Pro Tem’s Autonomy: Why was it Necessary?

Pro Tem has been the student newspaper at Glendon since its inception in 1962. For the first time ever it is now fully autonomous from the student union.

Out in the cold and without money - Glendon student groups have had a tough year. See inside for the solution which promises to bring a free press to Glendon and changes to the GCSU.
I write this letter not out of spite, anger, frustration or rage but rather of experience. As a former member, we request that the Glendon College Students’ Union (GCSU) publish this letter from a perspective few who will read this letter will share.

Almost a year ago to this day I wrote an article in Pro Tem entitled, “Here I stand” an article wherein I articulated my growing frustration with the lack of action that is the GCSU. Now, standing on the other side of Bayview Avenue I have the fortune of again providing my opinion on “What is the GCSU?”

I would like to congratulate Pro Tem on its recent coup against the Student Union of Glendon College on the matter of funding. As I understand the current situation, funds will now be sent directly from Student Affairs to the established clubs of the college without the need for the middle man, in what was otherwise a boring and ridiculous tug-of-war with whatever nit was in charge of the Union at any one specific time. This is certainly a victory for all those who have lobbied for such a measure. I certainly applaud the GCSU for being an agent of social change and will not to print copy deemed racist, sexist, homophobic or otherwise oppressive.

Editor-in-Chief
Chris Spraakman

Rédactrice-en-Chef
Julie Marion Sage

Layout/Design
Jadzia Karas
Chris Spraakman

Photo Editor
Peter Garver

Contributors
Loïc Lahournat
Gina Létourneau
Graham Noble
Fred Ayih
Adam Riggio
David Bouquerel
Sean Bawden
Naomi Knight
Jacqui Simon
Julien Daviau
Julie Ellis
Cathia Badière
Louis-Étienne Vigneault
Erica Ball
Ashley Beaulac
Tim Gunderson
Mihnea Dumitru
Kelly Ryens
Raymond Kyte

Volume 43, No. 6, Feb. 2004

Please respond to what you read in the pages of Pro Tem. We can be reached at:
416-487-6736
protem@glendon.yorku.ca

Pro Tem is the bi-weekly and autonomous newspaper of Glendon College. First published in 1962, it is the oldest student publication at York University. En plus d’être gratuit, Pro Tem est le seul journal bilingue en Ontario. As a full member of the Canadian University Press, we strive to act as an agent of social change and will not to print copy deemed racist, sexist, homophobic or otherwise oppressive.

Dear Editor:

February 16, 2004

write this letter not out of spite, anger, frustration or rage but rather of experience. As a former member, we request that the Glendon College Students’ Union (GCSU) publish this letter from a perspective few who will read this letter will share.

Almost a year ago to this day I wrote an article in Pro Tem entitled, “Here I stand” an article wherein I articulated my growing frustration with the lack of action that is the GCSU. Now, standing on the other side of Bayview Avenue I have the fortune of again providing my opinion on “What is the GCSU?”

Recently I learned that York University has honoured a request by students in the Social Sciences and Commerce to have their levy money provided directly through the York University Student Affairs office; as a former Business Manager of the GCSU I am elated by this news. No other issue provided more points of contention for the two bodies, GCSU and Pro Tem, than money. The idea that the GCSU will no longer be the keeper of the sacred key, and that Pro Tem would be liable only to YU, the students, and itself is a good one.

But my issue does not concern whether or not other group’s levy money should be run through the GCSU, although I never really thought the GCSU was the appropriate group to organize social events. Glendon needs groups of students to organize all kinds of things. Far be it for me to advocate administrative oversight. But, what Glendon does need, at least not in its current form, is a form of student oversight with respect to club allocations. An idea for which I have been arguing for years, and hoped SMOG would bring to the fore. By the way, I never actually cashed the cheque for SMOG. Pro Tem’s recent victory is a step in the right direction, and it is my hope and belief that other clubs will soon follow suit.

But what then would leave that club for the GCSU to do? If one were to read the minutes of the GCSU meetings the bulk of their motions deal with allocations of club funds. The GCSU is hardly a student advocacy body, and the embedded quagmires of York University and Glendon College are established as so as to perpetually ensure that fact. Sociology majors would name "Structural-Functionalist" as a pithy descriptor. Given the size and organization of Glendon the GCSU will never be a strong advocacy group – the students who sit on it cannot and will not rise up against the administration; Glendon is simply too small to do things that way.

Given that problem, which of those you have who tried to do something will conclude, the students of Glendon settle in for four year of complacency and apathy. But if complacency and apathy are not the order of the day, what is the need for a paid body apparently formed for student advocacy?

The GCSU’s only remaining function, as I see it, would be to organize social events: Frosh Week, SnowBall, Winter Carnival, etc. Do Universities need such an institution? My response would be yes, especially Glendon, given its remote location in the metropolis of Toronto. I have no issue with the social events that Glendon puts on. I twice as a D-Frosher and even organized SnowBall damn near single handedly last year. I attended residence events and all that fun stuff and thoroughly enjoyed them. But do we really need an entire “Union” of students, who at one point collected over $20,000 in salary, to organize this? No.

Glendon does need a group of students to organize social events. Glendon needs groups of students to organize all kinds of things. Far be it for me to advocate administrative oversight. But, what Glendon does need, at least not in its current form, is a form of student oversight with respect to club allocations. An idea for which I have been arguing for years, and hoped SMOG would bring to the fore. By the way, I never actually cashed the cheque for SMOG. Pro Tem’s recent victory is a step in the right direction, and it is my hope and belief that other clubs will soon follow suit.

Should the GCSU be financial administra- tors of student money? My long standing opinion has been no. Why? Let us revisit SMOG – Student Males of Glendon. I was chair MAN and founder of SMOG. SMOG had an explicit stated purpose to “support the interest of male students at Glendon College,” with a secondary – stated – purpose of “drinking beer and club success.” Luckily, students raised $400 in club funding. Other, academic, clubs received far less money yet put forward far better proposals. If one does not see the problem, what should throw in the fact that not only was I president of this club, but also served as the Union’s Business Manager and Director of External Affairs at the time – this embedded conflict of interest is a long standing problem at Glendon. The number of active students at Glendon overlap is almost inevitable. So what is the solution? Obviously one idea is to completely remove student oversight with respect to club allocations. An idea for which I have been arguing for years, and hoped SMOG would bring to the fore. By the way, I never actually cashed the cheque for SMOG. Pro Tem’s recent victory is a step in the right direction, and it is my hope and belief that other clubs will soon follow suit.

Here I still stand.

Sincerely,

Mihnea Dumitru
Past President of the GCSU
Pro Tem was close to bankruptcy and had to make drastic choices: including asking the administration to resolve the issue

Editorial: How Pro Tem survived without a single dollar from the GCSU

What you are reading is the first issue of Pro Tem to be printed since the newspaper became autonomous this past week. As such it is a modestly historical moment for the newspaper.

Indeed, this is no small achievement, and one which many people at the newspaper have been working towards during the past few years. That it comes as the newspaper was at a crisis point and not able to print for the past two months, and was in risk of losing the rest of this year due to the inaction of the Glendon College Student Union (GCSU), makes the announcement all the more timely.

It is a shame that we have arrived at this point. Pro Tem would have preferred to have worked with the GCSU (and we have to say that some of the GCSU members did make an honest effort to help the paper). The impossibility of “team work” in the Glendon community between the student union and the paper (the largest student group) leads us to question what exactly the representative role of the GCSU is and how coherent the leadership they provide for the campus actually is.

So far this year Pro Tem has tried to stay away from stories about the student union. Unfortunately, given that newspapers are inherently political and that this paper is one of the only ways that students here at Glendon are able to find out a little bit of what is happening at their student union, this is obviously part of our function that we can no longer ignore.

Free speech and autonomy are what Pro Tem needs to be able to report truthfully to our readership. Simply put, the independence and autonomy of the student newspaper is the first essential requirement to have free speech. Pro Tem first published in February 1962, and there have been many good and bad years in between. There have also been many situations where Pro Tem has been muzzled because of its financial dependence on the GCSU. Furthermore, we are conscious that we are unfortunately not the only student group in the campus who has had to face this situation.

What happened?

During the fall months Pro Tem met in good faith with members of the GCSU. Unfortunately, for the most part, the GCSU did not return this good faith and chose to treat the newspaper like an unwanted and immature child. They also chose to not pass your money to the newspaper as mandated in their own referendum (supposedly because of a large amount of debt). This threatened the newspaper’s very existence. All the while, the GCSU spent large amounts of money, on unknown items, possibly renovations to the pub, which will now be undone as the Junior League re-renovates the entire manor. (They received $37,000 in Oct. and have yet to prove to students how they spent this money).

Pro Tem was nevertheless not willing to sit back and be forced to shut down. The strategy was to prove that the referendum which happened in 1983 was still legally binding and that the money that students authorized the administration to collect from tuition fees to support the paper should be passed directly to the newspaper rather than through the GCSU as it had in the past.

The work that went into proving this referendum existed came to fruition this past Friday, February 15th as all groups involved received a letter from Principal McRoberts and Associate-Principal Louise Lewin clarifying the fact that the referendum is still binding and requesting that from now on the money come directly from student affairs rather than being passed through the GCSU (please see pg. 4 for the text of the letter and letters-to-the-editor on page 2).

What’s next?

In your hands is the sixth issue of what was supposed to be a thirteen issue schedule. Obviously, because of the time lost, thirteen issues will never be printed this year.

The two groups have a very different function, and this has been part of why there has historically been disagreements between them. Nevertheless, just because their roles are fundamentally different, this should never stop one of them from doing their job with the resources required. This is because these two groups are still working for the Glendon student community and not only for themselves.

This story is important, but it will not occupy the newspaper’s space and push out more interesting stories. What we would like to do however, is run several articles dealing with the problems that Pro Tem – and other student groups - has faced with the administrations of the GCSU.

As the story develops the problems that are inherent with the student union will become more apparent to readers and more relevant to the student community in general. We encourage you to respond to what you read in these pages so that any possible changes can benefit all Glendon students.

As well, we feel that the two most efficient ways for you to express your opinion are: 1) to vote in the GCSU election (which means you should know what and who you are voting for), 2) to defend your opinion by writing an article and get it published in your student newspaper. We need to hear what you think of these changes and how it will affect the entire community.

— Julie Sage and Chris Spraakman

Free, confidential health advice from people who are actually qualified to give it.
In last few the years, Pro Tem has been held-up from producing the paper, and generally delayed from publishing by a never-ending series of arguments with the student union. This past week saw a ground-breaking development whereby the paper’s money will now come directly from the the students through the main administration rather than being passed through the student union. Here below is the text of the letter which effectively makes the Pro Tem independent of the GCSU and now accountable only to the students of Glendon, members of the newspaper, and to the central administration through yearly audits:

The letter which promises to change Pro Tem

February 13, 2004
Ron Fiedtkou, President
Hossein Samiian, Vice-President
Glendon College Student Union

Dear Mr. Fiedtkou and Mr. Samiian,

As you are aware, there has historically been disagreement between the GCSU and Pro Tem regarding the transfer of funds from the former to the latter. This conflict stems from a referendum held in 1983 to determine, among other things, the distribution of GCSU funds to various groups on campus. There have continually been arguments surrounding the amount of funding that the GCSU transfers to Pro Tem and the amount has fluctuated from one year to the next depending upon the GCSU’s financial situation or the decision of that year’s council. In 2002-2003, concern surrounding this matter has become particularly heightened for both student organizations.

As early as September 2003 it became apparent that a conflict was emerging between the two groups again this year. As you will recall, a number of meetings were held throughout the fall semester where representatives of the GCSU, Pro Tem and Glendon Student Services were present. On several of these occasions Debra Glass, AVP, Student Affairs also joined us. As you know, these meetings were sometimes very difficult and often ended unresolved.

However, on a few occasions these meetings ended with a sense that an agreement had been reached. Unfortunately these agreements never materialized into actions. At the end of the first semester, it appeared that the two groups were at an impasse. As this funding is integral to the survival of our campus newspaper, we found it unacceptable that the future of Pro Tem be jeopardized and that the general student population suffer as a result of disagreements between these two organizations.

When it appeared that the matter would not be resolved through discussion or negotiation, representatives of Student Affairs decided to seek legal council regarding the legitimacy of the referendum itself and the possible role of the administration in the matter. We have recently received the results of this enquiry. York University’s council has informed us that based on the enclosed document, the referendum was legitimate and binding. We feel it is our responsibility to uphold the integrity of that referendum. We further hope that this will eliminate conflict between these groups in the future and will foster better relations between student groups in the long run. We further anticipate that this will allow all groups involved, including the GCSU, to have accurate financial plans with a clear understanding of incoming funds.

We hope you will understand and respect this decision and that we will be able to continue working together to strengthen student life on campus.

Sincerely,

Kenneth McRoberts
Principal, Glendon College
Louise Lewin
Associate Principal, Student Services, Glendon College

CC: Bonnie Neuman, Vice-President, Offices of the Vice-President, Finance & Administration
Office of the Counsel
Debea Glass, Acting Assistant Vice-President, Student Affairs
Gilles Fortin, Executive Officer, Office of the Principal, Glendon College
Shannon Kampf, Manager, Student Affairs, Glendon

GCSU Council
Chris Sprackman, Editor-in-Chief, Pro Tem
Julie Sage, Rédactrice-en-Chef, Pro Tem
Fiona Kay, Manager, Student Financial Services, Glendon

Reactions

I’était a Glendon lorsque ce referendum a été voté en 1983. Il est nécessaire que le choix des étudiants soit respecté et ce n’était plus le cas cette année. Pour changer les décisions prises dans ce referendum, il faudrait de nouveau consulter les étudiants. »

Gilles Fortin, Business Manager, Glendon College

It’s unfortunate that the student groups were unable to come to a compromise. At least now now however Pro Tem will be solely contingent on the resolve of their future audits and no longer at the mercy of a group of students who are often the subject of the paper journalism”

Jonathan Swayze, former Station Manager, CKRG

Hopefully this will allow the newspaper to run more like a business because they are not having to deal with a bunch of ass-holes. Also, problems with continuity of the paper can be addressed because Pro Tem once again will have stable funding.

Robert Shaw, Pro Tem Co-Editor, 2000-2001

I believe that the decisions made by the administration are well intended and will solve many problems in the future. I also believe that the decision had to be done. However I am in great disagreement with the way this decision was carried out and the timing of its effect.

It is evident that a decision of this magnitude will have an overwhelming effect on the GCSU’s budget for 2003/2004 and possibly 2004/2005. I consider that decisions of this importance cannot and should not be implemented near the end of an academic year; last minute decisions of new allocations of the levy has hit many students, student organizations and companies that are both directly and indirectly involved with the GCSU greatly affected. Secretaries salaries, outstanding debts and many other economical matters of the GCSU are being threatened by such a decision.

It is not to say that Pro Tem should have been left in an economic imbalance for the academic year 2003/2004. Nevertheless what has not been mentioned in the letter is that the amount of the money allocated will leave the much needed and valuable Pro Tem in a very favorable economical situation but will greatly jeopardize the GCSU. If the intentions of the administration were to serve all students, I believe it has failed; in the end it has solved one problem but created another. What I am arguing is that this allocation could have been done in a way in which both organizations (GCSU and Pro Tem) would have been left at an economical equilibrium and not a disadvantage as the case is. I still hope and believe that the parties involved can come to a better agreement for the resolution of this problem in the remainder of this academic year.

Daniel Aristizabal, Director of External Affairs, 2003-2004 GCSU Council

Ed. note: It is possible that the GCSU has financial problems this year, however this does not mean that they can spend the money that was allocated for Pro Tem by Glendon students as they see fit... end of story!

If a secretary does not get their money, we are not responsible, as this is because of their debts and is something that we obviously cannot control.
Who is to Blame for Freezing Residence Rooms?

Ashley Beaulac is one cold residence student who has had enough

According to Environment Canada, the calculated norms for Toronto in January range from an extreme minimum of -32.8 degrees Celsius, to a comfortable maximum of 16.1 degrees Celsius. With such a dramatic change in temperature occurring just how well protected are Glendon residence students from the frigid cold of winter?

Drip, drip...drip. Is it a familiar sound? To many students living in residence the answer would be yes. Plenty of students have reported waking to this sound on numerous occasions. One would only have to push aside the plastic blinds to see the ice sleet that had formed on the inside of their window overnight. The morning sun would then begin to melt away at the sleet causing the all too familiar dripping sound.

"Both of my windows in my room are closed but it still feels like they're open," replied Christine Nam, a second year resident of Hilliard. In fact this complaint is so widespread that it seems to be a well-accepted fact among students moving back into these residences. Complaints are often centered on the sensation of a cold draft coming in through their "closed" windows.

"I would turn my hairdryer on and let it blow the hot air it produced around my cold room"
— Lydia Bowser

These windows do not seem to be providing proper insulation against the cold. They are not equipped to fully prevent drafts from entering from the outside. That is because they are not "storm windows" which are double paneled. The proper windows would be able to provide extra protection from both the cold air coming in, as well as keep the room temperature from seeping out.

"I would turn my hairdryer on and let it blow the hot air it produced around my cold room"
— Lydia Bowser

regarding the lack of heat in her room. Lydia, also displayed a sign on her residency door saying "Welcome to Ant-Artica". Another resident of Wood, Amy Desrochers said "it was so cold in my room that more often then not I would wake up to find snow on the insides of my windows." Some students have even tried lining the bottoms of their windows with blankets and other heavy materials in an attempt to try and block the frigid drafts from coming in.

Both Hilliard and Wood residences are heated by three boiler systems. In simplest terms water is boiled to a certain degree and the end result is steam, which then passes through a heat exchanger and into the residences. The set temperatures of the residence buildings are usually 72 degrees Fahrenheit. According to the law, the heating system must be turned on in all residences by September 15. So who is in charge of turning the heat up or down? A notice to residents was put up on the students are satisfied.

"Welcome to Ant-Artica"
— Wood Resident

"It was so cold in my room that more often then not I would wake up to see frost on the insides of my windows." — Amy Desrochers

So what has Student Affairs & Housing Services done to help beat the winter chills blowing into both Hilliard and Wood Residences? A notice to residents was put up around the buildings asking the students to please check the following (quite obvious) list: 1. Are your windows properly closed? 2. Is the radiator blocked with your bed or some piece of furniture preventing free circulation of heat? 3. Is there heat coming from your radiator? If students were to find their room still cold after checking over this list they were to notify Student Housing Services or call the repair line and the problem would be "rectified".

Since numerous complaints have flooded in towards all types of resident care takers (Student Affairs and Housing Services, the Physical Plant, Dons and even Night Porters) there has been a well-noted change in temperature within Hilliard and Wood. Yes, the room temperatures have increased and heat is being distributed according-ly - the student voice has been heard once again. Solving the drafty window problem may take a little longer, but if the heat is coming in faster then the cold drafts coming from the windows, the students are satisfied.

— Ashley Beaulac
Pro Tem est fier de publier le premier texte « en couleurs » par Gina Létourneau. Cette semaine, l’écriture est toute revêtue de NOIR et l’auteure nous invite à une descente aux enfers dans les méandres du lyrisme.

La voix tour à tour gênée,
Les voix tour à tour gênées,
Une semaine s’est écoulée depuis
Mon noir à moi persistait sans que je sache pourquoi, sans qu’une main bienveillante ne vienne actionner le commutateur oublié.

Je me suis tournée vers la droite,
en quête de la lampe de chevet que je savais se trouver là, sur la table de nuit, seul remède à ma détresse.

J’ai ouvert les yeux et, après plusieurs secondes de confusion, j’ai compris que quelque chose ne tournait pas rond. J’avais beau battre des paupières jusqu’à m’en fatigueur les muscles, rien n’y faisait. Partout autour, le noir. En tournant la tête, j’aurais dû voir la personne qui s’affairait à la droite de mon lit, près de ma tête. Mais je ne la voyais pas. Je ne pouvais qu’entendre ses petits pas rapides et le cliquetis d’objets en métal qu’on manipulait délicatement. Que le noir autour de moi, une obscurité profonde qui me blessait jusque dans ma chair. Comme lors d’une panne de courant, quand on ne trouve plus les chandelles. Comme lorsqu’on referme la porte d’une pièce sans fenêtre avant d’avoir allumé la lumière. La panique vous serre le cœur pendant ces secondes, ces minutes où tous les repères se sont évanouis. Cette panique s’installait maintenant en moi, démesurée. Il n’y avait pas d’allumette à craquer, pas d’ampoule à remplacer. Mon noir à moi persistait sans que je sache pourquoi, sans qu’une main bienveillante ne vienne actionner le commutateur oublié.

Lorsque j’ai ouvert les yeux de nouveau, l’esprit confus après un sommeil artificiel, il n’y avait toujours que ténèbres autour de moi, un noir total, silencieux et effrayant. Puis j’ai commencé à me souvenir. Des bribes d’images se formaient dans mon esprit, des portraits fugaces, comme des taches de lumière sur un fond de velours sombre. Peu à peu, j’ai reconnu ma mère, mes amis, mes collègues de travail, les lieux que je fréquentais régulièrement. Les gestes du quotidien, les objets familiers. J’ai même revu la plage et le soleil de mes dernières vacances. Puis mon esprit s’est fixé sur certaines images, une succession d’événements se déroulant au ralenti : une foule, un soleil radieux, des jeux d’adresse, des odeurs de sucre et de viande grillée. Une fête de quartier où les enfants pataugeaient dans les fontaines et s’éclaboussaient en éclatant de rire. Une après-midi sans tracas, un de ces moments simples et joyeux où on est simplement heureux d’être en vie. Soudainement, un bruit très fort retentit. La foule tout à coup se tait et on sent monter l’inquiétude. Au deuxième coup, un vent de panique s’installa ; des gens se précipitent dans tous les sens. Mes souvenirs s’arrêtèrent au troisième coup, car aussitôt après l’avoir entendu, j’ai sombré dans l’inconscience et je ne me suis réveillée que ce matin. Tout cela aurait pu se passer hier ou le mois dernier, je n’en ai aucune idée.

***

Une semaine s’est écoulée depuis mon réveil et, à ce que l’on m’a dit, je suis restée deux jours dans le coma. Ma famille, mes amis, mes collègues sont venus me rendre visite et c’est par eux que j’ai appris ce qui s’était passé.

Une de ces tristes histoires d’homme désespéré qui a voulu crier sa colère et sa haine à la face du monde, qui a utilisé une arme pour faire mal comme on lui avait fait mal. Moi, pourtant, je n’étais pas désespérée. Mes colères étaient rares et mes joies suffisamment nombreuses pour pouvoir me dire heureuse. Mauvais endroit, mauvais moment, ma peur se teinte maintenant de rage. J’aurais pu être ailleurs, il aurait pu prendre peur et renoncer au dernier moment. Il n’aura fallu qu’un instant pour que mon corps devienne une prison et que ma vie se brise comme du verre.

Les voix tour à tour génées, sanglotantes, choquées, compatisantes de ceux que j’aime et leurs gestes de réconfort maladroits me permettent de rester en contact avec une réalité, une vie qui m’est devenue invisible.

Alors que je caresse la chevelure de ma mère assise à mon chevet, je souhaitais plus que tout au monde ne jamais oublier le sourire qui les accompagnait et que je ne verrai plus jamais.

— Gina Létourneau
Peter Ritchie shared his powerful story with a group of students at the Salon Garigue on January 30

**Why bother with a Christ Awareness Week?**

Why would a group of students on a secular liberal arts college campus put in a great deal of effort to hold a Christ Awareness Week? The question is no doubt on the minds of a number of people at Glendon. Well, as the name suggests, the week revolved around the person of Jesus Christ. It can be convincingly argued that of all historical figures he has had one of the largest impacts on humanity. Christianity finds its origins in the first age, and still cause people to organize events about him today. Now why would a group of students who believe Jesus is relevant to us to-ber of students on campus who really believed that question is that there are a number of talented Christian artists that missed the posters or did not hear about it, four speakers from a variety of different backgrounds, came and spoke on different issues relating to Jesus.

Pierre N’Sanda a partage un peu de son parcours en Christ, et comment il est important pour lui de mettre Dieu au centre de sa vie. Pierre a tout d’abord démontré que si sa vie n’était pas centre sur Christ, elle se résumerait «au manger, au boire et au divertissement ». Non pas que ces choses sont mauvaises en elles mêmes, mais que l’absence de Dieu dans la vie de toutes humains, nous emmène à en abuser, afin d’essayer de combler ce vide qui est du à l’absence de Christ dans notre vie. Ainsi, le fait qu’il a une relation personnelle avec Dieu, et qu’il dépend de lui a permis à Pierre d’atteindre le bonheur, et un certain équilibre dans sa vie sans avoir à dépendre de ses ressources physiques.

On Wednesday, Buff Cox came. Her talk was called “Is Jesus a Feminist?”. By using some stories from her own life and some examples from scripture she suggested that Jesus is most definitely for women. She further suggested that there are roles to be played by women in ministry within the church. Buff is an ordained minister with the Baptist Convention and for the last fourteen years has been co-pastoring a church in Hamilton with her husband.

On the Wednesday evening, there was a coffee house in the pub, where a number of talented Christian artists performed throughout the evening. There was gospel, hip hop, rock, and traditional spirituals. The evening showcased talent as artists sung about both the profound and the not so profound. Song titles ranged from “Birkenstock Jesus”, to “Super Girl”, to “Bridge Over Troubled Water”. If you missed the evening then you certainly missed a lot. But stay tuned there may be more in the future.

**Glendon Christian Fellowship puts on a Successful Christ Awareness Week**

F rom January 26-29th, Glendon Christian Fellowship organized Christ Awareness Week. Glendon Christian Fellowship (GCF) is a group on campus that has been around for many years. GCF meets on Wednesday evenings in the Salon Garigue at 6:30pm. GCF is open to anyone anytime.

This is the first year that Glendon has had a Christ Awareness Week. For those who missed the posters or did not hear about it, four speakers from a variety of different backgrounds, came and spoke on different issues relating to Jesus.

Pierre N’Sanda a partage un peu de son parcours en Christ, et comment il est important pour lui de mettre Dieu au centre de sa vie. Pierre a tout d’abord démontré que si sa vie n’était pas centre sur Christ, elle se résumerait «au manger, au boire et au divertissement ». Non pas que ces choses sont mauvaises en elles mêmes, mais que l’absence de Dieu dans la vie de toutes humains, nous emmène à en abuser, afin d’essayer de combler ce vide qui est du à l’absence de Christ dans notre vie. Ainsi, le fait qu’il a une relation personnelle avec Dieu, et qu’il dépend de lui a permis à Pierre d’atteindre le bonheur, et un certain équilibre dans sa vie sans avoir à dépendre de ses ressources physiques.

On Wednesday, Buff Cox came. Her talk was called “Is Jesus a Feminist?”. By using some stories from her own life and some examples from scripture she suggested that Jesus is most definitely for women. She further suggested that there are roles to be played by women in ministry within the church. Buff is an ordained minister with the Baptist Convention and for the last fourteen years has been co-pastoring a church in Hamilton with her husband.

On the Wednesday evening, there was a coffee house in the pub, where a number of talented Christian artists performed throughout the evening. There was gospel, hip hop, rock, and traditional spirituals. The evening showcased talent as artists sung about both the profound and the not so profound. Song titles ranged from “Birkenstock Jesus”, to “Super Girl”, to “Bridge Over Troubled Water”. If you missed the evening then you certainly missed a lot. But stay tuned there may be more in the future.

Thursday was the last day of Christ Awareness Week. Joe Boot spoke early on in the afternoon on “Searching for Truth”. Using Psalm 146 as a guide he talked about humans’ need to worship. People worship everything from art, to sports to celebrities. The trouble is none of these things last. Joe argued that only by worshiping God can humans experience full joy. Joe’s book “Searching for Truth” is available for sale to students through the Glendon Christian Fellowship.

At 3:00 on Wednesday, Peter Ritchie came and shared his story. He has spent most of his adult life in prison, or on the way there. He has more than 180 convictions. Last April he got out of prison after serving a nine year sentence for manslaughter. Sleeping under a bridge, extremely depressed he felt called to go to People’s Church. Peter went to the morning service, dirty, smell and wearing two left shoes. On his way out a man approached him, asking him out to Wendy’s for lunch. Peter agreed and joined the man with his family. It was the first time in twenty five years that he had eaten with a family. Peter called this action ‘practical Christianity’. Since that Sunday last April, Peter has not missed a service at People’s Church. Peter pointed to Jesus as being his soul hope. He urged that we need to be ‘spiritually healthy’. At points he had to pause as he got a little emotional. Peter now works forty hours a week at the busiest Tim Horton’s in Toronto baking donuts. He speaks at various different men’s groups and Alcoholics Anonymous groups on a regular basis.

Christ Awareness Week was brought together by Glendon Christian Fellowship. If you would like more information, please contact GCF at gcfrgs@hotmail.com.

—Graham Noble

and Fred Ayih
York Federation of Students Removes Samian and Fiedtkou from their Council

On January 22, 2004, a motion was passed at the YFS general council to remove Samian and Fiedtkou. Both Glen- don councilors were not at the meeting for the vote, however Fiedtkou walked in just as the vote was being tallied up.

When he asked where council was in the agenda, they informed him that he had just been removed.

The reasoning was that the YFS has been approached by a number of students from Glendon who would like to fill the seats and thus they felt that there should be a process to properly fill the seats (Samian and Fiedtkou had appointed themselves to fill the seats back in September).

The YFS is now holding interview sessions to fill the empty seats. Interested can- didates are asked to get their resumes and a cover letter explaining their interest in as soon as possible. They will also be asked to make a pre- sentation in front of council as to why they would like the job and what their plans are.

We have heard of this because some students took the time to be a part of the public lecture at the 2004 John Holmes Lecture on Wednesday, February 25th at 7:30 p.m. The topic of this presentation in front of council was in the agenda, however Fiedtkou walked in just as the vote was being tallied up.

And now a new group at York University is working towards a solution to this huge problem.

They are inviting students to take action and become a children’s advocate through their organization.

World Fit For Children (WFFC) in an international, non-profit, children’s rights organization. They are fed- erally incorporated in Cana- da and were just registered as a student organizations at York University.

We now need members more than ever!

We are holding meetings every Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Student Centre, room 321 (second floor).

Also, you can check their website at: www.worldfitfor children.com

Principal McRoberts Reappointed

On Friday, January 30th, Presi- dent Marsden of York Univer- sity came to the Glendon Faculty Council to officially announce that the mandate of Principal McRoberts would be renewed. He will remain as Principal until he reaches mandatory retirement age in 2007.

Principal McRoberts will be on administrative leave between July 1 and December 30, 2004. During that time, Professor Bou- dreau, who has already accepted a second three-year term as Associate Principal, will be the Acting Principal. Professor Mou- geon, who is currently acting as Associate Principal, will remain in office for the rest of this year.

The Principal sent a message to all faculty and staff thanking them for their support over the past years and he mentioned that he looks forward to continuing to work closely with them to develop Glendon’s unique mission.

Glendon Idol!

On February 11, 2004 CKRG, Radio Glendon 89.9fm, held its own Idol competition. It was a tough decision on the judge’s part, as all competitors in the Idol were more than qualified for the competition. In the end, CKRG DJ’s and staff members congratulated Faith Amour with the title of Glendon Idol 2004, who sang a cappella version of “Without You,” originally sung by Mariah Carey. A big hand of applause goes out to all Idol participants! You all have spirit!

Also, on February 13, 2004, CKRG in collaboration with Café De La Terrace and Molson began reading week off with a Pub Con- cert. The concert began at 8pm with a pre-show, including perfor- mances by Glendon Idol competi- tors as well as Ice Phoenix. Four great acts played throughout the evening beginning with Nicole Jasik, Cornerstone, Deadcelebrity and lastly Tranquill. A huge thank you goes out to the bands who took the time to be a part of the event as well as everyone who came out to support Canadian talent!

— Melissa Focker
The Snowball: Glendonites out on the town

The Snowball - traditionally organized by the student union – was once again a great event to spend time with friends and to party with Glendonites outside the campus.

Thanks to the efforts of the Director of Cultural Affairs, Loïc Lahournat, and the GCSU team, the students had the opportunity to enjoy a delicious dinner (of chicken and rice) at the Marriott Hotel. Associate Principal Lewin and Director of Student Affairs, Shannon Kampf, were also there and enjoying themselves.

The dinner was followed by the electric “ball”, animated by three DJ’s (David, Frank, and Ron F) who took us on the journey from electronic music all the way to R&B... it was very chic! Everyone had a blast... what else could we ask? Just look at the pictures and wish you had been there!

The Glendon snowball: a good reason to leave the campus and to get classy downtown!
In the dead stillness of the Algonquin forest, my car door slammed and the sound echoed eerily though there were no mountains nearby. Once it had finished bouncing off the tall pines and sugar maples, the sound was swallowed by the chirping of chickadees, the chattering of small squirrels and by the immense silence that formed the audio background. Both mother and daughter were ready to embark on a nature walk that would seal their reunion after two years of being apart.

And walk we did, by the frozen waters of Two Rivers Lake, crunching over white snow. On the drive up we had seen plenty of hawks by the road and once, we even spotted an eagle. I am always the one who notices them first; my daughter often lost in her thoughts, misses the display of feathered grandeur and sugar maples, the sound was swallowed by the chirping of chickadees, the chattering of small squirrels and by the immense silence that formed the audio background. Both mother and daughter were ready to embark on a nature walk that would seal their reunion after two years of being apart.

And walk we did, by the frozen waters of Two Rivers Lake, crunching over white snow. On the drive up we had seen plenty of hawks by the road and once, we even spotted an eagle. I am always the one who notices them first; my daughter often lost in her thoughts, misses the display of feathered grandeur and sugar maples, the sound was swallowed by the chirping of chickadees, the chattering of small squirrels and by the immense silence that formed the audio background. Both mother and daughter were ready to embark on a nature walk that would seal their reunion after two years of being apart.

And walk we did, by the frozen waters of Two Rivers Lake, crunching over white snow. On the drive up we had seen plenty of hawks by the road and once, we even spotted an eagle. I am always the one who notices them first; my daughter often lost in her thoughts, misses the display of feathered grandeur and sugar maples, the sound was swallowed by the chirping of chickadees, the chattering of small squirrels and by the immense silence that formed the audio background. Both mother and daughter were ready to embark on a nature walk that would seal their reunion after two years of being apart.

And walk we did, by the frozen waters of Two Rivers Lake, crunching over white snow. On the drive up we had seen plenty of hawks by the road and once, we even spotted an eagle. I am always the one who notices them first; my daughter often lost in her thoughts, misses the display of feathered grandeur and sugar maples, the sound was swallowed by the chirping of chickadees, the chattering of small squirrels and by the immense silence that formed the audio background. Both mother and daughter were ready to embark on a nature walk that would seal their reunion after two years of being apart.

And walk we did, by the frozen waters of Two Rivers Lake, crunching over white snow. On the drive up we had seen plenty of hawks by the road and once, we even spotted an eagle. I am always the one who notices them first; my daughter often lost in her thoughts, misses the display of feathered grandeur and sugar maples, the sound was swallowed by the chirping of chickadees, the chattering of small squirrels and by the immense silence that formed the audio background. Both mother and daughter were ready to embark on a nature walk that would seal their reunion after two years of being apart.

And walk we did, by the frozen waters of Two Rivers Lake, crunching over white snow. On the drive up we had seen plenty of hawks by the road and once, we even spotted an eagle. I am always the one who notices them first; my daughter often lost in her thoughts, misses the display of feathered grandeur and sugar maples, the sound was swallowed by the chirping of chickadees, the chattering of small squirrels and by the immense silence that formed the audio background. Both mother and daughter were ready to embark on a nature walk that would seal their reunion after two years of being apart.

And walk we did, by the frozen waters of Two Rivers Lake, crunching over white snow. On the drive up we had seen plenty of hawks by the road and once, we even spotted an eagle. I am always the one who notices them first; my daughter often lost in her thoughts, misses the display of feathered grandeur and sugar maples, the sound was swallowed by the chirping of chickadees, the chattering of small squirrels and by the immense silence that formed the audio background. Both mother and daughter were ready to embark on a nature walk that would seal their reunion after two years of being apart.
Europe opened my eyes quite a bit. But there’s only so much awakening one can do after being ‘sheltered’ for so long.

Back then, anything American was A-OK, and I was as freckle-faced and American as they came.

Europe opened my eyes quite a bit. But there’s only so much awakening one can do after being “sheltered” for so long. At the time that I married, I still believed it to be a woman’s duty to obey her husband. And today, I am neither the accountant nor the world-famous violinist I dreamed of being but while I was teaching English in Germany and France and while I was getting used to married life, that civil unrest that was happening in both Europe and America was causing a revolution in the way that society functions. It has been such a revolution in fact that today it is not at all surprising that my daughter should be studying Economics. No one bats an eyelash.

These are my thoughts as I try not to trip over fallen branches on the snow-covered path by the lake in Algonquin Park. My daughter fills me in on some of the details of a trip she took to visit a friend in Africa who was working in a small village in rural Senegal. Her friend was working for a development organization. While she was there, my daughter slept in a hut and lived among people for whom polygamy is the norm, a place where fathers sell their daughters to the fiancé who offers the highest bride price. (Please understand; this was rural Africa).

“Mom,” she says, “I don’t know what economic development does. If people choose not to value birth control and planning for small families, how do they expect not to be poor, regardless of the best efforts of those who offer assistance?”

And I think to myself, I know the answer. The answer is that those who burned their bras didn’t do so early enough for me to be an accountant, but they did it in time for my daughter to do whatever she pleases.

So maybe in this little village in Senegal where my daughter’s friend talked to village women about family planning, life choices, sexually transmitted diseases and mosquito netting to prevent malaria, there will be little effect or little evidence to show that this information is being conveyed to the people of the small, out-of-the-way villages of the third world… but seeds are being planted.

I have been thinking about these Senegalese that my daughter describes to me and I have thought more and more that I come from the same backward village they do.

Who would train a child to be a professional musician only to deny them permission and the financial means to attending the nation’s top performance school?

Who would have child after child without thinking of what kind of future awaits them in a very large, but very poor family when living in such a harsh climate as that around the Tambacounda region of Senegal?

I can’t help but note that I feel a great deal of gratitude toward this ‘evil’, secular society of ours from which I was “sheltered” for the better part of my life. But for the evils of the first women who broke social codes over here, my daughter’s lot would be no different from mine.

So perhaps, a generation from now, a rural Senegalese woman will be writing that her daughter is graduating this year. Perhaps she will be walking with her daughter along the dusty roads where villagers send a cherry greeting to passers-by. It may take a generation, but if it happens, that will be something.

So I tell my daughter that I don’t think that Economic Development is useless and that what her friend did for two years in rural Senegal is worth something.

But she is already a good 30 meters ahead on the path and for answer, all I hear is the eerie sound of the water of Two Rivers Lake slapping against the shore.

— Cathia Badière

“I can’t help but note that I feel a great deal of gratitude toward this ‘evil’, secular society of ours from which I was ‘sheltered’ for the better part of my life.”
Le vert dans tous ses éclats.
«Un petit bistrot paumé, au diable vacille, un troquet perdu aux confins de la verte Érin. Une clientèle versatile s'agglutine au comptoir et joue vertement du clapot. Wilfried tend résolument son verre vide à la plantureuse serveuse, qu'elle y verse un peu de cette mousse verte et baveuse qui consacre la Sympa-Trique.»

Couleur sacrée qui serait l’apanage des Irlandais? Loin s’en faut. Qu’il soit guatémaltèque (Vert-Tikal), japonais (Vert-Mi-Fuji), Gaulois (Vert-Cingétorix), ou encore vaticannais (Vert-Missel), le vert est foncièrement international.

Il inspire les peintres (Vert-Mer), soutient les musiciens (Vert-Dit), tient compagnie aux ermites (Vert-Solitaire) et réchauffe l’âme des poètes (Vert-Laine). Il est fondamentalement universel.

Chacun possède son vert à soi : Boris Vian affectionnait le Vert-Coquin, Edouard Glis sant lui préfère le Vert-Libre. Ernest Hemingway aimait le Vert-Glas tandis que Lustucru ne jure que par le Vert-Mi-Sel. Le vert est synonyme de variété.

Couleur aux facette multiples, aux tons diverses, le vert se décline à l’infini. Il exprime tantôt la chaleur (Vert-d’Âtre), tantôt la colère (Vert-d’Ire). Le vert veut, le vert suse, le vert jute, le vert nie, mais surtout le vert tue ; le vert c’est satanique.

Couleur ambivalente, le vert est donc tout autant synonyme de renaissance, de régénération et de vie. Véritable incarnat de cette nature primasautière qui balaye l’hiver d’un re-vert, le vert c’est la longévité ; rien ne meurt, tout renaît.

C’est le recommencement, l’espoir, il va la paix semant. Les joueurs croient en lui (Vert-Veine), il protège les fumeurs (Vert-Tige), rassure les feignasses (Vert-Leut) raumie les soiêrées (Vert-Houlung) et rappelle aux vauriens que « malachite » ne profite jamais.

Pas toujours tendre, mais si rassurante, c’est une couleur généreuse (Vert-Don).

C’est la couleur porte bonheur des mineurs (Vert-Houille) et des dragueurs (Vert-à-Cruse). C’est la couleur de l’équilibre : si la mère est rouge, le père est vert. A mi- chemin entre ciel et terre, le vert dicte notre conduite : c’est vert, on peut y aller.

Il motive les randonneurs (Vert-à-Pied) guide le pas des flâneurs (Vert-Houx) et illumine les prunelles éteintes d’une lueur d’espoir (Vert-A). C’est l’expression de la progression, de la vie en marche.

Pour ma part je le révère, car le vert c’est le rêve. Entre deux cours, aux abois, je me réfugie derrière l’université; envers et contre tous, je pars me mettre au vert. L’année du singe pour les chinois, ce sera l’an vert pour moi.

— Julien Daviau

PM Paul picks CASA for face-to-face frolic
The Canadian Federation of Students does not feel slighted

By Adam Grachnik, Ottawa Bureau

OTTAWA (CUP) — Prime Minister Paul Martin has been in office less than two months, but he’s already done something Jean Chrétien never did—met with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations.

In a hastily called rendezvous last Friday, CASA, not the Canadian Federation of Students—Canada’s largest student lobby group—sipped tea with the prime minister for over an hour, in what CASA leaders are calling a brainstorming session in response to the Throne Speech.

“We’re pleased that they called us,” said James Kusie, CASA’s national director. “We value our relationship with Paul Martin and we hope to continue that.”

CASA was slightly more pleased with the initiatives announced in the Throne Speech. They welcomed the changes to the Canada Student Loan Program, to include a new grant for low-income students and easier access for loan recipients.

The CFS was upset with the announcement, saying that students can look forward to more debt, and that the government didn’t address under-funding to post-secondary education.

For their part, the CFS didn’t feel slighted by the apparent shunning.

“It’s more effective to meet with the people who are engaged on the issues of post-secondary education,” said CFS National Chairperson Ian Boyko.

Boyko added that it hasn’t been a top priority of the CFS to meet with the prime minister and critics shouldn’t see this as a slap in their face.

CFS Ontario Representative Rick Telfer explained that the CFS has met with former prime ministers since its inception in 1981, but it’s a better strategy to meet with policy makers.

In Friday’s meeting, among many items, Kusie said his team of four people “quite bluntly” asked the prime minister if a dedicated transfer fund for post-secondary education was in the plans.

A dedicated fund is the common front student leaders from most education lobby groups have been calling for, which, to their dismay, the Throne Speech didn’t address.

“The Readers Digest version is that [the prime minister] told us we have to convince the provinces," Kusie said.

He added that he was upset with the response because, he believes, a dedicated fund for post-secondary education must have leadership from the federal government. “His concern was that any dedicated money would still find its way into health,” Kusie added.

The Prime Minister’s Office said the meeting with CASA was simply the continuation of a relationship Paul Martin has with the organization. The PMO says Martin is open and willing to meet with student groups from across the country, including the CFS.

Kusie said he wants the government to improve the grant announced for low-income Canadians to include more grants after first year. He also said that offering students more loans isn’t the solution to rising post-secondary education costs.
La littérature franco-ontarienne se fait entendre avec le Prix des lecteurs de Radio-Canada


Cette belle histoire de lecture a commencé dans le nord de la province à l’automne 2000 : la première chaîne de Radio-Canada du Nord de l’Ontario lançait son tout premier Prix des lecteurs CBON.

Avec la création de ce prix, la radio avait pour objectif d’élargir la communauté de lecteurs autour de la littérature franco-ontarienne alors peu connue. L’idée était alors très simple : soumettre une sélection d’ouvrages publiés la même année en Ontario à un jury composé de 10 auditeurs. Ce jury regroupe des personnes de toutes professions, de tout âge et des quatre coins de la région qui partagent, cela va de soi, la passion de la lecture.

Pour ceux qui sont « à la page » de Glendon, rappelons que Claude Tatillon — auteur de Les portugaises (Editions du GREF) — était finaliste du Prix des lecteurs de Radio-canada l’an passé.

Cette année, le jury fera place à dix nouveaux auditeurs. Jean Fugère, critique littéraire, présidera la quatrième édition du Prix des lecteurs Radio-Canada qui se conclura le 18 mai 2004, dans le cadre du premier Salon du livre du Grand Sudbury. Que vous soyez étudiant, professeur ou tout simplement passionné de livres, vous êtes donc invités à présenter votre candidature pour faire partie du jury. Vous aurez alors dix semaines pour lire une sélection de romans, nouvelles et récits et pour tenir un journal de lecture. De plus, chaque juré aura la chance de commentar une des œuvres à la radio !

Ensuite, lecture, discussions littéraires et délibérations, le Prix des lecteurs Radio-Canada vous offre l’opportunité de participer au rayonnement de la littérature franco-ontarienne et de prêter votre voix aux livres que vous aimez.


— Julie Marion Sage

Les dix titres en nomination à la quatrième édition du Prix des lecteurs Radio-Canada sont :

- Cavoure tapi d’ Alain Cavenne (L’instant même)
- Défenses légitimes de Doric Germain (Le Nordir)
- Mémoire vive de Maurice Henrie (L’instant même)
- Un Train pour l’Est d’Aristote Kavungu (L’Interligne)
- Ce Pays qui est le mien de Didier Leclair (Vermillon)
- Café crème et Whisky de Michèle Matteau (L’Interligne)
- Le Dernier roi faiseur de pluie de Melchior Mbonimpa (Prise de parole)
- Retour à l’île de Pierre Raphaël Pelletier (Le Nordir)
- La petite vieille aux poupées de Nancy Vickers (Éditions David)
- Chocs légers de Rachelle Renaud (Le Nordir)

Plus :

Special order books
Stamps and postcards
Reference books
Study Aids

YORK UNIVERSITY
GLENDON BOOKSTORE

TEXTBOOKS CLOTHING STATIONERY CD’S DRINKS SNACKS

WE BUY AND SELL USED TEXTBOOKS

Come in and check out our cheap snacks and drinks

Now Save up to 80% on a wide selection of remaineded books

Located in the Glendon Manor right next to the rose garden
W
te ourselves surrounded by moving pictures and sounds on our televisions, computers, and cinema screens. They expose us to more inform-
ation about the world than any other generation in human history. But there is often more to these seemingly simple images than may first appear. Media education is the art of teaching people to decode the video.

It all began in Massachusetts. In 1991, Sut Jhally, a professor of communications at the University of Massachusetts, sat down in front of MTV and noticed a large num-
ber of women in skimpy costumes, gyrating. But his reaction was not that of a stereotypical middle-aged man watching MTV. Jhally recorded clips of some of the music videos that stood out as especially exploitative, and compiled them into an educational video.

The hour-long documentary was called Dreamworlds: Sex/Sex/Power in Music Video. It examined the impact of the sexual ways that women are portrayed in popular music videos. The documentary was also extremely critical of the ways that the continual stream of these images could affect impressionable adolescent women. As Jhally showed it in his classes, his colleagues asked for copies to show in their own classes. Word of mouth quickly spread about the controversial documentary, and soon Jhally sent over 100 copies to media studies and women's studies departments at universities across America.

When word reached the MTV executives, Jhally was served with a lawsuit for copyright infringement. The press quickly came to Jhally's aid, vilifying MTV for suing a profes-

sor who merely cut and pasted together material that was available on television. MTV dropped its court action, but the widespread public outcry in his favour and the demand across the country for media-critical documentaries impressed the professor. In response, he founded the Media Education Foundation (MEF) to create, mar-

"Understanding yourself logically is the exact opposite of being manipulated by someone who hypnotizes you," said Thompson. "Whether it's a physiologist who manipulates your brain or a psy-

chologist who manipulates you into doing something you didn't think through - I think advertising does that. And not only advertising, war propaganda does it too. ... People manipulate by means of emotions, by false information, and often by just symbolic things, which influ-

ence people's beliefs without their really knowing they're being influ-

enced."

"It seems to me that television, like all, but other mass-media as well - perhaps the Internet, per-

haps newspapers - try to influence people without making it rational," he continued.

Thompson noted two prominent theories about what modern media does. [Marshall] McLuhan has a theory that goes like this: the notion of rationality, of sitting back and trying to make your mind on your own beliefs and standing for them on the basis of reason, is intimately tied to writing as a form of communication," he said. "Video does not have that faculty. So from his point of view, visual media automatically undermines rationality no matter who uses it."

Therefore, the very documenta-
ties he and Devereaux are showing undermine our rational thought and manipulate us.

"The alternative approach," Thompson said, "is that the main problem is not so much with the form of the media, as with the content and control of the media. If the corporations control it for profit, they will manipulate us. But it's possible to use exactly the same media and use it to increase people's rationality, if you do it for a different purpose."

Like any good philosopher, Thompson thinks neither theory is to be completely right, and that truth is more complex than either of these clear-cut descriptions make it out to be. Devereaux, however, is clear on where she stands.

"[The media] is only detrimental to thought when we're not allowed to think back," she said. "It's the difference in getting only one message all the time ... than getting many different messages and being able to decide for yourself, I do think the audience can make up [their] own minds. But it's hard to make up our own minds if the mes-

sages we get are not from many dif-

ferent points of view. It's not even a matter of seeing both sides of the story. There are a huge number of sides to many different stories. The views that we're presenting here, yes, they are a point of view. But they certainly are not the point of view that we are being exposed to all the time in the mainstream media. I don't think it's manipula-
tive in that way, because it is the alternative."

"There's a reason [why] we see things over and over again in the media," said Devereaux. "And it's because of how it's controlled. It's controlled to make money, and if it doesn't make money, then you're not going to see it. The Media Edu-

cation Foundation wants people to buy their videos, but it's certainly not Time Warner. They sell their videos so they can make more videos."

Devereaux and Thompson both believe that education is the most important part of their media stud-

ies. As Thompson said, "If people could think about how they are influenced, how the television and the media influence them, then their very thinking about it is being rational about the technique. In, in effect, saves them from it."

"If you know that someone is trying to manipulate you [in] a certain way, then you have an immediate buffer or a cushion that separates you from it. So the solution to the ideological problem seems to be not censorship in some way, but above all, public education. So I would love to see a society in which everyone was educated and made aware of what the manipulative forces around them were precisely, so they could overcome them. Now ideally, this would happen in schools. But for that, you need teachers who them-

selves were aware of the problem and could also make their students aware of it. Some people have tried to do that and the field is called media education."
Advertising and the End of the World

A lot of people don't take advertising very seriously because you never really pay attention to it. That's the point where you get up and get a drink or go to the bathroom during the television show. But the way Advertising and the End of the World talks about consumerism is really interesting in that it analyzes consumerism. It analyzes how advertising works to sustain consumer culture. What I think is really interesting, is that I think we know that we're destroying the world. I think we know that we consume too much, and we know it's not sustainable compared to other places in the world. And we can see that imbalance. We can see how much we have and how much the Third World has. But we continue on. Why do we do that? Advertising and the End of the World analyses that. It doesn't say that we do it because we're stupid or we're fooled or duped. If analyses, how much money, how much time, how much creativity goes into advertising – just how advertising works. There is a reason why advertising works on us because it tries really hard to work on us. [The video] doesn't blame people, it just gives you a different way to think about it. That's what a lot of these videos do. It's not that they are preachy, or saying that the media is bad. It's just an alternative view. This is what we're not seeing. Why aren't we seeing this?

– Danielle Devereaux

The main effect of advertising is to increase consumption. Consumption has an effect on our whole environment because we use more than we give back to the environment, and we cause global warming, pollution, and all the rest. At the same time, it leads people to think individually about their own problems. How can they be happy? How can they have the best sex? How can they get the right food? What are the right clothes? The only way we can solve the global problems and avoid the end of the world, as he calls it, is by thinking collectively about how to reduce global warming. So instead of thinking individually about what kind of sports car I could own, we've got to be able to think globally about how we could reduce global greenhouse emissions. [Advertising] not only distracts us from the global issues, but it sets up a kind of cultural individualism that prevents us from having a forum or even the mindset for dealing with these large issues.

– David Thompson

Based on the book by Naomi Klein, who sits on the Media Education Foundation advisory board.

She analyses the process of branding and the notion that what the advertiser is selling is not so much the product, but the brand, because the brand will enable them to make profits further off the name. She relates that to global things, such as the anti-globalization protests. None of these protestors are really against all globalization, mind you, they just want the right kind.

– David Thompson

Playing Unfair

[The documentary] is about women in sports, and coverage of women's sports. It's kind of interesting because it talks about how many women play sports. And there are lots of women who play sports, and a lot of women who play sports professionally. Compare that to how much coverage women get in sports, and what type of coverage women get in sports. When women are covered in sports, they're portrayed in a very sexualized way. Take, for instance, Anna Kournikova. She hasn't won any major titles or anything like that, but she's a name everybody knows and everybody sees. She has major sponsorships, and it's because she's beautiful, which is fine. It's great that she's beautiful, but what about other women athletes who may have more athletic ability, but aren't picked up by the media or the sponsors. In men's sports, it's generally athletic ability that gets them the sponsorships. It's interesting, again, in the way that it doesn't blame. It doesn't say [that] this is bad. It just asks: “Why aren't we seeing this?”

– Danielle Devereaux

Mickey Mouse Monopoly

It analyses Disney videos in a way that I hadn't thought about before I saw them – it gets you to think about things in a different way. Not that you can't watch a Disney video again, but it makes you think about how, say in Beauty and the Beast, Belle is basically captured by this beast who is really mean to her. What kind of message does that send to girls? If you stick around with this mean guy long enough, he'll turn into a prince because you can make him change. It's so typical because that's what a lot of abused women say; “I can change him.” Usually they don't, I look at it as alternative media views.

– Danielle Devereaux
"Emile", a Search for Redemption

The past and present is weaved together in a story of trying to make amends for what is sometimes cruel in life: we wish that what was done was not so unchangeable

W

hen Emile opened a couple of weeks ago in Toronto, it was to a theatre filled to capacity. Along with the crowd of movie fans were a half-dozen or so journalists from various media groups. The reason that the publicist gave was that those reporting on the movie would be better able to gauge reactions to the movie if they were surrounded by the very people who would actually go out and watch it. This reasoning might work for a number of movies, but in Emile’s case, the reaction, and indeed the effect of the movie could only be felt if one were able to look at its effect on the audience at a much less visible level.

Emile is the story of a professor (Sir Ian McKellen) who, in his old age, makes a journey from his home in England to receive an honorary degree from the University of Victoria. Although this fact sets his journey in motion, the real purpose for his journey is the opportunity to reconnect with his own living relative, the daughter (Deborah Kara Unger) of his long deceased brother, a single mother named Nadia.

Emile’s trip reveals the shaky situation that is Nadia’s life. Memories of a troubled and lonely childhood constantly resurface and set the tone for the visit: many of the problems stem from homelessness at an early age when her parents died and her only living relative, Emile, shirked his obligations towards her. Emile’s responsibility for her unhappy childhood makes both of them unsure of how to act, but as the movie progresses we see them make amends for his self-centered actions.

Emile’s world of memory and imagination are constantly playing themselves out in his day-to-day life. The two paths are seamlessly merged into one story, and done in a very touching way. We see changes in time between his youth on a farm in Saskatchewan and his present life as a professor in England with the transition so smooth that the viewers see only a story that is cleanly put together.

In a story weaved the past and present together, Emile seeks redemption from the family he abandoned. As the degree ceremony draws near, periodic visits from ghosts of his past culminate in an exchange with the superintendent of the orphanage where Nadia was housed as a girl. We learn that Emile refused to take the child on the grounds that single parent families were not allowed to live at the university where he worked. At the ceremony, he is dramatically confronted by the ghost of his long-dead brother who calls him a coward and forces him to use the public occasion to apologize to Nadia for years of neglect.

In the end this is a movie that touches on many relevant issues to students. During university years, lives get increasingly busy, and as the attempts to follow the family home to university is made, threads of friendship and family are often broken. Emile, touches on these themes through the life of the main character, which is very well played by Sir Ian McKellen. In seeing him revisit moments from his past that have left him with regrets, we are all able to relate to events from our past that, if we could, we would go back and live again and of course do things differently.

One of the best features of this movie, and indeed what every movie should strive for, is that it leaves one with a sense of having been brought into a world – actually immersed into a world – that is full of characters with problems that are very identifiable. For the short time of the movie, the characters come alive and tell a story that is relevant. This seems like a simple formula for success, but Emile does it very well.

— Chris Spraakman

Along Came Polly

Along Came Polly" is a delightful short comedy starring Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston. It follows the life of Reuben Feller, a risk assessor for a leading firm, as he realizes that life does not always turn out as planned.

The movie begins with Reuben’s wedding to Lisa Kramer, played by Debra Messing. Everything is perfect in Reuben’s life until the first day of the honeymoon when Lisa decides to get busy with the yummy French scuba instructor, Claude (Hank Azaria). This character is beautifully done as he struts around nude on a beach with a French accent.

Now that Lisa has decided to stay on the island to pursue dreamy Claude, Reuben returns home to New York to basically start his life over.

This is where the title “Along came Polly” comes in. Reuben’s long-time friend and former movie star, Sandy (Philip Seymour Hoffman), convinces Reuben to go to a party with him. Coincidentally, Polly (Jennifer Aniston) is one of the servers at the party and recognizes Reuben from grade school. Aniston plays her typical quirky girlfriend role.

Eventually, after several phone calls because of Polly’s lack of organization, they have their first date. And the fun begins. Reuben tries so hard to impress his new found love that he ignores the fact that he has Irritable Bowel Syndrome when they eat at ethnic restaurants. You can imagine the mess he makes in her bathroom when they return to her apartment for coffee.

There are several subplots in this movie including the need for Reuben to insure a rich company owner (Bryan Brown) who swims with sharks and goes base-jumping. Alec Baldwin plays Reuben’s slimy boss, Stan Indursky. There are also issues surrounding Sandy’s attempt to rebuild his acting career and Lisa’s desperate pleas to win Reuben back. Some of the other subplots are just too ridiculous and unimportant to name.

Reuben’s life makes a complete U-turn after having run into Polly. He is this anal-retentive, predictable, and composed guy. And she is this crazy, outgoing daredevil who is on the “no plan” for life.

The two characters complement each other, but I must say that there wasn’t much chemistry between them. Stiller’s idea of good salsa dancing comes nowhere near how well Aniston and the other salsa dancers get their groove on. There is truth in the term, “Opposites attract”, though.

“Along Came Polly” has several hilarious scenes filled with crude behaviour and wacky jokes. The idea for this script clearly stems from movies like “Meet the Parents” and “There’s Something About Mary”.

Polly’s ferret, Rodolfo, is pretty much a duplicate of the dog from the Mary movie. Both animals are handicapped in one way or another, and both suffer numerous accounts of abuse from the main characters.

Being a risk assessor, Reuben rants on and on about useless statistics, such as the one in 46,000 chance of falling through a subway grate and only one out of every six people wash their hands after using the bathroom. (Beware of free peanuts at bars!)

So, if you’re looking for originality and fresh, new ideas, this is not the movie for you. However, if you’re just looking for a good laugh and a great cast of characters guaranteed to keep you wanting more, then hey, go see this movie and you’ll know what I’m talking about.

— Erica Ball
FAMILY MUSIC: THE TIES THAT BIND US
THEATRE GLENDON TOOK A REALISTIC TURN IN WOLF’S INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION

It was a regular Friday night dinner with the family, but things turned out to be quite the opposite for the characters in Family Music, the first play of 2004 at Theatre Glendon.

Family Music centred on the dysfunctional Mesnard family, who met in their usual diner one Friday evening. Tensions exploded when the feelings and thoughts within each individual finally came to the surface, and each character’s struggle for attention was confronted.

The play reminded many viewers of their own family’s struggles and dysfunctions as it was derived from a contemporary script. Inspired by the film version of its original French script, entitled “Un air de famille”, director Esther Wolf hoped to bring the story to life as her independent project at Theatre Glendon.

It depicted the lives of its characters who ranged in ages from 30-60 years old, and through their interactions one was able to explore the inner conflicts and indispensable ties that link all families together. Emotions and memories were evoked, and viewers were touched by the naturalism of the acting. “In my four years here, I have never seen a realistic play at Theatre Glendon,” says Wolf. From the set to the acting, Family Music was one of the few realistic plays that have been staged at Glendon.

Students often remark on the abstract nature of a large proportion of the school’s plays. This production, however, was straightforward, realistic and while it did not leave you to solve any psychological puzzles, it may have given you a new sense of your own family bonds. Perhaps its naturalistic quality was the reason why it hit so close to home. For Esther, home is in Belgium, and the script touched her in a way that many students can understand. “Being so far from home, removed, thinking about my family from afar, the relations and connections between them really touches me,” she reveals. “Families may be dysfunctional, but despite that, there is an incredible amount of love in the misunderstandings.” And it is these revelations that affected the viewer’s heart.

The six unique characters showed a complex range of emotional struggle, and each had their own problems harboured within them. Marissa Gregoris played a mother reminiscent of many mothers who grew up in the age of propriety, and carrying not only the weight of her own convictions, but the responsibility of her children’s troublesome lifestyles; Gillian Muir an alcohol-abusing tomboyish sister of two opposing brothers who accepts her distinctive character and runs off with the observant and funny bus boy, played by Donovan Vrzovski. Todd Cleland and J.J. O’Rourke were the two brothers, one a restaurateur with an absent wife, and the other a hotshot with a lack of awareness for everyone around him, including his repressed wife, played by Jo-anne Lotfallah. The cast offered offbeat humour and anticipated outbursts that created an entertaining show. It can be remembered as one of the most true-to-life performances in recent years at Glendon Theatre.

Most importantly, Family Music reminded you of that ever-important letter, call or visit home. Family Music was directed by Esther Wolf, and starred Todd Cleland, Gillian Muir, J.J. O’Rourke, Donovan Vrzovski, Jo-anne Lotfallah, and Marissa Gregoris. Performances at Theatre Glendon can be checked on the Glendon College website at www.glendon.yorku.ca, by selecting “Theatre” under Glendon Related Links. To reserve tickets for upcoming shows, call the Theatre Glendon Box Office at 416-487-6822.

— Naomi Knight
Chronique nocturne : La tête dans les étoiles

Arrache le cordon, tu pourrais sur place à patauger dans ta crasse. Laisse la musique venir, elle pénètre ton corps, s’infiltre et t’inspire.

Tes membres grelottent, le rythme fait mouche sur ton âme en vogue. Tes yeux s’ouvrent à la vérité, une gorgée suffit à t’y faire goûter. L’envers du décor s’offre au plus humble serviteur, juste un rideau à tirer pour connaître la mélodie du bonheur. Il n’y a qu’à le charmer et il se laisse lentement approvisioner. Non, tu ne rêves pas, la moiteur s’estompe et le désir veille, grâce à toi.

— David Bouquerel

Figure n° 4

W hen Adam Green took the stage at 11:30PM at the Horseshoe on a typically frigid January Thursday, his blank yet welcoming demeanour seemed to suggest ‘happy to be here but like whatever’, which helped make him instantly endearing to the large crowd that had assembled despite the weather to hear songs from his recent album “Friends of Mine”.

His single Jessica (which appears to be about pop star Jessica Simpson, but no-one will come clean about it, probably for legal reasons) has become a minor hit in indie circles and its video is receiving healthy play on MuchMusic. But in person any illusions that his career is based on a novelty hit are immediately dispelled.

Green writes music when he walks down the street, usually in his Brooklyn neighbourhood. City life requires a lot of walking and Green has a lot of very good songs as a result. He captures his sometimes whimsical, sometimes poignant, sometimes x-rated lyrics by singing into a tape recorder that he carries with him that belies a very aware yet very urban mentality that does not resort to cheesy pop culture references. Later, he figures out the backing arrangements by playing back the tape. The result is that the melody and the lyrics are immediately accessible. However, in my opinion the songs are much better live than on the album where the heavily string arranged production sometimes makes the songs almost a little bit too much.

At one point during the fade-out of the mellow house(#) beat of Dance With Me he laughs into the microphone “Come on! Haven’t you always wanted to dance like this?” as he proceeds to jump around the stage in utter self actualization which would probably seem weird to anybody who hasn’t had friends who get really into their computers or urban compulsive hobbies like stamp collecting.

At the encore Green storms the stage, which for him is more of a pleasant saunter, to play Springsteen’s “Born To Run”. It’s a suitably bizarre moment that sums up the evening of conflicting intentions; even when he really reaches his voice to stress a line of the song he does it with an amount of control. Songs about running off to a bordello in Nevada and then another about how hard it is to be a girl. This isn’t rock and roll, this is just great music.

— Tim Gunderson
Dear Reggi,

I have a question, please e-mail it to protem@glendon.yorku.ca

INTRODUCTION:
Reginald Harris Orangulompe is one of Protem's newest addi-
tions. He joins from the Guh-kenheimer Faculty of Love where
he is majoring in the Romantic
Arts. Reginald is currently in his
7th year at York University. His
hobbies include skeet shooting,
bird-watching, and tax evasion.
He also addresses the notion that Graffiti is
most commonly still thought of as vandalism,
and that it is actually a practised art form," says Hall.

Speaking of the Terminus1525 website as a
whole, Hall adds that the project's coordinators
steered away from a government identity to be
more inviting to experimenting artists. He feels
this decision has seriously impacted the way the
project was approached.

“My vision is that it will be a place where
young artists can express themselves in a
way to showcase young talent, to make people
more aware that Graffiti art is not vandalism,
and that it is actually a practised art form,” says Hall.

The on-line element of the project can be found
at www.terminus1525.ca. There visitors can see
numerous street-level projects, other online gal-
eries, cafés, zines, workshops, and contests.

By Kelly Hynes, The Muse
ST. JOHN’S, Nfld., (CUP)
If you can’t get them off your back – Beat them at their own game

A
t first glance, Tom Mabe, who lives in Louisville, Ken-
tucky and composes jingles for advertisements, looks like
someone who is happy to be able to work from home. Or at least he
was happy, until he slowly started to realize that his days were spent
talking to telemarketers instead of potential clients.

Mr. Mabe would not be discour-
aged though, and once he reached
his breaking point he began waging
a successful one-man war on all
telemarketing and telemarketers.

As a self-employed person who
spent his days at
home, he used to
run to the phone
when it rang, think-
ing that potential
jobs were on the
line. “At fi rst, I
would jump to
answer the phone,
but it was always
these guys trying
to sell me carpet
cleaning or win-
dow replacement”
he explained.

When he could
no longer stand the bombardment
of calls in an average day (the US
has an even larger number of tele-
marketers vying for your money
than Canada) he took matters into
his own hands. What he did was
set up a series of improvised sce-
narios to ward them off.

The scenarios went like this;
When one telemarketer called
looking to sell him long-distance
services, he told him that he did
not have a phone. Later, another
called selling him carpet cleaning
services. During the conversation
Mr. Mabe convinced the man that
he had a large problem with blood
stains as a result of having killed
somebody in his house.

Nevertheless, after recording a
series of exchanges with various
telemarketers, Mr. Mabe was still
not satisfied that he had begun to
repay the telemarketing communi-
ty for the bother and interruptions
that it had caused him.

His ultimate act of defi ance was
to attend a convention of telemar-
keters happening at a local hotel.
He checked into a room of the
same hotel where the telemarket-
ing executives were staying he
started phoning them – at 3 a.m.!

For some of the calls he posed
as a front desk employee who
just wanted to confi  rm wake-up
call times. When it got really late
he pretended to be working for a
company which was conducting a
survey on the effects of insomnia.
Predictably, his targets did not like
the taste of their own medicine.

Always the entrepreneur, Mr.
Mabe compiled a series of his best
calls on a CD called Revenge on
the Telemarketers. In the end, its
popularity took off and two se-
quels were created which have so
far sold more than 100,000 copies.
Mr. Mabe continues his one-man
war with telemarketing, albeit now
with a growing fan base who want
to hear his latest ways of confusing,
berating, and generally perplexing
any unsuspecting telemarketers
who are unlucky enough to call his
house.

The CD’s are available for
order from his website at:
www.tommabe.com

— Chris Spraakman

With fi les from The Financial Post

Consumers take the offensive in a bid to get rid of telemarketers

DID YOU KNOW?
— Telemarketing is a $400
billion a year business.

— Americans lose $40
billion a year to fraudulent
telemarketers.

— 56% of the people targeted
by telemarketers are 50 or
older

— Telemarketers have the fire
power to make 560 calls per
second (24 million per day).

— Charities make more
money from selling your
name and number to
the other telemarketing
companies than from the
donations they collect from
calling.

— On average, only 24% of
what you donate as a result
of a telemarketing call will
actually get to the charity on
whose behalf the solicitation
is made. The telemarketing
company hired to make the
call gets the rest.

— The average American gets
called 2 to 3 times per day by
a telemarketer.

— The FBI estimates that
there are 14,000 illegal sales
operations bilking consumers
in the United States every
day.

— The same telemarketer
will often call an elderly
person day after day, building
a relationship with the target,
until he/she thinks a friend,
not a stranger is trying to sell
them something.

— 92% of the adults in
the United States have
reported receiving fraudulent
telephone offers.

— The Telephone consumer
Protection Act of 1991,
overtly passed to
protect consumers from
telemarketers, has proven
ineffective due to numerous
loopholes.

* UFI = Useless
Fuckin’ Information

The real question is why these
companies feel that they have the
right to interrupt you whenever
they want