



# The Sentient



March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005

Algoma University Student Newspaper

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## From Conception to Construction The New Student Center

Troy Miron

There has been a lot of speculation over the past year as to why it has been taking so long for the new student center and Information Communication Technology Center to open its doors. I was lucky enough to spend some time with Bruno Barban. Not many people know how and when this whole idea came about, so Bruno shed some light on this for me. He told me that it has been a part of the student council agenda for over ten years. The last six or so students' councils have played a very active role in its coming about.

Some of the major roadblocks they faced were: a student center is considered more of a business than part of an educational institution, it cannot be funded the same way that the university is allocated moneys. Other things that hindered Bruno were that all of these plans and decisions had to be passed by the students' council. This sounds rather easy, but with a students' council that changes every year it is hard to keep everyone in the loop. As Bruno said, "it was like taking one step forward and two steps back." These issues put more and more pressure on Bruno to come up with a solution and fast. There was an idea thrown around to renovate portables, but who wants a student center in a portable? This idea was obviously scrapped, so Bruno thought a new building placed lower from where it is now would be the best idea. However, there still was the question of funding. It turns out that our student fees are among the lowest in Ontario, so it was decided that a raise by one hundred fifty dollars per year would be implemented. The 2003 students' council passed this almost unanimously and the 2004 class would inherit this system. This increase in student fees resulted in being able to raise \$150,000 a year and the plan was to get about \$300,000 as a down payment and then mortgage the rest for ten years.



Construction in progress for the new student center.

Bruno was also having problems keeping the students' council informed, Cindi Elgie solved this problem by becoming acting liaison between the students' council, so that she could keep everyone up to date in regard of all the decisions that had to be made. Now, where the student's center has been on the board for years, the I.T.S. building is a relatively new idea. When the IT building was first conceived they thought the best idea was to have a separate building. The student center was slated to be an octagonal shaped building lower to the side, they thought of connecting the 2 via a tunnel or some sort of skywalk. These ideas were not feasible, so it was decided that they would join the two and put it where it is now. It turns out that this would make both buildings bigger, and along with a bigger building comes a bigger budget.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Family Usurps Illness

John Gagnon

When adversity sets itself into any situation, you should always be able to look to your family for help. Dr. René Gagné, our beloved French professor, is combating the affects of cancer. We must gather our family's strengths together and transpose them to René. Collectively, we must share in a silent prayer, 'may the spirits of a thousand warriors walk with you through this war.' Dr. Celia Ross, President of Algoma University, and Dr. Bill Newbigging Chair of the History department, rallied to relieve Dr. Gagné of his duties, which would allow him to focus his time and energy on his health. There could not have been a better choice of locum tenentes. Dr. Ross completed her Ph.D. at l'Université de Bordeaux 111, France and Dr. Newbigging received his certificate of translation from the University of Paris and says that, "stepping back into French curriculum was like riding a bike."

During a phone interview over reading week, Dr. Newbigging stated that he and Celia would pick up the 'workload' until Dr. Gagné returned to his post. When asked how he felt about taking on the added pressure to his already busy semester, Dr. Newbigging nobly said, "No one chooses to become ill. René's health, along with the students at Algoma, is first priority for the University." It is this sentiment, in my opinion, which makes this school solely unique. We are fortunate to be a part of this kind of integrity, where our leaders are willing to remove the medals from their uniforms, and jump back into the trenches to help an injured comrade. I am proud to say that I am a member of this academic family. On behalf of the one collective thought of Algoma, 'come home quickly René!'



**Editor's Letter**

John Gagnon

Our school is experiencing a new Renaissance. We are living 'the history' that will be carried by this institution for its lifetime. We are a culturally diverse institute with many dormant voices. It is time to wake up that sleeping giant and allow ourselves: to have a voice, to have the ability to express ourselves, to exercise our right to question and be answered. In my time away from Algoma University, I found myself visiting many University campuses throughout the country - not to study fulltime - but to find a familiarity that I had grown to love here at Algoma. I visited these other schools to stand in awe-to smell the library - to be around the love of learning. Whether it was sitting on the steps at Osgood Hall and listening to the conversations within earshot, or watching people enjoy the Botanical Gardens at UBC, I found one common ground. All of these schools have a voice, and have been exercising it consistently. When I returned to Algoma I felt discouraged, but feigned indifference to the thought that we had no school newspaper. I fed directly into the 'regional apathy.'

In the first week of February, I was approached by the executive members of the student union, and was asked to 'take the reigns' of our voice, and re-establish The Sentient. I accepted, knowing that it would take a lot of work, and I would be flying by the seat of my pants. It literally started by wiping the proverbial cobwebs from the ancient computer that sat silent for so long. After creating some sort of office environment I set forth to write articles, and in this I succeeded first, though the brunt of the month was taken up by wading through bureaucracies. I made contacts throughout the school, the city, and the province and found my way by blind passion. Then the day came and I knew I needed help. I asked many people for help and received many different reactions. Fortunately, fate would bring the right people together and bring this venture to fruition. I have nothing but the utmost respect and gratitude for the team members of the Sentient. They rallied together during their week off to put this paper together and they must be commended. They are now the voice of our school. I reverted back to the look of the newspaper from the mid-nineties epoch, which was then known as the Sentinel. I had the pleasure of learning from Diane Tian-Agawa Editor-in-Chief. I felt a comfort in the look of the paper in that time, perhaps because I had already worked with that format. I must say, I have grown to love the name change, it is more fitting. I am not opposed to changing anything, as long as there is something; our voices being heard. This last couple of years here at Algoma are proving to be quite newsworthy, with the growth of school, the building in process and all other issues at hand. No excuses can be implemented to the reason why the paper sat dormant. It had to be done, it must be done. We must have a voice.

Algoma students, we should be proud of ourselves and we should look to AUSU, SASA, AUBS, AMSA, the History Society, and the rest of the great clubs of the school. Who by the way should be fueling the Sentient with content, input, questions, and even finances to keep the machine running. On that note, the Sentient would like to thank Charlotte Commanda, project coordinator for 'The Shingwauk Project', Cindi Elgie of Student Services, Bruno Barban (we need to talk-smile), Rose Taylor, Craig Diotte, Keith DeConto and the rest of the IT staff and TA's, our Alumni office (for being empathetic to our plights) and everybody who gave positive re-enforcement, wisdom, time and energy. My true hope is that this will be the last resurrection of our voice, and we can at least take note of our mother college. Laurentian University's school newspaper Lambda, has been in print since 1961. I encourage everyone here at our school, students, staff, faculty, management to submit work. Without these voices combined, there is no voice. We are also launching the Sentient on the web at SooToday.com, simultaneously with our print issue. Visit us and read our stuff @ [http://www.sootoday.com/content/students\\_domain/](http://www.sootoday.com/content/students_domain/)! E-mail is wonderful when you know how to send an attachment... [sentient@auc.ca](mailto:sentient@auc.ca) is how you can send us the content. I would like to see how fast our voice can grow in strength, in substance, in meaning. Thank you again to all that were there in need, and to you the reader - by who we are inspired.

**Sentient Staff:****Editor-in-Chief**

John Gagnon

**News Editor**

Troy Miron

**Arts Editor**

Kristen Hoffman

**Sports Editor**

Travis Merrett

**Layout Editor**

Alison Carter

If you have anything you would like to submit to the Sentient, please e-mail it to:

**[sentient@auc.ca](mailto:sentient@auc.ca)**

Please attach files in a Microsoft Word document and include your name and student number. We reserve the right to refuse work that is harmful to anyone.

*(continued from page 1)**New Student Centre*

Now for the construction side of things. The budget for this building, is a respectable 6.5 million dollars, and would increase our existing campus by 40 percent. I had the privilege to go on a tour of the new building on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. The I.C.T. building is rather remarkable in itself, completely state of the art, it will house a data warehouse that will be used by A.U.C., Microage, P.U.C. telecom, Ontera, and Shaw. These companies will have staff on site working in the building, and they will also be leasing space on the top floor. This floor will also hold what Bruno calls "an Innovation center". It will have twenty-nine cubicle style workstations and five permanent offices. These spaces are to help generate and promote entrepreneurial ideas in the city and is designed for people who have big ideas, but a small budget.

On the first floor is a state of the art lecture theatre that seats 190 people, has wireless headsets for the hearing impaired, three electric drop down movie screens, and whole list of other resources to help students and faculty. All the classrooms in this building will be videoconference ready, so now instead of going to room 206, you can use any room in the new building. Each classroom has a 25-30 person seating capacity; they will all have computer workstations with flat screen monitors. There is video surveillance throughout and the doors leading to the student center. Doors in the student lounge can be locked by powerful electromagnets, so that during pubs there aren't as many security concerns as there are today. The new student center will be the bright spot in an already gleaming project. With a top of the line kitchen that will be able to handle all sorts of functions not to mention a great day to day menu for all of you who survive on cafeteria food, also the staff is very excited to see there new facility.

The center will be split level with a bar, a stage on the lower level, a new cafeteria and a pulpit-style podium for speaking on the upper level. Now as to why it is taking so long, in a nutshell, Bruno wants this to be perfect. He has hand picked everything from the tile on the floor, to the material on the seats to the lighting in the ceiling. There is also a large licensed patio (if it ever warms up.) Plans have been made to put a new campus shop in the basement and a section for student's council and other spots for entertainment purposes. As I progressed on this tour, I was more and more impressed. The process is a little behind schedule, though Bruno has his team working 60 hour weeks to get it finished. The I.C.T. side will be ready for temporary occupation as early as mid-March. As for the student center, Bruno hopes a month after. The reason for this, is that the student center was a much more specialized part of the whole building and almost everything else has to be finished before they can get it put together. The wait will be worth it.



## Waking up the Dormant Voice

John Gagnon

After meeting with Dave Elliot Aboriginal Affairs Representative for AUSU I wondered about our school, its heritage, and its future. We had discussed the idea of presenting a pulpit for the spirit of this school. A history of where we come from and where we are going, this is what came of that tête-à-tête. Once the snow melts, it uncovers a history of Canada, so rich it is unbelievable that more attention is not given to what we have on the property of our institution. How many people have seen the cemetery? If so, how did you feel standing about our Canadian history? Send replies to the [sentient@auc.ca](mailto:sentient@auc.ca). For those of you that do have a deep-seated need to know the truth, I encourage you to go and speak to Charlotte Commanda. Charlotte is the project coordinator for the The Shingwauk Project and prides herself as having an open door policy. The truth is in the old manse behind the East Wing. A large banner hangs over the front door-in big blue letters reads *Shingwauk University*. Can't miss it, I'm sure we have all caught a glimpse.

## SELECTION FROM SHINGWAUK PROJECT

Presented by Dave Elliott, Aboriginal Affairs Representative, AUSU

### The Shingwauk Indian Residential School 1873-1970

Shingwauk Hall was first established in 1873, as a residential school for First Nations' children. The building and institution, located at 1520 Queen St. East on the St. Mary's River, is one of the oldest landmarks of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada

With the support of The Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association and Algoma University College, the history and activities associated with Shingwauk Hall are being gathered under the auspices of The Shingwauk Project in order that you, the public, may become more aware of the vast history and tradition represented by the Shingwauk buildings and site.

### Shingwauk Home, Indian School, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada 1875-1935

Shingwauk Hall was first established in 1873, as a residential school for native children. *Chief Shingwauk*, the Chief of the Ojibways at Garden River, believed that the future Ojibway needed to learn the white man's academic method of education in order to survive in what was becoming a "predominately non-native world with non-native values".

His dream was to have an educational centre built for all future Ojibway children. With the combined effort of Shingwauk's Sons, *Augustine* and *Buhgwujjenene*, and *Rev. E. F. Wilson*, this dream came a reality. A school was built at Garden River in 1873. Six days after completion, the dream was turned to ashes; the school burned to the ground. Not giving in to misfortune another school was erected at the present site overlooking the St. Mary's River.

The cornerstone for the second Shingwauk Home was laid by the Earl of Dufferin, the Governor-General of Canada, in the summer of 1874. In August 1875, the new building was officially opened to fifty pupils. Sixty years later this building was demolished and a third building was erected directly behind the old one. This was the home of the students until 1970. It now houses Algoma University College.

Keep an eye out for posters and e-mails concerning AUSU elections this month!

## Algoma University Events

### March 3

- Hollywood Pub sponsored by AUBS

### March 7

- March Madness Kickoff and Wing Eating Contest at 12:00 noon. Sign up in the T-Bird Lounge.
- Foosball Tournament and Board Game Pub

### March 7-11

- March Madness

### March 8

- Bingo University-Style, 10:00 p.m. in the T-Bird Lounge, great prizes.

### March 9

- Free skate at John Rhodes Oval. Bus departs from AUC at 3:00 p.m. and returns at 4:30 p.m.
- Algoma Idol in the T-Bird Lounge. Register at 10:00 p.m., cash prizes.

### March 10

- Rock, Paper, Scissors Contest, 12:00 noon in the T-Bird Lounge
- 80's Pub

### March 17

- St. Patrick's Day Pub

### March 31

- Pre-Semi Bash

### April 1

- Semi
- Spring Formal. Tickets are \$25 per couple, \$15 for single, and \$10 for dance-only. Tickets are available from AUSU reps and in Student Services, room 102, from Cindi Elgie.

## Reunion 2005 • July 15th -17th

Come back to Algoma U! Join us for a great weekend!

GOOD FRIENDS and GOOD TIMES

Renew friendships, remember your experiences, reconnect with your alma mater...

Know any Algoma U grads who might not be on our mailing list? Please spread the word and let them know.

To pre-register or for further information, contact:

Bev Teller, Alumni Officer

Algoma University College

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada P6A 2G4

Phone: (705) 949-2301, ext. 4125

E-mail: [alumni@auc.ca](mailto:alumni@auc.ca)

[www.auc.ca/reunion](http://www.auc.ca/reunion)

Watch for your personal reunion registration package arriving in the mail soon!

#### Planned Activities:

- ✓ Wine & Cheese Reception
- ✓ Aboriginal Gathering/Feast
- ✓ Campus Tours
- ✓ Alumni Breakfast
- ✓ Float in Community Day Parade
- ✓ Boat Cruise
- ✓ Post-Game Pub
- ✓ Basketball, hockey and baseball games
- ✓ Dinner/Dance
- ✓ Chapel Service
- ✓ Reunion Brunch Sendoff



## Students from Algoma University Appearing in AGA Exhibit, "Pentastiche"

Kristen Hoffman

From March 4<sup>th</sup> until March 9<sup>th</sup>, the Art Gallery of Algoma (AGA) will be featuring the individual works of five Algoma University College Fine Arts students. Carrie Anich, Krista Boulanger, Florence Gray, Monica Murphy and Deborah Sparks worked together on the exhibition "Pentastiche" for their fourth year independent studies. "Pentastiche" is derived from "penta" meaning five and "tastiche" meaning collaboration.

The independent study is a requirement for an Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts Studies at Algoma. The five women began their brainstorming last summer and worked during the year with two advisors to prepare a proposal – at least one faculty member, and if desired, one advisor from the community.

Carrie Anich, a visual arts and graphic design student, has worked with local potter and sculptor Gail Giuliani, and Neil Carter, who teaches art history at Algoma University and Lake Superior State University, and English at Sault College. Carrie explores the development of technology in art through lino-block cuts and prints.

Krista Boulanger, who is a theater and creative writing student, has been advised by writer Dr. Alana Bondar, an English professor at Algoma, and playwright Wendy Hamilton, who works locally in theater. Boulanger examines stereotypical female roles and their connection with the average woman.

Visual arts and graphic design student Florence Gray also collaborated with Gail Giuliani, as well as local artist Zoe Wood-Solomon. Through her work, Florence delves into the correlation between artistic creativity and consumer expectation.

Monica Murphy, who studies visual arts and music, has worked with registered art historian Christiane Husemann and music historian/practitioner Paul Dingle, who teaches music at Algoma. Murphy's textile media is heavily influenced by musical compositions from various periods.

Visual arts and creative writing student Deborah Sparks uses her poetry and paintings to explore the connective and disconnective facets of postmodern and ecofeminist theory. Sparks consulted art therapist and fine arts coordinator Maria Parrella-Ilaria and Dr. Alana Bondar in the development of her proposal.

The artists involved in this independent study are still working. They feel this is a halfway point, as they still have to write a paper, present and explore their findings and discuss their progress in front of a group.

Algoma University has an ongoing relationship with AGA in regards to the Honours Bachelor of Fine Art Studies. Each year students in this program present their work in the gallery. For the students, this involves preparing advertisements and working in conjunction with the installation officer and the director of the art gallery. All five artists have put a year's worth of hard work into the project. Monica Murphy says the project is "a good stepping stone to getting your work out to the public".

There is a reception on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. for all who are interested in meeting the artists involved.

*Deborah Sparks*  
responds to the connective and disconnective aspects of postmodern and ecofeminist theory in her poetry and painting.

*Monica Murphy*  
creates designs for clients, by commission, drawing the themes for her works in textile media from musical compositions of different periods.

*Krista Boulanger*  
explores female stereotypes and their relation to the average woman, with a performance piece.

*Carrie Anich*  
explores the development of technology in art with her lino-block cuts and prints.

*Florence Gray*  
explores the relationship between the creativity of the artist and the expectations of the consumer.

**Pentastiche**

a show featuring new original works by the graduating class of Algoma University's Honours Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art Studies. (Hon. BAFAS)

**March 4 - March 9, 2005**

**Meet the Artists Reception**  
2 pm - 4 pm, Sunday, March 6

**Art Gallery of Algoma**  
10 East Street



## Road to Friendship

Ikramul Bari

Friendship is one the most complex relationships between individuals. They can form in an instant or take years to build, and may be shattered in the matter of moments. It is also one of the sweetest bonds known to man. The nature of friendship depends on many things: age, sex, culture, background, shared history, chemistry, etc. The most enduring friendships all share some common characteristics. A lasting, rewarding friendship is one that is reached after a bittersweet journey that involves crossing eight milestones.

The first step is respect. This is essential to any healthy relationship, not just friendship. Ted and Zarina are e-pals who have never met. He is a businessman, living in the West, well into his golden years; she is a young student, living in Bangladesh. Despite their differences they share a beautiful bond. While she respects his wisdom and experience, he too respects her opinions and treats her as an equal.

Peppered with this respect and mutual consideration, their discussions about books, music, philosophy and politics flow seamlessly through cyberspace. The differences of age, culture, and physical geography really don't matter.

The second step is enjoyment. It is not surprising that friends must enjoy each other's company. Alliances formed on the basis of convenience or mutual benefit, such as 'study-buddies' in school or colleges, have a short shelf life if the partners don't enjoy spending time with each other outside their sphere of work or studies.

Too often one has to put up appearances in order to 'enter the circle', and the result is a loss of one's true self. This is why it's comforting to have a friend or two with whom you can drop the charade and still have a good time. As we learn to enjoy being around each other, we put our guards down and reach the third step, which is spontaneity. Friends don't need to engage in self-monitoring in each other's company; they are free to be themselves.

Spontaneity is incomplete without acceptance. The beauty of friendship lies in the fact that friends accept each other without trying to change anything. When Kashmi and Johana became friends, the former was the quiet shy girl, while the latter was the friendly chatterbox. One would keep to herself, locked in her own dreams, while the other would always be dragging her off to parties, meeting new people, and of course, chatting away. They accepted each other's different personalities the way they were and, in

time, filled in each other's inadequacies to build a relationship that has matured into a secure, full-bodied bond.

*A friend in need is a friend indeed.* This oft-repeated proverb is a mantra for the fifth step in the road to friendship, which is mutual assistance. True friends help and support each other. Sabin and Jabeen met each other in the fifth grade. The first was new in school, smarting from a major embarrassment caused when one of the 'popular' girls in class set her up, and the second was a young tomboy, looking for her place in the scheme of things. They struck up an easygoing friendship, each filling the other's need for companionship, supporting each other. As the years passed, they provided each other with shoulders to cry on, free car rides, quick loans, and just about any form of assistance that was needed. Even today, they remain fast friends. "I've got her number on speed dial" laughs Sabin. "Whether it's advice I need, or anything else, I know I can count on Jabeen to be there for me."

The sixth step is confidence. Friends share feelings and experiences with one another. As we become more comfortable in each other's company, we turn to each other with our hopes and dreams for the future, as well as our secrets. In fact, many friendships begin with a "don't tell anyone, but..." and the ability of the recipient to maintain confidentiality.

The seventh milestone is understanding. Friends understand what is important and why friends behave the way they do. Shared confidences and time spent together provide friends with a better

insight into one another's personalities. The better you know your friends, the more you understand why they are the way they are.

Shared confidences and mutual understanding form the foundation for the final milestone; trust. Arif, Shakil, Yaseen and Tofayel, friends since childhood, can trust each other with just about anything. Arif tells Shakil his deepest secrets and vice versa, and swaps favourite jackets with Yaseen, who lives miles away, trusting his friend to take care of it. Tofayel trusts Arif enough to send him in his place to buy flowers for his girlfriend. "There's little I can't trust them with," states Arif. "Except food...I don't trust ANYONE with that," he adds with a laugh.

These milestones that we cross together with chosen individuals are the basic ingredients of that sweet relationship called friendship, and anyone who has known a true friend can ask for little more.

## "A friend in need is a friend indeed."

### These Tears

These tears...  
Do they have anything else to do?  
Why do they come running down  
Whenever something goes wrong?  
These tears...  
Do they have any meaning?  
Why does it fall down  
As if it is raining?  
These tears...  
Do they have an invisible knife?  
Why does it hurt  
As they come forth?  
These tears...  
Do they have any human qualities?  
As I cry...  
Why does it hurt in the heart and not the eye?  
These tears...  
Will they ever stop?  
After all that crying  
I came down to my last drop.

Ikramul Bari

### Poem

sometimes I sink to  
such lowly levels  
trying to speak my feelings.  
the words are chewed  
and processed and the  
flavour and scent  
of my idolatry are as lost as  
dragon tears to tobacco tongues.  
I lash at the words with  
pencil strokes and  
berate lips and tongue  
for such ignorance:  
thou that hast cradled  
such flesh as yours,  
ought not slur so  
stupidly.

Ryan Irish

### I'd Like to Write A Poem Someday

I'd like to write a poem someday.  
A poem for our ancestors, whom I can hear,  
In the soft rustling winds,  
In the peaceful flowing streams,  
In the old songs they passed down to us.

I'd like to write a poem someday.  
A poem for our ancestors, whom I see,  
In the laughing bright eyes of a child,  
In the beauty of a soaring Eagle,  
In the power of the Bear.

I'd like to write a poem someday.  
A poem for our ancestors, whom I can feel,  
In the freeing mist of the sweat – lodge,  
In the living breath of the sacred pipe,  
In the mystery, of Life.

Rene Ojeebah



# Beyond the Arch

## A look at Algoma University Varsity Basketball

Travis Merrett

*On paper the varsity men and women's basketball team's records speak for themselves. At 1-10 and 2-10 respectively there seems to be nothing more for each team than an early end to the year. This is, however, furthest from the truth. Although both teams have only one game left in this season, there has been significant progress on both sides.*

**Lady Thunderbirds-** Coming off a win over Niagara 44-42 this past weekend, the lady Thunderbirds showed us a glimpse of a team on the cusp of being competitive. Although fighting a record of two wins and seven losses, the womens team has been in on every game and continues to surprise not only the fans that attend their games but the opposition as well. The key to success for next season is overcoming a level of inexperience that puts the opposition at an advantage. With the loss of only three or four players from this year's squad, coach Ed Green has commanded dedication along with a commitment to practices that fuels the raw love of the game for the womens team. "People don't take us seriously, we're trying to convince our fans to support us," said third year member Candice Boston. The program definitely has the ability to be a steady force in the next few seasons to come, and it seems to be that the lady Thunderbirds are on the right track to make those seasons winning ones.

**"You can't judge  
our team by our  
record this year"**

**Men Thunderbirds-** At one win and ten losses, the mens basketball team has absolutely no reason to wash their hands of this season. They came off a 66-63 loss to Niagara, holders of first place in the league. The mens team has something to build on, and building is exactly what they're doing. With a very young team, staying consistent every game is a task to be mastered. After winning their first game, the mens team has racked up ten straight losses. This is still not indicative of the quality of game that is being played. With the majority of players returning next season, however, playing forty minutes of basketball will become easier to accomplish. Coach Jeff Giovanatti has his club demanding respect from each team that comes into the George Leach Centre. A dedicated team that has the skill and ability to make a move on older, more experienced teams can only be a good mixture for seasons to come.

As both varsity teams end another season of lessons learned, skill is not the only thing that the teams hope to see improved. Both have aspirations of becoming resident powerhouses in the OCAA within the next few years, and a major contributing factor to that success would be the support of the student body. "You can't judge our team (Men Thunderbirds) by our record this year," stated Kellan Stilin. "We've given a lot of teams a good scare, losing a couple of heartbreakers, but more importantly staying close in many of the games".

Fans acting as the "sixth man" can make a huge difference in morale for players on both squads and could be the deciding factor when it comes down to a close game. "There is a lot of support from our coaches and other areas of the faculty, but both teams are looking for support from the student body," said Boston. With both teams making such an effort to produce on the court, the student body of Algoma University should make the effort to come out and motivate both teams. Basketball is an exciting sport, especially at the university level and is an easy game to understand even for those who are not familiar with it.

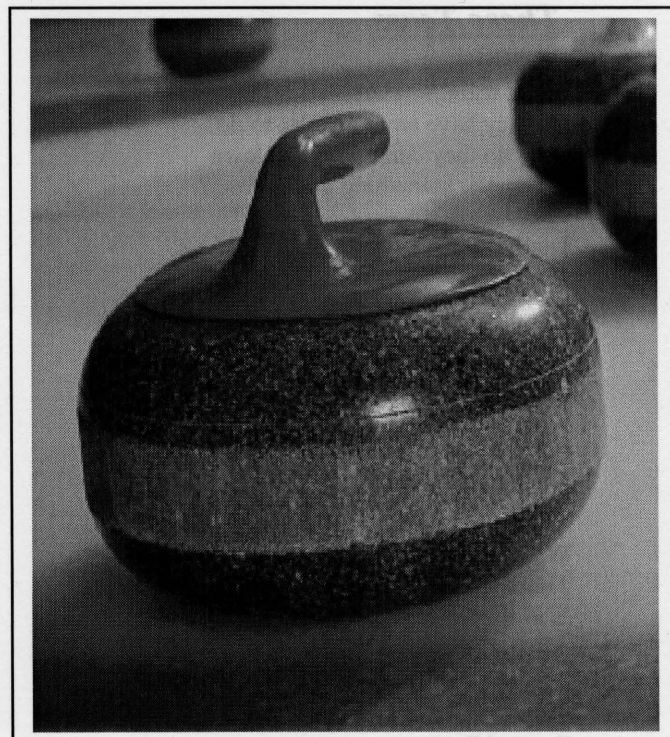
All in all, good things can be expected from both the mens and womens varsity basketball teams in the near future. The least we can do as a student body is to attend the games, show support for the teams, our school, and pride in the effort and dedication of everyone involved.

## AUC WOMEN'S CURLING TEAM IN ACTION

Mark Kontulainen

Algoma University College's womens curling team consisting of Stephanie Sammon, Kristina Murtonen, Genevieve Lachapelle and Kelsey Janveau along with coaches Matt Seabrook and Duncan Janveau are competing at the OCAA Curling Championships in Thunder Bay, Ontario on February 24th to the 27th. We wish them well! Other teams participating in this year's OCAA Curling Championship include: Algonquin College (Ottawa), Confederation College (Thunder Bay), Mohawk College (Hamilton), Niagara College (Welland), St. Clair College (Windsor), Seneca College (North York), Sir Sanford Fleming College (Lindsay), and Fleming College (Peterborough).

The championships are being hosted by Confederation College and are set to take place at Port Arthur Curling Club in Thunder Bay, Ontario. For more information on the OCAA Curling Championships, please contact the Championships Chairperson Ron Fearon at (807) 473-6161. A complete championship schedule, including game times and results, will be available online on the homepage of the OCAA website at [www.ocaa.com](http://www.ocaa.com). To view a complete schedule, results, team information, photos and for more please view the championships host website at: <http://www.curling.webmaxx.ca/>.





## Martin Breaks Promise to Restore Education Funding

Canadian Federation of Students, Ottawa, 23 Feb. 05

Despite a record surplus, Prime Minister Paul Martin failed to deliver on an election promise to increase core funding for post-secondary education.

"During the election Paul Martin promised to restore core funding by creating a dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education of \$7 to \$8 billion," said George Soule, National Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students. "He broke that promise today."

On June 4, 2004, during a nationally-televised federal election forum, Martin promised that he would divide the Canada Social Transfer to create a separate transfer for post-secondary education of "seven to eight billion dollars."

"With the massive surplus to work with, we believed Martin would at least begin to honour his commitment," said Soule. "We are shocked that this budget doesn't provide a single new dollar of core funding."

Federal funding for post-secondary education was severely cutback in the mid-1990's when Martin was Finance Minister. As a result of cuts to federal funding, average tuition fees across Canada have increased to over \$4000 per year and average student debt currently stands at \$25,000.

"Federal funding for post-secondary education is a priority for Canadians," said Soule, citing a recent Ipsos-Reid poll in which Canadians listed post-secondary education as their first choice for federal spending after health care. "Unfortunately, it is not a priority for the Prime Minister."

Based on calculations from Statistics Canada's Youth in Transition Survey, over 50,000 qualified young Canadians are denied access to post-secondary for financial reasons each year. Another recent Statistics Canada study confirmed that Canadians in the top fifth of income are twice as likely to go to university as those in the bottom fifth.

## Bob Rae Calls for Higher Tuition Fees and Higher Student Debt

Canadian Federation of Students, Toronto, 7 Feb. 05

Students' fears about Bob Rae's post-secondary education review were fulfilled today. Rae, a long time advocate of higher tuition fees and higher student debt, called for steep tuition fee hikes along with increased private and public student loan debt. In addition, Rae did call for more public funding and a system of grants for low-income students.

"There are a lot of bells and whistles in this report but the bottom line is more debt for students and their families," said Jesse Greener, Ontario Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students. "At \$6,000, Bob Rae anticipates Ontario tuition fees rising to the highest in the country."

Throughout his report Rae sets the student financial assistance threshold at \$6,000 to cover tuition fees—an increase of at least \$1,000 from today's undergraduate average. In addition, Rae calls for a parallel private loan system to accommodate even higher tuition fees.

While Rae does call for grants for low-income students, only families earning less than \$22,615 would be eligible. Students from homes with family income between \$22,615 and \$35,000 would receive some form of grant to cover a portion of tuition fee costs but all those above that income threshold would finance their education exclusively through loans.

"Students welcome the fact that Rae is calling for the restoration of grants in Ontario after he eliminated our grants program as Premier," said Greener. "However, throughout this process Bob Rae has argued that 'rich' students need to pay

## Alberta's Tuition Fees Frozen, For Now

Canadian Federation of Students, Edmonton, 10 Feb 05

New measures to stem tuition fee increases and increase capacity in Alberta's universities and colleges was a welcome change of direction, but met with some skepticism by many students in Alberta.

"Since 1990, tuition fees in Alberta have increased 273%, the steepest increase in Canada," said George Soule, National Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students. "Access to university and college has been severely compromised in Alberta, and it will take more than a temporary measure to open doors again for low- and middle-income Albertans."

During a televised address Wednesday, Alberta Premier Ralph Klein promised that his government would cover increases to tuition fees in fall 2005, build 15,000 new post-secondary education spaces, increase the province's minimum wage, and develop long-term policy on tuition fees.

"Given Alberta's fiscal position, anything less than substantial tuition fee reductions will be disappointing," said Soule.

The Canadian Federation of Students is composed of more than 75 university and college students' unions, uniting one half million students from St. John's to Victoria. Students in Canada have been represented by the Canadian Federation of Students and its predecessor organizations since 1927.

more. It will come as a surprise to Ontarians that he considers any family with income above \$35,000 to be wealthy."

Rae's report also calls for the deregulation of tuition fees. Under Rae's plan, institutions would be free to charge whatever the market will bear as long as they meet superficial and administrative criteria.

"We know from past experience university administrators will maximize fee hikes. This is a good news day for elitist universities like Queen's and Western" said Greener. "What Bob Rae has given us today is all of the worst aspects of the U.S. and the U.K. systems."

Rae's call for fee deregulation and increased loans closely mirrors the system in the United Kingdom. Like the UK model, Rae also calls for a body to monitor access. Rae simply ignored the volumes of data and research that suggests that access has suffered under Blair's model and that low income students have borne the brunt of the reforms. For example, Claire Callendar, Professor of Social Policy, South Bank University has derisively mocked the access framework in the UK as a "toothless body ignored by all."

"Rae's travelling road show was a public relations exercise. Mr Rae's mind was always closed on the issue of tuition fees. The question now is whether Dalton McGuinty will buy into Mr Rae's dream of higher tuition fees and student debt," said Greener.



# Local Bands Raise Money for Skatepark

Kristen Hoffman

On Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> a fundraising concert was held at Club Princess on Gore Street in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The event was organized by Tiny Bubbles and the Superior Skatepark Association and included six local bands; SLU, The Crossed, The Hangdowns, Fuller, Gates of Winter and Fitswitch. These bands dedicated their time and energy into playing a powerful five-hour concert to raise money for the construction of a skateboard park. SLU started the night off with an acoustic set and amazing vocal harmonies. The Crossed and The Hangdowns followed consecutively with energetic, upbeat performances. Fuller took the stage after The Hangdowns, capturing the audience with their active stage presence. Lastly, Gates of Winter and Fitswitch ended off the night with a great show, as always.

The new skateboard park is a long-awaited \$290, 000 project. City Council gave the final approval of the park on March 8, 2004. The skateboarding facility is scheduled to be built this year, so local fundraisers are helping out greatly with the implementation of the project.

The next skateboard park fundraising concert will be held on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Canadian Motor Hotel. It will be an all-ages event organized by Adamantium Productions and Tiny Bubbles. All profits will be donated to the Superior Skatepark Association. Local bands Coalesce, Inside Spiral, Fitswitch and Gates of Winter are scheduled to perform.

## March at Algoma University

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 Academic Advising (Returning Students)	2	3	4
7 Summer Job Search Workshop	8 Visiting Elder	9	10 Resume Workshop	11 Student Leader Application Deadline
14 Spring Registration Begins	15 Visiting Elder	16 International Potluck	17 St. Patrick's Day Pub	18
21 Ace Your Exams Workshop	22 Visiting Elder Student Leader Interviews	23 Student Leader Interviews	24 Indigenous Guest Speaker	25 Good Friday
28 Easter Monday	29 Visiting Elder	30	31	

### Defend the Right to be Offended

“The moment you declare a set of ideas to be immune from criticism, satire, derision, or contempt, freedom of thought becomes impossible.”  
- Salman Rushdie

### Upcoming Events In the Downtown: Music Events

- March 2 – Downbeat Lounge  
Bocephus King
- March 3 – Downbeat Lounge  
Rick Charbonneau
- March 4 – Downbeat Lounge  
Mr. Something Something
- March 4/5 – Foggy Notions  
Cleveland Steamer
- March 5 – Downbeat Lounge  
Ultimate Power Duo
- March 9 – Downbeat Lounge  
The Flairs
- March 10 – Canadian Motor Hotel  
Frostbite Tour feat. Guttermouth, The Planet Smashers, Ghosts of Modern Man, Inner City Surfers
- March 11/12 – Foggy Notions  
Inner City Surfers, The Hangdowns
- March 11/12 – Downbeat Lounge  
Jay Scali Trio
- March 12 – Oddfellows Hall  
The Blame Its, Inside Spiral, others
- March 14 – Canadian Motor Hotel  
Skatepark Fundraiser feat. Coalesce, Inside Spiral, Fitswitch, Gates of Winter
- March 18 – Madisons Pub  
Gates of Winter
- March 18/19 – Downbeat Lounge  
Gringo Starr
- March 25 – Oddfellows Hall  
The Crossed, The Hangdowns, A Fall From Innocence, Renderware
- March 25/26 – Downbeat Lounge  
Startlefish with Catherine Taddo
- March 25/26 – Foggy Notions  
Stiffler's Mom
- March 27 – Downbeat Lounge  
Redwood Central with Lynne Hanson
- March 2 – 5 – Algoma University  
Sault Youth Theater performs The Attic, the Pearls and Three Fine Girls
- March 2 – 5 – G. Verdi Banquet Hall  
Family Life presents The Boys Next Door
- March 3 – Loplops  
Michael Devoni Opening