

HUMBER ET CETERA ●

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Humber's Student Newspaper

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TENSIONS BOIL AT YUK YUK'S

**LEGO CITY BUILDS
HUMBER'S
DIVERSE
COMMUNITIES
P.10**



**GLOBAL GAME
JAM GOES
BEYOND JUST
LAUGHS
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SANTIAGO HELOU QUINTERO

The fundraiser for "Friends of the Israeli Defence Force" draws calls to sever Humber comedy program's partnership from comedy club Yuk Yuk's.

Comedy fundraiser controversy

Santiago Helou Quintero
Senior Reporter

A controversial comedy show at Toronto comedy club Yuk Yuk's drew attention to its partnership with the Humber College Comedy Program.

As part of the partnership, comedy students perform weekly on Tuesday evenings to gain experience in a professional public environment.

However, a performance on Wednesday night was the centre of controversy when Yuk Yuk's hosted a show called Stand Up For Israel, a fundraiser for the American non-profit Friends of The Israeli Defence Force.

In protest of the fundraiser, Jewish Anti-Zionist Collective Toronto and Students for Queer Liberation Tkaronto issued statements on social media calling for the cancellation of the show and for Humber Comedy to boycott the venue.

Yuk Yuk's website calendar shows listings for the Humber College showcase every Tuesday except for Jan. 30, the night before the Stand Up For Israel show.

Humber College told Humber News the institution doesn't have any ties with the show.

"Humber College has no affiliation or involvement with the 'Stand Up for Israel' show scheduled for Jan. 31 at Yuk Yuk's," the college said.

Humber College declined to comment on whether its students performed that night or if they

cancelled due to the controversy.

Yuk Yuk's founder and CEO was a founding member of the Humber Comedy program. Mark Breslin was chosen as the Artistic Director in 1998 before the program's launch in 1999 and currently sits as advisory board chairman and producer in residence.

He founded Yuk Yuk's in 1976, which grew into Canada's largest chain of comedy clubs.

Breslin previously drew controversy for his decision to book comedian Louis C.K., whom several women accused of sexual harassment. He also wrote an

article titled "Why I brought Louis C.K. back from the dead."

Yuk Yuk's declined Humber News requests for comment.

Toronto Police formed a line to allow customers to enter the Richmond Street West club near University Avenue. Protesters were also at the back of the club chanting against comedians entering the club.

Jewish Anti-Zionist Collective Toronto and Students for Queer Liberation Tkaronto's protest drew several dozen protesters who lined the narrow sidewalk in front of the downtown club.

The protest was from 5:45 p.m., until around 9:30 p.m., with chants condemning the "Genocide in Gaza," the support of the club, fans who attended the show and the actions of the Canadian government. Humber comedy course alumna Mia Van Wyck-Smart said she was disappointed but not surprised about Yuk Yuk's hosting the controversial fundraiser.

"It was so upsetting to see everyone walk in to support this show," said Van Wyck-Smart. "I think they [Humber] should find a different bar for their weekly show."



SANTIAGO HELOU QUINTERO

Jewish Anti-Zionist Collective Toronto and Students for Queer Liberation protesting outside the club.

ETC •

Humber Et Cetera is the Humber College journalism program laboratory newspaper.

It is created by journalism students in the Advanced Diploma and Post Graduate Certificate programs. Et Cetera serves to inform the Humber community and give its readers well rounded coverage on the things that matter to them.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Zoe Pierson

PAGE 1 EDITOR

Liv Chug

NEWS

Ankur Gupta
Etti Bali

POLITICS

Brandon Harris

CULTURE

Aarjavee Raaj

SPORTS

Caleb Moody
Toni Canyameras

OP-ED

Adrian Olivier

FACULTY ADVISER

Rob Lamberti

TECHNICAL ADVISER

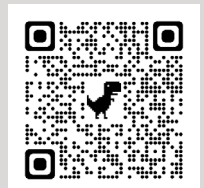
Ishmeet Singh

FRONT PAGE PHOTO

Santiago Helou Quintero

BACK PAGE PHOTO

Diego Guillen



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GMAIL.COM

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205 Humber College Blvd.,
Etobicoke, ON, M9W 5L7

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ALBIN'S WORK NIGHTMARE

Anusha Siddiqui
Senior Reporter

Albin Augustine, an international student from India, has been facing significant challenges in getting a job since he came to Canada in September 2023.



ANUSHA SIDDIQUIE

Humber student Albin Augustine

Augustine submitted more than 400 job applications, online and in-person, and received no responses.

His journey of finding employment took an unfortunate turn when he fell victim to a scam by a pizza shop.

"I was desperate for work," Augustine said. "I was doing night shifts, getting off work at 6 a.m. and doing college in the morning."

The owner of the shop told him the initial 10 days of training would be unpaid. The owner said he would pay Augustine \$10 per hour in cash after the 10 days, well below minimum wage.

"After 10 days of rigorous, unpaid training, the owner told me that the shop wasn't getting much business and asked me not to return," Augustine said.

This came as a shock and left him financially distressed. It raised the question of the vulnerability of international students in the face of exploitative practices.

"It has been distressing," Augustine said. "Neither the college nor the government supports international students in securing a job."

Augustine said to address these problems a collaborative effort is required from educational institutions, host countries, and employers. "Providing targeted resources, mentorship programs, and legal safeguards can create a more equitable landscape for international students, ensuring they can thrive academically and economically while contributing positively to their adopted communities," Augustine said.

McMaster student housing closes

Liv Chug
Senior Editor

Poor water quality at a McMaster University residence is forcing students to move out of the building.

Students protested the water quality at the 10 Bay St. S. building in Hamilton last Sunday.

Housing and social services advocacy group ACORN said while the poor water quality was inconvenient for domestic students, international students are most affected.

McMaster University announced it planned to relocate its graduate students to local hotels while the building's water systems are repaired.

Graduate student Elliot Goodell Ugalde, who is among the students being relocated, said this is a serious issue.

"The water is unsafe. We've even had one student recently hospitalized," he said.

Ugalde said the university's presence in the lives of the grad students at the residence can be difficult.

"It's hard because McMaster is both our employer, our educator, and our landlord," he said.

However, Ugalde is not alone in his concerns.

ACORN representative Peter Groves said this is extra difficult for international students.

"It's hard for them because they don't know their rights quite the same as a lot of Canadians might," he said.

Stanley Ho, an international



LIV CHUG

ACORN representatives stand in support of the students of McMaster University in Hamilton last Sunday.

graduate student from Hong Kong, said he was excited to start his academic journey in a new country.

"I was so surprised that I could take this opportunity to live in this country immediately and start my studies as soon as possible," Ho said.

However, he said his excitement changed when he saw the building in person for the first time.

"The first impression for me was, 'Oh, this is a construction site,'" he said.

Ho said disruptions from construction were to be expected but were not as troubling as the state of the water supply.

A statement released by McMaster University on Jan. 28 said the temporary relocation of students will ensure that development teams can assess all the water pipes in the building.

"Relocating tenants for this period is a necessary, critical step, that will make it possible for the university and its development partner to resolve this complex issue," the statement said.

"We are taking this extraordinary and more exhaustive approach because we want to remedy the water supply and ensure the well-being of our students," it said.

"The upcoming chlorination is

comprehensive and will address the complete system, down to the smallest branches of piping and individual fixtures and hardware."

The water, which Ugalde said contains bacteria, is considered a sign of contamination, according to a report on drinking water by Public Health Ontario.

"The health effects of drinking water that contains indicator bacteria can range from no physical impact to severe illness like gastrointestinal illness (GI), with symptoms starting within a few hours, days or weeks after consuming the water," the report said.

"GI symptoms can include some or all of the following: nausea, vomiting, cramps, diarrhea, muscle aches, headache and low-grade fever. In rare cases, drinking contaminated water may result in significant illness or death," the report said.

"We have three Peloton bike machines but no safe drinking water," Ugalde said.

Both Ho and Ugalde said they would continue supporting the tenants living in the residence building.

The City of Hamilton said in a statement that in instances like this, their priority is to investigate complaints of potential health hazards and take immediate action to prevent or decrease the risk to the health of residents.

"We have investigated and are in routine contact with McMaster University administration since being notified of a water quality concern at 10 Bay Street South on Nov. 28, 2023," the city said.

The city stated it would ensure the university would supply residents with potable water.



LIV CHUG

Unions joined students in protest against the unsafe living conditions of 10 Bay St. South in Hamilton.

Solid-state batteries rev Canada's EV goals

Akhil Dalvi
Science Reporter

As Canada embarks towards achieving all-electric mobility by 2035, solid-state batteries (SSB) have emerged as a promising technology poised to revolutionize the electric vehicle (EV) landscape.

These next-generation batteries, touted for their superior energy density, safety and fast charging capabilities, have the potential to bridge the gap between current EV technology and the requirements for widespread adoption.

But what are they and why should the masses be aware of them?

The first step is understanding the difference between an SSB and a traditional lithium-ion battery currently used in EVs.

Solid-state batteries, unlike their lithium-ion counterparts, use a solid electrolyte instead of a liquid one between the cathode (positive-end) and anode (negative-end).

"When it comes to lithium-ion

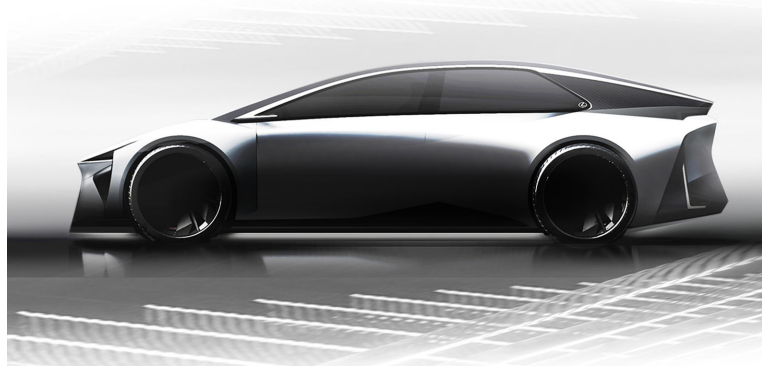
or phosphate batteries, the electrolyte is liquid instead of a solid one and therefore it ends up burning like a torch instead of big fire like in gas cars," said Mary Millon, manager of Plug N' Drive, an Ontario-based non-profit organization that promotes the use of EVs.

This difference in design offers several key advantages. One of the major is that it is less prone to fire and explosion risks, making them safer for both drivers and the environment.

"Compared to solid-state batteries, the cells present in a lithium-ion battery upon catching fire transmit quickly from one to another which is known as a thermal runaway," Millon said.

Another potential area where these batteries can prove more efficient is the energy density. These batteries have a higher density, which means less weight. This could increase the range of an EV even if the battery's electrical output stays the same.

"As you move toward solid-state batteries, the reason that they're so



TOYOTA MOTOR CORP

Solid-state batteries could become an alternative for Li-Ion batteries.

useful, and the reason you get this over-performance benefit from them is that they allow the use of higher-energy-density anodes," said Rory McNulty, co-author of Benchmark Mineral Intelligence's Solid-State and Lithium Metal Batteries Report, during a video conference session in November 2021.

He said that this increase could mean batteries that are three times more energy-dense than today's lithium-ion cells.

However, the downside to these

batteries is the cost due to the requirement of higher densities of rare metals. Another is cracks appearing between the anodes, cathodes and solid electrolytes due to repeated charging and discharging.

Toyota President and CEO Koji Sato, who partnered with petroleum company Idemitsu in October last year, has seemingly found a solution to the charging problem.

"Through repeated trial and

error and by combining the material technologies of both companies, we have been able to develop a crack-resistant material that demonstrates high performance," Sato said in an October 2023 media release.

"By combining this new solid electrolyte with the Toyota Group's cathode and anode materials and battery technologies, we are now on the path toward achieving both performance and durability in solid-state batteries," he said.

Multiple automakers like Hyundai, Kia and Honda are actively researching solid-state batteries, but Toyota seemingly is the only one to have announced a battery technology road map.

It showcases the first generation of solid-state batteries to be fitted in its EVs will come around 2027-2028 and will enable a driving range of over 1,000 km on a full charge.

In addition, a top-up from 10 per cent State of Charge (SoC) to 80 per cent will take approximately 10 minutes from a DC fast charger.

Braking bad: Ford gives \$121 M to Ont. police

David Madureira
General Reporter

Premier Doug Ford attended a press conference today where it was announced that the Government of Canada would be giving \$121 million to the police in Ontario.

The money will mostly go towards initiatives to preventing gang violence, assisting in undercover work and working with international police and the RCMP according to Jim MacSween, Chief of York Regional Police.

The announcement was made in the wake of Ontario having a 48 per cent increase in vehicle theft compared to last year according to the Government of Canada.

MacSween talked about the rise in carjackings and how they relate to gang violence.

"These groups bring unwanted criminal elements into our communities resulting in the rise of violence carjackings across the GTA and beyond, the massive increase to auto theft which we continue to battle every day; in fact Interpol recently named Canada a new hot spot on the global wave of auto theft," MacSween said.

He also said that the funding will go to other initiatives as well, mostly related to gang violence and gun smuggling from the U.S.

Ford commented on the increas-



THE CANADIAN PRESS

Doug Ford announced that the federal government will give \$121 million to Ontario police after a 48 per cent spike in car thefts from last year.

ingly violent nature of carjackings recently.

"People shouldn't have to live in fear of their cars being stolen in the middle of the night or doors being kicked in at their residence," Ford said, claiming that the money would help put criminals and "thugs" behind bars.

Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada Arif Virani said he has heard similar things across provinces and territories relating to the severity of carjackings.

"Because I'm hearing about this from many many sectors at a fed-

eral, provincial [and] territorial conference. This wasn't just being raised by the Ontario representatives, this was being raised by the Quebec representatives; I'm hearing about this in B.C.; I'm hearing about this from the port of Halifax," he said.

Virani said this was a national issue that warranted a national response.

It's "terrifying" for people to experience and he urged building a community that is safe.

Ford reiterated his 'tough on crime' message that has histori-

cally been popular with his base.

Ford said, "I have a message to all the criminals; we're coming after you. We're gonna catch you, and you're going to jail,

"Simple as that, we're gonna keep you in jail as long as we possibly can. I will not spare one resource to make sure we go after these thugs and make sure that they're going to jail," he said.

Ford then criticized justice of the peaces who he said were letting violent criminals out on bail and said it's going to take an approach on all levels to stop violent car-

jacking.

According to the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario's 2019 report 71 per cent of the 51,000 individuals admitted into jails were accused persons on remand who were awaiting bail or trial.

In other words they were legally innocent.

MacSween said there will be greater collaboration between municipal, provincial, and federal governments.

"I'm confident we can solve this problem if we get the right people at the table," Jim MacSween said.

Humber addresses inter'l student permit cap

Krysti Jaglal
General Reporter

Humber held an information session earlier today to discuss what the government's cap on international student study permits means for the school.

Last week during a press conference, Immigration Minister Marc Miller announced the federal government is introducing a temporary two-year cap to limit the number of international students coming into Canada.

"A temporary two-year cap on new international student permits is the latest in a series of measures to improve program integrity, set international students up for the success in order to maintain a sustainable level of temporary residence in Canada as well to ensure that there is no further growth in the number of international students in Canada for 2024," said Miller.

Each province and territory is given its own cap that's weighted by population which is expected to take the country back to levels similar to 2022.

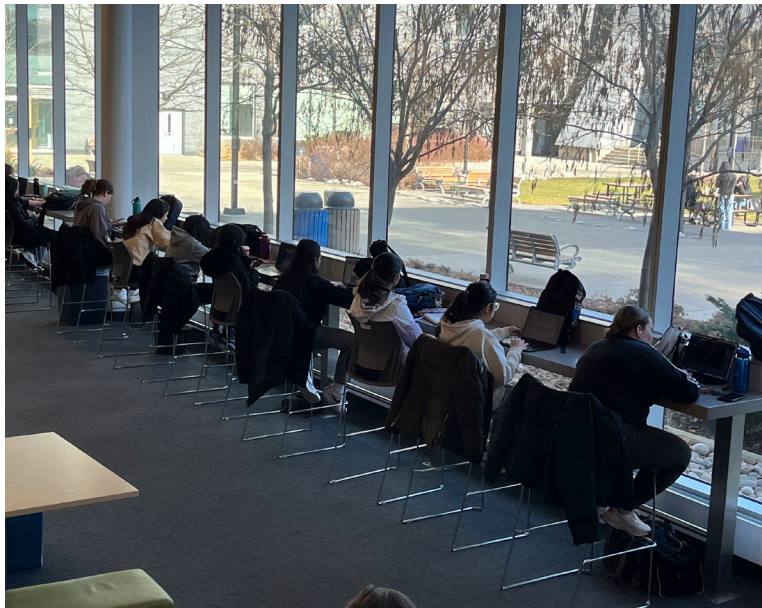
Andrew Ness, Humber's dean of international education, hosted the information session.

"We have not been told and no one really knows what the provincial cap is for Ontario. No one has made that public and we just don't know when to expect that information either," said Ness.

"Note that for current students, study permit renewals are not impacted so you don't fall under the cap and you don't fall under any of these restrictions in terms of applications, etc.," he said.

Students studying at the elementary and secondary level are exempt from the cap and anyone applying to a masters or PhD program is also given an exception.

Once an international student is accepted, they will be required



KRYSTI JAGLAL

International students currently at Humber are exempt from the cap.

to get an attestation letter from the province, meaning the documents' signatures must be officially witnessed, as well as their study permit. Sam Isaacs is an international student enrolled in the com-

puter systems technician program who moved from the Bahamas to Canada last year.

During the fall semester of 2023, Isaacs had moved back home for a while and worked a part-time job

in order to secure enough money to continue living in Toronto.

"What I worry about is other students after me. I'm glad that some international students will still be able to study here, but I want other people after me to have the same opportunities I do to be able to accommodate themselves and to live in safe and accepting environments that might not be an option for them in their home country," he said.

"For me, studying in Canada has been an informative and eye-opening experience, and it's important to me that other people can experience that too. I've also heard that a lot of Canadian colleges and universities depend on the income brought by international students, so this legislation might affect the jobs of some of my friends in college who are Canadian who work on campus, or ones who are applying to jobs," said Isaacs.

'Climate Anxiety' is not a mental illness

David Madureira
General Reporter

Humber accounting student Curtis Squire finds himself scrolling through bad news about climate change more often than he would like to admit. He confesses things like the abnormally snowless winter that he experienced and rising sea levels swallowing entire islands scare him.

"I do kind of hate to say it, I am starting to feel probably more on the nihilistic side than the optimistic side if that makes sense," he said. Climate anxiety is on the rise in younger people and psychologists say that it's not a mental illness but a sign of compassion for the world.

The National Library of Medicine defines climate anxiety as those that are aware of and psychologically feel an existential threat because of climate change.

Dr. Britt Wray, a psychiatrist and instructor at Stanford Medicine, said during a Jan. 23, 2024, talk at Humber College President's Lecture series said there are mental health effects associated with climate anxiety. Wray said it is normal to feel climate anxiety and it shows a personal link to the planet

"That's healthy, this is appropriate, this is normal and you are not alone," she said. Wray also said it would be better to call it "climate compassion." Wray said she's a cli-

mate Activist now because there was a time when she was experiencing many of those issues.

Nancy Blair, a psychologist who works with people who have climate anxiety said climate anxiety is not pathological.

"If you feel it, it doesn't mean you're mentally ill. It means you're having a rational response to what's happening in the world," she said. "I'd say in the last 10 years, we're seeing more and more of it now, some people are totally shut down.

Some people are feeling anxious, worried about the future," she said.

Climate anxiety has been steadily getting worse recently. A survey conducted in part by Wray of 10,000 young people aged between 16 and 25 around the world suggested 45 per cent of them say their concern about the climate crisis hinders their lives in some way and that number jumps 70 for countries in the global south.

However this may motivate people to do more to fight against climate change. Dr Lorraine Whitmarsh, a psychologist and environmental scientist at the University of Bath in England, said some people who say they're very worried to the extent they're being distracted by the issue are at times motivated to take action,

Whitmarsh said climate anxiety is linked to taking action against climate change and says it can help deal with the angst. "Taking action



PEXELS/NICK BONDAREV

National Library of Medicine defined climate anxiety as an existential threat because of climate change.

is a good way to manage climate anxiety for two reasons" she said. "Firstly, you get the social support from being around other people who are rather like-minded and worried about climate change as well. "And if you take action as a collective it's more likely to be effective and see a bigger effect," Whitmarsh said.

She said the media has a responsibility to highlight solutions and provide positive news about the climate crisis to prevent these feelings from going too far. "There needs to be a bit more of an emphasis on ensuring that any coverage of climate change is not

just talking about how bad it is, what the risks are, but also highlighting some of those solutions as well," Whitmarsh said

Jennifer Silverstein, a California climate-aware psychologist who has worked with young children and families, says there are ways people can use to manage climate anxiety.

"Some of my personal favourites involve using any kind of rhythm, because that really helps keep the body calm," she said. "So, going for a walk, or being intentional with our breath, those are just building our ability to cope with distress,"

Silverstein said that the com-

munity one lives in is a powerful tool in easing anxious feelings by recognizing there is a collective impact.

"We're not going to go through this as individuals, and one thing that brings people often a lot of solace is we're working in a collective," she said.

Organizing with like-minded people and finding common ground with them are all things Silverstein said can help people cope, Wray agrees.

"That, given how many mental health challenges the climate crisis is presenting us with today, in all of them, community saves," she said.



THE CANADIAN PRESS/ SEAN KILPATRICK

Protesters seen confronting police officers during a demonstration as part of a convoy-style protest participants called Rolling Thunder, in Ottawa on April 29, 2022.

'Freedom Convoy' ruling disappoints feds

Zoe Pierson
Editor in Chief

Ottawa bled red and white during the Freedom Convoy Protest of 2022, while protesters occupied the streets of downtown Ottawa.

The protesters were loud in advocating for their right to choose whether or not they received the COVID-19 vaccine. The protest was shut down on Feb. 14, 2022, by the federal government under the Emergencies Act.

Avery German, a Humber Public Relations graduate, said the protest was about much more than vaccine regulations.

"I don't personally understand why they were protesting. It began as a call to end the lockdown, but continued long past when restaurants and other businesses were allowed to open back up again," she said.

"It then turned into a call to end vaccine requirements but also continued past these. It became very clear there was no goal that could be accomplished that would inspire them to leave," German said.

It was the first time Prime Minister Justin Trudeau used the Emergencies Act.

Ottawa said the act gives the federal government control over a situation or event when it endangers Canadians, and can't be stopped or dealt with in any other way.

Justice Richard G. Mosley of the federal court ruled on Jan. 23 that the use of the Emergencies Act to forcefully shut down the Freedom Convoy was unlawful and violated protestors' Charter Rights and Freedoms.

Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland said on Jan. 23 that the ruling made by Justice Mosley would be appealed.

"We respect very much Canada's independent Judiciary, however, we do not agree with this decision and respectfully we will be appealing it," she said.

Ryan Chandler, an electrician living in Ottawa, said he supported the protest because he supported people's right to work, even

without the vaccine.

"There was nothing that was not peaceful, there was no malicious intent, people just wanted to work," he said.

"Truckers, who work alone, were told they would lose their jobs if they didn't get the vaccine. That didn't seem right to me."

In an assessment done by Trucking HR Canada in 2021, it was reported that "Canada's trucking and logistics sector [was] expected to experience a significant contraction in employment because of COVID-19."

Ontario said truckers were not able to cross the U.S.-Canada border without proper vaccination.

They then had to be isolated for two weeks, even if working alone.

Justice Mosley's ruling included the use of the Emergencies Act to freeze individual accounts that were in support of the Freedom Convoy.

"Between Feb. 15 and Feb. 23, 2022, the RCMP disclosed information from the OPP, OPS and its own investigations on approximately 57 named entities and individuals to financial service providers, resulting in the temporary freezing of about 257 accounts under the Economic Order," Mosley said.

"Someone who had nothing to do with the protests could find themselves without the means to

access necessities for household and other family purposes while the accounts were suspended," he ruled.

"There appears to have been no effort made to find a solution to that problem while the measures were in effect," Mosley ruled.

He concluded the use of the Emergencies Act did not meet the act's requirements for transparency, justification, and reasonableness.

The Freedom Convoy was a protest that drew not only a large crowd and funding but also people's attention from all over the world. The protest was voted The Canadian Press Newsmaker of the Year award in 2022.

German said the protest disturbed her daily life in Ottawa to a great extent.

"I saw firsthand how it affected individuals and businesses in downtown Ottawa, and it was wrong to let it continue that long," she said in an email.

"I think if the government had been forced to experience the real effects that I saw as someone living and working downtown - for example young employees being screamed at when they were just following the rules, people unable to sleep because of the honking, and protestors calling anyone who didn't agree with them 'Nazis' - they would have moved much faster than they did," German said.



PEXELS/TETYANA KOVYRINA

Parliament Hill in Ottawa was the focus of thousands of "Freedom Convoy" protesters in the winter of 2022.

Indian court denies same-sex marriage

Aanchal Nigam
General reporter

Jasneet Singh, a 25-year-old artist, hopes for a world where there are no judgments about anyone's sexual orientation.

As an Indian national who left the country four years ago, Singh said she truly felt liberated when she arrived in Canada and eventually started living with her same-sex partner.

"I feel privileged that even back there, I started opening up gradually. But real change happened when I came here," Singh said. "It's a very liberating feeling because it's not like I was hiding in a shelter previously, but there are no judgments here."

India scrapped the colonial-era ban on gay sex in 2018, and just when the community felt it was on its path to get recognition, there was a setback.

India's Supreme Court declined to legalize same-sex marriage and left the decision up to Parliament in December 2023.

The ruling regarding same-sex marriage in India follows dozens of petitions filed the previous year.

But some people do not "wait that long," Singh said.



AANCHAL NIGAM

Canadian LGBTQ+ can get married in Canada meanwhile the supreme court denies marriage in India.

"If most people in that nation can make somebody feel uncomfortable without them doing anything, then a change needs to be there," Singh said. "I know every country takes time to legalize same-sex marriage, but they were willing to accept the change."

"It will definitely happen in India as well," Singh said.

Kalean Hoe, a 26-year-old Chinese national who was born and

raised in Canada, said more countries would be motivated to legalize same-sex marriage if children were made familiar with the concept at a young age.

"Educating children that male-female relationships aren't the only existing kind of marriage is also a way to acceptance," they said.

"But that said, it would be difficult to motivate more countries,

especially those that are Islamic."

Provinces in Canada began legalizing same-sex marriage in 2003. It was legally recognized nationwide in 2005 with the enactment of the Civil Marriage Act.

However, in 2023 the LGBTQ+ community in Canada called out the government and asked it to take responsibility for the rise in hate crimes.

Egale Canada, the country's leading organization for the LGBTQ+ community, issued a series of recommendations for the government to eradicate anti-LGBTQ+ hate.

The organization feels every level of government is responsible for protecting people and communities within its jurisdiction.

Statistics Canada data showed that police-reported hate crimes regarding sexual orientation shot up to 491 cases in 2022 from 258 in 2020.

LGBTQ+ organizations in Canada continue to raise their voice against these crimes but the fight has been long.

Pew Research stated as of 2023, just 35 countries legalized same-sex marriage and that in 2024, six more are expected to initiate changes in their laws.

Singh said she has often come across people complaining about Canada not accepting certain ways of life.

However, she said she is happy on a personal level.

She said India has a long way to go until it accepts people with all sexual orientations, but Singh remains optimistic change would truly be there one day.



AANCHAL NIGAM

Supporters of Toronto's LGBTQ+ community seen waving flags and watching the 2023 Pride Parade. Demonstrations like this allow participants to express themselves freely.

EDITORIAL

Student permit cuts offer a historic opportunity

Canada's recent decision to cut international student permits by 35 per cent nationwide and 50 per cent in Ontario should be a wake-up call.

We need to address the deeper issue of years of underfunding in our education system.

An Ontario government report showed that its colleges and universities have become reliant on international students paying higher tuition fees to subsidize domestic students due to years of government underfunding.

The financial burden of education has largely been shifted to the shoulders of international students from the government.

We cannot keep placing the financial burden on international students as it is unsustainable and unjust.

This over-reliance on international students has allowed the government to paper over the fact that

it is not providing adequate funding levels for post-secondary education.

The same report found that instead of increasing funding for universities, funding has declined to \$8,350 in 2021 from \$8,514 in 2008.

There was a slight increase for colleges, to \$7,365 in 2021 from \$6,615 in 2008.

However, if both numbers are adjusted to match inflation, this is significantly less funding per student than the 2008 level for both universities and colleges, the report stated.

The immediate result of the reduction in student permits will be a significant drop in funding, which will impact the quality of education in this country.

While that will be a shock in the short term, this does not have to be a step backward.

Indeed, it should be the first step towards a better and more sustainable education system that is not



HUMBER COLLEGE

Educational institutions in Canada need concrete action now.

reliant on exploiting international students.

Government action should fill the funding gap.

The Canadian government needs to provide the necessary funding to our post-secondary institutions.

This will ensure that Canadian educational institutions can maintain their role as places of learning and opportunity, not exploitation.

The current situation will be

challenging, but fortunately, it is temporary and allows the Canadian government to re-evaluate the priorities of our education and immigration systems.

These priorities should include a commitment to quality education and adequate funding by the government.

More investment in schools can reduce the pressure on international students and create a well-funded,

sustainable, and productive education system.

Educational institutions in Canada need concrete action, and they need it now.

The decision to decrease international student permits may be seen as a move away from Canada's open-door reputation, but it is a necessary step to build a better educational system that works for the future.

This isn't just about maintaining our reputation as a welcoming nation for students worldwide.

It is an opportunity to address the injustices and inefficiencies of our immigration and education systems and ensure Canada remains the welcoming destination it is widely known to be.

This moment can be used to make the education system work better for everyone, including future generations of Canadian and international students.

OPINION

Community of outsiders needs helps fitting into Humber



Brandon Harris
Politics Editor

While Humber College's diverse campus provides comfort for many racialized students, some find it hard to fit in.

Racialized students represent 70 per cent of Humber's student population and are a core component of the college, according to a 2020 Humber College report. Among them are four per cent who identify as mixed race.

For a mixed-race student, representing one of their cultures may be enough, but for others, it's important to repre-



PEXELS/FAUXELS

Humber College is openly supportive of diversity, equity and inclusivity, yet lacks mixed-race campus clubs.

sent every facet of who they are.

Humber's website identifies numerous clubs and events available for the diverse network of students, yet there are no communities for students who identify with multiple cultures.

If racialized groups on campus are allowed to connect with students who have the same experience as them, the same option should be available for mixed-race students.

First-year student Jaden Mackenzie said his father told him he would always be black

in the eyes of everyone else, but Mackenzie doesn't care what others think.

"Regardless of how other people view me, I still don't shun either side, you know what I mean? I embrace both cultures equally," he said.

Mackenzie said connecting to both cultures is important to him, and finding other people with the same experiences makes that connection easier.

"I could definitely connect them more with my biracial friends because they really knew what it was like being half

and half," he said.

The number of racialized people in Canada increased to 8.87 million in 2021 from 3.85 million in 2001, a 130 per cent increase, according to a report from Statistics Canada.

The population of mixed-race Canadians also increased across every racialized group, the report said.

Liv Chug, a post-grad Journalism student at Humber, comes from a mixed-race background, born to an Indian father and a white Canadian mother.

Chug said finding a place to

explore their cultural identity is difficult because they aren't sure where they would be accepted.

"I think honestly I would feel uncomfortable just because (my) experiences when relating to race or background has been my brown friends telling me that I can't consider myself brown because I'm not," they said.

Having a community where cultural experiences can be shared among those who come from mixed-race families is important, Chug said.

"I think there's an opportunity, as someone who feels like an outsider, to find a group amongst outsiders, and kind of make a smaller community out of that," they said.

Not everyone is comfortable joining a club they only partially represent and, in some cases, joining that community could do more damage to a person's identity than good.

With the mixed-race community growing, the need for a community made up of outsiders becomes increasingly important.

OPINION

Humber, IGNITE should go beyond soups to feed hungry students



Annicca Albano
General Reporter

A bowl of soup can feel like a comforting hug in the chill of winter or on sick days, but it is not the antidote for the deepening crisis of student hunger at Humber College.

Soaring food prices, depressingly low wages and unfavourable circumstances in life contribute to the prevalence of food insecurity.

However, the responsibility lies with universities and colleges to advocate for and care for their students.

A 2023 report for BMC Public Health found 15 per cent of full-time post-secondary students across Canada are food insecure.

Humber College is home to about 38,000 full-time students and 10,000 international students, including myself.

My parents shelled out \$8,401.50 for my journalism education this semester, while my Canadian classmates paid significantly less at \$1,892.34.

Having transitioned from living with my aunt in Mississauga, where commuting costs were a daily challenge, to renting a basement room for \$750 a month and managing my groceries and bills, I've experienced firsthand the struggles many students face.

While I don't have a family to feed, I empathize with schoolmates who do and friends who support themselves.

For some, food is a privilege.

The free soups the student union IGNITE offers in partnership with Humber College, though well-intentioned, fall short of addressing the widespread issue.

Hot soups served weekly at



ANNICCA ALBANO

Business Management student Cintia Cioffi de Mello is handed a bowl of soup at the IGNITE Soupbar. She visits every Tuesday.

the North campus offer little assistance when the exact times remain undisclosed on posters and the location, LinX Lounge, is unfamiliar to some students.

The frozen grab-and-go soups, which are supposedly available to all campuses, are limited.

To echo Sanskriti Mansotra, a computer engineering technology student from India who Humber News interviewed last September, even if the soups were unlimited, how long can a person live on it?

While campus food banks are a patchwork approach and not a permanent solution, their impact is nuanced and urgently needed.

Having a comprehensive food program is not too much to ask. George Brown College's student union has a food hamper program that supplies students with three weeks' worth of groceries.

Students in financial need at Loyalist College can order non-perishable food, school supplies and personal hygiene items from their food cupboard for free and online, thanks to then-president Ann Marie Vaughan, now the president of Humber College.

The idea of a food bank or community pantry on our campus is not unprecedented. Humber had one before.

Et Cetera newspaper's archives reveal the shift from the campus food bank to grocery gift cards in 2014.

Today, we have the Soupbar, a collaborative effort among IGNITE, the culinary and nutrition departments and the Humber Arboretum to tackle hunger and sustainability at once.

Jessica Carrera, who oversees food security initiatives at IGNITE, said low demand pushed the student union, then called the Humber Student Federation, to end the food bank sometime in mid-2010s.

"How long can we keep those products in our storage with students not coming in," Carrera said. "The risk of that is rodents and bacteria."

But if the school refuses to take action, the risk to students is far greater and irreversible.

A case study from Montana State University showed it's not just a student's mental and phys-

ical health that takes a hit in the face of food insecurity.

Learning suffers, too, the study revealed.

If IGNITE can send hundreds of email surveys and promote their concerts and games, they can reach those most in need, forecast the demand and dietary restrictions and avoid food waste.

If Humber College can build a cultural hub, it can bring together people and resources to support IGNITE in expanding its food programs, training staff and ensuring continuity.

A campus food bank may not be a PR triumph for the school, but it can be innovative for students instrumental to their existence.

Establishing a dedicated, non-intimidating space for a campus food bank eliminates the stigma associated with seeking assistance. It eliminates the fear of judgement and shame of standing in line for free soup.

Moreover, food banks teach students social awareness and empathy around hunger — an experience many are fortunate to

never encounter.

Reviving the grocery gift cards, if not the campus food bank, would allow students to make choices with more dignity and have a reliable fall back when traditional food banks turn them away.

Student advocate Carrera said IGNITE is "having conversations" with different departments at Humber College and looking into what other post-secondary institutions are doing.

"It's not easy," Carrera said. "We want to offer other things to students too."

She said IGNITE also has scholarships and bursaries, reimbursement for learning essentials and social events to give students a good college experience.

"We try our best to balance everything out, and food insecurity is on [top of my] list," she said.

As someone who contributes nearly \$130 a year in union fees, I always hope for the best.

When I worry less about where my next meal comes from, I can focus more on my studies and simply be a student.

HUMBER @ NEWS



Humber Lego building brings ‘nice vibes’

Krishna Bhagnathsingh
Delroy Davidson
General Reporters

It started as a coding project for a robotics class about seven years ago. But it became something bigger.

Much bigger. Indeed, it became a mini-city built of Lego blocks, and construction continues so that it becomes a living model of an urban area.

Adam Thomas, a coding professor in the Faculty of Media and Creative Arts at the Humber North campus, implemented something new to coding that transformed into the model.

“I teach coding and probably about seven years ago, we decided to bring robotics into an introduction to coding class,” he said.

“That slowly grew into building a whole city and having developer students code different aspects of the city,” he said.

The goal of this labour-of-love Lego project has grown to become a city made out of the coloured blocks constructed by Thomas and students.

The Lego City is located on the third floor in room 306 in the Barrett Centre. Thomas said any program or person is welcome to go see the Lego structure, it would just have to be arranged with the faculty.

He said the plan is to hold drop-ins on the last Tuesday of every month from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. He said Lego drop-in session dates and times are posted on the Student Wellness and Accessibility website, but registration is necessary.

“I loved Lego as a kid,” Thomas said when asked if he has ever had an interest in Lego. “When I had kids, we started using Lego again and it was fun.

“There’s something therapeutic about it,” Thomas said.

“When kids are playing with Lego, it’s quiet, nobody’s fighting, everyone’s interested. Most of us played with Lego as a kid, so there’s something comforting and easy about it,” he said.

He said the project began as a low-barrier entry to robotics.

“Sometimes students struggle with code or think they’re going to struggle with code, but if you put a bunch of Legos in front of them, I think it boosts your confidence,” Thomas said.

The Lego city will soon include automated vehicles and traffic lights.

Thomas said there are around 20 buildings as of right now.



KRISHNA BHAGNATHSINGH

Adam Thomas, a Humber College coding professor, and students are constructing the Lego Smart City in the Barrett Centre at the North Campus.

“I think the whole city is about 12 by 16 feet,” Thomas said. “We measure it in Lego studs.”

Thomas said the city is 10 base plates long by nine base plates wide.

“It’s going to be nine by 12 base plates,” he said.

Thomas said more than 181 kilograms (400 pounds) of Lego have been used to construct the city.

The work also includes more than 100,000 lines of code, 70 per cent written by students.

Thomas said the project expanded by having students from numerous programs finding ways to contribute.

“We started doing robotics a long time ago, and then it grew, and when it took the form of the city it was given the name BrickMMO,” Thomas said.

BrickMMO is the name of the whole project. Thomas said the smart city is just a part of the project.

“The vision is to make a physical, working video game,” Thomas said. “We’re trying to get as many programs involved as possible, so we’ve run some hackathons with interior design, the radio program and industrial design.”

He said the hackathon format includes students designing something and then having judges pick a winning design, and then it’s implemented into the Lego city.

“We have prizes,” Thomas said. “When we buy this much Lego, we get lots of free Lego as prizes for some of these competitions.”

Thomas said the sessions here are to get students to come together.

“We have lots of Lego kits that need to be built, so I’m just looking

for help, but students find it relaxing and a chance to be social,” he said.

Erko Abdurahman, a student in the Web Development post-graduate program at Humber, said when Thomas started hosting drop-in sessions, that’s when he was interested.

“My professor, Adam, for one of my classes in September mentioned that he was working with some partners to do this building event for BrickMMO, which essentially is like a Lego city that operates on its own,” he said.

Abdurahman said Lego was something he was interested in when he was younger.

“I used to play with a lot of Legos, but as I got older I didn’t really get as much time,” he said.

Abdurahman said Lego is expensive now, another factor that influenced him to step aside from

building Lego.

“It kinda got me back into it slightly because I even have a couple of sets on my own,” he said.

Abdurahman said the drop-in session is an opportunity for socialization and stress relief from school.

“I’m very new to programming so there’s a steep learning curve and when I’m at home, I’m usually studying or doing some other stuff,” he said.

Abdurahman said it’s relaxing to be able to go to a drop-in session, build Legos and listen to music.

Bailey Liang, a student in the Web Development program at Humber, said he first attended Lego drop-in sessions because it was an opportunity for one of his courses.

“One of my professors introduced us to this BrickMMO City project opportunity,” Liang said.

“So I think every Friday we would just come in and just have a drop-in session every morning,” he said.

Liang said he has been to almost all of the drop-in sessions.

“I wouldn’t really call myself a Lego fan,” he said.

Liang said Lego makes programmable devices that can interact with other Lego pieces and that got him interested.

“You can program a device and then you could program it to control pieces of Lego that you could build big systems,” he said.

Liang said he is here for the socialization but is interested in experimenting with the Python Lego programmable bricks and hubs, which the drop-in session gives him a chance to do.

“In general, it’s just a nice vibe,” Liang said.



KRISHNA BHAGNATHSINGH

The Humber logo made out of Lego blocks, made to represent who was creating this entire Lego project.



LIV CHUG

Humber students put their hands together at the Global Game Jam 2024 on Jan.26. Global Game Jam has been an event that has prepared Humber students for future employment.

Global Game Jam drives Humber students

Liv Chug
Senior Editor

Students crouched around brightly lit laptop screens to brainstorm ideas late into the day.

Some packed sleeping bags in preparation for the two nights in the LinX Lounge at Humber College's North campus to develop themed gaming programs.

Staff and students participated with fervour in the 10th annual Global Game Jam marathon held between Jan. 26 and Jan. 30 on campus.

But for many, it was all work and no play.

The 48-hour create-athon entailed gaming prototypes created by students to be tested and judged by Humber faculty.

The winners will be recognized and celebrated, but there is no prize, and the event is not a competition.

The mystery theme for each year is revealed at the event, keeping all the participants on the edges of their seats. This year's theme was "Make Me Laugh."

Students from all programs were welcome to attend the event, but most come from the Game Programming Advanced Diploma program, or simply, GAME.

Attending the Global Game Jam event is highly recommended by faculty, and GAME students must submit a reflection assignment about their experience.

While there isn't a requirement to attend, many students find their stride working side-by-side with

aspiring programmers and animators.

"It's not fun, it's not work, and it's not school," said Sam Sousa, a second-year GAME student. "It's a combination of all three."

Game Jam events are often perceived as a way to portfolio materials and experience-based work environments.

The most important takeaway for the students is learning to work together and collaborate with their peers. They gain key teamwork skills that would help them in their careers.

Scott Fielder, a PhD in theoretical chemistry and a professor for Humber's Game Programming Advanced Diploma, said events like the Global Game Jam are crucial for his students.

"Many gamers and programmers are notoriously under-socialized," said Fielder.

"They turn out great once we socialize them," he said.

Many of the graduates from the program have successfully transitioned into the workforce and are currently employees of popular game developers like Ubisoft

Toronto.

"At Ubisoft, they call us the 'Humber Invasion' because there are so many of us out there," he said.

David Vo, one of the success stories in attendance, is a Global Game Jam organizer and Humber alum.

Vo has worked in Web Development and E-Commerce since he graduated from the Computer Games and Programming Skills Advanced Diploma program in 2015.

He said these events are

important for students, showing teamwork and communication are essential to game development.

"No one knows it all," he said.

While the GAME program is an excellent stepping stone, it still has its limitations.

Fielder said one challenge is to ensure the content taught remains applicable beyond the campus.

Humber's Game Programming focuses on software development, which is important, but doesn't cover all that is necessary.

"We are a game engine school," Fielder said.

Helping students understand and build game engines, not just the games, is a key task.

Fielder said many developers and companies from all over the world look for these skills.

"There needs to be a course-specific effort to equip the students in all manners possible," he said.

Fielder has strategies that will help broaden the scope of their education.

One is to do more cross-disciplinary work across different programs within Humber's Faculty of Media and Creative Arts.

Fielder has used the school's radio studios so his students can help create game soundtracks.

He said this has helped elevate the overall play quality of the games.

Fielder's hope for the future of Game Programming is to encourage his students to work collaboratively with people outside the gaming community.



LIV CHUG

The Global Game Jame 2024 featured a mystery theme. The theme was later revealed as "Make Me Laugh."

Survivors stories' for World Cancer Day

Julia Vellucci
Culture Reporter

Donna Bradbury, survivor of cervical cancer, saw her bad days as something some people would do anything for.

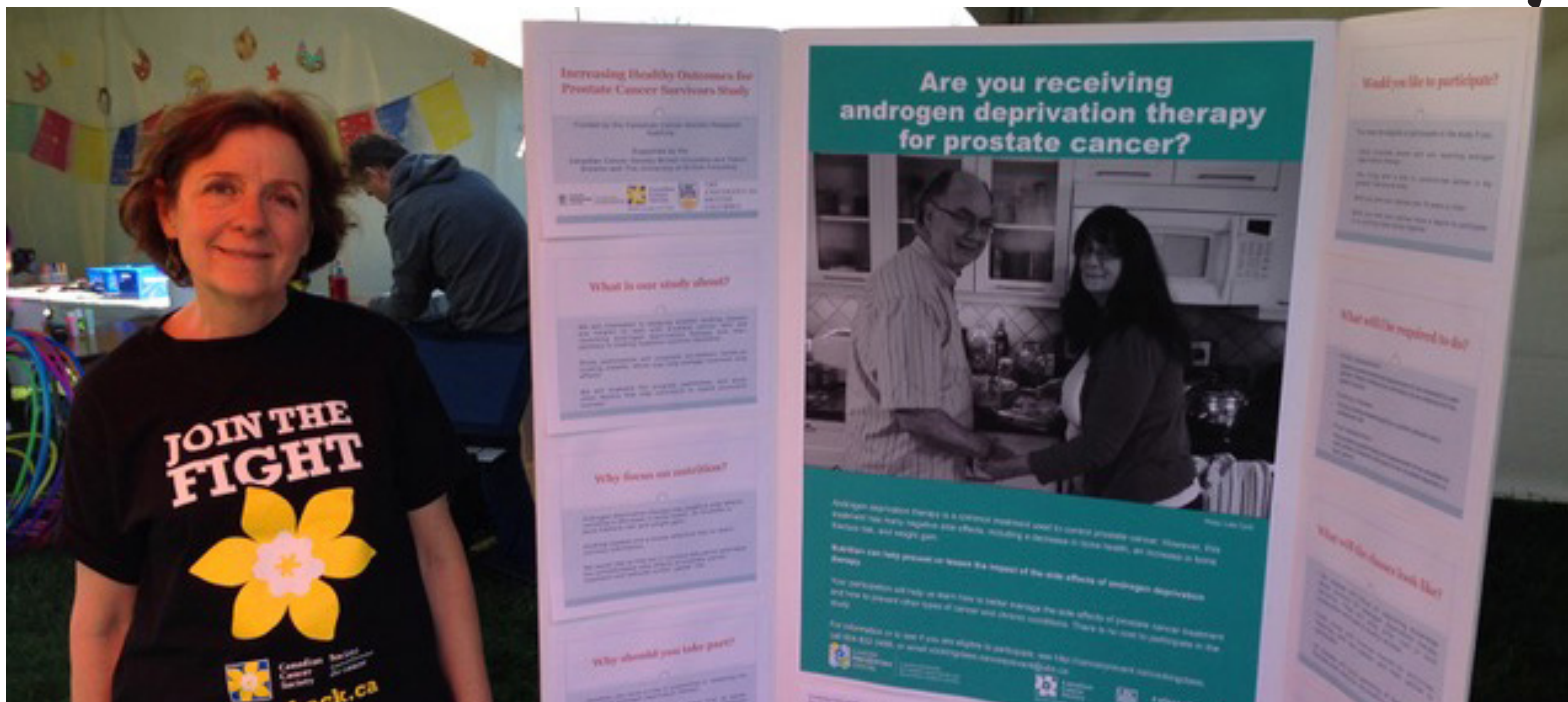
"I lost one person who passed away with cervical cancer and that was really hard and I think on my worst days when I felt so low, I just knew that she would give anything to be where I was," Bradbury told Humber News.



Cancer survivor, Donna B.

"When I was having really low days, I kind of had to keep myself in gear and thought you know what? I'm still here, I'm still alive, you know, I'm lucky," she said.

Bradbury, who lives in the U.K., is now in her third year of remission after much chemotherapy, radiotherapy and brachytherapy for her six centimetre tumor. She posted her journey to remission on social media in part because she didn't feel there was enough



Carolyn Gotay, Professor of Population and Public Health at UBC promoting a prostate study at a cancer fair in Vancouver.

MARK GOTAY

awareness about cervical cancer.

World Cancer Day has been around since 2000, encouraging awareness for this disease yet this disease has existed for much longer and is still without a cure.

Disability activist and bowel cancer survivor Mohammad Samad said he was in the best shape of his life at 38 when his world was turned upside down with his diagnosis.

"I think people think, 'Oh, you either have cancer or you're in remission,' and there's so much in between for various people," Samad said. "I think everyone that I've spoken to that was diagnosed with cancer, their life has never been the same since."



Mohammad Samad in the ICU after a surgery to remove tumour.

He said he felt a sharp stabbing pain in his lower abdomen and constipation but was told it was stress when he saw the doctor and later irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

After Samad pushed for many blood tests, he was told it could be related to his bowels and that he needed to have a colonoscopy.

"The consultant said I'll just say it outright we found a tumour and exactly where you were saying that you were having these stabbing pains," Samad said. "I couldn't get close to it because I really needed to see it for myself to determine what it was.

"How do I tell my mum who's just lost her life partner? How do I tell my children who have just been made familiar to the concept of death? How do I tell my partner? And you know, all of these things," he said.

Carolyn Gotay, an emeritus professor of population and public health at the University of British Columbia (UBC) describes cancer to be a family disease.

She said in some cases, partners of patients are more stressed.

"There are financial issues, childcare issues, employment. I mean it really goes well beyond emotion, which is very significant, but also to aspects of everyday life," Gotay said.

"Around 1980 was when I was first starting to work in this area, people didn't even use the word cancer because it was too threatening," she said. "There were institutions called tumour clinics and they've either been cancer centers because they said if people hear the word cancer, they're going to give up."

Trisha MacNeill, breast cancer survivor and whose mother is also a breast cancer survivor, said medical professionals do not tell breast cancer patients all they need to know about it unless they ask, in their attempt to avoid stressing patients out.



Breast cancer survivor, Trisha MacNeill.

"They're not giving you information for you to make choices that you should be making, and that's what I kind of find concerning," MacNeill said.

She said doctors and organizations warn people about cigarettes.

"They don't mind terrifying the hell out of you on a cigarette pack, but they're worried about letting you know about your possible situation with breast cancer, like it's such a weird dichotomy," she said.

MacNeill said she was 18 or 19 when she was told she was at high risk of getting breast cancer.

"My sister was told at the same time, but again, this is when they

were just starting to do genetic testing and stuff like that," she said.

"So whenever I'd have a lump or something show up in my breast, they give me a mammogram before I was 40. But you know, no one really said much. That was kind of it. You get people kind of

worried about it because your mother, but then no one ever said anything," MacNeill said.

When MacNeill was diagnosed with breast cancer, she had a skin-saving mastectomy because of her mother's situation.

"I don't think about breast cancer every day and that's kind of what I didn't want to do. My mother was quite traumatized every day talking about breast cancer, so I just didn't want my life to be breast cancer," she said.

"The one thing that I would like is generations younger than me to have more agency than I had," MacNeill said.



ANUSHA SIDDIQUI

A portion of Shellie Zhang's, *Elemental*. The prints signify Fire Elemental, Earth Elemental and Metal Elemental. This work is being displayed at Humber's Facing Future exhibition.

Facing Future, a reflection of sentiment

Anusha Siddiqui
Senior Reporter

Humber Galleries introduced Facing Future this year, a group art show that is being exhibited until March 28 at the Humber Lakeshore campus.

Casey Norris, the Humber Galleries' Communications coordinator, said the artwork displayed in the exhibition represents the artists' connection to home, their stories, and their futures.

"It touches on climate change, climate emergency, immigration, identity and connection to one's home and place," Norris said. "We had these works, and they came together naturally in that way."

Akshata Naik, a contemporary visual artist, is an immigrant from India.

Her work *Bloody Boats* is a big, red, interactive, and immersive sculpture in the middle of the gallery. It's composed of a large piece, *Voyage*, and smaller red boats.

"The bigger piece is overpowering in terms of space and contradiction," Naik said. "I wanted to talk about the fragility of life and strength through the paper boats."

The piece reflects stories of migrants, refugees, and those displaced by war and natural calamities. The boats represent what it took to survive and sustain in difficult times, she said.

Hui Ding, a visitor to the exhibition and a student from China, admired Shellie Zhang's paintings.

Ding immediately noticed the Chinese influence in Zhang's work.

"The colours are fresh and have

a strong visual impact," she said. "I like that the art is very modern."

Maya Iraheta, a Humber graduate, said her journey as an art student at Humber has been immensely fruitful.

Her art piece named *These Things* is a part of the exhibition.

"It's interesting because it's a collection of things that I see every day. It's a homage to making mundane things kind of special,"

Iraheta said. "You know, putting them on display and blowing them up."

The Facing Future exhibit features paintings, photographs, prints, and sculptures by artists Kim Dorland, Shellie Zhang, Akshata Naik, and several Humber alumni.

Additionally, it houses works of emerging artists Georgia Acheampong, Jasmine Cowan,

Chesley Davis, Ebru Kur, Maya Iraheta, and Alyssa Mahon.

Justin Ho, the gallery assistant and project coordinator for Facing Future, is also the designer of the 3D boats for Naik's *Bloody Boats*.

Ho said each artist brings something unique and special to the exhibition, and each piece is in a different medium, with a different message, and from a different culture.

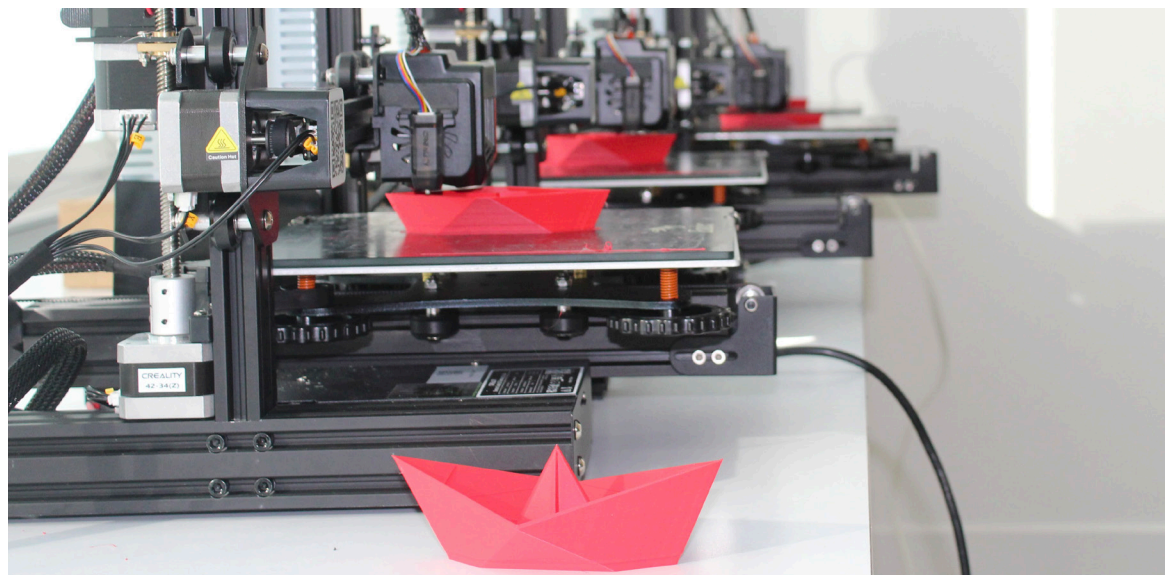
"Facing Future talks about things that perhaps are not discussed enough, and talks about it in a way that's approachable, vibrant and beautiful," he said.

Norris said these works are a part of Humber's permanent art collection.

"These pieces will find a home in various Humber Campuses after the exhibition," Norris said. "At the opening reception, there will be talks with the artists, that's the main goal."

Facing Future's opening reception is on Feb. 8 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the L Space Gallery.

Norris said all the artists have confirmed their presence for the reception.



ANUSHA SIDDIQUI

A work of 3D boats for Akshata Naik's art piece, *Bloody Boats*, designed by Justin Ho for Facing Future.

Sinner defeats a giant, wins his first Grand Slam

Toni Canyameras Rojas
Sports Editor

Jannik Sinner, the spindly player with resounding shots, used to be as shy in clutch moments as he is when he speaks to journalists.

Despite being an amazingly gifted player, Sinner, 22, was accustomed to defeat in the last stages of his big competitions due to inconsistency.

This meant the Italian wasn't considered among the best of the best like Novak Djokovic or Carlos Alcaraz. But all of that changed in Toronto last summer.

When Sinner won the National Bank Open, it not only marked his first victory in a Masters 1000 tournament, but his game noticeably changed from that point on.

"Winning here, it's a good confidence boost," Sinner said in the media conference following his victory in Toronto against Alex De Miñaur on Aug. 13.

"I feel like the confidence is going to be a little higher, but also



AP PHOTO / ALESSANDRA TARANTINO

Sinner defeated Daniil Medvedev in the Australian's Open final.

my expectations are going to be higher," he said.

Sinner's high expectations soon became his reality.

Sinner lifted the Davis Cup in November and now has won his first Grand Slam after defeating Daniil Medvedev in the Australian Open final this past Sunday.

During his Australian Open triumph, Sinner achieved what nobody had done before, beating

the 10-time Australian Open champion and world number 1 Novak Djokovic in the semi-final or final.

Until this tournament, Djokovic was 20-0 when reaching these late stages in Melbourne.

After overpowering Djokovic in a four-set semi-final win through his sharp and dazzling shots, Sinner then displayed a level of mental toughness and intelligence

that he'd not displayed before in the finals.

Sinner upset Medvedev in the final, beating the world number 3 in a three-hour, 44-minute long five-set thriller of a match.

Sinner said last season gave him a special confidence.

"I tried to stay positive. Last year I had some good results that made me believe," he said.

While skill level is consistent among players on the ATP tour, how a player deals with pressure differentiates the best from the average.

Sinner, who had struggled with pressure, said he now feels good dealing with it. "There is always pressure. It's something good, you have to take it in a good way, not so many players have that kind of pressure. I like to dance in the pressure storm," Sinner said.

"It's when I bring out my best tennis and I'm also quite relaxed because I always try to enjoy it on the court," he said.

The incredible win of Sinner

in Australia could be the tipping point in his career that takes him to the same level as fellow young star Carlos Alcaraz.

Sinner is meant to dominate the future along with Alcaraz, 20, who already holds one U.S. Open and one Wimbledon title.

World tennis is now witnessing a meeting point of the two generations, as Djokovic, 36, is not showing any signs of declining.

"I'm ready for the higher expectations and the extra attention that is about to come. It's part of the game. I'm extremely happy to be in this position now," Sinner said.

Runner-up Medvedev said after the final that he expects a lot from Sinner.

"He hits very hard. I expected he'd miss more, but he didn't. If he continues playing like that, he's going to be the number 1 in the world," he said. After making noise in Melbourne this past weekend, Sinner has proved that his name deserves to be in the running for the best player on the ATP Tour.

Ontario test cameras to stop referees abuse

Niko De Ciantis
General Reporter

Youth sports games are known for loud and obnoxious parents yelling at the referee, who receive all kinds of threats from parents and players during and after games.

Ontario Soccer is looking to change that when it introduced its body camera pilot project. Referees have already begun wearing the cameras in 11 districts across the province.

Ontario Soccer CEO Johnny Miskey is determined to put an end to the abuse and create a safe work environment for all soccer referees in Ontario.

"We started to look at the referee numbers and there was a huge decline in registration," Miskey said.

Ontario Soccer saw referee registration numbers fall to 42 per cent for the 2020-2021 season compared to pre-pandemic numbers.

He said after seeing the decline in numbers they decided to survey many referees that left the game.

They found the number 1 reason for leaving was referee abuse.

Miskey said with all the work done so far, registration is now at 72 per cent compared to pre-pandemic numbers.

"We had an incident involving a female official, as young as 16, who was swarmed by parents and



ONTARIO SOCCER

Ontario Soccer has instituted the use of body cameras on referees to combat abuse by players, fans, and parents.

assaulted while waiting for her parents in the parking lot after the game," Miskey said.

Most of the referees in these leagues are under the age of 18.

After looking at the numbers and listening to some of the scary experiences that happened, Ontario Soccer decided to move forward with an initiative called No Ref, No Game.

The English Football Associa-

tion was the only other organization that is doing a similar type of research and is about five or six months ahead of Ontario Soccer.

"We reached out to them to connect with them and to have some discussions before we embarked on our journey with the pilot project," Miskey said.

The English FA put Ontario Soccer in touch with a company called Reveal Media, which man-

ufactures the body cameras. There are currently 50 body cameras available for about 6,000 referees in the province.

When an incident is caught on camera, the official procedure starts with the match official submitting an incident report that is then reviewed by Ontario Soccer.

Depending on the situation, the video evidence can and will be used as evidence when laying out

criminal charges.

Luke Tasman is currently working as a soccer referee in Ontario for ages 10 and under.

He said not only did he receive abuse from parents, but players as well.

"There have been a lot of times over the years where parents and players would threaten me during or after games," Tasman said. "I've had guys threaten to beat me up in the parking lot because of a bad call."

He said abuse from players usually comes from older age groups but parents are always very bitter, no matter what age he is working with.

"I think that body cameras are a great tool that will come in handy for a lot of referees, especially ones with very little experience, however, I don't think will necessarily stop referee abuse," Tasman said.

It is still to be seen if body cameras will stop referee abuse altogether or just be a good tool when trying to punish parents for their actions.

"I see how other parents behave every time my kid has a soccer game, it's wild out there," said Angie Gallego, a soccer mom from Alliston, Ont.

"We should be role models for our kids, there's no reason at all for parents to be acting like that," she said.

Hawks women's volleyball remain undefeated

Hawi Tulu
Sports Editor

The Humber Hawks women's volleyball team is keeping the pedal on the gas, sweeping Sheridan Bruins three sets to zero on Jan. 24.

It's a rivalry as old as time among Ontario college athletics, the 4-10 Bruins put up a fight as expected, but they were no match to the now 16-0 Hawks.

Head coach Chris Wilkins said the focus for that game was making sure his team was working hard and keeping the momentum going. "We're in a pattern right now and know where we stand, even though we're still winning, and we're proud of that, but we got stuff to work on," he said.

While the team has a lot to brag about, Wilkins said he is proud of his team remaining humble. "They're a great group of girls," he said. "They work hard for each other and keep each other humble. If they're not humble, someone else is going to work harder than them.

"We have our eye on a pretty big prize," Wilkins said. "It's easy to be humble right now." Nationally, the Hawks are ranked third. Humber's right side, Te-Anna Stephenson, a veteran for the team, said they want to move higher. "It was just to play at our level and be consistent because we set a standard for ourselves," she said. "We don't want to drop down to the level of other team's levels. We want to keep playing at our pace."

Regarding the team's consistency, their chemistry on and off the court is not a secret. Stephenson said it is one of the reasons for their spark. "From September till now, the bonds we've built with one another have just gotten better, and it's progressed," she said. "We have to create our own energy on our side of the court and just play our game."

The Hawks emphasized working hard no matter what the score displayed. "Hard work and not getting ahead of ourselves are our biggest things. We are making sure that



HUMBER HAWKS / KYLE GILMOR

Humber Hawks sweep Sheridan College to extend their record to 16-0.

we're working harder than anybody else between the whistles," said Coach Wilkins. Leah Serlin, the outside hitter veteran, said until they hit the finish line, they always have something to work on.

"We have to continue to work and strive for the bigger picture in mind. We're always working for something harder and bigger than us," she said. Wilkins said Sheridan played well, even if the score didn't

reflect it. "They've got some talented players over there, and their middles are really strong," he said. "Their setting's good. We had to make sure that we contained those players."

"We didn't allow them to go off, so we did a good job of that," Wilkins said.

He also praised his rookies and veterans for getting along. "The recruiting class this year

are hungry; they want to be out there and play, so they're going to push the veterans, and they work well together," he said. "It takes a lot of sacrifice to be a part of this team. I've challenged them to stay at that high level no matter what the scores are, and they're doing a good job of that."

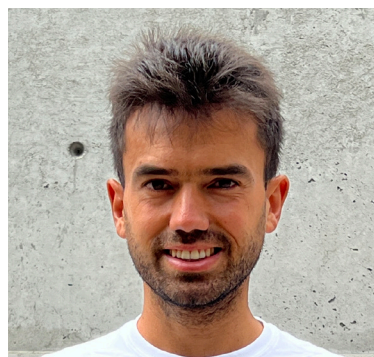
Serlin said everyone, whether on or off the court, is engaged. Communicating their roles helped close the game, she said. "Depending on how much you get in a game, even if it's just serving one ball or playing the whole game, everyone has a role on the team, and just doing your job and taking care of that helps us to be a cohesive unit," she said.

The Hawks remain the only undefeated team in the OCAA. They host the Conestoga Condors on Feb 1.

The last time these two teams met, the Hawks took the win. The Condors will look to redeem themselves while the Hawks intend to keep their clean sheet.

OPINION

NBA rules have to change for tighter defence



Toni Canyameras Rojas
Sports Editor

Magic Johnson expressed his shock following the fourth-highest individual scoring in an NBA match ever on Jan. 26 when Luka Doncic scored 73 points against the Atlanta Hawks.

"What's going on in the NBA? The league is on fire with another dominant performance. This time, Luka Doncic! 73 points, wow!" he said on X, formerly Twitter.

Doncic's scoring came the same night as Phoenix Suns' Devin Booker hit 62 points.

A few days before, Joel Embiid, of the Philadelphia 76ers, dropped 70 points while Minnesota Timberwolves centre Karl-Anthony Towns scored 62 on Jan. 22.

That is four historical basketball shows in barely five days. So, as fans, we should be wondering the

same as Johnson: what's going on in the NBA?

Exceptional individual scorings like this are becoming more and more usual and, as fans, we should question if we want historically high scores to be made regularly.

Wilt Chamberlain holds the record of 100 points in a 1962 game in an era when the three-point basket was five years in the future.

Something that occurs often no longer makes history. Several factors explain this scoring boom. While some of them are natural, others have been forced.

On one hand, it's indisputable the nature of the game and its evolution have increased the teams' and the player's scores. The fast growth of the three-point shot and the increasing skill set of players have had a decisive impact.

But, on the other hand, the league has changed the rules to make them favour the offence, to the point that the defence is now disadvantaged.

Superstar Stephen Curry said some rules need to be reviewed.

"You can't be as physical as you want. It's great for the league in terms of showcasing skills but some stuff has to be corrected," Curry told the media following the L.A. Lakers-Golden State Warriors



DALLAS MAVERICKS

Mav's Luka Doncic scored 73 points last week after dropping 60 against the New York Knicks last season.

game in San Francisco on Jan. 27. LeBron James also said the rules allow for high individual scoring. "It's the way the game is, the way it's better for fans, the way referees officiate the games for freedom of movement," James said after the Hawks-Lakers game in Atlanta on Jan. 30.

Several coaches commented on the rules last year in the wake of high scores including the 71-point performance of Donovan Mitchell of the Cleveland Cavaliers and the 60-point game by Doncic.

Warriors coach Steve Kerr said the rules benefit offensive players.

"Maybe there's been an overcorrection to what was happening 20 years ago," he told the media in Cleveland on Jan. 20, 2023.

"The rules have really been geared towards giving the offensive player the advantage. It's become much more difficult to play defence in the NBA now," he said. San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich went further.

"There's no defence. I don't like the rules," he told the media in

Toronto on Feb. 8, 2023.

Portland Blazers coach Chauncey Billups said current NBA rules make defence hard. "You can't play with physicality to get stops, you have to give way to the players, or you'll get in trouble getting fouls and giving free throws," he told the media in Toronto on Jan. 8, 2023.

The NBA should review the rules or risk losing the greatness of the game because when greatness happens often, it's not greatness anymore.

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STILL UNDEFEATED

With their straight set victory over Sheridan College on Jan. 24, the Humber Hawks' women's volleyball team remains undefeated at 16-0 going into the final two games of the season.

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