

Parliament on holiday

Students react to feds getting go-ahead to put House on hold



Derek Plewa, 20,
first-year pharmacy technician

"I don't believe the coalition has the right to take over. It should be left up to the voters. We live in a democracy, not a Third World country."



Taylor Fredericks, 19,
first-year family and community services

"I don't know how that happened. I think it's ridiculous. I thought they would have to go for a non-confidence vote for that."



Erin Leville, 26,
post-grad exercise science

"I think it might have been a good idea because it gives people more time to reflect, if they're smart enough to do that."



Jodi Janwin, 31,
first-year sustainable energy and building technology

"The Conservative government, or rather Stephen Harper, is not setting a good example and it's disappointing to see how the situation was handled."



Sari Paje, 20,
third-year media studies

"I think when Canada needs leaders the most to help through this tough time, they just walked out on us."



Hina Veoli, 20,
third-year business administration

"It's not the time; we need our Parliament to be as active as possible because there was just an election. Canadians made up their mind on who they want in charge."



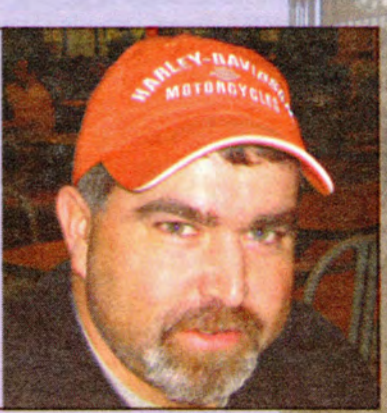
Erin Mazzara, 22,
first-year film and television

"What a great time to do it during an economic crisis, let's just go on strike. If anything they should be working harder now."



Ken Bilodeau, 38,
electrical apprenticeship

*"It's b*****. Recession, people losing their jobs and they're basically going on vacation."*



Mathew Vallantyne, 31,
first-year film and television

"I think it's a really cowardly move by a guy who is more concerned with keeping his job than the greater good of Canada."



Kyle Walkinshaw, 22,
first year hotel and restaurant management

"I don't watch the news because I don't have the time and have better things to do."



NEWS

The Bank of Canada cut its interest rates to 1.5 per cent, which is the lowest in 50 years. In January economists expect to see the rate drop even lower. — 680news.com



Metrolinx hopes to connect different forms of transportation all over the Greater Toronto Area.

Transforming transit

Jessie Coletti-Greco
NEWS REPORTER

Humber will become more accessible to students in the future if the federal government agrees to fund the new public transit plan.

“We want to have three funding partners, the city of Toronto will fund one third, the province of Ontario has already committed to funding one third and the other third would have to come from the federal government but there has been not committal from the federal government at this point,” said Danny Nicholson, communications supervisor for the TTC.

There are seven new light rail transit lines scheduled to be built and the Etobicoke-Finch West route is

planned to be one of the first to be completed. These LRTs include updated and improved streetcars.

“It’s a plan to invest for the future and build a series of dedicated street car lines crisscrossing the entire city of Toronto, to basically get more people to leave their automobiles at home and use public transit,” Nicholson said.

Light Rail Transit is a type of urban rail public transportation that generally has a lower capacity and lower speed than heavy rail and subway systems.

“The vehicles are powered by electric, so they are not using fuels that increase emissions to further harm the atmosphere,” said Nickolson.

Many of the new lines will connect to the TTC and GO Transit.

The Government of Ontario passed legislation in April 2006 to create Metrolinx, an agency hoping to improve the coordination and integration of all modes of transportation in the GTA. Metrolinx supports this development and has even worked it into their Regional Transportation Plan.

“One of Metrolinx top priorities is the Finch line,” said Jacquie Menezes, Metrolinx public LRT affairs associate.

The Etobicoke-Finch West route will go directly to Highway 27, and will extend into Mississauga to Pearson Airport.

The entire project’s estimated cost is \$2.6 billion and its completion date is set for the year 2020.



The 411

Local

A Facebook webpage with almost 150,000 members has helped stop a controversial government proposal that would have limited how many youths can be in a car with a teenaged driver. Transportation Minister Jim Bradley revealed earlier this week the provision — announced last month as part of a package to make roads safe — will be scrapped.

National

—theglobeandmail.ca

Liberal Quebec Premier Jean Charest won his third consecutive election on Monday, capturing a narrow majority over the Parti Québécois. The election also saw the decimation of the Action démocratique du Québec as leader Mario Dumont announced he would step down. The election recorded the worst voter turnout in Quebec’s history at 56 per cent. Charest won 66 of the National Assembly’s 125 seats.

—thestar.com

International

Rioting continues in Athens, Greece after a 15-year-old boy was shot and killed by police last weekend. It is not clear why Alexandros Grigoropoulos was shot, but the two officers involved have been arrested. Commentators say the hostility between young Greeks and authorities is over low wages, frequent public corruption scandals and a strong distrust of government rooted in past political upheavals.

—cbc.ca

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Dental care clinic on campus

College set to receive clinic in the new year

Michael Sutherland-Shaw
SPECIAL TO THE ET CETERA

The first day back from winter holidays, North Campus will be opening its first dental hygiene clinic.

“Students who keep up with oral health have a good chance of continuing with their entire body’s well-being,” said dean of student services Judy Harvey.

The Ontario Dental Hygienists’ Association is taking advantage of a newly established law in Ontario, which allows hygienists to work outside conventional dental offices.

Marcy Skribe, hygienist and owner of Teeth for Life, said he approached the college with an idea for a clinic on campus after years of selling sport mouth guards to local communities.

“The clinic will offer procedures including, cleaning, whitening, sport

mouth guards and have the ability to provide referrals to two dentists close to campus,” she said.

“We want to ensure that all students can get these dental procedures done on campus.”

—Mike Berg
HSF President

full coverage for one examination and consultation which normally costs up to \$500 per year.

Skribe said the clinic’s hours will

try to suit the students needs.

“I’m available Monday through Friday with very flexible hours, so it all depends on what is best for the students,” he said.

HSF President Mike Berg said after getting approval from their insurance provider, HSF was quick to finalize plans for a clinic.

“We want to ensure that all students can get these dental procedures done on campus,” said Berg. “I know for myself, it’s really difficult to take time out my day to get a dental appointment.”

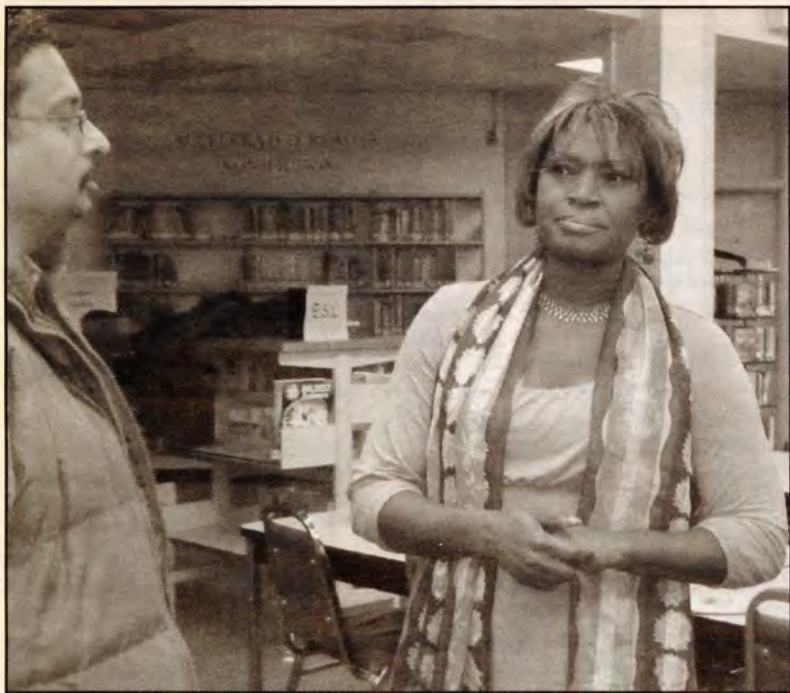
For appointments students can call 416-629-7008 or e-mail teethforlife@rogers.ca.

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Corrections

On page 3 of the Nov. 27 issue of the *Et Cetera*, Saldanha’s name was misspelled in the third paragraph. The *Et Cetera* apologizes.

The suspected mastermind of the Mumbai terrorist attacks, Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, was caught Monday after the town of Muzaffarabad, Pakistan was raided. — *afp.com*



Miguel Agawin

Angela Wilson speaks to parents at an enrolment information meeting for the Toronto District School Board's Africentric Alternative School, at North Albion C.I., on Dec. 2, 2008.

Report receives mixed reactions

Miguel Agawin
NEWS REPORTER

A new report is calling for race-based statistics to combat the problem of youth violence in Ontario.

The Roots of Youth Violence report, initiated last year by Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, was conducted to review the cause of violence among youth.

The report was initiated after the May 2007 murder of 15-year-old Jordan Manners who was shot to death at C.W. Jefferys high school.

Authors Roy McMurtry and Alvin Curling wrote that they found racism to be a major factor in alienating minority youths along with loss of hope because of job opportunities and school curriculum being Eurocentric and irrelevant to their backgrounds.

According to the report, "The need for race-based data is overwhelming. Without data we can neither prove nor disprove the extent of racism in any particular part of our society. Nor can we focus limited resources on the areas most in need of action."

McMurtry and Curling also wrote that the collection of race-based statistics can help focus resources and attention to priority neighbourhoods and is a method conducted in the United Kingdom.

The report's recommendations have received mixed reactions from different members of institutions involving youths around Toronto.

Humber College president John Davies said he agrees with the idea of using race-based stats because "there are clearly major differences in the degree to which you are involved in an economic climate, for

example, that have to do with race and background.

"We've known for a long time there's a relationship between issues like poverty and race, race and performance but we haven't been able to move those stats very easily and significantly," Davies said. "The more information we have, the more likely it is that we could make better decisions."

Dr. Fred Matthews, of Central Toronto Youth Services, agrees the race stats would help give assistance where it is needed.

"To identify where to set base-lines for improvement, it would be helpful to know if you had more data," said Matthews. Analyzing the stats could help one determine where to allocate services, he added.

However, Angela Wilson, who brought forth the idea of the Africentric Alternative School offered in Toronto next fall, doesn't think much of the report.

"The flaw is in the government," said Wilson. "What I wish the government would do is stop wasting tax-paying dollars coming up with all these reports that go nowhere except collect dust on the shelf. How many decades, how many more reports are gonna happen before those words actually come to life."

Michael Opoku, a Toronto District School Board employee, said this will generalize all black youths as troubled and being labelled 'at-risk' will debilitate their job prospects.

Deb Matthews, Minister of Youth and Child Services, is advocating the collection of race-based statistics as part of a \$1.4 billion anti-poverty strategy that awaits federal funding.

Ignatieff takes Liberal top spot

David Lipson
SENIOR REPORTER

And then there was Iggy. Michael Ignatieff is set to become the interim Liberal party leader after Dominic LeBlanc and Bob Rae bowed out of the race this week.

The current deputy leader will likely replace Stephane Dion as leader of the Grits before Parliament resumes on Jan. 26 when the Conservative Party will deliver its speech and budget from the throne.

"Since there are no more rivals, he doesn't have to worry about a divided party," said Humber political science professor Gary Begg.

Ignatieff has the support of the majority of his party and the highest

Liberal ratings among the public.

A Toronto Star/Angus Reid poll released Dec. 7 suggests 33 per cent of Canadians would vote for the Liberal party with Ignatieff at the helm, compared to 26 per cent with Rae as leader.

The Liberals will decide if they will continue a coalition with the NDP and Bloc Quebecois to defeat the Tories.

"If it's Ignatieff I think he will not lead a coalition alternative to Harper," said constitutional law expert Peter Russell in a Dec. 7 interview.

"I think he will try and influence the budget and get concessions to his point of view that the Liberals want — enough concession for him

to support Harper."

Ignatieff is the MP for Etobicoke-Lakeshore riding where Humber's Lakeshore Campus is located.

He has taught at the University of British Columbia, Cambridge, and Harvard.

"He's an academic and he would understand better than others the need to invest in post-secondary education," said Peter Milczyn, Toronto city councillor for Etobicoke-Lakeshore.

"So in the future we have a workforce that's prepared for the 21st century and that we invest in research and the types of institutions that we need to generate the knowledge to sustain the country in the future."

Parliament suspended until Jan. 26

David Lipson
SENIOR REPORTER

The decision by Governor General Michaëlle Jean to suspend Parliament for six weeks has left student lobby groups fuming.

"We don't have functioning government for the next seven weeks and we're in the midst of one of the most severe economic crises that this country has seen in decades," said Shelley Melanson, Ontario chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students. "It's pretty shameful that we find ourselves in a circumstance where there can be no movement."

Parliament was prorogued, or suspended on Dec. 4 after Prime

Minister Stephen Harper made the request to do so in order to avoid a no-confidence vote that could have seen his government toppled by a Liberal-NDP coalition opposed to his Nov. 27 economic update.

The CFS passed a motion to reject the update. "There was no reference to increase funding for post-secondary education which is a critical investment to be making in the context of an economic downturn or recession," Melanson said.

Government investments in college education bring a 15.9 per cent rate of return, according to a 2008 study by the Association of Canadian Community Colleges.

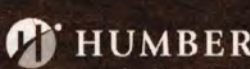

"Education is key and that investment must be continued into the

future," said Tyler Charlebois, College Student Alliance director of advocacy. "It's very hard for us to make that case when the federal government and political parties aren't there to participate and listen to the concerns and issue that are being felt by students."

Linda Franklin, the president of Colleges Ontario, an association of Ontario's 24 colleges, said her group's major concern is to make sure colleges are still able to provide the services to students through tough economic times.

"Lots of institutions like colleges are dependent on the government working together and tackling this issue in a way that's productive as possible," she said.

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EDITORIAL

"Freedom of speech is of no use to a man who has nothing to say." – U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt

Censorship not an option

'Word on the Street' reflects the Humber community

Every week, members of the *Et Cetera's* editorial team gather thoughts and opinions from randomly selected students for our 'Word on the Street' section. The purpose of that section is to provide some insight into the nature of Humber's community and to give students a voice. Unfortunately, during that process it is unavoidable that we will occasionally come across students who say things that are disagreeable or offensive. It has happened in the past, and this week it happened again, garnering a response (see Letter to the Editor).

As journalists, we at the editorial panel have a duty to ensure that censorship is only exercised under the most drastic of circumstances. Indeed, censorship is the bane of a journalist's existence. As such, if a student willingly submits a comment to 'Word on the Street' that differs from the status quo or displays a potentially distasteful sense of humour, we are obligated to run that comment unless it overtly promotes hatred or is particularly abhorrent. Of course, what constitutes acceptability is subjective, and we cannot be expected to make

decisions that are universally approved.

The *Et Cetera* has at no time claimed or implied any affiliation with the opinions expressed in 'Word on the Street.' In fact, the purpose of the section would be defeated entirely if the editorial panel only selected opinions that suited its purposes. It is a fallacy to equate any comment – no matter how insightful or derogatory – with the beliefs of the editorial panel. We provide our position in the editorials and leave 'Word on the Street' as an independent venue for students who are not affiliated with journalism.

Putting a student's comment into context is a difficult task with 'Word on the Street.' In a standard news piece, there is exposition to reveal whether a comment was made sarcastically or in jest. 'Word on the Street' features isolated quotations, leaving the reader to discern the tone of any particular statement. If an error was made in last week's 'Word on the Street,' it was that we failed to contextualize a comment when it would have been prudent to do so.

Ignatieff good for the Liberal party

Prime Minister Stephen Harper will be having a good holiday. Not only has he saved his government for another six weeks, but he can also watch the Liberal-NDP coalition formed against him fritter away. He must be smiling now that Michael Ignatieff is taking over from Stéphane Dion as leader of the Liberals. Ignatieff was very quiet in his support of the coalition, unlike his main rival for the leadership and former NDP premier of Ontario, Bob Rae.

Ignatieff's leadership will strengthen the Liberal Party in the short-term. He is very intelligent and possesses a strong personality. While Dion did present the innovative and forward-thinking Green Shift policy, his weak leadership abilities and poor grasp of the English language prevented him from properly expressing his views and framing the debate. Instead he allowed Harper to bully him from day one and never showed any ability to fight back. Ignatieff will be much tougher to push around and should do a better job expressing his party's views.

Even if Ignatieff finds the thought of a coalition government with the New Democrats (supported by the Bloc Quebecois) unpalatable, he needs to make it clear it is still a very real possibility. Harper has shown he would rather pursue partisan policies that harm his opponents than policies that benefit Canadians. His instinct is to pounce on weak-

ness and govern like he has a majority, even though Canadians have been unwilling to trust him with one.

The prospect of having his government toppled less than two months after the elections forced Harper to backtrack on many elements of his fiscal update and take the dramatic step of proroguing, or suspending, Parliament to stay in power. It remains to be seen whether or not the tiger has really changed his stripes.

For the Liberals, Ignatieff presents a step-up from Dion and he should be able to keep Harper honest by forcefully standing up to his accusations and bullying tactics. Ignatieff comes from the right wing of the Liberal Party, so it's not surprising he has shied away from a coalition with the left-wing NDP and Bloc Quebecois. Even though Ignatieff may want to stay as far away from them as possible, he shouldn't, given Harper's tendencies to go for the jugular.

Harper was able to govern before the previous election like he had a majority because the weakness of the Dion-led Liberals. The Liberals must not fall back into their acquiescent mode, lest Harper continue to run roughshod over them. Hopefully Ignatieff will ensure this doesn't happen and Harper will govern like a minority government should – with consensus and support of a true majority of Parliament.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Animal cruelty no laughing matter

Re: 'Word on the Street,' December 4

To the Editor,

Student Robbie Levin's comment ("my weirdest superstition would be that I hit my cat for good luck") is offensive, and may indeed be actionable. If he does in fact strike his animal, I hope someone in his immediate circle has the good sense to censure him for it; and if that does not work, call the Humane Society and report him.

Let's not take refuge in the rationale that this was just a harmless comment, or in the equally weak suggestion that the fact that this is 'only an animal' means such jests should go unmentioned upon. This would only work – and then just barely – if we were amongst children. It's not the kind of flippancy that should be dismissed in a young adult.

If Levin, or indeed anyone, finds the matter of animal abuse entertaining, a five minute glance at the Toronto Humane Society website might disabuse him of this. One would hope it would, at any rate.

More significantly, *The Humber Et Cetera* has an obligation to edit for content; your decision to print this comment reflects as much on your editorial board as it does on Levin.

Thank you,

Wendy Phillips
Professor of English, Humber College
Member of the Toronto Humane Society

The Et Cetera wants to know what you think.

We greatly appreciate letters or emails expressing your opinion on issues covered in the paper. Reporting the news is not a one-way street. Hearing from our readers is important to us and debate will bring more depth to the news we report. Think we're missing out on the real issues at Humber? Have we not told the whole story? Let us know!

Send us an email at humberetc2008@gmail.com.

HUMBER ET CETERA

The *Et Cetera* will engage, challenge, and inform the Humber College community with progressive and contemporary content reflecting the diversity of its readership.

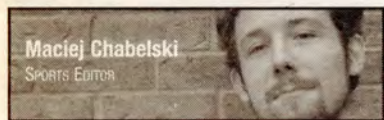
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"Freedom is hammered out on the anvil of discussion, dissent, and debate." – American democratic politician Hubert H. Humphrey

Having a Rae old time no longer



Maciej Chabelski
SPORTS EDITOR

Bob Rae pulled out of the Liberal leadership contention early Tuesday morning – and Canada breathed a sigh of relief.

Rae, former NDP premier of Ontario from 1990 to 1995, had just one day earlier defiantly refused to bow out of a race where Michael Ignatieff was the frontrunner.

"It's better to have a choice," he said on Monday.

Apparently, his choice was to back out. And Canada is better for it.

I remember watching TV two years ago, surprised to see Rae standing in front of the Liberal's red

and not the NDP's orange, pumping his fist in front of a crowd of supporters.

Historically, it's been quite common for politicians to jump from party to party in Canada (Belinda Stronach comes to mind), but for a politician to run for the leadership of two different parties is rare. And to win leadership? It's never been done in Canada.

Fortunately, Rae lost that Liberal leadership race to Stéphane Dion in 2006, and it looks like he's lost this one as well.

When you examine his political experience, you have to wonder why he chose to run in the first place.

When elected premier of Ontario in 1990, to say that Rae was surprised was an understatement.

"It's like the dog that chases a car every day," he said of his victory over Liberal David Peterson. "One day, the driver stops and asks the dog what he wants. 'I don't know,' the dog replies. No car ever stopped before."

His surprise didn't mask his party's lack of preparation, and his five year reign as premier was sprinkled with scandals and broken promises.

He abandoned the NDP's commitment to public auto insurance, fired an MP for posing for a tabloid, and lobbied to build a casino in Windsor despite earlier condemning gambling as "immoral."

He also instituted his infamous 'Social Contract,' a policy that instituted mandatory unpaid days off for civil servants in order to save

money. Dubbed 'Rae days,' this contract also imposed a wage freeze and angered many union workers.

More importantly, his government grossly misjudged the economic recession that hit North America in the 1990s and tried to spend its way out of the situation.

All he accomplished was an increase in provincial deficit and raising unemployment to a staggering 10 per cent.

With Canada in a similar economic recession right now, it's hard to say what his plan for Canada would have been, had he been appointed leader, or if he even had a plan.

In fact, up to this point all Rae had done since announcing his intention for leadership was to criticize not only Prime Minister Steven

Harper, but his old friends as well.

"Jack Layton might think he's Barack Obama," Rae told supporters in Saskatoon in October. "But he isn't. He's Ralph Nader. The effect of voting for his candidates in most ridings is to perpetuate Conservative rule."

He also seemed desperate to kick out Stéphane Dion, recently pushing for the Liberal leader's resignation with Ignatieff.

His moves all stunk of the desperation of a long forgotten politician wanting to get back in the spotlight.

The Liberal party would be smart to avoid Rae altogether.

But considering he has more lives than a cat, Rae will pop up somewhere again, maybe even running for Conservative leadership in 2010.

The truth about the word 'gay,' straight up



David Lipson
SENIOR REPORTER

This column is so not gay. The word gay originates from gai, a 12th century Old French word meaning 'full of joy or mirth.' It evolved as a synonym for homosexual to an adjective for anything disagreeable. It is colloquially used to describe anything not cool. Using gay in this context is not only derogatory, but also uncreative.

Calling someone gay as an insult has been in style since my recess days. But using gay to negatively describe inanimate objects is a relatively new phenomenon. I first noticed the widespread use of the word as a tennis instructor at a Toronto day camp. Kids as young as eight would say: "Tennis is gay," or "volleys are gay." Many people I know use the word to express their dislike for everything from music ("Coldplay is gay"), to the weather ("This rain is gay"). But its usage goes beyond the playground.

"It would be difficult to prove how rain can be gay, although I would love to hear it."

A radio listener filed a complaint to the BBC in 2006 because a DJ had described a cell phone ringtone as 'gay.' Its board of governors ruled that the DJ was just keeping up with the times. His use of the word was

not homophobic, they said, but a description for something that was 'rubbish.' The governors, however, did acknowledge that it could be perceived as derogatory and cautioned against its use on air. But I don't think popularity should equal legitimacy.

I'm not completely bent on political correctness, but this usage of the word is insensitive. It has a negative connotation, implying there is something bad about the person or object receiving the gay label.

It's also nonsensical. Calling some-

thing gay leaves little room for further explanation. It would be difficult to prove how rain can be gay, although I would love to hear it. Asking people to explain themselves is humorous. "I don't know, it's just gay," is a common answer. If gay is synonymous with things that aren't cool, why don't people start using the words straight and heterosexual to describe cool things? "Dude, that movie was hetero." "I know exactly what you mean man, it was so straight." I know this suggestion might be perceived as gay.

School library no sanctuary

Laptops, iPods and cellphones are ruining the serenity



Kyle Rindinella
BIZ/TECH EDITOR

On my first day of grade school, I remember being taught three things: No running in the halls, no hats in the school and always be quiet in the library. This was over 15 years ago, and somehow I still remember these rules, but the final one always affected me the most.

Whenever I have felt need to wind down, relax, or space out, I have always gone to the library. Whether it was going there during lunch hour in high school, spending an evening in a library corner to get away from my dorm in university, or taking 20 minutes to sit on the fifth floor of Humber's library with a cooking or wine magazine to relax from the newsroom, I have always sought

refuge in the library.

But Humber's library never seems to be the peaceful, quiet place I remember from university and high school. Rather, people seem to have no respect for the whisper that is usually used there.

"I know I'm not the only person who would hate to lose an area of peace and quiet."

There are some things that I think should be restricted from the library. iPods? Turn them down. If I wanted to hear bad music I would hang out at Caps. Laptops? If you are watching a movie, turn down the volume. I don't want to hear every action scene in a movie I can't see. I'm not

there to feel like I'm driving an SUV with my friends in the back watching a movie on a screen. Cellphones? Just turn them off. Decent people do it in movie theatres so they can watch the movie without distractions, so don't distract people from their work at the library. And, to the guy who was watching porn on a school computer two weeks ago in the library – dude, not cool. Are you that addicted? There is counseling for that.

I love libraries, and I know I'm not the only person who would hate to lose an area of peace and quiet. A library serves many purposes that are especially important at a college or university level. So please be quiet and stop imposing on people's ears with sounds they went there to get away from. Maybe large STFU OR GTFO signs need to be placed on the walls (for a definition, please see urbandictionary.com).



Props & Burns

To Stéphane Dion, for doing the right thing for Canada and stepping down as Liberal leader.

To Chantal Petitclerc, a paralympic athlete who was named Canada's top athlete of the year.

To Rajo Devi, an Indian woman who gave birth to a child at age 70.

To intelligent men, who produce higher quality sperm, according to UK research.

To cancer, which will overtake heart disease as the world's number one killer by 2010, according to the WHO.

To pollutants, for feminizing the human population, according to a CHEMtrust study.

To oilsands production, which is releasing four billion litres of tainted water per year into Alberta's ecosystem, according to Environmental Defence.

To Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a Republican congresswoman who hung up the phone on Barack Obama – twice – because she thought it was a prank.



Fox has acquired the film rights for the self-help book, *How to Talk to Girls*, written by a 9-year-old who wrote the 46-page book to help his peers at school. — Reuters

Filmmakers draw attention to Toronto



E1 Films

Tygh Runyan and Sook-Yin Lee in *Toronto Stories*. The film, which examines the every day happenings of the city, opens Dec. 12.

Melissa Hayes
A&E REPORTER

Toronto should take the centre stage in the Canadian movie scene and not be shy about it, said four local writer/directors.

Toronto Stories, a new collaborative full length feature created by Aaron Woodly, Sook-Yin Lee, Sudz Sutherland and David Weaver, debuted at this year's Toronto International Film Festival.

The film, consisting of four short stories connected by the wanderings of a lost boy, will see its theatrical release at the Royal Theatre on Dec. 12.

Weaver, who composed *Lost Boys*, one of the four works, called it "a mosaic of the city with four different cameras, four different perspectives, four different stories on a city that is always changing and always different from day to day."

He came up with the idea about two years ago after meeting Woodly,

who's behind the film's segment, *Shoelaces*. The two discussed the future of Canadian cinema and the next generation of filmmakers.

"This city was completely passed over as far as cinematic representation goes," Woodly said. "There's nothing about this city. And for such a cinema-loving city, and such a beautiful kind of vibrant place, we felt that was just a crime."

"Whether you love it or you hate it, we need more of these films."

—David Weaver
filmmaker

Humber PR grad Carly Deziel is helping to promote the film for E1 Films Canada.

"I thought it really captured the look of Toronto, it made our city look really good and featured great Canadian music," Deziel said. "When you're watching scenes about

your city and hear music from local bands who you know got their start in those neighbourhoods, it gives the film a good feel."

The film features many city landmarks including the ROM, Pearson Airport, Union Station and the Metro Library, but Weaver said the filmmakers didn't set out to make a travel brochure.

"We wanted to make a film that if you lived in the city and knew the city that it said something truthful to you, that it seemed like it reflected Toronto," Weaver said.

Woodly said he believes Toronto rarely plays itself on screen because there is a belief there wouldn't be an audience for it. But, he explained, "This is the sort of misconception and the myth that we're challenging."

"I think that most Canadians and most Torontonians want to see their own lives right up on screen," added Weaver. "Whether you love it or you hate it, we need more of these films."

Author hopefuls can get valuable help

Melissa Sundardas
A&E REPORTER

The Humber Writers' Circle will hold a session on Dec. 13 with Tish Cohen, author of *Town House* — a novel shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize with movie rights sold to Fox Studios — and literary agent Sam Hiyate of Toronto-based literary agency, The Rights Factory.

Cohen will speak about her personal experiences with commercial

fiction while Hiyate will read and give feedback on submitted manuscripts as well as speak about the realities and myths of the publishing industry.

"I'm always drawn to people who have goals and dreams and I respect them so much because I've been sort of on the underside of a big dream and I know how hard and scary it is," said Cohen about why she agreed to speak at the Writers' Circle session.

"I just think it's great that people know what they want to do and have

the audacity to go for it."

By having a page of their piece assessed, writers will get a sense of what an agent may be looking for, Hiyate said.

"They should be able to learn how my thinking process goes because basically I just talk out loud about what I like or what I don't like about it," he said. "They also should see the kind of scrutiny that their language and their writing itself will undergo when it's being submitted to an agent or publisher."



Courtesy

Hero from the Start hopes to start touring the U.S. this summer.

Metal band finding fame

Jaden Pato
A&E REPORTER

Hero from the Start has spent the last three years slowly building a solid following.

The metal band, made up of Anthony Sestito, Ivan Escudero, Daniel and Alex Dimitrakopoulos and Steve Pascuzzi, have rocked charity concerts and local shows.

"The most memorable thing about performing is having moments onstage where the entire crowd is totally singing to your music," said Sestito, guitarist and Humber culinary student. "It's so overpowering."

After trying out different sounds, members and names, the band found its niche. Last year, they released their first CD, *Screaming Confessions*.

"People making music is a good thing," said Brad Klump, music professor at Humber College. "It's hard to do. There are a lot of bands trying to make it."

Hero from the Start's entry into the music scene took a lot of hard work

before they were accepted into a music scene that is genre specific.

"I've learned that it's not always about you," said Sestito. "It's a lot more about motivating younger kids and it's all about the fans."

Since playing their first private show in 2006, they have moved on to play at better known venues in downtown Toronto such as El Mocambo and The Reverb.

"The music that local bands can offer to their audiences forms a connection between the audience and the band," said Wesley Parker, who frequently attends local shows. "It's all about the bands sharing their music and their message."

"You have to want to make it more than anything because there are too many reasons to be discouraged," said Klump. "You have to start early and work hard."

Currently, the band is working on their second album which they hope to release September of 2009.

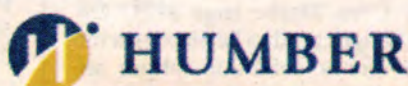
"My experience has been amazing," said Sestito. "It's probably been the best four years of my life so far."

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If you're good—there's work





After several websites reported actor T.R. Knight walking off set of *Grey's Anatomy*, a rep for the show denied the rumour that he was unhappy and quit. – *US Weekly*



Courtesy

Lauren Christoff (centre) filming her first music video, *Rescue Me*.

Film students working hard on music video set

Melissa Sundardas
A&E REPORTER

Having graduated from Humber's radio broadcasting program, Ryan May and Derek Bolingbroke, now managing directors of Northern Heights Records, know the hunger students have to prove themselves in the industry.

With Northern Heights Records' newest pop artist Lauren Christoff gaining popularity with two of her singles already in rotation on radio stations like Z103, CHUM FM and Virgin Radio, the label thought it was time for her first music video and Humber final year film students are making it happen.

Humber third-year film student and producer of Christoff's *Rescue Me* video, Jackie Chan, worked behind the scenes on the label's first artist and pitched the idea to collaborate with Humber film students to create Christoff's video.

"We had some mutual friends through the program and heard that the film students would make Christoff's music video as their thesis project," said Bolingbroke.

"When we were in the radio program we felt that we were just as talented as a lot of the people in the industry and were able to do so much, so I have the same faith in the film program here that the students are just as great as anyone else out there so we wanted to partner with them."

Without funding from VideoFACT (Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent), the label was looking to cut production costs in other ways.

"The most difficult thing about making a video, even a music video, is simply that it costs so much for the equipment and insurance," said

Chan. "Since Humber has this equipment and the insurance policy that we have access to because we're film students and we're doing a project, that really puts about a \$14,000 production value on to it."

The concept for *Rescue Me* features a group of people with a Marie-Antoinette look who are content with being frozen in a painting, while Christoff wants to escape.

"Throughout the entirety of the video I'm going to be taking off this gaudy costume, taking off my make-up which is caked on and the video relates to those feelings of being trapped or lost," said Christoff. "This is my way of showing that I was stuck within myself and I've rescued myself and I'm free now."

Students who worked on the video were not paid, but at the end of the day they've created a professional music video for their portfolio that could open doors for them once they graduate, Chan said.

"The label could come to us in a few months from now and say 'great work with *Rescue Me*, now we need another music video for Lauren and we need another music video for one of our other clients and other people are calling us who want you to work with them,'" said Chan.

Bolingbroke and May want students to learn if you're passionate and knowledgeable about something and put in that hard work, things will happen for you.

"I think us coming back here and working together with the film program was kind of like us saying 'okay this is your chance. We're putting our trust in you so take our product, show us what you can do with it and we're going to try and show it to the world,'" said May.

In My Headphones – Holiday Edition



Rebekah Williams,
Editor-in-Chief


Gen DeBellis,
News Editor

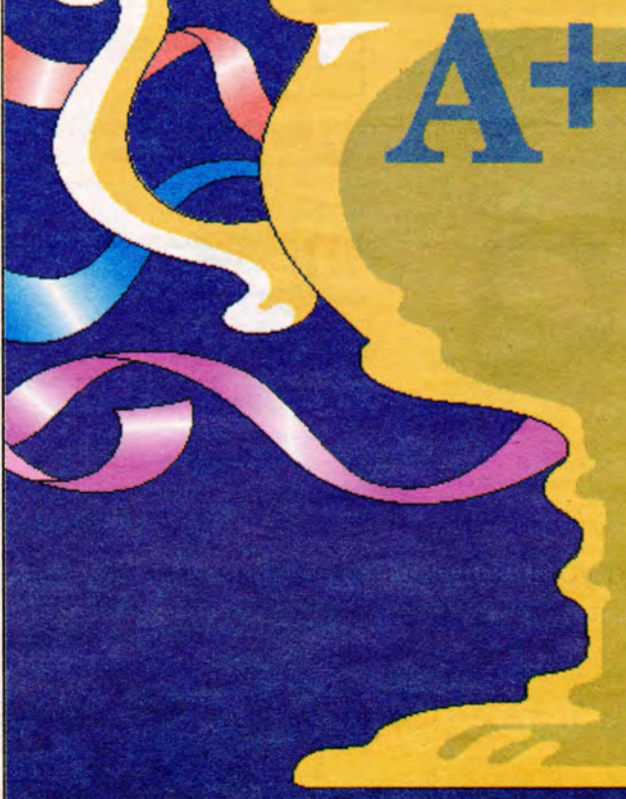
Joan Porter,
A&E Editor

1. The Christmas Song – Alvin and the Chipmunks
2. You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch – *The Grinch Soundtrack*
3. All I Want for Christmas is You – Mariah Carey
4. Carol of the Bells – Trans-Siberian Orchestra
5. Baby, It's Cold Outside – Zoëy Deschanel
6. Feliz Navidad – Jose Feliciano
7. Santa Baby – Kylie Minogue
8. Rocking Around the Christmas Tree – Brenda Lee
9. Jingle Bell Rock – Bobby Helms
10. Run, Rudolph Run – Chuck Berry
11. Frosty the Snowman – Jimmy Durante
12. Santa Claus is Coming to Town – Fred Astaire

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HUMBER



Jay Leno will continue with NBC with a show at 10 p.m. The contract will keep Leno from going to a rival network and help ratings at that hour. — www.reuters.com

Rock band heats up

Melissa Hayes
A&E REPORTER

The Burnitdowns don't have a name for their new album yet, but they say the genre will remain folk-country-punk.

The band's second album, is now being recorded and is expected out early this spring.

"They've come a long way in the last couple of years, and the new music is by far the best stuff they've ever written," said Matt Shortill, owner of High Art for the Lowdown, the band's label.

Lead guitarist and Humber journalism grad Ty Trumbull said The Burnitdowns owe their beginnings to a night of heavy drinking and an old record.

"Me and the singer (Chris Payne) were hung over one morning and listening to a Hank Williams record and were like, 'Wow, this is really

good, we should mix this with punk music," said Trumbull. "We thought it was a great idea."

Roommate Matt Marshall came on board to play drums, followed by college friend Jesse Bennett, another guitarist, and his brother, bassist Sam Bennett.

"The new album's a little bit more country and a little bit more punk...It's going to sound really cool."

—Ty Trumbull
lead guitarist

The band has been playing various gigs around Toronto ever since its first album, *The Ugly One*, was released two years ago.

"That was awesome for us," said Bennett, currently in his fourth year studying journalism at Guelph-

Humber. "It was a big deal. I felt like we accomplished something, having an album out there."

Trumbull hopes the new one will be even better.

"The new album's a little bit more country and a little bit more punk at the same time," he said. We're getting a few songs back and it seems like it's going to sound pretty cool."

The band plans to release the album as part of a package that would include both a vinyl LP and a CD.

"Artistically they're a pretty self sufficient band - I don't have to do much for those guys," Shortill said. "They know exactly what they want."

For now, The Burnitdowns said they want to keep making music.

"You need to put a certain amount of commitment into a band for it to be worthwhile," said Trumbull.



Courtesy

The Burnitdowns have taken two different genres of music — country and punk — and created their own brand of indie music.

The Weekend Playlist

Nov. 29 to Dec. 31 — Calvacade of Lights continues its breath-taking light display at Nathan Phillips square.

Saturday, Dec. 13 to Sunday, Dec. 14 — Stuart McLean's celebrated radio show *The Vinyl Cafe* comes to Massey Hall for three hilarious performances. 178 Victoria St.

Dec. 11 to Dec. 13 — Indy music darlings, The Stars will be performing for three nights at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre at the CNE grounds.

Student plays to the beat of a different drummer

Tim Morse

SPORTS REPORTER

In a city where finding a gig as a jazz performer is difficult, one student is making it look easy.

Twenty-year-old Lowell Whitty has already emerged on the Toronto jazz scene as one of the most talented drummers around.

He is open to playing all different kinds of music.

"There's nothing I won't play, I love the challenge of playing music I don't know," said the third-year jazz student.

A self-taught drummer, Whitty grew up jamming with his bass player father.

"I never stop gigging, I've started doing some session playing and that's really challenging, but playing gigs is where it's at."

—Lowell Whitty
jazz drummer

performers around Toronto and is ready to play more.

"I've started doing some session playing and that's really challenging, but playing gigs is where it's at."

Whitty's latest group, The Circus Circus, has been playing together for a while and is an interesting mix of improvised, classical, and jazz music.



Tim Morse

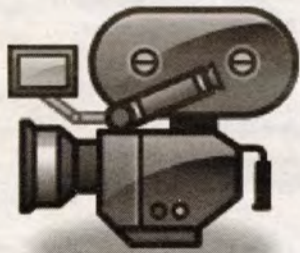
Playing many genres of music has helped Whitty's career.



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For every real Christmas tree harvested two to three seedlings are planted in its place. Each hectare provides daily oxygen to 45 people. – www.twinklebulbs.com



Alana Gautreau

The Toy Mountain booth at Sherway Gardens is cleared daily and is overflowing with donations.

Making a stranger's holiday during your time off work

Alana Gautreau
IN FOCUS REPORTER

The holiday season is the perfect time to give to charities, and there is a wide variety to choose, said former Humber student Katherine Willis.

Willis, 25, gives every year to the Salvation Army by donating toys to Toy Mountain, which gives gifts to families in need so their children have a good Christmas.

"I love it," Willis said. "It's like I'm shopping for myself as a six-year-old. I get to pay twenty bucks for a sweet looking toy, and I know that it means more than twenty bucks to a kid."

Andrew Burditt, the Salvation Army's public relations director, can relate to how Willis feels.

"The word hope is a big part of what the Salvation Army provides,"

Burditt said. "Beyond food, beyond whatever else, (hope) means so much more."

He said the experience is not just meaningful for the people who receive the service, but also for those implementing it.

"For those volunteering whether it's standing at a kettle, or serving meals, people share with us that it's a good experience," said Burditt. "When you're standing at a kettle, people tell you stories. They say 'this is why I'm giving' and when you're serving meals you see the work in action."

Willis said when it gets cold outside people can give gloves to homeless people, work at a soup kitchen, or volunteer to write cards at a retirement home.

Humber Student Federation president Mike Berg also believes in

spreading the good will.

"A lot of clubs and organizations have charities they support or fund raisers, and HSF supports those clubs," Berg said. "There are fund raisers at Humber all times of year."

Specific to the festive season, there is the HSF holiday party where students can bring their children and have a good time interacting with each other, Berg said.

It's about the full experience, Burditt said.

"We try to give a family an experience they wouldn't otherwise have."

"Of the \$151 million dollars we collect from donations, about \$23 or \$24 million of that is at Christmas."

"Sure it's about a merry Christmas, but really it's a merry anything," Willis said. "It's just about being good to someone else, and it's so much easier than people think."

Staying green for the seasons

Nicole McIssac
IN FOCUS REPORTER

Instead of being wasteful this holiday season with the usual wrapping paper, there are some alternate eco-friendly ways to wrap presents.

Troy Dettwiler, president of the Humber Environment Action and Awareness Club, suggests donating to charities such as the World Wildlife Fund in someone's honour.

The WWF's tax deductible adoption program provides the recipient of the donation with a stuffed animal as well as a certificate stating what work will be done in their name to protect that endangered species.

"You're still making a donation, but getting a gift where the money is going towards sustainability," said Andrew Laursen, a Ryerson University biology professor who specializes in sustainability.

Another way to accomplish this goal of a sustainable Christmas season is to purchase gifts made by local artists.

Jamie Kirkpatrick, of Toronto's

Environmental Alliance said you can do other things too. "Buy things that haven't travelled around the world to get to that tree," he said.

Dettwiler said it's important to think about where things are coming from and how they were made.

Laursen and Dettwiler both said that as a conscious consumer, you shouldn't just buy a gift for the sake of buying a gift.

"We have to get past that mindset," said Laursen. "That might mean making your parents a card."

Beth Savan, environment research director at the University of Toronto, suggests buying tickets to a show or concert – something that goes directly into someone's livelihood rather than materialism.

For a fun activity, to get the whole family involved, Dettwiler suggests making sustainable Christmas decorations, such as strings of popcorn and gift wrap made of comic strips or magazine pages.

"Cheap, easy and fun solutions make Christmas presents a little more interesting than the standard roll of \$2.99 green paper," he said.

As for those lights that adorn the tree and front of your home, turn them off as you head to bed.

"No one's out looking at Christmas decorations at one in the morning."

Savan says the holidays are a great time to learn how to practice sustainable living year round.

"If an effort is made at Christmas, it could spill over into every day."



Nicole McIssac

Instead of conventional wrapping paper, show your creativity while wrapping presents.

Celebrate away from home

Jackie Martinz
SPECIAL TO THE ET CETERA

Special efforts are being made at Humber to help hundreds of international students cope with being away from home during the holiday season.

"We have international student advisers that run events during the Christmas holidays," said Diane Simpson, the director of the International Centre. "There are movie nights, trips downtown, and a holiday dinner."

Over 800 international students are enrolled at Humber and many come from different religious backgrounds, said Simpson.

"We have a large Muslim and Hindu population," she said. "Most of them are not Christian."

The students also adjust with help from families and friends, said Simpson.

"Only 10 per cent of international students live in residence," she said. "Some live with relatives, friends, or with Canadian families as part of the homestay program. We work with an external company that organizes

homestay and about 10 per cent of the students are in the program."

Students who stay in residence rely on the International Centre and friends during the holidays since residence assistants aren't usually available, said Simpson.

"Our office is open to see students until Dec. 24 and from Dec. 25 to Jan. 2 students are able to email us and call a talk-back number should an emergency situation, like a medical problem arise," she said.

Residence assistants are usually absent during the holidays since they are also students, said Jennifer Skinner, residence life co-ordinator of S Building on North Campus.

Jui Wen, a first-year hospitality student from Taiwan, has big plans for the holidays with friends she met at events organized by the International Centre.

"For one week, we'll be going to New York," said Wen, who stays in R Building residence at North Campus. "I won't be lonely. In Taiwan we don't celebrate Christmas; we celebrate our Chinese New Year. This is just like any other holiday."

Bringing in a new year

Adrienne Middlebrook
IN FOCUS REPORTER

The countdown to 2009 is on and Tressa Booth doesn't know how to celebrate.

"New Year's is always kind of a last minute thing for me," said Booth, a first-year early childhood education student.

With the prices at clubs, bars and hotels almost doubled on Dec. 31, many question why they're going out at all.

"I hate going out on New Year's because everything is so expensive," said Jordan Baker, a second-year business student. "I end up going out but it costs me."

Celebrations vary around the world. Asian cultures usually celebrate New Year's on Jan. 26.

"I get red envelopes with money inside and many children dress up in traditional clothing," said Paul Yau, a culinary arts student from Hong Kong. "2009 is the year of the Ox for us."

"I hate going out on New Year's because everything is so expensive"

—Jordan Baker student

A new year also means resolutions. "New Year's is a kind of rite or ritual of renewal," said Humber sociology teacher John Sketckley. "It is not unusual for people to make wishes at rites of renewal."

According to surveys done by Columbia University, only eight per

cent of people keep New Year's resolutions. With a 45 per cent fail rate by the end of January. The most popular resolutions include quitting smoking, getting more exercise and saving money.

"I haven't even thought about resolutions, plans or anything," said Booth. "I'll think about everything after exams."

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SPORTS



New Jersey Devils goaltender and future Hall of Famer Martin Brodeur is the only backstopper in NHL history to score both a regular season and playoff goal. —nhl.com

Avery debacle exposes NHL



Pat Lovgren
Copy Editor

Run a player into the boards resulting in a concussion, a broken nose, and a broken bone in his hand: three games.

Viciously line up, pause and then deliver a direct hit from behind that knocks out a promising young defenseman with arm and shoulder injuries for an indefinite time: \$1,000 fine.

Deliver a kick with a skate on to a player, cross-check a player in the face and two separate times, knock players unconscious with elbows all since 2002: a total of five games.

Comment indirectly about fellow NHLers' girlfriends; anger management counseling, being labeled a cancer and outcast by teammates and being blamed for everything that is wrong with hockey, male and female relations and the world at large, and a six game suspension.

It all makes perfect sense, right? In the backwards reality that is the NHL, it does.

Now before I go any further, I want to point out that I think Sean Avery

is an insensitive, selfish idiot, who is rightly hated around the league by current and former players and teammates.

His actions have consistently given black eyes to the NHL and that is just for the incidents that have generated intense media coverage. (A google search of the words Sean Avery and Dustin Brown or Avery and Nashville Predator fans will bring up comments just as controversial).

But this situation is about more than just Avery.

It is about the hypocrisy the NHL operates under.

What other sport allows their athletes to seriously injure other players without so much as a slap on the wrist?

In the NFL, if a player – with intent or not – hits a quarterback in the head, drives him into the ground or leads with his helmet, he draws an automatic 15-yard penalty, followed by a steep fine – usually around \$25,000 – and more times than not a suspension, such as Adrian Wilson's hit on Trent Edwards.

Meanwhile in the NHL, victims of headshots are *blamed* for the fact they have the audacity to put them-

selves in harms way for a possible injury simply because they are willing to sacrifice to make a skilled play to help their team win the game.

It is in this climate that the NHL wonders why their players are portrayed in the U.S. as violent goons, running roughshod in a no-holds-barred world where players are allowed to offend, re-offend, and then offend again before any kind of punishment comes down.

In the end, the NHL is its own worst enemy. They have built up a well-deserved reputation – and it's track-record shows this – as a league that condones and promotes violence.

The actions of Sean Avery were certainly reprehensible and deserved a suspension, but the punishment handed down does not fit with the suspensions the league has handed out for other actions that resulted in more serious physical damage.

Until the NHL realizes the error of its ways and hands out suspensions that discourage the mindless violence that regularly occurs and gives the league such a poor reputation, they will continue to be virtually irrelevant in the sports environment.

TIME OUT

with the sports editors James and Maciej



The varsity season at Humber College is over, but as the winter break approaches, we, your beloved sports editors, are eagerly anticipating the upcoming sports calendar.

We like the Toronto Maple Leafs, and Mikhail Grabovski is a hidden gem if there ever was one. The Grabovski-Kulemin-Hagman line has great promise as a future first line with the upstart Leafs. We think they'll miss the playoffs, but they are heading in the right direction.

The Raptors are better than they're playing right now but will they make the playoffs? Maybe.

Bargnani has been a huge disappointment, O'Neil hasn't found his niche, and it seems as if Chris Bosh is already looking two years ahead to free agency.

On the positive side, Joey Graham

has been playing good basketball. That's it. Ouch.

The Toronto Blue Jays will struggle this season.

They are in a world of trouble with their projected starting staff after the ever reliable Roy Halladay. The beach ball throwing Jesse Litsch and everyone else remain a question mark.

But if the Jays keep Adam Lind and Travis Snider, there is hope for last year's floundering offence, because we know we can't count on Lyle Overbay any longer.

Toronto FC will continue to disappoint until they sign a bonafide star player.

The Argos? We don't care. It's going to be a tough year to be a Toronto sports fan, but it's been like that for years now.

At least we don't live in Missouri, home of the Rams, Chiefs, Blues.

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"We live in a society exquisitely dependent on science and technology, in which hardly anyone knows anything about science and technology." – Carl Sagan, astronomer.

Beer barons face criticism and a petition

Some say the Beer Store has no right to run a monopoly on Ontario's beer, and want competition to be allowed in the marketplace

Claude Saravia
Biz/TECH REPORTER

The Beer Store's foreign-owned monopoly on all beer sales in Ontario is being challenged by a Halton resident, Derek Forward.

Forward has started a petition to end the Beer Store's monopoly.

The Beer Store is owned by three multinational companies: Molson, Labatt, and Sleeman. Originally the three largest Canadian breweries, all three have since been bought out by foreign entities.

Molson Canada is now owned by U.S. based Molson-Coors Brewery Company and has 48 per cent own-

ership in the Beer Store. Labatt is owned by Belgium-based InBev, and has 48 per cent. Sleeman is owned by Sapporo and has four per cent.

"I decided to start a petition which calls for not the elimination of The Beer Store, but in fact, to allow a competing retail channel to also handle beer sales in Ontario," said Forward.

His petition has been read a total of nine times in front of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. A response to the petition is expected this week, said Forward.

"We have over 10,000 signatures, a combination of online signatures and hand signatures and has been read nine times in front of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario."

The assembly has 24 days after the first reading of the petition to respond according to the rules of the legislature. Forward said the response should have been read Dec. 1, while the Legislature said Nov. 27, so a response is imminent any day.

"I have never been too pleased with the Beer Store in terms of how they operate," Forward said. "I always thought they were a monopoly but once they became foreign owned, I really became upset."

According to the Beer Store website, a 12 pack of bottles of Sleeman Original Draught is usually priced at \$22.75. This includes a ten cent deposit charge per bottle, giving the consumer the option of returning



Claude Saravia

The Beer Store has been selling Ontario's suds since 1927.

the bottles. The same 12 pack at an IGA grocery store in Montreal is priced at \$14.99, according to the IGA website.

The Beer Store generates \$2.5 billion dollars in sales a year. Most of the beers sold at The Beer Store come from three major breweries. Many smaller breweries do not have enough money to purchase a spot on the Beer Store's shelves.

"Our service fees are based on volume," said Sara Taylor, media contact of The Beer Store.

According to The Beer Store's 2007 Operational Report, the basic service fees for packaged products are \$41.72 for the first 25,000 hectolitres and \$46.48 for the next 50,000 hl. Any remaining volume comes to \$47.44 per hl. Meanwhile with draught, it is \$35.15 for the first 25,000 hl, \$39.08 for the next 50,000 hl, and \$39.22 for any additional volume.

The report also states that small brewery sales have increased by 112 per cent since 2003, and represent

the fastest growing sales category. "Clearly they are doing really well," he said.

"Our system speaks for itself," said Taylor. "We carry over 350 brands of beer, which means consumers have an outstanding selection of choice when they visit our stores."

"Consumers have selection, and they have convenience and our employees."

"It's an open access system unlike the LCBO," said Taylor. "We don't set prices for the beer."

Taylor said the breweries set the prices and they are out of The Beer Store's control.

However Taylor said The Beer Store provides more than a local convenience store ever could.

"Our business is also an environmental leader, as we take back all of our bottles. Consumers have selection, and they have convenience."

CAPS purchases all of its beer from The Beer Store, according to Dionne Brown, a CAPS bartender. Brown said she doesn't see a problem with the way The Beer Store is currently running.

"I think things are fine the way they are set up," she said.

Forward plans on continuing to work towards the elimination of The Beer Store's monopoly. He said there needs to be a change.

"We resent the fact that it is foreign-owned and we feel we have earned a right to be heard."

Study shows web shopping jump, though worries remain

Liz Balsom
Biz/TECH REPORTER

A study released this month shows online shopping jumped 61 per cent since 2005, and some students say it's no surprise.

Anna Centurione, student adviser for the fashion program at Humber, said there are several reasons for the rise in online spending.

Centurione said that in the fashion industry, websites have simplified staying current and keeping costs down.

"Websites have improved a lot," he said. "With blogs now you can find out about fashion trends and the price is lower than you would find in stores."

Although people may be beginning to trust online shopping, some still have their worries.

The study showed 77 per cent of people took part had concerns about shopping online.

Madeleine Brooks, a second-year business student at Guelph-Humber, said she considers the website's reputation before handing over her credit card information.

"I'll always go onto a really trusted website like Indigo or Amazon or one that specializes in online shopping and has really good security features," she said.

Theresa Pilon, a first-year design foundations student at Humber, said she isn't comfortable shopping online, but she does it anyway.

"It's kind of 50/50. I'm not completely comfortable but not so uncomfortable that it will stop me from doing it once and a while," she said.

The study was done by Statistics Canada was based on information from up to 2007.

Health Canada says toxic toy incidents are rising this year

Angelo Elia
Biz/TECH REPORTER

Health Canada has said incidents involving toxic toys are on the rise, and one Humber student remembers his experience with such a toy.

Business student, Aman Josson, said his younger cousin was hospitalized after he used a contaminated pacifier.

"He got it in his mouth and was in the hospital for over two months," he said. "They (parents) got money back but didn't win the case. However, they got reimbursed and many pacifiers were sent back to the company."

Health Canada Product Safety spokesperson Paul Spendlove said incidents involving toxic toys have increased over the past year.

"As of the end of November, there were 62 toy recalls in 2008, and there were 42 toy recalls in (all of) 2007," Spendlove said.

He said it is up to the manufacturers to make sure toxic toys are not released. "It is the responsibility of

the industry to ensure that the products they import, sell or advertise meet the requirements of the Hazardous Products Act and don't present an undue risk to the public," Spendlove said.

Health Canada uses various techniques to detect toxic toys.

"Health Canada is actively involved in injury prevention by testing and conducting research on consumer products, enforcing legislation by investigations, providing importers and manufacturers with hazard information and by publishing product warnings and recalls," said Spendlove.

Health Canada has the ability to take action against manufacturers and retailers who don't cooperate with them.

"A range of enforcement actions, including voluntary measures to seizure and public warnings, are available for use when appropriate," said Spendlove.

Early childhood education professor Theresa Steger said the individuals who are responsible for keeping

toxic toys off the shelves are creating risks for families.

"It's the responsibility of toy regulators in Canada in terms of importing things that are toxic, and stores owners where they obtain materials, and whether they meet safety standards or not," Steger said.

"Families have a level of trust in our government system to help protect them, but that doesn't always happen."

Steger said one cause of the outbreak of toxic toys is cutting corners.

"I think that toy manufacturing is a money-making production, so companies look for ways to cut the costs."

She said store owners are legally responsible if they know they are carrying toxic toys. "If they know that they're toxic and sell them to customers, they're liable for that."

Business student Puga Patel said toxic toys are a risk to children and parents. "That's bad because kids want to have certain products for Christmas and it's upsetting because the kids can't get what they want."

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Chemicals found in food wrapping, makeup and baby powders have been found to feminize males, said a report published by CHEMtrust of London. — *Healthzone.ca*

Romanian student finds her place in new society

Jen Korson
NEWS REPORTER

With graduation, a marriage in May and a different language, Humber international law clerk student, Anca Zepa, says life in Toronto wasn't always easy.

Born and raised in Romania and later in Italy with her mother, Zepa completed a Masters in Law and then moved to Toronto in August 2007 to attend Humber's law clerk program.

Zepa said she was forced to adjust to Canadian life on the fly, referring to the difficulty of speaking and reading English full time.

"We study back in Europe, British English," Zepa said. "I came in Canada on Aug. 27 and in September school started, so I had not even one week to get used to it—hearing English everyday with this accent. My courses were a disaster."

Zepa said she learned the language by reading, listening to music and speaking English with her Canadian fiancé David, whom she met in Romania while he was on vacation.

She said she has been lucky to be able to practice English every day with David and his parents because there are a lot of students who don't have the same opportunity.

"I would think for some of my classmates who go home and they speak Hindu or Chinese, I can see they still have problems," Zepa said.

Humber ESL teacher Linda



Jen Korson

Anca Zepa joined her husband in Canada, and is adjusting to a new language and society.

Maloney said ESL courses are critical for those with language barriers, and recommends beginning with the level 150 course.

"I prefer to call it a refresher course," Maloney said. "It's for students who really still need help with basic issues in their writing."

The ESL stream continues with level 200, which covers essay and summary writing, and progresses to level 300, where students practice business writing.

Students who take the ESL classes receive equivalent credits for communications classes that are mandatory for all students, said Maloney.

Maloney stressed the importance of learning English to function in society.

"For all immigrants, English is key," Maloney said. "It's not the only key, but it's probably the most important or the first key to their new life in Canada, and to become productive members of society."

Chef's children made the difference

Andi Hui
LIFE REPORTER

Many talented and inspirational people have walked the halls of Humber, and Raymond Costain, a full-time student in the culinary program, is one of them.

The 26-year-old single father of two is holding down two jobs.

A typical day for the chef-in-training starts at 5:30 a.m.

"I get my kids up and get them ready for school," he said. "Then I drop them off at the babysitter's because I have to be at school for 7:00 a.m."

He is usually at school from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., then it's off to work either at the Humber Room or Nota Bene, a restaurant downtown.

"Then I pick them up from the babysitter's, take them home, clean them up, read a book and get them to bed," said Costain.

After his kids are asleep is the only time Costain has to himself. He said it's hard sometimes, but in the end he knows it will all be worth it.

Breaking up with your significant other is always hard and Costain said it took him a while to get over it.

"It was really tough for the first three years," said Costain.

"I didn't want to do anything, I didn't want to work, all I wanted to do was sleep. I'd do stuff for the kids and sort of shadow my own feelings."

He said he got his motivation to get his life on track from his children.

When he noticed his daughter Shanice was having trouble in school, he felt he couldn't help, so he decided to start working again.



Andi Hui

Raymond Costain, 26, juggles school and his personal life while raising two children.

While he was out in the workforce, he met Paul Iskander, professor of the business development event management classes at Humber.

Iskander gave Costain information about the culinary program and that's pretty much all it took for Costain to enroll at Humber.

"I never actually thought I was going to come back to school," said

Costain. "When I came back I was 24. I thought I was too old to come to school."

Costain is also an honour student who holds an 89 per cent average.

"I am really proud of myself because along with everything else in my life, trying to stay on the honour roll is pretty tough," he said.

He has also participated in several culinary competitions.

Costain and Gary Nguyen, 22, a fellow culinary student, competed at last year's Culinary Salon.

"It was very hard work, we actually got a bronze metal at the Salon which was pretty great for our first time," said Nguyen.

The Culinary Salon is a cold competition which means scoring of the food is based on how the dish is cooked and presented instead of taste.

Costain plans to compete in the competition again this year.

He said once he graduates, he would like to come back to Humber and teach.

"I actually spoke to Chef Fischbacher and he said if I continue to excel in the industry, I can possibly come back in five years and teach part-time," said Costain.

He also wants to open up a restaurant, possibly a small family diner, and he wants to travel the world.

Both chefs and fellow students said they expect great things to come from Costain.

"Raymond is a fantastic student, he is very focused, always on time, keeps to himself, works very hard, and he is just a pleasure to have around the kitchen," said chef Trevor Meynert, a culinary professor at Humber.

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Online dating builds self-confidence



When you're sitting behind a computer screen, chatting with someone else on the other end, and they compliment your dating profile picture, it's easy to feel sexy.

Those who have trouble meeting people to date on a daily basis find it easier to have more confidence through online dating, regardless of any dangers that exist.

Online dating should be encouraged to those who cannot build up the confidence to approach a man or a woman at the local bar or at the gym.

It gives them an alternative to talk to people without feeling insecure.

All of us have different degrees of confidence in relationships. The average person may not have all the answers as to what will build confidence, but whether we want to admit this to ourselves or not, a big confidence boost involves connect-

ing with someone who makes you feel good about yourself. For example, if someone compliments your smile, it's an instant ego boost.

So, you plan out a night of fun, looking forward to meeting some new people at a local club.

The club starts to heat up around 10:30 p.m. and you can't even move without a drink spilling on you, or you get approached by drunken girls or guys, and for the next five hours, you may have met one or two people but you know you won't ever speak to them again.

So tell me, why put in all that effort when you could have really gotten to know someone chatting online for five hours, and perhaps investing time into something worthwhile?

According to Online Dating Magazine, more than 120,000 American marriages a year occur as a result of online dating. Four million people in Canada and 40 million Americans use online dating sites to find matches.

Although people may constantly read about the disadvantages of

online dating, and how people are getting raped and killed by meeting people through these sites, they tend to forget or turn a blind eye to the long term couples who are happily married and have had a successful turn out.

So, why is it that we focus on the negative? It's not right and society needs to stop enhancing the negativity and allow things to pan out naturally in relationships.

We shouldn't be setting guidelines or rules on something that is caused by fate or a simple connection.

What about getting to know someone's personality before you judge them based on if they spit while they talk, or if they have a lazy eye? If talking to someone innocently over a computer helps others see what you see in yourself, then get in there and start chatting.

Some could say it's superficial for someone to call you good looking before they even take the time to know you, but is it so wrong to take a compliment?

Many may argue that teens are not

smart enough when it comes to online dating, but it's all about how well you know someone before that first date. Do you meet up an hour after chatting? Or do you talk to them over the phone for a few days?

Lindsay Hoxey, a third-year Humber interior design student, met her boyfriend online and said she wouldn't change it for anything.

"You just know when you connect with someone," she said. "Even though the other person can't see you smiling on the other end when you're talking, you definitely feel it."

Many teens and even adults are discouraged about finding the right person because there are limitations with meeting people in more traditional ways.

The Singles Dating Network said it's hard to find a partner in the workplace because of harassment, so the question I ask is why not date online?

Sure, out of thousands of profiles, there may not be many matches for you, but one person could possibly end your search.