



HUMBER ET CETERA

February 7, 2008

www.humberetc.com

vol. 39 no. 16

Film explores sister's paralysis treatment

Brother's documentary examines debate over experimental stem cell care

David Lipson
NEWS REPORTER

Humber film student Elijah Marchand has recently returned from China, where he's been filming a documentary about his sister receiving stem cell treatment that's unavailable in Canada.

The film, tentatively titled *The Desire Within*, is as much a story about his sister's experience as an indictment of Canada's reluctance to offer stem cell treatment.

Naomi Marchand, 24, shattered her spine when she fell off the deck at her family's home near Ottawa in 2006. The treatments are meant to ease the pain from the fall, which left her paralyzed from the waist down. Just before the accident she had become a yoga instructor.

"She became extremely passionate about that and for the first time found a calling in her life," said Marchand, 22. "So when the accident happened, she found that the only thing she learned to care about had been taken away from her."

The family was not satisfied with the treatment offered in Canada for neuropathic pain.

"With the surgery (offered in Canada) she would never be able to feel her legs again and that was more of a risk than having the stem cell procedure," said Marchand.

His sister has been to China twice for treatments.

"In Canada, basically what is stopping stem cell research is the controversy over whether it is humane or not," said Marchand.



Elijah Marchand

Above, Naomi Marchand receives stem cell treatment in China. Right, brother Elijah.

Much of the debate is over embryonic and fetal stem cell treatment.

In Shen Zhen, China, Naomi receives stem cell injections taken from bone marrow in her leg. The treatments alleviate some of the pain and give her energy, but it is too early to see if she will regain mobility, said Marchand.

Stem cells are found at all stages of human development and have the ability to regenerate themselves or divide into more specialized cells, potentially able to repair damaged

organs and tissues.

But Canada's stem cell regulations are strict.

"Would you want to go on a table to be operated on if you were not sure it had been approved?" said Dr. Sophie Chargé, director of scientific programs at the Stem Cell Network in Ottawa.

Although there are no clinical stem cell trials for spinal cord injury in Canada, advancements have been made in stem cell research for conditions such as Parkinson's disease and

multiple sclerosis, according to Chargé.

That's little consolation for the Marchand family.

"For her it is worth the risk that it hasn't gone completely through clinical trials," said Elijah.

"Naomi was on morphine and other drugs and would probably die because the neuropathic pain is totally debilitating for her."

Dr. Chris McBride, managing director of Canada's ICORD (International Collaboration on

Repair Discoveries) said there has been very little collaboration between China and Canada with stem cell research.

McBride also has concerns about treatments offered in China.

"China is not following proper clinical trial procedures and there are no control groups," he said.

"We don't recommend that people go over there and pay lots of money to have these treatments that we suspect don't have any real effects."

Naomi's four treatments have so far cost the Marchand family approximately \$25,000 per treatment.

Despite the uncertainty of his sister's case, Marchand hopes his documentary will be shown on television and will help to promote a global health-care system.

He said working on the film has also helped him bond with his sister.

"It has definitely brought us a lot closer and has given us a reason to keep the other person deeply involved in each other's life."



Jeremy Dickson



Sunil Angrish

HSF campaigning begins despite reading week

Sunil Angrish
SENIOR REPORTER

Campaigning for the Humber Student Federation (HSF) elections begins on Feb. 18, but not many students will be around to notice it because of reading week.

While most students will be taking the week off from school, working on assignments, visiting family

or going on vacations, candidates will be pitching for positions in the \$5-million budgeted student government.

"Typically a lot of students miss a lot of class during campaigning week, so it allows for electronic campaigning – more passive campaigning," said HSF president Nicholas Farnell. "And then the week after is all the big stuff at school."

Campaigning lasts for two weeks, one during reading week and one after. Voting begins March 3 to the 7. The schedule for elections has been in place for a couple years, Farnell said.

Turn-out for the election last year was 6.7 per cent, higher than the Ontario colleges average of about 6 per cent. Farnell said he believes having a concentrated one-week

campaign is better than two full weeks.

"When candidates see that two-week window it's not as intense — it's quieter," he said. "When it's one week of getting your face out there, everybody knows an election is coming up."

continued on pg. 6

CIA director Michael Hayden admits to Congress the use of controversial waterboarding technique on three detainees. – www.BBCnews.com

Campus residence party out of control

Drinking leads to rowdy crowds and one student charged with assault

Tracey Finklestein
A&E REPORTER

A student was arrested in the parking lot last weekend after a party in residence Building S got out of hand.

Students on the third floor organized a party in S3 called *The Black and White Party* two weeks ago, said Amanda Smith, 19, a first-year, media studies Guelph-Humber student.

"The party was supposed to start at 9:30 p.m., but students started drinking alcohol at 6 p.m.," she said.



Tracey Finklestein

Partiers filled the third floor.

Joey Barbas, 19, from St. Catharines, lives in residence and said he invited his brother and friends to the party. Around 11:30 p.m. Barbas said he was in his room and heard yelling in the hall. He said he went outside to see what was happening and he saw his brother arguing with a residence advisor that was on call.

"I tried to talk to the R.A., but he just ran away and called the cops," said Barbas.

Barbas said the R.A. on call was threatening to kick out his friends. "My brother said 'please do not get in my face,'" Barbas said, "and he pushed the R.A. away."

After the incident in the hallway, Barbas said he advised his friends to leave residence until things cooled down.

He said when they walked outside, they saw two cop cars and four officers waiting in the parking lot.

"I said a couple of rude things to the police officers in the Humber parking lot," said Barbas. "They then put me on the ground to arrest me and I now have some pretty bad cuts on my arm and my

nose is all messed up."

Barbas was arrested at approximately 12 a.m. said police.

"Joey spent the night in jail and was released the next day," said Detective C. Kay from Toronto Police 23 Division.

According to students on the floor, the R.A. kicked out everyone who did not live in residence.

"Everyone who lived there was forced in their rooms and everyone else had to go outside," said Nathan Sims, 19, first-year landscaping and architecture student.

There was a meeting with all the R.A.s and Residence Life co-ordinators in the T and S building on Monday about the party. The staff will decide how to proceed with the situation and determine if Barbas will be kicked out of residence.

Residence staff refused to comment.

"If I were to get kicked out I would probably not be able to finish my education because I would not have anywhere to live," said Barbas. "I really hope it does not come to that."

Barbas was charged with assault



Tracey Finklestein

Posters like this one were put up throughout the building.

and disturbance related offences and a court date is scheduled for March 18, said Kay.

"I cannot tell you much because he is an adult," said Kay.

After the event, students on S3 are being more careful about the types of parties they throw in residence, said Smith.

"It is safe to say there will not be a party like this in residence for a while," she said.

Super Tuesday a letdown

Democrats and Republicans voted in biggest primary election day ever

Erin Lewis
NEWS REPORTER

After 24 primaries were held in 24 hours on Super Tuesday to decide presidential candidates, an American professor at Lakeshore said some outcomes were surprising.

"It's very interesting that Hillary Clinton won Massachusetts despite Ted Kennedy's and John Kerry's support for Obama," said George Byrnes, program co-ordinator of general arts and sciences said. "I thought that was a real slap in the face to Kennedy."

But both democrat front-runners Sen. Hillary Clinton and Sen. Barack Obama gained momentum in the quest for the White House.

While Sen. John McCain emerged as the favourite in the Republican race, third-place candidate Mike Huckabee surprised political pundits with a strong showing in the South. McCain's chief rival, Gov. Mitt Romney, was

dealt a blow by failing to garner the votes needed to creep up on McCain's lead.

"It's so confusing on the Republican side, you have people like Rush Limbaugh saying they would rather vote for Clinton than McCain because he wants to hold onto the purity of the Republican party. And I think they are disintegrating over all of this because they don't know what to do," Byrnes said. "If they want a true conservative, they don't think Romney's their guy. McCain seems to play on both sides of the line and Huckabee, he's a conservative, but he has other kinds of deficits," Byrnes said.

Democrats Abroad held its first global primary on Tuesday and had voter registration and voting stations throughout Canada.

Joe Green, co-chair of Democrats Abroad Global Voter Registration Committee, described voters at the Elephant and Castle pub in downtown

Toronto as excited and enthusiastic about the election.

Green said voters deliberated about their candidates over pints of beer and closely watched the coverage on CNN.

"Given that the Republicans are coming off of the most unpopular president ever in the history of the world ... you would think that the Democrats would have a cakewalk in this election."

-Kelli Wight
Republicans Abroad

"I think Obama will have a better chance of taking on McCain because he represents the future and hope and articulate rhetoric – kind of like (John F.) Kennedy did and kind of like FDR (Franklin Delano Roosevelt) did in the '30s,"

Green said. "We have nothing to fear but fear itself," he said as the war was beginning in the late '30s, early '40s. I think Obama represents that."

Regardless of who becomes the Democratic nominee, Republicans Abroad executive committee member Kelli Wight said the Democrats have a tough fight ahead of them.

"Given that the Republicans are coming off of the most unpopular president ever in the history of the world, or something like that, you would think that the Democrats would have a cakewalk in this election, that people would say we want change and that we are going to go with the Democrat," Wight said.

"So the fact that McCain appeals to a lot of people and is holding his own against Clinton and Obama is a very good sign. He's a stronger candidate in many ways – his character, his experience. I think he could do very well."

The Skinny

• Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, the Indian Guru who introduced transcendental meditation to the West in the 1960s and led The Beatles on their path to enlightenment, passed away in his sleep at the age of 91 Tuesday evening.
-bbcnews.com

• On Tuesday, parents trapped in an apartment fire in Germany dropped their 9-month-old baby out the window in attempt to save her. The girl was caught unharmed by a police officer. Both parents survived.
-thestar.com

• The U.S. Peace Corps recalled its 58 members from Kenya on Tuesday, due post-election violence threats.
-reuters.com

• Michael Vick's pit bulls entered rehab treatment late last week in preparation to be re-integrated into residences.
-nationalgeographic.com

• Early this week fighting broke out in Chad as rebels oppose President Idriss Deby and took over large parts of N'Djamena, the country's capital. Thousands are forced to flee their homes. The fighting may have large implications for the neighbouring Sudanese region of Darfur.
-bbcnews.com

• Over 100 flights were cancelled at Pearson International Airport due to another fierce winter storm on Wednesday.
-nationalpost.com

• Heath Ledger's death is ruled an accidental overdose by New York's chief medical examiner on Tuesday.
-nytimes.com

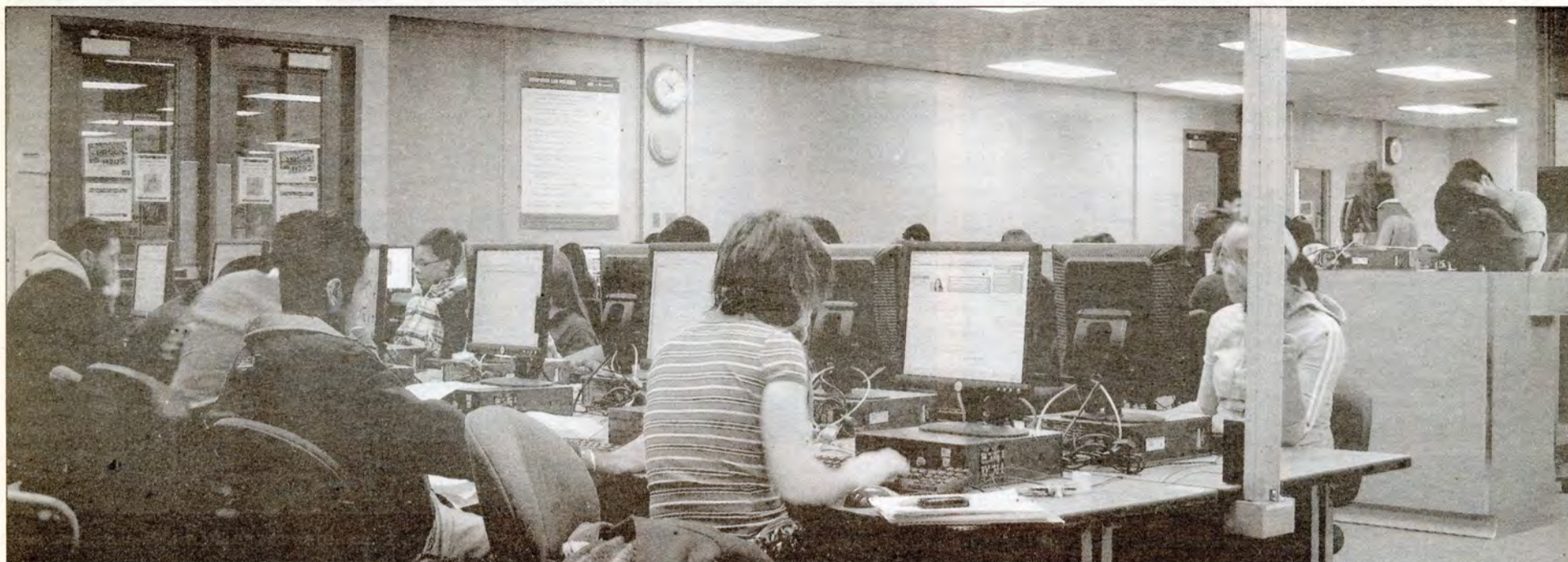
CORRECTIONS

On page 13 of the Jan. 31 issue, Nadir Schaudhry was misidentified as a female.

On page 19 of the Jan. 31 issue, Evangelos Tzaras' name was misspelled.

We regret the errors.

The Red Cross reports Kenya's death toll has surpassed 1,000, mainly in the Rift Valley where opposing ethnic gangs have fought fiercely. — www.nytimes.com



Jon Sufrin

Students work in North Campus' main computer lab each day. Open screens, numerous users and visits to multiple sites increase the possibility of identity theft.

Students at risk for fraud, says IT Services

Jon Sufrin
NEWS REPORTER

College and university students are particularly vulnerable to the growing threat of identity theft, said Greg Johnson, director of customer care at IT services.

"Your generation feels more comfortable in participating in all kinds of shared environments all over the world," he said. "But I worry at times about how much information gets to whom and not

knowing who exactly you're communicating with."

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in North America, the RCMP said.

IT staff have worked hard to provide secure computer services at the college, said Ryan Burton, service support manager at Humber's IT services. But students using computers on campus share a role in making sure their actions are safe, he said.

"I think it's a shared responsibility. I don't think that I would ever

suggest that it belongs to one group or another."

There are many steps students can take to ensure their personal information is not used without their consent, he said.

Students should use different passwords for different applications, shred documents — anything with two or more pieces of identifying information — and they should never leave their computer unattended while logged in, he said.

Students should never respond

to e-mails that ask for personal information, he added.

"A legitimate company would never engage you via e-mail and ask you to provide information, nor would they call you."

Anthony Mazzeo, 22, a second-year architectural technology student, said he is careful about which websites he uses.

"I think it's an important issue for everyone," he said. "I only use sites that are well known and that have had good ratings by its users."

While the networks on campus are secure, IT services cannot negate the chance of a security breach, Burton said.

Students occasionally report misuse of their accounts and in one incident, an individual at residence was caught leeching information from the network, he said.

"There's a certain amount of freedom in here because it's a college, so we can't stop everything or lock everything down, nor do we want to," said Johnson.



Andrew Tomkinson

OPSEU workers rally for rights on North Campus last week.

Possible union is beneficial

Andrew Tomkinson
BIZ/TECH REPORTER

The continued fight for part-time staff to form a union is something students should be concerned about, said Maureen Wall, organizer at Humber for the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU).

"It's a real problem in terms of continuity of programs," said Wall. "A large circulating pool of part-time support staff affects the quality of what students get."

The Collective Bargaining Act of Ontario has prohibited colleges' part-time staff from forming a union, she said.

"Over the years more and more part-time and seasonal faculty are being used at Ontario colleges because it is a source of inexpensive labour and they are easier to circulate with no benefits and no job security," said Wall. "A good 50 per cent of teachers here at Humber fall into this category."

Deborah Cooper, president of Support Staff Union at Humber

said OPSEU was well received when its campaign, aimed at allowing part-time staff to unionize in the college system, stopped by campus.

"College President John Davies gave us permission to park in the lot and he came out to visit us," said Cooper. "He has been very supportive and Humber is not standing in our way."

The Supreme Court of Canada found the exclusion of starting a union or bargaining collectively was a violation of part-time staff's Charter rights in Canada, said Wall.

The Ontario government has decided to change the legislation, in part due to the dedicated fight the part-time staff have lobbied over the past 18 months, she said.

The process has taken ten years and with continuing support from the government we are on the right track, said Cooper.

"Anyone of those people who are in the position of being excluded right now can sign a union card," said Wall.

Colleges not affected by black-focused schools

Jason Sahlani
NEWS REPORTER

There is a correlation between school success and poverty, college president John Davies said about the recent vote approving Africentric-based schools.

Davies, formerly the director of the Toronto District School Board, is unsure the problem facing specific groups of students is strictly an issue of curriculum. "If we had fewer kids living in poverty, I think we'd see more kids being successful in school," he said.

"I mean a small school for a couple hundred kids; is it going to make a difference in the scheme of that thing? Possibly not," he said. But he also said positives may come out of the schools such as testing curriculum ideas.

Funding concerns loom as the board will have to try and reconcile the estimated \$350,000 needed for starting up the Africentric-based school with the current \$41 million deficit.

Several media outlets are reporting Premier Dalton McGuinty is

asking Torontonians to ask their board of trustees to revisit the decision to open these schools. He has told the media that he is disappointed with school board trustees and views the decision as something similar to segregation.

"It's more of an issue when we get international or out-of-province applicants since we then need to take a comparative approach to ensure Ontario curriculum standards have been met."

—Barbara Riach
North Campus associate registrar

McGuinty has said he will not fund Africentric-based schools and does not think it is the job of the government to fund religious or cultural schools.

While a statement released by the board notes the location of the Africentric school will not be finalized until May, Davies believes

there is a potential for the initiative to be implemented in North Etobicoke and would allow Humber to take an active role in helping graduates of the school have a college experience.

An Africentric school will have no real implications for Humber College's admissions policy or programs offered irrespective of where the school is set up.

"It's a myth that post-secondary institutions factor in which high school an applicant attended," said Barbara Riach, the associate registrar for North Campus. "It's more of an issue when we get international or out-of-province applicants since we then need to take a comparative approach to ensure Ontario curriculum standards have been met."

"The adherence to Ontario curriculum is a TDSB concern, our concern is providing our students with the skills needed for success in life after Humber," said Rick Embree, dean of planning and development at Humber.

See pages 10-12 for an In Focus look on the subject.

NEWS

A line of tornadoes that hit the U.S. Southwest Wednesday have caused at least 44 deaths, with search and rescue operations ongoing. — www.thestar.com

Health conscious foods offered up across campus

Chelsea Saldanha
NEWS REPORTER

Humber's culinary program avoided trans-fats long before cities like Calgary began to ban such artery-clogging substances, said chef Leonhard Lechner.



Salad bars are one example of the healthy choices offered to students on campus.

"Our menu is comprised basically of nutrients like fibers, vitamins and minerals, making it a healthy option for people who are health conscious," said Lechner, who trains budding chefs in the culinary management program to prepare meals from scratch.

Besides being concerned about

trans-fats, those who prepare food on North Campus are also conscious of the need to reduce calories and offer healthier menu choices.

At the Humber Room, the fine-dining restaurant on North Campus, culinary students get to showcase their cooking skills, but the program does not have the time to list the nutritional value of each meal.

"It's quite a labour intensive process and with different menus each day it just isn't feasible," Lechner said.

Not so for Harvey's. Operated by Chartwells, it has a detailed nutrition and allergy guide available at the counter.

"Harvey's is one of the healthier fast-food options available on campus," said Jamie Burdon, manager of food services.

He said Chartwells is proactive in being above the fray from fatty fast food options and focuses on the nutritional element in their products.

After receiving a lot of positive feedback, Burdon said Chartwells is trying to work on what matters most to students.



Chelsea Saldanha

Culinary management students prepare fresh foods from a nutrient-rich menu of ingredients.

"We are currently attempting to bring a greater variety of food options so that students don't get bored with the food," he said, such as increasing choices at the Food Emporium.

Samantha Price, an 18-year-old, first-year fashion arts student who lives at Humber Residence, said these changes would mean healthier food.

For her, a healthy meal consists

of chicken, vegetables and potatoes.

And according to a brochure called *The Balance of Living Well*, a joint venture between Rose Reisman and McCain Foods available at food services, the potato is an incredible source of nutrition.

"Sometimes the food is healthy, but it gets boring after a while," said Price, who finds Rez food

expensive.

In an attempt to steer people toward eating healthily, Burdon said prices for healthy food have always been lower.


"If you look at the pricing at the salad bar, you know you're getting a good deal because you're eating a well-balanced meal and getting to select the salad dressing you want, at a reduced cost," he said.

The Smokers Pot



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College promotes communities

Justin Robertson
NEWS REPORTER

The message at the Mayor's advisory panel meeting at city hall earlier this week was clear - let's make Toronto a stronger, healthier city with less violence and more participation in communities, said John Davies, president of Humber. "Humber is really focused on building participation within the community and I like to focus all our efforts on the education component," he said. "At the end of the day that's what we are, and that's what we are good at."

Mayor David Miller tasked the new advisory panel, which consists of 20 people from private and social services sectors, with an initiative called 'Making a Safe City Safer', which actively promotes youth programs and community well-being.

Monday's meeting stressed concerns about reducing the number of handguns in the city, said Davies, adding that community building for young people in high priority neighbourhoods could help curb the connection between gangs and violence.

"That's the area I'm involved with in terms of outreach," said

Davies. "Personally, my commitment is much more related to community capacity building and what role Humber can play, not just in the North, but in the broader city sense."

Although safety is a focus for Miller, he identified education as another important initiative.

"Humber College is already working with us and has programs to reach out to young people under the age of 25 who have dropped out of the system and has helped get them connected back in," said Miller.

Humber has been working on about a dozen programs, in partnership with HSF, that focus on community building, Davies said.

Nick Farnell, HSF president, said, "The Rexdale Pro Tech Media Centre in Jamestown was one main program HSF assisted with and it is a pilot project for the City of Toronto."

The city is hoping to introduce these types of centres, with assistance from colleges like Humber, throughout key communities in Toronto.

"It's those kinds of partnerships that colleges are very interested in, that really meet a need nobody else can fit," said Miller.

Police are investigating three armed carjackings early Tuesday morning in Oshawa and Mississauga which appear to be related. — www.thestar.com

Community involvement helps cops, chief says

John Bkila
NEWS REPORTER

The importance of partnership was emphasized by Police Chief Bill Blair last week during a meeting held by 22 Division, which includes Lakeshore Campus.

"We have seen in the last two years about 40 per cent reductions in violent crimes," said Blair. "This is a direct result of the work done in communities, by communities and by police officers."

Blair promoted the relationship between neighbourhoods and officers as the fundamental basis on which all communities should be policed.

"We need their eyes and their ears, their co-operation and support in order for us to detect and investigate crimes and to keep our community safe," he said.

The event, held at the Etobicoke Olympium, also had speakers from the Community Police Liaison Committee and 22 Division.

Domestic violence, break-ins



John Bkila

Members of 22 division and the Community Police Liaison Committee at the Olympium.

and identity thefts were some of the topics raised.

Police gave tips on how to avoid becoming victims of these crimes and what to do if they are ever encountered.

Det. Al MacDonald asked all community members to look out for each other and report any suspicious activity or individuals in their neighbourhoods to police.

"Essentially, we can't act on what we don't know about," he said.

The detective said no one could better recognize what was out of

the ordinary in a neighbourhood than the people who lived there.

At the end of the meeting community members were given the opportunity to voice their own concerns.

Issues of gun control, graffiti and consequences for grow ops were brought up by citizens.

Monica Rosioru, a second-year police foundations student at Lakeshore Campus, said the apparent difference between the issues raised by Toronto Police and those of the community members was exactly the reason meetings like these were important.

"It is absolutely essential," said Rosioru, who also chairs the 22 Division Rover Crew. "It's important to let people come out and say exactly what their problems are so the officers know that what they're doing is effectively helping the community."

Rosioru said meetings like these allow people to voice their concerns while remaining in the comfort of their community.



Fiona Collie

Louise Fréchette, of the Centre of International Governance Innovation in Waterloo, spoke to students last week.

More women needed in top power positions, former UN official says

Fiona Collie
NEWS REPORTER

Hillary Clinton's contention for the Democratic presidential candidacy is a positive step forward in deciding what the women's movement means in the 21st century, said Louise Fréchette, a speaker at the Robert A. Gordon lecture series.

"Who knows, maybe Hillary Clinton will become the first woman to be elected president of the United States," Fréchette said in her lecture, titled *Will the 21st century belong to women? (And will this make a difference?)*. "Now that would be something."

Fréchette, a former UN deputy secretary-general from 1999-2006 and a Canadian ambassador to Argentina and Uruguay from 1985-1988, now works as a distinguished fellow for the Centre of International Governance Innovation, a Waterloo-based think-tank founded by Jim Balsillie, co-CEO of Research In Motion.

One of the questions Fréchette addressed was if the world would be a different place with more women in influential positions. This is an important topic in light of Clinton's campaign.

"There have not been enough women in leadership positions to ascertain whether or not you would perceive a different international agenda if they were present in greater numbers," she said.

Fréchette also mentioned Kim Campbell, Canada's prime minister from May to Nov. 1993, as an example of women in power.

When choosing candidates, however, Fréchette warns it's important to look beyond gender and vote on policies and decisions the candidates have made.

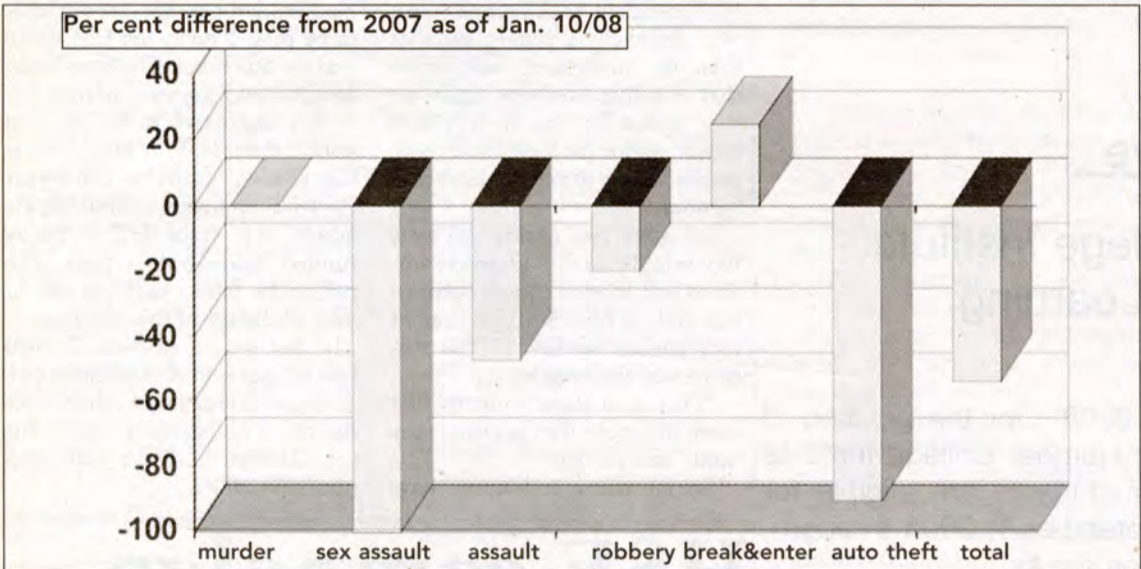
"The bottom line for me is that gender is only one of the things

that shape a person."

Although more women in power would bring women's issues to the cabinet, the number of concerns facing activists also quieted the women's movement from what it was in the 20th century, Fréchette said.

She said because so "many of the goals that were set in the '60s have been met" women's voices have been divided by other issues such as poverty and domestic violence.

Melanie Chaparian, the humanities program co-ordinator said, "I think Fréchette showed herself to be a feminist par-excellence."



Jason Sahlani

All offenses except break and enters are down in comparison with 2007 in North Campus area.

Crime rates on the downslide so far

Jason Sahlani
NEWS REPORTER

The new community and justice services program at Lakeshore is shifting its emphasis from supervising offenders to helping them prepare for life on the outside.

"An example is the community building practices course that teaches students to identify the needs of a community and develop programs that will keep people from turning to crime," said Gina Antonacci, associate dean of social and community services. "These programs focus on teaching basic life skills."

Community-based correctional models have been effective at lowering crime rates, just as community policing is proving to be a useful tool for police in the North

Campus area, said Antonacci.

"We do our best to listen to the concerns of the community instead of dictating the course of action that we will take," said Sgt. Rick Blanchard of 23 Division's community response unit. "Being visible in the community, taking a more proactive role in what's going on and really listening to the concerns and ideas of community leaders is how we try to deal with problems."

Regional crime statistics provided by Toronto Police Services show that, in the area surrounding North Campus, crime has decreased substantially when compared to the same time period in 2007.

The most notable decreases are thefts and sexual assaults, both of which dropped by 100 per cent

with car theft dropping by just under 91 per cent.

The only crime that has increased is breaking and entering, which has risen by 25 per cent.

Addressing the increase of break and enters needs to be a result of actively seeking community feedback, said a local youth services worker.

Humber graduate Tanya South dedicates her time to helping members of the community find employment and believes a good job can be key for addressing societal concerns such as crime.

"A job provides people with the opportunity to learn life skills, such as the ability to work as part of a team. Those skills are then transferred to the way a person engages with society," said South.

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A Hong Kong journalist accused of spying for Taiwan has been released from a Chinese prison after two years in detention. — www.cnn.com

Skills shortage crisis looms

Alex Cooper
NEWS REPORTER

Humber has a large role to play in addressing the impending skills shortage in Ontario, said college president John Davies.

"I think it's an agenda whose time has definitely come," he said. "Colleges are essential to the training and re-training of people relative to the skills shortage in the province."

Colleges Ontario, the advocacy organization for the province's 24 public colleges, is working with provincial and federal governments to develop a skills training strategy to help avert a labour shortage crisis in the future.

The initiative is being led by the Ontario Workforce Shortage Coalition, a group that includes Colleges Ontario, the College Student Alliance, and 18 industry associations from every sector of the economy.

A report issued by the Conference Board of Canada last September says Ontario will face

a shortage of more than 360,000 workers by 2025, despite current layoffs in sectors such as manufacturing.

Linda Franklin, president and CEO of Colleges Ontario, said the problem needs to be addressed now.

"We're going to face a really serious challenge in Ontario if we don't get started now in fixing it. The longer we go on, the more exponentially this challenge grows," she said at a Queen's Park meeting of the government's standing committee on finance and economic affairs last week.

The coalition is recommending the creation of a skill council to help bring government, educators, employers, and labour together to address the issue.

Franklin said part of the problem is providing workers with skills that are transferable across sectors and can be obtained quickly.

"It's not terribly helpful to train people quickly for a job only to find out that they're laid off again

with no core skills," she said.

Tyler Charlebois, director of advocacy for the College Student Alliance, told the committee that increasing employment of under-represented groups such as women, aboriginals, the disabled, immigrants and adults without high school education would help the shortage by increasing their skills and getting them into the workforce.

He said that if adults aged 25 to 64 with high school or less education had the same employment rate as those with college credentials, 289,000 of them would have jobs.

"That's a huge figure and a huge number of Ontarians who are not finding employment because they do not have the education that is needed. With 70 per cent of all jobs needing at least some form of post-secondary education, we need to start retraining and we need to start making sure the education and the accessibility of our institutions are there."



Caroline Gdyczynski

Students enjoyed a pizza lunch courtesy of HSF last week in the first of three events aimed at promoting HSF elections.

Voters enjoy lunch

Caroline Gdyczynski
NEWS REPORTER

More than 500 students voted for either a pizza or barbeque lunch last week on North Campus during the first of three events held by the Humber Students' Federation to increase voter participation in the upcoming elections.

"The turnout was fantastic," said HSF president Nick Farnell. "This was definitely a higher number than we anticipated and shows that Humber students really do care about having their voices heard. As for the next two events, we are hoping to get an even better turnout."

The other two events will be a movie night on Feb. 13, where students will have to choose between one of three films and also a rap or rock concert on Feb. 27 that students will also vote for.

"This is to show students that when they vote, they get what they want," said Farnell.

"So far the nominations have

been good this year, for some positions we have up to six or seven students running," said Aaron Miller, HSF programming coordinator.

Positions are open for: president, vice-president administration (North and Lakeshore), vice-president campus life (North and Lakeshore), program representatives, and a board of directors. Nomination packages are available to be picked up in the HSF office and are due Feb. 8. Elections begin March 3 and run until March 7.

"It's important to be involved with the HSF," said Denis Castellanos Cruz, a third-year electrical engineering student. He added that since HSF is partly funded through fees paid with tuition he thinks students should take advantage of their services.

In last year's election, Farnell said 6.7 per cent of students voted.

"We are trying to get into double figures with student votes this year, at least a 10 per cent turnout," said Miller.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL HUMBER STUDENTS Notice of Election for the Student Representative

to the Board of Governors of Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning

An Election will be held during February/March/April 2008 for the position of Student Representative on the Board of Governors of Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning. All Humber students are eligible for nomination. The term of office for this position is September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009. The basic requirements of this position are to:

1. Attend scheduled Board meetings (once per month, in the evening, from September through June).
2. Attend other Board-related events and activities as required.
3. Provide continual, responsible representation. Governors may not delegate their representation to any other person, and substitute representatives are not permitted.
4. Respect the confidences of the Board unless the information has been made public at an open session of the Board.
5. Receive no compensation, other than out-of-pocket and travel expenses.
6. Maintain communications with his/her electorate.
7. Be prepared to act as spokesperson for his/her electorate on issues and concerns as they arise.

More information about this election will be provided in the weeks ahead.

Val Hewson
Executive Assistant to the Board of Governors
phone ext: 4102 or email: val.hewson@humber.ca

HSF campaign

**Continued from page 1*

But some think having part of the campaign over the reading week might mean some students miss out on getting the information they need.

"A week might be enough, as long as you get to know all the candidates a bit," said Krisjan Kretz, a first-year fashion arts student. "But having an extra week might let some people who aren't here a lot to get more informed about it, then more would vote."

The introduction of youvote-humber.com in January has recorded more than 1200 hits to date and HSF is also promoting the election with mock elections, including a rock versus rap format, but not everyone has noticed the pre-election marketing.

"I had no idea there was an election coming," said Chris

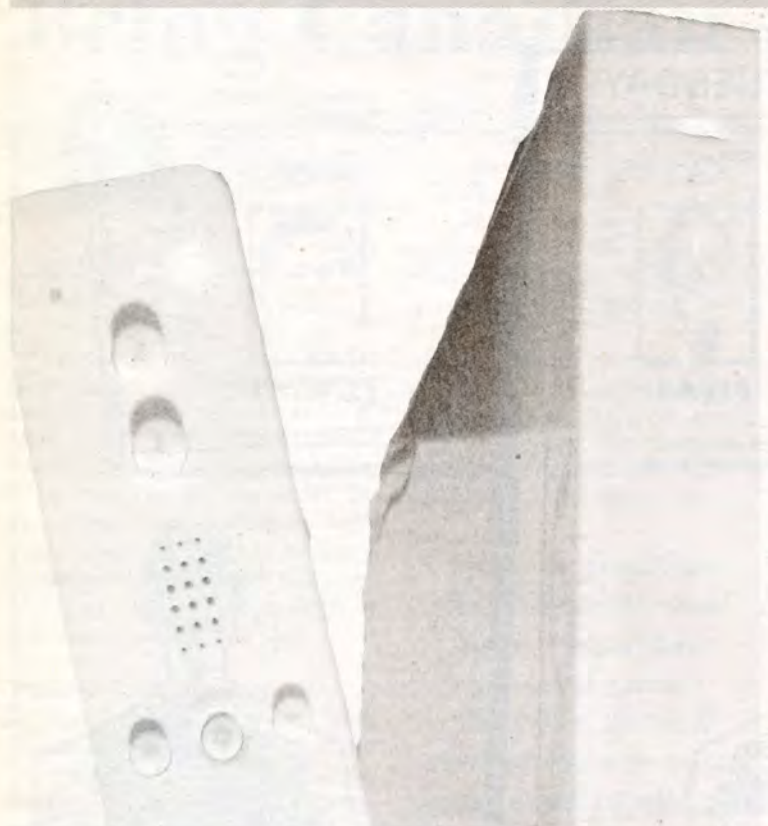
Campbell, a first-year fitness and health student. "I'm a little oblivious to posters on the wall."

An increased turn-out is a priority, Farnell said, and he hopes the new extended voting period taking place Tuesday to Friday during the day, and an advance poll on Monday in the evening will help double voter turn-out.

"We found last year there are lots of students in the winter semester who aren't at Humber during the day, because of internships," said Farnell. "So we opened up a night vote to ensure no person is left behind."

As of Wednesday, 45 election packages have been taken from HSF offices at the North Campus, he said. Not all will be returned, he added, and the nominees won't be announced until they are vetted to see if they can run. The announcement will be at a meeting Feb. 14.

"All of the books in the world contain no more information than is broadcast as video in a single large American city in a single year." —Carl Sagan



The relatively cheap wii system may be a draw for students

Anupa Mistry

Wii have a choice

Joan Porter
Biz/TECH REPORTER

The new gaming console, Wii, may mimic the groundbreaking technology of Nintendo's Wii, but marketing program co-ordinator at Ellen Sparling said it is up to a company to protect its trademark.

"They've come up with a name that's close enough that customers could associate it with the Wii, but not too close to get into trouble," said Sparling. "You have to be extremely protective to create a strong brand."

Nintendo should be worried about people buying the Wii under the assumption they would be getting a Wii, said Sparling.

"If a customer is disappointed, it could be associated with Nintendo."

The Wii not only has an identical

console to the Wii, but also the same games.

The Wii was the cheapest of the game consoles on the market, priced well below Sony's PlayStation 3 and Microsoft's Xbox 360, until the Wii made its online debut at about \$170.

Cost is something that students are acutely aware of, said 3D animation co-ordinator Terry Posthumus.

"If they don't care about international law, and copyrights, who's going to do anything about it," said Posthumus. "People don't want to pay for anything. Bottom line."

Computer Programming student Ali Khen, 19, agrees.

"If it's \$100 cheaper and it lasts for the same amount of time, it's okay," said Khen.

Stacks of options for college bound

Cheaper books are just around the corner

Mike Nelson
Biz/TECH REPORTER

The Humber Bookstore on campus is very convenient, but it does not always offer the best prices for buying books.

The Humber Bookstore and the Text Center, located at the corner of Humber College Boulevard and Highway 27, are the two main competitors looking to capitalize on the students need to buy course books.

Operations manager of campus services Don Henriquez said that prices can be higher at the Humber Bookstore.

"Regardless of the price the bookstore sets, it's very easy for the Text Center to go online, look at the price of that book and reduce their price," he said.

The store manager of the Text Center Ali Baytaly said he largely determines prices by doing just that, but also listens to word of mouth.

"A student will tell me what the price is at the bookstore, so I will put the price down," said Baytaly.

The higher price at the Humber Bookstore is the cost of convenience, said Henriquez.

"The Bookstore is one stop shopping. Students can get generally anything they are looking for while on campus so there's no need to go off campus."

Students like first-year electrical apprentice Jonathan Marocco feel pressure to be prepared for the new semester and choose to buy books from the Humber Bookstore.

"You come here and the next day you need books," said Marocco.

Henriquez said that in addition to the convenience, students should shop at the Humber Bookstore for what it does for the Humber community.

"The more students use the bookstore, the more value-added programs the bookstore can provide to the Humber community," said Henriquez.

These programs include a buy back program, an online program that gives students first crack at getting used books, and a scholarship program.

Keeping your money within the school may motivate some students to remain on campus when acquiring books, but many students go to the Text Center in search of savings.

"I figure by not going to the Humber Bookstore, I can save," said first-year civil engineering student Howard Nguyen. "I've compared prices; you save at least 10 to 15 per cent."



Taxes need not be taxing

Bianca Hall
Biz/TECH REPORTER

As the tax deadline approaches, students who are leery about tackling their own return or paying to have a professional do it can take advantage of a tax clinic put on by the Humber Students' Federation.

"A lot of times when you're a student, it's easy to ignore your finances because you're in school and you don't have any money," said Kimberly Daniels, services manager for HSF. "But you generally do get money back and it's important for students to take advantage of these services so that they're able to have some more money in their pockets."

HSF has begun looking for student volunteers to do other students taxes before the April 31

deadline. Volunteers will be given a one-day training course by the Canada Revenue Agency where they will learn the software program and the changes in the process for 2007. They will start doing returns free of charge next month.

The service is directed at students who have a fairly straightforward return for 2007, said Daniels.

"We're trying to keep it as simple as possible to avoid any problems. For example there was a student who called me and said they hadn't done their taxes in three years. At that point, that's a little too complicated for us to handle so we're really just going to focus on taxes for this one year and keep it simple."

Last Thursday, HSF held a tax workshop. Legoria Simmons, an

accounting educational assistant at Humber's business school, gave students tips for doing their own taxes and understanding what can be claimed.

"When you learn how to do it here on paper you can understand when your computer makes a mistake," said Simmons. "If you know how to do it manually, then you have an idea what numbers work where and why. Otherwise, how can you be sure?"

But some students say they don't trust the experts and prefer to take control of their own finances.

"I always do my own taxes," said Veronica Precord a second-year law clerk student. "Last year I did it with H&R Block and I got audited. I'm not letting anyone else do my taxes because whoever did it at H&R Block messed it up badly."

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EDITORIAL

If I knew for a certainty that a man was coming to my house with the conscious design of doing me good, I should run for my life. — Henry David Thoreau

Not so Super Tuesday

Super Tuesday has come and gone and Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are still neck and neck while Republican John McCain emerged the clear winner against Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee.

The primaries are over but we can understand if our friends to the south are feeling a little confused these days. Regardless of who raked up the most points, it's hard to deny the U.S. presidential election campaign is a bit of a gong show. The constant bombardment of celebrity endorsements for both Democratic and Republican candidates and the dizzying political rhetoric make for quite a spectacle.

Two words have stood out amidst the polemical debate between presidential hopefuls Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton: race and sex.

Forget all the issues and isms that should be on the tips of their democratic tongues, these two words have been whispered (or shouted) more times than perhaps the most popular word of the moment: change.

Whether Americans would rather see the first black or first female president is the question on everyone's lips.

Just don't expect Hillary or Obama to mention race or sex. They prefer, as politicians have (for the most part) often done, to dance around the important issues with dizzying political rhetoric, their voices gradually

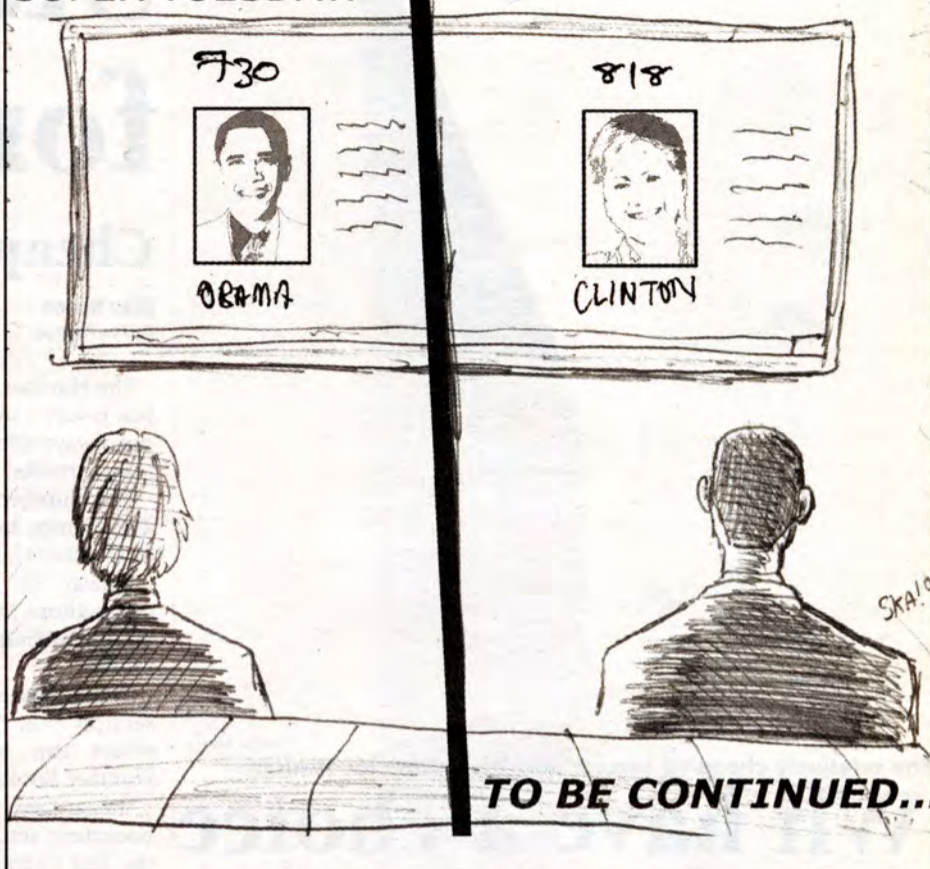
crecendo-ing within the stadium or lecture hall. Yes, this is a very confusing election indeed.

Amidst the political rhetoric blowing across the United States right now, another battle is being fought, the battle over celebrity endorsement. Hillary has Barbara Streisand and Jack Nicholson on her train, not to mention Bill. Obama has Caroline Kennedy, The Grateful Dead and Maria Schreiber, none of whom hold a candle to his lead cheerleader, Oprah Winfrey. Obama should thank his lucky stars he's got Oprah on his team. Watched by millions of American women every day, Oprah will be an unstoppable force in convincing undecided female voters to steer clear of Clinton.

At an Obama rally on Feb. 3, Oprah offered women a figurative permission slip to renege support for Ms. Clinton telling the crowd not to feel guilty for supporting Obama. If there's anyone who can sway the vote of women in America, it's Oprah, who will soon be getting her own network.

Try as they will to win the support of voters based on merit, both the candidates (and their celebrity shadows) know the importance of generating a buzz by making surprise appearances at political rallies. Whatever happened to the good old days of supporting a candidate based on their platform and not their entourage?

SUPER TUESDAY:



Africentric schools worth a try

On Jan. 29, a historic decision was made at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) to operate an Africentric school from September 2009. The debate, surrounding a publicly funded alternative school that addresses the education and social needs of the black community, has been intensely raging over the past few months.

Now that a close decision (11 for, nine against) has been reached, perhaps this divisiveness will be curbed. More than a culturally relevant school, students benefit from a community that works together in their interest.

Critics, including the mother of school shooting victim Jordan Manners, argue that allowing for black-focused schools harkens back to segregation. However, isn't it probable to assume that a TDSB-backed program would not be discriminatory?

What has to be addressed are the cries for help among members of the black community in Toronto. At this point, the votes have been cast and the decision has been made. Instead of continuing to fight against the

decision, efforts should be made to ensure that Africentric education effectively combats the problems of above average dropout rates and cultural exclusion that has black parents and community leaders concerned.

There is nothing wrong with trying. Within the TDSB, 39 alternative elementary and secondary schools already exist, including one for First Nations students and another for LGBTQ youth. The board website states that each of these 39 schools "has a distinct identity and approach to curriculum delivery." This includes "a commitment to innovative and experimental programs."

Implicit in this is that these schools are both culturally sensitive and judgment-free environments — isn't that a necessity for a place where young people spend upwards of 35 hours per week?

If there is already an uncontested allowance for alternative schools within the TDSB, then there is no basis for denying an Africentric school to students who may benefit. It's better than asking "what if?"

WORD ON THE STREET

Would you forfeit your vote in the next Canadian election in order to vote for the next U.S. president?

I'm from Argentina [but] If I was a Canadian citizen, I would care more about Canada than the United States.

Jonatan Saul, 18, first-year design foundation



I'm a Canadian citizen and a Canadian resident so why would I vote for someone in the U.S.? ... We live in Canada not the U.S. so I don't know why anybody would want to give up their right.

Yes I would probably... If you vote Democrat, there's a possibility you'll be stopping the war and that's more significant than anything Canadians could do.

Sunny Sharma, 18, first-year law clerk



Lindsay Amyot, 22, first-year creative photography

I wouldn't because I'm a Canadian citizen. I'm part of the American economy and American society in terms of globalization... but I'm a Canadian citizen and I never want to be American.

HUMBER ET CETERA

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Humber Et Cetera is a publication of the Humber College School of Media Studies
 Letters to the Editor must be signed and contain the writer's program and telephone number for verification.

We reserve the right to edit for length.

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Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine found references to drug and alcohol in one third of 2005's most popular songs. — Reuters

Being Canadian not as bad as being racist



Kate Wilson
IN FOCUS EDITOR

In case you didn't know, Canadian is a bad word and has been for some time now.

I recently read a story in the *Toronto Star*, based on a *Houston Chronicle* story about an assistant district attorney who wrote an e-mail that referred to black members of a jury as Canadians.

He now says he was under the impression that Canadians were on the jury. It's hard to believe a prosecutor doesn't know that non-Americans cannot sit on juries in his own country, but that is his defense.

E-mail aside, I had no idea that Canadian was a bad word until now. I was ready to laugh it off and forget about it until I saw the *Toronto Star* story posted on popular political commentary website *The Huffington Post*, with a series of posted responses.

Reading the comments, it became clear that using the term Canadian as a derogatory reference to black people has been around long before the 2003 e-mail was leaked.

One poster, SmellyOne, offered some insight into the origin of the term:

"When I worked in restaurants more than ten years ago in Florida, I heard the term Canadian applied to African-Americans. It was

explained to me that it was because both are stereotyped as being bad tippers." (sic)

That's news to me. Another poster, yappnutt, recognizes this correlation between all black people and all Canadians is a generalization and clarifies it a bit.

"The suspect Canadians are mostly quebecers as they share the same trait with the, most specifically, American southern black person. neither group tips service persons near what they are worth." (sic)

Very few people are focusing on the real issue. People have adopted a more sanitized, but still derogatory, way to talk about black people. The words have changed, but racist attitudes haven't.

Again, news to me. I am a Canadian, whatever that may be, and I am not really offended that my nationality is being used in this way.

Maybe I feel comfortable because I usually tip more than I should — probably because I feel unnecessary guilt about not wanting to be seen as a bad tipper. (Is that a Canadian thing?)

What really interests me about

this story however is that so many people seem eager to dispel the idea that being Canadian is an offensive thing, but very few people are focusing on the real issue.

People have adopted a more sanitized, but still derogatory, way to talk about black people. The words have changed, but racist attitudes haven't.

People, from news anchors to bloggers, have glossed over the underlying story: what the term Canadian has been chosen to represent.

In the end, racists could have chosen any word to stand in as a covert reference to black people. More important, and upsetting for me, are the attitudes behind the creation and the need for the con-

tinued use of these euphemisms.

Steve Pinker is a psychology professor at Harvard University who has researched and written extensively on language and cognition. In a 1994 op-ed column in *The New York Times*, he looked at what's in a name.

"Words are arbitrary," he explains. "The word 'duck' does not look, walk or quack like a duck, but we all know it means duck because we have memorized an arbitrary association between a sound and a meaning."

Pinker compares this idea — replacing terms with new, more politically correct and socially acceptable, words — with a "treadmill," showing that "concepts, not words, are in charge. Give a con-

cept a new name, and the name becomes coloured by the concept; the concept does not become freshened by the name."

So the debate about why Canadian has become a bad word in the southern U.S. is not really important.

Instead, it is about what our manipulation of language reveals about certain segments of society.

People are still perpetuating racist attitudes in 2008, but are being more covert about it.

I think it is humorous that our nationality has become a stand-in for a bad word, but I am not offended by it.

But that any word is being used to propel racist attitudes, well, that is the real shame.

Education system deserves an F



Tabitha Venasse
LIFE EDITOR

As someone who enjoys learning, the quality of education in our country has always been important to me.

When news stories began to circulate about no longer holding failing students back, I thought it was a bad idea. When I found out a few months ago that using red pens to mark students' work is being frowned upon because it makes students feel inadequate, I began to question the sanity behind *The Man* in our education system.

Now, the Halton Public School Board has changed their policies so teachers are no longer able to deduct marks from assignments that have been handed in late. It appears that the school system is

beginning to enable lazy students.

There is the argument of course that if students are handing in quality work they deserve grades that reflect that. I wholeheartedly agree.

But I don't agree with bending the consequences of missing a due date just to make their work feel appreciated. If that's the issue, then do what my high school teachers did when I handed in late assignments — show the student the mark they would have received had their work been submitted on time, and then show them what was deducted for lateness.

The problem with removing the penalty for missed deadlines is that it doesn't teach students how to be responsible for their actions. It shows them that a due date doesn't mean anything, because they can submit assignments whenever they please and still get graded for it.

I can just picture the way it will be. The only students who will hand assignments in on time will be the keeners — the students who actually value their education.

At the point when assignments are crucial to moving forward in the learning process, either the class will not be able to proceed in their lessons or students won't end up progressing.

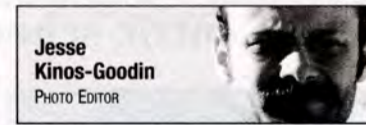
But they'll still be passed, and they'll still be behind.

Furthermore, this gap will manifest itself at the post-secondary level: a world where it's 'do-or-die' and many instructors don't chase students for outstanding assignments.

Eradicating the F brings in more proof that we are raising youth to be part of a lazy generation who can get away with living a *laissez-faire* lifestyle.

Is that really the type of world we want to leave behind?

Lost on a pop culture phenomenon



Jesse Kinos-Goodin
PHOTO EDITOR

So there's this show called *Lost*, perhaps you've heard of it? From what I can gather it's like *Survivor*, *Star Trek* and *Gilligan's Island* all rolled into one.

I'm not a *Lost* fanatic. But after reading endless columns and blogs about the season premiere (and by reading I mean the headlines) I decided to watch last week's episode.

I don't get it. I mean, I get the show per se, I just don't get how it's blowing so many people's minds (you could say I'm lost). A bunch of people are trapped on an island and they want off.

Well at least some do.

Then there is some sort of evil force and a strange guy who looks like Thom Yorke (if Thom Yorke spent every weekend playing *Dungeons & Dragons* in the basement and curling his mom's hair).

The end.

Now the season premiere has been heralded as something to write home about, or in this case, write thousands upon thousands of words about and publish in every major daily.

A *National Post* blog entry that simply recapped the season premiere had 10,000 hits in less than 12 hours. It was the most popular entry on the site — the second most popular being the editorial on how awesome it is that *Lost* is back.

Apparently last week's episode was so amazing because it raised so many new questions. I have one: how do you drive a Volkswagen through the dense jungle? Never mind how they managed to fix it (coconuts perhaps)?

Of course the biggest question is what's going to happen next. The way I look at it, there are two possibilities. Attention: massive spoiler alert.

Last week we heard a chopper fly

overhead and met the person in it. Lo and behold it's the weird guy from *Rescue Dawn* and *Solaris*. That guy is permanently typecast as a normal person who loses his mind under adverse situations, all the while taking unusually long pauses between sentences.

With the constant flashbacks and flash forwards (I think the actual term for that is filling time) it will probably take tonight's entire episode just to figure out that the only reason he flew in was to creep people out, or maybe play D & D with Thom Yorke.

Possibility two. From the glimpses into the future we saw that Jack grows his beard back, leading me to speculate that he rejoins *Party of Five*, rescuing Jennifer Love Hewitt from the embarrassingly bad *Ghost Whisperer* and Scott Wolf from a future involving a spot on *Hollywood Squares* between Carrot Top and Nick Lachey.

I'm crossing my fingers for number two.



TO THE NEW YORK GIANTS FOR STICKING IT TO THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS, GIVING NEW YORK ITS FIRST SUPERBOWL WIN IN 17 YEARS.

TO THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF INFAMOUS '60S ROCK GROUP THE GRATEFUL DEAD FOR REUNITING IN SUPPORT OF DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE BARACK OBAMA.

TO OUR HOMETOWN HERO, FEIST, FOR BEING ASKED TO PERFORM AT THE GRAMMYS. NOW LET'S JUST HOPE SHE DOESN'T SING "THAT IPOD SONG."

TO THE MORE THAN 80 PEOPLE WHO OFFERED TO ADOPT ANGELICA-LESLIE, THE EIGHT-MONTH OLD WHO WAS ABANDONED IN THE STAIRWELL OF A PARKING GARAGE AT LESLIE AND FINCH.

TO THE CITY OF TORONTO FOR RAISING RENTAL FEES OF ICE RINKS AND SWIMMING POOLS. ANOTHER OBSTACLE IN THE WAY OF HEALTHY LIVING FOR COMMUNITIES.

TO MISSISSIPPI HOUSE MEMBERS FOR TRYING TO BAN OBESE PEOPLE FROM EATING AT RESTAURANTS IN THAT STATE.

TO THE JUNOS FOR NOMINATING CELINE DION FOR SIX AWARDS. STOP ENCOURAGING HER!

TO THE 15 PER CENT OF CANADIANS WHO, IN A RECENT POLL, SAID THEY WOULD GIVE UP THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE NEXT CANADIAN ELECTION IF IT MEANT THEY COULD VOTE IN THE FALL U.S. ELECTIONS.



Black History Month was officially recognized in 1995, following a motion introduced by the first black mem

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word. -Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Funding not approved for controversial school

Lacy Atalick
INFOCUS REPORTER

Humber nursing professor Soo Wong was one of the nine Toronto District School Board trustees who voted against the black-focused school last week.

She said she does not want to waste anymore time discussing the issue; the cost is not in the budget and they have other priorities.

"Right now we have 3,000 students with special needs like autism and ADHD on a waiting list for student support services. If we are going to disadvantage the special needs kids to deal with this alternative school, that's not

right," Wong said.

The board voted 11 to nine in favour of a black focused school, but the decision is being reconsidered because the McGuinty government has made it clear that it will not fund the initiative.

Twelve trustees would have to vote for another discussion before the TDSB would be able to re-evaluate the proposal.

In order to address the 40 per cent drop out rate amongst black youth Wong said the board needs to focus on universal literacy and teacher diversity.

As a professor, she relies on quantitative data to support her vote against the alternative school.

"I have heard people say that if we don't build a black school we are going to need more jails. But it is equal translation; the bulk of the people who are incarcerated are illiterate," she said.

The idea of an Africentric school seems to reverse contemporary paradigms of racism and diversity by suggesting that reverting to a segregated system might be more beneficial.

"This issue challenges the system and challenges us to think about what is the most equitable way to deliver public education," she said.

Trustee Chris Bolton voted in favour of the alternative school. He said that integration has not

been successful, and that it is time for schools to start doing something that might have a positive result.

"Other schools have a greater parental input, but this school would make up for that with mentors, curriculum and faculty," Bolton said.

Although Premier Dalton McGuinty did not overrule the decision to establish the school, he said the province will not provide funding either, and therefore the \$800,000 cost of the school would be paid for by the board.

Joel Douglass, 18, a first-year media foundations student said that the racial stigma is ingrained

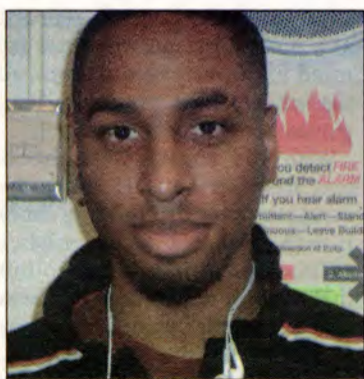
and that the community in which he lives makes him face the same thing that the school is trying to avoid.

"We went through a lot of stuff in society where we have been put down and now a lot of us have the mind set that we cannot achieve and we cannot go on," he said.

First-year culinary arts student Antonio Crossman said that he would have attended a black focused school if he had the option.

"I would because we don't learn much about our history," he said. "It is mostly Canadian or American history and I don't have a lot of knowledge about it."

If you had the option of attending an africentric school would you?



Joel Douglass, 18,
Media Foundations

"Toronto is really multi-diverse so in that sense I don't think that I would jump into a black school just because growing up surrounded by diversity has helped me conquer a lot of things, like racism."



Brittney Duff, 18,
Family and Social Services

"I wouldn't because I think that it goes back into the past towards segregation. I don't think that it will help the situation at all because I don't think that the problem is education I think it's more about the family and the state that the family is in."



Stefan Brijlall, 19,
H Vac/ Refrigeration

"It doesn't matter to me because see where I come from, blacks and everyone else, we all share the one place. (Guyanna South America)."



Natasha Paray, 19,
Law Clerk

"I would want to be at a multi-cultural school because you get to meet different people and learn about everybody from different backgrounds. Canada celebrates a little bit of everyone."



Kemesha Gruber, 19,
Justice Studies

"No I wouldn't go, I am totally against it I believe that it is bringing us back to segregation. All those things that Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks fought for would just be working backwards instead of going forward."

Former president left a legacy of diversity

First black leader of the college's student union created smaller committees and developed fiscal responsibility during his tenure

Laura Cicchirillo
INFOCUS REPORTER

The first black president of the Humber student union, now known as the Humber Students' Federation, says he ran for the office more than 30 years ago because he wanted change in student government, not because he was black.

"Race never entered my thought process. Even today I think, 'How naïve could I have been?'" William Huggins said from his home in Dallas, where he is vice president of business development for telecommunications giant Ericsson North America.

"Looking back I can remember that it was not until the headlines

"Race never entered my thought process. Even today I think, 'How naïve could I have been?'"

—William Huggins

in the school paper came out that it occurred to me."

Born and raised in St. Vincent, a small island in the Caribbean, Huggins was 19 years old when he left his family and friends to study electronics and engineering technology at Humber.

"It took a little bit getting used to

the cultural difference," he recalls. But he says he quickly became part of a tight circle of friends.



HUGGINS ELECTED STUDENT UNION PRESIDENT

Courtesy

Huggins was a hair above the rest.

"The hardest transition was not being prepared in readiness for college," he says, noting many of his classmates moved effortlessly from high school to college.

But Huggins worked hard to stay on top of his studies. "I started from behind and by the end of the first year made the dean's honour list."

Doris Tallon, who was the associate to Humber's president at the time, said, "all the faculty were amazed" with Huggins' dynamic personality and academic triumphs.

She recalled that he was "so

bright and passionate about what he was doing, especially about education."

In his second year, Huggins was a representative of the student union. The next year, 1977, he won a landslide victory for president, receiving 798 votes, in one of the largest voter turnouts in Humber's history at the time.

As president, he implemented such changes as creating smaller committees and establishing "more fiscal responsibility and management."

He said he worked to make students more aware of where the money from their fees was going.

Upon graduation, Huggins immediately received job offers, beginning a successful career in telecommunications with companies such as Bell Canada and Nortel, before joining Ericsson and moving to Texas, where he lives with his wife and three children. In 1980 Huggins was part of a select team at Bell to go to Saudi Arabia and build a telecom network. When he returned in 1986, he earned a Business Degree from York University.

His only regret is that he has lost touch with many of his classmates.

"It would be nice to know what happened to the guys now, in terms of their careers."

Of course, much has changed at Humber since Huggins's time, as the school now mirrors a more multicultural city.



Roselyn Kelada-Sedra

Kay Blair will be presented the Premier's Award on Feb. 11.

Premier awards community hero

Roselyn Kelada-Sedra
INFOCUS REPORTER

Humber graduate Kay Blair will receive the Premier's Award on Monday for her work with the Community MicroSkills Development Centre.

Irveen Powley, coordinator for the award, said the award includes a bronze medal, a certificate signed by Premier Dalton McGuinty and a \$5,000 bursary for Humber College.

Jo Sorochinsky, associate director of governance for the Colleges Compensation and Appointments Council, said Blair was the unanimous choice for the Premier's Award.

A 1985 graduate of Humber's community service program, Blair has worked with MicroSkills since 1988, providing resources and guidance for immigrants and youth in need, as well as women dealing with issues of racism and violence.

Blair's social services career began 25 years ago, when she left an abusive marriage.

"My object was to find ways to help women live violence-free life styles and to reclaim their identities," she said.

She joined a task force that established the Shirley Samaroo House,

now called Yorktown Shelter.

After about five years in that position, Blair decided she wanted to do more.

She applied for executive director at MicroSkills and focused her energy on career planning, skills development and confidence-building.

"As women, we tend to carry the burdens of society on our shoulders," said Blair. Sophia Daley, a graduate of MicroSkills' entrepreneurial program for women, said that Blair's guidance helped her identify her goals.

A hair stylist with her own business, Kinky Kreations, Daley said Blair knows intuitively how to guide people.

"When you have a care for people as a whole," she said, "your destiny is to guide them to their destiny."

Four employees served 40 people when Blair started at MicroSkills. Today, she works with a staff of 80 to serve 15,000 people a year.

"It can be very challenging; sometimes it's downright frustrating," said Blair, but she's not ready to quit yet.

"Every day, someone is achieving something," she said. "That gives me courage to keep going, to keep these doors open for people who need them."



Antonio Crossman, 19, Culinary Arts

"Yes I would because a lot of these schools we go to we don't learn much about our history it is mostly about Canadian history or American history and I don't have a lot of knowledge about it."



Desiree Reid, 18, Fashion Arts

"No, Martin Luther King fought for integration."



Michael Brown, 18, Chemistry

"I would try it out and see how it is."



Moreen Valentine, 25, Arts and Sciences

"No I would not attend I think that it is personally degrading I think that integration is the best policy. I don't think that exclusion is the answer."



Rochelle Odede, 20, Family and Social Services

"Personally my school was mainly black and I thought that the environment was more spirited, but I think that a black school is deviating from the real problem which is poverty."

IN FOCUS



Etobicoke resident Leonard Braithwaite was elected to Queen's Park in 1963, becoming the first black member in provincial legislature. – blackhistorycanada.ca

Tuning into music history

Course traces contemporary sounds back to black roots

Livia Famà
IN FOCUS REPORTER

Humber music professor Brad Klump teaches the history of contemporary music and culture, a course where the influence of black culture on contemporary music is a major theme.

"Roots are deep. People listen to music as leaves of the tree, but you need to understand the roots that hold the tree up and nourish its branches, allowing them to grow and extend" he said.

These roots represent black music's influence on modern sound, like the use of sampling.

"Current performers are digging deep into obscure, exotic recordings to create a new sound and to

reconcile the old in a new way," Klump said.

He cites rap as one of the most popular examples of music that has borrowed from African traditions. Rap is the art of speaking musically, which borrows from tribes like the Mande in West Africa.

"The Mande people didn't write down their history, they presented it in their music," he said.

When they were enslaved and brought to the new world, they preserved the art of their rhythmic story telling, which eventually evolved into rap music, said Klump.

After this came the tradition of playing the dozens, a verbal game where Klump notes "you cut



Lacy Atalick

Music is part of Toronto's Black History Month celebrations.

someone up but do it in a clever way, like sparring back and forth."

He said there is evidence these freestyle rap battles took place in prisons where "they were part of the African-American culture to pass time and maintain the oral tradition they valued."

"The idea is for music students to know themselves, so they need to understand where the music comes from."

– Brad Klump
music professor

Why is it important to teach students about the influence black roots have had on music?

"The idea is for music students to know themselves, so they need to understand where music comes from," he said. "As a person and an artist you need to know this in order to know where to innovate."

Fourth-year music student Andre Anthony Reid agrees. "It's out of respect for those who came before you," he said. "You get a deeper understanding of the music you are performing when you understand who came before you, what they did and how they did it."

Reid, who performs jazz and gospel music, lists Stevie Wonder, George Benson and Brian McKnight as influences. He started singing in church and is part of gospel group Heaven Sound.

Black History Month at Humber

HSF is holding a number of events for Black History Month. All events start at 12 p.m., unless otherwise stated.

William Strickland
"The Culture of Hip Hop"
Feb. 6 - North, Student Centre
Feb. 7 - Lakeshore, H Building

Steel Pan Drum Show
Feb. 11 - North, Student Centre
Feb. 12 - Lakeshore, H Building

Black History Movie Days
Feb. 15 - Lakeshore, H Building
Feb. 28 - North, Student Centre
11 a.m.: *Remember the Titans*
1 p.m.: *Malcolm X*
3 p.m.: *Freedom Writers*

Afro/Caribbean Dance Troupe and Food Tasting
Feb. 25 - North, Student Centre
Feb. 28 - Lakeshore, H Building

The Corner Variety Showcase
Feb. 26 - North, Student Centre



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Catherine Mann

Dr. Frank Lista says his clinic performs the eyelid surgery on 50 to 100 patients a year.

Some Asian Canadians opt for controversial surgery

It's not about looking western, say students

Catherine Mann
LIFE REPORTER

Humber student Mara Tablante is one of a growing number of Asian-Canadians who has had eyelid surgery to give her a more western appearance.

"I get criticized all the time for having it done," said the 20 year-old first-year business administration student. "People tell me that I've sold out, and completely conformed to Western society but I haven't."

She added that losing the genetic trait of the eye crease doesn't make her any lose her Asian identity.

"It's a common procedure, and I have no regrets. At the end of the day, I'm still Filipino," she said.

Nearly 50 per cent of Asians from Pacific Rim countries lack a crease

in their upper eyelid. Many who live in Canada have had the surgery called Asian blepharoplasty, which originated in 19th-century Japan.

"Asian women don't want to look occidental," said Dr. Frank Lista of the Plastic Surgery Clinic in Toronto. "This procedure is performed in our clinic on about 50 to 100 patients every year."

"It's a common procedure, and I have no regrets. At the end of the day, I'm still Filipino."

—Mara Tablante
First-year business administration

The surgery creates a crease in the eyelid by making a fine incision where the crease would normally appear, removing a thin slip of excess skin and closing the wound with fine stitches that are visibly unnoticeable.

There is always a risk when a

patient opts to have plastic surgery. Lista said there is the risk of infection, bleeding and asymmetry (when both sides are not perfectly identical). In extremely rare cases, he said, there can be damage to the eye. For instance the eyelid will not open, or there can be physical damage to the eyeball itself.

According to Lista, the ideal candidates for the procedure are patients who want a moderate improvement, have a realistic expectation, and are otherwise healthy. Regarding costs, Lista said the amount a patient will pay for the procedure, on average in Ontario, is \$5,000.

In 2005, statistics by the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery found that 20 per cent of all cosmetic procedures were performed on racial and ethnic minorities, and that blepharoplasty was the third most popular cosmetic surgery, in which nearly 232,000 procedures were performed on both men and women.

Uphill climb for female paramedics

Kara Bertrand
LIFE REPORTER

The strength requirements of the paramedic program are linked to the decrease in women successfully completing the course, said program co-ordinator Lynne Urszenyi.

"At the end of the day you can be a great paramedic, but if you can't lift your patient into the ambulance to get them to the hospital, you're of no use to the patient," she said.

Urszenyi said the lift weight requirements were raised, two years ago by nine kilograms to reflect the changing weight of the population.

"In the last two years, we've had more male students than female students," she said. "For about eight years prior to that, it was exactly 50-50 split between men and women in the program."

The paramedic program this term has 71 per cent men and 29 per cent women, said Patricia Van Horne, associate registrar of records.

Other programs are seeing the same imbalance between genders, which can often bring different perspectives into industries generally dominated by one particular sex.

The police foundations program at Lakeshore, has 73 per cent male enrollment, with only 27 per cent female enrollment.



Kara Bertrand

Physical demands can be blamed for fewer women enrolling.

"Historically, policing has been a male dominated industry," said Arthur Lockhart, a teacher in the program. "But women are very powerful human beings and they bring great insight into the program."

For all programs at the North, Lakeshore and Orangeville campuses combined, male enrollment is 48.9 per cent, and female enrollment is 50.6 per cent, said Van Horne.

Susan Roberton, co-ordinator of the fashion arts program, said females take leadership roles more than men in classes. The program

has 94 per cent female enrollment. "There are more of them," she said. "The guys already stand out, so they tend not to be vocal. Most of the content relates more directly to women's apparel."

The admissions process and the subsequent hiring process of paramedic graduates do not discriminate based on gender, said Urszenyi.

"The employers don't know for the first few phases if they're men or women," she said. "There certainly isn't any type of quotas one way or another for men versus women."

Get ready to run

Being in charge isn't always fun and games

Natalie Escobar
LIFE REPORTER

Outgoing Humber Student's Federation President Nick Farnell said candidates running for his job will have to make communication a top priority.

He explained making yourself known, knowing what you want to do in the next year and how you will cater to the students is key.

The president, who works 35 hours a week, is responsible and accountable for the day-to-day administration of HSF. As chief spokesperson, the president is responsible for ensuring that HSF maintains a positive profile in representing its membership within the Humber community.

The presidential term lasts for one year starting May 1. Farnell's term will end on April 30.

"When I started I was blown away by the amount of power that student government has," said Farnell. "Humber administration is really fantastic for listening to what students want and really opening dialogue very well."

Nominee election packages are due tomorrow, and the candidates will be announced on Feb. 14, leading into the campaign period.

"There is two weeks of campaigning, but one week is over the reading week. In that one week you really have to be heard and make as many impressions on students as you can," said Farnell.

Ercole Perrone, executive director of HSE, explained that candidates need to understand being president isn't for everyone.

"Anyone who entertains the idea of running for president must fully understand the responsibilities

and should be strong and bright," he said. "It's got to be someone who understands the needs and wants of the students."

Guillermo Acosta program coordinator of the marketing management & international marketing program describes leadership as "The ability

to influence others to act in a particular way through direction, encouragement, sensitivity, consideration and support."

Farnell explained every campaign event does not need to be complex and extravagant.

"One thing that went over really well was to have a coffee station set up in the morning giving people free coffee," he said. "It cost almost nothing, and it was in those 10 seconds while pouring that I would say here's what I'm about and here's how I can help you."

"It was way more than I expected and it definitely set me up for some bigger and better things and I would do it all over again," Farnell said.



Natalie Escobar

Farnell's presidential one-year term ends April 1

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In 2006, summer camps were a multi-billion industry in North America: Canadian camps earned \$2 billion, and American camps earned \$17 billion. — *Toronto Star*



Courtesy Camp Choice

Humber hosts kids for summer camp

Imma Morcinelli
LIFE REPORTER

Humber students will get the opportunity to switch roles and play teacher for Grade 6, 7 and 8 students at Camp Choice on both the North and Lakeshore campuses this summer.

Camp Choice, a three-day adventure for elementary school students, promises to be something to write home about in 2008.

"It's great for students who want to get into teaching. It gives them a lot of experience," said Matt Keefe, camp co-ordinator. "The kids love being taught by someone who's closer to their age than their teacher or parents."

First introduced to elementary students across Ontario in May 2006, Camp Choice is a three-day residential education camp geared toward introducing students to different career opportunities, including culinary arts, justice studies and interior design.

The students live on campus for the duration of the camp and are accompanied by their teacher.

"It's not like a regular classroom where they're sitting in their desk in front of a chalkboard," said Keefe. "The students get to interact with different schools and they get to live on a college residence which some kids don't ever get to do. Plus they get to go through Humber and learn about the different programs out there."

This is the first year at Lakeshore Campus, where the focus will be to bring students closer to the programs offered there, such as dramatic arts, music, and the theatrical side of education.

"We started at the North Campus with workshop material that was more focused on science, technology and business," said Pat Tait, camp director. "But there's another side to education, like design, language arts, music. Areas that are unique. It broadened our scope. Why not launch a second camp and have it encompass more of the creative and performing arts, so kids can get a wider range of choices."

The camp, which runs from May 7 to June 13, introduces students to new levels of academic learning and incorporates elements from their current curriculum as set out by the Ministry of Education.

Combined with the North and Lakeshore campuses, Camp Choice anticipates approximately 1,000 to 2,000 students registering this year.

"We started two years ago and it was really successful. The number of students registering keeps increasing. Last year there were roughly 500 students and we've already passed that number this year," said Keefe.

The camp also benefits Humber students looking for summer employment. Earning \$400 a week, camp counselors are given an outlet to display what they have learned throughout the school year.

"Our role is to introduce the students to life on the college level. It's fun to mentor them that way," said Sarah Grubb, a fourth year public relations student at Guelph-Humber. "You get the opportunity to be creative, to develop programs for students and allow them to have a lot of fun in the post-secondary environment. To show them what their future could entail."

The number of counselors hired each year is dependent on the number of students registered for the camp. Last year, there were a total of eight counselors.

Registration began in October 2007 and will run until Feb. 15.

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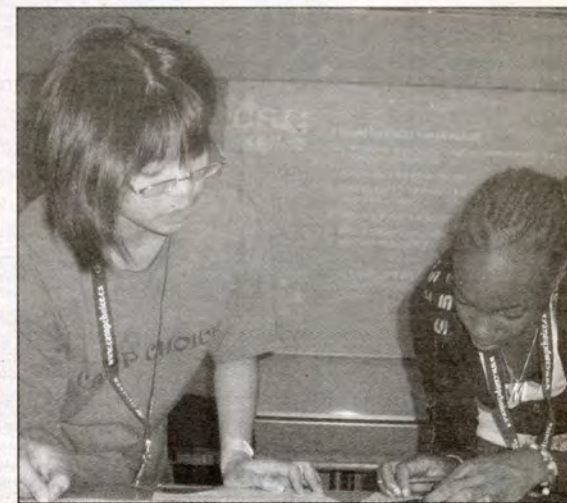
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- *Globe & Mail*



Courtesy Camp Choice

In workshops like CSI-Toronto, campers learn the fundamentals of crime scene investigation.

A Quebec journalist is suing the White Stripes for using an excerpt from her radio show on their album *De Stijl*, seven years after its release. — www.thestar.com

Artist finds path to dark side

Stephanie Stranges
A&E REPORTER

A Humber graduate's work is moving to the big screen after Lucasfilm Animation in Singapore recruited the digital artist.

"Hard work pays off. I worked really hard and the right people noticed," said Kalene Dunsmoor, 26, from a studio in Singapore. There she creates digital set extensions, virtual environments and composes visual effects for major motion pictures.

"I'm actually working on a lot of cool stuff right now that is super secretive because it hasn't been released," said Dunsmoor. The studio has previously worked on *Rush Hour 3*, *Spiderwick Chronicles*, and the last *Harry Potter* movie.

The company, a division of George Lucas' Industrial Lights and Magic, hired Dunsmoor last year.

"I always said she would one day get to work for Industrial Lights and Magic, and it looks like she

did it," said Terry Posthumus, program co-ordinator for 3D production & computer animation.

Dunsmoor's artistic talent proved to be an asset in the industry.

"She has this really great eye with a strong artistic background, which helped her pay attention to detail," said Posthumus. "It's those little details that make things look acceptable to the eye and get viewers to buy what's on screen."

Before attending the post-graduate program at Humber, Dunsmoor spent three years studying at the Academy of Realist Art in Toronto where she developed her talents.

"Kalene has the ability to move laterally to quite a few genres," said Dunsmoor's mentor, co-owner and school director of the academy, Fernando Frietas. "She's done air-brushing, graphite, traditional art and now animation."

Dunsmoor attended a job convention in Montreal when she came across Lucas' company.

"I handed off my demo reel from school. They took it and didn't give me any feedback," she said. "Then a month before I came here they called me and told me they wanted me to go to this new film

studio in Singapore."

Getting to where she is today wasn't easy for Dunsmoor, who worked as an artist for hire throughout her years as a student.

"You slave over something you

are passionate about for years and then you wonder what's going to come of it," she said.

"But if you work hard enough, and always look to improve yourself, someone is going to notice it."



Kalene Dunsmoor

Kalene Dunsmoor's artistic talents landed her a job with Lucasfilm Animation in Singapore.

Dawn of a Golden Age for Harvard grad

Tracey Finklestein
A&E REPORTER

Humber students and members in the Toronto community of South Asian descent flocked to a book signing, detailing the story of their homeland, at the Gladstone Hotel last week.

Priyanka Iqbal, 21, a third-year business administration student of Bangladeshi descent, attended the event and was happy about the documentation of the liberation war in English literature.

Tahmima Anam, a 32-year-old born in Bangladesh and raised in countries around Europe and the U.S., is the author of *A Golden Age*. The debut novel is an international publication and was published in Canada last month.

"The book is important because there is a large Bangladeshi community in the city and we do not know enough about their history or where they come from," said

Aparita Bhandari, a host at the book signing.

A Golden Age is set in East Pakistan in 1971 during the Bangladesh War of Independence. The liberation war, between West Pakistan and East Pakistan, started as a rebellion and resulted in the independence of East Pakistan, now known as Bangladesh.

"It turns out one of my uncles fought in the same war, so for me and many other Bangladeshis, there is a personal connection," said Bhandari.

All her life, Anam heard stories about the country's war for independence from her Bangladeshi family and friends, which served as inspiration for her novel. *A Golden Age* is about the survival of a middle-aged woman and her family during the war.

"I was so moved by the stories and emotionally connected that I wanted to find a medium that would be appropriate to the narra-

tives," said Anam. "That medium was fiction."

Anam received her PhD from Harvard University. After graduating, she moved to London and started her book in a creative writing class she found online.

"I don't think a lot of people Googled it because there were only nine people in the course," she said.

Richard Scrimger, acting director

of Humber's writing school, said historical fiction is a great way for students to learn about history while engaged in a good story.

"It is a great way for students to get a glimpse of history," he said.

Whenever you read a historical novel, "it humanizes the event because you feel like you know the people."

The novel has been translated into

the Bengali language and will be published in Bangladesh this week.

A Golden Age is the first novel of a three part series to be published. The next book will go back in time to look at Bangladesh before the war.

"The writing of the next book is slow, but hopefully not as slow as this book which took seven years," said Anam.



Tracey Finklestein

The Gladstone Hotel was recently transformed for an evening of Bangladeshi culture at a book signing for *A Golden Age*.

PLAYLIST PICKS



Life editor Sean Fitzgerald tells us what's in his headphones this week

-  Wintersleep - Weighty Ghost
Welcome to the Night Sky
-  Shad - Quest for Glory
The Old Prince
-  Radiohead - Videotape
In Rainbows
-  Buck 65 - 1957
Situation
-  CSS - Music is my Hot Hot Sex
Cansei de Ser Sexy
-  Journey - Don't Stop Believing
Escape
-  Sigur Rós - Hoppipolla
Takk...
-  Meggi Faye - Lucy Please
Meggi Faye
-  T.I. - Help is Coming
T.I. vs T.I.P.
-  Stars - Midnight Coward
In Our Bedroom After the War

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Céline Dion leads the Juno Awards with six nominations, including Artist of the Year, Album of the Year and Juno Fan Choice award. — *The Toronto Star*

Teacher finds talent in poetry blog

Robert Sassano
A&E REPORTER

A blog created by a former Humber student turned high school teacher is sparking a mass interest in creative writing with his students.

"It's just incredible. I think there is a real need for a venue for kids to express themselves and they have the chance to do it here," said Anthony De Sa of his website.

De Sa attended the Humber

School for Writers and now works as head of the English department at Father John Redmond high school.

De Sa and friend Gavin Smith started the blog, fjrwrites.threebynine.com, two years ago.

"Any medium is welcome — short stories, plays, poetry, screenwriting," said De Sa.

He set up the blog as a means for students to express themselves creatively.

"Some kids tend to not fit into

the category of sports and such so now they have a place to express themselves," he said.

De Sa says the blog gives students the ability to review the work of their peers in an effort to become better writers.

"Students can comment on each others work and what is even better is that anybody can log on and read the material."

York University English professor Priscilla Uppal said she was

amazed at the quality of work being submitted.

"He is helping build a community of writers and readers through the blog," said Uppal, who has posted some of her own work on the blog as well.

"The blog is a great initiative on Anthony's part."

De Sa has finished *Barnacle Love*, a collection of short stories, and will attend the Humber Writers' Circle next month.



Dila Velazquez

The girls spice up Toronto

Dila Velazquez
A&E REPORTER

While most of Toronto was watching the Giants ruin the Patriots perfect season, 20,000 Spice Girls fans stepped into a world where Girl Power ruled.

The reunited Spices — Geri (Ginger) Halliwell, Victoria (Posh) Beckham, Emma (Baby) Bunton, Melanie (Scary) Brown and Melanie (Sporty) Chisholm — touted Toronto as Spice City in their first stop to the city in nearly a decade.

Toronto became the official Spice City following an online vote by fans on the girls' website. It beat out Paris, Baghdad and Rio de Janeiro, among other cities, and was added to the girls' tour schedule. The Spice Girls will play four shows here on Feb. 3, 4, 25 and 26.

The concert on Feb. 3 was everything one can expect from the Spice Girls. It was a garish, mesmerizing Vegas spectacle with endless costume changes and amazing dance numbers. The show started out with the Latin-flavoured Spice Up Your Life setting the high-energy, dance party tone for the rest of the night. Lost in the hype were the slower ballads. Too Much was sped up into a dance song, forcing Chisholm to sound like a member from Alvin and the Chipmunks.

The frantic pace was slowed during the middle of the concert to showcase each of the girl's solo careers. Ginger Spice shined in her rendition of It's Raining Men, as she was lifted up by a gaggle of men and carried while singing. To live up to her name, Scary Spice tied up a man from the audience while singing Are You Gonna Go My Way? Baby and Sporty Spice showed off their captivating vocal talent in the songs Maybe and the U.K. hit, I Turn to You. Posh Spice was less titillating as her solo consisted of strutting down the runway in a black outfit and posing without singing.

The highlight of the night was when the girls sang Mama. Other than Sporty, all of the girls are mothers and it was the one song they seemed to really love singing. On the big screens they showed pictures of their mothers and at one point they showed their kids off stage. It was one of the most natural and touching moments of the concert.



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Feist has won the 2007 Shortlist Prize for *The Reminder*. The award recognizes albums released last year that are awaiting gold certification. — www.billboard.com

spotlight on HUMBER

Jay Vallis
A&E REPORTER

A young, up and coming band, Farfromnear, is preparing to get back on stage with a brand new addition to the group.

The band was set to record some original material when its guitar player quit, starting the search for a new band mate.

"We feel like we have really found the right person," said lead singer Daniel Wright, in reference to new guitarist Tony Ramsay.

Wright is taking public relations at Lakeshore and hopes to use what he has learned in the program to help promote the band. Meanwhile, bass player Joe Alonzi, in the multimedia design and production program, plans to put his skills to use in the near future as the band expects to record an album.

The quartet is rounded out by drummer Tejas Easwar.

Farfromnear formed last April and musically is a combination of emo, screamo and post-hardcore music.

The name portrays how band members feel about their songs and lives, in that they have yet to meet their full potential, though they can add opening for Hostage Life to their resumes. Surprisingly, Farfromnear was able to attract a larger crowd than the well-known band.

"We had more people watching us than watching them," said Wright. "We hung out with the band afterwards and my friend bought them a round of drinks. It was an amazing experience."

In the short time the band has been together, they've managed to develop a very enthusiastic fan base.

"This one girl came to our show and told me she was going to get a mural of us painted on her wall," said Wright. "It's kinda creepy, but it's also like, wow!"

The band can't wait to get back on stage, but still need to work out the kinks with new guitarist Ramsay.

"A show is a show. And if we can reach somebody out there and they enjoy our songs it's worth it," said Wright.



The boys in Farfromnear can't wait to hit the stage once again with their new guitarist, Tony Ramsay.

Theatre students stop and look

Group hopes to raise awareness and create dialogue with play

Cytlalli Ruiz-Chapman
A&E REPORTER

Third-year Humber theatre students have composed a play about diversity and its accompanying struggles that will be performed at both Lakeshore and North campuses and various GTA high schools.

"We started the process by going around campus and interviewing students, teachers and faculty. We compiled everything we gathered to tell these stories," said theatre student Emmanuelle Catanyag.

Stephanie Crothers, who is also in the program, said the play is a collective effort by all third-year students. This eliminates any lead roles as everyone writes for and acts in the production.

"All the characters are based on real people and their stories — people we know or even personal experiences," said theatre student Tiago de Matos.

"The point was to find out the meaning of diversity, and what we've discovered is that diversity is not just about colour. Diversity branches off to so many different



Cytlalli Ruiz-Chapman

Cast members discovered diversity's many meanings after collaborating on *Stop/Look*.

things, and we really wanted to showcase that in the play," said Camille Walker, another student involved with the play.

Crothers said she hopes the play

will make people reflect and question issues on diversity, and others echo her sentiment.

"We're trying to get a conversation started," said Catanyag. "No

one takes the time to really talk about these issues."

While interviewing students, they weren't sure as to what they could or couldn't say out of fear of

saying something wrong or offensive, said Crothers, but the experience of putting this play together has allowed them to talk about these issues openly.

"We've allowed ourselves to have these arguments and that is why we feel so passionate about it," said Alex MacDonald, a member of production. "If there is discourse, you learn something."

The play takes place on a street corner where the diverse group of actors represent different characters and their stories, said MacDonald.

"There are moments throughout the play where the characters stop and look at what they are doing," she said. Hence the play's title, *Stop/Look*.

Matos said the experience of putting the play together has been positive and hopes other students can gain insight from watching it, as well as create dialogue.

The thought provoking play will tour different high schools around the GTA this month and will be performed at the North and Lakeshore campuses February 8-15.



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The Montreal Canadiens have won 24 Stanley Cups, more than any other NHL franchise. — *The Hockey Hall of Fame*



Sebastien Hunziker has possession, with his eyes on the prize while his teammate runs a pick. Kelly Roche



Hunziker the hero

Star sinks three to edge Bruins

Kelly Roche
SPORTS REPORTER

Sebastien Hunziker hit a three-pointer to put the Hawks up by four points with a minute to go in the game, firing up the home crowd and lifting his team to an 83-80 victory over the rival Sheridan Bruins last week.

"No pressure," said Hunziker. "We got our ass kicked two weeks ago and we wanted to win so we had to come back and be ready to play today."

Sheridan beat Humber 81-54 on Jan. 18, handing the Hawks their first loss of the season.

With this victory, the Hawks improved their record to 12-1, while Sheridan dropped to 10-2.

"The key play was that three pointer by Sebastien," teammate Roger Scott said after the game last Wednesday. "Honestly, that just got the crowd going and that turned it around."

In a nail biter that went down to the last possession, Lynden Drayton-Barrow hit two clutch free throws to seal the win for Humber.

Head coach Darrell Glenn said he was pleased with his team's performance.

"I just thought our intensity was a lot better," said Glenn.

"We challenged a lot of their shots, we out-rebounded them and we shared the ball a lot better this time around."

A balanced attack was led by Drayton-Barrow with 23 points

and five rebounds off the bench.

Scott finished with 15 points, six rebounds – all offensive boards – and three assists.

But he was not satisfied.

"It was a real big win, but we need to do better if we want to be contenders in the Canadian National Championships," Scott said.

Rookie Mark McNee also had a stellar game with 15 points, eight rebounds and three assists.

Captain Jadwey Hemmings played an integral role in the Hawks' arsenal, contributing four points, four rebounds and four steals, along with seven assists – and just one turnover.

The Hawks came out with aggression, attacking the rim instead of settling for jump shots.

On the boards, Humber out-hustled Sheridan 47-23.

The Hawks dished out 22 assists, while turning the ball over only ten times.

Glenn said changing defensive strategy helped the Hawks shut down the Bruins.

"That was a big change for us when we went to the zone because we were able to disrupt their rhythm," said Glenn.

As for Hunziker, he finished with nine points, six rebounds and two assists. Despite his late-game heroics, he was reluctant to take credit for the win.

"It's a team sport, right? Everybody played tough tonight and we played good D at the end and that's what gave us the win."

Nationals see Hawks start second

By Rayna Taylor
SPORTS REPORTER

The Hawks men's volleyball team will take a second-place ranking to the provincial championships at London's Fanshawe College at the end of this month.

While the Hawks get a bye into the National Championship at Humber in March, they failed to secure the top slot in Ontario after losing to the undefeated Mohawk Mountaineers last week.

"My hope is that we can clean things up over the next two weeks before provincials and take it to them next time," coach Wayne Wilkins said after last Thursday's defeat.

The Hawks have been jockeying for position all season with the other top teams in the province: Mohawk, the Algonquin Thunder and Fanshawe Falcons.

"We were really hoping to be number one," said Wilkins. "When you have two great teams like Mohawk and Algonquin, you kind of want them to be in second and third so they can battle it out and you don't see them until the final," said Wilkins.

"Unfortunately, that didn't hap-

pen and now we're going to have to take a little bit of a tougher road and chase one of them in the semis."

Algonquin will be the third seed, followed by Fanshawe; when the tournament begins on Friday, March 7.

How has Mohawk managed to stay in first place all season?

"It's the pressure we put on our opponent," said Mountaineers coach James Bradley.

"Off the service line, we're one of the toughest teams in the country and offensively we're faster than everybody else."

He added: "Being in power is really what our game is about. It kind of mimics more of what they do out west" – where the best teams in the country, especially from Alberta, will be coming to the nationals at Humber.

Heading into the Ontario tournament, Algonquin Coach Max Larivee expressed some optimism for his Thunder.

"At this point in the season," he said, "you have to trust in your training. Just make sure you use the tools you've sharpened and developed throughout the season to execute come provincials."

By contrast, the Toronto Maple Leafs have only won 13 Stanley Cups. — *The Hockey Hall of Fame*



Evangelos Tzaras

Humber's cheerleading squad performs a routine drill

Cheerleaders bring it on

Squad hopes for high turn-out at next week's fundraiser

Evangelos Tzaras
SPORTS REPORTER

While the Humber cheerleading squad may be best known to students for performing on the sidelines during varsity games, it has some major goals of its own this month.

The squad has increased its practice time to get ready for upcoming competitions, with the nearest one, the *Breath of Life*, at Malvern Collegiate Feb. 9.

"That's actually what we practice for," said captain Jill Denis. "Games are actually more of a practice for us."

The hard work does not stop in the gym though, tournaments cost

money and financially the squad usually ends up in the red.

That's why the team is hosting a fundraising event on Feb. 12, 13, and 14 that will help raise money as it moves towards this year's goal of getting into nationals this March.

Co-captain Martha Mcloughlin hopes that students will come out to support the event.

"We just want to see everyone out there, participating. Come check out the booths because we have lot's of things going on, from flowers, bake sales and raffles," said Mcloughlin.

The new competitive nature of cheerleading has brought a more

serious tone to the sport, while the sports fan is still left satisfied with the traditional sexy cheerleading outfits.

"Cheerleading is more about showing off the tumbling and showing off your dance skills rather than just the 'ra-ra' anymore, that's where the competitive side of cheerleading has gone," said coach Tara Grozier.

The relationship between sports and cheerleading remains strong and is not forgotten by the team.

"I think it adds a little something to the environment, to the atmosphere of the game a little bit of excitement, for the crowds to look at and watch," said Grozier.

New channel may put college sports in limelight

Pat Lovegren
SPORTS REPORTER

The announcement of a new Canadian amateur sports channel by the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) has the potential to give Humber's teams greater exposure on a national level.

The COC, which is behind the application, promised 2,900 hours of amateur sports programming a year, along with an estimated \$100 million over seven years from subscription fees and ad revenues

turned over to amateur sports.

"I think it's what we've all wanted. I'm very supportive of it," said Darrell Glenn, Humber men's head basketball coach. "We think we have a good product and we definitely feel like we deserve more recognition."

Among the speakers at the press conference was former Olympian Bruce Kidd, who is now the dean of the faculty of physical education and health at the University of Toronto.

"I'm hopeful that there will be time allotted to college and university sports," Kidd said in an interview. "Certainly with a 24/7, 365-day channel devoted completely to amateur sports you would think there would be coverage of college and university sports."

The promise to extend the coverage beyond Olympic sports is what has Humber coaches and faculty excited.

"I think it's a great step, I'd love to give our athletes more of the spotlight because they certainly put in the work and deserve more

attention," said Doug Fox, Humber athletic director.

"Getting the school's name out would be great for the athletes and for recruiting, so in that way it's very positive," said Glenn.

Former Olympian and COC CEO Chris Rudge encouraged the media and public to get behind the bid.

"These networks would finally bring our athletes into the spotlight and also motivate young people everywhere in Canada to get up out of their seats and engage in sport and a healthy lifestyle," said Rudge.

Along with the keynote speakers, 15 former Olympians, both past and present were introduced. They each wore "Who Am I?" T-shirts to further illustrate the point that because of lack of coverage, amateur athletes in Canada are barely recognizable.

"People are not interested in what they don't know about," said former Olympian Nathalie Lambert. "I think what this channel will do is give more exposure to amateur athletes and will have a positive impact on growing amateur sport."

Lucky socks make stars

Ryan Lavender
SPORTS REPORTER

While superstitions and pre-game rituals vary from player to player, a common thread for the women's basketball and volleyball teams at Humber is the importance of game socks.

"I know people have lucky socks that they like to wear when we play," said Heather Longland, fifth year setter and libero of the volleyball team. "I used to think I had a pair of lucky socks but then we lost when I wore them one time, so I don't have any lucky socks anymore."

Even the brand of sock is important to some of the players.

"I always have to wear Nike socks," said Meghan McPeak, third-year guard of the basketball team. "With the black check mark."

In their playing days, Humber's coaches felt that the right clothing made a difference.

"Depending on the type of game, the right socks mattered," said Denise Perrier, women's basketball coach.

"When I played I always used to wear the same socks," said Chris Wilkins, women's volleyball coach.

"Obviously not in tournaments, but in league games it was the same pair."

Although the right socks play a big role in preparation, there are

other pre-game rituals which have their own importance.

"There were certainly things I followed," said Perrier. "Eating habits for sure."

For the women's volleyball team eating rituals even come into play during the game.

"With our team we even have a certain candy we have on the bench," said Wilkins. "My assistant coach always gives me one first and then gives everybody on the team one after that."

The women's basketball team has seen one of its players make a recent addition to pre-game warm-up by bringing her own headphones to listen to music, which she says improves her performance.

"I started wearing them a few weeks ago," said third-year centre Lisa Soodeen. "I noticed that the music I listen to affects my game."

Not all of the superstitions held by Humber's athletes were in place before they joined the Hawks.

"I used to never be superstitious and now ever since I've come here there are little things," said Longland. "You try to avoid doing them because you never know if that's going to throw the game or not."

"If there is a timeout or a break in play the person that's serving the ball won't hold the ball," said coach Wilkins. "They'll give it to someone else."

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The UFC sold more than 13,000 tickets in 24 hours for the mixed martial arts association's Canadian debut at the Bell Centre in Montreal. — *The Canadian Press*

Women conquer summit

Brandon Fitzgibbon
SPORTS REPORTER

The women's volleyball team beat the Mohawk Mountaineers to take over the number one ranking in Ontario.

The Hawks (40-9) defeated the Mountaineers (27-4-4) in four sets, 25-10, 26-24, 23-25, and 25-20 last week at Humber.

Hawks Coach Chris Wilkins said his team deserves its top ranking. "It's something I believe we've earned," said Wilkins. "These girls have earned it, and there's no doubt in my mind. I believe we are the best team in the province."

The Mountaineers gained top ranking in the province after beating the Hawks in five sets last Nov. 27.

Middle Kris Dowling said it felt great taking the title spot from the Mountaineers.

"They were so cocky coming in to the game," said Dowling, who led the team with seven digs. "They thought they were going to

win, so it felt really good."

The Hawks received a strong performance from setter Alex Steplock, who was named MVP of the game.

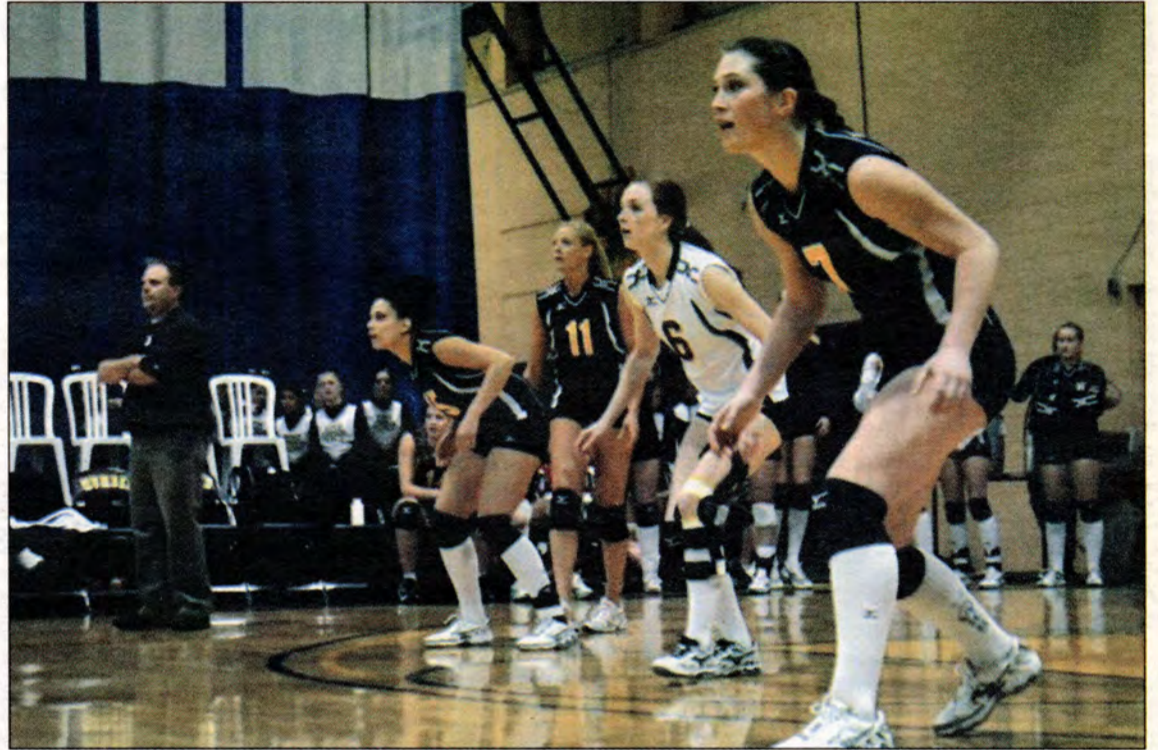
Steplock said shutting down Mountaineer's right side Leah Waxman was the key to the victory.

"We focused on blocking her and shutting her down," said Steplock. "She has a strong cross court hit, so we played her hard and picked up on that."

Wilkins said the game was a preview of their top competition at the OCAA Championships Feb. 21-23 in London.

"It really bodes well for our confidence knowing that whatever they throw at us we can complement it and turn it around in our favor," said Wilkins. "Now we know we don't have to play our best ball all the time, we just have to play smart ball."

The Hawks next game is against the Canadore Panthers on Saturday in North Bay.



Tania Garshowitz

Coach Wilkins (arms folded) looks on as his first place squad prepares for the Mohawk attack.

Squad cracks ace, can't win race against rivals

Amy Kuzyk
SPORTS REPORTER

The men's volleyball team lost the fight for first place in Ontario last Thursday, falling for the second time this season to the undefeated Mohawk Mountaineers.

The Hawks won the first set 25-23, but lost the next three. Coach Wayne Wilkins said his team lost control of the game quickly.

"Overconfidence kills you," he said. "We were up 20-15 in the first set, and they started to push back. We squeaked it out the first one. We led at some point in each set, and instead of pushing harder, we allowed them to come back."

The Hawks' only other regular season loss came against Mohawk in December. Setter Daniel Shermer said the team should have been ready for Mohawk's level of play.

"That did not go as planned," he said. "There was some serious preparation for that game. We knew what to expect, they gave us what we were expecting, and we did not perform according to plan."

Wilkins was pleased that Mountaineers player Jasmin Cull, who recently broke the Ontario record for all-time career aces and averages seven a game, was held to just four.

"If you look at his stats, he lights teams up," said Wilkins. "He goes for eight-point serving runs, and he didn't do that tonight with us.

We played well against him. We contained him, but we didn't stop the other guys."

With provincials around the corner, Wilkins said it is better to lose now than later.

"I would rather learn from today, go back to practice, emphasize what we did wrong, and work on it and be ready."

The Hawks play two games in North Bay this weekend, but then must shift their focus to the

Ontario championships in London Feb. 21-23, where they will likely meet Mohawk again. Rightside Bobby Anderson said his team is prepared.

"We'll definitely be ready," he said. "We made a couple of mistakes at key points in the game, but we'll be practicing hard. They are our biggest nemesis in Ontario. We're starting to get past them, and I'm sure with this team and a little bit more intensity, we will."



Tania Garshowitz

Shermer (3) and Anderson (4) support a spiking Paul Kemboi.



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