

# CATCH DA FLAVA

regent park news magazine

[www.catchdaflava.com](http://www.catchdaflava.com)



**SPECIAL ISSUE  
FULL COLOUR  
FEATURING:**

**REGENT PARK VOTES  
REGENT'S NEW AQUATICS CENTRE  
PARKOUR: THE ART OF FREE RUNNING**



**LET CATCH DA FLAVA  
BE YOUR VOICE**

**CATCH DA FLAVA** youth magazine is published by the Regent Park Focus Media Arts Centre. The magazine is distributed free to libraries, community groups, and selected schools across downtown Toronto.

**CATCH DA FLAVA** welcomes letters and articles from young people (up to 24 years of age).

Submissions should be

**NO LONGER THAN 1000  
WORDS IN LENGTH.**

If you would like more information about how you can contribute to

**CATCH DA FLAVA**,

call us at **(416) 863-1074**

or submit directly to

**FOCUSFLAVA@GMAIL.COM**

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# GUEST EDITORIAL:

I am a student at Jarvis C.I, and I am 16 years old. I believe that people at the age of 16 should be given the right to vote.

In Canada you cannot vote until you reach the age of 18. This is because the government thinks that young people under the age of 18 are not mature enough to understand the Canadian parliamentary system and are not capable of making a conscious vote for the people best suited to run the country. This is wrong and only serves to alienate a large segment of our population at the very time that they should be encouraged to be engaged.

Those who argue that youth between the ages of 16 and 18 years are not mature enough to vote should consider that at the age of 16 a young person is able to quit school, get their drivers license, get married without consent and join the army. Why is it that a 16 year old is mature enough to make a decision to join the army and fight for his or her country but not be mature enough to vote for who runs it? How could voting require more maturity and be more important than choosing someone to marry or leaving school? How is it that a young person is permitted the responsibility to operate a motor vehicle, which can exceed speeds of one hundred kilometres per hour, but told that they cannot be trusted with their own opinion? If we allow 16 year olds the right to make important decisions in other areas of their life we should also allow them to vote.

Canada's voter turnout has been on a rapid decline. In the 1988 federal election, 75.3% of those eligible to vote did so, and by 2004 the number had fallen to 60.5%. Voter turnout in the UK has also decreased drastically, with only 59.4% voting in 2001. The UK Electoral Commission concluded that low voter turnout in 2001 was largely due to a lack of young voting. In fact, voting turnouts for youth between the ages of 18-24 have been falling worldwide. Rather than discourage young people from voting, Canada should change the voting age to 16 so that more people would participate. Participate in the debate about what Canada should be, and who should run it.

Who knows, maybe it's a 16 year old.

By  
THASEEPAN MARIYANAYAGAM

# VOTE

## IN THE OCTOBER 10TH PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS



# WHAT'S YOUR BEEF:

Should the voting age  
be lowered to 16?



**PAMELA**

No because they're not adults. Adults are 18 years and older. At 16 years old you're allowed to live on your own but your parents cannot legally throw you out. I think they should make it 18 years old before you can get your license.



**SALLY**

No I don't. I think voting should be in line with the other pieces of what is considered an adult and we normally consider someone an adult at the age of 18. When you acquire the right to do things like sign contracts I think that's when you should be allowed to vote. I think there are some pretty idiotic 18 year olds out there and some smart 16 year olds, but you have to pick a cut off time. If 16 year olds can vote why not 14 year olds because there are some 14 year olds who are better than 16 year olds. It's really quite arbitrary, so if you going to be arbitrary let's at least be consistent and call adults at 18. I would even lower the drinking age to 18 I mean if you old enough to sign a contract or if you old enough to do that other stuff that's when you're old enough to drink.



**RICHELE**

Yes! Because it's not fair that only adults get to vote when 16 year olds have to follow the rules and it's good to get a 16 year old's perspectives as well as an adults.

By da Flava's  
JAMAL PAISLEY

NEW YORK OR STRIP



ROLLED RIB

RIB EYE



STANDING RIB



FILLET



### SHOULD THE YELLOW RIBBON BE KEPT ON PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES?

## YES

#### THE YELLOW RIBBON ARE A WAY TO SHOW THAT WE CARE

My name is Ashley, and I am a supporter of the yellow ribbon Support-Our-Troops campaign. Historically, the yellow ribbon is associated with Americans waiting for the return of a loved one or of military troops who are temporarily unable to come home. During the Iran hostage crisis, the yellow ribbon was used as a symbol of support for the hostages held at the U.S embassy in Tehran. All over America ordinary citizens tied yellow ribbons to trees and other shrubbery in their front lawns to express their desire for the safe return of the hostages. It is therefore appropriate that a yellow ribbon decal was added to approximately 170 City of Toronto fire trucks and 175 ambulances over a year ago as a symbol of public support for Canadian soldiers fighting in

Afghanistan. Canada has about 2500 troops in southern Afghanistan as part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force. Their job is to help establish the authority of the Afghan government and quell the insurgency by Taliban militants. Since 2002, 66 Canadian military personnel and one diplomat have died in Afghanistan. Our troops are not only fighting for our country but are fighting for our city and for everyone. We need to appreciate what they're doing. A simple way that we can all show our respect is to stand strong for the yellow ribbon.

By da Flava's  
ASHLEY MARCHBANK

## NO

#### YELLOW RIBBONS ARE SOMETHING ELSE

What the hell does a yellow ribbon have to do with supporting the safety of troops? What magical powers do yellow ribbons have that can prevent a bullet, stop a suicide bomber or defuse a roadside bomb? The short answer is nothing, the long answer is absolutely nothing!

Supporting the safe return of Canadian soldiers is like supporting oxygen - everyone is for it. You don't need to wear a yellow ribbon to wish for the safe return of our soldiers. Why then, has the decision to permit yellow ribbon decals on City of Toronto fire engines and ambulances been so controversial? The reason quite simply is that the yellow ribbon campaign has nothing to do the safe return of troops and everything to do with trying to influence the public to support the war in Afghanistan.

As many of us are aware, two years ago the ruling Conservative government made a decision to send Canadian troops to fight in Afghanistan as a way of backing the United States' "War on Terror". Right from the start the NDP opposed the decision. Today all of the opposition parties, NDP, Liberals and Bloc Quebecois support the withdrawal of Canadian troops from Afganistan. They are not alone. According to most recent polls 59% of Canadians oppose the war in Afghanistan. Instead of listening, the government has responded by initiating a public relations campaign to influence the public to support the war. At the heart of this campaign is an attempt to purposely mislead Canadians by linking the pub-

lic's high support for the safety of Canadian troops with the government's unpopular decision to wage war in Afghanistan. In other words, if you support the troops, by default you support the war. The yellow ribbon campaign is seen by many to be part of this public relations strategy.

The initial decision by the Toronto fire fighters and paramedics union to put yellow ribbon decals on their vehicles was done so without full debate and authorization from City council. The decals were supposed to be removed after one year as progressive city councilors did not want the vehicles to appear supportive of the war in Afghanistan. In the face of "how can you not support the troops" media opposition and public confusion about the real meanings about the decals, City council allowed the yellow ribbons to remain on the vehicles. This is wrong. The yellow ribbon decals should be removed immediately. The majority of Toronto tax payers do not support the war in Afghanistan and therefore should not be forced to endure what many believe is pro-war propanganda on public service vehicles.

Support the troops - oppose the yellow ribbon campaign.

By da Flava's  
OMAR HASSAR

# PARKOUR:

The art of free running



Imagine running up the arches over the ice rink at Nathan Phillip's Square, or crawling across one of OCAD's gigantic pencils. On a cool, crisp evening, your agile body is moving at top speed: hurdling walls, sprawling over gaps, jumping rails, scaling buildings, twirling acrobatics and swinging on branches with ease. Combining elements of gymnastics, French fighting tactics, martial arts, break-dancing and even skateboarding, you're part of the latest urban sports craze, known as "parkour" or "free running."

Turn your attention to 1969: the scene is Lisses, France - a medium-sized suburb of Paris. If you were to look upwards, you would see heroic firefighter and acrobat Raymond Belle dangling from a helicopter above Notre Dame in an amazing feat of strength and fearlessness. Nine years before his death in 1999, his son David would begin fierce independent training -- boxing, martial arts, running, long-jumping -- and he'd take his skills out into the often confining urban landscape.

**You always have to get through the first obstacle that says 'I can't do it.'**

Here, amid rooftops and high altitudes, Belle would find a tranquil sort of peace and a philosophical inspiration from early 20th Century philosopher George Hebert. After studying the indigenous people of rural parts of Africa, Hebert reported, "Their bodies were splendid, flexible, nimble, skilful, enduring, resistant and yet they had no other tutor in Gymnastics but their lives in Nature." With a deep breath, thirty-three-year-old Belle considers this before taking off in a sprint to clear a ten foot gap and then tumbling, jumping and climbing as creatively as he can, reading his landscape and attaining a level of self-knowledge many can only dream of. He told Newyorker Magazine, "You always have to get through the first obstacle that says, 'I can't do it,' whether in your mind or for real, and be able to adapt to anything that's put in your path. It's a method for learning how to move in the world -- for finding the liberty men used to have."

Just around the corner, Sebastien Foucan - a friend of David's - stares up at the Dame Du Lac, a seventy-five-foot tall climbing wall. Make no mistake - he plans to arrive at the top of that wall and maneuver back down again - but he's fervently envisioning





Illustrations by AJ FRICK

how it'll get done: a "monkey vault" here, a "round-off kick" there, maybe a couple of "cartwheels" when necessary and ending with a grandiose "superman dive". He's taken parkour one step further in an off-shoot known as "free running," which incorporates acrobatics and gymnastics to achieve the same end result. While it's a more challenging and impressive style, Foucan emphasizes the importance of knowing oneself, maintaining peak strength and avoiding reckless competition. There's a hesitancy to call parkour and free-running a "sport" and a solemn philosophical understanding that keeps it a respectable "art form" -- and out of reach from Jackass followers.

However, the dark forces of capitalism are moving in on this seemingly pristine setting. With the increasing need to find "the next best thing" and "the most eye-catching attraction to sell product," marketing executives are abandoning their Segways and vehicle wraps for shots of these "traceurs" (practitioners of free running). A new BBC commercial features David Belle scaling buildings to get to his television set; in a Mercedes Benz commercial, free runner "Sticky" chases the new C-Class model through the streets of Monaco. K-Swiss has developed a sneaker

### **the importance of knowing oneself, maintaining peak strength and avoiding reckless competition.**

("the Ariake") with surface-resistance bottoms, marketed specifically to traceurs. Adidas, Redbull and Nokia are all eager sponsors looking to be identified with everything that is edgy, street and fearless. You may have seen Sebastien Foucan stopping hearts running from James Bond in Casino Royale, or performing similar athletic feats in Die Hard 4 and The Bourne Ultimatum.

But to fully understand the phenomenon's wide-reaching impact, check out [www.urbanfreeflow.com](http://www.urbanfreeflow.com) to see the many countries, projects and people seeking extreme freedom of space and movement. In fact, parkour and free running have finally reached our humble Toronto, which has its own site ([www.pkto.com](http://www.pkto.com)) and following.

By da Flava's  
JENNN FUSION



*Photo: JOSHUA SHERURCIJ*

**A**dam Vaughan is the city councillor for Ward 20 Trinity-Spadina. Adam was born and raised in Toronto. Prior to running for office in 2006, Adam spent the past 20 years in print, radio and television journalism specializing in political affairs reporting. Adam has two children, ages 2 and 8.

*Recently Catch da Flava reporter Omar Hassar had the opportunity to interview Adam at City Hall.*

**Catch da Flava** What is the role of a city councillor?

**Adam Vaughan** It's a pretty simple job. I live in the neighbourhood and I represent the interests and views of the collection of neighborhoods that huddle together in the same ward. We fight to make sure that our communities are set up with all the resources they need based on the taxed dollars that they contribute to provide those resources.

**CDF** What are those resources?

**AV** It's everything from picking up garbage, to making sure that young people have something to do in the afternoon, to making sure seniors can walk home late at night. We make sure that businesses are healthy and can employ people that live in the community and that community members can start businesses. All the services that you see are basically provided by the community to itself through city council.

**CDF** Why do you think it is important for citizens to be politically engaged?

**AV** The only way you build a city, the only way you build a community, the only way you build a home is to get involved. We need everybody's imagination to solve some of the problems we have in the city. The

**what young people need to realize  
is that they do have power.**



## The most important issue is building neighborhoods that work and are functional

act of participating and making a contribution to these problems is the act of politics. And its time to reach out because the problems are becoming bigger. So producing a video or publishing a community magazine is a political act. It's no different then me speaking on the floor of council. It's about communicating and creating consensus around what are the problems and then moving together to find a solution. And that's the act of politics. If you choose not to vote, if you choose not participate in public meetings, if you choose not to play an active role in creating change in your own life your going be taxed anyways. Decisions are going be made on your behalf anyways and the impact of those decisions are going to be visited upon you. The impact is going to hit you anyways so you might as well participate and have a say.

**CDF** One of the criticisms of our political system is that low-income communities don't participate in the political process. How can we engage these citizens?

**AV** The only reason the poor are poor is because they don't vote. It's that simple. You stand up and vote and you will change this city, you will change this province and you will change this country. The poor outnumber the rich so do the math. We live in a democracy. If the poor voted they wouldn't be poor, they would be the government.

**CDF** What do you think the city can do to engage these citizens?

**AV** It's not the city's responsibility to engage these citizens. I mean we can change the voting rule to make sure everybody has a chance to vote whether your citizen or a landed immigrant, we can hold more public forms so that we can listen to public more often but the reality is that its up to the citizen to be engaged. My job as a politician is to make sure that when citizens are engaged I do as much as I can to incorporate their perspective and their wishes into decisions that are made. If I fail at that they

will kick me out of office. If I succeed, they re-elect me, but it's up to those who are getting the short end of the stick to express their needs, and grab the stick and stick it back in the person giving them the short end of it. And I can't say anything clearer then that. If you don't like the deal you been dealt, throw the card table away and start another game. You have to fight for it, you got to fight for change.

**CDF** What are the challenges in engaging young people?

**AV** We write them out. They don't vote so we don't listen to them. They don't have power. The question then becomes how do they get power. But what young people need to realize is that they do have power. Older youth can vote, and all youth can work on political campaigns, they can show up in media events, they can protest and they can create the situations that forces politicians to respond to certain issues. If they don't do these things we don't listen to them.

**CDF:** In your opinion what are the three most important issues facing the City of Toronto?

**AV** The most important issue is building neighborhoods that work and are functional. That's the most important thing. The second things is servicing neighborhoods with garbage pick ups and libraries and parks. The third thing is creating planning processes that are democratic and not driven by the market but by the needs of the people in the community so that everyone has an equal chance of thriving. When we put these three things together it means that city is working properly.

By da Flava's  
OMAR HASSAR



# BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE

**575 million  
dollars?**



*Photo by CHRISTIAN MUABI*

**A**s most of you are aware, the City of Toronto is seriously short of cash - \$575 million dollars to be exact, and is seeking help from the provincial government. The \$575 million is needed to balance this year's 7.8 billion dollar operating budget for the City of Toronto. Without the province's help to balance its finances, the city will be forced to choose between cutting the budget via massive service cuts or raising more revenue through increased user fees and massive property tax increases. Either way we Torontonians lose. This is because the City will have to contemplate closing swimming pools, cutting bus and subway routes, reducing snow removal and other maintenance services, reducing library service hours and city funded after-school programs. In addition, we should expect to pay for garbage collection and more for TTC fares and rental housing (as a result of property tax increases). This is just the tip of the iceberg, keeping in mind that the city is currently in debt 2.2 billion dollars.

Budget Chief Shelley Carroll called the City's financial situation "unsustainable" and says that the budget crisis we are in is because of downloading -

the province hasn't paid its fair share of costs for social services such as shelters, child care and other programs. These services were once run by the province and were handed over to municipalities as part of the 1988 amalgamation. Mayor David Miller argues that the province should reverse 730 million dollars in downloading costs, and intends to make the unfair funding formula with the province an issue in the upcoming provincial elections.

In conclusion, I think that the Provincial government needs to come to terms with this debt because for residents of Toronto this is certainly unjust.

By da Flava's  
ASHLEY MARCHBANK



# SURVEILLANCE



They watch us like a hawk  
Like we're doing something bad  
We move to the left  
They move to the left  
Like we're doing some kind of theft

We pick up a bag of chips  
A candy bar and a pop  
While we're doing that  
They're calling the cops

They watch us like a hawk  
Like we're doing something bad  
We move to the right  
They move to the right  
I know I will never  
Be out of sight

ADAKU HUGGINS WARNER AGE 12

*Graphic by AJ FRICK*

Not too long ago, the Toronto Police Department proposed a plan to place Toronto police cameras throughout "at-risk" neighbourhoods across the GTA. After such incidents as the Jane Creba shooting, which happened horribly in broad daylight, five cameras were put up throughout the Entertainment District. Toronto police cameras were also proposed for low-income communities. There is obviously crime in these neighbourhoods, but the same goes for almost every other neighbourhood in the GTA. These cameras focus on the wrong intentions. Instead of spending money on trying to catch criminals in these neighbourhoods, they should be investing in programs that help prevent crime and better the community.

Many people in these neighbourhoods feel that this project is an invasion of their privacy and I totally agree with them. I would not feel comfortable knowing that almost every move made in the area is being video taped. The police cameras may have good intentions by trying to stop crime, but what about the majority of law-abiding people who are living honestly? Why must they lose their right to

privacy because a few people in the area are doing wrong? Is it fair to punish a whole group of people because of what a few people do? Studies show that the maintenance costs for these cameras would come to about an annual cost of \$4.9 million. It would be outrageous if the government actually plans to pay for this because there are surely other ways for that money to be spent that could greater serve the communities. I honestly believe that putting up cameras will not deter anyone from being involved in things such as shootings or drug dealings. All the cameras will do is cause criminals to move their crimes to another place that is not under surveillance, which doesn't solve anything. It appears that the government and police department would rather catch criminals than try to better communities so that there are no criminals to catch in the first place. The Toronto Police Department needs to start realizing the real problems and focusing on real solutions.

By da Flava's  
GEBRIEL DENEKE

# REGENT'S NEW AQUATICS CENTRE



Graphic by LEONARD EDWARDS

Issac Mbikay, a 14 year old resident of Regent Park, doesn't swim in the outdoor pool located minutes from his home. "Its lame," he says. But offer Issac an opportunity to travel to North York to swim in Douglas Snow Aquatic Centre and he's gone. Soon Issac won't need to travel so far to get that cool aquatic experience. That's because the City of Toronto is building a new park and an 11 million dollar Aquatic Centre right here in Regent Park. Construction of the aquatic centre will begin in the fall of 2008 and will be built in North Regent between the boundaries of Sumach and Sackville street. Toronto's Aquatics Supervisor, Gary Sanger, describes the coming aquatic centre as a 24,000 square foot indoor facility where "children learn to swim, adults and seniors attend fitness programs and young people have leadership courses to become lifeguards or instructors." Sanger says that the facility will consist of different swim areas including an infant pool with toys and water slides, a recreational pool and a training pool for conducting swimming lessons. Each pool will have different water temperatures. The facility will also have a party room, family change rooms and lounging areas with furniture. Last but not least, designers are exploring the feasibility of a retractable roof or

**City Councilor Pam McConnell made it clear to council that the funds should remain in trust for future construction of an indoor pool facility**

walls that will open up to the surrounding park. While there will be some who argue that in the midst of a budget crisis the city should not be allocating money for construction of capital projects, much of the cost for the new aquatic centre came from funds that were set aside in 1999 to build a public use, single tank pool at Lord Dufferin school as part of the school's reconstruction. According to Doug Giles, Project Coordinator for Parks, Forestry and Recreation, "the Lord Dufferin pool was cancelled because of research that revealed that people were choosing not to swim in small pools and that they actually preferred to travel a small distance to get to larger multi-type facilities". Although the pool was cancelled, Giles says that City Councilor Pam McConnell made it clear to council that the funds should remain in trust for future construction of an indoor pool facility in the area. Giles feels that it was

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 27...**



# PAYPHONES:

Ring ring  
Cha-ching Cha-ching



Graphic by AJ FRICK

The pay phone, like a lot of old technologies, has become an endangered species these days. Once found up and down every street corner, at every gas station, liquor store and convenience shop, they're now harder to find. That's because pay phones are on their way out. Bell won't reveal the number of booths it has yanked from the streets. But according to Statistic Canada some 4,000 booths have been put out of service nationwide every year since 1998. The pace of removal is quickening, with almost 10,000 payphones disappearing between the end of 2005 and 2006. With a quarter of low-income Canadians lacking a home phone line - never mind a cell phone - the pay phone is the only way of communicating for a needy segment of our population.

By  
GOVENDRA JALIM DASS

*Did you know that the cost of using a pay phone in Toronto is now 50 cents? Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) approved Bell Canada's request to raise the pay phone rates from 25 cents to 50 cents effective June 1, 2007.*

## BLOG COMMENTS

**Shamini** i was callin my mom from wrestling practice after school and i put in 25 cents and it says please deposit 50 cents..i had to walk home in the cold JUST because i was 25 cents short and i couldnt use the office phone!

**Ryan** honesty this is ridiculouss i forgot ma cell phone home esterday and i went to the payphone to call for ma ride...put in a quarter...dialed the number...please deposit 25 cents so i kept hanging up and puttin the quarter back...on the 50th time...i read the sign...50 cents...make 2 calls for a loonie....took ma quarter and went to the convience store and got me a sour key.

**Vixx** That is bull sh\*t cuz wen the person doesnt pic up you lose your f\*kin money oo man

**Michael** y'all act like its the end of the world, just get a job and buy a cell phone

**Andrew** Definitely irritating. Bell's getting pretty messed up by Rogers but I think this is more a move to gear people towards buying cell phones.. which is a bitch because I hate cells.

**Shannon** dats truly bullsh\*t as if 25 cents wasnt already expensive... at least it was to me... payphones are usually for under a minute calls... 25 cents?? dats craziness f\*ck i cant afford to leave my house anymore everyhting is too expensive then comes 50 cents to use payfone.

# CLOSING TORONTO'S POOLS



Graphic by AJ FRICK

**A**re you looking to beat the summer heat and enjoy the sun and warm weather? Look no further - Toronto's outdoor swimming pools are the place to stay cool while having fun in the sun. So, whether you do a cannon ball or swan dive, it's time for you to take the plunge... but you'd better hurry, before they close.

Why? The city is in debt and Toronto City council needs to raise half a billion dollars just to keep city services running. Unfortunately, Mayor David Miller's plans to raise revenue through land tax transfers (tax on selling property) was opposed by the real estate lobby and voted down in council. This means that the City must now find other forms of revenue or cut services.

So far the library board has agreed to more than a million dollars in spending cuts this year. This means that there won't be Sunday service for 16 branches including the Reference library. It also means that 14,000 items have been dropped from the library's purchase plans. That's not all.

The Sheppard subway is also on the chopping block. Although cutting the Sheppard Subway line would save Toronto a lot of money, it will also bring havoc to the residents all along the line who rely on the subway to get to and from work and school.

There are 39 outdoor pools in the city, which are open 7 days a week from June 16 to the end of August. With this number of pools in Toronto, no doubt that City Council will consider closing a few. If several of these pools are closed to make the budget, what will happen to the children and the adults that frequent them? And what will happen to hundreds of young people who are life guards and rely on these summer jobs to pay for expenses while going to school? According to Michael, a lifeguard working at Broadview and Danforth pool, "If the pools do close, I have no idea what the children are going to do to stay out of the heat, especially now that the heat alert is higher this year.. and as for me, I don't know what me or my fellow lifeguards are going to do."

Without a doubt the provincial government needs to give Toronto the resources they need to get out of this budget crisis. In the upcoming provincial elections make sure the candidates you vote for is willing to go to bat for Toronto.


By da Flava's  
JENNIFER RYCKMAN






# Attention: Women Wanting to Learn

We can help you improve your skills and confidence with



**Reading  
Writing  
Math and  
Computers**



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# REGENT PARK VOTES OCT 10



# On October 10 2007 Ontarians will be asked to vote for a candidate in the provincial election.

## HERE'S HOW IT WORKS.

Everyone who is on the Voter's List and is eligible to vote will receive a Notice of Registration card in the mail. The Notice of Registration card will tell you the location of the poll that you are designated to vote at. Keep in mind that there are numerous polls within each electoral district so bring your Notice of Registration card with you when you go to vote. Also, to obtain a ballot, you must bring proof of identity (driver's license, health card, passport, citizenship card, credit card with a signature, etc). You are eligible to vote on Election Day if you are 18 years of age or older, a Canadian citizen and a resident of the electoral district in Ontario.

There are 107 electoral districts in Ontario. Voting in an election is the act of choosing a political candidate in the electoral district where you live to represent you in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. You make this choice by selecting the candidate that best reflects your views, marking your ballot and placing it in the ballot box. The party with the most elected candidates in the Legislative Assembly will be asked to form the government of Ontario.

Find out what the views of your candidates and the political parties they represent by: attending all candidates meeting, reading campaign literature, visiting the campaign offices, checking out the candidates website and researching information.

If you have questions or are eligible to vote but not on the Voter's List (the official list of all the people in an electoral district who are eligible to vote) contact Elections Ontario at 1.888.ONT.VOTE (1.888.668.8683).

## The Toronto Centre electoral district covers the heart of downtown Toronto.

The riding includes

**ROSEDALE, REGENT PARK, CABBAGETOWN and ST. JAMESTOWN**

## THE TORONTO CENTRE CANDIDATES ARE

**DANISH AHMED**  
**JOHAN BOYDEN**  
**NICHOLAS CARVALHO**  
**PETER CUFF**  
**SANDRA GONZALEZ**  
**GARY LEROUX**  
**MIKE MCLEAN**  
**GEORGE SMITHERMAN** *incumbent*  
**PAMELA TAYLOR**

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE  
COMMUNIST PARTY OF CANADA  
FAMILY COALITION PARTY OF ONTARIO  
ONTARIO LIBERTARIAN PARTY  
ONTARIO NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
INDEPENDENTCANDIDATE  
GREEN PARTY OF ONTARIO  
ONTARIO LIBERAL PARTY  
PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY  
OF ONTARIO

# UNDERSTANDING THE REFERENDUM

**O**n October 10, 2007 not only will you be asked to vote for a candidate in the provincial election, you will also be asked to give your opinion on Ontario's electoral system by voting on a referendum. The following FAQ is based on information from Elections Canada about the referendum.

## What is the referendum about?

The referendum is about Ontario's electoral system. You will be asked to choose what electoral system you feel Ontario should use in the future.

You will be given a choice of two electoral systems. One of these systems is called First-Past-the-Post. It is the system used in Ontario now. The other system is called Mixed Member Proportional. It is the alternative electoral system proposed by the Ontario Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform.

## What is First-Past-the-Post? How does it work?

Ontario is divided into 107 electoral districts. In each district each voter gets one vote to choose which candidate they feel should win a seat in the provincial legislature. One vote. One ballot. In an election using the First-Past-the-Post system, the candidate with the most votes wins and will be the representative for the electoral district in the provincial legislature. After the election, the political party that wins the most electoral districts is normally asked to form a government.

## How does Mixed Member Proportional Work?

If this system is accepted, Ontarians will have two votes in future elections: one for a 'Local Member' and one for a political party. The provincial legislature would have 129 seats: Local Members' would fill 90 seats while 'List Members' would fill 39 seats.

*As you can see the referendum is a significant one that will effect what Ontario governments will look like in the future. If you want some more information on the new proposed Mixed Member Proportional system check out the website [www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca](http://www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca). And most important go ahead and have your say - vote on the referendum on October 10th!*

The political party with the largest number of seats in the legislature, including 'Local Members' and 'List Members', is asked to form a government. In each electoral district, one vote would be used to elect a 'Local Member' using a First-Past-the-Post system. The candidate with the most votes in an electoral district wins.

The other vote would be for a political party. Votes for parties will be used to determine the number of 'List Members' each party gets. This is the proportional representation part.

If a political party is entitled to more seats than it won locally, 'List Members' are elected to make up the difference.

In the end, a political party's overall share of seats will roughly equal its share of the total votes for parties in the province. In other words, if a political party wins 25% of the vote, it wins about 25% of the seats in the legislature.

## What happens if I vote for the alternative electoral system?

It depends on whether your choice is also picked by other voters in Ontario.

If 50% of the voters in 64 electoral districts vote for Mixed Member Proportional

*AND*

At least 60% of all the referendum ballots across the province choose the alternative system recommended by the Citizens' Assembly, then the Mixed Member Proportional system would be put forward as Ontario's electoral system in the future.

By December 31st, 2008, the new government would have to introduce a law to officially make Mixed Member Proportional Ontario's new system. If this does not happen, Ontario will keep using the same system used now to elect members to the provincial legislature (First-Past-the-Post).

## TORONTO CENTRE ALL CANDIDATES MEETING

**Thursday, September 27th -- 6pm-8pm**  
**Regent Park Community Centre -- 203 Sackville Green**





**Open and Direct Talk  
Fresh Ideas  
Putting People First**

On October 10, VOTE

**Sandra González**  
for Toronto Centre MPP

Campaign Office: 456 Gerrard Street East  
Telephone: 416.960.5967

Web Site: [www.supportsandra.com](http://www.supportsandra.com)

E-mail: [sandragonzalez@ontariondp.com](mailto:sandragonzalez@ontariondp.com)

**Ontario's**  **NDP**

*Re-elect* **George  
Smitherman**

- ✓ *Better, more-accessible healthcare*
- ✓ *Improvements in public education  
for a brighter future*
- ✓ *A Stronger and Greener Toronto*
- ✓ *Investing in our people*

**Delivering results for Toronto Centre**

**Liberal**  


[www.teamsmitherman.com](http://www.teamsmitherman.com)  
Authorized by the CEO of the George Smitherman Campaign

## Your JOHN TORY Candidate in TORONTO CENTRE

[www.pamelataylor.com](http://www.pamelataylor.com)

“

*I want to work to make our communities safer and stronger, to build a health care system that provides quality care for everyone, and to clean up our environment by investing in public transit and introducing serious caps on pollution and greenhouse gases.*

*I will proudly represent everyone in Toronto Centre and I am asking for your vote on October 10th.*

*Together we can work to build a better Ontario. ”*



# Pamela TAYLOR



Toronto Community Housing



## Regent Park Revitalization: The Social Development Plan



As part of Regent Park Revitalization, Toronto Community Housing, the City of Toronto, the Regent Park Neighbourhood Initiative and community agencies have been working to create a Social Development Plan for Regent Park. The Plan will help guide community services and community development projects in Regent Park as it revitalizes to become a vibrant, mixed-income, mixed-use community that blends into the surrounding neighbourhoods of downtown east Toronto.

You can see the entire Social Development Plan at [www.regentpark.ca](http://www.regentpark.ca) under the Community Update section.

For more information about Regent Park Revitalization, call 416-981-4311, send an email [info@regentpark.ca](mailto:info@regentpark.ca) or visit the Regent Park Web site at [www.regentpark.ca](http://www.regentpark.ca)

# IN LOVING MEMORY

of those who have  
recently passed



## **RUSSELL HOFFMAN** **1971-2007**

Russell Hoffman was a former resident of Regent Park. Russell was stabbed to death by three youth in Scarborough this past August.



The dead are not dead.



## **SHIRLEY MINTZ** **1938 - 2007**

Shirley Mintz was a resident of Regent Park, volunteer, and a founding boardmember of Regent Park Focus during the early 90s. Shirley passed away in the spring due to a stroke.

They are not under the  
earth.

They are in the tree that  
shakes.

They are in the water that  
flows.



## **MIYUMI SASAKI**

Miyumi was a much loved school teacher at Lord Dufferin School, coordinated the York University urban teacher education program in Regent Park and was a founding member of the Regent Park Film Festival.

Miyumi passed away in the spring from cancer.

They are in the water that  
is still.

They are in the hut; they  
are in the crowd.

The dead are not dead.



## **DAVE KAPPELE** **1962 - 2007**

Dave Kappele was a resident of Oak Street Co-Op, an active volunteer and former community development worker for the Regent Park Health Centre.

Dave suffered a heart attack while riding a bike, this past spring

-Leopold Sedar Senghor





# MINIMAL WAGE:

Just not enough



Photo by OMAR HASSAR

Every year, more and more youth decide to join the work force with hopes of accomplishing goals such as buying a car, saving for school or just becoming more independent. But are these things possible on a salary of \$8 an hour? Statistics say that 1.2 million working men and women earn less than \$10 an hour. That 1.2 million consists of mainly women, youth, and new Canadians. Even the youth who do not work are affected; how are they supposed to live a decent life with their mother and father working for minimum wage? It's a shame that this is the way we reward the citizens who choose an honest living.

Provincial NDP Leader Howard Hampton agrees saying, "The minimum wage in Ontario is not a living wage, you cannot pay the rent, put food on the table, look after your family working for minimum wage. We need at least \$10 an hour minimum wage for people to do that." Ontario's premier Dalton McGuinty will not agree to raising the minimum wage by \$2 anytime soon, but he has no problem giving himself a \$40 000 raise. Dalton McGuinty is not alone. According to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Canada's 100 highest paid CEOs will earn more in a day than most Canadian workers earn in a year. Why is it that we do not deserve a

**"The minimum wage in Ontario is not a living wage, you cannot pay the rent, put food on the table, look after your family working for minimum wage."**

**-Howard Hampton**

higher minimum wage? We may not be in parliament making decisions for an entire province, or the head of a multi-national company, but we work just as hard at trying to provide for our families and ourselves. There are countless youth who are in the work force because their parents need help with bills and it's unfair that they work so hard for so little. I honestly believe that a minimum wage raise to \$10 an hour would encourage many more youth to join the work force, which could also keep them out of trouble. I guess the Ontario's Liberal government does not feel the same, but hopefully Dalton McGuinty will come to his senses in the near future. It's an election year after all and just maybe young people will decide to get out and vote.

By da Flava's  
GEBRIEL DENEKE

গর্ভবতী পরিবারদের এবং ছয় বছরের নিচে  
সনতানদের জন্য আমরা বিনা মূল্যে কর্মসূচি  
প্রদান করি।

கர்ப்பணிப் பெண்கள் முதல் ஆறு  
வயது வரையிலான பிள்ளைகளைக்  
கொண்டு குடும்பங்களுக்காக வழங்கப்படும்  
பலதரப்பட்ட இலவச நிகழ்ச்சிகள்.

我們為懷孕婦女的家庭和六歲以下的兒童  
提供免費的活動

Chúng tôi có chương trình cho gia đình  
phụ nữ có thai và trẻ em dưới sáu tuổi

Barnaamijyo bilaash ah oo loogu  
tala galey qoysaska uurka leh iyo  
caruurta ilaa iyo bjirka ah.

Ofrecemos programas gratis para  
familias con niños hasta los 6 años  
edad.



## REGENT PARK COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

### PARENTS FOR BETTER BEGINNINGS

33 Belshaw Place, Toronto ON, M5A 3H6

**416-362-0805**

465 Dundas Street East, Toronto ON, M5A 2B2

**416-364-0522**

or 416-364-2261





# FREE GARY FREEMAN



*Photo courtesey of FREEMAN DRUM*

Joseph Coleman Pannell is an African American who was born in 1950 in Washington D.C. In his early twenties Joseph Pannell assumed the name Gary Freeman and left the United States to take up residence in Montreal, Canada. Gary Freeman soon met and became romantically involved with Natericia Coehlo, a Portuguese born Canadian living in Montreal. The couple married in 1982 and for the past 13 years have been living in Toronto with their four Canadian born children. They both worked for the Toronto Reference Library at Bloor and Young Street. By all accounts Gary Freeman is a committed father and husband. He has lived an exemplary life, in Canada, volunteering in the community and acting as a mentor to young people by sharing his love of reading, history and jazz.

On July 27, 2004 Gary Freeman was searched, handcuffed and arrested outside the Toronto Reference Library. Since the arrest he has remained in jail.

The reason is that Joseph Pannell, aged 56, is wanted by the United States government and the State of Illinois, to face charges of attempted murder and aggravated battery of a white Chicago Police officer,

**While awaiting trial Freeman fled the U.S. arguing that he didn't believe he could get a fair trial in the then racially charged climate of 1969 Chicago.**

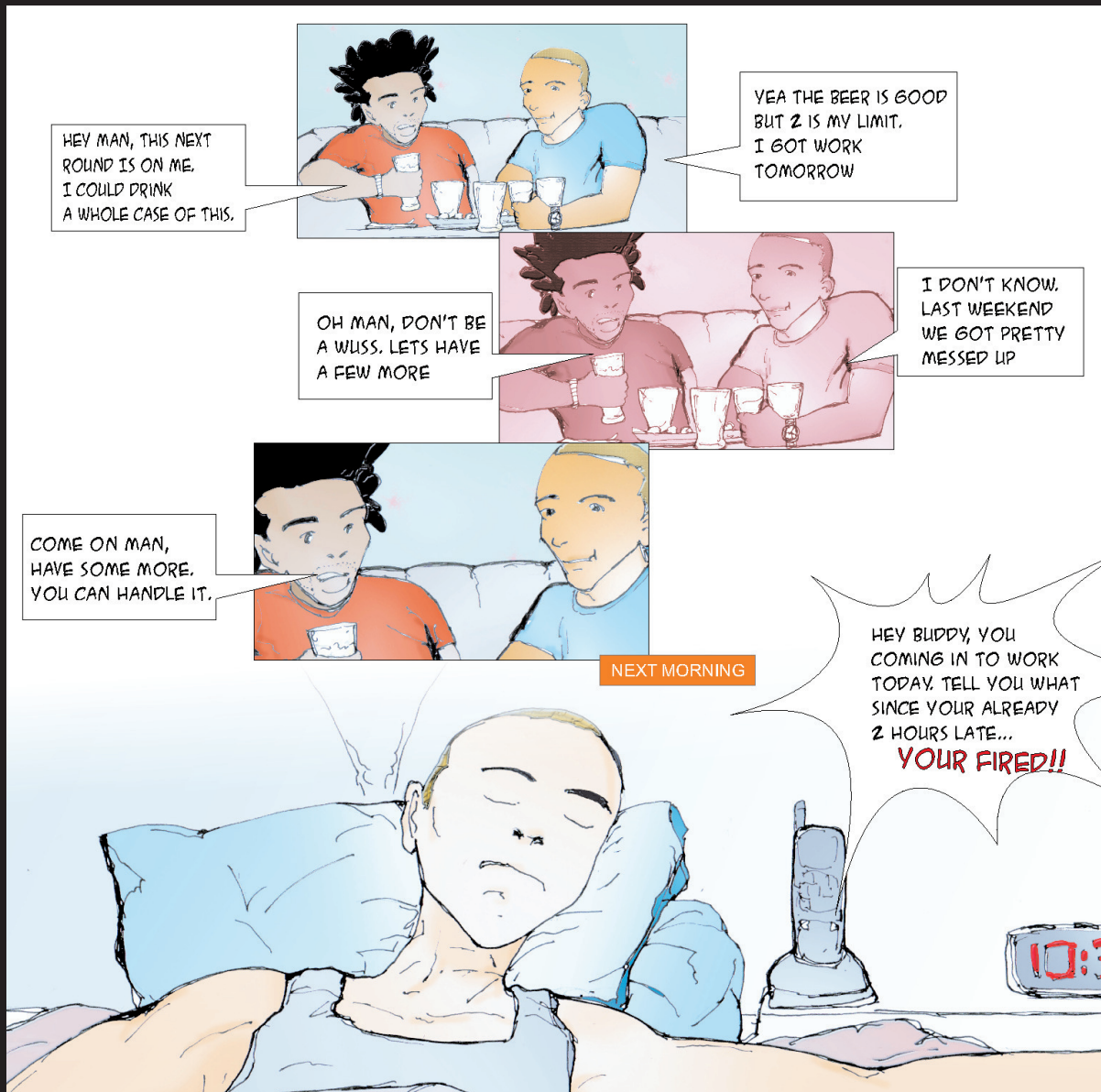
Terrence Knox, stemming from an incident that happened in 1969, thirty eight years ago.

Knox has alleged in court documents that Freeman fired on him during a routine stop after the officer questioned him to find out why he wasn't in school. In the shooting Terrence Knox sustained a wound to his arm. Knox claims that he still suffers from the injury and admits that he was the driving force behind the discovery of Freeman's whereabouts. Preliminary hearings that were held at the time of the shooting established that there was no probable cause for Knox to stop Mr. Freeman. Freeman, who was 19 at the time, does not deny the shooting but claims he acted in self-defence after the officer Terrence Knox attacked him. While awaiting trial Freeman fled the U.S. arguing that he didn't believe

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 28...**



# KNOW YOUR LIMITS



## IF YOU MUST DRINK AVOID GETTING DRUNK



REGENT PARK FOCUS  
YOUTH MEDIA ARTS CENTRE

A message from Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre

# SICKO



*Illustration by GILLIAN DREHER*

Michael Moore has recently released a documentary in movie theatres called "Sicko". In my opinion, this movie is a much needed, thought provoking film that takes a deep look into today's health care systems across the world. Moore does a good job informing viewers on different health care systems and he does an even better job at displaying America's atrocious tactics at handling health care. Many people already know that America doesn't have the best health care, but had no idea at the type of things they were doing to their own citizens.

In Canada we have a universal health care system which means that the government (through our taxes) pays for any health care service that we receive no matter if you are rich or poor. In the United States individuals are responsible for paying for any health care services they receive. As a result, many Americans pay for private health care insurance. In the event that they get sick, the costs for health services are covered by their insurance company. Unfortunately many low-income Americans can not afford health care insurance and therefore cannot afford to get sick or have an accident.

However, Moore's film is not about these people; it is mostly about people with health care insurance. Every day millions of sick Americans with health care insurance are denied proper health care because of the practices of money hungry insurance companies trying to keep every last dollar to themselves. In Sicko, we learn that doctors employed by insurance companies regularly lie to patients, telling them that they did not need special treatments to save insurance companies money. The more money a doctor saves the company, the more money a doctor earns.

**American health insurance companies are responsible for the deaths of many innocent, hard working people.**

In one scene a mother tearfully recounts how the emergency ward of a hospital refused to admit and treat her sick six year old child on the advice of her health care insurance company who insisted that she be treated at a different hospital, one associated with the insurance company. The daughter died in transit. Without a doubt the American health-insurance companies are responsible for the deaths of many innocent, hard working people who had put all their trust in those companies. The film is filled with numerous horror stories of American's encounters with the health insurance companies.

Moore goes one step further by comparing the American privatized health care system with the way other countries operate, including Canada. We learn in the film that France's universal health care system is far superior to both United States and Canada and that in Britain and France post-secondary education is free.

**Many of us take our health care system for granted and don't realize what could happen if we move to privatize it.**

I believe that this film is a must-see for Canadians especially. In Canada we can go to the hospital when we are sick without stressing over how much it will cost us. Yet many of us take our health care system for granted and don't realize what could happen if we move to privatize it. Seeing this film made me realize how lucky I am to be living in Canada and how important it is that we protect our system from deregulation and not ever be fooled by the claim that for-profit-health care companies can deliver health care at a cheaper price.

This film should also be a huge eye-opener for the American government. They need to do a lot of work on fixing their health care system. How, in the name of profits, can one of the richest country in the world allow their citizens to suffer like they do?

By da Flava's  
GEBRIEL DENEKE

**AQUATIC CENTRE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12...**  
fortunate that Toronto Community Housing was in a position to offer the land to build the centre.

"The pool will be a challenge for the architects," says Sanger who feels that the facility needs to accommodate a wide range of needs including women who don't want to swim with people looking at them,"but they're experts, they have made beautiful facilities across the province." The architects working on the Regent Park Aquatics Centre, also designed the Wellesley Community Centre, which received honourable mentions in the Architecture and Urban Design Awards in 2005 and the Ontario Association of Architects Awards in 2006.

Giles believes that the Aquatic Centre will play an important role in civic building and helping to integrate the Regent Park neighbourhood back into the wider city. "The Aquatic Centre and park will be for the city at large, it will excite people and bring people into Regent Park."

Issac doesn't know about all that, he just thinks it will be a great place to swim.

By da Flava's  
STEVE BLAIR AND ONIK KHAN

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**Hear the radio show on  
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on CKLN 88.1 FM**



**FREEMAN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24...**

he could get a fair trial in the then racially charged climate of 1969 Chicago. Given the intense climate of racism that existed at the time, most agree that it is unlikely that the selected all-white jury of Freeman's "peers" would have given much credence to Freeman's defence.

A trial held today for the 1969 shooting however will also come with great challenges, as witnesses have died and evidence has been destroyed. In effect, it would be a matter of Freeman's word against that of a police officer.

The question that we face today is whether the Canadian government and the Canadian public is going to let this man, who is a father and a husband, who has led a 35-year history here in Canada as a law-abiding citizen, an absolute pillar of the community, go on with his life or whether they will force him to return to United States to face his accuser and a

uncertain future.

*Gary Freeman's (aka Joseph Pannell) new Extradition trial dates are: October 6&7 at 9:30 a.m., Court House, 361 University Avenue. Family and friends of Gary Freeman would appreciate your support. Email [freemandrumsupport@web.ca](mailto:freemandrumsupport@web.ca) for more information. You can also express your views opposing Gary's extradition by writing to your MP and to the Honourable Robert Douglas Nicholson, Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of Canada House of Commons at 284 Wellington St. Ottawa, Ontario KIA 0H8.*

*To keep up to date on the Gary Freeman case check out the website:*

*<http://www.web.net/~freemandrumsupport.html>*

By

ADONIS HUGGINS AND SHAENELL STEWART

## **CAPTAIN CANADA**



**AND OTHER FILMS FROM REGENT PARK FOCUS  
AT THE REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL  
NELSON MANDELA SCHOOL  
NOVEMBER 7TH 2007**

R  
9  
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4994



Iain Low Kee

Jerome is also a very bright young man

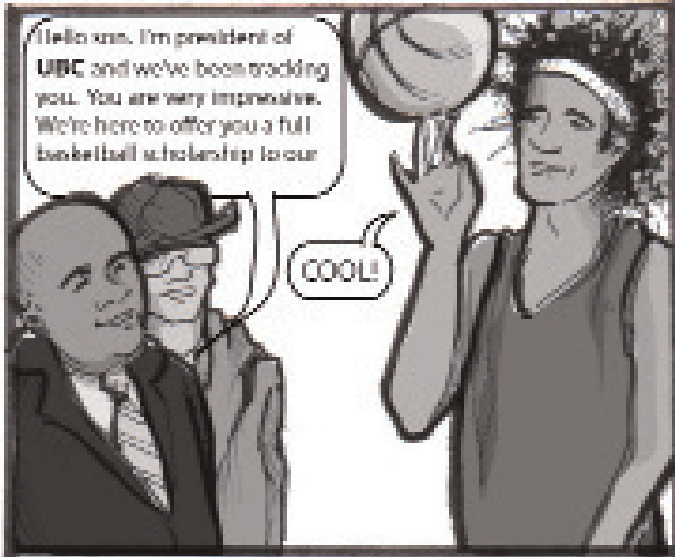


It's the best we've had in a long time. I've been his coach for four years. I could call him a son.



Hello son. I'm president of UBC and we've been tracking you. You are very impressive. We're here to offer you a full basketball scholarship to our

COOL!

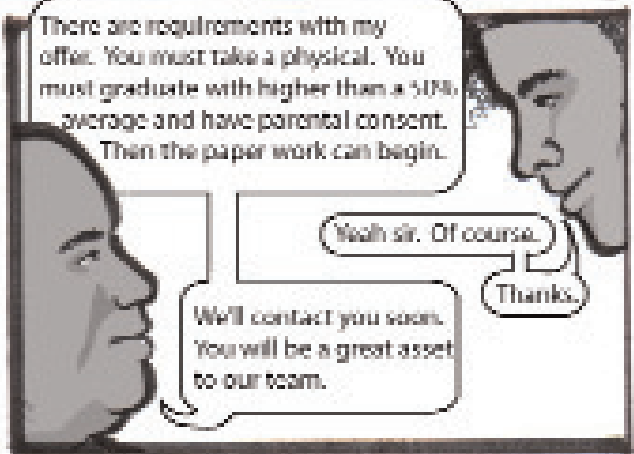


There are requirements with my offer. You must take a physical. You must graduate with higher than a 50% average and have parental consent. Then the paper work can begin.

Yeah sir. Of course.

Thanks.

We'll contact you soon. You will be a great asset to our team.



Yo Man. You could do it. All this ballplaying actually paid off. One question, how you gonna get 50%? You're failing more classes than me!

I have a final this afternoon. No worries. I've got this in the bag. Gotta run. It's go time.



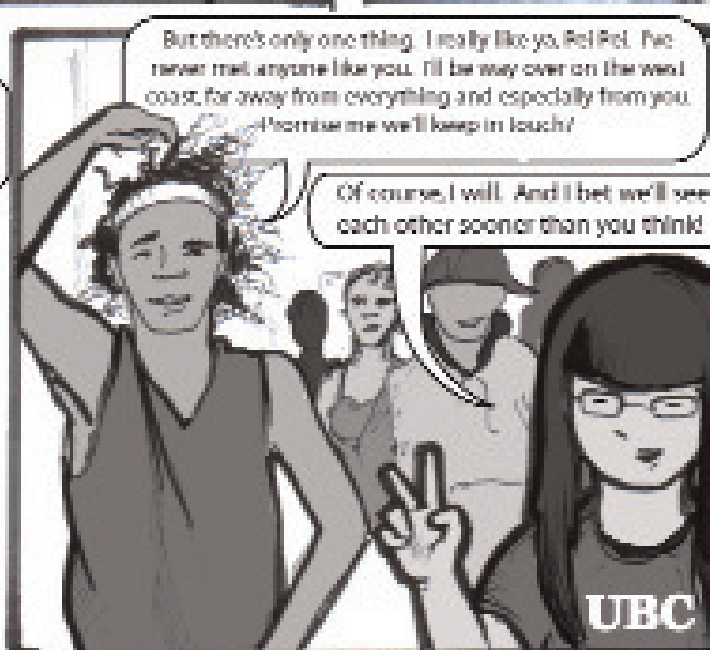
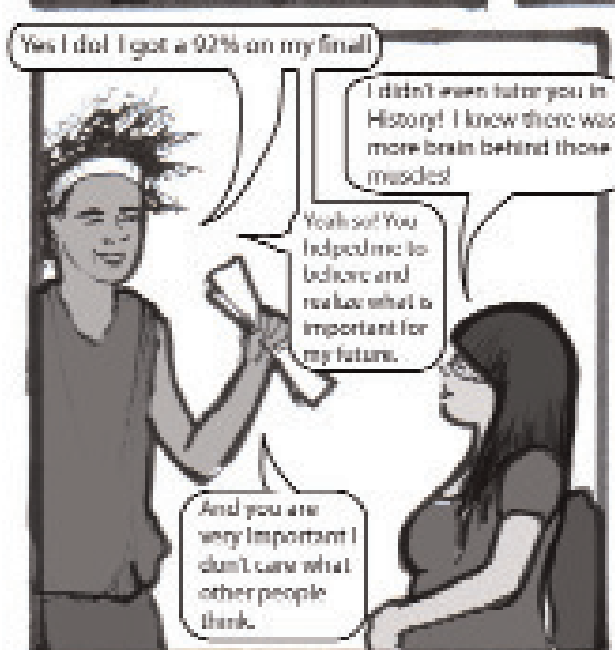
YO Man. What was that about?

-do best ball school in the country wants me big time!









# SUMMER SNAPSHOTS:



COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

APRIL 21 2007



STOMP DANCE COMP

MAY 26 2007



SUNDAY IN THE PARK

JULY 8TH 2007



BUILDING BRIDGES

AUGUST 25TH 2007

**TOP LEFT** TCHC staff plant a garden at Community Clean-Up Day

**TOP RIGHT** Regent Park's TKO dance group take 1st in the 6th annual STOMP Urban Dance Competition (Intermediate Level).

*front row: Latoya, Franceyn, Tiffany, Stacy back row: Marlon, Paul, Carlington, Kym*

**BOTTOM LEFT** Guys take on the girls in Tug-of-War (Photo Andrew Allen)

**BOTTOM RIGHT** Basil razzles and dazzles at the Building Bridges three-on-three basketball tournament

