



Student voter participation still inert

IGNITE election draws smaller proportion of student voters than 2016

Elliot Williams

HUMBER NEWS

Despite weeks of campaigning and exposure – and in the wake of a \$400,000 rebranding effort -- IGNITE's 2017 election had only 55 more student votes compared to last year.

Walls, pillars and populated student areas were covered with posters of candidates running in the election a smaller portion of eligible voters participated this year than last.

This year's voter turnout of 7,059 students represented 23.46 per cent of the eligible voters, while the 2016 election had 24.97 per cent. Although there is slightly a higher number of voters than last year, the decrease in percentage for this year is due to the increase of eligible students.

"We have to focus on reaching out [to] students," said Maja Jocson, IGNITE's newly elected President. "The best way to get students to vote is to... engage with them.... just listen to people I think students will appreciate it."

Jocson received 2,352 votes, nearly a third of all those cast in a four-person field.

Nicholas Davenport, newly elected to Humber's Board of Directors, argues that the rebranding effort to change the identity of the former Humber Students' Federation itself inadvertently led to a low voter turnout.

"I feel that IGNITE isn't established with Humber community as it should be, because the rebranding put a lot of confusion into students, so they are under the impression that there is an HSF (the old name



NEHA LOBANA

IGNITE board of directors, from top right to left, Sarah McCormick, Samuel Mitchell, Vanessa Ramlogan, Tudor Gagea, Allyson Sander Michael Hillocks; kneeling in front are Nicholas Davenport, right, and Graham Budgeon left.

for the student government)," said Davenport.

But outgoing members of IGNITE insist the modest increase of voter numbers from last year is a promising sign of student engagement.

"It's encouraging to see the number of voters go up, it's the most important thing by far.

Making them [students] aware of this process and making them aware that voting is happening," Ahmed Tahir, current IGNITE President, told Humber News.

"At the end of the day, what brings out the most votes is the candidates going out and talking to students," Tahir added.

Despite everything, Humber's voter participation is robust compared to some colleges.

Glendon College's Fall 2016 by-elections had 203 eligible voters out of 2,946 which is 6.8 per cent. Vanier College had an even lower voter turnout at 2.7 per cent in their Fall 2016 student council election. George Brown College's 2016 student election had 15 per cent of the full-time student population voting.

Meanwhile, many universities see much larger proportions of their students voting. Queen's University had a 45.7 per cent voter turnout in their 2017 student election - their highest one yet. McMaster University had 41.6 per cent of the student population voting in their 2017 Presidential election.

WITH FILES FROM NEHA LOBANA



NEHA LOBANA

Maja Jocson, new IGNITE student president for 2017, voted in last Friday.



JAVON WALKER

Students line up to cast votes during last week's 2017 student election, which drew 55 more votes but one per cent less participation than last year, despite a \$400,000 rebranding exercise by IGNITE.

Mumps warning for Toronto post-secondary schools issued by city

Fareah Islam

NEWS REPORTER

Toronto Public Health has issued a warning about the outbreak of mumps in postsecondary schools across Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area.

Humber manager of Health and Safety, Margaret Fung, released a statement on Tuesday stating that mumps continue to be a health issue on campus.

Mumps is a viral infection caused by the contagious mumps virus and can easily spread amongst people

through infected saliva, according to Toronto Public Health (TPH).

During the flu season, coughing and sneezing can spread mumps through saliva droplets. If people's hands or used tissues have traces of salivary discharges, this can also result in the circulation of the virus.

"Initially, there are flu-like symptoms, fever, headache and muscle aches. It then causes the swelling of the glands on the sides of the face," said Dr. Francia Jayarajah, a family physician based in Toronto.

The parotid salivary glands are

located near the cheek and jaw area. Pain, tenderness and swelling can last from two to 10 days.

TPH recommends if students and staff are developing symptoms, they see a doctor, rest, drink plenty of fluids and isolate themselves to avoid further circulation because the mumps virus may be contagious for up to a week after the onset of the symptoms.

The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that isolation is key to controlling the virus in a school setting.

Dr. Lisa Berger, Associate Medical Officer of Health at Toronto Public Health, said in a letter that, "two doses of mumps vaccine (MMR or MMRV) are recommended for all adults born after 1970."

She added that vaccination is the primary way to prevent contracting the virus. It is urged for all students and staff to check their vaccination history to have their immune status verified.

Josh Cheng, a second-year student in the Pharmacy Technician program at Humber, said, "I don't

know too much about mumps. It's scary but I'm being extra cautious about what I do."

TPH advises to not share drinks, utensils, food or water bottles. Since mumps is an airborne virus, it is important to be aware of the people in the surrounding area.

Dr. Jayarajah emphasizes that while being cautious on an everyday basis is integral, "getting your vaccination is the most important thing you can do for prevention purposes."

Cyber bullying is online violence says gender justice consultant

Hiba Traboulsi

NEWS REPORTER

Steph Guthrie, a feminist advocate, organizer and analyst, joined Humber North campus in a talk to discuss and challenge the notions of online bullying and its repercussions.

In the last talk of the President Lecture Series, Guthrie's address, titled "Online violence: redefining the 'trolling' and 'cyber-bullying' narratives," opened with a discussion of how we perceive freedom of speech based on what views we define as bigoted.

"Freedom of speech is not a total and complete entitlement to share our speech on any platform we want to, with any audience," said Guthrie. "The leadership of any particular platform, is always in a position to provide oversight on what gets included and what gets excluded."

Guthrie drew on her own experience of Twitter harassment that began in 2012, worsening until she feared for her safety because of the perpetrator's threatening remarks.

The ordeal led to a two-year trial in criminal court. At the end of the process, the judge ruled for Guthrie's perpetrator because he believed it was not "reasonable" for Guthrie to "fear for her safety" partly because Guthrie has "a public Twitter account."

"Words are never just words. Many of the conversations that are dominating are traditional in social media today and have very real material implications for marginalized people," said Guthrie.

Guthrie, founder of Women in Toronto Politics (WiTOPoli), regularly shared her views about fem-

inism on Twitter under #iTOPoli. Her tweets were routinely attacked by men's rights activist groups.

Strangers on the internet from what she calls "online fascist communities" attacked Guthrie for how she was trying to "destroy freedom of speech." One media outlet even encouraged their Twitter following to harass Guthrie's sister as well. Guthrie also received hateful Twitter messages from a man who blamed Guthrie as his source of problems.

"By allowing hate to go unchecked on their platforms, gatekeepers are creating spaces for fascist communities to mobilize and escalate online and it results in a deeply unsafe online and offline world for marginalized people," she said.

During the course of her trial, Guthrie lost count of the number of people who told her to kill herself.

Guthrie abandoned her Twitter account as a result of the hostile online space. She stopped doing media engagements because every time she did so, Guthrie experienced an increase in harassment.

The contact page on her website has also been removed, which Guthrie describes as the primary means through which clients would approach her about paid consulting gigs. However, it was also "key means for death and verbal threats and other acts of violence." As a result, the online hate also impacted Guthrie economically, and politically as well as she stopped using her voice online.

Guthrie's experience had resonance for some of the attendees such as Rachel Barren, a Grade 11 student from Georgetown district high school.

"I was getting nasty comments on my pictures and so I started putting my pictures on private," Barren said. "I wouldn't let strangers follow me anymore and I'm careful about what I post on major social media websites like Facebook because of my family and co-workers."

Towards the end of her talk, Guthrie asked rhetorically, "Should people be afforded a specific platform for their ideas? Nobody has the particular right in every situation. Specific platforms and audiences are privileges, not rights," she said.

"As more and more of us drop out of online spaces, women, racialized people, trans people and other groups are pushed further to the margins of these spaces," she continued. "The more we get pushed to the margins, the less our voices and stories are a part of the public discourse, to challenge stereotypes by telling real stories about what human beings are experiencing, the less people empathize, and the more justifiable it seems for bigoted members of the dominant groups to inflict psychological, emotional, or even physical violence against us."

Guthrie said she didn't know if she was being watched or when the violence online might lead into violence offline. Navigating public spaces became an anxiety-ridden experience for her when she learned that some of the trolls attacking her have "Toronto, Ontario" as their location on their Twitter profile.

"It's really hard to believe that none of them might ever share the same subway car as you, do their work in the same coffee shop or get their groceries at the same shop,"



HIBA TRABOULSI

Guthrie told Humber President's Lecture gathering how social media outlets are creating a space for fascist communities to harass individuals

Guthrie said.

"Recognize that there's nuance to be considered when it comes to who gets to speak freely, whose speech is impeded, whose speech is protected, and who's electing to remove themselves from spaces that they no longer consider safe," she said.

"We can use our voices to pressure the bodies that own and set the rules for our spaces to make room for the conversations we do want to see and to stop giving airtime to views that are making people who use these spaces unsafe."

RCMP recruiters tell GH students many paths open

Jane Burke

NEWS REPORTER

RCMP units visited the University of Guelph-Humber on Monday to encourage students to join Canada's national police service.

Students coming to the Atrium in front of the GH plant wall had the opportunity to question service members from the Explosives Disposal Unit, Forensic Investigation Section, Police Dog Services and more.

Most visiting officers were dressed in uniform, from heavy bullet proof vests to the familiar red RCMP regalia. Beyond career information the guests also brought along a robot used to investigate potential explosive devices, photos from a drug lab in a recent Hamilton raid and underwater breathing apparatuses used by the Marine Services Enforcement Team.

"It's mostly a little kid interest about seeing these things," said Johnathon Reichart, a first year Media Studies student. "I suppose I would consider a position, I was having a word with the forensic of-

ficers about respiratory equipment and it was very interesting."

Reichart later picked up a conversation with a service member about typical civilian jobs with the RCMP such as in communications or administration. Because joining the Royal Canadian Mounted Police may not occur to students pursuing post-secondary paths outside policing, the recruitment events allow the RCMP to reach out to students like Reichart whose complementary strengths could be put to use.

Some recent changes to the RCMP's recruitment process make the path to a new career easier for post-secondary students. As of May 2016, applicants with a two-year college diploma are no longer required to write the entrance exam, a benefit that had already been available to university graduates for a year.

"We are taking individuals from any walk of life or background, we aren't picky about that, we assess each individual separately," said Constable Stacey Anderson of the recruitment unit.



JANE BURKE

RCMP recruitment officers in Guelph-Humber Atrium on Monday said police force uses many kinds of skills.

Anderson was a popular presence and easily noticeable as she was the only one in the traditional red uniform. For Cst. Anderson, an RCMP career has meant many different opportunities.

"I started off in British Columbia as a general duty officer and in Ontario I've done VIP security, the marijuana team, and I was an air marshal for over three years."

She added that at recruitment events like this the forensics unit and dog services tend to generate the most interest.

However, students need to know

that there are roles in the service unavailable upon entry but could be considered as career destinations.

For example, according to Sean McFadden, a corporal with an RCMP explosive unit, his department doesn't typically see new recruits because they only employ two full-time staff members and a few part-time staff.

Cadets at the RCMP are given \$500 a week, so for some with student debt, this could be an appealing option. The hope is that recruitment events like this will make students aware

of the wide range of opportunities available to them after graduation.

"The purpose is to show if you become a cop, you don't just have to stay in that traditional field, and open up students minds to different chances," said Allison Scully, the career services coordinator for the University of Guelph-Humber. The next such GH event will take place March 30, when York Region police visit.

"Students will be able to attend an information session and even do a fitness test," Scully said.

Singh faced no ethnic hurdle in IGNITE election win

Sunny Bains
NEWS REPORTER

He didn't think his turban would be a hurdle in his election to the Board of Directors of IGNITE and it wasn't.

Actually, it got him the highest number of votes.

Navdeep Singh was elected as one of four directors after Humber student organization IGNITE's election results were declared on last Friday.

He came to Canada as an international student in 2015. Singh says he was attracted to politics because of his grand-father, dad and uncles who were all politically very active in the regional politics of Punjab.

Singh, who will turn 28 this month, is a second-year business management student. Initially, he had no interest in politics, he said, and education was always his top priority.

"That's why I came here, to study. I haven't even seen CN Tower yet because I try to save money and time for my education."

He feels quite at home in Canada and said that he gets inspiration from the 20 Punjabi-speaking MPs elected to the Canadian parliament.

Singh has never faced any discrimination in Canada because of his turban, but had some trouble in landing a job with places serving food.

"Canada is a very open society. Sometimes there's a problem in finding a job at places like (a certain fast food chain), but then I also worked at Tim Horton's," he said.

He said his turban gives him a chance to stand out in the crowd and thinks Canadians are very respectful toward it.

Singh added his turban brings a huge responsibility with it.

"If a turbaned person does something wrong, he gives a bad name to his entire Sikh community, so I think he carries extra self-inflicted burden of representing his commu-



SUNNY BAINS

Newly elected member of IGNITE Board of Directors from North campus, Navdeep Singh.

nity," he said.

Singh was always confident about his win but refrained from saying anything and never skipped classes for campaigning.

He said the response was positive right from the very beginning. Many students he met gave him confidence.

Talking about the student apathy toward IGNITE elections (less than a quarter of eligible students vote) or other activities, Singh said he will discuss the matter with the newly elected President, Maja Jocson.

"This data should be available on the IGNITE website," he said. "Let's analyze the data. We need to know why students are not getting involved in these elections," he said.

Singh said he will bring up the concerns of the international students to the forefront and encourage more student involvement in the coming years.

"Nobody is talking about the international students," he said. "Nobody publicizes any of the IGNITE activities to encourage student involvement."

Singh has also been selected for the national competition of an international organization called Enactus, which deals with social entrepreneurship, working in 36 countries and representing university and college students worldwide.

Humber College will be participating for the first time in this national competition to judge community outreach and business ventures that generate social progress. It will be held in Vancouver from May 8 to 11.

Islamic Awareness Day explains religious tradition

Kayzia Boilard
NEWS REPORTER

Islamic Awareness Day was celebrated yesterday at Humber North campus concourse with display tables surrounding a mosque replica, dedicated to different aspects of visitors to learn about different aspects of the religion.

"We have this day for people to come and have some fun and also clear up any misconceptions and ask questions they have and to gain knowledge at the same time," said Fatima Khan, the events director for the Muslim Student Association.

"People can try on a hijab, some people are very curious to learn how to tie it properly and how they'd look in it," Khan explained.

"We also have henna, which people love, and then we have stations

like, 'Ask a Muslim', so if they have any questions about Muslims, for example, 'Why do some girls cover their hair and others don't' or 'Why do you pray five times (a day)' they can ask any questions."

She added, "We have prophets in Islam and we want to teach people that we believe in Jesus and Mohammed and there are similarities between our prophets and what Christianity believes in, too."

Ismahan, a 19-year-old general arts student at Humber, loved the henna tattoo that she got, saying, "I showed them a picture and they did it exactly how I wanted it."

The event also had a table dedicated to women in Islam.

"A lot of times people think that women are oppressed and forced to get married and cover their hair, but we're here to clear that up and say



KAYZIA BOILARD

Muslim Student Association events director, Fatima Khan.

that those are just the cultural taboos, not what Islam teaches," said Khan.

"So we have books out there which tell people what Islam actual-

ly believes about women and what women's rights are in Islam and how feminism plays a role in Islam, as well."

Diversity event celebrates many cultures among Humber students

Daniel Mitri
NEWS REPORTER

Next Tuesday, Humber College North campus will host an Around the World Diversity event to celebrate the varying cultures of the student body.

The First Year Experience event will be held between the hours of 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. at KX 202, to encourage learning about other cultures, while enjoying various foods, drinks and performances.

Yuthkumari Lall and Yanique Crooks are two senior peer mentors for the FYE program located in the Student Life office, and the co-chairs of Around the World Diversity.

"The event is mainly about celebrating the diversity around the campus," said Lall. "But it's not just to celebrate, it is also a learning experience."

She said that the free event is open for anyone on campus to attend.

A series of booths are to be organized by continent, with an information board discussing the culture of each continent as a whole.

"Last year we did it by country, and we only had a select few countries to discuss," Lall said, adding a continental showcase provides a broader opportunity for students to learn.

Students will still be encouraged to wear their traditional cultural clothing at each booth, and have offerings of food, drink and performances specific to their heritage nations. This will allow students to learn about specific cultures, as well as learning about the culture of each continent as a whole.

Each performance will feature student volunteers, including a Punjabi Bhangra display, a Zumba dance performance, and Chinese calligraphy.

The Aboriginal Resource Centre will also be in attendance to represent the First Nations peoples.

The food and drink offered will also be mindful of dietary restrictions, with various vegetarian options.

"All the samosas will be vegetarian, as well as options for vegetarian patties," said Lall.

There are various advertisements for the Around the World Diversity event, including numerous posters around Humber College North campus, ads on social media and outreach done at other school events.

Film nights a First Year Experience favourite

Samantha Berdini

NEWS REPORTER

Humber's First Year Experience invited North and Guelph-Humber students to their Short Film Festival on Wednesday.

Guests made their way down a red carpet where student mentors and volunteers greeted them with free pizza and popcorn.

Students were asked to sign up for the event before entering the Lecture Theatre to watch a variety of short films.

"This is an opportunity to showcase films with powerful messages, but more importantly to show first year students all that Humber has to offer," said Mohammed Hasan, a FYE Senior Peer Mentor.

Hasan said FYE understands that studies come first, but it's important that students experience a more holistic approach to education. Movie nights and other themed events are ways for students to relax and have fun.

"Students transitioning from high school to college encounter stressful situations all the time," said Tanisha Douglas, another FYE senior peer mentor. "They are trying to balance school and make new friends, so we just want to help them get involved and have a good time."

Movie themed events are a favourite among FYE members. Although this is the first Short Film Festival, movie nights usually attract over 50 guests.

"We believe in quality over quantity," said Hasan. "A minimal number of people who are engaged and



SAMANTHA BERDINI

Students line up for Short Film Fest hosted by First Year Experience at North campus Wednesday. Selection included Humber-created work.

walk away feeling fulfilled is a much more rewarding feeling than 1,000 people walking away with nothing."

Matthew Santos and Connor Jones are two first year Film students who attended the event and were able to watch their own short film on the big screen.

The two friends created a five-minute film for their Visual Storytelling class about a DJ from a small town in Ottawa, who is now a

Web Design student here at Humber. Their film landed in the hands of an FYE Peer Mentor, and they were encouraged to submit it for the Short Film Festival.

"This is the first FYE event we've been to, but it's definitely a good idea," said Jones. "It's much easier to meet people and make connections when I'm not confined to my classroom. For us, connections are so important in the film industry."

"Movies are a universal language," said Hasan. Viewing requires "very little commitment and effort, and there's nothing quite like getting together with friends and enjoying a good film."

Humber students are encouraged to volunteer for FYE events even as the academic year comes to an end.

"I was a peer mentor last year, and after attending events I was able to connect with so many different people," said Douglas. "The Hum-

ber FYE community has become a home away from home."

"We always get a mix of go getters and first year students who are more hesitant to get involved," said Hasan. "Our aim is to break people out of their shells and be the compass for those who need direction."

"We also have a *Kung Foo Panda* movie night coming up. If you want to get your Panda on, it's a great way to meet people," said Hasan.

Novelist Kerry Clare counsels young writers be authentic, be human

Ieva Lucs

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

In 2007 Kerry Clare, newly graduated from University of Toronto with a Masters degree in creative writing, was trying to get a manuscript published. It was a novel written in the hopes that it would launch her literary career in Canada. But no one wanted it and, upon reflection, Clare admits that it wasn't very good.

Instead of waiting for someone to give her a book deal, Clare diligently posted her writing on her blog – a relatively new concept a decade ago. Now, eleven years later, she has carved out her own piece of the Canadian literary pie.

"Every writer should have a blog, but my proviso on this is that your blog can be whatever you want it to be," said Clare in a follow-up email conversation. "I get my greatest inspiration from things that I don't really understand, and sitting down at a blog post to puzzle it all out."

Her blog, *picklemethis.com*, has secured her a steady stream of freelance work, and just this month, Clare realized her dream of becoming a novelist after her debut novel *Mitzi Bytes* was published by HarperCollins Canada.

As the semester winds down at Humber College, many students are setting their sights on the job market, just as Clare was a decade ago. The author came in recently and spoke with a group of journalism students at North campus about the importance of developing your own voice as a writer, and hiring yourself when no one else will.

Clare tells young writers that social media can be useful as a way to get your writing out in the world as well. However, she warns students to truly enjoy it because if you fake enthusiasm, people can tell. Her number one rule for creating your own unique voice on the Internet is, "Be Human."

"Don't posit yourself as a guru or authority. Be real. Show your process. Dare to change your mind. You are not a brand, you are a person," said Clare.

Sarah Armenia is the Humber English professor who brought Clare in to help inspire her journalism students to take the lead in their own future. Armenia, who makes it a priority to bring professional writers into her classes, chose Clare because of her adeptness at writing for many different platforms, from her social media accounts to her new novel.

"Kerry Clare embodies the definition of a wonderfully dynamic self starter," said Armenia.

Crafting your particular point of view is an important factor in being marketable to an employer, Armenia said.

"You aren't doing the minimum or waiting to be told what to do," she said.

Clare started her blog five years before she graduated school, and it was the thing she grabbed onto when her novel was rejected. Armenia said writing or working professionally while still in school is one of the hallmarks of a successful student.

Renee Peace-Miller is a first year journalism student in Armenia's class. Peace-Miller said she admired that Clare held out for the publisher that was the right fit for her book. She said she also came away from the talk understanding that everyone has a unique take on the world – the key is to step into yours and own it.

"I learned from Kerry that having a strong voice just means having a voice that's uniquely yours, and drawing inspiration from your own life," said Peace-Miller. "We need different voices in journalism because it helps us identify our common goals."

Clare's novel has arrived to much fanfare and many rave reviews, in-



KERRY CLARE

Kerry Clare, a growing name in literary world, talked with Humber students about importance of blogs while always employing a genuine voice.

cluding one glowing write-up from Tara Henley at *The Toronto Star*.

Henley concludes her exuberant article on *Mitzi Bytes* saying the book, "heralds the arrival of a fantastic, fun new novelist on the Canadian scene."

Little does Henley know, Clare has been here all along, just waiting for the perfect moment for her voice to be heard.

Students explore possibilities at transfer Thursdays

Samantha Berdini

NEWS REPORTER

For students curious about grade standards or options for transferring programs, advisors have been available every Thursday in March to answer all questions about academic and professional pathways.

There remains a final session next week between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the North campus LRC.

Judy Tavares, manager of the Student Transfer Services, oversees the Transfer Services Team and the weekly guidance sessions.

“The Transfer Services Team is here to help with this process from a registrar perspective,” said Tavares, adding that the process is not difficult once students know what to do. “Students should also speak to their program coordinators and a student advisor in the Career and Academic Advising Center.”

The process for transferring from another university or college starts by applying through ontariocolleges.ca and sending postsecondary transcripts to Humber to be assessed by the admissions team. Once an offer is made, the credit transfer process can begin.

Tavares cited a helpful live database feature, which allows students to check any preapproved transfer credits from other institutions.

She explained that there are many options for students that they may not be aware of. For example, there are three different types of credits:



SAMANTHA BERDINI

Humber's student advisors answering student questions about their transfer options.

Individual Course Credits, Prior Learning and Assessment Recognition Credits and Block Transfer Credits.

“There's always some amount of nervousness among students straight out of high school, because they don't know what they're getting into,” said Amrita Tiwari, an Admis-

sions Office advisor.

“We are making sure students are aware of what we can offer them at all levels of education and all possible pathways,” said Tiwari.

Even if students have yet to explore their transfer options, there is another incentive available for keeping on top of school. An automatic

scholarship of \$2,500 can be awarded to students in a diploma program with a GPA of 80 per cent or above.

“Many students make decisions in high school that they may not be fully informed to make, and when they get to postsecondary they realize that they would like to choose a different career or education path,”

said Tavares.

“We live in a credential driven society,” said Tiwari. “It is important that students have opportunities to pursue a diploma, a degree and practical experience.”

Tavares encourages students to check the transfer options website, as well as Ontransfer.ca. The website is a provincial body that represents 42 colleges and universities in the province. Its mandate is to try and build awareness around transfer students and pathway opportunities in Ontario.

“I had one student ask if he should transfer from his Computer Engineering program into a Business degree program at Humber, or transfer to a university,” said Tiwari. “I told him to put in an application at no cost, come to our open house and take a look at all Business program options. Employers are looking for that kind of multiplicity of skills and diversity.”

“To current and potential students, please ask questions,” said Tavares.

“Students need to be aware that we have the support and services here to help them with their educational planning, but they need to ask questions and start researching early.”

“It's all about exploring,” said Tiwari. “No one is bound to anything.”

After Transfer Thursdays end next week, students are invited to book an appointment with a credit transfer counselor.

Millennials will not be prepared for retirement, say experts

Irina Kouchnir

BIZ/TECH REPORTER

The top priority of Millennials is maintaining their current lifestyle, according to one Manulife survey. About 32 per cent of the generation born after the early 1980s believe they will have enough savings when they retire, despite placing retirement savings near the bottom of their priorities.

Humber student Stuart Weeks, 30, says he doesn't currently have retirement plans.

“It's not something we are taught in school but should be. Ideally students should be planning for retirement when they finish high school but instead it seems we are being pushed more towards consumerism,” Weeks says.

Demographic studies show Millennials to be an exceptional generation. They are better educated than their predecessors and economically active yet the worst paid and heavily indebted. In order to survive the fragile situation most Millennials face after graduation, financial advisors suggest seeking out proper guidance in order to effectively reduce debt and accumulate savings.

According to a study funded by the National Endowment for Finan-

cial Education (NEFE), only 22 per cent of Millennials have received financial education from an institution or workplace, while 41 per cent have sought at least one form of financial advice in the past five years.

“As soon as students have income they should put 10 per cent of every pay cheque towards retirement and seek out the advice of a portfolio manager,” said Erasto Ramos, senior financial advisor at World Financial Group.

While retirement doesn't seem to be on the minds of today's Millennials, the Manulife survey found they were three times more likely to consider big-ticket items as their main financial concern.

This might be because, according to the NEFE study, what Millennials think they know about financial management is very different from what they actually know. While nearly 70 per cent of participants rated themselves as having high financial knowledge, only eight per cent of college-educated participants answered all financial literacy questions correctly while just 37 per cent correctly answered the most basic of such questions.

A quick internet search will reveal information on every financial topic from credit cards and mort-



FLICKER/IMAGES OF MONEY

A new study says millennials think they know more about financial literacy than the actually do.

gages to investments and debt management — however, the accuracy and quality of the information is not always good.

“I would encourage young people to start at their home branch where most financial advice is free,” Yelena Pecanac, account management specialist at TD Bank said.

“Breaking down the knowledge barrier is key. I think many Millen-

nials want to invest but they don't know where to start. If Millennials want more tailored advice beyond the services of traditional banks there are many options out there, even apps, but they have to take initiative and start asking question.”

Sam Sivarajan, managing director at Manulife Private Wealth, said, “Most Millennials are more than 30 years away from retiring so they

are setting themselves up for failure if they think they'll be well-off in retirement, when saving for it isn't their chief financial concern.

“Millennials should be focused on paying down debt, building their savings and getting into good spending habits if they want to be financially secure in retirement.”

EDITORIAL

World Earth Hour exemplifies passive activism

The World Wildlife Foundation is holding its annual “Earth Hour” this Saturday. In its 10th year, Earth Hour is meant to raise awareness for the amount of power unnecessarily used every day and steps that could be taken to lower the carbon impact.

When first introduced, people nodded accordingly. Many pointed to board games and, *gasp*, spent time with family, as an alternative to using electricity in some capacity.

“Put down your phones and pick up a book!” You could argue this hour made people appreciate the world and would have lasting effects.

But that doesn’t happen. Earth Hour has become another example of passive activism that encapsulates the stereotypes of Millennials. An irony waves over twentysomethings every time they share a photo of what they did for Earth Hour.

Millennials are completely aware of the lazy tags that stick to the reputation of today’s young adults. But considering we’re in the midst of the greatest technological revolution

in history, which in turn becomes some of humanity’s greatest accomplishments, those associations are sometimes without merit.

Yet, these stereotypes become real when people fall into certain patterns. Rounding out the first quarter of the 21st century, this crop of young adults has become known as the “raising awareness generation”: the first to raise our voice and click the share button to “help spread the cause,” but often short of doing anything.

The poster-child of our generation’s awareness-raising ways was five years ago, when a slickly produced 28-minute film was released online: Kony 2012.

A charity known as Invisible Children made it, detailing the plight of youth in Uganda facing Lord’s Resistance Army warlord leader Joseph Kony. Murder, child-sex slavery and justification of child soldiers were just a few of the major human rights concerns in this situation.

The video, loaded with misleading statistics and images of war-torn Africa, was shared millions of times

and millions more tweeted out the hashtag #StopKony, creating a dialogue around conflict within Uganda. Eventually, it became a race to raise awareness quicker than the person beside you.

Five years later, Kony is still at large, Invisible Children has become an example of failed advocacy, and the world has moved onto its next humanitarian crisis. While this comes across as active pessimism, the routine of manufactured activism accomplishes just as much.

It’s this routine where something like saving electricity gets lumped with a National Donut Day or International Free Hugs Day or National Paper Airplane Day (yes, those are all real occasions) and disrupts its intended purpose. The days and weeks pass like sand through the hourglass and the awareness that was so heavily shared becomes so easily forgotten.

The image of “activism” from generations past were millions marching in unison for a common goal; today, it’s a catchy slogan that can become a

meme in under a week.

At one point, there weren’t more than a few days on the calendar that people made a point to celebrate. Christmas, New Year’s, Easter, Canada Day, and...Halloween? St. Patrick’s Day? Labour Day was a struggle to get in there, too.

Now in a world where connectivity makes any human interaction possible, we’ve resorted to these synthetic “National ____ Day” one-offs that accomplish nothing past an Instagram post which garners far too many likes.

Just this week, millions shared photos of the cutest canines on March 23 in “honour” of National Puppy Day – an unofficially recognized day in the United States. One couldn’t scroll through their Facebook or Twitter timeline without being bombarded with images of puppies, with or without their owners. It almost seemed like a one-day takeover of Instagram.

And the world moved on the following day. How long, or how quick, will the world move on past Earth Hour?

eSports big as Super Bowl but will still need to evolve



Hunter Crowther
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

My brother started playing the online video game League of Legends in 2011.

When I first saw the game, I was a little confused. Essentially, it’s the same forested arena with a team of heroes killing each other in order to achieve an objective.

I was not impressed.

But then my brother told me about how many people actually give a damn about watching people play video games. It even has a name: eSports. On a regular basis, more people watch a random video game tournament than the Super Bowl, the pinnacle of real sports.

Since 2011, the eSports genre grew exponentially, with more than 200 million players and around 50 million playing at any given time around the world. There are more than a dozen different games that have a competitive scene from shooters to strategies to large scale Hunger Games-styled battle royales.

In addition, some of the game developers have started to take it

upon themselves to host national and international tournaments, many of which feature a grand prize of more than \$1 million. Some even have their own professional leagues, hosting dozens of players and teams in a tournament-style competition live broadcasted on Twitch, an extremely popular game streaming website.

Moreover, the best Twitch “shout-casters” (or commentators, as they’re called in the real sports world) will often try to broadcast the tournament in a way similar to a live NBA game: highlights, game analysis, and live interviews. Except this is where the problems begin and why the current stage of eSports will never match up to well established sports like football or hockey. Simply put, eSports is amateur in comparison.

When watching Twitch, too often I feel like it was thrown together at the last moment. It’s basically two teams of scrawny teenagers sitting in front of a computer on a small stage, with a crowd in the background cheering. The broadcasters are cooped up in a tiny little booth and are incredibly cringey most of the time.

Yet this attracts hundreds of millions of people. Maybe it’s time to start acting professionally. Get the games on TV with broadcasting standards akin to those of any other pro league. There needs to be a format with divisions based on geography. As a result, more rivalries will be created. With more media attention, it will drive eSports up into the mainstream.

But first, there needs to be a professional standard.

Drake, culture vulture



Javon Walker
ONLINE EDITOR

As a Jamaican, I love being from Toronto. I’ve been here almost all my life and I don’t see that changing anytime soon. The problem is, once you live in this city, any news about Drake instantly becomes breaking news.

Drake has just dropped a new album called ‘More Life’, which he describes as a playlist but is really an album at the end of the day. I gave it a listen just to see what the hype is all about, and as usual it’s only getting the attention it’s getting because he’s Drake. The playlist/album wasn’t anything innovative or different, and listening to Drake put on a UK accent was the most cringe-inducing thing I’ve heard since Donald Trump’s advisor citing “alternate facts.”

A couple songs did open my eyes a bit, notably “Blem” and “Madiba Riddim”. Those two songs are definitely Drake’s attempt at the genre of Dancehall, something he has been doing for a couple of years now. Dancehall’s roots are planted in Jamaica, and Drake has a borderline odd fascination with the culture.

However, there’s a problem here.

Even when Drake decided to use Dancehall beats on his *Views* album, he collaborated with no Jamaican talent, and this one is no different. Of course, he’s not obligated to, but Dancehall is a genre that needs a lot of help to get international appeal. By just straight-up using the sound, Drake ends up being looked at as ‘innovative’ and a creator of the sound.

There are other artists who are using the sound too – most notably Justin Bieber – but nobody is as actively involved with the Jamaican culture as Drake is. In fact, he has been hanging out with one of the biggest artists in Dancehall, Jamaican DJ and songwriter Popcaan. It’s almost as if Jamaican music is cool to use, but not good enough to actually collaborate with the artists.

But here’s the most blatant sign of disrespect Drake has shown for Dancehall music. In the industry, we have something called a ‘riddim’, which is an instrumental a producer makes. He then pays artists to sing or rap on that riddim, and then it’s released all at once with each artist doing something different with the beat. I get Drake has always wanted to voice on a riddim, but at this point it’s cultural appropriation to name one of your songs ‘Madiba Riddim’.

Listen here, Drake. There are no shortcuts in Dancehall. If you want to voice on a riddim, how about you go speak with Jamaican producers and go about things the right way. Stop trying to take short cuts and take everything for yourself. You’re literally stealing the culture and trying to make it yours by claiming a whole riddim as a song. It’s dictatorial and leaves a sour taste.

The ‘Dancehall’-style tracks on

HUMBER
Et Cetera

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

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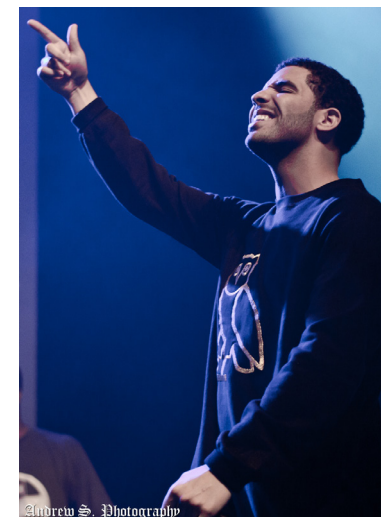
Marlee Greig

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Drake’s albums were alright. But this is the most blatant form of culture vulturing he has done in his life.



DREW/THE COME UP SHOW
Drake at the Sound Academy, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

QUOTED As Earth Week begins, how do you contribute to a cleaner environment?

Making sure I throw away all my garbage. If I see anything around, I try to pick it up too just to help everyone else around.



Julian Dejeuner
MESSAGE THERAPY,
2ND YEAR

I try my best, whenever possible where I am. I never like to be surrounded by litter, especially when working or studying. I like a environment.



Kevin Wong
HEALTH AND FITNESS PROMOTION,
1ST YEAR

I recycle and compost everything that I eat and dispose (of it).



Johann Alexander
HEALTH AND FITNESS PROMOTION,
1ST YEAR



Jacket: Value Village
Pants: H&M
Shoes: Foot Locker

"I really like thrift shopping."

Alan Nyatwa
Business Administration
3rd year
23

HOROSCOPES



JAN. 20 - FEB. 19
Computers will irritate you today. Save your work often.



JUL. 23 - AUG. 22
You're going to be facing some emotional ups and downs this week.



FEB. 20 - MAR. 20
Your heart will want to go one way while your brain wants to go another.



AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22
People may be upset with you due to recent actions or words. It'll be good to lay low this week.



MAR. 21 - APR. 20
Your popularity is going to make you a winner this week.



SEPT. 23 - OCT. 22
It may feel like the walls are caving in, exercise will help release that pressure.



APR. 21 - MAY 20
The rising moon is in Uranus which means you'll come across someone born once.



OCT. 23 - NOV. 21
Think before you speak, not many have thick skin like you.



MAY 21 - JUN. 20
Watch your step, we foresee you walking into puddles.



NOV. 22 - DEC. 20
Expect bursts of positivity. It'll remind you of an important purpose.



JUN. 21 - JUL. 22
Don't try to fool anyone, they'll see right through you.



DEC. 21 - JAN. 19
You're going to be excited about an idea but no one else may be.