

Like animals?
Turn to page 2 in order to get in on the love



REBECCA PILOZO-MELARA

Eyedentity by Moises Frank was a juror's pick for first place in the painting and drawing category at The Humber Art Show.

City unveils new rules for taxis and Uber

Jeremy Appel
SENIOR REPORTER

The City of Toronto has released its long-anticipated report on ride-sharing services like Uber, with the stated goal of putting the companies on a level playing field with the taxi industry.

Tracey Cook, executive director of the city's Municipal Licensing and Standards committee, unveiled the proposed changes outlined in the report at City Hall on Thursday morning.

The report recommends reducing the regulatory burden on taxis and limousines, while increasing some regulations on Private Transportation Companies (PTC), like Uber and Lyft.

"We have new regulations that create a level playing field, provide safe, convenient options to our residents and allow drivers to earn a competitive living," said Mayor John Tory in a statement.

Among the report's key recommendations are: forbidding PTCs from picking up fares off the street, reduction of cab drivers' licensing and training fees, and requiring criminal background checks for Uber drivers. These background checks will be sent to Uber, while taxi companies must send theirs directly to the city.

"The people want choice and I think this provides a reasonably level playing field," Coun. John Campbell (Ward 4, Etobicoke Centre) told reporters outside the announcement.

"Our job as a city is to offer some semblance of order and regulation," he added. "That's what this report does."

Opponents said these new regulations merely codify and legitimize the two different sets of rules cabbies and Uber drivers have to abide by.

Coun. Janet Davis (Ward 31, Beaches-East York), for instance, called the report a "complete capitulation" to the

PTCs, which she characterized as "shocking."

"Uber's arrogance and complete disregard for city regulations to date has been successful," she said.

"Instead of leveling the playing field, we've dropped the floor," Davis said.

"It's a blueprint for deregulation and self-regulation that does not protect the interests of the public and it does not protect the interests of the drivers," she added. "The city has abandoned its role in this proposed regulation."

Staunch Uber critic Coun. Jim Karygiannis (Ward 39, Scarborough-Agincourt), echoed Davis's sentiment.

"We are allowing Uber to get away with murder; no licensing, no marking, no plates — nothing," he said, suggesting the regulations don't go nearly far enough in reining in Uber.

Mohammed Mirza, president of the Toronto-based Bangladeshi Taxi Drivers Association, insisted that the



REUTERS/KAI PFAFFENBACH

An illustration picture from 2014 shows the logo of car-sharing service app Uber on a smartphone next to picture of an official taxi sign in Frankfurt. Uber's presence is now global.

services offered by Uber and taxicabs are virtually identical and should thus be placed under the same regulations.

"Our drivers are completely regulated by the current framework, but the Uber system has nothing in terms of regulation," Mirza said.

"They say it's ride-sharing. It's not," he added.

"They pick up customers

The Humber Art Show exhibited the best art the school has to offer on Thursday.

Established over 30 years ago and sponsored by HSF, it is organized by second-year Public Relations students.

This year's theme was 'Art Awakens' and it encouraged students to rouse their inner artist.

Submissions were open to all students and ran from March 18-29.

Turn to page 4 for the winners.

\$400,000 to rebrand Humber Students' Federation

HSF's budget of over \$10-million for year ended is released

Corey Brehaut
SENIOR REPORTER

The Humber Students' Federation released its budget of over \$10-million for 2015-16 at the Annual General Meeting Mar. 30.

The total HSF revenue this past year was \$10,313,898 and its total expenses were \$10,713,898. This leaves a deficit of exactly \$400,000.

HSF's revenue almost entirely comes from \$5,183,648 in student activity fees and \$4,805,250 in health and dental fees.

The federation's largest expenditure by far is services at \$5,862,000. This includes part-time staff salaries, student services, health and dental premiums and bursaries.

In a distant second is the administration budget at \$1,789,898. This is made of full and part-time staff expenses, full-time salaries, office supplies and infrastructure.

New this year is a \$400,000 expense for HSF's rebranding due to its consolidation with University of Guelph-Humber's student union, which is equal to the budget's entire deficit.

"We didn't want to take \$400,000 from our current operating budget and try to do it for our rebranding," HSF president Ahmed Tahir told Humber Et Cetera in an interview during the campaign.

He said this is so that students still get to keep all of their services rather than cut them in one year or another.

"We don't think it's fair to students. So what we decided was to kind of use some of our unrestricted assets for rebranding.

from A and drop them off at B," which is precisely what cabbies do.

"This is not the even and level playing field that we were hoping for," said Toronto Taxi Alliance spokesperson Sam Moini, who predicted the regulations will contribute to the taxi industry's extinction.

"Drivers won't be able to make a decent living."

Weekly therapy dog a hit

Danielle Furtado
STAFF REPORTER

As students go through a stressful school year, Humber College has come up with an appealing way to help. Percy, a golden retriever therapy dog, is here for all to pet.

Melanie Shulman is a law professor and the owner of Percy. She brings Percy to campus every Tuesday and walks around as students stop to pet him.

"Once Percy turned one year old I got him involved with St. John Ambulance and he had to pass an obedience test. Once he passed the test I was able to bring him to visit places," said Shulman.

Along with Humber's North campus, Percy also visits an old folks home once a week. Students say he is a calm and lovable dog, and that he has been a success in helping them de-stress and take their minds away from school for a little while.

Many students are excited that Humber has allowed Percy to become the school's therapy dog.

"Percy makes me feel happy, said Karly Malchiondo, 19, a nutrition student. "He distracts me from remembering I am at school," she



DANIELLE FURTADO

Percy the therapy dog has gained fame around the school.

added.

"He is famous, I've been hearing about Percy for so long," said Terry-Ann Christie, 25, law clerk student. "He helps people keep their emotions intact and not feel ner-

vous or overwhelmed,"

"He is here to be petted and help students who feel stressed or unhappy," said Shulman. "It seemed like a good fit to bring him to students," she said.

News media receives backlash over Black Lives Matter tweet

Samantha Singh
SENIOR REPORTER

Black Lives Matter Toronto co-founder Yusra Khogali is the centre of heated controversy after Newstalk1010 radio host Jerry Agar posted a tweet by Khogali that read "Plz Allah give me strength to not cuss/kill these men and white folks out here today. Plz plz plz."

He commented "This was removed by @yusrakhogali from twitter after I tweeted about it. She is co-founder."

The tweet from Feb. 9 was brought to light after a 15-day protest by Black Lives Matter Toronto that was held outside of police headquarters.

"I thought that it showed a double standard," Jerry Agar, host from Newstalk1010, said.

"You have a co-founder of a group that is looking for equality, looking for respect, and then suddenly we see what looks like an anti-male, sexist and racist tweet. That's how I reacted to it and I wanted to see how other people did."

During the protests, the

group asked the province to reform the Special Investigations Unit and create transparency with all police officers who have fatally shot people while on duty.

The protest began after Ontario's Special Investigations Unit ruled last month that a Toronto police officer would not face charges for fatally shooting Andrew Loku, who was wielding a hammer in an apartment building last July.

In the incident, the officer was backed into a corner and fearing a serious attack when he shot the 45-year-old man at a distance of two to three metres, which the ruling said was a justifiable use of force.

The group camped outside of Toronto police headquarters on College Street for two weeks before marching on Queen's Park to demand an audience with Premier Kathleen Wynne on Apr. 4.

The rally concluded after Wynne emerged and agreed to meet with the group for an official discussion.

"It's almost comical to see media practitioners and politicians responding so quickly and urgently to a singular tweet that was obviously said

by a young woman out of anger, frustration, and hurt, in response to feeling bullied and her community feeling collectively brutalized by mostly Caucasian male law enforcement officials," said Dalton Higgins, a journalist and Black Lives Matter advocate.

"Why aren't Toronto politicians taking this idea of black people dying unjustly just as seriously? That's my question."

"It's interesting how this diversion takes us away from talking about the things like whether or not we're concerned with police brutality, whether or not we think that it's alarming and it's actually violence and needs to be stopped," said Desmond Cole, journalist and activist.

The hashtag #IStandWithYusra was created to support Khogali's tweet.

Khogali's Twitter account is set to private and she has yet to comment publicly about her tweet.

The tweet gained notoriety when Black Lives Matter spokesperson Sandra "Sandy" Hudson spoke with CP24 on the matter.

York police make major fentanyl bust

Christy Farr
SENIOR REPORTER

York Regional Police laid multiple charges after uncovering a fentanyl trafficking ring on Wednesday.

In coordination with the Greater Sudbury Police, seven people were arrested and charged with trafficking a controlled substance, possession for the purpose of trafficking, and conspiracy to commit, said York Regional Police in a news release.

The six-month long investigation began last October, which traced fentanyl patches being illegally obtained and transported to the Greater Sudbury area to be sold.

Among the six arrested, two were health care professionals, pharmacist Shereen El Azrak, and family doctor George Otto.

"Investigators allege Ms. Shereen El Azrak and Dr. George Otto, who runs a family practice in Toronto, were working with street-level fentanyl dealers to obtain and distribute the fentanyl patches," the press release said.

The fentanyl patches were being sold at street value of approximately \$400-\$500 per patch.

York Regional Police urge citizens to be cautious as the prevalence of the drug on the streets is of great concern.

"Fentanyl is an opioid-based pain killer roughly 100 times stronger than morphine. Recreational drug users who cut or manipulate a fentanyl patch and ingest, inject or smoke a gel form of the drug should be aware that a fatal overdose can occur. Fentanyl is extremely potent and once a patch is altered there is no way of determining the concentration of the substance," the press release said.

A report released by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse in August 2015 documented 466 accidental or undetermined fentanyl-implicated deaths in Ontario.

It is not unusual that a doctor or a pharmacist are implicated in these types of crimes, Jeffrey Ross of the Toronto Police Drug Squad said.

"Specifically when we are



WIKIMEDIA

Fentanyl is an opioid based painkiller thought responsible for hundreds of deaths in Ontario.

talking about fentanyl in most circumstances in Ontario it is being diverted from a legitimate source," said Ross.

"It's been indicated in a number of increase in overdoses... that concerns us all," said Ross.

He added that in terms of drug trafficking and overdoses, the Toronto police have

much bigger problems.

Fentanyl "is one we see quite little of in regards to some of the other bigger more prevalent drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, and methamphetamine," Ross said.

Not only do the Toronto Police work to combat the presence of these drugs on the streets, but programs out

of Ontario Public Health, such as the Needle Exchange Program, fight possible overdoses with other drugs.

The drug naloxone prevents overdoses by reversing the effects opioids.

"It's what paramedics use, it's what physicians use in an operation with someone if they are bringing them out

after anesthetic," Shaun Hopkins, manager of Needle Exchange Program, said.

The Toronto Public health clinic on Victoria Street in downtown Toronto is the only place in the city that dispenses naloxone, but Hopkins says anyone using opioids should have a naloxone kit just in case.

"They should train their family and friends and themselves in case they overdose," said Hopkins.

She also said the needle exchange program sees people who do not have a prescription, but have purchased the drug on the streets or some other way.

"Fentanyl is a very potent opioid. It's possible to overdose."

She said programs are in place to increase availability of naloxone to reduce risks of overdose to anyone using the drug.

With all drug investigations, Ross says the police must continue vigorously pursuing and identifying those who distribute these drugs for profit.

Humber and Jack.org partner for mental health aid

Chelsea Mendes

REPORTER

Kathy Kalpakiotis wishes she knew what a goodbye message was before it was too late.

She knew that her brother Peter was unhappy with the location of his apartment and where he worked. But she didn't think that it would lead to a call from her dad telling her to call the police.

Kalpakiotis' father told her Peter wanted to kill himself.

Before calling the police, Kalpakiotis called her brother. "He just kept crying repeating I love you, okay, I love you, okay," she said.

When she arrived at her family home in North York she noticed her brother's responses, appearance and overall attitude were different after an apparently unsuccessful visit Peter had with the police.

"They were pretty useless in this situation because you can't force someone to get help.

Even advice-wise they were no help," Kalpakiotis said.

A few days later Kathy was told her brother was gone.

At 29 years old, Peter jumped off the Leaside Bridge in East York on March 4, 2014.

The tragedy left Kalpakiotis emotionally drained but her brother's death also motivated her to launch a club that helps people discuss mental health issues at Humber College's North campus and the University of Guelph-Humber.

She turned to Jack.org to set up a satellite group of the national network at the two campuses for others needing help. Jack.org is a national network of young people transforming the way they think about mental health.

Kalpakiotis is the president for Jack.org at Humber and promotes the idea that everyone needs to care about mental health.

She returned to school only a month after her brother's

death. Kalpakiotis felt that keeping herself busy and getting back to her old routine was the best thing for her.

However when she went back to Guelph-Humber, all her old friends she made in the Public Relations program were in different classes.

Kalpakiotis felt alone.

About three months after her brother's death, she broke down while in the shower.

Kalpakiotis says she remembers wanting to pull her hair out. She was frustrated that all her friends in her program were in different classes when she returned to school.

She didn't know who to talk to and how to reach out for help and said that at the time she felt embarrassed.

"I was imagining my brother, when he told people 'I'm sad or depressed', they'd be like 'why? You have it all'... and people questioned him," Kalpakiotis said.

She wants to live in a world where it's acceptable for people to say, "I feel like shit," in

response to "how are you?" she said.

Kalpakiotis went to see a therapist after talking with her friend about her brother's death and what she was feeling at school.



I was imagining my brother, when he told people 'I'm sad or depressed', they'd be like 'why? You have it all'...and people questioned him

Kathy Kalpakiotis

Her friend told her that seeing a therapist would be good for her and that "future Kathy will thank you."

It was during therapy when Kalpakiotis was first introduced to Jack.org and in January she brought it to Humber. The club has 10 ex-

ecutive members and about 150 people on its email list.

She wonders why people like her brother are okay with joking about being bipolar, but never sit down and say, "Hey, I think I need help."

Kalpakiotis wants Humber students to know that "it's okay to feel whatever you're feeling today."

Jack.org held three events this year with one being the "Paint Your Feelings" initiative in Humber North's cafeteria, where students were able to express their feelings through art.

Kalpakiotis said she is adding a monthly club meeting and a Jack.org open mic night at Guelph-Humber and Humber North. More information about Jack.org at Humber is available on its Facebook page, and email address is Jack.org@humber@gmail.com.

Meg Houghton, director of Student Wellness and Development at Humber said the project raised the profile

of the issues surrounding post-secondary student mental health.

Humber College provides free counseling to students in the Student Wellness and Accessibility Centre, she said. The centre also provides medical support from nurses and physicians.

"If a student is struggling with depression, I would suggest reaching out to us since it's free and right on campus to meet with a counselor, nurse or doctor depending on specific needs," said Houghton.

It's an option Kalpakiotis urges people to take if they need it and that may give those around someone in crisis to know the telltale signs of an important message.

She said a few days before Peter died, he was sitting on the living room couch after talking with police and asked her a question.

"Do you think you go to hell if you commit suicide?" Kalpakiotis recounted.

Lawsuit launched over popular city sign

Christy Farr

SENIOR REPORTER

A Unionville man is suing the city of Toronto for \$2.5 million, claiming the municipality used his idea for the large TORONTO sign in Nathan Phillips square.

Bruce Barrow, a marketing professional specializing in brand strategies, alleges that he pitched the idea to the city in 2013 and has not received any credit for his design.

He is suing for misappropriation and breach of confidence.

Barrow told Humber News that the Toronto sign is probably the most successful branding campaign the city has had in decades and has mixed feelings about its success.

"It's rewarding to see my vision come to life and to see it so successful, as I envisioned it would be a cultural icon in the city of Toronto," he said.

"At the same time it gives you sort of a sinking feeling in the pit of your stomach when you see it and you're thinking, this was my idea and it was taken from me."

He says his idea included the signature LED lights that make the sign so colourful, as well pitching the sign's location in Nathan Phillips Square in front of City Hall.

After trying to resolve things directly with the city



Flickr/ERIC SEHR

The Toronto sign has been a popular fixture at Nathan Phillips Square in front of City Hall since its installation last year.

and getting nowhere, Barrow said he was forced to take legal action.

"I haven't had this situation happen before," he said.

The long-time marketing professional said he has a significant paper trail and wouldn't present an idea like this without the proper doc-

umentation.

"This is what I do for a living."

"We have nondisclosure on all the documents," he said. "It's hard to pitch an idea without telling a person about the idea, but at the same time you think that the person sitting across from you has the

integrity not to use your ideas without your consent or permission."

The sign has become one of Toronto's most photographed and shared images, creating a cultural icon that is recognizable worldwide.

Frederic Dimanche, professor of Marketing and

Tourism at Ryerson University, said these signs are becoming icons for a lot of cities.

"For example, the 'I amsterdam' sign (in the Netherlands capital) is probably one of the most famous city letter signs," he said.

"Everyone is going there getting photographs with

this kind of thing, it's been a boon for tourism over there, but more important for city communication and tourism communication."

He adds that while the CN tower may have once been an icon for Toronto, the tower isn't easy to get photographs in front of, which created the need for something like the 'Toronto' sign in Nathan Phillips Square.

However, Dimanche says that it would be very hard to claim authorship or proprietary right to an idea that is similar to others around the world.

"The idea of putting big block letters in front of the city somewhere - it's not new."

"I don't think anybody can claim it. Maybe they can claim the design, the font, the size of the signage, but even then again several cities would be doing that kind of block letters," Dimanche said.

He says it's always a risk when pitching an idea, and would be a hard thing to prove in court.

Toronto city spokesperson Wynna Brown wrote in an email to the Toronto Star that there is "no basis for this claim."

They said the city will "vigorously defend" the allegations.

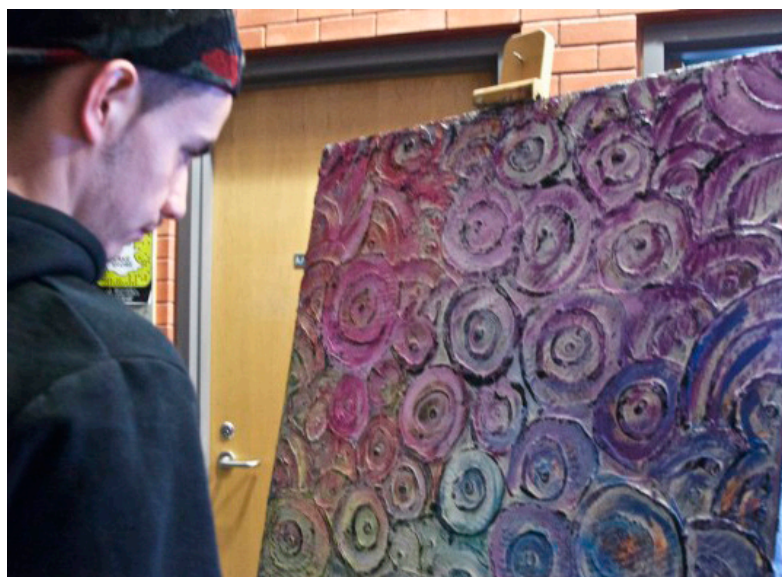
Barrow's claims have not yet been proven in court.

Art Awakens finalists revealed at Lakeshore campus



REBECCA PILOZO-MELARA

Nature's Greed by Kabir Rishi



REBECCA PILOZO-MELARA

2nd Place, Painting/Drawing- *Water Color Meditation* by Gianluca Primucci

Rebecca Pilozo-Melara and Greg Chow

SENIOR REPORTERS

The winners of The Art Awakens event were revealed Thursday at Lakeshore campus' L-Lounge.

"We've got amazing submissions and I'm really impressed. Overall the quality of the pieces and submissions was impressive," said Media Relations officer of the Art Awakens exhibit, Rick Henriques.

More than 130 art pieces were submitted back in March from full-time and part-time Humber College students.

The Humber Students' Federation sponsored event has taken place for nearly 30 years and is organized by second-year public relations advanced diploma students.

3D Art/Mixed Media/Other

1st place and Juror's pick – *Requiem For a Dream* by Zoran Dragojevic

2nd place- *Actias I* by Alex DiGiacomo

3rd place- *Puppet* by Tung Nguyen (Tony)

Colour Photography

1st Place and Juror's Pick- *I shouldn't have gone. But I was cold.* By Daniel MW Buehler

2nd Place and Juror's Pick- *WAVE* by Shih-I Liu

3rd Place- *Patient* by Shawn Sosa

Monochromatic Photography

1st Place & Juror's Pick- *Ashes to Ashes* by Kevin Green

2nd Place- *Manhattan Bridge, NY, 2016* by Muhaimenur Chowdhury

3rd Place- *A Mother's Love* by Jon Hurd

Painting/Drawing

1st Place & Juror's Pick- *Eyedentity* by Moises Frank

2nd Place- *Water Color Meditation* by Gianluca Primucci

3rd Place- *Be Free!* by Ali Raza



REBECCA PILOZO-MELARA

2nd Place, Monochromatic Photography- *Manhattan Bridge, NY, 2016* by Muhaimenur Chowdhury

Humber Theatre collective examines death and social media

Krysten McCumber

SENIOR REPORTER

A group of 26 Humber College theatre students have put together what they describe as an "interactive, amazing" performance – without a director.

Delete After Death is featured downtown at The Theatre Centre this weekend. The performance is about how death is handled in the digital age.

"It goes through our relationship with death in this digital age, where people grieve so publicly. (While) grieving was (formerly) private, now we grieve publicly through Facebook," co-creator and actor for the production, Vivian

Or, said.

Getting to Thursday night's premiere wasn't an easy process, especially with creating a collaborative team with no director for the production.

The group of students call themselves TALKALOT Collective, since talking is what's gotten them to this point.

"This means there's a lot of discussion, a lot of offers and trying it, and then talking about why it didn't work, how we can move on," Or said. "A lot of time in our process is talking, maybe that's why we're called TALKALOT."

Costume designer Lisa Van Oorschot agrees communication has allowed them to share ideas and

develop the final story.

"We would bring forward ideas that we thought would work with certain themes and in the opposite way, things we brought in as costume pieces ended up influencing some of the development of the piece as well," she said.

Or describes the performance this weekend as a journey.

"With the work being put into Delete After Death the experience will be amazing," she said.

"I'm always excited to see the audience respond and follow this amazing journey with us. The beginning and end is so different and it's amazing to go through that



Humber College's theatre graduates are performing at The Theatre Centre this weekend with their original performance: *Delete After Death*

journey," Or said.

Van Oorschot echoes Or's enthusiasm, looking forward to the audience's reaction.

"We're just really excited to have people experience this

piece then to get their feedback," Van Oorschot said.

Delete After Death premiered Thursday at The Theatre Centre, 1115 Queen St. W. Performances will con-

tinue daily until Sunday afternoon. Tickets are \$20 for the public, \$15 for Humber Alumni and \$10 for students and seniors.

Student comedians take center stage at annual stand-up show



DAVID WILSON

Koval (left) and Banzo are in their final year of Comedy Writing and Performance program at Lakeshore campus.

David Wilson

STAFF REPORTER

"I'm Native, so I'm Canadian," said Vance Banzo, a second-year comedy student at Humber.

Nervous titters circled the room.

"More than any of you," he said, smirking.

The audience erupted with laughter and applauded.

Banzo is 25-years-old, and in his final year of Comedy Writing and Performance at the Lakeshore

Campus.

He and more than a dozen of his classmates took to the stage at the infamous Yuk Yuk's Comedy Club Tuesday night for the school's seasonal stand-up showcase.

"I've been performing since high school, but I just hopped into stand-up a couple of years ago through the program," Banzo told the *Et Cetera*.

Banzo isn't the only one who's been itching to try out his material in front of an audience, though.

"It came to the point where I

knew I had to give it a try," said 29-year-old Dave Koval, also finishing his second year in the program.

"I'd always write little jokes here and there and know that they're probably terrible, but why not go and try?"

Banzo and Koval were two of many to walk off to a raucous applause break, and program director Andrew Clark said he's happy with the warm reception.

"I thought it was a strong showcase," said Clark.



DAVID WILSON

Performances were well received, eliciting laughter and applause



DAVID WILSON

Humber's annual stand up showcase took place at Yuk Yuk's Comedy Club Tuesday night. Selected students will perform at Second City next month.

"It was a good crowd for a good class."

Clark is also an award-winning novelist and freelance journalist who writes a humour column about driving and the rules of the road for *The Globe and Mail* called *Road Sage*.

Clark said he and the other co-ordinators do their best to show students the proverbial ropes without cramping their style.

"We try to teach them without stifling their originality," Clark said.

Clark also said that staff and students are prepping for the year's biggest event at Second City, a legendary comedy venue in the heart of Toronto.

"We have to pick seven (students) to go on the industry show," he said.

"We basically cut down to what we consider to be our strongest performers."

The selected students will perform at Second City on May 9. For details, visit the Humber Events Calendar.

Humber feature film *Reign* makes American debut

Elvin George

STAFF REPORTER

Humber's first feature film *Reign* successfully reached U.S. theatres at the San Francisco Golden Gate Festival in February.

The award-winning *Reign* is about the powers that high school popularity and peer pressures hold over the friendship of two teen-age girls who have shared an intimate moment.

The relationship crumbles after the fleeting sex that was caught on camera is posted on social media.

The two friends have their lives completely twisted as Brooke, a popular girl, abandons girlfriend and experimental lover, Charlie, because she's unpopular. One time buddy Brooke begins to bully her.

The film follows Charlie's path in seeking revenge.

Reign is lead by two well-known Canadian-born actresses, Jordan Todesay, who's had rich acting experience and plays Charlie, and Samantha Weinstein, who stars as the popular Brooke.

Weinstein previously worked with the co-executive producer of the film, Anneli Ekborn, on a film together 10 years ago. Ekborn's co-executive pro-

ducer is Eva Ziemson, the Film and Media Studies program coordinator at Humber College.

"Both Anneli and I are filmmakers and we really complement each other. I had to navigate everything related to Humber," Ziemson said.

Recent Humber Film graduate Corey Misquita originally wrote the script for *Reign* as a short film until Ziemson advised her it should be a 70-minute feature.

Misquita said it wasn't a difficult transformation.

"We were asked to write a short film and I made *Reign*," Misquita said. "The Humber Community liked the script and it was voted to be made."

"I started to expand on details such as the characters, and Eva encouraged me to write *Reign* as a feature when I already was working on it as a feature," she said.

Ziemson felt the short film couldn't contain the themes being explored and advised her to change the direction of the film.

"The film was developed in second year, the script was written by Misquita and she developed it in a course that I teach in Humber College," Ziemson said. "I convinced her to turn her

short film to turn to a feature. It was a few years in the making."

Reign began pre-production in early May 2014 and finished post-production during the May of the following year.

First Assistant Director Gino Sandoval said the film provided a grand learning experience to everyone on set.

"After the first couple days of production we learned to trust each other, and believe that we can do a great job on the film," Sandoval said. "We had the best students and staff within the film and media program. "It wasn't about skill, talent, or work ethic, it was just trusting each other, which was a learning experience for everyone," he said.

Ekborn was confident during the post-production stage that *Reign* would reach American theatres. She said the themes of bullying and peer pressure would resonate with an American audience.

"I absolutely did, I knew it would be very attractive to the American market," she said. "I've had many films make it to the States." The film won two awards when it premiered at the Canadian Female Eye Festival on June 16, 2015. Corey Bizim won the Joey Award for best supporting



ELVIN GEORGE

High school drama *Reign*, the college's first feature film, was written and produced by Humber Film and Television Production students and faculty.

actress, while Misquita won the Jury Award for Best Debut Filmmaker.

Misquita was amazed when she first realized the film will be shown in the United States.

"It felt really unreal, just to be able to play in the motherland of film," Misquita said. "It's weird to have

people in other parts of the world such as North America that actually relate to the story and like it."

Ziemson and Ekborn are currently talking with Avi Federgreen of Federgreen Entertainment on the distribution of the film through iTunes sometime in the next few months.

Commentary

Cone of silence on sex assault at schools

In September 2015, a female student at Manitoba's Brandon University was asked to sign a contract, after she was sexually assaulted in a residence on campus.

This "behavioural contract," signed following reports of sexual violence, specifies that students involved in the situation cannot talk about the case with anyone other than a university counsellor.

"We recognize that the transition to post-secondary education can be difficult and that you are still developing as a young adult," the contract reads. If the terms of the contract are broken, students may face suspension and/or expulsion.

This contract, which effectively acts as a gag order, contributes to a culture of silence and victim shaming. "This 'gag order' treats survivors and perpetrators as equals in the 'incident,' and it treats the person who reports sexual assault in a disciplinary manner," Dr. Corinne Mason, co-ordinator for the school's Gender and Women Studies program, said in a statement Monday.

For a school to dictate to a student how they are supposed to respond to a sexual assault is grossly inappropriate.

If they are brave enough to come forward after the assault, they should be able to consult whomever they wish.

Naturally, universities are focused on protecting their image and reputation. Yet this concern should not come above something as serious as sexual violence.

The school maintains that it takes sexual violence, assault and harassment very seriously, and all victims are encouraged to go to the police.

The school acknowledged that there was a mistake made in imposing the contract, Brandon University president Gervan Fearon said in a news conference on Tuesday afternoon. "I think at this point, we are saying that it was inappropriate for us to use it," Fearon said.

"We learn from errors, and we go forward with improvements." The school intends to have a new version of their policy in place for September 2016.

Yes, the school administration eventually admitted their mistake, but not before the document sparked an outcry.

The contract was made public this week on a website called We Believe Survivors, a student-led campus group. The group was formed just 10 days before, after Jian Ghomeshi's acquittal on sex assault charges.

Given that universities are our institutions of highest learning, shouldn't they know better? Certainly one would expect a higher

standard of care.

This is not an isolated case, as a culture of silencing victims is present at a number of other university campuses. A 2014 Toronto Star investigation found that only nine of 78 universities across Canada, including three in Ontario, had a separate policy regarding sexual violence. Many victims felt abandoned by their school, the investigation found. By now, one would think that there would be a clear, fair and consistent approach to this issue.

Funnily enough, the very same day that We Believe Survivors leaked the Brandon contract, the University of Toronto announced that it is looking to create a stand-alone sexual assault policy.

Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centres will be opened on all three U of T campuses by January 2017.

This past March, a student at the University of Victoria was also silenced. The school hired an independent investigator after she alleged that she was sexually assaulted.

A letter attached to the investigator's report warned her to stay quiet about the findings, and to discuss it only with her family, lawyer, counsellor and police. Failure to maintain confidentiality may result in disciplinary action.

Around this same time, a Brock

University student was urged to keep quiet after a male professor had given her alcohol and tried to sexually assault her in his office. The university later regretted "the emotional trauma this incident has caused to the complainant, Brock staff were supportive and responsive as soon as they learned of the complaint."

Many universities are scrambling to react only after allegations of sexual assault come to light.

Such is the case at McGill University, when three members of the football team were involved in a sex assault controversy.

The athletes were charged in April 2012, after an incident that allegedly occurred in September 2011.

At the University of British Columbia, a grad student was expelled after complaints of harassment and sexual assault by at least six women. The expulsion did not come until a year and a half after the complaints began.

Brandon University, as well as other post-secondary institutions in Canada, need to have concrete ways of dealing with the issue of sexual violence, rather than silencing the victims in an attempt to make it disappear.

Youth and students are among the most vulnerable in society, and they should not be the ones who need to protect themselves from the institutions to which they belong.

Panama Papers point us to new era of corporate accountability and Canadian firms are no exception



Phil Witmer
ASSIGNMENTS EDITOR

We should not let the Panama Papers revelations slide even though the bottom line on the recent exposé is sadly inevitable.

Of course the world's wealthiest 1 per cent keeps trillions in tax holdings at secret offshore locations. It's ludicrous that it is so obviously believable.

No major power was safe from the international investigative effort, with many banks and corporations making swift moves to cover-up.

Among them was our very own Royal Bank of Canada, RBC.

Yes, Canada's largest bank set up some 370 offshore havens to evade

Canadian taxes. But they've firmly denied any and all connections, with CEO Dave McKay saying that RBC officials "don't have any understanding of the information."

As with all other aspects of the Panama Papers case, the cover-up should be obvious. Still, the sheer scale of the Papers may find some of the public either too overwhelmed to engage with them or dismissing them as business section gibberish, to be read only by economists.

This is not what should be happening. Here are the facts:

The Panamanian firm Mossack Fonseca, released data on nearly a quarter million offshore companies situated on small islands in the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, and the Pacific believed to be used as tax havens.

The leaders of Iceland, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine, Argentina, and the United Arab Emirates are all implicated, while higher-ups of forty more countries are as well.

These actions go back to at least the 1970s and may have resulted in \$2 trillion lost. Iceland's prime minister has already resigned due to his newly acquired scandal and it wouldn't be surprising if more of the named world leaders take similar actions to take the heat off themselves.

Twitter was ablaze with a #cameronresign Friday morning, calling for the resignation of UK Prime Minister David Cameron, so the possibility isn't too far off.

So, we come to RBC being implicated, and along with it, the Bank of Montreal.

Is there a general blindness among the public to the machinations of these banks or are they just good at hiding things?

The answer is most likely the former, seeing as it took journalists in more than 70 countries to crack the ring. If these havens have existed for decades, and the concept of tax evasion is even older, perhaps there should be little excuse to not have increased vigilance from Canadians.

Of course, the idea that Canadians could be corrupt is a challenge because we're "the nice ones".

Unfortunately, the world doesn't work like that. The rich and scheming are the rich and scheming, no matter where they are.

There should probably be more financial literacy among the general public on where their money goes and how it's processed once it gets to the skyscrapers of Bay Street.

It's baby steps but perhaps this can lead to more transparency among larger corporations. After all, if everyone knows what goes on, it's more difficult for banks and politicians to play coy.

Perhaps now that the Panama Papers have been exposed alongside the NSA leaks of 2013, the inner workings of powerful organizations will now more likely be laid bare.

There just shouldn't be so much surprise when Canada is discovered to be a little bit rotten. Investigative efforts like these need to keep going, as they are the beginning of a new era, a sort of crowd-sourced security or whistleblower culture.

This is obviously a large-scale vision, and one that won't see immediate results any time soon, but it's nice to know what a bit of digging can do.

HUMBER
Et Cetera

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

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'Grief porn' frames emotional intelligence as gendered



Sam Juric
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The images of females huddled together, clutching one another in the immediate aftermath of disaster, destruction and war have been the recurring subjects of photography for decades.

Some of the most iconic photographs of all time have depicted bereaved women and girls in the midst of scenes of chaos and carnage.

From Dorothea Lange's award

winning photo of a suffering migrant woman surrounded by children to Huynh Cong Ut's photo of the nine-year-old "Napalm Girl" fleeing an American bombing in Vietnam, running down the street naked with a decisive look of fear and vulnerability clinging to her face, the images of women suffering have been burned into our collective memories.

Beyond the basic debate of the ethics surrounding the documentation of such scenes and doing nothing to prevent or assist in these situations is the far less discussed issue of the specific narrative that is being told by the overwhelming overuse of women to represent horror, grief and suffering.

The visual documentation of the Vietnam War, the earthquakes that rocked both Haiti and Japan, the genocides of Bosnia and Rwanda reveal the historical gendered way we view and consume images of suffering.

This kind of imagery is not isolated to the past.

Even now, in the wake of the re-

cent terrorist attacks in Brussels and Lahore the narrative lives on. And it is strong.

The first dominant image of the Brussels attacks was of an injured woman covered in soot, slumped on a bench. The principal images used to depict the attacks in Lahore were overpoweringly of bereaved, inconsolable women holding one another.

These images were vastly and readily consumed by the public through news outlets such as CBC, MSNBC, The Guardian, CTV and others across the globe.

Do we like seeing women suffer? Is suffering beautiful when it's represented by a woman, is there something sexual or desirable about it?

The idea may sound perverse (and it is) but one Google search of the word suffering will show that we do, as a society, have a morbid fixation with female suffering. It is the silent taboo.

It points to a society that is unable to bear witness to the constructs of the macho male struck down, to re-

veal a human, vulnerable and capable of feeling.

It creates an unrealistic polarization between the suffering of men and women. One which implies that men are weak if depicted suffering and women cold and heartless if they do not react emotionally.

This continued narrative is damaging. The gendered images of war and suffering have significant weight and leave impressions on the mind. Images assign meaning and significance to abstract concepts. They form identity and conceptions of reality.

It leaves boys and men the most vulnerable and at risk to the idea that women are solely given the role of suffering.

While writing this, I asked my roommate what she imagines when she thinks of suffering. Her answer sadly did not diverge from this destructive cliché.

She is an artist who is training to become an illustrator. Through her art she will help to depict human

nature. Whether it is realistic or not. Whether it is a gendered view or not.

The media is one of the largest contributors to this gendered outlook. Since the advent of social media, this kind of 'grief porn' is more and more accessible.

Just in the isolated cases of the attacks in Brussels and Lahore, Twitter and Google were pouring with images of women suffering.

It's time to change the narrative. It's time to show that men are human too.

Equality and equity are mainly discussed in conversations concerning the wage gap, voting and reproductive rights but it must also be considered in looking at the subliminal messages produced by the media.

It's the things that go unnoticed that matter, that can have the deepest and most destructive impact.

It is worth mentioning that in an effort to challenge the prevalence of this issue I have chosen not to include examples of the photographs mentioned in this piece.

Humber detaining union organizers a troubling sign for labour rights



Corey Brehaut
NEWS EDITOR

Humber College is engaging in unlawful union busting tactics.

Part-time contract support staff at Ontario colleges have increased by over 30 per cent between 1985 and 2015 and currently outnumber full-time employees of this kind two to one across the province, according

to OPSEU Local 561 steward Tracy MacMaster at Humber College. These part-time workers do not receive benefits, cannot participate in discussions concerning the curriculum and have no job security.

That is why the Ontario Public Sector Employees Union is canvassing college campuses to sign contract workers into the union.

Such efforts by OPSEU seem entirely reasonable. Yet two union organizers for part-time support staff at Humber College were detained and questioned for more than an hour by security at the Lakeshore campus before being escorted off the premises and told not to return.

That's according to a new report in the publication for Humber College faculty union OPSEU Local 562, citing chief steward Fredy Meija, a support staff union representative.

The pamphlets being passed out had photos and names of the presidents of the GTA's colleges with

their salaries and the slogan, "It only takes a few at the top to keep thousands at the bottom."

Its goal was to encourage part-time contract workers at the college to join the union by going to www.collegeworkers.org.

The information on the pamphlets is freely available in the recently released Sunshine list which details the compensation of all Ontario public sector employees earning \$100,000 or more.

Seeing as Humber president and CEO Chris Whittaker made \$425,282.23 last year (the most of any college president in the province), I'm inclined to think that the reduction of full-time staff for part-time and contract workers is merely to fill the coffers of the rich on the backs of the poor.

Of course, unions were created to fight exactly this kind of thing, so OPSEU was not happy with the treatment of their organizers.

Hence the union, including its president Warren "Smokey" Thomas, made a trip to Humber College on Mar. 24 to pass out copies of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to remind Humber's higher ups that freedom of association is an entrenched right in Canada.

"Freedom of association is the right of all Canadians. This includes the right to come together in a union and bargain for better wages and working conditions," Thomas said. "By trying to kick our organizers off campuses, college presidents are violating the Charter. This must stop."

OPSEU administrators also plan to file an Unfair Labour Practice complaint at the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

They claim that they are recruiting on campuses because Toronto's colleges are artificially inflating the number of non-union contract workers in order to make it more difficult to sign up 35 per cent of the

staff for the union.

This is the minimum requirement in order to make the school and the union go to the bargaining table.

If these claims turn out to be true -- and if campus security are kicking people off of campuses for handing out pamphlets with readily available material, it may well be -- it is a voter suppression tactic to keep the people from organizing in order to get fair and equitable treatment from their employers.

I doubt anything will be done to stop this. It's not in vogue to like unions after years of former Prime Minister Stephen Harper telling Canadians that unions wanted to steal their money and destroy their economy.

But the purpose of unions remains the same as ever: to protect those who work for a living from those who live in luxury off the workers' sweat and toil.

QUOTED: Would you feel secure enough to report a sexual assault to Humber?

"I feel like it should be done immediately regardless of the circumstances."



Graham Gillespie
Electro Mechanical Engineering, 2nd

"I would be able to trust them because they are trained for sexual assault issues."



Jaycie Cundari
Early Childhood Education, 1st

"I don't think I'd be scared to approach them. It's very important to have security on campus at night especially for girls."



Kawsei Siva,
Fitness & Health Promotion, 2nd

Packing lunches a healthier and more affordable option for students

Sully Akbari
STAFF REPORTER

When time is money, Witney Dunn says she has the money but not the time.

And when it comes to making herself a lunch, Dunn, a 20-year-old third-year Ontario College of Art and Design graphic design student, gets to the heart of the problem.

"I never have time to pack a lunch because it would take valuable time away from my schedule," she said. "Instead, I buy a lunch at school."

Buying or packing a lunch becomes a lifestyle as a post-secondary student, but there are big differences in cost and healthiness with the home-packed lunch. For Dunn and many other students, the daily lunch purchase is a big money drain.

"I go to school Monday to Friday and spend about \$10 a day," she said. "So adding that up gives me \$50 on lunch spent each week."

The majority of Dunn's

money is spent on buying lunch at school. She buys lunch every day when she is on campus.

Dunn never looked at her long term expenditure. Spending \$50 a week equals over \$200 a month and \$1,600 over the course of a school year.

"Now that I look at it, \$1,600 over a school year is ridiculous," she said. "I can't fathom that."

Now knowing how much she spends, Dunn said she should have saved money towards her tuition or other important expenses. Still, Dunn said she has not been eating healthily ever since she started to buy lunch at school.

"The food bought from the outside world is unhealthy, a slice of pizza or a burrito is the quickest meal for me," she said. "Unless it is prepared with the ingredients you buy at a grocery store, it is unhealthy."

Amber Copostosto, a Food and Nutrition Management professor, couldn't agree more.

"As long as a packed lunch is corresponding with Canada's food guide, students will get the adequate nutrients needed from their fruits and vegetables, protein, grains and dairy products," she said.

Dunn said she is now going to change her eating habits as well as prepare lunch from home to take to school.

Students who do pack a lunch for school do it for the reason of knowing what they are eating well and saving money.

Second-year Ryerson University student of interior design Ivanka Chachula, 20, is no different.

"I always pack a lunch because I know what I am eating, I can prepare it myself and it is cost effective," she said.

Chachula uses the same routine when she prepares her lunch.

"It takes me half an hour to prepare my lunch the night before," she said. "If I'm up late the night before, I pack my lunch before I leave for school in the morning."

Chachula says her downtown campus lunch items are expensive and it doesn't make sense to buy lunch from there.

"The amount that is spent on one grocery trip lasts me the entire week for packing a lunch and the cost is about the same as one meal from a fast food restaurant," she said.

The fast food restaurants around Ryerson University are what keep students like Chachula away, as they can lead to an unhealthy diet.

Another factor that complements Canada's food guide is balancing meals in the right moderation.

"Having a hamburger and fries for lunch can do some damage," Copostosto said. "However, a sandwich and a salad on the side provides the perfect balance."

Canada's food guide plays an important part for students who pack a lunch. Chachula knows this and makes sure her lunch is well balanced.

"I pack a lean-meat sandwich, some fruits and vegeta-



SULLY AKBARI

Amber Copostosto, Food and Nutrition Management at Humber, suggests packing a balanced lunch.

bles, and an organic granola bar," she said. "What helps me pack my lunch is that I follow Canada's Food Guide."

The main problem for packing a lunch, Copostosto says, is lack of time for preparation can lead to students constantly buying lunch.

"I find the main reason is time management," she said. "If students plan out their

times accordingly, it will be easier for them to prepare."

Copostosto says this is a difficult situation for those who buy lunch every day.

"It becomes a habit that is tough to break," she said. "Once students get into that daily routine of buying lunch every day, it is hard to change."

Starbucks, Tim Hortons compete for best coffee on campus



SANZANA SYED

New Starbucks is LRC favourite with many students, yet others prefer cheaper Tim Hortons.

Sanzana Syed
STAFF REPORTER

Hands in her pockets and moving from side to side, Amneet Rai waits in a Starbucks line at Humber College for her favourite drink, passion tea lemonade.

She glances behind her and sees the line rapidly growing as students rush in to grab their morning coffee, tea, latte, or caramel Frappuccino, before classes.

To Rai's left, she eyes the display case with the many coffee beans and roasts, taking a few seconds longer at the travel mugs and cups display before moving down the line.

To her right, she sees the

group of Humber staff and students mixing sweeteners and putting lids on their drinks at the North campus Learning Resource Commons outlet.

Rai's experience would be different at the other popular coffee shop located at the opposite end of campus. Tim Hortons is the leading competitor in java for Humber students and staff.

Like coffee customers in the larger culture, students find more congenial pricing at Tim's but in some cases prefer the more customized, elegant coffee stylings of Starbucks.

"I think the current Starbucks is located in a great place," said Rai, an event

management student. "It's accessible to everyone because the LRC is very spacious and central."

Rai, like many others, is pleased with the opening of Starbucks in the new LRC.

The floor-to-ceiling windows provide an open and brighter space for students to enjoy a cup of coffee and a study session in the seating area is provided.

Rai said that seeing a line at Starbucks is a sign to not to spend her money and time on a drink. She spends about \$12 a week at Starbucks and said "the amount can be decreased."

Alexandra Henderson, one of the baristas at Starbucks, said it is the best coffee shop

on campus.

Rai agrees, noting that Starbucks offers different seasonal drinks besides the location and "better" waiting area.

Other people would disagree.

"Although it [Starbucks] has a great location, Tim Hortons has a larger food section and is way cheaper," said Trey Hesketh, a game programming student at Humber.

Tim Hortons' employees were too busy to comment, but the campus shop is open longer than Starbucks, ensuring that students and faculty have enough time to grab a quick drink in the express line.

Shanice Atwell, a barista at Starbucks off-campus, said they offer "better customer service" and have employee benefits, including training on how to make connections with people.

"Now that Roll-Up-the-Rim is coming to an end, not a lot of people will be going to Tim's as often," said a Humber student.

While sipping on her passion tea lemonade, Rai said if she were given the chance to create a drink, it would be an iced mocha flavoured with Ferrero Rocher.

"If any store already has a drink like that already, consider that my new favourite coffee store," she said. "On or off campus."

Humber an attractive option for international students

Kasie DaSilva
STAFF REPORTER

Flora Fan had no other school on her mind than Humber College when deciding where to study in Canada this past fall.

The first-year Food and Nutrition program student from China fell in love with Canada while visiting Vancouver in 2012. She has always wanted to come back and study here.

Fan is one of the 3,400 international students attending Humber from more than 100 countries. What immediately caught her attention was the fact that it is Canada's largest college, but she was also intrigued by what her program offers.

"The courses designed to my program interest me and equips me with necessary knowledge for my career," Fan said.

Humber has a new International Centre in the North campus LRC that helps international students with enrolment, study permits and adjusting to living in Canada.

Fan said that at times, being far from home can be lonely but added Humber offers many services to make the adjustment easier. One big thing that helps her and fellow students adjust, Fan said, are the clubs run by international students.

"The clubs are like a family for students from different

countries," she said.

Anastasia Kvasniuk, a first-year architecture student from Russia, found Humber's school spirit and short commute to downtown to be very important to her when choosing her school.

"I toured many schools in the area," she said. "Humber was the only one that was close to downtown, had crazy school spirit for their sports and had a nice residence building."

Humber has international recruiters who each specialize in a continent. They travel to their assigned continent for two to six weeks to expose potential students to information about Humber and encourage them to apply.

Linda Chao, associate director and Asia International Recruiter of 10 years, said the diversity within and outside of Humber is one of the main attractions for international students coming here to study.

"It is a very diverse area, many international students have family who live close by," Chao said. International and Canadian students being together in classes is a great way for both parties to learn about each other's cultures and lifestyles and can help give a better understanding of where they come from and why they chose to come to Canada, she said.

Women's basketball team celebrates record-breaking season

Jahnelle Simpson

STAFF REPORTER

The Hawks women's basketball team found ways to get better as a team — even with a perfect win-loss record — in order to excel in a male dominated sport.

This year, the team was filled with more motivated players wanting nothing but to win and medal in nationals, said Humber head coach Ajay Sharma.

The team shattered the OCAA all time regular season scoring record this year.

The Hawks went into their game against Niagara 11 points away from the 1999 record of 1,393 points scored in a regular season.

Humber had an amazing performance against Niagara, setting the record at 1,450 points scored in a regular season.

Breaking the record feels good but that's not what it was about, said the Hawk's point guard Ceejay Nofuente.

This record was not the goal for the Humber Hawks.

It was all about the championship and this year they had to win, said Humber's power forward Llyanda Kerr.

Last year, the team did not medal at the national championships.

This year, they made history medaling in the national championships for the first time.



JAHNELLE SIMPSON

This past season, Humber Hawks women's basketball team medalled in national championships for the first time.

Emphatically.

The team posted a 21-0 season, averaging more than 80 points a game with a 41 per cent field goal success rate.

They dominated under the basket with a 53.5 per cent rebound average and a 27 per

cent 3 pointers success rate.

No one stood between them and national gold.

It was a huge accomplishment for the Hawks, but it kind of just happened with all the work they've been putting in, Kerr said.

The Hawks had a perfect season this year, winning all of their games while the men's team went 12-and-8.

This is huge for female sports, Kerr said. It shows they can compete on a level equal to men in a male domi-

nated sport, she said.

The Hawks had more chemistry this year and more mature basketball knowledge, she said.

Sharma had girls from last year's roster playing bigger roles this year and they worked

hard to achieve their goals.

The Hawks intend on recruiting more talent to add to this record-breaking team to accomplish bigger and better things, he said.

This season set the bar very high for the future.

Dong jumps adversity to play top-level badminton in Canada

Gulled Omar

STAFF REPORTER

The world was a very difficult place for Humber's Adam Dong to live in.

The 22-year-old sports management student arrived from China just two years ago, overcame cultural and language barriers, and became the college's top badminton player, now weighed down by gold medals.

The second-year student remained patiently dedicated to his goals, to move from nothing by overcoming plenty of obstacles.

Like star point guard Kyle Lowry of the Toronto Raptors, Dong, 22, is the heart of the Humber Hawks badminton team, the backbone, the driving force of the team..

Along with receiving last year's Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association (OCAA) freshman of the year award, Dong is also a back-to-back OCAA and Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) champion.

Dong knew from when he

was a child that playing badminton was his passion and he would chase his dreams by any means necessary.

He started playing badminton at the age of six, but has been playing at a professional level in China for 10



He's an outstanding player, I have no doubt he's one of the best badminton players in Canada

Alvin Chan
DONG'S TEAMMATE

years.

Born and raised in China, he emigrated to Canada without knowing English.

Dong left his family behind and came to Humber College to pursue his passion for badminton.

He's now captain of the Hawks badminton team for the second consecutive year.

"Leaving everything behind and starting a new

life was very difficult, but it proved to be the best decision I've ever made," Dong said.

He took the English Academic Purpose program at Humber to learn the language and begin his post-secondary education.

"Not knowing how to speak English pushed me even harder to do my best at everything I do," Dong said.

The native of Suzhou, a city of 10.5 million people about 1,170 km. south of Beijing, said his teammates also played a key role in making sure he was settled down as he said it gets lonely when he has no one to talk to.

"They taught me well and everything I needed to know to live over here and how I could make it," said Dong, referring to his fellow teammates.

Teammate Alvin Chan, 25, an exercise science student, described Dong as one of the hardest working badminton players.

"He's an outstanding player, I have no doubt he's one of

the best badminton players in Canada," said Chan.

The duo train together two days a week and go out to eat at places together to build their chemistry both on and off the court.

"He's helped us to become a better team and a better person because he's just so understanding and wants the best for everyone," said Chan.

The coach of Humber's badminton team Raymond Wong said Dong is an integral part of the 18-member team.

"He's very coachable, understanding and always wants to do the best at whatever he does," Wong said. "He is not only an inspiration to the other players but also to me because of his dedication and work rate."

Wong also said Dong has long-term plans of representing Canada in badminton at the Olympics one day — and meanwhile continuing his education at Humber.



GULLED OMAR

Chan (left) and Dong are teammates on and off the court