

Guelph Mercury

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They said it

"After I'm dead I'd rather have people ask why I have no monument than why I have one." *Cato the Elder*

Getting it right

Our accuracy pledge

Nothing is more important to us than accuracy. We always strive to ensure the information we provide is factual and correct. But sometimes we make mistakes, and when we do, we will correct them promptly and prominently. If you see a factual error, please contact the newsroom at 519-823-6060 or by email at editor@guelphmercury.com.

Lottery results

Yesterday's unofficial winning numbers:

Pick 3: 9 5 3

Pick 4: 5 9 9 7

Keno: 1, 6, 10, 13, 15, 16, 19, 29, 32, 36, 37, 40, 43, 48, 49, 50, 60, 64, 67, 69.

Encore: 6396522

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Life changed when sister left home

My older sister recently came home from university for the summer. With her return came the mixed feelings of happiness at a sibling coming home for the summer and the realization that I would not be the eldest child in the house anymore.

This is a time of year when many local families experience what it is like when their students come home from university, some for the first time.

Parents, of course, have the hardest process to go through. Letting their children go and moving them out of the house can be trying. Difficult as well is the period of adjustment to life without seeing their children on a regular basis.

Being a brother or sister to a university student is a unique experience altogether.

Having an older brother or sister around is a better thing than most teenagers make it out to be. Too often we complain about the annoyance that they are to us rather than giving them credit for the positive impact they have on our lives.

When we don't feel like asking our parents for advice, older brothers and sisters function as more than a sounding board for life's problems. Having been through the problems of childhood and adolescence already, they know what they're talking about, more often than not.

There are, however, advantages to them



PHILIP MARFISI
youth community
editorial board

moving away.

When my sister moved out, the number of chick flicks our family watched went down dramatically. I was free to watch more sports games and could avoid having to know who Paris Hilton's new best friend was, thanks to MTV reality shows making fewer appearances on our television screen.

It was wonderful to rediscover what music with more than four chords sounded like, though I'm not sure my younger sister benefited as much from that.

It was safer to buy barbecue chips as well, as we would get half the protest that my father and I usually did when we were in charge of the grocery shopping — which noticeably happens less often as I get older.

I got to ride shotgun a lot more often on family trips. The front seat of the van is much more comfortable than riding in the back seat.

I cannot vouch for my younger sister's experience with having one less sibling around, however.

Hundreds around world apply for fund's help

► SURGERY FROM PAGE A1

Foday did what hundreds of children in underdeveloped countries do every year: he accidentally drank caustic soda that had been stored in a random bottle.

He drank the chemical — often referred to as lye — believing it was a drink. The scarring left him unable to eat, drink or even swallow his own saliva.

To return to his own remote village, miles from medical help, would have meant almost certain death. There was no running or clean water. There was no one to look after the feeding tube, no one with the knowledge to change surgical dressings.

That's where Peloso came in.

"He just stomped by us one day at the hospital and they told me his story," Peloso said of her initial meeting with Foday.

After learning of the boy's bleak future, she took up his cause and applied to The Herbie Fund at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children.

Established in 1979 and named after the first child helped, The Herbie Fund provides financial and medical support so that children from around the world can get life-saving short-term medical treatment or surgery that is unavailable in their home countries.

So far, more than 600 children from 88 different countries have been helped. According to the fund's website, Foday is the first child from Sierra Leone.

"On average, we take about 30 kids a year," said Vicky Braverman, Herbie Fund co-ordinator.

And how many apply?

"Hundreds and hundreds."

The fund exists through the efforts of volunteers — including the doctors — donations and fundraising. There are no government grants.

Dr. Langer, Sick Children's head of general surgery, has done this particular five-hour procedure about 10 times.

"It's actually an old surgery, but not very common in North America anymore," Langer said. "It became virtually obsolete in North America with the introduction of childproof lids on bottles."

On this continent the surgery is now usually reserved for children born without an esophagus, not those who accidentally drank chemicals.

Langer, who has done work for the Herbie Fund for 10 years, said it is always gratifying to help children. But when you can help a child who might otherwise have no chance, it makes it all that more precious.

Foday's parents were unable to leave their work and baby to make the trip, so Peloso is currently his guardian.

"They said, 'While he is with you, treat him like your own child,'" said Peloso, who has a daughter in high school and a son at university.

The ordeal has been one of wonderment for

It could be said that when I tried to act responsibly in place of my older sister, my younger sister must have thought that I was turning into a bit of a dictator:

I can hardly be blamed, though, for capitalizing on the chance to make someone else take out the garbage.

Advantages aside, most teenagers notice little initially when someone moves out of the house. Of course, there isn't much of a change at first, but it becomes more noticeable over time.

For those of you with older siblings who have just finished exams or who may be leaving for post-secondary education this year, appreciate the time you have with them before they depart.

Though they can drive their younger siblings up the wall just as much as they help them out, older brothers and sisters are more often a help than a hindrance.

As Jane Mersky Leder once said, "Our siblings push buttons that cast us in roles we felt sure we had let go of long ago — the baby, the peacekeeper, the caretaker, the avoider. . . It doesn't seem to matter how much time has elapsed or how far we've travelled."

That, in essence is the role our siblings play for us. Don't take it for granted.

Philip Marfisi is a member of the Guelph Mercury's Youth Community Editorial Board.

Squirrels too cute to be culled? Nonsense

► MERCER FROM PAGE A1

In southern Ontario, we don't protest the trapping and moving of Canada geese, which commandeer city parks, take over golf courses and contaminate public beaches with their blankets of cigarlike waste.

Other species, including pigeons, deer and cormorants are all subject to culls when their numbers get out of control, too.

Every region has its variants. In Saskatchewan, farmers use poison in their battle against Richardson ground squirrels, those evil, plotting gophers, which wreak havoc on their fields. In Ottawa, they use shiny objects to lure politicians out of their nests.

But tree squirrels? No, they're too cute to be culled.

Some see through the squirrels' fuzzy exterior and have already taken action. Across the Atlantic, they're embroiled in what

is believed to be the largest cull of any mammal yet seen in the United Kingdom, with tens of thousands of grey squirrels expected to be shot on sight by landowners and trapped and killed under a government-sponsored project.

It has caused a surprising side industry. There's suddenly a run on squirrel meat, once spurned by British carnivores during the Second World War when the Ministry of Food promoted the many splendid joys of squirrel soup and pie. Thanks to the cull, squirrel is now selling in farmers' markets, butcher shops, old pubs and fancy restaurants as fast as gamekeepers and hunters can haul it in.

That's right — the British are eating roast squirrel; squirrel done Peking-duck style; squirrel layered with hazelnuts and cooked into a meat loaf or

baked into pasty pies.

But if you're thinking of something small and fuzzy to put in the soup pot tonight, just remember — squirrels must be shot in the head. A body shot makes them impossible to skin or eat, according to the researchers at the New York Times. And you want to lose the head at any rate, as squirrel brains have been linked to a variant of the human form of mad cow disease.

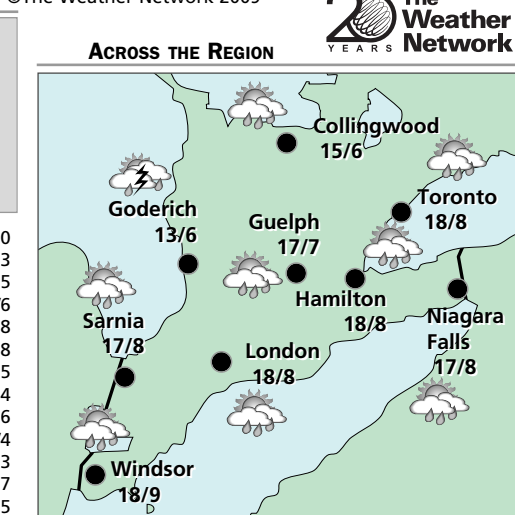
If the Brits can do it, so can we. Think of the possibilities. Forget Ribfest. What about the cachet of something called the Royal City Rodent Roast? So squirrels, consider your reign of terror over. You're officially put on notice.

Greg Mercer is a Guelph-based freelance writer. His column appears Wednesdays. He can be reached at greg_mercer@hotmail.com.

WEATHER

ALMANAC		TOMORROW	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Normal High	16.6°	Showers H: 17 L: 7	Sunny H: 17 L: 7	Showers H: 16 L: 4	Partly cloudy H: 10 L: 2
Normal Low	4.9°				
Record High	28°/1991				
Record Low	-1.1°/1994				
Precipitation		Today's Normals 2.5mm			
CANADA TODAY		WORLD TOMORROW			
Calgary	tshowers 9/0	Toronto	p.cloudy 20/11	Madrid	p.cloudy 23/10
Vancouver	showers 11/7	Vancouver	showers 11/7	Mexico	tstorms 20/13
Charlottetn	sunny 17/7	Victoria	showers 10/8	Miami	p.cloudy 28/25
Edmonton	sunny 10/1	Whitehorse	rain/snow 7/-3	Berlin	rain 8/6
Fredericton	sunny 22/8	Winnipeg	showers 17/-3	Brussels	cloudy 15/14
Halifax	p.cloudy 18/3	Yellowknife	rain/snow 5/-7	Hong Kong	sunny 30/25
Iqaluit	p.cloudy -4/-10	RESORTS TOMORROW		Jerusalem	p.cloudy 28/21
Montreal	sunny 20/13	Acapulco	p.cloudy 33/28	Kiev	p.sunny 13/9
Ottawa	sunny 19/11	Barbados	p.cloudy 30/25	Las Vegas	p.cloudy 35/21
Quebec C.	sunny 21/10	Bermuda	sunny 23/19	Lisbon	cloudy 20/14
Regina	showers 8/-5	Havana	p.cloudy 30/18	London	rain 16/12
Saskatoon	rain/snow 6/-4	San Juan	rain 26/25	Los Angeles	p.cloudy 26/15
St John's	p.cloudy 7/4			Sydney	sunny 24/17
				Tel Aviv	sunny 20/15
				Tokyo	sunny 20/15

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