The University Students’ Council was dubbed “Underdemocratic Silencing Censoring,” for two hours on Concrete Beach yesterday as a group of students protest- ed the USC — silently.

Students from various clubs and student groups, including Oxfam and the former Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights, dressed in black with duct tape covering their mouths in a silent protest to symbolize the USC’s alleged censorship on campus.

Complaints stem from the USC’s silencing of issues raised by groups perceived as controversial and the increased bureaucracy and control the USC holds, said Dalia Al-Dabbas, SPHR co-president and co-organizer of the protest.

“Silencing Censoring” for two days as a group of students protested for Palestinian Human Rights, and student groups, including Oxfam, was dubbed “Undemocratic Silencing Censoring,” said USC’s vice president Pedro Lopes.

The USC’s objective isn’t to stifle free speech, though, and isn’t the opposite, said USC communications officer Aron Yeomanson.

“The big thing for us is ensuring that students are not made to feel uncomfortable on public space on campus,” Yeomanson said.

While the USC doesn’t necessarily agree with the protest’s message, it is in favour of free speech and freedom of assembly, Yeomanson added.

The USC censors campus. Oh, yeah? Censor this, USC: cock, balls.

WHEN THE HELL ARE THE BODY PAINT GUYS SHOWING UP? A handful of clubs protested on Concrete Beach yesterday, alleging the USC censors campus. Oh, yeah? Censor this, USC: cock, balls.
The usual suspects were back in action this weekend, stirring up trouble around town.

Saturday at 3 a.m. a female was sexually assaulted near Richmond Street and Kent Street. Constable Ken Steeves of London Police Service said the victim was not a Western student.

LPS believes there were people nearby when the assault occurred and is requesting witnesses contact London Police Sexual Assault Unit at 661-5674.

The suspect is described as a white male approximately 20 to 30 years old, with a medium build and brown bangs hanging in his face.

Campus Community Police Service Director Elgin Austen said various office break-ins have occurred in the last couple of weeks on campus.

Austen said the thieves have been targeting computers, mainly flat screen monitors and laptops.

“Even though the target has been offices, students should be aware that when leaving the room they should lock their doors to protect, in particular, laptops and iPods and that sort of thing,” Austen said.

Sexual assault on Richmond St.

By Dave Ward

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Smoking doesn’t cause weight loss in girls: study

By Melissa Kim

A recent study presented at the Canadian Cardiovascular Congress in Vancouver revealed smoking doesn’t aid weight loss in teenage girls, contrary to popular belief.

The study was led by Dr. Igor Karp, researcher at McGill University in epidemiology and biostatistics, and Dr. Louise Pilot, division director of general internal medicine at McGill University and McGill University Health Centre. It concluded teenage girls gain weight at the same rate whether they smoke or not.

For five years, 1,300 12 and 13-year-old Montreal students’ smoking habits were monitored. In the survey, approximately 71 per cent of girls smoked compared to 42 per cent of boys.

“There are links between smoking and appetite,” said Chris Walsh, health education co-ordinator of Student Health Services and campus program co-ordinator for Lead the Pack Behind, a tobacco youth initiative.

“For one thing, nicotine raises your metabolism; also, smoking does help suppress your appetite, and that combination may demonstrate why smoking doesn’t help you lose weight.”

“There is one study that shows women don’t usually start smoking to lose weight, but they do keep it up to keep weight off,” said Nancy Hamilton, a public health nurse at the Middlesex-London Health Unit. “This study probably refutes that.”

According to SHS, approximately 28 per cent of Western’s population smokes cigarettes regularly.

“Body image is something that affects a lot of women and people of this age group in general, so it could be a bad body image and a lack of confidence (driving them to want to lose weight),” Walsh said.

“Ultimately, it’s going to depend on each individual person as to whether or not they actually need to lose weight, but there are certainly better ways to go about it than smoking.”

“To say that women are smoking to fit a cultural representation of what it means to be an attractive woman, it speaks to so many other structures within our society, in terms of what being thin means to your status in society and of your character as a person,” said Erin Callaghan, internal relations manager of Western’s Women’s Issues Network.

The MHJU provides 10 free weeks of nicotine replacement therapy and counselling for people who started smoking to lose weight; participants must be 18 years old and can’t afford the program themselves.

Student Health Services also has resources for women trying to quit and for nonsmokers concerned with policy.

The new study also showed smoking stunt growth. Hamilton said the 20 to 24-year-old demographic is the largest bracket of smokers, and 81 per cent of these students start before they are 18 years old. Because boys’ growth spurts occur later than girls’, they’re more susceptible to stunt growth.

Other smoking myths exist as well.

“Julia Roberts smoked in My Best Friend’s Wedding every time she was stressed,” Walsh said.

“This makes people think that smoking reduces stress and calms you, but over and above that, many people start again within 20 minutes of going into withdrawal because they’re addicted.”

“Leave the Pack Behind!” campaign for the month of October was to show that light and mild cigarettes are not actually light and mild, according to Chris Bentley, a public health nurse at the Canadian Cancer Society.

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Wrong-term plan?

Re: “Student council unveils long-term plan” Oct. 26, 2006

To the Editor:

After listening to University Students’ Council President Fab Dolan’s speech at the last USC meeting and reading various USC articles, I need to articulate some thoughts. To begin, I’d like to congratulate Fab on a respectable attempt to make a positive change to the Western community. However, I believe he has forgotten what it means to be a student. I immensely respect any students involved in student politics. I believe, however, the majority of students at Western will fail to see Dolan’s intended direction.

Why is your corporation concentrating its efforts on opening up two new campus restaurants? Why is your corporation speaking about attaining residential property ventures? More important, why does your corporation’s long-term plan sound more like an iets business plan than a student union plan dedicated to fundamental student needs and concerns?

I wish a president would concentrate on addressing the multitude of problems on our campus for once instead of assuming we’re all satisfied.

This is hardly an attempt to downplay students you think will pick up this 161-page plan and engage themselves in this campus conversation you are hoping will occur?

If anything Fab, I hope you respond to me, so together we can sit up some dialogue about this plan of yours. As a newly-elect Senator-at-Large, I look forward to working with you this year.

—Paulo Sousa
Specialization
Political Science IV
Senator-at-Large

Every little pink helps

Re: “Think before you pink!” Oct. 27, 2006

To the Editor:

Claire Neary’s opinion of the way money is raised doesn’t look at the big picture. I personally have no problem with a company that has developed an innovative method to support cancer research so long as it follows through on its promise to donate the money. If a company must “disguise the realities of the disease,” so be it! It will raise money for suffering people.

Your argument also completely disregards the concept of public awareness of cancer. Yes, it’s true the best way to raise money for such a worthwhile cause would be strictly on a donation basis, but do you honestly think Yoplait Yogurt to give $80,000 to breast cancer research with no monetary benefit? I understand that, ethically, the company could potentially keep the overflow of money, but isn’t $80,000 worth something?

I realize it’s not a perfect system, but at the end of the day, one dollar toward cancer research is better than nothing. Money has no face, and no cancer sufferer in their right mind would refuse the latest treatment because it’s financially supported by a large corporation. Regardless of the source, the ethical company selling me a pink frying pan or pink dog collar is providing some money to a cancer sufferer. Every dollar and every bit of awareness counts. Claire Neary is right.

—David Balken
Psychology III

Important and boring

The Gazette

To the Editor:

There is a very important and boring issue I wanted to throw out to The Gazette Fire safety. I don’t know about other faculties on campus, but in the past few weeks fire alarms have been rampant in Taylor Library. Just Tuesday, three alarms went off consecutively in the Chemistry Building.

Here’s the thing: I don’t know if these are drills, real fires, or alarms being accidentally set off. The more and more these alarms go off, the less seriously students take them. This was evident on Sunday when I vacated Taylor because of an alarm and had a large number of students completely ignoring it. I even saw a laptop computer completely packed with inanimate students who clearly didn’t believe there could possibly be a REAL fire. The thing is, I don’t blame them. To be honest, I would only blame myself as addressed.

Our campus is scattered with science labs, chemicals, and all kinds of things that would happily burn us to a crisp. One of these days, inevitably, the fire will be real. When that happens, do we want our students to groan and cover their ears, or make a mad rush for the door? Western, this needs to be addressed.

—Nicholas McRae
Science III

Some messages aren’t ‘comfortable’

Yesterday afternoon, students from various University Students’ Council clubs staged a silent protest in front of the University Community Centre. With their mouths taped shut, members of groups such as Oxfam Western and the former Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights protested against the USC policy approval process, which they claimed promised censorship.

An Oxfam Western member claimed the USC had allowed the group from printing posters of starving children abroad.

The USC claims its policies are present to ensure students don’t feel uncomfortable on campus. To its credit, the USC has been firm with its decisions pertaining to clubs the past two years. However, the organization is still inconsistent when it comes to decisions with clubs, particularly when dealing with the appropriateness of clubs’ events or promotions.

For example, while the posters for Oxfam were allegedly rejected on the basis of potentially making students uncomfortable, the vagina cake — which arguably could have made other students uncomfortable — was used by the Women’s Issues Network to promote V-Day last year was allowed to be displayed in the UCC Cafe.

While no student should ever be placed at risk of physical danger or harm, the USC shouldn’t bend over backwards to ensure no student gets offended by slogans or events from clubs or services. While not ideal, making people uncomfortable may be the only way clubs want to get students to notice their messages. Although conveying controversial messages at events may potentially offend some students, it also gives these students a chance to stop and re-evaluate their own thoughts or beliefs.

With this in mind, the clubs must prove to the USC any displays or events they want to run serve a legitimate purpose and aren’t intended exclusively for shock value.

 Clubs should also be aware that any written decision made by the Clubs Policy Committee is available to the public; they therefore have no excuse for not understanding the mistake behind any committee decisions. It would also be in the USC’s best interest to explain to students that these documents aren’t confidential.

Overall, regardless of how the USC makes its club-related decisions, some students will be dissatisfied. What the USC should take from yesterday’s protest, however, is that the club members are making decisions for students who have no voice. If students aren’t placed in a compromising position, clubs should be allowed to use controversial messages to engage them.

More importantly, through yesterday’s silent process, the USC may have received the loudest feedback on how students believe free speech should be addressed in its long-term plan.

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Editorial appearing under the ‘opinions’ heading are decisions of the editorial board and are written by a member of the editorial board but are not necessarily the expressed opinion of each editorial member. All other opinions are strictly those of the author. They are not necessarily the expressed opinion of each editorial member.

Letters: Must include the contributor’s name, identify the contributor as a student, faculty, staff, or member of the community. Letters must be signed. All letters are subject to approval of the Editor-in-Chief to be published. The Gazette reserves the right to edit letters and submissions and makes no guarantees that a letter will be published.

The Gazette • Tuesday, November 7, 2006

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Legendary Dylan blows away London crowd

Bob Dylan and the Foo Fighters blew into London Friday night to play a sold-out show at the John Lennon Centre.

Though the JLC’s concrete walls and stadium stands were a far cry from the intimacy of Dylan’s previous tour venues, the acoustics worked well. The Foo Fighters were slightly louder than anticipated — the show was billed “Foo Fighters and Shoes, Borat relies on his

Borat

Starring:

Directed by:

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan

By Steve Pulver

Gazette Writer

By Alana Daley

Gazette Staff

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan and Jews Borat, originally a sketch character on Da Ali G Show, make his highly anticipat-ed silver screen debut.

Borat is played by Sacha Baron Cohen, who also plays Ali G and Bruno on Da Ali G Show. Ali G Indahouse was a tragedy, but Borat exceeds all expectations.

Borat takes viewers on an emotional roller coaster — well actually, you laugh, and laugh, and laugh, feel a little bad, and laugh some more.

The flick begins in Kazakhstan, where Borat discusses his life, hobbies, job as a reporter, and the country’s economic, social, and “Jewish” issues. The government sends Borat to “the U.S. and A.” to discover why Americans are so successful.

Leaving Kazakhstan with only two suitcases, one containing a hen and shoes, Borat relies on his

reporting skills, a small sum of money, and gypsy magic to pro-tect himself from AIDS.

Though Borat planned to stay in New York City with his camera-man and producer, a beautiful, blonde Canadian actress prompts Borat to drive from NYC to Mal-ibu. Yes, that’s right — Borat falls in love with Pamela Anderson. While travelling across the U.S. in a discount ice cream truck in

search of love, Borat learns how to “improve” his own country.

Borat’s many eccentric behaviours are systematically eliminated, or at least reduced, through humor, driving, eti-quette, “dating” and feminism coaching. The results, not surpr-isingly, are absolutely hilari-ous.

“America is a very different place for women,” Borat explains. In Kazakhstan, “it is illegal for more than five women to be in one place except a brothel or a grave.” At a mid-western rodeo, Borat tells the crowd he supports America’s “War of Terror.”

Borat also faces some hard-ships, after an intense argument with his cameraman, Borat must fend for himself.

There are a few graphic nude scenes, so you may want to rethink the popcorn, fries or pizza you’ll normally eat at the theatre. Although Borat pokes fun at Americans and is exposed to racism, he meets many Amer-icans who respect him. Borat even manages to find love, adding a chick flick element to the movie.

“It’s interesting to note that when Borat is speaking “Kazak-hstan,” he is actually speaking Hebrew with a Russian accent, and though his words don’t match the subtitles, the subtitles are usually funnier.”

Cohen has created the must-see comedy of the year. Taking on racism, cultural disparities, and plain old randomness, Borat can be described in one word: genius.

Set List: ★★★★★

Worth the $$$: ★★★★★

Performance: ★★★★★

Openers: ★★★★☆

Crowd: ★★★★★

Borat proved that at 65, he can rock like any young upstart. Dylan has the unique ability to re-mould and re-shape song arrangements, giving them new life at every performance. Friday’s show was no exception.

Even standards like “Jailhouse Rock” — featuring nicely placed electric guitar licks by Denny Freeman — and “Desola-tion Row” got a dose of re-shaping.

Highlights included a tender and pulsating “Nitefly Moon,” a timely “Masters of War,” a rocking “Highway 61 Revisited,” and “Not Dark Yet,” a rare gem from 1997’s Time out of Mind. Dylan played only three songs off his latest album, Modern Times.

Bob Dylan and the Foo Fighters

Legendary Dylan blows away London crowd

Bob Dylan and the Foo Fighters a strong opening act for a true musical hero

CONCERT REVIEW

Performance: ★★★★★

Openers: ★★★★☆

Crowd: ★★★★★

Borat is being hailed as a new comedic icon. The film stars Sacha Baron Cohen as naive, sexist, anti-semitic journalist Borat.

By Alana Daley

Gazette Staff

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan

Directed by: Larry Charles

Starring: Sacha Baron Cohen, Ken Davitian

★★★☆☆

“Jagshemash! My name Borat. I like you. I like sex. Is nice!”

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Preventing cock blocks on the battlefield
How to avoid and recover from the inevitable situation

By Andrew Sullivan
Gazette Staff

The cock block.
It can happen anywhere, at any time; a bar, a kegger or your best friend's birthday party. You never really see it coming. You're chatting with a girl and things seem to be going well. You might discuss meeting up later, going out for a date or even going home for one night of glory. It doesn't matter, though — your chances are ruined no matter what.

Before you can close the deal, a friend, a buddy, her boyfriend, or, depending on the occasion, her father — steps in and ruins your fun. Congratulations, you've just been cock blocked.

The cock block happens to everyone, even the biggest men whores. In fact, you've likely participated in a cock block yourself.

Much like herpes, cock blockers always return, albeit in different forms. There is no sure-fire way to prevent their influence or eliminate their presence. Like rain, they prevent your glory. It doesn't matter, though — your chances are ruined no matter what.

Choose your friends wisely.
Be careful with whom you hang out with. There's nothing worse than a supposed "buddy" stabbing your spine right before you make your final move.

With a simple, "He's not really an astronaut" or "It's not really that big, I've seen it," all your prospects can disappear in a flash — like the flash of a hand grenade your buddy forgot to throw out of the fox-hole. With friends like that, who needs enemies?

Scout your options.
There's nothing worse than heading into battle, only to realize your target has numerous secret allies. These hidden allies include, but aren't limited to: the random brother, the boyfriend who just won't to get a drink, the drunken housemate, and the grouchy bartender.

Survey before jumping into the fray. If you suspect he really isn't her brother/boyfriend/father/cousin twice-removed, you may have a whole different set of problems.

Avoid the battlegrounds.
Lately, it seems girls invite every girl on her Facebook — and then some — out for a night on the town. This presents a conundrum; cock blocking is more likely when trying to take a female stronghold (in this case a bar booth) on your own.

Avoid the girl packs, who will undoubtedly sabotage each other's efforts along with yours.

Relax and let the dust settle.
Whatever you do, don't drive in like an overzealous recruit. You'll get shot down faster than a Canadian goose in a trailer park. It's essential you realize every woman may not be interested in you.

Utilize your wit to maintain some semblance of a professional veneer. Even in your drunken state, try having a little class. "Nice cleavage" doesn't count as witty repartee. Neither does vomiting.

How to avoid and recover from the inevitable situation.
OUA roundup

By Malcolm Aboud
Gazette Staff

It was a busy weekend in Ontario University Athletics. Numerous Mustangs teams hit the road for playoff action, while a handful stayed home for playoff and regular season games.

Friday, the men’s soccer team captured an OUA championship, beating the University of Toronto 2-1 on penalty kicks. Western clinched a national championship berth by reaching the final.

The Mustangs women’s soccer team came up short in the OUA Final Four, losing to Guelph in the semifinal. The Marauders have faced Western in the CIS final every year. The Mustangs have won four out of five; Western’s lone title came in 2004.

After last week’s OUA final loss to Guelph, the women’s rugby team looked for redemption this weekend, seeking to defend its title at St. George’s Rugby Fields in London. Heavily favoured Western placed first in pool play but fell in the semifinal to the St. Francis Xavier X-Women Saturday.

The Mustangs also lost the bronze medal game to the Lethbridge Pronghorns. Sunday, Nova Scotia underdog St. FX upset Guelph in the CIS final.

Friday, the men’s volleyball team fell to Ryerson. The Mustangs stayed close in each frame but lost in straight sets, falling 25-23, 25-20, 25-23. The women’s squad won, however, beating Ryerson and York in straight sets at home.

Western’s women’s hockey team faced off against the University of Toronto York Blues Friday. Goals from Andrea Russoette and Anne Del Guidice propelled the ‘Stangs to a 3-2 victory. Saturday afternoon, Western’s women’s basketball team did its best to avenge the football squad’s loss to Laurier, disposing of the ‘Stangs to a 3-2 victory.

and Annie Del Guidice propelled the team faced off against the University of Western Ontario Mustangs at home.

Saturday afternoon, Western’s women’s basketball team did its best to avenge the football squad’s loss to Laurier, disposing of the ‘Stangs to a 3-2 victory. Sunday, the men’s soccer team hit the road for playoff action, while a handful stayed home for playoff and regular season games.

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Mustangs’ Yates Cup dreams end at Laurier

Larry Haylor ends distinguished career with loss

By Danielle Neziol

Saturday’s loss marked not only the end of the season for the Stangs football team, but also the end of an era for Western head coach Larry Haylor.

The Laurier Golden Hawks will appear in their fourth consecutive Yates Cup after knocking the Western Mustangs out of the Ontario University Athletics semifinal, 20-15.

Haylor, Western’s head coach for 22 years, is stepping down this season; he hands the reins to offensive co-ordinator Greg Marshall. Haylor retires as the winningest coach in Canadian university football history.

The Mustangs played their hearts out and were disappointed they couldn’t get their coach one more game.

"(Coach Haylor) loves what he does," said Western running back D.J. Bennett. "He puts so much into it. You can’t help but root for someone like that." Bennett rushed for 15 yards on only two carries Saturday.

"I was disappointed we couldn’t get it done for him," Bennett said. "(Haylor’s) bled for us and he cries Western football.

"If everyone had a heart like him, we would always get it done." After the game, Haylor talked about his players instead of himself.

"Every one of them I’ve been proud of," he said. "Every player that has come through here, and been a player here, I’m proud of. I’m proud of our defence, our team, our fans, this group of people for this many years, and they are all outstanding." The Mustangs didn’t go quietly Saturday.

Western was expected to gain most of its yards running the football, but backup quarterback Mark Howard threw for 238 yards on 23 of 46 passes. Howard subbed for Michael Faulds, who broke his jaw in the Mustangs’ last game of the regular season.

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Mustangs’ Running Back

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After the game, Haylor talked about his players instead of himself.

"I think we played a lot on our part," he said. "It was a one-goal game for a long time. We got a lot of turnovers on defence, and our offence was moving the ball well, but we just needed to finish," said Mustangs linebacker and defensive captain John Rowan.

Western made a late push deep in Laurier territory, but the Golden Hawk defence stepped up, and the Mustangs stalled at the 27-yard line.

Derek Schiavone kicked five field goals to keep Western in the game, the longest a 31-yarder in the final 60 minutes for Western.

The Mustangs faced Laurier at its strongest and healthiest this season. Laurier took advantage of its bye last week to rest its players; it played its entire starting line together for the first time this season.

The Mustangs defensive unit needed a big one; our goalie made some key saves and guys battled a little harder," Peralta said. "I think that was the difference today. We outworked them the whole game, so you know it was more deserving, too."

"It’s a big win for us," Peralta said. "With the exception of the last five minutes, I think there was a lot more flow than some of the other games we’ve had early (at the LEC).

"It would be nice for some of our guys to get a Yates goal, but we have to get through this period where we’re not scoring a lot of goals (and) making some defensive and getting good goaltending.

Western forward Matt Manias added two goals to his tally Saturday and was held out of Saturday’s 4-2 road win against Brock. He will be re-evaluated this week.

The Mustangs visit the Royal Military College next Friday.