



The Bloor-Danforth subway line celebrated its 50-year anniversary on Thursday.

Transit City is expanding and so are its needs.

From cutting costs for the UP Express shuttle to Pearson, Toronto's 15-year plan for improving transit services, to coverage of the Bloor-Danforth line's birthday party at Chester Station.

Turn to page 2 for Et Cetera's extended coverage of what the city has in store for transit.

MARLEE GREIG

Chester Newsies threw a party to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Bloor-Danforth subway line

Free tuition

Wynne government offers free tuition for post-secondary students from lower income families

Christy Farr

SENIOR REPORTER

Today's headlines that read 'free tuition' have sparked the interest of many students across Ontario.

Yesterday's Provincial budget outlined a new grant program for post-secondary students.

"I don't think anyone was expecting it... I posted it on my Facebook right away when I saw it. I'm very excit-

ed," said Ahmed Tahir, president of Humber Students' Federation.

The tuition grant will be available to students that come from families that have a household income of less than \$50,000. Other financial grant options are proposed for students from homes with incomes between \$50,000 and \$83,000.

"For somewhere like Humber, where the majority of students are from low income [or] middle income places in the community, it's going to be fantastic," Tahir said.

Students here at Humber are impacted positively in particular because tuition costs are generally lower than those at universities.

Chris Whitaker, president

and CEO of Humber College, said the headline of free tuition looks good, but "when they talk about free tuition they talk about the average college program somewhere around 2700 dollars a year."

Whitaker said it's too early to tell if enrollment will increase with the new financial support, and said if people recognize the value of education they will find a way to pursue post-secondary education.

"The thing that has the biggest impact on enrolment is demographics and the size of the high school cohort coming out and the number of people in the workforce choosing to go back to college...I think those things have a bigger impact than measures to try and make the tui-

tion more affordable," he said.

By contrast, Rajean Hoilett, Chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students of Ontario, says that debt is really the main deterrent for students considering college or university.

"We know that a lot of high school students don't apply or go to university or college because they are debt averse," he said.

Groups like the Canadian Federation of Students have been at the forefront of this fight for years by pushing for more grants instead of loans.

"We are incredibly excited students have been sounding the alarm on the crisis of affordability of access to education particularly for low income students for a really

long time," said Hoilett.

He said students have felt like they were alone in talking about needing more financial support from the province. And disappointed year after year when budgets didn't reflect students' issues.

Support for students to pursue post-secondary education will have positive impacts in the community said Tahir.

"In a few years from now when this cycle really becomes hole, [students] being able to graduate and start contributing to the economy buying goods maybe taking risks and starting businesses that's fantastic to hear.

"Not having to worry about student debt to the degree that we are worried about it now, I think that is something that

is on people's minds from the moment when they take that loan and is something that is really on their mind when they are about to graduate and have to start paying that off," said Tahir.

Humber College will have to analyze the implications of the new grants before the impact will become clear said Whitaker.

But he says Humber welcomes this announcement.

"Anything that is going to make college more affordable for students, whether directly or indirectly, is good news for our students so it's good news for us," he said.

City

TTC proposes 15 year plan for Finch LRT, relief line

Scarborough and waterfront residents frustrated with slow transit expansion

Britnei Bilhete and Clare Jenkins

ONLINE REPORTERS

Future transit plans were discussed at a TTC board meeting Feb. 25.

The city's chief planner and executive director Jennifer Keesmaat delivered a presentation on several intended projects, noting that the infrastructure is 30 years behind municipal needs and that ridership is growing quickly.

Within the next six years it's projected that four projects will be completed including the Finch LRT, the Toronto-York Spadina subway extension, the Crosstown LRT and the King Transit Priority Corridor.

The plan also proposes to tackle further major projects over the next 15 years.

One of the suggested developments brought forth by Keesmaat in collaboration with TTC staff was an Eglinton-Crosstown Light Rail Transit (LRT) extension to University of Toronto Scar-



BRITNEI BILHETE

Scarborough Centre Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker (centre) expressed his support for an express connection to Scarborough Town Centre. Other transit projects are being rolled out over a 15 year timeline, with Finch LRT scheduled within six.

borough.

Another was to build an underground express train from Kennedy station to the Scarborough Town Centre which looks to improve overall local access and regional connectivity.

"There's over 20 years of planning policy that recognizes the Scarborough Town Centre as a hub," said Keesmaat, describing it "as an area that will affect growth, that will become a vibrant, mixed use part in Scarborough."

Scarborough Centre coun-

cillor Glenn De Baeremaeker said he supported an express connection.

"Scarborough has the worst transit of any part of the city. People feel resentment and hostility to the rest of the city and that is not healthy," he said.

"It bothers me greatly that a lot of my residents walk around and mumble and curse under their breath that we're second class citizens."

There's also frustration in communities by Toronto's waterfront where condo-

minium growth is four times faster than the rest of the city according to Keesmaat.

"The residents there are getting pretty impatient that (the City of Toronto) keep approving these projects and not providing the transit," she said.

At the same time the City of Toronto and TTC are working together with Metrolinx and GO Transit to bring more transit to communities throughout the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, specifically in Kitchener and

Stouffville.

The downtown relief line was also mentioned. The plan for the relief subway line has been underway for several years and Keesmaat said it will be moving forward quickly.

Her report recommended that the subway should run from Pape station to Queen Street. According to Keesmaat the alignment would support social equity because it's near to Regent and Moss Parks.

UPX cuts fares amid criticism

Metrolinx halves price of airport train due to low ridership, free weekend rides draw public interest

Katie Jones

SENIOR REPORTER

When in doubt, make it cheaper.

The underused UP Express train to the airport, which began running last June, is about to become much more user friendly as fare prices are being cut by more than half.

The new business strategy was announced by Minister of Transportation Steven Del Duca, at a press conference on Tuesday afternoon. Later that evening, the plan went before Metrolinx, which manages the service, for approval.

UP Express (UPX) is a commuter train that runs from Union Station to Toronto Pearson Airport with a 25-minute travel time.

An adult ticket using Presto has dropped to \$9 from \$19, or \$12 from \$27.50 without a card. For commuters hopping on the airport train for one or two stops, the cost will be even less, Metronews reported.

Metrolinx expected roughly 7,000 riders a day when UPX was initially launched. However, the service has been subject to many changes including a major hit to ridership. This was demonstrated by December's 2,200 riders.

The fare change comes after UPX made the service free for the Family Day weekend earlier this month in an effort to make the service more publicly known. The trial run was a success, with more than 10,000 people on the first day alone.

Vanessa Barrasa, a spokeswoman for Metrolinx, said that over 40,000 users of the service showed how much they're satisfied with the train. Barrasa said the company's goal is to now become known to a larger ridership.

She said Metrolinx has been working on a business strategy to make the service even better.

"It's a step in the right direction but it's certainly not enough," Jess Bell, head of the advocacy group TTCriders, said in an interview with the *Globe and Mail*.

Bloor-Danforth subway line marks golden anniversary

Samantha Singh

REPORTER

The Toronto Transit Commission celebrated the golden 50th anniversary of the Bloor-Danforth subway line, also known as Line 2 on Thursday.

The Chester Newsies, the artist-run newsstand that occupies the Gateway kiosk at Chester station, held a birthday party with musical entertainment, cake and balloons for rush-hour commuters.

Line 2 opened on Feb. 25, 1966, the second major subway line after the original Yonge (Line 1) which opened in 1954. The original east-west line stretched 17 stations from Woodbine to Keele.

Performance artist and amateur theatre Moe Angelos gave history lesson to curious commuters during the event, highlighting the construction and architecture of the line.

"After the Second World

War Toronto was expanding quickly and automobile traffic was, and still is, a major problem. To alleviate congestion the city committed to constructing a modern underground railway system," said Angelos.

Angelos also said that the turnstiles at the station originated in 1964, which affects the number of people using it. Chester has the lowest number of commuters with an average of 6500 a day but is not the only line experiencing the decline of users.

Summerhill, Rosedale, Glencairn and Old Mill stations average less than 7000 riders per day.

"Toronto has been described as a transit city," said Mike DeToma, senior communications advisor of Toronto Transit Commission.

"I just hope to see as much public transit in the city of Toronto as possible," said De-

Toma looking forward in the next 50 years.

"Public transit releases gridlock, so the more people that can board easily, accessible, frequent, reliable transit - the less likely they'll be taking up space on the road in cars," said DeToma.

He said the importance of this milestone is that ridership has steadily increased over the years.

"We carry the third largest ridership in all of North America. We're only behind New York City and Mexico City," said DeToma.

Coincidentally, the TTC also had their board meeting which gave them the chance to celebrate together.

"It was a great opportunity today with the board of commissioners meeting on the very same day that the TTC officially opened the original Bloor-Danforth line from Keele to Woodbine."



MARLEE GREIG

Jackie Lee, Chester Newsies volunteer, turned the kiosk into a Giant Piñata and designed a commemorative transfer for the stations birthday party.

Wheel-Trans to be folded into regular TTC service

Sam Juric

SENIOR REPORTER

Customers of Wheel-Trans are cautiously optimistic about the Toronto Transit Commission's plans to integrate para-transit with buses, streetcars and the broader subway system.

The 10-year plan for the Wheel-Trans service is in response to changes recently made to the Access for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), alongside recommendations made by Toronto's Auditor General.

Lauri Robertson, Founder of Disability Awareness Consultants, is eager to see Wheel-Trans evolve to better meet the needs of its customers.

"I think it's going to be complicated to initiate but it will eventually take a great load off of Wheel-Trans," said Robertson, who uses a wheelchair and is a customer of the Toronto service.

Robertson is an active member of the disabilities community and has helped to develop and write the AODA.

The act helps train employers and staff across the province on disabilities and accessibility.

"The objective is to get us to use the regular system whenever it's feasible, but for some people that will never be possible," she said.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

According to disabilities activist Lauri Robertson, the increasing amount of aged people in Toronto is an important factor in the integration of Wheel-Trans.

"There are some systems that are going to work for us and some that may need modification but overall I think it's a great idea and one that they need to pursue," Robertson said.

Eve Wiggins, Head of Wheel-Trans Service Delivery Group, is eager to implement the proposed changes and is convinced that ridership will only grow.

Last year, over three million Wheel-Trans trips were made by Torontonians with

disabilities.

And the numbers are rising. Wheel-Trans ridership is projected to spike to 6.3 million annual trips by 2020 and 2025 is forecasted to see nearly 10 million trips.

"Right now the model is 'one size fits all'. One type of eligibility test needs to meet an entire community. But everyone is different," Wiggins told Humber News.

"I sometimes have a real hard time getting on and off the train," said Robertson.

"My wheels get stuck and it's terrifying and intimidating," she said.

Toronto's rapidly aging population is a major factor contributing to the planned integration of Wheel-Trans with the rest of public transit.

But the changes won't be noticeable for another five years, when streetcars are projected to be fully accessible, Wiggins said.

The integration of Wheel-Trans with the greater TTC system will also look to trans-

form eligibility criteria for customers using the service.

Although the modifications to the eligibility criteria will aim to better assess individuals on their particular needs and challenges it may cause some existing riders to become ineligible to use the service, said Wiggins.

The new criteria will be modeled after York Region and Hamilton, which have already integrated para-trans with the wider transit system.

The eligibility testing will

now include cognitive impairment assessment.

Determining eligibility for Wheel-Trans was previously limited to mobility testing.

Wiggins is confident Wheel-Trans will become "a bridge from barriers."

Robertson manages careful optimism.

"[This is] going to take education for not only people with disabilities but for other passengers. It's a growing process and it's going to have growing pains," said Robertson.

Deteriorating economy spurs rise in Canadian deficit

Christiana Chan
Natalia Vega

SENIOR REPORTERS

Projected stats raise questions on whether there will be a tax hike or not.

The federal budget will be released on March 22 to address the government's long-term plan for the economy, announced Financial Minister Bill Morneau in Ottawa on Monday.

The Liberal government had originally pledged during their election campaign that they would run three consecutive budget deficits of no more than \$10 billion a year.

However, Morneau said the government is now forecasting deficits of \$18.4 billion in 2016-17 and \$15.5 billion in 2017-18.

"I know the cries will get louder over the next few weeks, but I won't have budget 2016 simply become a kneejerk reaction to recent

economic shifts," said Morneau. "We'll be acting out of reason."

Morneau emphasized that Canadians making investments in the economy, rather than the government making cuts, will help overcome the economic slump.

"We were elected to a fundamentally new approach to growing our economy. We said to Canadians that in a



"The wrong thing to do would be to make cuts"

Bill Morneau
FINANCE MINISTER

time of low-economic growth the right thing to do is make investments in the economy," said Morneau.

"The wrong thing to do would be to make cuts."

Interim Conservative Leader Rona Ambrose fired

back at the Liberal's plan on spending more than what they promised in their campaign.

"Right out of the gate their \$10 billion commitment has been blown," she said. "The economy is starting to slow and let's not forget that there are over 200 election promises (which) are actually not promises to stimulate growth," said Ambrose.

Weaker economic growth resulted in cutting the 2016 projection for Canada, which was forecast in November, from two per cent to 1.4 per cent. The gross domestic product growth for 2017 still remains at 2.2 per cent.

The projection of an increased deficit raised questions on whether or not there would be a tax hike. Morneau said the government will not be considering any tax changes at this time.

Morneau is scheduled to meet with the House of Commons finance committee on Tuesday.



REUTERS/CHRIS WATTIE

On Monday Canada's Finance Minister Bill Morneau spoke in Ottawa on the budget deficit.

Commentary

Canada needs cohesive system for legal marijuana

Canada's top court has struck down a ban on medical marijuana patients growing their own plants.

It only applies to medical marijuana users who have the proper licences and the ruling is suspended for six months in order for the government to come up with a new system to regulate the system.

Who cares? The Liberals are going to legalize it recreationally anyway.

Despite this massive change in the tides, our country's parliamentary secretary to the justice minister Bill Blair, said that there is no timeline for the legalization of marijuana and that there will be no suspension of marijuana-related arrests despite the Liberals' promise to legalize the drug.

Blair is adamant that the legalization of marijuana is to keep it out of the hands of children and take money away from the black market. One can't help but infer that Blair is not pleased with the Liberal promise. This statement was made on the same day as

the Supreme Court ruling.

It is clear that one hand can't see what the other is doing.

The government doesn't seem to know how it's going to legalize pot, as evidenced by Kathleen Wynne's announcement that the LCBO would be the best way to sell the recreational product legally.

It would make more sense and be less dangerous to sell it anywhere that sells cigarettes. A person can't die from a weed overdose, but mixing it with alcohol can have incredibly negative effects on the body, including dizziness, nausea, vomiting and loss of memory.

That's Canada's weird obsession with being the sole dispensers of controlled substances for you.

Many people who need medical marijuana use it for anxiety based reasons. Depression, PTSD and personality disorders are some of the conditions that are treated with marijuana.

These people may not be willing to go out and interact with a bunch

of people asking questions when all they want to do is stay at home and blaze. This ruling helps them.

Dispensaries are already popping up around the country, while Shoppers Drug Mart and Rexall are considering selling medical marijuana in their pharmacies.

Programs like D.A.R.E. and the Anti-Drug commercials of the '90s had the exact opposite effect they were expecting. Terrorizing people with exaggerated claims about the effects of drugs just creates doubt about those claims when people see others smoking weed and maintaining their job, their grades and their personal lives.

It creates doubt in all forms of authority that advocate those views. Did your parents lie to you? Did advocacy groups lie to you? Did the government lie to you? What other authorities should be questioned?

People that were once intensely afraid of the dangers of gateway drugs are now open to the concept of legal pot and the only holdouts

are "the law is the law" types that can never make any decisions without the helping hand of the government.

This has been repeated ad nauseum by various pro-pot pundits but it bears being said once again. Marijuana is less dangerous than both alcohol and cigarettes and it is sheer hypocrisy that the latter two should be legal while the other lands people in prison.

The classification of marijuana also prevents serious investment into hemp-based products such as rope, salves and even mortar bricks.

Oh, and of the three substances, marijuana is the only one that has proven effective in the treatment of diseases like glaucoma and in pain management for serious illnesses such as Crohn's disease and cancer.

If the government plans to make marijuana accessible to all Canadians for recreational use it's only fair that those with a medicinal need have greater access than the general population. The Supreme Court ruling only strengthens this argument.

No end in sight for racial profiling at U.S airports

Samantha Singh

STAFF REPORTER

Last Sunday, at a San Francisco airport, Jasmeet Singh was not allowed to board a AeroMexico plane because he refused to remove his turban.

Before you ask the redundant question, no, he is not my brother or cousin, and I am no relation to him. The last name Singh happens to be a common and esteemed family name that dates back centuries.

It is clear that the effects of 9/11 continue to reverberate in the United States. The increasing media attention given to ISIS isn't helping matters either. It makes you wonder,

if racism and xenophobia are the pillars of U.S national security.

People fear what they don't understand, and sadly that's the case for Singh, also known as Jus Reign, a Toronto YouTube comedian. The U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) stopped Singh for further screening that included a full body search, an added measure after Singh had already gone through a body scanner, metal detector and been patted down.

Singh opted to have a pat down but the TSA instead took him to a private room. The officers asked Singh to remove his cloth turban where he was told if he did not comply he would not be permitted to

catch his flight. His turban was then put through an x-ray. The results showed nothing nefarious.

After this ordeal, Singh asked if there was a mirror so that he could retie his turban and was told to walk to the nearest rest room to do so. In public. Without his turban—a powerful symbol of faith in Sikh culture. As if the experience did not already reek of cultural insensitivity!

In Sikh faith, a turban is similar to wearing underwear and it's not appropriate to remove it in public. It's important that it is put together properly and neatly wrapped. Singh tweeted, "the turban is a sign of royalty, respect, dignity, courage and has a huge cultural and spiritual significance for

many Punjabis and Sikhs."

It's important to note that Singh travels back and forth between Toronto and San Francisco frequently without incident. This was the first time he was forced to remove his turban.

Considering this, it would appear there was no precedence to warrant Singh's treatment.

Racial profiling should not be the means to detect threats to national security. Countless Muslims, Sikhs, Hispanic and Blacks have been put under heavy scrutiny crossing American borders. This is a systemic issue. But it's continued prevalence makes you wonder, is there is an end in sight?

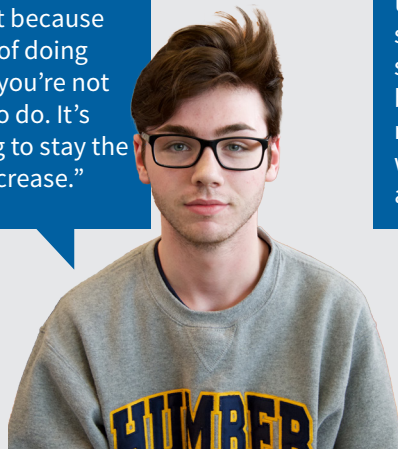
QUOTED: Will legalizing marijuana use increase consumption?

"Most likely. People already hide it recreationally so [they] will definitely use it more often if it is more accessible."



Sofia Riberio
Event Planning, 1st-year.

"A lot of the time people do it because of the rush of doing something you're not supposed to do. It's either going to stay the same or decrease."



Bradley Siddall
Media Foundations, 1st year

"Because it will be taxed people will still get it off of the street. But it might be consumed a lot more just because it will be more readily available."



Luke Pryce,
Media Foundations, 1st year

HUMBER
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Humber Et Cetera serves to inform the Humber community and give its readers well rounded coverage on the things that matter to them.

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BDS movement against Israel is fair play



Jeremy Appel
SENIOR REPORTER

South African apartheid, advocates punitive measures against Israel until its core demands are met. These are Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian lands occupied since 1967, dismantling the separation barrier that slithers across the West Bank to annex illegal Israeli colonies, compensating the descendants of Arabs expelled from Israel during its foundation and full equality for Israel's Arab citizens.

Punitive measures include academic and cultural boycotts, whereby universities and colleges sever ties with Israeli academic institutions and artists refuse to participate in events that normalize Israel's rule over Palestinians. A movement is also underway to get universities to divest from weapons manufacturers, including but not limited to those who provide the Israeli army with weapons.

Israel's supporters correctly condemn Palestinian violence. Suicide bombings, random stabbings and indiscriminate rocket attacks do nothing to help the Palestinian cause.

But the blanket condemnation of the non-violent BDS movement as "anti-Semitic" and "un-Canadian," to borrow the terminology of the bill's Conservative sponsors Tony Clement and Michelle Rempel, suggests that to Israel's apologists, the Palestinians can do no right.

If violent and non-violent resistance are equally unacceptable, then what is a Palestinian to do? The clear implication of the resolution is that they should give up on their rights and return to negotiations with a far-right Israeli government that is in the process of gobbling up all that remains of Palestine.

The bipartisan chorus of condemnation says BDS is anti-Semitic because it "singles out Israel for criticism," while ignoring other, more serious human rights abuses in the Middle East.

Yet it's Israel that is singled out for praise and special economic treatment by Canadian governments, whether Liberal or Conservative. The Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement was signed in 1996 by the purportedly neutral Chretien government. It goes without saying that there's no equivalent agreement with the Palestinian Authority that rules over patches of the West Bank.

BuzzFeed Parliamentary reporter Paul McLeod covered the initial anti-BDS proceedings last week, where he heard parliamentarians repeatedly ask why BDS has nothing to say about China or Iran.

"I've never heard this about other movements," McLeod observed on Twitter.

It's like asking why AIDS activists don't focus on anti-poverty initiatives. It's likely to do with there be-

ing a mere 24 hours in a day.

Not a single federalist MP defended BDS. While voting against condemnation, the NDP, Greens and Liberal outliers did everything else to distance themselves from the movement.

NDP Foreign Affairs critic Helen Leverdiere merely recited platitudes about the "right to disagree," as if that is all that's at stake here.

Party leader Tom Mulcair has in the past called the BDS movement "grossly inappropriate." He also essentially purged the party of pro-Palestine elements in the runup to the 2015 election as part of a bid to push the NDP closer to the political centre and gain power. Former deputy leader Libby Davies and Nova Scotia candidate Morgan Wheeldon were two such casualties.

The Bloc Quebecois was the only party to defend BDS as a legitimate form of political dissent in defence of international human rights.

Former prime minister Stephen Harper has in the past insinuated that his government wants to make support for BDS a criminal act, citing laws against hate speech, as the CBC's Neil MacDonald discovered last year.

The same Stephen Harper who supported the Trans Pacific Partnership on the grounds of promoting free trade wants to force Canadians to do business with Israel, regardless of any moral qualms.

If advocating BDS is hate speech, the Conservatives and their Liberal enablers need to explain why it's supported by a significant number of prominent Jewish progressives -- journalists Max Blumenthal and Naomi Klein, queer theorist Judith Butler and Israeli historian Ilan Pappé, to name but a handful. This writer also identifies as Jewish.

Is it really appropriate for Canada's parliament to accuse these Jews of self-hatred?

Humber journalism student Ali Amad questioned the effectiveness of cultural boycotts against Israel in these pages last year. This is a debate that needs to be had, not cut off by a coterie of self-serving careerists on Parliament Hill.

The Trudeau government is clearly more interested in shoring up its pro-Israel credentials than defending Canadians' basic right to dissent from our country's foreign policy and act where successive governments have failed.

Israel has occupied the West Bank for nearly 50 years with no end in sight. It's incumbent upon those who support justice and peace in the Middle East to start thinking about new ways to solve the conflict, so Israelis and Palestinians can both live in freedom and dignity.

BDS clearly falls within this purview, regardless of what one thinks of its potential efficacy.

Canada's House of Commons voted overwhelmingly Monday to condemn the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement (BDS) against Israel, despite the Liberal government's pledge for a more balanced approach to the conflict than its diehard pro-Israel predecessor.

The resolution passed 229-51, with the unanimous support of the Conservatives and near-unanimous support of the government. Three Liberals, Larry Bagnell, Nick Whalen and Rene Arsenault, broke ranks and voted against the motion, along with the NDP, Greens and Bloc Quebecois caucuses.

BDS, modeled after the non-violent movement that brought down

No excuses for Kanye



Phil Witmer
ASSIGNMENTS EDITOR

ever, in this case, mental illness is likely too heavy an albatross to hang around West's neck.

Simply put: it cheapens mental health discourse. The attempts to rationalize his behaviour as abnormal end up being part of the duopoly of online commentary.

Kanye West is an intuitive, often brilliant curator of talent and a cultural giant with a sizable footprint in pop music. Running parallel to a reputation for innovativeness is an unsavory track record of general callousness and male chauvinism. For every progressive, left-field beat choice or cutting lyric Kanye comes up with, there is a tossed-off couplet about sexual conquests or dismissing a woman's choices.

This misogynistic streak has manifested itself most recently in a (possibly manufactured) spat with Taylor Swift rooted in his song, "Famous"; West says that she owes him sex in exchange for the fame she has gained off their 2009 MTV Awards scandal.

Even though West claimed Swift gave him the go-ahead for the line, her impassioned acceptance speech at the Grammys suggested otherwise.

In addition to his issues with Swift, he brewed a Twitter feud with Wiz Khalifa, wherein West took

the opportunity to lash out at his ex-girlfriend Amber Rose. Both incidents show West going out of his way to attack prominent women.

Attributing West's blatant sexism to the culture of hip-hop doesn't cut it. That's just racist. So why would it be acceptable to attribute his bad behavior to mental illness?

It's best to hold West accountable, sans the uncouth and insensitive string of excuses including mental health, when he crosses the line.

He is a supremely gifted artist whose work has had a decade-long influence on popular music and his dedication to defying expectations after such a long time is admirable. He's responsible for moving rap away from its gangsta default, allowing a wider range of performers to participate. His latest album, *The Life of Pablo* sounds like little else in the mainstream.

So why did he feel the need to sabotage it with lines about having sex with random models? Kanye can make good art without falling back on lazy tropes. And yes, it is lazy to feature women as nameless objects in songs, not to mention boring. It's even lazier of the public to give him the excuse of mental illness for what is really just plain, bad behaviour.

Stop trying to save Kanye West, just keep him in check!

Oscars 2016 predictions



Ali Amad
SENIOR REPORTER

nominee I haven't seen), but I'll be making informed picks based on industry buzz and speculation.

So without further ado, here is my 2016 Oscar predictions for Best Picture.

Best Picture:
The Big Short
Bridge of Spies
Brooklyn
Mad Max: Fury Road
The Martian
The Revenant
Room
Spotlight

Although the early awards season favourite was *Spotlight*. But as time passed, some tough competition came along in the form of Wall Street crisis drama *The Big Short* and revenge epic *The Revenant*, both of which are also fact-based retellings (anyone noticing a pattern?).

Who will win: *The Revenant*. *The Big Short* and *Spotlight* both have a chance at grabbing the coveted statuette, but the sheer ambition and technical difficulty of filming

The Revenant (the film was shot in sequence using only natural light in temperatures frequently below freezing) will doubtlessly sway a lot of voters. Also, that bear scene might be the most memorable bit of cinema we've seen all year.

If *The Revenant* should fall short, I'm predicting *Spotlight* as the category's Dark Horse.

It's that time of year again. The 88th Academy Awards are coming up this Sunday at 8 p.m. (EST), hosted by comedian Chris Rock.

It's always a thankless task guessing the winners every year, simply because the generally predictable Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has a habit of throwing a complete curve ball in its choices every now and then.

Think Shakespeare in Love upsetting *Saving Private Ryan* for Best Picture in 1998 or the relatively unknown Adrien Brody topping Jack Nicholson and Daniel Day-Lewis in 2002 for Best Actor in *The Pianist*. And before we start, I should mention that I haven't seen all the nominees (*Room* is the only Best Picture

Trudeau to make history as first sitting PM to participate in Toronto's gay Pride parade



(LUKE HOLLINS/Flickr)

Archival photo of Toronto's Pride parade in 2007. Event is one of largest of its kind in North America.

Natalia Vega
SENIOR REPORTER

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will make history this summer when he walks in Toronto's Pride parade on July 3.

Trudeau has previously marched in the parade, however, this year will mark the first time a sitting PM has taken part in the event.

Many notable names will be participating in the parade, including Toronto Mayor John Tory, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau.

John Farrell, Director of Philanthropy for the 519 Toronto community centre, said having so many politicians participate in the parade shows great support.

"The fact that Mayor Tory and the Premier and other politicians are going to participate with Toronto Pride and march in the parade, it's all good from our point of view," said Farrell.

"We're very grateful to the politicians who recognize how important our communities are."

The fact that this will be the first time Canada's prime minister will be marching

holds more significance.

"We think it's absolutely amazing," said Farrell.

"We're so delighted that the work we do in our community in this very important celebration of LGBTQ life is being recognized as something that the prime minister of Canada wants to be involved in and wants to be supportive of."

He said The 519 community centre on Church Street is Canada's largest supporter for Toronto's LGBTQ community and operates its own events during Toronto pride.

"We organize a series of events under the green space

festival banner and that happens traditionally the last Pride weekend," said Farrell.

Natalie Elisha, Humber's LGBTQ+ Resource Centre Coordinator, said although nothing can be confirmed yet, plans are being made for Humber's participation in Pride.

She said Trudeau's presence as Canada's prime minister is symbolic and sends a strong message.

"It tells people that homophobia is not okay and actually coming together in a day of celebration is something we should all be doing," said Elisha.

University of Toronto raced-based census to point way towards expanded diversity

Phil Witmer
SENIOR REPORTER

The University of Toronto plans to introduce a race-focused census next fall to better analyze the school population's ethnic background.

The study, encompassing all 85,000 current U of T students, will be the largest of its kind among Ontario post-secondary institutions.

U of T Human Resources VP Angela Hildyard said that while the plan had been in talks for some time, it was expedited by members of a black students' group on campus.

"The Black Liberation Committee did raise this as one of their concerns. However, I was able to advise them of our plans when we met with them in December," said Hildyard.

The survey addresses concerns about diversity and equity at the Toronto school.

"There is still so much work to be done, but we're welcoming this as an exciting first step in creating a campus where black students feel safe and wel-

comed," Black Liberation Committee member Yusra Khogali told the *Toronto Star*, which first reported the news Monday morning.

The new U of T census will be more detailed than previous versions and will include a wide, specific variety of options under the "Race" column, such as Chinese and South Asian.

While Hildyard promised that more comprehensive data will result from the new census, she says its exact use will be decided later.

"We are still engaged in a consultative process with respect to the actual questions," said Hildyard.

"In terms of what we do with the data, initially it will give us some better understanding of the diversity represented within the faculty and staff of the U of T (proportional to student diversity)."

According to the Council of Ontario Universities, U of T is the first university in Ontario to put forth a central process of collecting race-based data.

Change needed to support women in their reporting of sexual assault

Natalie Dixon
STAFF REPORTER

First year Humber College student Tanya Jusau says women might be afraid to tell people they've been sexually assaulted or raped.

"I think they're mostly afraid of what will happen if they come out. You don't know if you're protected by the police," the 3D Animation student said.

Although she counts getting lost and strangers talking to her as her biggest fears, she can understand the fears some women and students may have in Toronto.

She said women should always be aware of their surroundings and stay with someone they trust.

According to the Sex Assault statistics web page, 80

per cent of sex crime victims are women. Shockingly, out of every 100 sexual assaults, only six are reported to police.

Kristy Staltari, 31, is a student and mother of two. She says so few women come forward about being sexually assaulted or raped because they feel ashamed.

Though she considers herself to be pretty tough, she is more concerned about her daughters, three and 10 years old.

She says she will advise them, as they get older, to not walk alone and to know someone before getting intimate with them.

"We need to see a significant shift in social values and structures," said Linda Hill, a program co-ordinator for the Social Service Worker pro-

gram at Humber.

She thinks that few women come forward because of the fear of how they will be perceived or treated.

Hill said women dealing with the repercussions of assault or rape should seek out professional support and counselling. She said young women's lives can unravel due to post-traumatic stress in the aftermath of such events.

Change is needed in the criminal justice system, Hill believes.

Additions, she says rape crisis centres, and women-centred community support programs are needed in order to make sure women who are suffering have the help they need and report it.



Canada's Dan Liu earns couture collection debut at New York Fashion Week

Rebecca Pilozo-Melara
SENIOR REPORTER

After nearly 20 years as a Canadian designer, Humber College mentor Dan Liu, showcased his line at New York Fashion Week.

Last week, Liu launched his fall/winter 2016 collection at the Skylight Clarkson Square in the Big Apple where they got a taste of what he has to offer. New York hosts one of the top fashion weeks in the world after Milan, Paris and London.

Liu's NYFW collection "My World" represented his life as a Canadian designer and intertwined it with his Asian heritage while adding vibrancy to each piece. Liu is known for contemporary dresses that often have a romantic flair.

"This was a good stepping stone and experience for him. Fashion week is a very serious week," said senior executive of marketing and sales for Dan Liu and its added line, Tatsuki, Charles Luk. "There is a lot of discovery that takes

place during this time."

Luk said being a part of one of the bigger shows in the world opens more doors for designers to expand their business.

"We were the first Asian-Canadian line in NYFW, it was an amazing show. There was a lot of buyers, major bloggers all in one venue. It was great exposure in hopes of getting into bigger departments stores."

Liu has two brands under his belt and is the designer in chief of Dan Liu and Tatsuki. His self-titled brand, Dan Liu is his prestige brand while Tatsuki, is a playful line where he puts different colours, patterns and fabrics together for the everyday woman.

In January, Liu first announced he had been accepted into NYFW at the Humber Fashion Institute and said, "I've waited a long time for this, nearly 20 years of my career for this."

Liu has been a mentor to many students at Humber as



REBECCA PILOZO-MELARA

Canadian Dan Liu line gets a global showcase at at New York Fashion Week last week

a public speaker. He said his biggest challenge as a Canadian designer has always been in seeking support from the government. Currently the Canadian government does not have any funding programs available for fashion, which is why Liu says he

hopes his success helps the government see the potential Canadian artists have.

Luk started working with Liu a year ago, at a time where he said he gets to be a part of watching the brands flourish. Liu, he said, "had this gut feeling that something

big was going to happen and I stepped in at a time where there was a lot of momentum going on. Since he was published in British Vogue the momentum started to build from that.

When it comes to the next steps for the brands, Luk said

they're pushing to be recognized on a global scale.

"For Dan Liu and Tatsuki this is only the beginning and we'd like to take it further by showing our collection in Europe."



REBECCA PILOZO-MELARA

Current marijuana laws infringe on Charter rights, says judge

Greg Chow
SENIOR REPORTER

Medical marijuana users and growers could be on their way to producing plants and lighting up without restrictions.

Judge Michael Phelan ruled Wednesday in Vancouver that the current federal regulations were an infringement on Charter rights in Canada and therefore they have no force and effect. With this ruling, a six month suspension has taken place while the federal government comes up with new rules.

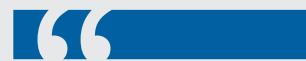
Jon Liedtke, a medical marijuana user and co-owner of Higher Limits, the first medical marijuana lounge in Windsor, Ont., talked to Humber News about the federal ruling.

"The government wasn't able to infringe upon our ability to produce our medication at a cheaper price than the market, so it was a very positive day for medical marijuana in Canada."

The medical benefits and the accessibility for pa-

tients can outweigh cost or side-effects.

"It's not about business at the forefront, it's mostly about providing our medical marijuana users a safe and comfortable environment where they can consume their medication away from



It's mostly about providing our medical marijuana users a safe and comfortable environment where they can consume their medication

Jon Liedtke
COOWNER OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA LOUNGE

stigma, stereotypes and away from negative perceptions surrounding cannabis," Liedtke said.

There are some more ambitious hopes for the ruling, as former editor of Cannabis Culture magazine, Dana Larsen told Humber News. Known for

sending samples of a well known batch of cannabis to each MP of Canada's Liberal party, Larsen "hopes this means legalization includes home grows for all," he said. Wednesday's injunction and eventual change of guidelines will add to the evolution of legalizing cannabis in Canada.

In 2013, access to the drug was allowed for commercial growers as well as grow and supply stations. The number of authorized growers in Canada spiked to nearly 40,000 from less than 100 in 2001. The following year, both patients and producers were ordered to destroy stocks of pot and cannabis seeds.

Right now there is roughly 90,000 medical marijuana users in Canada.

"What needs to happen is we need to pop the stigma of the stereotypes so people could start learning and having conversation about cannabis being useful to some people who need it on a daily basis," said Liedtke.

Humber celebrates 100 years of fashion

Jessenia Feijo and Gabrielle Austin

SENIOR REPORTERS

Humber College fashion students are honouring different eras of fashion with an exhibition at Lakeshore campus' L Space Gallery.

100 years of Fashion, looks at clothing from the 1890s to the 1990s. The annual exhibit gives students the opportunity to display their work, and also provides the public with insight on fashion's evolution through history.

This year's theme is eveningwear.



JESSENIA FEIJO

An ivory silk ball/evening gown from the 1900s.

Prominent Canadian designers who are featured in the exhibit include Sunny Choi and Alfred Sung.

In addition to the pieces from the two well-known Canadian designers, there are collections from two private collectors as well as items from Humber Fashion professor Robert Wain.

Ashley Watson, curator of Humber Galleries and Collections, said because Humber doesn't have garments from which they can pull a display, it's a good partnership between the various groups.

"This is a really nice partnership between the students, program and collectors, who have what the students need to bring this exhibition to life," said Watson.

Nicole Diaz and Genesis Leon, both students at York University, heard about the event from a friend who attends Humber Lakeshore and decided to check it out.

Diaz said that one could definitely see the progression and can picture where the various looks originated. One piece that caught her eye in particular was the era at the start of the exhibit, the 1890s.

"When I look at this

piece, I see Europe. I picture the people who wore these clothes to be fairly wealthy and know where they live. If I were back in those times, I would wear that. It's elegant to me," said Diaz.

The exhibit shows how both genders would have dressed for any given time with two mannequins, for most decades, male and female.

Sergio Mijango, a criminology student at Ryerson University, said he comes every year because he likes the older styles of clothing.

"I think it's really cool that they take the time to put this together – not only for the students but also for the public. Every time I come here I wish I was back in those times to dress this way every day," said Mijango.

Watson says it depends on the person when connecting to a certain piece or era.

"Some people like the flapper era and some people like the 80s," said Watson.

Shaune Smith, a Fashion Arts student at Humber's North campus, said the flapper era of the 1920s represents a classier side in fashion.

"When I think of the flapper era I immediately think



JESSENIA FEIJO

100 Years of Fashion exhibit is being held in L-Space Gallery at Humber Lakeshore campus.

of the Great Gatsby. I love the glamorous yet sexiness it brings to those who wear it. It is definitely a time in fashion that won't be forgotten to me," said Smith.

Visitors to the exhibit can part in an interactive section where they can try on different accessories ranging from hats, gloves and ties to purses.

Leon tried on a hat and purse as she was leaving the

exhibit. She said this was a fun way to end her experience, and also, because there was a mirror, a reflection of now.

"Because the exhibit doesn't include the 2000s, I find it interesting how looking into the mirror allows me to appreciate how my style came to be," said Leon.

While the exhibit is a showpiece in itself, it gives post-grad fashion students the ability to demonstrate

what they have learned and apply it to an industry-related event, said Post Grad Fashion Management and Promotions program coordinator Susan Robertson.

Students will also get the opportunity to network with eight different fashion industry mentors, and will learn more about the industry.

The 100 Years of Fashion exhibition will run until March 9 at L Space Gallery.

Hawks basketball star Hudson returns to coaching position

Gulled Omar

REPORTER

Kingsley Hudson once played guard for Humber's basketball team and made it to the National Championships. Fifteen years later, he's the assistant coach of the Hawks women's basketball team and a financial aid officer at the Humber North campus.

Hudson's dream wasn't to balance books but to play professional basketball overseas.

Upon graduating, he signed a two-year contract to play for the Milton Keynes College Lions near London. But his basketball career plans stalled when he was diagnosed with pericarditis, an inflammation of the membrane surrounding the heart.

Hudson said the injury slowed him down and at that moment he realized his

chances of playing professional basketball in the United States were very low.

With his heart condition weighing him down, his scholarship to play pro was quickly annulled and he started to question his career path.

"You always have to have a backup plan no matter what you're doing in life," said Hudson. "My education was my backup plan after I exhausted my professional basketball career."

My education was my backup plan after I exhausted my professional basketball career.

Kingsley Hudson
WOMAN'S BASKETBALL COACH

And Hudson found another way to keep basketball in his life.

Every summer, for the last six years.

He has coordinated a basketball program at the North campus called Kings Court.

His focus is to encourage the community surrounding the campus to share its passion for the game through a friendly competition on the court.



GULLED OMAR

Kingsley Hudson is now a financial aid officer at Humber.

Moreover, with his skills and knowledge of the game, Hudson has assisted the Hawks women's basketball team to get on the road of success.

The Humber women's basketball team is currently ranked number one in Ontario.

Hudson says he wouldn't be the person he is today without the help of his mentor and coach, Mike Katz.

"Coach Mike dealt with knucklehead boys, but groomed them and turned them into men," Hudson said. "Coach Mike was like a father figure to me and after

16 years, I still keep in contact with him up to this day."

Katz said Hudson was a great guard and contributed a lot to the Humber team. "Kingsley understood and did his job very well," said Katz.

"He was a very big defensive presence on the court, effective shooter when he decided to make them and he was a vocal leader on the court."

While Hudson was unable to realize his dream of a professional career as a player, he continues to live out a legacy through coaching and mentoring students towards professional ball.

HSF pool tournaments free for all

Daniel Caudle

REPORTER

Humber students racked up as the February pool tournament kicked off today.

Open to all Humber students, the pool tournament boasts the chance to win a prize for the top three teams in addition to bragging rights.

The North campus event was free for any students that wanted to sign up to watch or compete as long as they had a valid Humber student card.

This month's prizes were Maple Leafs tickets for first place, a \$100 Bon Appetit gift card for second and a \$50 Starbucks gift card for third.

Prizes are donated from various companies and then given out to students at activity events such as the pool tournament, Humber Students' Federation explains.

"There's only one winner each tournament. It doesn't go on to the next round," said HSF customer service rep and first-year hospitality management student Preston McClean.

A total of eight teams of 16 people signed up.

The event was a near sell out with only one ticket remaining before the start of the tournament.

Droves of students on break could be seen coming in and out of the game room to see who would be crowned this month's pool champion.

"This tournament gives students a fun way to de-stress as well as a creative way for them to win prizes," said third-year film and television production student Brett Bacchus.

The tournament was held in the Student Centre's game room at Humber's north campus and a similar tournament being held in K building at Humber's Lakeshore campus was completely sold out.

Rules for the event include no coaching, open table after sinking a ball on the break, and no letting the 8-ball jump off the table. The rules for the tournament can be found on HSF's website under events.

Another tournament is expected to be held at the end of next month. HSF's website will be updated to alert students when pre-registration opens.

"It's been every month since September so we'll probably have one next month in March and probably one final one in April," said McClean.