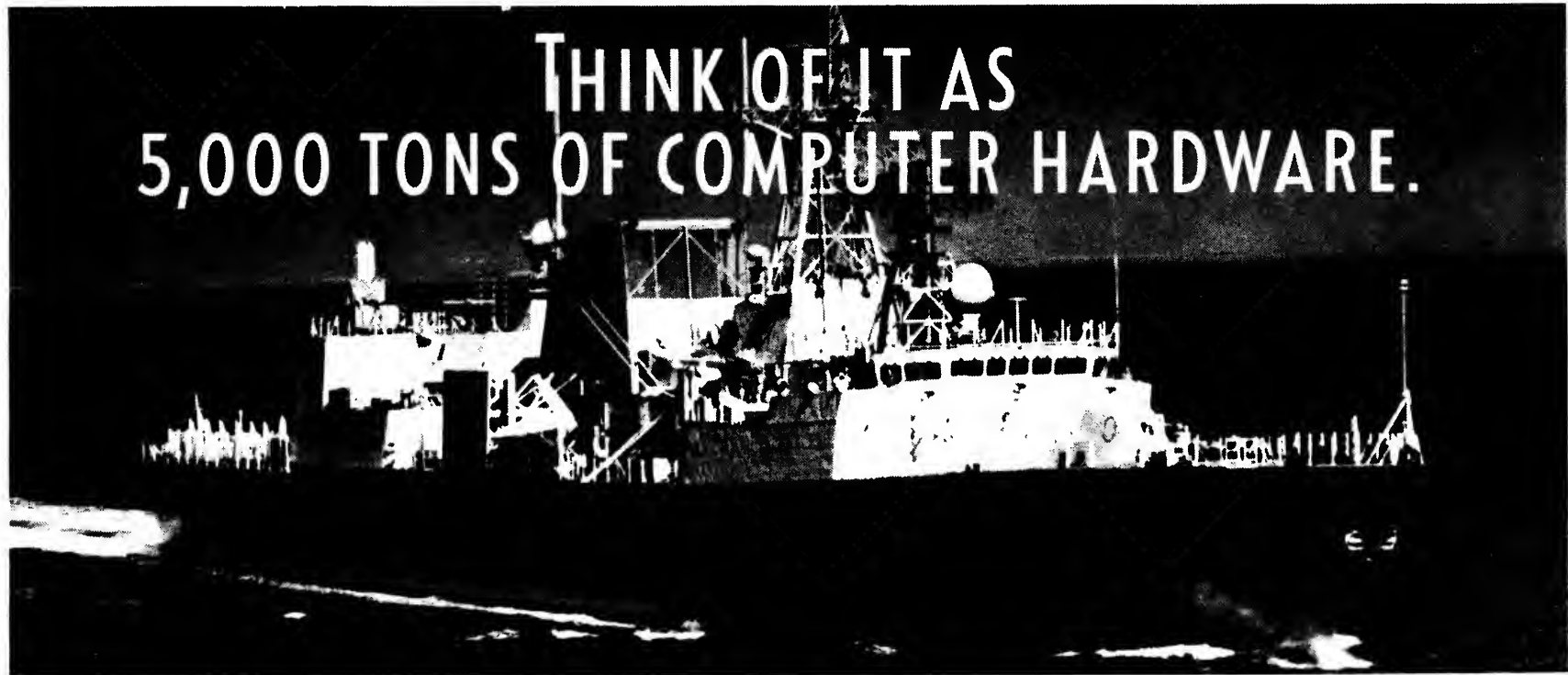
The Hawks are in action this weekend against an as yet undetermined foe, and play the following weekend in Kitchener at the provincial finals.



FILE PHOTO

Heads up — The men's indoor soccer Hawks earned their first tie of the season as they battled to a 1-1 draw against Barrabases

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