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Humber Et Cetera

volume 31 issue 13

www.etcetera.humberc.on.ca

January 16, 2003

Former Humber student charged in gun incident

By JOEL HOIDAS

Surrounded by more than 200 grieving friends and family on Saturday, a 22-year-old former Humber business management student (who can't be named due to a publication ban) attended the funeral of his six-year-old brother, accidentally shot with a gun found in their Mississauga home.

Peel Region Police said on Jan. 3, the man's brother and seven-year-old sister were playing with the .45 calibre handgun, when his sister accidentally fired the weapon. The boy died in the incident.

The Mississauga man is charged with criminal negligence causing death, unsafe storage of a firearm, and possessing an unregistered restricted weapon. He was released on \$35,000 bail last Thursday to attend the funeral.

Paul Pieper, co-ordinator of the business management and marketing programs at Humber, didn't know the accused was one of his students.

I'm totally surprised, said Pieper. I've got 680 students and don't really get to know them unless

they come into my office.

I feel really sorry for him and for his family, Pieper said. He came to this college to better his life and now look at what's happened to him.

The Humber student, who did not register this semester, will be back in court on Jan 20. Criminal negligence causing death carries a maximum life sentence if convicted.

Police said this was not the first time the youngsters had handled the gun, but this time the weapon's safety catch wasn't on.

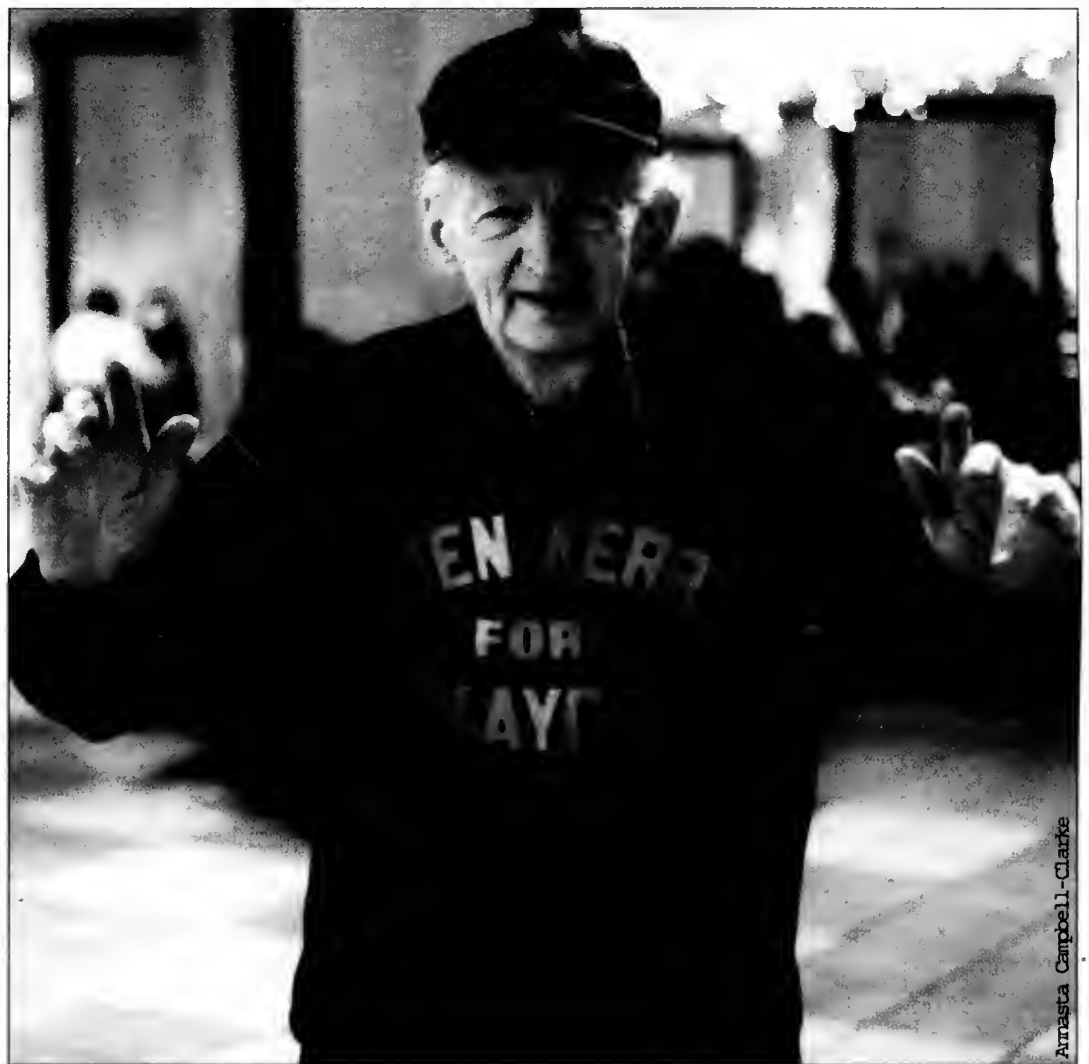
The children's 18-year-old sister, who was babysitting them while their mother was at work, was in another room at the time of the shooting. The man who is charged was not at home.

This is all over the unsafe storage of a weapon. It didn't have to happen, said Constable Heather Andrews of the Peel Region Police.

Everyone I've spoken to said this is quite a tragedy.

No charges were laid against the seven-year-old girl, since under

Story continued on page 2



Running a no budget campaign for mayor since 1985, Yonge and Bloor busker (street singer) Ben Kerr is hoping his seventh straight campaign for mayor of Toronto will be lucky seven.

Amasta Campbell-Clarke

Cold showers for students left behind

By KERMIN BHOT

Some 200 students living at Residence during the Christmas holidays had to cope with no hot water for two days, a short power outage and limited cafeteria hours.

Not only did we have to deal with boredom and loneliness, but we also had all these things going wrong and often no access to food, said Sourabh Dhawan, a first-year Business Administration international student from India.

Although Residence conducts

regular maintenance during the holidays and students are advised, a last-minute decision was made to change the lining of the hot water tank.

People in the R building came to the S building on the third day for hot showers, because hot water had returned to the S building, Dhawan said.

It was difficult having only cold water for two days especially when the weather itself was so cold.

Rez Manager Allison Alexander said the decision was made because of past problems with hot water.

Students were also briefly without electricity when residence power was shifted to a generator during a planned hydro shut-down due to construction on the new Guelph-Humber building.

A generator was used to supply electricity to the residence.

One service affected by the power outage was access to the Internet a way for students to keep them from being bored with most of their friends gone home for the holidays.

For Walter Chan, a student from China, food was a bigger concern.

The Rez Caf closed at 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve and reopened after Boxing Day. As a result, students were forced to fend for themselves.

They said they would be open until 7 p.m. from the 27th to the 30th. I came down in the evening only to see the doors shut, Chan said.

Chan added he had no choice but to get several meals outside of the college.

Alexander said the residence isn't obligated to take care of students

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News

Residents face off against Fantino

Racial profiling still a concern for North York community members

By VIVIAN SONG

Whenever Nicole Rowe pictures her 12-year-old nephew being strip-searched by Toronto police, Rowe rants in anger about police treatment against the black community.

Rowe and other community members near Jane and Finch gathered at the Christian Centre Church last Tuesday to meet and discuss policing issues with Toronto Police Chief Julian Fantino.

Despite a request by Fantino to not dwell on matters of racial profiling, citizens of 31 Division found it too great an issue to ignore.

"This [racial profiling] has to be stopped," Rowe told a crowd of about 200.

Rowe said police apprehended her nephew last month simply because he "fit the profile", and added that when she attempted to file a formal complaint at 31 Division, her pleas fell on deaf ears.

Other black youth in attendance echoed Rowe's anger and questioned police commitment to the community.

"Why should you expect us to respect you when you don't respect us black youth?" asked 15-year-old

Tameka Campbell during the question and answer period.

Fantino dismissed Campbell's comment as rhetoric and said police have been judged unfairly.

"I think that you have broad brushed 7,000 people with that statement," he said. "It's uncalled for and totally undeserved and I don't think it dignifies an answer."

Cheryl Prescod, coordinator for the Teen Violence Prevention Project in the Black Creek Community Health Centre accompanied Campbell and several other youth to the meeting and said there is a mistrust between young people and the police.

"They, [black teens] feel that the big problem is the way they're being treated," she said.

Despite being caught in a cross-fire of angry words, some residents came to Fantino's defence.

Don Sharkey, a Jane and Finch area resident, said police have a difficult job to do and often get a bad rap from citizens.

"I think the police do a great job and they deserve a lot of respect," Sharkey said.

The town hall meeting for residents of 31 Division was the second



Nicole Rowe holds up a newspaper article of her nephew being held by Toronto police whom she accuses of racial profiling.

of a series that will take Fantino across the city to discuss policing issues such as gun control, recruiting campaigns and community responsi-

bility for crime prevention.

Fantino's next meeting will be at 23 Division on January 20, in the neighbourhood of Humber College.

Shooting draws fire

Continued from page 1

Canadian law, children under the age of 12 can't be held accountable for a crime.

Christian Bran, 21, lives less than 500 metres from the Mississauga townhouse where the shooting took place.

"It was surprising that it was so close to my house," Bran said. "I've heard of people having guns in the neighbourhood, but I never thought anything like this would happen."

Outside the bail hearing last Thursday, lawyer for the accused, Michael Tulloch, said his client was a law-abiding family man and a dedicated student, who loved his little brother very much.

"[The accused] wasn't known as a troublemaker in the neighbourhood," Bran said.

This shooting has drawn national attention from Canadians who are already outraged with the large number of firearms in the country.

"If you know anybody that has an unregistered weapon or anyone who's keeping their weapon in an unsafe location then give us a call," Andrews said. "We'll pick [the guns] up."

Lastman steps down, candidates step up

By ANNASTA CAMPBELL-CLARKE

Mel Lastman, the first mayor of the amalgamated city of Toronto, ended months of speculation Tuesday, when he announced he will not be running for re-election.

"I have decided this will be my last year in office because, ladies and gentlemen, Toronto's future is secure," Lastman said. "It's been my honour to serve you as mayor."

Most of those in attendance at the joint meeting of the Scarborough, North York and Etobicoke chambers of commerce and those watching

from home as Lastman read his speech were not surprised.

"I expected that announcement," Councillor Doug Holyday said. "He knows his time is winding down."

Lastman told the people of Toronto "working for you has been a labour of love and I am very grateful for the continued support you've given me."

When speaking of the city's future he said, "we stand more prosperous, we stand more secure, and we stand more recession-proof than we did five or six or seven or even eight years ago."

Lastman is leaving behind a long

career in politics, serving as mayor of North York for 25 years and the amalgamated city of Toronto for six.

"I wouldn't trade the last 34 years for anything," he said.

Though Lastman has had many ups and downs in his career, the colourful politician's greatest legacy is putting his town of North York on the map. Lastman received a standing ovation before and after his speech.

Now with Toronto's top spot officially open this November, potential candidates wasted no time in stepping up their campaigns Tuesday. There are currently nine candidates on record. Other potential candidates were waiting for Lastman's announcement to make up their mind.

Doug Holyday, an Etobicoke councillor, is thought to be a potential candidate for mayor, but said Tuesday, "I haven't decided yet if I will run. It is a big decision. I want to make sure I make the right one."

Former mayor Barbara Hall is said to be leading the approval race. Other notable candidates include councillor David Miller and former budget chief Tom Jakobek.

Barbara Hall served as mayor of Toronto for one-term from 1994-1997. She lost her post to present mayor Mel Lastman when the city



Barbara Hall is one of nine candidates for Toronto mayor. Councillor Doug Holyday is another potential candidate.

became amalgamated in 1997 in what was considered a very close race.

"I am extremely concerned with the current leadership, the sense that the city is in decline, that no one is in charge at City Hall," Hall said. "I believe that my experience, my vision, my passion for the city and my enormous capacity for hard work will allow the city to realize its enormous potential and once again be a place we can all be proud of."

Tom Jakobek, the former budget chief, said he is running for mayor because it has been a thought of his for many years. He said his vision for Toronto is "a clean green place to

live. My vision also includes a city of diversity and compassion.

"My first order of business would be to get the city's finances in order. My platform is based on financial security which in turn will provide stability and resources to other social needs."

David Miller is a city councillor for Ward 13 Parkdale-High Park. "It is time for Toronto to become a top city again," he said. "Toronto's greatest strength is our multiculturalism, no other city in the world can claim that. I want to restore people's trust and faith in the city. City Hall should be a place that fights for you, not a place that you have to fight."



Mayor Mel Lastman announces his retirement in city politics.

etc.



Annie Chau

Unknown vandals deface the halls and bathroom stalls of Humber Residence this past week.

Two hundred dollars short

Students must pay extra fee before OSAP loan is received

By LORI PARIS

Humber students on financial aid were surprised with a second tuition deferral fee when they picked up their OSAP in the first week of classes.

Students opting to pay half their tuition in September and the remainder in January, were required to pay an additional \$140 deferral fee, and a \$60 late tuition fee. Before the student's OSAP can be allocated, both fees have to be received by the college.

Melissa Smith, a second year early childhood education student, said she wasn't aware that she would have to pay the \$200 fee until she arrived to collect her OSAP information. Finding the extra money on short notice was difficult for Smith.

"They tell you that you owe it, and you've got, like, three days to pay it," Smith said. "I'm just barely making enough money to pay my bills, not to mention everything else."

Margaret Antonides, manager of financial aid for Humber, said that the tuition invoice clearly states that the deferral fee is required to cover



Kate Schwass

Nikkita Fomenko can't afford to pay second \$200 deferral fee.

the administrative costs that are the result of the split payment option.

"The deferral fee is not a deferral fee, it's really a deposit towards your tuition fees. So it means that a seat has been saved for you."

She added that students often neglect these small details and said the extra fees are there for a purpose.

"We have found out by experience if the student doesn't give a deposit, they don't take it seriously," said Antonides. "So if they decide to go somewhere else or decide not to come, that means there are several seats empty for students who could have occupied them, and who were willing to pay the full fee in some cases."

Additional school fee next year

HSF president says new fees are necessary to improve school services

By KATE SCHWASS

Students will have to dig a little deeper into their pockets to attend Humber College next year.

At the Board of Governors meeting held last month, a \$106 increase in non-tuition related incidental fees was approved for the upcoming school year beginning September 2003.

"The fee is not a phenomenal amount," HSF president Craig Wilson said. "We were working with administration all summer and we realized that there are areas that could be better."

Tuition itself is staying relatively the same for most programs at the college, but some compulsory incidental fees are being raised.

The technology fee will be doubled from \$28 to \$56 and the Building Fund will increase to \$41 from \$21. The athletic fee is also being raised from \$36 to \$41.

Wilson said the fees are necessary to help the college run more

efficiently and to improve the Student Record Services (SRS) website.

"Right now, you log onto SRS and only so many people can actually log in. It's slow and it's bogged down," he said. "The front end of the website looks good, but the back end is a tragedy. They're trying to make it the best, but it's hard if you don't have the cash."

Buildings at the Lakeshore Campus also need upgrading, Wilson added.

"They have a broom closet right now. A lot of students have been moved from here to Lakeshore, but the library is the same size." Wilson noted that the Board of Governors is seeking funding from the Ontario government's SuperBuild project to help fund the new library.

But the increase in fees has some students upset.

"I think students are poor enough," Nikkita Fomenko, a first year Fashion Arts student, said. "I think it's important to think about who is paying for this. People have this misunderstanding that people who try to get a further education have this mass amount of money."

But Wilson stressed that the Board of Governors did its research when it came to increasing the fees.

"We looked at other colleges and our fees are still lower than everyone else," Wilson said.

Res students inconvenienced

Continued from page 1

during the Christmas holidays. Students were told of the disruptions and they chose to stay.

"They signed a contract to stay over during the holidays which informed them of these inconveniences," she said.

"Christmas time is when we do maintenance. There is no school and fewer residents then. We have

to do maintenance and we try to do it when it is less disruptive," Alexander said.

Although the Residence advised students of some of the inconveniences, students left in residence found them difficult to handle.

"Yes, we were informed of some of those problems and the change in timings, but that didn't make it any easier to get adjusted to them," Dhawan said.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To submit a letter, include name, email and phone number to L231 or email at humberetc@yahoo.ca

KPI's determine funding for College

By TARA DERMASTJA

More than \$16 million in Ontario government funding will be transferred to colleges this year based on Key Performance Indicator (KPI) surveys.

HSF President, Craig Wilson, is emphasizing participation in Humber's KPI surveys in February.

Wilson said the better the results of the survey, the better the funding for the college later on.

"It's very essential that Humber College completes all its KPI surveys," Craig Wilson said.

The KPI project is a joint effort between Ontario colleges and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

It provides results in

five separate categories for all 25 Ontario colleges.

Three of the categories: graduation employment rate, graduate satisfaction rate and employer satisfac-

tion, affect college funding.

"It's important to do well," said Humber College President Dr. Robert Gordon. "We would be very upset if we didn't."

Gordon said the college received about \$1.5 million in funding last year from the government.

Still, the surveys are not flawless.

According to Gordon, the graduation employment rate is not based on graduates working in their field of study.

"The type of employment is irrelevant," Gordon said. "If you're a part-time hamburger flipper, that's considered employment."

Gordon also said the KPI's favour smaller colleges which work hard to do well on the surveys.

This is the fifth time the surveys will be performed, and Director of Institutional Research Peter Dietsche said student awareness of the KPI surveys is being raised.

"We have a poster that we're in the process of putting up," Dietsche said.

"HSF also puts up some large posters of their own."

Dietsche said they will also be hoping for student involvement when the surveys are distributed at Humber between February 3-7, 2003.



Members of HSF discuss the Key Performance Indicator surveys at a meeting Jan. 8

Where's our snow day?

By FRANCES PETRUCCELLI

Snow days are one of the best things about living in a northern climate. Everyone looks forward to waking up on stormy winter mornings and hearing that school is closed, so they can crawl back into bed. Well, almost everyone.

Richard Hook, Humber's vice president of academics, is one of the exceptions. Hook decides when weather conditions are bad enough to close the college.

"I've been told by the [Humber] president that I'm fairly conservative when it comes to weather-related closures," he said.

Hook said snow days rarely occur more than once or twice a year. The department of public safety tracks weather around the clock and advises him on forecasts and

road conditions.

"Weather forecasts aren't always reliable... Ice and freezing rain [are things] we watch very carefully. If there's a very high probability, we'll close," he said.

When deciding whether or not to cancel class, Hook said he considers two factors. First, "Can people get here?" and second, "Can they get into the parking lots?"

He considers information about public transit, city snow removal and consults with Humber's public safety department.

"If the answer to either of these questions is 'no,' we close," Hook said.

When weather conditions become severe during the course of a school day, the decision is sometimes made to close the college early, usually around 2:00 p.m., he

said.

Any tests, assignments or exams that are missed due to a school closure are rescheduled, so that students don't suffer academic disadvantages.

Dave Ross, spokesperson for the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, said there is no financial penalty imposed on colleges for cancelling classes due to bad weather.

"Generally speaking, the decision to close is made between 5:30 and 6:30 a.m.," said Donna Chow, Humber's director of communications.

Students can find out about school closures by listening to major Toronto radio stations, checking Humber's web site (www.humberc.on.ca), or by phoning the college (416-675-5000).

College announces new C.E. courses

By LESLIE FLEISCHER

Humber College has announced a number of new courses in the continuing education (C.E.) program for the Winter 2003 session.

C.E. offers over 1,000 night courses for adults who are looking

to upgrade or acquire new skills.

The nighttime courses, ranging from accounting to welding, are part of the college's way of keeping its programs current.

"We work with many outside organizations for continuing education programs," said Janis Miller, Dean of corporate and continuing education.

Many of the C.E. courses are taught by companies in a specific field, allowing students to get the certification they need to work in that field.

"We work with associations who have their own credentials. Humber works with them to run and develop their programs," Miller said.

The Human Resources Professionals Association of Ontario (HRPAO) and Certified General Accountants (CGA) are among the most popular organizations offering certification.

Costs for program courses vary and much of what determines cost is based on ministry grants and subsidies for selected programs.

"Most of the government funded

courses are three to four credits, and are approximately \$83 each," said Marg Riley, manager of continuing education services.

The HRPAO and CGA programs are ministry approved and subsidized. Information technology courses, however, are not and demand full payment by the registrant.

"Non-funded course prices are based on what the market will bear," Riley said. "They could be as low as \$50, but service computer courses could be as high as \$12,000."

With over 54,000 continuing education students, Humber's job to maintain both course selection and availability is vital.

According to Miller, the main challenge for the programs at Humber is class size.

"Capacity [for continuing education classes] is large at Humber. When a class is full, we try to open another section. We don't want to turn anyone away," she said.

C.E. course information can be found on the college website (www.humberc.on.ca).

Decline in drunk driving

By MELISSA LIM

With classes back in session, and a new season of pub nights underway, comes a reminder to drink responsibly.

Toronto police set up 150 spotchecks and stopped almost 11,000 more cars in 2002— a 24 per cent increase over 2001.

"We hope that this means people realize that they have to drink responsibly," R.I.D.E. co-ordinator Constable Denise Williamson said.

Although more motorists were stopped during the month-long initiative, the total number of drinking and driving charges laid was down by 20 per cent from 104 to 83.

Williamson attributed the decrease to a number of factors.

"They're either making alternate arrangements [when drinking], or are just not drinking as much."

While the total number of criminal charges decreased, there was a 26 per cent increase, from 228 to 287, in non-criminal charges, where the amount of alcohol consumed was below but close enough to the legal limit to issue a 12-hour suspension.

But Williamson believes that when it comes to drinking and driving, people are getting the message.

"The final numbers are encouraging, but there's always room for improvement."

World Digest

by JOEL HOIDAS

Call for Sniper to be tried as an adult

UNITED STATES

Fairfax, Virginia prosecutors argued that teenage sniper suspect John Lee Malvo be tried as an adult and face the death penalty for his alleged role in the deaths of 10 people in the Washington area this past fall.

Malvo, 17, and John Allen Muhammad, 42, have been accused of shooting random people with a rifle from the trunk of a Chevrolet Caprice. Police said there are holes cut in the trunk big enough for the barrel and the scope of the rifle poke through.

Rooster kills man

PHILIPPINES

A rooster about to be set loose in a cockfight arena in Zamboanga, severely cut its handler with razor sharp spikes strapped to its legs, police said Tuesday.

The spikes stabbed into the man's groin and legs as the rooster shuffled and flailed in the man's hands. The man bled to death in front of shocked onlookers.

Aussie ghost ship

AUSTRALIA

Police are still scratching their heads over a ship found last week, with three tonnes of rotting mackerel and tuna, but no crew or life rafts, about 300 kilometers west of Broome.

The boat was intercepted and boarded by the Australian navy. Police are still asking for any information on the crew of the Taiwanese boat and its owners.

Two arrested in Bali

INDONESIA

Indonesian police have arrested two more suspects believed to be involved in the October terrorist bombing of a Bali nightclub.

They say one is believed to have driven the explosives-packed van.

Head of the investigation in Bali, General I Made Pastika, said the two suspects were arrested on an island off the coast of the province of East Kalimantan.

Students get paid

SWEDEN

In an attempt to get students to show up to class, a Stockholm high school is planning to pay \$88 to any student who is present in class every day for four consecutive weeks.

Outrage has spread throughout the country that a school would pay its students just for showing up. Imagine

Humber if paid its students to attend. The parking lots would really be packed then.

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Bike ride of a life-time

By FERNANDA CARANFA

The world's longest bike race, organized by a group of Toronto-area enthusiasts, is set to get rolling this weekend.

Thirty-four participants from Canada, the U.S. and Europe will take part in the first ever Tour d'Afrique, a 10,500-kilometre trek from Cairo to Cape Town which is expected to take four months.

The tour is the culmination of a 10-year-long dream of organizers Henry Gold and Michael de Jong.

Gold, the co-founder and executive director of Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief in Africa, has organized extensive projects throughout African nations.

De Jong, an entrepreneur, started Panacea Growth, a reforestation project in Belize and develops environmentally sound products.

"[They] came up with the idea of a bike tour after attempts to start a bicycle factory in Kenya failed," said Liza Miller, the tour's administrative organiser.

Organizers hope the race will highlight the hike as inexpensive and environmentally friendly alternative to cars in African nations where more roads are being built.

The tour will be followed by trucks containing essential gear such as tents, sleeping bags and massive amounts of water. Trees will be planted along the route to compensate for pollution caused by the trucks.

The group of riders is composed



Participants from across the globe will set off this weekend on a 10,500 km bike trek that will take them from Cairo to Capetown.

of 28 men and six women ranging in age from 21 to 64. They will ride starting at sunrise covering 105 kilometres a day.

Toronto's Alex Campbell, 44, arrived in Cairo earlier this month, has already run into some glitches expected in an event of this scale. The airlines had lost his bike for two days and when it arrived, items were missing. But Campbell remains optimistic.

"Oh well, it's all part of the adventure," he said.

Some of the participants are fitness professionals with previous experience in extreme races.

Steven Topham, 32, saw the race as the chance of a lifetime.

To build his motivation for completing the race, he decided to raise \$100,000 for Ryan's Well Foundation, an organization committed to building wells for clean water in Africa. It was started by Ryan Hreljac at the age of six.

"I decided to raise funds for Ryan because if he can do it, so can I," Topham said. "I really feel empowered by his efforts."

During the tour, Topham will travel to some of the wells built by

Ryan's organization.

Veteran cyclist and world traveler, Scotty Robinson, 44, is pragmatic about the dangers of travelling through volatile Africa.

"I've travelled to Jordan, Syria and Turkey when it was supposedly dangerous and it was fine," said Robinson. "People were friendly and even invited me into their homes."

Although the media can blow things out of proportion, you have to respect the potential for danger, Robinson said.

David Auger, 61, has entered six annual races in the last few years that covered 500 to 600 kilometers per week. In the fall, the St. Catharines resident cycled 1,058 kilometres across Newfoundland, fully-loaded and alone in 10 days.

"The challenge [with Tour d'Afrique] will be to carry on at that level for almost four months," said Auger. "My granddaughter, who is nine, cried when she heard I'd be gone so long."

The race costs \$7,000 U.S. to complete the full 10,500 kilometers but it can be done in sections. Organizers expect the Tour d'Afrique to be a bi-annual event.

It's so funny, it's money!

By CHRIS MACKINNON

A Toronto comic with a seemingly bottomless back pocket of 5-dollar bills spoke to a cafeteria full of broke students this week.

James Cunningham, a one-man show called Funny Money, quickly had students paying attention to his financial advice with a seminar that included bizarre dance moves and frequent cash giveaways.

"Hi, here's five bucks," Cunningham said over and over again to grateful participants throughout his 45-minute act.

Cunningham told the Humber Crowd they don't have to be starving students anymore.

In fact, Cunningham believes everyone can be a millionaire if they follow his formula.

Young people can take control by making a budget, paying off debts, spending less on beer and other forms of entertainment, and investing, he said.

To highlight his message, the comic turned from his PowerPoint presentation to play a game of what he called "The broke-ass Canadian

version of the Price is Right." Volunteers responded to an impromptu money quiz that revealed their sorry lack of financial savvy, but Cunningham gave them cash anyway.

Then Cunningham began what looked like an accountant performing

Students laughed and applauded when asked how many consider Kraft Dinner a major food group. Ditto when asked how many did Christmas shopping at the dollar store. But the applause took a pause when Cunningham pointed out that more than two thirds of students are poor.

Cunningham speaks from experience. As a university student in the 90s he was "really hurting money-wise." But he says he was able to pursue the career he wanted because he always stayed away from the traps he saw his friends fall into. He avoided student loans and instead bought mutual funds.

Now, recent appearances in TV commercials for the Ford Escape and Bud Light pay the bills. He also goes around the country with his Funny Money seminar, and does standup at Yuk Yuk's.

At least some of the energetic comic's advice appears to have sunk in for those who came out to see him on Jan 14. When asked what she would do with her crisp new C-note, the winner of the money dance said: "pay off my debts!"



Funny money man, James Cunningham, gives students financial advice with a twist in the cafeteria.

the humpty dance. He encouraged an enthusiastic bunch of participants to "shake your money maker" to the music on the cafeteria sound system. Five students mimicked his outrageous antics and the winner made off with a hundred dollars.

Comedy hits the airwaves

By SHERRI WOOD

A pilot project between CBC Radio and Humber's School of Comedy will have some students laughing all the way to the bank.

Final-year Comedy: Writing & Performance students can write and submit their material to CBC Radio next month, and a representative from CBC Radio's comedy development office will select the funniest and most original scripts to air.

"We thought it might be an interesting idea to do something together with the College," Anton Leo, executive producer of comedy for CBC Radio, said. "This will be an opportunity for students to add another skill set to their arsenal."

Leo is enthusiastic about the project, and sees the agreement as a positive opportunity for Humber's comedy students.

"We're looking for scripts that have adapted themselves well for radio," Leo said. "[A good radio script] can paint pictures in the listener's mind."

The selected students will be paid, have full access to CBC's pro-

ducing facilities – including professional actors to perform the piece – and will have their script aired on radio stations across Canada.

"CBC is looking for new comedic voices, so it could be a career starter for some [students]," said Allan Guttman, artistic director of Humber's comedy programs. "Students have the opportunity to work in a new medium with professionals, get paid and get exposure."

The Comedy program at Humber is unique and harbours an impressive faculty of well-known and accomplished comedians, such as Joe Flaherty and Eugene Levy.

The program coordinates special initiatives like the joint effort with CBC Radio to help students break into the industry by providing access to producers, directors, and other active members in the field.

"In Canada, there are a limited number of venues [for comedy writers] – the stage, television if you're lucky, and some opportunity in radio," Leo said. "Writing for radio is one more skill set, and therefore one more opportunity to advance in this field."



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Editorial

Killers on the loose

More middle-aged drive drunk than targeted youth

Youth and young adults are targeted by radio and television ad campaigns to avoid drinking and driving more than any other age group.

Supposedly youth need to be reminded because we haven't yet learned to be responsible or have yet to learn the ropes like the older population, who should know better.

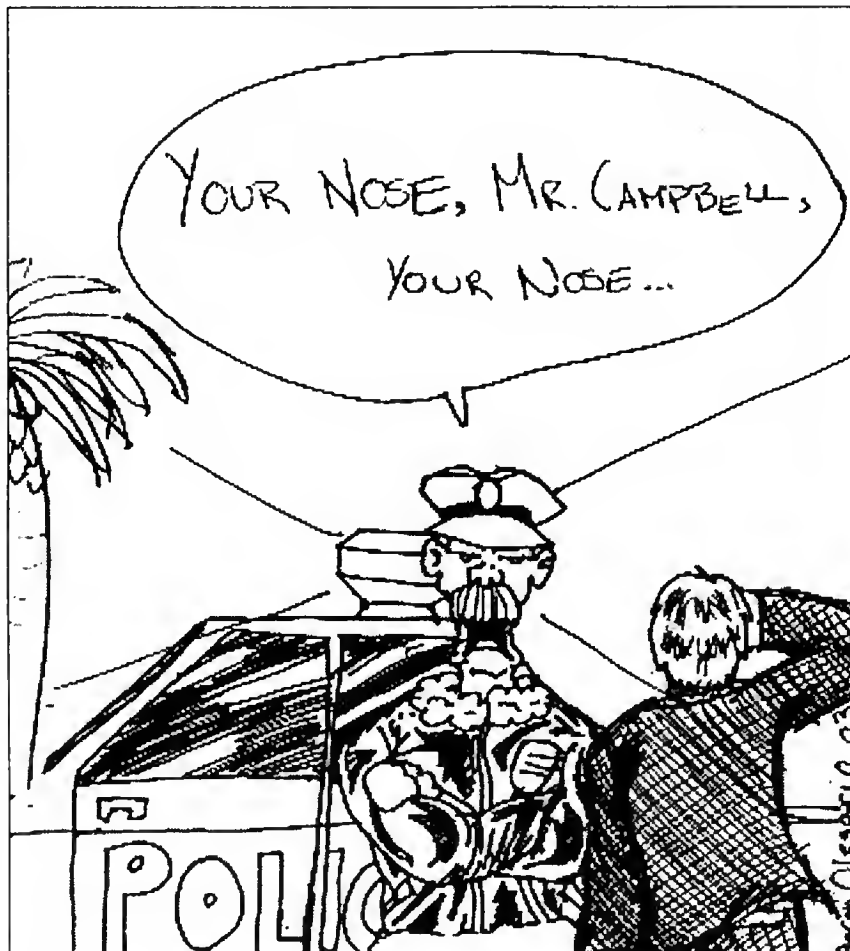
But Canada's Ministry of Transportation should also target the same anti-drinking and driving campaigns to middle-aged men and women. Some, like Gordon Campbell, B.C.'s embarrassment of a premier, have obviously forgotten how dangerous and downright stupid it is to drive after consuming even one beer.

In Canada, 38 per cent of men and women between the ages of 20-24 consume one to six alcoholic beverages a week, according to Statistics Canada. The numbers rise from there. With 46 per cent of Canadians between 25-34 and 55-64 drinking one to six alcoholic beverages a week and 50 per cent of 35 to 44-year-olds doing the same, it's a wonder why youth are still the major target of anti-drinking and driving campaigns.

Yes, we're all human and of course, we all make mistakes, but something as reckless as driving drunk is completely intolerable.

Drunk drivers can easily become murderers, uncontrollable killing machines. Such an offence is certainly worth paying more than the slap on the wrist Campbell faces: a \$1,000 fine, 14 hours of alcoholic counselling and a licence suspension of 90 days - the maximum sentence in Hawaii where he was arrested on holiday.

Of course, because Campbell is in the public eye, he is surely learning his lesson. But what about the average middle-aged drunk driver not in the public eye? Does he not need a constant reminder of the dangers of his stupidity? Waiting until he kills someone is a sorry way to teach a lesson. He and the other oafs need to be a target of safety campaigns now.



Society is to blame for lack of gun control

The future of gun control is horribly bleak. Despite their best efforts to battle crime involving guns, city officials need help.

Over 50 per cent of guns used in crimes committed in Canada come from the United States.

Sounds pretty unbelievable, even bizarre, doesn't it?

Since the accidental shooting death of a six-year-old Mississauga boy on Jan. 3, questions are being raised yet again about gun control and how easily accessible guns are in Canada.

Even more inquiries will be raised the next time a child kills someone while playing with a gun, or the next time there's a double homicide, suicide, murder or gang-related killing. The future of gun control is horribly bleak, but the city has been trying its best to battle against the possession of firearms.

Last year at this time, Toronto police launched a program called Operation Gun Stop, now a permanent gun unit in the city. A team of 10 detectives based in North York work with a \$600,000 budget to gather information from the surround-

ing 16 police divisions, including sources within the city's gun trading system, to combat illegal gun smugglers.

The program surprisingly is the first of its kind in Canada and has since put a huge dent in the number of illegal guns circulating in Toronto. Before the program was introduced in the city, police apprehended 2,774 illegal firearms from Jan. 1 to Nov. 2001.

The gun unit also periodically hosts firearms amnesties, where gun-toters can hand their firearms to police, no questions asked, and get something in return like Raptors tickets, which isn't as much of a reward now as it once was, but you get the idea.

Such amnesty services are available throughout the country, but even with all the effort of government officials, whether we think they're giving it their best efforts or not, it all comes down to how society is handling guns.

Illegal firearms are never in the right hands in

any society. So, no matter how cool you think your uncle is for buying the newest rave of a lightweight silver pistol from the trunk of some shmoe's hatchback in TO's darkest or even brightest corner, report it.

But that person will never use his or her gun on me, you may think to yourself. If you know someone with a gun, they may never intentionally turn it on you. But people who carry guns tend to encounter others who carry the same. And guns mean danger, death, mental and physical anguish, pain and suffering, and risking your life and the lives of others.

If friends, acquaintances or family members are toting a pistol, or even if you have one at home for "protection," think twice.

What if some little hands find it?

Reporting what you see or turning in your own illegal firearm will help keep one more off the street and may well save a life.

Could even be your own...

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Opinion

Enlightenment for sale



By TAMARA HOLMES

Buddhist monks spend the better part of their lives practicing scarcity, celibacy and understanding of the self and spirit.

Amidst the backdrop of eastern Asia's echoing and endless string of mountains, daily rituals surround this powerful pursuit of knowledge, ultimately seeing the devoted reincarnated enough times to reach enlightenment and all its glory.

But if you want to achieve the same, you can just buy it.

Whether you pick up a copy of "Buddhism For Dummies" or pop a narrated version in your tape deck

during 4:59 p.m. traffic, you're conveniently less than a week away from achieving what takes monks several lifetimes.

You can also accessorize with candles, bamboo trays and cutesy nirvana-esque incense holders that "Chaptigo" (Chapters/Indigo/Coles) merchandisers feel are needed to complete your inward lucid journey.

Does the concept of purchasing a lifestyle not seem wrong? Pretentious? Laughable and deniable? Sure, but still, have we not all done it at some point?

Something should be said about non-fiction books and their overpriced, substandard accessories being a silent form of societal peer pressure.

Maybe that's slightly overdoing it.

Of course books themselves aren't the sources of evil. That would be crazy. But is it so crazy to think that books are marketed to us to reflect society's peer pressure in a much more silent and friendly way?

That the burgeoning self-improvement book industry plays on the insecurities and sub-consciousness of bookstore wanderers?

Whether curling up with a good book sounds like good times or not, it's hard to restrain the wave of

they can better your life and with accessories to match, you feel all more the part.

Wandering through the aisles leaves you saying something like, "I never considered cooking Thai before, but that book over there can teach me how to make more than 100 dishes!"

"Maybe I should have a dinner party Friday. I could buy the book and prepare pages 34 and 67. I could buy those really great napkin rings and candle holders at the front counter... It'll look like I've been cooking Thai food forever!"

Boom.

Welcome to your new chic domesticate lifestyle surrounding Thai cuisine.

For others, once the ice cream is done, it's back to the store to get a book on the latest health and fitness

craze.

No one likes being approached about a free trial membership at a gym. It only leads the person to spend an hour in front of the mirror wondering why they were asked. However, an unobtrusive hook supported by B-list actors on paid programming seems less invasive than a clipboard-carrying personal trainer in the middle of a mall.

Books are inconspicuous and, on the surface, lack pretentiousness that society fears we all possess. Buying a reference book or two is fine, but accessorizing on the way out of the bookstore is not.

If all you want to ultimately do is boost your feng-shui savvy, at least refrain from buying Indigo's bamboo tray for \$49.50. They're never more than \$5 on the streets that line Spadina.

We'll sure miss Mel's crazy antics



By CHRISTINE ATKINSON

In the past six years, Mayor Mel Lastman has rounded out his 30 years in municipal politics by overseeing the creation of a megacity (remember the picture of his floating head above the city's horizon?), a crazy rampage of fiberglass moose set loose in the downtown core, and chummed it up with the Hells Angels.

This Badboy will certainly be missed, if not for his accomplishments with developing Toronto into a more sturdy and accommodating city, then for the joke of a mayor he has been, the latter probably being the reason why Lastman is fizzling away with a whimper.

He definitely wasn't the only reason Toronto lost the Olympic bid, who for some reason assumed

that visiting African Olympic officials in their homeland would see him boiling in a cauldron of water.

This is the man, whose wife was charged for stealing a pair of slacks from Fairview Mall.

This is the man who put Canada's armed forces hard at work to bail Toronto out of a possible third snowstorm that never came. Canadian parody TV show, *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, came up with their own name for Toronto's troublesome weather patterns, 'winter.'

Then again, there was the whole debacle about his illegitimate children suing for millions because of an entire childhood of financial neglect.

This was the mayor of Toronto.

But he has done some good. After all, this was the man who had doubled the city's garbage pick-up and initiated plans for what eventually became the Sheppard subway line.

Whether you loved or hated the wiry-haired goof, you had to accept that his Badboy ways are just as cheesy as the ads.

And you also have to admit, he will be remembered.

Is it so crazy to think that books are marketed to us to reflect society's peer-pressure in a much more silent and friendly way?

curiosity that washes over you while in a book mega-store. There are books everywhere promising how

Glam it up, Bowie style!

The usual I'm-going-to-lose-20-pounds-by-the-summer-like-I've-routinely-failed-to-do resolution is either currently running full-fledged as planned, or dwindling miserably.

Regardless of whether you've ditched the diet already or trying your damndest to balance a routine at the athletics center between classes, work, your strained social life and home life, we all want to look good now before later, which is unfortunately not how this fitness thing works.

Three simple solutions, my troubled friend: Leather. Fishnets. Eyeliner.

No matter how crummy you feel or how lumpy you think you are,

I can't think of a better way to get acquainted with new people this semester than to caress a stranger's delicious leather-draped booty.

dressing up in wacky, crazy and sexy eye-grabbing gear will forever see you fit without the dumbbells.

Leather, fishnets and eyeliner make an interesting combination that is rarely seen at Humber, where most



By CHRISTINE ATKINSON

of the population fails to stray from sporting the usual rapster gear, South American hipster jeans, Diadora track suits, plain ol' t-shirts, or those awful chunky necklaces.

Be different! Unique! Don't be a sheep, wear one!

When I first dished out a month's rent for a pair of leathers everyone was bright-eyed and eager to cop a feel. I can't think of a better way to get acquainted with new people this semester than to caress a stranger's delicious leather-draped booty. Of course, fewer police reports will be filed if girls feel around comparable to guys doing the same. A guy decked out in leather won't question to his groper, except to insist that she meet a close buddy of his. That is, of course, if she doesn't request it first.

If you don't have the cash for leathers, spice up your wardrobe with a pair of fishnets. Darling, I swear, you will get all kinds of men checking out your gams, especially the studly guy in your elective class.

Guys, give fishnets a shot too. If you're too mainstream to wear them with cut-off leathers, find yourself a fishnet shirt. I'm not talking about those gritty ones with glued-on sparkles that Le Chateau carries. Who wants to walk around on campus looking like Electric Circus fanatics?

Really, you don't.

How anyone can survive without eyeliner is the eighth wonder to me. And again, this also applies to both men and women. Guys, it's not really considered make-up if it's a necessity. Just think of it as a super-attractive chick magnet accessory or a conversation starter....

Chick - (After a lingering and curious gaze) "Are you wearing eyeliner?"

Magnet - "Yes, yes I am." (Insert intense stare here)

Chick - (Mouth agape) "Wow, are you in a band?"

Bands require commitment and most girls like that.

Or

Chick - (Sly grin) "Lemme fix that, it's smudged a little..."

Immediate contact! (Which could lead to more later...)

Give any new look a shot. It's a quick fix for fun and will definitely have you feeling awesome and new, whether you're tediously working your way to a newer, leaner self or if you figure Humber's tired halls need a serious persona glam treatment.

LifeStyle

Riding the waves at the boatshow

Canada's largest boating show brings summer pleasure inside and wows Toronto consumers

By JEN O'BRIEN

It's January in Toronto, but that doesn't mean you can't try your hand at sailing or hop into a kayak and get pummeled by a six-foot waterfall while learning how to shoot the rapids.

A virtual sailing simulator and The Wave Box, the first portable whitewater play hole, are two of the interactive displays featured at the 45th annual Toronto International Boat Show, currently underway.

"You don't have to be a millionaire to get into boating," said the event's publicist Linda Crane.

Attendees can visit the Discover Boating Centre and discuss with boating enthusiasts options that best fit different lifestyles and budgets.

"There are parts of nature you can't see without a boat, and it needn't be expensive. A great way for young adults to get into boating is by joining the Humber sailing club," said Sandy Currie, executive director of the Canadian Marine Manufacturer's Association. "Sailing programs allow people to

get out there without buying a boat."

"For \$107 you can take an introductory course and get started learning skills," said Scott Hughes, director of the Humber sailing and powerboating centre. The Humber sailing club operates year round and has clients that range in age from seven to 80-something, said Hughes.

"People in Toronto work hard all day. Sailing allows them to break ties with the land. Once they get on the water the worries stop and the fun begins," Hughes said.

Other than the sailing, kayaking and wakeboarding displays, Crane said highlights of this year's show include new products like seasickness sunglasses and a sea scooter that looks like something out of a James Bond movie.

Also noteworthy are the weekend seminars by Diane Stuemer, a woman who sailed around the world in a 40-year-old yacht with her family and only six days of sailing experience.

The Toronto International Boat Show runs at the National Trade Centre until Jan 19.



A demonstrator at the Toronto International Boat Show kayaks through the simulated waterfall.

Bridal Show perfect start for couples

By MARISA ZUCARO

Canada's Bridal Show was in full swing last weekend with over 400 exhibitors gracing the floors of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

The three-day event, which ended last weekend at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, is Canada's largest wedding extravaganza.

Attendees could expect to find anything they needed to plan the most important day of their lives. From caterers and jewelers to disc jockeys and clothing designers, the event offered an abundance of wedding experts for brides, grooms and the entire bridal party.

Soon to be husband and wife, Steve Tutino, 29 and Kate Pecadore, 26, were among the estimated 28,000 attendees. The couple have been engaged for four months and are anticipating a June 2004 wedding.

"Wedding planners are just too expensive," Pecadore said. "I think this show is a great way to get all your questions answered and have an opportunity to see what's out there."

Her fiancé agrees.

"I wouldn't have a clue where to start," Tutino said. "At least here, between mingling with the experts and mingling with the other couples, I feel a little, and I mean a little bit more organized."

After paying \$15 to get in, guests were greeted with a goody bag at the entrance, complete with not one, but two hefty wedding magazines, a meal replacement bar, sugar free juice mix, mascara and a load of other surprises.

Once inside, exhibitors had more giveaways to entice people to their booth.

"Someone's giving away free wedding cake slices," Tutino said. "We've been to that booth more than once."

Claudia Bertino, 35, and Lisa

ing for ideas and direction just like everyone else."

"It's been interesting," Farnia said. "Some people think we're friends or sisters. When we tell them we're a couple they seem a little surprised. But a customer is a customer, right?"

"Absolutely," said Michelle from Facial Creation, a skin care and make-up salon. "Times are changing and I think it's great."

Few complaints were heard by attendees of the successful show.

"I only wish we were given these bags on our way out," Pecadore said, motioning to her bag of goodies. "These magazines are just way too heavy. The handles are ripping apart."

"And my coat is really getting on my nerves," Tutino said. "A coat check would be good."

Treats on the way out and a coat check on the way in, other than that the show was its usual success. A steady stream of show goers kept exhibitors happy.

"We do this show every year," Nicola, owner of La Sem restaurant, said. "There are always a lot of people that come through. It's busy."

So busy that it blows into town twice a year.

"Marriage is a profitable business," Tutino said. "The wedding planners and the divorce lawyers, that's where the money's at."



Canada's Bridal Show takes the confusion out of planning the perfect wedding.

Farnia, 34, are also planning a wedding. Although the federal government continues to oppose same-sex marriages, Bertino and Farnia still plan to walk down the aisle.

"It's going to be one of the most important and memorable days of our life," Bertino said. "We're here look-



Revellers gawk at the sleek sailboats on display at the boatshow.

What's On

•Jan 25
The Manulife Walk for Memories
Alzheimer Society of Toronto
(416) 322-6560
www.alzheimerontario.org

•Now through Jan 31
Maxi Big Blowout Sale
924 Danforth Ave.
(416) 461-6686

•Jan 16-19
Women's Health Matters
Forum and Expo
Metro Toronto Convention
Centre
www.womenshealthmatters.ca

•Jan 17-19
Total Wedding Show
International Centre
(905) 677-6131
www.totalweddingshow.com

•Jan 18
The Backdoor Store
Warehouse Sale
77 Akron Rd., Unit 1
(416) 253-6724

•Jan 16-19
Metro Home Show
Metro Toronto Convention
Centre
www.metrohomeshow.com

Frizz treatment can leave your hair and wallet flat

By AMIE BOZZO

Everyone has battled the evil monster of frizz at some point or another. Women spend a lot of time and money in search of the right product or hairstyle to minimize its devastating effects.

A new technology discovered in Japan may be the answer. It is known in the hair industry as thermal reconditioning and it has swept North America like wild fire. Stars such as Julianne Moore are fans of the treatment.

The process involves permanently straightening curly or frizzy hair leaving it feeling smooth and silky.

Michelle Patterson of Salon Vivace on Cumberland Street, downtown Toronto, uses this procedure on her clients.

"I would definitely recommend this to someone who can't control their hair, someone who doesn't use their own curl," Patterson said.

It is a lengthy process that can take anywhere from four to six hours and requires two technicians per head. Maintenance is required every six months depending on re-growth of the hair.

The service can cost upwards of \$250 an hour. But, be warned it requires a minimum of three hours

BEFORE



The lengthy Thermal reconditioning process can take your hair from fat and frizzy to sleek and smooth in a matter of hours. But, beware, it can also empty your pocket.

so do the math. That's \$750 and counting.

Those not willing to spend the money on the treatment can bring the benefits of natural ion therapy into their own home for a fraction of the cost. There is an entire Bio Ionic line, which consists of blow dryers and hairbrushes available at the salon.

A travel size blow dryer costs \$130 and the professional size can be purchased for \$350. The brushes range in price from \$40 to \$47.

There have been a number of variations of thermal reconditioning but this one in particular uses natural ion therapy to retexture the hair.

The treatment infuses the hair with negative ions, which break down water molecules in the shaft without damaging the cuticle.

"It increases the hair's elasticity essentially strengthening the hair," Patterson said.

The negative ions help to energize and restore the hair.

This therapy uses a combination

AFTER



PHOTO/COURTESY

Patterson said she likes to have a consultation with each of her clients to determine whether or not the hair can withstand the treatment. It is also important to see what the client's long-term goals are for their hair.

If the hair cannot handle the procedure, she recommends undergoing intensive conditioning treatments.

Patterson said the success has been astounding. She herself has undergone the treatment. After all, she feels you cannot administer the treatment unless you have tried it yourself.

"People are just floored. Everyone is so happy because we've altered their way of life," Patterson said. "They are not chained to their blow dryer."

As for the condition of the hair she said it feels like silk. It becomes more manageable, and lustrous.

"The integrity of the hair all the way round is in awesome shape," Patterson said.

"This is the beauty of the Bio Ionic treatment. You can get some volume or blow dry the hair completely pin straight, or we can take away the curl completely," Patterson said.

Although this treatment can be applied to virgin, frizzy, curly or treated hair, not all can handle it.

The quest for health: Where is the middle ground?

By LYDIA DUMYN

From baggy eyes to flabby thighs, to a lengthy list of afflictions that will only get longer as you get older, aging is, in most cases, an inevitable fact of life.

Toronto's Beresford Clinic staff Dr. Elaine Chin, medical director, together with Dr. Elise Coho, a naturopathic doctor, is easing the aging process by combining naturopathic (herbal) and allopathic (traditional) treatments to repair the wears and tears inflicted by time. "The Beresford's Longevity Program combats old age from the inside out," Coho said, "making people healthier so that the risk factors for disease are decreased, and the health factors are increased."

Coho says that thanks to the rapid development of anti-aging technologies, the negative characteristics associated with growing older are deemed an avoidable and readily treatable condition rather than a fated flaw.

"Dr. Chin and I sit with our patients and [design] a diagnostic and treatment plan based on what they need," Coho said. The individual approach appeals to patients and has brought on the success of the clinic. Chin says.

The 12-month Longevity Program applies the role of traditional medicines to cure sickness, with that of alternative medicines to prevent it. The two doctors claim this combination offers patients an enhanced mental speed, sounder sleep, improved mood, greater physical performance, achievement of proper weight and a longer, healthier lifetime.

Most patients take full advantage of the integrated program, but "many patients still lean towards the naturopathic [remedies] because the side effects are usually not as severe in the long run," Coho said.

However, Dr. Khurshed Jeejeebhoy from the Department of Medicine and Nutritional Sciences at the University of Toronto, said this is not always the case.

"Many medicines have an herbal origin. All of them have side effects. Anything which influences body function has the

Alternative and traditional remedies come together but doctors disagree about benefits and potential side-effects

potential to distort nature and cause side effects."

He added that it is important to keep in mind that just because a product is natural does not by any means make it safe.

Jeejeebhoy said that numerous drugs come from plants.

"The main difference between naturopathy and scientific medicine is that medicine demands that all remedies be used only after controlled trials prove that they are better than a placebo," he said.

"Also, medicine uses an exact dose of the active constituent and does not rely on crude herbs which have unknown and variable quantities of the active principles, making dosing a 'russian roulette'."

Dr. Heather Boon of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto also warned that the safety of mingling naturopathic and allopathic medicines depends on the herbs and drugs used, and the patient's health status.

"Drugs and herbs with narrow therapeutic ranges are more likely to cause

problems when used together," Boon said. "I am not aware of any products, natural or otherwise, that can stop, or slow, the aging process."

Medicine is not a science capable of guarantees. All medicines have their restrictions. Dr. Chin and Dr. Coho co-operate to identify these limitations and determine how to minimize them so as to maximize their therapeutic capacity.

Anna Santi, a client who uses both traditional and alternative remedies will tell you straight, aging isn't easy. The 43-year-old Santi said, "this makes so much sense."

She like countless others, is searching for a safe and effective middle ground.

"I have some health issues, from chronic headaches, to fatigue and a few others like wrinkles and crow's feet that don't make me feel any better about myself," Santi said. "I've been bouncing back and forth between my herbalist and family doc-

"Anything which influences body function has the potential to distort nature and cause side effects."

tor, and more often than not they don't [value] each other's recommendations."

The appearance of youth can cost you an arm and a leg at a program fee of \$5,500 which covers the assessment, testing, counseling, an individualized plan, and follow up.

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Rainbow Cinemas Woodbine Centre	
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National Security (AA)	12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:35
LA Guy Thing (AA)	1:15, 4:00, 7:05, 9:25
Just Married (PG)	1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
About Schmidt (AA)	4:15, 7:00, 9:40
Catch Me If You Can (PG)	12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 9:30
Lord Of The Rings: 2 Towers (AA)	12:40, 4:20, 8:00
Maid In Manhattan (PG)	1:45, 7:10
Drumline (PG)	4:20, 8:55
Wild Thornberry's F	1:30

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Textbook time again

By ANNIE CHAU

The Humber College bookstore and Scorpio bookstore are in head-to-head competition now that it's time for students to hit the books again.

For students feeling the pressure of paying high prices for textbooks, Eva Suntay, the owner of Scorpio bookstore at 106 Humber College Blvd. says she can help.

"[The schools] don't follow the suggested retail price which I follow - even less than that actually," Suntay said. College bookstore officials said they were unable to comment due to the high volume of business at this time of year.

A price break on books would be much welcomed by Candace Brogan, a first year Interior Design student at Humber's north campus. For Brogan, books cost her about \$300, but she would have spent about \$500 if she had bought all of her required texts.

"Between materials and books I get pretty stressed out over the amount of money I have to spend this year," Brogan said. "I haven't been able to afford [books] with the money I make with my job. I have to seek assistance from my parents."

Rachael Smith is a first year fashion arts student. "I spent over \$250 last semester and \$179 this semester and I still have a makeup kit to buy which is over \$300," Smith said.

Suntay tries to keep her textbook prices at least seven to 10 per cent less than that of the college bookstore to make it more affordable for students.

Whether new or used, Suntay provides savings that can add up. For example, the cost of a new first year marketing book that retails at \$81.50 in the college bookstore is \$74.95. Used, it costs \$61.25 at the school, but only \$56 at Scorpio. For students taking CPAN 211, a new textbook would only cost \$148 as opposed to \$161 at the school store.

The availability of specific texts at Scorpio depends greatly on the demand for them, so selection could be limited for less popular courses.

At the school bookstore, you'll have better luck finding every text you need even if it costs more.

However Brogan said, "I was kind of frustrated last semester when [the school bookstore] didn't have our books available until near the end of the semester... I didn't bother buying it."

Another problem is that "most of the books I need you can't buy used [at the school bookstore]. It sucks because you take the plastic wrap off, and you can't take it back if you don't need it," Smith said.



Students shop for books at Humber College

In cases like that, Suntay suggests a way to make money to help pay for new books. "[Students] can use the store to sell used books to other students. We have a suggested price for that book, mostly 75 per cent of the actual new price, and then 80 per cent of that goes back to the student."

The Humber bookstore also provides this service to students, minus the 20 per cent commission fee, although according to their web site, the amount that you can get back for used books could vary from 30-70 per cent of the purchase price.

Digital cable is gaining ground on satellite TV

New research shows people are turning to digital cable instead of satellite television.

By BRIAN E. WILKINSON

Satellite television domination over digital cable may not be in the stars, according to a recent report.

Decima Publishing Inc. indicates that cable subscriptions are showing a steady growth in market shares while companies like Bell ExpressVu and Star Choice have been stagnant or have lost viewers.

"While satellite TV distributors continue to take customers away from cable operators, Decima Publishing's research shows that cable continues to slowly gain ground on satellite's strong lead in the digital TV environment," said Mario Mota, publisher & editor-in-chief of Decima Publishing in a recent press release.

With digital cable currently see-

ing more than 3 million users, the Canadian broadcast industry is now firmly in transition from analog to digital, and according to the report, the competition amongst cable companies is intense.

The marketing strategy most often employed by satellite companies focuses on satellite television as a cheaper alternative to cable with a wide variety of channels.

Bell ExpressVu charges \$199 for a dish, and monthly bills cost approximately \$59 per month. Rogers Digital Cable charges either \$8.95 per month to rent or \$249 to buy it.

Digital cable runs around \$37 monthly for all specialty channels. An additional \$20 per month is charged for movie packs at the customer's discretion.

Jennifer Walsh, a Rogers employee in Guelph, Ontario, believes that Digital cable is the way to go.

Walsh notes that Rogers offers 46 speciality channels while Star Choice offers 36 and Bell ExpressVu, 29 (as of May 15, 2002).

There is no indication if costs will be reduced if the number of digital subscribers increases.

Decima Publishing provides in-depth information and analysis on the Canadian broadcasting, telecommunications, wireless communications, and new media industries.

Lexus SUV brings hybrid engine technology to a larger platform

Toyota targets sales of hybrid electric vehicles of 300,000 by middle of decade.

By SARAH TERNOWAY

The gas-guzzling SUV may soon be a thing of the past.

Last week at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Toyota unveiled the innovative next generation: a Lexus sport utility

vehicle with a more powerful and more flexible hybrid engine.

The new technology, known as the Hybrid Synergy Drive, has an internal combustion engine in the front, and electric motors in the front and rear. In addition to reducing fuel consumption, the front and rear electric motors also provide the vehicle's all-wheel drive.

The company says that the V6 engine has the power and torque of a V8, with greatly reduced emissions and vastly improved fuel economy. While a typical Lexus SUV uses 13 litres of gas per 100 kilometres of city driving, the hybrid engine's fuel economy is similar to that of the Toyota Echo, which uses 6.6 litres per 100 km.

For a Humber student commu-

For a Humber student commuting daily from 20 km away - about the distance from North Campus to North York - that would save 2.56 litres of gas per day, a savings of about \$300 per school year at current gas prices.

ing daily from 20 km away - about the distance from North Campus to

North York or central Mississauga - that would save 2.56 litres of gas per day, a savings of about \$300 per school year at current gas prices.

The engine design is easily adaptable to a variety of different kinds of vehicles. Using the Hybrid Synergy Drive concept, a larger SUV could be designed with a bigger gas engine to give more power, while in a family sedan, more of the work could be given to the electric motors to enhance fuel economy.

Toyota's goal is to see worldwide annual sales of hybrid vehicles hit 300,000 by the middle of this decade. The company plans to have its first Hybrid Synergy Drive vehicle, the Lexus RX330 SUV, in showrooms within two years.

Toyota became the first company to mass-produce a hybrid gasoline-electric consumer car when it introduced the Prius in 2000.

Several other car companies are currently working on putting existing hybrid technology into a wider variety of vehicles. Ford plans a hybrid version of its Escape SUV, while GM has a grand plan to place a hybrid vehicle into every market category, starting with pickup trucks and SUVs. After scuttling plans for a hybrid Dodge Durango because of poor focus group results and concerns about inadequate towing power, DaimlerChrysler will enter the growing hybrid market later this year with a version of its popular Dodge Ram pickup truck.

Mac users get a new browser

Apple introduces innovative new products at Macworld.

By JEFF COLLIER

Computer-industry pioneer Apple Computer Inc. revealed its plans to become the hub of all things digital by launching several innovative products at its Macworld Expo last week.

Apple CEO Steve Jobs kicked off the bi-annual five-day trade show with three major product announcements including a Web browser called *Safari*, specifically designed for Mac computers promising faster connections and user-friendly applications. Also introduced is a presentation program called *Keynote*, to compete with *Microsoft PowerPoint*, and a host of upgraded and integrated *iLife* applications making it easier to use and share digital pictures, music and video.

Emphasizing the "digital lifestyle", Jobs' rundown of the new and upgraded products demonstrated Apple's goal to draw more users of Microsoft products to Apple hardware and software.

"We live in an incredible time in history where so many lives are going digital," Jobs said during his keynote speech at the Moscone Center in San Francisco. "We [Apple] are going to do for the digital lifestyle applications what *Microsoft Office* has done for productivity."

Initially, his strategy seems to be working.

By week's end, Apple reported over half a million users downloading the free *Safari* since it was posted on Apple's web-site last Tuesday. Mac owners are flocking to Apple's promise of a high-powered browser to replace Microsoft's *Internet Explorer* and a feature that eliminates those annoying pop-up advertising windows.

But not everyone is convinced.

David Barkworth, program coordinator for the faculty of graphic arts and pre-press technology at Humber's Lakeshore Campus, is one of the half-million people who downloaded *Safari* last week. He said although the program has a few new bells and whistles, it doesn't have much more to offer than *Explorer*.

"Overall, there really isn't that great of a difference, but there are a few negatives," Barkworth said. "It doesn't seem to be as user friendly as *Explorer*. For example, there isn't an immediate search engine, which means you have to source your own. And unlike *Explorer*, it doesn't remember the sites you've visited over the last few days."

And the enticing possibility of eliminating pop-up advertising windows?

"I don't have too many problems with them now," Barkworth said. "Unless you're a frequent visitor to those types of sites that create so many pop-ups, you're not going to have many problems anyway."

One digital lifestyle item Jobs unveiled that could be the hit of the winter season is a new snowboarding jacket made exclusively to integrate with Apple's popular iPod portable digital

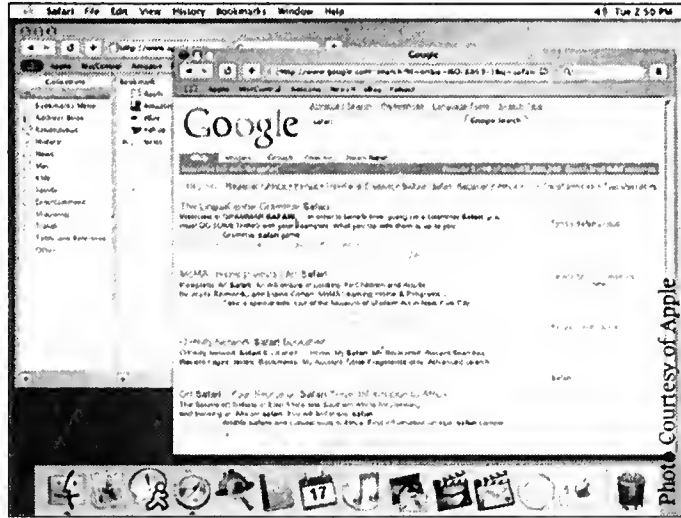
music player. Available at Apple's online store, the Burton Amp is a design collaboration between Apple and snowboarding giant Burton.

Jobs said the Burton Amp will enable snowboarders and other active users to control their music from right on the sleeve of their jacket without fumbling with zippers, gloves or pockets. The coat retails for \$499 US.

"In the world of snowboarding there is one company that virtually invented and popularized snowboarding and that is Burton," Jobs said. "Burton makes the coolest snowboards and they also make the coolest snowboard apparel. This jacket is wicked."

If crowd reaction is any indication, the best was saved for last

as Jobs ended his keynote speech by displaying the world's first 17-inch laptop computer. Drawing oohs and aahs from the audience, the laptop includes a DVD-recorder drive, wireless networking, and a keyboard that automatically illuminates itself in dark surroundings. It is priced at \$3,300 US.



A screen shot of Apple's new Web browser dubbed Safari

dotComics puts the X-Men on the Web

Internet comic books appearing online due to increasing costs for comic companies.

By BRIAN E. WILKINSON

With increased prices and dwindling audiences for comic books, comic book companies are looking to the Internet for possible solutions.

Marvel Comics has recently launched dotComics on its official web site (www.marvel.com). Here, fans and non-fans alike can read the latest issue of a select title of comic books for free.

Using a program called "flash animation", Marvel employs a group of men and women who digitally scan and enhance comic books so that images and words pop-up on your screen.

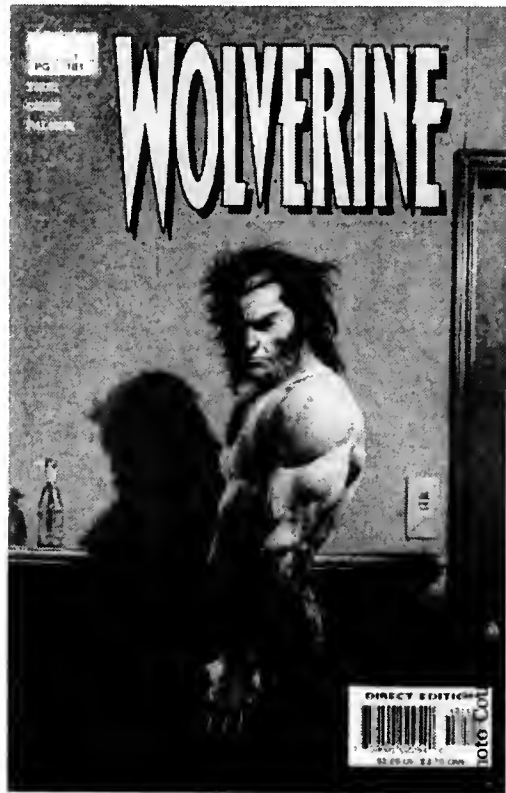
The idea behind dotComics came as a result of the increasing costs of making comic books.

"There's pros and cons to dotComics," said Marvel Comics' *Wolverine* writer, Frank Tieri. "Pro is that you get someone to read the book who might not normally look at it, and say 'hey, this is cool, I'll pick this up.'"

"Con is that you potentially lose a customer who wanted to try it but would've paid for it."

Though Marvel doesn't charge a fee to view their books online, the hope is that it will encourage readers to pick up titles they may not have previously considered buying. With the average title costing \$4 CDN, some might see this as an appealing financial alternative.

"It's definitely an appealing idea," said Aaron Jacklin, an English major studying at the University of Guelph. "This way I can try before I buy. I think it's great."



Other comic web sites have begun to catch on to this creative marketing idea. D.C. Comics (www.dccomics.com) has short animated cartoons featuring some of their more popular comic creations.

Recent issues available for download include *The Hulk* #50, *Wolverine* #181, and *Ultimate Spider-Man* #36.

An extensive catalogue is currently available to people who sign up at the web site free of charge.

Brand new Game Boy

By SHAWNA FRYER

The most stylish and portable Game Boy system ever made is set to hit the shelves this spring, says Nintendo Canada Ltd.

The Game Boy Advance SP boasts a new illuminated screen, sleek design, and is available in the modern colours of metallic cobalt and platinum. The new gadget will cost about \$150.

"For those who want the latest in technology and edgy design, Game Boy Advance SP delivers the ultimate in portable gaming," said Ron Bertram, general manager of Nintendo Canada Ltd. in a press release.

The rechargeable lithium ion-battery allows for 10 hours of play with the light on and 18 hours with the light off. It takes about three hours to charge and should last consumers at least three years.

The most marked improvement in the new system is the illumination feature on the screen. Many users of

the current Advance system find it difficult to play in darker surroundings.

"It looks like Nintendo has addressed two of the key complaints about the Advance, the poorly lit screen and its size," said Kevin Siu, the associate publisher at *Shift* magazine. "What's interesting though, is that they've reverted to the original vertical design, after Game Boy Advance's horizontal ergonomic design. I wonder how that will play out."

The SP promises to fix the problem with its front light screen.

And fear not if you have spent oodles of money collecting the games for the current Advance system. The new replacement is fully compatible with all Advance games and most accessories previously released in the Game Boy line.

Nintendo will continue to market the current Game Boy Advance system. Since its launch over a year ago, it has sold more than 11.5 million units in North America.

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Arts

Club has great vibe

One of the newest faces on the club scene, *Una Mas* promises fun with none of the attitude

By BUKET OKTEM

Hidden between grim looking buildings on Adelaide Street, just west of Spadina, sits *Una Mas*, a nightclub catering to dance and music lovers in Toronto.

Walking into *Una Mas* is like experiencing two different club scenes in one venue.

The newly designed lounge-style bar occupying the main floor offers a relaxed atmosphere fit for those who care to just hang out and listen to the DJ's mixes.

The four co-owners have recently revamped part of the two-year-old club. "We've added a different DJ upstairs in the lounge," co-owner Peter Lau said.



A group of fun-loving individuals party hard at *Una Mas*, a club that's all about dancing.

The room downstairs boasts a separate DJ, spinning tunes to an eclectic mix of dance-starved souls. A spacious hardwood dance floor is filled to the rim with people grooving to some of the best

dance, R&B, hip-hop and reggae music out there today.

"This is my second time here," said Jenna, 23, from Toronto. "I really like the vibe at *Una Mas*, it's very different from other clubs in the city."

According to Lau, what sets *Una Mas* apart from those other clubs is its unpretentious attitude. "We're not interested in snobbish style," he said. "There is never a line up outside and we're not concerned with what people are wearing."

This unassuming approach has succeeded in making *Una Mas* a popular hot spot in downtown Toronto. The club is also recognized for its diversity in showcasing DJ talent from Canada, the U.S. and as far away as Japan.

Una Mas has also played host to renowned house, hip-hop and dance music DJs. "We've had DJ Jazzy Jeff spin here," Lau said.

The regulars are there because "you know you're going to have a great time," said Alex, 27, from Mississauga. "It's all about the music here and all people care about is dancing."

The club hosts different promotions and parties each week. Check out www.unamas.net for more details.

Una Mas is located at 422 Adelaide St. West.

Arctic adventure lights up the stage

Last chance to catch critically-acclaimed hit about North Pole trek

By TAMARA HOLMES

Much like trying to keep a salt shaker in the centre of a table when the cloth underneath it keeps sliding, it's hard to flag the North Pole when the ice cap beneath it continues to shift.

Add Robert Peary's expedition to the North Pole in 1909 to that struggle as well as flavours of love, betrayal, inner divergence and cultural graciousness and you've got Toronto's latest production on a playbill, *Two Words For Snow*.

Opened to audiences earlier this week, *Two Words For Snow* is being produced by the award-winning ensemble at Volcano, best known for their traditionally progressive and experimental theatrical assemblies.

"Volcano has won awards and recognition for their productions that are cutting-edge and involve more than one discipline," said Amy Stewart of D.W. Communications. "It was very natural for them to do a play that had a historical basis because this play is very relevant to our culture and divergence."

The play takes audiences between the Arctic's bitter coldness in the early 1900's and a much warmer New York in 1935.

Historically accurate, the dynamics between the American Peary, played by David Fox, and Nigel Shawn Williams playing Matthew Henson, the black man who risked his life accompanying Peary only to be betrayed by him later, are brought to life again in playwright Richard Sanger's interpretation.

The cast also includes Peary's son, played by Tom Barnett, German Jewish ethnologist Franz Boas, played by Jerry Franken, Newfoundland ship commander Bob Bartlett, played by Hugh Thompson, and Akatingwah, the Inuit woman



Tom Barnett, Nigel Shawn Williams, and David Fox perform in *Two Words for Snow*.

Henson falls in love with, played by singer Lucie Idlout.

Two Words For Snow has been 10 years in the making. It was then that Sanger started thinking about writing a play highlighting the historical significance of Peary's controversial expedition, but was concerned it couldn't be done justice.

"I waited for years before I actually started writing the play because, in a way, I was waiting for someone else to do it," Sanger said. "But the more I read, and the longer it took for others to write it, I just decided to start."

The storyline intrigued Sanger almost as much as the cultural dynamics in the relationships involved, he says.

"I had a great mental image of this black man in such a white, barren and cold land. [Henson] risked everything to go up to the North Pole and for what?" Sanger asked. "To try and pin a flag on the exact North Pole is frustrating since the ice cap is constantly shifting. Not to mention the betrayal and isolation Henson felt."

But Sanger doesn't think that Henson is the true hero of the expedition. That, he says, still lies with Peary.

"There is no doubt that Peary was a difficult

man to like, and that is shown in the play," Sanger said. "But in the end he was still the force behind the expedition. He was the most open of all the explorers to that region to the ways of the Inuit community during that time period."

"Peary embraced their practices and used their help to his advantage. He was a very smart man and valued of other cultures."

This is the first time *Two Words For Snow* has appeared in Toronto, but it is highly anticipated to be the hit of winter, said Stewart. It first appeared for a trial run in 1999 at Calgary's PlayRites Festival but has since been tweaked a little.

"Ross Manson, the director, did a great job of embracing the darker story," says Sanger. "When it ran in Calgary, the play had a larger love story to it but now it has more to do with Henson's entrapment between the two worlds - the cold and uncertainty of the north and the warmth and home-like quality of New York."

"History is just the start of this play. There's a whole lot more to this play and that's what makes it so interesting."

Two Words For Snow runs until Jan. 19 at the Artwood Theatre. For more information call (416) 531-PLAY.

Coming up...

Video & DVD (Jan. 21)

The Bourne Identity
Tadpole
Harvard Man

Movies (Jan. 17)

National Security
A Guy Thing
Max
Kangaroo Jack

CD's (Jan. 21 release)

Zero 7: Simple Things
Remixes
New Order: Live at
Finsbury Park

Things to Do

Feelin' frisky? Grab your significant other (or a group of friends) and head out to the Love, Sex and Seduction Show. International Centre, Jan. 17-19. \$15, call 905-836-2772.

The Art Gallery of Ontario presents *In Light*, a series of video works by Canadian artists. For more info call 416-979-6660 or check out www.ago.net

Sunday Father, Adam Pettle's humorous and moving play is at the Berkeley Street Theatre until Feb. 1. Call 416-368-3110 and ask about their Pay What You Can nights.

Get some laughs at Yuk Yuk's Jan. 19, and go see the *All Black Comedy Sunday*. 224 Richmond Street West.

Rock on with the *Tony Levin Band* at the Horseshoe Tavern on Jan. 17. \$16 in advance, \$20 at the door, call 416-870-8000 for details.

etc.

Fancy frocks dress up ROM

By ATHENA TSAVLIRIS

Fashion lovers will be mesmerized by an exhibition of 1950's clothing now on display at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Elite Elegance: Couture Fashion in the 1950's, which runs until May 4, recreates the golden years of fashion. The exhibit presents the social history of haute couture and emphasizes the role clothes played in Canadian society as an expression of women's social standing and lifestyle.

"I am extremely happy with the exhibition," Alexandra Palmer, the exhibit's curator said. "It is the first costume exhibition of this kind, providing information and social content for this period."

Haute couture, which originated in Paris, means clothes that are individually tailored to the client. European designers such as Chanel, Dior and Givenchy led the way in haute couture. Holt Renfrew and Eaton's were among the first to carry the garments in Canada.

The exquisite garments on display were worn by Toronto's elite while performing their social and cultural duties. The exhibition is as much about the clothes on display as it is about the social context of post-war Canada.

Around 60 pieces from the ROM's couture collection are on exhibit. From tailored tweed suits



Courtesy/ROM

Just one of the Givenchy haute couture creations on display now at the ROM.

to intricately beaded taffeta gowns, the exhibition gives its viewers a taste of what a Torontonians socialite's wardrobe might have looked like in the 1950's.

"Some of the pieces on display are works of art," said Marilynne Friedman, the publicist for the exhibit. "Once you have film stars like Julia Roberts and Nicole Kidman wearing couture on the red carpet, the designs translate themselves into people's consciousness."

An evening dress by the French designer Pierre Balmain was a gift to the museum from Canadian socialite Mrs. Grace Gooderham. The ivory evening gown is covered in hand-embroidered red roses. Canadian socialite Mrs. Grace Gooderham had worn the piece in 1956 to her daughter's debutante ball.

Elite Elegance is the result of over 10 years of work. The entry fee to the exhibition is \$12, with a valid student card.



Elite Elegance: Couture Fashion in the 1950's exhibit runs until May 4.

Opera rocks

Jumping off cliffs and murdering babies

By JENNIFER FOSTER

If you have ever heard an opera singer hit a high 'C,' it won't be long before you're belting out your own arias in the shower.

People under 30 often have the misconception that opera is stuffy and boring, aimed at an older and refined audience. But opera appeals to anyone who has an interest in theatre, music, film, dance or visual arts. It brings several different art forms together.

This past Friday, the Canadian Opera Company and *NOW* magazine co-presented *Opera 101*, a discussion on opera and its fundamentals. People of all ages and interests were in attendance.

Internationally acclaimed director Nicholas Muni, producer of such operas as *Jenufa*, and *The Turn of the Screw* and a guest speaker at the event discussed opera's appeal.

"Opera is the fastest growing of all the classical art forms for people between the ages of 24-30," Muni said.

Muni cited opera's diversity in art forms and themes as a reason for its growing popularity with a younger audience.

"Opera is the first, original multimedia classical art form. It combines dance, acting, solo singing, choral singing, the visual arts, and the technical arts," Muni said. "The second reason is how extreme and primal opera is. The stories deal with people falling madly in love, people jumping off cliffs, people murdering babies and religious ecstasy."

Frederique Vezina, a studio soprano with the COC ensemble, another guest speaker, referred to the human voice as a fragile tool must be cared for and respected.

"Someone compared the voice to a wine and I thought that's so appropriate," Vezina answered. "It's almost like putting a really good wine on the shelf. If you open it too soon, the bottle is open and it's finished. You can't experience the wine

because there is a story there, but you have to fill it in. You have to make up the story as opposed to being told what the story is."

Muni described opera as mysterious. He said you cannot anticipate how it will end like you can with a Hollywood movie. Movies have emotional queuing music that tells you what to feel. Muni said opera has absolute music.

"Your emotions are given free range with absolute music," Muni said. "It's much more stimulating

because there is a story there, but you have to fill it in. You have to make up the story as opposed to being told what the story is."

To entice younger viewers, the COC is offering discounted tickets for those aged 18-29. Starting Jan. 18, you can buy tickets to *A Masked Ball* and *Jenufa* for \$20-\$25. Tickets must be purchased in person at the Hummingbird Centre Box Office or call 416-363-8231.

International musicians mesmerize their audience

By SAM TOMAN

Last Friday, one of Lithuania's greatest musical minds, Osvaldas Balakauskas, introduced Toronto to contemporary Lithuanian classical music, through *New Music Concerts*.

The mixed crowd of classical music connoisseurs that gathered at St. George the Martyr Church on John St. was left silent and stunned at the beautiful, chilling and ominous sounds created by some of Lithuania's greatest musical minds.

Those who were expecting traditional Baltic folk music were surprised, but not disappointed by the five original Lithuanian compositions. Two were composed specifically for the performance, and all were making their Canadian premiere.

Bearing a closer resemblance to Kronos Quartet (who composed the startling score for *Requiem for a Dream*) than Mozart, the performers willed every ounce of sound from their instruments. Shrieking violins, frantic viola and brooding cello combined with piano and guitar to

create a sonic atmosphere that was both chaotic and triumphant.

Balakauskas, besides being Lithuania's foremost composer, is also known in his home country as a member of the "Sajudis" movement, which led to most of Lithuania's post-communist democratic reforms. He also spent several years as

Lithuania's ambassador to France, Spain and Portugal.

New Music Concerts, an organization that specializes in bringing groundbreaking music from around the world to Tor-

onto, should be commended for putting together such a memorable performance.

Fans of contemporary acts like Godspeed! You Black Emperor, Radiohead or Flaming Lips should make a point of checking out *New Music Concerts*. It provides a great opportunity to see international musicians expressing themselves in an exciting new genre of contemporary classical music becoming known as post-classical.

"Shrieking violins, frantic viola, brooding cello create an atmosphere both chaotic and triumphant."

Celebrity Corner

by Anna Rozbicka

•Despite rumours of reconciliation with Justin, Britney Spears seems to be moving on. Ananova.com is reporting that Limp Bizkit's Fred Durst says he is dating the pop star. The two met while working on her new album. Apparently he has a thing for teeny-bopper pop stars. Anyone remember the thing with Christina Aguilera?

•Speaking of the clothing-challenged star, at the American Music Awards on Monday, Christina Aguilera reported that she's going on tour with Justin Timberlake. They may also team up to write a song. I'm sensing déjà vu. Does anyone else find these little Mousketeers a little incestuous?

•Wedding bells rang quietly last week for "A Beautiful Mind" stars Jennifer Connelly and Paul Bettany. Entertainment Weekly Online reports that the pair tied the knot in a small, private ceremony in Scotland. Connelly, 32, played Alicia Nash and Bettany, 31, played Nash's imaginary friend.

•"The Bachelorette" Trista Rehn, has revealed that "The Bachelor" Alex Michel, who rejected her wrote her letters for months after the show. CNN.com reports that Rehn told TV Guide that Michel said he made a big mistake in choosing the other contestant, the stacked Amanda Marsh. Rehn says she decided to end the correspondence because he was still linked to Marsh, her

family didn't like him and she was offered "The Bachelorette". Nothing like 25 guys trying to win your affections to help you get over a failed relationship.

•Queen Latifah won't be boozing it up too much at the Golden Globes this weekend. According to E! Online, the "Chicago" star was sentenced to 12 hours of alcohol counselling, put on three years probation, and fined \$300, after being charged with reckless driving in November.

•All you muggles can jump for joy. "Harry Potter and The Order of the Phoenix," the fifth book in the series arrives in stores June 21.

etc.

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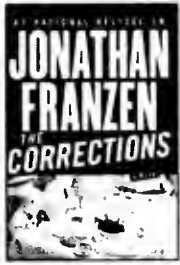


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Read this...

The Corrections
By Jonathan Franzen
HarperCollinsPublishersLtd.



Which family member do you love/hate the most? That's the game you'll find yourself playing as you read this brilliant and hilarious novel by Jonathan Franzen.

His gift for bringing fictional characters to life shines as he chronicles the life of one family, with all their ups and downs.

Alfred and Enid Lambert, an elderly couple in the U.S. Midwest have three children, who have all left the nest. Alfred has been diagnosed with Parkinsons Disease. Enid's heart is set on one last family Christmas at home before they have to sell the house. Gary, their eldest, unsuccessfully tries to hide his depression from his wife, alienating his sons in the process. Chip, a professor, tries to bounce back from an affair with a student and ends up in Lithuania where he works on a website scam. Denise isn't doing much better. Her sexual escapades cause her to lose her lucrative chef's job.

This book is funny, intelligent and sucks you in from page one. The characters are despicable, yet endearing. You'll never want it to end.

Life of Pi
By Yann Martel
Vintage Canada



Pi Patel is not having a good day. He has to leave India, his home country, and move to an unknown Canada. The ship taking him

there capsizes, and he's left on a lifeboat in the middle of the Pacific, with only a zebra, hyena, orangutan, and a 450-pound Royal Bengal tiger named Richard Parker for company.

That's the basis of this highly original novel that recently won the coveted Booker prize. The deceptively simple language Martel uses to tell the story draws you in and carries you through the tale as you experience 16-year-old Pi's adventures.

His story is one of hardship as he tries to survive the elements (and a tiger) but he never loses his sense of humour.

Martel is a natural storyteller and weaves a fascinating tale that's comic, touching, and just a really great read. The novel's ending is a poignant lesson about where "truth" lies in a story.

Once you meet Pi, you won't put him down.

By Anna Rozbicka

See this...

Dickens at his best

A fun period piece where true love conquers all

There's a reason why some stories are deemed classics. Even if you take away the costumes and old-fashioned language, human emotions always stand the test of time.

In *Nicholas Nickleby*, adapted from a hefty Charles Dickens novel, true love and the triumph of good over evil is the order of the day.

After his father dies, young Nicholas must find a way to support his mother and sister, so they go to London to seek the help of his uncle Ralph. His uncle seems to have ulterior motives and he splits the family apart, sending Nicholas to teach at Dotheboys Hall (take a good look at that name), a dark and sorry excuse for a school where the boys are beaten daily by Wackford Squeers (again, Dickens had a way with words). He runs away with a kindhearted, crippled boy named Smike and sets off on an adventure that ultimately reunites his family as they try to build a home of their own.

The only thing that's not good about *Nicholas Nickleby* is, well, *Nicholas Nickleby*. Charlie Hunnam, while definitely some great eye candy, is constantly a hair away from making Nicholas believable. And while he doesn't quite cut it, he's more than made up for in the rest of the stunning cast.

Christopher Plummer is brilliant as the evil Uncle Ralph, and Nathan Lane and Dame Edna Everage are

hilarious as Vincent and Mrs. Crummles, a pair of thespians who take in Nicholas and Smike to perform in their theatre troupe.

Nicholas Nickleby is a fun, uplifting movie, that tells a wonderful story. Unfortunately, one can't help feeling that they're missing some of Dickens' genius in the two-hour adaptation. You can always rent the nine and a half hour version by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Or you can just be happy with the gist of things in this abbreviated, still highly enjoyable romp through Dickens world.

by Anna Rozbicka



Christopher Plummer as very scary uncle Ralph.

Rent this...

Martin Lawrence Runteldat
Paramount Home Entertainment



If you're looking for a good laugh this week, check out this DVD of live comedy courtesy of actor/comedian Martin Lawrence. After his various brushes with the law and a three-day coma, Lawrence says he decided that it is time he tells his own story. In this performance, he mixes stand-up with personal confessions

and the outcome is both funny and touching.

He covers parenting, sex, aging — the usual stand-up topics — and speaks about his past and what the truth behind all the media hype really was.

Lawrence holds nothing back (he's pretty vulgar and very blunt) on DVD that's worth checking out.

Special features include commentary, a deleted scene, backstage pass, and theatrical trailer.

By Anna Rozbicka

Hear This...

Whitney Houston
Just Whitney...
BMG/Arista



If you thought Whitney Houston's Prime Time interview with Diane Sawyer was revealing, her latest album *Just Whitney...* brings even more focus to her on-going battle with the press and dysfunctional marriage to Bobby Brown.

The album is far from the classic Houston hits we grew up with and is musically closer her 1998 *My Love Is Your Love* album. But the funky diva proves she can still make dance floor numbers with "Whatcholookin'" and "One of those days". Houston also proclaims her

10-year-old marriage to Brown is like an "open sky" and "knows she has a real good man" in the song "My Love", featuring Brown — which is surprisingly good.

Her lounge rendition of "You Light Up My Life" is the most disappointing track on the CD and is a poor attempt at recreating the classic hit "I Will Always Love You."

But despite her recent bad press and her numerous court appearances, *Just Whitney...* proves Houston still knows how to make a good album.

By Nicole Gibbs

Cathedral
The VIIIth Coming
EMI/Spitfire Records

We've all seen the thick-necked bad-asses who choke their guitars



on stage at some hole-in-the-wall club, wearing contorted masks, generally grunting, snarling, and expelling furious streams of hate, anguish and deceit.

This is definitely what Cathedral strives to be and more, but has yet to achieve, even after their seventh album so creatively dubbed *The VIIIth Coming*. Founded by former Napalm Death singer, Lee Dorian, the disc includes a stinking fold-out poster of what looks like a scene of the forthcoming Armageddon.

Not even Creed fans, who so diligently appreciate the art of crap, would dare to lend an ear.

By Christine Atkinson

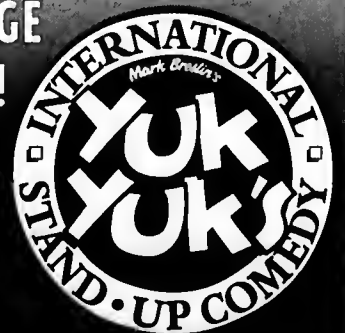
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Sports

Lady Hawk to bask in the Sun

by KENEISHA WALTER

Humber's women's basketball team will have to rebound quickly from the news that their star player, Miranda Pyette, will no longer be playing for the Hawks.

The team received the news in the middle of the basketball season that Pyette, the 5'10" forward, will be pursuing her career as a full-time journalist at The Toronto Sun.

"It hurts us to lose her," said head coach Denise Perrier. "Miranda is a great player, she is very athletic and very smart defen-



Pyette, second in league scoring.

sively. It was a hard decision. It wasn't anything against the coaches, or against the team. It's just that a full-time job came up."

Pyette is second in league scoring averaging 21 points per game scoring 84 points in only four games. She will continue her studies at Humber, while working at the Sun.

Perrier said even before the team was informed of Pyette's decision, they had been playing without her for over a month due to her work schedule.

"The team is positive, and we are happy with the girls. They're playing well together right now," Perrier said. "I think [Pyette's absence] will motivate them and push them even harder."

The Hawks are sitting third in the Eastern Division with a record of 3-1, behind the 5-0 Seneca Sting and the 4-2 Algonquin Thunder.

Karine Nicolas, a guard for the Hawks, said the team is playing well considering the squad had been playing with only nine girls.

"It's really unfortunate that [Miranda's] not playing, but we're just going to have to deal with that and prepare ourselves," Nicolas said.

The defending OCAA champions are still motivated, according to Perrier. However, Pyette, who used to play up to 40 minutes per game, will be missed.



Ray Morgan takes the jump shot in Humber's 63-43 victory over the Seneca Sting.

Hawks lack offence

by JEFF COLLIER

Humber women's basketball head coach Denise Perrier said defence would be the key to stealing a road win from the Seneca Sting, prior to their eastern conference match last night.

But after the final buzzer sounded, Perrier and her Hawks were left shaking their heads at an offensively stagnant 49-31 drubbing by the Sting at Newnham Campus gym.

"Offensively, we just couldn't score," Perrier said, reflecting on a dismal 10 point first-half output. "I think sometimes we felt

a bit intimidated by their size, and we got away from our usual game of penetrating and attacking the basket."

The inside defensive presence of Sting power forwards Bridget Lacko and Kerri Stevenson kept the Hawks in check for the entire game. They also did some damage at the other end of the floor, combining for 33 points to help the Sting boost their record.

Forward Shenelle Morgan led the Hawks with 10 points, while centre Emily Wang chipped in with six and rookie point guard Julie Yagi said despite the lack of offence, she was happy with how they played defensively.

"Our D was strong tonight, and the girls assigned to cover their top scorers did a really good job," said Yagi who did a good job of her own by keeping the Seneca fans buzzing at times with her quick, heads-up passing.

Yagi also pointed out this was their first league game back after the break and a case of the butterflies may have been a factor in the lack of cohesion on the offensive end.

"Seneca is a cross-town rival. It was a big game and I think we were a bit nervous today," Yagi said. "At the beginning of the season, and up until recently, we drove to the basket more."

Despite the loss, Perrier said the team's mandate remains the same.

"Our goal is to get to the Ontario Championship and the final four," Perrier said.

The Hawks take on the Grizzlies next Tuesday in Barrie.



Point guard Julie Yagi takes the shot.

Hawks victory Stinging success

by STEVE AUTIO

Humber's men's basketball team continued its torrid pace as they easily defeated the Seneca Sting Tuesday night 63-43.

The Hawks took control of the game early and never looked back. Humber led 38-26 at half time and coasted to victory.

Humber's big win came on a lackluster effort by Seneca. They were stymied by a tight Humber defense that challenged Seneca's shooters.

Though Humber had complete control of the game, head coach Mike Katz came away unconvinced.

"No I wasn't impressed. The team didn't play as well as the coaches want. I will be looking for the team to play better on Thursday against Centennial," Katz said.

Katz said that guard Jeremy Walters and center Dejvis Begaj palyed the strongest for his team.

"I thought our defense was good tonight," Katz said.

Begaj led the Hawks in scoring by

pouring in 17 points on the night. Robin Cooper led Seneca with 10.

Most of Begaj's points came in the paint as he worked hard in the low post battling Seneca's frontcourt. Forward Tamique Young

drained 13 points on the night and was very active all over the court. 6'4" forward Roger Scott played a strong game as well, contributing 10 points.

Point guard Ray Morgan showed great hustle in the game. Though he only scored three points himself, Morgan dished off many great passes to his teammates including getting the ball inside to Begaj and Scott on many occasions.

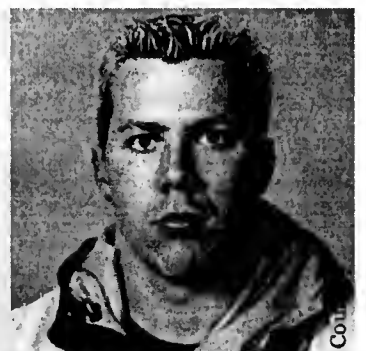
"I felt I distributed the ball well," Morgan said.

Looking ahead to their next game, Morgan said the team will have to "grind out a victory against Centennial and play defense to a T. The last time we played them we only won by four points."

Humber Hawks hosts Centennial tonight at 8 p.m.

Athlete of the week Seth Gray

OCAA athlete of the week
Gray scored 2 goals and got 1 assist
in the Humber Hawks 4-3 win
over the St. Clair Sting.





Former Sault Captain Chris Mei, joined the injury-plagued Humber Hawks hockey team mid way through the season.

Veteran OHL player bolsters defense

by PATRICK KANE

You can hear his teammates yelling "Mayday! Mayday!" when Chris Mei, the Humber Hawks' latest addition to the men's varsity hockey team, steps on the ice.

The 5'11", 195 pound Mei (pronounced "may") is a late comer to the hockey team who sits atop the league with a 7-1 win/loss record. The Hawks are hoping that Mei's physical presence and quick puck movement will add to a solid defensive core.

"[Mei] is a good all-around defenseman who plays the puck well," said Hawks assistant captain, Jason Fortier.

"He brings some toughness to the team and we need that right now."

Mei is new to the team, but is surrounded by some familiar faces. He has played with Terry and Jamie Chikowski when they suited up for the Parry Sound Shamrocks of the Ontario Provincial Junior 'A' Hockey League (OPJHL). The three Sault Ste. Marie natives also play alongside fellow Sooiters, Danny Lambert and Fortier.

"We're really fortunate to have guys who know each other. It makes us a really tight team on and off the ice," said Humber head coach Joe Washkurak.

The team is so tight that there is no

shortage of yelling coming from 50 Windwood on any given night, the house that the Soo boys share.

"We have some tension around the house sometimes, but we know each other's personalities and we don't take things too seriously," Fortier said.

As for Mei, joining the Hawks is his chance to continue playing hockey while going to school. After captaining the Shamrocks, Mei left for the East Coast to play for the Halifax Oland Exports, and later, Dalhousie.

He was asked to play for the Hawks this season to fill a role with a team that has been plagued by injuries.

"I think Mei can knock some bodies around and take care of business in our own end."

"I'm hoping I can just come in, be a part of the team and put up some points," Mei said.

"I'm really comfortable around everyone and I just hope to play consistently well."

And the rest of the team is playing consistently well.

So well in fact, that they beat a highly ranked St. Clair College last Saturday and relinquished the top spot in the OCAA.

With the playoffs in the not-too-distant future, the Humber Hawks are hoping to stay healthy, play with a bit of toughness, and make room for their new defenseman.

Chris Mei and the rest of the Hawks apparently want to make the teams they play panic in distress. Maybe the other teams will be yelling "Mayday! Mayday!"

Close win puts Hawks into first

By RON A. MELIHEN

The top two teams in the OCAA met on Saturday night at Westwood Arena to renew old hostilities and fight for top spot. The Humber Hawks faced off against the St. Clair Sting.

Last year's playoff game between the two was filled with fights and suspensions. And the first time they met this year, both benches were depleted as a result of suspensions from that playoff game. This game was the first time since last year that both teams had full benches.

The Hawks won the game 4-3 and Seth Gray was named star of the game. He notched 2 goals and 1 assist leading the team to victory.

"This game meant a lot to us in the standings," said Chris Mei.

Mei was playing in his first non-exhibition

game since arriving at Humber from Sault Ste Marie.

"I was a little nervous, but very happy we won," said Mei.

The game was well played with good officiating. Both teams played with vigor and kept it clean without any replays of last year's match.

"Nobody was taking any stupid penalties because the game was too important," Mei said.

Humber was three points behind the Saints for first place going into the match with one game in hand. They now have their sights set on first place with 14 points to St. Clair's 15.

Other Humber players that had great games were goalie Nick Grainger, and forwards Seth Gray, Chris Pugliese and Scott Barnes.

The Hawks travel to Lindsay Thursday Jan. 16 to face Fleming.

Can women play men's hockey? Humber staff and students speak up about Haley Wickenheiser's debut in a men's league

"Yes, if a woman has a talent to do that [play with men] then they should be based on ability, but not as a right."

Doug Fox
Athletic Director

"Hockey's a rough sport. If she's willing to get hit by the guys then fine. They should have a WNHL just like they have the WNBA."

Davis Beghau
business management
varsity basketball player

"Definitely, why not? There's not a professional league for women. What's the worst that can happen? There needs to be some equality and this is a great thing. This is a big start."

Sara Legenza
health and fitness
varsity volleyball player

"Yes, if Haley can compete at that level, but it changes the dynamic of the game. If someone rams her into the boards, are her teammates going to take exception to it every time?"

A guy ramming a guy into the boards (people are accustomed to) but a guy hitting a woman?"

Dean Wylie
Assistant Athletic Director

"If they're as good as the guys, then fine. But what guy would feel comfortable slamming a chick into the boards."

Ruth Davidson
Radio Broadcasting

Compiled by
TODD CLARK

Pro Hockey players in dire need of a reality check, not a pay cheque

Let's call a spade a spade, shall we? The Ottawa Senators filing for bankruptcy has sent shock waves across the NHL. How can such a successful team be bankrupt? At the time of filing, the Senators were tied for first place with Vancouver, yet the players have not been paid since Jan. 1.

Oh those poor, hardworking hockey players who get paid millions of dollars a year slaving away on the cold, hard ice, slapping pucks at the equally underpaid goaltenders. NHL commissioner Gary Bettman continues to praise the Senators for looking beyond their team's financial situation, gritting their teeth and bearing it. It's not, after all, the multi-million dollar contracts of the players causing the Sens financial woes. According to Bryden, the fans are the problem. "Now more than ever, support of the community will determine the future of the franchise," he said.

Bums on seats ladies, bums on seats. And who are the fans to complain about a \$65 ticket? A very small price to pay when cheering on Canada's favorite past-time.

Even though the average Canadian family makes only \$60,000 a year while hockey players

skate by with three or four times that much, surely dropping ticket prices so the average fan can attend a game is ludicrous. The fact stadiums would sell out if ticket prices were lowered is irrelevant. And the players cannot be expected to take a paycut. If you believe all that, I've got a bridge to sell you.

The problem with all sports, and hockey is no exception, is greed. Why should money even enter into the equation? These men get paid millions of dollars a year to play the sport they love.

According to a recent column in the Toronto Star by Rick Anderson, 10 years ago hockey had a mere 69 millionaires. Today there are over 500. Why sports heroes get paid more

money than scientists who spend countless hours searching for the cure for cancer, or doctors whose careers revolve around saving lives is beyond me. Our society has deified athletes and set salary caps way too high. If there is any hope of salvaging the ailing NHL that adds the Buffalo Sabres to its list of bankrupt teams, the players are going to have to swallow their pride and empty their pockets.

Musings



by AMY MILES

Varsity Standings

Men's Volleyball

Central Division	MW	ML	Points
Seneca	6	1	12
Humber	5	0	10
Georgian	4	2	8
George Brown	3	3	6
Cambrian	3	4	6
Sheridan	1	5	2
Boreal	0	7	0

Eastern Division	MW	ML	Points
Loyalist	5	0	10
Fleming	3	2	6
Royal Military	3	1	6
La Cite	2	2	4
Durham	1	4	2
Algonquin	0	5	0

Western Division	MW	ML	Points
Niagara	7	0	14
Redeemer	5	2	10
Nipissing	5	3	10
Fanshawe	4	2	8
St. Clair	2	5	4
Mohawk	1	4	2
Canadore	0	7	0

Women's Basketball

Eastern Division	W	L	Points
Seneca	6	0	12
Algonquin	4	2	8
Humber	3	2	6
Loyalist	2	3	4
Durham	2	4	4
Georgian	2	3	4
George Brown	0	5	0

Western Division	W	L	Points
Fanshawe	5	0	10
St. Clair	3	1	6
Redeemer	3	3	6
Niagara	2	1	4
Mohawk	1	3	2
Algoma	0	6	0

Men's Hockey

	W	L	T	Pts
St. Clair	7	1	1	15
Humber	7	1	3	14
Seneca	3	2	3	9
Conestoga	4	4	1	9
Cambrian	1	6	1	3
Fleming	0	8	0	0

Women's Volleyball

Central Division	MW	ML	Points
Cambrian	8	0	16
Humber	7	1	14
Seneca	6	3	12
Georgian	3	3	6
Boreal	3	5	6
Sheridan	2	4	4
Centennial	0	7	0
Confederation	0	6	0

Eastern Division	MW	ML	Points
Algonquin	6	1	12
Durham	5	1	10
Loyalist	5	1	10
Trent	3	3	6
Royal Military	1	4	2
Fleming	1	5	2
La Cite	0	6	0

Western Division	MW	ML	Points
Niagara	8	1	16
Fanshawe	7	2	14
Mohawk	6	2	12
Canadore	5	4	10
Nipissing	5	3	10
Sault	4	4	8
Lambton	1	7	2
Redeemer	1	7	2
St. Clair	1	8	2

Men's Basketball

Central Division	W	L	Points
Humber	6	0	12
Sheridan	4	1	8
Mohawk	3	1	6
Centennial	1	4	2
George Brown	1	5	2
Seneca	1	5	2

Eastern Division	W	L	Points
Algonquin	7	0	14
St. Lawrence	5	1	10
Georgian	3	3	6
Durham	2	4	4
Loyalist	2	4	4
Fleming	0	7	0

Western Division	W	L	Points
Sault	4	2	8
Niagara	3	1	6
St. Clair	3	1	6
Fanshawe	3	3	6
Lambton	2	1	4
Redeemer	2	4	4
Algoma	1	6	2

Humber Hawks team with All-Stars

by TODD CLARK

Two Humber College varsity athletes traveled to Peterborough Saturday to participate in the 10th annual All-Star volleyball game at Trent University. The games featured the best players from 24 Ontario colleges.

Third-year veteran and captain of the Lady Hawks, Carrie Moffat, represented her team for the West and Sucha (Bobby) Randhawa teamed up with the men.

This was the second time both Moffat and Randhawa participated at the daylong extravaganza.

Both players were excited to be chosen by their coaches.

"I was surprised (to be named) because I was thinking a couple of other guys could have had a chance," Randhawa said. "(But this is great) because you're playing with some of the best players."

Moffat was also humble, saying anyone from the Hawks could have represented the team.

"It's a privilege (to play in the game). It's nice to play with people from other teams and it's always a good time. I want to make a good representation for Humber."

Head coach Chris Wilkins said Moffat deserved to represent Humber.

"Carrie's a leader. This is a thank you to her for all her hard work on and off the court," he said.

The women played first as the beasts from the East took the match 2-1 winning (17-25, 25-18, 25-21).



Lady Hawks were represented at last weekend's All-Star tournament in Peterborough. They play this weekend in Durham.

Kristen Kawamoto from Trent University was named East player of the game and Shannon Watson of Fanshawe College took honours for the West.

"(It can be difficult) and different (playing in an all-star game) because you don't know each other's tendencies. You just don't have that trust that you do with your own team," Moffat said.

Randhawa's team beat the East for the second straight year taking the match 25-14, 23-25 and 30-28. The third and final set provided plenty of action and excitement as players from both sides put their bodies on the line, showcasing their talents to the fullest. Randhawa had several key kills in the game and played a significant role in the West's win.

The festivities also included serving accuracy contests and spike-off challenges. Randhawa

placed third in the spike-off.

The Lady Hawks' next action is at Durham College Friday. The undefeated men's team play host to George Brown tonight at 6.

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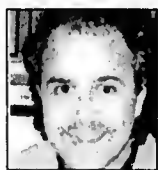
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NFL playoff predictions



by Ron A. Melihen

The hunt for the Super Bowl heated up this past weekend with the AFC and NFC conference finals being determined.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers eliminated the San Francisco 49ers and will travel North to Philadelphia to play the Eagles in Veterans Stadium on Sunday for the NFC crown.

Philadelphia knocked off the upstart Atlanta Falcons and their phenom quarterback Michael Vick last Saturday.

Philadelphia laid a beating on the Bucs the last time these two teams met in the playoffs. The Bucs, typecast as a 'warm weather' team, have yet to win a playoff game in frigid weather. They will be hoping their new coach Jon Gruden will help change that stigma.

Look to Mike Alstott to lead the

rushing game and Warren Sapp and Simeon Rice on defence to give Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb a hard time.

Philly's only chance is for McNabb to do a better job of scrambling than Steve Garcia and his 49ers did against the Bucs.

The Bucs go into the game with the top-rated pass defence in the league. You can bet they will be giving McNabb fits all day.

The AFC conference final finds the Tennessee Titans in Oakland to face the Raiders. Tennessee squeezed by the Pittsburgh Steelers and earned their ticket to the AFC final.

The Raiders and their geriatric team - many of the players are over 30 years old - will have the fans cheering and make eccentric owner Al Davis happy.

Many of their older players such as Tim Brown have yet to win a Super Bowl and this might be their last chance.

Look for the Raiders to balance their offensive attack against the Titans featuring the deadly combination of Charlie Garner in the backfield and wide receivers Jerry Rice, a future Hall of Famer, and

Brown snagging balls.

The Titans are no slouches on defence. If they can get to Raider quarterback Rich Gannon, they might stand a chance. Jevon Kearse and the rest of the defence have been this far before.

The Titans headed into the playoffs with their star running back Eddie George playing poorly after returning from a knee injury. They will need him and quarterback Steve McNair to come up big if they hope to defeat the Raiders.

If Oakland can win, it would set up a classic confrontation. Last year, coach Gruden of Tampa Bay coached for Oakland. Tampa has ridden his intensity all year and having that as a storyline for the final will have fans on both coasts hooting and hollering.

My picks are Tampa Bay stealing a game in the unfriendly confines of 'The Vet' and sending the Eagles golfing. Take heed, it will be a close game.

In the AFC clash, I feel this is the Raiders' year and they will easily handle the Titans creating a T.V. ratings bonanza with the Raiders' taking on their old leader Jon Gruden and his Buccaneers.

etc.

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