



# HUMBER ET CETERA

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## Toronto mired in poverty

Studies show no improvement despite nation-wide economic growth

**Raymond Andrew de Souza  
Jackson Hayes**  
SENIOR REPORTERS

At the corner of Queen and Sherbourne streets, on a freezing November night, Lori Clyke waits on the Toronto Rotary Club's Health Bus.

A second-year social service workers student, Clyke is there to hand out warm clothes to the city's marginalized.

"I've seen a lot of people from other places, provinces and countries, who thought this was going to be great living here," Clyke said. "They'd heard so many wonderful things.

"When they get here they find out it's harder than they thought."

And two reports published Nov. 26 indicate Clyke will have more work ahead.

The first, *Losing Ground: The persistent growth of family poverty in Canada's largest city*, released by United Way, looks at poverty levels in Toronto. The picture it paints is not a good one.

Lyn Whitham, a vice-president at United Way, said the study shows the real lives of Torontonians.

"It was counterintuitive because we keep hearing about the prosperity in the city," she said. "So we looked at Statistics Canada, tax fillers data and it was the quantification of how people were struggling that was the shock.

"Relative to the rest of country it was also surprising because the perception is that Toronto is a have city and it clearly is a have-not for a lot of families," Whitham added.

Despite growth across the country, the province and surrounding areas, Toronto families are continuing to slide further into poverty. According to the report, nearly 30 per cent of families with children under 17 are living in poverty, an increase of roughly 16 per cent since 1990.

The number of single parent low-income families in Toronto has also risen nearly 51 per cent in the same time – roughly five per cent above the national average.

There is also a steady increase in the number of families requiring social assistance – 29 per cent of families within the city compared to 14 per cent in surrounding communities. Between 1999 and 2006 eviction applications went up 26 per cent.

The study called for a "poverty reduction strategy" to be implemented by all levels of government.



Photo and illustration by Raymond Andrew de Souza  
**The reports come as no surprise to Lori Clyke who helps the less fortunate as part of her internship.**

Also released Monday was the *2007 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada* conducted by Campaign 2000.

Campaign 2000 was founded two years after a House of Commons decision in 1989 to eliminate child poverty and publishes a report annually to educate the public.

The current report analyzed 18 years of data from Statistics Canada and several other sources. It

revealed that Canada's child poverty rates are exactly the same as they were 18 years ago at 11.7 per cent.

Recent prosperity in Canada has not been evenly distributed, the report said. Over the last 18 years, Canada has experienced a 50 per cent economic growth, yet many, particularly visible minorities and new immigrants, do not share in it.

For every \$1 the poorest 10 per cent earned, the richest 10 per cent earned \$12.57, the report said.

Ann Decter, the national co-ordinator for Campaign 2000, said she was saddened by the report's findings, but that she was motivated to continue her work.

"It takes your breath away to find that the child poverty rate is exactly the same as it was in 1989," Decter said.

The study found that approximately 788,000 Canadian children live in

poverty, with 44 per cent of that total living in Ontario.

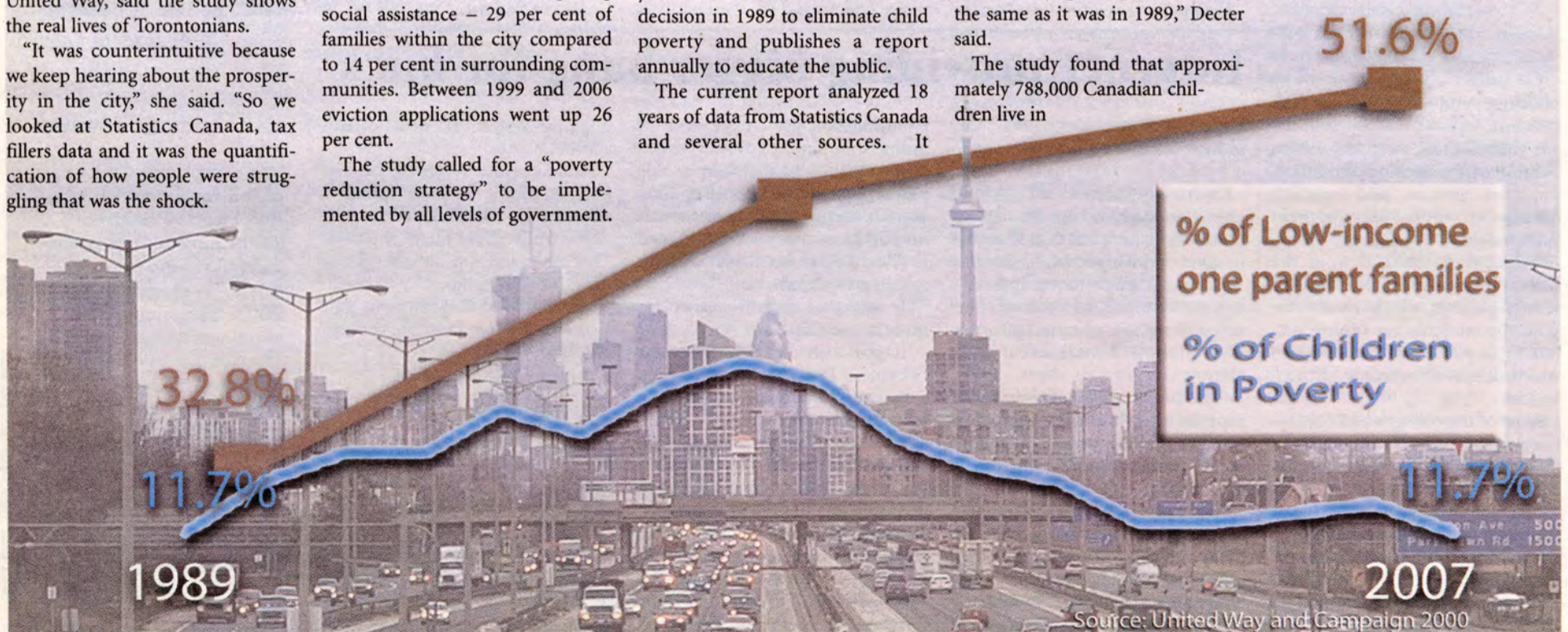
Linda Hill, co-ordinator of Humber's social service worker program, said although she is alarmed by the findings, they would assist her students in the community work they do.

"I think the numbers are shocking because they're so high," she said. "It's an issue that we focus on in the program and it's not news to us. Our students are out there on the front lines doing work with families and children living in poverty."

Hill, whose students work in shelters and food banks, said both reports are timely and will put pressure on all levels of government for increased support.

"These organizations are putting out [studies] because they want to see more commitment from all levels of government in terms of services and programs," Hill said.

"It's trying to get the system back to where it was and then looking at expanding services and programs to really make a difference to get ahead."



# NEWS

Nearly one-third (30 per cent) of workers use their computer at work to shop for gifts online during the holidays, up from 27 per cent in 2006. — Harris Interactive

## Staggered start for B building

New centre almost fully operational two months after deadline

Eric Lo Maglio  
NEWS REPORTER

The college's new B building is slowly but surely swinging into full operations.

The new centre opened its doors to classes in October, one month after the proposed Sept. 1 deadline.

With the exception of the new president's boardroom that's due to open at the end of the month, most of the building's ground floor has been in use since the beginning of November, said Dean of Student Services Judy Harvey.

"Humber's Test Centre went in and the other part of the first floor that's occupied is the counselling services, disability services and peer tutoring offices," she said.

In the spring, crane operators and concrete finishers had two separate strikes amounting to three weeks of lost productivity for the B

**"The trades are in demand ... which delays the schedule further."**

— Scott Valens,  
Humber director

building and sites across the province.

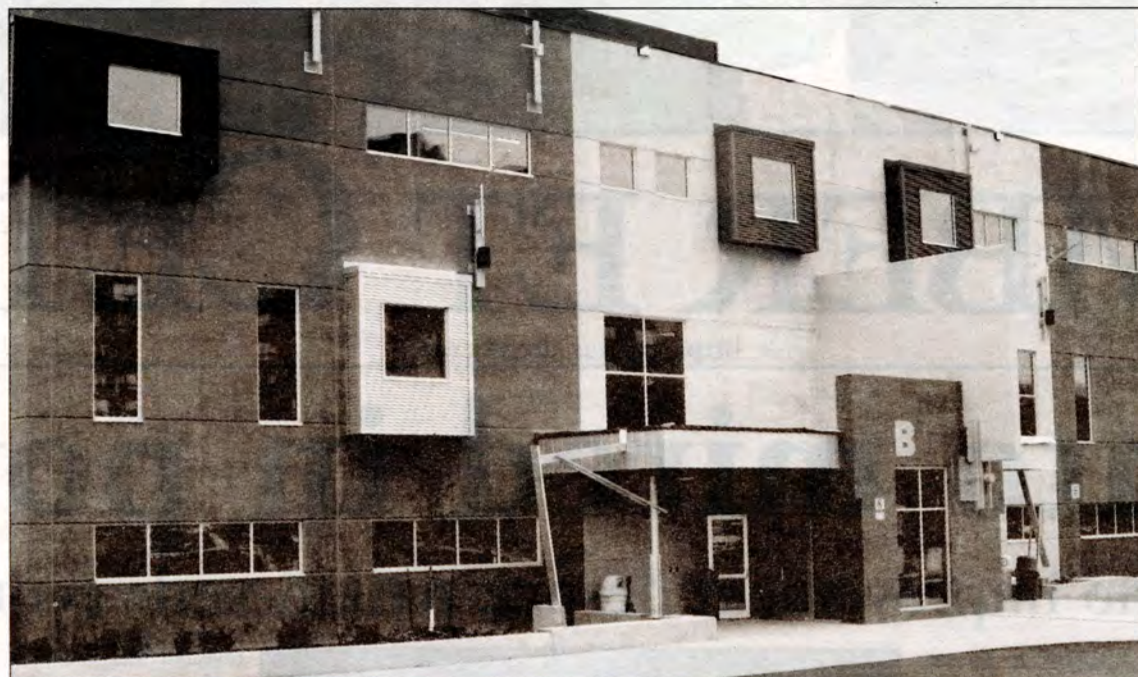
It caused even more disruption because of the backlog of demand for their services, said associate director of capital development Scott Valens.

"When they returned from the strike, the trades are in demand over several projects which means the general contractor has trouble getting those particular trades on site, which delays the schedule further," he said.

Some of the college's administrative services will relocate onto the third floor by the end of this month.

Future plans for North Campus include renovations to the C building, starting in December.

The building will accommodate facilities for the Health and Fitness program.



Eric Lo Maglio

Originally slated to open on Sept. 1, the new B building is almost operational, with classes, administrative offices and student services like the new Test Centre up and running.

## Social grad 'humbled' by award

Jackson Hayes  
SENIOR REPORTER

Kay Blair has come a long way from the shelter she lived in to escape her abusive husband. Yet she credits those days with kindling her lifelong desire to help others.

"When I came to Humber College I was in a shelter for assaulted women," Blair said. "I got quite a lot of support from the faculty of Humber College."

Blair, a graduate of the school of community and social work in 1985, is the newest recipient of the Premier's Award announced this week. The award, according to coordinator for the College Compensation and Appointments Council, Irveen Powley, recognizes the contributions made by college graduates across various fields.

Blair won the community service

category.

"I'm humbled by this accomplishment. I really feel honoured that Humber College would have considered to put me forward. What I do is not the kind of work that is really sexy and brings about accolades," Blair said. "You go to it each day hoping that you can make a difference without necessarily looking for any form of appreciation."

Blair immigrated to Canada from Jamaica in 1976 with her son and then-husband. She found work in the corporate world as a systems analyst for five years before deciding to enter social work.

After volunteering in the not-for-profit sector during the deterioration of her volatile marriage, she enrolled in a social and community development work program at Lakeshore campus.

"That prepared me quite well to really understand what empathy is

about and how you can really restore hope in people's lives if you truly listen."

The mother of two, who had police foundation students walk her to her car for fear of her estranged husband, spent time living in a shelter with her children while attending classes.

As executive director of Community Microskills Development Centre in Etobicoke since 1988, Blair continues to help abused women, young people, and struggling immigrants find aid, shelter, training and work.

"Perseverance and tenacity are sort of the keys to accomplishing what you want. If you believe in something then you're not going to compromise those beliefs. You are going to continue to find ways to bring them to the surface."

Blair will receive the award on Feb. 11, at the London Convention Centre in London, Ont.

## Internet providing bigger bang for buck

Kyle Baron  
BUSINESS REPORTER

Experts say shoppers should look online to cash in on the strong Canadian dollar rather than lining up in stores or driving across the border.

Computer engineering technology student Richard Owen said he saved about \$75 when he bought a PlayStation 3 online through eBay.

"The prices are great right now, especially with the exchange rate," said Edmund Baumann coordinator of the PC e-business program.

"We're going to see a spike in the amount of purchasing that is going on across the border online and that's already happening. It's only going to increase," he said.

EBay Canada spokesperson Erin Sufrin has already been at the

frontlines of the explosion in online shopping.

"If you look at October of this year compared to October of 2006 you see about 23 per cent growth on purchases made on items listed in U.S. dollars, so that's a pretty strong growth rate."

He said that certain sectors are more active this year.

"If you drill down further into categories like eBay motors they grew over 40 per cent as did consumer electronics."

"So when you look at things that are big ticket we're definitely seeing a growth in that category because Canadians have a lot more purchasing power when buying items in the U.S. or listed in U.S. dollars."

Baumann said many American companies are offering free shipping to prepare for the inevitable

bogging down of post offices across Canada.

With Christmas coming, Canada Post employee Vanessa Johns is already busy handling packages.

"It's really really busy," she said. "There's a line up almost out of the door sometimes."

Baumann said that shipping with a courier is a good option, because even after the shipping cost, it is still cheaper than crossing the border.

Some shoppers have some concerns about security to which Sufrin had some tips for those weary of internet transactions.

"Make sure you're paying safely if you decide to make a purchase," he said.

"Things like PayPal, which offer buyer protection — for that you can be covered for up to \$2,000 if you're buying from a qualified seller."

## THE SKINNY

### Optimism in Maryland

U.S. President George W. Bush tied peace between the Israelis and Palestinians to a broader struggle against extremism in the Middle East this week at a conference in Annapolis, Md. On hand were Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, as well as delegations representing 49 countries — including Syria and Saudi Arabia. "...The world understands the urgency of supporting these negotiations," Bush said.

— The New York Times

### The view from Gaza

Michael Tarazi, a former advisor to the Palestinian Liberation Organization, said it would be a mistake to think that anything meaningful will result from the Annapolis Conference. "This is a conference where people are going to talk about beginning to talk," he told Al Jazeera.

— Al Jazeera English

### Kazemi death revisited

Iran's Supreme Court has called for a new investigation into the death of Zahra Kazemi, the photo-journalist who died in Iranian custody on July 11, 2003. Iranian authorities initially reported she died of a stroke. Further probes point to the cause of death being the result of a fractured skull and brain hemorrhage caused by a "physical attack."

— The Canadian Press

The flu is spread through droplets released when someone coughs or sneezes. It is caught by breathing them in, or landing on one's eye. — [publichealth.on.ca](http://publichealth.on.ca)

# Crossing the border to be easier

Genevieve DeBellis  
NEWS REPORTER

Drivers crossing the border could have an easier time next year if Ontario's planned enhanced drivers licence (EDL) becomes available.

The Ministry of Transportation hopes to have the new licence implemented sometime at the end of 2008.

The EDL is a card to be used in addition to a regular licence.

The EDL will be cheaper than a passport and will meet the U.S. security requirements, but air travelers will still need a passport.

A passport costs either \$92 or \$87 depending on the number of pages.

The price of the EDL is yet to be determined.

Bob Nichols, spokesperson for the Ontario ministry of transportation, said the EDL will be a handier tool than a passport in certain situations.

"The EDL will be a commonly carried document. It can be car-

ried in a wallet, where a passport is a single purpose travel document that is a bit more cumbersome to carry," he said.

"It will become more useful for people especially if they are thinking of making impulse trips across the border."

Coordinator of the tourism management program Anna Kulinski thinks it will increase travel.

"It's going to be much easier for people to travel between the two countries. I think tourism would increase for both Canada and for the U.S.," she said.

Even though the EDL will be easier to keep on hand, it will not be any easier to acquire than a passport.

"The level of diligence required to obtain a passport will be applied to the enhanced driver's license," Nichols said.

The EDL will require all the identification documents needed to obtain a passport.

Although it hasn't been determined yet, the price of the EDL



There is an option of buying a 24 or 48-page passport, with the longer one costing \$92.

may also grab people's attention.

"The EDL will be priced to be attractive, an attractive alternative to a passport," Nichols said.

Kulinski said the lower price will persuade people to want to travel more often.

"Because it's a less expensive alternative then I'm sure that would have a positive impact, not only on tourism but on all of the economy."

First-year film and television

production student Natalie Welsh sees the benefits of this new licence.

"I think it will make it much easier for people to travel. They can carry it anywhere they go so it's convenient."

Kulinsky said one drawback is this alternative might cause confusion.

"There might be some confusion because for you to get on a plane to the U.S. you still need a pass-

port," she said.

Kulinski said the public needs to be properly informed about the right documentation to avoid confusion when travelling to the U.S. "The easier you make it for the people to travel, the more you eliminate all the obstacles and the tendency will be like 'yeah let's go,'" Kulinski said. "You have your licence with you anyway, so you would tend to cross the border much easier."

# Fighting the flu

Sean Casey  
NEWS REPORTER

Business management student Winston Brown joined hundreds of other Humber students last week to get his flu shot.

"I saw the signs around the school," he said. "My family wants me to and I don't want to get sick."

Third-year nursing students were the ones who were administering the shots to faculty and students.

"The flu is a virus," said Catherine Mylee, a registered nurse in the health centre.

"It gives you symptoms like a cough, runny nose, achy bones and you feel very tired. The difference between the flu and a cold is, a cold will last a couple of days and flu-like symptoms can last up to a month."

The flu can be passed on through sneezing, coughing and the shaking of hands. Mylee recommends people to "cough into the crevice of their arm or their sleeve and to remember to wash their hands."

According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, seven people

from Ontario have been confirmed with a severe strain since August, while only one has been reported ill over the last two weeks.

This information is gathered in conjunction with the Centre for Infectious Diseases, where specimens are tested for the flu virus.

Computer programming student Tim Valera got his first flu shot at the clinic based on the advice of others.

He was told there were benefits from getting the shot and didn't want to get sick.

Mylee said the government funds the flu shot.

"We here at the health centre have a budget that's allocated for supplies for the flu vaccine."

Brown wanted to take precaution after getting the flu last year.

"I didn't get it, and I got pretty sick," Brown said.

Mylee recommends that nurses, early childhood educators, fire fighters and paramedic students get the shot, because "they're at risk of passing the flu on to their patients who are at a higher risk of getting the flu."



Tim Valera braces to receive his first ever shot at the clinic.



The centre for urban ecology will be used as a learning model for the program's students.

# Another way to help the environment

Tyler Trumbull  
NEWS REPORTER

Sustainable Energy and Building Technology (SEBT), a new program set for fall of 2008, is another step in an environmentally friendly direction.

"It combines learning outcomes from civil engineering, architectural technology, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC), and electrical," said Robert Hellier, director of the new program.

Students of the program will work closely with the arboretum's new Centre for Urban Ecology.

"At the moment we would be using it as a model building," said Hellier. "We would be taking students there on sight tours."

SEBT's curriculum was designed with help from an advisory committee.

People from all walks of the agricultural community as well as the architectural community had input into the program.

According to Susan Krausz, asso-

ciate dean for the school of applied technology, demand is high for graduates of environmental programs like this one.

"The industry is looking for the grads from this program," Krausz said. "They would like them now."

Laura Martin, product development coordinator for Reid's Heritage Homes, a company who served on the advisory committee, agrees that a program like this is needed.

"In the future we're going to have to be looking for alternative ways of doing things to ensure that it's sustainable," Martin said.

While there will be no specific enrolment numbers until the end of January, Hellier said he expects good things.

"I am hearing from the admissions department that there's a lot of requests for information about the program," Hellier said.

The program will be one of only two programs of its kind in Canada, the other being offered at St. Lawrence College in Kingst-

Hellier said there are some notable differences between the two.

"I think that we will have more of a design and studio-based approach to learning," Hellier said. "A lot of technology courses teach you individual skills, and at some point... you have to assimilate all of those skills into a valuable skill set."

The program comes at a time where any environmental initiative is welcomed to better the planet's future.

"We have to train people that are very familiar with these greener systems and know how to integrate them in buildings which are themselves much more energy efficient. Otherwise we are in serious trouble."

Krausz said that it is a step closer to bettering the future for the environment.

"It's about our future, how we can work together to make sure that generations to come are still going to have resources. on this earth to be able to live by."

# EDITORIAL

"If the misery of the poor be caused not by the laws of nature, but by our institutions, great is our sin." Charles Darwin, author of *On the Origin of Species*

## Real cause being igno(red)

The issue of poverty in this country is a prominent one: TV ads, United Way campaigns and little white bracelets seem to be everywhere.

That said, are these projects really making a difference to improve the poverty situation?

It seems not, according to two recently released studies on Canada's poverty rates.

A study by United Way of Greater Toronto showed the number of low-income families in Toronto continues to grow.

The study cites increases in insolvencies, eviction applications, and a rapid expansion of quick-fix money solutions targeting low-income neighbourhoods across the city, as evidence that the city's poverty rate is on the rise.

The second study by Campaign 2000, called the *Report Card on Child and Family Poverty* shows that the child poverty rate is the same now as it was 18 years ago in 1989, when the House of Commons unanimously resolved to reduce poverty.

While the Make Poverty History white wristbands may be trendy, there doesn't appear to

be enough support after the initial fad fades.

When will solving poverty become really important to us?

Getting behind a cause requires much more than buying a bracelet, sporting a mustache or wearing a T-shirt.

It seems that unless a cause is assigned a colour or fashionable accessory it's not even on the map.

*It seems that unless a cause is assigned a colour or fashionable accessory, it's not even on the map.*

When did being really passionate about something necessitate another trip to the mall?

And are these efforts doing anything at all?

The link between causes and trends seems to have become more important than actually making a difference.

Whether it's poverty, cancer, or AIDS in Africa, why do we feel the need to wear our support?

When did consumerism become entangled with charity?

The greatest acts of kindness are those for which we never receive thanks. As former U.S. president Harry S. Truman once said, "It's amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

## Rely on force only as last resort

A rally to protest police use of tasers was held last Saturday at Queen's Park in response to the recent death of Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski at the Vancouver Airport.

It followed on the heels of the passing of Howard Hyde in Nova Scotia last week.

Both men were unarmed, shot with a taser more than once and died shortly afterward.

Several important questions about the weapon's use need to be answered.

Are the officers trained enough to know when to use it?

An eyewitness video of the Dziekanski incident was released to the public a few weeks ago.

It's apparent that when the police arrived, Dziekanski was nonviolent and submissive, and the decision to use force was made before the police even saw him.

He was irritated, his pupils were dilated and he was sweating. According to the CBC, some psychologists are proposing a name for this condition: excited delirium.

In the Nova Scotia case, the victim had a psychological disorder and was trying to run away.

Officers should take a look and think before deciding whether or not there is a need to stun

someone and if that person can handle it.

Just because it's easier to paralyze a perpetrator, it doesn't mean it's the right course of action.

Police officers should be trained to determine when it might be dangerous to taser someone.

With plenty of officers present in both cases and neither victim armed, why was it necessary to use something so powerful?

Dziekanski even appeared glad to see the police – that is, until he raised his arms and was shocked, at least twice.

What ever happened to talking to a person before using a weapon?

Similarly with Hyde, it would have been a lot safer to just chase him and tackle him to the ground.

Unfortunately, tasing was the simpler course of action and required less effort.

A United Nations committee declared "stun guns" a form of torture last week.

Tasers and training surrounding their use should be reviewed extensively.

But beyond that, a total overhaul of the use of force – when and why it's required – by those who are supposed to protect us is needed, before any more people are killed.



## WORD ON THE STREET

Is getting the flu shot worth it?



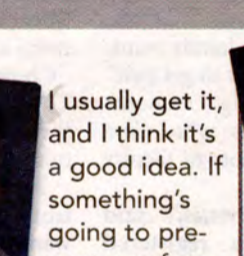
**Alisha Kok 20**  
Second-year  
business  
marketing

I don't think so. I've got a good immune system and I think people shouldn't get it unless you're elderly or a youngster.

**Ryan Leroux 25**  
Third-year pack-  
aging and  
graphic design



I've never got it, but I probably should. I get the flu every year, but I just don't have the time to go to a flu shot clinic. And I'm really bad with needles – I pass out all the time!



**Natalie St George 24**  
First-year  
court and  
tribunal agent

I don't get the shot, but I don't get the flu either. I just don't think it's necessary – I get head colds now and then, but I've never been seriously sick.

**Andrew Giorgio 21**  
Second-year  
business  
administration



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All letters must be signed and include the author's full name, program, and contact information.

"Fight for your opinions, but do not believe that they contain the whole truth, or the only truth." – American journalist Charles Anderson Dana (1819-1897)

# Real disorder needs real attention



Jef Catapang  
IN FOCUS EDITOR

As the days shorten and temperatures lower, it becomes clear that yes, it's that time of year.

No, I'm not talking about the holidays. I'm talking about the winter months that cause so much trouble for those who suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

It took me a long time to admit I suffer from SAD. Saying you suffer from SAD is like saying you suffer from OUCH.

It sounds really stupid. But every winter, according to The Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion, up to three per cent of Canadians, myself included, develop symptoms of depression until spring time.

While some people can experience a case of the winter blues, SAD is more serious.

It can result in anti-social behaviour, lowered concentration, irritability, despair and incessant sleepiness. It can also increase one's cigarette intake and decrease their fashion sense – or maybe that's just me.

It's one of those conditions that sounds made up.

There is no definite cause, though experts believe it is linked to shorter days throwing off one's internal clock, which affects hormone production and mood

rhythms. I don't really know the ins and outs. I don't even know what a mood rhythm is (but it's a darn good name for a jazz band.)

I just know for the past week or so I've felt like crap, same as I do every year around this time.

Its fuzzy parameters make the disorder hard to diagnose. "So you don't want to kill yourself?" asked a counsellor at my old school, confused about what I was trying to describe.

*There's nothing fake about SAD, and there's a lot to be said about getting yourself out of bed of your own volition.*

I think she confused feeling down with being emo. I have no desire to die or listen to bad music, which my counsellor just couldn't compute. She suggested pills. I shrugged my shoulders and never went back.

Later, my family doctor was equally flabbergasted. "You're... sad?" he asked.

My physician, having no emotions of his own and possibly being a robot, couldn't relate to my problems. As trustworthy and wicked cool as robots are, I once again declined the offer of medication and went back to bed.

I spent a good chunk of my university years locked in my dorm room because of SAD. Well, that, plus the invention of Napster and

my body's amazing ability to survive on nothing but Poptarts for months at a time.

Eventually, though, suffering from SAD got really boring, so I decided to do something about it.

It's really quite simple: I have to remind myself daily that speaking to people really isn't that bad.

There are many suggested treatments, including the aforemen-

tioned pills and counselling. There are special phototherapy lights that you can use to simulate the positive effects of sunlight.

Unfortunately, such lights can cost hundreds of dollars and aren't covered by most insurance plans.

I can't imagine dropping an entire paycheque on a therapeutic light bulb. David Suzuki would punch me right in the face for that

one.

Some could read this and conclude that all an artificial disorder needs is a made-up solution.

But really, there's nothing fake about SAD, and there's a lot to be said about getting yourself out of bed of your own volition.

And who knows, maybe I'll make it through this season without even a single "bah humbug."

## You are what you eat, be warned



Stephanie Zolis  
A & E EDITOR

A few weeks ago a Japanese dolphin slaughter took place. Maybe you heard about it on *Entertainment Tonight*, or not at all.

While I was pleased to see animal cruelty garner this sort of media attention, it was unfortunate that its coverage was mostly limited to *Heroes* star Hayden Panettiere and the Japanese arrest warrant for her involvement in the protest.

The acknowledgement of the barbaric practice is encouraging, but people still turn a deaf ear to the cries of animals in slaughterhouses in their own backyards.

Consumers have become more educated and discriminating

when it comes to what they put in their mouths.

Certain fats, additives and genetically modified elements have been eliminated from some diets, yet cruelty-tainted meats are still consumed without a second thought.

In order to meet demand, meat producers rely on factory farming with massive numbers of animals being crammed into tight cages.

The animals live in feces and ammonia-laden sheds, their legs and wings broken from the cramped space and inhumane treatment.

On the slaughter line, chickens' throats are slit to kill them quickly and to drain the blood from their bodies. The carcasses are then submerged in scalding water to remove their feathers.

But the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates that the blades miss many of the birds' throats

and millions each year are doused in boiling water while they're still alive.

Beyond the moral repercussions, there are serious health and environmental concerns to be considered. Heart disease, obesity and cancer have been linked to eating meat.

A 2006 Harvard study found frequent chicken eaters have a 52 per cent greater risk of developing bladder cancer.

Air and water pollution, soil erosion and water depletion are some of the environmental consequences of meat production.

According to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), cutting one pound of meat out of your diet would conserve more water than not showering for an entire year.

If one insists on eating meat, he/she should know where it comes from and what the real price is.

## Sound grammar all in a good read



Jeff Lewis  
COPY EDITOR

A few years ago, a little book about grammar was published in London, England.

You may have heard of it. *Eats, Shoots and Leaves* written by Lynn Truss, a host on BBC Radio 4 and columnist with the *London Times*, is perhaps the most undervalued book to have graced the *New York Times* bestseller list, one which I am now convinced should be made mandatory reading for this province's high-school students.

The book owes its namesake to a commonly told joke.

A panda walks into a bar, orders a sandwich, eats it, then draws a pistol and casually shoots a number of other patrons.

The barman, confused and startled, demands an explanation. The panda produces a poorly edited wildlife guide and, on his way out, passes it across the bar.

"I'm a panda," he says. "Look it

up." Turning to the relevant entry, the bartender reads: Panda – large black-and-white bear native to China. Eats, shoots and leaves.

Okay, it's lame. But its point stands all the same: shoddy punctuation often alters the meaning of the written word.

Consider last year's grammatical gaffe by Rogers communications Inc.

A misplaced comma cost the telecommunications giant an added \$2.13 million. In that instance, the CRTC ruled in favour of Aliant Inc., a St. John-based phone company, nullifying an existing contract between the companies "based on the rules of punctuation."

Along with the pedants and grammarians, who perhaps are one in the same, I rejoiced.

Never has there been such flagrant disregard for punctuation and sound grammar in the public sphere.

Internet lingo is bleeding into

daily conversation. All of a sudden, people are telling me they'll 'brb' (be right back) or that they're doubled-over 'lol' (laughing out loud).

My concerns began last year. For two weeks, I sat in on a first year English course at Humber.

*Never has there been such flagrant disregard for punctuation and sound grammar in the public sphere.*

The first day I was there, the lesson plan dealt with the administration of commas.

On day two, we had advanced to the rigours of subject-verb agreement.

I was amazed at the sheer enthusiasm with which the students, themselves recent high-school graduates, sponged it up.

It all comes down to reading. And not dull books about grammar – although Truss' isn't – but ones you genuinely like.

From there, grammar and all its quibbles will come by osmosis. Next week, the CBC launches its Canada Reads challenge.

Here's hoping the youngsters are reading more than the text messages on their cell phones.



TO THE SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS FOR WINNING THE CFL GREY CUP. IT WAS THE TEAM'S FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY IN 18 YEARS.

TO THE IRANIAN SUPREME COURT FOR ORDERING A NEW INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF ZAHRA KAZEMI, A CANADIAN PHOTO-JOURNALIST WHO DIED WHILE IN CUSTODY OF IRANIAN AUTHORITIES THREE YEARS AGO.

TO PAKISTAN'S PRESIDENT PERVEZ MUSHARRAF, FOR GIVING UP COMMAND OF THE MILITARY TO GENERAL ASHFAQ PERVEZ KAYANI.

TO DAVID BECKHAM, FOR IGNORING SCORES OF YOUNG CANCER SURVIVORS WHO WERE WAITING TO GREET THE BRITISH SUPERSTAR AT A SYDNEY AIRPORT.

TO OFFICIALS IN SUDAN FOR ARRESTING A TEACHER WHO ALLEGEDLY INSULTED ISLAM BECAUSE HER SEVEN-YEAR-OLD STUDENTS NAMED THE CLASS TEDDY BEAR MUHAMMAD.

TO THE HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD FOR PULLING THE CHILDREN'S BOOK, *THE GOLDEN COMPASS*.

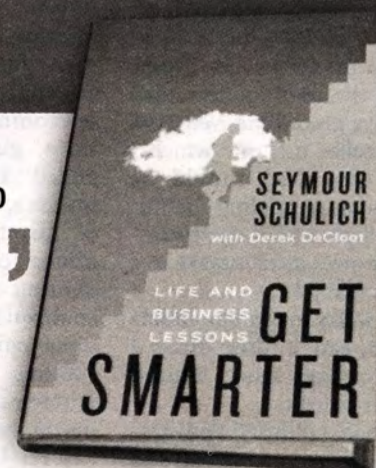


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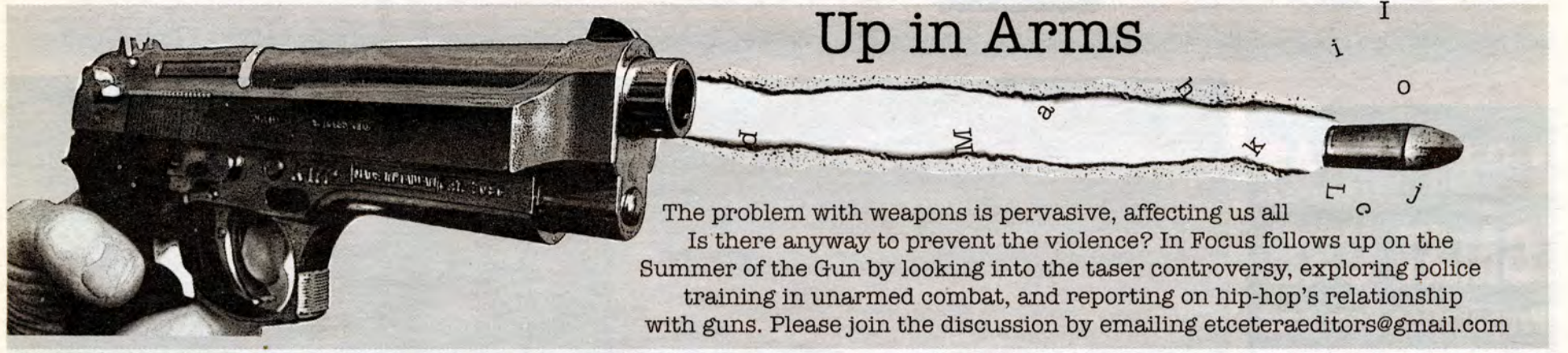
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## Up in Arms

The problem with weapons is pervasive, affecting us all. Is there anyway to prevent the violence? In Focus follows up on the Summer of the Gun by looking into the taser controversy, exploring police training in unarmed combat, and reporting on hip-hop's relationship with guns. Please join the discussion by emailing [etceteraeditors@gmail.com](mailto:etceteraeditors@gmail.com)

# Homicide numbers climb despite police efforts

**Whitney Stinson**  
IN FOCUS REPORTER

Following the deadly Summer of the Gun in 2005, Toronto Police developed a comprehensive strategy to reduce violence in the city. But with the homicide rate this year surpassing 2005's statistic, some officials say the plan doesn't work.

This past weekend four more victims died from weapon attacks.

On Nov. 23, Ryan Hyde, 19, and Kennado Walker, 25, were gunned down just hours apart. Darryl Debassige, 35, was stabbed and killed the same day. On Nov. 26, Delane Daley, 18, was shot and killed in the Jane and Finch area.

Const. Wendy Drummond said that despite new community safety strategies, the city is exceeding previous homicide rates.

In 2005, the number of homicides in Toronto was 73, with 48 gun related deaths. As of Nov. 26 this year, there had been 78 homicides, 40 of those involving guns.

Toronto councillor Rob Ford, who represents Etobicoke North,

said the homicide rate is proof the community strategy isn't working. He wants the return of capital punishment.

"It's a bunch of nonsense," Ford said. "An eye for an eye, I think we should bring back capital punishment. If it's there, they'll think twice before they shoot people. It will send a strong message and 100 per cent guaranteed it will decrease the number of murders."

Ford, whose Ward 2 had the highest number of murders in 2005 and includes Humber College North Campus, has been affected personally by gun violence. His sister, Kathy Ford, was shot in 2005.

In 2006, the Toronto force responded to the increase in violent crime with the Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy (TAVIS). The initiative aimed to stop growing violent crime rates with a multi-pronged approach and community involvement.

"We work with the community, we involve community centres, churches and businesses to work with the problems," Drummond said.

now we've got them in centres being productive. Now that we have that, naturally crime reduces."

Ford doesn't think the TAVIS initiative works. "They fund a lot of programs. You can invest millions in social programs, but I don't see the connection between funding programs and carrying guns," he said.

Mark Farrell, a youth mentor at a recreation centre on Jane and Finch, agrees community involvement won't prevent gun violence.

"It's not going to stop, as long as guns are being made there's going to be homicide," he said.

Farrell was raised in Rexdale and grew up around guns and violence. He was convicted of manslaughter at 19 and served seven years in jail. He turned his life around when he got out of jail.

"You live and learn," he said. "When you make a bad decision in life, you take it and learn from it."

Farrell says the youth he mentors should be exposed to programs promoting violence awareness and avoidance but admits gun violence won't end until it is addressed higher than the community level.

"The problem isn't in the areas. The problem is in the government and the gun manufacturers," he said. "There's only one reason guns are made and it's to kill."

Drummond said Toronto residents must work together in order to deal with Toronto's growing murder rate.

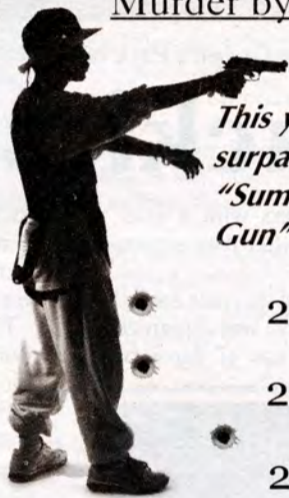
"We've had great success and progress with TAVIS. The ultimate bottom line is to get the community to mobilize themselves," she said.

Ford said a more thoughtful attitude is in order.

"People have to think twice before they get angry" he said. "I don't think people consider other peoples lives as much as they used to."

As to when Toronto's gun violence might end, Farrell is unsure. "One day," he said. "When God finally comes to this world."

### Murder by numbers



*This year's rate has surpassed the "Summer of the Gun"*

2005: 75

2006: 63

2007: 78

Tom Antos

stats from [torontopolice.on.ca](http://torontopolice.on.ca)

TAVIS works to get young people off the streets and into community programs.

"We try to provide activities to give them some place to go. So

## Hip hop gets bad rap

**Matt Durnan**  
IN FOCUS REPORTER

With many popular hip hop artists rapping about guns, the music is an easy target as a catalyst for gun violence.

Documentary filmmaker Richard Budman used the media focus on hip hop to inspire his award winning film *The Toronto Rap Project*, which looks at hip hop culture in Toronto.

"You can go back to rappers as early as Ice-T and Ice Cube, who were some of the originators of gangsta rap," Budman said. "And they were targeted for being influences in violence around the areas they lived."

"It's fair to look at hip hop as a possible factor," Budman said. "At the same time when you use it as your main focus you're neglecting some more serious issues."

Budman said there are too many possible reasons for gun violence and targeting hip hop culture is too narrow a view.

"The issue here is that people don't want to look at the bigger picture," he said.

"There are many factors that play into violent crimes... people should stop looking for an easy target to point the finger at as a quick answer, and start trying to solve the bigger issues."

According to Humber sociology professor Jim Jackson, music, especially hip hop, can influence a person's actions.

"Music can shape people's attitudes and opinions," he said. "A popular song can become a banner and is symbolic of a movement. If that song is glorifying violence, then it can shape the way a movement acts."

Jackson said the age group most influenced by music is 13 to 25 but stopped short of saying all of society's ills can be linked to music.

General arts student Michael Reilly, 22, is a fan of hip hop and said it's not fair the genre has a bad reputation.

"I think politicians just like blaming rappers because they don't understand the music," said Reilly. "Rappers rap about what they know... in the end you have to realize it's just music."

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605 homicides were reported nationwide in 2006, including stabbings, shootings, fires, beatings, strangulation, infanticide and other methods – *Stats Canada*

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A vigil pays tribute to Robert Dziekanski, at Queen's Park Nov. 24th, as part of a protest against police use of tasers. *Zack Rhodes*

# Toronto tackles taser debate

**Zack Rhodes**  
IN FOCUS REPORTER

In October, Robert Dziekanski died at Vancouver airport after being shocked repeatedly by

RCMP officers with a taser just one minute after they approached him.

A rally held this past Saturday at Queen's Park was organized to protest the use of force by the

RCMP on Dziekanski and to demand accountability from the four officers involved in the as-of-yet unanswered killing.

The crowd gathered to listen to Borys Wrzesnewski Liberal MP for Etobicoke Centre, Peggy Nash NDP MP for Parkdale-High Park, and former Ontario premier Bob Rae, among others, speak on the unacceptable use of force in Dziekanski's case. Cries of "Justice" and "Shame" could be heard throughout, especially when federal Conservative MP for Burlington Mike Wallace took the stage.

While he received loud jeers and shouts of protest from those in attendance, he said he sympathized with Canadians and wanted answers just like the rest of the country.

"At the end of the day, I can tell you that our government is committed to hold those who are responsible for what happened in Robert's case...we will hold (them) accountable," Wallace said.

Passerby Angela Pazienza said she thought it was good so many people came to show their support for Dziekanski, but she thinks the situation at the Vancouver airport was an isolated incident.

"I can see why they are out here and I totally support what they are doing. I think the police have a tough job and they may make mistakes sometimes... (but) overall they do a good job."

Henri Berube, coordinator of Humber's police foundation program, was not trained in the use of a taser as they had not been adopted while he was a police officer. But he is familiar with Canada's national Use-of-Force framework which he said can be helpful to officers in the sense that "depending on what you're confronted with, you can opt for any use of force in response."

Berube described police being trained in the past through "lin-

ear" models which had officers moving step-by-step in order to subdue an offender. What the "circular" model outlines is that "whatever the officer is present with dictates the appropriate response."

"Lethal force threat depends on an analysis of the circumstances going on. Each situation is dynamic, complex, and changes very quickly. It can go from a passive situation immediately to lethal force," Berube said. "There is a real power to the circular model in that it allows police officers to respond appropriately as opposed to ruling things out."

While Berube preferred not to comment specifically on any taser-related situations that have been in the news recently, he said compared to a firearm, Tasers are "a much more viable option."

"How much risk do you expect the police to take on? If an officer moves into the person and the person suddenly produces a knife, someone is likely to die. The taser is not intended to be lethal," Berube said.

### TASER DEATHS

Quilem Registre, 39, of Montreal, died in a hospital on Oct. 18 after being shocked by police with a taser. Last Wednesday in Dartmouth, N.S., Howard Hyde, 45, died in police custody hours after being shocked.

*-Montreal Gazette, cbc.ca*

Inquiries are underway in Nova Scotia over the death of Howard Hyde, and in British Columbia over the death of Robert Dziekanski.

*-Canadian Press*

There have been 17 taser-related deaths in Canada since its 2001 induction.

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**HUMBER**



"Being kissed by a man who didn't wax his moustache was – like eating an egg without salt." – Rudyard Kipling in *The Story of the Gadsbys*



Kaveh Khazra

Nick Iannitti, spokesperson for Movember, donned his musketeer costume at this year's Gala Parté to celebrate the amount of money raised for prostate cancer research.

## Stash for cash

**Kaveh Khazra**  
LIFE REPORTER

November is the month of the moustache.

Coined Movember, the month has been dedicated to bring attention to prostate cancer.

The aim of Movember is also to change the attitude of men about personal health and make it fun for them by putting the moustache back on the faces of Canadian men.

The charity began in Australia when co-founder Adam Garone and his friends decided to glorify the moustache for a good cause.

Gaining momentum, the charity spread to New Zealand and with great success, became an official male health initiative in 2004.

Movember is now celebrated in Australia, New Zealand, the United States, the United Kingdom, Spain and Canada. In 2006, 56,000 Mo Bros – men involved in Movember – raised \$1.2 million towards prostate cancer research.

In order to participate, each Mo Bro must start the month with a clean-shaven face and grow and groom a moustache for 30 days.

Throughout the month, Mo Bros and Mo Sistas – women who support their moustache growing counterparts – spread the word about prostate cancer research.

Nick Iannitti is a spokesperson for the Movember campaign and said he was participating to show support for his friends who brought the event to Canada.

"Guys like to joke around and laugh so the mustache helps start the ball rolling. It breaks the ice and tries to reach out to men in a humorous way which helps salvage their pride as well," he said. Iannitti said the moustache is a

great way for men to become involved with the project.

"As unfashionable as the moustache tends to be these days, there is a certain allure about the moustache. It is something fun and humorous but it is also a good way to raise funds for something meaningful," he said.

A Gala Party was held at the Phoenix Concert Theatre in Toronto last Sunday to thank the participants of the charity event.

Mo Bros and Sistas were dressed in 70s fashion, sporting their moustaches, hoping to win the coveted crown aptly named Man of Movember.

Vice-president of corporate development for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Canada, Greg Sarney said the campaign is a unique way to get people personally involved for a whole month.

"It's a frivolous approach to a serious issue of men's health and prostate cancer in particular. We are trying to get men to donate their face for a month and to wear the cause," Sarney said.

"It's not like wearing a pink ribbon on your jacket or signing up to take part in a run or walk even for a day. It is really committing to something for a long period and explaining to people why you are wearing the mustache in the first place."

According to the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Canada, prostate cancer is the number one threat to Canadian men.

It will afflict one in eight men in their lifetimes and approximately 22,300 men this year.

Jason Sarkozy, a friend of Iannitti who attended the show, said "I think I'm going to keep the moustache. It suits me and I can constantly let people know about the cause," he said.

## Get with the Program

**Jordana Stier**  
LIFE EDITOR

Meet Deryk Ireland, a community through cooperative education student.

**Q. What program are you in?**

A. CICE. It's community integration through cooperative education. It's a special needs program for special adults that have learning disabilities, doesn't matter of what type. We're placed in other places like job practice – I'm working currently at Wal-Mart – to learn how to live on our own and do things like that.

**Q. What does the program involve?**

A. We learn things like basic life skills, how to live on your own, different things on medications. It depends on the project. We have different schedules than you guys do, so we have it more what's known as a simpler schedule. So instead of having a lot of classes, we have five or six in a week.

**Q. Give an example of your schedule for this week.**

A. This week, Monday I was supposed to go to radio broadcasting. Tuesday I have a educational plan meeting, and it's basically again what you want to work on, and things like that. The longest day for us is Tuesday. I'm in from 9:55 in the morning till 5:10 in the afternoon. I'm here four days a week, because on the fifth day I'm at my job practice, which is Wal-Mart in Brampton.

**Q. What do you do at Wal-Mart?**

A. I work in the seasonal department, and I try to help the customers as much as I can. I put stock away, make sure nothing is blocking the aisles and walk

around and help out the other departments as well. Every Friday I work from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and I don't have to come to school, that's the one bonus.

**Q. What is it about your program that you enjoy the most?**

A. Radio broadcasting with Neil because of the fact I own my own DJ business so I'm just learning how to advertise and get my name out. That's just one of my hobbies I do after school.

**Q. How do you think this program has benefited you?**

A. There are things I never knew before, in regards to mediations, things like everyday banking. There were things in my life, at one point, that didn't make a lot of sense, so now this program is just bringing all of those things that wouldn't make sense into focus.



Jordana Stier

Deryk Ireland, CICE student runs a free DJ show with many types of music at Humber. His next show will be Dec. 3 at 11 a.m.

## The Smokers Pot



## Put Your Butt In



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The first edition of the Mister World male pageant was held in 1996 in Istanbul, Turkey with the winner being Tom Nuyens from Belgium. – [www.mrworld.tv](http://www.mrworld.tv)

## And the winner is...

Shermaine Ellis  
LIFE REPORTER

A Humber journalism graduate has been crowned Miss Brampton 2008.

Jessica Miller was officially given the title at St. Bartholomews Church in Brampton on Nov. 3.

Miller said the pageant is primarily judged on who you are as a person rather than the way you look.

"Anyone can do this, it's a positive experience and I encourage anyone who's interested to participate," she said.

Miller applied for the pageant several times in the past couple of years.

This year, she also received the title of official ambassador of Brampton where she got to attend large events, give speeches and greet guests.

"This pageant really appealed to me. I love community service and being in the spotlight. But, mostly I love giving back to my community," she said.

The pageant's organizer Teresa Sousa said "Miller was chosen as Miss Brampton because of all the



Courtesy

Jessica Miller, Miss Brampton 2008, works at Guelph-Humber as a faculty liaison.

public support she received, her energy, and she was involved with a lot of groups around Brampton."

Sousa said Miller is well liked, helpful, has a positive attitude and knows the history of the city.

"She depicts everything this pageant is about," Sousa said.

Though Miller said she knew of her win since late September, she was shocked when the crown was placed on her head in November.

"Even after you find out you've won, it doesn't sink in, you just don't realize it. The first time I realized that I was Miss Brampton was when I went to my first event and people were saying, 'there's Miss Brampton,' 'there's Miss Brampton,'" she said.

A \$200 entrance fee is charged to each participant to cover costs like the auditorium for the competition, judges, decorations, trophies, crowns and sashes.

Since there were no additional funds for an official party, Miller created a Miss Brampton Celebration.

"I invited all previous title holders to give it the pageant feel. They were in their tiaras and sashes and there were singing and dancing performances.

"Miss Brampton 2007 gave her farewell speech and I gave my introductory speech. It was a time to celebrate all of our achievements," Miller said.

## Student Bodies

### The Et Cetera Fitness Challenge

Tips on staying fit during exam time

-Study your notes while doing cardio, i.e. on the bike, elliptical or treadmill.

-Realize that working out will alleviate stress. Most people use exams as an excuse.

-Do quick and easy exercises if you don't have enough time.

-Make sure your getting all the veggies and fruit you need.



Alyssa Winfield  
Starting weight: 180 lbs  
Weight loss last week: 1 lb  
This week: 1 lb

"After I am finished with this, I'm going to keep booking sessions. They're not that expensive for students. I still want to keep working on my arms and my waistline and my abs."

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**"You start out happy you have no hips or boobs. All of a sudden you get them. Just when you start liking them, they start drooping." – Cindy Crawford, model**

# Shopping for jeans simplified

## Finding right fits for different folks is easy to achieve with skilled advice

**Mandy Ross**  
LIFE REPORTER

No matter what your body type, you can find the perfect pair of jeans.

It just takes perseverance and some fashion know-how to tackle the task.

Fashion instructor Rose Rutherford said there are many jean styles available.

"Manufacturers are more diversified in the way they size their jeans. They offer more choices and better fits," she said.

Students should look for jeans with Lycra in them because the material will hug and fit the body better.

"Lycra makes the fabric more comfortable and flexible," she said.

Rutherford said the most important factor in great fitting jeans is finding the right jean in-seam or rise, which is the distance between the crotch and waist.

Kelsey Watson, a retail clerk in Mississauga, said Suki by Silver is her top selling jean for any body type.

"Sukis have a mid-rise waist that fits most customers well. They are a dark wash, stretchy, boot-cut jean," Watson said.

There are certain brands and styles made for specific body types.

"Tall women should buy Guido and Marie or Parasuco jeans. They have a 36 inch inseam, are boot-cut and are better in a lighter wash, so legs aren't accentuated," she said.

Petites should buy Big Seven jeans because they are straight-legged. Fitted styles also elongate a silhouette.

Students with a voluptuous figure can wear the same complementary styles.

Watson said Suki Jeans by Silver are good for minimizing problematic body parts including the hips, thighs and butts.

Look for styles that don't cut into the waist, aren't light washes, do not flare and don't have bulky pockets.

"A wide-leg trouser helps to create a more balanced body line,"

Watson said.

Students with flat derrieres should buy Big Sevens because they have no back pockets, are low-rise, straight-leg or boot-cut.

"No back pockets create a fuller bottom," Watson added.

Relaxed jeans that aren't skin tight like So You Jeans, fit plus size students well.

"Their styles are high or mid-rise, straight or trouser legged, and stretchy," Watson said.

First-year fashion arts student Alexandra Briggs works at retail store Aritzia in Kitchener and said she has an hourglass figure.

She buys Seven for all Mankind jeans because they fit her body type well. "These jeans can fit girls of any size and they come in different styles," she said.

First-year fashion arts student Megan Jeffery said she is very tall and has an athletic figure.

She said Rock and Republic,

along with Parasuco jeans shape her silhouette in a flattering way.

"Parasuco jeans have always fit my body well. They fit my

butt and wide hips, they are long in length and don't shrink. They come in a variety of styles," she said.

**"Manufacturers are more diversified in the way they size their jeans. They offer more choices and better fits."**

– Rose Rutherford, fashion instructor



Mandy Ross

There are many washes, cuts and styles of jeans available to students of any body type.

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The American Big Brother TV show, which the Humber Big Brother event was based on, was itself based on a British reality show. – [bigbrotherwiki.cbs.com](http://bigbrotherwiki.cbs.com)

## Big Brother watched in first annual event

Nicole Lane  
A&E REPORTER

All it took was a little winking, a few nudges and some notes here and there for Bobby Djurdjevic to walk away from the Big Brother house \$1,000 richer.

Last Wednesday, the Student Centre was transformed into the Big Brother house with cots, couches and food tables to accommodate the ten players.

Over a 24 hour period, they competed in Head of Household challenges and voted players out.

The Head of Household competitions tested the players on their knowledge of each other, their morals and their endurance.

It housed (in order of elimination) Travis Sage, Warren Lindsay, Ashley Amaral, Jason Marshall, Logan Ullyott, Krista Gaverluk, Amanda Fletcher, Marlon Peters, Steacy Curry and Bobby Djurdjevic.

The winner of each challenge was given the power to put two people up for eviction and gained immunity for that eviction ceremony.

Things proved to be a challenge because three of the players work at CAPS so there was an alliance already in place. The others had to step up their game to avoid being voted out.

While the alliance proved to be tough to beat, Marshall came pre-

pared.

"Kudos to Jason because he knew that from the get-go, so he called them out and broke them up," said Marlon Peters of Marshall's strategy.

When Marshall won the second Head of Household competition, he put Djurdjevic and Lindsay up for eviction, which enabled the housemates to break up some of the alliance.

However, the other two were joined by Peters and the three managed to glide along to the end with Djurdjevic and Curry winning three competitions apiece.

"The CAPS alliance was kind of an unfair advantage to us because there were only three of us, four if you count Amanda. Right off the bat, the six of them could have been like, 'Let's get these CAPS people out' and Jason was the only person to do that," Curry said.

While the CAPS alliance was formed before the game, the other players were trying to form alliances of their own.

"There was a lot of non-verbal communication. We would sit there and be like boom. Left, right, left, right, him, him, her, her, you know? You would look at somebody, lock eyes, and be like 'Yes,'" Peters said.

Since the house was one big room, it was a challenge for the players to communicate discreetly.

Djurdjevic revealed that his



Nicole Lane

The Big Brother competition was the first HSF event to be streamed live on the HSF website. According to HSF coordinator Aaron Miller, only 50 students actually logged on to watch.

strategy was to meet people at the food table and strategize while eating.

The competitors were allowed to bring three items into the house. A few brought games such as "Jumbling Towers", "Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?" and a deck of cards.

However, they soon grew tired of the games and spent most of their time sitting around, pausing only for competitions and eviction ceremonies.

HSF coordinator Aaron Miller, was there for the duration, said that although the competition was

long, it was interesting to watch.

"It seems a little boring I'm sure for some people, but it's actually been fascinating. I've been here since the beginning, so I've seen everything. I've seen the people that you didn't really think would join up together, people who didn't know each other and are now talking like they've been best friends for years."

The players seemed surprised at the close bonds they developed.

"In reality shows, you see all those people crying and saying, 'I'm gonna miss you so much' and you're watching and are like, 'Are

you dumb? You met these people like a week ago.' But I met these people a day ago and now if somebody wanted to go out for lunch then yeah, let's go out for lunch," Marshall said.

As the competition wound down, the audience was given the opportunity to vote based on speeches given by the final two.

The players who didn't win the grand prize were given \$50 for competing.

As well, a few players won a Good Life Fitness membership and a \$250 gift certificate for Via Rail.



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## Hit the Big Screen

### Feature Screenwriting 1 (SCWR200)

Start Date: January 2008

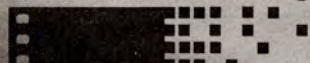
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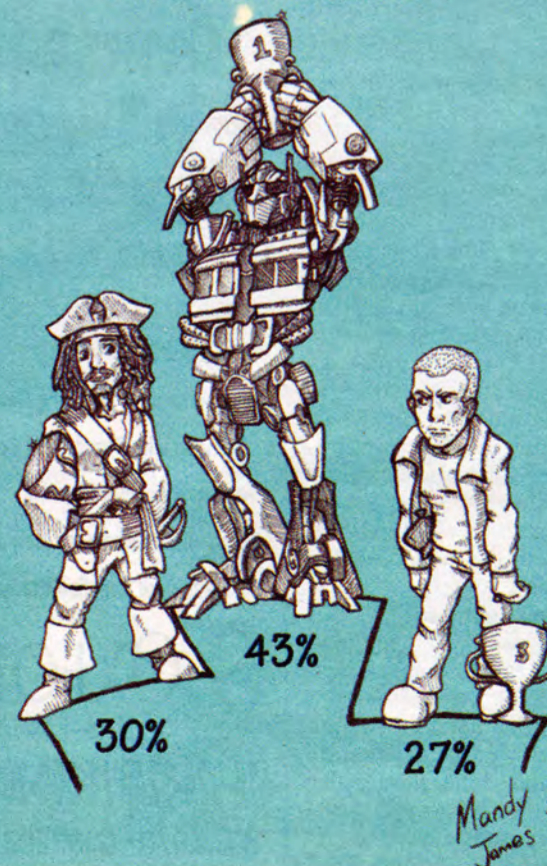
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## Culture Vulture

Given their recent People's Choice nomination, who do you think should win best film: *Pirates of the Caribbean 3*, *Transformers* or *The Bourne Ultimatum*?



The popular American digital video recorder TiVo will be available in Canada early December for a suggested retail price of \$199. — [www.thestar.com](http://www.thestar.com)

# Play time at The Rex

**Kyle Rindinella**  
A&E REPORTER

Former Humber community music attendee Mike Ruby celebrated the release of his new album *Play Time* last Thursday at The Rex in Toronto.

Released Nov. 20, Ruby's debut album has already been coined "the beginning of something special" by Jazz FM91 operations manager Brad Barker.

Growing up in Toronto, Ruby started playing alto saxophone at 14. He later attended Humber's community music program where he decided to take up tenor saxophone. "It allows you to study with great instructors, such as Kirk McDonald," Ruby said. He said the program was great for him to reach out and meet other kids his age who were interested in playing jazz.

At 19, Ruby was named the winner of Project Jazz, a competition held by Toronto's Jazz FM91 to find the next best thing in jazz. Ruby was given an album contract with ALMA/Universal, beating out 42 participants. "Project Jazz opened up so many doors for me," Ruby said. "I owe so much to Jazz FM."

On stage with Ruby at The Rex was The Mike Ruby Quartet, with Dan Fortin on bass, Adam Arruda on drums and Mathuzella on piano.

Ruby said the band shares a certain chemistry on stage that would be hard to mimic with other musicians. "These guys are all great friends, and I didn't want to hire session musicians. The vibe would have been different."

On stage, the quartet ran through four of ten numbers off the album including *Play Time*, *Someday My Prince Will Come*, *Father's Song*, and *The Wait*.

Ruby said *Someday* was one of the first composi-



Kyle Rindinella

Ruby switched from alto to tenor while at Humber.

tions he ever wrote and dedicated *Father's Song* to his late father Gerry Ruby.

The band received a steady stream of praise and congratulations following the show. "It was an awesome show," said Bianca Roy, a first-time patron of The Rex.

Ruby is studying saxophone at the Manhattan School of Music said he hopes to play more gigs there. "I am having the time of my life in New York," Ruby said.

# STAMP puts the snap in GH gingerbread social

**Greg Coyle**  
A&E REPORTER

Students were treated to free customized gingerbread cookies, tea and hot chocolate in the Guelph-Humber atrium last Tuesday provided by the Student Tutoring and Mentoring Program (STAMP).

"We're hoping these events bring people together, get them out, and just get them familiar and aware of what activities they can become involved in," said STAMP group leader Lisa Cheaney. "We're hoping to bring some life and community sense to school."

Group leaders felt it was the perfect time in the semester to run the event.

Fourth-year GH business student and STAMP leader Sonika Arora said timing is everything when it comes to the success of campus events.

"It wouldn't be as great during exam time because people are not concerned about getting free cookies, it's all about exams at that point...what's the point of putting on an event if we can't even get students to come out?"

STAMP's main objective is to give new students a safe and easy transition from high school to Guelph-

Humber. Cheaney said the group adds a personal touch to university experience.

"Overall, it's just an amazing feeling," Arora said. "You know you have made a difference in these students' lives and you were able to make them feel that much better. It's just a feeling of greatness."

STAMP had many students visit its table for some sugary snacks between breaks, including second-year media studies student Corey Johnson.

"I was just in class. We were on break. Two girls came back with cookies and I thought, 'What better way to spend my break than getting cookies and hot chocolate?'"

Johnson said STAMP events are great ways to meet new people, and he doesn't think larger institutions could provide similar avenues for socializing.

"At a bigger school, there would be bigger crowds, you wouldn't get this type of opportunity because it just couldn't happen," he said.

"The cost of the cookies alone would be huge. You'd be feeding 10,000 people as opposed to just a couple of hundred. It's a smaller event, but it's easier to access and it's easier to learn about what's going on."



Greg Coyle

STAMP leader Lisa Cheaney.

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On Nov. 6, author Elizabeth Hay was given the 2007 Scotiabank Giller Prize for her novel *Late Nights on Air*. – [www.scotiabankgillerprize.ca/home.htm](http://www.scotiabankgillerprize.ca/home.htm)

## New book explores the darker side of life

Amanda Gomes  
A&E REPORTER

With her second novel set to be published, a script in the works and a short story slated to hit the magazine racks, Humber's Sally Cooper couldn't be happier.

Her new book, *Tell Everything* is set for release on Jan. 26.

"I didn't write it with a message in mind necessarily," Cooper said. "It's based on the idea that the role of the victim isn't clear cut and that sometimes there are situations where the lines of consent or the lines of what a victim is and isn't, are blurry.

"I want my readers to have the experience of exploring a situation where it wasn't clear."

In the novel, one of the main characters, Ramona is charged with the murder of her husband, Jim.

The couple has also been sexually assaulting women in their home for years.

Ramona's high school friend, Pauline becomes a witness in the case when police find troubling scripts that were acted out by Ramona, Pauline and Jim years earlier.

Pauline's testimony forces her to recall suppressed memories as she reveals a haunting secret from her teenage years, a secret that could jeopardize her relationship with partner Alex.

Cooper said that the book will explore some very dark themes.

**"I think it will be more for an audience that likes a darker story..."**

– Sally Cooper, author

"I think it will be more for an audience that likes a darker story, interested in crime, and also in thinking a little bit beyond what you would normally find in a murder mystery," she said.

Cooper's first book, *Love Object* was published in 2002.

*Love Object* is about Mercy who watches her mother, Sylvia in the throws of a nervous breakdown. Shortly afterwards, Sylvia disappears.

Mercy then decides that she has to find out just what exactly hap-

pened to her mother.

The success of the first book came as surprise to Cooper.

"I didn't set out to write a novel in the first place, I was writing short stories at the time and this just kept going ... and going ... and going," Cooper said.

Cooper, who holds two English degrees from the University of Guelph, grew up in the small, Caledon-area town of Inglewood.

She has been teaching English at Humber's North Campus for five years.

Before coming north, she ran the Writing Centre at the Lakeshore campus for five years.

Next year is going to be a full year for Cooper. Aside from the release of *Tell Everything*, she has another story coming out in *Grain* magazine.

She is also working on a script which is in pre-production with Paulus Production Inc.

"It's a really good time, a bunch of stuff is starting to happen with that side of my career," Cooper said.

"I think that is partly why I am feeling excitement. The stuff that I spent a lot of time working on is starting to come together now."



Amanda Gomes

Sally Cooper can't wait for her new book (inset) to come out.

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The women's volleyball team beat the Niagara Knights on Nov. 20 on the road, three games to one (13-25, 32-30, 25-18, 25-15). – [www.ocaa.com](http://www.ocaa.com)

# Hawks prevail in extra-sets win

Jamie Griffith  
SPORTS REPORTER

The men's volleyball team proved no lead is safe in sports, overcoming a two-set deficit to defeat the Niagara Knights in a five-set marathon last Tuesday night in Welland.

With the win, Humber increased its division-leading record to 4-0 for the season.

The Hawks struggled in the early going, losing the first set by nine. They gave up six straight scores at one point.

The second set started the same way, with Niagara bolting out to a 5-0 lead.

Humber took the lead twice in the set, but lost the second frame by three.

Hawks' head coach Wayne Wilkins felt it was a question of preparation and focus that caused his team to trail early on.

"We played them in the Durham Cup in October and beat them two straight, and that sits in the back of your mind," he said. "I think they just underestimated them."

The third set saw the Hawks trail by four twice, and things were looking down on the Humber side of the bench.

The rising voices of the Hawks' women's team cheering their side on, and some key substitutions by

Wilkins, turned the tide.

Wilkins said his decision to put in second-year, left setter Jaron Audain in the game was "the turning point."

After tying up the third set at 15, Humber didn't trail again in the frame, winning by four to keep the game going.

"He changed the momentum," Wilkins said of Audain. "He did exactly what I need a role player to do, and that role was to switch it up. He had a couple great digs and scored some great points."

Audain's said he was happy with how he played.

"From the beginning, I was feeling that I was going to have a good game," Audain said. "I was ready to go in, so as soon as Wilkins gave me the green light, I went in there and did what I had to do."

The fourth set saw Humber jump to a 12-3 lead, ending with a six-point win.

Down two points late in the deciding set, and with the game entering its second hour, the Hawks came out of a timeout and rattled off five consecutive scores, winning the final frame by three to clinch the win.

Defender Mike Smith said the game was a learning experience for the squad.

"This team hasn't been in this kind of situation before, and you

could see it in the eyes of some of the guys; they were a little shaky," Smith said. "Once we got in and

started playing our game, once we controlled our play, it was smooth sailing."

The Hawks final home game before the holidays comes Saturday against St. Clair College.



Jamie Griffith

Brandon Wong (9) came off the bench and added 11 kills and 12 points to help the attack.

## A Humber for All

### Humber wants to remind you that

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## Toronto a good host

Clinton Hosannah  
A&E REPORTER

The Grey Cup went to the Saskatchewan Roughriders, but the party prize went to Toronto.

"Toronto was great. The host community did a great job, the venues were great ... it was just a lot of hospitality," said Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall. "We went through the streets of Toronto warmly welcomed. There were lots of horns honking and it was a great reception and a great weekend."

Those sentiments were mirrored throughout Lot 332 nightclub and bar as the more than 1,000 Saskatchewan Roughrider fans sang along to songs that proclaimed the greatness of their CFL team, the 2007 Grey Cup champions.

The Roughriders beat the Winnipeg Blue Bombers 23-19 and did it with lots of drama.

Blue Bombers quarterback Kevin Glenn was out with a broken arm he suffered in a playoff game against the Toronto Argonauts.

With rookie quarterback Ryan Dinwiddie inserted in the starting position and veteran receiver Milt Stegall possibly playing in his last game for the Blue Bombers, the Roughriders needed to be ready.

"We knew it was going to be a tough game regardless of who they had at quarterback," said wide receiver Corey Grant. "They got a bunch of good receivers and it was Milt's last game so he was going to try and push for that Grey Cup."

The Rogers Centre was packed to capacity with over 50,000 fans, most of them wearing green and white.

"Regina's got the craziest fans in the league so tomorrow there'll be 20,000 people at the airport waiting for us we're going to keep the party going till everybody gets drunk and passes out, then I'm going to sober up and drive back to the T. dot," said Wayne Smith, Roughriders offensive lineman.

It has been 19 years since Saskatchewan last won the Grey Cup.

"I'm just overwhelmed, we've been waiting for so long and it's a dream come true," said Roughriders fan Sandy Monteith also known as 'The Flame'. "I have a canister on top of my football helmet and I shoot flames anywhere from five to 15 feet in the air."

It has been 15 years since the Grey Cup was held in Toronto. The next CFL final will be held in Montreal.

# SPORTS

Toronto Argonauts head coach Michael Clemons will move into an executive role with the club once he steps down from his current one. — [globeandmail.com](http://globeandmail.com)

## Standings

### Men's Basketball West

Team	Win	Loss	Tie	Pts
Niagara	6	2	0	12
<b>Humber</b>	5	0	0	10
Fanshawe	5	3	0	10
Mohawk	5	3	0	10
Algoma	4	4	0	8
Sheridan	3	1	0	6
St.Clair	2	4	0	4
Lambton	2	4	0	4
Redeemer	1	6	0	2
Sault	1	7	0	2

### Women's Basketball Central West

Team	Win	Loss	Tie	Pts
Fanshawe	6	0	0	12
Niagara	5	1	0	10
Algoma	4	3	0	8
Sheridan	2	1	0	4
St. Clair	2	3	0	4
<b>Humber</b>	1	3	0	2
Mohawk	1	4	0	2
Redeemer	0	6	0	0

### Men's Volleyball Central West

Team	Win	Loss	Pts
<b>Humber</b>	4	0	8
Mohawk	4	0	8
Nipissing	3	2	6
Canadore	1	4	2
Sheridan	0	5	0

### Women's Volleyball Central West

Team	Win	Loss	Pts
Mohawk	5	0	10
<b>Humber</b>	4	0	8
Nipissing	4	2	8
Sheridan	1	4	2
Canadore	0	6	0

## Humber College's General Arts & Science Programs



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