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Biologist Studies Sibling Rivalry in the Nest

The world of wildlife has always fascinated Scott Forbes, an assistant professor in the Biology Department at The University of Winnipeg.

As a young boy growing up in British Columbia, he knew by age six that he wanted to devote his life to biology. By age eight he had started writing a book called *Fish Of The World* and had listed 400 species: "I gave up in despair when someone told me there were more than 25,000 species still to go," he laughs. "My young world was shattered."

But his interest in biology was not. He completed an undergraduate degree at the University of British Columbia, earned a master's degree at the University of Manitoba, and then went to Simon Fraser University to work on a PhD, which dealt with the reduction in ospreys. Later, he did postdoctoral work and taught at the University of Oklahoma.

Forbes specializes in behavioural ecology. In general, he's interested in how animals behave, especially in family units; in particular, he studies sibling rivalry, notably in the bird world. Murder and mayhem in the nest fascinate him.

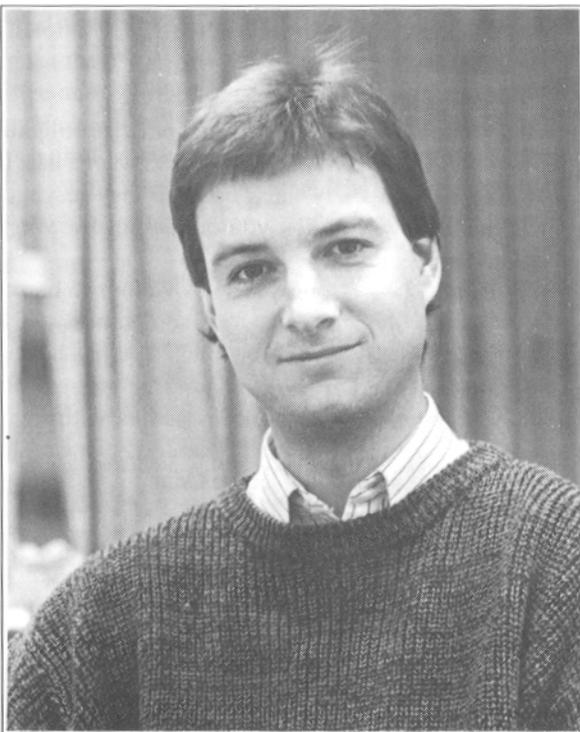
He's one of only about half a dozen researchers in the world studying siblicide in the nest. To illustrate his work, he opens up a cockle burr containing two seeds: "The second seed is nature's back-up in case the first seed fails to germinate properly," he explains. "In the bird world it's very similar. Birds lay extra eggs, but if they all hatch, the newest chicks are often eliminated either by their siblings killing them or by socially enforced

starvation."

This "quaint" practice occurs among many birds, including penguins, white pelicans and African black eagles. Some species practise obligate brood reduction, where extra siblings are disposed of whether there's a food shortage or not. Others practise facultative brood reduction—ospreys for instance—where younger chicks may survive if food is plentiful, but where they are killed if food competition is fierce.

Forbes says most research suggests the killing of extra offspring by older siblings is done with full parental approval: "The par-

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Scott Forbes' studies have practical applications in wildlife management.

RESEARCH

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Professor Writes Book for a Wider Audience

Harry Loewen, chair of Mennonite studies, enjoyed writing his latest book, *No Permanent City*, an anthology describing Mennonite faith and life.

Loewen says he wanted to write a book which was not for academics, but for a wider audience. It is a collection of true, historical, interesting stories that will give people an idea about Mennonite life in the past. "I had fun writing the book. It was not a scholarly, academic undertaking and there was no documentation or footnotes to worry about. I like telling stories and having time to make them interesting."

"The stories begin in the 16th century with the Anabaptists, the first Mennonites," says Loewen. "They believed baptism should be part of the confession of faith." Because of this belief, the Anabaptists endeavored to abolish the baptism of babies. "They were persecuted because of their revolutionary ideas which threatened to undermine church and state institutions. Society was not tolerant," Loewen states.

The episodes in *No Permanent City*—mostly in chronological order—carry through to the present time. "Some illustrate personal experiences in Germany," Loewen notes. "Some are humorous, some serious."

Loewen was born in the Ukraine. During World War II he

went to Germany and in 1948 emigrated to Canada with his mother, brother and sister, settling in Alberta. In the early '50s he came to Winnipeg to study at a Mennonite College. He received an MA from the University of Manitoba and a PhD from the University of Waterloo. He chaired the German Department at Wilfrid Laurier University from 1968 until 1978 and then was selected as the first Chair in Mennonite Studies at The University of Winnipeg.

In that position Loewen developed a program in Mennonite studies, taught classes in Mennonite history, culture and literature, and established the *Journal of Mennonite Studies* in 1983.

As well as publishing numerous articles on Mennonite history and literature, he has written or edited several books. "Now I have been asked to work on a high school Mennonite historical text, as there are none for the high school level."

All this is quite an impressive record for someone who declares, "When I arrived in Canada, I only knew two words in the English language—yes and no."

No Permanent City is available in The University of Winnipeg Bookstore.

Bird Nest

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ents rarely intervene in the fights and some can be very vicious," he says.

Though his studies are a bit gruesome, he says they do have practical applications in wildlife management. His studies of ospreys in British Columbia, for instance, have shown that chick survival can be enhanced by swapping a newly hatched chick from one nest with an older chick from another nest: "Osprey parents will accept it and feed it within five minutes, but some birds never accept newcomers," he says.

Whooping cranes usually lay two eggs, with only one surviving. Knowing this, wildlife managers have harvested the extra eggs and successfully incubated them in captivity. Peregrine falcon chicks which had little chance of survival have also been taken from their nests and reared successfully outside.

Last summer Forbes spent weeks in a marshy area southeast of Winnipeg studying yellowhead blackbirds, which usually lay

four or five eggs and practise obligate brood reduction: "You have to wear a baseball cap to study them because they're vicious and will whack you on the head if you get too close," he laughs.

Ospreys are less vicious to humans, but tend to nest in trees sometimes over 100 feet tall, so studying them also has its dangers.

Forbes has had three grants in the past year to continue his studies, with major funds coming from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

His research has also been published in half a dozen leading journals, including *American Naturalist*, *The Journal Of Theoretical Biology*, *Behaviour*, *Ecology and Sociobiology*, and a leading Scandinavian ecology journal.

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in edition is printed on recycled paper. After you have finished with this issue, please put it in your Paper Grower tin.

Understanding the Chinese Economy



Xiao-yuan Dong, assistant professor of economics, is helping to shed some light on the Chinese economic model.

China now has 1.2 billion people and one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Not surprisingly, Canada has recently expressed a strong interest in improving trade ties with this oriental colossus. In order to do this, experts believe we must improve our understanding of how their economy works.

One of those helping to shed light on the Chinese economic model is Xiao-yuan Dong, who became an assistant professor in the Economics Department earlier this year.

Dong grew up in northeast China and completed her undergraduate studies there. She came to Canada in 1983 to take both an MA and PhD at the University of Alberta, and then she taught at the University of Saskatchewan and Saint Mary's University in Halifax.

"My first view of Canada was at Edmonton airport and I was amazed by the number of lights surrounding it," she recalls. "I really knew I was in the West when I saw so much energy being consumed. In China I was used to power failures and shortages." But China is rapidly changing, she says, with far less emphasis now on ideology and far more on

improving living standards.

"Most people are not very interested in politics and are more interested in incomes and consumer goods," she says. "Even a newspaper like the *Chinese People's Daily* has advertisements and articles about successful people rather than long ideological tracts."

When she grew up, going out to a restaurant was a very special occasion, but now it's commonplace—just like colour TVs and many other consumer goods.

Dong is a specialist in the study of Chinese agricultural cooperatives. She spent last summer conducting research in China and this year published a highly technical article with Professor Gregory K. Dow, of the University of Alberta, in the *Journal of Political Economy* (University of Chicago Press).

The subject was "Monitoring Costs In Chinese Agricultural Teams." Since the early 1970s China has undergone a major switch from collective farming to household farm contracting, leading to huge gains in productivity. The reasons for these large productivity gains have been controversial among researchers.

Using micro-level data on Chinese production teams from the 1970-76 period, Dong and her co-researcher estimated the old collective work teams devoted 10-20 per cent of their labour time to the task of monitoring

worker performance. Since household farm contracting requires no worker supervision, they estimate that the reform led to a labour supply increase of 10-20 per cent. This calculation is considerably lower than some previous researchers have estimated.

Dong has applied for funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to enable her to return to China next summer to study internal incentive systems and the relationship between job creation and profit sharing in cooperatives.

She says the state still controls about 50 per cent of the economy, but worker cooperatives, where employees receive both wages and profits, are likely to proliferate. They now account for about 25 percent of the GNP and are very popular. Purely private enterprises only account for about 10 percent of GNP.

Dong says China has a long history of pragmatism and compromise.

"China is interested in new ideas and if a system doesn't quite fit, they'll take its best elements and adapt it," she says.

A Special Education in Hungary, Russia and The Czech Republic



Associate Professor Eleoussa Polyzoi observed special education programs and facilities in Eastern Europe.

This past May, Eleoussa Polyzoi, associate professor of education, was selected to participate in an early childhood, special education delegation that travelled to Hungary, Russia and The Czech Republic for three weeks.

This delegation consisted of 60 early childhood special educators from across the United States and Canada, and was sponsored by the Citizen Ambassador Program, an American-based organization founded by President Eisenhower. The delegation was led by Richard M. Garguilo, a leader in the field of international special education, and Stephen B. Graves, both from the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

The purpose of this delegation was to visit a number of preschool and school-aged facilities for children with special needs as well as to meet with various government officials, researchers, and teacher-trainers.

In Budapest, Hungary, Polyzoi visited a number of institutions such as the Hungarian Institute for Educational Research and the Gusztav Barczy Training College for Teachers of the Handicapped.

In Moscow, Russia, she also met with government, educational and research representatives during her many stops in places like the Ministry of Education, the Laboratory of the General Principles of Defectology; and the Aesthetic Education Research Centre for Drama, Art, and Music.

Polyzoi, also spent over eight days in Prague, the Czech

Republic and met with Marie Cerna, vice dean of the Faculty of Education at Charles University. Currently, The University of Winnipeg has a faculty exchange program with the Charles University's Department of American and Canadian Studies. During her visit, Polyzoi explored the possibility of establishing a research linkage between the two universities in the area of education. Polyzoi also met with Vlastimil Parizek, head of the Department of Education, Eva Opravilova, head of the Department of Primary Education, and Jan Prucha, director of the Institute of Educational and Psychological Research.

During her stay in Prague, Polyzoi also had an opportunity to visit selected preschool centres and school-age classrooms for normal children as well as specialized schools for the developmentally disabled. More specifically, she visited the Auxiliary Special School for the moderately handicapped in Prague, the Home of the Holy Family for the Profoundly Mentally Retarded, and the Stochov Private School for the Multiply Handicapped (long-term care).

Prior to the Velvet Revolution of 1989, the school curricula and teacher training programs in The Czech Republic were ideologically-driven and strictly controlled by the state. Little divergence from the official Communist mandate was permitted. As a result, little opportunity for the development of middle management in the school system was available. Currently, Charles University is developing a school management and administrative studies program for head masters, principals, and directors of educational institutions.

Additionally, since the revolution, the Russian language is no longer taught in state schools and Czech has replaced Russian as the principal language of instruction. English as a second language is now becoming increasingly popular among young students. As a result, Charles University is planning to introduce a "Teaching English as a Second Language" program for both primary and secondary school teachers.

Whereas in Canada and the United States mainstreaming students with special needs is a common practice, in The Czech Republic, such students are segregated in special schools for the mentally handicapped, hearing impaired, speech impaired and the physically handicapped. Integration of special students in regular classrooms is rare if it exists at all.

Eva Opravilova expressed an interest in becoming involved in a joint research project with Polyzoi to explore and compare early childhood special education policy and practice in the Czech Republic and Canada. Polyzoi's visit to Prague was funded by the SSHRC Aid to Small Universities Program (Thematic Focus: Eastern Europe).

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Stephenson Winners Demonstrate Leadership Qualities

Kevin Lee Harrison, Sandra Ann Baydock and Michael Jason Winters are this year's recipients of the Sir William Stephenson Scholarship. These prestigious awards, valued at \$2,400, are granted annually to students on the basis of outstanding academic achievements, superior leadership qualities and a potential to make a valuable contribution to Canada.

All three students have received several awards for their academic proficiency throughout high school and university. Their talents, however, extend well beyond academia as they have all shown tremendous generosity and dedication in extra-curricular activities.

Harrison, a member of the RCMP, is studying justice and law enforcement as well as administrative studies. His community involvement includes coaching sports, serving on the Ducks Unlimited Canada local committee and promoting the Crimestoppers program. Harrison hopes to be promoted to a higher rank within the RCMP.

Baydock demonstrates strong leadership

skills through her active involvement in the church and as a member of the University's programming committee. In school, she excels in both arts and science. She plans a career in medicine.

Winters is involved in The University of Winnipeg Ace of Trump Association, plays a number of sports, coaches waterpolo and is a Big Brother to a young Russian immigrant. He intends to pursue a career as a pediatric physician.

The three scholarships were made possible by a \$100,000 gift from Sir William Stephenson in 1984. Born in Winnipeg in 1896, Stephenson achieved fame for his intelligence work in World War II under the code name "Intrepid." He was director of British security coordination in the Western hemisphere during the war.

Responsibility for the selection of award recipients is shared by The University of Winnipeg and the Sir William Stephenson Scholarship trustees.



This year's Stephenson Scholarship winners are, from left to right, Michael Winters, Sandra Baydock and Kevin Harrison.

Attention Library Users

The University of Winnipeg Library has implemented a new fines policy on stack books. It will take effect Jan. 3, and applies to all library users including faculty, staff and alumni as well as students.

"The fines policy has been introduced as a means of generating revenue without cutting the acquisitions budget," explains University Librarian William Converse. According to Converse, the University hasn't had a fines policy on stack books since the 1970s.

With over 500,000 volumes, the Library is one of the University's major assets. Books are sometimes lost, for example, when a student who does not complete a degree fails to return books. It is hoped the fines policy will help reduce that loss by targeting overdue books while the student is still on campus.

The fine for overdue stack books will be \$1 per day, to a maximum fine of \$20 per book. The fine for overdue reserve material or recalled stack books is 50¢ per hour, or \$4 per day, to a maximum fine of \$20 per item.


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COMING EVENTS

"Coming Events" is compiled by University Relations. If you are planning a campus event, please let us know. Send the information (in writing) to Lois Cherney, University Relations, Room 4W17. Basic details about your event are required: what, when, where, sponsor, and the name of a contact person. Submissions must be received at least 10 working days before the event.

MON., DEC. 6

- Lectures in the **Faculty of Arts and Science** close.

-The Women's Centre presents a **candlelight vigil** at 12:30 p.m. in the Psychology Lounge, 4th floor, Centennial Hall in memory of the Dec. 6 massacre of 14 women engineering students in Montreal.

MON., DEC. 6 TO FRI., DEC. 10

- The fourteenth annual exhibition and sale of **watercolours by Kenneth Hamilton**, Professor Emeritus of Theology and Literature will be held on the Library Mezzanine. The hours are: Dec. 6, 3-9 p.m., Dec. 7 to Dec. 8, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. and Dec. 10 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. The official opening ceremonies will be held at 3 p.m. on Dec. 6. A portion of the sale price is donated to the Library.

WED., DEC. 8

- The **University Women's Auxiliary** will hold a bake sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. outside the Riddell Hall Cafeteria. Funds raised support University scholarships.

- The **Virtuosi Concert Series**, co-presented by CBC Stereo and University of Winnipeg Concerts, features the **Hoebig-Moroz Duo** at 8 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church, Donald and Graham. Rush seat tickets are available at the University Info Booth and Ticketmaster, 780-3333.

THURS., DEC. 9

- The University **Senate** meeting will be held at 2 p.m. The location is to be announced.

THURS., DEC. 9 TO FRI., DEC. 17

- **Examination period** in the Faculty of Arts and Science.

FRI., DEC. 10

- University President Marsha Hanen will host the annual **Holiday Reception** from 3-5 p.m. in Riddell Hall Cafeteria. All faculty and staff are invited to attend.

MON., DEC. 20 - SUN., JAN. 2

- **University closed.**

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MON., JAN. 3

- Lectures resume.

FRI., JAN. 7

- The German-Canadian Club will sponsor a lecture by Angelika Sauer on **The Respectable Course: The German Evolution of Canadian Foreign Policy (1943-47)** in Room 1L12 at 12:30 p.m.

TUES., JAN. 11

- The **Blood Donor Clinic** will be held from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the 4th floor lounge Centennial Hall.

WED., JAN. 12

- Technical Support Services is offering a lecture series, entitled "Network Computing on Campus", designed to bring employees up-to-date on computer networks, their application and potential at the University.

Bookstore Hours Change

There is a change in the bookstore's hours effective Dec. 6 to Dec. 17.

During this time the bookstore will be open Mon. through Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

The first lecture is **Networks—What's All the Fuss About?** by Ken Krebs. This session introduces the concepts of networks, then proceeds to show how the networks at the University are organized. The basic services are explained and some myths exploded, 12:30-1:20 p.m. in Room 1L11.

WED., JAN. 19

- The second session in the Technical Support Services Network Computing Series is entitled **Work Group Computing** by Raymond Lau. This lecture explains the concept of "work group" computing and how it can improve communications between people working on a common project. The concept of work groups will be extended to include the local inter-network, 12:30-1:20 p.m. in Room 1L11.

FRI., JAN. 21

- The University **Senate** meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m. in Room 1L13.



Concert #5 in the Virtuosi Series features the duo of Gwen Hoebig and David Moroz on Wed., Dec. 8 at 8 p.m. The venue has been changed to Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall, The University of Winnipeg. The concert will be taped by CBC Stereo for broadcast nationally on Arts Tonight.