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Robichaud, and anyone else we
have forgotten.

This issue is dedicated to
*Rain - it makes the
snow go away*

What's the point: elections in Zimbabwe

by Brian Barnett

Robert Mugabe appears to be on his way to a fresh mandate as president of Zimbabwe.

The elections held in that country this past weekend were anything but democratic and legitimate. Mugabe ignored a supreme court decision which ordered the government to hold a third day of elections nation-wide and instead opened only the polls in the capital on the third day. (This is odd because the court is known to be sympathetic to the despotic president.)

Mugabe wouldn't even go along with his own supporters' attempts to give the election a thin veil of legitimacy. Thousands of people waiting in line were refused permission to vote despite a claim by the justice minister that everyone lined up at the polls would have a chance to vote.

This all reinforces the well known truth that Mugabe has no regard for the democratic process. The farces called elections should not be recognized by the international community. Even if by some miracle Mugabe fails to win, the process of elections is so rotten in Zimbabwe the results, regardless of what they may be, could not be considered legitimate by any reasonable standard. Mugabe's thugs man

the polls, draw up the voters lists (which apparently include the names of hundreds of dead Mugabe supporters), and control the media outlets which give the voters information. Foreign journalists were kicked out of the country before the elections which proves Mugabe has no time for anyone who hopes to scrutinize his tactics. The United Nations needs to step in and clean up Zimbabwe's electoral system.

The people want to vote and they need to have a fair and free election so they can choose a legitimate leader. If the UN needs to send in troops to help its workers run the election (read: to fight off Mugabe's forces which would surely oppose intervention as he also controls the military), then so be it.

The meeting of the G-8 leaders is coming up and Africa is certainly going to be a hot topic. These leaders, who were all elected democratically, need to be firm in opposing Mugabe and others who hope to wield power in a similar fashion. To allow these abuses to stand undermines the notion of democracy in a part of the world that needs democratic rule if peace is to be achieved.

If the G-8 leaders are truly committed to democracy worldwide then they must be active in holding others to the same standard to which they are held; legitimate electoral endorsement by their nations citizens.

The life and death of freedom of religion

by Danny Elias

A few years back I had the opportunity to dine with several members of the Jehovah's Witness denomination. They were quite willing to fill me in on dogmatic details. But, by the time they were finished advocating the tenor of their beliefs, I found myself unable to share their convictions. Duly, they didn't share mine. No problem - freedom of religion, right?

Seemingly, a Canadian can have any religion and practice any ritual they choose within reasonable limits. Normally, these court-established limits come into play when ritual begins to affect or hurt other uninvolved Canadians, either directly or indirectly. If your weekly religious rite is lighting my car on fire, you'll likely be visiting the inside of a courtroom. But, we all know religion isn't only about the way we live, it's also about how we deal with death. So, if your philosophy has some sort of regulations on death, not violating reasonable limits, so be it.

Normally, this is the case for Jehovah's Witnesses in refusing blood transfusions. Courts have decided that the right to refuse treatment, even if death could ensue, is a

vested right for all Canadians. But this right also has its limits - the courts want to ensure that when minors are in such a position they have "sufficient intelligence and understanding" to make the decision. This was decided in a 1985 case where a 16-year-old girl was able to make a medical decision against her parent's will and consent.

So, why has a 16-year-old Calgary girl, a Jehovah's Witness, been denied the right to refuse a blood transfusion when she seems capable enough to make the choice and, on top of that, has the support of her mother? The reason the court gave is disappointing to say the least. Apparently, "the right to life overrides religious rights." The girl has appealed, but the courts will only hear the case in late April. In the meantime, she is receiving blood transfusions "under restraint and sedation," contrary to the principles of her religion.

We haven't merely lost a portion of our freedom of religion - it seems to have been completely undermined. By extracting the essence of spiritual beliefs, the meaning and rights to life and death, and putting them in some sort of hierarchy of importance for everyone to observe and obey is not unlike the reunification of state and religion - where freedom of religion doesn't exist.

ATTENTION ALL UNB FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATES!

Your Student Union will be updating its By-laws
and preparing the Budget for next year!

The schedule of readings is as follows:

March 26th: 1st Reading
April 2nd: 2nd Reading
April 9th: 3rd and Final Reading

Council meetings are held each Tuesday at 7:00
P.M. in Room 103 of the SUB.

Be sure to come out and have your say!... afterall,
it's your \$81.

Contact the Student Union at unbsu@unb.ca

Computer Survey

In an effort to improve computer and information technology services at UNB Fredericton, the UNB Fredericton Senate Technology Services User Committee is carrying out its annual survey of computer users. The shift to Webmail is just one of the changes instituted as a result of previous surveys.

The survey form is available on the internet at the following URL.

<https://www.unb.ca/CompUSurv/>

Please note the "s" in "https". This year's NEW and IMPROVED survey can be completed online in less than ten minutes. A UNB email address and a PIN number are required but will be removed from the submissions before analysis. Answers may be changed, but only the most recent submission will be considered. All surveys should be completed by March 18, 2002.

An added feature for this year is that student participants are eligible to win one of 5 draws for \$10 of print credits. Faculty and staff participants are eligible for one of 2 draws for \$10 gift certificates donated by the UNB Bookstore.

Thank you for your help. Results of previous surveys are available through the Senate Technology Services Committee link at the following URL.

<http://www.unb.ca/inside.html>



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Radiologic Technology Training

The Moncton Hospital School of Radiologic Technology is accepting applications for admission to the training program which commences in September 2002.

The Moncton Hospital School provides the theory and clinical instruction in the safe use of ionizing electromagnetic radiation (x-rays) to perform diagnostic procedures in the diagnosis of injury and disease.

Applicants must have successfully completed first year university. High school and/or university physics is required.

For information and application forms contact:

Pam Henderson, BSc, RTR, ACR

The Moncton Hospital

School of Radiologic Technology

Telephone: (506) 857-5387

E-mail: pahender@sehcc.health.nb.ca

Application deadline is April 30, 2002.



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Please send me ☐ The 2002 course calendar ☐ Information on McGill residences UNB-01



2002 COMPETITION CIDA AWARDS FOR CANADIANS

Application Deadline: April 15

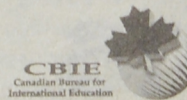
Website: <http://www.cbie.ca/canstu.html>

The objective of the CIDA Awards Program is to support individual contributions of Canadians to international development. Eligible applicants are master's students and professionals who wish to conduct action research or a service project in partnership with an organization in a developing country. Approximately 60 awards will be allocated this year, through a competitive process involving review and selection by an independent committee composed of academics and professional experts.

The program encourages initiative and leadership qualities as applicants are required to establish contact with an organization in a developing country, prepare a project proposal relevant to the host country's priorities and, if selected, coordinate all logistical and financial arrangements. The award of up to \$10,000 defrays direct costs of their project, including travel and subsistence in the field.

The program is offered by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and administered by the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE). For more information about the criteria and application procedures, please visit CBIE's website or contact us by telephone at (613) 237-4820, ext 234 or e-mail smelanson@cbie.ca.

Application forms are available on the Internet. Printed or electronic version will be provided upon request.



Canadian International
Development Agency