Your New President - page 2
Axworthy Appointment Brings Excitement, Concern to the U of W

As of July 2004 Lloyd Axworthy will officially begin his five year term as sixth president of The University of Winnipeg, leaving a position as head of the Liu Center for the Study of Global Issues at the University of British Columbia. Acting on the recommendation of the Presidential Search and Nominating Committee, the U of W Board of Regents unanimously appointed Axworthy a suitable replacement for former President Ronke Booke. Acting President Patrick Deane will retain his position as Vice President Academic and also assume the newly created role of Provost.

Upon completion of a full and exhaustive search, the University of Winnipeg Board of Regents is pleased that an individual of Dr. Axworthy’s integrity, leadership experience and acumen, commitment to the local and global community, and vision will be joining the remarkable administrative team assembled at the University,” states Richard Graydon, Chair of Regents. The Presidential Search and Nominating Committee, composed of staff, students, alumni, and Regents assessed the experience, professional qualifications, and personal qualities of several candidates throughout the country.

“Local identity is certainly one of the factors that was unique to Lloyd,” Carol Basarab, chairwoman of the Presidential Search and Nominating Committee, told the Winnipeg Free Press in an interview. “He was certainly, among our candidates, the best-known to the Manitoba community.”

Axworthy is no stranger to the U of W. For over two decades he acquainted himself with the U of W as an alumni, political science professor, and director of the Institute for Urban Studies here on campus.

In 1973, his career developed beyond academia when he entered into provincial politics, serving six years in the Manitoba Legislative Assembly followed by over twenty years as a member of the Federal Parliament. While part of the Chretien government, Axworthy held several Cabinet portfolios. During his time as Minister of Foreign Affairs, he gained international acclaim for his advancement of the concept of Human Security. He has been honoured with several prestigious awards and was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for establishing the Ottawa Treaty, a landmark global agreement banning anti-personnel landmines. As of the New Year, Axworthy has been appointed by the UN as a mediator between Ethiopia and Eritrea in an attempt to resolve border disputes.

Come and join us every Monday for The Uniter story meeting. If you have a story idea or are interested in getting involved with the Uniter, it’s a great chance to find out more.

Where: The Uniter office, ORM14 Bulman Centre When: Mondays, 5:30PM New contributors welcome.

Dr. Lloyd Axworthy: Fact Facts

1939: Born December 21st in North Battleford, Saskatchewan
1961: Graduated with Bachelors Degree from United College (now the University of Winnipeg)
1963: Received Masters in political science from Princeton University
1965-1967 and 1969-1970: Professor of political science at the University of Winnipeg
1967: Special assistant to the Right Honourable John Turner, and Executive Assistant to the Minister Responsible for Housing and Urban Development, the Honourable Paul Hellyer
1969-1979: Director of the Institute of Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg
1972: Received his PhD from Princeton University
1973: Elected as a Liberal member of the Manitoba Legislature Assembly representing the Fort Rouge Constituency, and was re-elected in October of 1977
1979: Elected as a Liberal Member of Parliament
1980-1982: Minister Responsible for Housing and Urban Development, the Honourable Paul Hellyer
1983-1984: Minister of Transport
1984: Re-elected. Official Opposition Critic for Regional and Industrial Expansion and the Canadian Wheat Board
1985-1988: Trade Critic and Deputy Critic for External Affairs
1989: Appointed Official Critic for Trade and Chair of the Liberal Task Force and the Liberal Caucus Economic Policy Committee
1990: Appointed Liberal Critic for External Affairs and Chair of the Liberal Caucus Committee on External Affairs and National Defence
1991: Nominated Vice-Chair of the House Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade
1993: Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification. Served on the Social Development Policy and Economic Development Policy Committees of Cabinet
1996-2000: Minister of Foreign Affairs
1997: Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his part in the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel landmines
1998: Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Winnipeg
2000: Director of the Liu Centre for Global Issues at the University of British Columbia
2001: Named to the Order of Manitoba (OM)
2003: Named Office of the Order of Canada (OC)

While the Board of Regents seemed excited with their unanimous decision to appoint Axworthy as president, the University of Winnipeg Students’ Association (UWSA) and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) have mixed feelings. Although Chris Minaker, President of the UWSA, is excited about the appointment, he does have concerns regarding Axworthy’s political past.

In 1993, the Liberal federal government, under the direction of Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Finance Minister Paul Martin and Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy, cut $7 billion dollars from education and training across Canada, explains Minaker.

“Students need an acknowledgement from Mr. Axworthy that his 1993 Social Policy Review did damage to universities and colleges across the country and resulted in huge tuition fee increases that have hurt access to education for low and middle income Canadians,” stated Cathy Hamilton Vice President Advocate of the UWSA.

As the annual CFS Day of Action quickly approaches in February, tuition fee freezes will become a hotly debated issue. Student organizations have requested a meeting with Mr. Axworthy sometime in January to address these and other key policy concerns.
BY SCOTT DE GROOT

L ast Tuesday the University of Manitoba made a stunning announcement: the University has received a $21.8 million grant from Microsoft billionaire Bill Gates to expand its HIV/AIDS research in India. The grant is being included in the Gates Foundation’s $5858 initiative launched this fall to provide additional help in the developing world for over twenty years but rather the grant’s huge dollar value, perhaps the largest in the university’s history.

Dr. John O’Neil, head of community health sciences at the U of M, could barely conceal his excitement following the announcement. “People would talk about John Hopkins University, Oxford, and us in the same breath,” said O’Neil. “If we’re not the top university in this area, certainly we’d be in the top three.”

O’Neil’s sentiments were echoed by Dr. Frank Plummer, working concurrently as head of Winnipeg’s National Microbiology Laboratory and at the U of M. “I think it’s a tribute to the strength the HIV research program here at the University of Manitoba that’s been built up over so many years,” he said. “We are really addressing the problem in terms of among HIV interventions that are effective.”

The grant is being included in the recent expansion of the high impact research campaign, which, as a result, will now far surpass the U of M’s original goal of two-hundred million dollars. The two largest donations of ten and seven million dollars came from the Asper and the Richardson families, respectively.

The Gates grant will be spent almost entirely overseas in India where the university’s research has centered, and there will be no infrastructure or staff added to the downtown medical campus, U of M officials have said. However, the money could attract ten or more top doctoral students and will certainly lead to more faculty and staff hired in India.

The India State of Karnataka, with a population nearly double the size of Canada and a growing incidence of HIV/AIDS, is at the center of the U of M’s work on the subcontinent. It is estimated that there are about 500,000 people infected with HIV in the state, or about 1.7 percent of the total population (Canada has a 0.2 percent infection rate). Research will focus on HIV education and prevention programs that highlight vulnerable groups such as those in the sex trade and health care workers.

U of M’s HIV research has been ongoing since the 1980s when, in conjunction with the University of Nairobi, it began to chart the course of progression of HIV/AIDS in Kenya. Those involved gave blood and tissue samples in exchange for free medical treatment. They were closely monitored from the point at which they contracted the disease to their eventual deaths, providing a wealth of important information and gaining international recognition as one of the most advanced HIV studies in the world.

Project researchers were among the first to realize that what is now known as a “viral reservoir” in the medical community: that the virus can be transmitted among heterosexuals and not just homosexuals, that it is more susceptible to the virus if they already have another STD, and that there is a strong correlation between the two. The money will help them further the research.

Despite the obvious benefits in the developing world, the grant is having local benefits as well, according to Paul La Pierre, the executive director of Nine Circles Community Health Centre on Broadway. “It benefits us at Nine Circles because when people hear about it, they think ‘hey, we’re going to get local help’,” said La Pierre. “Lots of people have been phoning us over the last few days to ask about how they can donate money. They think ‘hey, I really want to see something happen.’ So it generates interest on a local level as well.”

Nine circles is jointly funded by the provincial and federal government and private sources. It operates peer based awareness programs, an STD/HIV phone line that answers questions and gives referral to testing services, and promotes awareness raising activities such as AIDS walk.

Obviously, much of the buzz around the grant is a result of its owner, world famous billionaire Bill Gates. His charitable foundation, the Gates foundation, has spent more than $7 billion in the past decade on HIV/AIDS, is at the center of the U of M’s research agenda.

“Obviously, it’s a result of the money,” said O’Neil. “This is a very important milestone.”

Several other universities were in the running to receive the money, including the University of British Columbia, the University of Toronto, and the University of Alberta.

As part of their ongoing initiatives to lobby government and raise public awareness, the U of M has been actively working to dispel the common myth that the virus can only be transmitted through sexual contact. This year, the board of the Fast Income Coalition applauds the board’s creation as a step in the right direction, it would rather see the board as an exter- nal and autonomous body, similar to the one that determines provincial MLA’s salaries. The coalition also wants the minimum wage deter- mined by economic indicators such as the GDP and cost of living indexes, and as a per-

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IUS Moves In
New Digs Finally a Reality

M I C H E L L E  K U L Y
Managing Editor

D espite over two months of delays, Gino Distasio, Acting Director of the Institute of Urban Studies (IUS) sits behind his new desk at 520 Portage Avenue with a big smile on his face.

“We’re happy to be here,” he says. “We were in a temporary location too long — but it’s to be expected when you are dealing with the readaptive use of an old building.”

With the smell of new paint in the air and hammering sounds emanating from unfinished areas of the mixed-use building, the staff’s smiles seem quite unearned. But according to Distasio, it’s all par for the course when you are reusing and readapting old spaces.

“It’s more than just coming up with a great idea. You are faced with more challenges than you would be with a big box development on a Greenfield site,” he explains. “This process and this space ends up being a type of laboratory for the work we do at the IUS. It’s an innovative thing — we’re in the middle of a construction zone.”

In fact, turning the old Portage Avenue racquetball courts into mixed-use office, commercial and living space is right up the IUS alley. The educational and applied research centre founded by the University of Winnipeg in 1969 is at the forefront of urban development research, examining urban issues and the innovative solutions required to address inner city problems, including adapting empty, obso- lete buildings for new uses.

The old Supreme Racquet Courts space, directly across from the U of W, now houses the Institute’s offices on two floors. The IUS library is on the first floor, along with the reception area, staff room, stor- age and board room. Offices fill the second floor, which also incorporates a four-person workspace available to students for research.

“The board room will [also] be available to students and staff who want to meet off campus,” says Distasio.

And according to Research Associate and IUS Librarian Michael Dudley, the library is now open to students and staff as well, a welcome relief for students like Wes Toews and Jeff Pratte, both of whom study Honours Geography. Since the Institute packed up its library at the beginning of fall semester, finding urban reference materials for research projects and has been increasingly difficult for Toews, Pratte and their classmates.

“Finding resources has been inconvenient over the past semester,” says Toews. “Unlike when the Winnipeg Public Library closed and incorporated their more popular selections into the library circulation system, the IUS resources haven’t been available at all.”

“The timing hasn’t been too bad, because most of the closure was over the break,” admits Pratte. “But it definitely would’ve n’t been hurt for the institute to have made better provisions.”

In spite of the closure, Dudley says the library’s holdings have been expanding to fill the new expanded space.

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Box Stores - Nationalism in the Retail Sector

A. P. (BEN) BENTON
News Editor

In Part I of a series of articles that focuses on box-stores and commercial development, Chris Madden took a look at the biggest box of all — Wal-Mart. Part II takes a look at the history and impact of these stores and focuses on two specific examples.

S o-called box stores are appearing en masse in Canadian cities these days. City Suburbs that once had their own local character are becoming increasingly Americanized, not only in their appearance, but in the broad name corporations that are setting up shop here. Retailers in downtown areas are feeling the impact of the suburban big box stores says Ken Jones, Chair in the Management of Technological Change at Ryerson University. His research, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Eaton Foundation, reveals that between 1989 and 1996, retail sales in Canada’s top urban downtown areas dropped by an average of 28 per cent. In Hamilton, Edmonton, and Winnipeg, sales dropped between 30 and 40 per cent. “The rapid changes in our retail landscape should concern Canadians,” declares Jones.

In fact, Canadian cities are becoming a landscape divided — American companies warring with Canadian companies for territoriality. Although more pronounced in recent years, this kind of encroachment isn’t a new phenomenon. Eaton’s fought a valiant battle in the 1950s when newly merged U.S. giant Simpsons-Sears Limited began an aggressive mail-order and expansion strategy, bent on destroying the T Eaton & Co. dominance. Eaton held out, but acknowledged the impact on its sales as consumers opted more for the expansive parking lots and shimmering glass and steel buildings of suburbia.

When Wal-Mart entered the Canadian market in 1994, taking over the Woolco chain and opening hundreds of new locations, Eaton’s suffered again and, coupled with other internal problems, eventually folded. Besides Wal-Mart, a host of U.S. based department stores and other chains have sprouted up late—Costco, Winners, Old Navy, The Gap, Eddie Bauer to name a few, all in competition.

Now, in the heart of many Canadian downtowns, the Hudson’s Bay Company is regrouping in an alarmingly similar plight to maintain its market share in an increasingly competitive market. But the Bay is too finding that it is unable to compete through shoppers out of the suburbs, and in turn, has opted to occupy Polo Park Shopping Centre, hoping to reach a broader customer base.

The front line of this battle is being drawn closer every day in some neighbour- hoods. Canadian coffee chain Second Cup, which got a modest start in Toronto twenty-five years ago, has found an equally aggressive competitor right on its doorstep.

Starbucks, the Seattle based coffee giant, operates in thirty countries outside Canada and the U.S. and has an estimated 6,400 stores worldwide. Much like Wal- Mart, Starbucks sees itself as the only pur-veyor of its goods, envisioning no room for competition and itself as the exclusive coffee house. To attain this vision, the company employs an aggressive and ruthless expansion strategy of saturating a market to drive out competition.

With stores on nearly every corner in the U.S., the company made its move into Canada some time ago, signing lease agreements with Vancouver street corners, and spreading slowly inland. Marketing itself as the little coffee house on the corner, Starbucks’ locations (which tend to just a few coffee shops) have spread so far and wide, often opening recently on Coridon directly opposite a Timmy’s Coffee, in Polo Park, just a few blocks away from Second Cup, on Broadway, directly opposite The Fyxx, on Acadamy, just a few doors from Second Cup Coffee, and Concorde Café. There is also a store opening soon in Portage Place, where McNealy Robinson’s Pristick’s Café, and Timothy’s World Coffee are the main pur-veyors of better brews.

The United States’ most developed and longstanding international-trade relationship is with Canada so it’s not surprising that so many U.S. companies are opening stores in this country. With a favourable exchange rate it just makes economic sense, but the more we as consumers support this kind of growth, the more it will happen. There is a kind of apathy creeping into the consumer mentality, and this is a dangerous mindset. These stores are going to appear and it seems we’ve resigned ourselves to that fact, but we also seem to believe that there is nothing we can do about it. When spending your money, think local, provincial, national. Consider, whenever you shop, the impact on local, Canadian businesses. There’s no such thing as “talking to your friend” and making them try socially conscious choices or ethical deci- sions, and a mitigating factor in those deci- sions is relying not our money stays in our communities.

We are currently seeking similarly themed stories for this series. If you have a paper that you think might be suitable for an article, or an idea for a story, please contact the News Editor A.P. (BEN) Benton at bbenton@shaw.ca

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JANUARY 15, 2004
any students have probably noticed a number of brightly coloured posters appearing on campus with strange symbols and characters. For those of you who aren’t Classics majors and figured it out already, here’s the Alpha through the Omega of what it’s all about — they’re the calling cards of fraternities and sororities. But in Canada? In Winnipeg?

Fraternities and sororities have existed on Canadian university campuses since 1879, and on campuses in the United States since the mid 1700s. These groups have also been integral in shaping the youth of our past and present, and will continue to shape the youth of our future. There are approximately 80 Greek letter organizations that exist throughout North America, all of which offer many of the same benefits. Where they differ is in their histories, their principles and their traditions. One of the original reasons that fraternities and sororities were formed in the first place was to give a voice to students. Throughout much of the 1880’s and the very early years of the 1900’s, sororities were formed on campuses, which until then had been completely dominated by the presence of men. At the same time the women’s suffrage movement was happening, sorority members on campuses across North America were standing up, and giving voice and presence to women at universities.

In hearing the words fraternity and sorority, however, the first thoughts that probably come to mind are how you have seen them represented and stereotyped in movies like Animal House and Old School, and on MTV’s Fraternity Life and Sorority Life, when in reality these have nothing to do with the real Greek experience. Being Greek just means that you are a member of a fraternity or sorority. Many university students in Winnipeg may be surprised to learn that we have fraternities and sororities, and that throughout the 82 years that Manitoba’s Greek system was born, from the late 1920s through the 1960s, Manitoba’s Greek system was one of the largest in Western Canada, with 13 fraternities and 11 sororities. Today, four fraternities — Alpha Phi (1928), Alpha Delta Pi (1929) and Alpha Gamma Delta (1930), still exist. It was in 1967, when the University of Winnipeg was formed, that our fraternities and sororities were provided with the unique ability to recruit students from both institutions. Over time many prominent Manitobans like Israel Asper, Lloyd Axworthy, Gary Doer, Bill Norrie, Jack McKeag, Susan June Glass, Kaye Elizabeth Dunlop, Susan Tumer, Geraldine Manamara and Carol Shields belonged to fraternities and sororities in their undergraduate days. Other Canadians like Lester B. Pearson, Paul Martin, John A. McCrae and George A. Drew were also members of Greek letter groups in their undergraduate days.

Students in fraternities and sororities, or how, as a busy university student, you could benefit from them. First, studies have shown that students in fraternities and sororities tend to do better both academically and in their chosen career path. Fraternities and sororities, much like student councils, have executive structures and members have the ability to be in positions like President, Public Relations, and Treasurer, and in doing so gain management experience. The skills you can learn in these positions you give one step up on others entering the work world, because these positions provide a taste of real life and its experiences. Sometimes the lessons and skills you learn in your fraternity or sorority can be as beneficial as the degree you are working on. Being a member of an international fraternity or sorority, (all of our groups have chapters in both Canada and the United States) enables you to network with undergraduate and alumni members all over North America and in some cases across the world. Though you may be linked by nothing else, you are linked by the bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood.

Fraternities and sororities also provide services and time to the communities in which their students live. Our seven Greek groups support numerous charities in Winnipeg. Among them are the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Juvenile Diabetes, the MS Society, the ALS society, Ronald McDonald House, the Boys and Girls Club of Winnipeg, the Optimist Club, and Manitoba Against Drunk Driving. Every year numerous socials, fundraising drives, and other innovative events help us to raise thousands of dollars for the various charities we support. While fraternities and sororities emphasize the importance of both academics and philanthropy, they are social groups.

Being a member of a fraternity or sorority makes your time in university fun. Each of you are linked by the bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood. Many prominent Manitobans like Israel Asper, John A. McCrae and George A. Drew were also members of Greek letter groups in their undergraduate days. Manitoba Greeks — www.umanitoba.ca/student/groups/alpha_gamma_delta

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New members of fraternities may be asked, what is the purpose of fraternities and sororities, or how, as a busy university student, you could benefit from them. First, studies have shown that students in fraternities and sororities tend to do better both academically and in their chosen career path. Fraternities and sororities, much like student councils, have executive structures and members have the ability to be in positions like President, Public Relations, and Treasurer, and in doing so gain management experience. The skills you can learn in these positions you give one step up on others entering the work world, because these positions provide a taste of real life and its experiences. Sometimes the lessons and skills you learn in your fraternity or sorority can be as beneficial as the degree you are working on. Being a member of an international fraternity or sorority (all of our groups have chapters in both Canada and the United States) enables you to network with undergraduate and alumni members all over North America and in some cases across the world. Though you may be linked by nothing else, you are linked by the bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood.

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M M E That’s Greek to Me

BY GARETH CRAIG MCVICAR

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Speaking from my own experience, from the day I was initiated, my desire to make a difference in the world became stronger. The society we live in is very selfish, and many of us tend not to think of how our actions will effect others, or how the comfortable life we enjoy in Manitoba is not shared by all people in the world. What strikes me about Manitoba’s fraternities and sororities, is that the brothers and sisters of these groups whom I have the pleasure of calling my friends are some of the most strong minded and unfailsh young men and women I know. When they graduate and get out into the world, they will be intent on changing it, and making use of their voices.

Throughout your time in a fraternity or sorority, a strong group of friends, who are there for you when you need them, constantly surround you. You see each other on campus on a regular basis, and chances are many of your brothers or sisters are either in the same courses as you, or have been. In fact, our member base at both The University of Winnipeg and The University of Manitoba have taken a vast array of courses throughout several different subject areas. As a result, there will always be someone able to give you a hand, recommend a course, and help you study. Finally, one of the best gifts of being in a fraternity or sorority is the gift of friendship. Some of your brothers and sisters will be as close in 40 years, as they are now, and in a world that is always changing having something remain the same or a constant from your youth is important. If you have ever thought of joining a fraternity or sorority, but weren’t quite sure, try it! You have nothing to lose, but everything to gain.

Over the next four weeks, students at The University of Winnipeg will be seeing a lot of Greeks on campus. First, check out Greek Life: What is it all about, a presentation in 2C14 from 12:30-1:20 on Friday, January 16th, 2004. Next, look for us on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, February 4th, 5th, and 6th, outside of Riddell Cafeteria, where we will have rash bootas set up. For more information on Winnipeg’s Greek system, or to learn more about any particular fraternity or sorority, visit their websites.

Zeta Psi - www.manitobautes.com
Delta Kappa Epislon - www.dkemb.org
Delta Upsilon - http://delta-uo.np-ip.com
Phi Delta Theta - www.montanaphi.ca
Alpha Phi - http://alphaphi.be.tifrop.com
Delta Alpha Pi - www.alphadelpi.ca
Alpha Gamma Delta - www.umanitoba.ca/student/groups/alpha_gamma_delta

NEWSPAPER ART LITERATURE EVENTS GUL T R U E M O T I O N POLITICAL MUSIC
The Mad Cow crisis that is currently playing out in the United States should come as no surprise to anyone who watched the news in 1996. If you think back, that’s exactly when a cow on a Palm Springs Encephalopathy (BSE), was ravaging Britain. The previously unknown disease resulted in the incineration of some 200,000 British beef industry was decimated. Upon discovering that BSE could be transferred to humans, a public health crisis ensued. A variant of the Creutzfeld - Jakob disease (CJD) is the human equivalent of BSE, it is caused by consuming infected meat and like its bovine counterpart is often fatal. There have so far been 110 deaths in Britain from CJD.

BSE is unlike most diseases; it is not caused by a bacteria or a virus. BSE is caused by prions, misfolded proteins which cannot be detected using conventional medical techniques: they are not visible under microscopes and do not contain DNA or RNA. The available testing techniques rely on enzymes which identify infectious prions in tissue samples, with tests varying in different countries. Little is known about exactly how long the prions exist in the body of the cattle before entering the brain, the estimated incubation period ranges from 20 months to 15 years. The U.S. secretary of agriculture, Ann Veneman has said that scientific evidence reveals infectious prions only in nervous tissue, such as the brain and spinal column. However, the neurologist who established the causal link with prions, Dr. Stanley Prusiner, has said much is known about the cost and the prions travel prior to reaching the brain, saying that tests must be conducted to determine the prions trajectory prior to infecting nervous tissue.

Thrift in the North American cattle industry is the most important, American markets, and then American beef was banned abroad following last month’s discovery of an infected Holstein in Washington State. The economic effects on the cattle industry have been swift and catastrophic; the Canadian government is locked into paying at least $1.9 billion since the Canadian Mad Cow case was discovered in May. Canadian agriculture ministers had been busy lobbying their American counterparts to try to open the border to Canadian beef; they were partially successful, with certain cuts being allowed across the border. Compensation and aid packages for affected ranchers have also been announced by provincial and federal governments, but Canadian cattle ranchers remaining in a crisis.

In Japan all cattle headed for slaughter in 1997, 1997 cow-parts were banned from cattle feed. Prior to 1997, the use of animal, including cows, by-products in cattle feed was standard practice. Food activist Howard Lyman illustrated this fact with a photograph. In an anecdote, he recounted how he challenged cattle ranchers who were in the habit of feeding contaminated manure from some downed cattle, most discovered their feed contained cow-parts but they had never known. Because the incubation period for BSE remains uncertain, more efforts are now being announced to allow for testing of more cows born before the 1997 ban took effect. Animal rights activist Ralph Klein has even suggested the possibility of testing all cows that go to slaughter, something which the federal government claims is unnecessary.

The politics of the food chain

Jonathan Tan
Editor In Chief

The fact that little is known about BSE and its human counterpart (CJD), is exactly why North American governments need to address the potential health impacts of these diseases. In order to reassure the global market of the safety of North American beef, testing needs to be rigorous. The European numbers reveal that despite changing the feeding practices that are thought to cause BSE, the long incubation period means there are still cases out there.

Europeans are already distrustful of North American agricultural products, especially concerning genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in food. Consumer pressure has resulted in all GMOs being banned from major supermarkets chains and in governments placing bans or restrictions on where GMOs can be grown. In Canada, GMOs have been grown for years and some estimates place Canadian industry alone has lost approximately $1.9 billion since the Canadian Mad Cow case was confirmed.

In Canada, cows have been saying loud and clear that they want all products containing GMOs labeled, only to have their government deny them the right to know what they are eating. Health Canada’s policy of having corporations pay for 80 per cent of their safety approval process also leads to a form of self-regulation that is helping erode Canadians confidence in their food supply. Dr. Michelle Brill-Edwards, former director of Health Canada, conducted speaking engagements two years ago which dealt with the government’s treatment of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) tests. In effect, the scientists working for Health Canada are working for the companies that are trying to get approved, to after all 80 per cent of their pay comes from them rather than the government.

As consumers continue to be fed with government that are more concerned with industry than with food safety, the act of eating is becoming increasingly political. The longer the government remains uncertain, more efforts are now being announced to allow for testing of more cows born before the 1997 ban took effect. Animal rights activist Ralph Klein has even suggested the possibility of testing all cows that go to slaughter, something which the federal government claims is unnecessary.

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The Honourable
Lloyd Axworthy,
P.C., O.C., O.M., Ph.D.

The Biography
Canada's Foreign Minister from 1995 to 2000, Lloyd Axworthy's political career spanned 27 years, during six of which he served in the Manitoba Legislative Assembly and twenty-one in the Federal Parliament. He held several Cabinet positions, notably Minister of Human Resources Development, and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In the Foreign Affairs portfolio, Dr. Axworthy became internationally known for his advancement of the human security concept, in particular, the Ottawa Treaty - a landmark global treaty banning anti-personnel landmines. For his leadership on landmines, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. For his efforts in establishing the International Criminal Court and the Protocol on child soldiers, he received the North-South Institute's Distinguished Achievement Award. For his work in establishing the International Landmine Foundation, he was named to Order of Canada.

Dr. Axworthy also received the Ottawa Gold Medal for his record of outstanding public service and he has been named to Order of Canada. In 1993, he was named to the Order of Manitoba and to the Order of Canada. He is a Fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations of the United States. He has been the recipient of numerous other awards and honours.

Teach-In: Saturday January 17th A Question of Religious Freedom
An interfaith event response to France's proposed ban on wearing of religious symbols in public schools. Stand up against a further erosion of civil liberties. In this environment of intolerance, the teach-in seeks to address myths, misunderstandings and stereotypes about the Hijab that Muslim women wear. Stand in solidarity with Muslim women!

Where: Knox United Church, 401 Explorer St.
When: 1:00pm to 3:30pm
Contact: Dr. Jennifer Rahman, 227-6739

Moving Forward
Dr. Lloyd Axworthy is one of the most recognizable names in Winnipeg and abroad. He has international connections and has stated that he stands for academic freedom and accessible education. He is a political heavy weight in every sense of the word, and if anyone is able to work with government to get more funding for our public post-secondary education system, it is him.

We cannot forget though, that in 1993, it was Lloyd Axworthy, the Federal Minister of Human Resources Development Canada, who oversaw the largest cuts to education funding in the history of Canada. The students are worried. We are worried about adequate government funding for universities and colleges, we are worried about the financial accessibility of education in Manitoba and we are worried about the continuing trend towards privatization that is directly correlated with government cutbacks. We appreciate Dr. Axworthy's resume and his stated beliefs surrounding government cutbacks.

We think that the improvement of this public institution is something we can all agree on, even though we may find ourselves at opposite ends of the table in several other areas.

What are your thoughts? The UWSA is actively voicing your concerns and you can bet that if there is an issue that affects you, we are here to make your voices heard. Email, phone, write and talk to us.

Yours,
Chris Minaker
UWSA President
STRAIGHT FACED
BY M. DOUGLAS COHEN

My apartment was broken into over the holidays. As far robbers go, they did a pretty good job. They came through my bedroom window and went straight for my DVDs. They took about 65 of them as well as my DVD player. I appealed on them on their effort but they weren’t the smartest of people. Anybody can break into a house or apartment and steal stuff, but it takes a special kind of criminal to steals stuff and not let the victim know that they’ve been robbed. If I were ever a robber I think that’s what I would do. My main focus would be on the smaller items in people’s homes. I would steal left socks and rolls of toilet paper. The victim would say to themselves, “where did I put my other sock?” or “I thought I just bought toilet paper.” That’s a true mastermind at work. The problem with the burglar who broke into my place is that I got wise to them as soon as I saw that all my stuff was missing. The landlord put bars and a new deadbolt in my place so I’m pretty sure they won’t be back. The beauty of my plan is the fact that I could keep hitting up the same place for months or even years before I get caught. I would even have a cool handle like, “the absent-minded criminal.” Everyone that I hit would think it was their own fault that they couldn’t find something. Sometimes I would screw with them and replace some of the stuff I stole from them. I would secretly take a couple of movies but put them back the next week. I don’t know how well everything would work out for me in the end though. I think I would get too cocky. After a while I would get bored and try to get away with more and more stuff. I would steal a left sock from one place and put it in somebody else’s place. I would take the chicken they were thawing out in the fridge and put it on the kitchen counter. Eventually I would take big items like paintings and turn them upside down just to see if they would notice. Who knows, maybe that’s how the people who broke into my place started. Their handle was something really cool like “the mix-upiper.” They would break into a place and would mix up CD’s and DVD’s by putting them into the wrong cases. Eventually they probably got bored at my place because I never keep them in order so they brought them home to work on them there. I’m sure they’ll be back next week to drop them off. It might be hard for them to get in with the bars and deadbolt though. I may as well leave the back door open so they can get in easier. I know that if I would probably end up with my neighbours socks and three pounds of thawed chicken to eat.

S U M M A R Y

Blurred Vision
BY KAD

Christmas gift return: Personally, I would have taken the talking fish.

Dr. Muire bought the law, and Dr. Muire won!

Choose Your Own Caption

The winner of a box of Melba toast is Walter Patton.

The winning caption is...

“Make the picture bigger. I can't make out what it is.”

Axworthy Gets Axe
Replaced by Can of Soup
BY M. DOUGLAS COHEN

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy has been replaced as President of the University of Winnipeg by a can of Campbell’s soup. In a surprise press conference, acting President Patrick Deane announced yesterday that the former United College [now the University of Winnipeg] graduate has been relieved of his new post. While Deane was questioned on the decision he was quoted as stating that, “when you compare a minister with minestrone, the choice becomes quite clear.” The decision was made without the consultation of the University faculty or students, but representatives of the can of soup feel that it was a choice that will benefit the whole campus. Joseph Campbell and Abraham Anderson founded Campbell’s Soup in 1869 and released the condensed version in 1897. Since that point it has become a worldwide phenomenon. Anybody can steal a left sock from one place and put it in somebody else’s place. I would steal a left sock from one place and put it in somebody else’s place. I would take the chicken they were thawing out in the fridge and put it on the kitchen counter. Eventually I would take big items like paintings and turn them upside down just to see if they would notice. Who knows, maybe that’s how the people who broke into my place started. Their handle was something really cool like “the mix-upiper.” They would break into a place and would mix up CD’s and DVD’s by putting them into the wrong cases. Eventually they probably got bored at my place because I never keep them in order so they brought them home to work on them there. I’m sure they’ll be back next week to drop them off. It might be hard for them to get in with the bars and deadbolt though. I may as well leave the back door open so they can get in easier. I know that if I would probably end up with my neighbours socks and three pounds of thawed chicken to eat.

Stream of Consciousness
BY JOSEPH MCEWEN

I used to think that true love only happened to other people. But now I realize they must be taking it.

We looked at each other from across the room. He had a steely glint, and I knew he was challenging me. It was time for a face-off. Man to man. Mono e mono. With a new sense of purpose, I strode over to him, back straight, chin up, jaw clenched. Then I dodged behind some other guy and ran out the back door. I tripped over some garbage cans.

If it’s true that only the good die young, it’s a good thing I don’t go to church.

I find that whenever I’m getting worried, and some walnuts with you at all times, and you didn’t have another copy, and you don’t have anything else to read on the long trip back home, and you’re right at the exciting conclusion, then I think, only in those special circumstances, it might be okay to try going after it. But you should hold onto your spaceship real tight.

You should always carry a nutcracker and crush it. Then you say, “Who’s next?”

If you’re ever in space, and you accidently drop the book you were reading into a black hole, and you don’t have another copy, and you don’t have anything else to read on the long trip back home, and you’re right at the exciting conclusion, then I think, only in those special circumstances, it might be okay to try going after it. But you should hold onto your spaceship real tight.

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I hope you’re reading this in a can of soup for crying out loud!” The can of soup will start its presidency on February 1st.

However, if you ever find yourself surrounded by a bunch of naked men, you take out the walnut, put it in the nutcracker, and crush it. Then you say, “Who’s next?”

I’ll bet the hardest thing about having a harpoon attached to your butt is keeping it in time. Cause it’s hard to see what you’re doing back there.

Women are like pineapples. They’re pointed, come from Hawaii, and they’re oh so sweet. I like the ring shaped ones that come back there.

The winner of a box of Melba toast is Walter Patton.

The winning caption is...

“Make the picture bigger. I can't make out what it is.”

Choose Your Own Caption

Dr. Muire bought the law, and Dr. Muire won!

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**New Gay and Lesbian Nightclub a Controversial Addition to the Community**

**Why the hype?**

The first time I walked into Desire, I thought, this bar is going to be huge. Of course, any lofty predictions may have been influenced by the fact that the bar really IS huge. With plenty of room on the main floor for dancing, mingling and pulling up a chair, the second level of the club doubles the space with another bar, couches, tables, benches and a counter that overlooks the dancefloor. The lower level is reserved for the spacious bathrooms and the coat check.

A new paint job and contemporary lamps and fixtures give the space a modern appeal. The colours of the walls are attractive shades or red, green and blue that complement silver-coloured railings and grids. Desire's logo looks great on its rainbow lower-case font opposite the sparkling full-length bar.

Aesthetics aside, what sets Desire apart from the competition is it brings women and men in the LGBT community together. Since Ms. Purdy's closed last year, women have had a tough time finding their niche in the predominantly men's clubs. What Desire seems to have done is attract not only a whole lot of queer women, but gay men, queens, and straights alike.

**What's Happening to Happenings?**

David Foltz is a staff member at Happenings who has taken on supervisory duties until the club appoints another managing director (Dennis Trochim, the past Managing Director did not return my calls). Foltz admits that all the gay bars in Winnipeg have been affected by Desire but the new club is not their biggest obstacle, "I think everybody's been affected [but] you can't just say it's the club. Our business went down 25% since the smoking ban.*

Supposedly, Happenings’ best nights are Saturdays, Thursdays and Karaoke Mondays, but last Saturday could not have been a good night for the Club. Several people who ended up at Desire started their evening out at Happenings but didn't stay due to the lack of people. Not unexpectedly then, Desire was packed and going strong until the early hours of the morning.

Despite Desire’s immediate success, Foltz believes the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community in Winnipeg doesn’t need another dance bar. "I think if someone would have done their homework properly, there's a customer base out there that has a lot of money that has been ignored for the last few years -- the more mature crowd, people over 30 who don't want to hear loud music and they want to relax."

"If I had the money and I was the owner of Desire I would go around and talk to people. I know there's a need for a pub. I'm positive that's what this community needs."

As the interview continues, Foltz allows that Desire is a bigger threat than he let on. He says Happenings is looking at all options, maybe even moving because the building is expensive to maintain. "I mean that's one option -- are we going to close -- everyone's thinking that."

"They're trying different things [gay clubs like Gio’s and Club 200] and we're trying different things, and we're going to see what happens. I think we've been around for 35 years, I think we're going to be around for another 35 years."

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*By Cheryl Gudz

**Features Editor**

I received an e-mail from Happenings Social Club one day last month.

You might think it strange that a bar e-mails its clients, but Happenings isn’t your average bar. For starters, it’s a gay bar, North America’s oldest. And secondly, it’s a members only club (this would explain how they got my e-mail address).

But what I couldn’t understand was how come with two years of membership, I received my first e-mail just a couple of weeks ago?

The subject of the e-mail read "No Cover Saturdays," so it didn’t take me long to figure out they were pushing a promotion. However, as I clicked on the message, I realized what the e-mail was about completely. The text read: "For some of you who receive our e-mails regularly, you might think it strange that in two years I would only receive an e-mail now about a promotion. They're trying different things.

Cover Saturdays," so it didn't take me long to figure out they were pushing a promotion.

"You don't have to be Italian to own a pizzeria."

Beverly Claeys, manager of Desire

on straight-owned gay bars

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**Postings at gaycanada.com on Desire:**

**Winnipeg on November 6, 2003 11:12 AM**

I am curious as to who owns this bar. All the article said is it's managing partners. The 3 existing bars are all community owned and operated and contribute to major dollars to the gay community. I wonder how much of the money spent [sic] at this new bar will go back into the community? Should we all be so excited about a group of straights [sic] business owners coming in and "milking" our community.

I have a feeling this isn't a gay club at all just another straight bar that thinks they can attract a few gay dollars by advertising in our papers and websites. Like any other of the straight bars they will take your money get new cars and trips for the owners and then shut down in year and use our money to open a bigger STRAIGHT bar. Be smart people and think.

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**WorldGay79 on November 6, 2003 02:04 PM**

If the 3 managing partners who are opening this bar were gay they would change your opinion? (I have no idea if they are.) I don't see it as "milking". They are providing a service and we can choose if we wish to go. Obviously, the intent of most businesses is to make money. If the bar fails to attract patrons, these managing partners are the one's who take a loss. I think it's too early to judge just how much community commitment they will have.
I'm drifting in and out. This feels like a bad dream. Something is happening to my body but I am still in a conscious tortor. Words form in my head. I'm screaming on the inside but I can't open my mouth to speak. My eyes feel glued shut. Something is being forced into me. I can't quite puzzle it together. My eyes stinging.

I skip to number 3. He tells me I came home from a party and told him I was pregnant. Why are they there? I reach for them, protection, but dials imparts my movements. I struggle to piece together pieces of memory. I'm going to vomit.

I can manage to think only in stunted frames. I get dressed. 2. Find phone. 3. Talk to him. 4. Get water. These steps should help me feel human. Maybe the police. Random words suddenly jump into memory. Isolated images sit in my head. But there's no background. I can't quite puzzle it together. My eyes stinging.

I need a doctor. Maybe the police. But I'm not sure why. I'm too scared and numb to do anything. or go anywhere. Who will believe me? Who will believe that I died from an attack from this guy's bed? How can I explain why I accepted a ride home? That he seemed nice. How can I describe that only my body remembers?

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so far, the reaction has been interesting. I saw the idea in a movie—the title of which she with her husband Cho Venevongsa, says she out." Yes, you read that right. Wasabi Next Door, which shares its bathroom with Wasabi Sushi Bistro, has female patrons peak in on their male counterparts.

The mirror in this washroom appears to be full-length, but it's covered with a beige curtain that looks like cheesecloth. If you move towards it, you notice that you can't see your reflection at all. If you gently tug at one side of the curtain, you can move it all the way to one side. It looks like a reflection of where you're standing because the sink, the walls, and the lighting are all the same, but it's actually a window that allows you to see into the men's washroom. Your view is restricted to the sink and the side of a stall. The curtain is only in the women's washroom.

Tracy Chen, who co-owns the restaurant with her husband Cho Venevongsa, says she saw the idea in a movie—the title of which she can't recall. She thought they should try it and so far, the reaction has been interesting.

"I think it's fun," says Chen. "It's funny. One time a guy was checking himself out in the washroom. He was flexing, and the girl in the washroom pulled the curtain and he jumped. Sometimes I hear one customer laughing after they leave. Then all of a sudden they all get up [from the table] and go to check it out." Chen says the washrooms she saw in the movie had a window that showed the entire men's washroom so women could actually view men's backs while they were standing at urinals. But she is hesitant to go all the way in this market. "For Winnipeg, I don't think we can go that extreme yet."

Extreme or not, Winnipeggers will definitely enjoy Wasabi Next Door, which opened just this past August. (The Wasabi restaurant has lived in Osborne Village for five years). The Next Door lounge boasts DJ Lil' Phil on Fridays who adds acid jazz, down tempo and deep house music; while DJ Hipnotic is turning tables on Saturdays to give guests some R & B, Hip Hop, and Soul. Guest DJs are at the lounge on Thursdays.

The large wall that divides the lounge from the restaurant has two entrances, one near the front of the restaurant and one at the back. In between the entrances is a large oval-shaped window where an interesting piece of art hangs. Large wooden sticks, like oversized toothpicks are scattered to create an uneven mesh or grid that appears to be suspended in mid-air.

The walls of the lounge are white like a doctor's office, yet the room doesn't feel cold — only immaculate. The tall chairs all have orange-coloured bucket seats, the colour of a fruity drink perhaps. However, if you don't feel like sitting in a tall chair at a table, you can also enjoy your sushi in a lime green booth or at the illuminated counter.

The bar counter will gradually transform from orange to pink to purple and so on — a small touch that completely enhances the atmosphere of the narrow room. The curtains cover the entire length of the wall to your right (when you walk in), while white tissue paper looks like it has been folded and bunched in thick horizontal strips, giving the wall a textured minimalist look.

Chen says they decided to change the decor to improve the atmosphere for their customers and for their own desire for change. "We always like to improve. We don't want to stay in one place. We changed the tables, the chairs. We needed it—new carpet.

Although Wasabi Next Door offers a wide variety of beverages, such as wine, sake, and beer, Chen likes to promote Martinis. "I want people to drink Martinis. It think it's classy." In the lounge, you can order everything that's offered in the restaurant.

Business is booming for Wasabi, which also has a grocery store in Osborne Village. Wasabi sells sushi at Sobey's and Safeway, and they have a contract in the works to sell their sushi at the University of Manitoba. Business is so good Chen says, their carpet needs to be cleaned thoroughly every two months. The guy who does the cleaning says the carpet is like, "Oh, my god! It's a good sign."

At Wasabi Next Door, you can listen to a variety of the music; while you're there, don't forget to wash your hands before and after you eat. You just might see something you want that is not officially on the menu.

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**Destination Dancefloor**

**The House Party**

**By Jonathan Tan**

As yes, the house party, from the pre-teen escapades when the parents leave town, to the Tupperware parties with the spiked punch, people of all ages and interests love the house party. As university students leave the nest and become homeowners or renters, their party hosting options expand. This is especially the case if you own or rent a house rather than an apartment; parents can punish you but landlords will evict you with much less sentimentality.

This particular party was held in one of my favourite party houses in the city. Located in the Corydon area, this house has been passed from one friend of mine to another, remaining in debaucherous hands. As house parties go, dance parties require more preparation and oversight than mere get togethers or potlucks.

The preparations for this party were like preparations for an earthquake: anything that might be bumped and fall, or is not shuttled, was moved into the basement. The dining room table became the DJ booth, the dining room became the dancefloor and the disco ball replaced the hanging plant.

One advantage of house parties over clubs is that you have more control over both the music and the crowd. Everyone is either a friend, or a friend of a friend, including the DJs. Sprouting at this party were DJs GPaley (the host), BMIAC and Dr.P; the three combined for a diverse night of House, Hip Hop and Funk. That kept the dining room floor shaking all night.

Other advantages of house parties include the replacement of bartenders with the kitchen party. While refilling their drinks, or perhaps because of an inability to move, party-goes make the kitchen party central. This phenomenon is apparently quite popular on the east-coast, something I'll be able to confirm next week at the National Canadian University Press (CUP) conference in St. Johns, Newfoundland. For the moment though, I'll assume that Manitoba kitchen parties are as good as anywhere, just without the Sirens.

As the night went on, approximately 50 people made their way through the doors. The male to female ratio was equal enough that no one suggested playing with gasoline or any other juvenile testosterone driven games. Despite this, an empty bedroom on the second floor doubled as a hacky-sack tournament room and eventually the kitchen floor was used as a playground, with guys sliding through the room and down the hall on the overturned top of the garbage can.

The final advantage of the house-party, the fact that they don't kick you at two a.m., can also be the host's biggest problem, with drunken and lecherous party goers refusing to leave. At the house warming party in September for the house in question, that problem was solved when the police showed up at five a.m. saying, "your party is a little loud here." One of the hosts, Craig, wearing a mullet wig and waving gingerly from foot to foot replied, "No, your party is a little loud here." Fortunately, last week's dance party remained under control, and as I left at six in the morning, nothing had been broken, stolen or damaged.

After a three p.m. breakfast, our crew cleaned up, returned the rented speakers, put the plant back up and took this disco ball down. It only took two hours of cleaning to make the last remnants of the party disappear, the landlord will never know.
Gryphon Trio Creates Moving Musical Dialogue

BY JEREMY STRUB

Very seldom is it seen that a musician, or in this case a trio of musicians, can ever carry on an absolutely unbroken conversation with an audience. This is what happened with the Gryphon Trio at their January 10 Virtuoso Concert.

From the first few notes of Piano Trio No.5 in E major K. 542, it was clear early on that the audience was in more than capable hands, a fact that was proven very early by one misplace note in the molto allegro movement. But there was not a ruffle, not even a grimace on the face of James Parker, the trio’s pianist, and the audience was more than forgiving. In this piece, Parker’s absolutely wonderful playing, buoyed the trio, establishing a mood and a stately ambiance, by using Piano Trio No. 5 to its fullest capacity.

That helped set up the Fantasiestucke by Robert Schumann, which started a very engaging musical dialogue between the violin, played by Annalise Patipatanaokon, and the cello, played by Roman Boros. In the romantic sections, like the Romance (Nichl schell, mit immer Ausdruck) this brought out the sense of a romantic dialogue, the Humoresque (lebhafter) you got a very strong sense of a jovial exchange between the two. When the piece became technically demanding, like in the last movement, the finale (Im Marsch-Tempo), the trio came together and excelled both as a group and individually, and left the audience eagerly awaiting the second half of the performance.

After a brief intermission, the trio went into Brahms’ Piano Trio No.3 in minor Op.101. On stage before they started playing, Parker explained that in several of Brahms’ pieces there is often a lengthy buildup in the music before a show is about a record collector and proprietor, he doesn’t come off as a vinyl buff or music know-it-all.

Cately, he has been listening to Lyle Lovett, Leonard Cohen, and Ron Sexsmith. Hesitant to brag about his present vinyl collection, he does say he has some very special Lone Ranger 70rpm stories.

McLean says he does not want to own a record store like his radio alter ego Dave. He is happy doing what he does. He says he gets an immense sense of fulfillment from his work and loves touring Canada.

“I feel very blessed to be in this country,” says McLean, who commends Canadians for being friendly and socially responsible.

“I experience a love of this community in my heart and in my funny. Maybe it’s just the way I see the world, but I see goodness in a lot of places in this country.”

Crossing McLean off my Top 10 List was difficult because our conversation didn’t seem much of an interview. Once the ice was broken, McLean shot the breeze like we were old buds. He asked me questions about myself and suggested I go to Ryerson, “really the best school in Canada.”

McLean’s sensitive and curious persona makes him easy to spilt your guts to. Maybe that’s why he’s such a good story collector.

The Vinyl Café airs on Saturdays at 10:05 am on CBC radio two (98.3 fm) and on Sundays at noon on CBC radio one (990 am).
Lisa Loeb
Hello Lisa

BY JEFF ROBSON

P.O.D.
Payable On Death

BY JEFF ROBSON

LISA LOEB
Hello Lisa

BY JEFF ROBSON

SUSAN TADESCHI
Wait For Me

BY JAMES PASKARUK

STEVE EARLE
Jerusalem

BY JAMES PASKARUK

IT'S YOUR TURN TO WRITE

If you think people who contribute to the Uniter are only interested in journalism or journalists themselves, you’re mistaken. Most of our writers are just average yet talented students who have an interest in writing and seeing their work in print. Try writing for one of the upcoming themes in the features section, or pitch me an idea for a story yourself. Themes are open to interpretation.

January 29 Issue:
U of W Campus Life
Deadline for submissions: January 20

February 5 Issue:
Work, Jobs, and Careers
Deadline: January 27

February 12:
Urban Life and the Environment
Deadline: February 3

Please send all ideas and submissions via e-mail. Submissions should be between 800-1400 words in Microsoft Word format. E-mail the Features Editor at: cvguds@shaw.ca
Martyn Joseph Makes Music that Matters

At the 2002 Welsh Folk Festival, a Welsh performer who was then relatively unknown to Canadians, stepped forth, away from a makeshift stage outside of the CD tent and within the space of a few moments, he demanded attention from all who wandered by. Martyn Joseph is a quiet and unassuming performer, yet he speaks loudly and with great force through his powerful and emotional songs. He proved this again in February of last year when he first headlined a concert in Winnipeg, at the West End Cultural Centre. Fighting off illness in a voice that seemed sure to desert him, he poured every ounce of strength and honesty he could muster into his songs, and captivated that audience.

Sure, Joseph has got a powerful voice that commands attention and he’s got a charming stage presence, but it’s usually the personal lyrical content of his music that connects with people. This effective songwriting style came about in a rather unintentional way, Joseph says, “In all honesty, I don’t know how to do it any other way. If I can’t feel the damn thing, I can’t get my soul around the lyric and I can’t believe what I’m singing, then for me it’s just a waste of time. I’ve never fought to stand up and entertain people. We need entertainers and we need people to make our feet move and uplift us a bit, but for me, it was always about trying to make a difference in the best way I possibly could.”

“And another thing takes place as I do that. There is something of a release for myself because the music to some extent is therapeutic for me, too. The guitar is a cheap psychiatrist and I’m able to release an awful lot of things that are inside of me by playing the gigs. And the great thing is that when folk write back and say ‘that made me feel like I wasn’t alone,’ or ‘that made me feel like you were writing about my life,’ something as nice as that, like they do, then that becomes full circle and a great connection is made and it’s a great feeling.”

Even though he is so new to Canadian audiences, Joseph has been making music in the U.K. for quite some time. “I have been doing this going on about 20 years now believe it or not. But I wouldn’t say that I’d want you to listen to everything I’ve done over the past 20 years. I was signed to Sony Music in the early 90s over here. I actually toured with Celine Dion, I was opening up for her for about 2-3 months, believe it or not,” Joseph says.

Over the course of more than 15 albums in the U.K., Joseph has managed to make a name for himself and has toured with many notable stars like Dion, Chris De Burgh, and Suzi Vega, to name but a few. But the majority of his previous albums have been much more orchestrated and fully produced albums. “When I recorded for Sony Music, they sometimes threw the kitchen sink and the kettle at me to try and make me sound like a pop artist, so we had everything from the Philharmonic Orchestra to Elton John’s drummer on there, and it sounded great, but I think something along the way was lost. Because I’ve usually performed solo over the years, I think to some extent people become quite confused by a record that has a ton of instrumentation on it as it were and they often say ‘I liked it, but it doesn’t sound like the guy I heard up on stage,’” he explains.

But on his new album, Whoever It Was that Brought Me Here Will Have to Take Me Home, Joseph chose to do things a little bit differently and present the simple beauty that we’ve come to know and love from him on stage. He says, “In recent years, my albums have become more acoustic, but what I did with this one was that I sang one-take performances. I might have sang a song twenty times, but it was only going to be that one performance, I wasn’t going to overdub anything to fix any bum notes or anything, it was going to sound like it did that one time. Of course, I did get some people in to sort of put a little bit of paint on top of it, but nothing very much, so the songs are kind of stripped back and bare. I think that in some ways it’s my most reflective record in a number of years because recently I’ve done a lot of the political stuff. And although this record does have political overtones, I think it’s a little more inward looking as well; there’s a little bit more soul searching going on. I think really, quite frankly, it’s a defining record for me. I think that if I look back and ask what I sound like, this might be the album I’d use.”

As for the use of album’s rather wordy title, Joseph explains, “I co-write songs with a poet friend of mine from Liverpool called Stuart Henderson. He came up with this phrase that he’d heard and we had a long discussion about our lives one night and about how we wrestled with questions and contradictions but we’re all doing our very best kind of keep going, as it were. [The title] is kind of a surrendering to those questions; it’s a spiritual thing, I suppose, because whoever it was that brought me here is going to have to take me home. I’m doing my very best and I’m going to keep on, because really, at the end of the day, I can be pretty lost in the whole thing, so it’s kind of a surrendering thing, but it’s pretty positive too. It’s just saying that I believe in all of this stuff and I’m going to keep going. Hey, if anybody’s listening, I could do with some help.”

The album will be his first that is officially released in Canada, after licensing it to respected Canadian roots label, Jericho Beach. Along with that comes another round of touring Canada, which has become somewhat of a second home to Joseph. “I can’t believe it took so long to get to you guys, but it’s been such an enriched part of my life. I’ve made so many friends out there and my family’s come out with me and it’s fantastic, I love it. It’s everything I love about North American culture. It’s America without the crap. I love Canada.”

At a time in life where some performers are taking it easy and resting on their laurels, Martyn Joseph is instead working as hard as he ever has and making some of his best music. “The secret after 20 years is to keep it exciting and challenging. I think because the music, the themes, and the issues are all there, that’s what really keeps me going in a sense. I think that if I was out there singing ‘I love you baby, I want you baby’ type of songs, my passion might have left me about 15 years ago, but because one is kind of caught up in trying to make a little bit of a difference and singing songs that are based on things that you feel need to be said, then that provides its own passion.”

Catch Martyn Joseph and special guest Sam Boardman at the West End Cultural Centre, 586 Ellice Avenue, on Friday, January 16 at 8:00 pm. Tickets are $17 in advance at Ticketmaster or the West End, or $20 at the door.

For more information on Martyn Joseph, visit www.martynjoseph.com
21 Grams Carries a Lot of Weight

BY DANNY HUGHES BAERT

21 Grams is one of the most intense emotionally filmic you will ever see. And it is not pretty. Mexican director Gonzalo Inarritu (Amores Perros) has given us a film of pain and suffering but yet it is also one of the most life-affirming films to grace the big screen in quite a long time. The movie intertwines the lives of three additive personae: their losses, their coping with the weight of life and death.

Renee Del Toro (Traffic) plays Jack, a man who has become hooked on God, much to the chagrin of his family. He even has “Jesus Saves” painted on his truck. Naomi Watts (The Ring) plays Christine Peck, an ex-drug abuser who has found a new life in family and marriage. Sean Penn ( Mystic River) plays a mathematician who can’t kick his nicotine habit, even though he is dying because of a weak heart. His girlfriend can’t bear children due to a botched abortion, so she agrees to have her artificially inseminated after her operation so she can bear his children after his death. All three lives become intertwined following a tragic car accident.

Initially, the film is quite confusing and complex as Inarritu jumps between all three characters from the time before the accident to the time after as well. By showing us the emotional transition of the characters due to the accident, Inarritu gives more weight to the accident itself making it painful to anticipate. The accident sequence itself is one of the most emotionally powerful scenes I have ever witnessed. The timeline of the film become more focused as each character comes to deal with the painful realities of life and death.

The film has washed away all its bright colours, giving it a dark, grimy feel with no sense of real life. This is a dark and often depressing film, as the characters themselves seem to hold no value in life itself. The performances here are outstanding and Inarittu is not shy about giving the actors free reign. His camera is shaky and intimate, giving us a sense of the three characters personal tragedies. Given the emotional complexities of the characters, all three leads make you care and feel for them even though they are not exactly the most morally redeeming of us.

If I saw this movie earlier, I would have easily put it in my favourites of the year, but alas, fate and time does not always favour us. But, as the film frequently mentions, “life goes on...”
As The Ball Drops, We Look Forward to '04

By Mike Pyly

With every new year comes renewed hope for change, hope to improve on the previous year’s downturns. Even though, more often than not, that “slimmer, healthier you” you had promised yourself has been chain-smoking and snacking on potato chips since January 5th.

That’s right, I’m talking New Year’s resolutions. Many people annually choose to embark on this challenging test of willpower. Consequently, many people give up on their goals by the time their New Year’s Eve hangover wears off.

Despite the lack of results accompanied by a resolution, the inquisitive minds of The Uniter Sports Department wondered, “What does our favorite athlete want to change about himself/herself in 2004?”

Through a lack of credible, investigative journalism and a significant, yet healthy, dose of making things up, we managed to track down several New Year’s Resolutions of prominent sports figures from straight off of their desks (or, in this case, what we think their desks look like in our heads).

• Boston Red Sox GM Theo Epstein wrote, “In 2004, I will resist the purchase and/or mass domestic deployment of nuclear weapons to finally topple those damn Yankees!”

If you’re Kobe Bryant and this acquaintance is from Colorado, then definitely. It would be an understatement to assume the Laker star breathed a giant sigh of relief when the ball dropped on December 31. No longer the NBA’s poster boy for model behavior, Bryant endured a very forgettable 2003. On the court, his three-time defending champion Lakers were exploded in a six-game series loss to the eventual champion San Antonio Spurs in the Western Conference Semi-Finals. Off the court, however, is where his life took a turn for the worst. Very briefly, during a stay at a Colorado resort, the married superstar had been accused of raping a 19-year-old woman. Suddenly, the former high school prodigy was finding himself on the covers of tabloid magazines everywhere. Sadly, Kobe’s case won’t get underway until this summer. Therefore, the Lakers’ quest for another championship will not be the only news number 8 will find himself featured in this year.

• NHLPA executive director Bob Goodenow and NHLPA president Trevor Linden each wrote, “In 2004, we will attempt to destroy the league that is the reason for our livelihoods.”

The year 2004, more likely than not, will see the NHL shut down for an unprecedented amount of time. Why? Because the NHL Players’ Association is adamantly against squeezing every penny out of every owner in the league. In its current state, the NHL will not survive. As a result of skyrocketing salaries and a lack of revenue to support them, the league lost $300 million dollars last year, $300 million! If this were any other business, they would have folded years ago. Luckily, the NHL’s collective bargaining agreement, the root of ridiculous salaries, is scheduled to expire in September. Owners want a hard salary cap of $20 million throughout the league to ensure all franchises can become not only profitable, but competitive as well. The players, however, refuse to accept any cap. Now I understand part of their argument. Hey, if someone wanted to give me a 50% salary cut, I’d be less than thrilled. On the other side though, Goodenow, Linden et al must realize a compromise is needed for the NHL, the means of their livelihoods, to survive. The NHLPA claims to maintain the players’ interests. Would the players like a league to play in?

• Los Angeles Laker guard Kobe Bryant wrote, “In 2004, I will be in the headlines for all the right reasons.”

• Los Angeles Lakers fan guard Kobe Bryant wrote, “In 2004, I will be in the headlines for all the right reasons.”

• Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chad Johnson wrote, “In 2004, Chad Johnson will become a world-class business consultant. Hell, maybe Chad Johnson will just start an online psychic hotline!”

2003 was kind to the out-spoken receiver. Johnson made headlines when he boldly predicted his Bengals, 4-5 at the time, would defeat the then-underfunded Kansas City Chiefs. He then went out and backed it up, as the Chiefs suffered their first loss of the year.

Johnson is the stereotypical wide receiver. This diva is craving Britney Spears-like hype. Therefore, do not expect the gold-toothed one to rest in 2004. With the prediction fresh in everyone’s mind (and the creation of a new NFL pension plan funded by Chad’s fines), could a 1-900-JOHNSON be too far out of the picture?

• Minnesota Moose co-owner Mark Chipman wrote, “In 2004, I will jump off that fence and onto the Return of the Jets bandwagon!”

Within the last few months, the buzz around Winnipeg has been possible return of NHL hockey. Led by Darren Ford, creator of the web site www.jetsowner.com, the campaign has been increasingly gaining momentum. Just look at the vintage Jets memorabilia floating around town. However, forgotten in the midst of nostalgic talks of Selanne breakaways and Domi penalties, is the need for a figure to step up and attract some much-needed money. Chipman has quietly been endorsing the campaign and has offered monetary support. This is good and all, but what Winnipeg needs is for him to step forward and give any possible ownership a face! Should the Moose owner appear on Hockey Night in Canada and declare to the country, “Winnipeg deserves NHL hockey and I’m willing to do whatever it takes to see it happen”, the MTS Centre would be blanketed in white in no time. Not to mention, it would also put to rest all the narrow-minded nayayers that want the public to believe this city does not deserve the highest level of hockey (that means you, CSB)!

• Manitoba Moose co-owner Mark Chipman, 2004’s big news. Over in the BCS, Mike Tranghese, wrote, “In 2004, I will not allow the national championship to be decided by the second cousin of Rosie Jetson.”

While the Jetsons’ humble robot maid could probably not discern much between the strength of schedules between USC and LSU, her not-so-adored football-playing, math geek of a cousin, the BCS, did not do much better. Granted, any Sugar Bowl combination of the Trojans, Tigers, or Oklahoma Sooners would have created controversy; it is in fact time to take the decision away from the computers. Perhaps some input would be helpful, but let’s not make it more hectic than it is. That’s right, I’m talking New Year’s resolutions.

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I

time many Canadians around this country, on Monday, I neglected my chores and "do no list," and watched the World Junior Hockey Tournament's gold medal game. For 40 minutes my friends and I sat and watched with sheer joy and anticipation as Canada jumped ahead of the United States by a score of 3-1. As the third period was about to get under way, repressed memories of blown leads in the previous two gold medal games began to creep into my head. Determined to remain positive, I put on a smile and pretended that everything was okay.

But right before my eyes, the horrific thoughts running through my head of a U.S comeback began to unfold right there on the TV. I sat as the score went from 3-1, 3-2, and then three a piece. It was all right though, the thoughts running through my head of a U.S. that everything was okay.

Marc Andre Fleury, Canada's star goalie and my "to do list," and watched the World

BY AVI BRAEMER

Time to Heal

January 15, 2004

The last time we had a team as young as this one, we brought back the gold. And the last time we won a gold was against the United States, seven years to the day before this year's gold medal game. Fate... is it that fate always seems to come back and bite you in the ass. Can I honestly tell you what went wrong on Monday? No. Like all of you, I only watched it unravel on TV. Like you, I was left wonder-

ing that one word question that never seems to

have a definitive answer... Why? Why? Why did they

lose their lead and the game. For

attempt off his defenceman and into his own

take heard round the world.

Q: I often hear that flexibility training, or stretching, is important for physical wellness. Is this true?

A: When it comes to the 'Big Three' of exercise (cardiovascular, strength and flexibility training), it's pretty clear which one can get overlooked. After all, while we prize cardiovascular and strength training for their role in helping us lose weight, build muscle, and get fit, the ben-

efits of flexibility training are less immedi-

ately alluring.

However, as the population ages, more of us are learning to appreciate the rewards of stretching. Staying limber can offset age-related stiffness, improve ath-

letic performance, and optimize function-

al movement in daily life. Research shows that flexibility training can devel-

op and maintain range of motion and may help both prevent and treat injury. In fact, the American College of Sports Medicine has added flexibility training to its gener-

al exercise recommendations, advising that stretching exercises for the major muscle groups should be performed two to three days per week.

So how can you include an effec-


tive flexibility workout in your fitness

program? For inspiration, look to cats and

program. For inspiration, look to cats and

BY SARAH HAUCH

Face & Fitness

So how can you include an effec-


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stretches may not be

nothing, but this approach will yield lim-

iting results. Generic stretches may not be

effective for your particular body. The

more time and attention you give to your

flexibility training, the more benefits you'll experience.

2. Consider Your Activities.

Are you a golfer? Do you ski, run or play tennis? Do your daily home or work rou-


tines include bending, lifting, or sitting for long periods? According to physical

therapist Deborah Ellison, functional flexibility improves "the stability and mobility of the whole person in his or her specific environment." She recommends an individualized stretching program to improve both stability (the ability to maintain ideal body alignment during all activities) and mobility (the ability to use full, normal range of motion).

3. Pay Special Attention to Tight Areas.

Often the shoulders, chest, hamstrings and hips are particularly tight, yet you may hold tension in other areas depend-


ing on your history of injuries and the existing imbalances in your muscle groups. Unless you tailor your flexibility training to your strengths and weak-

nesses, you may stretch already overstretched muscles and miss areas that need training.

4. Listen to Your Body.

Stretching is an individual activity. Pay attention to your body's signals and don't push too far. Avoid ballistic stretching, a technique that uses bouncing or jerking movements to gain momentum. This approach can be dangerous. Instead, slowly stretch your muscles to the end point of movement and hold the stretch for about 10 to 30 seconds.

5. Get Creative.

Varying your flexibility training can help you stick with it. You can use towels, resistance bands and other accessories to add diversity and effectiveness to your stretching.


If you're stretching on your own, don't forget to warm up your muscles before you begin. Walking briskly for 10 or 15 minutes is a simple way to achieve this.

7. Find a Flexibility Class That Works for You.

Classes that include stretching are becoming more popular and more diverse. Some combine cardiovascular and strength components with the flex-

ibility training, while others focus exclu-

sively on stretching.

8. Stretch Yourself--Mind and Body.

Did you know that your emotional state may affect your flexibility? If your body is relaxed it will be more responsive to flexibility training. Listening to music and focusing on your breath can help you relax as you stretch. You may also want to explore yoga or Pilates.

9. It's Not Just for 'Wimps'.

Forget the idea that stretching is just for the elderly, injured or unable. Many Olympic and professional athletes rely on flexibility training for peak performance.

10. Do It Consistently.

It doesn't help to stretch for a few weeks and then forget about it. Integrate regular stretching into your permanent fitness program. For inspiration, look to cats and dogs—they're dedicated practitioners of regular stretching!

(Source: IDEA Fitness)
Lives Out Of Bobcats

BY LEIGHTON KLASSEN
Sports Editor

Wesmen Take Nine Lives Out Of Bobcats

January 15, 2004

Leighton Klassen

Wesmen Get Slam Dunked

Begin Second Half of Season with Loss

BY LEIGHTON KLASSEN

They could stop on a dime, hug the corners, and shift the gears smoothly, but despite the Wesmen women’s basketball team’s ability to control the game in last Thursday’s 61-40 win over the Brandon Bobcats, head coach Tanya McKay says her team’s ‘traction’ could have been better.

“We gave them [Brandon] a lot of good looks, yet they had trouble scoring,” said McKay following the game. “I’d like to say it was because of our defence, but we just really had a lot of trouble rebounding in the first half,” she said.

Despite a defensively sloppy first half, the Wesmen managed to put their tires to the pavement in the second half by generating an aggressive defence that held Brandon to only 23 points.

“We weren’t solid at all,” said Crook. “Our defence brings more light towards his team’s under-performance in the game. Those 20 points were due to a high count of Wesmen turnovers which was a 22% increase from the first half. We weren’t playing well, but we were just buying into their bullshit and we just didn’t make our shots.”

The Wesmen only managed to rally for a total of 34 first half points, much of which was due to a high count of Wesmen turnovers that not only limited their own scoring opportunities, but added steam to the Brandon offense.

“We turned the ball over a million times, and we just panicked against them. We weren’t solid at all,” said Crook.

A lay-up by J.P. Lynch three minutes into the game made the Wesmen’s first lead at a score of 6-4. But Brandon retained the lead after O’Neil Gordon broke through the Wesmen key and nailed an electrifying slam dunk to take a 11-9 lead with 13-26 to go in the first half. A six point rally by veterans Mckay following the game. “I was really upset at the kids at half time, I could see the team by a score of 71-64 last Thursday at the Duckworth.

Despite a up and down first half of the season, second year Uzo Asagwara finished second to Joanne Wells in points with 18, and has been progressively improving her game while tightening her consistency throughout the last six games, which is something that both her and coach Tanya McKay have been striving for.

“She’s athletic, she’s competitive, and she’s just great on the floor,” added McKay.

Despite a up and down first half of the season, second year Uzo Asagwara finished second to Joanne Wells in points with 18, and has been progressively improving her game while tightening her consistency throughout the last six games, which is something that both her and coach Tanya McKay have been striving for.

“The Uzo we know, or potentially know, is back. She’s gone six games now playing very strong, and we both know that if she plays to her potential, she’ll play a ton of minutes and win a lot of games for us.”

“I’ve had a chance to learn a lot more, and I’m starting to feel a lot more comfortable and right now, I feel pretty good,” added Asagwara.

In the west court is also something her team feels is a deficit. “It’s awesome to have her back,” said team mate Uzo Asagwara.”

Wesmen Get Slam Dunked Begin Second Half of Season with Loss

BY LEIGHTON KLASSEN

You can run, but you can’t hide. It’s a devious saying that has seemed to make its way to the doorstep of the men’s basketball team. Despite a heroic Wesmen Classic where the team broke their two month losing streak, the Brandon Bobcats proved the Wesmen couldn’t hide from their losing wires by steamrolling over the team by a score of 71-64 last Thursday at the Duckworth.

“We didn’t play really well at all,” said head coach Dave Crook following the game. “I was really upset at the kids at half time, I mean they [Brandon] weren’t particularly playing well, but we were just buying into their bullshit and we just didn’t make our shots.”

The score ran in parallel for the most part of the second half where the score sat at 51 a side with 8:38 left in the game. But the Wesmen defense began to buckle and surrendered 20 unanswered Bobcat points including three more slam dunks, which in university sport, is a move that is rarely executed. The game ended 71-64 in favor of the Bobcats.

Despite Brandon’s ability to move the ball quickly, Crook feels the team didn’t execute very well, which is something that brings more light towards his team’s under-achieving performance in the game.

“I didn’t think they [Brandon] did a whole lot,” he said. “They’re really quick and athletic when they get out there, but they just really made it look like they were doing a lot, but they really weren’t, and we just sort of got tired and couldn’t capitalized on the stretch,” he said.

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The Wesmen women's volleyball team tasted the sweet taste of victory Saturday night in their most dominate performance of the season in avenging Friday's loss to the UBC Thunderbirds with a straight-sets triumph.

"I think tonight [people saw] the true Wesmen team, it's the first time we've played this well as a unit the entire game and it just shows you what we can do," Jocelyne Roy said after the Wesmen's straight-sets victory Saturday night, 3-0 (25-23, 25-16 and 25-20).

Fourth-year co-captain, Andrea Charbonneau, who was hampered with a flu bug, and the acrobatic Roy, powered the women in their most impressive performance this year. Roy nailed the kills to finish off the first two sets and kept the T-Birds on their toes, wondering if she would slam the ball down or just tap it lightly into the open court.

"Jocelyne is so athletic that she creates lots of opportunities for us because of her athleticism. She's a smart player. She sees the court really well and so there was some off-balance, circus-type hits and plays," explained head coach Diane Scott on Roy's plays to keep the T-birds guessing and the audience in awe.

Roy finished the night with 15 kills and 13 digs, while Charbonneau used her lethal serve to come up with a service ace to go along with 13 kills on the night.

"Tonight was definitely a solid performance, blocking at the net, getting kills, getting some defensive plays and serving tough. A really gutsy performance," Scott said of Charbonneau’s efforts Saturday as she battled the flu.

Shelley Chalmers, a third-year middle, led the T-birds on this night with 10 kills and 5 digs, while Mennonite Brethren graduate, Amy Schneider had 24 assists, 7 digs and a kill for UBC.

Both teams came out strong in the first set and it looked like we’d be in for another long evening as the T-birds kept the game within two points, even taking the lead late in the set. Down 20-22 though, the Wesmen scored four straight points, going on to win the set, 25-23.

The Wesmen came out fighting in the second set, both the T-birds and their own second set ghosts, jumping out to a 16-10 lead and hanging on for the 25-16 win taking a 2-0 lead in the match. Third-year middle Kristin Brisebois served up two straight aces while Roy finished the job to end the set.

Charbonneau and Roy led the Wesmen in the third set to an 8-4 advantage that they didn’t relinquish, thanks to some powerful kills. The T-Birds pulled to within one at 16-15, but the Wesmen hung on for the win when Brisebois came up big again with a couple of kills and her third service ace of the match.

"We had the match to win last night and we let it go, it wasn’t a matter of not playing well enough, it was a matter of minimizing our errors," coach Diane Scott said about what the women did differently on Saturday night as opposed to Friday. "Looking at the score sheet after the match what jumps out at you is the fact that everyone on the team contributed to the Wesmen’s win. Whether it’s Brisebois’ service aces, Roy’s ability to confuse the T-bird players, Charbonneau’s blocks, or the efforts of the other players, everyone made a contribution in the victory."

"We really played as a team and that’s why we were successful," said Andrea Charbonneau.