



Photo by Tijana Martin

Canadian author and activist Marina Nemat poses for a photo before speaking at the Belleville Public Library on Saturday. Nemat is the author of the memoirs *Prisoner of Tehran* and *After Tehran*.

Author...

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At 16, Nemat was arrested. "They came for me on Jan. 15, 1982. "I was in the bathroom, the doorbell rang, my mother called my name and I opened the bathroom door and there were two guns pointed at my face." Nemat said she was not scared.

"You enter a state of shock. A state of shock, in the right circumstances, is an open door. You just walk in.

"It is like body armour, but it doesn't protect you against bullets, it protects you against emotion."

Nemat was tortured during her time at Evin Prison. The soles of her feet were lashed with cables, which was a common torture technique used in the prison.

"I will break a million bones before

I take another one of those lashes," she said.

"You enter a place, I call it distilled pain. Absolute, absolute suffering. You enter there and you forget your identity. You become that pain, which is desperate."

Her interrogator looked her in the eye and said, "You have a death sentence. I reduced it to life in prison."

"You are going to become my wife,

and if you don't, I will arrest your parents, I will arrest your boyfriend." "So I said fine, 'I'll do what ever you want me to do."

The two married, and it became apparent that he began to care for her. He was later assassinated, and one of his last requests to his father was to take her back to her family. Nemat managed to escape to Canada in 1991.

Debbie Stubbs, who read the book

Prisoner of Tehran, said it was incredible to actually meet the author "because then you can directly link the person to the story."

She found her story to be absolutely moving.

"By the end of the book, it made me feel so empowered, it gave me hope and it was reassurance that no matter what you're going through, that you can come out of it, but you have to have faith."

Future students get quick taste of Loyalist

By Alicia Wynter

Future students have an opportunity this week to gather information about the program they are interested in and even see what it's like to be a Loyalist Lancer.

Those who are not completely sure about what they want to do for their post-secondary education have the opportunity to do so during Loyalist Days March 12-15. Applicants can talk to faculty members and learn a little bit more about their program and those who are already accepted can know that they have made the right decision.

Future students will get to experience sitting down in the classroom or

lab associated with their program of interest or choice. They can ask questions about their program, course loads, hours they will be in class for, information about project work, and opportunities that they will have after they graduate.

After that session is over, they have the chance to check out the college, residences and booths that will be set up in the cafeteria's Market Place.

"Here's what it's like to be a student at Loyalist College. Here's the information you need - ask us your questions," says Gretta Barnwell.

Registration started Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. and each day is different for each program. Loyalist Days covers all of

the programs at the college and is set up to occur during high school March break, which makes this a great opportunity for future students to attend without missing their classes.

Tours leave from the cafeteria and go as far as the Link Lounge, and students have a chance to tour the residences as well. The sessions will be held in the labs or the classrooms related to each program presented for the day.

All of the events that Loyalist hosts, like the Spring Open House on April 20, as well as Loyalist Days, are geared to helping students make really good decisions and to give them access to information that they need most. Financial and program infor-

mation will be provided at the many booths in the Market Place inside of the cafeteria.

"Students are preparing for careers for the rest of their lives, and they are about to invest a lot of time and money and work into the decision to come to Loyalist and we want them to feel as fully informed as we possibly can make them so that they are comfortable with their decision," says Barnwell.

Students will have the opportunity to meet the staff working at the college, meet the faculty and find out what it's going to be like in a classroom and meet the people they are going to share the next couple of years with.

"The opportunity to come to an

event like this when I was a student at Loyalist myself was fantastic. That opportunity to see the students, see the environment, and see where it was, it was an opportunity I wish existed when I first went to college before I came to Loyalist," says Barnwell.

Here is the schedule for this week's Loyalist Days:

Tuesday, March 12: Human Studies
Wednesday, March 13: Media, Arts and Design & Post Graduate

Thursday, March 14: Skilled Trades and Technology, Justice Studies, & Biosciences

Friday, March 15: Health Sciences, Business and Management Studies & Post Graduate

Big Brothers Big Sisters benefit from tourney

Public relations students plan special event to support organization

By Catherine Jackman

A slow thrum of random beats hit the ground Saturday as the muffled sounds of coaches' voices rang through the halls leading into the Loyalist College gym.

On Saturday, March 9, public relations students at Loyalist hosted a basketball tournament in support of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Despite March break, the attendance for the event was low, with an estimated 20 kids.

"Personally Big Brothers Big Sisters has always been something that my family has been fond of," said Ryan Dickison, one of the four organizers of the event. "My father got involved with it and as a young boy growing up I got a chance to see his involvement with the youth."

"It's something that I wanted to carry forward with my life and I just figured basketball, an event such as this is a perfect opportunity to get kids out and active over their March break. We just thought it was the best situation for everybody," said Dickison.

The few teams that were in attendance participated in warm-up drills with members of the Lancers basketball team before playing 10-minute interval games.

"It's been a tough year for a lot of the kids, especially the public school kids, with the teachers pulling back. They're doing no activities or extracurricular (ac-



Photo by Catherine Jackman

Rheydon McCoy shoots hoops at the Big Brothers Big Sisters fundraising basketball tournament on the weekend.

tivities) for the kids, so I thought that this was a good opportunity to be able to get active. Any time you can start educating

young people to get back to our community is a good thing," said Jim Buck, athletic director at Loyalist College and

coach of the Spirit Boys team.

Members of the Lancers basketball teams stepped in as coaches as well as

fans during the games, cheering for the teams when baskets were scored and keeping morale up. And by lunchtime the organizers provided pizza to the players.

"Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Hastings and Prince Edward Counties connects children in our area to adult volunteers that would like to act as role models to children in need. At BBBS we offer multiple programs to assist youth in need," said caseworker Mandie Noble.

The non-profit organization has three main programs: the School Mentoring program, which involves the mentor coming in for an hour once a week to play games with the kids at school.

Next is the Traditional Program, in which the mentor spends four hours in the community participating in no to low-cost activities. Couples may also serve as mentors.

The Game On! and Go Girls! programs are two one-hour programs split by gender. They are held once a week for seven weeks and cover issues ranging from bullying and peer pressure to health issues and nutrition.

"For the kids, it's huge. I mean, instead of sitting around playing video games or getting into trouble, not that the streets of Belleville are too dangerous by any means, but it's good to get out of the classroom and to get involved in something that does incorporate those teamwork skills, time management and the leadership that will build friendships that will last a lifetime," said Dickison.

The fundraiser raised \$423, all of which went to the Big Brothers Big Sisters foundation.

For more information on the Big Brothers Big Sisters visit www.bigsneeded.ca