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# dialog

THE STUDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE, TORONTO

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SEPTEMBER 7-21, 1999

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3

## INSIDE

**BACK TO SCHOOL**  
Dialog's guide to  
all that is good  
about our college.  
Participate in  
Orientation Week  
celebrations, go  
see a movie, make  
new friends and  
above all else, get  
involved because  
we are back to  
school and we are  
happening!

## NEWS

Sorry, there are no  
morning  
announcements in  
college. That's why  
there is NAII (News  
And Information  
Line).  
See page 4.

## VARSITY

Varsity teams start up  
this month!  
Badminton, soccer,  
basketball, volleyball,  
and a whole lot more!  
Check out the weight  
room's brand new  
equipment.

## MORE

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And a lot more great

ideas, info and advice!!!

# Back To School



Bright Lights, Big City Orientation was a huge success. In all, almost 200 new students, family and friends got together over two days to check out the scene here at the college.

## GET SET TO ROCK THE BLOCK!

by Allan Stokell

Yes, the Student Association is doing it again. We are closing off George Street at the St. James campus for one day on Friday September 10th, and we are definitely going to Rock the Block.

This is the second year of our RTB celebrations. Last year, new and returning students came out to our Orientation Week celebrations in record numbers, and this year it will be even bigger.

Music headliners include Five Minute Miracle and Mia Minx. Warm ups will include many interactive games, such as dunk tank, bungee run, basketball, mini-putt golf, and much more.

Watch for caricature artist, Kenny Fitzpatrick, making free drawings, and street performers doing their thing.

Monique Kavanagh, Manager of Student Services promises a great time will be had by all. "There will be contests, giveaways, and a free barbecue up on the patio. Our first annual Rock-A-Thon will add to the festivities—six hours of rocking in a rocking chair in support of the United Way. We're really excited."

The celebration is organized by the Student Association with great support from the President's Office, the Office of the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, the Vice President of Corporate Services and External Relations, and The George Brown College Foundation, as well as many others in the school who have given cash, prizes and time.

Shuttle buses will transport students from Casa Loma and Nightingale campuses for this special event. Buses will start at

9:30 from Casa Loma. Last year, almost half the participants came from those two campuses. Every time a bus arrived, a flood of new people joined the fun. A tribute to the success of RTB is that most of the buses return to the campuses empty, only to fill up again to bring a new crowd down.

Plan to stay late this year because after the fun ends in the street, it will start up again in the new Zone pub in the Student Lounge, featuring a hot new DJ, dancing and sampling and special shooter drinks.

Pub and Events Manager Helena Miekus promises the new-look pub will have something for everyone, including special drinks, beer tastings and lots of fun and prizes.

So don't just stand there. Get ready to meet new people and ROCK THE BLOCK!



Student Association  
OF GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE

Zone

women's  
centre

electric  
AVENUE

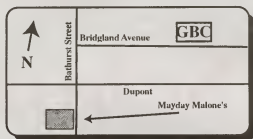
GET BACK  
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Wednesday  
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Thursday  
1/2 PRICE NACHOS

Saturday  
1/2 PRICE PIZZA



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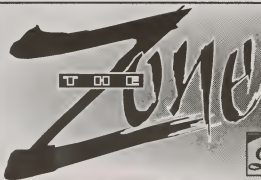
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the  
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# diaLOG

## college time



by Sharen Barker

**I**t's now September. As the last faint gasps of summer drift away, I hope your new school year starts with a bang! That is, a bangful of interesting things to be learned and fun things to be experienced. I'm sure you're all planning on a great year. Be sure to take the advice of Ann Landers and multitudes of other advice columnists and GET INVOLVED! It's easy to default into slog mode, propping up the battle-weary eyeballs with toothpicks from your last party. We've all done that. You whip off a mediocre assignment at the last minute, falling into your bed like an unconscious zombie at 5 a.m. Then, you rush off to your job with dark circles under your eyes that resemble the urban version of the Olympic rings, trying to energize yourself with armies of Snicker bars, which is no laughing matter, and

vats of Rrrrrroll up the Rim to Win coffee, only to fall asleep at your job, get booted out, and find out later that your assignment was due the following week. This is not an ideal situation! You don't have to be a perfectly well-organized Celine Dion, but then again, you don't want to be a full-of-angst Alannis, keeping your hand in your pocket at all moments, or like George Michael with his hand in places that are pocket-challenged.

No, you must get organized for your personal sanity. The powers-that-be always say that if you have an assignment that seems overwhelming that you should break down the assignment into manageable chunks. They say that you waste so much time dreading and putting off the assignment, when you could be spending that same decade of time in getting a small section of the assignment started. Well, it is very true. How many guilt-ridden-but-scholarly pursuits of the soap opera, *The Young and the Restless*, did my housemates and I watch in university, while we should have been doing our bicep and abdominal training sessions with weights that resembled 20 stacked textbooks? Well, we were taking psychology and related courses, and we

were watching *The Young and the Restless* purely to analyze the psychological and sociological upheaval of these characters to use in our theses. It is true. There was a scourge of half-term theses entitled "A Psychological Treatise on the Nikki-Victor Inexplicable Relationship in Oedipus Rex Terms", with footnotes of "Why does Ashley look like 3 different actresses in the space of one month?"

But, it's true what the experts say. I've actually taken their good advice this year, and have actually done most of my assignments ahead of time. Let the heavens roar. After the first assignment, I felt enlightened! Because I had finished ahead of time, I could stroll home in the bright sunshine, instead of pounding King Street in the wee hours when even the ravens had raved off to their beds. It is a really good feeling to finish early. I highly recommend it. You just have to mentally chain yourself to your computer, and after four hours of muttering mantras that sound like, "I don't want to do this assignment. I don't want to be here. I've got another week. I'm leaving", suddenly, you are seized with creativity and motivation. Everything flows like the Don River after a massive snowstorm.

You just have to make sure you spend at least a few hours at your computer, even if you suffer permanent mental concrete block, and your eyes begin to shine like a blank, white screen, and you're down to your last spool of mental floss. Just hang in there and your assignment will burst out of your imagination. Stay at your computer. Your scholastic career depends on it.

As those in the know say, get involved. George Brown has several clubs, which you can read about in this issue. Or join a sports team. You might join an activity outside college. It's important to make new friends and do fun things. If you just study and do assignments all the time, work at your job, and do your utilitarian shopping and housework, your life will be a drudgery. Maybe you feel shy to join a club or team or think that you don't have enough time. But in the long run, if you get your extroverted side up and running, and find and make time, it's well worth the effort. If you think you should always do first the things that you have to do, that is a noble motive. But at times, you should put first the things that you want to do! Then, life will be really worth living!

## the view from here

by Allan Stokell

**I**n a world of simple answers to complex questions, Key Performance Indicators or KPI's fill this provincial government's needs nicely. Imagine if you could ask college students if they liked their courses, if their professors were sufficiently condescending and if the washrooms were clean enough, and even if they got a job upon graduation and if their employer liked them. That is just what former Minister of Education and Training, Dave Johnston, set in motion in 1998. Johnston, by the way, is lining up at Human Resources Development Canada for a retraining course himself because the people in his riding (as well as the rest of the province) didn't like what he was doing to our schools and failed to re-elect him.

Initial results of the KPI survey had some members of the press pointing fingers at George Brown College as doing poorly. As much as I am not an apologist for the College, I feel someone should set the record straight.

If you take a close look at some of the important indicators, George Brown College did very well. We were within 4 percentage points of

the leader in our graduates finding jobs within 6 months. Most people take a college course to upgrade their skills so they can find or keep a job. (I'll put up with a smelly toilet any day if I get a good job.) Also, the survey of employers who hired graduates produced positive results, as 77% said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of George Brown College graduates.

Now, the really bad news. This government plan to tie KPI's to funding starts in 2001. As much as one percent of the college's funding may depend on a tony popularity contest.

Although college records are not kept on this, you only have to take a look around in the hallways of this college to see we are different. We are worldly, older, and dare I say it, wiser to the ways of the world. We don't tend to get crushes on our profs and we don't belong to any cheer leading club. In short, our students are not easy to

please. Many of us come from other careers and lives. We know what we do and do not like and are not afraid to speak out.

If I were the minister in charge of community colleges, this is what I would do. I would give special grants to colleges that needed to develop new programmes and systems to improve their performance. The St. James campus

is a series of historic buildings. We could use some bucks for infrastructure improvements. A brand new college in some rich suburb doesn't need to spend money on that. They can spend the plumbing money on "feel-good" promotions to help with their popularity. Think this is just another rant? Suburban and rural colleges consistently scored higher in almost every KPI area and highest in the "popularity contest" questions.

George Brown College is The City College and it puts the welfare of its students before anything. The College's Redirection Through Education courses help people (many of whom gravitated to the

city from the suburbs) upgrade basic language skills and other skills. This year, the College will introduce courses specifically designed for First Nations peoples. Each one of our campuses is downtown. The city is our campus. Our courses are designed to suit the needs of city dwellers, not some pantulan 905-area Minister.

You may be reading this as a first time student. I want to welcome you and wish you every success in the coming school year. I know you will feel at home at George Brown. I did from the first day I walked through the doors. I still do to this day, and although I am an alumnus, I proudly tell everyone that I am still a Continuous Education student at The City College. I just wish I would feel this good about KPI's.

### erratum

In the *Dialog Survival Guide*, we printed the incorrect telephone number for the Registrar's Office. The number should have been for the course full/cancellation line at 415-2003. The *Dialog Collective* regrets this error.





# college happenings

## But I WILL Ask for a Tuition Increase

A word from your Board of Governor Student Representative

I've just spent my entire evening reading a package mailed to me from the provincial government. It's called "A Road Map to Prosperity". A road map to success. Doesn't everyone have one? I mean, hey, we're all in college and we must be here doing something. So I guess it has to do with this road map thing. I started to think...and wonder...does the college have a road map?

Sure, I guess the Student First project can be considered one. A plan of action to make George Brown College more successful. Well, then, I began to wonder what, as Board of Governor Rep, it was that I needed to lay before me to find my direction. And I figured it out. Since I sit on the Board and attempt to best represent students and their issues, I decided that I'm going to ask for a tuition increase. Not 10%. Not 15%. But 100%. I want it to skyrocket. I want it to be at levels never seen before. But I don't want any students paying more. There's no need for that.

An increase in tuition—an increase in the quality of education all students receive—is something that should be naturally attainable, without an extra dollar fee amount attainable. We are always pushed by our professors and the

college to strive for our best. Well, why don't we push them to strive for their best? If they want up to be prosperous, if they want us to strive for a higher quality of education, why don't they give us a higher quality of education? I mean, tuition fees increased last year, but did the quality go up? I think the Key Performance Indicators are clear indications that the students have spoken and they are not happy. They are not satisfied with what their \$2000+ is buying them. And with 12% of the student population signing a petition (in 6 days) against the proposed increased tuition fees, I'm sure it's safe to say that the students of George Brown College are against tuition fee increases.

And I'm going to follow my road map, making sure I stop at all the scenic lookouts (all the Board of Governors meetings) and local coffee shops (all the Finance and Property Committees and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meetings) to absorb as much as I can. And if my car breaks down on the road, I can look back on my road map and will see how much closer I have come to my final destination. And when I make it to that place on my map that has the big circles of red pen around it, I will know that the students of George Brown College are getting better levels of quality education for the same price.

## NAIL: Up to the Minute News

by Joel Porlan

So is this your first year? Bummer, because it's always harder to figure out what's going on when you first get here. I was first year last year, and it took me a while to figure out where to get the information I needed to know.

The people at the Student Association have been thinking about how to make life easier for the students of George Brown College too. That's why they have come up with NAIL (News And Information Line) as part of the Dialog Collective. The Collective publish the Dialog and now they have expanded into news and information that can change daily, even up to the minute.

"I listen to first year students, and they tell us one thing over and over. There are no announcements on the PA at college," says Alan Stokell, Manager of Student Publications for the Student Association. "We

thought of NAIL as the natural offshoot of Dialog. Even though we publish bi-weekly now, there is still information and news which happens more quickly than our students need to know. Information on special meetings or protests, or maybe some hot gossip and info about cancellations or late breaking news are examples."

Stokell and The Collective had a chance to put NAIL to the test recently. In early August, homeless protesters were camped in nearby Allen Gardens. A Dialog Feature Reporter, Boni, was with them. When the cops came in and cleared them out, they were able to put Boni's story up on the line right away. The next issue of Dialog was weeks away, but NAIL got the information out.

You can access NAIL in two ways. First, you can call The Dialog Collective off-hours at 415-2710. When you hear the message, press 1. Or during business hours, you can call 415-2900 and then press 89111.



## Storming the Castle

By Drew Sauveur

As the warm summer ends, school begins again. For those of us coming back for a second, and/or third year, we are inexplicably drawn towards that looming structure on the hill. For those of you who are coming here for the first time, it is definitely not as scary as it may seem. I assume that a formal introduction is required here. I am the Vice President of Casa Loma campus for the Student Association. Basically that means that I am your student advocate at this campus. You will see me at various student events and pubs, and you can always come to see me in my office on the second

floor of "C" building, beside the student lounge. I am at your service, for whatever you need, and if I cannot help you, I can refer you to someone who can.

For those of you who are here for the first time, welcome, and I wish you all the best in your studies BUT, do not forget to have fun. We have boat cruises, pubs, concerts, and Rock the Block happening, plenty of things to keep you entertained. Look for posters that will tell you the where and when of the events, and I look forward to seeing all of you in the year to come. Good luck to all, be safe, be happy, and have fun!

If you would like to talk to me, feel free to call me at 415-4731, or 415-2900 ext. 89076.

## Join the Technology Club

by Javier Zarazua

I'm the president of the TSRC (Technology Student Representative Council). We get together once a week and discuss with class representatives the problems that fellow students are having. These may be problems with certain professors, complaints about the equipment in general and other school issues. We try to think of solutions to the problems in many

different ways. We've accomplished a lot in the past five years.

We are looking for people to represent their class and also to voice their opinion.

If you're interested, please call us at (416) 415-4387. My name is Javier Zarazua and I can be contacted at the same number. If you have any questions, leave me a message and I'll get back to you.

Thank you.

# People's

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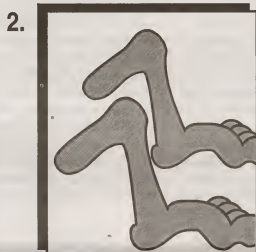
# Wobly Pop Quiz #1!

Question: Find the common theme with these 3 pictures.

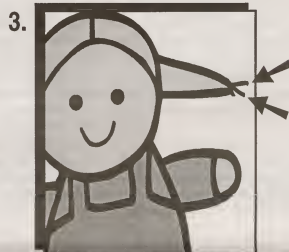
Hint: The answer will be very popular with students who visit Pearl's on Thursday night



TWO BUCKS



TWO-KNEES



TWO DOLL-HAIRS

Answer: Visit our website address...or better yet, come to Pearl's



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# You'd better ask an Outsider

by Oleg Kremiansky

People tend to be biased on countless occasions. This is especially so when they are involved in issues that are familiar to them. It has been an axiom for a long time. We sometimes bitterly complain about our fate without acknowledging how lucky we are, in comparison to someone else who's living a truly miserable life. Those who have a miserable life, in turn, often don't realize this fact at all. That is, unless they happen to taste a little of our own "goddamn fate", of course. In brief, this is all relative and depends on each person's attitude, right?

But you know what? To me, if people really want to get an understanding of whether their neighborhood is beautiful or ugly, they should consider listening to outsiders. No kidding! Many strangers spill their priceless impressions right in front of you, even though nobody is particularly asking for them. No matter how embarrassing it can be at times, it's definitely a useful, enlightening and enriching experience for local residents. The more outspoken an outsider is, the better an understanding locals are going to have.

Recently, my parents came to see me from overseas. It was their first visit. My guests enjoyed almost everything they saw in Toronto. They noticed the

following: there were no explosions of noisy quarrels in mostly clean streets, there weren't even potentially explosive arguments in queues at medical centres or supermarkets, there wasn't too much craziness on our roads, there were lots of green parks available for barbecuing, and —most of all—locals were amazingly polite. To the extent that some of the locals all of a sudden would say "hello", while my siblings looked at them in pure confusion. What?!

"Hel-l-l-oo?" Why?! Oh, my parents heard about this nice habit more than once. Or they read plenty of admiring comments about it in books and newspapers. And now—here it is: it's turned out to be true. They heard a real "hello" from a real somebody whom they may see for the first and probably for the last time. Why should these locals bother sharing their "hellos" while there are always other options? The answer is rather simple: I don't know, but let it be—it's sort of an interesting, pleasant and even a long-remembered experience. In my case, I experienced it during my trip to the U.K before I landed here. So I was not surprised. But my parents were.

Local TTC drivers, though, seemed to them to be quite indifferent. Well, those are impressions from outsiders. There is nothing you can do about that. I can't

really persuade them to think a little bit more positively. As for me, I have no beefs whatsoever about the TTC staff, except for being irritated by their latest strike. Basically, I'm sure our bus drivers are totally fine. They usually do their job which does not seem to cause them too many headaches. But consider other countries' bus drivers. Israeli bus drivers, for instance, have to handle a more complicated task: driving a Mercedes bus on narrow streets in heavy traffic, while selling tickets and season passes to passengers, giving them change and always being prepared for virtually anything. (A



couple of years ago, terrorists exploded three bombs in buses in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv). In these circumstances, you should not expect Israeli bus drivers to be the most sensitive people in the world. But in Toronto...

Anyway, TTC drivers are human beings, too. Yeah, but what do I know actually? I've never gotten lost here and therefore have never disturbed TTC drivers with my questions. My parents have done so though a number of times. And guess what? All the drivers they asked for help were at best, much like anemic fish.

Unlike the bus drivers who met my parents, there was one owner of a flower shop who was very generous.

Unbelievable! He spent half an hour of his time with my dad who wanted to buy a small lilac plant. The shopkeeper, Robert, didn't have any. However, instead of getting rid of my father as quickly as possible, Robert did his best to provide information about the locations of dozens of gardening centres. Dad was so impressed by the service provided that the following day he was talking about this "Robert". "Such a kind guy", he told me.

Somebody might object that this is a mere generalization. There are different TTC drivers as there are different shopkeepers. And as with every generalization, this one hides the "essence". That's true too. But my parents explored the city by bus, by subway and on foot every single day of their stay here. They had a chance to get some real and valuable impressions.

My guests also became aware of local prices and rather quickly concluded they had finally found a paradise of low prices for almost everything. "Take a look," they keep telling me. "This costs much less than it costs over in our country. And that one too. And those are cheaper. How much did we pay altogether? How much did it would cost us over there! Wow! Let's figure out the difference."

Whether it's a paradise or not, I have no idea. I don't hang out that much at malls. But if they insist... So we live in paradise and should keep it that way.

## diaCYCLE



# Bikers, Unite! Throw off your Chains!

by Jake the Biker

I started biking to college about two years ago. Since then, I have lost two bikes, a lot of fat and my old wardrobe. I'm not one of your September sprinters, riding in fair weather for about a kilometre or two. I bike 12 months a year, about 20 kilometres a day. This is the Back to School issue of Dialog, so I thought I'd take a crack at giving the word.

Don't bring your \$5,000 bike to college and chain it up with a \$5 lock. It won't be there when you return. Instead, bring your \$5 bike and a \$5,000 lock! If you look around the city, you will see the skeletal remains of many bikes, locked to utility poles, etcetera. Let me tell you how this happens. First, someone chains up their bike, and when they return they find some accessory gone, often a seat or a wheel. They can't bike home, so they leave it there overnight. Other bike thieves drop by, and like vultures finding carrion, they remove other items harder to steal, like

gear mechanisms or brakes. When the biker returns, they find only the frame bolted to the post. Usually, they leave it there as a warning to others.

George Brown College should have a secured bike area. They do not. Lots of people at the college are trying to get one. If you would like to help, contact Donna Tozzi at [dtozzi@gbrownc.on.ca](mailto:dtozzi@gbrownc.on.ca).

If you are a serious city biker, you should watch for the following: **Crossing Guards** They often fire their stop signs into the faces of unsuspecting bikers because they simply don't look.

**People throwing things** People spit or throw cigarette butts in your face. Again, they don't look.

**Senior citizens** Easily, the most dangerous group. They just walk out onto the street without looking, often in twos or threes.

**Taxis** Toronto taxi drivers are on bad drugs. Stay away. This week, I was almost hit by one making a left turn into a laneway. Instead, I braked, the front wheels locked up and I went back wheel

up. I chased the bastard for three blocks, but I'm not sure what I would have done if I'd caught him.

Bicycles are like stealth bombers of the street. They are invisible to drivers as well as pedestrians. We make no noise, and because we are not the size of a small house, we get no road respect or breathing space.

I find that the animosity between bikers and just about everyone else is similar to that between powerboaters and sailors. They share the same space, but live very different lives. Powerboaters have big, smelly, obnoxious, floating houses. They are loud and garish. Sailors live quiet, introspective lives, using only the power of God's breath.

We are having the first meetings of the new Bikers Club this month. Come and bring a friend. At the St. James campus, come to the Student Association office on Tuesday, September 21 at 1 p.m. or at Casa Loma on Wednesday, September 22 at the SA office at 10 a.m. or contact me at [diaLOG@canada.com](mailto:diaLOG@canada.com).

## Snow in Toronto?

by Shareen Barker

Did you ever think you would see snow in Toronto in the summer? Well, this summer, Christmas came to a lane near Yonge and King Street! Cameras were rolling, and sleighs were zooming about. Disney was shooting a series called Jett Jackson. Right now, it's only showing in the U.S., but if it does well, it might come north! Keep your eyes open for the many movies shots taking place in our great T.O.!





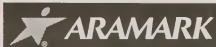
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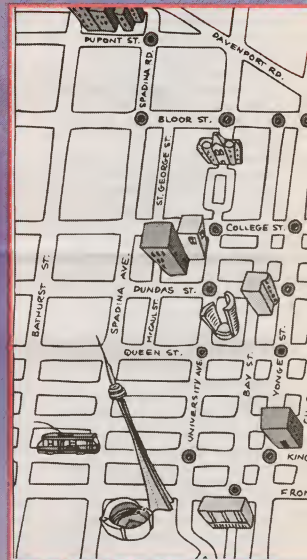
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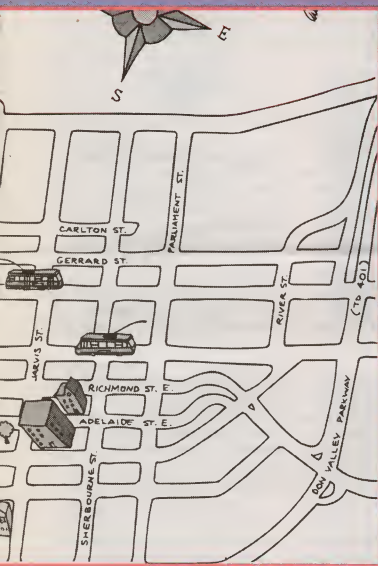
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by Boni

I'm sure my esteemed colleague, Allan, will take the socialist high road on the beggar/squeegee kid issue. I, however, would like to point out the less obvious historical/socioeconomic issues that are not usually addressed in this discussion. There's more than a political agenda of "get-those-messy-people-off-the-streets-they-don't-pay-taxes" going on here. There is a historical analysis regarding the Euro-Canadian attitude towards people with less resources. Given the Euro-Canadian system of individual rights versus the tribal belief that everyone has a responsibility to the social structure (that everyone must have gainful work, housing and food), it doesn't surprise me that Canadians have chosen to slough off their responsibility for creating this social snarl.

Going back to the days of Robin Hood, starving men and women were executed for hunting and fishing on crown land or private property which of course covered all the places to do so. During the time of Charles Dickens, only one hundred years ago, people were hanged, or if the judge felt charitable—deported, for "theft of the King's property". Native and other low-income people in this land are still being arrested and jailed for trying to provide the necessities of life for their families. So what's exceptional about Mike Harris wanting to jail beggars and squeegee kids?

Up until the 1980's, there were shoeshine boys in Toronto. In the 1960's, my brother was one of them. Nobody got all teary-eyed about the fact that he, and other young men, didn't have enough food or housing and no experience or education to get employment. The cops harassed them for vagrancy, squatting, sometimes even

prostitution. Social service agencies adjudged them "delinquents" and virtually ignored them. When Emmanuel Jacks died, homophobia ran rampant in the media while white social service agencies suddenly panicked over the "risks" that endangered shoeshine boys in Toronto. Exit shoeshine boys. Enter squeegee kids. At least the squeegee kids came with built-in weaponry.

Begging has a long and honoured history in many countries. In some countries, beggars must be licensed and belong to a "beggar's guild" that guides begging behaviour. There are also religious beggars complete with begging bowls. Of course, begging was also a crime in Europe—it isn't a "Christian" tradition. (Of course, no one bothered to question exactly how Jesus and the disciples raised money...)

Until the 1980's, "vagrancy" was another criminal offense against the commonwealth. "Vagrancy" meaning

you didn't have enough pocket money to qualify as human. As a teenager, I remember walking the streets of Toronto constantly aware I could be arrested when I had less than \$7 in my purse. Even then, I failed to see my offense against the greater society at large whether I had \$6.75 in my wallet or a ten dollar bill...

Wouldn't it just be easier and take less legal paperwork to simply state that "Poverty is now a crime punishable by a \$1,000 fine or thirty days in jail" and cut the bullshit? Why shroud this in a whole raft of rhetoric about tourists and taxes? Are hostels better than workhouses?

Canada has a history based on the English model, of trying to legislate social problems out of existence. Sorry, Your Imperial Mikeness—King John couldn't do it, Queen Victoria couldn't do it and you can't do it.



by Allan Stokel

So Boni accuses me of being a Socialist. Well, if that means having a conscience, I'm guilty as charged. On this first Face Off feature, we plan to look at a single issue through two different sets of eyes. I was born offshore to a lower-middle-class family. We didn't have that much, but we didn't want for much either and we always shared.

Through a combination of hard work, luck and planning, I'm now upper-middle-class. I'm halfway between middle-aged and a senior, I'm male and white. I should be supporting the social policies of Herrmann Goering and the Ontario Tories. But I don't.

My parents taught me to share my

possessions. We live in a wealthy province. We should be willing to share with those who have less than us.

Instead, we mean-spiritedly kick the old, the poor and the disenfranchised into the street, and then verbally abuse them while paying our storm trooper cops to physically abuse them. Think I'm wrong? Well, read on, neophyte.

First we were alarmed about the increasing number of homeless on our streets. I say our streets, the city streets, because these unlucky citizens are drawn to the inner city. They come from out of town and the suburbs, but they live in the city parks. If you are unemployed and homeless, you can fill your day making the grand tour from city soup kitchens to hostels. These services simply aren't available en masse elsewhere.

When you have no money, you can either steal or beg. Most prefer to beg as even the homeless have a moral code, you see. My people (referring to the great white middle class) are appalled. "Why don't they get a job?" they ask. The fact that finding a job can be a daunting task when you have few job skills, are marginally sick because you live outside and don't get proper medical care, and you look like you've been on a year-long camping trip, because you have.

Some of the younger homeless took that to heart and decided to offer the middle class a service. In return for a clean windshield on their Volvo, Mercedes or Lexus, the driver would pay a small indulgence. Now the squeegee kids are to be kicked out of town for finding a job.

These hypocrites really get my gall! First, they demand the poor take jobs and then they cry out when they do create work. Perhaps they would be happier if they brought back work houses. At least then, we would not have to look at the poor on our streets.

The real problem is that some people in Ontario don't want to share. They want lower taxes and they want the poor to pay for all this. Blaming poverty on the poor is not new. What is new is the cruel, spineless way some politicians use the poor to get what they want. Mike Harris is their leader. His wife and kids have figured out what kind of a mean-spirited, cruel bastard he is.

How long will it take the rest of you?

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When I first met my mate, it was love at first sight. We enjoyed sex all the time and we had a great time

together. Now we have a baby and he is so tired at night we rarely have sex. When we are together, we argue about money. It seems we have nothing in common anymore. I believe this is destroying our relationship.

To complicate things, I have met someone new. He is exciting, beautiful and strong. He is single and wants to have a relationship. He is much older than me and can offer financial security. I am unsure what to do. I have committed myself to another, and even though that relationship is not working, I did promise to "love, honour and cherish all the days of my life". I have many more days available and I'm afraid I won't have another opportunity for true happiness. I have to make up my mind. Do I end my nuptial relationship with my life partner for this new person and risk losing access to our child or do I hang in and remain unhappy?

Unsured

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Unsured,

Are you on crack? Is your brain located in your butt crack? Are you seriously asking me if you should leave your husband and child for a sugar daddy (too much sugar is commonly known to crack even the most healthy teeth)?

# torrid love

God help me because I'm about to launch into something that might sound something like a lecture from the repugnant, antiquated, conservative advice tyrant known as Dr. Laura, but you really should look for ways that you can find happiness in your current relationship before hot-footing it into what could be a disaster.

I won't say that leaving your marriage is wrong—that's ultimately your decision but I would urge you to take time before making a decision and ask yourself these questions: have you talked to your husband about your unhappiness? Is your new child not something in common? Could your arguments about money not be an indicator of something larger like, oh I don't know, the fact that you now have a new child, are temporarily too tired to have sex, and are unsure of your new roles as mummy and daddy? Lost income due to maternity and increased expenses due to a kid can be overwhelming but, again, I ask you: have you spoken to your husband about it? Have you taken the time to remember the reasons why you wanted him to be the father of your child?

All you've said about the new man is that he's exciting, beautiful, and strong with cash in his pockets. Is he smart, challenging, funny, sensual, too old to get it up? Do money



and beauty equal "true happiness"? One more perspective before I sign off...have you ever wondered what happens to the wonderful older women who were once young and vibrant like you who get the old leave ho once the dirty old bastard they're married to decides that he wants to upgrade to a newer model? How many years will you have with the foggy before he decides that your ass isn't tight enough? Leave the dirty old man to his own devices.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hi. I heard from a friend that you were the best advice columnist going, so here's hoping that you may be able to help me. I'm a closet gay. Now I know that is nothing shocking...however, my roommate doesn't know either. Lately, I have been finding it harder and harder to keep myself from doing something I might regret. Namely jumping his bones! To appease myself though, I have been able to satisfy my urge through voyeurism. You see, he has this habit of taking showers with the door unlocked. I am able to peek in and watch him douse his beautiful body while pleasing myself. I know this is wrong, but sometimes I think he knows I'm there. What should I do? Should I tell

him I'm gay and want him? Or do you think I should just continue to watch from afar?

Thanks,

Candid Romeo

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Candid,

Well rub-a-dub-dub three men in a tub, aren't you the little perv? Regardless of whether you're gay (closeted or getting off the rack) or hetero, you should not be violating your roommate's privacy with your voyeurism. Anytime I've participated in a voyeuristic activity, it's been with someone who I know or see from afar. That's the point of voyeurism—you're looking in on someone else's life, not participating in it!

You might want to ask yourself a few questions: are you ready to come out to your roommate? If so, is it because you're comfortable with him or because you want to shag him? If he knows you're there and is okay with it, why doesn't he let you know or invite you for a tubby? Will you be happy watching him from afar? Honey, you need to lay it on the line if you ever want to lay it any other way!

One little technical question—how do you get away with the schpacing without him hearing you? I never seem to be able to get anyone off without a considerable amount of hullabaloo.

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# The Return

by Kevin Gibson

**T**attoos, tans, alcohol, beaches full of barely legal, nearly naked bodies; days without sleep. Chances are this summer, you have experienced enough debauchery to make Larry Flynt blush like a little school girl. Well, that's over, sweetheart! Summer is dead, dead as that raccoon you ran down on your way to Wasaga Beach. You are about to embark on yet another nerve-racking, mind-altering, and merciless scholastic journey. But relax, you'll like it, trust me.

You love it so much that you subject yourself to a myriad of circumstances which the human psyche was not meant to endure—crushing chest pain as you study for exams, utter humiliation as you stumble over presentations, and enough coffee to induce hallucinations and shut down your kidneys but relax, you'll like it, trust me.

You are here by choice, right? This was your idea. There's no surly man with a bad attitude and badder breath blackmailing you into being here (unless you count your father). You want to put yourself through eight months of hell. You could be in Bora Bora right now, but you're not... You're back in school for yet another year. You want the stress, you need the stress, the stress makes you feel alive, and without the exams, tests and quizzes (both written and oral), you'd be a deflated, jaded and dislocated shadow of your former self...right? Good!

You see, after four months of nights in the bar, afternoons in the sun, and

mornings in bed (fill noon), coming back to school can be an enjoyable experience. There is the joy of accomplishment, the satisfaction of bringing order to the chaos of both summer and the non-academic aspects of another school year, the challenges which can only lead to growth. Plus, a new year means a new beginning, a fresh outlook and a chance to outperform (or make up for!) last year. This, believe it or not, is a chance to better yourself...trust me.

Think of it this way: if you weren't here, you'd be somewhere else, doing something else, and pretty much wasting your life—y'know, having unadulterated, blissful FUN. Sure, school's not fun. It's work, and a lot of it. You just have to learn how to revel in it. No one is going to try and tell you that there will be singing and dancing and Hershey's Kisses for all. It's spine-numbing, skin-curling work, but it's fun, you'll like it. You'll really like it!

But you can relax a little. George Brown is one of the best colleges in the province, if not the Galaxy. There are plenty of skilled people who are more than willing and able to help you. Seminars on time management and stress management are virtually ongoing and are quite helpful in dealing with the turmoil you are bound to experience. Counsellors, tutors, professors and others are all there to help you succeed. Take advantage of them and their expertise, it will be worth your while. So relax, work hard, and good luck. You'll need it, trust me!



**A**nother school year already? It doesn't seem possible. Yet here we are again, giving our movie reviews and reviews to a whole new group of students. For those of you as yet unfamiliar with us, we are two people obsessed with film. I don't mean "Cable Guy" obsessed. We're talking "Fatal Attraction" obsessed. So, you have been warned.

To start off another school year, He and I are giving you our top ten summer movie picks. If you haven't seen these films yet...what are you waiting for?!!

**She said:** Picking a top ten is always hard. Usually the last movie I saw is the only one I remember. But I will stretch my mental powers and dish you up the ten best for summer '99.

10. **The Mummy** Brendan Fraser is yummy!
9. **Star Wars** Come on...will there be a list that doesn't include this one?
8. **Tarzan** I don't usually like to fuel the Disney machine...but this one was good.
7. **Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me** I love this character...but not as much as the first time 'round.
6. **Big Daddy** I would laugh hysterically at Adam Sandler eating Cheese Whiz on toast.
5. **Mystery Men** Visually interesting with very funny, real life heroes.
4. **Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels**

3. **Notting Hill** Sigh! Who said that romance is dead?
2. **American Pie** I saw it twice in three days. It is that funny.
1. **Run Lola Run** Even with subtitles, this movie is a must see.

**He said:** I can't believe the summer is here and gone. Where did it go, Marlene? Where did it go?

10. **The Blair Witch Project** Expect an increase in enrollment in film studies...and a decrease in family camping trips.
9. **Star Wars** How do you move from the top 5 to number 9 in three words or less...*Jar Jar Binks!*
8. **Edge of Seventeen** Hot dogs, homosexuals and the Thompson Twins. Oh yeah, the 80's are back!
7. **The Matrix** Slick, stylish and a lack of dialogue for Keanu. It works!
6. **GO!** Two words: FEAR AMWAY!
5. **Drop Dead Gorgeous** We're perky, we're cuties! Watch my pom pom fly high in the sky! Watch out for that ax! Oooohhh! Oh well...am I a winner yet?
4. **Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels** Another Brit film does good.
3. **The Sixth Sense** Bruce Willis + a really good movie = Huh!???
2. **Tarzan** Out of the way Simba...there's a new sheriff in town.
1. **American Pie** Ooooooh...Stifler's Mom!

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# "Walk for Life"

by Darnell Smith

It's that time of year again. The Tenth Annual 'AIDS Walk Toronto' is happening on September 26 at 10 a.m. The walk starts at 2 p.m., leaving and ending at Nathan Phillips Square.

*"Why should I participate in the AIDS Walk?"*

The money raised from the walk will go to benefit AIDS organizations throughout Metro Toronto. Without the help of individuals participating in annual fundraising events, like AIDS Walk Toronto, money could not be raised to keep these vital services available to those who need them.

*"Isn't AIDS just a gay disease?"*

No. AIDS affects everyone. It is a myth that only gay men get AIDS. The fact is that anyone can get it. You can get AIDS from bodily fluids such as blood, semen, or vaginal fluids. It can be passed on to an unborn baby in the womb or to a baby that is nursing from an infected mother. It can't be passed on by casual contact such as hugging, kissing, or using anything that an infected person used.

*"Why should I participate in AIDS Walk*

*Toronto? I don't know anyone with AIDS."*

Just because no one has told you that they have AIDS, doesn't mean you don't know anyone. The person sitting next to you, your teacher, the person you play in the hallway, a co-worker, a friend, or even a family member could have AIDS and not have told you. The fact is until someone tells you, you don't know who is or who is not infected.

To sign up as a member of the S.A. of G.B.C./LBTA of GBC (Student Association of George Brown College/Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered Association of George Brown College) team, come to any of the S.A. offices and fill out the form located there to register. There is no fee involved in any aspect. If you already have a walkers' kit and wish to join the team, call Act at (416) 340-WALK (9255) and let them know. Also, come to the SA office and leave Darnell (Team Captain) a message to put you on the list of walkers. For further information, e-mail us at [AIDSwalkgbc@yahoo.com](mailto:AIDSwalkgbc@yahoo.com) or call and leave a message for Margaret Cameron (Co-Captain) at (416) 415-2900 ext. 89072.

## The Red Ribbon

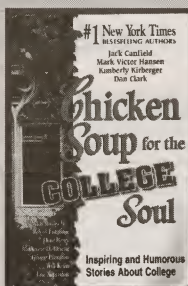
Begun in 1991 by Visual AIDS, the red ribbon increases visibility for HIV and AIDS.

Visual AIDS is a charity group of artists honoring friends and colleagues afflicted with the disease. Inspired by the yellow ribbon for Gulf War soldiers, the color red was chosen for the connection to blood and the idea of passion—not just anger, but also love. The Ribbon Project is a big force, spreading awareness of AIDS and the need for continued action and research. The hope is that it will someday not be necessary and a cure will one day be discovered.

*Think about it.*

-Gregory R. Morisse

# Chicken Soup A Bitter Harvest...



Chicken Soup for the College Soul, Health Communications Inc paperback, 340 pages.

I've seen this series of books in the stores. They reminded me of the Complete Idiots guides, only I didn't get the chicken soup thing. A friend told me that some Americans believe that chicken soup is both soothing and nutritious. I had better change my brand, because I just find it salty. Never mind, because unless you're an avid fan of Reader's Digest, you will have no reason

to read *Chicken Soup for the College Soul*. It is a collection of essays which can most easily be dismissed as shallow American cultural imperialism.

This braggy self-serving little reader must have made its authors feel very good indeed. Imagine being able to tell millions of people how hard-working you are, how successful you are and how important you are. This is chicken soup for the writers, not the college students. They don't need to hear someone else's parents brag about how hard things were or how lazy they are.

As a Canadian college student, I'll give you some free advice so you won't have to give the Yanks \$21.95 for this jingoistic crap. My advice is simply this: Be there.

Be there when you're expected in class, be there when the assignments are due, when someone needs help, when it's time to graduate, when your children are born, when your parents need help, when your friends cry out to you in pain, when you're so burdened that you are not sure you can take it any more, just be there. Take the \$21.95 and spend it on something that will make you feel good. A bunch of white, middle-age, middle-class Californians will certainly feel good about pocketing your cash.

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**Women's Centre Open House: Thursday September 9, 10qam-3pm**  
**Time Management Seminar: 1pm Room 201**  
**CAMPUS TOURS: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Look for signs**

**SA Open House: Tuesday September 7, 10am-3pm**  
**Women's Centre Open House: September 7, 10am-3pm**  
**Time Management Seminar: Thurs. Sept. 9, 12 Room 569D**  
**Library Info session: Wednesday September 8 12.30pm**  
**CAMPUS TOURS: Wed-Fri. LOOK FOR SIGNS**  
**Volunteer Orientation: Tuesday, September 14, 5pm**

**Library Info Session: Tues Sept 7, 12.30**  
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**Women's Centre Open House: Sept 9, 10am-3pm**  
**Time Management Seminar: Thurs. Sept. 9, 12 noon Room C221**  
**CAMPUS TOURS: Wed-Fri. LOOK FOR SIGNS**  
**Volunteer Orientation: Monday September 13, 5pm**  
**THE ZONE PUB: Thursday Sept. 9, 1-6pm**

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# the OUTbeat

## Homophobia/Heterosexism at GBC



by Darnell Smith

**A** new school year has just begun at George Brown College. With all the excitement and the worries, we can easily forget to reflect on things other than our own lives. With this in mind, I have decided to write this article to make us all aware of something that is easily overlooked: homophobia and heterosexism.

George Brown has produced a pamphlet called "George Brown College on Homophobia & Heterosexism." The pamphlet reads: "Homophobia is negative attitudes, feelings, and beliefs about lesbian, gay, and bisexual people. It can range from feelings of discomfort about a perceived 'lifestyle' to hatred and extreme fear of lesbian, gay and bisexual people, to physical violence and assault." It also states:

"...heterosexism focuses on heterosexuality as society's norm. This focus is exclusive to the point that it does not acknowledge the existence or value of non-heterosexual people, or addresses their needs. This assumption of heterosexuality as superior contributes to the societal invisibility faced by those who are lesbian, gay, or bisexual."

The following is a list of some questions with their answers that many people may be asking.

*"How should I speak to be more inclusive of others?"*

Many of us will be meeting a lot of new people in this coming year, and some of these

people will become our friends. When talking to someone about their personal relationships, if you don't know their sexual orientation, you could use such terms as 'partner', 'Are you seeing anyone?', or 'Are you involved?'. Try using gender-neutral terms and never say, 'Do you have a girl/boyfriend?' By doing this, you are stating that you will be willing to accept whatever answer you get, and that you are accepting of different sexual orientations. Just because someone states that they are in an opposite-sex relationship, doesn't mean that they are not bisexual. They may not have chosen to say that they are bisexual at that point in time.

Be aware of what you say or hear. Someone passing by you may hear the 'gay joke' being said and may be offended. If you hear someone saying something homophobic, tell them you don't appreciate it.

*"How does a gay person look?"*

A gay person could look just like you. They could be the most masculine male or the most feminine female. There is just no way to tell. Even if someone fits the 'stereotype' doesn't mean that they are gay. That person may be completely straight, but may not present himself or herself that way. The truth is you just don't know. Anyone could be gay.

*"How should I act, so as not to offend people?"*

There are many things you can do, and a lot of them don't take much effort. First off, act as if someone around you is gay. Chances are there is. All that you have to do is be

aware of how you act and what you say. Don't say or do things that may be interpreted as homophobic or heterosexist.

If you wish to talk to someone about homophobia/heterosexism you can call or visit:

- \* Counselling (416) 415-2107
- \* Les/Bi/Gay Youth line (416)925-YOUTH
- \* The Women Centres on campus (this is a queer-positive space)
- \* Or drop by the SA and leave a message for the LGBTQA

To report homophobia you can call:

- \* Mary Samuels (Human Rights Advisor) (416) 415-4646
- \* The Gay-Bashing Hotline at 519 (416) 392-6877
- \* Police at 911 (emergency); (416) 808-2222 (non-emergency)
- \* Counselling: St. James (416) 415-2107  
Casa Loma (416) 415-4585  
Nightingale (416) 415-2354
- \* Student Association Office:  
St. James (416) 415-2455  
Casa Loma (416) 415-4730  
Nightingale (416) 415-2463

The first meeting of LGBTQA of GBC (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered Association of George Brown College) will be on September 23 at 6pm. in Room 595F at the St. James Campus. All are welcome. LGBTQA of GBC can be reached at (416) 415-2900 ext. 89917, or [lgbtagbc@hotmail.com](mailto:lgbtagbc@hotmail.com).

### Homophobia

Homophobia is the prejudice against people perceived as gay. This prejudice includes the belief that all homosexuals fit the media-portrayed stereotypes. It can also refer to name-calling with intent to hurt someone. In a school setting, even if someone is thought to be gay, it can be enough for bullies to attack. The result is detrimental to the victim, causing them to withdraw and sometimes drop out of school. Some states have made strides in protecting students. In other states, teachers sit in silence while this abuse continues.

*Think about it.*

-Gregory R. Morisse

### Heterosexism

A magazine reveals the top ten steps for a woman to find Mr. Right. What happens when that woman is looking for Ms. Right? Or what if that Mr. Right is also looking for Mr. Right? The picture is slightly different now. Heterosexism is a belief that heterosexuality is better to other sexualities and can refer to the active promotion of it as the only desirable way of life. This includes the blanket assumption that everyone is heterosexual.

*Who do you presume is straight? Parents? Friends? Professors?*

*Think about it.*

-Gregory R. Morisse

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## Your NEW Health and Dental Plan !!

by Brad Mifsud  
Health Plan Administrator

**T**his is the fourth year that the Student Association has provided students of George Brown College with comprehensive health and dental benefits. The plan began in September of 1996, after students were surveyed regarding their interest in this type of coverage. The response was overwhelmingly in favour of providing this service. Over the years, the type and length of coverage have changed, but not the Student Association's commitment to offering this valuable service.

This year, 1999/2000, the Student Association became members of the Canadian Student Health Network, operated by Galian and Associates. We view this affiliation as a huge step forward for both the Association and you, the students of GBC. The benefits include: on site administration of the health plan by a trained professional, a web-site address to increase the accessibility of information regarding the plan, and various student workshops throughout the year on relevant health related topics.

We would like to also remind all students of the upcoming deadlines involved with your health and dental plans. The deadline to opt out of coverage as well the deadline to add family coverage to your plan is September 30th.

If you already have existing comparable

coverage, you should be advised that it is possible to co-ordinate your benefits, thus keeping both coverage policies. This option will prove to be very advantageous for students since it will increase your coverage and decrease or eliminate your out-of-pocket costs. You can do this by using one plan to cover costs in excess of maximums set under the other plan as well as by increasing your options for what health related services you can receive.

We hope that you will be as pleased about this new direction as we are and look forward to working with you to improve this service even further. For more information on the student health and/or dental plan, we encourage you to call the health plan office at (416) 415-2443 to speak with the new Health Plan Administrator, Brad Mifsud. You can also stop by either of the Health Plan offices. At the St. James campus the office has moved to its new location, room -121 in the basement across from the cafeteria. At the Nightingale and Casa Loma campuses, the Health Plan office is located in the Student Association. Information on the plan and refund opportunities for those students already covered by alternate insurance can be found at the Health Plan office, in the student handbook, "The Source", or through the Canadian Student Health Network web-site at [www.cshn.com](http://www.cshn.com)

# Telling whoppers about the homeless

by Boni

**O**n August 25, 1999 at 5 p.m., Ontario Coalition Against Poverty members and supporters gathered in front of the Eaton's Centre to protest in "snake march" form.

Protesters disrupted the regular shopping/tourist trade by chanting and picketing the Eaton Centre, surrounded by police officers. John Clarke, C.A.W., and others spoke. A list of demands was presented to the public.

A bagpiper piloted the protesters around the Eaton Centre, past the Sheridan Hotel, the Elgin Theatre and the lower section of the Yonge Street strip including a short stint in front of Burger King. The police barred entry to properties where the crowd halted, shouting slogans. On the way by, some people panhandled from patio patrons. At the Hard Rock Cafe, customers cheerfully chucked out handfuls of change.

At the corner of Jarvis and Dundas across the corner from the abandoned Canada Employment Centre, the Sai Baba Centre provided a vegetarian thali dinner to the assemblage. Many officers bemusedly smiled when one supporter extemporaneously rapped about the homelessness issue.

On August 27th, when I interviewed John Clarke he stated, "This march was everything we hoped for. The police shut down the businesses."

(as they passed through).

There was not much media attention around this event. I must question the motivation of the mainstream press. When the media predicted violent altercations between the police and OCAP over the "Safe Park" sit-in, there was front-page coverage for three days. Although double the amount of supporters attended this

peacefully, well-organized protest, it scarcely merited obscure notice on the inside pages.

I would also like to know why the Toronto Star so frequently chooses to use photographs of homeless Natives and other people of colour. According to the statistics I worked with at a street agency, approximately 85% of street people are Caucasian, while perhaps 15% are



visible minorities. I also question the accuracy of the National Post when they cannot correctly report something as simple as a description of food that was served. I have suspicions regarding the other so-called "facts" the mainstream media may have managed to mangle about OCAP and other advocacy organizations. How many of these journalists double-check their facts? Take notes? Show up?



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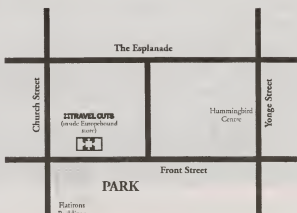


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A black and white photograph of a student's arm. A hand is using a tattoo machine to apply a tattoo of a horse to the student's forearm. The student is wearing a dark t-shirt. The text "This student is buying a car." is overlaid on the image.

This student is buying a car.



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