

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

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SIMPLY A STREAK OF GENIUS

At 11:23am on 6 September a naked male was spotted running through the halls of the Law building. A description of the nude avenger, provided by one unlucky observer, was passed on to Campus Security. A short time later it was reported that a man was stripping down to his underwear and harassing women near SUB.

When confronted by Campus Security, the man was given a warning for being intoxicated in a public place. As he had no University affiliation, he was left in the care of a sober friend, and presumably re-pantsed shortly thereafter.

SMASH'N GRAB AND LOSE

Sometime between 7:30-11pm on 29 September, a vehicle parked near the Faculty of Business building east loading dock was broken into.

The dastardly persons unknown made off with some audiovisual equipment and a backpack, which—in addition to the damage to the vehicle—made for a total loss of \$600. Some of the property was later found and recovered by Campus Security.

STOP, IN THE NAME OF YOUR NAME

At 2:30am on 30 September, a male cyclist was stopped by Campus Security for a minor traffic violation near 112 Street and 89 Avenue.

When he was asked by the officers for identification, the brash biker rudely refused to provide his name. He was arrested and charged accordingly, and subsequently trespassed from campus.

YOU GUYS ARE BORING

At 9pm on 30 September Campus Security was called when someone noticed a six-year-old child was spotted wandering around in a field near the Michener Park residences. The boy was quickly found and reunited with his family by Campus Security without incident. He had been visiting a friend when he wandered off and became lost in the field.

U of A prof leads program aimed at rehabilitating former child soldiers

Corruption and continuing conflicts make simple solutions hard to come by in war-torn countries, says Andy Knight, but education and disarmament can help ease the terrible situation for many children

MIKE SMITH
News Writer

War has a tremendous impact on a society, destroying institutions, infrastructure and displacing families. However, one of the most profound results, and unfortunately, one the hardest to repair, is the use of child soldiers. It's this issue that the University of Alberta's Dr Andy Knight, director of the Children and Armed Conflict program, is hoping to tackle.

"Most Canadians and many people in the Western world aren't aware of the significance of the problem. Part of what we are trying to do is educate, and to show people that this is bigger than they might think."

**ANDY KNIGHT,
DIRECTOR,
CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT**

Recently returned from the program's second conference in Ghana, he's attempting to learn how to protect and rehabilitate children living in conflict zones.

"We may not be able to get rid of conflict, but one thing we can try to do is to make the conflict situation better for most kids that have to live in that kind of situation," Knight said.

As part of the research program, Aaron Johnson and Dana Glorieux, both political science students,

travelled to Sierra Leone in May 2005 to help assist government and NGOs working in the area through the Canada Corps University Partnership Program. They returned to Canada in September of that year. Knight helped set up the trip, and hopes their experiences and subsequent report will encourage other students to do the same.

The Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) program is still in its infancy. According to Knight, campaigns to disarm citizens by purchasing their weapons haven't been effective in many states, either due to lack of funds or mismanagement.

"We found out that in Liberia, the UN was giving \$300 for AK-47s, but next door in Cote D'Ivoire they were giving \$900 for AK-47s. The Liberians aren't stupid. Those kinds of complications we won't know about until we sit down and talk to officials who are running the DDR programs," he said.

One of the biggest challenges facing Knight and his colleagues is the complexity of the issue.

"You are not going to find a simple solution to the problems of conflict," he said. "Most Canadians and many people in the Western world aren't aware of the significance of the problem," Knight said.

He estimated that there are approximately 300 000 child soldiers in the world presently. Part of what we are trying to do is educate, and to show people that this is bigger than they might think."

Through this research program, Knight is working on a book with the help of several contributors from across the globe. Much of the research focuses on the DDR programs in place to help deal with the training of children as soldiers.



JESSE WHITEHEAD

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND Dr Knight wants to see children off the battlefields.

"There hasn't been a real critical academic assessment and evaluation of these programs, so we don't know which ones work and which ones don't. How can we make the whole process better to make sure peace is sustainable?"

The book will collect the results of three conferences, the final one taking place at the U of A in March 2007. It's hoped this book will be used by universities and government officials, and Knight plans on sending the final report to the UN as well. The UN-run University for Peace in

Costa Rica has also shown considerable interest in the book.

Although, he hopes his research will provide answers to many questions, ultimately, according to Knight, the success of these DDR programs rests on the co-operation of all actors, both international and local, and the commitment to carry them out to the end.

"There is no single solution, but multiple solution, and sometimes messy solutions ... It's up to the international community ... to implement those measures," he concluded.

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