



## HEAVY-WEIGHT HAWKS DRAFTED

Key football players land tryouts with CFL franchises ... **PAGE 6**

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## Roberts rules

Reluctant rock star  
Sam Roberts caps the  
year off at the Turret

**JOE TURCOTTE**  
A&E EDITOR

Sam Roberts' strained voice speaks for itself, cementing the fact that staging the "Mother of All Tours" is no easy task. In between setting-up in order to rock WLUSU's Year-End Party, Roberts sat down and spoke with the *Cord* about the rigors of touring and the rock 'n roll lifestyle.

"I'm in preservation mode right now, but you've got to do what you've got to do," a tired and raspy-voiced Roberts said. "It's just about trying to keep going, man. There's no recovery time, we get one or two days off. Touring is deadly, man; touring is hard as hell. Touring is the hardest thing."

But while the schedule may be grueling, the Canadian singer-song writer has no regrets, as he realizes that touring is essential. "Anytime you put out a new record there's only a few ways to promote it. There are interviews and the press, but you're not really in control of that. Then you have the marketing strategies that your labels devise, and then you have shows, which to me [are] the best way to get your point across and the only way where you're ever fully in control."

While he remains in control over performing, Roberts acknowledges that he loosened-up on the reins when recording his newest album, *Chemical City*. Instead of personally performing all the instruments and later assembling the tracks in the studio, as he did for 2003's *We Were Born in a Flame*, Roberts and his band assembled in Australia and recorded together.

"It was good not to be alone in the studio, that's a pretty lonely existence. [This way] you have five people propping up the energy of the record, instead of one person trying to carry it all on his shoulders. I don't know if great rock and roll has ever come from that," the increasingly excited Roberts said.

When speaking about his music, Roberts speaks like a father talking about his children. That being said, Roberts doesn't want to take anything away from his major label debut by comparing it to *Chemical City*.

"I'm really happy with the first record. It meant that I was starting off down the road. I don't ever want to take away from it by comparing it to what I'm doing now."

- see **ROBERTS**, page 14



Paul Aliviz

**SPARE SOME CHANGE?** - With the UPASS expiring on May 1, Laurier students now have to scrounge together \$2.25 to get around on GRT.

## No UPASS for summer

Due to a number of logistical concerns, GRT and WLUSU were unable to come to terms for a summer extension to the popular new bus pass; both sides remain optimistic as negotiations continue

**MIKE BROWN**  
NEWS EDITOR

On May 1, the clock struck midnight on the pilot project of a WLUSU initiative that has had more than its fair share of the limelight in the past year, as the UPASS' eight-month preliminary contract expired and OneCards throughout Waterloo were rendered ineffectual on the city's busses.

The collaboration between Wilfrid Laurier's Student Union and Grand River Transit was not without its potholes, such as the initial revolt of part-time students displeased at having to pay for a service that was by and large useless to them.

Still, the initial bump in the road was dealt with and, once part-time students were removed from the agreement, their full-time counterparts generally warmed to the \$40 per term fee. Ridership jumped from 25,000 OneCard sightings on GRT busses in September 2005 to 65,000 by November.

Alas, calm waters rarely persist for long and GRT and WLUSU may now have a much larger student demographic to appease, as it's not just part-time

students who have been sad to see the UPASS unavailable for the summer term. While there are certainly a number of motorized students pleased to wave goodbye to an unwanted mandatory fee, they appear to be outnumbered by those without wheels.

"It really, really sucks," laments third-year political science student Chris Zaldua. "[My girlfriend and I] use the bus all the time and having that pass is extremely useful 'cause it saves us over \$100 every two months

**"It really, really sucks. We use the bus all the time and having that pass is extremely useful 'cause it saves us over \$100 every two months or so."**

- Chris Zaldua, disappointed student

or so."

Zaldua has a kindred spirit in fourth-year business student Saurabh Chaudhry.

"It's pretty ridiculous that it's not offered during the summer

because there are students here - there are quite a number of students here," Chaudhry notes. "I'm not sure what the cost-benefit for GRT is, but I think they should offer it."

And that's where this astute business mind hits the problem directly on the head. The inability to hammer out a mutually-acceptable summer contract stems from logistical difficulties that were far less prevalent in the fall and winter terms.

"Where we found it challenging was, 'How do I identify that a student stayed in school during the summer?'" explains John Cicuttin, associate director of transportation planning for the Region of Waterloo. "We got hung up on that a little bit and, at the time, it didn't seem to be a great ground-swell."

"We said, 'Let's park that and we can deal with it next summer.' We're open-minded to it; it's not something we're opposed to, but we need to figure a way to

make it work operationally."

The major obstacle to the summer UPASS is the GRT's concern about fraudulent use. While the number of students attending classes in the summer drops from about 10,650 to 1,235, many students opt to stay and work in Waterloo.

Of course, without any means of identifying which students are paying tuition fees, Grand River Transit is concerned about free rides occurring in a much higher proportion than they would during the other eight months of the year, when a comparably small number of co-op students remain in Kitchener-Waterloo.

"I just don't think it was a priority for them," shrugs Jen Mitchell, recently-departed vice-president: university affairs and the woman who was charged with doing much of the leg work in the project's inaugural year. "I think they were far too worried about fraud and things like that to actually tackle the issue."

"It was a lot of stuff to talk about," adds Mitchell's successor, J.D. Muir. "Unfortunately, along the GRT side, getting everyone together for a meeting

- see **UPASS**, page 2



## THE CORD WEEKLY

— The tie that binds since 1926 —

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Bring me my oats."  
— Brandon Currie to his girlfriend Emily Joshi  
in reference to his bag of trail mix.

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## COLOPHON

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## Preamble to The Cord Constitution

The Cord will keep faith with its readers by presenting news  
and expressions of opinions comprehensively, accurately  
and fairly.

The Cord believes in a balanced and impartial presentation  
of all relevant facts in a news report, and of all substantial  
opinions in a matter of controversy.

The staff of The Cord shall uphold all commonly held ethical  
conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or of  
commission has occurred, that error shall be acknowledged  
promptly.

When statements are made that are critical of an individual,  
or an organization, we shall give those affected the  
opportunity to reply at the earliest time possible.

Ethical journalism requires impartiality, and consequently  
conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of  
interest will be avoided by all staff.

The only limits of any newspaper are those of the world  
around it, and so The Cord will attempt to cover its world  
with a special focus on Wilfrid Laurier University, and the  
community of Kitchener-Waterloo, and with a special ear  
to the concerns of the students of Wilfrid Laurier University.  
Ultimately, The Cord will be bound by neither philosophy  
nor geography in its mandate.

The Cord has an obligation to foster freedom of the press  
and freedom of speech. This obligation is best fulfilled  
when debate and dissent are encouraged, both in the  
internal workings of the paper, and through The Cord's  
contact with the student body.

The Cord will always attempt to do what is right, with fear  
of neither repercussions, nor retaliation. The purpose of the  
student press is to act as an agent of social awareness, and  
so shall conduct the affairs of our newspaper.

## Rae seeks top job

Laurier Chancellor among leading candidates to  
succeed Paul Martin as Liberal leader

TONY FERGUSON  
NEWS EDITOR

The man who has given Laurier graduates their diplomas for the past two years could become the leader of the Liberal party. Laurier chancellor Bob Rae announced his intention to enter the race for the Liberal leadership on April 24.

For Rae, being formerly affiliated with the NDP as premier of Ontario, this required jumping ship.

"I think the great thing about the Liberal party is it's an open party," he said, speaking from the road, having just left Kitchener-Waterloo for a campaign stop.

"It has shown a tremendous capacity for renewal over the years," he said, and that renewal is precisely Rae's agenda.

"I think people very much want a very people-oriented party," he said, describing how the current party needs to change.

What will this change include? The issue of innovation is high on the list. Learning as a national agenda starting from early childhood education all the way up to post-secondary studies is a major campaign pillar of the Rae Liberals.

Rae also called for a substantial increase in funding for university and college to ease the burden of rising tuition costs. Although, constitutionally, the federal government cannot control tuition costs, what it can do is help students with their living expenses.

"And that's where I think we need to be much more aggressive in our approach," said Rae.

Rae's student-friendly platform, he admits, comes from his experience as chancellor at Laurier where he's had the opportunity to speak directly with students and faculty.

"It's been a great chance to have that perspective and to develop that perspective," he said.

That perspective may be an important part of Rae's strategy to become leader of the Liberals.

"Rae and others recognize the youth represent a really key demographic group in society," said Brian Tanguay, a political science professor at Laurier specializing in Canadian politics.

"If one of [the candidates] can mobilize young voters, that could prove very strategically important in securing the leadership," he explained.

Keeping in touch with young Canadians is something that previous parties have not done well, if at all, and Tanguay believes that if Rae can do this throughout his candidacy and after that, throughout his tenure as leader of the Liberals (if he wins), this could go a long way in helping him take the next federal election.

Tanguay sees other strengths in Rae that he thinks will prove strategically advantageous.

"He's very eloquent," explained Tanguay, remembering Rae's speech at a meeting in October for the anniversary of the 1970 October crisis. "He comes off as a very passionate individual with



Contributed Photo

**RAE DAYS?** - The former premier could soon be in charge of Canada.

important things to say."

Despite these qualities, Rae is paddling against the current of scrutiny. Some people are reminded of his days as premier of Ontario when he enraged both business and labour groups as he battled soaring deficits and an economy freshly emerging from a recession.

"I don't know if they're fatal flaws, but Rae has his baggage as Premier of Ontario," said Tanguay.

When asked to speculate on Rae's chances, a reluctant Tanguay offered his thoughts after warning that although political scientists like to offer analysis,

rarely are they right.

"I think you can see that the leading candidates are going to be Ignatieff and Rae," he said.

While Rae has his personal baggage from his tenure as Premier of Ontario, Ignatieff also has baggage coming from his lifelong career as an academic. Tanguay feels that Ignatieff isn't as charismatic as Rae and for him this tips the scales. "If I were betting as opposed to predicting I would put my money on Rae," he said.

The leadership vote for the Liberal party will take place the first weekend of December.

## Parties seek solutions to bus issue

Opt-in options, sticker identifications, and a U-card are among the options to make UPASS feasible

- from UPASS, cover

to discuss things like that didn't always work out."

Muir, who originally ran the 'yes' campaign when the UPASS was first brought to referenda in winter of, also added that it was important to WLUSU that very little would change for the proposed summer contract.

"We wanted things to stay fairly the same," he said. "We didn't want the extra sticker. We didn't want a raise in price, which was suggested."

The OneCard office was also "vehemently opposed" to affixing stickers to the student IDs as a means of differentiating between paying and non-paying students.

Opt-in and opt-out options were discussed, but to little avail, though the notion of them makes Mitchell salivate.

"It's the dream," she explains. "It's what would make all students happy."

For now, though, it seems like

it's nothing more than a dream.

"Grand River Transit would never agree to an opt-out procedure, mainly because they fully recognize that not all students are going to use the bus and they're counting on not all stu-

**"[GRT] would never agree to an opt-out procedure, mainly because they fully recognize that not all students are going to use the bus and they're counting on not all students using the bus."**

- Jen Mitchell, former VP:UA

dents using the bus," explains an animated Mitchell. "That's part of how they do their cost recovery. For opting in, it's something they're a little more flexible in; I hope J.D. can do it this year - that he can push them more

than I could," she said.

"It's not a challenge that's impossible, but it's a challenge," she adds.

Despite the multitude of impediments, both sides remain fairly optimistic that something can be worked out.

According to Cicuttin, the two sides are very close to reaching a longer-term agreement for at least the continuance of the UPASS in fall and winter terms.

And according to WLUSU President Allan Cayenne, who will play a crucial role in the negotiations, the summer remains a priority.

"It's something we've gained feedback from students as to they'd like to see us offer in the summer, so it's something we'd

definitely put on the table in doing the negotiations with GRT," Cayenne explains.

According to Cicuttin, the most feasible immediate solution might be the creation of an additional U-card to resolve issues with the OneCard office's opposition to stickers.

"We talked about creating a U-card," he explains. "I think the big challenge was 'How do we distribute it to everybody? How do we avoid long lineups?' ... And that's something we're going to continue working on."

According to Brad Freer, a fourth-year computer science and mathematics student, they may be overestimating the aversion of students to such a solution, though.

"Lining up for thirty seconds to save a couple hundred bucks is worth it," says Freer.

At the present, it remains to be seen if WLUSU and GRT share his sentiment.

See PAGE 18 for editorial reaction to this story



## VOCAL CORD

What was your reaction when you learned that the UPASS wasn't available for the summer?



"I never take the bus anyway, so it's okay, but definitely not fair."

- Ryan Burella  
Third Year Business



"It was very convenient to have in the fall and it's kind of unfair that we don't have it."

- Zoya Burella  
Third Year Business



"Oh, I didn't even find that out, actually."

- Shaun Wigger  
Just graduated, Physics



"All the co-op kids were aware of it, so we knew it was coming."

- Anna Halonska,  
Fourth Year Business



"I have a car, so it was just a waste of \$40 for me."

- Sundeep Gupta,  
Second Year Mathematics

Compiled by Mike Brown,  
photos by Paul Alviz



**CONSTRUCTION ZONE** - Willison Field gets all ripped up as it undergoes the first phase of its transformation into Alumni Field for Sept.

# Year of the renovation

Willison Field and Dr. Alvin Woods Building lead the way in a campus construction extravaganza

**MIKE BROWN**  
NEWS EDITOR

An old adage jokes that Canada has two seasons: winter and construction. Anyone spending much time on the Laurier campus this summer will have no problem seeing why.

WLUSU has undertaken to expand the C-Spot and the Hall of Fame on the second floor of the Fred Nichols building. Laurier is planting new shrubs in the quad, expanding into downtown Kitchener with a faculty of social work and looking at a new building for co-op and career services. The City of Waterloo is completely overhauling University Avenue and numerous side streets in the student ghetto.

By far, the biggest changes taking place on campus, however, are the massive renovation projects on Willison Field and within the Dr. Alvin Woods Building. And, save for a few budgetary increases and the obvious inherent inconvenience, things seem to be proceeding fairly smoothly.

Willison Field, which boasts a projected completion date of August 27, appears to be on target.

"The objective was to start as soon as most of the students were gone at the end of April," explains Ron Dupuis, assistant vice-president of physical resources. "The contractor came in and set up and, as you can see, did all of the removals."

Right now, the contractors are working on the underground surfaces, according to Dupuis.

In the past, storm sewers and the sanitary sewers that service Willison Hall have gone under the field. The technology is badly outdated, though, and has resulted in flooding within the residence in recent years.

"We're going to use facilities renewal money to basically relocate those sewers around the field and that's probably going to cost an extra \$100,000," admits

**"It's the kind of project where all hell could break loose, but it's been coordinated very well and we haven't heard any bad comments."**

- Ron Dupuis, assistant vice-president of physical resources, discussing the DAWB renovation

Dupuis. "But it'll be funded from a different source - it's a grant that we get from the government to basically upgrade our infrastructure."

All told, the budget for the project has been increased from approximately \$1.85 million to \$2 or \$2.1 million, says Dupuis.

On the other hand, the massive DAWB renovation project, set to take place over the next 18 months, pleasantly surprised administration by coming in nearly \$1.5 million under the initial budget at \$10.5 million all told. And while it may not appear as though a lot has been done,

Dupuis explains that a project of this magnitude requires very precise planning.

"It's the kind of project where all hell could break loose, but it's been coordinated very well and we haven't heard any bad comments," he explains.

In fact, according to David Docherty, the dean of arts, faculty and staff have been remarkably understanding throughout the process.

"This is very much an inconvenience for faculty," he admits. "I'm really proud of the way they've kind of rallied around."

"I think the people that use Alvin Woods know better than most what needs to be done to Alvin Woods," reasons Docherty.

"So we're not saying let's leave a palace, put you in rotten digs for a year, and come back to the same place. They know they're coming back to a building that will be substantially improved."

And just what exactly will those improvements be?

"They are doing just about everything," laughs Docherty. This includes the removal of escalators, the addition of an outside stairwell, a complete gutting and refurbishing of the columns and the floor, and the movement of the large classrooms from the fourth and fifth floors to the sec-

ond and third. New heating and cooling systems will also be installed and the space is expected to be far more efficient.

In the meantime, students and faculty can expect inconveniences. Classes will be moved to the third floor of the Bricker Academic building, as well as the St. Michael's and Northdale campuses. Arts faculty have been moved to various locations within the Aird building, Euler and Leopold residences, and 195 and 205 Regina Street.

Another inconvenience will come with re-routing students to keep the construction zone clear.

"There's a high volume of people going up and down those steps behind the Alvin Woods and the Fred Nichols centre," explains Dupuis. "A lot of it is for convenience - you know, the shortest path between two points - and what we'll do is re-direct them."

Students will instead be asked to travel through the concourse, use the stairs by the seminary and use the Schlegel building to get to the library.

Like Docherty, though, Dupuis isn't about to freak out.

"With all the construction that we've done in the past five to seven years, these things tend to get old hat to us," he shrugs. "People say, 'Oh, you must be really excited about it,' but we don't get too excited about it. It's just more work - that's all."



# SSAC fee to increase

Full course load students to pay \$20 more for new co-op and career services building

**APRIL CUNNINGHAM**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Tuition is not the only cost increasing for students this fall. Laurier's comprehensive student services fee is set to increase by \$20 for students with a full course load to a total of \$280 per academic year.

The increase is conditional on the approval of the proposal to build a new co-op and career services building – a decision to be made at the next WLU board of governors meeting later this summer.

"If, for some reason, the project gets scrapped or delayed, the increase will be held back until the project is approved," says Dan Dawson, general manager of student services and chair of the student services advisory council that manages the fee.

"The fee has not increased since its inception," says Allan Cayenne, WLUSU president. This means it had not accounted for

increases in inflation, as specified in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

"It would have meant the reserve fund was growing at a rate that was probably irresponsible," says Dawson, referring to the decision to not increase the fee by CPI each year.

**Under the new fee structure, students will pay \$1120 towards student services by graduation.**

Dawson says that in the past few years, the department benefited from consistent growth in student enrollment. This translated into more cash gathered from student fees.

But now, enrollment is expected to level off to about 10,394 undergraduate students as the double-cohort rolls out of their

undergrad years. This is about 260 less students than the 2005-06 year.

Operating costs will continue to increase but the cash brought in by the SSAC fee will come to a plateau.

"Now we're back to a point where adjusting by an inflationary factor makes it consistent with other fees," says Dawson.

In the past, the excess cash after paying for operating expenses was placed in a reserve fund. The student members of SSAC have full control over what is done with that money. It has gone towards projects like renovations, the fitness centre and the office area for the dean of students, says Dawson.

But there is concern that if the fee is not raised, this reserve fund will be eliminated, therefore losing the ability to assist various

projects.

Whether the co-op and career services project goes through or not, the SSAC now has permission to increase the fee by CPI on an annual basis.

"It's very similar to the way we manage fee increases for things like meal plans and residence rates," says Dawson.

The comprehensive student services fee is based on the amount of courses in which a student is enrolled. The current fee is \$26 per half credit, but will increase to \$28 if the new building is approved.

The fee pays for the operation of the department, which includes areas such as health services, athletics, co-op and career services, residential services, and accessible learning.

Under the new fee structure, an undergraduate student will pay \$1120 towards student services by graduation.

See PAGE 18 for editorial reaction to this story

## NEWSINBRIEF

The Cord Weekly  
honoured among  
nation's best

Wilfrid Laurier's official student newspaper was honoured by the Canadian Community Newspapers Association over the weekend at the annual Better Newspapers Competition. *The Cord Weekly* was the only campus newspaper in the country to be selected as one of three finalists in all four campus categories.

News Editors Adrian Ma and Dan Polischuk won Best Campus News Story for their co-written investigative piece on flop houses entitled "Albert St. a hotbed of theft." Blair-Forsyth Stark also left the Quebec City gala victorious, honoured with the award for Best Campus Feature Story for "To buy or not to buy: the real cost of online essays," for which Graphics Editor Emilie Joslin contributed the artwork.

The City of Waterloo took a clean sweep of the campus categories, as the University of Waterloo's campus paper, *The Imprint*, was victorious in the remaining two categories – Best Campus Photography and Outstanding Campus Newspaper.

# SASA honours McIntosh

**SHEELAH RODRIGUEZ**  
CORD NEWS

If you've visited the Laurier website in the last month, you may have read about the Student Affairs and Services Association (SASA), a division of the Canadian Association of College and University Student Services (CACUSS), awarding Kathryn McIntosh, a fourth-year political science student here at Laurier, with the first ever student leadership award.

Kathryn was extremely honoured to win the national award and was humbled by the recognition. "It's a national award, so I never imagined being the most deserving person in Canada. There are so many people at Laurier that contribute that being nominated felt like winning an award in itself."

McIntosh's success began when she attended Discover Laurier and heard Dan Herman, a former WLUSU president, speak about the opportunities WLUSU had to offer. Inspired by his energy and dedication, McIntosh sought to participate in anything she could.

She applied to first year council and the residence athletic committee, but received two rejection letters. "I didn't give up," McIntosh says. That persistence paid off and she later became a member of the first year council.

"First year sets the precedent for the rest of your university career," claims McIntosh and, given her subsequent involvement at Laurier, this is perfectly true.

In second year, McIntosh became an ice breaker and once she experienced the joy of mentoring first year students, she applied to be a don in third year to continue the satisfying responsibility.

Her placement in Clara Conrad was a round the clock job for McIntosh. "You're a mentor, a friend and a valuable resource for your students," she explains. Students sought her advice about relationships, friends, family, school, time-management and on campus resources. A don needs to be an available support system and it's a position that has its challenges, she says.

At times, McIntosh has encountered students with the potential to thrive in leadership positions, but they decline the offer. "There's a spot on campus for every student to be involved, but unless they want to do it, you can't force them," she acknowledges.

Still, McIntosh encourages students to get involved because of the opportunities to meet people.

"I've met some of my closest friends through WLUSU, SLC and being a don," she explains. "It has been a positive influence and I want others to have the same." She'll no doubt continue to meet people in her fourth year, as she joins the house council and continues working with the student learning centre (SLC).

With everything in McIntosh's busy schedule, it's shocking to learn she doesn't use an agenda. Instead, her passion motivates her organization.

"I believe so much in what I'm doing it drives me to get work done. I don't like seeing projects fall behind or fail. I want to make sure that they are completed and that they're successful."

Knowing her limitations is also crucial. "I know when to say 'no' and I don't volunteer for everything," McIntosh explains. Having a supportive team that contributes equally is also a great advantage



LEADING THE WAY - WLU student the class of Canada in leadership.

tage to balancing school work, volunteer work and a social life.

Even with a full schedule, McIntosh appreciates the risk she took in first year because it has led her to many fulfilling experiences. She continually advises students

to volunteer. "Don't be afraid to take the risk," she urges. "There will be rejections, but don't give up on it. Once involved, you don't regret it."

Students living  
amidst Waterloo  
history

Waterloo's oldest neighbourhood is being designated as a Historical Society.

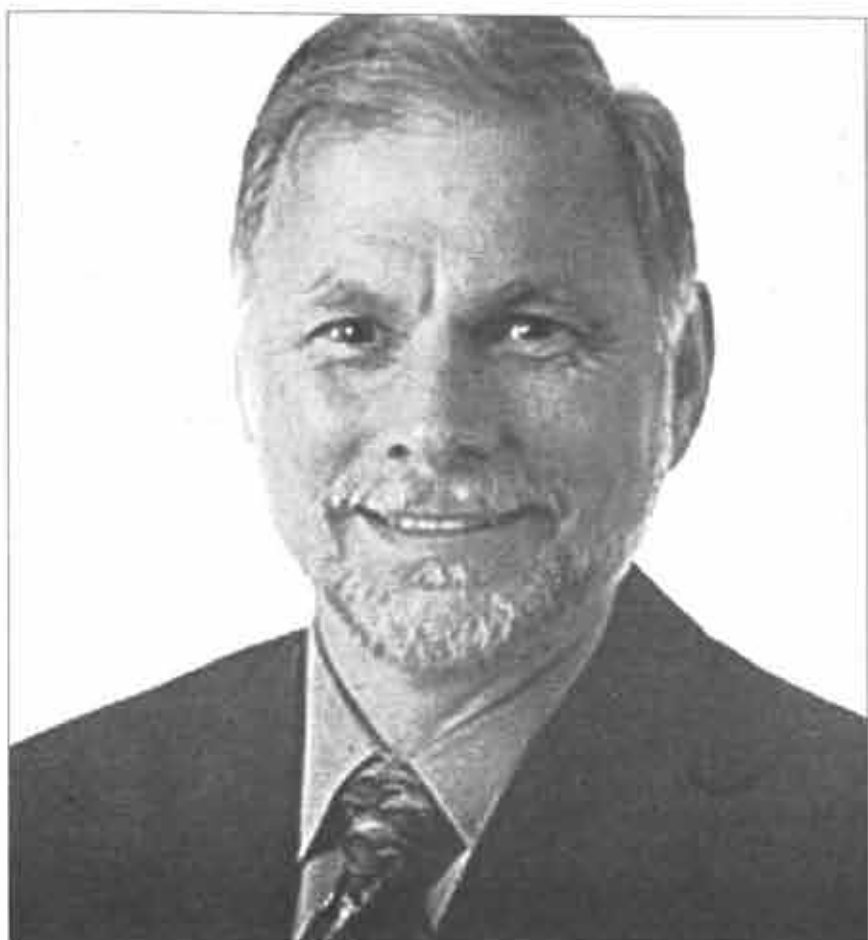
The neighbourhood is comprised of 137 homes and stretches north and south from MacGregor public school to the Waterloo Public Library and east and west from Dorset St. to Waterloo Park.

Currently, there are no by-laws in place to protect the distinct architectural characteristics of this low-density residential neighbourhood. The new Historical Society status will ensure that no homes can be demolished to make way for student apartments and only low-density housing may be constructed.

Phil's shut down  
temporarily

As of May 22, one of Waterloo's most beloved bars closed its doors for two weeks, in accordance with a liquor license infraction. The undisclosed violation took a while to go through the proper channels, but the bar, popular for its comparably low prices, is poised to reopen its doors on Wednesday, June 7.





Contributed Photo

**'MAXIM'UM IMPACT** - VP seeks to enrich school's research structure.

## WLU hires new VP

**MARK ADAMSON**  
CORD NEWS

On April 26, Wilfrid Laurier University announced the hiring of the first ever Associate VP: Research, Paul Maxim, who will begin a five-year term on July 1.

Maxim has a diverse educational background. He grew up in Toronto, where he received an honours degree in sociology from the University of Toronto, but also holds a masters degree in Criminology from the University of Ottawa and a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania.

Currently, Maxim is a member of the faculty of social sciences at the University of Western Ontario, but is ready for a change.

"When I first came here, I thought in five or ten years, I'd move on," says Maxim, who is in his twenty-fifth year working at the school. During his tenure there, Maxim's research interests shifted from criminology to the research field of population economics, studying topics such as the socio-economic integration of immigrants into society.

Maxim was inspired to shift his research interests once again after having a conversation with a former colleague, now working in the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. A lack of research data on Canada's Aboriginal population led him to establish a research partnership with the department.

"I didn't know an awful lot about Canada's Aboriginal peoples," he explains. "It was somewhat embarrassing to say that, having grown up here and lived in this country for so long – that I was relatively ignorant." Maxim has since gone on to publish several books on Aboriginal policy research.

"It seemed like a natural progression from the population

economics work that I was doing," he explains. His current key interest is examining young Aboriginal peoples' transition from education to the labour force.

Maxim spent four years as an Associate Dean of Research at Western, and his experience in the field of research spurred Laurier to hire him as the school strives to become a more comprehensive university, increasing the focus on research and graduate studies.

"We went through a national search, came down to a short list of candidates, and he's the one that impressed us the most," says Dr. Bob Rosehart, president of WLU.

"He's coming from a research-intensive university," explains Rosehart. "He has a strong background in grantsmanship and a good understanding of university research."

Maxim views his move to Laurier as a new challenge at this point in his career, and is looking forward to working with the young faculty on staff at Laurier. "It's an opportunity to help people develop their careers," he says.

"I was very fortunate early on in my career to have mentors who helped me develop my research interests. You can't pay back the people that helped you, but you can help somebody else."

# Motion carries

At their first meeting since taking office, the WLUSU BOD passed a motion making it possible to remove ineffectual Directors from their post

**ADRIAN MA**  
CORD NEWS

Some important policy house-keeping was done at the most recent Student's Union board meeting, as the WLUSU directors voted almost unanimously to update the board's discipline policy regarding directors who are deemed unsatisfactory in their performance.

In the updated policy, directors found to be excessively absent or neglectful of their duties will leave their fate in the hands of the Laurier student body. The BOD now has the power to call a special meeting to determine whether or not the director shall be removed.

"I think it's a really sound and strong statement about the board's commitment to students as the electorate," said Matt Park, chair of the WLUSU board.

Previous to this amendment, the board only had the power to ask a director to resign. This most severe course of action only occurred for tier-three censure motions, when a director had been found to be in serious offense of WLUSU's governance policies. A tier-three censure motion is generally given to directors – following two warnings – who have missed 60 percent of the BOD's meetings.

However, the disciplinary policy contained a loophole: if a director refused, then the BOD was powerless to do anything.

Students, on the other hand, have always had the power to remove a director. A stipulation in the WLUSU governance manual states that if a petition submitted by ten percent of the student body is received by the BOD, a general meeting can be called and students can vote on removing the director.

Asif Bacchus, chair of the Constitution and Operation Development committee, was the director who brought the amendments forward, and believes that the updated policy makes it very clear that the students are in charge.

"Basically, this was an incomplete policy, and I think it's important we're being clear in disciplinary policy," explained Bacchus. "Under the Ontario Corporation Act, [the student electorate] has the ability to call a special meeting. Students put you in; students should put you



**MIA** - Periard (left) resigns and Faqiri reforms to retain post.

out."

The only current director that voted against the policy change was Yusuf Faqiri. Faqiri, who could not be reached for comment, was censured by the 2005-06 BOD for missing over 60 percent of their meetings.

Faqiri, who attributed his lack of attendance to personal problems, refused to resign and was then re-elected to the BOD in the student elections held February 2, 2006.

According to Park, the updated policy is not a retroactive disciplinary tool, and Faqiri will not be the subject of a general meeting due to his situation last year.

"As chair, I'm really only concerned with what's happening

in 06-07," said Park. "Yusuf was duly elected by the student body [again]."

Park adds that Faqiri has been an active director and been in "constant communication" with Park concerning his projects for the year.

In other WLUSU news, director Josh Periard has resigned from the board.

According to Park, Periard, who served on the 2005-06 BOD as well, left because he was unsure of his future at Laurier. His resignation was a surprise to most directors.

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# Laurier bench boss steps down

Men's hockey coach leaves team after two seasons to complete academic studies

DAN POLISCHUK  
SPORTS EDITOR

Fresh off a victory in the OUA bronze medal game against UQTR, as well as making its first appearance at the National Championships since 1990, Laurier's men's hockey team have been dealt a blow with the resignation of head coach Steve Martell.

While the announcement, which came earlier this month, came as a surprise to the team, the departing coach explained the players were very understanding of his plans to complete his doctorate.

"I've grown close with a lot of guys ... but certainly they understand the nature of any career change like that. They understood that it was a 'family-first' decision," said Martell.

Returning to his birthplace of Sydney, Nova Scotia, he will assume a position as assistant professor at Cape Breton University in the Kinesiology department. While there, the now 'former' coach will be working towards a PhD in sports psychology and motor control – an opportunity that was "too good to pass up."

"I have no ill will towards Laurier. I think ... it was a very difficult decision; I really laboured over it for a long time because the program has turned the corner. It's the fifth ranked program in the country now.

"When I came here, it was a team less than .500' sputtering here and there. But we've

made a great deal of success in a short period of time," he commented.

Indeed, upon taking over for the departed Mark French as head coach in September 2004, Martell led the squad to a 12-win season – and a playoff appearance. While they were ousted in the first round, the team improved to the point that they are now ranked as one of the top ten hockey schools in the country.

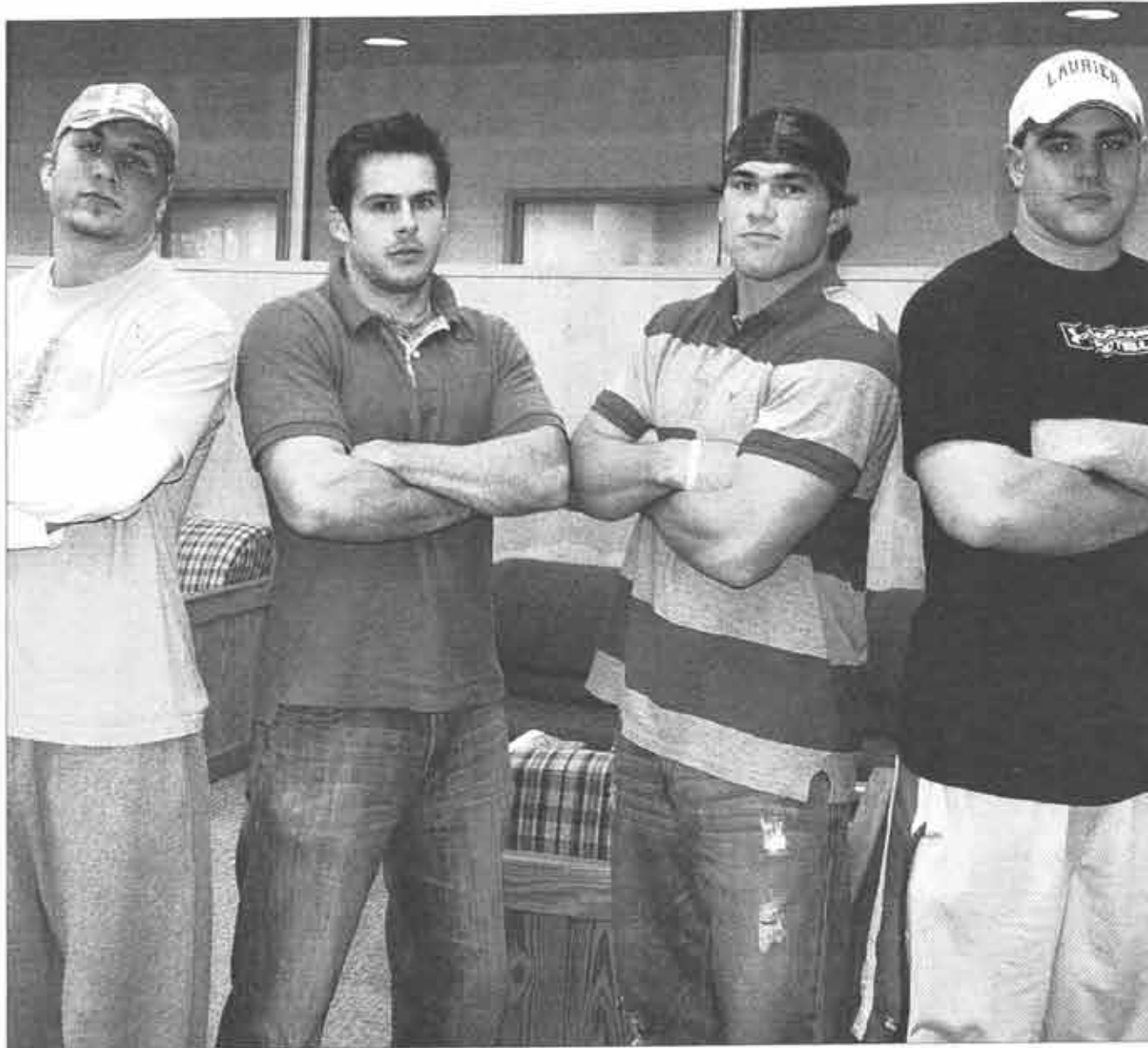
This, explained Martell, is what will make Laurier an appealing place to coach.

"It's easy to recruit to a fifth ranked team in the country. I'm very confident where the program is now and ... that the athletic department and administration will find a suitable candidate to put into place well before the school term begins in September," he said.

And, although he had been with the team for only two years, the turnaround the team experienced is what Martell will savor the most.

"Certainly, bringing Laurier hockey back to a national championship earned birth in 15 years ... It's been a nice accomplishment and building step for our program. I'm proud of what these guys ... have done for the program this year."

Departing with an overall record of 25-19-3 in the regular season and 4-4-0-1 coaching record in postseason play, a nation-wide search has already begun for a replacement. According to Martell, a successor will be chosen by mid-June.



April Cunningham

**MOVIN' ON UP** - Laurier draftees Joel Wright, Ian Logan, Nick Cameron, and Jesse Alexander hope to secure a roster spot with their respective clubs.

# CFL beckons Golden Hawks

Laurier football players land tryouts with Canadian football franchises

DAN POLISCHUK  
SPORTS EDITOR

As students felt the wave of relief that comes with the end of the school term, three members of the Laurier athletic community were forced to cope with some stress.

Jesse Alexander, Joel Wright, and Nick Cameron endured the painstaking online procedure that is known as the Canadian Football League draft. While Alexander and Wright would sit back after the third round, picked by Saskatchewan and Montreal respectively, Cameron would not end up seeing his name on the draft board.

In the end, however, Cameron would be offered, and accept, a free agent contract – much like teammate Ian Logan had done this past December. Logan, who went undrafted in last year's draft, was picked up by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers after the Hawks' Vanier Cup victory.

Alexander, a linebacker from Kitchener, was elated when he spotted that his name had been picked by the Roughriders.

"I was pretty excited.... It's what I worked so hard for all my life," he said.

Head Coach Gary Jeffries was also quite pleased with Alexander's and Wright's success.

"The initial reaction was thrilled – thrilled for them," said Jeffries.

While also expressing his dis-

appointment that Cameron, the team's starting running back from this past year, was not selected, Jeffries explained that the end result of who gets chosen is "almost impossible to predict."

"It often-times comes down to the American-Canadian ratio, what position you play; running back is certainly not the 'Canadian position,'" he commented.

Either way, Cameron now finds himself heading to the Alouettes' camp with Wright -- and a three-year contract as the figurative carrot dangling in front of him. If he solidifies a spot, he will be paid the current league minimum in his first year: \$37,000.

Logan faces a similar situation with the Bombers. While guaranteeing himself a spot might be a little easier, considering that Winnipeg had one of the worst teams in the league last year, he is faced with making the team or pursuing a career in teaching instead.

Alexander and Wright could return for a final year with the Hawks if they are cut by their new teams, as they each have a year of eligibility remaining.

With the departure of such impact players, Jeffries still feels confident in his team's ability heading into the upcoming season.

"It's going to be very difficult to replace the quality that we had. Having said that, we have some pretty terrific quality in our program right now," he said.

"The athleticism is still going

to be here, with character and experience – and also talent of course."

Asked to highlight a particular player that will take on the leadership role in the locker room, Jeffries illustrated more of a group effort rather than a single voice leading the way.

"I think we've got a lot of kids that are going to ... lead by example, and having gone through what we have the last few years, having the success that we have been, they know what it takes to be successful."

This type of mentality, which is nothing new to the football team since Jeffries took the helm, is what has made Laurier a successful program and an especially tough one to leave, according to Wright.

"When the jersey comes on ... everybody is best friends and everybody's got each other's backs, regardless of what happens. That's what makes [Laurier football] win."

Alexander shared a similar view while reminiscing on what he will miss the most if he has played his last down at University Stadium.

"When we came [into the program], [Laurier] was 1-7. We took that and kind of took steps; go to the Yates Cup: lose. Next year, we go to the Yates Cup: win. This year: we took it all the way," he explained.

"You'll remember that for life."



Mike Whithouse - Laurier Athletics

**WALKING AWAY A WINNER** - Martell (above) leaves behind a hockey program now ranked as the fifth best in the country.



# The greatest show on earth

Screw the Edmonton Oilers – the World Cup is the only thing any reasonable sports fan should be watching this June



BRANDON CURRIE  
THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

With insincere apologies to Steve Nash and the Edmonton Oilers, I couldn't care less about the NBA or Stanley Cup finals this June.

Unlike many Canadians who'll hitch themselves to any bandwagon carrying our national banner, I'll be rooting for a group of 23 Spaniards for the next month or so during the World Cup, the planet's greatest sporting event.

And I won't be alone, far from it. According to FIFA, soccer's world governing body, the cumulative viewership for the 2002 World Cup in Korea and Japan was an absurd 28.8 billion people, including a staggering 1.1 billion viewers for the final game. That was actually down from the estimated 37 billion who tuned in to the more convenient to watch 1998 World Cup, held in France.

For comparison's sake, the 2003 NBA finals drew a paltry 12 million viewers, while game 7 of the 2004 Stanley Cup finals drew a relatively pathetic 4.9 million, which was actually a viewership record at the time.

Even the much-ballyhooed Olympics, with all of its lofty global rhetoric, attracted only 3.9 billion viewers for the Athens game in 2004, even though the total number of broadcast hours were much longer than the World Cup's.

Sure, part of the reason behind the unbelievably high worldwide



Contributed Photo

**WHERE THE WORLD COMES TO PLAY** – In comparison to the major North American sports, soccer remains the top draw for viewers around the globe. The last tournament, held in 2002 in Japan and Korea, drew a cumulative audience of 28.8 billion viewers.

audience is because, unlike the NBA or NHL playoffs, the World Cup is broadcast into 213 countries, virtually every nation in the world. But when 1.1 billion people, almost one out every six people on earth, stop to watch the same sporting event, something phenomenal is afoot.

And yet here in Canada, soccer had traditionally made only a blip on our sports radar. We've only qualified for the World Cup once, way back in 1986, and never

really had a team in a professional league. That is, until next summer.

Coinciding with the launch of Toronto FC in 2007, Canada's first franchise in the upstart Major League Soccer (MLS), Canada will host the under-20 World Cup next summer, the final of which taking place in Toronto's new 20,000-plus seat soccer-specific stadium being built on the city's exhibition grounds.

Both of these developments

should help the sport to finally gain a decent acceptance in our major urban centres, maybe even help us qualify for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

And even this summer, TSN and Rogers Sportsnet are teaming up to ensure more Canadians will be watching the tournament than ever before.

The two rival networks are joining forces to broadcast all 64 games of the World Cup for the first time ever in Canada. And

because it's taking place in Germany, the games will be shown live at reasonable times: 9:00 am, 12:00 pm and 3:00 pm. Because so many games are played simultaneously, some will be shown on tape-delay during prime-time.

Hopefully, all of this will add up to Canada catching up to the rest of the world in appreciating the beautiful game. After all, if you're going to get on a bandwagon this playoff season, you might as well get on the biggest one on earth.

## The future of the Canadian military

The lacklustre performance of the athletic program at RMC raises questions about the integrity of our national defence corp



MIKE BROWN  
NEWS EDITOR

Well, another OUA season has come and gone and I, for one, am terrified. No, not about Laurier. We managed to scrape by, I guess. Go Hawks go, and all that jazz. What scares me is the performance of the Royal Military College.

What's that? The avid OUA fans among you aren't overly familiar with this Kingston-based institution? Well, I can't say I blame you. Their athletic program would best be described as a cruel joke.

Normally, I wouldn't see this as a big problem. Clearly, RMC isn't the only Ontario school whose varsity programs leave something wanting – but we're talking about the future of our military here. I feel like fitness should be on the agenda.

After all, despite Laurier's tre-

mendous performance throughout the athletic arena, I don't know of many Hawks who are planning to serve our country overseas. Sure, two-time Laurier athlete of the year, Ryan Pye, was planning to join the air force – until he got rejected on account of a peanut allergy. Seems pretty obvious, really. I mean, we've all heard the horror stories of the high incidence of death by peanuts in the War on Terror. If I recall correctly, the Germans rolled out that strategic technique shortly after they perfected mustard gas, thereby ruining that once-tolerable condiment for every patriotic Canadian.

Luckily, Laurier's known for its business and music students – two groups not typically associated with athletic supremacy. RMC, on the other hand, should be.

And if you refer to their website, you might mistakenly think they are. "The Men's Basketball Program at RMC is seeking to reach unprecedented heights," it reads. Hm. Tough to explain

that paltry 0-22 record in 2005-06 then, eh? Oh, but there's good news. "This relatively young program has made great strides and has gained the respect of the basketball community." Except, wait – I don't know many people in the basketball community that respect winless seasons in which your team is outscored by an average of 34 points a game. Yeah, turns out that's not good.

Last time I checked, basketball was a sport where athleticism reigned supreme. Sure, the ability to knock down some outside shots is good, and you need at least one player with sufficient hand-eye coordination to dribble the ball up the court, but a well-conditioned athlete should be able to do well in this game. Why else would NBA scouts be drooling over genetic freaks like Tyrus Thomas and Stromile Swift, year in, year out?

The fundamentals can be taught, but that type of athleticism is a literal launching point for success. The lack of success at RMC makes one naturally

question the presence of such athleticism.

Sadly, the men's basketball squad is not the only lackluster performer amongst the Paladins. Though their team name means "heroic champions", they are, in reality, anything but. The men's hockey team went 7-12-5 last season in the OUA's weakest division, and that made them RMC's strongest team.

The men's rugby team managed just one win in eight games. Their soccer teams were a combined 5-12-5, while the men's and women's volleyball squads went 2-18 and 0-19 respectively. To round out the year, the ladies of the hard-court joined their male counterparts with a winless 0-22 record.

It all adds up to a cross-sport total of 15 wins, 68 losses and 10 ties – good for a sparkling 0.181 winning percentage. To put that into perspective, our Laurier teams went 136-94-8 for a winning percentage of 0.591. Only one other OUA member with varsity programs in a comparable number

of sports to RMC won less than 40 percent of its games and that school – Ryerson, who doesn't even have a kinesiology program – had more wins on the volleyball court alone (18) than did all eight of RMC's programs combined.

So why am I bringing this up? Am I just a big bully that likes to point out other people's failings to mask my own insecurities? No. I'm just legitimately concerned about the level of training the future officers of our military go through. I recognize that the officers need to concentrate on leadership development, but if they're such great leaders, why can no one lead them to victory on the ice, field or court?

If Canada's military hopes to ever shed its reputation as the laughingstock of the developed world, perhaps we should start making officers endure the comparably grueling regimen that their privates have to undergo in basic training instead of the more relaxed basic officer's training that doesn't seem to be getting the job done.



# Bush, Blair and Bono

Three leaders held key roles in eliminating debt at G8 summit says CIGI chair; US president's interests in rebuilding Iraq pushed other leaders to support Gleneagles deal

JACQUELINE MARTINZ  
STAFF WRITER

The Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) in Waterloo was recently host to a gathering of students, professors, and the general public who arrived to hear a lecture by University of Waterloo political science professor and CIGI Chair in international governance, Dr. Eric Helleiner.

The speech, on the topic of poverty and debt cancellation, was titled, "Making Poverty History and Debt Cancellation: What lessons from Bush, Blair, and Bono?"

**Bush was "an interesting partner in the Gleneagles deal and had a greater leadership role than is acknowledged."**

- Dr. Eric Helleiner, CIGI chair and UW professor

Throughout the lunchtime presentation, Helleiner focused on surprising truths about US President George W. Bush, UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, U2 lead singer Bono, and their involvement with the two issues.

"You have a strange alliance of Bush, Blair, and Bono," stated Helleiner, referring to Bono as a "celebrity diplomat" and highlighting his work with Live 8, last year's major benefit concert that was intended to bring attention to poverty around the world, which had 3.8 billion viewers.

Helleiner also pointed out the anti-poverty efforts made by Blair's Labour government, and work he has done in conjunction with Bush. According to Helleiner, Bush pushed Blair: "The British model was debt service cancella-

tion, not debt cancellation. It was Bush who went further."

Bush was "an interesting partner in the Gleneagles deal and had a greater leadership role than is acknowledged," said Helleiner.

Bush's interest in debt cancellation was rooted in the Iraq war. "American officials realized that you can't reconstruct a nation without dealing with their debt," said Helleiner.

France, Germany, Russia and a few Middle Eastern countries held Iraq's debt, but they were opponents of the war. France was completely against forgiving Iraq's debt, calling it "not decent" when there were so many other impoverished countries in need of help.

So for Bush, the only way to have Iraq's debt cancelled was to convince the G8 leaders to go all the

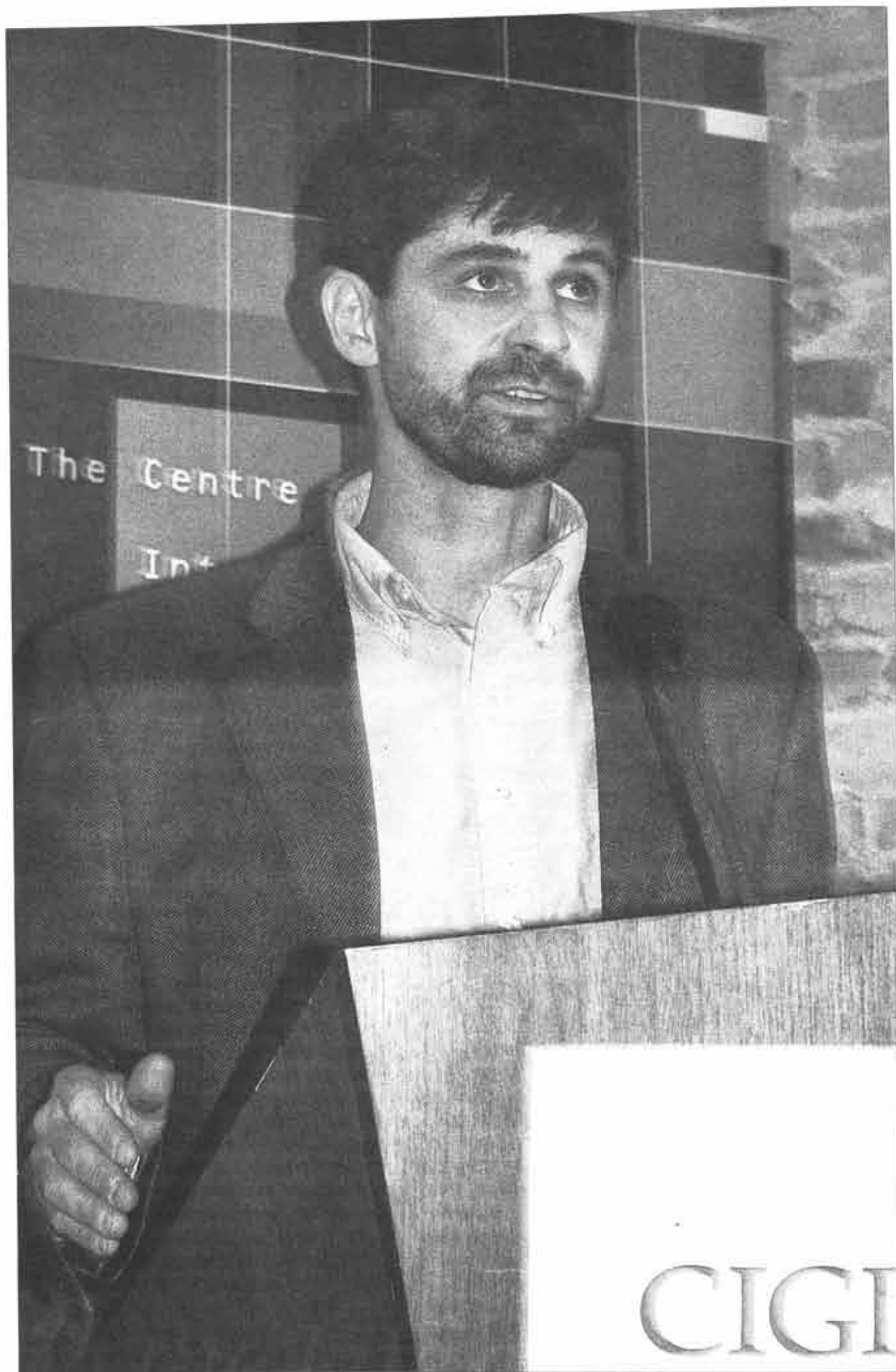
way.

The G8 Gleneagles deal promised to cancel debt for 18 impoverished countries, mostly located in Sub-Saharan African and Latin America, amounting to around \$50 billion. It was only available to countries already involved in the World Bank's HIPC debt relief process.

There remain, however, "many poor countries who are still not getting debt cancelled."

Helleiner concluded with lessons the world community has learned from Bush, Blair, and Bono: the importance of US support, the importance of NGO campaigns, and the importance of odd alliances.

With files from April  
Cunningham



April Cunningham

**ANOTHER BUSH AGENDA** - Dr. Eric Helleiner revealed that although U2 celebrity Bono was able to raise poverty awareness through Live 8, and Blair made global poverty the focus for the G8 summit, it was US president Bush's desire to cancel Iraq's debt that led to the Gleneagles deal.

## International students lose off-campus work restrictions

New work permit program broadens employment opportunities

MARY ERSKINE  
STAFF WRITER

As of the end of April, international students studying at post-secondary schools in Canada have more opportunity to fully engage in their surrounding communities, while also helping to fund their continued education.

The newly implemented Off-Campus Work Permit Program allows students studying in Canada to apply for jobs anywhere in their surrounding area. In the past, international students have been

limited to apply for work opportunities within their respective campus. This will affect about two-thirds of the group of over 150,000 international students, giving them the chance to enter the same competitive labour pool as Canadian citizens.

Monte Solberg, minister of citizenship and immigration stated, "Foreign students make a significant contribution to Canada... they enrich campus and community life with new ideas and new cultures, and they are an important pool of potential fu-

ture skilled workers that Canadian businesses need to remain competitive."

In order to be eligible for the program, international students must have studied full time at a public post-secondary institution and have a valid study permit.

Mary Tabi, a student at Laurier for the past four years thinks the changes to the work permit program will be very beneficial for the university community. Originally from Ghana, Tabi remarked, "It is a program long overdue but I am really happy it

finally happened. I believe it will enable international students to easily integrate into the Canadian community and also practice what they learn in school. Most importantly, it will supplement international students with some income to pay bills."

While the implementation of this program has been recognized as beneficial for both the students and many people's concerns over labour shortages in Canada, there are those who point to other glaring problems with our immigration system. High permanent resident fees and convoluted paperwork are among the immi-

gration practices that have been criticized.

Other concerns regarding the increased competition for Canadian jobs have been addressed by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, who assure, "the program is not intended to take jobs away from Canadian students... Each applicant will be required to compete for employment on an equal basis with Canadians." Long-term goals of the program are to address the current skilled worker shortage that Canada currently faces.



# World leaders try to bargain with Iran

Incentives proposed for Iran to utilize nuclear materials without need to create their own

**KEREN GOTTFRIED**  
STAFF WRITER

World leaders gathered in London last week to prepare an incentive plan for the Islamic Republic of Iran to halt its uranium enrichment activities. It has been two months since the United Nations called for a halt to its uranium research.

**"This challenge, which I believe is the test of our time, is one the West cannot afford to fail."**

*- Ehud Olmert, prime minister of Israel*

Senior leaders from China, Russia, the United States, France, Britain and Germany have yet to agree on the exact details of the plan.

The proposed package will include a combination of incentives and disincentives. The main incentive would be to provide Iran access to nuclear materials for energy purposes, so they do not have to develop their own.

The package will likely include resources to construct light water reactors that do not result in plutonium waste, and a fuel bank

that would guarantee Iran access to fuel for their nuclear reactors. There will also be sanctions, should Iran fail to accept.

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, has called for Iran "not to reject anything out of hand," and consider accepting the proposed plan.

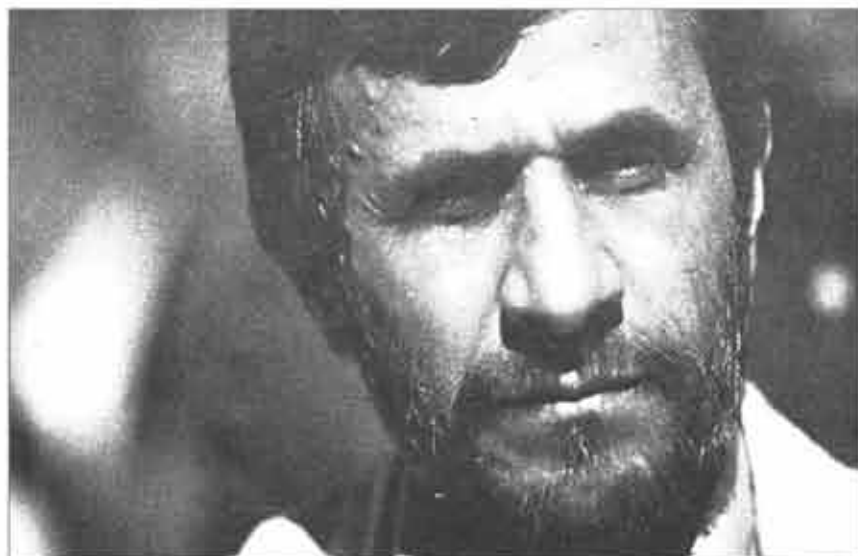
The Non-Proliferation Treaty grants signatory countries the right to research and develop atomic power for civilian purposes. However, only states that currently possess military nuclear capabilities are permitted to maintain their atomic bombs.

"Using nuclear energy is Iran's right," President Ahmadinejad announced in a televised rally.

Iranian diplomats say that Iran is performing nuclear research for civilian energy generation. Low-level enriched uranium is a significant source of fuel for nuclear power plants. The development of higher grade uranium is what researchers would need to detonate atomic bombs.

Both Washington and Tel Aviv fear that Iran will pursue non-civilian nuclear research.

"A nuclear Iran means a ter-



**NOT TO BE MESSED WITH** - President Ahmadinejad says Iran has a right to be involved in uranium enrichment activities.

rorist state could achieve the primary mission for which terrorists live and die: the mass destruction of innocent human life," Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told US Congress. "This challenge, which I believe is the test of our time, is one the West cannot afford to fail."

US diplomats have been active in the development of the incentive plan, but refuse to communicate with Iran directly. Washington is willing to break the 26-year silent streak only if Iran suspends the uranium enrichment programme.

Iran has vowed to only communicate with the US if there are no prerequisites, including the demand that they halt their uranium research.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, a UN body that regulates nuclear activity, has expressed that the situation would calm if Washington would agree to not try to take down the Iranian government. Meanwhile, Bush has announced that Tehran is ready for a "regime change."

Several EU diplomats are strongly opposed to the incentive plan, calling it an "academic exercise" that Iran will never accept.

Furthermore, they believe that taking away Iran's right to develop nuclear energy will simply "force it underground" and will not take away the knowledge that it has already gained.

## UN releases list of under-reported stories

Devastating issues ignored by global media

**ARLA LATTO-HALL**  
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

The United Nations Department of Public Information released its annual list of underreported stories on Monday, emphasizing the failure of national media to cover some of the world's most devastating issues.

The top ten list, compiled after consultation with various UN departments, field offices and programmes, includes severe drought in the Horn of Africa, protracted refugee situations, and tedious reconstruction efforts after major environmental disasters and civil strife.

Shashi Tharoor, under-secretary-general for communications and public information absolved journalists of full responsibility for the lack of coverage, noting that they are often "inundated with stories competing for their -- and the public's -- attention." The report was issued to reassert the importance of underreported stories to journalists, thereby hoping to prevent stories from falling off the media's radar and dropping from the public's conscience.

Nepal, for example, has been gripped by conflict between security forces and Maoist rebels for the past nine years. The political struggle has been widely covered by the media, but its social effects pushed by the wayside. Because of the Maoist uprising, as many as 40,000 Nepalese children have been displaced, tens of thousands more abducted and politically indoctrinated, and some have been recruited into the militia, thereby breaching international humanitarian law.

Their education too, important to help pull tourism-dependant Nepal out of widespread poverty, has suffered. Half a million Nepalese children don't attend school at all, and schools that remain open are used to hold political meetings instead of classes. Some schools have been bombed or attacked, transformed into barracks, and there are reports that some are surrounded by mines and other explosive devices.

Liberia's recovery from years of civil strife, human suffering in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, draught in Somalia, protracted refugee situations, post-tsunami reconstruction problems, children detained without cause, water as a tool of peace-building, the abuse of the institution of asylum and renewed violence in the Côte d'Ivoire round out the UN's top ten of 2006.

# Cholera epidemic hits Angola

Outbreak infects thousands, illustrating country's lack of infrastructure; African nation blamed for reacting too slowly to help its sick citizens

**THUY TRAN**  
CORD INTERNATIONAL

On May 18, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that a cholera epidemic has begun to spread rapidly in Angola. Within a 24 hour span alone, 546 new cases including 31 deaths were reported.

The epidemic has killed nearly 1,300 people in three months, infecting an average of 600 people each day.

The disease erupted in mid-February and has been found in 11 of the 18 provinces of Angola. The waterborne disease emerged from decades of civil war, during which water and sanitation systems were devastated.

The cholera epidemic initially surfaced in slums, a vast, squalid wasteland of shacks and refuse that is home to millions of Angolese.

"Most people are living on a huge rubbish dump without any services," said David Watherill, Medecins Sans Frontières' (MSF) director of water and sanitation.

"It is a huge outbreak," said Claire-Lise Chaignat, WHO's global cholera coordinator.

The outbreak has infected more than 35,000 people, illustrating how Africa is crippled by preventable diseases caused in part by poverty and a lack of infrastructure.

Some medical charities believe that deaths due to cholera are probably two to three times higher than the reported toll.

Cholera is an acute intestinal infection spread by contaminated water or food, poor hygiene, overcrowding and inadequate sanitation.

The disease causes vomiting and acute diarrhea that can lead to dehydration and death within

24 hours.

Remedies are relatively simple and effective, including antibiotics and oral rehydration salts, but must be administered promptly.

"With cholera you have to react very quickly, you can't wait two days for treatment, you will be dead by then," said Chaignat.

Angola, however, has responded very slowly to the epidemic.

The disease has not appeared in Angola for years, but a population with partial immunity leaves people much more vulnerable.

On Wednesday, MSF called on the Angolan government, international aid agencies and the UN to speed up remedy delivery and distribution of clean, safe water.

MSF, also known as Doctors Without Borders, believes Angola should spend more of its wealth on saving the lives of epidemic victims.



**A CRIPPLING INFECTION** - The Angolan population has suffered with 35,000 infected by cholera.



# One percent

Starting July 1, you will save a penny for every dollar you spend on goods and services, as the first initiative of the Conservative government's new federal budget comes into effect. But how does it affect students? **Michelle Pinchev** finds out

## THE FIRST CUT IS THE DEEPEST

Earlier this month the federal budget marked by sweeping tax cuts was passed with little resistance in a House of Commons vote. Finance Minister Jim Flaherty first introduced the budget on May 2 which was received with a standing ovation and relatively positive attention from the media. At a glance, there seems to be something for everyone, while many economists are seeing very little for anyone.

## ONE PERCENT

Trying to avoid last-minute complications, retailers and businesses have begun changing registers, computer systems and catalogs in preparation for the one per cent tax cut in goods and services. In the mean time, many Canadians are holding off on major purchases.

Since Brian Mulroney introduced the unpopular tax in 1991, this is the first GST cut that Canadians have ever seen. Ironically, it was a Conservative federal government that brought in the tax on goods and services (before that, only goods like cars and running shoes were taxed) while the Liberals swore to eliminate it.

But the notorious GST withstood its bad reputation, eventually gaining favour with the Liberals who shifted their focus to cutting the income taxes that plunder Canadian paychecks.

A bit of simple math puts into perspective exactly how the consumption tax cut will affect Canadians. If you were looking to buy a brand new plasma television, you could save yourself around fifty dollars.

If you're looking to buy a new car, waiting until July 1 can save you around \$250 bucks.

Unfortunately, most students aren't buying plasma televisions or Hondas. You might have your eye on a new pair of running shoes. The savings on a hundred-dollar pair of shoes is one loonie.

While the tax cut, estimated to

cost the government eight billion dollars over the next two years, was sold as a way to decrease the government's revenue and increase spending in Canada, many economists feel it has no use beyond political motives.

"Almost anyone that knows anything about tax systems thinks it's just stupid," says Dr. David Johnson, a professor of economics at Wilfrid Laurier University.

While noting that any tax is unpopular by definition, Dr. Johnson points out the benefits of the goods and service tax.

"The GST is a relatively good tax. A good tax taxes most things at the same rate, and doesn't change people's choices," explains Johnson. "If you're going to reduce the size of the revenue flow, you need to tell people at the same time where you are going to spend less." As for where spending will be reduced, the government leaves us to speculate.

"They said they were going to spend more money in a variety of ways, but they didn't say where they're going to spend less," Johnson adds. "I wouldn't be the least bit surprised if 'less' was in post secondary education."

Clearly, the one percent cut in consumption taxes, however insignificant to us, is going to cost Canada a lot.

"It means some programs are simply not going to be there," says Johnson.

Many defenders of the budget point out the fact that a GST cut is relevant to all Canadians while an income tax cut does little for those who do not work or whose income is below the cut-off point for tax exemption.

However, Johnson feels that to help lower income people, increasing the GST credit for them would have made more sense than cutting the tax for everybody.

Dr. Greg Berberich, a professor of accounting at Laurier also felt the tax cut would do little for Canada, especially students. "The conventional wisdom is that the conservatives cut the GST for political purposes,"

says Dr. Berberich. "Harper and economists know cutting income tax is more beneficial than cutting GST. But as a politician he knows cutting the GST will do a lot more for him."

The argument is that Canadians pay way too many taxes, and that it hinders our growth and our ability to innovate and invest. However, as Dr. Johnson pointed out, there are rapidly growing countries that pay high taxes and other successful countries, like Hong Kong, that are lower tax countries, and there is everything in between. Where Canada lies on this continuum is a matter of opinion.

Former NDP Ontario Premier Bob Rae, who spoke at a conference in Kitchener last Thursday, made his opinion clear when he said he didn't agree with the direction Stephen Harper was taking the



forward tax cuts, but little funding. "There's a text book tax credit which will save students about \$80 a year," says Berberich. "In my opinion that's nothing, really. That won't even buy you one text book a year."

Dr. Johnson agreed, pointing out that some students don't buy textbooks and that others won't bother with the added trouble of keeping extra receipts and making the additional claims. Alternatively, there is a monthly tax credit that could have been increased to amount in annual savings around the same amount that can be obtained through the text book tax credit.

"Any reasonable person would have increased the monthly credit that you already get every month," says Johnson. "It clearly would have been much simpler to not bother with the text book credit. It's a pointless and unnecessary nuisance, relative to just increasing the education tax credit."

As for eliminating the cap on scholarships for tax exemption, there may be a benefit to graduate students. Will undergraduates benefit?

"I don't think it will benefit many of them at all," says Berberich. There are very few students who come anywhere close to getting \$3,000 every year.

While the one percent GST cut might make little difference to students, rendering savings of just a few bucks a year, it's important to ask where the eight billion dollars to pay for this is coming from and how that in itself could impact students.

Although many of the Harper government's budget initiatives seem novel, transparent and uncomplicated, it's important to distinguish what is being done for Canadians and the economy from what is backed by a political agenda.

"Look at the facts, assess the biases and decide, whether it's a Liberal budget or a Conservative budget or any budget – what effect is this go-

ing to have on me, my community or my country," advises Berberich. "And don't spend your eighty dollar tax credit on beer."

Let's not spend it all at once.

## What the budget means for students

### 1. Text book tax credit

– Canadian university and college students can claim \$500 annually on the cost of books; this will result in about \$80 a year for the average student.

### 2. One billion dollars

– Harper is giving up to a billion bucks to provinces or territories to be invested into post secondary education infrastructure.

### 3. Eligibility for loans

– As of August 2007, Canada Student Loans will be reducing the amount that parents are assumed to be paying toward your schooling. This means more people whose parents currently make too much for them to get a loan will be eligible.

### 4. Tax exemption

– Currently, the limit on scholarship, fellowship and bursary money that is taxable is \$3,000 a year. Now all of it will be tax exempt, no matter how much.

improvement of the economy or the creation of jobs.

"Tax cuts for this, tax cuts for that," remarks Berberich. "It's just kind of spreading crumbs around to a bunch of people trying to keep everybody happy."

## CHANGES FOR STUDENTS

While post secondary education is largely a provincial issue, many are disappointed with Harper's federal budget which offers little to university students other than a few more tax cuts.

"The federal government has to have some guiding hand as well as make some significant financial contribution to ensure Canada doesn't start to lag from an education standpoint," says Berberich.

Stephen Harper certainly did not leave students out in his something-for-everybody budget, with more highly visible and straight-

regardless. For university students facing tuition increases and rising housing costs, the nickel we save on the next beer is obviously not going to be much help. But will business students heading out into the corporate world feel the impact in the long run?

"I don't think the Harper government is good for business," says Rae.

And according to Dr. Berberich, who recently obtained his PhD at the University of Waterloo, research shows that cutting income taxes has a much more stimulant effect on the economy than reducing consumption taxes. The consensus amongst economists is that the changes being made are not for the

country.

Rae spoke about a need to address the skill shortage in Canada and expand funding for education to make sure young people don't spend eternity "battling debt."

Pointing out we're behind US funding per capita for graduate education, Rae told attendees that Canadians were being polled, mapped and assessed by the Conservative government, whose priorities were to win favour with Canadians in the short-term. "They're trying to tell you exactly what you want to hear."

As far as students are concerned, who don't have much income and don't buy cars or houses, tax cuts won't have an immediate effect,



# MLSB: WLU spin on Little League

Students love relaxed games and events



VERONICA HUGHES  
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

Once a softball player, I was excited for the opportunity to play a game of MLSB (Major League Summer Baseball) slow pitch at Waterloo Park.

A little apprehensive, as I did not have a glove and had not hit a ball in years, I found the game relaxing and enjoyable.

I was lent a glove from the other team, while both teams congratulated each other on good hits and plays, and encouraged members with little experience to persevere. It was a far cry from the days of parents yelling their disappointment from the stands of the local diamond.

Both teams and the league in general, hold themselves to a high level of good sportsmanship.

The team shakes it off as simply having a good time, but everyone is really supportive of one another, whether they make the team play or get out at first.

This is one reason Wyatt Peever, one of the MLSB convenors, wanted to get involved. "I was a captain and thought it was good times... I wanted to help out further." Convenors are responsible for running events and tournaments for the league.

For player Steve Kitchen, "It's a good social time." In his second year with the league, Kitchen enjoys the various events run outside of the games, like theme parties and bar crawls.

Allen Lourenco, another convenor, says that is the main premise behind the league. "It's somewhere to go outside of class, in a social atmosphere."

At the theme party I attended, "Suits and Sluts: Monopocrazy!" MLSB members held nothing back.

Guys dressed in tight dresses or pilot's uniforms, smoking big cigars. Girls wore 1980's business suits, bright make-up and mini-



THE OL' BALL GAME - Getting ready to score the winning play at Waterloo Park.

skirts. I started to understand what Kitchen and Lourenco were talking about.

Lebaron Leblanc, another convenor, says "The feedback is always very positive."

For Leblanc the league's biggest accomplishment is having students meet and socialize with people they normally would not associate with.

This is because they would not have the opportunity without the league.

According to Leblanc, "After this they know so many more people."

The league holds tournaments, faculty versus student games, and enough theme parties to empty a costume shop.

The mood at both the game and party shows the league is a huge success for Laurier summer students.



WHERE ARE THE 'SLUTES'? - Some suits showing how it's done.

## Marathon racing tips to save time and confusion

O'Neill gives the low down on running a race this summer

JENNIFER O'NEILL  
HEALTH & FITNESS

Whether your goal is to lose weight or just get healthy, a race can be a great way to get fit.

Finally crossing the finish line that you had been training for all year is an amazing feeling.

Whether it's a five kilometre race or your first marathon, the same rules apply.

**Register early.** This can be a motivational tool as much as an organizational one.

By registering ahead of time you have set a goal for yourself. This will also decrease any paperwork that would need to be done before the race starts.

If you do not receive a confirmation two days before the race, contact the administrators to confirm they have received your application.

**Prepare the night before.** Lay everything out before you go to sleep so that you don't forget anything. Buying a new running outfit will help you look like a professional and boost your con-

fidence. Plan transportation the day before -- decide how you will get to the race and the route you will take.

Carpooling will help ease the stress of finding a parking spot.

**Arrive early on race day.** Arrive 30 to 60 minutes before the race begins. Register and get your number first thing. For on-road races your bib must be pinned on all four corners to the front of your shirt. Make sure it is visible and that all corners are attached. If you receive a t-shirt do not wear it. There is an unspoken rule amongst runners, it is 'uncool' to wear the race t-shirt of the race you are running. If you are un-

sure of what to do next, follow the crowd, do what everyone else is doing. When the crowd starts moving towards the starting line, follow.

**Stay in the back and to the right.** When at the start line, head toward the back. If you start at the front, you're only going to see people pass you for the first kilometre. The goal of your first race should be to finish, not to win. Stay to the right-hand side of the road unless you are passing another runner. When passing say "passing on the left." This alerts the other runner and gives them time to move over. It is also a safety precaution if there are still

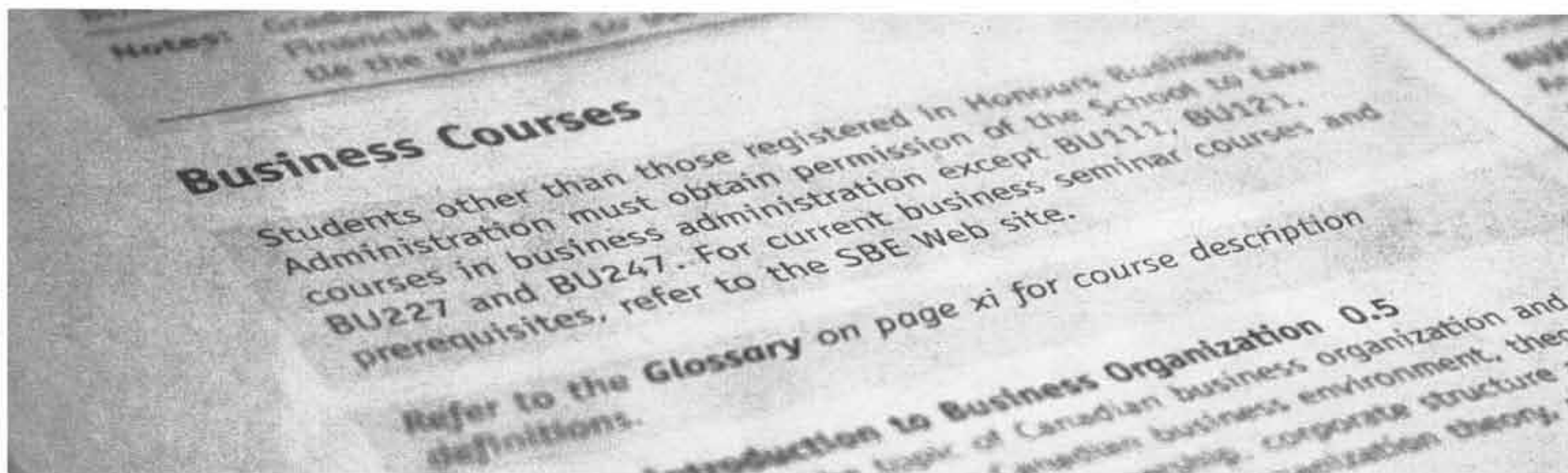
cars on the road. Move right to the curb if you need to walk or tie your shoe.

**Don't stop.** After you cross the finish line don't stop moving until you are out of the way. Although you may want to collapse, this will only cause congestion and frustration amongst the other runners. Make sure you stop and are attended to properly by the timers. They may need to swipe your number or collect your bib.

**Enjoy.** Now it is your time to grab some water and food. Congratulate yourself on completing your goal and make sure you stretch, or you will feel it the next day.



# Class selection limited for summer co-op biz kids



## Scheduling not balanced, say summer students

**VERONICA HUGHES**  
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

At Laurier there's a certain coup to being a business co-op student. Co-op work terms avail students the opportunity to land the good positions at some prestigious companies. Networking and landing plum jobs after university are just two of the several advantages. However, these advantages are not without certain sacrifices.

Due to the organization of the program, co-op students must enrol for two summer terms, while the rest of campus runs on a continuous eight month year, with or without the co-op option. This leaves business students with fewer available campus resources and limited course selection.

Some students are sympathetic

to the predicament. Jeff Sinko, currently in his last term and second summer term, understands the department cannot offer every course.

"I understand where they are coming from. It's just a pain," he says.

Sinko, however, was aggravated when his classes were restricted during the winter term. All of the required courses for his concentration, Supply Chain Management, were offered this past winter. So he was not able to enrol in other fourth year business classes, some of which he will not have the opportunity to ever take since summer term offers fewer options.

Adam Pachnik, fourth year operations management, is less forgiving. "I basically had to take classes I don't want to take

because it fit my schedule. The scheduling is not balanced." Pachnik dislikes that many classes he wanted to take were offered during fall term, when he was on co-op. Many of his classmates had the same predicament.

**"I basically had to take classes I don't want to take."**

*- Adam Pachnik, 4th year business*

Dr. Kim Morouney, Associate Professor for the School of Business and Economics, explains the department is organized to try and alleviate this problem. "Faculty work two out of three terms, based on the foundation worked around the [course] calendar."

Some faculty work every summer to maintain consistent course scheduling. They are also hired based on student demand, but this cannot be done overnight.

Dr. Morouney also stresses students, co-op employers and the business community greatly affect the courses that are offered year-round. "Over time we have changed radically in courses we offer."

However, she stresses that the changes cannot be facilitated immediately. Since some course trends are short-term, demand could be over by the time the department goes to hire. These trends can also affect why certain courses that are in demand right now are not fully staffed.

Marketing is a current trend that is so popular there are not enough summer classes to meet demand. It could take a full year until the marketing trend is caught up with more classes.

So the summer term either means that the course is not offered, or you will have a hard time getting into the class.

This does not mean that summer terms are not without some perks. The summer baseball league, more relaxed nature of classes, no lines around campus and a longer break between terms make summer school seem like a great time.

However, going to school during the summer can just seem unnatural to some. Coupled with few course offerings the term can become frustrating.

# A Day in the Life of... Lidija Bisak

Student Life follows Lidija Bisak as she leads young students as a JUMP! Ambassador

**VERONICA HUGHES**  
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

Lidija Bisak has a long day ahead of her. A new camp will be arriving at noon with bus loads of energetic students aged 11-13.

The fourth year psychology student is completing some last-minute paper work for her class before they arrive in less than an hour.

She will then have two more days with her group, filled with academic classes, athletics, and even a dance.

Her job as a JUMP Ambassador requires her to be upbeat, energetic, and organized, with a passion for kids.

This can be daunting as her day can be as long as 15 hours. Fortu-

nately, Bisak loves working with kids. "I did volunteer placements for classes and really enjoyed it."

The role of JUMP ambassador also requires creativity in keeping and maintaining students' attention.

Fortunately, she achieves this by having her group worship a mascot: a yellow pool noodle. Since yellow is the group colour for the three-day educational trip, Bisak thought the unusual piece would keep their interest.

JUMP (Junior University Multidisciplinary Preparation) is an educational camp run annually through Conference Services during May and June. They host classes ranging from grades five through eight.

Students participate in mock

university labs and lectures and experience a taste of Laurier life, like a dance at the Turret.

The program is extremely popular, and many schools return every year.

The excitement from students in her group is proof that the program, and Bisak, have achieved the goal of making learning fun.

Bisak will also be the co-ordinator of the JUMP program next summer. "I like the administration part of the program, so I'm excited to make some improvements."

Alayna Miller, the current co-ordinator, has every confidence in her abilities. "She's so positive and a real team worker." Both Miller and Bisak enjoy working with JUMP because it provides young students an opportunity to experience university life.

Students get to sleep in dorm rooms, take university subjects and eat in the dining hall.

Miller also thinks the program

is great opportunity for Laurier students. "It is good preparation for teacher's college, and good experience working with children."

Bisak agrees, and hopes to pursue a career with children after

Laurier.

Bisak's typical day with the JUMP program is fast paced and long, but with her positive attitude and fun personality, she makes it seem effortless.



Veronica Hughes

**JUMP'IN FOR JOY** - Bisak busy preparing for her next class.



# Reflecting the landscape

A hoarse Sam Roberts tells Cord A&E editor, **Joe Turcotte**, he doesn't want to push a social agenda, but push his music as far and as wide as possible

- from **ROBERTS**, cover

But your musical instinct is to pursue different musical avenues. Different approaches to your song writing and the lyrical content, anything. You should never try to consciously direct what you're doing."

And while he was writing for the new album, Roberts admits that sometimes his musical inspiration seemed to come from unconscious sources.

"Sometimes you feel like a medium, that you're channeling something from beyond. And then sometimes it's very much something that you have to work at. You have to sculpt a raw idea. You take that and hope that you can make something, but that takes a lot of work," the ever-humble Roberts revealed with a smile.

For someone that has had so much success and has had so many lofty comparisons made about his music, Roberts' humility is refreshing.

While *Chemical City* is bound to be a smash success, Roberts is reluctant to acknowledge the comparisons to legends like Bob Dylan and John Lennon that the media often makes.

"I don't think it necessarily reflects reality. They're two of my idols for sure, people that I look up to as songwriters. Their music inspires me, but it inspires a whole lot of other people too. I think every musician would love to be compared to Dylan and Lennon, but that doesn't mean they measure up at all. It doesn't

make it a fact."

But like Dylan and Lennon, Roberts' music is more than just catchy hooks and inviting melodies. *Chemical City* has been described as a response to the urban decay that the band has witnessed first hand while touring.

"We don't just play the 10 to 12 major cities in Canada, we go everywhere. When you put it all together [the album] has this feeling to it in a way. The songs we write are a reflection of the life we live and the places that we see. For me I'm very much rooted in an urban landscape every day. But I'm not obsessed with it or anything. 'Mind Flood' is very much set in Algonquin Park or some place like that. That's where I see that song."

While Roberts admits that some of his songs may look as though they have a social agenda, he is quick to dismiss the idea that he explicitly tries to be political or push an agenda.

"I never want to tailor what I do to a certain crowd," Roberts admits. "If I'm political or socially conscious it's because that's how I feel. I don't want it to be like I'm getting on my soap-box or anything."

As a Canadian who has had the fortune to travel from coast to coast, Roberts' music is an expression of the diversity of the Canadian landscape.

Nuanced and complex, Roberts' music does not take well to being defined in simple terms. With Canada seemingly conquered, Roberts sees the next logical step as taking his music to

the United States.

"I want to push my music as far and wide as possible," an excited Roberts beamed.

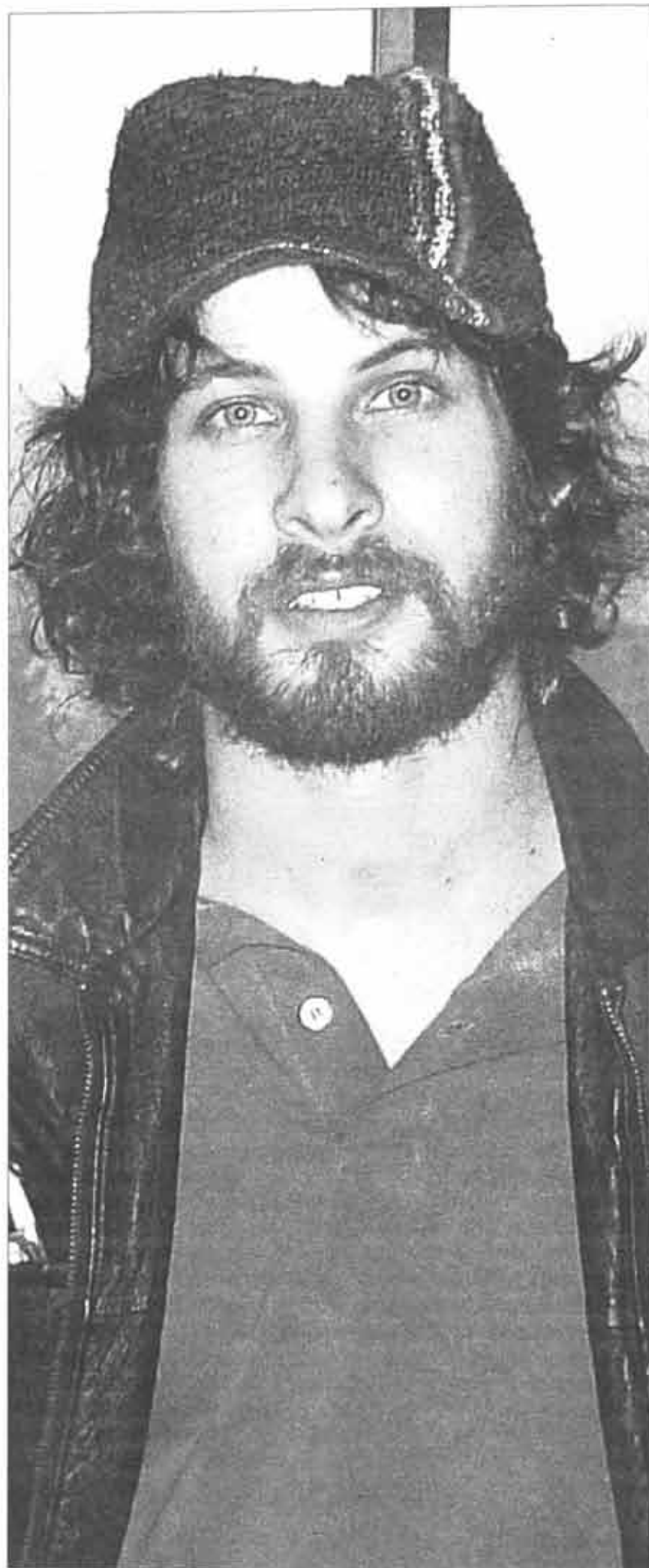
He does seek some sort of validation from the scene in the States, "I do feel that, for sure. Not because it's a matter of pride or anything like that. But at some point you have to expand your boundaries and push your horizons. That just leads to a longer and healthier career. It's not a personal thing like 'I have to conquer the States.' It's just the next place to go, it's right there and there are 300 million people who just love rock and roll music."

Although Roberts is looking to take the next step to the United States, he still feels proud to be part of the burgeoning Canadian music scene.

"I think there's a lot of great bands who are all gifted in their own right working right now," Roberts acknowledged while deflecting away any talk of being responsible for the success of the Canadian music industry. "No, no, I don't think we were in any way at all responsible for it. I think they're all tremendous bands who are doing their own thing."

While Roberts may be reluctant to be seen as more than just another artist doing what he loves to do, he is viewed by many as a premier member of the Canadian rock music community.

And if the Canadian success of *Chemical City* is reciprocated in the United States, maybe this rock and roller from Montreal will become an international sensation.



Joe Turcotte

**ROBERTS TAKES IN THE VIEW** - Before he rocked the Turret, Sam Roberts got an eye full of the Waterloo skyline.

# Pearl Jam returns with a vengeance

Pearl Jam's anti-war album may be the band's first foray into grunge

**DRU JEFFRIES**  
STAFF WRITER

The May issue of *Gentlemen's Quarterly* features a small article dubbing Pearl Jam "the new Grateful Dead," citing such belittling similarities as "generally bad hair," "shorts onstage" and "a lot better than Phish."

Aside from being derogatory to both bands, the joke piece lands one significant punch to Pearl Jam's reputation. The first similarity listed between the two bands, that "they sell out arenas in two minutes, and you can't name any of their last five albums," is only partly true.

The albums in question, 1996's *No Code*, 1998's *Yield*, 2000's *Binaural*, and 2002's *Riot Act* are all terrific albums. Furthermore,

their latest effort is self-titled, so good luck forgetting what it's called.

Pearl Jam's latest album has little in common with the Grateful Dead, though it proudly wears its classic rock influences on its sleeve. Like many of today's popular bands, the latest Pearl Jam offering is full of abrasive chord-based riffs, harkening back to Pete Townsend's work with The Who.

While Pearl Jam hail from Seattle and emerged around the same time as Nirvana, they have always had more in common with classic rock bands like Led Zeppelin than their contemporaries, who demonstrated more of a punk influence. That being said, this album might be their first true full-length foray into "grunge" territory.

The album opens with "Life Wasted," a hard-rocking grunge piece that features uncharacteristically primitive guitar work by Mike McCready and Stone Gossard.

The length and quality of the guitar solos, on this track and throughout the album, separate Pearl Jam from their peers in the "nū-grunge" movement. McCready and Gossard, both equally adept with the pick and the wah pedal, stand out as the only contemporary practitioners of the 1970s-style of rock guitar.

Album highlights include "Gone," which begins as a quiet, Kurt Cobain-esque acoustic meditation, but by the end of the first verse winds up in familiar Pearl Jam territory, evoking shades of "Oceans" from 1991's debut al-

bum, *Ten*. Vedder's bluesy chorus melody in "Come Back" stands in stark contrast to the rest of the album, in which they have eschewed the blues elements of their sound in favour of the grungier rock that is popular now. The album closer, "Inside Job," sounds vaguely like "Black" (also from *Ten*), but with more drive and optimism.

The first single, "World Wide Suicide," hides Vedder's thoughtful and poignant lyrics beneath brash and primal guitar work. It is here that his vocal opposition to the Bush administration and U.S. foreign policy first manifests itself on the album.

*Pearl Jam* is as much an anti-war statement as Neil Young's recently released *Living With War*. Vedder-penned songs like "Marker in the Sand" ("Now you got both sides claiming killing in God's name/But God is nowhere

to be found, conveniently") and "Army Reserve" ("She tells herself and everyone else/Father is risking his life for our freedoms") are not as polemical as Young's album, which features a song entitled "Let's Impeach the President."

While Young's album is about living with war, ultimately Pearl Jam's is more about living... with war.





# Moneen's *Red Tree Riot*

JOSIAH YOUNG  
CORD A&E

The boys in the Brampton-based band, Moneen, are no strangers to life on the road.

Since forming in 1999, they have spent the majority of their existence traveling from town to town, bringing their brand of energetic rock to an ever-increasing and rabid fan base.

Released April 11 on Vagrant Records, *The Red Tree* is Moneen's third full-length album. Many critics hail the album as the band's most complete.

While what the critics say should usually be taken with a grain of salt, in this case guitarist Hippy Hughes and bassist Erik Hughes agree.

"I think that we would have to agree with that. With this album we had more time than usual to work on it, and we were much more focused and really wanted to make the best album we could," Hippy muses.

"We feel like it is more focused and that there is no filler at all. We'll sometimes go back and listen to our older albums and think 'oh, why did we put that in there.'"

Currently the band is touring in support of the album and after completing a small run through Ontario, they will be heading across the pond to Europe with Alexisonfire.

They will then return home for the North American run of the Warped Tour.

Renowned for their wildly intense live shows that feature crazy on-stage antics, Hippy and Erik say that they relish the excitement found onstage.

At a recent show in Oakville, lead singer Kenny set fireworks off, causing the fire department to be called in.

The pranksters' antics subsequently delayed that performance.

"So many crazy things have happened on stage. We played a poker game on stage with Choke in Edmonton, and we just played a show at Blue Mountain where some guy actually proposed to his girlfriend. Thankfully she said yes," says Erik.

"Sometimes after a show we'll walk off thinking, 'man that show sucked, nothing crazy happened,' I mean it's great when a band can go up there and play perfectly, but it's the crazy moments that can make a show memorable," Erik remembers with a laugh.

When asked about their current home on *Vagrant Records* Hippy described the relationship as near-perfect for them and that the label nurtures a "family atmosphere and is not business-like at all."

When the subject of a major label move is discussed, both Hughes don't foresee it as necessary.

Vagrant is and has been home to some of emo-punk's most influential bands, including The Get-Up Kids, Saves the Day and Dashboard Confessional. With the steady progression that Moneen has demonstrated, it looks like the strong Vagrant tradition is in good hands.



Paul Anz

**RIDING HIGH** - Moneen's Kenny Bridges takes a trip on a sea of humanity during a recent show at the Starlight Lounge.

# OSSTF



## University Sector

Uniting education workers since 1919



# Conspiracy on 9/11?

New Dylan Avery documentary puts official US Government version of 9/11 events to the test

DAVE RICCI  
STAFF WRITER

After September 11, 2001, it was only a matter of time until the entertainment world would cash-in on the great tragedy. Although it is important to remember 9/11, many would argue that commercializing feels immoral.

But let's face it, the world of film is run by the almighty buck. This sad point has been seamlessly illustrated by the recent release of the film *Flight 93*. By tugging on the audience's patriotic and emotional heartstrings, *Flight 93* was able to pull in a reasonable sum of money.

While also dealing with 9/11, Dylan Avery's *Loose Change, Second Edition* shows no interest in further extorting money from the public. Re-released on January 16, 2006, *Loose Change* is a documentary which presents a very controversial, and to some, far-fetched premise. The documentary proposes that 9/11 was a planned attack orchestrated by the American government.

Before some of you raise your fists in anger, it should be noted that *Loose Change, Second Edition* is a very well-researched documentary which makes use of government documents, eye-witness accounts and sensible scientific facts to support its theories. The film is so loaded with content that it is challenging to keep track of all the mind boggling arguments Avery presents.



LIKE A SHOT IN AMERICA'S CHEST - *Loose Change*, an online documentary, says the US government plotted the events of 9/11.

With the recent release of video footage showing a plane, or as Avery would argue, a missile hitting the Pentagon, it seems that the public is thirsty for more information about 9/11. Without a shadow of a doubt, this documentary will certainly quench any conspiracy theorist's thirst.

For example, the documentary suggests the average sized circular hole in the Pentagon left by the attack could have only been made by a missile, not a Boeing 737 with a wing span of 125 feet.

Still not convinced? Avery furthers his argument by saying that

if a plane did, in fact, hit the Pentagon, there should have been evidence of airplane debris. Well, the government's response was that the airplane was vapourized. Yet, the government also boasts that 184 out of 189 victims were identified at the Pentagon site. Logically, if an airplane is vapourized, then its contents and passengers would be too.

In regards to the World Trade Center attack, Avery boasts that the government purposely slammed the planes into the buildings to create the illusion of an attack. Continuing, the build-

ings were rigged with demolition explosives, assisting in the collapse of the buildings.

*Loose Change* presents so much information regarding 9/11 that only a sliver of the film's content can be revealed here. If your interests have been perked, search the films title on the internet and brace yourself.

If true, the theories and evidence Avery offers are mind-numbing. In some regards, its lucrative evidence and video testimonials of firefighters discussing how they heard "bombs" exploding in the World Trade Centers

can rattle one to the core.

While *Loose Change* is critical of the American government throughout the documentary, the victims of 9/11 are respected and remembered. Even if the film's theories are complete rubbish, Avery believes that the government owes it to the public to present the complete truth.

Regardless of the validity of this documentary, it is clear that the message behind *Loose Change, Second Edition* is that the public has a right to know the total truth about the tragedy of September 11, 2001.

## Can-Con credits new artists

New CRTC regulations look to change the way that radio broadcasts music



JOE TURCOTTE  
A&E EDITOR

With the Canadian music scene in the midst of a renaissance, it looks as though the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission is about to step in and shake things up.

While it can be argued that 'what isn't broken, shouldn't be fixed' the current CRTC regulations could benefit from some tweaking.

After all, it has been six years since the federal regulator last looked into how it dictates the amount of Canadian content commercial radio must play. This

initiative comes in response to claims from the radio industry that new and largely unregulated satellite radio threatens the future of traditional radio. Big Radio claims that the current prescription of Can-Con (35 percent) is too much and needs to be reduced so that radio as a medium can remain viable.

While one might expect a knee-jerk reaction from the CRTC, it seems as though level heads have prevailed. Rather than simply lowering Can-Con requirements, the CRTC has instead proposed raising the Canadian quota to 45 percent.

Now such a move certainly won't endear the federal regulators to the radio industry, however, the CRTC is also considering an innovation that might.

Along with the increased Can-

Con, the CRTC is considering a proposal from the Canadian Independent Record Production Association, which suggests that when "emerging artists" are played, a radio station will be given

Allowing new, lesser known acts like Moneen to share radio with heavy-weights like Sam Roberts, these regulations have the potential to further cultivate the soil of Canada's music scene.

an extra 'Can-Con credit'. So instead of having to play the same tired songs 45 percent of the time, stations will now be able to low-

er their quota by increasing the number of new and breaking artists they play.

By offering radio stations this choice, the CRTC may be able to shake up the stagnant and formulaic radio that is pervasive today. Also, by allowing new, lesser-known acts like Moneen to share radio time with heavyweights like Sam Roberts, these regulations have the potential to further cultivate the soil of Canada's music scene.

It must be said, however, that this solution is not flawless, as serious questions remain. For instance, when exactly does an "emerging artist" fail to qualify as new? Sure, songs from relative unknowns are exciting,

but after awhile the band fails to be unknown and enters the mainstream.

Also, how will classic rock stations adapt to this change? With an increase in Can-Con and an inability to turn to emerging artists for help, will these stations be forced to re-hash the same Tragically Hip, Neil Young, and Kim Mitchell songs *ad nauseum*?

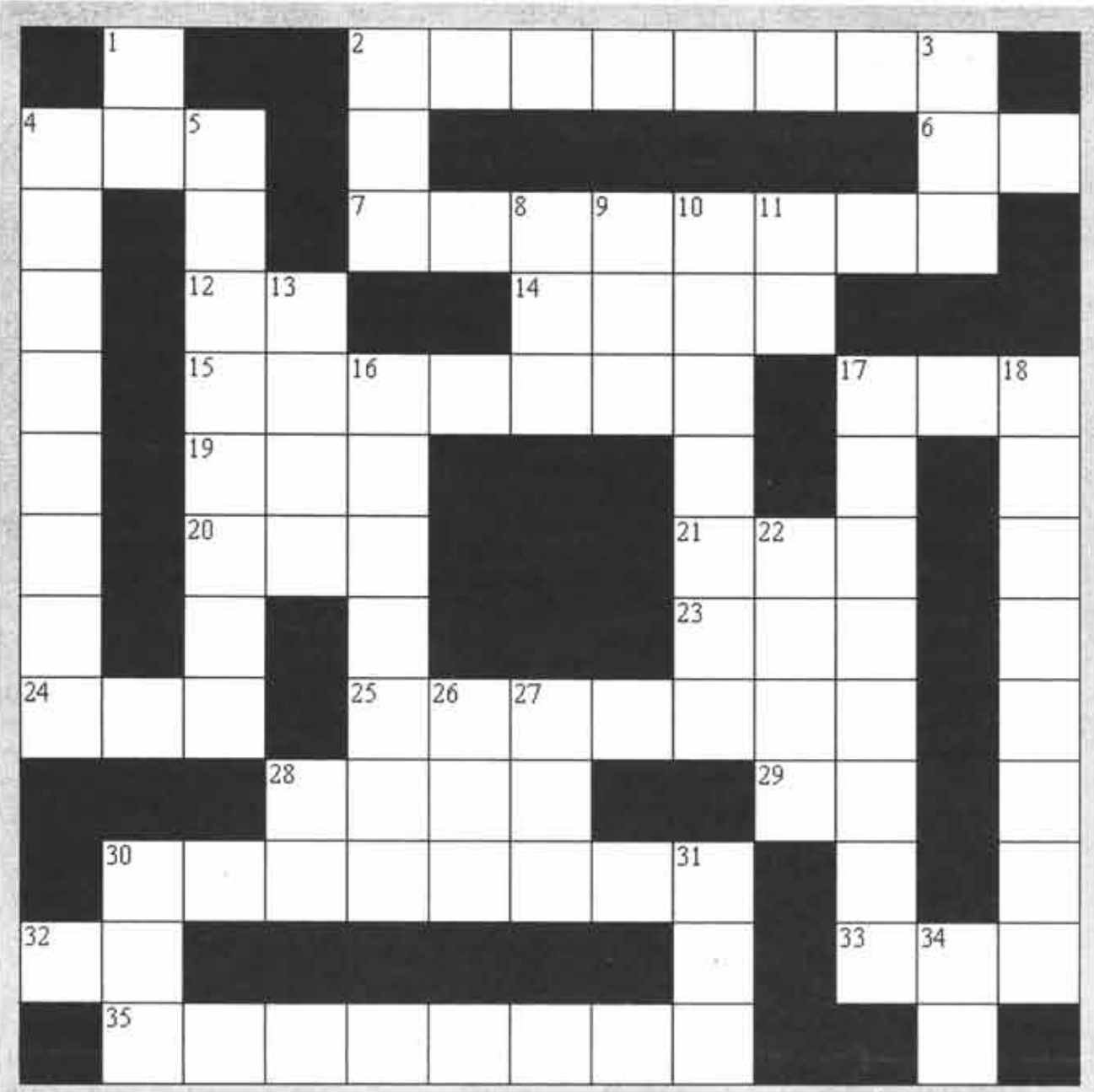
While the proposal before the CRTC may not be perfect, it is a step in the right direction. Whether you love it or hate, the CRTC has a say in the kinds of music and media products that our nation consumes. So it is imperative that the regulatory body makes the best choices possible when creating new requirements.

With a little bit of foresight and tweaking, it looks as though these amendments may enrich the Canadian music industry and allow the current renaissance to turn into a brand new golden age.



# Crossword

## King's spring edition



Across:

- 2. To look at stars
- 4. Done with a shovel
- 6. Not "yes"
- 7. An untrained military recruit
- 12. Neither either
- 14. Plural 'mine'
- 15. Quirk
- 17. Patsy Cline song
- 19. Etats Unis
- 20. Mag-\_\_\_ Train
- 21. Past of 'eat'
- 23. Malfunctioning firework
- 24. Not 'his'
- 25. Relating to the Earth
- 28. State that The Jazz is from
- 29. Anime North shortform
- 30. Snakelike
- 32. 3.14
- 33. What chickens are born as
- 35. Self-fertilization in plants. [ask a bio major]

Down:

- 1. Colloquial greeting
- 2. \_\_\_ & the Family Stone
- 3. Not the start
- 4. Radio operator at a police station
- 5. Globe-like
- 8. To steal by force
- 9. A pair
- 10. A heavy fabric interwoven with a rich, raised design.
- 11. One half of Egyptian Life Goddess
- 13. FF1 white magic spell
- 16. A French peasant dance of Baroque origin in moderately quick duple meter [ask a music major, a smart one]
- 17. Acceptance as true or valid; belief
- 18. The young of a sheep or goat; a lamb or kid
- 22. Big fish, often found in can
- 26. Feel the side of your head. That weird, ridged thing, yeah, that is the answer.
- 27. Rune from D2 Expansion [ask a computer geek]
- 28. not down
- 30. Canada's rail company
- 31. Pigs live in this
- 34. Bus service

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PERSONALS

Mama 'Pril's sayin  
Wow, I can't believe this first issue has finally been completed. Six months ago I would have never guessed I'd be here right now. It doesn't seem that long ago that I was so excited to see my name in print in the news section. And now I've got the same giddy feeling seeing the "Editor-in-Chief" byline. Thanks to the hard-working new ed board for their time put into a rather hefty 20 pager. Thanks to Joe for the sweet interview with Sam Roberts on your birthday, to Mike for the freakin' long day you put in today and for understanding my obsession with "objectivity." To B'don for all the help and advice for this first issue, to Danny for gettin your stuff in first and for your cool hat tan line, Emilie for your uplifting presence and for your sweaty butt towel. Veronica for putting yourself in the story and for all the great ideas, Aria for being the best

remote editor since B. Boyce, 'Tones for the hard-hitting editorial and for enduring a lame-ass town meeting, Blair for being an opinionated commuter wonder, Pinchy for letting Sally keep us company today and for racing back from TO tonight, Angela for the office gossip and giggles, Fraser for the Ontario Press Council membership. Congrats to Adrian, Dan, Blair and Emilie for winning the Cord some sweet award action! HAPPY BIRTHDAY JAKIE, I love you and your Jeep. The best is yet to come.

Uh,  
It's late, I'm tired and I'm going to let Stephen Colbert bring this mother home. One love,  
BC



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## SSAC fee increase irresponsible

If our student fees increased with every construction project at Laurier, it wouldn't be long until we were all broke.

Luckily this is not the logic used to gather funding for various new buildings and renovations on campus. They are usually paid for by a combination of money gathered from the student services reserves, the student life levy reserves, money set aside by the Laurier administration and WLUSU, and most of all, from government grants.

But this spring, the student services advisory council passed a motion to increase the student fee from \$26 to \$28 per half-credit, on the condition that the new co-op and career services building construction is approved. This will increase the SSAC fee by \$20 for students with a full course load.

The council claimed that there is not enough money budgeted in the student services department to pay for the construction of the new building.

But this project was marked as a priority by SSAC as long as three years ago, Dan Dawson, general manager of student services told the *Cord*. Not only that, but last year's WLUSU president, Dan Robert, made construction at 232 King one of his major campaign promises.

Some things are not adding up here. Both the student services advisory council and WLUSU have known the co-op and career services building was due for some major investment for quite some time, yet no funding has been ear-marked for the project.

It is for this reason that the possible SSAC fee increase seems irresponsible on the committee's part.

Dawson says that since the inception of the SSAC fee, the student services department has brought in more funds than were needed to run the department. This resulted in a reserve fund that was used to pay for various campus projects, and only the student members of the committee, who are appointed, had full say in what was done with the extra money.

If the co-op and career services building was a known priority, why didn't these student representatives set aside funding for the project?

Twenty bucks is not a lot, but students should not have to bear the brunt of poor planning.

## Summer UPASS needed

The GRT UPASS is not available for students over the summer. Officials claimed concerns about fraudulent use over the summer and logistics associated with fixing them are obstacles too large to overcome for this year.

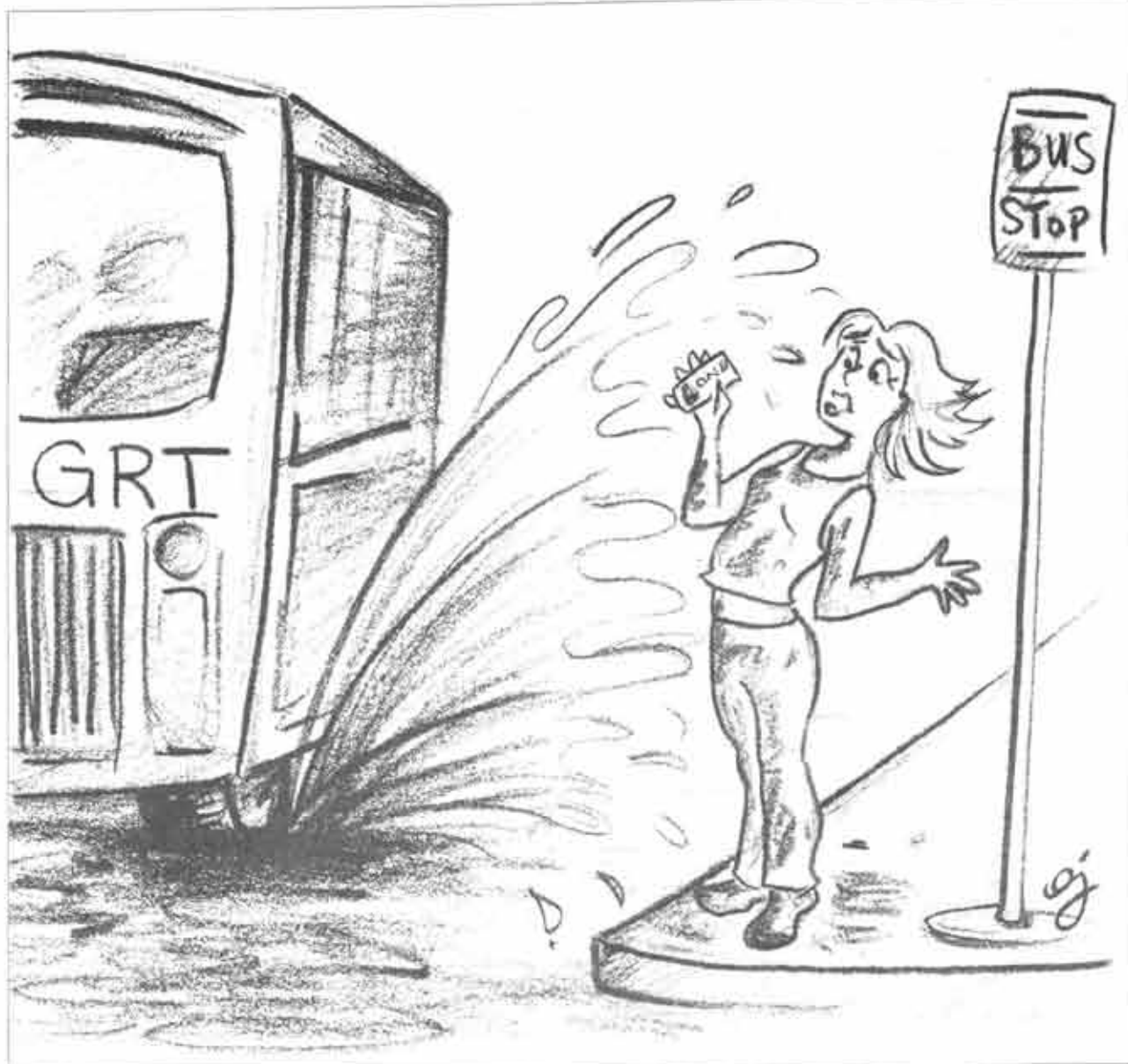
But for students who have to live in Waterloo over the summer, the handiness of having a bus pass for running errands would far outweigh the hassle of going to get a special sticker put on your OneCard or picking up a special UPASS card. As for the fraudulent use of OneCards, that is a problem that has likely been ongoing since the onset of the pass. From part-timers to graduates, undoubtedly some students used the pass without having paid for it, and now students forced to attend class in the summer have to suffer even more.

Business co-op students regularly attend class during the summer term so the presence of stu-

dents needing the pass during summer months should not have been an unforeseen obstacle.

The UPASS is clearly the type of initiative that fulfills WLUSU's mandate to "provide for the needs of the students", but at this point, they need to make a better effort to meet the needs of all students and not simply those that attend classes at convenient times of the year. The GRT has been able to expand their services a great deal thanks to the new partnership and should show some good faith in removing some of the impediments to a summer option. The UPASS project was clearly deemed successful by students during the year and it is only fair that summer students have the same environmentally and wallet-friendly option, even if it means getting a sticker or special pass.

After all, if there's one thing Laurier students should be used to by now, it's waiting in line.



## The Good Book not so good

Misinterpretations of the Bible lead to prejudice and discrimination



TONY FERGUSON  
NEWS EDITOR

Religion is a touchy subject.

A lot of people are turned off by religion, especially when they hear that one of George W. Bush's top advisors is omnipotent and lives in the sky.

I understand why many people are up in arms over things like gay marriage, practicing other religions or simply not practicing one at all, but what I don't understand is where these ideals are coming from.

I've heard analysts say that nowhere in the Bible is homosexuality condemned as a sin – only sodomy. So wouldn't this make the whole anti-gay marriage debate a little inaccurate?

If the right-wing parties want to take away gay people's rights using the Bible to support their arguments, they should be focusing their energy on what the Bible really preaches and start an anti-sodomy campaign.

According to the Bible's logic, it's perfectly fine for gay couples to be together, they just can't have sex. And even if they do, I'm sure it won't be so bad. Take the Catholic priests who were caught, for example, I'm sure God's forgiven them by now.

It also doesn't make sense when members of one religion are aggressive towards members

of another. While the Bible says something equivalent to: "obey only your God," I don't think it says, "Destroy all other religions starting with those who obey them."

The Bible also says to "love thy neighbour" and although it doesn't list out specific criteria of who that neighbour may be, whether it's actually the guy or girl next door or someone in a "neighbouring" religion, why not take this at face value?

While you may not agree with your neighbour, love him or her and move on.

To understand this issue, I think you have to step back and ask what it is all about. What purpose is religion supposed to serve?

Looking at the Ten Commandments which form the basis for many Western religions, I would think this belief system serves as a guide for people to live better lives. Don't steal, don't lie, don't cheat; these are basic rules for good people to live by.

Now, I'm not trying to say that religious people are bad, quite the contrary, in fact, I support people who have faith in a higher being, but this absolute adherence to Biblical teachings can only go so far before it contradicts itself. Once believers start letting their faith consume them and once they begin to overanalyze and misinterpret it, things become problematic.

I think that's the crux of the problem: misinterpretation. People read into their faith a

little too much in order to justify their disgust and disapproval for taboos in our society.

Many people are skeptical of religion and its subsequent over-analysis because of the problems it can cause. I have a friend whose little brother recently came out of the closet. While his friends at school, his siblings and his father have been really supportive; his fundamentally Christian mother is having trouble adjusting. As long as he's not having sex however, there shouldn't be a problem.

The same goes for teenage girls who sneak off to get abortions because they're too frightened to face their parents and admit to them that they're sexually active.

If God is omnipotent, and only wants individuals to follow the teachings of the Bible, I don't think homosexuals, non-virgins and other "sinners" would last a second. He would just wipe them out before they had a chance to blink. The idea of people taking it onto themselves to do God's work seems a little ludicrous.

Why would God take the chance with imperfect mortals when he can do the job right himself? I think Bob Rae's new philosophy for the Liberal party can apply here.

Any ideology, either right or left, becomes no good when it gets too extreme. This is what hardcore fundamentalism does: it begins to cloud logical thinking in following of one's faith.

Religion isn't the problem, people who misinterpret it are.



# Heat and light

The Cord's new membership with the Ontario Press Council will provide accountability and an avenue for angry readers to take their concerns



APRIL CUNNINGHAM  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Cord's recent history may not be as squeaky-clean as we would like.

The name Zach Weinberg and the "Gentlemen's Guide" seem to ring a bell, as well as the printing of a censored Islamic cartoon, alleged libel against former WLUSU president Steve Welker and even "The Gay Escapades" a few years back.

We've managed to have just about every group on campus angry with us for one reason or another, and to be frank, most of the time we deserved every criticism we got.

We're students, after all. And although we take our responsibility of reporting important information seriously, we do make mistakes.

But the thing is, often-times it is the job of a student newspaper to draw attention to controversial issues that may not be popular or widely-accepted. We're there to point out oversights, criticize student politicians, question the university admin's decisions and share a diverse range of opinions. So it's no wonder we're not the most popular group on campus.

The Ontario Press Council recognizes these things, and that's why we've decided to join.

We will be the second student newspaper to become members, joining the *Queen's Journal*. There is also a long list of daily and weekly papers, including the *Toronto Star*, the *Globe and Mail*, and the *Record*.

The council is a non-government regulatory body made up of industry journalists that acts as a complaint mechanism for

the press. So if a reader has a specific problem with what we have printed, they have requested a correction or retraction and are not satisfied with the result, this is an avenue to take.

The complaint, which must be submitted in writing, may be sent through adjudication or simply reviewed at an Ontario Press Council meeting. If it does go through adjudication, the newspaper is required to print the decision of the hearing but is not bound by its verdict.

There are good reasons why, in the world of print journalism, rules are loose and regulation is non-existent. In an ideal state, the press represents the voice of the people, seeking truth and justice. Any sort of regulation would inevitably muffle the democracy of journalism.

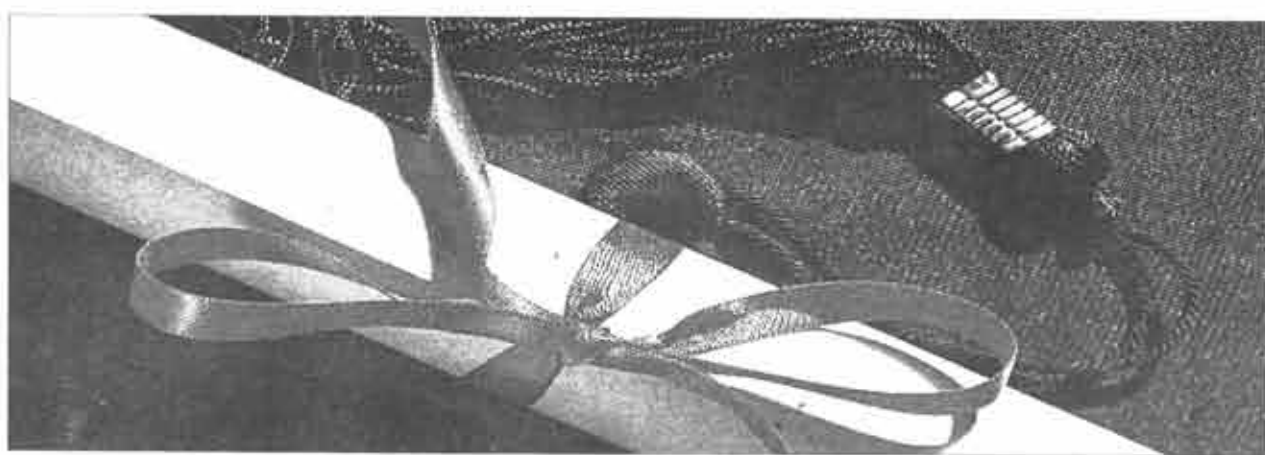
But the Ontario Press Council offers a palpable alternative. They present a set of principles and journalistic values of "where the press council stands" in their annual report, which serve doubly as background on their decisions but also as guidelines for its members.

These include statements such as, "Newspapers should seek to provide light as well as heat in commenting on controversial issues," and, "Sometimes the real fault is not in the errors but in the refusal to acknowledge them."

They are principles I hope the volunteers and editors of the *Cord* absorb, respect and abide by.

At the same time, perhaps our membership with the Ontario Press Council will help provide some accountability where accountability has been long overdue. Laurier students pay WLUSP fees for quality publications. And if they have unsatisfied problems with them, they deserve to have a path to resolve their concerns.

We're up to the challenge.



## Real world not that hard

Carly Beath discovers that the real world, just like university, isn't as bad as some



CARLY BEATH  
OLD OPINIONS

The other day I went to check my grades on LORIS and at the top of the page it read: "Degree Information: Granted: Bachelor of Arts." With that, I stepped out into this "real world" we alternately dread and anticipate for our three to six years (depending on your partying to schoolwork ratio) at Laurier.

The real world, supposedly, is where shit gets serious. It's where, "that won't fly." It's where you have to stop goofing off, and start being perfect - or else you'll be fired, arrested (no more JAC) or generally ill-regarded.

I remember hearing this sort of thing somewhere before, though. It was when I came to university. I was told that my marks would plummet; if I had As before, I'd surely be getting Cs in university. I was prepped to anticipate academic doom. Yet, that very same webpage that announced my graduation also recently informed me that I had gone from an A-minus average in high school to a B-plus average for my university career.

In other words, the sky hasn't fallen. The degree of change from one phase of life to another wasn't nearly as severe as everyone warned me it would be.

But if entering the real world is made out to be hard, breaking into the real world via the jour-

nalism route is often positioned as nearly impossible. Journalists are made out to be a species above the rest -- all-knowing and unfailingly professional. So much as one misused comma, and you'll be run out of town. Even campus journalism has this expectation of infallibility attached to it. Over my four years at Laurier I've heard countless complaints about the *Cord*, simply because not every last article pleased someone. There have been demands to have editors fired and its funding taken away.

I often argued that the *Cord's* mandate as a training ground and learning experience for students meant that readers had to deal with some content they didn't like -- the point isn't to be perfect, but to help students improve. And I'd still argue that.

But I'd also argue that another reason students need to learn to cope with articles they don't like without advocating for the *Cord's* demise is because that's how life is. Suck it up.

Things don't get perfect when you walk off campus for good, no matter what people say. So when there's an article in the paper you don't like, you turn the page; if you're offended enough you write a letter and let it go. If you're at a bar, and the DJ plays a song you don't like, you just don't dance for that song; you don't demand your cover back or rally to have the bar shut down. And if you don't think a song at the bar is on par with something like, say, "The Gentleman's Guide," then stop and listen next time "Get Low" comes on -- Google

"sneet" if you don't know what it means.

This is why this past weekend at the awards dinner for the Canadian Community Newspaper Association's Better Newspapers Competition in Quebec City was so refreshing.

There were mistakes in the winner's book. There were three different photographers proclaimed as the winner in the Campus Photography category, depending where you got your information. The hosts mispronounced about half of the winner's names and/or cities. There were layouts from professional papers that the *Cord* would have been ashamed to print. And these people are journalists: real, paid journalists.

I'm not saying mediocrity is the way to go, or that it's even the norm. I'm a perfectionist myself.

What I am saying is that it's nice to discover, on my way out of university, that the real world isn't so perfect. Among the accolade-worthy things we do (speaking of which, this very paper now boasts the Best Campus News Story and Best Campus Feature Story), there will be missteps -- and it's ok.

We can expect mistakes of others, and we'll be allowed a few ourselves. The slope isn't going to be as steep as we're frightened into thinking.

And most comforting of all is the knowledge that real, paid journalists still get really drunk and laugh at jokes of questionable tastefulness. There's still fun in the real world.

## Letters to the Editor

### The 'truth seeker' has vanished

Somewhere in history the campus roared with a fiercely political message of people empowerment through broad knowledge and social awareness. That was yesterday.

Today, the corporate invasion has been slow, but nonetheless intense, as it enshrouds what was once a glorious educational institute within its moneyed grasp. Hidden from view is the ideology that once gave life to a student movement. This movement has been stomped into the ground by the heavyweight industries that now consume the usefulness of the University.

Where once a young Canadian sought a wide range of studies, took interest in politics of matter and delved into the social constructs of the contemporary, the student of today is bound and

gagged by the donating corporation and forced into a 'specialized' education designed to streamline the workforce, suppressing individuality.

One can see this happening on campus right this very minute. Pick up a student newspaper for an intriguing look into relevancy, yet you'll find the 'truth seeker' has vanished from the pages. The voice of the campus is now on the furthest side of the pasture from radical, that's for sure.

And the community, where has it gone? Where are the organized, collective missions for change? This is OUR future, for God's sake, if we don't step up and put our minds back together this future will be anything but friendly.

This is a call to arms, my friends, a plea for something to be done about this great age of suffocating apathy. Take a good look at the

investment that many of you are now indebted to. Where are you going when you graduate? Off to the slaughter of cutthroat corporate antics, to tie yourself up in their strings with a middle of the road salary and benefits but no pension? Tell me, just what is it worth in US dollars? Your soul, I mean dance puppet, dance!

-Mike Abercrombie

### "Future of Feminism" falls flat

I almost didn't want to comment on "The Future of Feminism" article, since I felt that the author was trying, but unfortunately it didn't come out too well. Well sure, women face a multitude of pressures to attain a certain physical appearance, and given that use of make-up to achieve those ends is predominately associated with women, it is easily argued that it

is a marker of the socio-political situation of women in our society. However, by discontinuing the use of make-up, you are only treating a symptom, not a cause of the inequalities faced by women. After reading the article, I'm still unclear of how by tossing aside my mascara, I can overcome the structural and systemic barriers faced by women in our society. Many men also care about their appearance, as you might notice the high incidence of hair gel use and polo shirts on campus. But there was no attention paid to why using products and trendy clothing to "enhance" your appearance does not impact men's equality in society, the same way it does for women.

It is particularly offensive to assume that women are the sole perpetrators of the inequalities that they face, and therefore have the sole responsibility to eradicate

it, as it was argued that by women turning away from the practice of make-up use, we all can, "begin to achieve equality and a true respect for each other as individuals." Certain men in our society have received considerable gains from these inequalities, so don't they have a pivotal role in the creation of equality? Most concerning in the article was how no attention was paid to the intersections of gender, race, class, and sexual identity etc., as it has been well-argued by others that as a society we can not eradicate one type of oppression alone, since they are all so interconnected.

If the liberation of women is dependent on the simplistic advice of 'don't wear make-up', women will be waiting a long, long time. Oh well, they're use to it.

Christine Paramonczyk





# America Junior taking lead from US

Harper and Bush are treating the symptoms, not the illness in regards to immigration, writes Opinion Editor **Blair Forsyth-Stark**



**BLAIR FORSYTH-STARK**  
OPINION EDITOR

When Stephen Harper and the Conservatives were elected into power this past February, many fearful left-wingers claimed he would turn our beloved country into America Junior. So far, Harper has yet to disappoint.

After taking time to meet with George W. Bush in March, Harper has since pushed, and succeeded, in extending Canada's commitment in Afghanistan, even though a *Globe and Mail* and *CTV* poll in February indicated that 62 per cent of Canadians were opposed to having troops in Afghanistan. Does public disagreement with a leader's military initiatives sound familiar?

This past week, Harper accused the media of being biased against him and indicated he would pursue other methods of reaching the public, including the use of local media as opposed to the national press. This move is shockingly similar to Bush's reliance on local media with reporters who are secretly paid to write favourable stories about administration policies. So much for Harper's platform pushing for an accountable and transparent government.

What's most disheartening is the similarity between the leaders' solutions to immigration

policies. While there is some disagreement with their approach to immigration enforcement, both leaders are offering similarly feeble solutions.

When Bush addressed the US nation just two weeks ago, his focus was on his new immigration reform policies. Stating that his country must "honour the great American tradition of the melting pot," and that the "success of [their] country depends upon helping newcomers assimilate into [their] society," Bush laid out plans for tightening border controls and creating tamper-proof worker identification documents so that illegal immigrants can't find employment as easily. However, Bush emphasized that he was not in favour of deporting every illegal immigrant as "it is neither wise nor realistic to round up millions of people."

Harper, on the other hand, seems relatively unsympathetic to the plight of illegal immigrants, even as hundreds of undocumented, mostly Portuguese, workers have been deported since April. Claiming that he's in support of immigrants coming to Canada yet refusing to help those who are deported, Harper seems to flip-flop over issues in a manner reminiscent of the former Liberal government.

Undocumented workers should not be granted blanket citizenship or amnesty because they did break the law. However, to conduct random searches and

raids, uprooting and displacing families, is not only unwise; it's unfair. The reason many of these individuals resorted to entering the country illegally is out of sheer desperation, unable to find help in our faulted system.

With a backlog of 800,000 applications currently plaguing Canada, it can take years before an individual's application is even reviewed. With such long wait

**The government is treating the symptoms and not the illness, and hard-working would-be Canadians are paying the price.**

times, it's no wonder some individuals choose to take the risk of illegally immigrating.

To fault them retroactively by deportation, years after the act, after they've created lives for themselves here in Canada and contributed to our work force, because of problems with our system, is simply unjust.

Immigration Minister Monte Solberg claims that the backlog is the top priority for his ministry to address, and yet, the resources of the Canada Border Services Agency have been tied up helping round up illegal immigrants, including the arrest of a seven-year-old girl and her fourteen-

year-old sister in an attempt to lure their father, who immigrated from Costa Rica illegally, out of hiding. The current system is undeniably flawed, sometimes taking years for applicants to receive interviews, gain refugee status or even receive updates on their application status. The government is treating the symptoms and not the illness, and hard-working would-be Canadians are paying the price.

While the significant amount of immigrant applications that have yet to be processed is by no means the fault of this Conservative government, as a growing problem for the past several years, it is certainly an issue that needs to take precedence.

But Harper and his government don't seem to agree. In the recently released budget, the Conservatives have only budgeted to have consultation meetings on whether an agency to help incoming immigrants should be created.

As the baby boomer generation grows older and nears retirement, it is estimated that by the middle of the next decade, all growth in the Canadian labour market will come from immigrants. Immigrants also take on many grueling hard labour jobs that Canadians simply do not want to do.

In addition to the many ben-

efits to Canada's work force and economy, immigrants also bring with them different cultural practices and perspectives, which help contribute to the cultural-mosaic of Canada, as opposed to the famed melting pot of our southern neighbours.

Students regularly reap the benefits of these cultural additions, from students in classes who are able to explain cultural norms in countries that most North Americans aren't familiar with, or even cultural events such as Oktoberfest, which is regularly celebrated by non-Germans by the students and within the community.

With two of the most prosperous nations in the world, it is no wonder others come to North America seeking a better life.

After all, most North Americans are immigrants or descendants of immigrants who left their countries in search of a better life and as citizens, they are afforded rights, protection and opportunities.

Why should others be denied the same chance because our governments can't get their acts together?

Harper and Bush need to stop offering quick fix, band-aid solutions and really address the problems in our respective immigration systems so that the processes can be streamlined, decreasing backlogs, and increasing the amount of new, legal citizens that will help to improve our countries, culturally and economically.