

Library faces decreased funding



PHOTO BY STUART HUNTER

Empty shelves — Humber's ratio of books to students may go down if the library budget continues to shrink.

by Stuart Hunter

Humber's Library Director has asked for \$15,000 less than last year's book budget as a result of overall budget constraints in the college.

However, Vihari Hivale warned failure to increase the books and periodicals budget will drastically hinder the Humber Library Services' ability to continue to provide students with adequate resource material. These constraints come as Library Services prepares to re-locate in the new \$5 million library facilities in late July.

Hivale made his remarks while preparing the '89/'90 library budget in which he has asked for more than \$60,000 to purchase new books for the North Campus Library.

The North Campus Library currently provides approximately 100,000 bound volumes of books and periodicals.

Hivale pointed out, however, in a college growing as rapidly as Humber, it is necessary to "substantially expand" the library's inventory in order to accommodate the college's ever-increasing student needs.

"The cost of the average book is \$30 and if we buy one new book per student (next year), which I don't think is unrealistic, the cost could exceed \$240,000," Hivale said.

"Considering that last year's budget for the North Campus library was just over \$75,000, I don't think we will achieve our goal, but we'll still make the best of it."

Unless the library receives

enough money to purchase a minimum of 2,000 new books, Hivale warned its ability to serve student needs will be severely handicapped. This number translates into one new book for every four students.

"It's not like we are starting from scratch," he said, "I am, however, concerned with updating resources."

"I would be content to increase the number of books by 2,000 but, in light of Humber's expansion, 5,000 would be a more realistic number."

Hivale can also look forward to approximately 5,000 books from Queensway and Osler libraries being integrated into the new North Campus library. Although many of the books will be welcome additions to the North Campus library, some will be duplicates. Hivale said many of the surplus books will be donated to Humber's twin, St. Vincent Technical College in the West Indies.

Hivale added new materials are needed to continue with the high level of both academic and self-developmental reading materials.

He said despite the potential for curtailment of book funding, he still believes the library provides students from all disciplines with good value for their money. The current eight to one ratio of books to students exceeds ratios at many of the province's other colleges.

Hivale added facilities such as inter-library book loans between colleges support the ratio but stressed he expects the book budget situation to be addressed in greater detail following the move to the new library wing.

CSA makes North share funds with Lakeshore

by Morgan Ian Adams

Lakeshore student council will receive the money it needs from North SAC to cover part of its operating costs for the next three years.

The Council of Student Affairs passed one of two Lakeshore proposals, overruling North SAC's objection to both of Lakeshore's ideas.

North had voted unanimously against giving Lakeshore any money.

The accepted proposal takes money directly from North SAC's activity fee allocation.

Both SACs' fixed costs will be combined, and then allocated to each SAC according to the ratio of students each campus has.

In the past, North students' activity fees went to North campus, and Lakeshore's student fees went to Lakeshore.

"Now, roughly every third student's money (at North) will be going to Lakeshore," North SAC President Shawn Reed explained.

Lakeshore SAC President Sheila McLaughlin said the money is needed because Lakeshore doesn't have enough students to collect activity fees from, or support fundraising events. Also, Lakeshore is expecting a decrease in students, which would make financial matters even worse. Lakeshore SAC currently has a deficit of \$23,000.

"My philosophy is Humber

College students are Humber College students and should help each other," McLaughlin said.

Reed has the feeling Lakeshore sold out.

"Basically, Lakeshore has joined forces with administration," Reed said.

"Anything we (North SAC) take to CSA will get blown out of the water," he said. "Next year if North SAC goes to CSA with a proposal and Lakeshore doesn't like it... (Lakeshore SAC) will sit with administration and vote against it."

"It seems we're losing our autonomy...we don't have anything to ourselves."

Debt for ex-rep

by Marija Djordjevic

Former Lakeshore SAC representative Raffaele DeThomasis owes the council \$672 in fees for rental of the auditorium and security for the function show, which he helped to organize before Christmas.

The function show held on Dec. 15, 1988, was to raise money for the Lakeshore students' trip and lunch for SAC.

Lakeshore SAC president Sheila McLaughlin said DeThomasis has wanted to SAC members the business deal since last year.

DeThomasis had promised to pay the amount owed to the SAC by the end of the year.

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Vision or Virus?

Members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union fear privatization will be a result of Vision 2000.

See Page 2.

Teaching teachers

Classes for future teachers of the handicapped are one part of Humber's Early Childhood Education program.

See Page 3.

Billies from Hell

Humber music student Dave Bates is a guitarist in the Burnin' Hellbillies, a raunchy rockabilly band.

See Page 6.

Team travel

Humber's athletic director says the OCAA may have to pull out of Nationals if travel budget is not increased.

See Page 7.

Union officials wary over Vision 2000

by John C. Stuart

Privatization of the college system could be one outcome of the Vision 2000 process, union officials told an audience of Humber instructors last week.

"Vision 2000 is shaping up to be a battle over privatization," Jim Turk of the Ontario Federation of Labour said. "Public education in Ontario is under unprecedented attack," Turk told two dozen teachers at an emotionally-charged faculty forum called "Vision or Virus 2000?"

The Provincial government is in the process of a massive re-evaluation of the college system called "Vision 2000" — the first since the college system was created 21 years ago. The review started in October and involves labor, student, government and business leaders as well as the province's universities, colleges and secondary schools. A final report

is scheduled to be in the hands of Lyn McLeod, Minister of Colleges and Universities, by December.

But the process has the union, which represents faculty and support staff at Ontario's 22 colleges, worried about the future. The Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) fears the government may have a hidden agenda in the review. While OPSEU is an active participant, union officials are openly skeptical.

anxious crowd

Faculty union representative John Huot asked the anxious crowd of teachers: "Is it really something open-ended or have the key decisions already been made? Is Vision 2000 really a process to soften us up to accept program rationalization, privatization or layoffs? It's hard to answer. But

it's what people are asking," Huot said.

"I'm surprised that it's as open as it is. And yet it's not as open as it's made out to be," he said. "The process should take three to five years minimum instead of one. And the 30 person steering committee is top-loaded with senior administrators and ministry people. There are only three union members."

OPSEU is most worried about Federal and Provincial government policies that place an increasing amount of education in the hands of private institutions and define education as specific skills training, Huot said.

He predicted business will want more skilled workers in the future and government may be tempted to scrap the broad education colleges now provide in favor of specific job training. And, Huot fears private institutions will be the most efficient vehicle because they can cut corners and use lower-paid, non-union staff.

Turk, who has just been appointed to the colleges' governing body, the Council of Regents, told the audience, "narrow (specific) training threatens the future of the colleges."

He said such education will lead to a cycle of retraining where

workers continually learn specific skills which have a short shelf-life.

Also of concern is rationalization — the merging of programs or even entire colleges to save money.

Jay Jackson, OPSEU local president at Sheridan College, said in a recent interview the result would be loss of jobs and a massive movement of students and staff around the city or the province.

"If that happens there's going to be a body count. Clearly, we have an interest to protect jobs," Jackson said.

Maureen Hynes of George Brown College told the audience, "we've been assured that rationalization is not a preordained outcome of the Vision 2000 process. But I do know that it is being talked about."

one college

The possibility of Toronto having one college at the turn of the century has also come up in discussions, although sources say it is unlikely that the politically cautious Liberal government will implement such a plan.

But at the same time colleges are beginning to reduce the num-

ber of programs due to lack of funding and low enrolments, Huot said.

The most emotional part of the forum came over the issue of funding. It's an issue on the minds of many instructors today, as 16 out of the 22 colleges face operating deficits. Program and staff cuts have hit some of the smaller institutions like St. Clair College, Huot said.

But as funding levels drop even the larger colleges like Humber will feel the heat, he said.

Humber has recently announced nine layoffs, the first layoffs in six years.

But so-called "operational issues" like funding are not part of the Vision 2000 process and that has the union worried.

"The underfunding of the college system is not a central focus of the process," Huot said.

The whole process could become too hot for the government to handle, especially if one recommendation is stronger public education through extra funding, Huot told a press conference after the forum. He drew an analogy to the recent two-year task force report on Ontario's welfare system which has sat idle.

Alcohol affects academics

by Daniel H. Lee

Twenty-one per cent of the students surveyed at Humber's North campus know peers who have drinking problems. And, 21 per cent say they have missed a class or done poorly on an assignment because of a hangover, according to a recent student information survey.

This information came from a survey developed by Health Services and was conducted from March 13 - 15, during Alcohol Awareness Week. A total of 56 students filled out the questionnaire.

These results indicate some students surveyed may have alcohol problems. Twenty per cent drank more than three times a week. Twenty-five percent of the respondents drink more now since they started college. In addition, 41 per cent had attended a campus event, intending not to drink, but ended up doing so anyway.

Mary Carr, a nurse at the Health

Services, was concerned about some of the figures. She attributed some of the increase in drinking to students reaching legal age at college and living away from home.

Furthermore, the definition of "excess drinking" or "moderation" is made on an individual basis, Carr said. Having a drink everyday with dinner is fine if the reason is to enhance the meal, she said. However, when drinking is used to solve problems, or is increasing in amount daily, or is interfering with school work, then it is in excess, she said.

The survey also showed 38 per cent of respondents were unaware of the on-campus services available to assist anyone with an alcohol problem.

Not one student has come in to ask for help for a drinking problem, Carr said.

"The only people that have come into the Health Services have jokingly complained about a hangover and asked for an aspirin or a place to lie down," she said.

Carr suggested the services available at Health Services could be promoted differently.

"Something more aggressive, with more time and thought, might raise the consciousness of students more about the impact of alcohol."

But, she also said students do not think alcohol is a problem, therefore they are not seeking help.

Some suggestions made by students include installing a breathalyzer in Caps, having more non-alcohol related activities, stressing no drinking and driving, and having more Friday night activities.

Carr liked the idea of serving "mocktails" and said more emphasis could be placed on the social events and less on the alcohol.

Carr was optimistic about one aspect of alcohol experimentation many college students go through. If they learn to drink to excess and dislike the effects of a hangover, they may change their drinking habits and practice moderation, she said.

Arboretum lacks necessary funds

by John Habel

The Humber Arboretum is in need of increased funds in order to continue offering community programs. As a result, Humber Public Relations students are kicking off a fundraising campaign to raise the \$25,000 the Arboretum requires.

The campaign's official launching takes place March 30th with a wine and cheese reception at Humber College. Invitations have gone out to Premier Peterson, local and provincial politicians, companies involved in environmental campaigns, and environmental organizations. The evening's speaker will be well-known wildlife artist George McLean.

Keith McDevitt, chairman of the Humber Arboretum Fundrais-

ing Committee, said "the main theme of our program is called Adopt a Piece of Nature. For a \$10 donation you'll be able to adopt one of 2,500 hundred units of land that the Arboretum's been broken into. Basically we're following the idea of what was done with the rain forests in South America."

The campaign started unofficially on the Easter weekend with a display at the Woodbine Centre. Booths will be set up at Humber College from Mar 29 - 31.

The money raised will go towards the many community programs that operate at the Arboretum.

School children use the Arboretum during the week to learn about nature, and Girl Guides and Cub Scouts use the

area in the evenings. On weekends the area is open for family enjoyment. A children's camp operates during the summer.

"How it works right now is the funding for all (these programs) is coming out of their operational grants," McDevitt said.

"In theory, money that the Arboretum receives is for capital projects and building walkways and maintenance. Unfortunately, they're having to take out of that account to pay for (programs)."

McDevitt explained the Arboretum is nearing a point where it will no longer be able to spare any funds from the operational budget and will have to cut community programs, thus denying children an opportunity to experience nature.

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Learning how to teach the handicapped

by Tia Chiericos

Many Humber students and staff are aware of the Early Childhood Education program, either through the use of Humber's daycare centre or just from seeing throngs of young children being led around the college by students.

However, not many are aware of a sister program called Early Childhood Education for the Developmentally Handicapped (ECEDH).

employment found

Humber's ECEDH program is the only one of its kind in Canada. It specializes in the teaching people to teach young handicapped children.

To achieve this, teachers set out programs for the physically handicapped children. They consist of toys and games more suitable for the children. For example, a child with cerebral palsy not able to move his arm, will play with a toy, with push buttons. Other activities such as listening to the teacher reading a story, napping and many others, involve full group participation.

There are 40 spaces to be filled in the ECEDH program and the department received over 100 applications at the beginning of the year. Currently there are 23 second semester students and 25 second year students. The ECE program has more students with about 35 to 37 per class.

Most ECEDH graduates become resource teachers. They

work with the parents of handicapped children in the home, and help parents design and carry through programs to teach their children.

In addition, a few graduates find employment in integrated daycare centres working with handicapped children and helping tear down the barriers between handicapped and non-handicapped people.

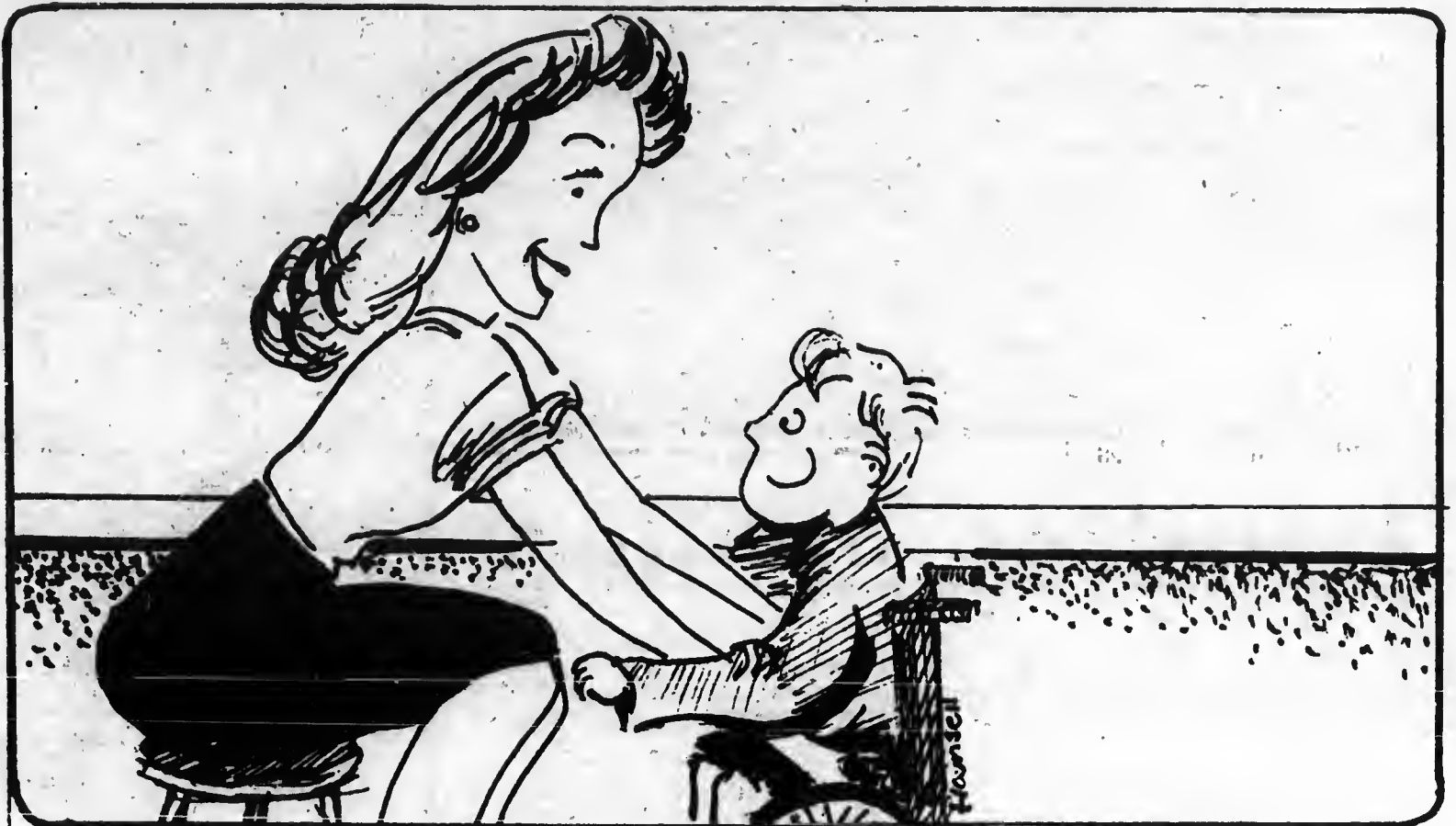
work interesting

Brenda Disher, a second-year ECEDH student, finds working with handicapped and non-handicapped children interesting. She also finds the field experience, which spans both years, beneficial.

"(The field experience) helps us when we graduate," she said.

There have not been any male students in the program for the past three years. John Sousa, Coordinator of Full-time Studies, ECE Department, finds this a shame because male role models are needed for the children.

However, the profession is viewed as "a woman's job" that discourages male participation. Sousa has been promoting male enrolment during lectures at high schools and has tried to break



down the stereotypical views of "roles".

Despite the popularity of the program's format, this is the last year of the two-year program. Next year will be the beginning of the three-year program with the placement session in the third year.

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CAREER COMMENTS · CAREER COMMENTS

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Friday, March 31 — 12:15 p.m.

FUTURESHOP
Wednesday, April 12 — 12:00 p.m.

TORONTO FIRE DEPARTMENT
Tuesday, April 4 — 1:00 p.m.

See CAREER SERVICE CENTRE staff to sign-up for any, or all, of these sessions! Find out more about career opportunities ... it may be well worth your time!

CAREER COMMENTS · CAREER COMMENTS

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Funding needed

In preparing next year's North campus library budget, the library director has revealed there is a phenomenal lack of funds. Vihari Hivale says to purchase one new book for every student as they move to the new \$5 million facility, he'll need \$240,000. He has realistically adjusted his request to \$60,000 (one book for every eight students) which is a decrease from last year's book budget of \$75,000.

First there was the elusive money for the book and equipment fund that was to be raised at the 21st anniversary bash. Now Hivale is forced to face the reality of budget constraints. What's the purpose of spending millions of dollars for new facility, then having to make do with less money for books and periodicals? If the new facility is an attempt to better service the needs of students, how can it do this with a smaller budget for its materials?

Hivale says he's concerned with updating resources and so he should be. Just last week it was reported that by building the new technology wing and approving the new residence, Humber had shown admirable foresight in both dealing with some problems plaguing the college and the need to change with the times.

However, if the new library receives only the proposed \$60,000 to purchase books and periodicals, it is a sad lack of foresight and ignorance of one of the more important student services this college provides.

Yea...

... To the college's Public Relations certificate students who are attempting to raise money for The Children's Wish Foundation of Ontario.

Humber students should take it upon themselves to support this worthwhile cause.

The foundation provides children suffering from terminal illnesses the opportunity to fulfil their life-long dreams.

In an attempt to collect \$10,000, the PR students have organized a series of events for The Humber Wish Campaign that will run during the week of April 3-7.

Campaign chairman Lori-Anne Rzie recently said of the event: "The Humber Wish Campaign became more than an exercise in fundraising. We were moved by the happiness that fulfilled wishes brought to the children."

COLLEGE VIEWPOINT

QUESTION: How would you solve the parking problems at the college?



Colette Ottink
 1st yr Retail Floriculture
 "I don't drive. I take the TTC. Maybe students should be encouraged to take public transit and that may cut down the backlog."



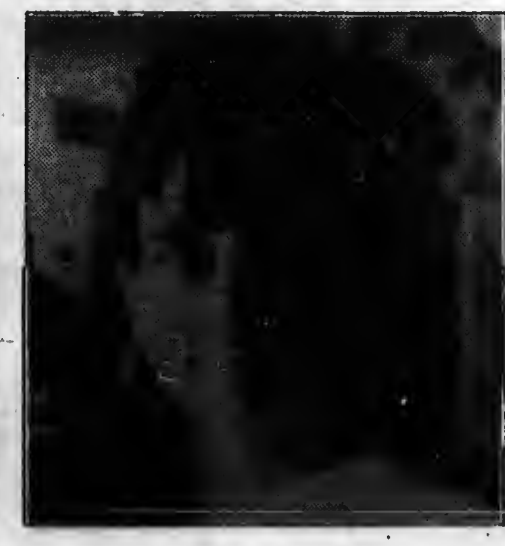
Joe Downey
 1st yr Radio Broadcasting
 "The college should build an open parking garage with several levels."



Clorinda DeRose
 2nd yr General Business
 "It should be on a first-come, first-serve basis."



Silvano Vitro
 3rd yr Computer Information Systems
 "If the land behind the silver lot belongs to the school, it should be paved and turned into a parking lot."



Rosie Pizzimenti
 1st yr Early Childhood Education
 "Expand it and make the parking lot bigger. I pay my money just like everyone else, I should be able to find a parking spot."



CSA ruling leaves North SAC powerless

No longer can activity fees be considered a SAC fund. The Council of Student Affairs has overruled North SAC's decision not to subsidize Lakeshore SAC's activity fees.

North SAC initially rejected the proposal which will result in a decrease in its operating budget. This caused North SAC President Shawn Reed to express fear that CSA's veto reduces SAC's autonomy. Obviously, Reed was right. Although the activity fee (an amount included in each student's tuition) is intended to go into the coffers of another SAC, it can no longer be described as under the control of either SAC. What CSA gives with one hand, it can take away with the other. And that is exactly what happened when CSA took money from North to feed Lakeshore.

Although the move can be rationalized by an explanation that North students are welcome to participate in Lakeshore activities, it's really a moot point. Not many North students even know where Lakeshore campus is and would probably not participate in events there if they did. It's simply too hard to get to.

But that is not the real problem. Although Lakeshore SAC members must not realize it, they have also reduced their autonomy. They have forced the CSA to prove SAC's portion of the activity fee really belongs to neither SAC, as it can be taken away arbitrarily.

by Nikey Papatheodorou

Young Offenders Act protects criminals

The increase in gang violence in Toronto is raising serious concerns as to the safety of walking the streets.

Everyday we hear of yet another incident involving gang members who have harassed, robbed or killed. It has reached the point where Scarborough Town Centre management is "street-proofing" their merchants to help them deal with gang violence.

Is this just a phase or will Toronto be forced to face the same problems cities like Los Angeles and New York face?

The answer is yes, unless something is done about the Young Offenders Act which protects these delinquents.

Under the YOA, gangs enjoy the freedom of creating fear



SUE-ANNE BATTERSBY

among people and at the same time knowing their actions will not be punished to the extent that they cannot continue with what they are doing.

Attorney General Ian Scott wants crown attorneys to bring to the attention of the judge that the accused is a possible gang member during bail hearings. Howev-

er, this is not enough. People under the age of 18 are equally as capable of committing crimes as people over the age of 17. All ages should be treated with the same severity as the crime they committed. If this kind of punishment is known to everyone, the responsibility is then placed on the individual and not on society itself.

I often wonder how police deal with the frustration of the justice system after working hard to protect society from people who have no respect for other human beings. Their efforts must seem meaningless to them.

The increase in gang violence should be enough of an issue to change the YOA to accommodate society rather than criminals.

Speaker not credible



DIANE LEE

Last week, I listened to a speech on multiculturalism in the President's Board Room. The subject dealt with equity and ways racial intolerance can be conveyed and how we as a community and as individuals can take a stand to combat racism.

The speaker was Kamala Jean Gopie, president of Urban Alliance on Race Relations, a member of the Task Force on Policing and Race Relations and a consultant with the North York Board of Education's Equity in the Curriculum program.

It was an interesting and informative speech and I was prepared to write a glowing article about Gopie. Then I heard her closing remarks which consisted of three story illustrations of how words can cause damage to a person's self-worth and how words are often used to convey the hidden message of racism.

The first story concerned a black police officer who saw a sign in a staff washroom at his station. The sign read, "The only good nigger is a dead nigger." When he returned to the washroom at a later date, the sign was still present. He approached his commander to ask why the sign was there. The commander said, "I don't know."

The second story happened to Gopie's son when he was about 11-years-old. During a baseball game, in a fit of temper over being called out, a neighbor's child turned to the Gopie's son and said, "Oh, you effing nigger." Gopie said, "My son is not a nigger to begin with anyway, but ..." She explained to her audience how she had told her son not to be peeved at those kind of people.

The third story also involved her son about two weeks after the baseball incident. He and his friend were accosted by two 17-year-old boys. The older boys beat up her son and called him a

"stinking paki." Gopie concluded by saying how damaging these words were to her son's soul and how after living in the neighborhood for about 10 years, he would no longer play with the children in the area.

All three stories told were told to illustrate a point and all three contained racial slurs. In only one did Gopie digress from the actual story to interject a qualifying statement: "My son is not a nigger to begin with anyway ..." Considering who the speaker was, I found this chilling.

Why in the second story did the speaker feel the need to explain what her son wasn't? In places like South Africa and Trinidad there is a hierarchy of color. Is Canadian multiculturalism to be the same?

I don't understand, does the fact the speaker's son is "brown" bring him above "black" thereby making that particular racial slur inappropriate?

I was stunned by the implication and looked around the room to see if anyone else registered the shock I felt. I saw a group of sympathetic listeners caught up in an emotional mixture of sadness and anger.

Were the words not heard by anyone else or did the listeners discount them as unimportant because of who was speaking? Whatever the reason, the fact they were allowed to go by unnoticed is dangerous.

qualifying word

It had nothing to do with the racial slur, the qualifying word 'anyway' was what had the impact. To me the implication was though her son is not a nigger, there are people out there who do answer that description.

What the speaker meant is a moot point, what I inferred from the statement was not. I was absolutely appalled a person of Gopie's stature and presented to me as an articulate and positive person, would display such a blatant example of inverted racism and nobody say anything.

Gopie said: "Do we sit in silence? Because, if we sit in silence we're legitimizing those kinds of things."

She was referring to how we ignore graffiti and name calling. I sat in silence. I am culpable of legitimizing a racial slur.

no defence

Gopie is an articulate person, but I wish I could believe she is also a positive person. With that one little distinction she must have felt necessary, her credibility as a viable, positive member of any task force dealing with racial equality was diminished. As a member of an equity task force, Gopie has no defence for her words, not even ignorance.

Alfred Shin, co-chairperson of Humber's task force on multiculturalism, said Gopie's story about her son was heartbreaking and moved him to tears. I, too, was moved but for a different reason.

Gopie was absolutely correct, words are dangerous and can destroy — not only a soul, but also a cause.

Excuses, excuses, excuses

Earlier this week, Big Al, the Opinion Section Editor, had a problem ... a hole in his page. That's journalese for too little copy.

He asked me if I would help, if I would write an opinion piece.

So that's what you're reading, a hole-filler.

fail to deliver

That confession made, the next order of business is to choose a subject. One easy target would be, of course, the Journalism students who failed to deliver enough copy to fill his page.

But they all no doubt had good reasons. They always do.

In fact, just about any of them could teach an introductory course called Air Tight Alibis I. That could be a prerequisite for a second-level course called Deadline Dodging II which would lead logically to Mendacity in Time



TANYA FULLER

Jeans contest dares you to be an idiot

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Different. Just think of it, no one will ever be able to fault your taste in clothes. You'll be so far above the average proletariat, he or she won't understand the things you do to express your individuality.

Okay, so maybe sarcasm isn't the best way to express my resentment. But something has to work. I could vomit every time I see another advertising attempt to mass market individuality.

empathetic anguish

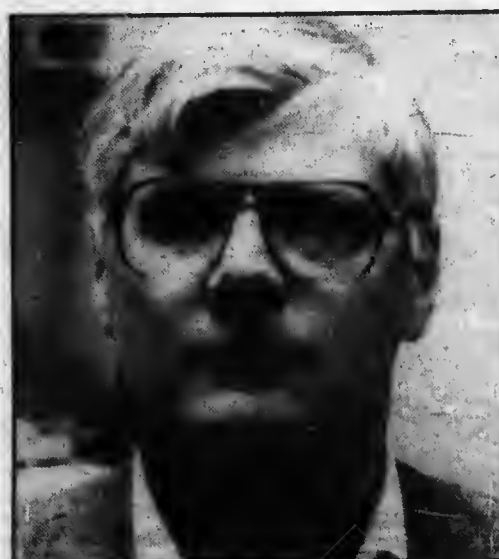
Have you seen the recent Pepsi commercial? Two idiots whose love transcends all differences because of a single, earth-staggering, unifying force: they both adore Pepsi. Isn't it bee-utee-full! I burst into empathetic anguish every time it airs. Oh God! I think to myself — don't let some obviously petty problem destroy the love affair of the century! Those two have so much — I bet they even wear the same brand of jeans.

Sarcasm might not change the world, but it's making me feel better. You can't buy individuality. If that's news to you, go hang around a Pepsi machine and wait for your soul mate to appear. It won't take long, I promise.

media-breathing idiots

One final harangue: if you are one of those media-breathing idiots who participated in the 501 jeans "Dare To Be Different" contest, do me a favor. Conjure a quick mental picture of the other contestants who expressed their individuality in the same way. What a party, eh? All of you daring to be different and for only 50 bucks a head.

If you are one of those people, why are you still reading this? You probably don't get it anyway.



JIM BARD

PUBLISHER

Management III, and the graduate-level Political Promises IV. Guess that's why so many journalists eventually get into politics.

But although such a piece might be fun and fulfil the needs of the page editor, Big Al, it would accomplish nothing.

Students would continue to miss deadlines. Students would continue to come up with extraordinarily creative excuses for missing deadlines. (Just wait for the baseball season to begin.)

fail readers

So I'll not write about our students and how they have vexed Big Al and failed the loyal readers of Coven by not producing.

I'll write about ... oops! Just remembered. No time for that. The associate dean's been after me to check over next fall's timetables "with a fine-tooth comb." I promised to complete that task by ... well ... yesterday.

Got to go. Hey, can any of you guys lend me a comb?

Band raises a little hell on stage

by George Guidoni

Elvis was laid to waste once and for all, KISS was reincarnated again, and hordes of delighted rockabilly enthusiasts slammed

and bopped to the rock 'n' roll sound of **The Burnin' Hellbillies** last Saturday night at the Rivoli club.

The show, taped by Rogers

Cable for an upcoming telecast, featured an abundance of wild on-stage antics, a raunchy driving beat and most importantly, the tightest and most confident bit of

showmanship by the Hellbillies since the band began its assault on the Toronto club scene last October.

Humber's own Dave "Screaming Schmad" Bates, drummer of the band, could not suppress his delight after the trio's triumphant set.

"This probably was our finest hour yet," he said. "It helps a great deal when the crowd is so into it. With the response we got tonight, there was no problem with being motivated at all."

The show was the Hellbillies' first opportunity to get much-needed exposure and the band was determined to make the most of it.

Donning KISS make-up and surrounding themselves with five female dancers, the Hellbillies opened up with a roaring remake of a KISS anthem *Detroit Rockabilly City* and proceeded to pound a non-stop mix of crowd-pleasing favorites and rip-roaring originals.

By the time vocalist Marco "Velvet Elvis" Pidhursky took a sledge-hammer to a clay bust of Elvis Presley, halfway through the set, the crowd of more than 200 was nothing short of ecstatic.

Bassist Joel "Jumpin' Joey Bop" Bourret had a great deal to do with it as he kicked, twisted, and jumped all over his stand-up bass with great gymnastic skill while still delivering powerful, flawless sound. His virtuoso solo with a bow was particularly impressive.

The only problem with the set was its length of only 45 minutes. However, it was more than enough time for the Hellbillies to overshadow the two more established acts which were **House of Knives** and **Deja Voodoo**, hired by the Hellbillies themselves to attract a larger crowd.

However, it was a coup of sorts for the Hellbillies to literally blow away the better-known duos with sheer energy which carried over to the crowd from the opening chords.

Skinheads, greasers, and preppies alike rushed the stage in the first minute of the set and faithfully slam-danced with the type of conviction that would have made the late **Sid Vicious** proud.

"Fight, fight, there's gonna be a fight, gonna pound him 'til he's dead, gonna kick him in the head," sang Marco as he mercilessly kicked a foam skull around the stage and into the crowd where it was immediately shredded to bits.

It was garage rockabilly at its finest, with enough distortion to leave this reporter's ears ringing for hours after the show, and yet, enough musicianship was displayed to earn the band the cult following which it quickly acquired.

Assuming the band maintains its present level of intensity and enthusiasm, **The Burnin' Hellbillies** may well be on their way to becoming the "next big thing" around Toronto's thriving bar scene.



PHOTO BY GEORGE GUIDONI

Smash—Burnin' Hellbillies vocalist Marco "Velvet Elvis" Pidhursky uses a sledge hammer to hit a clay bust of Elvis, a feature act at the Rivoli Club.

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Musical comedy based on unusual relationship

by Carolyn Chaulk

The light-hearted musical comedy, *They're Playing Our Song*, opened last Wednesday at the Leah Posluns Theatre.

The play is based on a tumultuous relationship between well-known composer Vernon Gersch and young care-free lyricist Sonia Walsk.

The couple works well together on a professional basis, but once they become emotionally involved, trouble starts.

Sonia can't stop talking about

her ex-boyfriend Leon which drives Vernon crazy.

That is not the worst. Sonia moves in with Vernon and brings her troubles with Leon closer to home.

The play takes a comical look at the trouble caused by Leon, who Vernon never sees.

Vernon is played by Gerry Salsberg, best known for his role as Orin in *The Little Shop of Horrors*. Salsberg's performance in *They're Playing Our Song* is excellent. His vocal ability is something to be heard.

Sonia is played by Susan Hogan who is Nicole on the television series *Nightheat*. Her performance is just as good as Salsberg's. Although it is the first time the couple has ever worked together, they do an excellent job.

Playwright Neil Simon based this play on a true-to-life relationship between Marvin Hamlisch and Carole Bayer Sager.

Simon has a reputation for writing plays with delightful humor and wit, and *They're Playing Our Song* is another he can add to his successful collection.

Humber student writes new song

New single to boost tour

by John Hobel

The Awesome Wailin' Possums have released a single to promote their summer tour of Ontario.

The song *Please Louise* is written by guitarist Derek Sharp, a Humber music student. The group also includes drummer Todd Reynolds and bassist Bob Sherwood. Sherwood wrote the single's B-side *Don't Matter*.

"We're sending it out to all the towns we're playing this summer," said Sharp. "That's the main purpose. Depending on the response, we'll release it to the public with a follow-up single or an album in the fall."

The Possums hit the road after

the Victoria Day weekend (May 20th) and are booked solid until the Labor Day weekend in September. They'll be covering the Ontario map, playing cities and towns such as London, Thunder Bay, Belleville and Kapuskasing, among others.

The Possums, known for their lively stage show, are now concentrating on writing songs. Sharp credits his training in Humber's music program for his ability to write songs at a fast pace.

"Derek has the highest level of technical training," said Reynolds. "It takes me three years to write a song."

"I wrote *Please Louise* in three minutes," said Sharp. "I wrote it

before a show, while Todd was setting up his drums."

Please Louise was written two days before the band was scheduled to go into the studio. They had been planning to record another song.

A record release party is being planned to promote the single. The party will take place at a downtown club, not yet confirmed.

Sharp said small record labels are expressing interest in the band, however, *The Awesome Wailin' Possums* are waiting to sign with an international label.

"We can do whatever a small label can do," said Reynolds. "We'd rather go independent than sign with a small company."

Government cutbacks hurt athletic budget

OCAA may quit National Championship

by Steve Robins

Unless the Federal Government increases college travel cost subsidies towards the Canadian College Athletic Association (CCAA) championship, the Ontario Athletic Association (OCAA) may be forced to pull out of the annual tournament.

Humber's Athletic Director, OCAA Chairman and CCAA member, Peter Maybury said unless the government pays Ontario colleges a large percentage of the \$15,000 to \$20,000 it costs to send a team to the Nationals, future championships are going to be "a history lesson."

"I am prepared to lead a group to withdraw Ontario from the CCAA," said Maybury last Tuesday.

budgets affected

"All college (athletic) budgets were affected by government cutbacks. I know some colleges couldn't afford to send a team to the Nationals. At the end of the year it's a lot of money to send a team to the Nationals."

Maybury added Humber's annual athletic budget didn't include a trip to the Nationals, but said Humber President Robert Gordon, is "interested and concerned about athletics."

Maybury also said he thinks Ontario will never be able to win a National championship due to the

financial structure of the OCAA.

"In Alberta and Quebec, every athlete is on scholarship," Maybury said.

"Ontario will always be third because we don't have the facilities (or the scholarships). It's a built in advantage."

He said a viable alternative to the Canadian Championship tournament, would be to heavily publicize the OCAA final.

domination

Maybury cited examples of Alberta teams travelling overseas for exhibition games while playing a competitive league schedule, as reasons for their domination of the Nationals. He also added Northern Alberta Institute of Technology has an agreement with the University of Alberta to exchange players as they become available.

Humber plays in the weak OCAA where they went undefeated, and their only other exhibition play was against Jr. B clubs, and a tournament against university and college teams at Christmas.

"I think our league let us down," Maybury said.

"If we'd been pushed, we would have been better prepared in the Nationals."

"Humber works harder than anyone else in the province, but the situation out west is different."

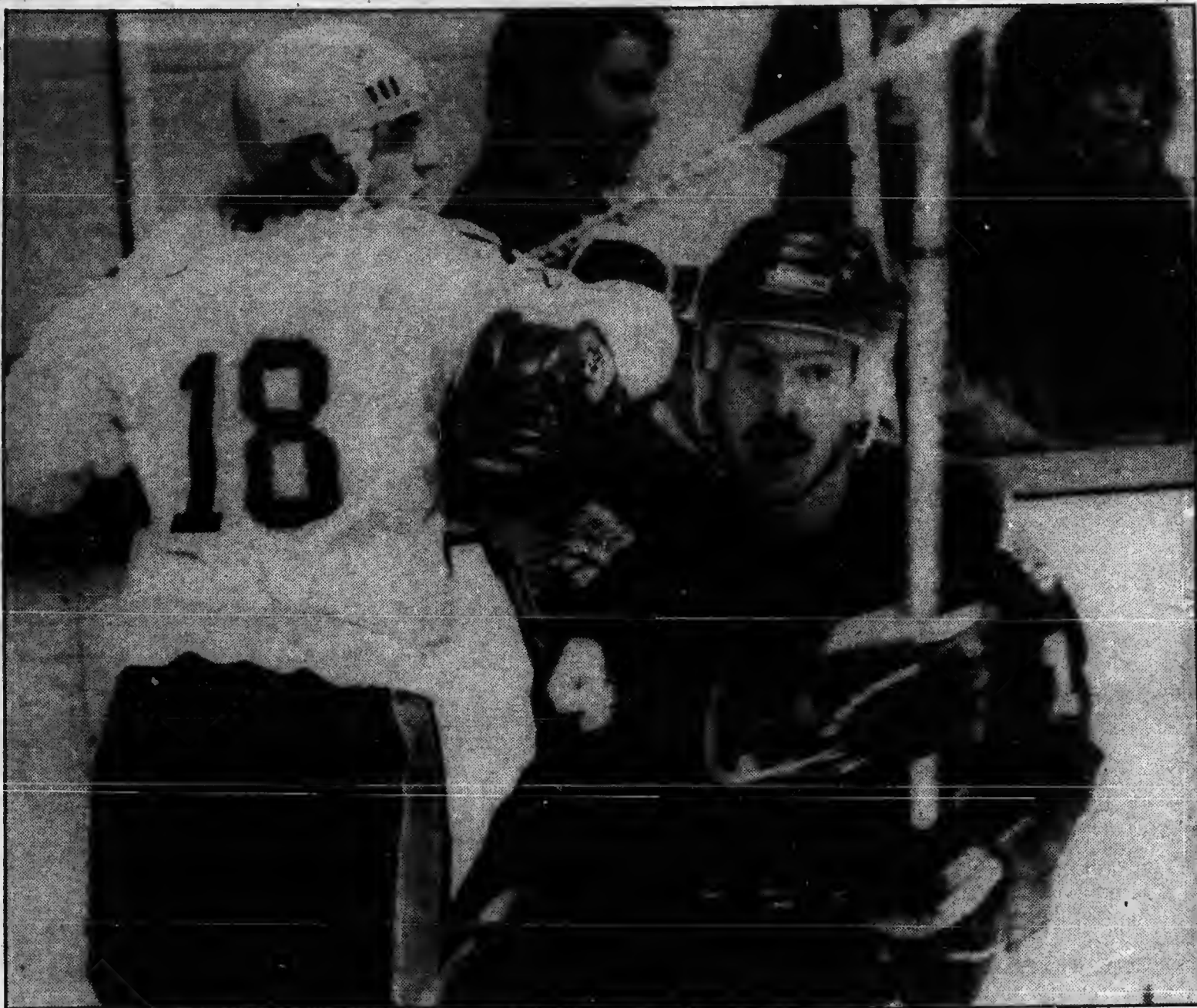


PHOTO BY STEVE ROBINS

The big prize — Humber's Mike Kelly crushes a Sheridan Bruin in last-year's edition of the OCAA championship. In the future, the Ontario title may be the only championship Humber could win, as Ontario colleges may pull out of the Canadian championships.

Ball hockey loop faces off

by Ellwood Shreve

The opening face-off for the Humber Intramural Ball Hockey League took place last week, and the competition looks close with two teams tied for first place and another in hot pursuit.

This year's league has 21 teams and four divisions. Here is a break down of the leading teams in each division as of last week.

BLUE DIVISION: The Stiffs lead this division with 6 points and are also tied for first place in the league with a 2-0 record. The Stiffs don't have trouble finding the net and have already scored 13

goals in two games. The Killer Dwarfs are in second place with a 1-1 record.

RED DIVISION: The Humber Habs 2-0 are on top of this division and share first place with the Stiffs. The Habs have also shown their scoring prowess by netting 15 goals in two games. But the second place Scapers are close behind the Habs with 5 points.

BLACK DIVISION: The Raiders lead this division with 4 points, but are being challenged by three teams tied for second place. The Knights, Maple Buds

and Hustlers are all one point behind the Raiders.

GREY DIVISION: This division is almost identical to the Black division. The leader, Public Enemy, has 4 points and has a one point edge over the two second place teams Hall of Justice and Home Dogs.

If the Stiffs and the Habs continue to have high scoring games, they will be hard to beat. But the season has just begun so the wear and tear on the ankles and shins has yet to alter the fate of the teams.



PHOTO BY ELLWOOD SHREVE

Intramural action — Ball Hockey kicked off last week, with 21 teams fighting for the title.

Maple Leaf loss would help team in the long run

By Steve Robins Sports Editor

I was listening to Q107 yesterday, and the question of the day was: would you like to see the Toronto Maple Leafs ever make the playoffs? Well, I raised the question at 6 p.m., but I'm sure it must have been a mixed bag of harmful comments towards the organization, combined with commendations, typical of live radio for the weekend.

That's the problem with Toronto hockey fans, there are too many people who actually like hockey for the industry. Let's face it, even the Stanley Cup is the M.H.L. and is located in Chicago for the last time, which means that all these fans are not going to be in the best of luck.

There will be a lot of people who will be disappointed if the Leafs don't make the playoffs, but I'm sure it will be a good thing for the team in the long run.

There's a lot of people who will be disappointed if the Leafs don't make the playoffs, but I'm sure it will be a good thing for the team in the long run.

Ballant ever agreed to move the club out of the Norris and Balfour doesn't want either. You see, he would then have to spend some money to put a hockey team on the ice, not a group of individuals that no other team want.

The Leafs have been rebuilding for the past 10 years, and if things don't work out this year, it's a shame. But the Leafs, with their picks in the first round, have a reasonable opportunity to make it to the playoffs.

There is no denying that the Leafs need to be in the playoffs. They will get a valuable amount of time to play, and it's a good thing for the team in the long run. I'm sure it will be a good thing for the team in the long run.

The Toronto Maple Leafs have been rebuilding for the past 10 years, and if things don't work out this year, it's a shame. But the Leafs, with their picks in the first round, have a reasonable opportunity to make it to the playoffs.

There's a lot of people who will be disappointed if the Leafs don't make the playoffs, but I'm sure it will be a good thing for the team in the long run.



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