



Decker disqualified from HSF race

Humber Students' Fed. candidate Mikki Decker dismissed from role as VP of Student Affairs and taken out of presidential race immediately after All Candidates Meeting

Sam Juric

SENIOR REPORTER

After a grueling question and answer segment at the Humber Students' Federation's annual All Candidates Meeting on Tuesday, presidential candidate Mikki Decker was disqualified from the race.

The candidates meeting addressed students running for the 2016 HSF elections where a three-student panel (made up of two current HSF staffers and one former HSF employee) posed questions to the candidates running for varying roles.

Just moments following her address to Humber students at the candidates meeting, Decker was escorted by Ercole Perrone, executive director of HSF to his offices.



COURTESY HUMBER NEWS

An emotional Decker spoke to Humber News immediately after being disqualified. Her platform focused on improving student mental health services.

“She was the best candidate to win. I think she would have won it.”

JOEL CALDAROLA
HSF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

In addition to being disqualified from the presidential running, Decker was stripped of her role as VP of Student Affairs.

Presidential candidate Joel Caldarola told Humber *Et Cetera* that he was “devastated” by Decker’s dismissal.

“She was the best candidate to win. I think she would have won it,” Caldarola said.

Perrone told Humber News it was an issue of academic standing, which made Decker ineligible to run for the HSF presidency.

The HSF constitution stipulates that students running for executive positions in student government maintain a GPA of 70 per cent. Decker turned in her grades late Sunday evening, which amounted to a 65 per cent GPA.

Decker’s platform largely centered on the issue of student mental health.

The disqualified candidate was determined to bring in a full-time rape counselor for students as well as establish a peer-to-peer counseling program if elected into office.

“I am going to bring back your mental health and make sure you are getting the right resources you deserve,” she said during the candidate’s meeting.

The main tenets of her platform stemmed from her personal experience in managing her own mental health challenges, which she has been open about with her supporters.

A teary-eyed Decker spoke with Humber News just after her dismissal: “If it was an organization that understands anything about mental health it would understand that the way they dealt with this was not okay.”

Decker used her own mental health issues to find common ground with her peers in an effort to spark healthy dialogue and better advocate for those in the student body suffering from similar circumstances.

Decker was opposed to Perrone’s

ruling on the matter.

“It’s absolutely impossible for a student to get past 70 per cent when you’re dealing with mental health (problems) sometimes and HSF doesn’t understand mental health. Period,” said Decker.

Both Perrone and HSF’s incumbent president Ahmed Tahir believe

per cent condition.

“If it was an organization that understands anything about mental health it would understand that the way they dealt with this was not okay.”

MIKKI DECKER
FORMER HSF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Decker’s dismissal to be justified.

However, both revealed plans to amend the constitution by changing the academic requirement to “good academic standing” rather than a 70

per cent condition.

Decker is a full-time student in Family, Community and Social Services.

Alongside her full-time studies she was working to fulfill her duties as a full-time VP of Student Affairs.

Tahir is a part-time student and was able to meet the academic requirement while fulfilling his full-time duties as student president.

In an exclusive interview with Humber *Et Cetera*, Tahir said HSF’s established instruments to assist students struggling with mental health issues and participate in student government were “adequate” but not enough.

Tahir agreed with Perrone that HSF handled Decker’s dismissal appropriately.

“Whether it’s fair or not isn’t for us to determine right now,” said Tahir.

Joel Caldarola, Tahir’s only remaining opponent found the grounds for Decker’s termination to be highly problematic.

“I think there should be some leeway here because it doesn’t make sense for this student [Decker]. We

want to encourage people to run for office and putting unnecessary roadblocks in their way doesn’t make sense,” Caldarola said.

Humber *Et Cetera* found out first hand that Decker was also a student receiving academic accommodation due to her challenges with mental health.

“We can talk all we want about bringing in a fall reading week or other things of a slightly frivolous nature but mental health is a problem that needs to be addressed and the services are lacking here,” Caldarola said.

“I can see how that might have angered some people who want to maintain a squeaky clean perception of our school and HSF,” he said.

“[HSF] are very concerned with the way they appear, very concerned. It gets problematic because you can’t tell whether they are putting that appearance ahead of the students they are supposed to be protecting,” he said.

Following her initial interview with Humber News, Decker was unavailable for further comment.

HSF Election 2016

Candidates deliver their platforms at All Candidates forum before Mikki Decker excluded for falling below mandatory minimum GPA

Matthew Owczarz

STAFF REPORTER

All the Humber North campus and Guelph-Humber Humber Students' Federation candidates came out to meet the voters but the electorate chose to scarf down free muffins and coffee rather than campus politics.

"I'm probably not going to vote. They're just school elections and I'm not that involved," said Javier Perez, 19, a civil engineering student.

"I've tried to engage students by dressing in a carrot suit, but students just don't seem involved," said Joel Calderola, a candidate for HSF president.

Candidates for the March 7 to 11 HSF election tried to reach out to potential student voters at an All Candidates Forum on Tuesday at the North campus Student Centre.

There are four positions being contested: president, vice-president of student affairs, vice-president of student life and vice-president of student affairs for Guelph-Humber, a new executive position for the 2016 election. Four spots on the board of directors are also open for the North campus while two spots are open for the board of directors for Guelph-Humber.

It was a civilized affair that was largely ignored by potential voters circulating through the Student Centre.

Incumbent candidate for president, Ahmed Tahir said he would promise universal transit passes (U-pass), HSF student housing and tighten down on protecting students' rights.

Challenger Calderola's platform boasted "students getting more for their money" by having HSF spending become more inclusive and bringing more "transparency" into student government.

"We still need to create a culture of voting and student governance, but the students need to be educated on how important these elections really are," said Mikki Decker, who has since been disqualified from the presidential candidacy on the grounds of failing to maintain a GPA of 70 per cent.

The vice-president of student life for both North campus and Guelph-Humber is responsible for providing students with engaging activities, creative events and clubs.

Ammar Abdul-Raheem is seeking re-election in that role and promising to "bring more events, improve food on campus and increase student job opportunities."

Opposing is Kobi Adjei Yeboah with a platform around better promoting and informing the student body about events occurring around campus.

"I plan on bringing personality and energy to the student body to get people involved in events and clubs," said Yeboah.

Also running is Adel Mohammed who said he has been listening to the students' complaints and will do what's best for the students to resolve any issues.

"I have heard repeatedly, more squat racks and platforms, later hours for the cafeteria, more events on campus and more inter-campus unity," said Mohammed.

The vice-president of student affairs' responsibilities include creating new services, resources and advocating on behalf of students.

Candidate for the position, Lance Constantine said he will provide more financial assistance for international students and promote mental health awareness. "My time has come. The time has come for Humber to experience change," said Constantine.

Challenger Sugandhi Basi said she hopes to bring good leadership to HSF with "truth, fairness, strength and kindness."

Rostant Kanick promises to help the students by establishing healthier and cheaper food options on campus on top of expanding lab space and program resources.

Candidate Shelby Travers' main focus is on solving accessibility issues around campus like fixing parking limitations. She will also offer healthier food alternatives and promote student concerns and achievements through monthly campaigns.

Grace Parker is running for the new vice-president of student affairs for the University of Guelph-Humber seat. Her platform focuses on increasing mental health awareness, promoting healthy, active lifestyles and on bringing the Guelph-Humber students into the Humber community.

Maja Jocson is also seeking

the position with her platform based on three pillars of self-growth, collaboration and making a difference. She hopes to influence the students to find self-confidence and inner strength.

Warren Schlote said he wants to increase collaboration between student societies and student government along with keeping the current GHSA sponsored scholarships available to the students.

The board of directors is responsible for maintaining communication between HSF and students under their respective campuses. All major decisions go through their approval before anything can be put into action.

Agulefo Nneka Sophie said she believes in making students' opinions and voices count in important decisions and wants to promote "responsiveness and inclusivity" in the HSF.

Osman Beyle said he stands for community involvement and student leadership for Humber. He said he wants to make Humber students feel more involved and better HSF's progress towards the future.

Muhammad Gill said he will bring his student federation leadership skills in order to initiate and maintain projects for the students.

Markus Laanes said he will look out for the students best interests in making HSF be transparent and accountable to the students.

Roxanne Smith said she is running to bring accountability to HSF and more inclusivity and advocacy for the students.

Emma Kelly is seeking to resume her responsibilities on the board of directors for Guelph-Humber. She said she will work on resolving challenges, obtaining student feedback and bringing continuity to the board.

Despite the passion from the candidates, student interest in 2016 elections was mild at best, and voting rates in past elections have been below 20 per cent participation.

"I don't feel like voting, maybe I will and maybe I won't," said Charvi Vashisht 20, a Media Studies student. "With work and school, I don't have time to find out about candidates and their platforms."



MATTHEW OW CZARZ

The three presentational candidates participated in the Q&A portion of the All Candidates Forum



MATTHEW OW CZARZ

Current HSF President Ahmed Tahir addresses potential voters



MATTHEW OW CZARZ

Presidential candidate Joel Calderola tries to engage the student body

Race for HSF President



Ahmed Tahir

Amy Wallace
SENIOR REPORTER

As the Humber College student body prepares to vote next week in the Humber Students' Federation election, first up is Ahmed Tahir, the incumbent who has held the position of HSF President since May 2015.

Tahir, 24, has successfully introduced several new initiatives this past year, including a fall reading break and on-campus sleeping lounges, which will be launched on March 14.

A large part of his platform is the adoption of a universal transit pass, or U-Pass, which students can use when travelling on any bus in the GTA.

"I think about 80 per cent of our students take transit to school, so for me it makes a lot of sense to pur-

"I think we need to do a better job in telling [students] what we do and advocating for them."

Ahmed Tahir
INCUMBENT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

sue it," said Tahir in an extensive sit-down interview with the *Et Cetera* editorial team.

"These students come from all over the place and we're right in the middle of the GTA."

Tahir praises the PRESTO card, which will soon become a mainstay on TTC vehicles and will replace tokens, tickets and Metropasses.

"That Presto card is a huge game changer for me because without it, I would not be pursuing this whatsoever...that ability for students to use the same card, that's now going to be ingrained in students."

The initiative may label Humber as "trailblazers," said Tahir.

Humber is currently in talks with Metrolinx about the proposed plan.

While a fee has not yet been established, prices may range between \$200-\$250 per semester, about half the cost of the current Metropass. Students will have the final say on opting in to the plan during the fall referendum.

Making it easier for students to get to campus will indirectly help with the ongoing parking problem, Tahir said.

Students who live outside the city often have to ride several different buses, and Tahir highlights the Lakeshore campus as being particularly problematic.

"For Brampton to Mississauga and then TTC just to get to school and then pay all three of those just to get home again, it's ridiculous," he said. Students have to pay separate fees for each bus, costs which add up.

Tahir also cites student housing as a concern. "A lot of student housing is really poor...and landlords have been taking advantage of students as well."

Tahir said that the HSF wants to purchase student housing, which would then be rented out to students. With the help of several interns from various backgrounds, Tahir aims to create a 'Know Your Rights' Campaign.

"They're going to look at landlord and workers' policies...to let students know what their rights are proactively," he said.

HSF is set to undergo a massive rebranding this fall, at the cost of \$400,000. "What's confusing to us right now is HSF, the logo and what we stand for...it seems really corporate," said Tahir.

"But all the things we do, the events we throw are very fun, very lively...and that's what we want our rebranding to be like as well." Making the HSF rebranding more relevant to students is key.

"I think we need to do a better job in telling [students] what we do and advocating for them."



Joel Caldarola

The project will include a revamping of the website set for August 2016, HSF signs and internal office material.

But Tahir wants to hear student input. To gather student opinions, the organization will employ methods such as focus groups and discussion boards.

"One of the things we want to make sure (with) our new name, new image, new logo is that it resonates with students," he said.

Tahir is running against Joel Caldarola, 20, a third-year film and media production student.

"My belief is that students should be getting the most for their money," said Caldarola in a separate sit-down with *Et Cetera* staff.

"I believe that we should be spending these HSF funds as inclusively as possible."

Caldarola uses the student health plan as an example, and it is something on which he intends to focus.

"It's a plan that's great for people who need it, but it doesn't exactly apply to everyone, he said. "I think those people should have the option to opt out at least partially, and get some of their money back from something they're not using."

Caldarola also emphasizes the need to have a wider variety of events on campus, as some events, such as frosh parties, may not appeal to everyone.

"We should spread out events so that there's something for everyone... certain people are being left on the sidelines," he said.

Timing is also an inconvenience. "A lot of events aren't always at a convenient time for students to attend, we have to mark them over the schedule so that there's something for everyone."

Asked about the issue of transparency with the HSF, Caldarola stressed the importance of student's awareness of where their money -- the over \$10-million in student ac-

tivity fees that HSF works with each year -- is going.

"Not everything is available online and that stuff should be open and provided to students," he said. "There should be a specific break-

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"I believe that we should be spending these HSF funds as inclusively as possible."

Joel Caldarola
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

down on where that money's going."

Tahir disagrees. "I think we're very open and transparent. I think what makes it difficult for students is that our website is littered with too many different things," he said.

Caldarola questioned the \$35,000 HSF president's salary and the organization's planned increase to \$40,000 in September 2016 (vice-presidential salaries are to rise from \$24,000 to \$27,000).

Caldarola remained unsure as to how knowledgeable the student body is on financial matters pertaining to HSF, including executive salaries.

In contrast, Tahir found the \$40,000 presidential salary to be fair for the work required for the job.

"It think it's important that we do compensate these people because we need them to focus on these roles," Tahir said.

"\$40,000 is an absurd amount of money for someone to make [in that role]," Caldarola said.

It creates a problematic situation where students are motivated to run for presidency for the paycheck, rather than the genuine desire to participate in student government, he suggested.

The polls are set to open on March 7 and will close on March 11

Student vote always low during HSF elections

Jess Reyes
SENIOR REPORTER

Humber doesn't take the Presidential elections seriously.

Humber Students' Federation statistics show that the voting turnout for HSF President elections has been on a steady decline.

The numbers indicate that just over 13 percent of the student body participated in the school event last year.

Humber has nearly 30,000 full-time students and some 22,000 part-time students in attendance with just over half of the students last year considered eligible voters.

To be an eligible voter, students must be enrolled for a full-time course load prior to voting day.

Part-time students cannot participate in the HSF elections, which is a big factor in the results of the polling. If part-time students were allowed to vote the number of participants would be greater, although student voting has not reached even 20 per cent within memory.

While some students want to run for President and make a change with a specific platform, politics have not always been a big interest for all students on campus.

Jamie Morrison, first year Interior Decoration student, says the students on campus are just not interested in being involved during election time.

"We're just here to learn. Politics and the student body do want to make it a better place but they really don't have much of a say," Morrison said.

Megan Strathearn, first year Early Education student says the elections are during the middle of the year when exam preparation begins and elections do not become a priority.

"I just don't think people think about it as real politics. I don't think people actually take it seriously," she said.

The turnout for the All Candidates meeting at the North campus on Tuesday was also very low, but current president of HSF, Ahmed Tahir says with confidence that he is hopeful for the final ballot outcome.

Tahir agrees it was definitely a low outcome. As current HSF President it is his duty to advocate on students rights.

"I really feel like students are apathetic because they don't feel like it makes a difference and we need to prove to them that it does," Tahir said.

The student elections will continue to run from March 7 through the 11th with two candidates racing for the presidency and a number of others running for several vice-presidential roles at North and Lakeshore campuses.

Hwy 427 expansion gets green light for 2017 start

Vaughan mayor says that Highway 27 construction will further city's development and expand job market

Krysten McCumber

SENIOR REPORTER

Highway 427 will undergo a series of changes in the next few years including widening and a northern expansion as well as the addition of High Occupancy Toll lanes

Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation, spoke Thursday morning about the approved plan for the west Toronto north-south expressway by 2020.

"Our government is moving forward with extending Highway 427, creating jobs and opportunities for residents and businesses living and working in the region," Del Duca said in a news release by the Ontario Government.

The announcement means three years of construction starting in 2017.

The highway will be expanding nearly 7 km from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive. In addition, 4 km of the road from Albion Road to Highway 7 will be widened.

The project will create over 100,000 jobs, and should make travel easier for GTA commuters. Maurizio Bevilacqua, Mayor of Vaughan said in the news release he is happy to see the progress for the city and its commuters.

"The Highway 427 Extension is another step forward in Vaughan's transformation into a leading urban centre," Bevilacqua said. "The completion of this new transportation route will greatly improve the flow of goods and services, and provide a new connection for our citizens and businesses."

Highway 27, which merges with 427, will also go under construction in 2017 and is expected to open in 2020.

MS Awareness Week takes to the screen

Jessenia Feijo

SENIOR REPORTER

An estimated 100,000 Canadians are living with multiple sclerosis and currently there is no cure.

MS is an autoimmune disease that can affect vision, hearing, memory, balance and mobility.

With MS Awareness Week 2016 starting March 7, people in the MS movement will lead the effort in showing what they've uncovered to live their best lives.

The new film *VIABLE* aspires to captivate and educate audiences through its intimate look at living with MS.

Mary Gyulay, the director and co-writer of *VIABLE*, was diagnosed at the age of 22. Her story inspired the feature film, along with a call to action that aims to inform the public that this is a disease that affects all ages.

The film takes the audience through the journey of Violet who wants to get into a music school. In practising for an audition, she begins to feel symptoms and gets diagnosed with MS. The audience will be able to see the struggles Violet goes through like blurred vision, cramping of the hands and blackouts.

"Personally I hope it does open a lot of doors to touch people's lives. If it could go globally, that would be amazing," said Daniel Skeete, *VIA-*

BLE's music composer.

Skeete said he honestly didn't know anything about the disease and that's why he truly appreciates *VIABLE*. Working hand in hand with Melissa Scicluna, executive producer and co-writer, and Gyulay, he gained knowledge he did not expect.

Skeete wasn't the only one.

Adrianna Guerra, a Toronto resident, said she experienced the same thing as she walked out of the screening last night.

"The film was amazing. I saw the preview and was completely intrigued. I didn't know much about MS and this film really opened my eyes. I'm grateful for that," said Guerra.

"This is a serious disease and it's something that should not be taken lightly. It is a great way to fund money for research and all the proceeds go to the campaign," said Skeete.

On *VIABLE's* Instagram (@viablefilm) there are 15 second clips of testimonies from people who have been affected by the disease.

Because of Instagram, Gysella Pincay, a Vaughan resident, found out about the cause.

Originally Pincay was just going to donate but after convincing some friends to check it out, they made their way to the screening.

"It really made me appreciate my state right now. I



FLICKR/KOMUNES

mean, Violet was diagnosed so young, and will have to live with it for the rest of her life. I feel like it's the little things we overlook in life, this is one of them," said Pincay.

Skeete said he hopes in addition to raising awareness, the film will show people that if a person is diagnosed they can overcome it. They can have hope.

"Canada has the highest rate of MS in the world, and we (at the MS Society) are proud that Canada is leading some of the world's most ground-breaking research

into treatments and a cure," said Matthew Higginson, senior coordinator of social media and content for the MS Society of Canada.

Higginson extols all the awareness raising efforts that MS Ambassadors and advocates across Canada lead.

"From the thousands who walk and ride at MS Walk and MS Bike events to raise money for research, to those who visit with politicians to push for better community supports, and those who seek out their own creative ways to raise awareness online

and in the streets," he said. "We strongly believe that it is through actions like these that we will see real progress for people living with MS in our lifetime."

Skeete said *VIABLE* is here to do just that.

"*VIABLE* is really about being successful overcoming trial and tribulations. Even if the odds are against you, it's all about giving people hope."

He encourages all to come out to the help join the movement and spread knowledge and awareness to others.

Yonge subway extension to Richmond Hill wanted

Jelani Grant

SENIOR REPORTER

Students say extending TTC subway Line 1 north of Finch to Richmond Hill would be a huge help.

Last week the issue of expanding the subway came up in a meeting between Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and 16 York Region politicians.

"We're nowhere near being in the position to extend Yonge north. It's just not feasible right now," Ward 15 Councillor Josh Colle told the *Toronto Star*.

"If the TTC came all the way to Richmond Hill and then took me down to Finch Station...it would be cheaper and faster," said Humber General Arts & Sciences student Samir Nosiri.

Extending the Yonge line,

"Might actually be helpful," said Nosiri.

Right now Nosiri has to take three buses from Richmond Hill to get to school every day. The expansion would cut his travel to just a train and bus ride.

York Region Transit Buses are currently the only transit options traveling from Richmond Hill Centre to Finch Station.

York University English/Philosophy student Henry Appiah, 22, rides the York Region Transit, but said city council should focus on whichever expansion can be completed sooner.

In an attempt to encourage more transit users, York Region politicians pitched a Line 1 expansion plan extending to Richmond Hill Centre.

"It would be a great change

because travel in that area would be easier," said Appiah.

Meanwhile, Line 1 is being extended on the western leg of the line into Vaughan with six more stations being added.

Sohill Sofar, a 21-year-old Business Administration student Sohill Sofar uses the YRT every day, spending approximately \$40 every week on transit fare.

"If [the subway] goes further north, I'll go up there more often," he said.

Sofar lives in Vaughan and said that traveling downtown would also be an easier commute from his home.

Despite the numbers they projected, Toronto city councillors said their ongoing plans for the Scarborough line extension are still the number one priority.



JELANI GRANT

Toronto Councillors are telling York Region politicians that their Yonge Subway expansion line will have to wait until the Scarborough expansion has been completed.

Planning for the Scarborough line extension is scheduled to finish before the end of this year. However, some commuters would like to see City Hall's priorities change to construction of the Yonge extension.

Richmond Hill deputy mayor Vito Spatafora told the *Toronto Star* it's possible to start building the line on

Yonge by 2019.

City council concluded the bickering regarding changes to the Scarborough line in late January when they released an updated Scarborough transit plan. The updated report may be why councillors are sticking together regarding York Region's proposed transit development.

Recess turns library into literal zoo

Daniel Caudle
STAFF REPORTER

Humber student Tess St. Jean's eyes widened and her hand jolted up to her mouth in fright as Kaa the 12-foot red tail boa came out of its cage.

But somehow, the health and fitness student found the courage to touch the snake.

"I hate snakes and am terrified of them, but I am glad I had the courage to pet the boa constrictor," said St. Jean.

The meeting between the slithering Kaa and the fearful Tess was part of Humber's recess days that kicked off on Monday with a bang as a kangaroo, a lemur, bunnies, parrots, a scarlet ibis, and Kaa all came to the North campus.

Denise Rooney, a learning commons coordinator, and librarian Aliya Dalfen, dreamt up and coordinated the four-day event, the first activity being a petting zoo on the third floor of the Learning Resource Common.

"The event helps with library student engagement and is also a stress buster," said Dalfen.

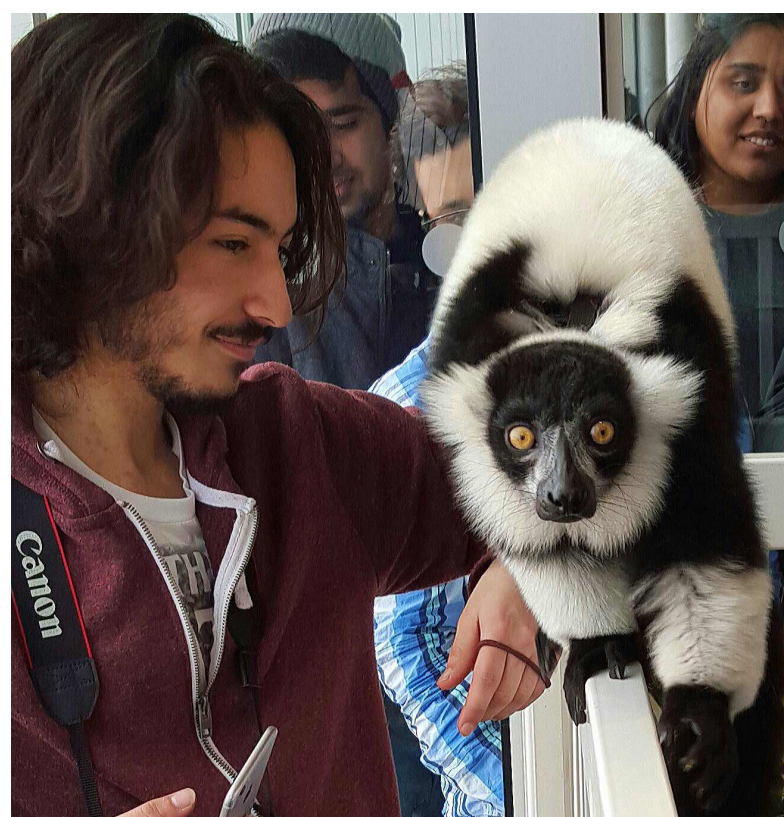
This petting zoo helps students' health and wellness at a much-needed time during midterm. Hundreds of eager Humber students were spotted migrating toward the petting zoo from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for their chance to step inside the enclosure and get a close encounter with the exotic animals.

Students were able to pet Jasmine the kangaroo, hold Ginny the scarlet ibis, stroke Lemmy the lemur, and if brave enough, help support Kaa the boa constrictor.

The company that provided the petting zoo, Hands on Exotics, had three animal handlers on hand to provide students with a unique experience.

A majority of the animals were once pets, or from zoos and farms, said handler Seth Falk.

He said there are people who think it "would be cool to own a kangaroo," but quickly realize it is



DANIEL CAUDLE

A red-tail boa, kangaroo and lemur made appearances at a student wellness petting zoo. A majority of the animals were once pets or kept on farms.

not as fun as they originally thought.

"That's where we come in and rescue the animals and provide a service to all kinds people," said Falk.

"My favorite animal would have

to be the bunnies because I don't like big animals," said first-year design foundations student Vivienne Moran-Guerra.

Primarily the animals are brought

to nursing homes, retirement homes and day programs for kids with special needs – but the company doesn't mind bringing them to Humber, Falk said with a wink.

Humber's Recess Week continued with a Wellness Day, a Games Day, and finished with an Arts Day.

Canadians accept reality of climate change but unsure human activity responsible: study

Natalie Dixon
STAFF REPORTER

Sheyne Blandford, 19, a first year fitness and health promotion student at Humber College said climate change is entirely due to human activity, contrary to a recent survey which asserts Canadians overwhelmingly accept climate change but many doubt the role humans play in it.

The University of Montreal study shows that while 79 per cent of Canadians believe in the impact of climate change, 39 per cent do not believe cli-

mate change is due to human activity. "The science is pretty clear," Blandford said.

Humans need to start reusing and recycling things if they want climate change to stop or at least slow down, she said. She said people want to ignore problems and so climate change will continue.

It's hard to believe people don't believe humans are responsible for the changes, said Stephen Connolly, 21, a fourth year geology student at Memorial University. Rather than a focus on more oil extraction, Connolly suggests putting money towards other,

less environmentally harmful, things.

"It's something that they have to solidly commit to for years and years," he said.

Gloria Marsh, executive director for the York Region Environmental Alliance, said she cannot believe this study because everyone considers the environment a critical issue.

"Certainly it is," she said of climate change being due to human activity.

Simple things like Styrofoam in grocery stores to hold one vegetable or take out food can contribute to



NATALIE DIXON

A significant number of Canadians do not believe human activity is cause of climate change.

the harming of the planet, she said.

The group is challenged by people that have a bad atti-

tude towards environmental friendliness, she said. She is proud, however, that grocery chain Sobeys is switching

their take-out food containers to recyclable ones, due to the Alliance's efforts.

Commentary

Decker disqualification points to HSF's insensitivity

Mikki Decker has been disqualified from the running for Humber Students' Federation president because she failed to meet the HSF's constitutional requirement of a 70 per cent GPA.

The problem is that Decker has academic accommodations on account of mental health issues, which she has spoken publicly about.

In fact, Humber College's mixed history of accommodating students with mental health issues was a major part of the campaign platform she passionately delivered at the HSF All Candidates Forum on Tuesday. She was barely off the stage before HSF executive director Ercole Perrone told her that she was disqualified.

Perrone said he had no chance to speak to her before the Forum, however Humber News spotted Decker a full half-hour before the event and presidential candidate Joel Caldarella confirmed to Et Cetera that he had been speaking with her before the event.

We know this because Humber News interviewed Decker immediately after her disqualification, half in tears, where she lamented the circumstances of her dismissal. We are inclined to agree.

Perrone said he had scheduled a meeting with Decker for 8:30 a.m.,

which she missed and he rescheduled for 9:00 but Decker didn't arrive until 10 a.m. on account of the massive storm that was bearing down on Toronto at the time.

Perrone said her grades only came out on Sunday, and he made every attempt to tell her privately, except of course in the half-hour leading up to her very public dismissal.

When asked about the situation, Perrone said "maybe you should tell me what you've been told," before explaining the situation.

What we have been told is as follows:

Decker has a 65 per cent average and she told Humber News that she was under the impression that she only had to maintain that average in order to keep her candidacy. Perrone said she should already have known that she did not meet the requirements but this is clearly not the case.

Decker is working with a full course load while running for HSF president, whereas incumbent president Ahmed Tahir had only one course last semester.

Tahir has gone on the record with Humber Et Cetera that HSF is working to eliminate the 70 per cent rule and replacing it with a rule where candidates simply cannot be on academic probation, a situation unlikely

to arise in a context where accommodation for reasons of health or disability has been granted.

Several people, including Tahir and Perrone, have said that this is a constitutional issue for the school's government and that there is no wiggle room regarding it until the HSF constitution is formally amended.

Decker's platform was about improving the care and attention that students with mental health accommodation needs receive and she was willing to make damning accusations of Humber College and the HSF. Her ideas included bringing in a dedicated rape survivor counsellor to the school and creating a peer-to-peer counselling service for students.

That is what we know.

And our conclusions are as follows.

Decker was wrongfully disqualified based on an archaic rule in a rigid text that is by the admission of HSF staffers to be on the way to changing. A young woman who was openly struggling with mental health issues while trying to alleviate them for others was removed from the running in a public and traumatizing way with no consideration whatsoever for the fact that it could be damaging to her mental state.

"The worst thing we could do is try to do a whole bunch of stuff that doesn't actually make their mental health that much better. Internally, we don't have mental health experts. In the Health Centre we do, so why not try to leverage that expertise and knowledge into doing things together," Tahir said of Decker's platform.

There is no indication in Decker's platform that HSF would be taking this fight on themselves and it's only common sense that they would work together with the Health Centre on issues concerning health.

Tahir's tone-deaf response is evidence of the basic mismanagement of the entire situation.

Both Perrone and Tahir said that they did everything in their power to help Decker succeed -- and perhaps they did -- but that doesn't change the fact that it was not enough.

This is an example of HSF being out of touch with the needs of the students it serves. It is apparent in the types of events they hold, the sort of services they provide and the issues that they focus on. The difference is that this time a human being with thoughts and feelings was thrown under the bus in the name of bureaucratic protocol.

Can we live without feminism?



Sam Juric
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

me and the term's unfailing ability to afford me the courage to demand respect, dignity and equity for myself and others in my life when I was being disenfranchised and undermined solely by the virtue of my sex.

When I was 22-years-old and found myself in an abusive relationship, feminism helped me understand I wasn't a victim and that I possessed the power to change my circumstances. Feminism pushed me out the door.

When I was 24-years-old and encountered misogyny in a professional environment for the first time, feminism helped me to confront the mediocre, over-privileged white man attempting to disempower me by taking credit for my ideas and work to further his career. Feminism helped to silence him.

I am 26-years-old now and I have been proud to call myself a feminist for most of my life. I have never hesitated uttering the word--until now.

Feminism has never been an easily consumed concept. Powerful language coined to subvert the status quo is never going to be accepted by those whose interests are vested in the continued oppression and subjugation of a population.

And yet, there is a growing aversion to the word.

The young women around me are renouncing feminism. Surely, this is

a symptom of the perpetual mutilation of the term through the combined efforts of the young, famous and obscenely wealthy women of Hollywood. And Gloria Steinem, the erstwhile American feminist who recently spoke embarrassingly in a national television interview about young women being drawn to Bernie Sanders so as to chase boys.

Taylor Swift is almost single-handedly responsible for bringing popular feminism to the internet with her squad of Victoria's Secret Models, actresses and pop stars preaching a faint brand of 'girl power' feminism, through lackluster songs and speeches directed at the misogynistic likes of Kanye West.

Can you hear it? That's the sound of Mary Wolstonecraft, Simone de Beauvoir and Hatshepsut rolling in their graves.

'Celebrity-feminism' has also begun to extend itself beyond the confines of the music industry and Hollywood and has bled into the political arena by the hands of celebrities like Lena Dunham and Katy Perry.

The #imwithher is a testament to this. It is a seemingly never-ending Instagram collage of celebrity selfies endorsing Hillary Clinton for President in the 2016 U.S. election. The hashtag points to a movement of

privileged women voting for Clinton as a result of her gender while completely disregarding her political platform.

What is most disturbing about this is that Steinem, the quintessential feminist since the birth of the second wave in the 1960s can be counted amongst their ranks.

In a recent interview with Bill Maher, Steinem made a controversial statement on the droves of young women supporting Sanders' platform, "And when you're younger, you think: 'Where are the boys? The boys are with Bernie,'" effectively reducing the young women supporting Sanders to silly, boy-crazy little girls.

To this statement I must say, Ms. Steinem, how very un-feminist of you. Have you forgotten feminism's main function? To fight for equity, equality and empowerment for all?

So allow young women the freedom to vote for a man on the virtue of his politics just like they give you the freedom to vote for a presidential candidate because you share the same genitalia. Maybe this can account for the epidemic of young women dropping the label.

Feminism as an overarching ideological stance is dying.

But maybe that's okay. I mean, do we really need another ideology polarizing people? We have religion for

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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that. Is female empowerment contingent upon the use of feminism as both a term and an ideology?

Feminism has helped to claim the rights of women across the globe. Yet perhaps we have reached a point where we can transcend it. Even if the term feminism has lost utility, equity and equality can live on.



Phil Witmer
ASSIGNMENTS EDITOR

Rap unaccounted for as Flow 93.5 abandons urban format radio

more.

Since the release of Drake's 2013 album *Nothing Was the Same* and especially after its follow-up *If You're Reading This It's Too Late*, eyes have been trained on Toronto's rap scene. One of the most significant performers in popular music today, Drake himself has taken local artists like Ramriddlz, Roy Woods and Majid Jordan under his wing, affording them exposure they wouldn't get otherwise through Canada's indifferent underground music clique.

Outside of Mr. Aubrey Graham's coterie, local rappers who are receiving attention include veteran Belly and hotshot newcomer Jazz Cartier. All of this is without mentioning the meteoric success of Abel Tesfaye, a.k.a. The Weeknd. When was the last time you saw a Scarborough native perform at the Academy Awards? In addition, one of the fastest-rising stars in R&B is Bryson Tiller, a Kentucky-born performer who has been rewarded with sold-out shows for borrowing heavily

from Drake's "Toronto sound" of moody beats and half-sung, half-rapped vocals expressing romantic themes.

We are "cool" in the rap world right now, so where is our rap radio station?

It's very evident that the Canadian music press doesn't care about a local scene that doesn't adhere to a general idea of what constitutes "Canadianity". This national identity, for lack of a more polite term, is overwhelmingly white and focused almost exclusively on rock and folk music.

It's so prevalent that even white musicians don't get coverage if they play music that doesn't fall into this narrow range. Rap-influenced jazz group BadBadNotGood perform worldwide and have collaborated with some of rap's most legendary figures yet remain an anomaly in the "indie" sphere simply because they've associated themselves with the rap world. The same goes for producer-DJ Ryan Hemsworth and singer-songwriter River Tiber, non-

rap artists who cross over into the sounds of rap and as a result aren't given the same support and mass exposure as say, Metric.

Also, it should be mentioned that Canada loves its underdogs. The faux-humble, beer-drinking approachability that characterizes dudes in rock bands is almost nowhere to be found in the cocksure personas of many rappers.

If the very idea of Canadian-supported rap is at odds with how Canada perceives its own musical persona, then local rappers and R&B singers can expect no internal support. How can this be amended?

The answer, most likely, is "slowly." The rap radio infrastructure present in the United States was built up over a few decades; about as long as the genre of rap itself has been around, to be clear. Toronto had rap-focused stations that emerged at the same time, but none took hold the same way other underground stations like CFNY did and their frequencies were eventually eaten up by the likes of Indie 88.

Again, there probably wasn't and still isn't much demand for rap radio in Canada itself. In fact, much of the notable coverage of the current Toronto scene is done by American outlets. It's embarrassing that, for a city (and country) that is so quick to big itself up, there is no wide hometown support for the most vital, relevant music being made within its borders.

Accepting rap and the unique, influential voice Toronto has brought to it as part of Canada's musical fabric shouldn't be this much of an uphill battle. It also shouldn't be the victim of tokenism.

We can't get away with just supporting k-os, Kardinal Offishall and Classified and say that all the notable rap music in Canada is accounted for. The current generation is genuinely excited for the music made by their peers. Creating an outlet – an online or analog radio station – aimed at them would galvanize this grassroots following. Canadian media needs to take pride in all its art forms.

This week, Toronto's CFXJ-FM, better known as Flow 93.5, underwent the latest in a series of re-brandings since it launched as the city's only urban format station in 2001. Now known as "The Move", CFXJ is to play older pop hits; not abandoning rap entirely but definitely shifting its focus away from that format.

Radio format changes are normally nothing special, but in the homogenous world of Toronto radio, every specialty station is an island. CFXJ is the latest to succumb to this trend and its loss is a huge blow to Toronto's bid for rap credibility at a time when that has never mattered



Amy Wallace
NEWS EDITOR

What do we mean when we talk about 'free tuition'?

for tuition for students whose family incomes are \$50,000 or less. Half of students from families with incomes of \$83,000 will receive enough in grants to cover their tuition costs. The change will also allow post-secondary students to borrow up to \$2,500 more each year.

Free is good. Free is great, especially when it concerns tuition, as many students grapple with hefty debts after graduation. Ontario has the most expensive post-secondary tuition in the country, at an average of \$6,160 yearly for an arts and science degree at university, and \$2,768 annually for college students. Breaking down the barriers to higher education is an ambitious move, and should definitely be applauded

as a step in the right direction.

By making post-secondary education easily accessible, you run the risk of attracting students for all the wrong reasons. Students may go because it's seen as a free ride. Not everyone, of course, but there will be some.

In the spirit of making higher education more accessible, why don't we couple it with a success fee - if you aren't successful, then you have to pay back all or part of it. Turning the grant into a re-payable loan may discourage some from attending just because they can.

However, going to university is a privilege, and people have to work in order to be able to appreciate its value. In today's volatile job mar-

ket, one degree often isn't enough. Employers are hungry for workers whose knowledge and skills extend beyond sociology and history degrees. This "free ride" may teach the wrong lesson: go to university and you are set for life. Students may come to expect that future employment may be given to them without cost.

There is also the issue of overcrowding. Due to increases in revenue, schools may be tempted to accept more students in first year. As a result, class sizes will be increased, thereby disrupting the student to teacher ratio. What about the additional teachers needed, and residences to accommodate students? There would be more demands on

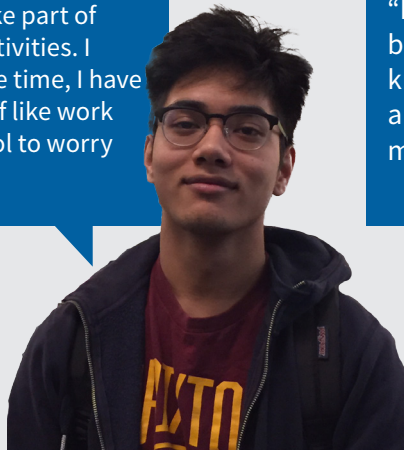
libraries and other university facilities. What will the overall student experience be like, for new as well as existing students?

My university experience was unlike many others. I went to Mount Allison University, a small liberal arts school in New Brunswick with around 2,500 students. Few have heard of it. Its small size is what makes it unique and a great educational experience.

Rather than eliminating fees entirely, why not make tuition more affordable (\$3,000 rather than \$6,000). After all, nothing in life is free. Continuing on to higher education is a privilege. And it may be seen as less of a privilege if it doesn't cost a penny.

QUOTED: Will you be voting in the 2016 HSF student elections?

"Probably not because I don't take part of school activities. I don't have time, I have other stuff like work and school to worry about."



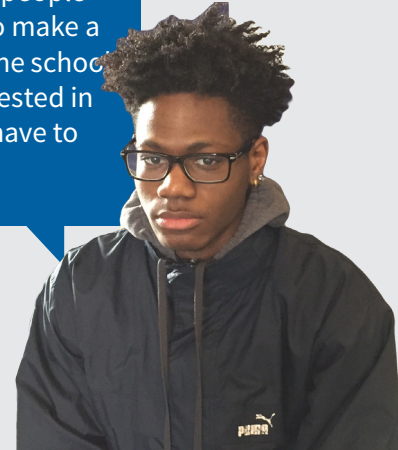
Devyanshu Patow
Fitness & Health, 1st

"I don't know, because I don't know too much about it but I don't mind participating."



Rizabelle Laserna
Family, Community, Social Services, 1st

"Yes, some people just want to make a change in the school so I'm interested in what they have to bring."



Sean Bennett
Fitness & Health, 1st

City

CUPE comes to tentative deal with City of Toronto

Jeremy Appel

SENIOR REPORTER

Toronto's city workers represented by Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 79 reached an agreement Thursday morning with the municipal government, avoiding a strike or lockout.

The union leadership agreed to a four-year contract for their 20,000 inside workers who staff community, child care and fitness centres, along with ice rinks and indoor pools operated by the city.

Local 79 President Tim Maguire was evasive regarding the deal's contents.

"It was a tough round of negotiations. We moved forward on some issues and were able to push back on deep concessions," Maguire said in a mid-morning news conference.

"I'm not going to get into the particulars of the deals... that will be recommended to the members," he repeatedly told reporters.

Maguire credited the union's work-to-rule campaign for laying the groundwork for the agreement, but again would



COURTESY CUPE

CUPE Local 79, Toronto's inside workers at care centres, participating in a Labour Day march.

not get into specifics.

"We've had some tough-slogging negotiations over the past two weeks," he said, decrying the city's "aggressive approach" to collective bargaining.

"While this was a very difficult round of negotiations, we believe we have secured the best possible collective agreements for our members, ensuring they will continue to be able to deliver the great

services Toronto residents depend on," Maguire said in an early morning statement.

Mayor John Tory posted the city's "final offer" online Sunday, a move characterized by Maguire as "disrespectful."

The publicly released offer included a five per cent increase in base pay throughout the next four years and a decrease in the amount of benefits for workers on long-term disability, to 70 per cent from 75 per cent.

Another provision guarantees that no full-time employee with 15 years of seniority as of Dec. 31, 2019 can lose his or her job as a result of contracting out or privatization.

Coun. Joe Mihevc (Ward 21, St. Paul's West) said it's common for details to be leaked during the collective bargaining process, whether it's by the union or employer.

"Negotiation is a combination of dialogue, garnering public support for your position (and) applying external pressure," Mihevc told Humber News. "It's a mucky process."

"Sometimes I have seen the union publish what they've got on the table and sometimes I've seen management do it," he continued. "It's nothing I haven't seen before, especially if it's highly contentious."

Councillors do not get

briefed on the agreement's specific details until they're put for a vote in city council, Mihevc added.

John Cartwright, president of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council, said it's important to look at the agreement in the context of the precarious employment situation for so many workers, including those employed by the city.

"Although people think of city work and city jobs as stable and secure, in fact nearly half of CUPE Local 79 members are working in temporary or part-time positions, many without any benefits, many with scheduling issues that make it difficult for them to have a second job," said Cartwright.

"I'm sure there was some work done on those key issues."

The union had been without a contract since the beginning of this year.

The city had already reached an agreement with CUPE Local 416, representing the city's 5,400 outdoor workers, which was unanimously approved by council Monday.

Shelters test offer of 24/7 service for homeless

Ali Amad

SENIOR REPORTER

A 24/7 pilot service by two Toronto homeless shelters led to a surge in occupancy this winter, new data shows.

The pilot was launched at Margaret's Toronto East Drop-In Centre and St. Felix Centre, offering continuous service for January and February.

More than 12,000 and 13,000 homeless people were served at St. Felix Centre and Margaret's respectively during that time period, according to Metronews.

Those numbers are significantly higher than the average monthly occupancy of approximately 4,000 for Toronto's permanent emergency shelter system so far this year.

The two shelters were open during extreme cold weather alerts between mid-November and mid-April before this winter, but added the continuous 24-hour service for January and February starting in 2016.

Margaret's drop-in centre is in a sensitive area of the city,



CREATIVE COMMONS/MATTHEW WOITUNSKI

City of Toronto's 59 shelter locations were used by more than 16,000 homeless people in 2015.

near the downtown intersection of Sherbourne Street and Dundas Street East.

Diane Walter, executive director of Margaret's Housing and Community Support Services, believes there are two main reasons behind the increased turnout: location

and consistency.

"It's all about access," Walter told Humber News.

"We're located at the microcosm of all that ails Toronto," she said, adding that "folks knew that they could go there at any time and get shelter."

The shelter saw an increase in numbers of black and Aboriginal clients during the pilot, according to Walter.

"We have not had a chance yet to unpack what that means or why that is so," she said, adding that an increased number of women also stayed at Margaret's.

Funding was specifically allotted by the City of Toronto for the two-month 24/7 trial.

"It's something in the order of \$480,000 for the two services," said Patricia Anderson, Partnership Development and Support manager at Shelter, Support and Housing Administration.

Anderson said the primary reason for increasing service during those critical winter months was an "abundance of concern" for homeless people with nowhere else to go. She added that the service would be provided again in 2017.

In addition to those shelters, the housing administration funds two year-round 24/7 shelters for women and one for youths run by the YMCA that operates around the clock until mid-April.

House prices cut into Gen Y options in Toronto, Vancouver

Christiana Chan

SENIOR REPORTER

If student debt isn't already something millennials can stress about, two of Canada's hottest housing markets are deemed to be "dangerously unaffordable," according to a recent research report by RBC.

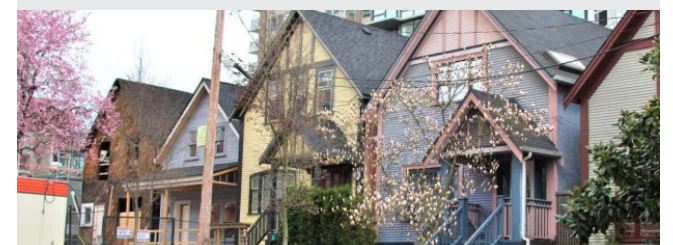
Living in Canada remains affordable overall, but those who want to purchase a single detached home in Vancouver or Toronto may have to consider a condo, or moving elsewhere.

"As builders have been building much more condos than single family homes,

on the condo side of both markets conditions relatively speaking are much less stressful in terms of affordability," said Robert Hogue, Senior Economist at the Royal Bank of Canada.

The average cost for a single detached home in Vancouver is \$1,249,500 and \$760,900 in Toronto. For a condo, average rates are \$467,000 in Vancouver and \$372,600 in Toronto.

"Millennials will come to their own conclusions pretty quickly that if they aspire to home ownership their main option effectively is condos. Prices are much more within their range," said Hogue.



FLICKR/KAREN NEOH

Homeownership is a distant pipe dream to many millennials.

Violinist Whale makes classical music relevant



Brandon-Richard Austin
REPORTER

Mark Whale is a General Education professor at Humber College. He is also a classically trained violinist.

Life began for eldest-born Whale in England, whose mother played piano.

His father, a priest, played violin, an instrument Whale himself would eventually study extensively himself.

Around the time Whale was growing up, England was known for exporting loads of great pop music. But the young Whale found himself practicing classical music from an early age by virtue of

his “sheltered upbringing.”

“In England, there are four main radio stations,” said Whale, referring to BBC’s Radio 1-4 stations.

“Radio 1 and 2 play pop music and it was almost sacrilegious in my house to play those... I didn’t really know about pop culture until John Lennon died in 1980, when I discovered the Beatles.”

But by then, the classical music bug had bitten; Whale was already practicing the violin more than four hours a night.

“At the beginning, nothing was driving me to play violin except my parents. I’ve often wondered if I would’ve played violin otherwise. But by the age of 16, I had the choice to go to university or the [London’s Royal] Academy.

Throughout Whale’s career as a solo violinist, as well as a member of the Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra, he has often faced the difficulty of trying to make his music relevant to those around him.

“I often invite people to con-

certs and then wonder, ‘Well, why should you come to this concert?’” said Whale.

“I want to be able to articulate that. The meaning will not be direct,” he said, contrasting it against something such as going to the gym which has direct benefits.

One of the ways Whale manages to make his philosophy behind music relevant to others is through teaching Liberal Arts at Humber College.

A look at Whale’s profile on www.ratemyprofessors.com finds students comments such as:

“Mark was such a great help. He literally changed my view on life, for the better. Laid back, open minded and musical. Anyone who has him as a prof will feel very fortunate.”

“I occasionally have some students come up to me and say I’ve changed their view on life,” said Mark. “That’s rare.”

“It’s sometimes challenging to get students to think deeply. It was the same at The Academy. Students that came in as great violinists left as great violinists.

People who came in as mediocre musicians left mediocre. It’s hard to move people between the two,” he said, stating people often come to education with a particular mindset and attitude that is hard to shift.

Whale’s thesis for his degree from University of Toronto’s Doctor Of Philosophy in Music Education is titled “Music as The Between: the idea of meeting in existence, music and education.”

In the document, one can see Whale’s level of in-depth thought behind his philosophy of life and music.

That deep-thought approach is one of the key reasons Whale came to Canada.

“I feel more at home here,” he said, remarking he found many mentors and colleagues able to share in his thought processes.

Whale currently performs with the Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra roughly six to seven times per week. The ensemble will be performing *The Bold and the Beautiful* tonight at 8 p.m. at Martin-grove Collegiate Institute.

Women’s volleyball heading to nationals on 109-game win streak

Natalia Vega
SENIOR REPORTER

After winning their ninth consecutive OCAA (Ontario Colleges Athletics Association) championship under the leadership of head coach Chris Wilkins, Humber’s women’s volleyball team is back home getting ready for nationals next week.

The Humber Hawks were in North Bay this weekend where they took on the Niagara Knights and took gold in three straight sets. The team is going into the CCAA (Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association) national championship on a 109-win streak.

However, their celebration was cut short. Wilkins said the students hit the books yesterday to catch up on schoolwork and returned to practice Monday night. Players are expected to maintain a minimum 60 per cent GPA.

Wilkins said he’s confident in the Hawks’ skills going into nationals.

“We have a strong returning team, we’re probably stronger than we were last year,” said Wilkins. “I think we have a real good shot at a first-ever medal in the national championship for an Ontario team.”

Nationals will be held at Holland College in Prince Edward

Island on March 9. Humber is among the eight teams that are set to compete.

The Hawks don’t know who their first-round opponent will be as the rankings have yet to be released. Dean Wylie, assistant coach, said they’re doing their research on the competition in order to prepare for games to come.

Wylie said they study how the other teams play and train in accordance to their tactics.

“If they’re a big offensive team, we have to work on our defense. If they’re a big defensive team, we’ll have to work on our offense and just balance that out,” said Wylie. “We’ve got a pretty balanced attack for both sides so serving and passing is going to be critical for us.”

Training is very time consuming, Wilkins said. On average, the team trains three to four times a week with competitions almost every weekend. That preparation was central to the team’s performance last year, where they came in fourth place at nationals.

“It’s non-stop. Every day they’re having to manage their time between sports and academics,” said Wilkins.

Graduating senior Deborah Mitchell said getting to where she is as an athlete and a student takes a lot of dedication.

“If you’re working and you

have classes and you have practice you don’t really have time for yourself to do anything but you make the time because it’s something that you love,” said Mitchell.

But even though she’s doing something she loves, Mitchell said being an athlete takes a toll on her body.

“With the constant jumping and moving around – your body does hurt. You have to be proactive and go into therapy as regularly as possible,” said Mitchell. “Normally after practice I’ll go in the ice tub to ice down my body to prevent me from being in pain the next day.”

Mitchell and teammate Thalia Hanniman provided the team with some city recognition with an appearance on Breakfast Television on Monday.

“It was a great experience to kind of put Humber on the map,” said Mitchell. “Any other young athletes out there who are watching, they know it is possible to succeed in something you really enjoy.”

Between the two players they have never lost a game, resulting in a 105-0 record and earning five OCAA gold medals.

This is the final season Mitchell and Hanniman will compete as Humber Hawks.

Plans for new airport transit hub now looking to get off the ground

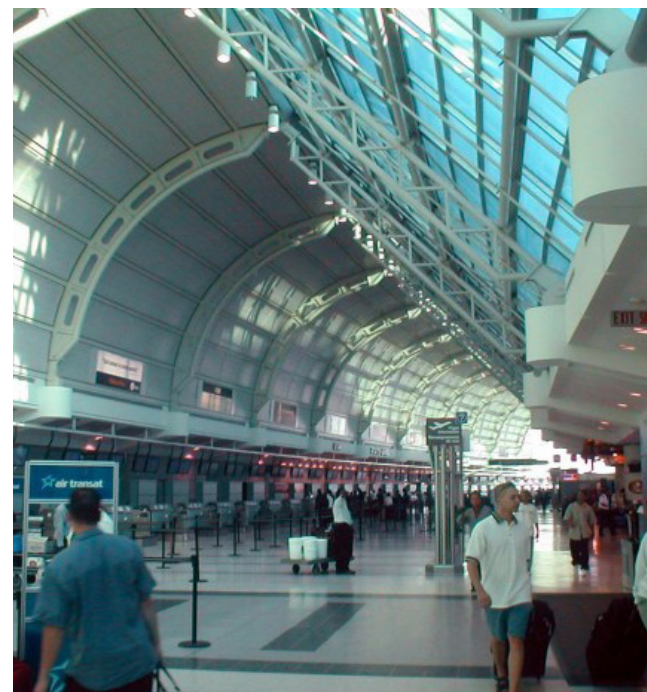
Report calls for building major transport hub to serve employees at Pearson airport, calls Toronto an ‘aerotropolis’

Phil Witmer
SENIOR REPORTER

The Greater Toronto Airports Authority wants to introduce a transit hub the size of Union Station in the Toronto Pearson area to ease transit for the airport’s employees and passengers.

According to a report released on Monday, the GTAA and Urban Strategies Inc. are proposing a multi-modal hub, known as “Pearson Hub” that would alleviate the “extremely limited” transit options for the approximately 40,000 workers in the Airport Employment Zone.

Other airports operating on a similar scale, such as London’s Heathrow International, Amsterdam’s Schiphol International and Dusseldorf International, implement transit hubs to link to their respective metropolitan areas, with



Flickr/Hellomike

Employees at Pearson International Airport have limited option when it comes to getting to and from work

high rates of transit share between airport employees and air passengers.

The GTAA report argues that Pearson Airport’s globally competitive status requires it to catch up with other large international airports.

The report also says that a Pearson hub will reduce traffic and bring further economic opportunity to Toronto Pearson by allowing

easier access from downtown Toronto and surrounding areas.

Toronto is referred to as an “aerotropolis” – an airport city – in the report, and the GTAA points out that such areas invite “high value enterprises that would not otherwise locate in the region.”

No definite plans have been set in place for the Pearson Hub project.