

CANDY CANE SHOTGLASSES

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HUMBER ET CETERA

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v. 36 # 12

College helps family in need



Woman drops studies to bring up brothers after mom killed in crash

by gina jashewski
SENIOR REPORTER

Claudia Aguero was in her first year of accounting studies at Humber when her world was shattered after her mother was killed in a car accident in October.

The death of Mirtha Galdo Aguero has left the single-parent family dependent on Claudia, 21.

She has left school to care for her younger brothers Michael, 13, and Paul, 15.

The tragic story has touched the Humber and Brampton communities, which are helping Claudia and her brothers cope with their loss.

"We are all very sad, but we know that life has to go on and we can't just sit down and cry all day ... we have to keep going. That's something I think that my mom would have liked," Claudia said.

On Oct. 9, Claudia and her family were on their way home from a friend's house when their mini van went through a red light on Bovaird Drive and Torbram Road in Brampton and collided with another vehicle. Mirtha was killed.

Paul suffered minor injuries. Claudia needed 10 stitches to close a gash in her head and Michael, 13, had emergency surgery to remove his spleen. None of the siblings remember the accident.

While the physical injuries are healing, the emotional wounds are deep.

Having no other relatives in Canada, Mirtha's death has left the teen family without a parent. The father is no longer involved in their lives.

Claudia was forced to drop out of Humber to get a full-time job and care for her two younger brothers.

She is currently in the legal process of trying to get custody of her brothers because she does not want the family separated.

Offers have poured in from

across the GTA to adopt the Aguero family for Christmas.

"Christmas is going to be really sad because we always, since we were little, had Christmas with our mom. The first time without her is going to be very, very... hard," she said.

While the children are thankful for everyone's generosity, they would prefer to spend Christmas with people they know and they have chosen to go to a family friend's house.

"We are all very sad, but we know that life has to go on."

- Claudia Aguero

The college and community are helping to alleviate some of the stress for the family.

"We're very sorry about this sort of circumstance and feel that it's a terribly difficult situation. We've expressed our condolences to the family," said Humber vice-president John Davies.

The college has agreed to give Claudia a tuition scholarship should she decide to continue her studies. It will also refund this semester's tuition.

"I'm very thankful for the scholarship because now I know I probably want to finish my career so I can get a good, stable job after," Claudia said.

In addition, the college has offered a tuition scholarship to her brothers when they are ready to qualify for admission to one of Humber's programs.

"As always, Humber responds to these kinds of situations with as much generosity as we can," Davies said.

Story continues
> News p.3

The Aguero family celebrates Christmas at a friend's house in 1997. From left, mother Mirtha Galdo Aguero, with Paul, at 6, Michael, at 4, and Claudia, at 13.



Reformed Gangster, p. 3



Special Voting Section, p.13



Undefeated Teams, p.17

Saddam Hussein's torture-murder trial has been adjourned until Dec. 21 after the former Iraqi leader began boycotting the proceedings Wednesday. - CBC News

Gritty issues dog Ignatieff

by rebecca granovsky-larsen
BUSINESS EDITOR

After an illustrious rise on the Canadian political scene in which he was touted as the next Pierre Trudeau, Michael Ignatieff's first week as Etobicoke-Lakeshore's Liberal candidate was dramatically deflating.

The Harvard human rights professor who was supposed to be the crowning jewel in the Liberal campaign machine received national media attention for his own riding association's vehement opposition to his candidacy.

The 58-year-old scholar, journalist and novelist most recently served as the director of Harvard's Carr Centre for human rights policy.

After 30 years of living in the U.S. and Britain, Ignatieff and his wife bought a condominium in Toronto this summer.

Local Liberals allege two candidates, Ron Chyczij, president of the Etobicoke-Lakeshore Riding Association, and Marc Shwec, were unfairly disqualified from the election in order to ordain the celebrity candidate.

The riding's membership secretary Myroslava Oleksiuk said the alleged failure to adhere to election rules undermines the principles of democracy.

"It seems contradictory as a proponent of human rights ... How can he reconcile it, he teaches human rights, so how can he say when it comes to me in this instance it doesn't apply, that's just quite blatant

self-interest," she said.

Ignatieff was reluctant to comment on the subject because the process is under appeal.

The executive of the riding association also accused Ignatieff of writing anti-Ukrainian statements in his 1993 book *Blood and Belonging*.

Ignatieff issued a written statement saying his opponents perverted the meaning of his book which was meant "to rebut, not assert, the odious stereotypes of Ukrainians that have been wrongly and unfairly attributed to me."

"I have not been a supporter of American imperialism, nor an apologist for the American president."

- Michael Ignatieff,
Liberal candidate

Because he had such a prolific profile over the past week, the *Et Cetera* interviewed him to examine his views on recent riding issues.

He has proven controversial within the human rights community for advocating that Canada should have joined the Iraq war and he also urged the country to join the American missile defence plan.

Ignatieff said he reluctantly supported the war after his visits to Iraq in the 1990s convinced him sanc-

tions were failing and only force could dislodge Saddam Hussein.

On the education front, Ignatieff advocates closing the divide between universities and colleges, citing universities' failure to equip students with practical job experience.

Although Ignatieff stated higher prices can be necessary to getting world-class institutions, he stressed it should be balanced against concerns over crippling student debt.

"I am a person whose entire life has been made possible by a good education. It's fundamental that every competent post-secondary student who wants to get a post-secondary or vocational training must always be able to do so."

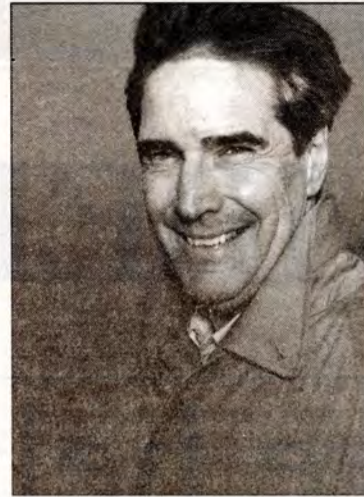
Responding to a recent report that Etobicoke-Lakeshore is the most toxic riding in Toronto, Ignatieff said the Liberal government has been courageous in implementing Kyoto despite stiff opposition.

He called the recent violence a moral issue. "Gun crime is a scourge and a menace, it frightens residents and makes them feel they are not living in a community, but in a jungle," he said.

On every level, society has to condemn these acts. He noted the issue must be combated through tougher policing to break up gangs, and better employment and educational opportunities.

"Families have to feel that everybody in a society supports them."

Similarly in Lakeshore, there have been economic advantages to



rob dutchin

Michael Ignatieff.

being a transportation and industrial hub, though it has come at the price of air quality.

Air traffic noise, effluent in the lake and air pollution were three issues he promised to combat, noting he "did not want people to be deafened and poisoned in (his) riding."

Ignatieff also came under fire for stating that measures such as sleep deprivation and keeping prisoners in hoods would constitute "permissible duress."

Ignatieff said he has "never advocated anything that is torture or torture-like," adding he opposed the rendition of Canadians to countries that use torture.

"I have not been a supporter of American imperialism, nor an apologist for the American president. What I have supported all my life is human rights and democracy, I teach economic and social rights." He added that he does not believe America is responsible for every tragedy, either.

Quality Fund to improve schools

by puja uppal
NEWS REPORTER

Students will see improvements to Humber's North and Lakeshore Campuses as early as January once Humber signs a pledge with the provincial government this month.

The Ontario government is investing more than \$221 million as part of the Quality Improvement Fund for Ontario Universities and Colleges.

According to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, the Quality Fund is to increase faculty and support staff, enhance resources and equipment, increase school space, increase enrolment and to acknowledge a school's area of expertise. But to get the funding, universities and colleges have to sign an agreement detailing how they will spend the money.

Rick Embree, Humber's dean of planning and development, said the college will sign an agreement in the coming weeks and hopes to get at least \$7 million for college improvements.

"They're (Humber officials) talking about (building) a new entrance on the college, a new commons or learning area," he said. "So over the next year and a half we'll be making changes."

Humber will put some of the money to hiring full-time faculty, more space and computers.

Embree said Humber was to get the money by September 2005, but Peter Fitzpatrick, communications adviser to Ontario's Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities Chris Bentley, said the money was never promised for the beginning of the fall term.

"It was announced in the budget which was in May and so it takes time to get it all organized and we've been doing other things, making other investments," Fitzpatrick said.

Jesse Greener, Ontario chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students, said he welcomes the amount being allotted to the Quality Fund but said the government should focus on reducing tuition fees.

"The high cost of post-secondary education is a determining factor in the quality of education the students are getting in so far as they have to seek employment while they're studying," he said.

The amount allotted to the Quality Fund is a portion of the Ontario government's initial \$6.2 billion budget to invest in the post-secondary system over the next five years.

Domestic abuse victims remembered

by sheri bolton
NEWS REPORTER

A group of nearly 200 people gathered at Queen's Park holding light sticks and signs with the names of the 209 women and 23 children killed by domestic violence since 1995. The rally came on the heels of an Ontario government conference addressing domestic violence held Nov. 28-30 at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre Hotel.

The Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH) organized the protest,

demanding the provincial government "walk the talk" and improve its efforts to stop abuse against women and children.

"We wanted to basically open the three day conference," said Eileen Morrow, the co-ordinator of OAITH, a coalition of shelter agencies that provide first and second stage housing for victims of abuse.

"We're here to tell (the government) that their domestic action plan needs to be an action plan of violence against women," said Morrow.

Last Dec. 14, the Ontario Liberals released a domestic violence plan that would see \$67 mil-

lion over four years be put toward improvements to community services, enhanced training for support workers and education and prevention campaigns.

Earlier in the month, Premier Dalton McGuinty changed November from Wife Assault Prevention Month to the more politically correct, Women Abuse Prevention Month.

But Morrow said it is not enough. "How can you end violence against women if you refuse to admit that violence against women is because of inequality?"

Gloria Steinem, a fixture in the feminism movement, opened up the conference on Monday and Suhana Meharchand of the CBC was a featured moderator on Tuesday and Wednesday. Many topics were discussed at length with a long list of experts detailing research on new methods to prevent violence, help abused women and children and provide treat-



sheri bolton

A rally group holds signs with abuse victims' names after a government conference.

ment to victims, aggressors, or those who are at risk.

The sold out conference was webcast to accommodate the many people who could not gain entry, but Morrow said that women she knew who were victims of abuse had to fight to attend regardless of their early registration.

"This (conference) is a great step forward for all women. It's about time the government took a stand," Elizabeth Ferretti, of the Canadian Auto Workers, told reporters at the rally.

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"Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you." – Princess Diana

One Humber student saves another

Community worker helped friend break his ties to gang violence

by **nick kyonka**
NEWS REPORTER

This is the story of two young men, both with a link to Humber College and the gang violence and shootings that have occurred in the surrounding streets.

Ty Jackson, 27, is in the business of saving young lives. Chris Soodeen, 24, is one of those he saved.

They met about six years ago, when each was moving in opposite directions. Now, they seem to be on the same path.

"Ty was a great influence," said Soodeen, who is working on com-

pleting the Mechanical Technician certificate program at Humber after spending much of his youth in a Rexdale gang. "He pushed me.

"Now, I'm a part of the team. I'm maximizing my potential to encourage kids and young people that there's hope ... There is hope, there is choice. You can change."

The team he speaks of is run by Jackson, who attended Humber's Social Services Worker program from 1998 to 2000. He is founder and executive director of Maximize Potential, a community outreach group which mentors at-risk youth in Rexdale.

A Toronto native, Jackson lived in Edmonton for part of his early childhood before moving back to Ontario's capital. During his preteen years, he lived in North York's Jane and Finch neighbourhood until increasing drug and gun problems in the community drove his mother to move the family to Brampton right before he entered high school.

Jackson was raised by his mother and stepfather in a loving environment. His mother was a caregiver and foster parent that taught her children the value of helping other people. Jackson said it was the values she taught him that led him to where he is today.

Jackson has worked within the Rexdale community since 1998, around the same time he started his education at Humber. Initially he worked in a local youth centre, but it wasn't long until he became a youth pastor at the Islington Evangel Centre on Queens Plate Drive. It was during these years, he said, he started to really understand what he needed to do to help his community.

"That was kind of my first encounter with young people who didn't have hope," Jackson said. "(They) literally figured they weren't going to live past 25. That's where Maximize Potential started. I started to kind of mentor some of the kids there and really talk about their goals in life and starting them to think they were more than just what they thought they were."

It was also around this time Jackson met Soodeen and took him under his wing.

Born in Trinidad, Soodeen is the second of five children in what he described as a "loving family." In 1991, they moved to Toronto and landed in the Rexdale area near Albion Mall.

Although he quickly made friends at school, he said he often felt somewhat neglected at home

because his parents were busy looking after his younger siblings.

Like many local children, Soodeen came from a poor family, and this left him with many wants. His troubles began, he said, when he and his friends developed a "take" mentality.

"I wanted more so I would bully and steal and shoplift," Soodeen said of his earlier years. "And you know it escalates so I went from fights to stealing cars and all that. I got arrested in 1996 for stealing cars. I was 15.

"As the years went on, different stuff would happen. We'd get serious, you know, fights and gang-banger stuff like that. And then drugs came into play ... started selling drugs and stuff like that. The guns came into play, too."

Shortly thereafter, Soodeen dropped out of high school for the first time, a move he would repeat twice more before 2001. Meanwhile, he began to grow accustomed to violence as he and his friends became increasingly involved with gangs and guns.

"I've been around shootings," Soodeen said. "The first time it was like, you can't believe what's happening. You see this on TV and then all of a sudden now it's in your face. I guess I got used to it because it just became nothing. I got conditioned like it was OK shooting at people."

Soodeen met Jackson in the basement of what is now the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Albion Road. Now the church is known as the location of Amon Beckles' murder, the 18-year-old who was gunned down outside his best friend's funeral in one of

Toronto's most shocking homicides of 2005. Back then the property belonged to the Islington Evangel Centre and it ran several youth groups out of the building, some of which Jackson was a part of.

Although Soodeen was in trouble with the law and hung around with known criminals, Jackson said he saw potential in the young man to do more with his life.

"I always look for people who have a soft heart. You can have a hard exterior but your heart never lies."

- Ty Jackson, mentor

"I always look for people who have a soft heart," Jackson said. "You can have a hard exterior but your heart never lies."

"Chris was that kind of individual. He was a young man who was in a lot of trouble and in a

bad environment, but he had a good heart. Although he didn't want to talk to you, you could tell that he cared."

Over time, Jackson mentored Soodeen through encouragement and moral guidance. He showed him there was more to life than making money and more to himself than he may have thought. He taught him to recognize his mistakes and to think about his strengths and how they might be applied to making a better life for himself.

These days Soodeen is doing much better. He is two credits shy of completing his program at Humber and is also learning how to help other troubled kids the same way Jackson helped him.

As for Jackson, he said he can use all the help he can get in turning around Rexdale's youth.

"The best way to do it is mentorship," Jackson said. "The problem is we can't mentor everybody. There's tons of people out there but there's only a little bit of us, so our job is to raise up leaders that can do that."



nick kyonka

Ty Jackson founded Maximize Potential, a community outreach group that encourages young people to realize their goals.

Ways to help Aguero family

> family from p.1

"We want the response to be tailored to the individual, so how we respond to this is different but it always comes from that sense of wanting to help, being out there to help and being helpful in whatever way we can," he said.

The HSF has also set up a fundraiser to help out the family's financial situation and Humber has promised to match any funds raised.

"We do realize that there are things that go on in every student's life, but this is something specific that was really quite heartbreaking," said Aaron Miller, HSF program director.

"It was a Humber student and it was affecting their life so dramatically that we kind of felt compelled to help any way we could.

"This is probably a small way, but at least we're doing something," he said.

The HSF fundraiser will be open until the end of the semester and Miller said they will probably pick it up again in January.

The family's church, St. Marguerite d'Youville Parish in Brampton, has been a steady stream of financial and emotional support since the accident.

"It's a really common thing in the Catholic faith tradition where there's usually a memorial mass done a month after the person passes away, so we are helping to get her through that process," said Mary Lou Gormley, pastoral associate at St. Marguerite.

"She's a remarkable young woman. She's been through a lot. I'm sure her mom would be very proud of her in terms of the process she's been through and

she's just been very strong for her brothers," she said.

Donations will be accepted at the HSF offices KX105 North Campus and H106 Lakeshore Campus.

Donations can also be left at the bar at Caps.

Private donations can be made to the Galdo Aguero Fund set up by the Victim Services of Peel, which will be open until Dec. 15.

Cheques can be mailed to the RBC Royal Bank at 10098 McLaughlin Rd., Brampton, L7A 2X6. The branch is located at Bovaird Drive. The transit number is 99705025549 and cheques should be made payable to the Galdo Aguero family.

All money goes to the three children. For more information, call Susan Woods at (905) 453-2121 ext. 7653, or, e-mail susan@vspeel.org.



courtesy

The Aguero family in 2001 – Mirtha, Paul, Claudia and Michael.

An atheist student group at the University of Texas handed out pornography to anyone who gave them a Bible as part of a "Smut for Smut" program. — Harper's

Sportsnet recruits 3-D students

by drew seale
ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

Three Humber 3-D animation students have signed with Rogers Sportsnet to create an animation sequence for the holiday season.

Second-year students Eric Stecho, Lisa Degennaro and Mike Mendez are working with teacher Mike Lapalme to create the 25-second animation.

The promo will be used during the holidays to promote Sportsnet on national television.

The short will open with a snowflake falling from the moon past a snow covered log cabin onto ice, where the player logo is skating around.

The camera will then pan up to show the words "Season's Greetings" skated onto the ice.

The animation ends with five seconds of the Sportsnet logo.

Degenarro said opportunities such as this are important in the animation field because the indus-

try relies on making contacts.

"It's all about building a reputation for yourself and this is a great step to start that," the second-year animation student said.

"There was a couple of things they wanted us to do that just

"It's a great opportunity but it's a little nerve-racking."

— Eric Stecho,

3-D animation student

aren't physically possible because this whole project has to be done by Dec. 1," Degenarro said. "It's not just typing magic numbers into the keyboard and then there's an animation."

The students got the project because Lapalme is head of the graphics department at Sportsnet.

Stecho was pleased there wasn't

a difference between the software the students are familiar with at Humber and the software used at Sportsnet.

Most of the work can be done by the students at the college.

"We don't have proper resources to do the sound," Stecho said. "I'm sure the school has something but we don't have access to it."

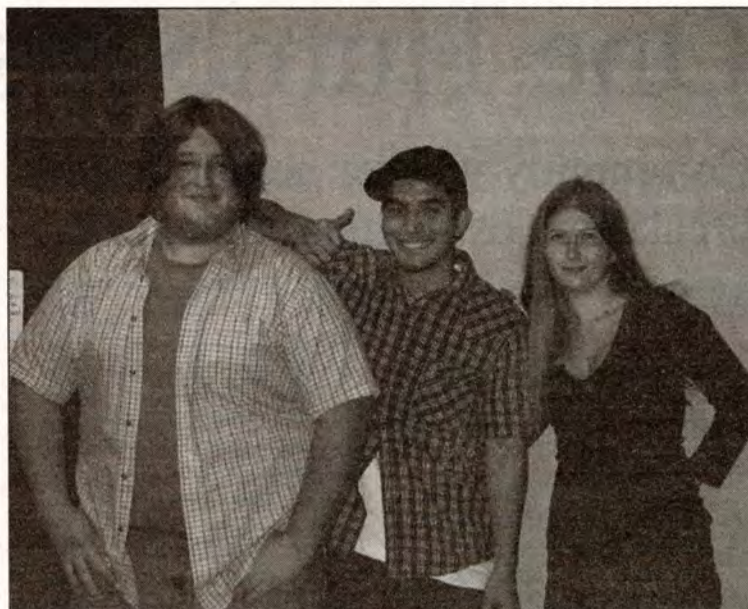
He is excited at the chance to report to Lapalme and his supervisors at Sportsnet.

"It is a great opportunity but it's a little nerve-racking," Stecho said. "I enjoy animating but it almost doesn't feel like I'm ready for national."

Mendez is currently working on designing the environment in what he calls a "cartoony feel."

"It's really overwhelming. Different from a regular assignment because you have a set deadline," Mendez said.

He is happy to have the work to put on his resume even if the



drew seale

Eric Stecho, Mike Mendez and Lisa Degennaro, second-year 3-D animation students, created a holiday sequence for Sportsnet.

promo is not aired.

For three animation students just starting their careers, working with the people at Sportsnet isn't the only way they have a chance in the 3-D animation

industry.

"Just coming to this school gives me a potential in for the industry," Stecho said. "We're being taught by all these people who have loads of experience."

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Kindness is contagious at Humber

by cristina del zotto
SPECIAL TO THE ET CETERA

Students who had doors slammed in their faces or took a body check in the hall may not have known last week was Random Acts of Kindness Week at Humber.

"It's one way that you can learn by experience," said Michael Kopinak, manager of Residence Life and International Student Services, who helped promote the initiative. "If someone holds the door for you and that's a nice thing, perhaps you will return the favour."

The week was designed by the college's Peer Mentor Program. Blue ribbons were available at Student Services and faculty offices to show support.

"It's what you're supposed to

do — it's how I was brought up," said Tenneisha Small, a fashion arts student, as she held open a door for a friend at the main entrance at North Campus. "You're supposed to be nice all the time, not just for one week."

The event comes at a time when many people are expressing concerns about a lack of old-fashioned manners in a world of individuals isolated by cell phones, text-messaging and iPods.

Jacqueline Arseneault, peer mentor for the School of Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism, said the event received a positive student response.

"It's about respect. It's about being nice to people. It's about showing manners," Kopinak said.

Alice McKee, co-ordinator of Alumni, Awards and Orientation,

said simple things like apologizing for bumping into someone is no longer the norm.

"In the anonymity of the hall ... it's a lot easier to just keep your head down and keep moving," she said.

McKee noted students have good manners one-on-one. However, their manners change in front of peers.

"Manners are something that are taught at home," said LaToya Wint, a business management student. "Or your friends tell you 'that was kind of rude' and you pick up how to be polite."

Kopinak attributes young people's poor manners to a lack of efficient parenting, responsibility and discipline.

"Having a Random Acts of Kindness day is important," he said. "But I hope that it's something that happens all year round."

Sex crimes downplayed on campuses

by julia strojnik
SPECIAL TO THE ET CETERA

The Department of Public Safety at Humber College receives fewer than four cases of both sexual assault and sexual harassment each semester, and according to Statistics Canada only six per cent of all sexual offenses get reported each year.

"I don't doubt that there could be more out there. When I talk about one or two a semester that is what's reported to us," said director of public safety Gary Jeynes.

There is no Canadian law requiring universities or colleges to disclose campus crime statistics. Humber's public safety website has a statistics link but it has been "under construction" all year, so it is unknown if more sexual assault and harassment cases are undisclosed or if they are underreported.

"We know that the levels of sexual assault on (college) campuses are

extremely high," said Amanda Dale, director of advocacy and communications at YWCA. "We know the rates of what we've termed date rape are extremely alarming and again underplayed, downplayed and ignored very largely," she said.

"The levels of sexual assault on (college) campuses are extremely high."

— Amanda Dale,

YWCA director of advocacy

Caps manager Kenny Denich said he hears about sexual harassment weeks later because staff are hesitant to report it when it happens.

"We need to know about it the night of, so we can address it," Denich said. "I don't want to know

about it two weeks later 'that guy was talking inappropriately to me, or he tried to grab me.' I can't help."

Toronto Police Const. Robin Harvey said college students hesitate to report sexual assault or harassment to the police because, in most cases, they were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time and could not remember the details.

"Sometimes you make different decisions when you're drinking or on drugs than you would normally," Harvey said.

But she stressed intoxication does not give anyone the right to harass or assault someone.

It has been a huge problem to communicate the proper message on campuses Dale said.

She said students receive the message that sexual harassment and some forms of sexual assault are a normal part of growing up and to just "deal with it."

In Manchester, New Hampshire, a man named Ronald MacDonald was arrested for stealing \$133 from a safe at a Wendy's restaurant. — Harper's

Foreign students allowed to work off campus

by alana lowe
NEWS REPORTER

International students in Ontario may soon have the chance to take part-time jobs off campus under a new agreement between the federal and provincial governments.

"This is a landmark agreement with Ontario," said Joe Volpe, minister of citizenship and immigration, in a Nov. 28 press release. "Off-campus work agreements will enable the considerable number of international students in Ontario to acquire work experience on the labour market, strengthen their ties to local communities and enhance their integration in Canadian society."

According to Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Mike Colle, there are over 30,000 international students enrolled in Ontario colleges and universities.

"This agreement allows students to put their diverse knowledge and experience to work," he said in the press release. "That's something that benefits all of us."

Just over 700 international students are enrolled at Humber.

They pay just over four times the amount for a year's tuition than their Canadian classmates, dishing out \$11,094.94 annually in tuition fees for both certificates and diplomas.

Canadian Humber students are billed, on average, \$2,550 per year for a diploma.

"I think it will be several months before anything happens," said Michael Kopinak, manager of Humber's International Student Services. He said the program isn't likely to start until spring or summer 2006, depending on the outcome of the upcoming election.

The province is still working out an agreement with its post-secondary schools to "make provisions for monitoring foreign students."

This monitoring system of reports will make sure students meet the requirements for the program.

To be eligible and remain in the program, international students must be studying full-time, have satisfactory grades and work no more than 20 hours per week.

Magazine creates a new space

Humber grad enjoying local success of fledgling mag

by james koole
SPECIAL TO THE ET CETERA

Call it clever planning or simple good fortune. Either way, hot off the presses, a copy of *spacing* magazine found its way into the hands of Toronto's mayor on his first day in office, marking the start of something big.

Matt Blackett is the creative director and publisher of *spacing* and a Humber College graduate.

His magazine examines Toronto's public spaces — parks, street corners, and neighbourhoods — and how the city relates to those who live and play in it.

"This work is important because it reminds us that the space belongs to all of us."

— David Miller, Toronto mayor

The idea to create *Spacing* came in 2003 while Toronto was in the midst of a municipal election campaign.

David Miller was running for mayor with a campaign focused on a promise "to make Toronto the city we all believe it can be."

The magazine was supposed to launch in September 2003, but with Miller rising in the polls and running on what was essentially a "public space" platform, Blackett saw an opportunity and delayed the magazine launch until after the campaign.

The night of the election, Miller took to the podium for his victory speech with a broom held high, symbolic not only of his desire to sweep out corruption, but also to beautify the city.

The stage had been set for Blackett, who admits he is looking towards a possible career in city politics himself. City politicians are start-



The winter 2006 issue of *spacing* is now available in stores across Canada.

ing to take notice of his work.

"The mayor saw fit enough, that our magazine has enough scope and influence, that I can be one of 15 people to help direct the roundtable on a Beautiful City," Blackett said.

The roundtable group was the brainchild of the mayor and was formed to advise city council and to work with the community on ways to beautify and enhance the city.

Miller appreciates the work Blackett is doing. "This work is important because it reminds us that the space belongs to all of us. It inspires Torontonians to appreciate and invest


in the public realm," Miller said.

Blackett said he just wants to make people think about what kind of city they want and about what people say when they come to visit.

With a press run of 3,700 copies, publishing three times a year, the \$6 magazine isn't making anyone rich.


For Blackett, getting the public space message to the masses is more important than making a ton of money.

He sees it as a resume piece right now, and a way to get some name recognition for the future.



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editorial

"An election is coming. Universal peace is declared and the foxes have a sincere interest in prolonging the lives of the poultry." – T.S. Eliot

... and to all a good fight

It's that time again. The snow is on the ground, the tinsel's on the tree, and hundreds of Santas are taking their places in malls everywhere. But this year, Santa has a little competition. Alongside the twinkle lights and inflatable snowmen, campaign placards are adorning lawns across the country. Yes, Virginia, there is an election campaign, and plenty of organizations are working hard to get young voters just like you to cast their ballots on Jan 23.

Only 38 per cent of eligible voters age 18 to 30 turned out to the polls in 2004, according to an Elections Canada report. While that's up 13 per cent from the 2000 election, the youth of the country can hardly be proud. The idea is that youngsters are apathetic, plagued with ennui, and generally disinterested in the future of the country. It's the same old song you hear every election. And the solution is to roll out special programs to catch the youth interest and convince them that their vote matters.

Look on the Elections Canada website and you'll see a section devoted entirely to the youth vote. "Games Corner" and "Election Basics" are just some of the features designed to capture the interest of the country's young voters. Non-partisan organization Rock the Vote has been plugging away since 1997, trying to make voting the cool thing to do. Check out their website and you'll be blasted with Prodigy's Breathe, a swirling red "X" that looks like it's dripping blood, and the order to "Vote Now!!!" It's sensory overload, to be sure. But are crossword puzzles and in-your-face graphics enough to get an entire generation to care about politics? This week, the *Et Cetera* decided to find out.


In this issue's special voting section, *Et Cetera* senior reporter Ashley House attempted to contact Elections Canada for comment about what it is doing to reach young voters. She was denied an interview without explanation, and was treated quite rudely over the phone by the organization's representatives. The Liberal Party was equally disinterested in commenting on how they are planning to capture the youth vote, and also blew off a request for an interview. It suddenly becomes clear that actually speaking to young voters is not on the agenda.

If the youth vote is so highly prized, it's curious that these political organizations are so reluctant to speak to a college newspaper that reaches thousands of young voters. These groups are so busy trying to decide what's hip-hop trendy that they have no time to talk to actual young people on their own turf. The 18 to 30 set doesn't care about interactive election games or crazy websites with cheesy graffiti motifs. Young people care about issues that affect them as students, employees, new parents, and citizens of this country. Instead of talking down to young voters, politicians and government agencies might want to try talking to them. Maybe then young people would feel like they matter.

**Only 38 per cent of
eligible voters age 18
to 30 turned out to
the polls in 2004,
according to
Elections Canada**




PROPS & BURNS

Props to the NDP for its pledge of \$4 billion to fund education in Canada. 




Burn on the NDP for their lack of an official policy on the problem of gun violence.

Props on the Conservatives for promising better health care, child care and senior's services. 



Burn on the Conservative Party for copping out on the tuition issue.

Props to the Liberals for their tax relief plan, which will deliver \$30 billion over five years. 



Burn on the Liberals, for ending the tuition freeze in the first place.

HUMBER ET CETERA WILL RETURN THURSDAY, JANUARY 19
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

— HUMBER ET CETERA —

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"There is more than one way to burn a book. And the world is full of people running about with lit matches." – Ray Bradbury

Christmas, cash and credit – bah humbug!



by **simone reid**
IN FOCUS EDITOR

What does Christmas mean? If you look around the city for the meaning, you might think it has to do with department store displays, pretty gift sets and the latest toys.

The commercialization of this popular Christian holiday is nothing new. Since television hit enough homes to make an impact, ads have been pushed on unsuspecting families, imploring them to buy the latest toy for the child who's been good. Even before that, there were radio, magazine and newspaper ads.

There's no escaping it. Walk into any Bay or Sears store just a week or two before Halloween,

and expect to be greeted with magnificent displays of sprayed windows, holly, garland and ornaments in the typical colours of red, green, white and gold. It's not to say it isn't beautiful – but at least let one commercial holiday pass before the other is thrust down our collective throat.

The more commercialized Christmas becomes, the more expensive it gets. According to the 2005 Visa Canada Gift-Giving survey, 21 million Canadians are spending an average of about \$920 this year on gifts, a three and a half per cent increase since last year. Between Nov. 17 and Nov. 29, a peak season, Canadians charged almost \$5 billion to their Visa cards alone.

One of the reasons cited for an increase in spending is the ever-expanding circle of recipients. For many, the circle now includes friends, children of others, pets,

co-workers, service providers (i.e. hairdressers) and teachers.

Survey respondents also cited the rise in holiday budgets and the cost of goods because of higher incomes. With workplaces and schools everywhere participating in Secret Santa gift-trades with limits from as few as \$5 to more than \$20, there is little consideration for the staggering debt accumulated by Canadians every year.

Then there is the spontaneous gift. Twenty-one per cent have no one in mind when they shop, with 35 per cent being put down for neighbours who drop by with unexpected gifts.

It really pays to be the child who's very good. The national average to spend per child is \$220, while Ontario clears that with a whopping \$285.

On top of that, there are the Christmas carols. No one can argue about the importance of

these songs and their place as a holiday tradition. But it's not easy to justify the barrage of remakes and new songs that every musician, rising or fading, dumps on the airwaves. There are those who want to be hip, so they'll purchase the CD from the latest pop sensation (Britney, Christina or Hilary, anyone?), and then there's the old school crowd which favours the aging or dead such as Regis Philbin or Frank Sinatra. New CDs come out faster than consumers can buy them. Or you can listen to the soft-rock radio stations that have been playing them all day long since the end of November.

One last important tidbit from the survey is that 83 per cent of Canadians believe it's important to celebrate the holidays by giving. At least their hearts are in the right place.

War crimes



by **vernon williston**
NEWS REPORTER

Accusations of secret CIA camps in Eastern Europe have once again cast doubt on American foreign policy and its regard for human rights. The *Washington Post* reported that these prisons were installed a few months after 9/11 and hold more than 100 suspected terrorists, though exact figures are unknown.

Couple this allegation with evidence of prisoner abuse at the Abu Ghraib detention camp, and there is serious concern of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Imagine a group of men kicking in your door, pointing the barrel of an M-16 in your face and hollering instructions in a language you don't understand. If this happened in North America, there would be dire consequences for those responsible, but it is a frightening reality in the Middle East.

The War on Terror began a gradual erosion of civil liberties in North America, too. The Patriot Act grants the government near-unlimited power to do what it pleases in the name of public safety.

The U.S. is in clear violation of international laws, which is unacceptable. There has to be strict enforcement of these laws, regardless of which country is at fault. Bending the rules creates a slippery slope down which basic human rights might slide. That's why the UN was established – to maintain peace, stability and the balance of power.

New reports say napalm and white phosphorus were used in Fallujah in 2004. These weapons are restricted by the Geneva Convention because they cause unnecessary suffering, literally melting the skin off the body.

Then, instead of Iraq rebuilding its economy and infrastructure from within, major contracts were outsourced to private companies. In 2004, reports for the Committee on Government Reform led by Henry Waxman said contracts awarded to Halliburton Energy Services, which has connections to Dick Cheney, total \$10.8 billion.

Cheney recently requested the U.S. Senate put the CIA above the laws of the Geneva Conventions to fight the War on Terror obstruction-free. This is akin to asking permission to permit war crimes, and is an attitude that must be stopped.

A brief history of music censorship in Canada



by **hentley small**
SPORTS EDITOR

Gun violence in Toronto this year has seen a staggering increase that has left local politicians in shock and awe. As they scramble to find reasons and, more importantly, resolutions, it seems one member of Parliament lost his sense of direction.

Democracy, by definition, means "government by the people, exercised either directly or through elected representatives."

Censorship means "stopping the transmission or publication of matter considered objectionable."

Liberal MP Dan McTeague has taken a strong stance, hoping to have street life rapper Curtis Jackson, otherwise known as 50 Cent, banned from performing his scheduled Canadian tour. In McTeague's eyes, it is an effort to

quell Toronto's rampant gun violence. What a noble position.

Except for one small element in our society – democracy.

The campaign is reminiscent of the efforts to ban Eminem from Toronto about five years ago. Back then, his latest release was enjoying multi-platinum success while politicians and feminist groups rolled their eyes at his often violent and misogynistic rhymes.

It was a battle they eventually lost, because not enough people in our democratic land supported the idea of some upper class, middle-aged government cronies telling us what is and isn't good for us.

Remember when they banned 2 Live Crew videos and albums in Canada in the late '80s and early '90s because they featured too much sexual content? Well look how that turned out. Now every rap video has a bevy of beauties in skimpy outfits. 2 Live Crew's old videos wouldn't see a minute of airplay in today's over-

sexed climate because they don't feature *enough* scantily clad ladies.

Trying to take something away from someone only makes it more desirable. When your parents told you not to do something as a kid, what was the first thing you wanted to do?

Politicians never seem to realize that their attention only brightens the spotlight on violent and misogynistic music. Instead of focusing on 50, how about working on the relationships with community leaders to find causes and answers?

There is no reason to use time and resources to fight these meaningless battles. They want to give the appearance they are trying to solve Toronto's problems – by attacking public figures.

Meanwhile, resources are diverted from more effective and longer-lasting solutions to getting guns off the streets and maintaining respect for women. After all, that might involve real work.

It's not that I'm a fan of thugged-out tunes or music that

degrades women. In fact, it's quite the contrary. But I think the artists have a right to express that to their fans. Are the lyrics and values immoral? Perhaps. Are most of the people who listen to it the same way? Not likely. It's way too difficult to legislate morals and ethics in our ever-desensitized culture.

This, ultimately, isn't about the rappers. The issue at hand is censorship. In a supposedly democratic society, out-of-touch politicians shouldn't have the right to make unilateral decisions like this while continuing to skirt real issues.

While the content of some rap music may be objectionable, the attempt to shield us from it is more objectionable.

Censorship creeps over movies, video games, television shows and news coverage. You can't eliminate problems by avoiding them. You must deal with them head on and create solutions that address their roots and the attitudes that bring them about.

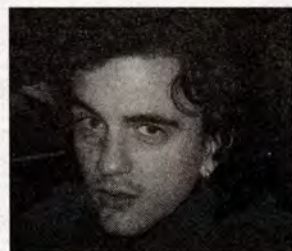
Says You!

What could a politician promise today to guarantee himself your vote?



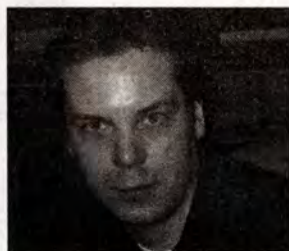
"To improve health care. Everything should be free."

- **Anna Tischenko**
Business Administration



"To get rid of greenhouse gases altogether in Canada."

- **Robin Read**
Fitness & Health Promotion



"To not make any deals with the Bloc Québécois."

- **Adam Weissengruber**
Library Employee



"World peace."

- **Oxana Lavrikova**
Law Clerk

in focus

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. Wishing you happy holidays. - Helen Keller



courtesy

Mary and Joseph are an important part in celebrating the Mexican tradition. Nativity scenes can be seen throughout Mexico during the holiday season, while spending time with family.

Keeping the holiday festive

Christmas songs and pinatas help families enjoy Christmas Day

by gabriel govea
SPECIAL TO ET CETERA

In Mexico, most people believe Jesus comes to their hearts at Christmas time.

The celebrations around Christmas consist of performing scenes in which two children carry a small table with two replicas of Joseph and Mary on it.

They are followed by other people singing traditional songs about the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and what the couple had to do in order to find a safe place for Jesus to be born.

All this is done by Mexicans to

remember when Mary and Joseph were asking for lodging during that journey. Afterwards, people gather in a house where there are traditional meals, beverages and, for children, pinata - a paper mache container filled with different kinds of candies and fruits, which is decorated with paper of various colours.

The children, one by one, try to break the pinata with a stick while other people sing around the child.

These celebrations are called Las posadas and they begin nine days before Dec. 24.

They are an important cultural period for Mexicans because they

allow them to reaffirm their beliefs.

There is not only happiness because of the feast but also a great conviction that God is born into their hearts.

This tradition demonstrates the symbolic power of Mexican culture, bringing back events from the past and reliving them in different ways.

During the posadas people pray and go to church, however, the most important thing at this time is that people show their feelings to loved ones. It is a time to give true gifts from the depth of one's heart.

Hanukkah celebrates time with family

by jessica miller
IN FOCUS REPORTER

This Dec. 24, Jews will light their first of eight candles to begin Hanukkah.

Hanukkah commemorates the time when the Greek Syrian government didn't let the Jews worship. The Jews rebelled to take back the temple and there was only enough lamp oil to burn for one day, but it burned for eight.

This is why a candle is lit each night over eight days.

Hanukkah is a time to spend with family, said second-year public relations student Aviva Cohen.

"We always try to have a big get-together with all my cousins, aunts and uncles," Cohen said. "Although some families celebrate it by giving gifts, I just enjoy the time with my relatives."

"Every night we add a new candle to the hannukiyah," Cohen said. "You're supposed to put the hannukiyah near the window so people passing by can see the candles' lighting and know you're celebrating the holiday."

The hannukiyah holds nine candles, the eight that you light and a shammush, - a taller candle used to light the others.

There are many ways to celebrate Hanukkah.

"The only religious observance

related to the holiday is when we light the candles. We sing the traditional holiday songs," Cohen said. "We also eat traditional Hanukkah food."

"I like the food for Hanukkah," Cohen said. "The best thing to eat are latkes, which are fried potatoes and you get to dip it in sour cream or apple sauce. I also like the chocolate money."

"Every night we add a new candle to the hannukiyah."

- Aviva Cohen,

Second-year Humber student

Humber's professional development consultant Pamela Mitchell looks forward to the food, especially the potato pancakes with egg.

Mitchell said a lot of the food is symbolically fried in oil.

Another tradition during Hanukkah is spending time with family and playing games.

The dreidel, a spinning top with letters on either side, is a game anyone can play.

Since practicing the Jewish religion was prohibited, Jews use the dreidel to disguise their worship.

"Jews would worship anyway

and when soldiers came they'd pretend they were gambling," Mitchell said. "They'd always have money out."

This cover-up made money (Hanukkah gelt) symbolic, so it is now commonly given to children.

"Traditionally, giving presents isn't a big thing," Mitchell said.

Presents are given more to Jewish children, or among Jewish adults who live where Christmas presents are exchanged," Mitchell said.

Different spelling variations of Hanukkah include Chanukah, Chanukkah and Hanukah.

"The 'Ch' is made with a grinding sound in your throat, as if you were clearing out phlegm," Cohen said. "Usually for people who can't speak

Hebrew, it's hard for them to say the 'Ch' sound with their throats, so they, usually just say it like Ha-nu-kkah.

Family values and good food bring Christmas joy

by anita bell
IN FOCUS REPORTER

When it comes to celebrating Christmas, Canadian children may be too much about the presents and not enough about traditions.

The vice-president of Humber's African Student Association, Oloyede Fatogun, was born in Nigeria, where the same Christmas is celebrated but with different values.

"For Christmas a place is decided on where all the family can come to talk about life," Fatogun said.

The highlight of the day's celebration is the banger.

"It's like cheap fireworks people set off all over the place. It's how you know it's Christmas," said Kunle Awoliyi, another Humber student who was born in Nigeria.

The majority of Canadian children count down the days until the night Santa Claus brings them all the presents on their list.

"I don't remember getting any presents, it's not about that," Awoliyi said.

He did, however, look forward to getting his picture taken with Father Christmas who might give you a bag of goodies.

In Nigeria Christmas has a lot to do with food. Depending on the

size of the family either a ram, goat or cow as well as chicken and rice jollof, a Nigerian dish, is prepared for a Christmas Day feast.

"We bring food to the neighbours and they exchange food with us," Awoliyi said.

The African Student Association is holding a Christmas semi-formal on Dec. 17 in the Seventh Semester at North Campus. The money raised will be given to a non-profit organization to be sent to Africa to help those in need celebrate Christmas.

Christmas brings smiles to kids less fortunate

by amanda mullin
IN FOCUS EDITOR

Thousands of toys will be collected for less fortunate kids across Ontario this holiday season.

The Salvation Army, 680 News, CTV, KRG Children's Charities, private companies and sponsors are working to reach their goal of 50,000 toys this year, which works out to be over a million dollars in donations.

Jay Stinson, Promotions manager, for 680 News, said that Toy Mountain received 40,305 toys last year and granted 22,000 wishes for children.

"People don't realize that we go all the way up to age 18 and students can support their demographic. It's a great way to give back to young people," Stinson said. "So next time you're buying four or five CDs why not think about those less fortunate."

Private sponsor Rocky Stone, a child talent agent, is one of the At Work Santas in Toronto.

"Last year I collected 3,000 toys from the children in my agency and area. It's such a wonderful feeling and it teaches and makes the kids feel great because they are doing something great for others," Stone said.

He even brings in childhood celebrities who donate signed posters and clothes to help raise money towards Toy Mountain.

"This year Dakota Fanning has donated two signed posters and last year Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen donated a pair of shoes and other articles," Stone said.

First-year culinary arts apprentice student Jennifer McGee said that Humber College should support more charities during the holidays.

"It's really easy for people to bring in a toy, even if it's from the dollar store," McGee said. "Students should remember and think of those less fortunate. It's a good feeling knowing that you're helping others."



shanen crandon

The hannukiyah holds nine candles and the taller, centre candle, the shammush, is used to light the others.

"That's why there are so many different spellings. It's just based on whether or not you say the word properly," Cohen said.

"BRILLIANT. You reject your own nose because it represents the glitter of commercialism. Why didn't I think of that? Cut, print, moving on." – *The Grinch*



Holiday spirit is not just for Christmas

by carmela gentile
IN FOCUS REPORTER

Thousands of African Canadians celebrate family, community and culture for seven days each year.

It is the celebration of Kwanzaa that begins Dec. 26 and ends Jan. 1.

Ayo Handy Kendi, the founder and director of the African American Holiday Association (AAHA) in Washington D.C. said, "we celebrate African growth, family and the love we have for each other."

The name Kwanzaa comes from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means first fruits in Swahili, the most commonly spoken African language. These first fruits celebrations are recorded as far back as ancient Egypt.

"As Pan-African people, using Swahili was designed by Dr. Karenga," Kendi said. "It is the language most used by people."

In 1966, Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Malauna Karenga. "He was concerned about the conditions of African Americans living in America during the civil rights movement," Kendi said.

There are five fundamental qualities centered around "first fruit" celebrations: ingathering, reverence, commemoration, recommitment and celebration.

"Christmas didn't address the needs of African culture. There was a strong need to embrace African centered heritage," Kendi said.

According to the official Kwanzaa website, www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org, there are seven principles (Nguzo Saba) of Kwanzaa— Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity) and Imani (faith).

Each day of Kwanzaa focuses on one specific principle. The greetings used are to reinforce the meaning and commitment to the seven principles.

The Zawadi, gifts, are given mainly to children if they have demonstrated the qualities of the specific principle being practiced that day.

"Parents might give them a small handmade gift or a gift at the end of the week," Kendi said. "We give it only if the child has demonstrated the principle. If the gift is not made it should be purchased from someone from African descent to avoid commercialization."

The colours of Kwanzaa are red, black and green.

"Black and green are the colours in our flag. Red is for the blood that has been shed," Kendi said.

There are also seven symbols of Kwanzaa that represent the ceremonial aspect of the celebration.

The Kikombe cha umoja, or unity cup, symbolizes the principle of Umoja. It is used on the first and last day of Kwanzaa.

"People will take a sip of grape juice, apple juice, or cider."

The Mkeka, a mat made of straw or fabric is placed on the floor and the other symbols are placed on top.

"Each family has a low table or mat on the floor where they will gather for the seven days," Kendi said.

A Kinara, or candle holder, is placed in the middle of the table. It holds the seven mishumaa saba, candles. Each candle represents each principle and day of Kwanzaa.

The Mazai, basket of fruits and vegetables, is placed on the table to celebrate the abundance of the earth.

"It symbolizes the continued efforts of Africans around the world," Kendi said.

And finally, the Muhindi, or ears of corn, represent growth, life and prosperity.

"It represents the concept that the ear comes from the stalk," Kendi said. "Each stalk creates corn. A strong parental stock gives strong values to its offspring."

"Kwanzaa has brought us together. Black people do come to gether."

Walking in a Wiccan wonderland

by leigh blenkhorn
IN FOCUS REPORTER

The holiday season is already underway for those who practice Wicca.

Third-year Guelph-Humber business administration student Vanessa Zeniuk is Wiccan, and explains that Yule can also be known as the Yuletide or Winter Solstice.

"Yule is celebrated on the 21st of December because it is the shortest day of the year," Zeniuk said.

Many Yule traditions are similar to Christmas customs. However, each food, decoration and ritual is given a specific meaning.

"We decorate with the traditional Christian decorations. We decorate with mistletoe," Zeniuk said. "We give out Yule gifts, and we even put up a Yule tree, which is the same as a Christmas tree."

According to the Wiccan Church of Canada, Wicca is a pagan religion. Paganism is a general term for a religion honouring a variety of gods and goddesses, or a nature-worshipping faith. It combines magic and devotion, and stresses the importance of the elements earth, air, fire and water.

Wicca is a mixture of old and new, coming from a combination



ashley house

Winter Solstice means more than gifts to Vanessa Zeniuk.

of European folk tradition and 19th century occultism. Every legend, symbol and act has meaning behind it.

The Yule tree is decorated with items that symbolize the sun, moon and stars, as well as the "souls of the departed" who are remembered at the end of the year.

"We have certain things we cook, but it is pretty much the same food most people eat at this time of year," Zeniuk said.

"We drink something like apple cider, called hot spiced Wassail. It has berries, cinnamon sticks, and even a little bit of apple cider."

Traditional foods include turkey, goose, nuts, fruitcakes, spiced wine, cider and eggnog.

For Wiccans, Yule is when the dark half of the year surrenders to the light half.

There are numerous traditions and rituals associated with the Winter Solstice, and Wiccans are free to celebrate in their own way.

Zeniuk said there is one main explanation for the celebration of Yule.

"We celebrate because of the waning of the moon, when the moon goes from big to small. We celebrate reincarnation. It is the rebirth of the sun," she said.

"We celebrate the return of the Oak King, who is a representation of rebirth, and a sign of a new year."

WiccanLife.com explains the legend behind the winter solstice. It is during this time that the Oak King and the Holly King battle to see who will rule for half the year. The loser then waits until the next Solstice to challenge the winner.

The Oak King rules from mid-winter to midsummer, and the Holly King rules from midsummer to midwinter.

Caribbean Christmas, Bahamian-style

by fariche alleynne
IN FOCUS REPORTER

Imagine a Christmas in the sun, with sandy beaches and palm trees. Well, that's what a Bahamian Christmas is like and more.

Bahamian-born Scieska Adderly, an international student in media studies at Guelph-Humber, returns home every December and describes the Bahamian Christmas as really laidback.

"I feel like Canadians are always in a rush to do something. In Bahamas we say better late than never," Adderly said.

The weather aside, she said there are a couple of differences between the traditional Canadian and Bahamian Christmases.

Adderly said after Canadian winters, she appreciates the beaches in the Bahamas more.

"When I was living at home I hardly (went) to the beach, but I think when I go back (this year) I will go and at least sit on the beach," she said.

The festival of Junkanoo is another difference that Adderly particularly looks forward to on her Christmas breaks.

Junkanoo traces its roots back to West Africa and is held during the early morning hours.

"Junkanoo is (celebrated) on Boxing Day and New Year's. It's something like a Trinidadian carnival, where we have costumes and music. It's one big festival

and everyone is out partying and having fun. I love it," Adderly said.

Some Bahamian foods may not be on a Canadian dinner table.

"We have something that's called guava-duff. It's something

Although Adderly goes back to the Bahamas every year for Christmas, she said she wouldn't mind celebrating a white Christmas one year, as long as her family is with her.



courtesy

Adderly anticipates the green Christmases back home.

like a breaded cake with guava fruit in the middle. We have coconut tarts, we have conch and we make conch salad. There are also different variations to the conch, where you can have it fried and you have it with fritters and cream sauce," Adderly said.

Bahamians do share one very important thing with Canadians — they use Canadian pine trees as Christmas trees.

"We actually have Canadian pine trees imported in and various gas stations sell them. And we pay a good amount of money for them, like \$80 to \$100," she said.

The festival of lights has not been forgotten

Diwali, according to diwalifestival.org, is a Hindu festival held over five days in October and November. In Bengal, Kali, goddess of time and of transformation of death, is celebrated. The rest of India celebrates Lakshmi, goddess of wealth and prosperity. Over the five days, sweets are exchanged by family and friends and fireworks are watched at night. It is held on the fifteen day of the month, the darkest day of the year and candles and lamps light the sky. The light represents knowledge, and rids the darkness of ignorance and celebrates new beginnings. This celebration marks the beginning of the New Year. During the festival Hindus celebrate the return of the sixth Guru, Hargobind Ji, and honour his return to the Harmandir Shib (The Golden Temple).

Et Cetera's elves

all photos by ashley house and shanen crandon

The entire newspaper staff has come together to suggest some great gift ideas, made up of favourite things, for the shopping challenged.



Jenna Rosman
COPY EDITOR

The best gift you can give this holiday season is a hug and a kiss on the cheek. It's a friendly gesture and it's also free, making everyone feel good



Randi Bokor
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

If you have anyone in your life who is like me and freakishly cold all the time, fingerless gloves are the answer. Students will love these gloves because you can keep them on while typing. These glorified sleeves with thumbholes are perfect for a secret Santa or a stocking stuffer. fingerless gloves, \$20, American Eagle



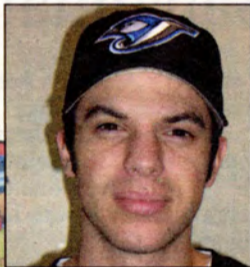
Simone Reid
IN FOCUS EDITOR

Pashminas are fabulous. Anything that can keep you warm and look stylish as a scarf are worth investing in, especially at this price. pashmina scarf, \$14, H&M



Cynthia Reason
NEWS EDITOR

Sudoku is the gift of countless fun-filled hours of frustration, enlightenment and triumph all rolled into 81 cute little boxes. It's the affordable fun for everyone. I highly recommend it. Sudoku book, \$3.99, Chapters/ Indigo



Matt Civak
SPORTS EDITOR

The *Clerks* cartoon series consisted of only six episodes before being cancelled, so it's relatively unknown. You might call it hilarity in a box. Clerks DVD, \$13.99, Best Buy



Christine Flynn
NEWS EDITOR

Wooden picture frames or mirrors and a bit of paint and glitter are simple and inexpensive gifts that are fun to make. Ikea sells plain wooden picture frames for about \$2 each and plain mirrors for about \$3. My favourite paints to use are Delta Ceramcoat acrylic paints, which cost about \$2 each.



Carol Santos
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Pink Sugar's vanilla scent will have visions of sugar plums dancing in your head. It's the perfect gift for your sweetest friend or girlfriend. The Italian Pink Sugar line also has a collection of bath and body products. Pink Sugar Eau de Toilette, \$48 - \$70



Jenn Goldberg
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

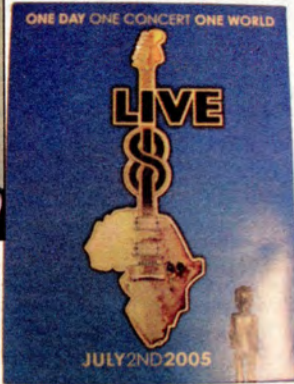
In my mind, holiday gifts should be completely frivolous. I don't want to see a toaster oven or (gasp!) a pair of socks in my gift pile. Where is the fun in that? I want the gift I give to make someone feel special. These original and artistic rings would do the trick. Totally funky yet utterly pointless. The perfect holiday gift. rings, \$29, Kitsch Boutique



arts & entertainment



Alexandra DeMaria
MANAGING EDITOR



The Live 8 DVD set is my favourite gift to give this Christmas because it is something you can keep watching over and over and over again without getting bored of it. Even when you're just hanging out at home, you can throw it on instead of a CD...it is hours of entertainment.
Live 8 DVD, \$32.99, HMV and Amazon.com



Katie Lamb
LIFE EDITOR



Magazine subscriptions are like receiving a gift every month. My personal favourite is *Vanity Fair*. I'm not one for tabloids, but V.F. makes celebrity lives interesting with engaging, well-written exposes.
Vanity Fair subscription, \$38 for 12 issues, vanityfair.com



Ashley House
SENIOR REPORTER

It's a great scent for relaxing or trying to study and it also covers up those incriminating and disgusting house odours.
incense, \$4.99, Rock co.



Rebecca Granovsky-Larsen
COMMON CENTS EDITOR

A cat can make a great gift. There are thousands of cats and dogs across the GTA who are in need of good homes. For listings of animals up for adoption across Canada, visit www.adoptananimal.ca.

pet cat, priceless, adoptananimal.ca



Shanen Crandon
PHOTO EDITOR

It's a balls-to-the-wall blend of country, Southern rock and the road. It's the perfect road tripping album for the Skynyrd fan on your list.
Road Hammers, \$15, HMV

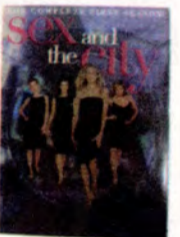


Hentley Small
SPORTS EDITOR

The Megatron bobblehead is the ideal gift for the ultimate *Transformers* fan. The leader of the nefarious Decepticons is an icon amongst toy collectors and toy lovers everywhere.
Megatron bobblehead, \$20, Times Square in New York

Amanda Mullin
IN FOCUS EDITOR

The *Sex and the City* DVD set is a great gift for any girl who cares about love and relationships in New York City. It also makes for a great excuse to get together with your girlfriends for a movie night.
Sex and the City DVD, \$42, Best Buy



Leigh Beadon
OP/ED EDITOR

Coffee is the national narcotic – a necessary nectar for those on the go. Keep your best friend warm in style with a Starbucks thermos.
Starbucks' Thermos, \$20 – \$60, Starbucks



Andrea Utter
LIFE EDITOR

For anyone on your list who has their own home (or apartment) and has a knack for interior decorating, this is my number one pick this season. I use my Benjamin Moore designer classics paint palate at least once a week to decorate my house (and to redecorate it in my head). Happy decorating!
Benjamin Moore Designer Classics Paint Chip Collection, \$24.99, Any Benjamin Moore retailer



Jason Bowser
SENIOR REPORTER

The Lexar Media JumpDrive is the gift for students stuck on the computer all day. If you're tired of rifling through tons of floppy disks as you search for an old file, try this gadget out.
Lexar Jump Drive, \$24.99, Future Shop



Gina Jashewski
SENIOR REPORTER

A flavourful twist to your favourite drink, these candy cane shot glasses are cheap and the perfect holiday gift for your friends.
Candy Cane shotglasses, \$5, Urban Outfitters



arts & entertainment

Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner have reportedly given birth to a daughter named Violet. Affleck, 33, and Garner, 34, were wed on June 29, 2005. - yahoo.com



penny graham

Brianna Czarka took home the title of 2005 Rez Idol with her rendition of Summertime by Charles Mingus.

Rez Idol

by penny graham
ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

Rez Idol wrapped up on a high note Nov. 28 with former Canadian Idol contestant Brianna Czarka snagging the title and first prize of a karaoke machine.

Czarka, who wowed the audience with her jazzy rendition of the classic Charles Mingus song Summertime said, "It was such an honour, especially to have everyone's support. Everyone came down from my floor. I love to sing and being able to share that with the people I care about most means a lot."

The competition, held at North Residence, was nothing new to Czarka, who is a journalism student at Guelph-Humber.

"I did Canadian Idol, I made the top 100 my second time. I auditioned three years in a row," she said.

The contest is the brainchild of Residence Assistant Ean Boychuk, who has been running it for the past three years.

"Part of being an R.A. is throwing events, building a community

in your section," he said.

The performers were critiqued by a panel of student judges and Residence Life Co-ordinator Chad Nuttall.

The event provided a much needed study break for the students in the audience.

"Rez Idol did definitely help relieve stress," said R.A. and second-year TV and film production student Kimberly Dean.

"Everyone's cooped up in their rooms all day and it's kind of a fun event because it's after dinner and before they crack open the homework for the night."

While waiting for the event to begin, first-year media foundation student Rob Wilkes said, "I think it will be interesting. They are real underdogs this year, I think they will pull through."

Second-year music student Bekkah Alkema took the time to come out and watch the show, but wasn't really impressed.

"I think it's a good event, it's something fun to do, for talented people to come out, although there aren't a lot of talented people this year," she said.

NewMindSpace spices up T.O.

by ashley carter
ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

How well can you really know your city if you don't get outside?

People tend to forget that there are ways to experience Toronto outside of stuffy bars, franchise eateries and other designated entertainment vacuums that echo those found in any other big city.

Enter NewMindSpace, a collective that exists to remind us that the real heart of Toronto is in the grid and the thousands of feet of public space that exist for a broader purpose than just to get from point A to B.

"NewMindSpace is interactive public art," said Kevin Bracken, who along with Lori Kufner started the project in April 2005. "We organize events and temporary outdoor installations that cause people to think about Toronto in innovative ways."

The group's first act of positive dissemination involved a giant Easter egg hunt spanning the downtown core.

"We hid 2,000 coloured Easter eggs with messages inside along Yonge Street," Bracken said. "On Mother's Day, we pasted (paper

hearts) to every side of every surface on Queen Street from University Avenue to Spadina."

The 19-year-old Long Island, NY native got to thinking about this sort of thing after witnessing similar events in New York City. When he moved to Toronto for university, he brought a flash mob mentality with him and has since thrown subway parties - on the TTC as well as NYC's MTA - and organized urban Capture the Flag games in Kensington Market and the Financial District in Toronto. The latter drew nearly 400 competitors.

"Players use cell phones to communicate and can use their feet, public transit, or bikes to get around," he said.

Thanks to a seemingly unending artillery of events and displays, NewMindSpace has commanded an increasing amount of attention from like-minded citizens as well as the media since its inception.

"Our mailing list has swelled and people often congratulate us or tell us what a good job we are doing," Bracken said. "The media usually applauds our efforts but reports on our events as kind of a quirky Toronto idea."

But as quirky as it may be, and as much fun as they're having with it, they're still resolute in their goals.

"We want to help write Toronto's cultural history. We want people to fall in love with this city like we have and become interested in public space issues," Bracken said. "Our most recent event, a pillow fight, brought together a few hundred people with pillows to have a massive battle in Dundas Square, which is not quite public space - a tragedy of the commons."

Next up is another subway party. Participants will meet at Kipling Station (or join up anywhere along the Bloor line) on a soon-to-be disclosed date. Dubbed Ride the Reindeer, attendees are advised to bring "costumes, decorations, secret Santa presents, dreidels, musical instruments, paper snowflakes, joi d'vivre or just a friend to the end of the track at 11:11 p.m." Above all, they're told to "respect our transit workers and leave the subway clean."

To be informed of upcoming events or to learn how to organize one of your own, go to www.newmindspace.com.



courtesy

NewMindSpace is currently planning its second subway party called Ride the Reindeer. The group was responsible for a game of capture of the flag that drew almost 400 people.

SPOTLIGHT on Humber

by drew scale
ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

Between his clothing company and classes, Humber 3-D animation student Brendan Carmody still finds time to play shows with his band SpeakEasy.

"This is kinda my project here," said Carmody, who plays guitar and sings back-up vocals in the band, SpeakEasy, which took its name from a place where people would go during prohibition to get booze, also includes Ryan Draine on guitar, drummer Parker, singer James Burke (or "Buddy with the skills" as his bandmates call him) and fellow Californian, "Killa Kyle" on bass.

The animation student says it is strange how the band formed. Carmody, whose stage name is Zero, was introduced to Kyle when he moved to Canada and it turned out they had lived close to each other in California.

Carmody, who has been playing guitar almost five years and was taught guitar by the same person who taught the guys in the band Incubus, describes the band's sound as rock.

"Trice meets classic rock," Carmody said. "Very technical, not three chords. It's all over the board and very harmonic."

The band tries its best to create a style that covers "a wide variety of different music and have them

all connect in the same way."

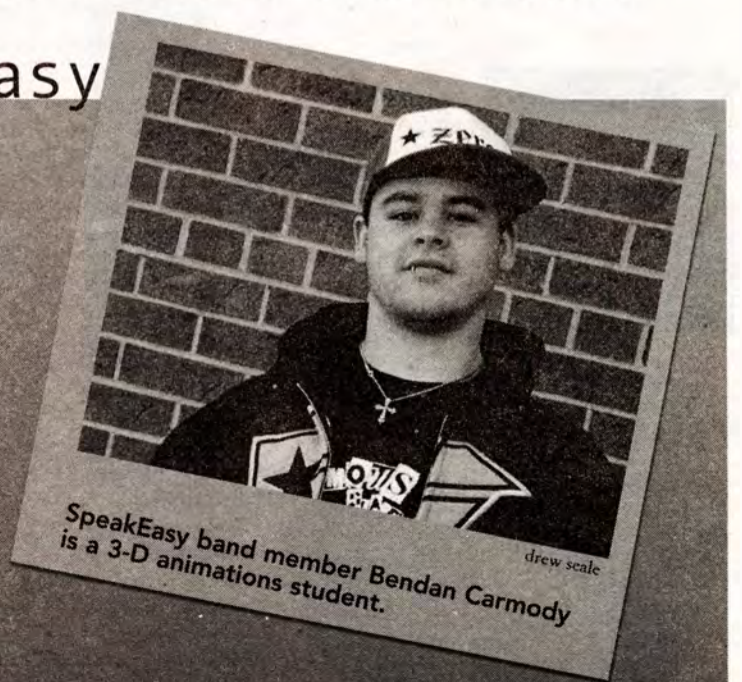
The band is working on an album and have seen some label interest attention.

"Bands these days, with so much downloading, they can't make any money," the guitarist/back-up vocalist said.

So Carmody started a clothing line to put a little cash in his pockets and also give musicians a chance to design clothing for their fans. He works with other musicians and people in the independent scene to design the clothing.

"It's basically clothing designed by musicians for the people who listen to that music," Carmody said.

SpeakEasy



SpeakEasy band member Brendan Carmody is a 3-D animations student.

drew scale

At the first election in 1867, there were 181 seats to fill. Canada has had 38 federal general elections since and there are currently 308 seats in the House of Commons.

Campaigns encourage youth to go to polls

by ashley house
SENIOR REPORTER

With the campaign trail blazing, it's a wonder why youth are left in the dust when political parties address Canada and its issues.

The 2004 election showed a 13 per cent increase in voters aged 18 to 30. While it was an improvement from the previous election, only 38 per cent of young people voted.

A study by Elections Canada attributes this low youth turnout to low levels of political interest or knowledge. But Louroz Mercader, a 22-year-old young Liberal and public relations student at Guelph-Humber, said politicians haven't done enough to engage them in the political process.

"I don't think they have given us enough opportunity to express our views and I don't think they take us seriously at the same time," he said.

Independent campaigns such as Get Your Vote On are acknowledging the importance of the youth vote.

Get Your Vote On is based in British Columbia and will expand to Toronto in the upcoming year. The non-partisan group went into schools, conducted surveys and text messaged youth. The message they sent — encourage young people to be part of the voting process and have their voices heard.

"They don't want to vote because they feel they are uninformed and don't feel they have the skills to research the issues. They have never really learned how to navigate the electoral

process," said Olive Dempsey, communications director for the Get Your Vote On campaign.

The organization has created a website that simplifies everything on voting, from how to make sure you are registered to vote to the different party platforms.

"You have to have a real sense of what they care about. (Youth) are in tune with political rhetoric and a kind of falseness. Genuine conversations influence them," Dempsey said.

Another organization trying to reach out to youth is Operation Black Vote Canada.

"We want to educate, inspire and motivate and it's through education that we are going to get the messages out there," said Delores Lawrence, chair of Operation Black Vote Canada.

"We set up actual working polling stations to let kids know how to vote so there is no fear factor. It's part of living in a democratic society," she said.

While some of the independent campaigns use celebrities like K-OS to get youth to vote, the parties themselves rarely campaign to youth.

Andrea Jones, marketing manager at Humber College, said technology is the way to reach them.

"Teens are a lot more savvy on the technology end and also brand and marketing savvy," Jones said because there is so much compe-



adam greaves

Get Your Vote On is actively promoting youth voting.

tion to attract young people it is hard to keep kids engaged and the best way to make them listen is to speak honestly to them.

"You have to be real, your message has to hit home to them," she said.

Young adults make up 12 per cent of Canada's population. What voting campaigns are trying to get across to youth is to participate in the democratic process is to be truly Canadian.

"If you aren't part of the process you are part of the problem," Lawrence said.

Many youth feel that they are only one vote and couldn't possibly make a difference in the way the government runs things. But, if you had a complaint for a politician about high tuition or the cafeteria's use of Styrofoam, that politician would be more likely to deal with your problem if he checks the voters list and sees you made it out to vote.

"Everything that happens in politics impacts our lives, whether it's the tuition we pay or the tax they take out of our pay. If we don't care today we really don't have a say in what happens in the future," Mercader said.

Young party members demand voice

by jason bowser
SENIOR REPORTER

With the looming federal election roughly a month-and-a-half away, middle-aged politicians aren't the only ones promoting their parties — several organizations are working to make young voices heard as well.

Liam McHugh-Russell, co-chair of the Ontario New Democratic Youth organization, said that there are several issues that directly affect youth.

"Our goal is to act as a representative for youth inside the party, and to organize and represent the party to progressive youth across the province," McHugh-Russell said.

The first-year law student at the University of Toronto, said he is constantly speaking to students and getting feedback on their demands from the government.

"They're hugely concerned, I think, based on who I talked to, about the cost of education," McHugh-Russell said.

He said that the NDP's approach would help students drowning in debt.

"Jack Layton announced the restoration of \$4 billion in post-secondary funding if the NDP gets into power."

Terry Chemij from the Young Liberals of Canada said the Liberal government has been meeting the goals of contributing foreign aid and protecting the environment.

As the president of the Etobicoke Centre Young Liberals, Chemij acknowledged that the sponsorship scandal did harm the Liberals in the eyes of the public but Martin remained confident.

"I don't believe the Liberal party is corrupt," Chemij said. "Obviously it should have never happened, but Paul Martin called the Gomery inquiry to investigate the ones behind it ... he has lots of integrity."

When it came to gun violence Chemij said that he didn't think any party could stop it from happening.

"It's not an issue we can throw money at," Chemij said.

Brendan McLaughlin, president of the Ontario PC Campus Association, said students are sick of the Liberal government digging into their pockets. He said the Conservatives would give them a break in taxes and in student loans.

"The Conservative party is going to remove the parents' income requirement for student loan assessments," McLaughlin said. He said that parents with high income don't always share their wealth with their kids, and are therefore blocked out even if they have no money.

One thing that all three members agreed on was that more students need to get out, and decide for themselves who they want to lead the next Federal government.

"It doesn't take too much effort to get in on the issues," McLaughlin concluded.

photos courtesy of respective parties



Conservative

Stephen Harper

taxes

They have promised to cut the GST tax down to five per cent from seven per cent to help benefit families and will oppose "death taxes" that require descendants to pay a set amount of money to the government to inherit property left by a deceased relative.

healthcare

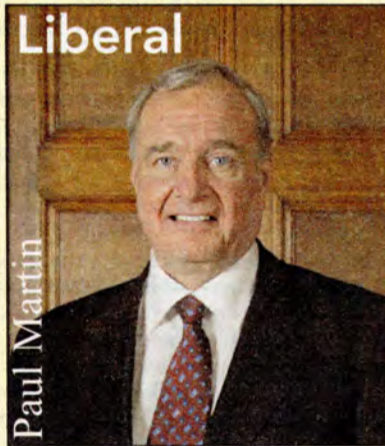
They said they will end the long wait times that patients face in hospitals for treatment. They are also guaranteeing better services for seniors and assistance for parents in the costs of child care.

gun violence

They have declared to scrap the Federal Gun Registry and use the money to instead hire more police officers. They also intend to tighten security at the borders to prevent the shipments of illegal weapons from coming across the border.

tuition

They have no official policy on the problem of high tuition costs, though they say they will encourage businesses to hire more student apprentices.



Liberal

Paul Martin

taxes

In the 2005 Federal budget they increased the income Canadians can earn without paying Federal income tax up to \$10,000. They recently announced a tax relief plan intended to deliver over \$30 billion back in personal and corporate taxes over five years.

healthcare

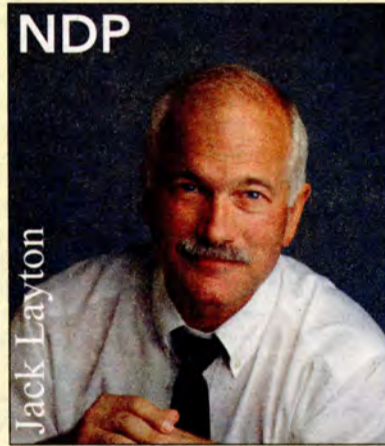
They signed their official 10-Year Plan to Strengthen Healthcare in September 2004. The plan includes \$41.3 billion over 10 years, more doctors and nurses, shorter wait times and expanded home care.

gun violence

They recently imposed stricter mandatory minimum penalties of four years in jail for gun related crimes, with a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. They also announced increased funding for the National Crime Prevention Strategy several weeks ago after Martin visited the Jane-Finch area in Toronto.

tuition

They have ended the tuition freeze, and fees are expected to increase now that the cap has been lifted.



NDP

Jack Layton

taxes

Jack Layton has declared that he will not lower or raise taxes and will instead use the revenue to invest in education and health care.

healthcare

They will not fund any private healthcare clinics, though Layton has admitted that he cannot stop them from operating. They will invest the tax revenue that the Liberals and Conservatives plan on cutting by instead directing it towards healthcare.

gun violence

There is no official platform on this issue, but the NDP has a record of investing in social and housing programs to give youth more positive opportunities and to keep them out of gangs.

tuition

After working with the Liberals on the Federal budget, \$1.5 billion was allotted towards education in an attempt to see lower tuition costs. They promise to restore \$4 billion that was cut from post-secondary education in the '90s.

By knowing how to respond to a cardiac arrest a person's odds of survival and recovery may increase by 30 per cent or more. – Heart and Stroke Foundation

Bringing abuse out of the closet

by katie lamb
LIFE EDITOR

The number of domestic violence cases within the gay community are the same as the straight community, but the issue is getting far less exposure.

"(Domestic violence in the homosexual community) occurs on the same level as heterosexual violence – one in four couples in both relationships," said Howard Shulman, co-ordinator of the anti-violence program at The 519 Community Centre on Church Street. "It can happen at any age, ethnicity, class."

The 519 is a drop-in centre which gives advocacy and support to members of Toronto's gay community as well as organizing activities and promoting awareness.

Abuse, as defined by The 519, is

one partner's assertion of control over the other.

Shulman said that abuse in same-sex relationships is defined the same way as heterosexual domestic violence. "The only difference is the fear of threatening to out somebody," Shulman said.

Justice Canada and Statistics Canada have no data on same-sex domestic abuse. The Toronto Police Service also has no information on the number of reported cases of same-sex domestic violence.

This does not surprise Jasmine Gavigan, president of Humber North's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBTB) association.

"People don't co-relate heterosexual violence to homosexual vio-



shanen crandon

Same-sex domestic violence is often not reported for fear of homophobic backlash.

lence. People don't think about it happening to a gay male as opposed to a female."

Shulman attributes this to homophobic backlash. "(Reporting abuse) does involve coming out. Coming out involves strangers and going to the police can be difficult."

Shulman and Gavigan agree that it is particularly difficult for men to come forward.

"In a straight world, men are not victims of violence," Gavigan said.

Apart from feelings of stigma and guilt that, homosexual victims of abuse face Gavigan said, those in the homosexual community face the obstacles of stereotypes. "Some stereotypes are that only butch women are the abuser or that it's the masculine type of man in the relationship or that it happens in male relationships at all," she said.

Both the LGBT and The 519 offer confidential and discrimination-free assistance for victims of abuse. They encourage all victims to report cases. Violence can be reported to the 519 Bashing Report line at 416-392-6877. Information about Humber's LGBT can be found at www.humberlgbt.com.

CPR method gets new life

by andrea utter
LIFE EDITOR

A new set of CPR guidelines is being implemented in Canada to educate the public and save more lives, the Heart and Stroke Foundation announced last week.

"We're trying to make them simpler to learn and more effective for the victim," said Dr. Anthony Graham, a cardiologist at St. Michael's Hospital and spokesperson for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

"It is thought that making more frequent chest compressions with a modest reduction in rescue breath-

ing is going to lead to better survival," he said.

The new method focuses on more chest compressions to increase blood flow. It calls for 30 compressions for every two rescue breaths, compared to the current 15 compressions for every two breaths.

The new guidelines are based on the Consensus on Science and Treatment Recommendations (CoSTR), a document developed by the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation.

Their research suggests that stopping compressions, even to administer rescue breaths, will stop

blood flow to vital organs, the heart and the brain.

"It takes four or five compressions to get enough pressure within the chest's wall cavity itself to get blood flowing," Graham said. "So every time you stop for whatever reason, there's no blood flow."

Ontario Red Cross program adviser for first aid Elizabeth Ramlogan, said the guidelines seek to make CPR simple for anyone who may have to use it.

"The thrust of the new CPR guidelines really is to push hard, push fast," she said. "The focus is on the compressions."

The changes are making CPR more accessible to the general public.

"The training materials have been standardized and made much easier," Graham said.

"What we are hoping is that more people will learn how to do CPR and the reason they should learn how to do it is that we now know that 80 per cent of all cardiac arrests will occur in the home."

The Heart and Stroke Foundation found that 63 per cent of Canadians surveyed received CPR training. It said one million Canadians are trained in CPR every year.

They hope these new guidelines will encourage more people to get certified.

"The risk of a cardiac arrest or heart stoppage is infinitely higher in the first two hours after the onset of the symptoms of a heart attack, so just learning the skill of CPR is learning how to deal with this type of situation," he said.

The new method does away with the initial pulse check to assess the victim's condition. "If indeed they are not breathing,



andrea utter

The new CPR guidelines call for 30 compressions for every two rescue breaths.

invariably they have had a cardiac arrest, or they will have one imminently," Graham said.

It is now acceptable to simply check if the victim is breathing and if not, start CPR.

Though CPR should be performed immediately in order to save a patient's life, Graham said the survival of patients who have had a cardiac arrest depends upon a combination of rescue methods including the use of a defibrillator.

"Widespread citizen CPR in the community, coupled with prompt defibrillation has the potential to increase survival rates of cardiac arrest from five per cent to between 50 and 75 per cent," Graham said.

Although the new method will become mandatory, the current training is still effective.

"It isn't to say that the people who are currently taking it aren't learning a very important skill – the signals and actions that they learn in terms of what to do with a heart attack victim remain exactly the same," Graham said.

Ramlogan said the exact time of implementation is being negotiated with other training agencies, including the Heart and Stroke Foundation, St. John Ambulance, Canadian Ski Patrol and the Livesaving Society.

"We've already started the process of evaluating and revising our first aid and CPR programs at the Red Cross so the entire process is expected to be complete by mid 2006," she said.

Threads

YOUR PERSONAL STYLE ON CAMPUS



by hazel ong
LIFE REPORTER

"Alive but constantly dying," is the first verse of the poem written on Michelle Whiting's home-made T-shirt.

"A friend made it for me. It's an alphabet piece, a poem that starts from A then B then C and so on. I like to wear stuff that is in some part handmade in some way," she said.

The second-year film and television student said her style consists mainly of pieces she found at Goodwill and Value Village.

"My style comes from things I find, like vintage because it's a little bit different from what everybody else is wearing instead of always American Eagle," she said.

"I usually go to Goodwill, so I pay about \$5 or \$10 for a piece," she said.

Whiting, 20, describes her style as "confused, mismatched, easygoing, and creative."

hazel ong

WHISK

WEEKLY RECIPES FROM HUMBER'S CULINARY ARTS STUDENTS

Developed by second-year student Sarah Ladouceur and Chef Anthony Borgo

Old Fashioned Egg Nog

6 eggs
1 cup of sugar
1/2 tsp of vanilla
1/4 tsp of nutmeg
2 cups of milk
2 cups of heavy whipping cream
3/4 cup brandy
1/3 cup dark rum

1. Chill everything before starting
2. Beat eggs until frothy, then beat in sugar, vanilla and nutmeg
3. Slowly stir in brandy, rum, cream and milk
4. Strain through a fine strainer and chill again.
5. Serve eggnog cold
6. Dust eggnog with freshly ground nutmeg and cinnamon

Sugar Cookies

Developed by second-year student Mark Tuomikoski and Chef Anthony Borgo.

Makes 6 dozen cookies

1 1/2 cups sugar
2/3 cup butter
2 eggs
2 tbsp milk
1 tsp vanilla extract
3 1/4 cups of all-purpose flour
2 1/2 teaspoons of baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt

1. In a large bowl cream the shortening and the sugar. Add the eggs, extract, and milk.
2. Mix the dry ingredients with a wire whisk. Add the dry ingredients to the large bowl. Mix until well combined.
3. With your hands, shape the dough into a ball. Wrap with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 2 to 3 hours.
4. Preheat oven to 400 F and lightly grease cookie sheets.
5. Roll half or 1/3 dough at a time, keep the rest refrigerated. For crisp cookies, roll dough paper thin. For softer cookies, roll 1/8" to 1/5" thick.
6. With floured cookie cutter, cut into shapes. Place cookies 1/2 inch apart on cookie sheets. Decorate cookies.
7. Bake for 8 minutes or until very light brown. Allow cookies to cool before serving.

Hope you enjoyed Whisk this semester – Happy Holidays!

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sports

"My style is impetuous. My defense is impregnable, and I'm just ferocious. I want your heart. I want to eat his children. Praise be to Allah!" – Mike Tyson

Hawks top Lords

by **garth simmonds**
SPORTS REPORTER

For their final league game before the holiday break, the Hawks hosted the undefeated Durham College Lords last Wednesday Nov. 30. The Hawks remain undefeated this season, dominating teams with an average 21-point margin of victory in their last six games.

"It's challenging and sometimes the margin of victory doesn't really tell the story," said coach Darrell Glenn. "We're still struggling with (staying focused) and sometimes it's hard when your leading to continue press and play with a sense of desperation and that is something we talk about a lot."

Guard Jonathan Tyndale hit the team's first basket, a three-pointer, as he continued his hot shooting of late. Both teams traded baskets for a while but when the Hawks stepped up the defensive intensity, forcing the Lords into five straight turnovers which turned into 12 unanswered points for the Hawks.

Tyndale, who scored 10 of Humber's 14 straight points, led the run.

The defensive assault was led by forward Jadway Hemmings, who was getting steals and taking charges throughout the game.

The Hawks were also hot from the arch all game and saw their offence run almost effortlessly. By halftime the Hawks were up 14, leading 44-30.

The Hawks continued to roll on offence with guard Michael Cruickshank dishing a number of assists. The Hawks seemed to have the game in hand, playing hard and never letting up. But don't tell that to Glenn.

"There were two stretches in the game where we were able to go on a 10-0 run and that was really the difference in the game but I still feel like we were having mental lapses and our intensity drops off at different times in the game," Glenn said.

"I though we had a stretch right before the end of the first half where we had I thought an oppor-

tunity to lose but we turned the lead and then we lost a lot of our intensity."

The Hawks offence was efficient, as every player touched the ball before almost every shot. Guard Jonathan Wyse led all scorers with 21 points while Jonathan Tyndale, Nolan Gooding and Mackenzie Milmine hit for 16, 15 and 14 points respectively.

Glenn dictated instructions and paced the sidelines all through the game, coaching his team right until the final buzzer. After the game he acknowledged his team's hot shooting but stated that it's not going to last all season.

"What saves us right now is our shooting. When you shoot well it covers up a lot of mistakes so we've been able to get away with that for the first part of the year but once teams start to know your tendencies were going to have to execute better offensively."

The Hawks don't see any league action until the new year when they host Georgian College Jan. 11.



alicia wynter

Humber forward Chris Thompson lays one in against Durham.

Badminton team participates in first tournament

by **kyle rutledge**
SPORTS REPORTER

Badminton is back for the first time in 10 years as Humber fielded men's and women's teams in the season's first tournament at Fanshawe College in London.

"We're basically starting from scratch, we don't know what kind of talent we have," Humber's athletic director Doug Fox said.

Fox also went on to say he expects the team to be competitive within three years but would like

one or two to compete at the varsity level this season.

After the first tournament, Fox got his wish with two women showing a lot of promise with the whole season ahead of them.

Merle D'Souza and Jo Lande were the only two Humber players to advance to the A flight and win their second game.

Players who lose their first game are delegated to the B flight. Those who keep winning stay in the A flight. All the games are

best-of-three sets.

D'Souza had a straight set win against Seneca in her first game, then won her first game in the A flight, beating St. Lawrence in the same fashion. She went on to lose in the A quarter-finals to the fourth seeded player from Fanshawe. "Merle had her too, but I think her nerves may have taken over," said Michael Kopinak, assistant coach.

D'Souza was partnered with a player from another school in the women's doubles, a player

Kopinak deemed to be weaker. The two went on to lose in the A quarter-finals to St. Clair, who had the number one-ranked player.

In the mixed doubles, D'Souza was partnered with Sheen Pan. The team lost their first game in an embarrassing manner in straight sets but continued on with three victories before losing an intense three-set match to Conestoga in the B finals. Conestoga is the number one ranked team.

Lande won her first two games

against St. Lawrence and Fanshawe before losing in straight sets in the A quarter-finals to the number one ranked player.

Other players who had minimal success, only winning in their first game, included Lam Trinh and Galen Chang from the men's side and Nicolette George for the women.

The team is led by head coach Paul McGarr and Kopinak, who expect their team to play better and see more weekend action in upcoming tournaments.

Lady Hawks end semester undefeated and No. 1

by **jeremy crowe**
SPORTS REPORTER

At the end of the first semester of play, the Humber women's volleyball team is the number one team in the Ontario College Athletics Association. And that's

exactly where coach Chris Wilkins expected them to be.

"With all these veterans coming back, we knew we were going to be the favourites," Wilkins said. "From day one, we've established that we were the team to beat out there."

The team is ranked fourth in the Canadian College Athletics Association, behind Francois-Xavier-Garneau (Quebec), MacEwan (Alberta) and Okanagan (B.C.).

The Hawks remain the only undefeated team in OCAA league

play, at 7-0-0, tied in points with Nipissing but second in the league and the Central West division due to having a +19 in set wins/losses, one less than Nipissing.

Their 29-1-0 overall record is in large part due to the balanced play throughout the roster, something which Wilkins has repeatedly stressed.

"Our MVP so far has been, and I know this is cliché, but it's been the team," the coach said. "On any given night, it can be anybody. We haven't had a repeat player of the game yet."

Still, statistics would indicate veteran Perfection Powell is the team's biggest weapon, as she leads the team with 13.3 points per game and 11.7 kills per game, both top 10 in the OCAA. Powell was also named the OCAA Athlete of the Week for Nov. 28, 2005, and the Canadian College Athletics Association's Volleyball Athlete of the Month for November.

Sophomore Robyn Stafford has also been a pleasant surprise, lead-

ing the OCAA with 3.2 blocks per game and showing much more consistency than in her rookie season.

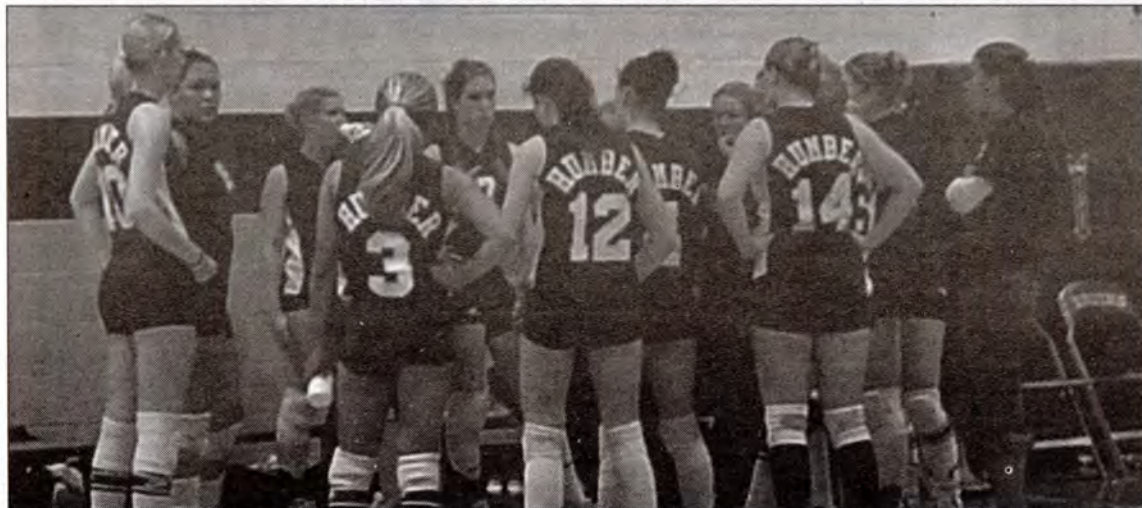
"Her biggest problem last year was her consistency," Wilkins said. "This semester she's leveled off and become a leader on the court."

He also had glowing words for Cheri Hunter and Kris Dowling, the squad's lone rookies.

"I told them both that they basically have to learn on the fly," he said. "And they've both done a really good job."

Next semester, the team will participate in four more tournaments, as well as seven more league matches. In league play, the team will face some tough challenges, namely number three-ranked Fanshawe, and a late-season game against number two-ranked Nipissing.

"Those games are important to us to set our level, set the precedent," Wilkins said. "We'll have to face them in the (playoffs), so it's going to help us get geared up."



jeremy crowe

Humber's volleyball team huddles around to come up with another winning play this season.

"I feel greatly honoured to have a ballpark named after me, especially since I've been thrown out of so many." — former baseball player Casey Stengel.

Lady Hawks hold down top spot

by jevon griffith
SPORTS REPORTER

The Humber women's basketball team finished the first half of the season with victories over Durham and St. Lawrence to remain undefeated and at the top of the division.

The Hawks, 11-0 overall and 6-0 in league play, began the week with a hard fought 67-44 home win over the Durham Lords.

The women began the game sluggishly and often looked out of sync on various possessions.

Coach Denise Perrier said she had no other alternative but to call an early timeout to get the girls back on track.

"We needed to call a timeout because offensively we weren't doing the job. We have been in situations at the beginning of this year where we've been one pass in to our offence and the shot's been

up like it's a hot potato," Perrier said.

And to add to the first-half woes for the Hawks, the officiating was terrible.

"I guess it was kind of both ways at times, but I felt like 5'6" guard Erin Chamberlain had a hard time and never got a call. She had three or four fouls on her and then you got the girl guarding her with only one or even none, so I found that a little odd," she said.

"But I'm not going to blame the game on the officials. You got to mentally play through that and I think Erin adjusted at halftime."

The players ended the first-half with a miserable 28.9 per cent field goal percentage, making 13 out of 45 shots.

They shot seven three pointers and made two of them, totalling 28.6 per cent from the outside.

And from the free throw line, the Hawks missed both of their attempts.

But in spite of the team's lack of effort, the women took a 28-23 lead into halftime.

Heidi Jaaskelainen, the 5'8" for-

ward, said she feels the women might have trouble beginning games.

"I think it takes us a second to get our intensity going. If we bring our game to our opponent, we won't have a problem where we're playing to the game our opponent brings to us," said Jaaskelainen, who finished the game with 12 points, seven boards, one assist and Player of the Game honours.

To begin the second half, the Hawks came out with an aggression that was missing earlier in the game.

The women finally started to click on offence and defence, out-rebounding the Lords 56 to 48 and outscoring their opponent 39 to 21.

It seemed that the Lords first-half attack had dwindled to a slow, methodical pace that the Hawks exploited with ease.

Their field goal percentage of 31 per cent dropped to 16 per cent, courtesy of the Hawks defence, and their free throw numbers had dropped from 83.3 per cent to 59.3 per cent.

The Hawks, on the other hand, were more accurate with their shot selection, shooting 32.3 per cent.

And the women got to the foul line 25 times, hitting 19, to bring their free throw percentage to 70.4 per cent to finish the game.

Perrier said she wants her players to learn from the first half of the season.

"They need to come out hard 40 minutes every game. We're a target. We're first place, we're defending champions and people think that they can take us, so we've just got to come out ready to go all the time," Perrier said.

"I'm glad we got the win, regardless of what the point spread was, but that's not my concern. My concern is our atrocious shot selection and I can only imagine if we'd take better shots where we'd be and what the point difference would be."

The week finished in Kingston where the Hawks defeated St. Lawrence College 70-36 to wrap up what's been an amazing first half for the women's basketball team.



jevon griffith

Humber and Durham players reach high in a battle for the ball.

Humber tops the food chain with strong teams

by matt civak
SPORTS REPORTER

Humber has three undefeated teams in the four active leagues.

Both men's and women's basketball and women's volleyball team are all ranked number one in Ontario in their respective leagues at the mid-way point in the season. In the case of the men's basketball team, they are also ranked number one in Canada.

"Defensive intensity is one of our keys," men's basketball coach Darrell Glenn said of his teams' success. "Depth has been one of our keys here as well."

Many people attribute the overall success of the Humber athletic program to Doug Fox, the college's athletic director for the last 15 years.

"Doug's processes are really

good," said Amanda Arlette, co-captain of the women's volleyball team. "There are extras that our college does that others don't."

Fox has sent the players through fitness training, given them a diet to follow and has even developed the captains-in-training program to help develop leadership skills in players.

"Being successful is pretty important here," Glenn said. He added that there is a "value put on being successful."

Glenn also credits Humber's strong program in attracting the best players in various sports along with how well the athletes are taken care of.

Men's basketball team captain Shane Dennie attributes Humber's successful history, past championships and word of mouth to

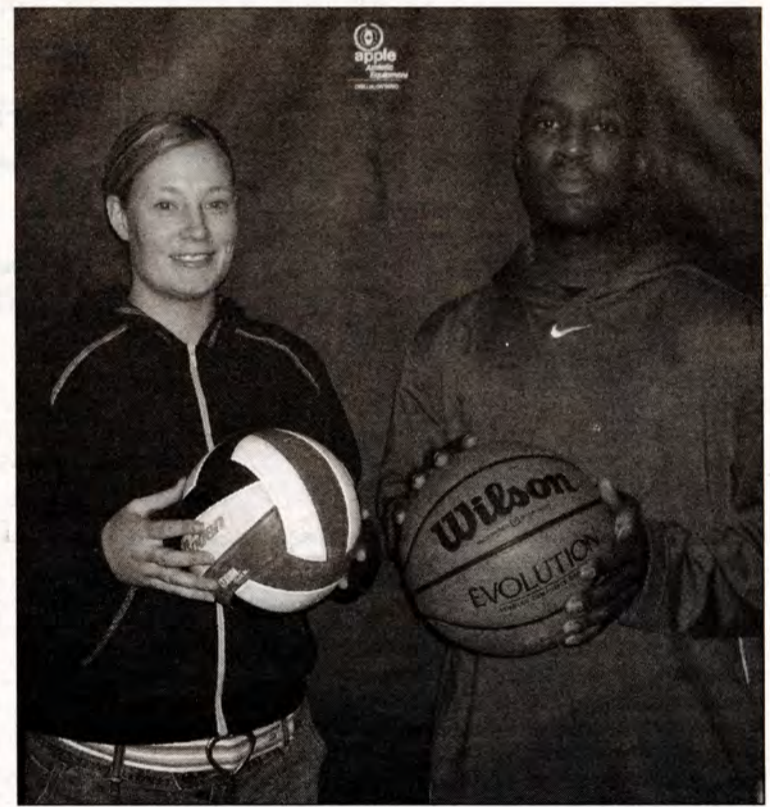
Humber's appeal to athletes.

"I transferred from a school in L.A. to play here," Dennie said. He also said he's played with players at Humber who had transferred from Buffalo and Victoria.

Humber is aggressive in recruiting and hosts a lot of high school tournaments, putting its name out there for potential players.

"I didn't really know anything about colleges (athletics)," Arlette said, referring to her days of playing in high school. "I really made the right choice coming here."

Humber continues to make strides in athletics and has a reputation as having a top-contending team in every sport it participates in. Humber's trio of number one teams look to keep up their winning ways in the new year.



matt civak

Amanda Arlette and Shane Dennie are captains of the front-running volleyball and basketball teams, respectively.

Athletic staff prepared for medical emergencies

by matt durnan
SPORTS REPORTER

The Humber athletic staff says it is prepared for an incident such as a recent scare at an NHL game that saw a player's heart stop.

"You never know when something like that is going to happen. The best thing you can do is be prepared," said athletic director Doug Fox.

In a hockey game on Nov. 21,

the Detroit Red Wings' Jiri Fischer's heart stopped.

With the help of a portable defibrillator, the team's athletic staff was able to revive Fischer and get him to a hospital where he was in good condition.

Humber College's athletic therapy staff has a defibrillator of their own and full-time staff who are trained to use it.

Humber's varsity teams have enjoyed their share of success,

thanks in part to the behind-the-scenes work of the athletic therapists.

**Humber requests
OHIP information
from all athletes.**

Humber College employs a full-time athletic therapy staff who are

on hand for any medical emergencies a Humber athlete, or even Humber student using the athletic facilities, may have.

The school's athletic staff are also trained in first aid and CPR.

Each Humber varsity team has its own athletic therapist who is at all games, home and away.

"We're one of the only colleges in Ontario who has this," Fox said. "We want to look out for the well-being of our athletes."

Looking out for the athletes extends beyond having trained first aid and CPR personnel on hand for games. Before any athlete at Humber can join a team he or she must submit their OHIP information with any medical issues the staff should be aware of.

"This information is a must," Fox said. "We need to be prepared to meet any special needs of our athletes. This goes a long way in preventing misfortunes."

sports

Upon hearing Joe Jacoby of the Skins say "I'd run over my own mother to win the Super Bowl," Matt Millen of the Raiders said, "To win, I'd run over Joe's mom too."

Blue Jays enjoy financial freedom

by rob titus
NEWS REPORTER

The Toronto Blue Jays made waves last week by outbidding two wealthy rivals, New York and Baltimore, for the services of coveted free agent closer B.J. Ryan.

While many industry observers were shocked by the bid – \$47 million over five seasons – Toronto fans have long anticipated the organization's return to financial flexibility.

This splash in the free agent pool goes back to the purchase of the Jays by local media conglomerate, Rogers Communication Inc. (RCI) early in 2000.

In the beginning of 2000, Rogers obtained both CTV television channel, Sportsnet, and the Toronto Blue Jays franchise.

Rogers obtained both the CTV television channel Sportsnet and the Toronto Blue Jays franchise.

The once proud Major League Baseball franchise – winners of back-to-back world championships (1992-93) hit hard times after being purchased from Labatt Ltd., as an afterthought, by a large European brewer in 1995.

The team continued to struggle in 2000, but the shift back to local ownership signaled a positive progression in public perception.

RCI now stands to profit significantly if and when the team's fortunes improve. Fans were provided with their first hints of optimism in previous years when Ted Rogers, president and CEO of RCI, hinted at an increase in payroll investment.

In February of this year, RCI purchased the team's stadium, Skydome, for approximately \$25 million. In all, the Canadian company now owns the team's flagship radio (AM 590) and television stations, the Rogers Centre (formerly the SkyDome) and the franchise itself.

Soon after, the Jays announced more than \$10 million in stadium renovations and a payroll commitment of \$210 million allotted for the next three seasons.

As a Baltimore Oriole in 2005, Ryan performed exceptionally and made his first All Star appearance.

The Jays finished 80-82 last season and hope that by solidifying their bullpen they will see their first playoff appearance in over a decade.

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"Lefthanders have more enthusiasm for life. They sleep on the wrong side of the bed and their head gets more stagnant on that side." - Casey Stengel

Men's volleyball team has respectable first-half finish

by **terry bridge**
SPORTS EDITOR

The men's volleyball team had a respectable outing at a tournament hosted by Niagara College, winning two games but coming up short in a semi-final match against their hosts.

The Hawks lost to the Niagara Knights 3-1 in the semi last weekend, ending a tournament in which Humber won both of their round robin games against D'Youville and George Brown in four sets each.

Head coach Wayne Wilkins said his team missed their chance at a very winnable tournament, which offered some lesser opponents.

"It was a weak tournament, we should have been in the final but we screwed it up," he said.

This tournament was another example of the parody that exists in the OCAA.

"There are four of five different teams that could win at any given time," Hawks player Mike Smith said. "If we play up to our potential we have just as good a shot as anyone else."

Wilkins agreed any team can win. It depends on who has the momentum at the right time.

"You look at this weekend, we lost to Niagara, but we beat D'Youville, then Redeemer plays D'Youville and they lose," he said. "It just goes to show anybody can beat anybody on any day, it depends on who's hot and who's not."

The Redeemer Royals won the tournament, beating the Knights in the final.

The Royals are an underdog team that has surprised many this season, including the Hawks, who were handed a straight-set defeat in the first game of the season.

That game appeared to be a turning point, as the Hawks won 12 of their next 14 sets.

They have dropped off lately, however, losing three of their last four league games.

This tournament did not affect the league standings, where at 3-4 the Hawks sit comfortably in third place in the Central West division.

Although the team did not perform up to its potential this weekend, a few players shone.

Bobby Anderson was named tournament all-star, which he also won at the Humber Cup a few weeks ago, and Wilkins said Smith played well.

Anderson has been a key part of the Hawks success this season, but he has also been inconsistent at times, and the team seems to follow his lead.

"(Anderson's) inexperienced as well, he needs confidence, he will be a good player down the stretch," Wilkins said.

Inexperience is a problem that plagued everyone at this tournament, not just one player.

"Experience is one of those things we need to play, the confidence has taken a hit," Wilkins said. "At the same time you've got

to get a little more intense, take it a little more intensely, and if we do that we'll be fine."

Inconsistency was noticeable in the round robin game against the George Brown Huskies, a school not known for having a very competitive volleyball program.

The Hawks won each of the first two sets by a score of 25-21.

The second set started with an ace from Fred Lee, then a streak of three points in a row from Anderson, including back to back kills.

They led comfortably at 18-13, but only won by a narrow margin, allowing the Huskies to stay alive for most of the set.

They followed this with a poor third set, trailing early 3-5 and never regaining their composure, losing 19-25.

This match was just another example of Humber's inability to perform at a consistently high level.

"We didn't capitalize on a lot of opportunities, we played very up and down and had no consistency," Wilkins said.

Both teams seemed to be low on energy, as the Hawks, who are generally a very noisy team, were fairly quiet towards the end of the game.

Tied at six in the fourth set, the Hawks finally took over and put the Huskies away.

The Hawks are off until Jan. 6, when they travel to Limilou, Que. for a tournament.



terry bridge

Hawks fell short in the Niagara tournament this weekend.

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MLB winter meetings wrap up

Blue Jays spending big money on pitching but still need a bat

by **justin holmes**
SPORTS REPORTER

Baseball's winter meetings wrap up today, with the Blue Jays stealing the headlines with the signing of starting pitcher A.J. Burnett to a five-year, \$55 million contract.

The announcement came at the meetings in Dallas, only five days after the once cash-strapped Toronto club collared another marquee free-agent pitcher, closer B.J. Ryan, with a five-year deal, \$47 million.

The spending spree is a result of owner Ted Rogers committing \$210 million to player salaries over the next three years to help the Jays compete in the American League East against the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox.

"Sooner, rather than later, we're going to see a new team on top there," said Burnett, 28, who is 49-50 in his major league career, all with the Florida Marlins. Burnett was speaking to a news

conference in Dallas.

He said he looks forward to teaming with Roy Halladay at the top of Toronto's starting rotation.

The deal had been predicted months before, due to Burnett's strong relationship with Jays' pitching coach Brad Arnsberg, who groomed the hard-throwing right-hander during their time together with the Marlins.

Before the meetings, Jay Stenhouse, the Jays vice-president of communications, said the team's priority would be to "try to follow through on some trade ideas. We've obviously changed the face of our club with the signing of B.J. Ryan."

Stenhouse added any improvements to the Jays' offence core would "probably come from the trade route, not the free agent route."

The Jays still are looking for a power hitter in the middle of the order. But, days before the meetings, they failed to nail down free-

agent outfielder Brian Giles, who led the National League in many offensive categories last season. Giles chose to re-sign with the San Diego Padres despite considerable interest from Toronto.

"I don't think I can term it as a real setback," Stenhouse said.

Meanwhile, the Jays also extended the contract of general manager J.P. Riccardi by three years, lengthening his tenure to 2010. Also of note was the Dodgers' hiring of manager William "Grady" Little.

This year's meetings also included details of the new World Baseball Classic next March.

The international tournament will see teams from 16 countries. The Canadian squad will be managed by Jays coach and former catcher Ernie Whitt.

Those signing up for the True North team include the Pittsburgh Pirates' Jason Bay, from Trail, B.C., the L.A. Dodgers' Eric Gagne, from Montreal, and Toronto's Corey Koskie, from Anola, Manitoba.

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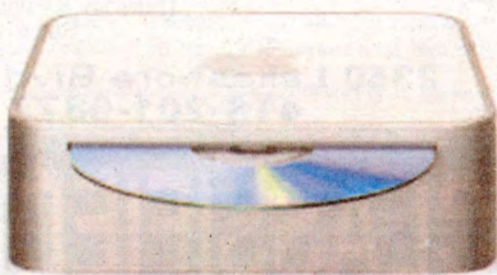
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