Recent Lawrence grad dies in car accident

Play ball! Freshmen Cindy Pechacek winds up to deliver a pitch against Maran College on April 21. The run was out for this double header as the Vikings tried to improve their record in the Midwest Conference standings.

Photo by Charley Shaw

BY CHARLEY SHAW

“La Cenerentola” opens in Stansbury

BY REID KAJIKAWA

With a rousing overture, the curtain was raised on the Lawrence Opera Theatre’s production of Gioachino Rossini’s “La Cenerentola” at 7:30 p.m. on April 23 in Stansbury Theatre in the Music-Drama Center. Conducted by Bridget-Michaela Reischl and directed by Patrice Michaels-Bedi, this year’s opera is showy and full of life and energy.

“La Cenerentola” is the story of Cinderella (KristAnne Weiss, ’97) and her search for love. With the beguiling trickery characteristic of Italian opera, though, her chase is often one of hardship and deceit. Despite a few mishaps, the opera was a rousing success.

Jacopo Ferretti’s libretto (script for an opera) is based heavily on the traditional Cinderella story. Most of the principal elements remain: the abused stepdaughter, the two haughty stepisters, the prince, and the royal ball. However, Rossini argued strongly against the use of magic or any other abnormal occurrences to aid the downtrodden Cinderella, transforming the opera from a child’s fairy tale to a witty narrative of realistic characters.

No fairy godmother magically appears, whisking Cinderella to the ball in a coach made from the shell of a pumpkin, pulled by horses who were at one time mice. Instead, the benevolent character once given to a fairy or magical being is replaced with a philosopher—the prince’s wise tutor (Paul Speiser, ’97). Similarly, the part of the evil stepmother was written out in favor of an irresponsible stepfather, portrayed in a peculiar manner by junior Robb Asklof. This change not only provided a role for the comic bass, but edged “La Cenerentola” closer to the style of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century opera. Ferretti and Rossini made minor changes to the story allowing the French fairy tale to evolve into a clever comedy fit for the Italian opera scene.

“La Cenerentola” presents this year’s performers with an opportunity to explore the bel canto style of opera. Bel canto opera reached its peak around the turn of the nineteenth century, in the Classical period. This year’s production is completely unlike last year’s production of Verdi’s “Falstaff,” which was written during music’s Romantic era. “La Cenerentola” has a stronger rhythmic pulse,

continued OPERA; page 10

The prince needs a wife! Don Magnifico, left, played by junior Robb Asklof, encourages his daughter Tisbe, played by sophomore Carrie Hominick, to prepare to seek the Prince’s hand in marriage.

Photo by Charley Shaw

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A traffic accident north of Seattle, Washington, claimed the life of one Lawrencean and injured another on April 19. While trying to make U-turn at a yield sign, Megan Newcomer and Scott Sobota, both members of the class of 1996, were struck by a truck heading westbound on Highway 20. The truck slammed into the passenger side of the car, killing Newcomer instantly and leaving the driver, Sobota, in critical condition.

While passing through Mt. Vernon en route to a tulip festival, they might have been prompted to make a U-turn in order to observe a field of tulips located near the sight of the accident, said Scott’s sister Amy.

Following the crash, a nurse arrived immediately on the scene and tried to administer CPR to revive Newcomer.

Once paramedics arrived, said Amy, Scott was flown to St. Joseph’s hospital in Bellingham and was immediately placed in critical care.

Scott sustained bruises to his heart and his right lung and suffered a partially collapsed left lung. Currently he is out of critical care and being monitored in a regular hospital room.

“Medically speaking, he is out of danger,” said Amy.

Head trauma resulting from the accident has caused Scott to lapse in and out of consciousness. However, he first responded to the presence of classmate Richard Canaday on April 19 and has been able to carry on brief conversations as well as recognize familiar people.

Everybody says he is recovering very well and they are very positive about his long term recovery,” said Amy of her brother, who was a psychology major, LARY coordinator, and crew team member while at Lawrence.

Newcomer’s involvement in many aspects of Lawrence is remembered by the people who shared her four and a half academic years from matriculation in 1992 until the completion of her teaching certification fall term of 1996. Last year she completed an independent study for her psychology major entitled, “Life Stressors and Causal Explanations as a Risk Factor for Depression.”

According to her advisor, Professor Haines, Newcomer enjoyed working with adolescent children during developmental psychology labs.

“Megan was very warm and personable with the children and also was a very good scientist,” said Haines.

Newcomer was a member of the Lawrence varsity volleyball team and the women’s basketball team. She was a LARY pal and spent the winter term of 1995 at the London Study Center.

A memorial service is scheduled to take place today in her hometown of Brodhead, Wisconsin, at 1:30 p.m.
LUCC hears food survey results; still suffers financial woes

BY CHARLEY SHAW

After discussing the results from the food service questionnaire with the staff of Downer Commons during spring break, Downer Director William Fortune accompanied Director for Institutional Research Stephen Butts to LUCC with the results on April 15.

Of the 215 questionnaires that were returned, Fortune reported that approximately 70% of the responses asked for both greater variety and increased selection of healthy items. He noted that he had tried to meet the demand by making additions such as waffles and omelets.

Butts found the questionnaire response to be puzzling because on the one hand, negative comments were common while relatively high scores accompanied the comments on the other hand.

"From this questionnaire I can't tell what's broke and what's not," said Butts who later added, "If people are really fried about the quality of food, it doesn't show up here.

Several council members continued LUCC; page 2

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THE LAWRENTIAN  NEWS  THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1997

What's on at Lawrence

Friday

Biology Lecture
Laura Heuser, Lawrence alumna and professor of entomology at the University of Illinois, will present a talk entitled "The Effects of an Octopamine Agonist on Nest-mate Recognition in the Honey Bee, Apis mellifera." at 3 p.m. in Stephenson 201.

OM films
Former Monty Python member Terry Gilliam's motion picture projects "Brazil" and "12 Monkeys" will play at the Wriston Auditorium at 7:15 and 9:45 p.m. respectively. Admission is free to LSU students.

Saturday

Humanities and Social Sciences Symposium
From 9 a.m. till 12:30 p.m. students will present a multiplicity of lectures derived from their research. Topics are "Femininity, Maternity, Paternity - George Elliot's Beliefs in Diffusive Influence," "Protest Religion," and "Cognitive Dissonance Theory: Towards a Synthesis" to name a few. Presentations will be given in Main Hall.

Track Championships
The men's and women's track teams will run up against private college rivals at Whiting Field beginning at 11 a.m.

OM films
"Brazil" at 7:15 p.m., "12 Monkeys" at 9:45 p.m. at the Wriston Auditorium.

Tunes and Laughs
Riverview Lounge will be the site of comedian/musician Gary De Lina. The 1993 Lolapalooza tour member will take the stage at 8 p.m.

Lucc
said that the small and paradoxical response does not defeat the fact that students have issues in which they are concerned.

"I know it's a big issue," said Ormsby Hall rep. Brian Van Denzen. "It's unfortunate that you did not get more questionnaire, and I think that you should continue to explore..." Council members noted that improvements have been made raising the food quality at Downer over the past few years. However, Junior Natural Breen spoke on many present imperfections and stated, "Would you feed this to your families? Healthwise it's terrible..." Breen noted that vegetarians suffer a disadvantage because the quality of vegetarian options are poor. As a result, many vegetarians only eat salad.

Questions were raised about the structure of Downer's meal plan and finances. In response to Butts' comment about food service budgeting issues, Shiraz Khoury asked, "We pay specifically for food service. How does the budget figure into it?"

Plantz Hall rep. Josh Nichols inquired about where the perceived $7.50 per meal price comes from. Fortune responded that $7.50 is a cash price that does not relate to the price plan for a 19 meal plan which is broken down to $4.06.

The recent drain in Lucc program funds following the Term II Finance committee's misunderstanding that the funds to retire the deferred organization, BGLASS, came from Lucc and not the university's business office as was originally assumed, affected the General Council's allocation of Term III funds as they discussed the situation for the first time as a council. Treasurer Annie Dudley stated that the best case scenario for receiving outstanding funds from campus organizations owed back to the council was $20,000, however she added that the chances of receiving that great of an amount "is not going to happen..."

At the meeting Dude reported having approximately $4,000 in the Lucc program fund. As of press time, Hashani said that currently $10,000 had been added to the fund by collecting outstanding funds from campus organizations.

At the meeting several allocation requests were considered. The allocation requests for LUCC's four campus organizations were deferred until Lucc could possibly obtain sufficient funds or were told to fall back on dues collecting to provide funds.

Taking all the recommendations made by the Finance committee, Lucc deferred the allocation requests made by the BGS, 498,12, campus yearbook Ariel ($14,000), and VIVA ($3,063).

Funding was approved to organizations who requested smaller allocations: Greenfire ($750.00), Psychology Students Association ($25.00). The University Senate funding is for $50.00 and was recommended to refer to due collecting as a means to provide the necessary allocation.

All recommendations were approved by the Council.

The Celebrate! mainstage committee request ($8,000) to bring the band Groove Collective to campus was discussed separately after the council decided not to make an official recommendation.

It was noted that the future of Celebrate! is currently in question as a result of rainy weather conditions that ruined the 1995 festival and accrued a $25,000 debt.

Director of Finance William Hodgkiss viewed the allocation request for Friday night, September 9, on which the group would have been a financial benefit, because no fee would be charged to hear the band, and because of the unpredictability of the weather.

"I can't see why Lucc wants to take the risk," said Hodgkiss.

The same sentiment was echoed by council members.

"It's too big of a risk. The upside is huge, the down side," said Kohler rep Rahul Kalsi, who advocated a focus on student bands at the festival.

The allocation was supported by Associate Dean of Students Paul Shrode who said that the current deficit is the first time Celebrate! has been in the red and is an important Lawrence function.

"The purpose of Celebrate! is to reach out and celebrate our community as the Appleton community," said Shrode.

In response to statements during the meeting, Council president Dan Herrick noted that it is not solely student oriented and thus should not receive money derived from student activity fees, Parliamenatarian Dan Herrick noted the important ramifications that Celebrate! has for students and their organizations.

"Celebrate! is an amazing turner for a lot of campus groups and the more people that attend the more people benefit," said Herrick who noted that though he was not currently on rock music he had heard of Groove Collective.

A motion made by Van Denzen to deny the allocation was passed 6-1 with four abstentions.

Mainsstage coordinator David Bau told the Lawrence that currently, three bands are anticipated to perform at the stage located at Main Hall and the Sooley G. Mudd library.

"[Denying the allocation] affects the mainstage drastically," said Bau, "because we were trying to retire our debt of $25,000" and a group such as Groove Collective would have definitely increased attendance to draw a better crowd and therefore increase concessions.

In other news, the council agreed to restrict all campus voice mail and electronic mail. Dean of Students Nancy Trussell said that future all campus messages will be made at "administrative discretion for emergency purposes."

Speaking at the meeting, telecommunications director Richard Booth said that a single message clogs up the system for 15 minutes.

In addition, the messages are unpopular.

"It's delete right away," said Majewski. "That's how it is with the majority of students."

Women's Week: support and celebration

Women's Week celebration, sponsored by the Downer Feminist Council, began April 17 with an informative talk by a former editor of "Ms." magazine, Barbara Findlen. Among other things, Findlen addressed issues that a new and upcoming generation of feminists will encounter.

In addition to highlighting the achievements of young, progressive male and female feminists, Findlen offered advice and insight into the changes and advancements in the feminist movement over the years, explaining how feminist identities are integrated with race and gender, thus making the feminist movement universal. Professor Hazel Spears pointed out that not only did Findlen show the audience just how far today's feminists have come, but how far they still must go in order to achieve all that women deserve.

Spears noted that the women of today are definitely a force to be reckoned with, and will no longer settle for second best. In addition, Spears said that feminism has clearly defined the goals women have set for themselves, and that changes advocated by the goals are not only good for women, but also encourage and establish greater equality in society.

"The way that women can change the world is in the way that the world learns to be changed," said Spears.

Indeed, one may see different aspects of change in feminism in each of the events scheduled. Other programs for Women's Week included a poetry reading, a film screening and, "A Bathrobe, a Purvert, and Marsha Brady," directed by Malachy Boyle, the screening of the film "Girlstown;" and a poetry reading featuring original student pieces and works by acclaimed feminist authors.

These events helped to spotlight, support and encourage learning for young feminists by offering an opportunity to listen and share opinions on the subject. Overall, the week presented a number of options for students and women to further the cause of the feminist movement, celebrate its achievements, and learn more about its motives and motivations.
DFC and feminism

BY JESSICA ATHENS

This week—Women'sWeek—Downer Feminist Council (DFC) is in full swing, sponsoring everything from performance art to speakers to films and skits concerned with women and gender issues. Its high profile activities make this a fine time to introduce those either ignorant or wary of feminism to DFC.

Before discussing DFC itself, it's important to precisely consider its focus: Feminism. Even some who fully support equality for women go running when that title comes up. Assistant Professor of Psychology Hazel Spears provided some information to demystify feminism.

Feminism is defined in the American Heritage Dictionary as "belief in the social, political, and economic equality of the sexes or "the movement organized around this belief."

According to Professor Spears, feminism is similar to any other philosophy or orientation for viewing the world, except that instead of focusing on economics and poverty as Marxism does, for example, it focuses on equality between the sexes. Like any movement, feminism consists of a group of individuals sharing opinions and ideas and, likewise, those outside the group can feel threatened. In some cases, this is an understandable reaction. Feminism, however, seeks only to bring women to the same economic and social status level as men; it does not wish to put anyone down.

The importance of feminism, and the awareness of its history lies in the fact that, regardless of the progress made by suffragists and other feminists, the world is still a sexist place. Professor Spears noted: "The woman's movement, however, has the history of women's oppression will not realize women are still oppressed; therefore, she will not have the framework to understand or deal with the sexism she encounters."

Enter Downer Feminist Council: Julie Wroblewski, its president. Wroblewski explained that DFC strives to promote awareness of issues concerning women's rights and gender issues on the campus, national and global levels. In addition, DFC hopes to dispel feminist stereotypes, which prevent individuals from bonding together to fight oppression. Professor Spears concurred, saying that even those who support equality for women are reluctant to label themselves as feminist, because of the social stigma and defensiveness they encounter. Yet it's in its own personal life—whether it's speaking up or writing a letter. "Misogyny...[is] a socially acceptable form of hatred," continued DFC; page 5

Psychology professor takes prominent editorial position

BY LIZ WASHER

On Jan. 1, Associate Professor of Psychology Gerald Metalsky was appointed an associate editor for the Journal of Abnormal Psychology, an American Psychological Association publication that focuses primarily on research in psychopathology. Dr. Metalsky is eligible for sabbatical next year, and plans to continue his own work. A specialist in the field of depression, Dr. Metalsky has recently been studying this disorder in the context of HIV and bulimia. He is also focusing on integrative work within the field of dent of and hope to move people to action. According to Wroblewski, "it's important for action, even if it's in your own personal life—whether it's speaking up or writing a letter."

The atmosphere of Zacatecas is very comfortable, with no Fancy Restaurant pretensions. Bright colors and Mexican music surrounded us but were not at all intrusive while we made our dinner selections.

My friend decided on the soft shell tacos, and I chose the chicken fajitas. We didn't wait long before our food was brought to us. My friend was pleased to see three flour tortillas filled with chicken and topped with lettuce, tomatoes and a moderate sprinkling of cheese before her, but they were about to shame by the fajitas' entrance. I cleared a place for the plate with refried beans, guacamole and tomatoes. We sat down, and they brought the cast iron structure with sizzling chicken, peppers, onions and tomatoes kept warm by a large white candle, and the plate of tortillas. The flavors stop that cast iron skillet were, to quote my friend, "to die for."

To my dismay, my appetite was not equal to the amount of food before me. I would have liked to continue eating until there was nothing left, but both my companion and I were unable to clean our plates due to our feebie stomachs.

With the exception, however, that we would attempt to share an order of fried ice cream. Although we were unable to finish it, it was not at all intrusive, and the ice cream added a ball of cream and a marshmallow cherry is a treat indeed.

As we departed, due to the comfortable environment, friendly staff, and delicious food, the same could be said of the restaurant entire.

Fajitas to die for

BY FRANCES CHEWING

When in doubt, go Mexican. This old adage will not lead you astray in choosing among the restaurants in downtown Appleton.

This past Monday night, I strolled to Zacatecas at 107 West College Avenue accompanied by a regular patron of the establishment. When we walked into the restaurant we waited but a moment for a host to seat us. He immediately recognized my friend, and they had known each other for some time. He and my friend conversed in Spanish.

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The week in fashion

BY T. ARTHUR MIDTOWNE
Sprung in Style

Beginning this week I will review the latest trends and the timeless bends which curve us around, within, and through the timeless bends which Sprung in Style will liberate the campus each review the latest trends and issue from the muddy slum of the newest of the novel, the eldest of the ancient. Walk on and longer at the shadows of and sexy as some had hoped 1989's cuts and colors, gaze upon spring.

Speaking of spring, this week begins its overview; the newest of the novel, the eldest of the ancient. Walk on and ignore everything you sat reading this winter, for this season is not as revolutionary and sexy as some had hoped in December. Here is the Lawrentian's dirt for him and her. This week it's him.

Khaki Equinox

Men without paychecks need not panic. The most welcomed guest of spring is khaki. Tan and beige have signed the book. Simple, elegant, unassumingly, and translucent in the most down-to-earth manner, khaki is versatile. It is the most formal of the informal, the most formal of the formal, and beige is more semi-formal than semi-formal. With a turtleneck a sunny picnic, out at dusk with a navy, black, or matching jacket, khaki and its kin are a pleasure. Black and any of the semi-formal than semi-formal. With a turtleneck a sunny picnic, out at dusk with a navy, black, or matching jacket, khaki and its kin are a pleasure. Black and any of the three make a nocturnal delight. Winter's black pocket square should not be doomed to the closet. Wear it while it's still cool. Add a fedora or a white carnation on the lapel and knock them to the grass for the ten-count.

The Shirt OF your Back

White shirts (the French cuff will NEVER retire from the chairmanship of class) are not to be underestimated. Geometric ties, the pocket square, and collarless shirts (of all colors) are sure things. The wide shouldered jackets of the last year and a half still go strong, but the tapered waists are a waste, have them let out if you haven't yet.

Don'ts

A few to-be-avoided include white in profusion, especially jackets and slacks. Wear white this spring and you will scare people. Tom Wolfe is frightened, is he not? FadUl trousers are iffy at best, with a plaid jacket they are fashion fratricide. If you wish to avoid the brown trend, then go with blue. The white collar with the blue or patterned shirt, all the rage for the last couple of springs, is also decedent and tacky. A white hanky is not permissible if the shirt is a solid color, such as grey or blue.

Ignore the Critics

The khaki and classic look has been criticised with abandon as part of a greater, and pointless, 70's revival. I disagree with the nay-sayers. Tan, beige, and khaki afford the man the luxury of understatement. Mix-match different textures and shades for a far from retro look. Wool remains strong. Cotton, silk, satin, and linen, the spring standards, are applicable and even the camel coat. A scarf will add pizzazz while we wait for spring to warm up. Go moderately with these stereotypically low-proof garbs of tans. Overkill can make your companions unpleasantly drunk. A corduroy jacket with khaki galore can make you too closely resemble Ernie Hemingway. Poorly delivered elephant hunting jokes will ensue. So, this spring safari through your favorite, saucy spring saucers; you'll spice them into stoic splendor.

Ask Arty

Dear Arty, dearest Arty, I am a cat. I have a purple blazer which I hope to wear with black pants and a turtle-green turtleneck. I have a black turtleneck, should I wear it instead?

Swingfully,
Scuba Certification on Green Dolphin Street

Dear Mr. Certification
This cat digs the black turtleneck over the green with a purple blazer.

Dear Arty,
I know a mild-mannered woman who likes to dress in a non-effeminate manner. I wear a jacket and a button-down shirt with a sweaters vest in the winter. As it warms up, and as I am expected to dress more professionally, I will have to lose the vest. I have problems with wearing ties, as they're too masculine. Still, however, the neck seems lacking. What should I do?

Thanks,
Soon to graduate

My dear Soon,
The scarf puts the human being back into the women's power-suit. The warmth and dignity that a scarf brings to practically any outfit is remarkable. They can be found at little expense, especially used, and are the easiest thing to borrow. Tuck one in or tie it tight to the side for the asymmetrical look. More on that next week.

Arty, please help. I have heard so many conflicting opinions from the industry and from the community. I waver. The world no longer speaks with certainty. Can blue and black be worn together?

With philosophic praise,
Ms. Mannie Kant

Lovely Ms. Kant,
Light blue, Carolina blue, baby blue, powder, aqua, and royal with black are categorically imperatives. Punch us into outer space. Navy and black, however, are an aesthetic analytic error. Ignore, abort, retry.

By Chad Freeburg

Whether one is a propo­nent of multiculturalism or not, there was much to appreciate in Nobuko Miyamoto's multimedia presentation entitled "A Grain of Sand." The presentation explored the experiences of Asian-Americans and other minority groups in the United States through the first-person accounts of Ms. Miyamoto. The performance took place on April 19.

Images of sand were prevalent throughout the presentation. The importance of sand in creating the central motif of the performance was emphasized in the minds of the audience with Miyamoto's poignant recollection of her internment during World War II.

A disturbed and uncomfortable silence filled the theater as Miyamoto described how she and her parents were forced to live in a desert internment camp during World War II. Because of national paranoia surrounding the unprovoked notion that all people of Japanese ancestry were spies, Miyamoto and her family lost all that they could not carry to internment.

Miyamoto was a very small child at the time of her internment and the image of sand all around her left a distinct impression on me as it did with the audience Saturday evening.

Miyamoto stressed the importance of the unification of all racial groups. She noted that minorities, specifically Asian-Americans, are to be found everywhere, like grains of sand, and therefore all must work together with all people to understand and get along with each other.

The description of minorities as being "grains of sand" was not derogatory. Rather it was uplifting, saying that the commonality of minorities was what stood them out and made it strong. "This is the face of an American," said Miyamoto, pointing at her own face, in a brief question and answer period following her presentation.

In addition to the powerful ideas and symbolism, many technical aspects of the performance added to its originality and creativity.

Props took up a very minimal amount of stage, although each was important. In the center of the theater continued SAND; page 12

"A Grain of Sand" much more than just a grain of sand

Dubl Aicatgj
Lawrence International Cabaret Highlights

April 13 Lawrence International held its twenty-first Cabaret. This year Lawrence International is enthusiastically celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Campus percussion group “Sambistas,” directed by Dane Richeson, below, performed at the Cabaret.

The night featured special presentations from students, including Pooja Sachdev, right, providing an array of traditional and modern performances.

DFC

and we need to make all forms of hatred unacceptable.”

So what does DFC do to promote awareness and action against the oppression of women? First of all, in conjunction with the Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Straight Society (BGLASS), DFC provides the Resource Room in 107 Colman with easily accessible files of clippings on important issues (such as abortion rights), books about queer theory, feminist journals, etc. DFC also hopes to provide links to other groups off campus, such as NOW, PFLAG, and organizations to help those with AIDS. DFC works with BGLASS often because, as Wroblewski claims, “You can’t separate bad ways of constructing gender.” DFC also sponsors Women’s Week, and works with other campus groups.

DFC consists of 15 regular members, and holds meetings on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. in Colman 107. The meetings are conducted in an egalitarian fashion, without the hierarchy of president, vice-president, secretary. Meetings typically focus on specific women’s issues or campus events that members are concerned with. All members of the Lawrence campus are welcome to attend DFC meetings and visit the Resource Room.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Lawrentian presents boring material, lacks opinions

This letter is in response to Erik Brubaker's "State of the Paper," in which he defends the Lawrentian in response to being labeled "not-hot" by the Princeton Review. The problem is that Mr. Brubaker has missed the point. The state of the Lawrentian is so bad that you can even see parts of it, and just have Linda Barkin sum it up in a weekly informational voice mail. The Lawrentian is a summary of the posters plastered all over campus and bulletins found in our mailboxes. Erik Brubaker's goals to make the Lawrentian readable are irrelevant to the problems of content.

What makes the Lawrentian suck, or "not hot," is that it is boring stuff. The Lawrentian has failed to give coverage of anything of interest. Such as sufficient coverage of LU sports. A glaring example can be seen in the coverage of the LU basketball team; why so few articles on the best team in Lawrence history? The Press-Gazette had many more articles which got at the character of our fellow student-athletes. Instead we are inundated by stories about room changes and the sesquicentennial, things we have read about in campus mail for many weeks now. In short the Lawrentian is old news. Who cares about the "100% accuracy" of the paper, if it is perfect and perfectly boring it is still bad.

Furthermore, do we care if the Lawrentian is published a day late? Will we be waiting in rooms impatiently pacing in the hope of being the first to get our hands on the Lawrentian? A big reason why the paper is boring is the lack of opinions. Is Hrush Bhatt the only one on campus who has an opinion? Perhaps a sex or drugs column would alleviate some of the pains of this exercise in boredom known as the Lawrentian. An addition of columns about these things would not be a sin; other college papers include columns for such discourse. Not only do students use computers, but they do other things as well. There can be no question that Mr. Brubaker has missed the point—the Lawrentian is sorely in need of some life, not just more information. -Nikhil Choureyy

EDITORIALS

I would like to comment on Jessica Athens' editorial, "New room selection process discourages "prizes" in the last issue of the Lawrentian. Her position, summed up in her final paragraph, is that the new selection penalizes students choosing to study off campus and is "...thoughtless and contradictory" to the university's goals by adding another difficulty... to the process of studying off-campus."

First, we must remember that this room selection replaces one already in place, and any evaluation of it must account for the status quo. For the past several years, up to 3/4 of the rising sophomore class has been unable to pick rooms at room selection because upperclass students have already taken them all. Those students who have picked rooms have often done so at the cost of having to move once or even twice during the year. These students held true for some juniors, especially those trying to get singles. If we define "penalize" as not allowing students to pick rooms they may want, or even deal with, we are currently "penalizing." The intercollegiate basketball team is one of those who have picked rooms, this system actually improves many of their chances of getting them.

Her evaluation of the roommate situation is not entirely accurate, either. If two people, one of whom is going off campus, want to live together, they can both pull out of room selection and wait to be housed as a roommate pair. They may not get their first choice of room, but they will be allowed to roommates while the other one is on campus. The person left alone for part of the year will have to be housed or choose housing for the term which he or she is alone, but any problems resulting from this seem unlikely to trigger the 1,000 moves which currently take place. It also does not seem a particular hindrance to the student studying abroad.

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Her final paragraph asserts that there may be a more equitable way to change the selection, and that the new system has no advantage over the old. She then goes on to dismiss the new system as "thoughtless." I agree that there may be a more equitable system. The Residence Life Committee worked very hard to develop the best system we could, but we are hardly omniscient. I would hope that if this year's changes show anything, they show that the system CAN be changed. If a more equitable system is devised, I see no reason why it cannot be considered and, if it truly is superior, adopted. The Committee's goal is to adopt the best system, and is always open to suggestions. As far as advantages, I would argue that dropping the number of "penalized" students from about 400 to around 150, while offering many of those 150 better rooms than they would otherwise have, is a great advantage. It is true that some students will still be shortchanged, but this will be true of any system we devise, short of building more student housing. Under this system, we shortchange far fewer students than we do now, and most of those who are shortchanged will still have more options than they would have under the current system. In a nutshell, the new room selection offers the most flexibility to the most students who need it most. If such a system is thoughtless, the current one is nothing short of malicious.

Chris Varas
LUCC Residence Life Committee Chair
Terms I and II
Environmentalism: A friend to man

BY ERIK CARLSON

On the subject of debate, “that environmentalism’s world view is valid.” I say unquestionably, yes. Before I lapse into dogmatism, let me tell you why. The term “environmentalism” means different things to different people. To some, it is a movement of left-wing earth-dwelling, tree-hugging yahoos. To others, it is a quite honest crusade against greed, for the sake of being part of a larger being, an ecosystem with intrinsic value. The truth is, there are many definitions and little unification in terms of a definite political front. However, when seeing the issues at stake, I think one can come to a reasonable understanding of the term environmentalism. The definition of the word I intend to defend is: Environmentalism is a movement (loosely use this term) based on science that aims to protect suitable living conditions for human beings. I hope to show that this is the understanding of the word “or world view” that many scientists, politicians, and the general populace strongly supports as “valid.”

Environmentalism can be said to have the following values: 1. Nature has aesthetic value. It is very beautiful! Who doesn’t like to spend some amount of time outside? Some like walking in the park, others like hiking in mountains, and still others like to fish or hunt. Environmentalism really reflects the American pioneer spirit, that of exploring the mysterious unknown. We have adapted to extreme conditions, and even extreme landscapes. National park attendance still outweighs the attendance at Disney theme parks by far. Much abuse results from industry destroys this value through practices like blind waste dumping, strip mining, and clear-cut logging. Nature has value by the virtue of our depending on it. By seeing ourselves as part of nature, we might even say that it has inherent value. We are a part of an ecological system, sometimes referred to as a “food web,” or “food chain.” The saying “we all live downstream” nicely paraphrases this concept.

Now, let’s keep some things straight. This world view values human life more than any other on the earth. Science tells us that we not only rely on nature, we are nature. I need not list all of the physiological processes to which we are subject. One learns very young about input and output systems of one’s own body. Furthermore, we interact with our surroundings in almost every aspect of our lives. We are consumers of renewable and non-renewable resources provided by the planet we live on. We even construct essential parts of the environment we live on. Understanding our interactions with what supports us might lead us to want to care for our environment. If we do not care for it, are we really promoting our own life?

Environmentalism promotes new technology and a healthy economy. Technology is our application of science (which, incidentally, is a study of the way things work in nature) in order to better human life. Natural environmentalism supports technology. Any economist will tell you that dead or sick consumers of products aren’t good consumers. Unfortunately, many companies see the short term interest of not even considering environmental values. This kind of rationale leads to ecological disasters like Minamata Bay in Japan, and the ignition of the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland—twice! Science has found that our own technology, or rather, our use of bad technology, and bad economic strategy like polluting leads to spreading disease and birth defects.

Some ask, “our resources are abundant, why should we waste our time with environmentalism?” If one can conceive of a situation of needing to act environmentally, then one is an environmentalist. World overpopulation is certainly a problem on the horizon, if not already immediate. Besides, if resources are abundant, why can’t we appropriate them so that we don’t have to deal with hunger, violence or disease anymore? Others ask, “Is industry really that bad, and condemnable?” Of course not. In environmental conflict, all sides with economic interests should be represented and thoughtfully considered. Sometimes, we have to take the good with the bad. Environmentalism holds that human life needs to be defended in both the long and short runs—a position that undoubtedly results in conflict. For example, the use of DDT has done a lot of good (crop production increase, malaria control), and a lot of bad (hormone and nervous disruption, threatening the future reproduction of our own species!). Environmentalism calls for practical understanding and equal consideration in environmental conflict. Environmentalism believes that solutions can be found at the progression of science. Environmentalism has brought a lot of improvements to the human condition since its “conception.” It is responsible for the abolition of inhumane working conditions, the foundation of such successful programs as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Center for Disease Control, and the Food and Drug Administration. Industry has a rather poor record of environmentally regulating itself, although it sometimes will to avoid lawsuits.

Environmentalism is valid because it puts faith in science, action and human understanding, not some abstract principle like laissez-faire self-regulation or Adam Smith’s invisible hand.

The philosophical flaws of environmentalism

BY BEN BAYER

I oppose environmentalism on uncommodious grounds. Rather than declaring that it is a noble ideal in theory but unrealistic in practice, I hold that environmentalism is invalid in practice because it does not work in theory. Environmentalism’s world view is not only false, but it poses a grave danger to the future of mankind.

What is environmentalism? An environment is one’s surroundings; environmentalism is the belief that one’s surroundings are important in one sense or another. To create an ideology that focuses either primarily on man’s surroundings (nature) rather than men to work with the exclusion of man. Environmentalism excludes man in one of two ways. First, it can declare nature to have “intrinsic value,” such that it is worthy of respect “for its own sake.” Second, it can be “pragmatic” and attempt to balance the needs of nature and man (while still treating nature as having some intrinsic value).

Third, it can declare that all environmental policies must be undertaken for man’s sake, but that his only means to adapt to his environment, making sure to “leave well enough alone.” If one considers one’s self to be an environmentalist, it is likely that one does so on the grounds of one of the three theories listed above. However, each of these theories is philosophically flawed.

Does nature have intrinsic value? Not if the concept of “value” has any meaning. A “value” is “that which one acts to gain and/or keep.” Values are values to someone; the existence of a value implies the existence of a value. As such no value can be no such thing as an intrinsic value, a value somehow cut off from all other values, existing unto itself. The independent, refined Platonic form.

Values are means to ends. If there is to be no infinite regress of such means and ends, there must be some ultimate value, an end in itself, to ground the hierarchy of values. The ultimate end towards which all the lesser values are the means is a living organism’s life. Only living organisms pursue an ultimate end in order to maintain their lives. The standard which determines good and bad is the organism’s life—the kind of creature it is.

Can we find a proper balance between the needs of man and the needs of the environment? Not if the needs of man has any meaning. A man’s ultimate value is his life; his standard of value is man’s life. Because man survives by reason and must choose to think in order to do so, he needs a code of values to guide his choices—he needs morality. Therefore, the moral is the rational, the immoral is the irrational.

For ethics to serve its purpose of maintaining the value of human life, morals must be held as absolutes. There is no room for compromise on matters of principle. To give an inch to the flawed standard of “intrinsic value” is tantamount to throwing away the yardstick of man’s life; in doing so, one implicitly allows nature to be one’s standard. There can be no weighing between which competes the principles, because there is no third standard by which to decide how much of each of these incommensurables must be permitted.

Is man’s best means of survival adapting to his environment? Not unless one grants one’s environment the benefit of the doubt. Through his reason, man produces science, technology and industry to alter and conquer his environment, thereby improving his material condition. There is no room for the adapting to one’s environment in the ever-changing, unforgiving place called earth.

Now observe that every variant of environmentalism shares a common disdain for industry, the process of improving human life which has lifted us from the primitive levels of subsistence enjoyed during the middle ages. Environmentalism is similarly opposed to capitalism, the political system which provided the foundation necessary for industry to flourish.

Only capitalism—the system in which all property is privately owned—can avert the “tragedy of the commons” with respect to all authentic environmental problems, problems which actively threaten man. Only by extending private property rights to such commodities as wildlife, grazing lands, forests, water, and even oceans can man ever hope to avert the extinction of valuable species, overgrazing, deforestation, water shortages and overfishing, respectively. And yet, by focusing on the intrinsic value of nature, environmentalism distracts us from legitimate “environmental” tasks. Thus, the bad theory rears its ugly head in the form of bad practice.

No risk of an alleged global warming or ozone hole could be worse than the active threat posed by environmentalism to mankind. It is anti-industry, anti-man, and anti-life. Nothing could be more dangerous than that.
A Nichols’ Worth

BY JOSHUA NICHOLS

The Rude Boys came out in force Saturday for Lawrence’s annual ska extravaganza, Skappleton. In fact, the crowd contained not only the Rude Boys, but also skaters, skinheads, hippies, neo-punks, grungers, and at least a few hard-core. All these individuals, while regulars at ska shows, appear only sporadically on the Lawrence campus. As far as I’m concerned this was a beautiful thing, both for the show itself and for campus in general.

The show benefitted from its varietious population because that’s what ska is all about: multiculturalism. That’s what ska has always been about (except for some British ska). Ska is about people coming together under one roof to “skank it up” in a peaceful environment. Unlike so much of today’s popular music, ska isn’t about drugs, gangs, and violence; it’s about having fun ... together. While Ice-T is rapping about cop killers and Napalm Death is singing about, well, napalm and death and the like, and NIN is singing about violent sex, the Scofflaws sing about the life and times of William Shatner. Why William Shatner? Because that’s what ska is all about, multiculturalism. That’s why ska is not entirely about drugs, people coming together under one roof to “skank it up” in a peaceful environment.

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Rediscovering student government: What does LUCC mean to you?

By Rajesh Shahani

Vice President, LUCC

What does the Lawrence University Community Council mean to you? A student government that is ineffective, a student government that is too involved in the nitty-gritty of parliamentary procedure to get any real work done, or a student government that tightly controls student money and does not judiciously dispense it? These are just some of the more tame remarks about LUCC that Rebecca and I have heard since assuming office this term. It troubles us to know that members of the Lawrence community, both faculty and students, have begun to lose faith in and to undermine the capability of LUCC as an organization.

Founding Goals

LUCC was formed with the aim of acting as a liaison between students and faculty and to empower the students. The council was meant to be an organization that would be a voice for the student body. It became so involved with the procedures of mundane governance, legislation and parliamentary procedure that it stopped focusing on the larger issues concerning students. Successive student governments followed a similar routine, without ever questioning where LUCC was, where it was going, and what it actually stood for. Student government on our campus has lacked direction, and we freely admit it.

Faculty Relations

Our cabinet has recognized the need for changing the way LUCC presently functions, and we have made it our top priority to change. We are striving to perform the initially envisioned role of Lawrence's student government. Over the past few years, there has been a considerable strain in the relations between LUCC and the faculty & administration, partly because they shared some of the aims of the student government, and partly because LUCC never did anything to correct it. As far as the faculty last interest was in LUCC, and treated the council accordingly. We as a cabinet have made efforts to improve this relationship. We are meeting regularly with President Warch and his staff to update him on issues concerning student life. Each week, we are also holding informal lunch meetings with faculty members of different departments to address student concerns and to seek out their ideas. Rebecca and I also went to the last faculty meeting, where we introduced ourselves to the faculty and told them about what we plan to do this year. Our ideas were well received, and we hope they contact us whenever the need arises.

Student Retention

One of the major problems LUCC has encountered is the retention of Lawrence students. We are meeting regularly with representatives of the Office of Student Affairs to discuss the problem. We are trying to improve this relationship and to empower students by giving them the opportunity to express their opinions. Rebecca and I plan to meet with at least one student each week to discuss their concerns and to find out what they are planning to do this coming year. Our cabinet has made efforts to improve this relationship and to empower students by giving them the opportunity to express their opinions. Rebecca and I plan to meet with at least one student each week to discuss their concerns and to find out what they are planning to do this coming year.

Relations With Organizations

Another goal of ours has been to improve our relations with organizations on this campus. We have approximately 120 organizations, some of whom are more active than others. Rebecca and I plan to attend at least one meeting of each organization to find out what they are planning to do this coming year. We are also trying to improve our relations with the Finance Committee, which is in the midst of the hectic budgeting process for the 1997-98 school year. The money that LUCC has is all student money. It is the collective amount of the activities of all student pays. Still, it is a limited amount. This amount is not large by any means, when it has to cater to the needs of 120 organizations and other indigenous groups on this campus. I would like you to keep this in mind when asking for funds. It would not be fair to give large chunks of money to a few organizations at the expense of the others. As a Finance Committee, we are trying to use our best judgment to allocate funds, based on an organization's need and our limited budget.

We Need YOUR Input

Finally, we have tried to make LUCC a more internally effective organization. Our meetings have focused less on the never ending limitations of parliamentary procedure, and have instead focused more on the issues at hand, as can be attested by your hall representatives. As a Finance Committee, we are trying to improve this relationship, which we fervently hope that you do for either Rebecca or me, please send them to the Lawrence, and we will respond to you promptly.

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Homophobic vandalism has no place at Lawrence

I was far from pleased with what I saw while walking in the Ormsby stairwell at 1 a.m. during finals week second term. Disturbing vandalism had appeared on the stairwell walls and on the third floor bulletin board. Any reader of student newspapers would be familiar with the nooses tied to the silhouettes of women in the stairwell. The vandalism seemed to be aimed at the women students on campus and the Ormsby residents. The vandalism message behind these rude scrawls greatly disappointed me—could students at Lawrence actually stoop so low as to commit such an act? It upset me the most that the vandalism felt so secure in its escape from punishment that they could deface the well-traveled stairwell.

The reaction to the vandalism was way too slow. Not only did it take two days before it was painted over (and not very well; traces of the vandalism can still be seen), but I heard relatively few complaints about the incident. No explanations, apologies, or criticisms of this incident were heard from the residents by Ormsby staff, a fact that I find unfair. I am certain that many Ormsby students on campus have no interest in living anywhere that utilizes penis and homosexuality for decorative purposes. I feel shortchanged and infuriated that no one cared enough about students' comfort with this vandalism and am confused over why nothing was done about this, even when students' names were used.

After talking to the Ormsby RHA about this, I learned that RLAs suggested the vandalism was most likely from "outside the Ormsby community." This is a curious statement; the students whose names were used either are current Ormsby residents or have lived in Ormsby this year. Perhaps no one in that hall took the time to realize this. Those who are interested in changing the current entire issue was appalling—I must stress that the illustrations in the stairwell are not cute, funny, or harmless to me. While those present at an Ormsby hall meeting that took place approximately six weeks after this incident could mouth the words, "Homophobia of any kind is unacceptable," I cannot simply be eliminated by punishment and anger. While the university is not responsible for changing every student's homophobic opinion, it is responsible for creating an environment accepting of all sexualities. I expect to live and be educated in a school where diversity is expected to do more work done in much less time. Once again, we look forward to a great year ahead. If you have any questions (which we fervently hope that you do) for either Rebecca or me, please send them to the Lawrence, and we will respond to you promptly.

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Opera

and is more straightforward musically. In this regard, it is in the same style as Mozart's "La Nozze de Figaro" but set apart by geography and the uniqueness of the Italian sense of humour evident in Rossini's writing.

A distinguishing characteristic of bel canto opera is the virtuosic nature of the music. All of the singers are asked to sing incredibly quickly, while paying careful attention to volume and articulation. Focusing on the difficulty of singing in this style, first year student Marika Yedinak commented that it is "incredibly difficult to do what KrisAnne Weiss, the soprano lead does, especially that evenly." However, in the face of these challenges, the singers have responded with enthusiasm. Musical Director Bridget-Michaela Reischl remarked that during this show the singers were doing exceptionally well, "especially that evenly." However, it is "incredibly difficult to do what KrisAnne Weiss, the soprano lead does, especially that evenly." However, in the face of these challenges, the singers have responded with enthusiasm. Musical Director Bridget-Michaela Reischl remarked that during this show the singers were doing exceptionally well, "especially that evenly." However, in the face of these challenges, the singers have responded with enthusiasm. Musical Director Bridget-Michaela Reischl remarked that during this show the singers were doing exceptionally well, "especially that evenly."
**THE LAWRENTIAN**
ARTS / ENTERTAINMENT THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1997

**Gilliam's "Brazil" satirizes bureaucratic society**

**BY STEVE RODGERS**

If you've ever grumbled about all the red tape you have to wade through just to add a class to your schedule, then you're already ac-
cimating a movie like "Brazil." Directed by Terry Gilliam, who first made a name for himself as Monty Python’s animator and later as director of films like "Time Bandits" and "The Fisher King," this is really a work of satire that conjures up a society (not too unlike our own) that's literally bound and gagged by red tape. This is truly an Information Society: people are reduced to numbers and data sets; deaths are reported as "deletions," "errors," "corrections." Citizens lead bleak, paranoid, and empty lives, under the tight hold of the ever-present and ever-invisible Central Services (no offense to the people in Brook, whose motto is, aptly, "Information is the key to prosperity.")

This isn't the future of the Road Warrior (no cities-turned-deserts, no spiked helmets, no Tina Turner). Nor is it the future of a movie like "Total Recall" (no Iron Man), the Borodin Quartet's best investment was the best investment the Borodin Quar-
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"12 Monkeys," a dark, futuristic action-thriller

BY STEVE RODGERS

If "Brazil" is darkly comic, then 12 Monkeys, also directed by Gilliam, is just dark. No mistake here—this is the future: dilapidated and inhospitable because a deadly virus has wiped out five billion of the Earth's inhabitants. In Brazil the world was consumed and controlled by information. In '12 Monkeys' Gilliam has chosen a somewhat less original threat, but one which is, arguably, more disastrous and—perhaps for 1995, the year the film was made—more "current."

In an attempt to develop a cure for the deadly virus, scientists from the future elect James Cole (Bruce Willis) to travel back to the past and wipe out the virus in its "pure" form. Cole, living (if we can call it that) in a massive underground shelter, is only plucked from his cage and summoned before a corps of eerie scientists who wear clear plastic clothing items. By this she means Cole by his last name, to which he replies, as if stung: "You call me James." Then there are those lines which, in an attempt to sound pithy, come off instead sounding hokey and self-evident. "Psychiatry," Kathryn bemoans. "It's the latest religion. We decide what right and wrong and we decide who's crazy or not."

What this film does magnificently, though, is weave together a time travel paradox that will send you spinning. One interesting idea it sets forth is that the prophets of the past who predicted world disasters (i.e., Nos. tradamus) were actually agents from the future. And, as in Brazil, some of the most effective scenes are the simplest. Cole, sitting in the back seat of Kathryn's car, listens, teary-eyed, to '50s rock-and-roll and Louis Armstrong (you guessed it once again): "It's a Wonderful World". "I love the music of the 20th century," he says.

In short, "12 Monkeys" is not nearly as artistic as "Brazil." "Brazil" works because of the finer touches, the dubs here and there of ordinary conversation. Late in the film, Kathryn refers to Cole by his last name, to which he replies, as if stung: "You call me James." Then there are those lines which, in an attempt to sound pithy, come off instead sounding hokey and self-evident. "Psychiatry," Kathryn bemoans. "It's the latest religion. We decide what right and wrong and we decide who's crazy or not."

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