

# HUMBER ET CETERA<sup>•</sup>

Humber's Student Newspaper

September 23, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 1

## THOUSANDS MOURN FALLEN TORONTO OFFICER



Jenny Hong, wife of Toronto Police Constable Andrew Hong, receives her late husband's hat as she wipes away tears at his funeral after he was murdered on Sept. 12. Story on page 2.

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**DEAFBLIND  
COMMUNITY TO  
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MEGAN SMITH

Pallbearers carry the casket, draped in the Canadian flag, of murdered Constable Andrew Hong from the Toronto Congress Centre on Sept. 21.

## Thousands gather for funeral of slain Toronto police officer

**Nicole Jung, Hawi Tulu,  
Megan Smith, Upkar  
Singh**

Staff Reporters

As Beth Evans watched the funeral procession for Toronto Constable Andrew Hong, waiting for her two children who were members of an accompanying band, she reflected on the reality of police work.

Hong was just like everyone else, who should be at home with his family, not killed in an “unfortunate” twist of fate, she

said.

“I think I want him to be remembered as a hero,” Evans said. “An everyday guy who really had unfortunate circumstances. He would have been a part of the Korean community, a father, and a hero of a husband.”

The funeral on Sept. 21 at the Toronto Congress Centre on Dixon Road was one day before the 21st wedding anniversary of Hong and his wife, Jenny. She said her husband had two great loves in his life.

“He had the Toronto Police Service, and he had his family,” she told mourners.

For every emergency services worker who attended the funeral, Jenny took the time to thank them.

“I thank you for your sacrifice and your support,” she said. “I know that you are all grieving for him too.”

Hong’s daughter, Mia, spoke at the funeral and said her father was a hero to her and her biggest supporter.

Flags were lowered at half mast as Hong’s funeral was held at the centre. There were 8,000 attendees, including his family, friends and

emergency services workers from across North America.

He was remembered as someone who was kind and respected in the community he served.

Lisa Ricciardi was in the crowd around the Toronto Congress Centre. She wanted Hong to be remembered in the police community for the kind man he was.

“Nobody deserved to die like that,” Ricciardi said. “He did not deserve to be murdered like that. He is a hero. Listen to the words that are spoken [of] him. He is the man of the people. He had a big smile on his face.”

She said that Hong was the shining star of what policing should be.

“He is the man of the police,” she said. “And he is the person who you want in the police.”

Hong was taking a lunch break in Mississauga following a training session on Sept. 12 when the 22-year veteran was gunned down at close range by suspect Sean Petrie, 40. The gunman later killed Milton garage owner Shakeel Ashraf, 38, and employee and Conestoga international student Satwinder Singh,

28. Two others were injured.

Hong’s funeral procession was followed by a band that marched past in a tribute to the police and the Royal Canadian Air Force.

The honorary pallbearers were Capt. Do Kim with the Royal Canadian Air Force and Detective Nadar Khishboo from Traffic Services. They carried the casket with the Chief’s Ceremonial Unit to the hearse.

The pain was felt by the active serving emergency services, all the way down to the students who will soon pick up the torch and carry on the legacy Hong leaves behind.

Humber students in the Police Foundation program were left reflecting on the profession they will soon enter.

Neha Singh, a Police Foundation student at Lakeshore campus, said she will continue to work towards making the community a better place.

“The way he lost his life, it was very tragic,” Singh said. “I don’t know what role I’m going to be playing in the future, but whatever I can do to make things better, I’m going to try to do that.”



### ETC •

Humber Et Cetera is the Humber College journalism program laboratory newspaper. It is created by second and third year journalism students. 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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# Georgetown Fall Fair returns following two-year COVID-19 hiatus

**Samantha Little**  
Editor

Georgetown hosted its fall fair this weekend for the first time in two years.

As part of the fairgrounds' activities, carnival rides, games, crafts, and face painting were available for children from Sept. 9 to 11 at the Georgetown Fairgrounds.

Smiles spread across the painted faces of Kennedy and Olivia as they enjoyed the fair activities.

"My favourite ride was the big slide because it was the fastest," Olivia said.

Admission prices were \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids, and free for children eight and under. Rides and games were paid for separately. Food trucks were available offering Beaver Tails, cotton candy, ice cream and lollipops for those with a sweet tooth, as well as serving fast food and refreshments.

Stephanie Smith, the secretary of the Georgetown Fall Fair, said in addition to food and drink choices,

the fair entertained all ages.

"The question is, what didn't we have to offer," Smith said.

"We had the demolition derby, three fantastic bands, a huge children's section that a lot of other fall fairs don't have, and the Magical Midways carnival games which offered various prizes," she said.

The demolition derby is a popular fair competition where drivers compete by deliberately ramming their vehicles into one another. Victory goes to the last driver whose vehicle is still operational.

Amanda McGraw, one of the Magical Midways employees was responsible for working on a carnival game that involved knocking out the teeth of a clown.

"It's great to be able to be working outside providing entertainment for people at the fair while enjoying the nice weather," McGraw said.

The first Georgetown Fall Fair was hosted in 1846 by the Esquesing Agricultural Society, which is now known as the



SAMANTHA LITTLE

Kennedy and Olivia by the Ferris wheel during the Georgetown Fair, which ran between Sept. 9 and 11.

Georgetown Agricultural Society.

The Georgetown Agricultural Society offered the Agricultural Education Tent, which provides milking demonstrations along with a wide variety of farm animals to look at and learn about.

Throughout the fair's 175 years, many aspects have remained the same. However, unlike years before, there was now an open ground permit for the beer tent. This allowed fair-goers to bring

their alcoholic beverages almost anywhere at the fair.

Visitors to the fall fair were also able to shop at local vendors' tents and see their products on display.

Jordan Pereira, with clothing company Halton Hills Gear, was one of the vendors at the Georgetown Fall Fair.

"Many people want to support small businesses and show their community spirit. So it is a great opportunity for vendors," Pereira said.

On the fair's first return since the onset of the pandemic, people came out in droves.

"The fair was pretty crowded, but still an overall great experience," said Ava Casey, a student at Christ the King.

"Altogether, I will be looking forward to attending the fall fair next year," Casey said.

The talent show concluded the fair Sunday afternoon with dancers from Strictly Dance.

# TPL Friends sale gather book lovers in downtown Toronto

**Barbara Patrocino**  
Senior Reporter

Readers had the chance to attend the Book and Treasure Sale hosted by the Friends of the Library – South Chapter at Toronto's Public

Reference Library on Yonge Street from Sept. 15 to 17.

It's something that doesn't happen all the time.

Antique books were available for \$1 and a session dedicated to "literary treasures," first editions,

signed books and even Folio editions. Hundreds of people with boxes, large bags, and even trolleys carried their new books home.

Frank Velikonja, Friends of the Toronto Public Library chairperson and volunteer, said readers' reactions to being given the chance to get a rare book they wouldn't have bought otherwise is always heartwarming.

"They are just so happy, with stunned expressions of amazement, and full of joy for having the opportunity to have a special book they've always wanted at a price they can afford," he said.

The money raised is used to support the Toronto Public Library's literacy programs.

The event, which has raised \$2.7 million since 2002, began in 1996, when TPL had a lot of donated materials that they couldn't process.

"Our founder, Doug Brown, came up and suggested that we have book sales every year, which

went very well," Velikonja said. "Our chapter alone, since 2002, has raised \$1.5 [million], very slowly, charging a dollar per book.

"All the money that we raised goes directly to the Toronto Public Library Foundation, especially to outreach programs directed at children, teaching them how to use library resources," he said.

Training and stimulating readers increases TPL's popularity amongst the public, as people who learn to read and grow fond of it will usually continue to do so.

The event also financed the end of all fines announced in March, after previously removing fines for children last year.

"Now Toronto's public library system is one of the finest in the world," Velikonja said.

And in the digital age, where it's possible to easily access any content online, understanding TPL's services is essential to keep younger generations involved.

Vickery Bowles, head librarian

at the Toronto Public Library, says people want it all.

"They want to have access to information electronically, but they also want to hold the book in their hands," she said.

At this year's event, old books were available for as little as \$1 including rare books. The so-called "literary treasures" such as first editions, signed books, and Folio editions were also available, ranging from \$15 to \$100. Complete sets of rare editions were also available, with the highest value being a 17-volume Folio set of Joseph Conrad books for \$400.

Julian Arruda left the sale satisfied with his acquisitions.

"I found four hidden gems in the arts section, and my final total was only \$14," he said. "I'm definitely coming back next year."

Book sales promoted by the Friends of the TPL happen every year in March but treasure book sales occur in September every two years.



BARBARA PATROCINIO

Frank Velikonja, Friends of the Toronto Public Library chairperson, at BookEnds South Chapter in the Reference Library on Yonge Street.

# City Hall raises the Neurodiversity flag after two-year hiatus

**Annabelle Berry**  
Reporter

Toronto City Hall is raising the Neurodiversity flag for the first time in person after two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Sept. 16 flag raising was coordinated by Autistics for Autistics, an autistic-led self-advocacy organization based in Canada.

"In terms of building community, it's really important to be together in person," said Anne Borden, a member of Autistics for Autistics.

The term Neurodiversity refers to variations in the human brain and cognition, including variations in things like learning, attention, mood and sociability.

"Neurodiversity is very much like the concept of biodiversity," Borden said. "Biodiversity means there's many different species and that all the different species and the different types of brains help to

make the world be able to survive and interrelate.

"So all kinds of brains are also needed. Just like in biodiversity, all different kinds of life is needed for a healthy planet," she said.

Several attendees from Simcoe County held onto their flags during the ceremony, including that of the half blue and half yellow county flag that reflects their official colours. The infinity symbol, however, is the symbol used to display autism pride.

"We are a unique culture, and we're proud of it," said Steven Vergeron, an attendee of the event. "But we're not separatists about it. We want to be part of society, in our own unique way, and we want to contribute to it in really big ways."

The first of the annual flag-raising events began in 2019, which then took a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A virtual flag-raising event was held in 2020, featuring



ANNABELLE BERRY

The Neurodiversity Pride flag flying at Toronto City Hall in Toronto.

a gif of a flag being raised during a Zoom call with members, nothing was done to celebrate in 2021.

"The first one was in 2019, we had a real flag raising at City

Hall, and it was just a really, really special occasion and it just felt amazing to be together. Then in 2020, and 2021, we had to do it virtually," Borden said.

"It's really very special to hear someone's laughter and to be standing beside someone," she said. "That's completely different in a Zoom meeting or something like that."

While City Hall supports in flying the flag, some neurodivergent people hope this is simply a beginning.

Bronwyn Keith, a neurodivergent student from Humber's Bachelors of Advertising program, feels that the representation of the neurodivergent community is growing.

"I think it's nice to see more representation of the community, especially government buildings," Keith said. "However I hope to see real actions taken to show support that reflects them flying the flag."

"It's a great first step, and I hope this is just the first step of many to make the city a more inclusive and accessible place for everyone," Keith said.

## Inflation hits harder for struggling students already on a budget

**Niko De Ciantis**  
Reporter

Rising grocery prices have been straining the lifestyles of many college students across Canada.

Ana Guedes, a 20-year-old student from The Toronto School of Management, said the situation is "stressful and draining."

Canada's inflation rate and gas prices have been cooling down but grocery prices continue to

increase. Statistics Canada said grocery prices rose by 10.8 per cent from September 2021 to September 2022.

The fallout hit each generation differently, with expenses hitting younger people hard. As inflation continues to rise and affect everyday items like groceries and health products, Canadians, particularly young Canadians, are being forced to make consequential sacrifices.

"I can't do things that I like to since I can only work 20 hours a week and the money is not enough," Guedes said.

As an immigrant to Canada, she's faced with the hard task of having to pay more for tuition because she's an international student.

"I was trying to be more healthy but with the prices going up, I'm buying more simple and cheap things and sometimes they are not the healthiest ones," Guedes said.

With the stress being felt by students, many are saying that something needs to be done to help them with all their essential needs and expenses.



NIKO DE CIANTIS

Vegetables in the produce aisle at Walmart. Rising prices make produce harder to obtain for young people.

"The government could create a student discount for essential foods like milk, bread, meat and vegetables, it would help a lot," Guedes said.

On the other side of the coin, when looking at how inflation is affecting older people, there's a visible difference.

Wendy Ficachello, a 57-year-old shopper, expressed her need to stick with what she knows is best even though times are tougher than ever before.

"Certain things like vegetables and meat are hard to be selective with and I find myself sticking with the quality even though it costs more," Ficachello said.

Young people are eating poorly compared to older generations. This can lead to concerns that young people's health may also be at risk.

Nichole Dicen, a Walmart shopper, agrees with Ficachello as she tries to provide her family with the best quality food.

"I still try to stick with the foods and products that I like because, in the end, I would rather pay more money for quality items instead of something cheap," Dicen said.

Being responsible for a family of four is what drives Dicen to make certain sacrifices when it comes to grocery shopping.

One in five Canadians, or seven

million people, reported going hungry at least once sometime between March 2020 and March 2022, according to data released by Food Banks Canada in June.

FBC reported rising inflation and housing costs are creating hunger and food insecurity among more Canadians.

The report said 23 per cent reported they were eating less than they thought they should because there wasn't enough money for food.

"I feel that something needs to be done to help people who are struggling to eat, especially if they have a family to keep healthy or are unemployed," Dicen said.



NIKO DE CIANTIS

Ana Guedes, 20, says inflation is eating away her buying power and finds it "stressful and draining."

# Affordable Etobicoke housing for the deafblind

**Samuel Belton**  
News Reporter

The Canadian Helen Keller Centre (CHKC) is planning to build a 56-unit, affordable and accessible apartment complex in Etobicoke accommodating deafblind people.

Phil Corke, the board chair of the CHKC, hopes this initiative will allow those in the deafblind community to feel more entrenched in the community.

“We hope to provide residents and those in the deaf-blind community with affordable, independent living options along with the associated training they need to live independently,” Corke said.

Elio Riggillo, a deafblind man and the Consumer Relations Coordinator at the CHKC, was born deaf. As he aged, his vision became impaired. He relies on pro-tactile American Sign Language that relies not only on hand-touching for communication but also on the entire body.

“The new building is to be fully accessible for deaf and blind people, and it will also provide



SAMUEL BELTON

The Canadian Helen Keller Centre in North York. The centre is building accessible, affordable housing for those in the deaf and blind community.

more socialization opportunities,” Riggillo told Humber Et Cetera.

He said many in the deafblind community feel a sense of isolation. However, friends and family will be able to visit in this type of housing.

“I am profoundly deaf,” Riggillo said. “Because of that, my sense of taste, smell, and touch all become heightened because I use them for

communication.”

He said he looks forward to creating more awareness of the deafblind community.

“It’ll provide a lot of opportunities for the deafblind,” Riggillo said. “We face a lot of barriers.

“The more people learn and educate themselves about the deafblind, the more opportunities are provided for the deafblind, and

the more barriers are dismantled,” Riggillo said.

Riggillo said many deafblind people are either underemployed or unemployed. Many people believe blindness and deafness to be a barrier, but he said there are many ways in which they can communicate.

His job highlights helping deaf, blind, and deafblind people alike get access to interveners and interpreters.

Riggillo said people who are deaf but not blind rely on vision so that if they lose their sight it can be difficult to adapt to other senses the way deafblind people have. The building will provide support for those dealing with the issue.

The CHKC applied for funding through the Rapid Housing Initiative. This initiative was created by the federal government through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to provide affordable housing to vulnerable people.

Corke said he received a phone call from the CMHC recommending the CHKC apply, telling them their organization would be

a good fit. Corke reviewed this with the board and they applied accordingly, he said.

Ultimately, after two applications, the CHKC received the funding.

Jennifer Robbins, the executive director at CHKC, said she has an apartment building with services available to those that are deafblind.

“I run a 16-unit apartment building in Willowdale,” she said. “People who are deafblind live there independently.

“There are some support services, intervenor services attached to that housing,” Robbins said. “All the units are renter’s income. The new project is a huge extension of what we’ve already had for the past 30 years.”

Robbins said she was glad to see deafblind people involved in the decision-making process.

The former building, at 150 8th St. in Etobicoke, has been demolished. Corke said they expect the foundation after permits and site plan approvals to probably start in March 2023.

## Students feel tension around registration, campus commutes

**Shayonna Cole**  
News Reporter

Humber students transitioning to college from high school are feeling confused and stressed by the registration process.

Billy Dulkeith, a first-year student in the Business Administration program, felt there weren’t many options to choose from and was restricted to early morning or late afternoon classes.

“I got kicked off the registration page at least two or three times,” Dulkeith said. “It kept showing there was a time conflict, but it never said which campus it was. I just assumed it was the North campus since I applied there.”

When Dulkeith checked his timetable on the first day of classes, he found himself in a complicated situation.

“I saw that I had classes at both Lakeshore and North an hour apart,” he said.

“I went to the registrar’s office, and they straight up told me it wasn’t a mistake, and all the spots were full. I was pretty upset,” Dulkeith said.

Having classes located in dif-

ferent locations across the breadth of the city doesn’t seem to be the only issue with class schedules.

Humber students have dropped required courses because they were unable to travel back and forth between the two campuses, a 22-kilometre drive from Humber College Boulevard and Highway 27 to 3199 Lake Shore Blvd. W at Kipling Avenue.

It would take a vehicle about 20 minutes with no traffic, but bus times are longer and would require taking two Kipling express buses, the 945 bus north of the Kipling TTC station, and the 944 bus south of the subway line.

“I’m required to take six courses for my first semester, but I dropped two of them,” Dulkeith said. “It’s already a pain coming to this campus, so why go and experience it at another one? It’s ridiculous.”

Rhonda Harrison, manager at the Office of the Registrar at Humber’s North campus, said registration hasn’t changed, even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“When you’re scheduling the whole institution online, because we have never done it, that was a little bit more time-consuming

since we had to switch our normal policies,” Harrison said.

She told Humber Et Cetera that it’s encouraged that courses are being registered on the student’s designated home campus.

Harrison said students can register for courses at another campus at their discretion, and the college doesn’t interfere with their choices.

“We don’t get into that discussion, and we don’t offer restrictions to students,” she said.

Associate Dean of Continuous Professional Learning at Lakeshore campus Larisa Duravetz said students and the college should work together to solve the problem.

“With any transition, there’s always a bit of bumpiness but communication is always an issue. We can always look for ways to communicate better,” she said.

The registration page has limited options for classes since most of the spots are full. Students were unaware that they had classes at two different campuses, even with limited spaces for programs.

With Humber’s automatic system, not every detail gets delivered directly to the students.

“I know emails are sent out and



SHAYONNA COLE

Billy Dulkeith, a first-year Business Administration student at Humber College, is seated in the library at Humber College’s North campus.

people get notices but those aren’t always the best ways. We only have certain communication channels,” Duravetz said. “We have to make sure students know how to use them and that they’re reading their emails.”

In the absence of students dropping classes, the only alternative is

for them to add the course the following semester.

Humber students and class scheduling issues remain unclear for the future.

“I’m tired of the college screwing me over. It just feels like I’m wasting time. They just...need to do better,” Dulkeith said.

# EDITORIAL: Poilievre's leader win concerning for all

The Liberal Party of Canada has been in power since 2015 when a young newcomer with a famous name – Justin Trudeau – defeated longtime Conservative Party leader and former prime minister, Stephen Harper.

Since then, the Conservative leadership has been a revolving door of placeholders – until now.

The Conservative Party held its leadership convention on Sept. 10, and a swift winner emerged — Pierre Poilievre.

Poilievre, a Conservative Member of Parliament (MP) since 2004 for the Ottawa riding of Carleton, became the newest face of the Conservative Party in Canada, “with an impressive 68.15 per cent of the available points,” the party announced.

Poilievre swept almost every riding available to him, taking 330 of the 338. The result officially crowned him the face of the Conservative Party and unites the party under an unapologetic right-wing populist politician.

But what does Poilievre's victory mean for Canadians?

The Conservatives since the '90s, or as they were known then, the Progressive Conservatives, were able to secure votes from both Liberals and New Democrats voters because they had enough members who could present themselves as “moderates” hovering in



THE CANADIAN PRESS/JUSTIN TANG

Conservative Party of Canada Leader Pierre Poilievre with supporters after victory in Ottawa on Sept. 10.

the middle. The Red Tory is now extinct.

After the defeat of Erin O'Toole in the last general election — a leader who many believed to be the most moderate leader in decades — the party found itself in a precarious position.

Poilievre has taken Canadian politics by storm through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond with his brash and unapologetic political style. In many ways, the populist rhetoric Poilievre embraced is very emblematic of a certain former president of the United States.

He claims to be a champion of freedom and a fighter for hard-working Canadians. A man who will make it his mission to take on the Liberals and elites in Canada. It's peculiar that a man who has spent his entire adult life in cushy politics can somehow con-

sider himself a “champion of the working class.”

Poilievre, like many Conservative leaders in the past, ran on a thin campaign platform filled with vague promises, but continued to outline his main goal of “making Canada the freest country on Earth.”

He has promised to fire all the bureaucrats that he deems unnecessary, and this rang true to many of his supporters on Saturday when he promised to get rid of the federal government's “disastrous” ArriveCAN app and when he vowed to eradicate all vaccination mandates in all areas of federal jurisdiction.

Poilievre's stance on COVID-19 vaccination has been clear to Canadians since he elected to support the Freedom Convoy. The protest, led by truckers, brought Ottawa to a screeching halt for more than

three weeks.

The convoy consisted of unvaccinated truckers claiming their livelihoods and freedoms were being affected by the mandates. The convoy housed racists, neo-Nazis and antisemites brazenly flying swastikas on flags at these protests, vandalized monuments and mocked Indigenous chants with drums.

“People flying evil confederate or Nazi flags or disrespecting monuments are individually responsible for reprehensible acts,” Poilievre tweeted. “They do not represent the thousands of lawful truckers who are actually part of the protest and are peacefully championing their livelihoods & freedoms.”

Lawful truckers don't block major trade routes between the United States and Canada. Lawful truckers don't honk their horns in the ungodly hours of the night for

more than three weeks. They don't carry around jugs of fuel and fly Nazi swastikas in the street.

Poilievre has long been a social conservative, taking a position against gay marriage and has voted consistently against advancing women's reproductive rights. The Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada (ARCC) keeps a list of Canada's parliament and its members whom they deem to be “anti-choice.”

Poilievre has always been rated as “anti-choice.”

Poilievre voted in 2008 against giving Dr. Henry Morgentaler — the physician who played an instrumental role in progressing women's health rights in this country — the Order of Canada.

Pierre Poilievre's rapid ascent to the Conservative leadership marks the arrival of a newer form of populism. A social media-fuelled, conspiracy theorist, fake news style of politics that swept through the United States.

Poilievre's future in Canadian politics remains to be seen, but it's undeniable his victory gives him confidence. He believes, almost prophetically, that he is destined to dethrone the Liberals.

Canadians must understand that voting in the next election is more crucial than ever. Preventing him from taking power is necessary to keep Canada from taking too many steps in the wrong direction.

## OPINION: Fast food capitalism ‘fiery dance on the grave’ of communism



Nathan Abraha  
Editor

John Wayne, apple pie, and the Statue of Liberty enticed generations of communist states. Yet all stood aside of the grandest soft power of them all — multinational fast food corporations.

As the Soviet Union took its final breath in 1991, millions cheered and millions hung their heads weeping.

Corporations tripped over themselves to feast on the ripe carcass of communism's third-last outpost.

Once the world's second-largest economy, it quickly became the free market's chew toy.

McDonald's opened its first location in the USSR in 1990, ushering in an era of commercialized capitalism that would reach its peak in Mikhail Gorbachev's infamous 1998 Pizza Hut commercial.

“Because of him we have many things — like Pizza Hut,” were the words of an elderly babushka in support of Gorbachev.

Simple words, yet carried a larger message. Pizza Hut was not just pizza, it was a statement, a bombastic last dagger into what remained of what the Bolsheviks built.

A fiery dance on the grave of its nemesis, like never before, defeated not only by the Cold War but by the

cheesy jingle-infused patriotism of a ‘wholesome’ family pizza chain.

Humiliation, some argued. It was death. Communism's long-held belief that as long as people received essentials — it wouldn't matter the wrapping it came in, was proven a miscalculation.

Years of slow-burning propaganda pushed through pop culture had an effect. Music, art, and films all reinforced the same story — American patriotism — vibrant images of freedom, and opportunity caught on like wildfire.

The fact it was censored just made it more appealing.

The repetitive messages of the '80s red-scare films and media provided fuel for dissent within the banned black market audiences who desired the liberties shown in American media.

American culture was shown as

a transforming catalyst for change in hopes of provoking social movements and instigating challenges to communism.

Multinational corporations are a necessity like a fish needs an oil spill, yet 30,000 Muscovites lined up all day to taste their first Big Mac in 1990.

Why?

People need vanity projects to feel part of grandeur, even if vacuous. Capitalism, through its many cards, sells an intoxicating seduction on the psyches of the world. It tells tales, it does not need to speak. The ones people believe all on their own.

After levelling Vietnam to rubble in the '60s, U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Daniel Kritenbrink released in 2021 a gimmicky rap video on Facebook about his support for improved relations

between the two nations.

As he put it: “U.S. and Vietnam, from now to forever. We are trusted partners, prospering together.”

It quickly went viral in Vietnam with 2.8 million views.

A 2021 survey conducted by the State of Southeast Asia concluded that 91.7 per cent of participants welcomed an increased political and strategic American presence, signaling the effectiveness of soft power even in the modern day.

Multinational corporations are an extension of this soft power, they travel into nooks and crannies that regular foreign policy can't, or won't. Something as banal as fast food seems ridiculous, but it is crucial in capitalist interest.

Apple, or McDonalds won't sink a nation or overthrow a government, but someone who sees them as a symbol of destiny just might.

## OPINION: Halle Bailey is rising as Ariel under a sea of hate



**Charley Crocker**  
News Reporter

When Halle Bailey was cast as Ariel in the new *Little Mermaid* live-action movie, some fans were livid because a Black woman was set to play the famous mermaid.

Yet, the boiling point would tip over on Sept. 9 when a trailer was released, quickly going viral and amassing 20 million views. The trailer garnered one million likes accompanied by two million dislikes almost as quickly.

An online campaign of outrage was spawned in an instant.

The original 1989 *Little Mermaid* animation was based on a Danish folk tale by Hans Christian Andersen. It depicted Ariel with

pale white skin and bright red hair. Halle Bailey, while beautiful and sporting an angelic singing tone, is a departure from the mermaid plastered in popular memory.

But as she sang the words of “Part Of Your World” in the trailer she was — Ariel.

Parents worldwide quickly took to social media to post their kids’ bright reactions. Young Black girls shed tears across smiling faces as they finally had their live-action princess, it was a heartwarming sight.

But not all were touched. For some, it has become a case of erasure.

“From a scientific perspective, it doesn’t make a lot of sense to have someone with darker skin who lives deep in the ocean,” were the words of Matt Walsh, a popular American right-wing political commentator.

Well, scientifically, Mermaids don’t exist, so why are we arguing about race?

Ariel is a fictional character, everything in the movie is imaginary. The only thing that should be considered for a role is talent, not skin colour. As long as Halle Bailey can sing — which she can — she should be Ariel.

Why is it only considered “woke”



WALT DISNEY STUDIOS

Halle Bailey pictured as Ariel in the live-action remake of *The Little Mermaid* set to release worldwide 2023.

casting when it involves a person of colour, while in the past, Disney cast white actors to play BIPOC characters?

Some say Disney should have just created a new storyline with a strong Black lead rather than recycling old movies. Arguing the trend of race and gender swapping in Hollywood in recent years can sometimes feel like virtue signaling.

Virtual signaling or not, the very real impact a single Disney prin-

cess can have on millions of kids cannot be understated. Kids like Halle Bailey once was.

“What that would have done for me, how that would have changed my confidence, my belief in myself, everything,” Bailey said. “I want the little girls just like me who are watching to know that they’re special and that they should be a princess in every single way.

“There’s no reason that they shouldn’t be. That reassurance was

something that I needed,” she said.

I feel as though there’s too much negativity being aimed at Bailey, she’s a talented young actress and that’s what matters. There are more important things we should be worrying about rather than the race of an imaginary mermaid.

There is a worldwide pandemic, the threat of a Third World War, and major environmental issues. Fighting representation in Disney films should be last on the list.

## TALES FROM HUMBER: ADHD’s clash with my lengthy college journey



**Santiago Helou Quintero**  
News Reporter

My whole life, I’ve been trying to reach the potential that I’ve been told I have.

Over and over again I was told, if I just apply myself, I’ll reach this magical land of success that is my destiny.

These words might be familiar if you belong to the more than 10 per cent of the population who have ADHD.

Attention Deficit Hyperactive

Disorder — or as I like to call it, inconsiderate lazy f\*\*k up disorder — is a neurodivergence that affects executive function, emotional regulation, and just about everything else.

When I was young, I was branded as “gifted” meaning everyone had high expectations of me.

And I always fell short.

I struggled to focus on anything I wasn’t interested in but I was smart enough to get by. The rules changed when I got to college.

Without the suffocating structures of high school — something I didn’t realize I needed — I fell behind and stayed behind. I failed classes, was placed on academic probation and had to repeat my first year.

It was around then that my anxiety became overwhelming and the competitive environment of Humber Music was the perfect catalyst for my downfall.

Like so many others with

ADHD, I struggled with imposter syndrome. I felt any second they would catch my ruse and throw me out the door.

I spent the next four years tirelessly working to prove to myself and others that I belonged, isolating my friends and family in the process.

By the end of my second year of the Bachelor of Music program — in total my fourth year in college — I was finally beginning to feel like I belonged.

Then came the pandemic.

Just as I was starting to catch my stride, all the tools that I developed to make it through the day were ripped away from me.

Music school went online and my ability to self-regulate waned.

My mental health, which I’d neglected for years, reached critical levels.

I was diagnosed with severe depression, which affects 30 per cent of people with ADHD, and severe anxiety, which affects nearly

50 per cent of people with ADHD.

This time, I dropped out for good. In consultation with my doctor and parents, I took some time off to work on myself and figure out my next steps. For a while, I continued on a downward spiral. I became suicidal, was self-harming, and reached rock bottom.

If it wasn’t for my partner, friends, family and my doctor, I wouldn’t be telling my story today.

I began to rebuild, putting newfound time into community organizing and helped start a podcast, my gateway to journalism. Two years later I can’t believe where I am. Today I am surrounded by amazing friends and as my partner likes to put it, I’ve entered my “thrive era.”

Though my environment is healthier, my problems haven’t disappeared.

Last year, I completed an assignment two weeks early but submitted it over a month late. I

piled up 18 overdue assignments and couldn’t complete them until the last two weeks of a crammed semester.

I am not lazy. So why do I struggle so much with deadlines, especially simple ones?

ADHD.

Often invisible, it’s far too easy for us to slip through the cracks. According to a study from the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, fewer than 20 per cent of adults are diagnosed and receive treatment. Accommodations are only given to students with a diagnosis, a doctor’s note, which is often a process that can be long and difficult.

How many students are suffering in silence? Countless times I’ve heard the phrase “not fair to other students” when I’ve asked for accommodations. The truth is that for many of us, we are behind from day one.

We deserve equity. Post-secondary needs to do better at giving us a real chance to succeed.

# Hawk Fest returns to Humber College

**Julian Arwen**  
News Reporter

Hawk Fest returned to the North campus grounds after being absent for more than a year because of the pandemic.

Initially conceived as a way to promote varsity sports, Hawk Fest held on Sept. 21 in the Athletic Centre was retooled this year to promote Humber's other exercise-based activities.

Fitness coordinator Leanne Henwood-Adam said everyone was really excited to be back and bringing an event like this back to campus highlights campus athletics.

"This is the first year that we're back with everybody on campus this semester, and we wanted people to know that there is a lot to athletics besides varsity," she said.

Henwood-Adam said while its promotion was a goal, Hawk Fest's true aim was for the students to have a good time.

"The whole purpose of today was to get people to come down, have fun by participating in something, and have a chance to win some prizes and see what we're all about," she said.

Among the activities included simple sports-related games like shooting hoops. This year included some other activities such blow-up axe tossing and a bouncy obstacle course.

Henwood-Adam said Kangoo fitness was added to Humber athletics activities."

"We have Kangoo on our fitness schedule this year," Henwood-Adam said.

"We have the Kangoo ladies in there, demonstrating. It's like a skate boot with a spring on the bottom.

"It's a lot of fun and a lot of people have never seen that before," he said. "It's a way to get people to try different things.

"My favourite part is just seeing people participating in things like that," Henwood-Adam said.

A variety of staff and students helped with managing Hawk Fest. Former Humber Learning and Development coordinator Maureen Martin-Edey, who is part of the athletics centre, works at the help desk.



Humber student participating in Hawk Fest activities at the North campus gym, where they are seen laughing and having a great time as well as the college's mascot, Howie the Hawk, who makes a fun appearance on Wednesday, Sept. 21 2022.

ALL PHOTOS BY TRISHELLE DOTSON

"I'm one of the fitness instructors here at Humber in the athletics centre," she said.

"When I saw the Hawk Fest advertised, I thought it'd be a great way to promote our services to the students as well as meet and greet all these wonderful students."

One of Martin-Edey's tasks at the help desk was to hand out a card that functioned like an activity bingo.

"They get a stamped card and they can go to five different stations. They complete five stations, these fitness stations, and then they're eligible to win a grand prize," Martin-Edey said.





# Humber Lakeshore to host Nuit Blanche art installations for the first time

**Carter Roy**  
Arts Editor

Nuit Blanche is making its long anticipated return after being on a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Nuit Blanche is a chance for residents to explore their community in new ways. These art displays allow us to enjoy and celebrate culture, diversity, and inclusiveness - all concepts Humber truly values,” said Kelly Jackson, vice president of External Affairs and Professional Learning, in a statement.

The all-night festival, which is a celebration of contemporary art, starts on Oct. 1 at 7 p.m., and concludes 12 hours later, on Oct. 2 at 7 a.m.

Exhibitions will be in the same areas as years previous, in the downtown core and Scarborough. And for the first time ever, installation locations will now also be in Etobicoke and North York.

All locations can be found on



Humber's Lakeshore campus will feature 17 art installations as part of Toronto's Nuit Blanche on Oct. 1, 2022.

HUMBER NEWS/FILE PHOTO

the City of Toronto's website.

Art-goers can expect 17 installations at the lakeshore campus, seven selected by the City of

Toronto, and 11 selected from Humber College's submissions.

“I am proud that the city is supporting this event that will acti-

vate neighbourhoods including Etobicoke and North York to host exhibition areas for the first time. I encourage Toronto residents from

across the city to take part in this free celebration of art,” Mayor John Tory said in a press release.

This year's theme of Nuit Blanche is “The Space between us,” focusing on the connections to urban, polar and pacific landscapes.

Ultimately, the theme reveals the space between us as a place for sharing knowledge from community to community.

With the expansion of Humber Lakeshore's Cultural Hub, it was “an actual fit for Humber to partner with Nuit Blanche,” said Melissa Poliah, Program Lead at Humber Galleries.

“The cultural hub completion is still a few years away, but you can definitely expect more exhibits like this to be planned once the hub is completed,” she said.

Poliah said visitors can expect installations that include video projections, dance, sculpture, printmaking, weaving, and film work, among others.

## Roll out of new ONECard digital ID frustrates users

**Krysti Jaglal**  
Reporter

Malfunctions and bugs in Humber's digital student ID system have been causing disarray among the student body.

Maddy Greig, a first-year student in the Fashion Arts and Business program, thinks there was a lack of communication from the school.

“I didn't even know how to get a student ID card until I found the information myself on MyHumber,” she said.

“I know a lot of things are digital now but I think it's easier to use a physical card and if a physical card works fine I don't think we should have to switch to using an app,” Greig said.

Humber has been trying to slowly phase out physical ID badges since September 2021. Students were encouraged to download the app during previous semesters, but it wasn't mandatory.

For the Fall 2022 semester, students were told that physical IDs wouldn't be used and they would need to download the app in order

to have a Humber ID badge.

A student ID badge can do more for students than just acting as a form of identification. They can be used across campus to purchase food, pay for printing in the Library and Learning Commons, access rooms that require a key card and more.

The original digital ID app, GotMyCard, had some of these features but some students still think having a physical copy of their student ID is more convenient.

“Before the switch was made I did have the opportunity to submit a picture to MyHumber account and a physical card was mailed out to me,” said Akayla King, a second-year student in the Architectural Technology program.

“The digital copy is more convenient because lots of people have phones but I usually use my physical copy more out of personal preference,” she said.

Humber Communiqué announced Sept. 14 that digital IDs would be moving from the GotMyCard app to ONECard.



KRYSTI JAGLAL

Humber students are frustrated with the transition to the ONECard app, which replaces physical ID cards.

All students that were using GotMyCard would have to download the ONECard app because the former would no longer be compatible.

ONECard features options similar to GotMyCard. The layout of the app itself is designed so students can navigate their way around it very easily. However, some students were caught off

guard when the news broke about a new app.

Annabelle Berry, a second-year journalism student, wasn't even aware that students had to download a new app.

“I'd been told that we had been drifting away from physical IDs, so I used the GotMyCard app, but I hadn't been told that we needed a different app from last year,” she

said.

While digital IDs may be in the future, the transition hasn't been quite as smooth. A lack of communication and new students being unaware of where to find this new information has contributed to these difficulties.

Clear communication between Humber and its students will make the change more seamless.



HUMBER ATHLETICS

Head coach Troy Black fist-pumping catcher Tyrus Bath during exhibition game against the McGill Redbirds.

## Hawks look to a new season seeking redemption, gold

**Jacob Tye**  
Sports Editor

Second-year Hawks catcher Tyrus Bath explained how last season's finals loss impacted the team in more ways than one.

"The loss changed us for sure. The way we train in our weight room, the way we practice, being locked in mentally," he said. "We don't forget what that feels like

watching another team celebrate on the field in that championship game.

"For me personally, the loss has weighed heavily on me," Bath said. "It's really made me train so much harder than I ever thought I could,"

The Hawks look on to their 2022 Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) baseball campaign with their eyes on gold after settling for silver. The team had a his-

toric season filled with accolades and records but the ultimate prize of a gold medal evaded them as they lost to St. Clair in the OCAA Gold Medal game.

Humber's Sports Information and Marketing coordinator Brian Lepp believes the young Hawks team will bounce back after last season's disappointing ending.

Deans, of Mississauga, looks to be the biggest addition to the Hawks team, an NCAA transfer from Oakland University, where he had a 3-7 record with a 8.86 ERA in 27 career appearances for the Golden Grizzlies.

Hawks pitcher Eric Alcaraz will also look to be influential in the Hawks pitching staff after making big strides in developing new pitch types for his repertoire this off-season.

"I think my biggest improvement was the development of my two-seam fastball," he said

"I already have a cutter so having a fastball that can go the other way is pretty cool. And also my change up, which is a work in progress," he said.

Alcaraz spoke of how Sunday's doubleheader versus St. Clair, a rematch of last year's finals, will prove to be pivotal to the team's success this season.

"It's going to set the tone for the rest of the season. It'll really show what this team is made out of in my opinion," he said.

All Hawks home games will be streamed live on the Hawks Sports Network.



HUMBER ATHLETICS

Pitcher Eric Alcaraz, all smiles before exhibition game against McGill.

## Men's baseball targets Soo after hot 7-1 start

**Jordan Griffith**  
Sports Reporter

The Hawks launched their 2022 season with a 7-1 start, including two series sweeps over Seneca Sting and Sheridan Bruins. The Sept. 16 home-opener against the Bruins included a thrilling comeback.

Hawks infielder Jaykob Turner credits the team's comeback to a close bond as they seek to erase the bitterness of last season's finals loss against the St. Clair Saints.

"We're able to battle back because we don't get down on ourselves because we're such a good team community," he said.

The Bruins celebrated early with a 8-3 lead heading into the bottom of the fifth. Instead of hanging their heads, the Hawks got locked in and worked together to score six runs and complete the comeback, scraping out a 9-8 victory.

"Everybody got behind every at-bat, everybody was invested and we were able to pull it out," Turner said.

The Hawks' impressive 7-1 record shows they're looking to maintain their status as a title contender through key players like NCAA-transfer Brandon Leans, second-year infielder Turner and recent athlete of the week Aidan Murphy.

Murphy earned the award in an impressive Shohei Ohtani-esque performance on Sept. 10 throwing a no-hitter, striking out 10 batters over five innings of work and collecting two hits and an RBI on the offensive side of the ball.

"It feels nice getting [the award] for pitching," Murphy said.

"I'm just an emergency guy, but maybe I'll be used more after performing well," he said.

The team has momentum after an impactful series against the Saints last Sunday, where the Hawks lost the series opener but bounced back to split the doubleheader and show that they're not a team to be pushed around.

"I think we showed ourselves as well as the rest of the league that Humber is still here to compete and we still have a team that can take the gold medal," Turner said.

Turner credits his sizzling offensive start to a very simple approach at the plate. One that can often get clichéd — but it works.

"I hunt that fastball," Turner said.

Head coach Troy Black wasn't shy when praising his team.

"Turner is doing a great job so far, providing a lot of offensive spark, Brandon was a huge pickup for us and is exactly what we expected him to be," he said.

This is a young team with many first-year players looking to step up in a big way, Turner said.

First-year pitcher Ronan Hayes made an immediate impact with two wins, 11 strikeouts and a zero ERA in five innings of work. Another first-year shortstop, Caleb Eguren, helped elevate the Hawks to a 11-1 win over the Bruins in the series opener with three RBIs.

The ceiling is high for this team and Black is confident that they can meet the expectations they've set for themselves.

"We're capable of winning a championship and anything less than that would be a disappointment to the guys," he said.

Humber play the Sault College Cougars this weekend.



JORDAN GRIFFITH

Caleb Eguren slides home in blowout 11-1 win over Sheridan Bruins.

# Limited practice stymies men's rugby against the Grizzlies

Jacob Tye  
Sports Editor

Rugby pro and second-year assistant coach Mike Sheppard credits the Hawks men's rugby team despite a difficult first game.

He cites the absence of adequate preparation for the Sept. 16 game in Barrie.

"It was our first game together, there was no pre-season game, we only had six to eight practices total together and not all the players could even make it 'cause guys were sorting out their classes and stuff," Sheppard said.

The Hawks saw their first in-game action in their season opener against Georgian College where, despite being a relatively inexperienced team, they still scraped out a tight 20-15 loss. The Hawks were scheduled to play a preseason game versus St. Lawrence Surge but it was cancelled due to the Kingston team not having enough players.

Sheppard is confident the team's leaders will step up and play a big role despite the team's injuries.

"We just need to have guys here and healthy, but we have guys we are confident will step up," he said. "We have a good group of leadership and that'll help the inexperi-



JACOB TYE

Hawks' rugby team practice ahead of a game against Durham Lords after a 20-15 loss to Georgian College.

enced guys come along."

Along with working for a beer distribution company, Sheppard spends most of the year as captain of Toronto's Major League Rugby team, the Toronto Arrows. The season runs from February to June and allows him to coach the Hawks from September to November.

Head coach Fabian Rayne credits Sheppard for bringing a special edge to this Hawks team and how well the coaching staff has worked together to hopefully have

more success this season.

"He brings intensity to each practice and the players really respond to him," Rayne said.

"He knows his stuff when it comes to working with the forwards and we enjoy and appreciate what he brings to the table," he said. "Everyone on our coaching staff brings their own skill set.

"It really is a collaborative effort between us and figuring out ways to put these players in the best position to be successful," Rayne said.

Sheppard always wanted to coach and heard about an open assistant coach position from former Hawk and assistant coach Andre-Rose Green, who Sheppard had played with along with other former Hawks at a Brampton rugby club.

"I always thought I would go back and coach at McMaster someday but I'm still very inexperienced myself and I still need to find my own voice as a coach," he said.

"I think coming here as an assis-

tant coach in the short season is a good way to build my own experience," he said.

Wing Timico Smith is a fan of Sheppard's and always tries to get advice from the former Team Canada Lock.

"You go from watching him play to him actually coaching you. So it's definitely a different feeling," he said.

"I take everything he says to a tee and every minor detail so I can fit it in my own game," Smith said.

Smith played rugby for eight years and trained with the Hawks last season but was unable to play due to being enrolled in the Humber Police Foundations program.

"He's a really skilled player. It was unfortunate not to have him last year because of his program, but he brings a lot of energy to the field and adds another element to our team," Rayne said of Smith following practice.

Unlike the more experienced Humber sports teams, this team looks to improve every week into a championship contender.

"We just try to focus on the next opponent and as long as we are putting these players in positions to be successful then that's our goal as coaches," Rayne said.

# Fourth place softball looks to regain momentum

Isabelle Ferrante  
Sports Reporter

The Hawks softball team started 2022 strong by going undefeated with a 5-0 record, perched comfortably at the top of the league. But much as they're looking forward, the team is also remembering their bronze medal at last year's OCAA Championships.

Fourth-year outfielder Hannah Koziolk played a crucial role in Humber's impressive streak this season, the launch of this season's quest for gold.

"When your coaches are confident in you and your teammates are confident in you, you get more confidence," Koziolk said.

Along with her veteran experience and leadership, she has made the Humber softball record book twice this season.

Earlier this month, the Brampton native finished 3-for-4 at the plate, driving in seven runs against the Sheridan Bruins and setting a new program single-game record. She also became Humber softball's all-

time stolen base leader with 29.

Her performance earned her an accolade as Humber's Athlete of the Week for the first time in her career, on Sept. 12.

Although she was proud of the achievement, she credits her familiarity with college softball as an ode to her success.

"It all just comes with experience. Being able to be in a lot of college games, a lot of at-bats, and a lot of innings played, comes with confidence," Koziolk said.

Koziolk was praised by many, including six-year head coach Duaine Bowles.

"She's a player that we have really leaned on to be a leader this year and she has answered the bell," he said.

After a 5-0 start, Humber's offence, pitching and defense hit a wall, losing three straight games against two strong teams, Durham and St. Clair.

As a result of the pandemic, Humber has a younger team without a ton of experience.

Bowles reminded the team they

should use the slump as an opportunity to learn lessons about the mindset they should have when facing dangerous opponents.

He said during their tough stretch, he observed a lack of a consistent winning mentality.

"Championship behaviour is being an elite player every day in every moment. Starting when you come to the field, when you get to batting practice, and to the actual game" Bowles said.

"I don't think we were exercising championship habits and I think it kind of bit us in the back," he said.

The slump ended after a doubleheader win against the Lambton Lions on Sunday, when another veteran made their way into the record books.

Alexis Ferreira, a fourth-year infielder, moved into the first all-time position on Humber's career home run list.

In 48 games Ferreira hit her 11th long ball in the first inning of game one, breaking the record of Terah Camilleri, who hit 10 in 80 games



ISABELLE FERRANTE

Fielder Hannah Koziolk at second base during game against Lambton.

for the Hawks from 2014 to 2019. Ferreira managed to accomplish the feat in nearly half the games.

Prior to hitting the record, Ferreira felt her game was suffering due to the expectations.

"No one around me put any pressure on me or even mentioned it, but it was always in the back of my head," the 2022 Humber softball team co-MVP said.

"So to finally hit, it was just a

weight off my shoulder, and I can start to relax a bit and play my game."

With 14 games left in the regular season, Bowles hopes the team uses the lessons they learned during their slump and can apply them.

"This team is extremely talented, so I think if we do practice championship habits then we are going to put ourselves in a good spot," he said.

# Deaf MMA champ's unique journey as fighter



GOLDEN TICKET FIGHT PROMOTIONS

Thomas Paull sits atop cage raising both championship belts to the sky following his first round knockout victory over Perry Goodwin at GTFP 18. Paull is the first multi-weight champion in the promotions history.



GOLDEN TICKET FIGHT PROMOTIONS

Thomas Paull stares down the camera while holding his championship belt following his third round knockout victory over Mario Saeed at GTFP 16. The 27-year-old is seeking his third belt this December

**Jack Albanna**  
Sports Reporter

Being born with a disability is automatically deemed a disadvantage by mainstream society, but then there are those who refuse to be setback by their conditions.

For 27-year-old Thomas Paull, living his whole life without the ability to hear has never been a setback for him.

"All my life I have been told there are many things I can't achieve due to my deafness," Paull said.

No one has ever been a reliable answer for Paull, a man who defies the odds on a daily basis as a professional mixed martial artist who looks to prove a point each time he enters the cage.

Paull is an MMA fighter currently representing Team Underground MMA out of London, England.

He holds an 11-4 record on the professional stage, presenting an incredible 100 per cent finish rate, with all 11 of his victories resulting in knockouts.

His impressive resume is actively on display for Golden Ticket Fight Promotions (GTFP), the organization he fights under as a double champion in two weight divisions.

For Paull, becoming a professional combat athlete wasn't the original plan.

He grew up in a majority deaf family, as well as a predominantly deaf community. Paull's struggles as a child grew gradually as he was bullied for his deafness, often being left out of group activities and social interaction.

As he matured, he became determined to create goals for himself and follow a dream of joining the British army.

Unfortunately for Paull, he was told the army would not allow deaf individuals to join, so he believed MMA was the next best thing.

"I would love to be a part of the army, but I simply can't join at all," Paull told Humber News in an interview done by messaging. "So I found another way to almost match all that discipline, mentality, and desire to reach your goal.

"MMA is the closest thing I can get myself into war," he said.

Paull said he has received an outpouring of support from the deaf community for going above and beyond, and for educating the professional sports scene on deafness.

"I get messages from people who feel insecure about being deaf, telling me how proud they are of me, and how happy they are to show their parents," Paull said.

After posting videos on social media trying to get the attention of UFC president Dana White, Paull was given his dream opportunity to fight for a UFC contract in August on Dana White's Contender Series.

Paull fell short with a loss, but he treated it as a moment of learning. He is currently scheduled to fight on Dec. 3 in the main event at GTFP 21 against Bailey Gilbert for the featherweight championship.

Paull believes this fight is among the most crucial in his career because he'll have the opportunity to become a three-weight world champion.

"I must become a triple champ because it will help me get closer to the UFC once again," he said.

He is adamant on earning another shot at the UFC despite the loss.

"Sometimes I pinch myself that it actually happened, I was given the opportunity," Paull said. "All my life I thought it was almost impossible because of the way I was treated by people."

His journey in MMA has directly supported his mission to raise deaf awareness, and Paull makes it clear he won't be the last professional deaf fighter.

He admits it's not something that was easily achieved, and the deaf community must work hard to separate themselves from common stereotypes.

"It's very important to show them that we can have opportunities if we work hard and believe in ourselves, yes it's f\*\*\*\*g hard but I will keep fighting and raise deaf awareness," Paull said.

He's looking to add another knockout victory to his resume in December, further cementing his reputation as a knockout artist in the U.K. fight scene.

Paull says he takes pride in his brutal fighting style, vowing to entertain fans once more as he warns his doubters to stay tuned for his plans to prove them wrong once again.

"They think the deaf are dumb, not anymore. We ain't sitting around anymore," he said.

"I must become a UFC fighter before I die, that's the only thing I want from life."

# HUMBER ET CETERA SPORTS<sup>®</sup>

Humber's Student Newspaper

Sept 23, 2022

Vol.63, No.1

## MEN'S RUGBY STRUGGLES IN OPENER



Hawks flanker Liam Oakley reaching for the ball during a lineout drill during Wednesday's practice. The men's rugby team is looking to bounce back following a season opening loss.

**HAWKS  
ROLLING IN  
SEARCH OF  
REDEMPTION  
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**DEAF MMA  
CHAMPION  
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