

HUMBER ETCETERA

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Humber groups split on same-sex marriage debate

MUENI KITHUKA
NEWS REPORTER

Just like the rest of the country, members of the Humber community are split on the issue same-sex marriage.

Prime Minister Paul Martin's Liberal government introduced legislation last week which would change the definition of marriage to include same-sex couples.

The Humber Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered club supports the move.

"With Martin there, we're optimistic the legislation will go through," said club president Cameron McKenzie.

He also acknowledged the club's involvement in the on-going same sex-marriage debate.

"Organizations like the Canadians for Equal Marriage email us and try to get us involved either through voting, rallies or voicing our opinions."

But religious groups at Humber had a different view on the issue.
Najmuddin Mohammed,

spokesperson for the Humber Muslim Association, believes in the traditional definition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman and does not think the definition should be changed.

"If the government wants to treat the same-sex marriage issue as an equality issue, they can grant same-sex couples civil unions and grant them benefits they feel they don't get as married couples, without changing the definition of marriage."

Humber College chaplain Rev. Len Thomas is opposed to the same-sex unions from a biblical and social standpoint, but thinks that everyone is free to choose the kind of lifestyle they want to live.

"Religion is trying to reveal the truth to people. It's up to the people to decide whether they want to receive that or not," Thomas said.

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A newsroom divided: Our staff joins the debate, see *Opinion*, p. 7

Cramped for space

Students take refuge at Guelph-Humber to escape overcrowding

BRAD GAGNON
SPECIAL TO ETCETERA

Humber College's North Campus is running out of private study

space; many students are heading through the tunnel to the University of Guelph-Humber to find a quiet place to study between classes.

According to HSF President Jennifer Green, Humber students get only 65.74 sq. ft. per student. The Ontario college system average is 114.34 sq. ft.

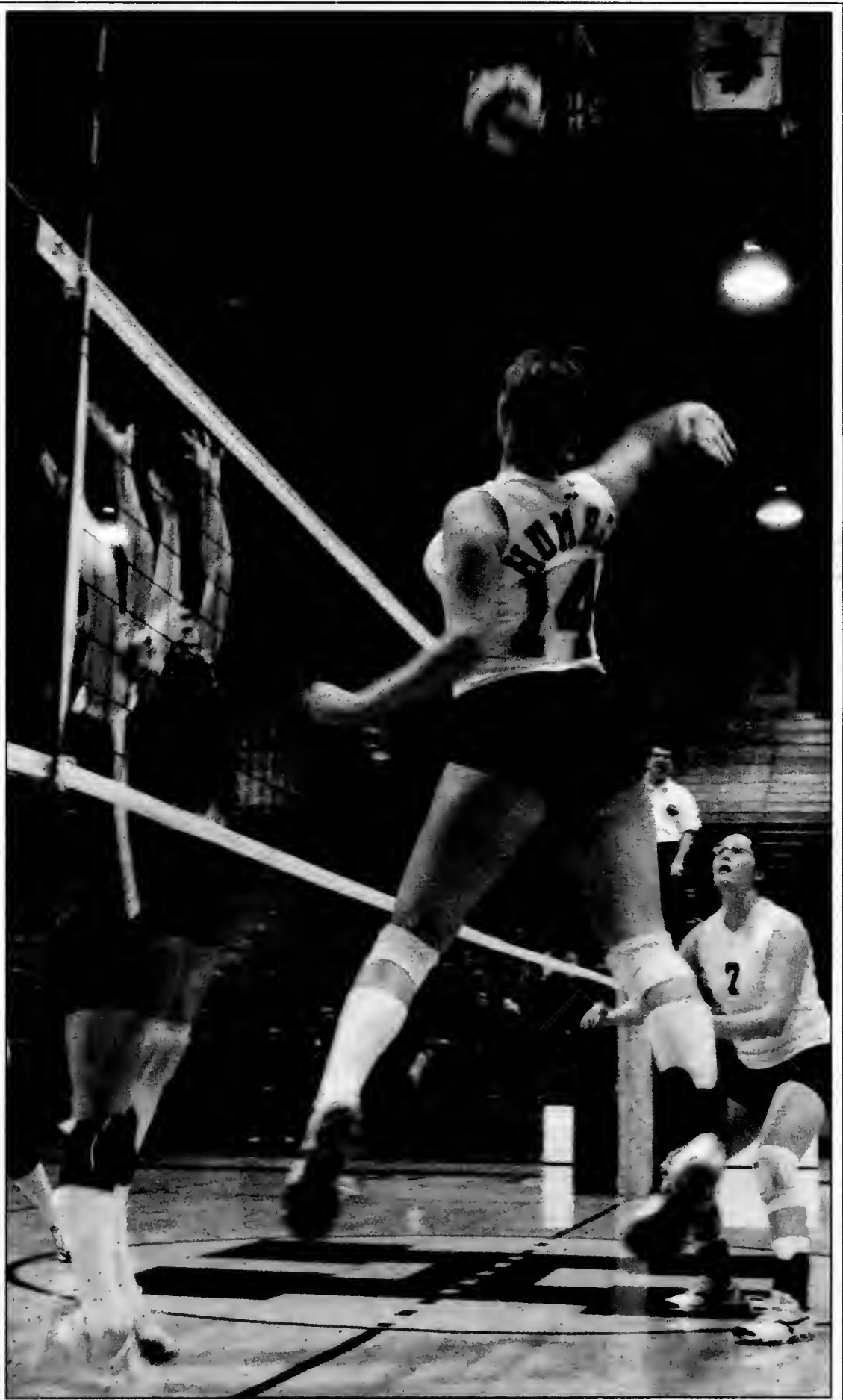
"We grew so quickly over the past five years our student population has almost doubled," Green said.

An ad hoc survey of a Guelph-Humber common area last week revealed the majority of students were from Humber.

Of 80 students working on the second-floor computers, 57 per cent were from Humber.

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What's Inside



ALESSANDRO GAROFALO

Humber's undefeated volleyball teams fly high

Amanda Arlette delivers a crashing spike against Redeemer College to extend her team's perfect 11-0 record. Humber's men's team is also undefeated with an amazing 10 wins. See *Sports* p.20

News

Fair gives grads chance to study abroad



Humber's University Fair boasted representatives from across the globe including Helen McCart of the University of Western Sydney.

CYNTHIA REASON
NEWS REPORTER

Humber students made a lasting impression on visiting university representatives at the eighth annual University Fair last week.

Representatives spoke very highly of Humber students said Andrew Poulos, organizer of the event.

"They said our students asked great questions and seemed to be well informed and well prepared. I heard again and again how impressed they were," Poulos said.

Representatives from 37 different universities in Canada, the United States and Australia were on-hand in the Student Centre, offering advice on how to transfer credits from Humber diplomas toward a university degree.

Angie Saweczko, a York University rep, said the number of credits a college student can transfer towards a degree at York

depends on the duration of their college program, their grades and the university program they are looking to enter.

"Generally speaking, on a two-year academic-based diploma we will grant up to 30 credits which is equivalent to one year of university," Saweczko said.

For students wishing to continue their education in sunnier climates, reps from two Australian universities were also available.

Helen McCart of the Hamilton-based KOM Consultants spoke on behalf of the University of Western Sydney.

McCart said the University of Western Sydney has an agreement with all Ontario colleges which guarantees graduates of three-year diploma programs two full years credit toward a degree.

"Business students seem to be the majority of the students who take advantage of this. Business degrees in Australia are three

years in duration. College graduates can complete their bachelor of business in one year," she said.

Transfer opportunities also exist in universities south of the border.

Raymond Lew, University of Buffalo rep, touted the flexibility of American programs.

"We offer a hundred different undergraduate degrees (in) engineering, arts and sciences, pharmacy, social work ... pretty much anything that you want to study," he said.

Poulos said Humber students are becoming increasingly interested in continuing their education at the university level.

"Employers like students to have the applied education of a college diploma but they also like to see the theoretical background that is involved in a university degree.

"A combination of a degree and a diploma is great for those who are looking for jobs," he said.

The pill available without Rx?

CLARE TATTERSALL
NEWS REPORTER

The federal government's plan to make the morning-after pill available without a prescription has reignited a long-standing dispute.

"I see it as not a good thing for women," said Natalie Hudson, executive director of the Right to Life Association of Toronto.

The morning-after pill is an emergency contraceptive used after sex to reduce the chance of pregnancy; the pill doesn't protect

against sexually transmitted diseases.

Women in Ontario currently need a doctor's prescription to obtain the pill. However it's already available over-the-counter in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Quebec.

Health Canada plans to rectify this discrepancy by making the pill equally accessible in other provinces within the next three to four months.

Hudson said over-the-counter availability of the pill will give people an excuse to behave in promiscuous and sexually irresponsible ways.

"You just know that if people, especially teenagers, have an easy way out, they're going to take the risk and have unprotected sex."

However, Jamie Slater, communications officer of Planned Parenthood Toronto, disagrees.

"There's no evidence that unprotected sex numbers will increase."

He said there would be fewer unwanted pregnancies and abortions if the pill was more accessible.

"The pill can only be used during a 72-hour window of opportunity."

Some people, particularly teenagers, are afraid to get a prescription.

"They're really embarrassed and

shy to go and talk to a doctor," said 21-year-old Humber student Stephanie Li.

According to Li, who's used the morning-after pill, "it would be easier if it was over-the-counter."

Much of the dispute about the morning-after pill centres on whether taking it is tantamount to abortion.

Right to Life says it is. "Even though pregnancy doesn't begin until implantation, a human is genetically complete at conception," Hudson said.

"The morning-after pill tells your body to reject the egg. Once it does, you've aborted your unborn child."

Hudson is also concerned about the pill's long-term side effects.

"There are no studies to date about what the effects are on women, particularly when they're taking these pills routinely," Hudson said. "(The pill) is a chemical concoction."

But, Planned Parenthood maintains the morning-after pill is not an abortive pill.

"It can take anywhere from one to five days to become pregnant," Slater said. Once the egg is fertilized, the pill won't work."

The morning-after pill is available to full-time students at Humber College's Health Centre. Birth control pills and condoms are also available.

According to Health Canada, the pill has no serious or long-lasting side effects. Minors under the age of 16 can't purchase the pill without parental consent.

Student papers soar

EtCetera among successful school publications

CAROLINE LAURIN
NEWS REPORTER

Students continue to read school papers in record numbers, despite overwhelming distribution of free newspapers by the major dailies at college and university campuses across Ontario.

When the *Toronto Star* first began its campus readership program, many school papers worried their publications would be sunk by the competition. Instead, college papers like the *Humber EtCetera* are doing better than ever.

Despite distribution of the *National Post*, the *Toronto Star* and *The Globe and Mail* around campus, *EtCetera* still attracts readers by maintaining a Humber focus.

"If you want to find out what's going on globally, then you would turn to the major dailies," said *EtCetera* news editor Adam Ledlow. "It's our responsibility to appeal to our demographic. There's no contest. We can't and shouldn't compete (with dailies)."

Frank Salerno, speaking on behalf of the campus readership program for the *Toronto Star*, says school papers are not being affected by its free distribution.

"I think that competition is good," he said. "We're just trying to keep people reading."

Initially the competition did hurt some school papers, like York University's *Excalibur*.

Editor-in-chief Sean Palter explained.

"Our pick-up rate dropped, or at least our pick-up rate did," he said. "Obviously, people went to read the *Star*. It was free so if someone had the choice, the average student would probably pick up the *Star*."

The *Excalibur* has always had strong readership and distributes 15,000 copies per week, making it one of the biggest student papers in Canada. Palter said they were able to take the blow in stride.

He said students involved with the school turn to *Excalibur* for their community news.

The story is the same across the province.

The editor-in-chief of the *Queen's Journal*, Matt Hartley, said that despite initial concern the *Star* hasn't really had much of an impact at Queen's.

"We don't really notice it because we cover Queen's-specific events," he said. "It's quite common to see people walking around with both a copy of the *Star* and the *Journal* under their arm."

At Humber, the pick-up rate of the *EtCetera* is doing so well that there's talk of doubling circulation figures, Journalism program coordinator Terri Arnott said.



Registered nurse Jette Anesenat discusses the use of the morning-after pill with first-year personal support worker Joanne Perricelli.

JAIME TAYLOR

Got milk? Get rid of it!
Sealtest is recalling one-litre containers of 1% chocolate milk dated Feb. 7 bearing the UPC code 0 64420 00170 2. The product may be contaminated with chemical sanitizer.

407 commuter route to be more costly by next week



Students may turn to both public highways and public transit more often, once a rise in 407 tolls takes effect Feb. 7.

GEOFFREY GOODFELLOW
NEWS REPORTER

Traveling to Humber along Highway 407 will be more costly after a planned toll hike Feb. 7.

The news follows a month which saw rising gas prices and speculation that the Toronto Transit Commission would hike fares in 2005.

The provincial government challenged the 407 toll raise until Ontario Superior Court Justice Maurice Cullity's Jan. 6 decision, which upheld "that the agreements entered into by the province in 1999 did not require 407 ETR to obtain the consent, or approval, of the province to increases in toll rates and administration fees."

407 ETR Commission Company Ltd. has operated the highway privately since 1999.

The former Conservative government sold the remaining shares in the project and granted the 407 ETR a 99-year lease to operate the highway.

Liberal Transportation Minister Harinder Takhar said "this deal and this consortium have to be held more accountable to the people of Ontario."

For students and faculty traveling to and from Humber's North Campus four days a week between Jan. 10 and Apr. 29 (excluding reading week), the toll raise represents a \$27.60 increase, if traveling from as far east as Highway 7; a \$36 increase if traveling from as far west as the QEW; or a \$12.60

way and service our \$4-billion debt, the rates must be increased."

While the 407 remains a quick route to get to Humber, transportation costs for students are rising on all fronts.

On Dec. 8, the *Toronto Star* reported that Mayor David Miller and TTC Chair Howard Moscoe insisted TTC fares would be raised in 2005, a move Premier Dalton McGuinty has discouraged.

A monthly TTC student pass already costs \$88.75, nearly \$20 more expensive than any transit system in Canada and comes with conditional use of Toronto's commuter GO Transit system.

In Vancouver, students pay \$69 per month for total access to both city and commuter transit systems. In Ottawa a monthly student pass costs \$51.75, while in Montreal a student pass is \$32.50 per month.

Students tired of paying for public transit can always choose the grid lock of public highways.

While idling away in traffic, keep in mind the average price of gas in the GTA has risen from 68 cents per litre to 77 cents per litre since early December.

"If we are to maintain good traffic flow, improve the highway and service our \$4-billion debt, rates must be increased."

-Dale Albers, 407 spokesperson

increase if traveling from Mississauga.

"Traffic increased over eight percent in 2004," said Dale Albers, spokesperson for the 407 ETR. "But if we are to maintain good traffic flow, improve the high-

Etobicoke MPs split on same-sex vote

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Cameron, however, said religion is a good thing but is taken too literally.

"If religion can't get past sexuality, how will it get to homosexuality?"

The same-sex marriage legislation is putting emphasis on civil marriage for same-sex couples.

If the bill passes, same-sex marriages will be recognized by the Government of Canada.

Etobicoke North MP Ray Cullen opposes the legislation.

"I will not support the govern-

ment's vote. It's a free bill. I don't see same-sex marriage as a human right but as a social policy."

Cullen said the vast majority of his constituents would like to preserve the traditional definition of marriage.

Conversely, MP for Etobicoke Lakeshore Jean Augustine said she will vote for the legislation.

"I see it as a human right and as an important right under the Charter of those who want to be married, so I will vote 'yes'."

Augustine said her constituents, like many Canadians, are divided on the issue.

Homeless protest proposed ban

"Get a job" says local councillor

JEREMY LLOYD
IN FOCUS REPORTER

More than 100 protesters swarmed Toronto city council Tuesday, calling for municipal politicians to vote against a proposed ban on sleeping in public areas.

The Ontario Coalition Against Poverty and the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee jointly organized the demonstration to fight the city's new plan for dealing with the homeless.

"From the Street into Homes" is a plan which recommends building 1,000 new housing units per year and allotting half of them for subsidization.

The plan also calls for a new downtown shelter and increased funding for outreach programs.

"I think there was a pretty clear message sent that people are angry about this plan and they're not going away," said Michael Shapcott, TDRC research coordinator.

Council was in recess when protesters arrived and began yelling from the gallery. Kevin Clarke, homeless until five months ago, yelled, "Where is this city's mayor?"

A homeless man known only as The Colonel responded, "He's too chicken to face us."

When council reconvened, protesters moved out of the gallery and entered the chamber area chanting, "Housing now!"

Mayor David Miller called a recess and did not reconvene the meeting until the room was cleared half an hour later.

During the protest, Rob Ford, councillor for Ward 2, where Humber College's North Campus is located, shouted at the protesters.

"Get a job," Ford yelled several times.

John Clarke, a protest organizer from OCAP, grabbed a bullhorn and condemned council for trying to "socially cleanse" the homeless.

"David Miller, don't you try to fool anyone," Clarke said. "You have nothing to do with social justice. You are a lackey of the developers ... you make us sick and we are going to fight you."

When asked by reporters if he thought the new bylaw would pass, Clarke responded, "I think Miller's probably got it in the bag."

"People don't sleep on the street because they make eccentric lifestyle choices," Clarke said. "They sleep on the street because they have no alternative."

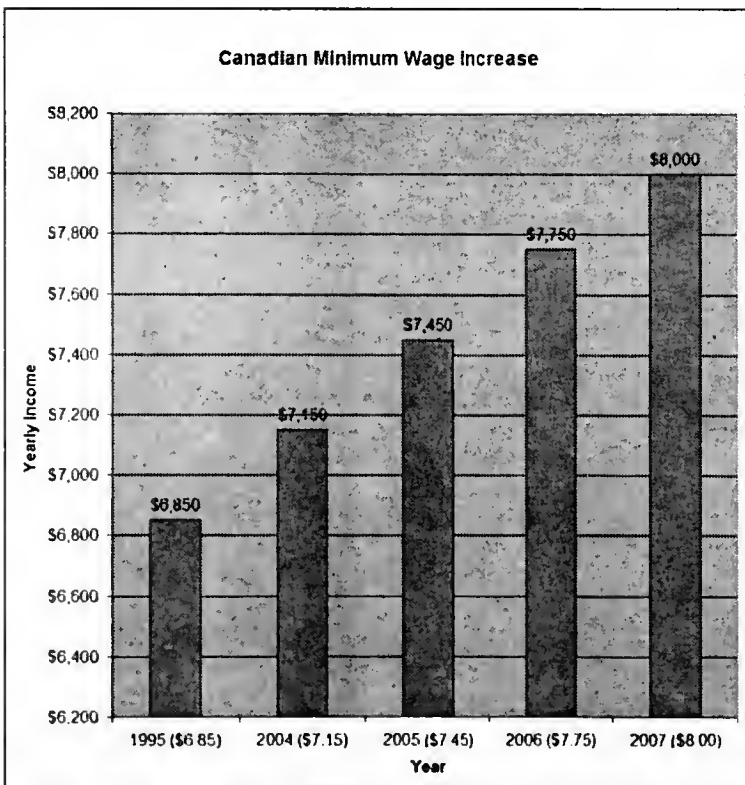
The protest ended peacefully at 2:30 p.m. with

council still in recess.

The plan first faced opposition at last month's policy and finance committee meeting, but there is sympathy for the protesters among city council.

Ward 22 councillor Michael Walker said the protest reinforced his vote against what he called the "vagrancy bylaw."

"(The protesters) made a statement and left peacefully," Walker said. "That's what local grassroots government is all about."



Note: Figures are based on a 20-hour work week over a 50 week period (You need a couple weeks for vacation time, right?)



A homeless protester known as The Colonel voices his opinion on the proposed ban during a recess at Toronto city council Tuesday.

News

Ryerson seminar tackles confidentiality problems



MELISSA MONOSKY

Hamilton Spectator reporter, Ken Peters and Stevie Cameron, an independent journalist, take part in a seminar at Ryerson about the difficulties journalists' face to protect sources.

Journalists forced to court over sources

MELISSA MONOSKY
NEWS REPORTER

Ottawa Citizen reporter Juliet O'Neill peeked out her window last year to see her driveway filled with police cars.

Ten officers were on O'Neill's doorstep with a warrant to search her home and office.

Police wanted O'Neill to reveal a confidential source she had used for a story about the arrest and deportation of Syrian-born Maher Arar.

Arar, a Toronto resident, was accused by American intelligence officials of having terrorist ties to the United States.

O'Neill and her employer CanWest have since spent \$240,000 fighting for her right to protect her source.

O'Neill was among four prominent Canadian journalists who discussed the issue of confidential sources at a recent Ryerson

University panel.

Investigative journalists fear expensive lawsuits, or the possibility of offending people in power, will stop other journalists from reporting serious stories.

Investigative reporter and author Stevie Cameron said as time goes on, fewer and fewer reporters will tackle stories that require serious interviews with police.

"They fear their interviews and discussions will not be confidential and will be disclosed to defense

"If you reveal a source, you might as well tender your resignation at the same time."

-Ken Peters, Hamilton Spectator

confidentiality and when they cannot.

"Right now, we're working in a murky minefield," he said.

In December, Peters was judged in contempt of court and fined \$31,600 for refusing to reveal a source used to investigate concerns about poor patient treatment at a Hamilton nursing home. TorStar Publishing, owner of the *Hamilton Spectator*, paid the fine.

"I went through a situation that I shouldn't have had to go through, but I would do it again because I felt the story was important enough," Peters said.

Despite the ruling, Peter's actions set an example for ethical journalism.

But what becomes of freelancers in the same position without the financial safety net of publisher capital?

Ben Rycroft, a third year journalism student at Humber, hopes Peters' conviction will affect how reporters go about their jobs.

"A great deal of investigative journalism is based on trust. Trust of a source's confidentiality, the trust a reporter feels knowing he can go after big stories without fear of legal reprisal," Rycroft said.

He fears that without confidentiality journalists will lose sources. Peters justified those concerns.

"If you reveal a source, you might as well tender your resignation at the same time. To roll on a source that you've given your word to, I would find it very difficult to work in my newsroom after that."

counsel," she said.

Cameron has been defending herself in court over allegations she'd been a confidential informant for the RCMP, a designation she says she never sought or consented to. After a little over a year, her legal fees sit at \$100,000.

Journalists have argued in favour of a shield law that would protect them from having to reveal sources and avoid costly lawsuits.

Ken Peters of the *Hamilton Spectator* says a shield law could clarify when journalists can have

More cuts worry nursing students

Thousands of nursing jobs on the cutting block

CLARE TATTERSALL
NEWS REPORTER

The Ontario Nurses' Association has warned that 2,000 hospital workers, including 757 nurses, will be laid off by March 31.

Linda Haslam-Stroud, president of the ONA, warned more cuts are on the way.

"About 8,700 more health care professionals will be cut in the following year. We don't know how

many will be nurses but thousands will be cut."

In his last election campaign, Premier Dalton McGuinty had promised 8,000 new nursing positions by the end of his mandate yet the Health Council of Canada recently reported the province is on the verge of a nursing crisis.

To ease the crisis, Health Minister George Smitherman announced last week a "one-time \$200-million transitional fund" to help hospitals balance their budgets.

Almost half the cash will be used to cover severance package costs for outgoing employees.

According to the Canadian

Institute for Health Information, Ontario is currently short 11,000 registered nurses.

Executive director of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, Doris Grinspun, attended a nursing rally Friday at Queen's Park.

"Nurses are running 100 miles an hour," she said in an interview. "If you don't have enough nurses to respond to patient care needs, patients get frustrated and take it out on nurses."

"I'm having doubts about going into nursing," said Alliah Over, president of Humber College's nursing society.

Over, a third-year nursing student, said she's thinking about moving to the United States.

"Ontario hospitals are cutting full-time positions. The States offer signing bonuses and there's a broader scope of practice there."

According to the CIHI, only 57 per cent of nurses currently work full-time.

"There's a waiting list three to four years long for these jobs" and nursing graduates are at the bottom of the list, said the ONA's Haslam-Stroud.

Hussein Jaffer, HSF bachelor of nursing program representative, realizes he may have to compromise to stay in the city.

"I prefer internal medicine but there's been a lot of cutbacks," he said. "I might not find work in the sector of nursing I want but there will be jobs in geriatric care and community-based practices."

Haslam-Stroud said a lot of nursing students aren't interested in community care.

"There's no wage parity, benefits, contracts and job security. You're treated as a disposable commodity."

College now out of study space

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"It's a better place to do your homework than the cafeteria," said chemical engineering student Chris Berry.

Humber's four-floor library has plenty of nooks for students to settle into but some still don't find it user friendly.

"In the library, I find it gets very loud and people are more rowdy," says Bernadette Budetic, a Humber law clerk student.

Jacqueline Arseneault, a travel and tourism student and part-time English tutor, insists that all of her tutoring sessions take place at Guelph-Humber because there is no sensible place at Humber.

"There is the cafeteria, but it's loud and it smells like hamburgers," she said.

Humber library clerk Brian Crowle sympathizes with the students. He said study space is becoming sparse.

"The quiet study hall is open 24/7 and it gets used 24/7. It may

be becoming too small."

Humber's Board of Governors responded to the frustrations in a report released last week.

It includes an initiative to increase study space on campus.

VP of Admin. John Davies said the need for informal learning space is one of the most crucial needs at Humber.

Humber's BOG is requesting \$26 million from the ministry to fund expansion projects.

Davies said a fraction of that money would be used to improve informal learning space.

It would also include additional classroom space, more student service facilities and a new main entrance.

Green mentioned that Humber's biggest obstacle in trying to expand is that there is really no space left.

"We don't have any more space at either of our campuses to go anywhere. It's hard to put more room where there is no room."



DAVID JUTZI

Studies performed at Toronto area universities and organizations showed a 1 per cent increase in student pot use since 2001.

Smoking marijuana among students hits all-time high

Torontonians split on pot laws

DAVID JUTZI
NEWS REPORTER

A Toronto research group says student pot use is at an all-time high.

According to a recent study, 24 per cent of teenage students surveyed claim to have tried marijuana at least once. This figure is up from 23 per cent in 2001.

Studies were performed at a number of universities and organizations including Toronto Police and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

With more people using the drug illegally, some think it's high time marijuana is legalized altogether.

"It was a mistake from the beginning to prohibit a God-given natural substance that does more benefit than harm," said Dominic Cramer, owner of the Toronto Hemp Company.

"Medicinally it's got enormous benefits-pain reliever, anti-nausea, and stress relief," Cramer said. Those against looser marijuana legislation fear it could lead to potentially life-threatening situations.

"Our concern with decriminalization is that there could be an increase in impaired driving," said

Wanda Kristensen, director of programs for Mothers Against Drunk Driving Canada.

"Marijuana mellow you out, you can't focus on more than one thing at a time."

Reaction to the debate is mixed among Humber students.

"As long as there's a structured rule system it should be okay," said business management student Amy Chiasslm, 19.

"In my opinion it's pretty stupid," said Jason Silveira, a first-year hotel and restaurant management student. "If we legalize marijuana, what's to stop the government from legalizing other drugs?"

Pair of students cash in on safety idea in Concepts for Cash contest

Humber contest awards public safety promotion

LAURA THOMPSON
NEWS REPORTER

Humber students Aleksandra Gusta and Taylor Kopachynski are taking their ideas of improved public safety to the bank.

The third-year public relations students were awarded \$250 each

after winning Concepts for Cash, a proposal-writing contest to raise the profile of Humber's Department of Public Safety.

Their project proposed redeveloping the Department of Public Safety's website and having academic programs become more closely involved with the department.

Christina Zgela, HSF VP Admin at Lakeshore, who developed the initiative with the help of Humber's Director of Public Safety, Gary Jeynes, said the HSF is committed to getting the winning ideas implemented.

"Hopefully public safety will have a bigger presence on campus," Zgela said. "That's the idea."

Gusta and Kopachynski said it made sense to work on the project as a team.

"We work well together. We've been in the program for three years. We know our abilities," Gusta said. "Together we were able to create a strong proposal that reflected both of our PR skills."

Gusta accepted the \$500 cheque on Jan. 21. Kopachynski, who is interning with NORAD this semester, could not attend the ceremony.

"It's getting knowledge to the students and trying to understand how they feel."

-Gary Jeynes, Public Safety

In addition to the cash prize, the winners also received a letter of recommendation from Humber's VP Admin, John Davies.

"Having that student voice is really important in terms of planning for the sort of work that we do to keep students safe on this campus," he said.

Jeynes said the cornerstone of the competition was to find out how to communicate safety issues to students.

"If they have any security issues we'd like to know, because it's not how safe you are, it's how safe you think you are," he said.

Davies said several improvements have boosted public safety on both campuses.

Surveillance cameras have been installed on the walkway between the east and west campuses at Lakeshore and the lighting and emergency systems at bus shelters have been improved.

Students to take part in Queen's Park protest today

REBECCA GRANT
NEWS REPORTER

Humber students will join protestors from across Ontario at Queen's Park today to oppose the Rae Review's recommendations for post secondary education.

The review will be released later this month and is expected to call for tuition increases and for student loan repayments to become linked to income.

The Canadian Federation of Students organized the demonstration across the province.

Buses will be transporting students to the protest from both campuses.

Departure times are 11 a.m. from the west entrance in A building at Lakeshore and 12 p.m. from the main entrance beside the library at North Campus.



The minimum wage is going up.

If you're an employer, here's what you need to know.

	General Minimum Wage	Students under 18 and working not more than 28 hours per week or during a school holiday	Liquor Server	Hunting & Fishing Guides: for less than five consecutive hours in a day	Hunting & Fishing Guides: for five or more hours in a day whether or not the hours are consecutive	Homeworkers (people doing paid work in their home for an employer)
Current wage rate	\$7.15/hour	\$6.70/hour	\$6.20/hour	\$35.75	\$71.50	110% of the minimum wage
Feb. 1, 2005 wage rate	\$7.45/hour	\$6.95/hour	\$6.50/hour	\$37.25	\$74.50	110% of the minimum wage

On February 1, 2005, the general minimum wage will increase to \$7.45 per hour from the current rate of \$7.15 per hour. Annual increases will follow bringing the general minimum wage to \$8.00 per hour on February 1, 2007. The increases are being phased in over four years and will also be reflected in all minimum wage categories.

To find out more about how the new minimum wage guidelines affect employers and employees, call or visit the Ministry of Labour web site.

1-800-531-5551 www.gov.on.ca/LAB

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Editorial

Democracy: an objective Iraqis risked lives for

This past Sunday an estimated 8-million men and women, young and old, took to the war-torn streets of Iraq and did what some Canadians take for granted.

For the first time in 50 years, the Iraqi people got to vote in a free and democratic election.

They did so even as the blasts of nine reported suicide bombers rang throughout the country, bravely standing up to the threat of death to cast their vote.

Iraqis are sending a clear message to the insurgents: they are not afraid anymore; they are willing to risk their lives for democratic freedom.

More than 50 per cent of registered Iraqi voters turned out at the polls. In contrast, less than 61 per cent of Canadians voted in the June election.

To the cynics, who believed the Iraqi election would not come to fruition, Iraqi voters have showcased their resilience and understanding of how important their vote is.

Despite what we may think of the U.S. led invasion of Iraq, the election would not have been possible if not for the American military presence.

For those involved, it is clear that the freedom of a future democracy is an ideal worth fighting for.

For Iraqis, this is the first step of what is to be a long journey rebuilding their country.

Canadians should take note that people are willing to die just to cast a vote. With the possibility of another Canadian federal election in the near future, we have been reminded that voting is a luxury we shouldn't take for granted.

Time for Chrétien to face the music

Jean Chrétien has been out of office for over a year, but is making headlines this week over an issue that casts a growing shadow on his legacy.

Lawyers for the former prime minister were in Ottawa this week demanding that Justice John Gomery step down from his role as head of the sponsorship inquiry.

They argue off-the-cuff remarks about the scandal Gomery made in recent interviews would taint the probe, and that Chrétien would therefore not receive fair treatment during the proceedings.

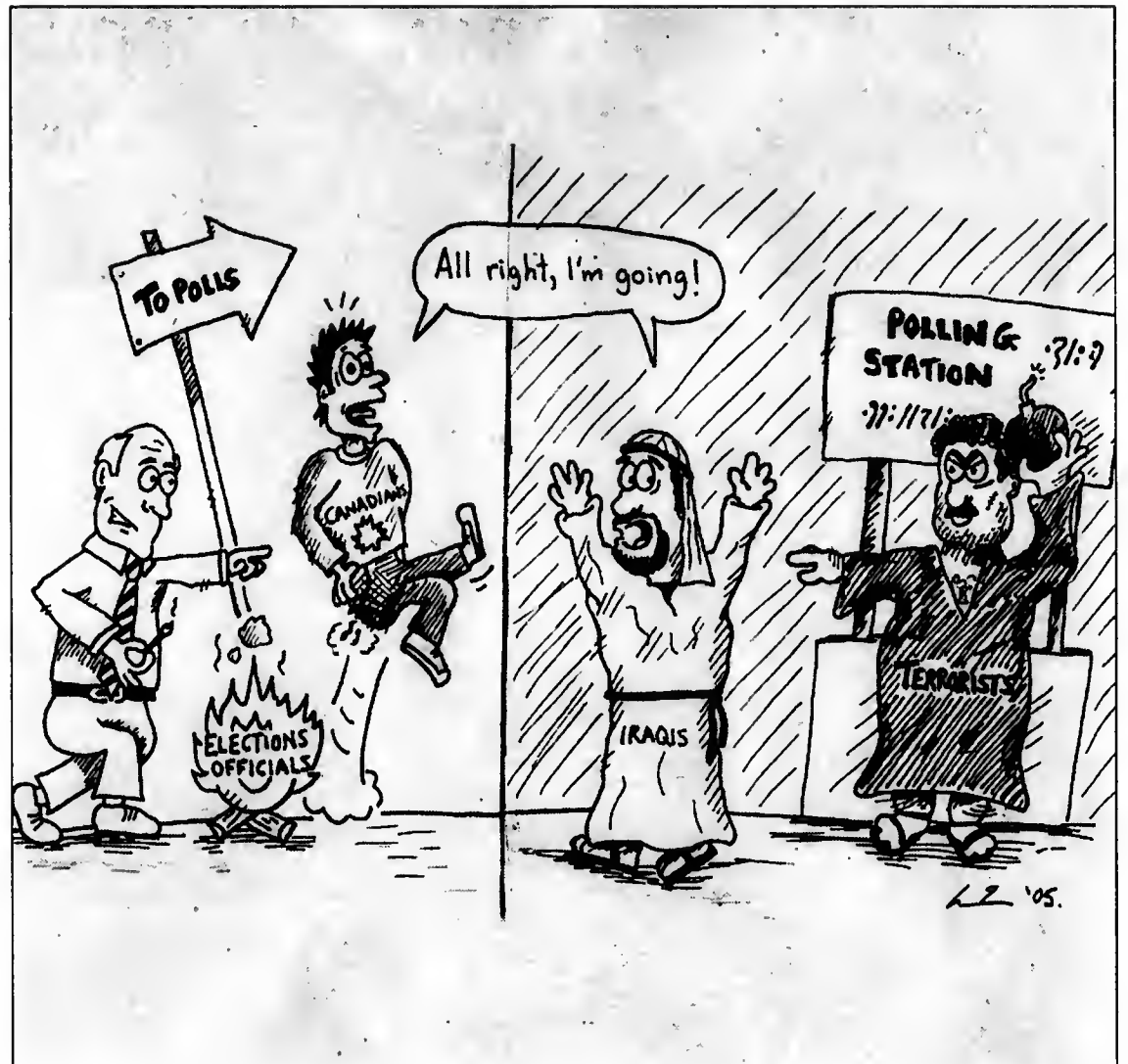
The inquiry is looking into which parties were responsible for creating and mismanaging over \$250 million in a federal sponsorship program in Québec.

Much to Chrétien's disappointment, Gomery announced Tuesday that he refused to step down from the bench.

While Chrétien has a right to question Gomery's objectivity, these charges come five months into the investigation, which has already cost taxpayers \$60 million. No other parties involved in the inquiry have voiced concern over Gomery's ability to run a fair and judicious inquiry.

If Gomery had stepped down, it would have further delayed the inquiry, costing more money to taxpayers, as well as doing a disservice to a public already waiting months for answers from the former prime minister.

What Chrétien needs to do is give up complicating the probe with more legal disputes, step up to the plate and accept accountability with his side of the story.



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opinion
does matter.
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Letters to the Editor

The writing is not on the wall...

Dear Editor

Re: "The Writing's on the wall..."
Jan. 27

In Mr. Campos's article, he claims that it rattles his brain that he has to read quotes from "ignorant members of the community" telling him how safe they feel because the graffiti has been removed. He doesn't understand why graffiti instills such fear in the community.

As a second-year Police Foundations student, and having been part of a graffiti eradication program (CAVE) for over a year, I have seen many presentations on the effects that graffiti has on a community.

When you walk into a community that has been hit by graffiti, you get an immediate sense of dis-

connectedness and the feeling that no one cares about the way their community looks.

You get the impression that the vandals own the community, therefore, you are afraid of going out into it.

Imagine you are a criminal and you walk into this disconnected community that is plagued with graffiti. Wouldn't you find it more tempting to commit your criminal acts (robbery, mugging, dealing drugs, prostitution, etc) there because the community doesn't seem to care?

That, Mr. Campos, is how graffiti is related to violence/crime. Now you are in the "loop."

Matt Sisler
Police Foundations

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205 Humber College Blvd., Etobicoke, ON, M9W 5L7
Phone: 416.675.6622 ext. 4514
Advertising inquiries: 416.675.6622 ext. 5007

Opinion

Divided they stand: The same-sex marriage debate

"...I do"



**BROOKES
MERRITT**

Same-sex marriage is legal in seven provinces and two territories. I'm in favour of legalizing it across the country.

Debate over the issue is taking place in two arenas: that of religion and that of civil rights.

I understand the fervor with which religious fundamentalists object to the debate. Their arguments are rooted in long-standing traditions; to support an issue contrary to their values would be conflicting.

Fortunately, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms says we are free to disagree with same-sex marriage on religious grounds. It says that all minority groups are entitled – and should expect – to be treated equitably under the law.

It also states that religious communities (specifically in this case, Canadian Roman Catholics), are not free to impose their beliefs.

The proposed legislation to legalize same-sex marriage addresses those who condone and condemn the practice.

Depth of faith is an entirely idiosyncratic concept; no two Christians express their beliefs in the same manner or to the same degree. In Canada, we are free to follow whichever faith we choose, in whichever manner brings us the most comfort.

Stripped of its proverbial robes, religious opposition to this issue essentially argues that traditional, faith-specific beliefs should be placed above all others that do not conform.

Such insistence is exclu-

sionary and further marginalizes minority groups. It smacks of the same crippling prejudice that existed in Europe before World War II. Many believed then it was acceptable to limit the freedoms of gypsies, Jews, homosexuals and others considered lesser than themselves.

Fifty years later, despite the progress of the civil rights movement and the emancipation of women, today's religious opposition to same-sex marriage smacks of that same intolerance.

In regards to civil rights, preventing homosexuals from marrying simply to preserve the definition and social sanctity of an institution is quite simply discrimination.

Right-wing opponents and Conservative party members have gone so far as to suggest the legalization of same-sex marriage will bring about the moral dissolution of our society; spawning untold numbers of polygamist communes, underground adoption rings, even an industry boom for Canadian pornography – all of which are unfounded.

The Netherlands has been performing legal, religious, same-sex marriage ceremonies for years. The moral fiber of their society has never suffered; in fact, Holland is consistently rated as one of the most desirable countries in which to live.

This legislation emphasizes the civil nature of marriage, a public institution and the ultimate demonstration of two people's commitment to each other.

Yes, it will redefine the legal definition of the word "marriage," but in terms of our society, I suggest that

redefinition took place long ago. Rather than speculate on how homosexual unions will dismantle the institution, heterosexuals should examine why more than 1/3 of straight marriages end in divorce.

The segregation of any community identifies it as an "other." By definition, "others" are not the same. Nor are they equal.

Agree? Disagree? Tell us.

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That is why the Supreme Court of Canada has routinely upheld the notion that such discrimination is illegal.

Political leaders like Stephen Harper should be ashamed that instead of showing leadership and promoting unification they are fostering attitudes of segregation and bigotry.

Such principles are abhorrent – no matter how well masked they are in political and religious righteousness.

"...but I don't"



**DANA
BROWN**

As a Canadian I am protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. As a woman under the Charter, I am guaranteed equality with men. I have the same rights and benefits as a man, but do not need to become a man to enjoy them. I am separate, but equal.

Canadians operate on the premise of live and let live. Our ideology is central to how we define ourselves as a country and necessary in a nation as diverse as ours. We demand everybody be treated equally and with respect. I am not challenging the fundamental importance of those points. But I do challenge the notion that the definition of traditional marriage needs to be changed in order to achieve equality and respect for same-sex unions.

I do not come from a place of fear, intolerance, hate or judgment. I live in downtown Toronto, just outside the Village, and have gay and lesbian friends. I believe consenting adults have the right to make their own decisions about how they live their life. I believe when it comes to taxes, pensions and health benefits, everyone should have the same access, regardless of the sex of their partner. But I also believe these things can be accomplished through a civil union, something which can be separate but equal.

Given the uniqueness of what is possible in a heterosexual marriage (i.e.: sustaining the population through procreation), society

as a whole has a vested interest in maintaining the one-man/one-woman framework. Traditional marriage has historically, and continues to, act as an anchor for our society.

But that does not mean we cannot move forward, recognizing and respecting other forms of commitment as well.

One of the wonderful things about Canada is that we do not try to assimilate everyone into one homogenous culture, but explore and are comfortable with the differences between us.

Civil unions would provide a way for us to add to our social framework without devaluing the important role of traditional marriage.

Unfortunately, the government does not agree with the civil union route and last Tuesday introduced legislation to change the definition of marriage to include same-sex couples.

One of the major flaws with the legislation, as it now stands, is its failure to protect people of faith who oppose the change. Not religious officials and institutions, but people trying to live their lives on a daily basis according to principles fundamental to their faith.

In Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia provincial marriage commissioners have been told to resign if they are unwilling to perform same-sex marriages, even if that opposition is based on their religion – another Charter-enshrined right.

In this case, it appears one group must concede a right for another to gain one. That is not equality either. That is just picking sides. And unfortunately, right now it comes down to each side just hoping their team will be the ones picked.

Public Opinion

Do you support same-sex marriage?



"Yeah, sure, why not? If people want to get married, then why not?"

-Kristin Hames
1st year Landscape
Technician



"The government shouldn't have any business in who you spend the rest of your life with."

-Katie Hagan
2nd year Business
Management



"No, because for me, same sex marriage is weird for Asian people."

-Danny Tinh
1st year Business
Marketing



"I don't really have a problem with it, as long as it isn't pushed on me."

-Brad Lancop
2nd year
Marketing



"Well, I find it to be totally wrong."

-Daniel Ntoto
1st year Electrical
Engineer

AIDS in Africa: A human tragedy that can't be overlooked



**BROOKE
KERR**

The tsunami in South Asia has prompted unprecedented donations from the international community. More than \$4 billion has already been pledged. Creditor nations have placed a debt moratorium on the countries most devastated.

Over the holidays, the media covered the tsunami heavily. If the same attention was paid to Africa, millions of lives could be saved.

Africa is so far in debt that there is no hope of repayment. In

each country, more than 70 per cent of revenue generated is paid toward a giant debt that makes the rich even richer. This system has created some of the world's poorest countries.

In 2000 the United Nations devised the Millennium Development Goals program – designed to halve poverty, achieve universal education and reduce infant mortality by 2015. The goals also cover HIV/AIDS, gender equity and poverty.

Each rich nation promised a small amount yearly to achieve the goals.

The goals now serve as a reminder of a failed commitment.

At the current rate of giving, the MDG will be met 150 years late. To date Africa is owed \$260 billion in promised aid. Still debt pay-

"Many people in remote African areas have never heard of HIV/AIDS."

ments have to be made. There is no interest accumulating on the pledges, but there is plenty

on Africa's debt.

More than 75 per cent of people with HIV/AIDS live in Africa. This could easily eradicate the population. The media needs to cover this epidemic with the same tenacity as the tsunami effort.

Many people in remote African areas have never heard of HIV/AIDS.

People care for the sick and have sex without protection because they don't know they need it. There are so many sick, that the economy has been fractured on many levels. Money needed to educate people about HIV/AIDS simply isn't there.

By 2010 there will be 30 mil-

lion children in Africa, who have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS.

Most of the world's orphans are African. Many children live and die in poverty with nobody to care for them. Thousands of children die each day. Many turn to child prostitution, which is growing steadily. Little is being done to protect them.

The tsunami donations demonstrate the power of the international community to help.

If more attention was paid to what is happening to Africa, real change could start. It's time for the world to start caring about what is happening to Africa.

Business



Only 10 per cent of Victoria's Secret's catalogues use recycled paper.

Dirty laundry hung out to dry

U.S. lingerie company Victoria's Secret accused of logging endangered forest to print catalogues

CHRISTEN SMITH
BUSINESS REPORTER

Victoria's Secret recently received some unwanted exposure when environmental groups took out a full-page ad in *The New York Times*, accusing the company of destroying Canada's boreal forests.

The ad asked readers to pressure the lingerie company to stop printing catalogues on paper made from trees in Alberta's northern foothills.

"The cost of these catalogues isn't sexy," reads the ad, featuring a winged model wearing a bustier and holding a chainsaw. "They're printed on paper made from some of the world's last remaining endangered forests."

The campaign, led by U.S.-based advocacy group ForestEthics, wants consumers to change their paper consumption habits and decrease impact on the largest ancient forest left in North America.

"The Canadian boreal is being logged at enormous rates for mainly U.S. products," said Tzaporah Berman, program director for ForestEthics, in an interview from San Francisco. "Eighty per cent goes to the States."

Victoria's Secret prints 450-million catalogues a year. ForestEthics took aim at the high-profile lingerie chain because it has the capacity to influence logging practices.

"After launching this campaign

last March, we entered into discussions with all six logging companies originally targeted," Berman said. "Shortly after, Victoria's Secret renewed a major paper contract with an Alberta logging company."

That company was West Fraser Timber Co., which recently bought Weldwood of Canada's operations, making it the second largest lumber producer in the country.

Half of Alberta's 400 million hectares of boreal forest has been allocated to logging companies. Almost 70,000 hectares are cut down each year.

Eduardo Hodgins, a Vancouver-based spokesperson for West Fraser, said Canada has the largest area of protected forest area in the country.

"(ForestEthics) is claiming the Canadian boreal is just being pillaged but less than 30 per cent has ever been touched by human hands," she said.

"All of our plans take in the value of the forest," Hodgins said. "If you are asking me if we are perfect... we are always trying to do better. We will continue to go above what is required by the government in terms of conservation."

West Fraser adheres to the sustainability model required by the Canadian Standards Association.

Gary Gallinger, sustainability manager for CSA, said the standard is designed to accommodate

diversity in a wide range of Canadian forests. Stakeholders apply the principles in a manner that best suits local conditions while still meeting the association's objectives.

According to Greenpeace, the issue may not be how the logging company operates, but where.

"They are logging the oldest portions of the forest first, specifically the woodland caribou habitat," said Greenpeace forests campaigner Richard Brooks.

"Only a small proportion of (that) habitat is left which is where West Fraser has targeted its logging over the next five years."

Brooks said the forest is home to several endangered species including the wolverine, the woodland caribou and the grey wolf.

The soil holds massive amounts of carbon, causing problems for climate change if it is released into the atmosphere due to clear cutting.

Victoria's Secret is owned by Ohio-based company Limited Brands. Media relations representative Anthony Hebron says the company is slowly taking steps to increase the recycled content of their catalogues.

"Ten per cent of our clearance books are printed on 80 per cent post-recycled paper and are 100 per cent recyclable," he said.

"We hope to gradually increase this to the rest of our catalogues across the country."

Feds want Canadians to step up to the Challenge

Government campaign encourages energy conservation, but poll of Humber students shows not everyone is getting the message

KERRIN MCNAMARA
BUSINESS REPORTER

The federal government's massive ad campaign challenging Canadians to "lose a tonne" isn't reaching Humber students.

Over 80 per cent of students polled at Humber's North Campus had never heard of the One-Tonne Challenge.

The \$45-million program is run by Environment Canada and the Department of Natural Resources.

A new ad campaign featuring comedian Rick Mercer asks Canadians to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by one tonne, or 20 per cent, offering suggestions such as driving less, recycling and conserving electricity.

Pat Dolan, director of public education for the Climate Change Bureau of Environment Canada, said the commercials have boosted public interest in the program.

"Since our advertising started, we've been getting an average of 60,000 visits a week to the One-Tonne Challenge web site and we have distributed about 95,000 guides," she said.

Of the students who hadn't heard of the One-Tonne Challenge, 90 per cent said they were still interested in doing things to reduce greenhouse emissions.

Top suggestions were turning lights

off, recycling at school and taking public transit more often.

These small steps lead up to the Kyoto Protocol, which becomes international law for Canada and 71 other countries on Feb. 16.

Under the treaty, countries must reduce their greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide emissions by at least 5.2 per cent by the year 2012.

Humber marketing student, Tanya London, 19, commutes from Markham and won't be taking the bus to school anytime soon.

"Distance is a problem. I have to drive," she said. "And my classes conflict with my friends' schedules, so we can't carpool."

Amanda Mongeon is co-ordinator of One-Tonne Toronto, one of many community coalitions across the country helping Canadians step up to the challenge.

She says students have fewer options to reduce energy consumption because they typically aren't homeowners with their own appliances.

"Everyday behaviour like eating locally grown foods to help reduce the fuel energy used to transport food long distances, can make a big difference," she said.

"Composting and recycling waste;

turning off lights, televisions and computers when you're not using them, and not cranking the heat or air conditioning (also help)."

At age 27, Mongeon knows getting young people involved in global issues is important.

"We need to feel that we're part of something bigger, and this feeds that," she said.

"Even though it's one small action, you're actually contributing to a greater thing that can lead to a visible change in our air quality. We'll feel it when we breathe."

•To find out more about the One-Tonne Challenge and to order your free guide, visit www.climatechange.gc.ca or call 1-800-O-CANADA (1-800-622-6232.)

Did you know...

•The volume of one-tonne of greenhouse gas emissions could fill a two-storey, three-bedroom house.

•In 2000, Canadians disposed of 23 million tonnes of waste. That's equal to 21 football fields piled one kilometre high with garbage.

Source: www.climatechange.gc.ca



Spokesperson Rick Mercer directs Canadians to the One-Tonne Challenge web site, which offers a list of incentives and rebates available to those looking to conserve energy and save money.

Business

School of Business serves job-seekers Mocktails

JUSTIN MIDGLEY
BUSINESS EDITOR

Students searching for the recipe to success were on hand at a networking event held by the School of Business last Thursday.

"Mocktails" saw more than 200 students pack into Seventh Semester to vie for the chance to make a good first impression with the 16 companies in attendance.

Blockbuster, UPS, TD Canada Trust and Freedom 55 were among them, though many students didn't come with a specific company in mind.

"I'm just here on reconnaissance," said marketing student Michael Sovino. "A lot of people here don't have a co-op placement right now, which you need to graduate."

"What the employers like about this event is the fact that it's targeted," said Karen Fast, manager of the Career Centre and Career Advancement Services. "They know it's only one small group of students that will be here."

Students were expected to come prepared, having researched companies they were particularly interested in.

"I think the students did a great job preparing," said Janet Squibb, CAS coach and an organizer of the event. "They were really busy working on their resumes and they all looked professional."

Employers appreciated the effort.

"There are quite a few that have done some homework on our company and are quoting facts and figures," said Winners recruitment manager Silvia Grava.

"There's a big difference between a candidate that has randomly thrown a dart and hit your company versus someone who researched your company."

Networking was done in a round-robin fashion, with each company having a table at which students and representatives could talk.

After five minutes, students would be forced to switch tables.

But business management student Kerry Beaton found that the short sessions didn't give her a chance to make an impact with potential employers.

"I don't really know if this format is very beneficial," she said. "You can talk to these people all you like but there's tons of people here. They're not going to remember one person and you need the contact."

Similar networking events are held throughout the semester, and not just for the School of Business Studies.

Squibb urges students concerned with after-college employment to check the Career Centre for dates of events.

"To have a little mini-interview with these companies is a great opportunity," she said.

"All you have to do is dress up, show up and shine."



JUSTIN MIDGLEY

Representatives of companies such as Mosaic Sales Solutions participate in school-sponsored networking events on a regular basis to meet with students and talk about potential job opportunities.

Cell phones no longer safe haven from spammer attacks

Text messaging ads sent to mobile phones from net

DANIELLE SAVONI
BUSINESS REPORTER

Unsolicited advertisements are popping up everywhere. It's only natural they're starting to invade cell phones.

Marc Choma, director of communications for the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association, says with the growing popularity of text messaging, it's inevitable advertisers will target cell phones with spam.

"Spammers have come up with ways to infiltrate the wireless network through the Internet. That's how they're getting to the mobile phones," he said.

Text messaging has recently become a popular form of communication with Canadian cell phone users.

When the technology first became available, phone users received about 10 million text messages a month.

Today, Choma said that number has increased by 650 per cent. "That's more than two million a day."

Cell-phone spamming has become a huge problem overseas.

"Fortunately when text messaging was launched in Canada, we were able to see what had gone wrong in other parts of the world and were able to put measures in place to not let it become a problem for the customers," Choma said.

The Public Interest Advocacy

Centre, an independent consumer watchdog, said staff is monitoring the growth of cell phone spam in Canada.

"We are watching it closely and we're concerned that it could be a big problem," said councillor John Lawford.

"We are especially concerned that it will be eventually targeting your location."

An article published in *Maclean's* magazine says marketers in Japan and Finland can locate people anywhere in the world and send commercials to phones promoting sales for retailers as they walk into the mall.

Choma says this technology is not far-off for Canadians. "This is

known as location-based service, and certainly those kind of applications are coming to Canada, but they would only be on an opt-in basis," he said.

Online fraud: Web reeks of phish

DAVE LAZZARINO
BUSINESS REPORTER

Though most fishermen relegate themselves to streams and rivers, a few have hung up their hip waders and dropped their lures in the world wide web.

Unfortunately, their sport is fraud, not cod.

"Phishing" scams are responsible for millions of dollars in personal losses each year in Canada and the United States, according to the U.S.-based Anti-Phishing Working Group.

"There have been about 4,000

attempts that we know about (in Canada) in the past year," said Det. Staff Sgt. Barry Elliot, creator and coordinator of Phonebusters in Toronto.

"The good thing is that there is only about a one per-cent success rate for these scams."

Generally, the scam artist sends out an e-mail under the name of a reputable company. This "bait" says that account information is needed and provides a link users can follow to provide it.

The link appears legitimate, but instead forwards users to an address operated by the phisher.

Once lured into their net, the victim can be asked to provide any number of pieces of information including credit card numbers, social insurance numbers, usernames and passwords.

The information is used to defraud the e-mail recipient out of everything from their money to their identity, leaving them with as much of a fighting chance as a fish out of water.

Insurance to protect against such cons offers limited coverage and doesn't

come cheap.

"It can be quite expensive, especially because of the nature of the operations involved," said Manuel Ron of Aon Insurance, adding that only hardware is covered in home insurance and not software or information.

Ways to protect yourself can be found on the RCMP's web site and at www.phonebusters.com

"What you should not be doing is opening up any email that you do not recognize," Elliot said. "The best thing to do is delete them right away. If (a company) needs to get in touch with you, they'll call."

"The good thing is that there is only about a one per cent success rate for these scams."

-Staff Sgt. Barry Elliot, creator/coordinator, Phonebusters

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Arts

WONDER WOMEN BUST OUT OF COMICS



Is it a step forward for feminism or a way to lure in audiences to the big screen?

JENNIFER GOLDBERG
ARTS REPORTER

Female super heroes are slaying, slashing and slamming their way into popular culture. But the jury's out on whether the busty babes are good role models for women.

Emily Pohl-Weary, comic writer and author of *Girls Who Bite Back: Witches, Mutants, Slayers and Freaks*, sits on the fence when it comes to Elektra, the latest fighting female to grace the big screen.

"She is in many ways the stereotype of the fighting Barbie," Pohl-Weary said. "But I think it's cool that there are so many characters like Elektra popping up."

"It's all about the big breasts and creating a fantasy for guys more than leaning towards feminist values."

-Alana Machnicki, illustrator

In recent years, Buffy, Xena, and *Kill Bill's* the Bride muscled their way into the violent hero roles traditionally held by men in tights.

Peter Birkemoe, owner of Toronto comic store The Beguiling, says he estimates only five per cent of comic book readers are women. "Super heroes, historically, were very much the realm of the adolescent boy," Birkemoe said.

Dr. Lillian Robinson, Principal of the Simone De Bevoir Institute for Women's Studies at Concordia University in Montreal and author of *Wonder Women: Female Super Heroes in the Comics*, says there were some girls who look up to super heroes.

"It's true that girls did not read adventure comics, but I was one of the girls who did," she said.

Robinson said Wonder Woman was designed to be a role model for young girls.

"There's a lot of explicit feminism in all the early *Wonder Woman* comics."

Illustrator and comic fan Alana Machnicki, 24, says that message is no longer present.

"It's all about the big breasts and creating a fantasy for guys more than leaning towards feminist values," she said.

Local comic artist Tyrone McCarthy, 27, says sexy female heroes are what sells in the male dominated industry. "A lot of the people reading them are 12-18 year old boys," he said.

"An attractive woman is going to sell better than just a basic one."

Female heroines may provide titillating eye candy for male readers, but Pohl-Weary said imagination and the possibility of great power is also important for girls.

"There's no way a girl could do what Elektra does, and in some ways that distances your role model from reality so you're not able to achieve what you look up to," she said.

"On the other hand, it allows girls to dream."



Wonder Woman
TV series (1976-79)

Real name: Princess Diana
Played by: Lynda Carter
Home: Paradise Island
Special weapon: Golden Lasso
Supercrew: Justice League of America

- In WWII, the Amazonians sent one of their own to help fight the Nazis. Princess Diana was picked.

- First appeared as a comic book character in 1941.

- Created by psychologist Dr. William Moulton, as a counterpart to Superman. Moulton was the creator of the lie detector test and it became the inspiration for Wonder Woman's Golden Lasso of Truth.

- In the early issues of the comic, Wonder Woman had a fetish for bondage.

- Given her special powers by the gods of Olympus. Her powers include great speed and flight, the strength of the earth, the skill and eye of the hunter, great wisdom, unity with nature and beast.

Revenge of the nerd

KIMBERLEY HAWLEY
ARTS REPORTER

Not too many students have bulging biceps, even fewer have the ability to fly and how many of us can spin a web of any size?

Fortunately, the star of Hollywood's newest blockbuster is a nerd.

Napoleon Dynamite proves audiences will pay to see unlikely heroes on the big screen. With the success of the movie, which has grossed more than \$44 million, the Hollywood rumour mill is a buzz with talk of remaking popular nerd classics such as *Revenge of the Nerds* and *The*

Goonies.

Frank Ochieng, film critic for *The Boston Bay State Banner*, said there's "an underlying need to root for the underdog in films that justifies how we feel good about ourselves in some respect."

Memorable TV nerds like *Family Matter's* Steve Urkel and *Saved By The Bell's* Screech have stayed a part of television culture over the years, film the nerd

turned superhero captures the attention of moviegoers.

These days there's a new breed of nerd led by Adam Brodie, who plays Seth Cohen on *The O.C.* and is rumoured to be a part of the Nerds remake.

Accounting student Mehvish Mehvish, 23, said "People feel good about seeing a loser become the hero," especially when most students do not consider themselves 'cool' enough to be a hero."



COURTESY

LISTED

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN: NERDS WE LOVE

- I. Steve Urkel, *Family Matters*
- II. Samuel "Screech" Powers, *Saved by the Bell*
- III. Napoleon Dynamite, *Napoleon Dynamite*
- IV. Lisa Simpson, *The Simpsons*
- V. Willow Rosenberg, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*
- VI. Professor Sherman Klump, *The Nutty Professor*
- VII. Ross Gellar, *Friends*
- VIII. Seth Cohen, *The O.C.*
- IX. Paul "Shitbreak" Finch, *American Pie*
- X. Dudley 'Booger' Dawson, *Revenge of the Nerds*

YOU KNOW WE'RE RIGHT, BUT IF YOU DISAGREE SEND US A NASTY EMAIL, WE DARE YOU!

etceteraarts@hotmail.com

Humber grad George S. moves his punk attitude over to the CBC

PIERRE HAMILTON
ARTS EDITOR

George Stroumboulopoulos was in a plane 40,000 feet above the ground on his way to Sudan when he made the decision to leave MuchMusic after five years.

He grabbed his Blackberry, got his manager on the horn and told him the news.

After returning to Canada, he finished his last show, packed up and moved three channels down to the CBC.

He sat down to explain his decision over chow mein, chicken balls and an Orange C-plus just three hours before his show went to air.

At MuchMusic, Stroumboulopoulos said he exhausted his patience covering mainstream pop acts. "I just can't cover that much Britney Spears."

In his new gig as host of *The Hour*, Stroumboulopoulos and his team jam world politics, the Academy Awards, an Iranian pop band and a new type of treasure hunting called geocaching into a one-hour show. "*CHUM* doesn't do this stuff, not at this level," he said.

A self-described news junkie, he

sleeps four hours a day. Often he gets home after midnight, grabs his laptop and scours the internet for his next show until the wee hours of the morning.

On this day, he voices his disgust with the world's indifference to the human rights situation in Darfur. "Where are the peacekeepers?" he asks.

He quotes Bob Geldof, who said, "They're going to judge our generation by what we didn't do."

There's a look to him, a no-nonsense, don't test me vibe – he's a punk in every sense of the word.

Stroumboulopoulos aims to be the anchorman of a younger, arguably more cynical generation, that needs

someone like him. That generation is saying "stop bullshitting me and tell me what's going on."

There's a look to him, a no-nonsense, don't test me vibe – he's a punk in every sense of the word. All of which has caused some viewers to

comment that his black shirt and blue jeans is improper attire.

"I see it as a major obstacle they have to overcome," he said of his detractors. "I'm not going to wear a suit."

Today he's chosen to wear a maroon polo shirt. "I'll go back to the black tomorrow," he said.

Raised by a single mom in Malton, he did a short stint in the army reserves before he found himself walking the hallways of Humber's North Campus as a Radio Broadcasting student from '91-93.

He recalls the days when he'd go in to CKHC, the voice of Humber College, and can't stress the value of mic time. "I was shit back then but I kept working on it."

After dinner, the real work begins. For the next two hours he and a team of producers huddle around a computer or television, pre-screening a 30-second animated version of *The Shining* starring a clan of bunnies and a tape of an Iraqi official demonstrating Canada's contribution to the Iraqi election – a solid plastic box.

At one point, he turns and asks "Now why wouldn't I do this show?"

Back at his clutter-free desk, he's making calls to his lawyer, checking with his mechanic about his BMW and taking calls from his fans – strange women he's met from his time at Much.

With a barely audible "psst" he motions to his drawer, which is bulging with paperwork, a secret he's hiding from his new bosses.

Inside the studio, the show goes off without a hitch, even though an entire segment was scrapped and replaced at the last minute. Stroumboulopoulos never lets on, cruising through with very little turbulence.

"For me, TV is the easy part," he said. "That's your moment to connect with people you don't know."



Stroumboulopoulos has a message for older viewers who think he should wear a suit: "1975 called. They want their concerns back."

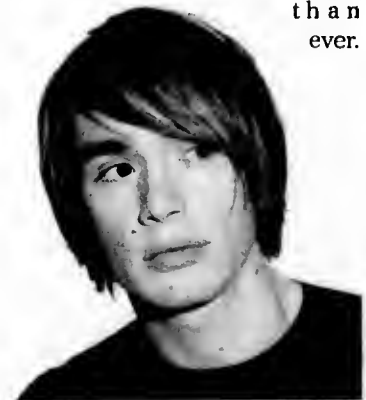


Stroumboulopoulos is an addict, a self-described news junkie, who stays up nights scouring the internet for the next big news story.

Changing faces: MuchMusic gets hip with a fresh new look

NATASHA ELKINGTON
ARTS REPORTER

MuchMusic has been on the air more than 20 years, but today the face of Canada's pre-eminent music network is more youthful than ever.



Much VJ Devon Soltendieck

George Stroumboulopoulos left MuchMusic last December for CBC. At 32, Stroumboulopoulos was the last of a dying breed.

Bob Cook, manager of audio production at CHUM Television, said VJs have become a lot younger over the years because of niche marketing.

"MuchMusic reflects the culture in the sense that younger people have more economic clout than they did 20 years ago."

"What's interesting is the demographics for MuchMusic," he said. "They tell you it's 18 to 24, but the people who really watch are probably 12 to 17."

Pierre-Louis Smith, VP Radio at the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, said radio and TV stations have to keep up with trends and the changing faces in

"It's less about journalistic integrity and more about showing your body."

-Anthony Olegario, third-year Humber student

the audience.

"I suspect the decision by MuchMusic to have a younger image is a reflection of its own analysis."

At Humber, changing the image of MuchMusic has students talking.

"It's a lot better now because the VJs are more poppy," said Sabrina Mohammed, a first-year business student. "Younger people

watching can relate to younger hosts."

Anthony Olegario, a third-year student, has less respect for MuchMusic's younger face and said the shift is about show business.

"It's less about journalistic integrity and more about showing your body."

Muchmusic VP David Kines said "There are numerous trends in music at the moment, the most popular seem to appeal to a somewhat younger crowd."

He downplayed speculation Muchmusic is appealing to 12-17 year-olds. "(That's) an urban myth. Our current VJ roster continues to represent a wide range of ages; 19-30 years."



MuchMusic VJ Sarah Taylor

Arts

Humber hip-hopper courts a larger audience

Lyrics preach equality

ELAINE WILTSHIRE
ARTS REPORTER

Hip-hop group iQ Movement got a chilly reception at Toronto's Klink nightclub last weekend.

Group-member Bhalinder 'iNA' Bedi, a 22-year-old Humber

marketing student, blamed poor promotion for the unsuccessful show.

"There were a couple of glitches on the promotion side but sometimes it happens," Bedi said. "We went out there and put on

100 per cent effort. That's all we can do."

Toronto has a reputation for welcoming independent artists and the band was surprised their first show didn't go well.

"This is not where we want to be right now. We obviously want to be at Air Canada Centre in front of a packed stadium."

-Bhalinder Bedi

Bedi said the band has a large fan base in Guelph, where they have played to crowds of 200 people.

"This is not where we want to be right now. We obviously want to be at Air Canada Centre in front of a packed stadium," Bedi said.

iQ Movement is made up of four 22-year-old hip hop artists, Bedi, Rajeev 'GQ Stylez' Billing, Stefan 'Introspect' Tochev, and Nathan 'Punjaican' Ratma.

"We weren't really making that much noise as independent artists," Bedi said.

The band's lyrics and attitude reflect their message of equality and individual spirituality.

"iQ is actually an acronym for 'independent quotient'," Bedi said. "We're trying to bring our intelligence and independence to mainstream hip hop."

Bedi said the band will continue to perform as long as their music is reaching people.

"Our New Year's resolution is to play one show a month and so far we've stuck to it."

iQ Movement is planning a show at Humber in the near future and Bedi hopes Humber students will continue to show "nothin' but love.



ELAINE WILTSHIRE

Bandmates from left: Rajeev Billing, Nathan Ramta, Bedi and Stefan Tochev jam in Toronto last weekend.

Students are bosses for TVOntario's Artists Series

ERIN TAYLOR
ARTS REPORTER

Joan Rivers, Andrea Martin, Colin Mochrie and Sarah Polley have all been interviewed for *The Distinguished Artists Series*, a television series created and produced by Humber TV, film and PR students.

Senior Producer Brenda Myers said the artists involved are important mentors to the students who will be listed in the show's credits.

"It's the only network television show in Canada that has been created, written, produced, and edited completely by students," Myers said.

Her class came up with the concept two years ago.

Lorne Frohman, host of the series and a Humber teacher said the show is a great experience for students and the public. He joked that it was also a dream come true.

"The students treated me like I was David Letterman and I got to interview people

who've been icons to me in my career," he said.

Student producer Jeff Thrasher said the concept of the show is similar to the TV program *Inside the Actors Studio*, where a host asks accomplished actors to describe how they approach

their craft creatively and what drives them.

"There are accomplished musicians, comedians, actors and screenwriters who get the chance to give back to

students who are looking to learn from them," he said.

Rudy Buttignol, the creative head of network programming at TVO, is thrilled to work with Humber students.

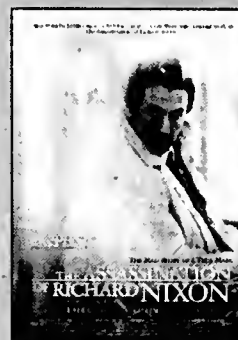
"Bridging the gap from school to the work world used to be like jumping across the Grand Canyon," he said.

TVO expressed interest

"The students treated me like I was David Letterman."

-Lorne Frohman, Host

See This



THE ASSASSINATION OF RICHARD NIXON
Director: Neil Mueller
2 OUT OF 5

The Assassination of Richard Nixon is the true story of a man's 1974 attempt to hijack a plane to fly into the White House. Sean Penn stars as Samuel Bicke, a deluded furniture salesman whose wife has left him.

Penn's performance is the saving grace of this film. He plays the quintessential loser to perfection - so much so that it's unsettling to watch.

It opens in theatres tomorrow.
~Reviewed by Andy Grozelle



THE WEDDING DATE
Director: Clare Kilner
4 OUT OF 5

The ongoing joke in the film, *The Wedding Date* is about great make-up sex.

In this romantic comedy starring Debra Messing and Dermot Mulroney (Nick Mercer),

Messing plays Kat Ellis, a single gal who desperately wants to make her ex-fiancé jealous, so she hires a male escort.

Steamy scenes between Kat and Nick and a brief glimpse of Nick's butt make this film perfect for a girl's night out.

It opens in theatres tomorrow.
~Reviewed by Jaqueline Afonso



IN YO' HEADPHONES

KATIE GRAHAM, 19, LAW CLERK

LISTENING TO: RASCAL FLATTS, DEFAULT AND KEITH URBAN

Around Town

On campus

Today, tomorrow and all of next week, Black History Month celebrations will take place at Humber in building H and at the student centre.

In theatres tomorrow

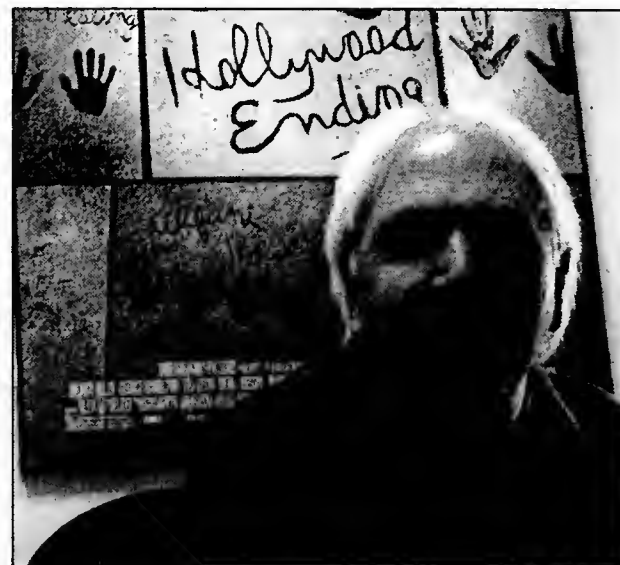
The Assassination of Richard Nixon
The Wedding Date
Boogeyman
Nobody Knows

Concerts

Sum 41: today and tomorrow
The Docks
The Trews: Feb. 5
Horseshoe Tavern

Contest

The first five people to email us the correct answer to this question will win a double pass to the musical *Bat Boy* on Feb. 14. Name the publication *Bat Boy* is inspired by.



ERIN TAYLOR

TVOntario's newest addition to this year's line-up, *The Distinguished Artists Series*, is produced by Humber TV students. Emmy award winning Lorne Frohman hosts.

Alumni Watch

Ellis appeared on Mike Bullard Show for comedy act

REBECCA WELLUM
LIFE REPORTER

Linda Ellis is keeping the comedy world in stitches.

Since graduating from the post-graduate Comedy Writing and Performance program in 2002, she has appeared stand up on the Mike Bullard Show and performed at the Halifax Comedy Festival.

She currently works as a Yuk Yuks comic and in the Humber Comedy Office as assistant to the coordinator of the comedy program.

Ellis originally graduated from Dalhousie University in Halifax with a BA in Theatre.

She recalls being halfway through a double degree in Recreation and Business when she stumbled upon the brochure for the Humber Comedy Program.

"I've wanted to be a stand up comic since I was 13," Ellis said.



COURTESY

Linda Ellis

She said she "took inspiration from the entire faculty," at Humber as well as the friendships she made during her course.

"My two favourite teachers would have to be Larry Horowitz, my stand up teacher, and Lorne Frohman, my sitcom writing and screenwriting teacher."

Looking back on her time at Humber she highlighted a few special memories.

"Being nominated for the Phil Hartman Award was amazing and performing at the Phil Hartman Award Show at the Sanderson Centre was unforgettable," she said. "The best memories come from the people I met, both students and faculty, within the program."

Advice for students and future comedy grads?

"Be persistent. If this is the only field that you believe you're cut out for, keep at it until you make it."

Eight students to participate in six-week battle:

Wellness Challenge off to a healthy start



PHOTOS BY ANDREA UTTER

The chosen participants for the Wellness Challenge flex their muscles for their group 'before' shot.

Program promotes exercising and eating right

ANDREA UTTER
LIFE REPORTER

The Humber Residence Wellness Committee and the Athletic Department are challenging students to get off their butts and onto a treadmill.

Four students from residence and four off-campus students have been chosen to take part in the six-week Wellness Challenge.

"My vision is to educate the public on how to eat better and how to get some activity in your life," said Gwen teBoekhorst, Humber's residence life coordinator.

Participants goals include losing weight, building muscle mass and running a marathon.

"We wanted to find people with different goals," teBoekhorst said.

Athletic Director Doug Fox said there is only one main difference between the participants.

"Some of the themes with the residence group are about the cafeteria and eating habits there, but we're just dealing with eating habits in general."

Participants will work closely with residence dining hall manager, Natalie Chinsam, and Lisa Coles, a personal trainer and instructor in the fitness and health promotion program.

Eight volunteers from the fitness and health promotion program will work with participants to enhance their personal training experience.

"We wanted to find different people with different goals."

-Gwen teBoekhorst, co-ordinator

"Student trainers will design the fitness programs based on the delegate's goals," Coles said. "They will receive a fitness assessment at the beginning and end of the six weeks to see what changed."

Students will each spend one hour per week with Coles and two hours per week with the trainers.

Chinsam will assess their eating habits and determine a realistic plan for them to follow.

"Natalie will give them something that they can work with, analyze their diet, but also work within their budget," teBoekhorst said. "They've got to live within their means but also eat healthy."

The participants will post weekly remarks on a web site, allowing other students throughout the school to post questions to the participants and coordinators of the challenge.

"I'll answer any questions the students have about eating, making good decisions (and) about making healthy life choices," Chinsam said.

teBoekhorst said the web site is meant to encourage others to take part in the challenge.

"It's a great way for people to (ask) questions without feeling stupid, because they don't have to attach a name."

Although huge improvement in such a short time is unlikely, the committee hopes the participants will develop lasting habits.

We'll be following ...



Nick Farnell

Nick Farnell, 20, a second-year industrial design student who lives in residence, wants to get back into organized sport and work on his endurance.

"My goal is to run a 21 km marathon by June," he said.

"I think the challenge will help because it's structured and you have to do it because people are expecting you to."



Irene Enesi

Irene Enesi, 28, a second-year business management student living off campus, wants to work on losing weight and getting fit.

"As far back as I can remember I was heavy and I know it's unhealthy," she said.

After having a child in November, Enesi realized it was time to lose the 40 pounds she gained during the pregnancy.

Stay tuned for weekly updates on Nick and Irene's progress and follow the other participants on the web site www.wellness.humberrezlife.ca.

Volunteering good for health, experts say

IAN HONEY
LIFE REPORTER

Volunteering at your local food bank or nursing home will not only improve someone else's life, it can improve your quality of life as well.

Dr. Mel Borins, a University of Toronto professor and the author of *Go Away Just For The Health Of It*, said volunteering can reduce stress and have other health benefits.

Stress-reduction caused by volunteering can raise endorphin levels and reduce blood pressure, causing less susceptibility to disease and a general feeling of well-being, he said.

"It can contribute to less depression, especially in elderly

people. The difficulty is that some people become isolated, especially people who have retired," Borins said. "Some people get depressed when they retire, but when they get out and help others, it helps them too."

HSF Programming Director, Aaron Miller said volunteering improves health simply by promoting an active lifestyle.

"It gets people out there, as opposed to sitting back and watching things happen," he said.

Barbara Carter, program coordinator at the Volunteer Centre of Toronto, works with many elderly people in a program that helps seniors avoid becoming victims of scams and fraud.

Carter said when people

return from volunteer sessions "it's almost like they're on a high, what is called a 'helper's high'."

The term "helper's high" is well-known among experts, describing the feeling of elation people get from the rush of endorphins as a result of doing good. It is similar to the endorphin rush that results from strenuous exercise.

Many of Carter's volunteers have stories of personal benefit as a result of volunteering.

Joe Mwai works for Canadian Crossroads International, a program that sends volunteers to South America and Africa.

Mwai believes his experience as a former volunteer benefited him as much as it benefited the

people he was sent to help.

"I learned a lot of different things and ways of dealing with problems."

David Danylewich is the executive director of Toronto-based Youth Challenge International, an organization that sends volunteers to Africa and South America to teach AIDS awareness and help build community infrastructure.

He said that because religion has become less important in society, people look for other ways to satisfy their desire to help.

"Many say they learned more than they gave back," he said.

Dr. Borins said "even if it doesn't lengthen their lives, it certainly makes life more meaningful."

Life

New birth control ring approved

NuvaRing is a revolutionary device designed for once-a-month usage



COURTESY

The ring bends from circular to oblong for a perfect fit.

CHARLENE MCCALLUM
LIFE REPORTER

Health Canada has approved the use of a birth control ring, the first of its kind available in Canada.

NuvaRing is a once-a-month contraceptive and according to Dr. Victoria Davis, gynecologist and director of medical affairs for the pharmaceutical company Organon Ltd., the device is 99 per cent effective and provides the lowest available dose of estrogen.

"The major benefit is you don't have to take it daily, because it's placed in the vagina and it's good for three weeks," she said. "It's basically a different application of a birth control pill."

The pliable circular ring is

made of the same material that's used in hospitals for blood bags.

Carole Gionet, nurse practitioner and manager of Humber Health Centre, said she'll consider adding NuvaRing to the list of birth controls at the health centre.

"It depends on the cost and what the research has to show," Gionet said.

Davis said the ring will sell wholesale for \$18, a middle-ground price-point between the pill and the contraceptive patch.

According to Sheila Dunn, medical director at the Bay Centre for Birth Control, the ring does not contain bacteria that can cause excessive cramping and yeast infections.

"Studies haven't shown (it) to cause any significant problems in terms of discharge or vaginal infections," Dunn said.

Davis said the contraceptive contains the same steroids as in a birth control pill. Progesterone and estrogen hormones are slowly released over the three week period, with the same side effects as the pill.

"The NuvaRing can be placed up in the vagina as high as you can get it. It doesn't have to be in a specific site within the vagina, just high enough to be comfortable.

"Just like a tampon, if it starts to come down, if you start to feel it, it's too low."

The device has been available

in Canada since Jan. 17.

Women in Europe have been using the device for the past three years.

"I'll try it, but if I'm unhappy I'm not using it again," said 22-year-old Lakeshore student Gizender Singh.

"I'd probably wait until I hear someone else has used it. Word of mouth works for me," said Holly Ostler, 21, second-year fashion student at North Campus.

For more information on the benefits and side effects of Nuvaring click on www.nuvaring.com

Weight Watchers most effective

The weight loss program promotes a change in lifestyle

ERIN GILLIGAN
LIFE REPORTER

When the 'freshman fifteen' turns into the 'third year thirty,' it's time to start eating right.

But with all the fad diets on the market, choosing the best option can be difficult.

A new study published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* shows that Weight Watchers is the most effective program for maintaining a healthy body weight.

"It is designed to be a lifestyle change, not a diet," said Priscilla Obreza, assistant to the general manager at Weight Watchers' Southern Ontario division.

Unlike the Atkins or South Beach diets, Weight Watchers closely follows Canada's Food Guide.

"It doesn't ask you to go out and buy special foods, and it doesn't deny you any food," Obreza said. "You are able to easily fit it into your lifestyle."

The study did not claim other diets weren't effective, but warn that some weight loss companies might be making promises they can't keep.

"I tried to lose weight with other diets before," said Rachel Pound, a 23-year-old student from Humber College. "But I had either been unsuccessful, or been successful and then gained the

weight back."

Pound decided to give Weight Watchers a try. "I feel so much better since I started," she said.

"My knowledge of nutrition is increasing and I've already lost three pounds this week."

Brenda Murray, director of nutrition and food services at Barrie's Royal Victoria Hospital, recommends Weight Watchers to her clients and uses it as part of her wellness programs.

"It has a well-rounded approach if you really want to make long-term changes," she said.

Trying it without guidance may not be the best idea. "I tried tracking what I was eating for a few days beforehand, thinking that I was eating healthy," Pound said. "But when I actually looked up the fat and calorie content it was outrageous."

Weight Watchers offers two programs: one that uses a point system and the other that controls portions without having to count points.

"The points system is so convenient," Pound said. "I can look up any food and either the book or the points calculator will tell me its value."

Weight Watchers is technically a diet but Murray doesn't think of it that way.

"The whole term of 'diet' is one

that we don't really like to use," she said. "To me it implies something you're going to do for two or three weeks where you haven't learned any long-term strategies. The Weight Watchers approach works for the long-term."

Check out the Dietitians of Canada website at www.dietitians.com for more information on healthy weight loss.



ERIN GILLIGAN

Weight Watchers follows Canada's Food Guide suggestions.

Bridal show offers affordable prices

CHRISTINA VELOCCI
LIFE REPORTER

For a couple on a budget, planning a wedding improperly can quickly turn a dream into a nightmare.

"I was a student when I started planning and (my fiancé) was the one working," said Alba Lamanna, a 23-year-old student and future bride.

"One of our first concerns was money. We were really nervous in the beginning because the two of us are paying for the wedding on our own."

Lamanna wasn't going to settle for second best.

"I was worried that I wouldn't get all the things I wanted because wedding stuff is really expensive," she said.

"I want to have a beautiful, elegant wedding, I think every bride does."

At the recent *Toronto Star* National Bridal Show, at Exhibition Place, couples like Lamanna and her fiancé could plan their wedding and book services without having to drive around.

Joan Patch, media relations coordinator, said the show offered many vendors pertaining to all aspects of a wedding.

"You can get really good ideas

on how to economize your wedding without losing your dream and uniqueness," she said.

"You can also see vendors you may never have thought were an option that can provide you with services and ideas that fit in to your special day."

Some vendors, like Sposabella, have one-day sales for couples looking for affordable prices. Michelle Cooke, district manager of Sposabella, said the bridal show allowed brides to get the dress they'd always dreamed of without emptying their bank account.

"We do a cash and carry sale at both bridal shows every year and it's great because you get to buy dresses that are at least 50 per cent off the prices we carry in our stores," she said.

Sposabella is not the only vendor that offers discounts. Lamanna said many vendors provided affordable options.

"Some of the vendors give you 25 per cent off if you book them at the bridal show."


The National Bridal show is a bi-annual event.

The Gay and Lesbian Wedding show is March 13 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.



CHRISTINA VELOCCI

Up-to-date bridal fashions a hot item on the runways at the National Bridal Show.



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Eyeball jewellery adds twinkle to eye

JANET BOUGIE
LIFE REPORTER

Rachel Larratt has a twinkle in her eye — literally.

The 25-year-old Chicago native, now living in Toronto, has a platinum star surgically implanted on the scleral portion of her left eye.

Larratt is part of a husband and wife team that runs *Body*

Modification Ezine, an online magazine catering to the body modification community.

JewelEye is a new form of body modification: a sterile cosmetic jewel that is surgically placed under the clear membrane of the eyeball.

Reactions to the accessory are mixed. The procedure is too invasive and too risky for 19-year-old

Humber Marketing student Catherine Sabio.

"That's my eye," she said. "What if I go blind?"

But Larratt, who's had her JewelEye for eight months, hasn't regretted it a second.

"I got (it) because I wanted to support the research and the idea that you should be able to modify your body however you feel without restriction," she said.

"The JewelEye is a further step in that direction."

The jewel, only three and a half millimetres in diameter, is hand finished and gently curved to fit the shape of the eye.

The procedure costs more than \$1,400 and has a very limited availability.

Larratt's implant was done in the Netherlands, where the procedure was first developed.

Manufacturers say the implant does not interfere with vision or mobility of the eye, and has yet to show any side effects.

The procedure is also being performed in the U.S. and is not yet available in Canada.



COURTESY

Rachel Larratt is one of many who have gone farther than piercing and tattooing, by getting a jewel implanted into her eyeball.

Tsunami still having major impact on Humber students, staff and families

NEHA SHARDA
LIFE REPORTER

One month after the tsunami which claimed more than 280,000 lives, Humber staff and students are still reeling from the fallout.

Jey Rajalingan, a telecommunications instructor at Humber, lost 15 family members to the tsunami and almost lost his parents.

larly for help and support.

"My organization took a leading role in motivating members of our community to come forward and help," he said.

"Many university and college students approached me ... and I told them to extend help in every possible way."

Rajalingan wanted a way to commemorate Tsunami victims and their families.

"I decided to organize vigil or memorial services in various colleges and the universities," he said.

"Services were held at Centennial College, York University, Waterloo University and at both Humber campuses."

Madura Chandran, a first-year business administration student, also lost 15 family members in the tsunami.

"All the females and children died, the high waves ate them away," she said. "One of my friends back home told me 'as far as we could see there were just bodies around us'."

The Tamil Rehabilitation Organization collected \$700,000 for Sri-Lankan survivors.

"One of my friends back home told me 'as far as we could see there were just bodies around us'."

- Madura Chandra, student

"The first thing I knew was that the north-eastern part of Sri-Lanka was hit by an earthquake," he said. "I had no news about my parents."

Rajalingan decided to go to the Tamil Rehabilitation Organization office where he volunteered regu-

For more information on eye jewellery, check out <http://www.bmezine.com/news/pubring/20040601.html> or Hippotech at www.hippocratech.com.

New newspaper for "restaurant-tours"

DIANA KÓWAL
LIFE REPORTER

A new culinary and restaurant newspaper is set to descend upon city dwellers who have a huge appetite for Toronto's eateries.

The Restaurant-Tour will be released in late February.

Phil Lindsay, president of *The Restaurant-Tour*, promises the paper will be a guide for restaurant enthusiasts and tourists.

"About 80 per cent of people who live in this city have no idea where to go out to eat. There is a huge demand for this information

and finally we can give it to them," Lindsay said.

The format of the paper is edgy and stylish, with colourful photos and a logo of a fork, spoon and knife that, "will become synonymous with the paper's identity," said Paul Mastroianni, graphic designer for the publication.

The newspaper, free throughout the city, will include reviews of Toronto restaurants as well as humorous articles about dining out.

Articles will be written by reviewers, servers and cooks.

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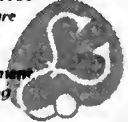
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In Focus



Music Africa presents *Africa Sings* to celebrate Black History Month at the Royal Ontario Museum. African culture will be celebrated with music, art and film. The Southern Volta will perform there tomorrow night with traditional Ewe dancing and drumming.

Contest focuses on Black History Month

JACQUELINE FIGUEIREDO
IN FOCUS REPORTER

The Canadian Association of Black Journalists is inviting future journalists to share personal stories for Black History month.

Albert Lewis, president of CABJ, said the first annual writing contest will get young people involved in the spirit of Black History Month.

"A lot of young blacks, whether they be in high school, college or university, are writers and they don't have an outlet to get their word out or to be published."

Stories should reveal personal opinions and views about Black History Month and talk about historical figures who contributed to community life.

"I wanted to get a feeling of what these young people really think about Black History Month and find out exactly how they feel as black Canadians," Lewis said.

"Are they any better off if they were in the Caribbean? Are they better off if they were in Africa? How do they feel as black Canadians?"

The deadline for entries is Tues Feb. 15. Thus far the CABJ is happy with the responses.

"Believe it or not, I got a response all the way from the United States," Lewis said.

The basic message from the CABJ is to start thinking about the impact of Black History Month and start writing down their stories.

Anyone interested should visit the CABJ website, www.cabj.ca/contest.html, for details.

Africa Sings in celebration of culture and history at the ROM

JESSAMYN NUNEZ
IN FOCUS REPORTER

The Royal Ontario Museum will host a celebration of African culture to commemorate Black History Month tomorrow night.

Africa Sings is a free event for all ages, which runs from 4:30 to 9:30 on Friday, Feb. 4 at the ROM (Museum subway stop).

Music Africa artistic director Nadine McNulty says the music chronicles the historical path Africans have taken through slavery and migration.

"It takes you on a journey from Africa to the Americas," she said.

Music Africa is a Toronto-based non-profit organization dedicated to promoting African music and culture.

Acoustic guitars and bongo drums will convey the songs of the people, everything from African blues to traditional music from northern Sudan and the islands of Zanzibar.

Adults and children will have a chance to join in the fun with hands-on drumming workshops.

"It's really exciting to have African music, percussion, dancing and drumming in that building because you tend to think of museums as the kind of place where you have to behave and be quiet," McNulty said.

"African culture is such a vibrant expression, it's all encompassing. It's not just watching."

The night's festivities will also include plenty of visual stimulation.

The debut screening of Salif Keita's *Destiny of a Noble Outcast*

will take place in the ROM's theatre at 8 p.m., a film about growing up as a Black Albino in a royal family.

African paintings, artistic impressions and pottery will be featured in the main hall.

"Music, culture and spirituality surrounds (the event)," McNulty said. "It's very powerful. People always write us e-mails after and say, 'I was so spiritually moved all weekend.'"

For more information visit their website at www.afrofest.org

Travelling the route to freedom



Harriet Tubman, the 'Black Moses', a conductor in the Underground Railroad.

The enslavement of millions of Africans began a quest for freedom that became known as the Underground Railroad.

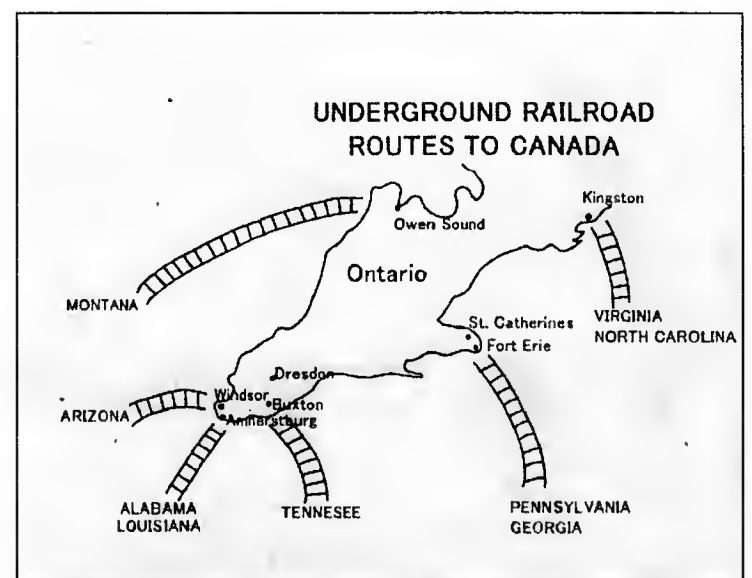
Neither underground nor a railroad, it was a network of loosely constructed escape routes bound to Canada, operated by the cooperation and courage of black and white abolitionists who hid slaves in any fashion they could.

Carriages and farm wagons with false compartments hide freedom seekers to transfer points called 'stations' where they would hid in attics, barns, secret passages and churches. The Underground Railway was a complicated route that often changed course and doubled back

to throw off slave-owners and hired hunters looking for the refugees.

Many terminals were set up in Canada. The most prominent routes were located along Lake Erie shore and the Niagara River, particularly at Amherstburg, Sandwich and Windsor. Freedom Seekers also traveled by land and water to St. Catharines, Toronto and Kingston.

The most notable of all 'slave-abductors' was Harriet Tubman. Born a slave in Maryland, she escaped to Canada in 1849 and made at least 19 trips back to the South to guide blacks to north. By the 1860s, Blacks were clustered throughout Western Canada.



Code words used in the Underground Railroad

Drinking Gourd: the Big Dipper constellation, which was the main navigational tool used by slaves moving northward to freedom. Includes the North Star.

Conductor: men and women who operated the Underground Railroad.

Freedom Seekers: the thousand of escaped slaves journeying towards Canada.

Freight/Cargo: escaping slaves. "Hardware"=men "Dry Goods"= women.

In Focus

Forum focuses on drop-out rate of black students

CAMERON AINSWORTH-VINCZE
IN FOCUS REPORTER

Black History Month is a time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of black Canadians, yet a number of concerned citizens are focusing on reasons why a large percentage of black students are leaving school.

The Toronto District School Board estimates that nearly 40 per cent of black students drop out of high school.

"Many black students are not attending because they are not engaged, they struggle to learn, or are simply disinterested," said George Dei, researcher and Chair for the Department of Sociology and Equity studies in the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

"The problem involves more than teachers or particular schools," Dei said. "The dilemma

has been around since the 1960s, but we continue to not address the problem in a far-reaching manner."

Clyde Mc Neil, broadcaster for CHIN Radio and TV, agrees.

"We need to create a movement to bridge the gap between kids and the Toronto School Board," he said.

To accomplish this goal, Mc Neil helped organize an open discussion with the St. Lawrence Centre Forum later this week.

Mayor David Miller, along with black community activists and members of the Toronto School Board, were invited to join the public to discuss the issues behind the statistics, in order to determine major problems and possible solutions.

"It is an opportunity for all stakeholders, parents, children and the school board to gather and cre-

ate a movement that will help create positive changes," Mc Neil said.

Carolyn Langdon, St. Lawrence Centre Forum spokesperson, said the problem of attrition among blacks is unacceptable and that public dialogue is necessary.

Dei agreed and said the overall administration of education needs to be better examined.

"The system has blamed others and swept the problem under the carpet for too long."

Dei hopes support comes not only from schools but also from local communities around Toronto who should be held accountable for the current plight facing black students.

"If you want to take credit for society's successes, you must be prepared to accept responsibility for failures," he said.



First-year Fashion Arts student, Naudia Bogle, studies at Humber's library. Drop-out rates for black students are on the rise.

Black Canadians who made a difference



Maryann Shadd was the first black female publisher in North America and the editor of 'The Provincial Freeman'

Reverend Addie Aylestock: an ordained minister for over 20 years, became the first black woman minister in Canada.

Bernice Redmon: was the first Canadian-born black registered nurse in the public health field in Canada. She is also the first Black woman appointed to the Victoria Order of Nursing in Canada



Dr. Anderson Ruffin Abbott studied medicine at the University of Toronto in 1857 becoming the first Canadian-born black doctor. He was a surgeon in the Union army during the American Civil war.

William Hall: was the first Canadian Naval worker to win the coveted Victoria Cross and the first Nova Scotian to achieve that honour.



George Dixon, boxer from Halifax, Nova Scotia, became the World's Featherweight Champion in 1890.

Burr Lockhart Plato: became one of the first black Canadians to be elected into political office in 1886. He was a councillor of what was then known as the village of Niagara and held the position every year until retirement in 1901.

Black history: a Canadian timeline

1604
Matthieu DaCosta arrives with explorer Samuel de Champlain and is thought to be the first African person in Canada.

1628
Oliver LeJeune arrives from Africa, Canada's first known slave.

1793
Canada becomes the first jurisdiction of the British Empire to abolish slavery.

1819
Declaration by Attorney General of Upper Canada that blacks residing in Canada were free and protected by law.

1820
Definite routes of the Underground Railroad into Canada are established.

1851
Henry and Mary Bibb publish the first black Canadian anti-slavery newspaper, "The Voice of the Fugitive".

1852
Publication of Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe

1863
U.S Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect, declaring freedom to slaves.

1865
Slavery in North America comes to an end.

1926
Negro History Week is established in the U.S to honour work of black Americans.

1976
Negro History Week is expanded to Black History Month in February because of Frederick Douglass' and Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

1995
Canada officially recognizes February as Black History Month.

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Check out next week's focus on Valentine's Day

Sports

Sidelined Parents drop the gloves off the ice

Aggression in hockey rinks leads to violence between parents and coaches



CHASE
KELL

... on the issues that surround the Raptors' Rafer Alston

Is it just me, or is the Raptors starting point guard Rafer Alston becoming a serious problem?

Though his play is up and down like a see-saw, it's his antics off the court that have embarrassed himself and the team. If Tom Hanks was wearing coach Mitchell's shoes, he would have screamed "there's no crying in basketball" in Alston's ear a long time ago.

Alston was suspended for two games prior to last Sunday's tip-off against Phoenix for "conduct detrimental to the team." The truth, according to team sources, is that he had another altercation with Mitchell in practice on Saturday, leaving the gym early. Either way, the bottom line is that it was bad enough for the Raptors to justify the absence of their best ball distributor and third leading scorer against the second best team in the league.

waterworks

"I'm tired of getting into it with my teammates; I'm tired of getting into it with my coaches," cried Alston, who looked as if he could have shed tears following a bitter defeat to the Celtics on December 3. Alston was benched by Mitchell for a technical foul that gave Boston momentum to win, and ignored the coach when he asked Alston to leave the bench and hit the showers early. He even threatened to quit the NBA; it was literally the most embarrassing thing I have ever seen in professional sports.

judgement

To be honest, I don't think that Alston has what it takes to be an effective starter. He flourished in his role last year as Dwayne Wade's back-up in Miami, but has been inconsistent while playing big minutes in Toronto. The Raps don't need another ball hog with an itchy trigger finger, another player who just shoots when there is nothing else. We still have Jalen Rose.

Never knowing when to tone down the flash has forced Alston to miss open passes and commit untimely turnovers throughout his stay in Toronto.

The one positive that came from his suspension is that he was able to go home and watch Steve Nash, a player that defines the ideal pass first point guard. I hope he did his homework.

But, maybe it's just me.

etceterasports@hotmail.com

MATT BURT
IN FOCUS REPORTER

"Relax - it's just a game."

That's the slogan behind a Hockey Canada ad campaign aimed at overbearing parents of minor hockey players. But some say recent events show the message just isn't getting through.

"It looks like it has gotten worse in the last couple of years," said minor hockey referee Jonathan Meilach, 23.

Two weeks ago, 47-year-old

"One (parent) I tossed ... stepped on the ice and started swearing at me."

-Jonathan Meilach, Referee

Bradley Desrocher choked his son's coach, sparking concerns about violent behaviour among hockey parents.

"They're becoming a part of the game," says Meilach, who witnessed the strangling incident. "I never tossed a fan until about two weeks ago and since then it's been five fans."

The Desrocher incident is an extreme case, and coaches tend not to be the targets of abuse as much as referees.

"Emotions fly high," Meilach says. "One (parent) I tossed opened the door, stepped on the ice and started swearing at me. He was waiting for me after the game."

Abuse of officials means many young refs don't hold down the job for very long.

"There's a high turnover rate. No one wants to go out there and be told they suck every night," said Matt Thompson, a 21-year-old who has refereed in the North York Hockey League for five years.

"Some fans go for any personal touch they can get; a grandfather once waited around for an hour



Relax, it's just a game.

CANADA
HOCKEY CANADA

COURTESY

Ads such as this from Hockey Canada are trying to remind hockey parents that violence doesn't belong in the arena. You may have seen similar T.V. commercials that are part of the same campaign.

after the game just to tell me I sucked."

Many fans question how parents become so incensed over an Atom hockey game played by 10 year-old kids.

"A lot of parents are thinking, 'gee, maybe he'll be the next Gretzky or the next Lemieux,'" he

said. "And they won't have to work the rest of their life."

Meilach said financial reasons could also motivate aggressive behaviour.

"You pay \$2,000 or \$3,000 (and) you want to see this investment do well," he said. "Nobody wants their kid to be a loser."

Humber goalkeeper sets his eyes on business

ALEX CRUICKSHANK
SPORTS REPORTER

Humber Hawks men's soccer goalie Domenic Politano is hoping he can turn his love of sports into a career.

The third-year player has enjoyed success on the pitch, but it's his work in the classroom that he hopes will jump-start a career off the field.

He earned a diploma in business administration and holds certificates in marketing and professional sales. He's currently working on a human resources management certificate.

"I hope to get a job through Nike. That's where I want to be in the future. If things don't turn out in April I'll probably come back (to Humber) and get some other certificates I can use in the future," Politano said.

Hawks head coach Germain Sanchez said he'd love to have him back in the fall.

"He's very much respected and liked by his teammates, so he's one of those guys that keeps the team together in bad times."

"He always has a positive attitude. Even when we're down a goal or something, he's always pushing us to keep striving to win," said first-year centre defender Michael Marchese.

Politano struggled during his first season with the Hawks, earning only two starts, but has since proved himself in subsequent seasons.

"Trying to get a game in there and showing them what I had was kind of tough. I had to work hard at it, but as the years came on, I



LIZA WOOD

Politano was recognized as the OCAA's 2003/04's top goaltender and was essential to the success of Humber's indoor team, which won back to back championships in 2002/03 and 2003/04.

proved myself to be a good player and showed that I can start," Politano said.

His outdoor team was successful as well, winning the silver medal at the provincial championships.

Prep for the Bowl

HENTLEY SMALL
SPORTS REPORTER

The pieces of the Super Bowl puzzle are in place.

The AFC champion New England Patriots will battle the NFC champion Philadelphia Eagles on Feb. 6 in Jacksonville. Two of the most consistent winners over the last few years will finally get a chance to meet in the NFL's ultimate game.

The road to the Super Bowl is a familiar journey for the Patriots. This will be the third time they travel to the big game in the past four years.

The previous two times resulted in them being crowned champions of the football world. Their coach Bill Belichick, resident king of the coaching chessboard, looks to join a very exclusive club of coaches who have led teams to at least three titles.

His troops avenged an earlier loss this season to the Pittsburgh Steelers with a resounding 41-27 win. The first game in week eight saw his team score the first field goal and get dominated the rest of the game. They finished with only five yards rushing on six attempts. The fourth time was a charm for the Eagles. After three consecutive defeats in NFC championship matches, the Eagles finally soared to the Super Bowl in a 27-10 blow out of the Atlanta Falcons.

The Eagles were led by the

solid play of quarterback Donovan McNabb, who threw for 180 yards and two touchdowns.

Running back Brian Westbrook chipped in 135 total yards and the stubborn Philadelphia defence held super athlete, Michael Vick, to 136 yards passing with an interception.

The Pats and the Eagles are very well coached teams. Both defences are among the best in the league and are experts at creating turnovers.

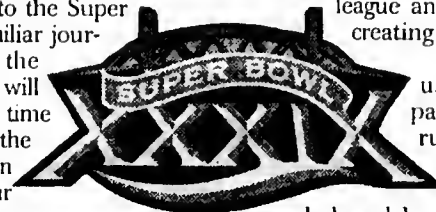
New England uses precision passing and their running back Corey Dillon to control the clock and keep their defence off the field and fresh.

The Eagles attack is more versatile with Westbrook as a capable receiver out of the backfield.

With star receiver Terrell Owens declaring that God has allowed him to play, the Eagles' air attack should be back on all cylinders. Owens practiced on Monday and participated in very few plays, but caught passes on all the routes he ran.

The flashy wide-out, who was hurt against Dallas in the regular season, is set to make his Superbowl debut on Sunday.

It is uncertain whether he will be risking further injury. So, too is the impact that he will have on the game. Even as just a decoy, Owens' presence on the field will force the Patriots to account for one of the game's best receivers.



HENTLEY SMALL

Humber guard Jason Walcott strikes a pose as he watches his three ball hit nothing but net during last Friday's contest against Centennial. Walcott led the Hawks to victory with 19 points in the absence of Shane Dennie, the team's star guard injured two weeks ago against the Colts.

One more for the good guys Humber men's b-ball increases streak to three

HENTLEY SMALL
SPORTS REPORTER

Humber's men's basketball team struggled in last Friday's game versus the Centennial Colts, yet battled their way to a nine-point victory without their all-star guard Shane Dennie.

Centennial capitalized on Hawks' turnovers throughout the first quarter and forced Humber to tighten up defensively with a full court press.

Hawks point guard Samson Downey controlled the offence and looked for his own shots just as much.

His long-range jumpers were consistently on the money, finishing the game with 14 points and four three-pointers, including a desperation long ball as the shot clock was running out in the first half.

After getting off to a slow beginning, both teams started tallying points with more regularity as

the score remained close at half-time with the Colts holding onto a slim lead of 30-29.

Coming back from the break the Colts maintained their intensity, fueled by the play of Socrates Larrieux, who led Centennial in scoring with 18 points.

Humber guard Morris Spence matched the effort of Larrieux with 15 points, including four three-pointers while Jason Walcott led the Hawks in scoring with 19 points.

Centennial's defensive style forced Humber to take many perimeter jumpers, which fortunately were knocked down when the team needed them the most.

"They went to a zone (defense), we had some open looks and we knocked them down," Downey said. "This is probably the best we've shot in a game all year."

Despite the impressive sharp shooting by his squad, head coach Darrell Glenn was fairly concerned

HAWKS	80
COLTS	71

JASON WALCOTT LED THE WAY WITH 19 PTS

about the way Humber squeaked out a victory. But as they say, you live and die by the jump shot.

"I'm a little uncomfortable. It's tough to win games like that when you have to make tough threes," Glenn said. "We're going to have to go look at the tape and see how we can get better."

The Hawks battled at George Brown last night, but results were not available at press time.

Next Home Game:

Fri. Feb. 4, 2005 vs. Seneca
Sting @ 8 p.m.

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Sports



ALESSANDRO GAROFALO

Humber's Robyn Stafford attempts a spike against Redeemer last Wednesday in the Hawks' victory

Lady Hawks still undefeated at 11-0 Arlette leads Humber to 11th straight victory; asks rookies to play as passionately as veterans

KEN RODNEY
SPORTS REPORTER

The Hawks women's volleyball team may have been guilty of looking at the standings before their intra-divisional match up against Redeemer.

Humber struggled in a closely contested four set victory over the visiting Royals.

The unbeaten Hawks looked flat from the outset and were forced to rely on a few players rather than the team concept that has carried them this far.

"We didn't give that team enough respect," said head coach Chris Wilkins.

"We took two steps back tonight."

In a 26-24 opening set victory, Humber couldn't find the scoring touch to put the Royals away.

The Hawks traded points with Redeemer, allowing them to erase two six point leads before Amanda Arlette finished the set with one of her game-high 17 kills.

"It's really hard as a leader to pull the team up all the time," she said. "We need our rookies to have that intensity and play up to that level."

Humber improved their net play in the second, winning multi-hit rallies and taking the second set 25-17 with the help of an impres-

sive kill from Robyn Stafford.

"The coach said we do just enough to win and it comes back to bite us in the butt," Arlette said.

The Royals took that bite in the third set capitalizing on miscommunication from the Hawks to win 29-27.

In the final set of the match, Humber's Alexandra Steplock provided her team with four service aces and an early lead.

As with the other sets, Humber allowed Redeemer to overcome the lead before finally closing them out 25-22.

Wilkins was disappointed with the effort.

"We have to get back to playing as a team," he said. "Tonight we played as six players on the court."

The Hawks followed up this

lackluster home effort with a three set sweep victory on the road over the Sault Cougars, improving their record to 11-0.

"We need our rookies to have that same intensity and play up to that level."

-Amanda Arlette, power

Humber Player of the game:
Amanda Arlette

Next Home Game:
Sat. Feb. 5, 2005 against Canadore @ 2 p.m.

Simek and Dionisio play for keeps; Hawk's perfect season alive at 10-0

KEN RODNEY
SPORTS REPORTER

Humber's men's volleyball coaches propelled their team to a straight sets victory over the Redeemer Royals last Wednesday, improving their record to 10-0.

"We told them we'd give them the night off if they went out and played hard," said head coach Wayne Wilkins.

Humber's best players were once again Chris Simek, who led the game with 22 kills and four services aces, and Peter Dionisio who chipped in with six kills and two stuff blocks.

"Brad (Thompson) came in and played well tonight, he went out and set a great game," Wilkins said.

"We have six starters and the guys on our bench are role players. They have to come in and do their jobs."

Wilkins also applauded Darryl Burton as a reserve player who stood out in the contest.

"I don't ask them to earn us a ton of points, just not to cost us any. Then the guys that get paid the big bucks can earn us the points."

"... the guys that get paid the big bucks can earn us the points."

-Wayne Wilkins, head coach

Humber controlled play from the outset behind Simek's kills and Dionisio's defence.

The Hawks' only roadblock on the way to their tenth consecutive win was the third set.

The Royals opened with an 8-2 lead before the home team fought back to earn the victory and close out the match.

Despite being down in the final frame, the Hawks felt they had the Royals the entire time.

"I don't think at any point we were not in control," said assistant coach Hank Ma. "We went through a mental breakdown in the first couple of points but the guys regrouped and came back."

The coaching staff credited a strong defensive effort as well as good play at the net for allowing them to take big leads and hold the sets at the end.

"Passing was consistent. We had great middles that ran quick and our blocking game was there," Ma said.

Humber Players of the game:
Chris Simek and Peter Dionisio

Next Home Game:
Sat. Feb. 5, 2005 versus Canadore @ 4 p.m.



ALESSANDRO GAROFALO

Humber's Chris Simek hammers down one of his 22 kill shots