The students' choice: Dan Robert

APRIL CUNNINGHAM
News Editor

With a voter turnout 50 per cent higher than previous years, 29 percent of the Laurier student body had a vote in this year's student elections, notes Sean Simpson, Chief Returning Officer (CRO).

Dan Robert was elected president of the Wilfrid Laurier Students' Union last Thursday by a margin of 317 votes and he feels great.

"You really put yourself on the line and you don't know what's going to happen," he said. When the results were announced close to 3:00 am, the pressure was taking its toll on everyone, explained Robert. "I squeezed my roommate's hand a little tighter," he said. "The whole process is so emotional."

Matt Gouett came in as a close second, with 1240 votes. He was unavailable for comment.

Robert says that he is happy with the way the campaign went, calling all the candidates' efforts "clean and fair."

Peter Nickel won 323 presidential votes and says he felt relieved when the end was in sight. "I'm a little disappointed with my overall result," he says. "But 300 students voted for me, so I'm thankful for that."

"He says that one of the most difficult elements of the election was that, "no one really knew who I was. and it was a challenge I faced till she bitter end."

The fight for Vice President: University Affairs was an even closer match, but Laurier students chose Jen Mitchell for the job. She won 1570 votes while Trevor Cresswell received 1360. "It was something I've worked for a really long time and to hear my name was absolutely overwhelming," said Mitchell.

Rae Review sparks debate

ADRIAN MA
Staff Writer

This past Monday saw the release of Bob Rae's much anticipated assessment of Ontario's post-secondary education system. The review is a lengthy document composed of recommendations put forth by the former NDP premier and current Laurier Chancellor.

The information revealed in the report - based on a six-month analysis of Ontario universities and colleges - suggests that Ontario's post-secondary institutions lack adequate funding. Key proposals include: an increase of operating grants from the Ontario government, the introduction of a more flexible system of student loans, waiving tuition for low-income students, and some deregulation of tuition fees following Ontario's current two-year tuition freeze.

Rae's comprehensive report earned praise from Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, Mary Anne Chambers, who stated in a press release, "the panel has presented us with a set of far-reaching and thought-provoking recommendations for a new framework for post-secondary education in this province."

Alex Dodger, the Ontario Executive Representative for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), also commends Bob Rae for drawing focus to the needs of low-income families, but is apprehensive about how advantageous the proposals will actually be for Ontario students. Dodger believes Rae's recommendations - especially concerning the deregulation of tuition fees - will exert substantial financial pressure to middle-class students.

"He's suggesting we have a low-income grant, which is great, but the low-income grant will unfortunately apply only to families that earn less than $22,000 a year," she says.

Rae Review sparks debate

Chris Jones rocks the stage at Wilf's last Thursday in the third installment of Music Explosion. Full story on page 21.
Grads poised to protest Rae

Aird Underpass to be blocked next Tuesday

APRIL CUNNINGHAM
News Editor

Not everyone is happy with NDP premier and Laurier Chancellor Bob Rae's recommendations to the provincial government on post-secondary education.

With the release of Rae's long-awaited report on February 7, suspicions were confirmed that after the current two-year tuition freeze, a cap would be removed. This has caused a group of graduate students to plan a rally for next Tuesday, February 15, blocking traffic at the Aird Underpass from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Steve Hendrix, Chair of the Graduate Students' Association is concerned that all of the benefits that came out of the review — including improved accessibility, and an increase in funding — will hide the fact that the money to make the changes will ultimately come from the students.

"It's sort of a wolf in sheep's clothing," said Hendrix. He noted that the review requires $2.1 billion from the provincial government in order to realize Rae's recommendations. "There's no way that's going to happen," he said.

Although Rae proposed that tuition be waived for low-income students, Hendrix says that will put extra burden on the middle and upper class students.

Hendrix is also concerned that student loans will skyrocket. According to Rae's report, a system of income-contingent loan repayment will allow students to pay back their massive debt according to their income level after graduation. "But the longer you hold your debt, the longer you're going to pay," said Hendrix.

Hendrix does not believe there was enough student input for Rae's report. He says that a collection of business professionals and university administration made the most significant contributions to open forums.

"How much do you trust Bob Rosehart to keep a reasonable cap on your tuition," said Hendrix, referring to Wilfrid Laurier University's president and chancellor.

The GSA is hoping the rally will help make students' voices heard. "Hopefully we'll raise some consciousness," Hendrix said.

Financial woes end Louie’s, Fiasco’s

Employees may not receive final paycheques

FERRIS BOYD
Core News

It’s a sad day for employees and visiors of Loose Change Louie’s and Fiasco’s which closed last Friday. The sudden closure has started a flurry of rumours, and many employees remain in the dark. A sign on the door claims that the establishment’s lease has been terminated. The news came to workers between Friday and Saturday of last week, and has left employees and bar hoppers to find a new hangout on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

The details of the termination of lease were posted on the door of both locations the day that the landlord had not paid January or February’s rent of 2005 in full. Also, it claimed that the landlord had underpaid rentals payable during the last year and that arrears of rental total more than $170,000.

While some employees received phone calls from the managers, Richard Anderson, a Louie’s bouncer, was not notified and only learned of the closure from friends. Anderson stated that when he attended work on Thursday, the day before it closed, there was no discussion of it closing. Anderson speculated the now defunct Loose Change Louie’s is pictured devoid of customers. A notice of lease termination that students have overwhelming-

The Cord Weekly

Student fees are set to increase

FRASER KING
News Editor

Laurier students want to spend more money — at least those who voted in the Bus Pass referendum.

All of the referendum questions asked during the February 3 WLUSU and WLUSU elections passed, including the dental plan and GRT bus pass. All of the referendum questions passing will result in an increase of $201.50 per year for students.

Dean of Students David McMurray noted in reference to the increases, "that is democracy, and democracy has spoken."

"The referendum questions had a bigger affect than any other thing voted for," said JD Muir, the chair of the "Yes" campaign for the GRT bus pass, continuing, "this comes right from students' pockets."

Amongst the referendum questions was the WLUSU dental coverage that passed with 80% student voter support. Students who have proof of alternative plans or work may opt-out.

"This provides the coverage that students have overwhelmingly voted for," said McMurray.

Mark Walsh, the WLUSU vice president of Human Resources and chair of the "Yes" campaign for the dental plan noted: "I am really happy with the results," continuing, "it is a great plan that will ensure all students have coverage."

Another major referendum question was the $40 GRT bus pass, which passed by a margin of 20 percent. The bus pass will start using their OneCard to take any GRT bus. While the question passed, the terms of the pass are under negotiation and the exact terms are not yet available.

"The students are pleased with the result but noted that more could have been done for the campaign. "Next time I do a campaign I want it to make aware a bigger sweep," he said, adding, "I think a lot more should be done to make students aware [of the bus pass]."

"The whole thing was very peculiar — the time that students put into it really showed," said McMurray, in reference to the electoral process.

In addition to the Bus Pass and Dental Plan referendum questions, the WLUSU fee increase of $1.50 and a by-law change that would allow co-op students to vote by phone or e-mail also passed.

Any students interested in "learning about the Bus Pass is encouraged to attend future information sessions organized around the school."

All referendum questions passed by students

Cord clippings

NATIONAL
No Iraq for you

Prime Minister Paul Martin reports the Globe and Mail, bolstering the decision to not send troops two years again.

"Canadian troops will not be going to Iraq," said Martin at the United States President George W. Bush will be asking Canada to send troops to train the Iraqi army.

While Iraq is completely out of the question as a troop deployment destination, Pierre Pettigrew, the foreign affairs minister, restated that there is a possibility of training Iraqi soldiers in a neighbouring country.

PROVINCIAL
Smog worst in history

Reuters reports that the recent lack of wind in Ontario combined with emissions from coal-fired generating stations and diesel vehicles led to the worst winter smog watch in Ontario's history.

The alert was first posted on Friday and maintained through the weekend.

"We are normally under the influence of a northwesterner at this time of year, which is clean but cold," said John Steele, spokesperson for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

LOCAL
Community leaders perish

Two of Kitchener-Waterloo's best-known entrepreneurs and community leaders died last Saturday in unrelated events, reports The Record.

Val O'Donovan and Klaus Wemer both founded businesses in the K-W region that rose to become industry leaders in their respective fields.

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There was a small mistake with election ballots emailed to students on co-op term again this year. Janet Hand, assistant CRO says that although the co-op ballots were sent on time, two copies of the WLUSU financial statements were attached and the WLUSU statements were not. "At 4:00 am the computers are a little blurry," she said, taking full responsibility for the mistake. The only effect on co-op students’ ability to vote was that if they wanted to vote on the financial statements, it was up to them to email Hand and request the proper ballot. "Truthfully, when most students vote, they don’t vote for every ballot," said Hand, unconcerned. Hand adds that despite the glitch, the election enjoyed the highest co-op voter turnout ever.

DEATH AT UW

"It is not very contagious" says ‘it is not very contagious’

Patricia Vepari, 21, died of a rare bacterial meningococcal infection last Friday morning, reports The Record.

"It is not a very contagious illness, much less contagious than the common cold," Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Waterloo Region’s associate medical officer of health told The Record.

"While health officials say that students will be burdened with escalating tuition fees, and points out that the freeze on tuition will only be lifted if substantial government funding is injected into the education system.

Robert rules the Union

Robert rules the Union

Robert Gottfried, one of the only first year students running in this year’s election, says he was surprised at how many votes he received. "I’ve been very humbled by the response," she said. She adds it was a challenge to run as a new face in Laurier student politics because "I had to work harder to get my name out there... also didn’t have any enemies yet."

Gottfried is hoping to take action on her healthy food option initiative, what would have been given preventative antibiotics to Vepari was sent to St. Mary’s University Bob Rosehart does not believe that students will be burdened with escalating tuition fees, and points out that the freeze on tuition will only be lifted if substantial government funding is injected into the education system.

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Person(s) unknown stole a class photograph from the wall of the Student Services Building.

THEFT UNDER $5000
January 24 - 25

Person(s) unknown broke into a storage room on the second floor of the Dining Hall and stole a quantity of product removed a quantity of product stored in the second floor of the Peters Building.

THEFT UNDER $5000
5:40 pm Monday, January 24

Person(s) unknown gained entry to a vending machine in the lobby of Bricker Residence and was trying to get onto the roof at the corner of King St. & Bricker Ave.

MEDICAL ASSIST
12:40 am Saturday January 29

While on patrol officers observed one male student attempting to climb onto the roof at the St Michael's daycare facility. The individual was intoxicated and was trying to get onto the roof so he could jump into a snow bank. The matter will be referred to the Judicial Affairs Council.

MISCHIEF
January 28 - 29

Person(s) unknown kicked in the panel in the door of one of the entrances to St Clements House.

MEDICAL ASSIST
3:19 pm Sunday January 30

A report was received that someone had smeared fecal matter onto the toilet seat in the women's washroom in the Student Services Building.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON
3:30 pm Sunday January 30

While on patrol officers observed three males carrying signs taken from the Student Services Building. They claimed to have found them in the Terrace. They were identified as UWO students and were issued with trespass notices.

POSSESSION OF DRUGS
10:30 pm Saturday January 29

While on patrol officers observed three non-WLU males at the rear of King St Residence smoking marijuana. A small quantity of marijuana was seized and turned over to Regional Police. The three males were all issued with trespass notices.

MISCHIEF
January 29 - 30

Person(s) unknown caused some damage to the university sign at the corner of King St. & Bricker Ave.

MISCHIEF
January 30

Person(s) unknown kicked in the panel in the door of one of the entrances to St Clements House.

THEFT UNDER $5000
3:30 pm Sunday January 30

While on patrol officers observed three males carrying signs taken from the Student Services Building. They claimed to have found them in the Terrace. They were identified as UWO students and were issued with trespass notices.

During this time period two warnings were issued for liquor act violations.

KNOW A STORY THAT COULD HAVE MADE THE BAG OF CRIME?

CALL THE CORD NEWS DEPARTMENT!
884 - 0730 extenion 3564
cord@uasl.com

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An officer responded to the Student Services Building after receiving a report of a resident who was intoxicated and yelling in the hall. The individual was observed and directed to return to his room. The matter is being dealt with by residence staff.

CRIME OF THE WEEK:
RETURN OF THE SHIT CRIMES!

MISCHIEF
1:45 pm Saturday January 29

A report was received that someone had smeared fecal matter onto the toilet seat in the women's washroom in the Student Services Building.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON
4:30 am Saturday January 29

An officer and ambulance responded to Conestoga House after receiving a report of a resident who had struck his head on a coffee table and was bleeding. He was taken to hospital by ambulance for stitches.

MEDICAL ASSIST
10:15 am Thursday January 27

While on patrol officers observed a male student attempting to climb onto the roof at the St Michael's daycare facility. The individual was intoxicated and was trying to get onto the roof so he could jump into a snow bank. The matter will be referred to the Judicial Affairs Council.

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January 30

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A Waterloo Region police constable has asked the Atlanta Thaishers to look into the possibility of the series speaking.

"I have a good feeling that this is going to happen," said Sandra Dearden, a Waterloo Police Constable told The Record.

Last week Heatley pled guilty to second-degree vehicular homicide, driving too fast for conditions, failure to maintain a lane and speeding. The charges stemmed from a crash that left Elmira native Dan Snyder dead.

The charges carried a maximum sentence of over 20 years; however, Heatley was given a sentence of three years probation.

GOUETT RETAINS TITLE

Vice chair still nice chair

The motion that was brought forward by WLUSU Director Nick Murphy that would have recalled Matt Gouett from his position as WLUSU vice chair did not pass.

The motion, which needed a two-thirds majority to pass, would have removed Gouett from his role as vice chair, forcing a new vice chair to be chosen.

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Think you can do better?

WLUSP is HIRING for May 2005

Cord Weekly Editor-In-Chief (salaried position)
Blueprint Magazine Editor-In-Chief (honourarium position)
Keystone Editors-In-Chief (2) (honouraria positions)
Vice-President: Finance and Administration (salaried position)
Print Production Manager (salaried position)
Online Production Manager (honourarium position)
Photography Managers (2) (honourarium position)
Information Technology Manager (honourarium position)
Copy Editing Manager
Marketing Manager
Human Resources Manager
Advertising Administrative Assistant

Applications are available in the WLUSP office, located on the bottom floor of Macdonald House residence, and are due Friday, February 11, 2005 at 12:00pm.

Position Descriptions are available upon request. For more information contact Craig Radcliffe, president of WLUSP at info@wlusp.com or by phone at 519-884-0710 x3565.
Marriage - and Canada - at a crossroads

In the 1950s, outrage erupted in many parts of the U.S. when the doctrine of “separate but equal” was struck down, effectively ending the period of de jure segregation. Looking back, it is hard to imagine how people could oppose equal rights.

Today, the same-sex movement has become the civil rights movement of the past, and it has also provoked outrage in people across Canada. The Catholic Church has called anyone supporting same-sex marriage evil, and some conservatives believe that the “traditional” notion of marriage will be forever destroyed.

Each of the opposition has taken a more measured stance and said, “fine, but call it anything except marriage— that’s our word.” The view that marriage and its definition is beyond politics doesn’t hold water in a secular society and it must be further realized that religious same-sex couples exist. If these couples follow the Christian faith (for example) and put blinders on to the rest—the why they should be denied the institution of marriage.

In spite of the opposition, the majority of Canadians realize that to deny someone their rights, like blacks were denied their rights in America, is not consistent with our Laurier experience.

The government needs to take a stand and ensure that all rights are protected. Islamic Sharia law was officially trumped by Canadian courts because of its lack of Charter-like rights protection mechanisms, so the precedence exists.

This is a pressing issue that will shape the future of the Canadian landscape. In fifty years, will we look back at this time and wonder how people could deny equal rights to same-sex couples, or will homophobia still be a legally condoned aspect of Canadian society?

We heart WLUSP supporters

The number 2131 never looked so sweet. One of four referenda this year, it supports a $1.50 increase for the WLUSP fee. Students are now being asked voters to support a $1.50 fee increase for the WLUSP fee. Students are now being asked voters to support a $1.50 increase for the WLUSP fee. Students are now being asked voters to support a $1.50 increase for the WLUSP fee.

The $1.50 means volunteers of WLUSP can finally get some of the equipment they need to improve the aesthetic component of publications like The Cord. New software and better training can now be a reality and not simply a dream.

Thanks to the 2131 supporters of the WLUSP fee increase. You have proven to the rest of students that WLUSP is a valued and integral part of the Laurier experience.

Equal rights for same-sex marriage? Sorta, but not really.

Pencil in solutions

Jennifer Asselin

Student Life Editor

Priority planning is the new pink. My boyfriend just picked up his new priority planner about a month ago and he can’t stop organizing and dividing his time on paper and it seems to be working for him as things are getting done and time is being freed up.

Things that were supposed to get done months ago are finally coming to fruition. With all of this time management going on, I think priority planning should be a step that both the University administration and Students’ Union take into consideration.

Looking back through the issues that took precedence in the year I entered this institution of higher learning, I realize these issues remain just that: issues. It seems the University’s time management skills are poor and even after four years of working on student issues and concerns, there are still numerous Cord deadlines that remain today.

“Student debt rising according to OUSA” -- May 24, 2001:

At the time, the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance had completed a study on student debt and realized that students had a greater level of debt than any previous generation of university graduates.

OUSA is still putting out reports on the increase in student debt and yet the University has done little to combat the problem. In fact, this past year the scholarship grid was altered making scholarship money harder to obtain, at least through your GUP.

Also, with the election that just passed, an increase of $201.50 will be added to each student’s tuition. Thank you to the 2131 supporters of the WLUSP fee increase. You have proven to the rest of students that WLUSP is a valued and integral part of the Laurier experience.

We heart WLUSP supporters

The number 2131 never looked so sweet. One of four referenda questions in last week’s elections asked students to support a $1.50 increase for the WLUSP Student Publications fee and voters deliv- ered.

The yes party won by a margin of 1,000 votes, and WLUSP volunteers everywhere, old and new, cheered. WLUSP will now have the funds and funds to improve and expand their services including The Cord Weekly, Blueprint Magazine, Cladibus, Keystonewatch, the WLU or student handbook and Phone Call. The extra $1.50 per student will also help ensure WLUSP can find a more permanent location on campus to provide better quality and more accessible volunteer opportunities for students.

The $1.50 means volunteers of WLUSP can finally get some of the equipment they need to improve the aesthetic component of publications like The Cord. New software and better training can now be a reality and not simply a dream.

Thanks to the 2131 supporters of the WLUSP fee increase. You have proven to the rest of students that WLUSP is a valued and integral part of the Laurier experience.

Equal rights for same-sex marriage? Sorta, but not really.
Panelists -- artists from Africa -- called our hip hop scene mainstream, a hollow reflection of American groundbreaking. At this 1AIC, we are all committed to the idea that it was probably true.

In a lot of ways, Canada acts and seems like a capital-T Tool, a shoddy copy of the United States’ shining pinnacle of democracy (under God). But we aren’t stu-

pid, oh no.

We’re fully aware of the com-
pact but ugly and hamfisted obvious, the scorn. When insane conservative radicals like Ann Coulter and Tucker Carlson (under God). But we aren’t stu-

pid, oh no.

We’re fully aware of the com-
pact but ugly and hamfisted obvious, the scorn. When insane conservative radicals like Ann Coulter and Tucker Carlson might be tainting our credibility.

So if you’re asking yourself what

you can do to help this situation, there are several things you can do. One, you can sign the petitions that are being circulated at the moment. Two, you can make phone calls to your MP and your provincial representatives. Three, you can attend rallies and marches. Four, you can write letters to the editor of your local newspaper. Five, you can volunteer to help out with the logistical aspects of running a campaign. Six, you can contribute money to the party of your choice. Seven, you can run for office yourself. Eight, you can vote in the next election. Nine, you can educate others about the issues. Ten, you can support local candidates who share your values.

If you’ve been following the news, you’ll know that the Conservative Party has been leading in the polls for most of this campaign. This is partly because they’ve been able to present a strong, coherent message that resonates with many Canadians. However, the Liberals are still in the lead in terms of overall preferences, and they have been able to hold their ground despite some internal disputes. The NDP is also doing well, especially in Quebec and the Prairies.

It’s important to remember that the outcome of the election is still up for grabs. Anything can happen on election day, and there are still many undecided voters out there. If you’re planning to vote, make sure you do your research and choose a candidate who represents your values.

As of December 2014, my friends and I had everything ready and we were ready to go. However, the morning of the election day, it was raining heavily. We were forced to cancel the election day because it was too dangerous to drive. Despite the heavy rain, we still managed to get out and vote. It was a hard decision to make, but we knew it was the right one.

The results of the election were surprising. The Conservatives won a minority government, which means they have a majority of seats in the House of Commons but do not have a majority of the popular vote. This will likely lead to more political instability and uncertainty in the upcoming years.

However, there were some positive outcomes as well. For example, the Green Party managed to increase their representation in the House of Commons, which means they will have more influence in the future. Similarly, the NDP also managed to gain some ground.

Overall, it was a close election, and the results are still not official. We’re just starting to see the first returns coming in, and it’s too early to tell who will win.

In terms of the economy, we’re still waiting to see what impact the new government will have. The Conservatives have promised to focus on economic growth, but it remains to be seen whether they can deliver on this promise.

In terms of foreign policy, we’re hoping for more stability and predictability. The Conservatives have been relatively diplomatic in their approach, and we’re hoping they can continue to be so.

Overall, it’s been a long election season, and we’re all looking forward to some relief. We’re just hoping that the new government will be able to get things moving and that we can move forward as a country.
The Canadian mushroom experience

Brendan Jones

Extra-value spiel

Canada looks puny compared to China when it comes to mushrooms. We only produce a tenth as much as the mighty Chinese mushroom machine that creates nearly 25 percent of the world's supply. Before Paul Martin went to China, he promised to press the Chinese government on human rights issues. Clearly feeling inferior because of the mushroom issue once he got there, Paul preferred not to see no evil and hear no evil so he could speak to no evil.

Martin preferred the happy-go-lucky “considerable progress” approach when it came to China’s dismal human rights record. After all, Martin wanted to achieve considerable progress when it came to the nuclear talks with the Chinese government. We trump them when it comes to respect for intellectual property rights, the Alberta oil sands, shall we?

It is, of course, not prudent to say absolutely nothing, so Martin fell prey to the irresistible urge to say absolutely anything. “You don’t ‘fence in’ rights by simply making statements,” he thundered, surely not realizing that he was basing his defence of human rights on making the statement that he had no defence at all. Without a firm defence on statements, you defend human rights by being present and consistent.

When Martin met with the Prime Minister of China in a seres of joint public events adjacent to Tiananm Men Square, human rights were never mentioned. Martin also stood silent as two Chinese-Canadian journalists were barred from traveling with the premier on an official trip to the French Alps. With remarkable consistency, Paul Martin displayed his penchant for saying one thing and doing another. The famous Martin persistence he spoke of elsewhere was absent here. Paul Martin conceded, when prodded by the media, that when his family to the Final Solution, the Chinese prime minister “heard me out but did not commit.” With this type of persistent resilience in the face of such a repressive regime, had Martin only been on the world stage at the time, Apartheid probably could have been ended a decade earlier.

Considerable trade progress trumps trumped rather than PM’s visit to China.

That’s the thing about Paul Martin. He’ll trumpet grand slams like statements alone cannot defend rights and freedoms, but when it comes to time to back this up we find that the prime minister is consistently and persistently all talk and no rock.

Shortly before Martin arrived, Zhao Zhiying, hisparser former Communist party leader who sympathized with the pro-democracy students of Tiananmen Square, had died and the Chinese government was suppressing it in the media. CTY was stopped from filming the home of the recently deceased Zhao with a pro from Martin. He decided a prime ministerial tongue lashing was due instead, accusing a Conservative MP who did visit Zhao’s home to pay his respects of “grandstanding.” This coming after Martin had previously condemned the Tamil Tiger hangout, to show Canada’s shared aims for democracy Martin responded, “satisfying but that’s not on the schedule at the present time.” Instead of paying respects he chose to disparage the death of a man who died after 15 years under house arrest for suppressed freedom of speech in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

The very same square where in 2001 Martin condemned the courage to scold the Chinese as he scolds Canadians that want to raise their religious rights and freedoms.

But that’s the other thing about Paul Martin: he may not have 25 percent of the world’s supply, but he is the teakist of Canadi ana mushroom chinese: we get kept in the dark and fed nothing but crap.

A rapid-response to preventing genocides is needed along with an international tribunal to effectively try criminals.

At least Colin Powell used the world... but genocides have been ignored, e.g., attacks on the Bengalis, the Hutus of Burundi, the Ache Indians of Paraguay, the wholesale killings of the Cambodians, the Tutsis, the Ugandans, the Burmese, the Guatemalan army, etc. The Iraqi government against the Kurds, the Pakistani army against the Kashmiri Muslims, the Israeli army against the Palestinians.

And what else do they do? They start with the pills the system to enforce disciplines, they start with the seeds, stereotypes, or even reality were told. The first involved a guy who got exposed by a job interviewer who asked him if he was into acid and then got exposed by a job interviewer who asked him if he was into acid and then got exposed by a job interviewer who asked him if he was into acid and then got exposed by a job interviewer who said “Hey, you ever been on acid?” and then got exposed by a job interviewer who said “Hey, you ever been on acid?” and then got exposed by a job interviewer who said “Hey, you ever been on acid?” and then got exposed by a job interviewer who said “Hey, you ever been on acid?”

A few stories that could easily have been true have turned out to be just the dimensions, you know? They leave it up to the world to watch and wonder. It was praying that they wouldn’t give us dumb animals enough time to get rid of them. It was as tricky a way through life. You wonder whether you have enough self-interest to fake your way through life. You wonder whether you’ll have the necessities to fake your way through life. They never really tell you these things, you know? They leave it all to you to discover for yourself.

What’s essential, as Pulitzer Prize winner Samantha Power points out (A Problem from Hell: The Myth of Humanitarian Intervention), is that you never recognize its world-wide mandate) which could impose... try and punish those leaders/followers found guilty of violations of the new code. Such might, too, involve an international penal institution where guilty parties might serve their sentences.

The real problem is that we are not prepared for this. We are not prepared to deal with the conflict in Rwanda (Hutus vs. Tutsies). We are not prepared to deal with the conflict in Sudan (the Sudanese government vs. the Sudan People’s Liberation Army). We are not prepared to deal with the conflict in Kosovo (the Serbs and the Kosovo Albanians). We are not prepared to deal with the conflict in Kashmir (India vs. Pakistan). We are not prepared to deal with the conflict in Chechnya (the Russian government vs. the Chechen rebels). We are not prepared to deal with the conflict in the Middle East (Israel vs. the Palestinians). We are not prepared to deal with the conflict in the Balkans (the Serbs vs. the Croats). We are not prepared to deal with the conflict in the Caucasus (the Russians vs. the Chechens).

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We could stand to lose a tonne each

Fraser McDonald
Unattributed

Sitting in the hospital recovering from jaw surgery last week, I saw an interesting, Canadian government-sponsored ad. Maybe you’ve seen it too; it attempts to invoke Canadian pride, declaring that putting forth a serious effort to reduce our yearly energy consumption by one tonne per person is exactly the sort of initiative that define us as Canadians. I couldn’t agree more.

Few, if any, of us want our nation to pursue wealth so excessively as to turn blocks and blocks of downtown metropolises into decrepit slums.

Right away it’s easy to feel overwhelmed. One tonne is a lot! First off, let’s look at it in the right perspective. Even though it seems to require a huge amount of sacrifice, I figure making environmentally conscious choices can be a component of living a more fulfilling life. Instead of suffering to protect the planet, be imaginative with how you live, be creative.

There are a lot of plausible choices. It only takes a second to double check the electronics when leaving the house. Or for the sake of people outside, avoid the masses, that gives even more power to the powers that be.

Some feel that the time has come to lower the voting age in Canada to 16. I think that this makes perfect sense. If this responsibility were extended to 16 and 17-year-olds, it would greatly benefit the whole democratic process in Canada. For one, a sense of civic engagement could be established at an earlier age. If polls were set up at schools, just imagine what the turnout rate would be (Hey, it would be an excuse to skip out in the middle of class!). Who is to say that this behaviour would not carry on into adulthood? Also, the politicians would have to gear their platforms more toward the youth, a group currently considered a non-factor compared to others such as retired folks in winning votes. Maybe there could be a whole new political party formed to represent the interests of the under-30 crowd who are grossly underrepresented in the policymaking process.

The argument that young people do not know enough about the political world to understand what is going on is nonsense. I am sure that many of you were just as concerned with political issues in high school as your folks were, if not more so. Some of you took civics courses in high school, but they were not requirements like Math and English. In order to prepare everyone, a mandatory course for all 15-year-olds that teaches the basics of federal, provincial, and municipal political institutions ought to be designed in every province and territory.

I remember the frustration of being born two weeks too late to be able to vote in a federal election. That meant for three years, eleven months and two weeks after I turned 18, I was paying taxes to a government that I had no say in electing to power. I’m not saying that we should make 16-year-olds pay income taxes, but at least they will be able to feel that they had a part in electing the government that takes a chunk of their income every pay period. It’s not like they do not contribute to the economy. Who works in fast food restaurants? Who works in stores in malls? Who delivers newspapers? A disproportionate number of young people who are subject to laws that they had no control over.

Right now there is a movement in the House of Commons to consider lowering the voting age to 16 and we may see something actually happen sooner than later. We would still be a bit behind the socially progressive country of Iran (~), which allows a voting age of 15!1

It’s definitely time to lower the voting age in Canada

If politics are seen as petty and boring by the masses, that gives even more power to the powers that be.

Kendall R. Giberson
Opinion Columnist

There is a growing concern about the lack of voter turnout in Canada. Only 62% of eligible voters cast ballots in the last federal election, a number which has been decreasing for the last two decades. An even greater cause for alarm is that estimates show that fewer than 25% of 18 to 30 year-olds ever bothered to vote in the federal election and even fewer than that turn out for provincial and municipal elections.

The concern is that the lack of political participation will permeate through the next generations and whole sectors of the population will become alienated from the whole political process. Without representation, Canadian policies will only reflect the will of a few people (some say it does anyway) who could possibly feel free to do whatever they wish and the public will be too apathetic to notice. Some would argue that there is a conspiracy among the political elites to keep people disengaged.

The premise is that if politics are seen as petty and boring by the masses, that gives even more power to the powers that be. A threat to our democracy. That’s why we’re trying to make free health care the norm.

On the whole, I believe our ethics are healthy. Given the opportunity to Mull it over, we choose to idolize individuals with real values. Few, if any, of us want our nation to pursue wealth so excessively as to turn blocks and blocks of downtown metropolises into decrepit slums where caps advise you to treat stop lights as optional once the sun has set.

But being good people is not sufficient. Knowing what’s right will not reduce Toronto’s child poverty rate from 1/3 to a respectable rate, for example. Of course, it’s unrealistic to expect all of us to be out championing change. Nonetheless, we have the ability to refuse excess.

Take a look around the C-Spot. Eleven different types of Kit-Kats, give me a break! Does a plethora of products improve life? No, but it’s easy to substitute them for real improvement.

Does the Liberal party want to shoulder the responsibilities of the Liberal party to create a health care system accessible to all people? No way. Tommy Douglas to come in grab the bull by the horns and do it. I’m not bashful about this, and I don’t necessarily support Douglas’s NDP. It’s clear, what Canada needs are Canadians who are willing to turn blocks and blocks of downtown metropolises into decrepit slums where caps advise you to treat stop lights as optional once the sun has set.

Douglas, the revolutionary thinker who fought to make free health care the norm. On the whole, I believe our ethics are healthy. Given the opportunity to Mull it over, we choose to idolize individuals with real values. Few, if any, of us want our nation to pursue wealth so excessively as to turn blocks and blocks of downtown metropolises into decrepit slums where caps advise you to treat stop lights as optional once the sun has set.

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Laurier entrepreneur over Knight

JENNIFER ASSELIN
Student Life Editor

A friendship slut is someone who's friends with a lot of people. You're not too shy to walk up to a stranger and start a conversation and you certainly don't mind being left alone in a room full of people you don't know.

This idea of the friendship slut is just one of the many new concepts Stuart Knight of Knight Flight Productions introduces his audiences to every Saturday night in a Queen Street loft in downtown Toronto.

"Decide," the self proclaimed "play-party" that takes motivational speaking to a whole new level, was first conceptualized by Knight in 2004, eight years after he graduated from Laurier's School of Business.

Some might see it as a strange contrast - Laurier Business graduate turned actor - however, it was a natural decision made by Knight who had always been on stage. He came to university: "It wasn't a big Eureka moment."

In fact, this is a member of First Year Council, the SKIFFY Club might be the place for you.

"I was out in the trenches observing adults in a really interesting way," he says. "Adults were getting just as sound hokey, the play definitely appeals to an adult audience as it discusses relationships, the concept of love, fears and challenges people face. Knight says that the play seems to be attracting young business people 25 - 40. - We live in a society that says we're supposed to attain this and they attain it and they're still not happy and they're almost feeling pissed off about it," explains Knight.

"This is why people are coming out on Saturday nights, to try and find some answers.

The one thing Knight wishes people to take away from the show, is "that feeling of being in control," he says. "It frustrates me that people seem to live their life as if it's being dictated by others." After talking to Knight for just an hour, his positive energy encompasses you to seek change and find the best that's within you. "People can always do way more than they think they can," says Knight. "Everyone chooses their own adventure. Everyone does it in different ways, just have to decide."
Valentine’s Day gifts for the average student

The Cord picks its top gifts to give to both that special guy and that special girl you’ve been dating or want to date on just plain stalk

JOANNE SPANNINGA
Staff Writer

Regardless of whether you love or hate Valentine’s Day, if you are having a close relationship with anyone beyond the boundaries of friendship, you need to consider the possibility that this day, dedicated to romance and focused thoughtfulness, could be detrimentally significant to your feelings.

In fact, it could make or break you and your relationship as a whole.

Think about it this way, even though the phrase “I hate Valentine’s Day because I feel that day hurts all the single people who hate Valentine’s Day” seems at first to be stating that the holiday is nothing but a hurtful event, it is not true, but if you’re short on cash, don’t buy anything for someone you love or need a reminder of how bitter every year just to rub it right in someone’s face.

Laurie Secord chocolates.

Wait, no it doesn’t.

Nothing says love to me like a red velvet, heart-shaped box of delicious chocolate.

Laurie Secord chocolates.

Nothing says love to me like a red velvet, heart-shaped box of delicious chocolate.

Not too much imagination was involved.

I can’t imagine a Valentine’s day without chocolate. Chocolate is to me what cake is to you. A big fat “yumm.” Can you even imagine living without chocolate? Me neither.

It’s a holiday intended solely for lovers, where you can express your love to the one who holds your heart, and you don’t have to buy some cheesey gift to say thank you.

I love to cook whenever I can, but there are times when you want to do something spontaneous to express your feelings to a person you love.

The 14th doesn’t have to be a holiday of love throughout the ground. Well this Valentine’s Day you don’t have to go far to find the perfect gift.

Item: Heart shaped shortbread cookies with jam filling - $1.61
Where to find it: Second Cup

For less than a dollar, you can make delicious treats to your own likes, which is often a better choice than the gift you received this year.

Item: Tickets to see FAME; The Musical - $10
Where to find it: The C-Spot

It’s a holiday where you can express your love to the one who holds your heart, so why not express your love to the one who holds your heart with a show you both enjoy?

Item: Message in a Bottle - $12.95
Where to find it: The Bookstore

With colourful glass ball and tags, you can make a message for your special someone, and they can express their feelings to you as well.

Love, food… food, love

LAURIE SADOWSKI
Food Critic

The sale of chocolates, bears with hearts bearing the phrase “I love you,” Valentine’s and cinnamon Day really is just an over market.

The 14th doesn’t have to be a holiday of love throughout the ground. Well this Valentine’s Day you don’t have to go far to find the perfect gift.

Item: Mediterranean Kit - $29.95
Where to find it: The Bookstore

It’s a holiday dedicated to the expression of love, and you can express your love to the one who holds your heart with a delicious white chocolate cheese cake.

Item: Classic Stuffed Animal and chocolates - $45.00
Where to find it: The Concourse

It’s a holiday where you can express your love to the one who holds your heart with a show you both enjoy.

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FOURTH YEAR
DAN MCBRIDE
JESSICA ESPLEN

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
**Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec. 21)**
**Gemini (May 21-June 21)**
**Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)**

If you are feeling depressed try and

- **Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)**

* A chain of events will set everything into perspective for you. Do not be
dissuaded by any setbacks.

- **Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

* You are going to have to really trust

**Happy Bday Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

- **Gemini (May 21-June 21)**

* You need to be careful

- **Leo (July 23-August 22)**

* You are going to be stuck in the middle

**Happy Bday Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22)

- **Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

* If you are confused about a situation or

**Happy Bday Virgo** (Aug 23-Sept. 22)

- **Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

* You are going to be manipulative over the

**Happy Bday Libra** (Sept 23-Oct. 22)

- **Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

* You will have to make a decision this week.

**Happy Bday Scorpio** (Oct 23-Nov. 21)

- **Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec. 21)**

* You will have to be careful

**Happy Bday Sagittarius** (Nov 22-Dec. 21)

- **Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)**

* You need to be careful

**Happy Bday Taurus** (Apr 20-May 20)

- **Gemini (May 21-June 21)**

* You are going to be manipulated

**Happy Bday Gemini** (May 21-June 21)

- **Cancer (Jun 22-Jul 22)**

* You need to be careful

**Happy Bday Cancer** (Jun 22-Jul 22)

- **Leo (July 23-Aug 22)**

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**Happy Bday Taurus** (Apr 20-May 20)
Great houses! Brand New loft suites! Great location 300 feet to campus!
- 4, 5, and 6 Bedroom houses
- Great location 300 feet from campus
- Brand New lofts, 4 and 5 bedroom
- Large common areas and bedrooms
- Free in suite laundry
- Dishwasher
- Kitchen - open concept, ceramics, breakfast bar
- New appliances
- High efficiency gas furnace
- Air conditioning
- 2 full bathrooms with ceramics in each unit
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African Roots: looking back

RUBEN GU-KONU
Cord Features

Sadly, many have absolutely no clue about the continent that quite possibly originated mankind and most certainly blacks. Knowledge of the civil movements that have freed blacks from slavery and segregation is of great value but knowing about Africa, its history, its struggles and especially its current state is equally as valuable if not more so.

The involvement of today’s black folks and particularly young blacks in African affairs is vital. Blacks in North America should push for far more leverage when it comes to what their respective governments are doing in regards to policies affecting the African continent. Black boys and girls should not just learn about slavery and segregation but also about the African origins of their ancestors. Young blacks should not have to take specific courses at the post-secondary level to learn about apartheid and great black leaders such as Haile Selassie and Nelson Mandela.

During Black History Month, Black leaders here in North America emphasize that all Blacks are the same and should be one. If that is to take place, if all blacks should be the same, whether they are in Kinshasa, Congo; Accra, Ghana; Oakland, California; or Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia, they should all have knowledge of the past, present and future of what is taking place in Africa.

As Black History month approaches, I urge all young blacks to celebrate their ethnicity and to increase their knowledge and awareness of where it all began: Africa.

RYAN BURKE
Cord Features

Someone once asked me, “What is the purpose of Black History Month and when does it begin for me?” Had I known then what I know now, my response would have been a lot different. After years of celebrating Black History Month in Canada, I’ve come to realize that many of us learn as well as appreciate and commemorate the struggles black people before us went through in order to give us the opportunities we have today. The trouble with this is that we focus only on America. Unfortunately, we tend to overlook and overshadow the struggles that took place during the middle passage, the rebellions, revolutions, and creativity in the Americas and Africa.

Battles such as the ones led by Nanny of the Maroons against the British in Jamaica, the Morant Bay Rebellion of 1865 led by Paul Bogle, the legendary Leaper’s Peak in Grenada, where many jumped to their deaths in order to escape slavery, the battle on the slave ship Amistad, and others are examples of the struggles invoked.

There are also many black historical events within Canada, such as the first recorded black man, Mathieu DaCosta, whom the Dutch used as a translator in order to communicate with the Micmac; the abolition of slavery by the British in 1833; the creation of Baptist churches in Nova Scotia; the Black Loyalist Communities in Nova Scotia, the first ever Black History Month Celebration in 1969 and people like Ruth Bailey, Lincoln Alexander, Dr. Anderson Ruffin Abbott, William Hall and many others who achieved great awards and accomplishments that we can all be proud of.

So far, I’ve mentioned movements as well as notable individuals and groups. The creativity and learning stem mainly from Africa. The battles mentioned were usually conducted the way that groups in Africa would prepare for battle. For instance, many of the Maroons came from the Ashanti tribe, located in Ghana. Before every battle the Maroons would sound the drums to let everyone know that a battle was about to occur.

During the Underground Railroad, songs contained encoded messages helping to guide slaves to the northern states and Canada to freedom. The Harlem Renaissance allowed blacks to express themselves through various forms of art, leading to the rise of radical African-American intellectuals and encouraged African-Americans to celebrate their heritage.

I’m not asking that you forget about the struggles and accomplishments of leaders such as Dr. King, Malcolm X, Huey Newton, Angela Davis and others but rather to understand that without the struggles and accomplishments of those before them, their ideas would have never been accepted, much less heard and considered. So now I too pose the question that someone once asked me, “What is the purpose of Black History Month and when does it begin for you?”
Black History Month

An Oxford University historian, Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper once said that “perhaps in the future there will be some African history to teach. But at the present there is none; there is only the history of Europeans in Africa. The rest is darkness ... and darkness is not the subject of history.”

In this week’s feature, three Black students at WLU celebrate Black History Month - a history shrouded in darkness, but also filled with hope and light.

Looking Ahead: Making Black History

LAUREN THOMPSON
Cord Features

It is unfortunate that the remembrance of black history comes but one month of the year. It is especially unfortunate that as a young black female this is the time of year that true reflection is taken on the struggles that took place before as well as after my birth that allowed me to be the person I am today and possess the opportunities that I am able to take advantage of.

It has become sort of a cliché but black history should be celebrated every day of our lives not simply during a designated time period. Reflection allows us to appreciate what blacks have today, not materialistically but rather in regards to access such as opportunities and experiences. However, although it is Black History Month, I would like to take the time not to reflect upon the past but to look toward the future.

A dream still unrealized

Some individuals might be under the impression that blacks have come a long way, which is true, but it must also be recognized that there is still much progress to be made. This speaks directly to the continued need for black history in order for the strides that have been made so far in the progress of blacks in society throughout the world, not just in North America, to be celebrated while simultaneously measuring the criteria set forth by our ancestors to judge whether we have met the goals of equality determined prior.

For instance, one of the most vocal leaders of the Civil Rights Movement was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who in his speech “I Have a Dream,” sought equality in society in terms of the absence of judgment founded on an individual’s colour of skin. This has in fact yet to be achieved since his speech 42 years ago. This is evident through Toronto’s recent problems of racial profiling among its police force as well as the obvious lack of black individuals in top corporate positions despite the increasing number of qualified prospects.

The image of Blacks in the media

The image of blacks propagated by the mass media continues to place blacks at a disadvantage with the popularity of Black Entertainment Television and its conveying of the majority of blacks as money-hungry, sex-addicted, Ebonics-slinging, musically-inclined beings with the odd educated newscaster that accounts for about five percent of its programming, if that. In reality, the stereotypes account for a small percentage of blacks in the world today and this negative stereotype exists within all races but seems to be emphasized within the black community due to a lack of access to the mass media and control over its content. The truth is that the majority of blacks are educated, creative and community-active individuals like myself and my fellow peers at this institution.

Looking at the progress made thus far and the state of blacks today it is clear that many more steps are to be made before we attain the goals set out by Dr. King. So the question remains, where would I like to see blacks in the future? I would like to see blacks on equal footing as those of European descent.

Ideally I would like to see a world where the notion of race is non-existent and as a result does not play a role within the functioning of society at all. However, because we are naturally racially different, stereotypes will continue to persist and I hope that some time in the near future we will be given the opportunity to prove that the numerous stereotypes that have been used to keep my community in poverty and at a disadvantage are wrong and allow us to become independent and flourish within society.
Confident ladies plow into playoffs

Rams keep it close but G-Hawks pull away to clinch second place in OUA West, now 14 - 4 on the season with one left

MARK HOPKINS
Staff Writer

"I love our team, no one can beat us," this was the response from right-side attack Andrea Steacy, following Laurier's 3 - 1 victory on Saturday afternoon.

The Hawks opened the match by losing a sloppy first set to the visiting Ryerson Rams by a score of 25 - 22. However, the women promptly came back and dominated the next set to tie the game at a set apiece.

Laurier 3 - Ryerson 1

The turning point of the game came late in the third frame, with the Golden Hawks holding a 25 - 24 lead. A misplay by Ryerson provided Laurier with the set, the set, and the momentum.

The final set was also a nailbiter, as the ladies managed to squeak out a 25 - 23 score in a period filled with numerous lead changes. The victory pushes the Golden Hawks record to an impressive 14 - 4 on the season and all but guarantees the team a home game in the opening round of the playoffs.

The comeback was a true team effort. A strong group attack, along with a number of outstanding digs by libero Melissa St. John and serves from fourth-year veteran Laura Horner provided the Hawks with the edge.

The opposing squad from Ryerson subsequently dropped to 7 - 9 on the season and sits on the bubble for the final playoff spot.

"We've had to get over some difficult times, but one thing we've done is quit," said Parsons.

Hockey Hawks seeing double after weekend

Two W's have ice Hawks within a point of top spot in Mid-West with four games left

DAN POLISCHUK
Staff Writer

With back-to-back victories by identical scores this past weekend against rival Windsor, the Laurier men's hockey team added more fuel to the fire in their late season drive for first place in the Mid-West division.

Game 41 Laurier 4 - Windsor 3
Game 42 Laurier 4 - Windsor 3 (OT)

Saturday's game saw the Hawks once again showing resiliency in coming back from a two-goal deficit to overtake the Lancers in overtime 4 - 3. Centre Nick Vergeer got the scoring started at 8:46 of the first period when, after knocking down a shot from the point, he backhanded the loose puck to the edge of the crease over sprawling Windsor goalie Justin Day.

The early marker did not phase the determinedpsyche of Windsor as they stormed back with three straight goals – two of which Laurier goalie Justin Day would have wanted another crack at saving.

The Hawks got the momentum swinging their way late in the second. A nifty three way passing play saw the puck on the sticks of Nick Gibson, Tim Parsons, and finally Chris DiUbaldo for less than a second as Laurier quickly came within a goal of tying the game.

"We've had to get over some difficult times, but one thing this team hasn't done is quit," - Steve Martell, Head Coach

Finally, just 34 seconds into overtime, right winger Tim Parsons scored the game-winner with a low snap shot to the blocker side of Kalleinter.

Even without Edgar, Laurier Head Coach Steve Martell was speaking highly of his team's performance as of late.

"All year we've been working really hard. We've had to get over some difficult times but one thing this team hasn't done is quit," said Martell.

"Every bump along the road...we've really managed to handle well," he added.

Parsons, the game-winning goal scorer, reflected while there are always areas of the game to improve on, nothing is at the point where it is worthwhile to the team.

"Right now, our starters are really putting things together. Nothing seems to get them down," said Parsons.

So for the rest of the year, don't be surprised with any more success the Hawks have, because according to Martell: "We consider ourselves one of the best in the West when we play well."
Hawks battle, but still continue to lose

Despite a valiant effort, youthful men’s team gets blocked by Ryerson 3 - 1, rough season continues

MARK HOPKINS
Staff Writer

On October 20, 2004, the Wilfrid Laurier men’s volleyball team started a promising start in their season opener. On the heels of last year’s all too forgettable 1 - 17 season, they knocked off the cross-town rival Waterloo Warriors 3 - 1 to move into unfamiliar territory: the win column. Evidently, it was too good to be true.

Ryerson 3 - Laurier 1

Despite their best efforts this past Saturday while hosting the Ryerson Rams, the Golden Hawks fell victim to the Rams’ superior attack in a 3 - 1 loss, their 16th straight since that opening game victory. With the loss, the Hawks totalled for last in the OUA with Waterloo, at 1 - 16.

Though their record would seem to leave little room for optimism, the team didn’t look entirely embarrassed in Saturday’s loss against the 14 - 5 Rams. Sitting second in the OUA, Ryerson rode the lethal left arm of their towering all-star right side, Ryan Vanderburg, who led both teams with 17 kills, despite what was arguably an off day.

For the Hawks, second year middle player, Peter Wikerd, led the attack with 15 kills, and received a good deal of help from promising rookie J.P. Wikerd, who had 11 kills of his own. After the game, Wikerd expressed his disappointment. “This team has the ability to beat these guys,” said Wikerd. “We were so close.”

In fact, all four sets could have gone either way, as Laurier lead midway through each set. In the end, though, Ryerson managed to fight back with a superior service game to win, by scores of 25 - 19, 25 - 21, 23 - 25, and 23 - 21.

Concerning their team’s inability to close out the sets, Coach Shayne White was pretty straightforward. “This team just needs to learn how to win,” said White. “We fought very well. We had flashes of our potential, and some flashes of inconsistency in the play.”

Certainly, Coach White is dealing with a very young, inexperienced team. In the next two seasons, the team will graduate their entire back row and one of their outside hitters. “We have the experience to a lack of experience and confidence. “A lot of it is psychological, but I think when it comes down to it, we just need to focus on the fine little details,” explained the high-spirited rookie J.P. Wikerd. “When we put those details together, we’re going to win.”

Obviously, this season is awrite-off already, but the Hawks look to improve on last season’s win total as they close out their season this weekend, hosting the Royal Military College and Queens Golden Gaels.
Sam Roberts, above, and Sean Knight, below, let Eileen walk away and enjoy a Global Warming-esque February afternoon at the expensive of Laurier's benches. Grinding mere steps from Security Services is a bold move, blading that close to a music student hangout, bolder.

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Rogers Communications had won the television bid, but it most likely included Ron Maclean's model train collection, Brian Williams' first bumper-stickers.

Where the "T" still stands for "the" On Monday, TSN kindly interrupted normal broadcast to let us know they have a lot of money. Yes, they interrupted the World Cup of Hockey to show a painfully boring press conference that eventually announced that CTV and Rogers Communications had won the television rights to the 2010 Olympics. Let me be the first to congratulate these two companies, who collectively have slightly more money than God, in beating out their only competitor, wait for it, the CBC. One can only hazard a guess as to what was included in the perpetually pathetic CBC bid, but it most likely included Ron Maclean's model train collection, Brian Williams' first bumper-stickers.

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FRINGE Festival review bonanza

Friday February 4 @ 7pm
(Shows repeated Saturday February 5 @ 1pm)

WILBUR MCLEAN
Production Assistant

Journey to the Bum City
The journey of two homeless men seeking the mythical Bum City is the premise of this play, and seemingly transcends any traditional stage genre. The performances by an all-female cast playing male roles are strong, but the subject matter is somewhat dry until the transients reach their destination, where the exchange between the former inhabitants of Bum City and the two adventurers is classic, saving the play from being a relative bore. *** out of 5

That Hole You Pulched In Your Wall
Unfortunately, this was one performance that never quite seemed to "click." The story of a woman who finds her boyfriend cheating on her, this play is filled with characters that serve little purpose, leaving the lead character underdeveloped and making it hard to sympathize with her situation. The performances by the cast are generally good, especially by JD Muir who plays the cheating boyfriend, but the subject matter just isn't there for the performers to work with. ** out of 5

Nobody Loves You
An intriguing, unusual play produced by the director who swept last year's "Fringe Oscars," Nobody Loves You is a reflection on relationships and Valentine's Day. While running far too long for a FRINGE play, Nobody Loves You builds itself up well to the final confrontation, holding the viewer's attention throughout. The use of a backdrop screen seems superfluous until it is deftly worked into the final scene, making itself an integral part of the performance. Strongly written and well-acted, Nobody Loves You is an enjoyable stage show overall. **** out of 5

ELISE-MARIE WALSH
Cord Arts & Entertainment

The Nurse Who Loved Me
Initially, this play about a patient in a mental hospital who obsesses over his nurse is confusing because of the planned interrup-

tion of the play by the writer, director and producer. The interaction between the nurse and the patient, and also the patient and the voices in his head, are well portrayed and well acted. The narratives between the doctors and the nurse between scenes provided good context as to what is being seen. Besides the befuddling opening scenes, it's an effectively realistic play. *** out of 5

Detective Flirt in "Sticky Business"
This comedic play about a second-rate detective taking the case of stolen maple syrup is hilarious and fast-moving, continually hitting the audience with witty punch lines. The cast, who produced and performed a similarly hilarious play last year, did a tremendous job of captivating the audience from the opening scene and clapping them in the palm of their hands the whole way through. The acting was extremely well done with the parts perfectly suiting each actor. This play is an excellent incorporation of old detective movies with quirky cases and modern lines. ***** out of 5

Saturday February 5 @ 7pm
FRASER KING
News Editor

Lifestlye
Lifestlye turned out to be the most serious of all of the Fringe plays of Saturday evening, dealing with the lives of three women and one of their relationships with another person. The lives of the three are brought together as a housing development threatens one of their favorite parks. *** out of 5

It's Something You Can Depend On
The closest thing to a doctoral thesis, in play form. A clever mixture of Tim Hortons commercials, Karl Marx's political philosophy, and a heaping tablespoon of teenage drama and "anger" make up the prime ingredients of this play. Easily the "highest-brow" of all of the comedies, It's Something You Can Depend On fuses parody with social agenda into something funny with commentary that only the socially conscious can grasp. *** out of 5

MacArthur Park
This goes beyond non-sequitur into the realm of what-the-fuck did I just see? I find it difficult to describe this play in any way that is not a mere rundown of what happened. This play was ridiculous funny and the audience seemed to agree. If you did not see this, there is no way to recreate the play in words. Just know that you missed a fight between a sexy vampire and Glenda the Good Witch of the North with Mortal Kombat music playing in the background. This play is insane and insanely funny. **** out of 5

Public Discourse
One part social commentary, one part random murder, all entertaining. The two main characters have a lazy ignorance that defines the play's message - that people are deadened by media that they expose themselves to. The monologues are punctuated with visits from characters that are largely ignored. The defining moment was the random murder of a police officer that was completely ignored; laughter ensued. *** out of 5

First Date
The creepiest date ever that involves maternal-incest and watching some truly funny and troubling television programs. The television spots mock popular television formats including reality television, prime-time soap operas and the ever-popular 'cooking show with special guest.' The actual date involves what seems to be a very comical and troubled young man with a mother that has a penchant for school dances. This is the kind of play that makes you think twice about who you want to date. *** out of 5

Charlie
From the title I thought this was going to be an epic about a Viet Cong veteran; however, my guess was wrong and Charlie turned out to be a morality drama that involved some deep intervention from a mysterious stranger. The title character is given the opportunity to have $100 million in exchange for his death on his fortieth birthday. Being a rash student, he takes the opportunity and spoils his life with substance abuse before finally finding a reason to live past forty - but hey Charlie, a deal's a deal. **** out of 5

A scene from That Hole You Pulched In Your Wall.

Wendy Dyer and Torri Winters in Nobody Loves You.
Music Explosion - Battle Royale #3

CARLY BEATH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

High-energy ska band North of Sam kicked off the third Music Explosion of the year at Wilf's on Thursday in a high note, as they created a sold-out atmosphere.

The band featured the regular bass players and two singer-guitarists - as well as a guy in a bathrobe playing a funky-looking trombone that, instead of sliding, had keys like a trumpet. Pretty rad indeed.

The band's sound was upbeat, fun and well-executed. The songs were interesting and the band was able to switch tempos (ranging from medium to ultra-fast). One singer had a generally more polished feel, while the other had a more shouty style, and the two played off of each other to good effect. North of Sam had none of the usual first-band-of-the-night problems with getting the audience into the music; dancing groups clustered in front of the stage. At various points during the set different band members left the stage to play from the audience.

Their last song, chosen in the hope that the audience "would rock the fuck out," was an excellent cover of Rage Against The Machine's "Bulls On Parade." The band definitely achieved their goal, as the audience was clearly impressed.

The MC's filled the time in between the first two bands with a rousing Chubby Bunny competition, in which the person who could stuff the most marshmallows into their mouth and still remain standing was declared the winner. Yes, that was "The Bunny" declared the winner. It was an interesting distraction, to say the least, and then it was on to the next band, Shorty.

Shorty had a poppin sound. It wasn't overly original, but the band pulled it off well. Their gui-

Cliffnotes: Arts events from the edge... of K-W

Now showing at the University of Waterloo Art Gallery is "The Reality and Illusion by Brigitte Nowak," a collection of artworks that "magnify personal memories and events in one's life." The exhibition runs until March 6, and admission is free.

Happy Birthday Darwin

To celebrate the 196th anniversary of Charles Darwin, KWCIG Humanists are hosting an event in Room 101 of the Bricker Academic Building. The event will take place on Saturday, February 12 from 7 - 9pm. There will be a talk by Dr. diCarlo, entitled "Taking the Fun out of Fundamentalism: Why the Religious Right is So Wrong." The cost for students is only $2 and proceeds go to the Grand River Regional Cancer Centre.

Music Explosion Round 3 winners North of Sam.

Break through from the rock band format and was composed of two MCs and a DJ: Projeksiun, Triple B and DJ Focus. Triple B implored the crowd to "listen to what we're saying," and it was advice worth taking. Both MCs were talented, original and clever. Arguably the most impressive moment of the night was when Triple B started beat-boxing. A high point was when the band performed a song with a hook sung by a girl who had learned the song only 10 minutes earlier, when the person originally slated to sing it couldn't make it. These were all reasons that the DJs provoked the biggest crowd reaction of the night.

Having crowned the winners gives North of Sam the privilege of advancing to the finals. In the meantime, we can catch that again headlining Thursday Night Live at Wilf's on February 17.

Music Explosion Round 3 winners North of Sam.
Josh Ritter says “Hello Bomber”

CARLY BEATH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

I
dao singer/songwriter Josh Ritter stopped at the Bombshelter on Friday night for a show promoting his latest album Hello Starting.

Having seen opener Jill Barber twice before, I knew I was in for a treat and I wasn’t disappointed. Starting off with the melancholic “4th Wine”, she proceeded to wow the audience with the jazz music of her one-woman band as well as some new material, and the album’s Old Blue Carpet”. Her voice was soft and on the edges, but powerful, and the way she alternately picked and strummed her guitar strings made for intriguing listening.

Weary a black suit and sneakers, Josh Ritter bounded on stage with his ever-present smile, picked up his guitar and decided to forgo the microphone for his first song, “California”. Despite not having a microphone, the song’s sweet story permeated the bar. If Ritter was looking for a way to immediately connect with the audience, he didn’t have a better one.

Throughout the show, Ritter interacted with the audience, asking questions and telling stories that had everyone in constant fits of laughter. About an inspirational office poster featuring a picture of a man and a dog in a boat and the slogan “Teamwork: We’re all in this boat together,” Ritter shouted, “Teamwork? The only head I’ll get!”

Dancing to something upbeat, like “Northern Lights” in a way that made you wish your name was Kathleen.

During “Wings”, Ritter asked for all the stage lights to be turned off. He sang the song’s darkly soothing vocals and played its finger-picked guitar part in complete darkness. The audience was silent – it would have seemed blasphemous to talk or to move even breathing was done reluctantly.

Ritter called Barber back on stage during the encore, and the two performed her song “Two Brown Eyes”. Ritter’s soft harmonies perfectly complimented the longing in Barber’s clear, clear voice.

With just his voice and guitar Ritter managed to hold the audience captive the entire time, whether crooning the saddest lament, or shouting along and dancing to something upbeat, like “Snows Gone”. The thought that persisted in my head as I watched him was that the magazines have it all wrong as they tout Conor Oberst as our generation’s Bob Dylan.

Do you listen to music 23 hours a day, drink wine straight out of the bottle and want to write for Cord A&E? If so, e-mail wluenteretainment@yahoo.ca

At around $20 new, this game should be in everyone’s collection.

Overall: If you can’t tell yet, this game is simple. But complex games aren’t always better, as Bomberman Generation has proven. A thoroughly enjoyable game for people of all ages and skill levels, there is never a boring moment. With a wide variety of game play modes, and a very simple objective, this game is good for hours of fun. And you can’t beat the price – at around $20 new, this game should be in everyone’s collection.

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But where is John...

That Riverside-Kitchener bus was a lucky crack, Grr. This terminal is a tale... Is that a gong? I better get out of here!

Bomberman fun, plain and simple

JILLIAN PANCOTT
Copy Editor

Bomberman Generation is fairly old on the Gamecube system, but is honestly one of my favourite multi-player games. There is a single player game, but after spending some time on that I gave up, mainly because it’s attribute to this game is the multiplayer. Even on my own I play under the multi-player battle mode. The objective is simple, one that can be easily explained to anyone of any gaming skill level: to be the last bomberman standing. There’s only one small barrier, the bricks that separate you from your opponents. Use your bombs and special items to trap the other players and kick them out of the game. Can it get any easier than this?

Graphics: The game is very light and all images have a very cartoon-like feel; the game gives no sense of reality. The explosion of the bombs is fun and, matched with the special items, almost humorous. The bright colours and lack of shading really make it look like a child’s game, but help to keep the fun appearance.

Controls: The controls in the Battle Games are very simple. Run using the control stick, and place a bomb using A. Special items that are picked up allow for a Bomb Punch using X, and B detonates the bombs when you receive the Remote Controller item. That’s about it; when I say simple, I mean simple.

Game Play: I have played this game for hours and hours, but it just isn’t quite good. When you play with other people, there is always someone who isn’t always the one who plays the most. There is some strategy involved, like trapping the other player between the wall and the bomb, but it’s not rocket science. There are also variations in the Battle Game mode. I’ve mainly been talking about the Standard Battle, which in itself has eight different playing fields with different traps, but there are also the Reversi Battle, Coin Battle, Dodge Battle and Revenge Battle. Each has a different objective, still to be accomplished using bombs, but most depend on the ‘last man standing’ idea. In Reversi you flip the colour panel to reveal more of your own colour than your opponents. Coin Battle is all about picking up the most coins. Dodge Battle maintains the ‘last man standing’ objective. Revenge Battle, every player starts in an army-like tank on the side and has to hit moles that pop out of the ground on the playing field.

Bomberman Generation

System: Nintendo Gamecube
Release Date: Nov. 16, 2004

Bomberman Generation is a game for people of all ages and skill levels, there is never a boring moment. With a wide variety of game play modes, and a very simple objective, this game is good for hours of fun. And you can’t beat the price – at around $20 new, this game should be in everyone’s collection.
The Game

4 out of a possible 5 stars of new releases
Title: The Documentary
Release Date: Jan. 18, 2005
Label: Interscope / Aftermath

He was born and raised in Compton, California, where violence occurs more often than Britney lip-syncs at her “live” performances. He is a member of the infamous gang Bloods. He was shot five times back in 2001 (probably by the rival gang Crips) and now has a child to raise. Any of this sound familiar? Did I mention he’s signed to the G-Unit label? The “he" that I am referring to is of course the latest protégé of Dr. Dre, who was the real name: Jaseon Taylor. The Game had generated quite a buzz on the mixtape circuit before the release of his debut album just like his label mate 50 Cent did back in 2001, so it only makes sense that he becomes the first West Coast representative of G-Unit. Since the early 90s when 2 Pac, Snoop Dogg, Ice Cube and Dr. Dre owned the rap game, the West has fallen hard with the death of 2 Pac and the falling off of Ice Cube and Snoop Dogg. So enters The Game, who is trying to single-handedly bring West Coast back on the map.

On his first song, “Westside Story”, Game quickly declares where he is from and what has happened to the West since “since the West Coast fell off the streets been watchin/the West Coast neva fell off I was asleep in Compton.” He then summarizes his background later in the song with “been there, done that, sold crack, got jacked, got shot, came back, jumped on Dre's back.” The best for this track was produced by Dr. Dre, as he manages to bang out another trademark Dre instrumental with keyboard patterns and all.

Then on the Kanye West-produced “Dreams”, Game details the idea that dreams do come true, as he spits “but anything is possible if 50 fucked Vivica”, referring to 50 Cent’s short-lived relationship with actress Vivica A. Fox. On his 50 Cent assisted single “How We Do”, Game tells us how he likes to rock it in the club over yet another intoxicating Dr. Dre beat, in a song that resembles the feel of “In Da Club”. Watch for this song to blow up everywhere this year.

Even though The Game lived a violent life with his gang affiliations, he isn’t trying to glorify the culture, as he displayed his regrets about his past on “Start From Scratch”. Game sounds like he is asking for forgiveness from a priest at times in the song as he ponders upon his past mistakes and the deaths of his close friends. Finally, on the last song “Like Father, Like Son”, Game reveals his greatest gift: a powerful, heartfelt vulnerability. On this final track, he tells of the birth of his son. Over Needlez melodramatic, string-laden beat and with Busta Rhymes providing the chorus, he raps, “nose, ears, eyes, chin just like your daddy/ I’ll die before you grow up and be just like your daddy.”

Overall, the production is easily the strongest element on the album, as Game gets help from some of the most-wanted producers around: Dr. Dre, Kanye West, Havoc, Just Blaze, Hi-Tek and Timbaland help mold an excellent debut for The Game. Judging from this debut, I am sure we will find out more about The Game in upcoming years.

- Leo Yu

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Crossword
BY FRASER KING

Across:
1. and the Bandit
5. Used in soap-making
8. 40 days long
11. Crust and filling
12. Plural possessive
13. Happily ___ after
14. Estimated Time of Arrival
15. What Crunk Juice comes in
16. Past of give
17. A nerve tonic
19. Something that is thought of
20. To _, or not to _
21. Clause or concept
22. C-
24. To seduce
25. To stare
26. Not win
30. Like 'a'
31. Middle Eastern prince
32. To be worn at construction sites
37. Japanese, wooden-soled shoe
38. Like a chimp or gorilla
39. Nike New
41. The function of an item
42. King in Latin
43. Left by its mother and reared by hand
44. Bill & , had an excellent adventure

Down:
1. Like a creek or brook
2. Not closed
3. What people fly
4. Keystone
5. Plural of locus
6. __-TL, D&D snake people
7. European eagles
8. As compared with illegitimate
9. Dodge or avoid
10. __ ever, All Saints
11. Veteran or Veterinarian
12. One who tends to swans
13. Prisoner of war
14. Socrates is this type of fly
15. What the thing on the end of a pencil does
16. Fast, in French
17. Singular of apsis
18. Part of a woodwind
19. This off limits
20. Sounds like cited
21. What aren't students going to do on February 3?
22. Nothing
23. Study
24. Read
25. What does The Cord do?
26. Sweep the fire
27. Rocky Disband
28. Nothing
29. Study
30. Read
31. YDUS
32. KTNE
33. BTH
34. AEP
35. MRT
36. VHE
37. TINAP
38. KDRNU
39. KOSME
40. Podstudio
41. DTT
42. RHE
43. VOT
44. RUE

Weekly Bad Drawing
By Pete Cram

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The world must rally to Nepal
Richard Togman
Staff Writer

The Buddhist kingdom of Nepal has recently been thrown into the international spotlight as its King, Gyanendra, dismissed parliament, put many political leaders under arrest and has cut off almost all communication with the outside world. These drastic steps have thrown the once peaceful country into full blown panic as the conflict between the monarchists and the Maoists can no longer be ignored. The history of modern Nepal begins with the British decolonization process which installed a type of absolute monarch. The monarchy was relatively liberal, and it began to institute a number of democratic reforms, culminating in a new constitution in 1990. A constitutional monarchy was established with a fully functioning parliament. However, caste discrimination, extreme poverty and a growing disillusionment with the new government led to the transformation of the Maoist parties into a guerilla organization.

The Maoists seek an overthrow of the monarchy and the establishment of a true democratic government. As well, they wish to see the end of rule by the elite, with power given to peasant based organizations. Moreover, they wish that the issues of caste discrimination and extreme poverty among the lower strata of society, especially the lower classes, and their edicts are obeyed to a large extent throughout the country. The King dismissed parliament for its lack of resolve and unity in combating the guerillas.

The King has also suspended all rights and freedoms, including freedom of speech and assembly. Moreover, he has cutoff nearly all communication with the outside world, essentially turning the once peaceful Buddhist nation into a police state.

In this instance, the nations of the free world should join together to either support the communist insurgents or severely pressure the Nepalese monarchy to change its course of action. The communists, led by the Maoists, have very legitimate complaints that are not being dealt with fairly.

Nepal is extensively controlled by the powerful elite and little hope was shed upon the millions who live in poverty and caste with discrimination. Consequently, the Maoists’ drive for equality and democracy should be supported by the free states of the world unless the monarchy takes radical steps at reformation to alleviate the crisis. The King must restore all previous democratic freedoms and negotiate with the rebels, who have repeatedly expressed their willingness to compromise. Otherwise, the liberal and free states of the world should support the communists in their bid for social justice and economic opportunity. Long live the revolution.

The army is loyal to the King and is the force allowing him to dismiss any attempts to show his authority. The Maoists began their insurrection in 1996 and have taken over most of the countryside. They have a large degree of control and backing among many strata of society, especially the lower classes, and their edicts are obeyed to a large extent throughout the country. The King dismissed parliament for its lack of resolve and unity in combating the guerrillas.

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Beneficial to women’s health because of its belief in equality, Tuition was described as an antidote to the undevolved stereotype current in western thought. Women were disfranchised three years after Tunisia gained independence from France, and the specific goal of the national party was to improve women’s health, particularly in the urban-rural divide, so they could vote. Family planning was subsequently introduced in 1966, and abortion legalized in 1973. “These decisions were taking place decades before the world community became aware of the issues,” said Foster.

Why did Tunisia address women’s issues so quickly? To begin with, it was under little pressure from the international community, according to Foster. Women were involved with the decision-making from the beginning, and the 92 per cent Muslim country respected the personal nature of health.

Foster said Tunisia was not alone in its progressiveess, but the prevalence of demeaning images in the western world detracts from the actual position of Arab women. Between the image of the burqa and the image of the belly dancer, where does the truth lie?” she questioned.

She cited the “stock images” of women peering out from black veils constantly used by the press to represent women, such as those in the coverage of the Iraqi election process. To highlight their effect, she displayed pornographic images from the 1850s designed by imperialists.

Women’s health in Iraq, she maintained. Women cannot access family planning information, and they cannot bear children. The omission of condoms and contraception information in packages sent from the world by western aid organizations is a sign of the misunderstanding between the East and West. “U.S. guilt played on stereotypes,” Foster said.

The haphazard approach to reconstruction has set back women’s health in Iraq, she maintained. Women cannot access family planning information, and there is no legal abortion. The omission of condoms and contraception information in packages sent by western aid organizations is a sign of the misunderstanding between the East and West. “U.S. guilt played on stereotypes,” Foster said.

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Opposition poised to challenge Mugabe in Zimbabwe

But the U.S.-based Famine Alert Network warns that Zimbabweans are in need of food

GRACE KIM
Staff Writer

The Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) has decided to contest Zimbabwe's upcoming election, despite a corrupt electoral process controlled by President Robert Mugabe and worries that nearly half of Zimbabweans are starving.

Zimbabwe's upcoming parliamentary election, set on March 31, is widely predicted to be won by Mugabe and his ruling party, the Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF). Although Mugabe adopted the fair election guidelines of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) last April, the MDC contends that the government has failed to enact the democratic reforms that are so fundamental and pivotal to guarantee fair and free elections. The MDC's Fair Election guidelines include guarantees to the right to hold public political meetings, campaign freely, and have fair access to the media. Human rights groups have reported that such tactics have attacked MDC members, and the media is tightly controlled by the government.

Although the opposition party initially boycotted the upcoming election, MDC spokesman Paul Nyathi stated that this policy was changed in response to “the demands of the people, the working people of Zimbabwe who wish to exercise their hard-fought and inalienable right of voting,” and to facilitate future democratic reforms.

Despite corruption, the MDC almost took control of the parliament in 2000, and nearly defeated Mugabe in 2002. The international community widely regards the Zimbabwean government as corrupt; U.S. President George W. Bush recently named Zimbabwe a “rogue country of the world,” but Mugabe contends that the MDC is a puppet for Western governments.

The Zimbabwean elections of 2000 and 2002 are widely regarded as illegitimate, and little has been done to correct the system.

Nevertheless, the election boycott threat by the MDC failed to gain international support and put pressure on Mugabe to reform. Even SADC offered nothing but subdued criticism of Zimbabwe’s abnegation of its regional democratic guidelines.

A new report by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS) reports that about 5.8 million people, or one-third of the population of 12.5 million, will suffer from malnutrition and starvation-related illnesses this year, unless large quantities of food are imported. The U.S. government is being urged to recognize the impending disaster.

The government claims that it produced about 2.4 million tonnes of corn last year, and Agriculture Minister Elton Made, claims about 370,000 tonnes of food is being distributed to the needy. However, independent organizations in Zimbabwe contend that only one million tonnes of food was produced, and that many families, especially children, women, and the elderly have been forced to drastically reduce food consumption.

Since the Mugabe government embarked on an arbitrary expropriation of about 5,000 farms owned by the white settlers in 2000 for the purpose of redistributing them to the landless peasants, Zimbabwe’s food crisis has been exacerbated.

Drop the debt and free Africa

The cycle of debt that many African nations are caught in has created a system of modern day slavery

Kyle Boulden
Staff Writer

Last week, Nelson Mandela made headlines after a speech at Trafalgar Square in London, England, where he said that the world leaders from the developed world had turned their backs on the African continent as they were preoccupied with reducing their own poverty. The appearance by Mandela coincided with the visit to the capital by ministers from the G7 countries that took place in London.

The meeting of the G7 officials is a testament to the growing sentiments in the Western world that more urgent action is needed to combat poverty, especially in Africa. Further, the South African President has taken a tough stance on the issue of debt relief.

The majority of these loans are from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, who use these loans as “carrots” to encourage economic reforms. These institutions operate on a weighted voting system that reflects how much a country contributes. Obviously, the world’s richest nations provide the majority of funding for these institutions, so they control the debts that they have created and deal with debt relief on their own terms.

Now everyone knows that Bono has been on the news running around trying to sell the concept, but many might still wonder what exactly is being discussed. The basic facts are that, according to statistics from the World Bank in 1999, $128 million (US) is transferred daily from the poorest countries to the richest nations to wealthy countries. To make matters worse, the IMF and the World Bank, whom they owe the money to, control the rating system which determines whether that country will be able to borrow money in the future.

Basically, by removing the crippling effects of debts for the world’s most impoverished nations, the developed world would be setting them on their way to be free to help themselves.

During his speech last weekend, Nelson Mandela called the situation a “prison of poverty” for the world’s poorest nations.

The MDC has posed a severe challenge to President Robert Mugabe’s ruling government.

Many people around the world are hoping that the Pope, currently recovering in hospital after experiencing some breathing problems, will make a speedy and full recovery.

Among these well wishers is Mehmert Ali Agca, a Turkish militant who shot the Pope in an assassination attempt during a gathering in St. Peter’s Square in 1981. The Pope’s injury set off his gradual decline in health.

Currently in a Turkish prison, Agca wrote that “you and I, we are hoping that the Pope, currently recovering in hospital after experiencing some breathing problems, will make a speedy and full recovery.

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Mandela met with the G7 leaders during the conference and put his support behind a British proposal to double aid to Africa to $100 billion a year and to write off the debts of the poorest countries.

That proposal, which Mandela had backed, was promptly rejected by the U.S., but it has become clear that the G7 leaders are looking at the next big strategy towards reducing global poverty. The leaders emerged from the conference without any clear consensus on debt relief but that the topic was discussed on a “case by case” basis.

The Pope is currently recovering in the Gemelli hospital in Rome, his condition is slowly improving.

Duck and cover

The debate on missile defence is coming next week

TONY FERGUSON
Staff Writer

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Agca has been doing as the Pope by first names, “I wish the Pope well.” Agca’s letter to the Pope was a personal effort as it referred to the Pope by first name, “I embrace you, Karol Wojtyla. I send you my best wishes.”

The letter was faxed to the Associated Press by his attorney last Thursday. Agca composed the letter from the Istanbul prison where he is currently serving a 10-year sentence for two robberies and the murder of a Turkish journalist, both having taken place in 1979.

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Canadian mining operation turns deadly in Guatemala

Kris Cote
International Editor

The standoff between a Canadian mining company, Glamis Gold and an indigenous Guatemalan Maya tribe turned violent last week after clashes with Guatemalan security forces left two men dead.

Raul Castro Bocel and Miguel Tzoy, both Maya men, were killed after a group of protesters tried to stop a transport convoy laden with explosives and equipment used to destroy the community.

National prosecutors will investigate the situation, and anyone convicted could face up to two years in prison for violating laws protecting personal data.

A transport of mining supplies caused alarm for a local Mayan group in Guatemala who were worried that their bridge would be invaded.

The paper notes that "The Maya community is upset because they were not consulted in the application process, a right which is guaranteed to them under the International Labor Organization’s Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ILO 169)." Guatemala has adopted the convention, but refused to honour it. Additionally, national law requires that indigenous people be consulted prior to licensing of projects which are likely to have an impact on them.

The Maya community believes that as long as the rights of the communities are not respected and they do not feel they have been properly consulted, the protests will continue, and if the government continues its hard line then these tragic deaths may not be the last.

The Canadian ambassador to Guatemala, James Lambert, has been an outspoken supporter of the Marlin project. Guatemalan officials contend that "the flow of commerce must continue" despite the opposition of "anti-development activists."

Mayan officials are disappointed by the outcome of events. Having been divided during the country’s civil war, which only officially ended in 1996, elders believe that the process could have helped bring the community back together. The only contact that the Maya had with the process was when a public relations team, paid by Glamis, spoke to the community about the benefits the mine would bring.

Western stereotypes not helping Arab women

Tara Ferguson

The Argus (Mount Allison University)

Sackville, N.B. (CUP) — The western world needs to look beyond the mysterious image of the veil and address Arab women’s health and reproductive needs, says medical anthropologist Angela Foster.

Foster, the Middle East and North Africa program director with the Reproductive Health, a non-governmental organization, addressed an audience of about 28 in Mount Allison University’s Owens Art Gallery Jan. 29.

The opening of her talk dealt with the impossibility of representing the Arab world as a homogenous unit concerning women’s rights, Foster said. She believed that the gap between the women in the region and the rest of the world, and in the political forum, was a lack of understanding of the challenges they face.

"There’s no such thing as a monolithic world, and we need to be more specific," Foster said. She cited the disparity between contraceptive usage among married women in Tunisia and Sudan: the former country has a 70 percent usage rate, while only 10 percent of Sudanese women use artificial methods of birth control.

Various factors affect women’s health in this region, she said, such as economy, warfare, oil revenues, colonialism, international interest and socio-cultural factors.

Foster criticized the anti-Islam mentality of foreign powers wishing to secularize governments. "Islam is broadly supportive of family planning," she said.