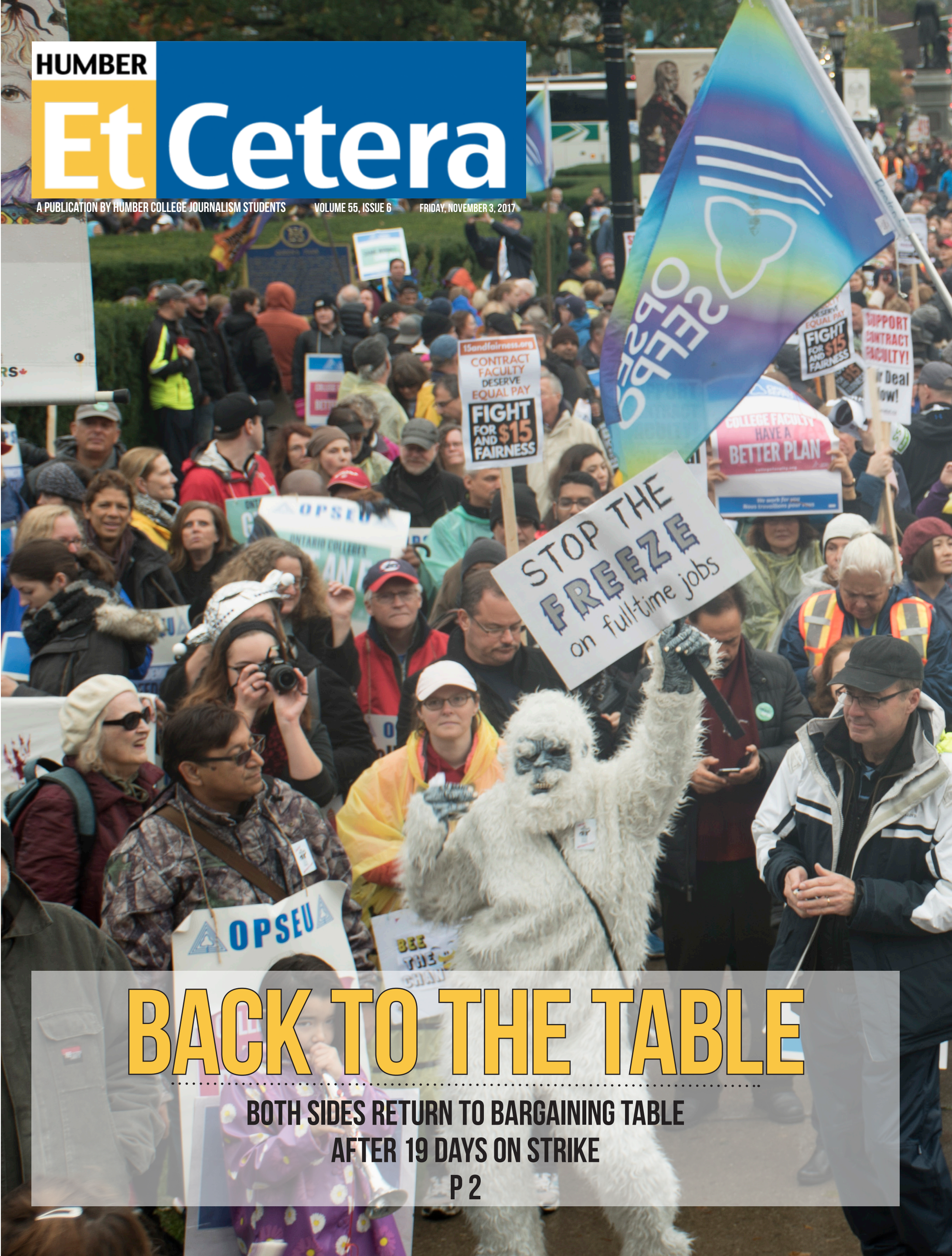


HUMBER

Et Cetera

A PUBLICATION BY HUMBER COLLEGE JOURNALISM STUDENTS VOLUME 55, ISSUE 6 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017



BACK TO THE TABLE

BOTH SIDES RETURN TO BARGAINING TABLE
AFTER 19 DAYS ON STRIKE

P 2



BRETT MCGARRY

College faculty members in the thousands took to Queen's Park to rally in the ongoing OPSEU strike as talks between the faculty's union and the college's council resume.

OPSEU faculty rally in Queen's Park

Matt Owczarz

LIFE EDITOR

Thousands of college faculty members and supporters got together at Queen's Park yesterday to rally as the OPSEU strike continues into its third week.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), which represents over 12,000 college professors, instructors, counselors and librarians, sat down at the bargaining table with the College Employer Council (CEC) the same day.

This is the first time the two sides have met since negotiations between the council and union stalled on Oct. 16.

Chair OPSEU College Faculty Divisional Executive RM Kennedy took to the podium at the rally with a message from bargaining team member JP Hornick about the negotiations.

that didn't chase anyone away. The organized group resiliently prepared for the rally, bringing yellow rain ponchos, extra signs and even warm pizza for the strikers, who were bused in from across the province.

The boisterous crowd chanted and danced throughout the rally, waving banners with messages like, 'Stop the freeze on full-time jobs' and 'Ontario colleges get an F in fairness.'

They continued to shout their demands for better job security with longer job contracts and updates for programming to give faculty more academic decision-making in their courses.

"I think that the strongest message that really came through to me today was that this fight is about quality of education, having such a ridiculous proportion of part-time faculty teaching students is really eroding the quality of students' education right now," said Maureen Carnegie, accessibility consultant at Humber college.

Some of the roughly 500,000 college students who are out of school as classes have been suspended have been rallying in solidarity with the faculty.

Paramedic students from Durham college were on scene marching through the crowds, expressing their concerns with signs reading, 'Our Learning Has Flatlined!'

"We want to come here in solidarity with our faculty. Especially being in the paramedic program, they really go the extra mile for us and they deserve our support in this time," said Sam Xerri, a paramedic student from Durham College. "We have been practicing and studying on the break, we would really rather be back in class."



BRETT MCGARRY

Protesters at Queen's Park rally hold signs to demonstrate their frustration with the ongoing strike.

"We have been practicing and studying on the break, we would really rather be back in class"

Sam Xerri

PARAMEDIC STUDENT, DURHAM COLLEGE

"[JP Hornick] can't say too much about what's going on, but she did say that she is hoping that we can make enough noise that council can hear right down at the Sheraton," Kennedy said.

Before the rally began, rain poured down on attendants, but



MATT OWCZARZ

Some college faculty protesters brought their dogs to the rally on Thursday.

Markham parenting hub for new and immigrant parents opens

Sunny Bains
NEWS REPORTER

A new not-for-profit parenting community hub was launched in Markham on Oct. 21 to offer expert advice and practical resources to new and immigrant parents.

According to founder of ParentConnect, Loretta Lam, York Region has seen a tremendous population growth in recent years.

“Our mission is to promote positive parenting to help parents raise happy and healthy children,” Lam said.

Census 2016 suggested that more than 30 per cent of York Region’s 1.1 million population were immigrants. This number will grow because the GTA is the most popular immigration destination in the country.

ParentConnect staged its first community event - Parenting Expo 2017 - to give a preview of what the parenting hub can offer.

The organizers expected a few thousand visitors over two days. IKEA North York, The Remington Group and TD Wealth were its major corporate sponsors.

Janet McGowan, store manager of IKEA North York, enlightened parents about the furniture company’s philosophy on good parenting.

“Actually, at IKEA, we believe that children are the most important people in the world, and if we raise them right, imagine what the world could become, so it was really easy for us to get involved,” McGowan said.

She said it was important for IKEA to be involved with its communities because within the company’s worker base, over 60 per cent were from visible minorities.

The event featured around 40 exhibitors from public and private

sectors showcasing their services and products. The event also had discussions from 20 experts and interactive knowledge sessions in English, Cantonese and Mandarin languages.

Specialists in areas such as child psychology, mother and baby nutrition, children’s health and wellness, home security and safety, car seat clinic and infant CPR, pre-03 school and after-school programs, youth financial literacy, Chinese medicine,

etc., gave handy advice to parents at the Expo.

Const. Imtiaz Manjra was representing York Regional Police and giving parents tips on child safety.

“We are here today at the Parent Expo to speak about the safety for the children and also to provide safety tips to the parents when it comes to online safety, traffic safety, bike safety and also home safety when kids are left alone at home or in a vehicle,” Manjra said.

Among the supporters of the new parenting hub were Mayor of Markham, Frank Scarpitti, and his councillors Nirmala Armstrong, Don Hamilton and Alan Ho.

Mayor Scarpitti, the guest of honour at the Expo, called the event, “The first of its kind in Canada and the ultimate destination for parents, caregivers and children.”

Also attending as guests of honour were members of Parliament for Markham-Unionville Bob Saroya and Markham-Thornhill Mary Ng.

“We are here because this location is our riding, but more importantly we are here to support the people in the community and organizers who’ve put together this resource and information platform for parents, particularly new immigrant parents,” Ng said.

Parents can join the online community absolutely free to receive news and educational resources all under one roof at ParentConnect.ca. Public and private sector service and product providers will be invited as partners to provide information, activities, samples, and discount programs.



SUNNY BAINS

A new parenting hub was launched for new and immigrant parents this weekend in Markham. (From right to left) Members of Parliament Bob Saroya and Mary Ng, ParentConnect Founder Loretta Lam, IKEA North York Manager Janet McGowan and TD Wealth Catherine Kong.

Varsity athletics carry on despite college strike

As the college faculty strike continues, many students are not getting the most out of their college experience but Humber athletes remain on the field

Ed Hitchens
SPORTS EDITOR

The age-old analogy in show business is that despite whatever happens during production ‘the show must go on’.

That’s the attitude among the Ontario College Athletic Association in the wake of the Ontario college faculty strike, which is now closing in on its third week. Humber Director of Athletics Ray Chateau says that he is running the business as usual during the strike that has left half a million students, including nearly 4,000 athletes out of the classroom.

“We don’t have a particular position as to what’s going on,” said Chateau “The 24 members of the OCAA

are having a weekly conference call as to the current goings on of the situation.”

Chateau believes that with fall sports such as soccer and cross country ending their seasons, it shouldn’t affect the schedule.

“We have a contingency plan in place. It shouldn’t hurt us overall. Our fall sports are finished and we have sports like basketball and volleyball on the horizon.”

Cambrian College Athletic director Tim Yu admits that when the teachers first walked off the job October 16th, he wasn’t sure if the curtain had prematurely come down on the soccer season.

“Right at the start there was some preliminary discussions as

to whether or not it would be cancelled,” said Yu at the Women’s soccer championship at Fleming College in Peterborough.

“But the OCAA let us know that the intent was to continue status quo for all sports so that decreased any initial concerns we had.”

Yu said that despite what distractions off the field the strike is having, his players know that shouldn’t affect what happens come game time.

“They are athletes. They know how to focus. We’ve told them we are there and will continue to support them.”

OCAA, the Ontario College Athletics Association, declined an interview for this story.

Student dies in Lakeshore Residence

Elvin George
NEWS EDITOR

Humber student, Cameron Stephenson, was found without vital signs in the Lakeshore residence.

Stephenson was confirmed dead at the St. Joseph Medical Centre in downtown Toronto at 4 a.m.

Humber College’s communication director, Andrew Leopold, has released an email to Humber News regarding the death of the student.

“The Humber community is deeply saddened by the tragic death of a student living in Lakeshore residence early this morning,” Leopold said. “We have reached out to the family to offer condolences and are respecting their right to privacy.”

Stephenson, 20, was enrolled in



COURTESY

the Public Relations degree program.

Police said, “This doesn’t effect to appear suspicious but they continue to investigate.”

There is numerous counselling services for students at the Lakeshore residence. There is also an Employee Assistance Program that is available to employees.



Humber Et Cetera is the Humber College journalism program laboratory newspaper, publishing 12 times per term in fall and winter.

Humber Et Cetera serves to inform the Humber community and give its readers well rounded coverage on the things that matter to them.

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Humber Et Cetera is a publication of the School of Media Studies & Information Technology at Humber Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning
205 Humber College Blvd., Etobicoke, ON, M9W 5L7

Humber's student run food services stay open despite the strike

Kettelia Wright

LIFE REPORTER

Students continue to serve up dishes in Humber's student-run restaurants as the strike closes its third week.

Humber's school of Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism (HRT) is still hard at work in the kitchens of the Humber Room and the Humber Food Truck.

"I have a little one at home, so strike or no strike I still have to work to make ends meet," said Stephanie Velasquez, second year culinary management student. "I don't mind working it is fun making food for students, and working along the head chefs."

With so few students coming to the North campus because of the ongoing strike, the food truck's revenue has been going down dramatically.

"Business is definitely being af-

ected in a negative manner with the strike going on, our sales are certainly down, but we still continue to be out here our regular hours, approximately 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., because there're still faculty and there're still students using the campus and the grounds," said Chef Robb Kerr, head chef of the Humber Food Truck.

There's still a number of faculty working on campus that aren't a part of the full-time or partial-load faculty that are on strike.

"Typically, when we are not in a strike position, we employ technicians that help support faculty, and help support the learning in the Humber Room and on the food truck. These technicians are still here and they are still being affected by the strike because they are not on strike with the faculty," said Ryan Visser, retail director for the School of HRT.

Likewise, with students we offer a couple of work study students contracts throughout the year for students to work in those businesses to help supplement some of the business needs on top of the classes that are running in those businesses," said Ryan Visser, retail director for the School of HRT.

The School of HRT is still providing those students who are available a chance to continue earning some income during the strike.

"Now that the classes are not running, and the faculty are not here, those people are still around and still available, and they still want an opportunity to continue to pay their bills. Colleges, and our school, made a commitment to continue to provide them with an opportunity to work, as long as we can, to ensure they still meet their goals and the businesses are still running," Visser said.



KETTELIA WRIGHT

Stephanie Velasquez serves a student at the Humber Food Truck.

ARC hosts pumpkin carving to raise students' spirits

Kettelia Wright

LIFE REPORTER

Students dressed in their favourite costumes celebrated Halloween with delicious food, spooky movies, and pumpkin carving at Humber's North campus.

The Aboriginal Resource Centre organized the event on Tuesday to entertain students as classes continue to be suspended with the ongoing strike.

"We wanted to try and motivate students, and get their spirits up because the strike is in the third week now, we are doing that by watching spooky movies, and our pumpkin carving contest, the winner of this contest will receive a gift card," administrative assistant for the Aboriginal Resource Centre Carleigh Milton said.

Attendees showed up dressed as

characters from popular films, anime and other fandoms.

"Today, I'm dressed as Princess Mononoke, it's from Studio Ghibli," Milton said.

Milton got extra creative this year by hand-making her costume this year out of cardboard and tape.

"I sewed the outfit, then I used molding clay to make the necklace and the earrings," Milton said.

Humber Paralegal student Laralane Whiteye says Halloween is her favourite time of the year because people get to dress up as someone else and show their creative side.

Humber student Khara Falconer said Halloween gives her a different vibe.

"When I'm dressed as someone else it gives me a different feeling, I'm more outgoing, I do things without even caring, I just have the best time," Falconer said.



KETTELIA WRIGHT

Students gathered at the Aboriginal Resource Centre to carve pumpkins for Halloween.



KETTELIA WRIGHT

A Humber student guts a pumpkin in celebration of Halloween.



KETTELIA WRIGHT

ARC employee Carleigh Milton dressed up in a homemade Princess Mononoke costume.