Zimbabwe’s constitution talks delayed

Allison Marron
Staff Writer

Zimbabwe’s constitution talks hit another barrier on Jan. 21 when officials reached a disagreement over gathering public opinions about a new constitution for the country. Zimbabwe, which gained independence from Great Britain in 1980, has not revised its constitution since.

The country has experienced a lot of political change over the past 30 years. In March 2008, the Zanu-PF party lost its 28-year majority in Parliament. Robert Mugabe, a leader of the Zanu-PF party for many years, lost the presidential election the same month.

During the run-off election that June, Mugabe defeated opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, from the Movement for Democratic Change party, after Tsvangirai withdrew from the race.

In February 2009, Tsvangirai was sworn in as the Prime Minister after agreeing to a power-sharing deal with Mugabe. A new constitution was part of this agreement.

“I feel that this power sharing deal creates more tension than it anticipates,” said Vanessa Guevara, a senior Diplomacy major who thinks the power sharing plan is not ideal. On Jan. 28, 2010, the two parties resumed talks after agreeing they would take into consideration official reports from consultation meetings held by outreach teams, according to the Voice of America.

Constitution talks face other challenges as well. Important action groups, including the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions and the National Constitutional Assembly, remain firm against constitutional talks. In addition, Mugabe has said that until travel bans for alleged human rights abuses are lifted against him and members of his party, there will not be sufficient progress.

Guevara believes Mugabe’s ultimate for lifting travel bans presents further problems. “This is an obstacle they should have seen coming, unless the deal was just a way to satisfy both parties without resulting in undesirable consequences,” Guevara said.

In an effort to review the power sharing deal between Mugabe and Tsvangirai, a U.S. congressional delegation is expected to visit Zimbabwe later this month. This visit is part in response to lobbying from Finance Minister Tendai Biti of Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe’s goal is to reinitiate its voting rights within the International Monetary Fund, which were revoked in June 2006.

This is especially significant since Zimbabwe currently owes US$138 million to the IMF under the Poverty Reduction Growth Facility Trust, which was intended to help the poorest member countries.

The country’s approach to the IMF is under debate as well. The Movement for Democratic Change party believes that if Zimbabwe is classified as a Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) by the IMF, it will help encourage economic growth. In contrast, the Zanu-PF party believes that the country is not poor enough to qualify for HIPC status and that it can pay off its debt by using its mineral resources.

U.S. support is central to Zimbabwe regaining its voting rights in the IMF. The U.S. recently agreed to support Zimbabwe’s efforts to recover its voting rights.

Other countries, however, may be more wary in this regard. For a country that remains divided over its constitution and other issues, reinstating Zimbabwe’s voting rights may not seem like the best decision. Until a cohesive agreement is reached, Zimbabwe’s relations with other countries could be strained even further.
Marriage redefined in Mexico City

Ross Joy Staff Writer

The legal definition of marriage will be amended in Mexico City on March 4 to allow for same-sex marriages, but the amendment process has challenged the political equilibriums and the role of the church in Mexico.

According to new legislation, the definition of marriage will be changed from "a free union between a man and a woman" to "a free union between two people" in the city's civil code. This change allows for same-sex couples to adopt children, a reversal issue that opponents claim will have an ill effect on the wellbeing of a child.

The city's Legislative Assembly passed this amendment last December with wide support from the center left Party of Democratic Revolution (PRD), led by the current Head of Government of the Federal District, Marcelo Ebrard. The opposing center-right and current ruling National Action Party (PAN) vows to challenge the law in federal courts.

With a democratic local government and Mexico City's cosmopolitan sensibilities that are associated with affluent urban dwellers, Mexico City has drifted from the rest of the country's social views since 1997. Voters have successively brought the Mexican power, which has pursued a liberal social agenda that includes a public smoking ban, simplified divorce laws and abortion rights for mothers before the twelfth week of pregnancy.

In 2007, the Federal District became the second federal entity, after the state of Coahuila, to approve same-sex unions. Though Coahuila's law does not provide same-sex couples with the same legal rights for homosexual couples, in practice, the civil union status does not have the same treatment under the law as marriage. Public health insurance plans and applications for state bank loans exclude civil unions, while the denial of adoption rights have made it difficult to recognize a partner's parenthood.

Under the altered definition of marriage, Mexico City will afford same-sex couples the same rights as heterosexual couples, including the right to adopt children.

"The church will continue to speak out against the law, but I don't do so in moderation, with careful consideration of public reaction," said Anthony DePalm, who teaches a course on the media's role in Mexico at Seton Hall.

PAN has promised to challenge same-sex marriage in national courts due to what it views as a contradiction of the Mexican Constitution. This decision foresees the national government's efforts to reestablish its historical influence in Mexico City's local politics.

Since 2000, Mexico has been oriented into a three-party system composed of the PAN, PRD and the old guard Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). The liberal agenda set by the PRD and Ebrard demonstrates the party's national ambitions.

"Ebrard is making a calculated political move, hoping that his embrace of gay marriage and other liberal policies will propel him over other candidates in the 2012 presidential election," - Anthony DePalm

Mexico's debate over expanding rights to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons is also seen throughout the Latin American region. The southernmost province of Argentina, Tierra del Fuego, allowed the region's first same-sex marriage in December 2009, but has since suspended the weddings until national courts determine whether the marriages are valid.

Argentine and five other South American countries recognize civil unions. Uruguay is advancing legislation to extend adoption rights directly to civil unions rather than changing its definition of marriage.

Following Mexico City's lead, four additional Mexican states have proposed or are now considering same-sex marriage. The PRI has joined the PRD in several of these states to make same-sex marriage a platform issue.

Social-networking fills Venezuelan media void

Cassie Denbow Staff Writer

Twitter is the newest form of terrorism according to Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez. The closure of six TV stations prompted student-led protests across Venezuela, and activists utilized social networks such as Facebook and Twitter to broadcast the protests.

In addition to five smaller stations, the Caracas-based TV station Radio Caracas Televisión Internacional (RCTV) was removed from cable networks on Jan. 24. The termination came after the network's failure to broadcast a speech by President Chavez given the previous day.

The closure of RCTV has incited a wave of protests in a country familiar with social advocacy. Social networking sites are serving as planning boards for the protests with pictures of police crackdowns posted on Twitter and links to the pictures posted on multiple anti-Chavez groups on Facebook, including those promoting the new anti-Chavez slogan "Chavez, estas Ponchoa" or "Chavez, you're struck out," based on the president's love of baseball.

The closure of the TV stations comes after years of growing censorship. Four of the six stations closed were quickly re-licensed and returned to the air; however, a perennial critic of Chavez, RCTV was not among them. The Caracas station was previously removed from public airwaves in July 2007 after failing to renew its license renewal and had been operating on a paid subscription until the recent closure.

Chavez justified the closure of the television stations under the 2004 broadcasting law known by the acronym of RESORTE. The law closely monitors broadcast programming on the pretense of protecting family values but originally applied only to companies holding public broadcasting licenses.

In July 2007, however, Venezuela's telecommunications commission reordered the law to include cable networks as well. Under the adjustment, any station which broadcasts 70 percent Venezuelan programming is classified as national and therefore subject to the regulations of the 2004 law. Under RESORTE, all national broadcasters are required to play speeches and programs given by Hugo Chavez.

The prominent use of social networking sites in the organization of protests has led some to compare the Venezuelan protests to those which took place in Iran in 2009. However, Whittier School Professor Dr. Benjamin Goldfrank warns against such comparisons.

"In the sense that some protesters use these networks, yes, they are similar, but the same is true of protesters in other countries as well," said Goldfrank. "More importantly, the protests in Iran were much larger, much more sustained, and much more heavily represed by the government."

Despite the renewed broadcast of four of the six stations, the protests against the closure of RCTV have continued. While generally peaceful, there are reports of anti-riot police using tear gas and plastic grenades to break up the protests. Two pro-Chavez students were killed in skirmishes, but it remains unclear who the perpetrators were or if they are associated with anti-government protesters.

In addition to the vexation of the media crackdown, Venezuelans have been bombarded with a multitude of growing problems, including blackouts, rising inflation and elevated living costs. With presidential elections in September, Chavez's party, Patrito Socialista de Venezuela (PSUV), could face a much harder time at the polls. In the meantime, the marchers continue their protest of media censorship, seemingly energized by the tweets, wall posts and fan-pages spreading across the web.

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Osama Bin Laden warned of vio- lence against the West in his latest audiorecording released to the U.S.

The tape, released on Jan. 25 and allegedly from Al-Qaeda chief Osama Bin Laden, directly addresses the American people, promising that they will "never live in peace until there is peace in Palestine... It is unfair that you enjoy a safe life while our brothers in Gaza suffer greatly."

The tape came one month after the failed Christmas Day bombing plot in Detroit.

Bin Laden refers to the decades-old conflict between the displaced Palestinians and the State of Israel, which is supported by the West and presents an intractable foreign policy dilemma for the United States.

The message asserts that Bin Laden himself was behind the failed Detroit bombing. Yet, the tape has drawn much criticism from U.S. officials and counterrorism experts, who say that the claim is nothing more than a ploy by Al-Qaeda to keep itself relevant in world affairs.

The demands and statements contained within the tape are nothing new, but it is distinct from Bin Laden’s previous messages in that he only mentions U.S. support for Israel as the primary motivation for the attempted Christmas bombing as well as numerous U.S. activities carried out across the Middle East and Europe in recent years. U.S. officials state that it is odd he has not mentioned other, more well-known locations of American direct attention such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia or Chechnya.

Bin Laden also praises the would-be Christmas Day bomber, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, calling him a hero for "delivering the message personally within the next year."

While most officials in the United States and Europe believe that Al-Qaeda is grouping at straws in a scrambled attempt to rally support for their cause, other experts maintain that the threat is still very real.

Experts maintain that although the attack failed in its objective of creating mass civilian casualties, Al-Qaeda has succeeded in dominating the headlines as well as highlighting serious flows in the United States’ intelligence and security networks. This result, they assert, is far more effective and has resulted in an overblown effort by the U.S. to drastically improve airport security, causing immense confusion during the holiday season.

Further, Al-Qaeda has shown that even in its state of disarray and disunity (whether it is Al-Qaeda affiliates operating in the frontier provinces of Pakistan or its offshore groups in Yemen and Saudi Arabia), it still has the financing and training ability to get a man with a bomb onto an airplane.

While many in the United States see the threat from foreign extremists as a daunting challenge, others are more optimistic. Adam M., a sophomore in Middle Eastern Affairs major at Middlebury College, commented about the recent terrorist attempt as a hopeful reminder of the importance of collective security.

"My strongest feeling about the recent terrorist activity in the world today is that Muslims are taking a bigger part in fighting it," he says. "The terrorist bombing plot..."

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President Obama's recent meeting with the Dalai Lama was marked by strenuous protests from China, as U.S.-China relations have become increasingly strained.

The meeting, which occurred on Feb. 18, was defended by White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs, who told reporters that the Dalai Lama was an "internationally respected religious leader."

This meeting came after the Obama Administration announced the sale of military hardware to Taiwan in late January, which sparked similar protests from China. Beijing summoned the American ambassador and scolded him for interfering in China's internal affairs.

The $6 billion sale includes advanced weaponry such as anti-ship missiles and Black Hawk helicopters. It is the third installment of a sale begun by the Bush Administration in late 2008. The sale is part of the U.S.'s long-standing commitment by law to assist in the defense of Taiwan.

Taiwan has always been a thorny point in U.S.-China relations, and China has reacted in many ways analysts consider a predictable manner. It has stated it will scale back military cooperation with the U.S. and may seek to impose economic restrictions on U.S. businesses selling weapons to Taiwan. This could hurt these businesses, considering other sources of tension in the U.S.-China relationship. During President Obama's first year in office, relations between the two countries began to deteriorate. Relations have since become bogged down by a series of disputes involving cyber-spying and concerns over the undervaluing of China's currency.

The global economic downturn has reinforced a growing view that the U.S.'s power is waning and China's is rising. While the U.S. is still struggling to restore its economy to full employment and healthy growth, China's economy is expected to overtake Japan's to become the world's second largest economy.

Predictable as this response may be, it is not without considering other sources of tension in the U.S.-China relationship. During President Obama's first year in office, relations between the two countries began to deteriorate. Relations have since become bogged down by a series of disputes involving cyber-spying and concerns over the undervaluing of China's currency.

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Many analysts in the U.S. who study China are unconcerned by China's bellicose rhetoric. The U.S. remains the most powerful country in the world militarily, however, in 2006 the Quadrennial Defense Review, released by the Bush Administration, China was identified as the emerging power with the "greater potential to compete militarily" with the U.S.

Increasingly, public opinion in China plays a role in the Chinese government's approach to its disputes with the U.S. Of particular interest is the internet. Many Chinese blogs and chat rooms harbor nationalist sympathies, and the government has found it increasingly necessary to take note of this sentiment and its implications for public opinion of the government itself. China's government does not want to invite public anger over a foreign policy perceived to be acquiescent to Western pressure.

Despite recent tensions, few believe lasting damage will come to the two countries' relationship. Dr. Zheng Wang, Assistant Professor at the Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations, points out that while growing China may increasing international clout it may find it more difficult in the future to accept foreign actions that it sees as sensitive to its domestic interests, Beijing does not wish to see a severe deterioration in relations with Washington.

"China pays greater attention to this bilateral relationship than any other," Wang said. "There are going to be conflicts, and as long as the relationship will change, but the foundation of the relationship is much more stable than it was ten years ago."

The U.S. views positive engagement with China as key to controlling pressing issues of the day, from climate change to Iran's nuclear program. Both countries recognize the economic interdependence that has developed between them and the need to disallow small disputes from developing into major rows.

**Sri Lankan Opposition leader arrested**

Grace Chung, Editor-in-Chief

The arrest of the Sri Lankan president's main opponent has raised concerns over whether the post-conflict nation is ready for democracy.

Incumbent President Mahinda Rajapaksa won the Jan. 26 election with a sweeping majority, but weeks later placed his defeated challenger, General Sarath Fonseka, under arrest.

"This is not an arrest," his wife told reporters. "It is a abduction."

Supporters of Fonseka claim that military police "dragged him" away after raiding his Colombo office on Feb. 8. They worry that the arrest is part of Rajapaksa's wider campaign to take complete control of the government. Leading up to his arrest, at least 37 members of the military were imprisoned. In addition, 14 senior army officers who openly supported Fonseka were forced into retirement.

The day after Fonseka's arrest, Rajapaksa dissolves parliament to clear the way for early elections. Analysts warn that without Fonseka to lead the opposition, Rajapaksa will easily secure the two-thirds majority needed to change the Constitution.

"The episode has nothing to do with political differences," Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the president's brother and defense secretary, told The Straits Times, a Singapore-based newspaper, soon after the incident. He added that Fonseka planned a coup in addition to ordering the killing of journalists and planning a political career while still in uniform.

Referring to the general's claim that he would provide evidence against the state in an international war crimes court, the government explained in an official statement that Fonseka was "hell-bent" on betraying Sri Lanka's "gallant armed forces."

According to the UN, over 7,000 civilians were killed in the final months of Sri Lanka's civil war, which ended in May 2009. Human rights groups have accused both sides of violating international law.

Rajapaksa and General Fonseka were once united in their efforts to crush the Tamil Tiger insurgency. Fonseka was instrumental in helping the president crush the rebels and end their separatist campaign. He rose to the power of the military expanded toward the end of the civil war, tensions grew. This animosity was cemented when Fonseka resigned from his position as top general to enter the presidential race.

The campaign was marked by violence and electoral irregularities, but in the end, Rajapaksa defeated the former general with over 1.8 million votes. Election observers have said there is no evidence of significant fraud, but Fonseka refuses to accept defeat.

Fonseka's lawyers are challenging the government's actions in court. On Feb. 16, Fonseka's lawyers filed a petition with the Supreme Court. They demanded retrial of the ballots, citing Rajapaksa's use of bribery and manipulation of the media. They say that the government-controlled media overwhelmingly supported the president while broadcasting lies about Fonseka.

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**Google sparks wider US-China debate**

Karin Kainth, Section Editor

The impasse between Google and China after hackers based in China attacked Google's operations in January has caused tensions in relations between the U.S. and China. Despite the fact that Google has been complying with China's regulations for several years, the issue between the U.S.-based business and China has been portrayed as an idea of censorship.

According to reports, China has been portrayed as an idea of censorship. Google threatened to close its offices in China immediately after the incident, in which the hackers attempted to extract information from Google's databases about Chinese human rights activists who protested the government's censorship for the internet.

The U.S. has responded by putting pressure on China to investigate the cyber attacks and is reevaluating its relations with countries that have strict censorship policies.

China has remained defensive to the United States' accusations of censorship, maintaining that other countries have similar censorship policies.

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In a speech given at the Newseum journalism museum in Washington, D.C., U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton condemned countries such as Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam that restrict freedom of speech through the internet. Clinton's speech was censured by the Chinese government.

Meanwhile, an editorial in The Global Times, a popular Chinese newspaper, reads, "The World does not recognize the White House's Google decision as it is being closely associated with the U.S. government and its foreign policy.

The Chinese people have so far not abandoned Google. "The public seems to be tending toward putting Google on a moral high ground," said Dr. Zheng Wang, Assistant Professor at the Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations.

China's search-engine market is currently worth approximately $1 billion. Google holds about one-third of this lucrative market. When Google began its operations in China, it agreed to comply with Chinese policies regarding censoring information about Tiananmen Square and Tibetan independence movements.

Currently, Google is still complying with China's policies, including removing information that the Chinese government intends to withhold from the public. While the company has publicly said that it will pull out, Google is looking to compromise with China so that it will be able to continue its operations.

The Global Times described the Chinese government's internet policies as a reaction against "information imperialism," or the U.S.'s attempts to impose its values.

The U.S.'s tough stance on censorship, however, may hold some weight. "The pressure is building," said Wang. "In the long term, this pressure may influence the Chinese government's actions when dealing with freedom of speech through the internet."
France proposes ban on Islamic face veil

Muhammad Islam proposed to ban the face veil as part of his proposal to combat terrorism.

Matthew Ausloos
Copy Editor

France came one step closer to banning Islamic face veil last late month when a French parliamentary committee recommended a partial ban. The proposal would ban the covering of the face while in public, including on the streets.

"The wearing of the full veil is a challenge to our republic," the committee said in a report released Jan. 26. "This is unacceptable. We must consider all possibilities.

Face veils are typically part of an item of clothing worn by many Muslim women known as a burqa, which consists of a loose body-covering, a head covering and a face veil.

The recommendation follows months of debate in France over how to restrict the use of the burqa. French President Nicolas Sarkozy created a commission last year to investigate the issue.

"We cannot accept to have in our country women who are prisoners behind netting, cut off from all social life, deprived of identity," Sarkozy told reporters. He later went on to say that the burqa was not a sign of religion, but of subservience, and it would not be welcome in France.

The Socialists, currently in the opposition, are opposed to a ban on the burqa, despite its distaste for the garment itself. Party spokesman Benoît Hamon reiterated on French radio his party's opposition to the burqa, but also said a law would not have the anticipated effect.

One concern about a proposed ban is that it would stigmatize Islam and further alienate Muslims from French culture. This could embolden hardliners and extremists in the faith who wish to bring about a total separation of Islam and the French state.

France is particularly concerned about the burqa because of its century-old tradition of seculism, which strictly forbids the intertwining of religion and state in the public sphere. Most French see their secular state as a high-worth right. They view the burqa as a sign of oppression against women and an item which is not prescribed by Islam.

"In France, if you want to be here, you need to know and respect the French culture," said Giles Ambonou, a resident of Paris originally from Cote d'Ivoire. "In France, like in the rest of Europe, you need to comply with what the French do and what they are.

There are fears that Muslim women who wear the burqa could face mounting domestic pressure if they are forced to remove it in public. Writing for the newspaper Liberation, editor Laurent Joffin wrote, "France would be the only country in the world that sends its policeman... to stop in the street young women who are victims more than they are guilty."

The debate over the ban continues within the French Muslim community. "It is a cultural thing, a tradition, introduced and kept alive by fundamen
talists," said Ambonou. "Women are also divided, but I believe a vast major
ty do not wish to wear it.

If France does indeed ban the face veil, it is likely to face a lot of criticism from abroad, much like Switzerland did last year. Muslim women. Officials banned the wearing of religious symb
ols, including the Muslim head scarf, in French state schools in 2004.

But there have been other instances in recent years of French restrictions on the burqa and other Muslim garments. In August, French officials banned women from swimming in public pools while wearing a burkini, a variation of the burqa used as a full-body swimwear garment. France has been criticized for only upholding its secular values.

Britain raises terror threat level

Orenella Dajlanaj
Section Editor

Britain recently raised its terror threat level to "severe," the second highest level on its terror threat scale. While it had stood at "substantial" since July, the new alert level means that a terrorist attack is "highly likely."

"Moving to this different level says 'yes, we have to be more alert,' and it means that an attack has moved to the level of being likely," Home Secretary Alan Johnson told reporters. "But we have absolutely no intelligence to suggest it is imminent."

The recommendation for the elevated terror threat level was made by the UK's Joint Terrorism Analysis Center. According to the home secretary, JTAC makes such decisions based on intelligence regarding the "intent and capabilities of international terrorist groups." The decision was unanimous.

Johnson refused to reveal intelligence that contributed to the change or to make any links to the failed Detroit airliner bombing on Christmas Day.

"We never say what the intelligence is, and it would be pre
ty daft of us to do that," Johnson told reporters.

While the chairman of the Home Affairs Sub-Committee on Counter Terrorism claims that a certain amount of intelligence would be helpful to the public, Lord Carlile, the UK's independent"...""..reviewer of terrorism legislation, stated that "the message is not that we should be more afraid but that we should be a bit more vigilant than we have been."

"The message has not scared British people at all," said Ron Choularton, owner of the American-produced British paper Union Jack. "Britons have learned to live with bomb threats since the time of the Troubles in 1972. There have been three generations of Betons trained under such circumstances. They are very vigilant and know well what to do."

Choularton noted, however, that such measures could make the public more eager to be prejudiced against a certain age or ethnic group or resort to racist profiling.

Along with the raised terror alert, all direct flights between Yemen and the UK have been suspended as a further security measure. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown also announced that the country's terrorist watch list is being extended in order to include individuals who have appeared during surveillance operations but were not previously included on the list.

The new security measures bring the UK to a similar alert level as the United States.

Greek debt crisis worries Eurozone

Maria Ekimoglou
Staff Writer

Greece's staggering debt has shaken the faith of investors and put fellow members of the common European currency on high alert. Greece's national budget deficit for the past fiscal year is estimated to be at 12.7 percent of GDP, over four times the maximum deficit percentage permitted for eurozone countries. Greek debt is expected to rise to 120 percent of GDP by the end of 2010.

Years of fiscal mismanagement by former Greek administrations have left the Greek economy with negative growth. Doctored national accounts, which put the national deficit at 6.7 percent when in reality it was 12.7 percent, left the European Commission suspicious of Greece. It is speculated that Eurostat, the European Union's (EU) statistical agency, will bring charges against Greece once the current crisis has been resolved.

The new administration, which came to power in October 2009 under Socialist prime minister George Papandreou, has pledged to reign in government spending. Papandreou based his campaign on the promise of real wage increases and extra welfare spending, despite advice from the European Central Bank that he not continue the spending spree of previous administrations.

In the midst of the crisis, however, Papandreou and his finance minister, George Papaconstantinou, are taking action to prevent the collapse of the Greek econ
omy and reestablish credibility in Greek markets. These measures include a pay freeze on all civil servant salaries of 2,000 euros a month or more, a sharp decline on public-sector recruitment and military spending, and a tax increase for wealthy Greeks.

A recent poll taken by the Economist shows that Greek citizens, 20 percent of whom live under the EU poverty level, are confident that their new prime minister and finance minister will be able to handle the debt crisis and restore credibility in the Greek economy before drastic measures need to be taken by other members of the EU. While the economic measures that need to be taken to correct the current situation promise to be punishing on the Greek population, there is widespread agreement that, as long as the burden does not rest with one single tax group, Greek citizens will support the efforts.

The members of the EU with stronger economies had been urging Greece for months to cut back on spending and enact public measures that would generate revenue back into the economy. The EU is now waiting to see whether Papandreou's actions will bring about the change needed.

Should Greece come close to defaulting on its national debt and declaring national insolvency, the EU is expected to intervene and prevent total collapse. However, this option is seen as a measure of last resort. If the EU is forced to intervene, Greece will be the first country to hand over certain sovereign rights to the body and will be forced to accept all stipulations made regarding its national economy; this could result in the loss of some economic sovereignty for Greece.

The collapse of an economy in the eurozone is a non-option for many EU members. Should Greece fail to pull itself out of the crisis, national sovereignty within the EU will take second place to preserving the common currency of the continent. For now, Greeks and Europeans alike are hoping that Papandreou's actions, though late in coming, will be enough.
FOCUS ON HAITI

Seton Hall alum perishes in Haitian earthquake

Dianna Schwegman Editor-in-chief

As Haiti works to recover from a devastating 7.0 earthquake which wrecked the country on Jan. 12, stories of heartbreak and hope continue to circulate throughout the globe. Current estimates of the numbers killed range from 100,000 to 200,000, and an estimated 1.5 million Haitians are homeless. Many have been moved to temporary tented villages. Tens of thousands still lack access to food, water, and medical supplies.

The UN maintains the scale of the disaster is "historic," with its staff confronting devastation and logistical problems on a scale never seen before. Yet, behind official statistics, long-run development analysis, and domestic aid blockages and breakthroughs are the people of Haiti, both determined survivors and occasionally destructive individuals.

One such victim was Nivah Odwori. Tragically killed in Haiti’s earthquake, Odwori, 36, was a native of Margate, Kenya and a Seton Hall alum who graduated in 2006 with a dual graduate degree in Diplomacy from the Whitehouse School and in Strategic Communication from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Odwori had been working as a District Coordinator with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) since July 2009, where she served as the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti District Coordinator with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) program. According to the UNV, Odwori was one of 222 UNV volunteers serving in Haiti at the time of the quake, including several Kenyans.

"Nivah was a compassionate and talented individual who had chosen to apply her skills to the cause of peace and development as a volunteer," said Flavia Personier, UNV Executive Coordinator, on Jan. 16. "She was highly motivated and enthusiastic, and this is a great loss to the Mission, her family, and her friends."

In addition to providing much needed skills to assist and complement the UN in meeting ever growing peacekeeping demands, UNV volunteers are tasked with bringing a high level of team spirit to UN mission operations and mobilizing civilian staff and local communities to volunteer in local initiatives.

"UN volunteers go beyond their regular scope of duties to bond with communities and hold support for the presence of the mission," says UNV Executive Coordinator Ad de Raad. "Through the promotion of volunteerism, they make solid steps at healing the wounds caused by war, and at the same time channel their energies towards promoting reconciliation and peace."

Odwori’s passionate work in the fields of peacekeeping, development, civilian empowerment, and election-building extended well beyond her efforts in Haiti, a notoriously impoverished country.

Prior to serving in Haiti, Odwori worked as a UNV volunteer and District Electoral Adviser with the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN). Like Haiti, Nepal is one of the world’s poorest countries and is struggling to overcome the legacy of a 10-year Maoist insurrection.

Odwori also worked with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), serving as an adviser to its delegation to the 61st session of the UN General Assembly in 2006.

While at Seton Hall, Odwori notably left an impression on her peers, her instructors, and Whitehead School administrators. "As a person, she was very determined, with a confidence in her direction in life…to pursue her passion knowing she could make a positive influence on the lives of others," said Associate Dean Ursula Sanjarnimo, who remembers Odwori as always being committed to providing much needed aid to those affected by war, and at the same time channel their passion for human dignity in a less developed country where she could utilize her skill-set and energies.

"Nivah was dynamic, engaging, and full of life in and out of the classroom—a rarity among students," said Assefaw Birtaigaber, Professor and Department Chair of Diplomacy and International Relations, who similarly remembers Odwori as an active and determined student. "She wasn’t one who came to class and then left. She impacted others."

"We were participating in a graduate seminar on the European Union's political affairs and monetary system," said Dalai Fazio, a 2006 Whitehead School alumnus who met Odwori while on a trip to Luxembourg in 2004. "Through the context was sometimes greyer than the bureaucrats’ suits in Brussels, Nivah was uniquely colorful and delightfully enthusiastic about the world…In class, she was outspoken, a defender of goals and realities.

In fact, Odwori, proficient in six languages, completed her thesis on conflict resolution challenges in Sudan and India. "Nivah opened our hearts and our minds," said Lee Moshem, also a resident of Margate, who spoke of her friend at a memorial service on Jan. 23 at Blessed Sacrament Church in Margate.

"Her smile told us all we needed to know. Most of us remember the effortless grace in which she moved about the world…She left me a better mother and a better person…Nivah believed, and I believe, that she is going to a better place. She is traveling one more time."

Ms. Odwori is survived by her mother, sisters and brothers. Odwori is to be buried in her native Kenya.

The Hall has HOPE for Haiti

Maggie Bridgeman Staff Writer

Campus-wide programs to raise funds for the reconstruction effort in Haiti are currently underway, as Seton Hall students work to bring aid to a country in great need of healing and hope.

On Ash Wednesday, a Feb. 17 Mass in remembrance of the earthquake victims officially opened a week-long ‘Helping Haiti Heal.’ Throughout the week, the Haitian Organization Promoting Education (HOPE), along with HRL, SGA, and other organizations, hosted a variety of events on campus to collect funds for the Catholic Relief Service.

"There are numerous activities," said Cassandra Germana, president of HOPE and co-organizer of the week’s events. "HRL for example is having Spreading Love, where they will sell hearts, and you can donate a dollar and write down any message you want."

HOPE initiated the collaborative effort by calling all clubs and organizations together to form a committee at the beginning of the spring semester.

The planning committee now meets every Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the University Center, and since the first meeting, several organizations have volunteered to help. Some clubs have even altered their previously planned events to gear them towards Haiti.

"I wasn’t sure what to do, I just knew that we needed to come together as a student body and try to come up with activities to raise awareness," Germana said.

In addition to the week of events in February, the committee will continue to plan activities throughout the semester.

“This is the time more than ever that we need to stress the idea of continual help,” Germana said. “It’s not something that's going to happen in a week, two weeks, or a month that we can change, and our donations must continue to happen.”

To do this, HOPE will continue to raise awareness with its annual masquerade ball in March. This year, the theme will be “A Taste of Haiti,” and the black and white ball will symbolize Haitian culture and history.

“Even though the earthquake did tragically take so many lives, we're trying to celebrate the culture of the Haitian people, and that's why we have activities that are geared towards the celebration of the music, the cuisine, and the people,” Germana said.

HOPE has also worked towards spreading awareness about the political situation in Haiti since its inception in 2004, but according to Germana, the earthquake's direct impact on the country has caused many members of HOPE has given the club a new meaning.

"Our whole purpose was about education, and now it's more toward awareness," she said. "What we're trying to do is raise awareness that the Haitian people are a resilient nation and that the people are hardworking."

Germana explained that because of the country’s dire political and economic situation, Haiti needed a help-

"It saddens my heart that it’s a country that has so much wealth, beauty and culture, but there's so much political corruption that has overtaken that," she said. "I just hope that the earthquake is an eye opener for us, and that we are able to restore and rebuild and be united as a people."
Clinton, Red Cross face obstacles in Haiti relief efforts

Caleb Barnhart
Staff Writer

Former President Bill Clinton, who had been serving as the United Nations chief coordinator of relief efforts in Haiti, was hospitalized for chest pains Feb. 11 at the Columbia Campus of New York-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. Clinton’s appointment came with the hope that his “celebrity” would raise awareness and keep the focus on Haiti even after mainstream media coverage dimmed.

As the U.N. Special Envoy to Haiti, Clinton has visited Haiti twice since the earthquake. With the lack of a central coordinating organization, many relief organizations hoped Clinton could revitalize relief efforts, but it remains to be seen how his most recent health problem will affect Clinton’s oversight of relief operations.

Clinton has been reported to be in great health after returning to his home in Chappaqua, New York, less than 24 hours after his operation. While he was encouraged not to engage in any physical activity, it was speculated that he would return to work on Monday.

In hopes of continuing relief efforts, Clinton told reporters outside of his home: “I’m doing very well. I feel very blessed.”

The Red Cross also continues to struggle to unify its relief efforts amid the mountain of challenges that have confronted Haiti. Since its founding in 1919, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has experienced its most widespread and difficult relief work in Haiti.

After the devastating earthquake on Jan. 12, more than one million Haitians were displaced from their homes, and all forms of industry and service were disrupted.

Organizational problems quickly became apparent as the Red Cross sent more than ten thousand volunteers to the nation. Since then, supplies have arrived missing vital parts, medicine has been inadequately distributed, and thousands are still staring as food spoils in aid containers.

With the help of the United Nations, however, the Red Cross hopes to reshape its support by erecting a strong leadership team to provide more oversight. Yet such reforms seem unlikely to reach their goal.

More than 900 non-governmental organizations have flooded the country in hopes of assisting relief efforts, but the traditional coordination that government services provide is lacking.

In many cases, entire governmental agencies have been displaced due to a lack of shelter. In turn, those most affected by the earthquake are not being given proper treatment.

Even with extensive donations, organizational flaws deter effectiveness. The text “Haiti” fundraiser has garnered more than $32 million for relief efforts, as a simple text message donates $10 to the American Red Cross. Donations provide vital food and water, shelter, or first aid supplies for Haitian families.

Although donations have been record-breaking, the lack of on-the-ground coordination inhibits effective relief efforts in a country that is already plagued by instability and governmental mismanagement.

With both the Red Cross’s organizational problems and Bill Clinton’s own health problems, Haitian relief efforts are entrenched in challenges. More oversight must be provided by the UN, and donations must continue.

Although media coverage is extensive at this point in time, it will subside as new challenges confront the world. Moreover, relief efforts must continue for years, as the nation of Haiti needs to be rebuilt, and its industry, services and governmental structures must be revitalized.

SHU students share insights on Haiti relief efforts

Allison Marron
Staff Writer

The earthquake that shook Haiti on Jan. 12 would have knocked even a sturdy country off its feet. For the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, however, it was enough to turn poverty and hardship into devastation and chaos.

As with any natural disaster of this scale, relief has been pouring in from around the world. Governments, as well as nonprofit organizations, have been responding with money, food, clothing, medical supplies and as many volunteers as possible.

With such a great outpouring of relief, coordination would seem easy. The reality is anything but. In a country where people were already hungry, where orphanages were already pushed to the brink, and where infrastructure was nonexistent or insufficient, it has been difficult to respond quickly and efficiently.

“One of the most obvious barriers is the lack of coordination among any type of relief organization,” said Craig Marcklinger, a 2009 Whitehead Diplomacy major who has family in Haiti, believes that one of the main problems and Bill Clinton’s own health problems, Haitian relief efforts are entrenched in challenges. More oversight must be provided by the UN, and donations must continue.

At the moment of the earthquake, Cuttis Internationals, suggests that a lack of coordination may not be a problem for nongovernmental organizations.

“NGOs are able to make fast decisions and do not have to worry about taking the kind of political stances states do,” Cuttis said. “In the case of Haiti, most of the initial responders were NGOs who were already established in the country and who already had a team down there.”

Marccklinger also agrees on the role of NGOs. "Haiti is a unique case," he said. "Because of the country’s lack of central government, NGOs provide many essential services. For this reason, I am inclined to think that perhaps smaller NGOs that are well-connected to communities have the potential to be more effective. They are more nimble and are able to operate outside of large binders of rules and regulations.”

As relief pours in from NGOs and other sources, however, efforts may overlap, leaving some areas well addressed while others fall by the wayside.

Moreover, assessing the full needs of the country has proven difficult; the confusion that still plagues the country a month after the quake has made it problematic to accurately calculate the enormity of the situation.

Alexandra Stockton, a senior Diplomacy major who has family in Haiti, believes that one of the main problems facing Haiti’s recovery efforts is aid irregularity.

"The efforts need to be consistent," Stockton said. "That is the main problem. Aid is being dispersed in one place early in the morning and that is it...There needs to be consistent places that people can get food, and it needs to be dispersed in a non-chaotic way.”

World Vision, a nonprofit that provides relief to poor children and families in over 100 countries, estimates that over a million people have been left homeless as a result of the earthquake, and at least 700,000 have suffered serious injuries.

Stockton notes that some of the greatest challenges of the population are very straightforward. "I think that as much as first aid and food are top priorities, there needs to be temporary shelters made for the people who are homeless and a place where they can bathe, sleep, and receive meals,” she said.

“Most people don’t have that right now, especially in the capital, and besides food, this is a primary need.”

"It is really important that needs beyond food and water are met," Cantine further suggests. "In order for food distribution to be effective, there must be order, security, and protection for the vulnerable." Elderly individuals who cannot easily access aid and children who are at risk for trafficking are most in need of protection.

Marcklinger feels there are still other challenges as well. "I think the most difficult challenge in reconstruction will be keeping the long-term focus on Haitian development, especially since NGOs and other groups have been trying to improve the situation in Haiti for years.”

One can only hope that these challenges will not deter continued relief efforts and that the domestic situation will be improved for the long-term and not just alleviated for the immediate future.
Europe is in decline. This has been the case for quite sometime. A sign of its demise was effectively illustrated by President Obama’s recent refusal to attend the scheduled U.S.-EU summit in May.

White House officials insist the decision is a matter of scheduling, but we know better. The President is in trouble, and international trips haven’t helped him with the electorate. Yet for the President to skip meetings with America’s most reliable partner shows signs of a deeper trend: the Era of Europe is coming to an end.

Europe’s decline is both relative and absolute. The relative decline is expected. With the rise of Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC), Europe, more so than the United States, has to make room for these new players to wield their influence. China and India are both expanding their interests in Africa and are doing so to the detriment of former colonial powers, who had previously carved out spheres of influence.

Yet the more troubling aspects of European decline are in the absolute sense. Europe is losing as an economic power. Chronic unemployment is rampant, and declining population in many European countries is seriously troubling. After the devastation of WWII, Europe rebuilt itself. Rather than military force, it projected economic force with the creation of the European Union.

Over the past several decades, Europe has moved closer together, and some have speculated that Europe could act as a “United States of Europe,” counteracting the power of the U.S. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Europe’s internal bickering is infamous. After working for over ten years to create a new constitution, it failed. Following its failure, the Lisbon Treaty was adopted, but when the time came to put dynamic leaders into place, they chose pedestrian Herman Van Rompuy, a Belgian politician with little flair as President, and the inexperienced Catherine Ashton, a former trade minister as High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. European leaders did not want the likes of Tony Blair to outsell them.

The other aspect of Europe’s decline has been its xenophobia translated into Islamophobia. The clearest evidence of broad scale attack against Muslims was in Switzerland, where a referendum was passed banning the building of additional minarets on mosques. It is a rather obscure issue, as the law does not ban the building of additional mosques, nor does it require the removal of current minarets. However, this subtle move is likely the first of many to combat the growing population of Muslims in Switzerland.

Other European countries aren’t far behind. French President Nicolas Sarkozy stands as the strongest opponent of Turkey’s entry into the EU and announced in his state of the nation address that full Muslim veils were a sign of debasement and were not welcome in France. Italian authorities required all Roma (also known as Gypsies) peoples (including children) to get fingerprinted. Meanwhile, according to the European Agency on Fundamental Rights, there were 3,536 reports of hate Crimes, including over 100 related to anti-Semitism in Sweden during 2007. The examples go on and on.

The irony of the whole affair is that Barack Obama’s popularity in Europe is higher than anywhere else in the world. Italians, French and Germans love him for being a minority from a humble background who beat the odds to become President of the United States.

Yet many of the same people discriminate against the Turks, Roma and Africans. Our greatest asset is the diversity of the peoples who reside in the United States, and despite many ongoing problems, we have been able to manage this diversity. Europe has failed in its efforts and thus will likely fail to impede its inescapable decline.

Repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”

Christopher Sprague

It is time that the U.S. Military repeal the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy that has muzzled lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) volunteers for nearly two decades. The outdated policy hinders overseas operations, places limits on personnel, decreases troop morale, and does not reflect the status of civil rights in the twenty-first century. Doing away with such a misguided policy is in the best interests of the U.S. and would be a landmark event in the struggle for LGBT rights for years to come.

From a strategic standpoint, “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” has locked out hundreds of qualified servicemen and women of substantial value, including highly-skilled Arabic and Farsi linguists. It is estimated that $369 million has been spent discharging and replacing personnel under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” since the U.S invaded Afghanistan in 2001.

Particularly in a time when U.S. military forces are stretched thin, allowing to bar openly LGBT members is not smart policy. If someone wishes to serve their country in honorable defense of the freedoms and liberties we cherish as a nation, then we should encourage their ambitions. Repealing the law would open the doors to thousands of young men and women who wish to stand united against the threats of the new century without compromising the person that they were born to be.

If government leaders such as President Obama, Admiral Muller, and even former Vice President Dick Cheney openly support a repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” then we as a society just might learn to do the same.

Over the next year, the military will undertake a thorough assessment of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy. The outcome of this review will hopefully result in a more tolerant military stance regarding openly gay service members. Even so, the repeal is unlikely to take effect for several years due to a desired transition period to help smooth out anticipated backlash against LGBT service members. The power of repeal lies with Congress, where politics figure to play a major role in the final decision.

It is rather disappointing to witness the pure hatred and intolerance espoused by so many in the United States, even as we stand in our most fragile and vulnerable state. When we as individuals and a society learn to accept the differences inherent among us, then we can begin to distance ourselves from the tragedies of our past. By repealing “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” the America our all-volunteer armed forces risk their lives to defend can continue working to earn the title of the land of the free.

South Korea: Education Model or Disaster?

Grace Chung

The erroneous leap in education that South Koreans have been able to achieve have them plaudits from around the world. In multiple speeches, President Obama has compared South Korea with the U.S. in an effort to rally American educators.

“If India or South Korea are producing more scientists and engineers than we are, we are not succeeding,” Obama warned to American educators.

In a speech delivered in March of last year, Obama said, “Our children—listen to this—our children spend over a month less in school than their children in South Korea every year.”

There is reason to be impressed. In only one generation, South Korea was able to jump from third-world achievement levels to attaining some of the highest test scores and graduation rates in the world, beating out the U.S. in every subject. However, the Korean education system, which places such a high emphasis on students’ academic achievement, has only given rise to new mutations of the same complaints that have only given rise to new mutations of poor students.

Korean students get one chance per year to take the College Scholastic Ability Test—an exam which primarily determines their chances of future success. Every president in South Korea has tried to stamp out the emphasis on private tutoring. The current President Lee Myung-bak promised that more students would be able to enter top schools without private lessons. His administration altered the admissions system to shift more emphasis on school records and extracurricular activities. However, his policies have only given rise to new mutations of private tutoring and admissions consulting.

There are certainly some valuable lessons that can be learned from South Korea’s education system. Increasing the number of school days and hours of private attention for students could certainly boost America’s grades; however, there is a reason why so many Koreans come to the U.S. to study and so few Americans venture to Korea for their own studies.

In the U.S., even a student with poor grades and low standardized scores can get a second chance. The U.S. is a land of opportunities and second chances, and we as Americans are fortunate to enjoy it.

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Students want better Arabic program

Shawn Gunaratne
Guest Writer

In the summer of 2006, the Israeli-Hezbollah war sparked my interest in the Arab world. I remember watching CNN and realizing how little I knew about why these people were fighting. I spent days at the local library determined to find out why people would spill so much blood over a sliver of land. Although I still do not have a complete answer, this research sparked an interest in me to study Arabic and attain a deeper insight into the Arab world.

Therefore, when I found out that Seton Hall offered an Arabic course, I was ecstatic. The challenge of learning a completely new language, with an alphabet that resembled nothing I had ever encountered, excited me. Coming to Seton Hall in the summer of 2006, I was ready to become proficient in Arabic as a person could possibly become in four years.

I have taken Arabic for three years now, and I am embarrassed to say that our newest professor must start his lessons from the beginning.

“When I came to teach this level (fourth year Arabic), I was expecting students to be able to speak the language,” said Professor Karam Tannous in an interview for this story. “It was a surprise that students had to start from the beginning because they didn’t even know essential vocabulary.”

The reason is simple: the Arabic Program has no structure. There is no Arabic department, and the program does not fall under Modern Languages. Rather, it is part of the Asian studies. However, Asian studies does not seem to have an invested interest in the growth and quality of the program.

This lack of interest in the Arabic program at Seton Hall is most clearly illustrated by the lack of a full-time tenure track professor. With the exception of the current professor, few—if any—of the other professors have been trained to teach Arabic.

In the three years I have taken Arabic, I have only received a syllabus once. Due to this lack of structure, each professor has free reign to teach using whatever method or order he wants. To Furthermore, without a syllabus, we had little idea what our final grade would be based on.

My Arabic professors have not been particularly responsible either. Last semester, the professor would frequently miss class without notifying any of the students. “More than times than not, he didn’t even show up to class,” said junior Jassim Abbasi. Even the day of Abbas’s final, the professor was nowhere to be seen. These types of events are unacceptable especially when students are paying nearly $3,000 for the course.

Many students have found it necessary to go abroad to reach a proficiency level of Arabic. “The reason I went abroad is because I refuse to have four years of Arabic without knowing how to speak a word of Arabic,” said senior Carl Wilhelm who studied abroad in Egypt last year.

Many of my peers and I are Diplomacy majors. Therefore, when we go to the Diplomacy School to lodge formal complaints, we are directed to the Asian Studies Department, but Asian Studies seems to have little interest in addressing our concerns. It should be noted that I have not always been the best student. I have missed assignments and skipped classes occasionally. That being said, there is a serious lack of incentive to attend classes and do assignments when the students know that the professors will probably not check the assignment or that there is a good possibility that the professor will not show up to class.

One element I must commend the Arabic program on is their ability to hire professors who are directly from the Middle East. They have provided a unique perspective into the challenges currently facing the Arab world, and because of their experience, it has made for a richer Arabic education. Many students have commented that the Arabic program is currently moving in the right direction. My current professor uses a systematic approach to teaching Arabic, simultaneously following the book and supplementing it when necessary. He is patient with his students. However, until he or someone equally qualified is hired as a full-time professor, we cannot be sure that the Arabic program will flourish.

Our university is committed to building global servant leaders. It is not fair to argue that the Middle East is no longer a central focus in U.S. foreign policy for the forthcoming future. If our Diplomacy School is to be one of the best, Arabic can no longer be ignored. There is an increasing interest in Arabic among graduating high school students because many students see Arabic as the doorway to the Arab world, as I once did.

To give students the edge that they need, there should be more collaboration between the Diplomacy school and the College of Arts and Sciences. The Diplomacy School must take more responsibility for the Arabic program since an overwhelming majority of students in the program are Diplomacy students and are required to take a language to fulfill their class requirements.

Also, an effective Arabic program requires a set curriculum so that regardless of which professor teaches from year to year, the next professor will know where to begin or his/her first lesson.

Finally, I cannot stress enough that it is very important that the most valuable committee the College of Arts and Sciences can make to the Arabic program is to hire a full-time faculty member, who is a professional Arabic teacher.

Even though I believe I could have benefited from a stronger Arabic program, I hope that the Diplomacy School and College of Arts and Sciences will collaborate to implement a stronger program so that future students will be able to understand the Middle East through the Arabic language.
Olympic hockey is a toss-up

Dan Grimm
Staff Writer

At the start of February, all eyes were on Vancouver. The Vancouver Winter Olympics returned to our northern neighbors for the first time since Calgary hosted in 1988. The expectations were not only high for the city of Vancouver but also for Canada’s men’s hockey team.

Loaded with NHL superstar talent, Canada is looking to win its second gold medal title in the last 58 years. Thus, the hockey tournament has shown that this will not be an easy task for Canada or for the rest of the field.

Canada, along with Sweden (gold medal winners in 2006) and Russia, were the clear-cut favorites to win the gold medal at the start of the Olympics. Team USA, filled with young talent but lacking veteran presence, was perceived to be an “underdog” in the tournament.

The games began according to plan on Thursday, Feb. 16 with Canada drubbing Norway 8-0, the U.S. taking care of Switzerland 3-1, and the Russians rolling past neighboring Latvia 8-2. Day 2 also saw predictable results, with Sweden beating host country Austria 5-1, Sweden getting by Germany 2-0, and the Czech Republic winning a hard-fought battle against rival Slovakia. Surprises came into play on the third day of the hockey tournament.

Day 3 started off as expected with Team USA putting up six goals against a weak Norwegian team. But then tournament-favorite Canada needed a huge win against the pesky Swiss, who had beaten them in the previous Olympics. The day was capped by the biggest shocker of the tournament thus far: a 2-1 shootout win for Slovakia over heavily-favored Russia.

These last two games proved that winning the gold will not come easy for any team, no matter how talented the players are.

The Winter Olympics features both men’s and women’s ice hockey. Unlike the men’s tournament, the women’s is concentrated between Team Canada and Team USA. The two powerhouses have combined for 72 goals in 6 games while only conceding 3. Look for Canada and USA to remain unbeaten until they face each other in the gold medal game.

With the competitive difference between the men’s and women’s tournament, the men’s game should be more exciting and less predictable. However, Ryan Dufﬁ, a freshman at Seton Hall and hockey fan, does not feel that way.

"Even with these upsets and close games, the talent from the big teams such as Canada and Russia will outweigh the other teams," says Dufﬁ. Dufﬁ, who has been watching the NHL and international hockey for a number of years, feels that the preliminary round is not an accurate representation of what is to come in the tournament.

"It’s just like the regular season in the NHL. There’s going to be ups and downs, but, in the end, the best team always wins."
Hope for Haiti Now: Celebs unite to host largest telethon in history

Over $66 million has been raised for Haitian relief efforts through the powerful Hope for Haiti Now telethon that aired on Jan. 22. The unprecedented celebrity effort aired on nearly every local and cable channel, including more than 25 networks, making it the most widely distributed telethon in history.

The telethon attracted approximately 83 million U.S. viewers and another 5.8 million online video streams, in addition to those viewing the event internationally and those listening to the radio broadcast in Haiti. The program was broadcast from New York, Los Angeles and London, including clips reported by Anderson Cooper directly from Port-Au-Prince.

The two-hour event was spearheaded by the efforts of George Clooney, Wyclef Jean and MTV. According to MTV, Clooney contacted CEO Judy McGrath just two days after the 7.1 magnitude earthquake swept Haiti. He had already enlisted the help of Jean, Bono, Sting and Bruce Springsteen to make the telethon happen.

“We’ve all seen that music plays a role in horrible times,” McGrath said in a interview with PEOPLE magazine.

Over Troubled Water,” and a newly released song for the occasion called “Stranded (Haiti Mon Amour),” which featured Jay-Z, Rihanna and the Edge. Apple coupled with the efforts by Clinton Bush Haiti Fund, the UN World Food Program, Oxfam America, Partners in Health, the Red Cross, UNICEF and Wyclef Jean’s Yéle Haiti Foundation. Hope for Haiti Now is still accepting donations online. As a resident, Jean attended Valburg High School, just blocks from SHU. His wife maintains a business in downtown South Orange, called Fusha Home Accents.

When news of the earthquake hit, Claudette Jean placed the store’s stock in storage and converted the retail space into a drop-off location for local donations. Volunteers sort through the donations before the materials are shipped to Haiti through the Yéle Foundation.

The store is collecting everything from school supplies to bedding, packaging, clothes and shoes as well as monetary donations.

Find more details on: southorange.patch.com
Pirate Alums discusses state stability through coordination

Timothy Dooley
Section Editor

Disclaimers: Joshua Ayers did not speak in official capacity or represent the position or interests of the United States Government, or any of its subordinate offices or legal entities.

The Reserve Officer Training Corps, better known as ROTC, is a path where college students, mostly undergraduates, strive to become officers in the United States Army. Joshua Ayers, a Seton Hall and Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations alum, not only completed his Master’s Degree but also finished the ROTC program, acquiring training to become a Second Lieutenant.

Ayers recently completed several months of advanced military instruction. On Thursday, Feb. 18, he presented a lecture on Coordinating Stability Operations in foreign states. Ayers’ discussion mainly focused on the U.S. military’s efforts to coordinate strategy with federal and non-profit civil institutions. The goal is to go from the Army’s primary mission to support military efforts to a setting where increased cooperation is utilized because it is a humanitarian mission where security concerns are at the forefront.

In addition to discussing cooperation between the U.S. military and aid or reconstruction agencies such as USAID, Ayers discussed how to become a successful military officer. Specifically, lieutenants must layout effective plans for a platoon to execute.

“The conflict in Bosnia was called the ‘corporal’s war’ because the junior non-commissioned officers really took control. The plans developed by senior officers were broken down to their simplest components and carried out effectively.”

While Ayers learned how to interact with local leaders in places like Afghanistan, he also credits receiving an infantry course within the Reserve for instructing him on how to better understand the intricacies of cross-cultural communication.

“I have to convince them to understand the need for cross-cultural communication.”

While at Seton Hall, Joshua Ayers received the training to become a Second Lieutenant. With Ambassador Hassan gave me the best tools for interaction with other cultures.”

“While I am using his training and education as he prepares for his first deployment in South Korea. After this tour, Ayers will be using his training to further instruct others on the value of coopera...