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2 NEWS 6 OPINION 10 INTERNATIONAL 12 FEATURE 14 ENTERTAINMENT 17 SPORTS 20 STUDENT LIFE 22 BUSINESS 23 CLASSIFIEDS

Human waste and wild animals

Waterloo's worst houses, and the Lousy Landlords who make the magic happen

Alicia MacFadden

Laurier's First Annual "Lousy Landlord Contest" has yielded a new and diverse crop of winners - from sewage leaks to unwanted house pets, these places have it all.

The contest was started by the Legal Resources department to raise awareness for students looking for off-campus housing. The problem that exists in Kitchener-Waterloo, is that this area has one of the highest occupancy rates in Canada. Therefore, in order to find a place to live, students often feel that they have to overlook certain quality issues.

Consequently, this situation will be amplified when the double cohort highschoolers graduate, and both Universities located in a small radius of each other will face unprecedented numbers of students.

"This contest is designed to show students the seriousness of the quality of housing," notes Jeffrey Kroeker, Organizational Head of Legal Resources. Students often feel that they are trapped by their leases and that they have no other options. Legal Resources is

designed to educate students on their rights as tenants, to refer them to legal counsel if needed, and to prevent students from becoming victims. Also, students need to be aware that there is a Tenant Protection Act outlining the relationship between the tenant and landlord, and the rights existing for tenants.

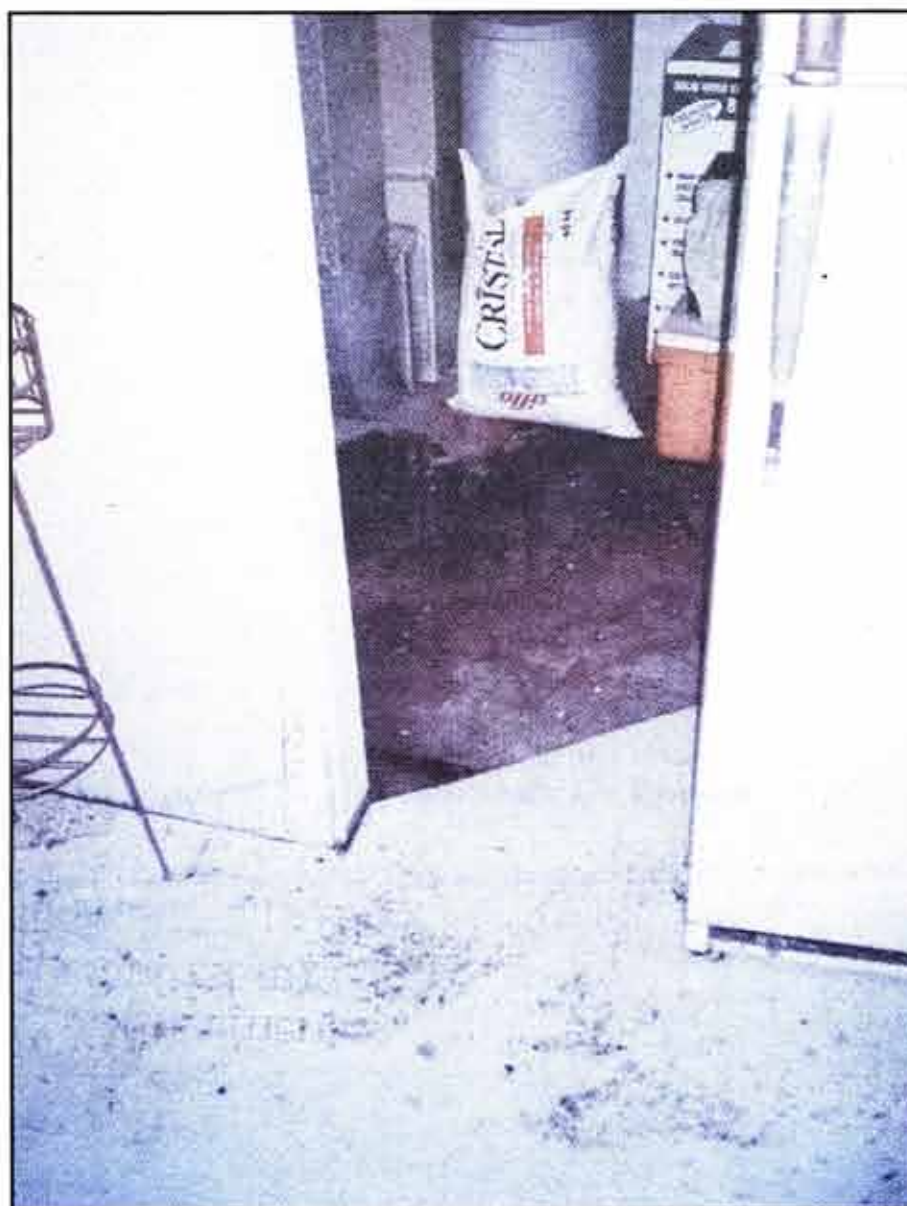
And the Winners Are...

First Place winners were Julian and Diana of 276 King Street.

As their landlord's company BMW pulled up to their rapidly disintegrating home, Julian and Diana realized that there was something very wrong with their situation.... The

two first knew that there was a problem with their house when the basement pipes burst and spewed out sewage and human waste throughout their basement. However, it was the lack of effort on the part of their landlord in remedying this situation that was most frustrating. He waited over a week to fix the pipes, and never cleaned the waste soaked carpets. This happened again, and left a permanent stink throughout the house and left the carpets perma-

...the basement pipes burst and spewed out sewage and human waste throughout their basement.



That ain't chocolate on the floor of the First Place winners of Laurier's first annual Lousy Landlord contest. And you thought 328 Spruce Street was bad...

nently soiled. The worst part was that their landlord actually rented the downstairs room to a poor, unsuspecting student who unfortunately had taken to sleeping on little more than a thin mattress.

As one can imagine, his sleeping arrangements were pretty shitty (bad pun) and he is now in legal proceedings with the landlord.

Other problems consisted of their toilet steadily leaking for 2 months straight, and having to hire a backwoods rodent hunter to rid themselves of a family of raccoons. Also, the only actual repairs that the landlord did do was to paint over their moldy and disintegrating wall with a can of white paint, and use a staple gun to "repair" their flooring.

They're paying a whopping \$400/month, not including utilities, and coin wash.

Second Place winners were Rachel and Shaune of 494 Dundas Street.

This landlord has been known to harass the couple and even go as far as calling their parents. Now, being as the two are adults and the lease is in their names, this does not give this man a great deal of credibility. Moreover, the couple repeatedly smelled a nasty odour, and forced the landlord to check it out. He came over and told them that THEY were in fact the dirty

ones and that the smell was from them.

Well, it turned out that the lead pipe in their basement was leaking sewage. To combat this problem the landlord and his friend thought that it would be effective to pour corrosive acid down the tub through the drains with little knowledge of the substance they were dealing with. When they were unable to accomplish their task, they left the house, and consequently the pipe dripping sewage, as well as a slurry of other chemicals. Also, the health inspector that the landlord brought in, happened to be a personal friend, and found "nothing wrong" with the place, yet had to leave because the smell from the sewage was too strong for him to take. This was teamed with dangerous electrical problems, a permanent leaking bathtub, and vents that shoot out so much dust, that they needed to sweep the house three times a day. Happily, the two have found another place and look forward to leaving their house as soon as possible.

Third Place winners were Rich Cromie and the men of 29 Hickory Street West.

These guys have been having an extremely difficult time with the state of their house for a long time, and it is next to impossible for them to get in touch with their landlord. She apparently runs a company that rents several houses out to students in the area, and makes a tonne of money from doing next to nothing. She refuses to clean the soiled carpet and pretends not to understand their English to avoid dealing with their

Other problems consisted of their toilet steadily leaking for 2 months straight, and...having to hire a backwoods rodent hunter to rid themselves of a family of raccoons.

complaints. Furthermore, they put in a complaint to her about dangerous ice falling from their roof and that it could harm not only the house but other people. She ignored their warnings, until one day the side of their roof collapsed. Needless

to say she understood the word "lawsuit," so she was forced to act quickly on that matter. The guys are moving out next year.

To get in touch with Legal Resources, you can e-mail them at legalresources@hotmail.com, and learn what rights you have.



Look, dude. Creeping death! Actually, creeping shit. But if it's diseased, it might be both.

THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE

THIS ONE TOO

Gender in Canada

Professor Lorraine Code speaks on women, representations of gender and their relations to the politics of knowledge.

Stefan Sereda

In 21st century Canadian society women vote, run for political office, join the military, and win gold medals in Olympic Hockey. Yet there are still individuals, men and women alike, who feel that a woman's gender should dictate her place in society.

Dr. Lorraine Code, guest-lecturing in the Doctor Alvin Woods Building last Friday, assessed the place of gender roles in society and how women are still oppressed in the workplace.

A philosophy professor at York University and a specialist in feminist epistemology, Dr. Code was brought to Laurier as part of International Women's Week.

Reading from her paper "Images of Expertise: Women, Science and the Politics of Representation," she addressed the underlying characterizations of the female gender in Canadian society, especially in areas of the public sphere such as the media and the workplace.

Dr. Code told the story of Dr. Nancy Olivieri, a Canadian professor and scientist whose professional work was discredited because of

her sex. From a philosophical standpoint, Dr. Code analyzed how this happened in the media, and why society allowed for this treatment of an esteemed expert in her field.

During the lecture, Dr. Code described what she calls a "social imaginary," a self-reinforcing set of ideas that members of a society are socialized with. From this set of ideas, a collective body generates metaphors, images, normative meanings, customs, permissions and expectations.

A collective body generates metaphors, images, normative meanings, customs, permissions and expectations.

According to Dr. Code, all of these ideas apply to gender, and different genders are represented in many different ways, whether people are aware of them or not.

Also, Dr. Code stated that one

piece of the Modern Western social imaginary is the idea that laboratory science is practiced mainly by white men. She assessed that these men "hide behind discourse" to distance themselves and humanity from the ethics and responsibilities that accompany scientific research.

Furthermore, Dr. Code indicated that science is considered the most stable and credible form of knowledge in the Western World,



Dr. Lorraine Code speaks on gender and the representation of women in Canadian society.

but that "a high-profile woman in science is anomalous."

The message of the lecture was that "gender is an active element in

the politics of knowledge," as the speaker highlighted the oppression that Dr. Olivieri experienced when confronted by harassing let-

ters and statements written by her male colleagues.

Through underlying representations of her in the media, Olivieri was indirectly told by many sources to assume the role of caregiver for the sick, instead of the role of professional medical researcher. This was done through gendered subtext in newspapers, magazines and even scholarly journals.

What most shocked Code's audience were pictures of Dr. Olivieri after her credibility was finally recognized. While some of the images of her stressed her defiance to the idea that a woman can not be a scientist, some members of the audience felt she was still portrayed in the media the way a model would be in Cosmopolitan.

This may suggest that Dr. Olivieri was challenging the idea that an attractive woman should not be a scientist, but it also suggests that the media and the magazine-buying public are only concerned with the former.

Whatever the answer to this debate is, Dr. Code used the story of Dr. Olivieri's struggle to show the triumph of women in the professional sphere, but also the improvement which must be made in Canadian social conceptions of gender.

FILE PHOTO

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club LAURIER

Project way over budget

Counseling Services expansion \$200,000 over budget; audit begun

Dillon Moore

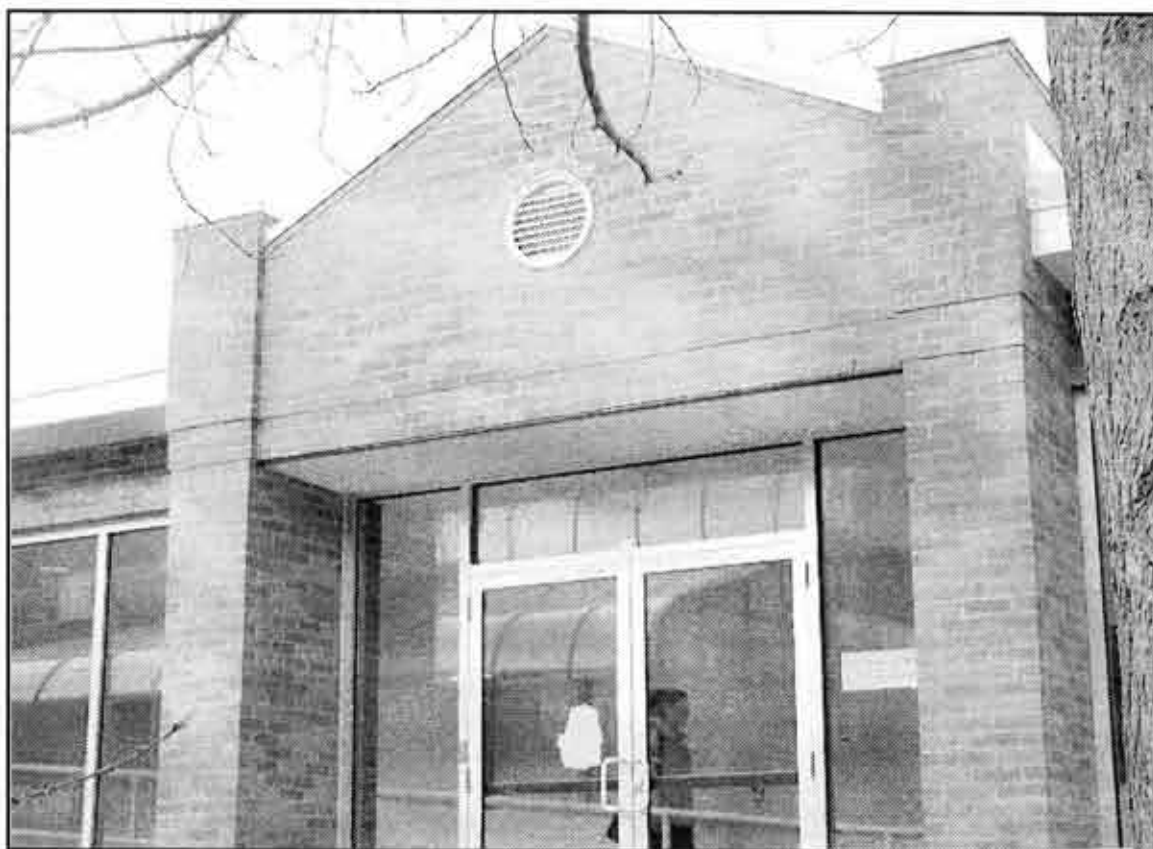
An audit of the counseling services project, the new building next to the Solarium, has begun after word came in that the original budget had been exceeded by roughly \$200,000.

At last Thursday's Students' Union board meeting, Chair of the Board Paul Tambeau filled in the directors and management committee on what exactly had transpired.

According to Tambeau, the counseling services project had originally been budgeted at \$500,000. During construction, the head of the project had come in with a final cost of \$398,000, a figure well under what had been anticipated. This was followed recently by the news that the project actually cost roughly \$705,000, which was understandably quite an unpleasant surprise for those involved.

At the request of WLUSU and Dr. Rosehart, Robert Byron, Executive Director of Finance & Administration, will be conducting an audit to determine what happened that allowed the mix-up to happen.

Although students will not directly be paying the extra money, Tambeau does



Gold dust in the mortar pushed costs skyward....

remark that in the end, students pay for this type of thing one way or another. Simply because this will make money tighter for other projects, students will have to live with less.

The extra cost for the project will be paid for through a leverage on OHIP fees charged through Health Services. The University has an agreement that \$35,000 in OHIP billings is put towards the operating budget of

Health Services. In past years, the increase in enrollment has meant that the University has instead been making \$50,000. The excess money will be put into a capital reserve that will be used to make up this difference and to fund other projects over the next decade.

While the concern over this incident is far from finished, new worries have surfaced. The new residence being put in on Seagram Drive is being controlled by individuals who were prominently involved with the mix-up with the Counseling Services building.

Byron's audit is expected to be complete soon, and Tambeau says at that point the Board will decide how they intend to move. For the time being, the reporting structure of the residence project has changed so that the higher-ups on campus are more in-tune with what is going on.

Current plans, including a renovation of the expanded Health Services space are, according to Tambeau, not in any jeopardy despite the problem.

DILLON MOORE

Discuss this story online at www.clublaurier.ca

club LAURIER

Radio Laurier DJ's raise money

Jenn Martin

After a 50-hour deejay marathon over the weekend and a Battle of the Bands at Wilf's on Saturday, Radio Laurier has easily managed to surpass their goal of raising \$1,000 to give to World University Services Canada (WUSC), the organization that bring refugee students to Canada to enable them to gain an education.

"We had \$1,177 in the bucket," says Rich Ng, a Radio Laurier executive. With another \$475 in deposits plus a number of pledges that have yet to be returned, "We really surpassed what we expected to get," Ng says. With about \$350 coming from the Battle of the Bands concert, the remainder of the funds was raised by donations and pledges from Laurier students, faculty and staff.

After learning that a referendum question asking for an increase of fees to be used by

WUSC to bring refugee students to Laurier, Radio Laurier volunteers decided to run the marathon and concert to show their support for the organization. "They're traditionally low on cash," explains Ng, detailing how students brought to Laurier by WUSC typically have less than \$100 a month after rent is paid. "Half of education is experience," he claims, advocating allowing WUSC students the funds to experience a typical student life in Canada.

"I have a new respect for a lot of people in the school," says Ng of the whole experience.

Though he is disappointed the referendum question failed to pass in the referendum, "I have a new respect for a lot of people in the school," says Ng of the whole experience.

In addition to an anonymous donor who gave \$200, Dr. Rosehart gave \$100, LCF took a collection of about \$150 and students consistently donated bills ranging from fives to twenties, causing Ng to exclaim, "it was so easy."



I LOVE YOU, TASHA...

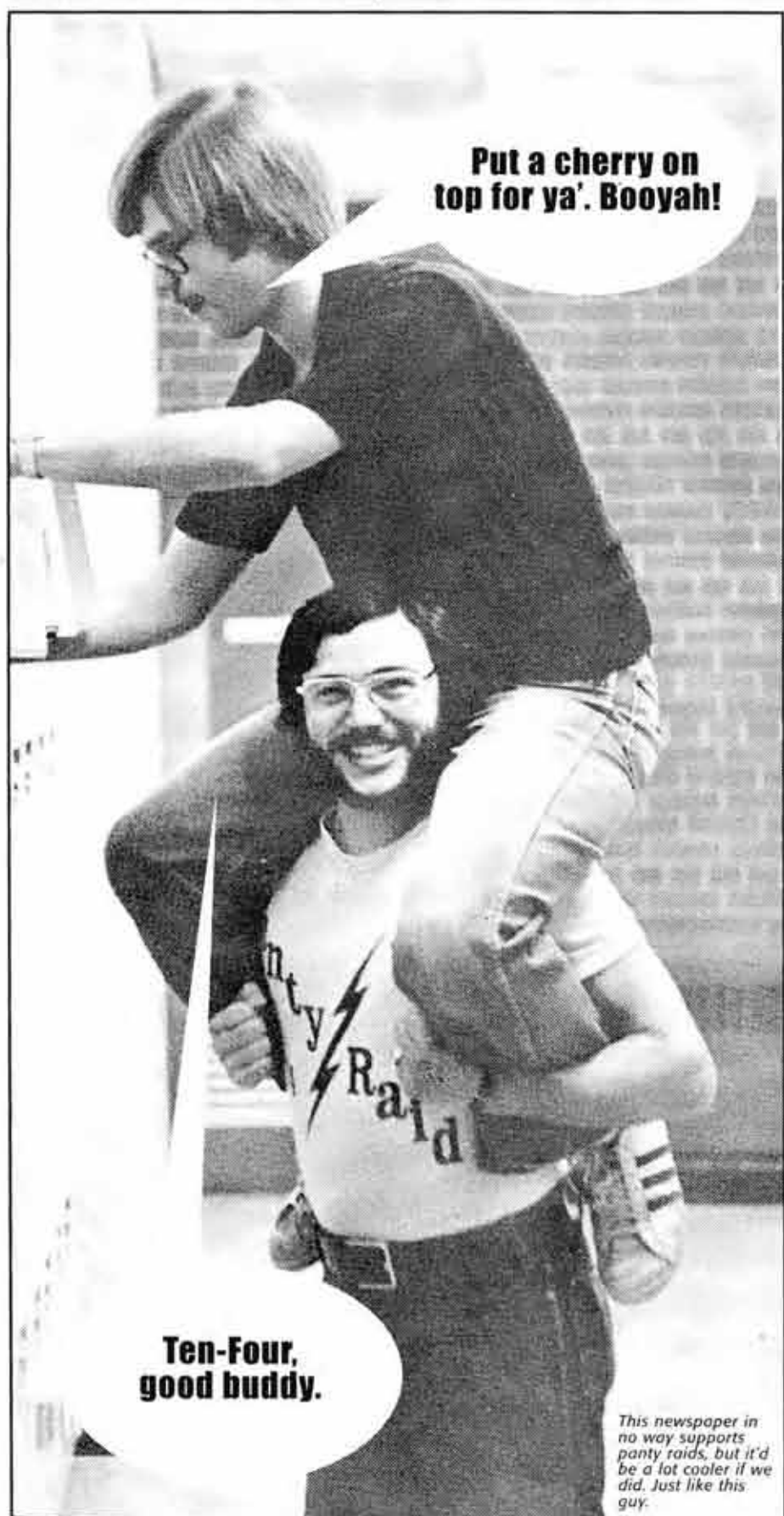


SOME LUCKY WILF'S PERSON

Above: Radio Laurier DJ Tasha Tower participates in 50 hours of rock, sex, drugs and Led Zeppelin. She's smiling because Ramble On grooves and rocks.

Below: The Pylons perform in the Battle of the bands on Saturday night at Wilf's, part of Radio Laurier's marathon to raise money for WUSC.

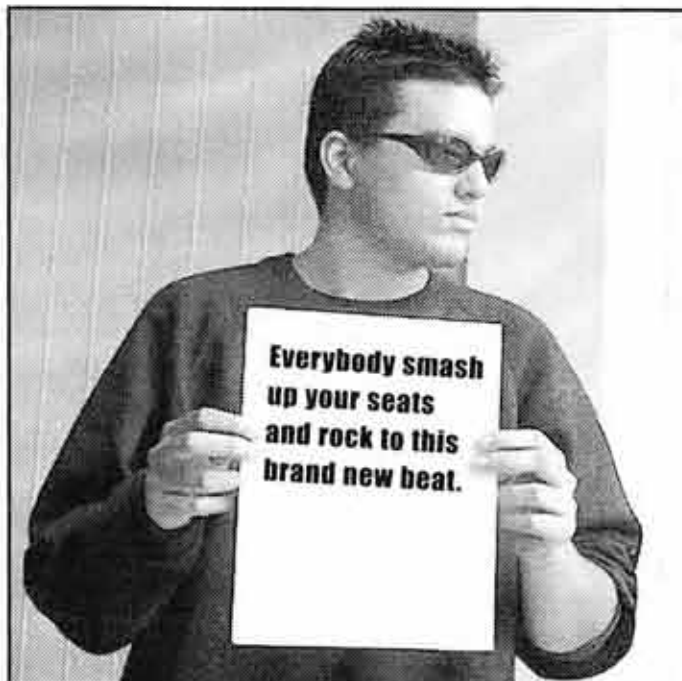
Put a cherry on top for ya'. Booyah!



Ten-Four, good buddy.

This newspaper in no way supports panty raids, but it'd be a lot cooler if we did. Just like this guy.

The world holds its breath...



Here he is, folks, Maneesh Sehdev - next year's Cord Editor-in-Chief. Sehdev is punk rock personified, and with both editorial and production experience, Lord knows he'll make this crappy newspaper something respectable next year.

Crime dans une sac

BREAK & ENTER WITH INTENT FRI MAR 01/02 - MON MAR 04/02

Person(s) unknown entered the Human Resources area as well as an office within that area. An attempt was made to force open a filing cabinet but it appears that nothing was taken. Waterloo Regional Police Forensic Identification Unit was called in for further investigation.

TRESPASS 1320 HRS MON MAR 04/02

Officers were called to University Place as a result of residence staff finding a male sleeping in the basement area. The individual was charged with trespassing and evicted from the building.

FALSE FIRE ALARM 2330 HRS TUE MAR 05/02

Person(s) unknown caused a fire alarm at the Science Building by activating a pull station. There was no sign of smoke or fire.

MEDICAL ASSIST 0855 HRS TUE MAR 05/02

A WLU student was escorted to Health Services after she felt faint and displayed flu like symptoms.

MISCHIEF 0145 HRS WED MAR 06/02

Person(s) unknown discharged a fire extinguisher in the third floor kitchen of Little House A Wing.

BREAK, ENTER & THEFT TUE MAR 05/02 - WED MAR 06/02

Person(s) unknown entered two offices at 232 King St. and took two lap-top computers. The matter is still under investigation.

MISCHIEF 2200 HRS WED MAR 06/02

A WLU student broke a window in an exit door on the second floor of the Nichols Ctr after having an argument with an ex-girlfriend. The matter will be sent to the Judicial Affairs Council.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON 0840 HRS THU MAR 07/02

Officers responded to lot 3 after receiving an anonymous call reporting a suspicious-looking male sitting in a vehicle parked there. The caller reported that he saw what he thought might be a handgun on the front seat of the vehicle. Waterloo Regional Police were immediately notified, and responded. There was no sign of the described vehicle. The matter is

still under investigation by Regional Police.

MISCHIEF 0335 HRS FRI MAR 08/02

Person(s) unknown broke both gate arms at lot 20.

FALSE FIRE ALARM 0210 HRS FRI MAR 08/02

Person(s) unknown caused a fire alarm by activating a pull station in Leupold residence. Waterloo Fire Dept responded but no sign of smoke or fire was found.

THEFT UNDER \$5000 0230 HRS FRI MAR 08/02

A member of a band playing at Wilf's reported that someone had stolen one of their guitars and case while they were loading their equipment. Investigation revealed that the suspect was a WLU student. Officers attended at the suspect's residence and the guitar was recovered. The matter will be forwarded to the Judicial Affairs Council.

NOISE COMPLAINT 0405 HRS SAT MAR 09/02

An officer responded to University Place after receiving a complaint of people making a lot of noise in the area. On arrival, no one could be located.

STOLEN PROPERTY RECOVERED 0310 HRS SAT MAR 09/02

Two City of Waterloo "No Parking" signs were found near the door to Little House A Wing.

MISCHIEF 0445 HRS SAT MAR 09/02

While on patrol, an officer found that person(s) unknown had thrown a rock through a window at the entrance to University Stadium.

THEFT UNDER \$5000 2300 HRS THU MAR 07/02 - 0200 HRS FRI MAR 08/02

A WLU student reported the theft of her coat when she left it unattended for a period of time at the Turret.

FIRE DEPT RESPONSE 1844 HRS SUN MAR 10/02

Waterloo Fire Dept responded to an alarm at Conrad Hall. The cause of the alarm is believed to be an over-heated motor on a washing machine in the laundry room.

Cord general meetings.

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Oh, wicked... String.
Wayne Money

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WEDNESDAY MARCH 13 2002

opinion

What's going to be next?

The other day I went to the library to inquire about the user account status on my student card. I had previously left a message on the Account Coordinator's voice mail to contact me. Leaving my phone number and email address, I thought that her first reaction would be to call my home number. However, she chose to leave a message on my e-mail account.

I checked my e-mail early the next morning after leaving a message, and did not see an e-mail. I finally caught up with her at the library, and told her who I was, "Did you get my e-mail?" She quickly inquired. "No. Sorry, I didn't get it yet." She continued to tell me how she was unable to talk to me until 2 pm, and that her office hours end around 4 pm. Unfortunately, I had a class from 2:30 to 4pm. Her response to my situation was "Sorry, but you'll have to see me during my office hours. You didn't check your e-mail?"

Have we reached the point where e-mail is our sole source for contacting one another? I felt ridiculous because I didn't get her message, at least not before I stopped by the library. I thought that speaking to her in person would be an appropriate method. But apparently, the e-mail said that for me.

My library account status is beside the point in this argument. What is bothersome is that technology in communi-

cation has advanced to the point where face to face interaction is no longer a viable method of talking to other people.

I have four e-mail accounts. In total, 106 people fill my e-mailing lists. That doesn't even include other people who contact me for various reasons, as well as ads that have somehow found out about my existence.

I can't live without checking my messages. Through e-mail I find out about appointments with professors, the appropriate time to meet with the



Account Coordinator at the library and if I have stories to fill next week's Entertainment section. My life would be a mess if I didn't have it.

Imagine our current world if e-mail didn't exist. First of all, we couldn't send or receive mass e-mails. The messages we get from our Faculty Departments

would have probably reached us via snail mail or through individual phone calls. If that wasn't the case, we would actually have to read posted notes on a bulletin board. Today, not very many people make it up to their offices frequently enough to find out about any program changes, or guest lecturers.

How would large world organizations and corporations keep up with the fast pace of change and development? Often, many organizations have offices allocated around the world. Keeping in contact in real time, and as often as possible would be pricey (if using the telephone) or lengthy (using snail mail). This fast-paced world can't function without the existence of e-mail. The Account Coordinator made it apparent that I should have gotten her e-mail message.

We do not have the time to talk to everyone face to face and in many cases, this technological advancement has solved that problem for the last ten years. If a communication tool such as e-mail can be popularized and become so much a part of our lives in less than ten years, I wonder what will come next?

LYNNETTE VISAYA
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The opinions expressed in this editorial are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of The Cord Staff, the editorial board, WLUSP or WLU.

It's just like The Cord to make fun of people. Especially starving children. Typical, so typical...

LETTERS

IT AIN'T FAIR

Most universities in Canada have adopted an online registration system, enabling students with instant access to classes on a first come, first serve basis. Apparently Laurier feels that the current system is adequate in meeting the demands of a growing student population. Yet when I picked up my completed pre-registration form today, I realized that the current system isn't working and something needs to be done about it.

The day the pre-registration forms came out I picked up all the necessary papers and devised a flawless second year schedule. I handed in the pink sheet the very next day. There was no way I wasn't going to get into the classes I wanted. After all, I was a Communications Studies major, right? Well, of the eight courses I requested, I only got registered in three of my choices.

I'm going to have to fill in my schedule with a bunch of classes I don't need and I don't want to take. In order to correct my schedule, I'm going to have to pick up an English minor and change from a General to an Honours BA. I shouldn't have to do this though, I should be given enough Communications courses to satisfy my degree. I want to take Communications courses, and not just fill up my days with courses in which I have no interest.

Lindsay Boucher

OUR SENATE SUCKS

The University Secretariat was asked to deliver the following letter to the University Senate on Tuesday March 12th, 2002. The University Secretariat will not distribute this letter to Laurier Senators. This letter is not a personal attack on Senators. It is a professional critique, political commentary and statement of frustration.

What is wrong with you? You are supposed to be the University's supreme academic body, yet you do nothing. The purpose of Senate should be to debate the merits of the academic direction of this University, yet no debate ever occurs. The purpose of this letter is to let you all know how disappointed I am and how disappointed the whole Laurier community should be in our Senate.

As I sat in the gallery watching your last meeting on Wednesday March 6th, 2002, I was aghast at the sheer ineptitude of many Senators who sat there like a bunch of gunnysacks. I came to watch what I imagined would be a lively debate or discussion about the major agenda topic: Planning Revisited: Laurier of the Future, but nothing happened. Senators just sat there with the look of a 'deer-in-headlights.' Honestly people. Debate. Say something. You know, everything you teach us to do in class.

So that everyone else knows why I am so disappointed with our Senate, it is because they do not put energy into the discussion of anything relevant. The Administration simply talks at everyone and the Senators are so mesmerized by

the 'razzle dazzle' that no one thinks to question anything that is said. For example, the Senate engaged in an ever so useful [note sarcasm] debate about membership on the Senate Ceremonials Committee. Well I propose... who cares? Dr. Rowland Smith presented a major agenda topic about growth and the position of the academic side of the University and no one was speaking, not even a mouse.

I do not understand. I sat in the audience stunned when discussion ended on the major agenda topic and the work of Dr. Smith was not even recognized with appropriate debate. If the Senate put half as much energy in discussing growth at Laurier as they put into discussing the Senate Ceremonials Committee, then the entire University would be much better off.

At least one positive came from the Senate meeting. I now have a better understanding of why the problem of growth and my concerns with the quality of academics at Laurier exist. The Senate is supposed to be the supreme academic body of the University. It is no surprise that academics suffer when Senators use their meetings to discuss issues of nearly zero importance to students.

For more details about the problem of growth or my concerns about the quality of academics at Laurier email me at: dwellhau@wlu.ca.

Dave Wellhauser
Vice-President: University Affairs

opinion

LETTERS

A LITTLE CONFUSED

I am writing in response to the Snickers Ad which appeared in the February 28th issue of The Cord, and to support the letter from Paul J. Dickson (March 6th issue) denouncing those who allowed such an offensive ad to be featured in a Wilfrid Laurier Student Publication.

I am appalled by the fact that the child depicted in the photo is dying of starvation and the author has implied that he is ignorant for not having eaten a Snickers bar. Also, the race of the child has a particularly unsavoury and offensive connotation to people of colour. This type of attitude has no place in our educational institution and should not have been allowed to be published in The Cord.

The Cord Letters Policy states that "The Cord will not print anything in violation of its Code of Ethics, outlined in The Cord Constitution," and although I could not find any reference to this document on the Laurier website, I hope that such an insensitive ad is not in compliance with the Code

of Ethics. I would like to draw attention to the fact that the name of Matthew Cade (The Cord Editor-in-Chief) appears at the bottom of the ad.

This leads one to infer that Mr. Cade, in a position of power and influence over the staff of The Cord, did not only allow the ad to be published, but was in fact responsible for its creation. For this reason I support Mr. Dickson's call for the resignation of those people responsible for publishing the ad, particularly Mr. Cade. The students of WLU deserve more from their representatives.

Finally, I wonder how Mars Inc. (the parent company of Snickers) would feel about being portrayed in this manner?

Naomi Anatol

Editor's Note:

For the record, the Snickers "ad" in the February 28th edition of the Cord was not intended to imply that the child in the picture is "ignorant for not having eaten a Snickers bar." It was meant to point out

the insensitivity of the Snickers slogan which has the audacity to suggest that people can "prevent" hunger from happening to them. It was meant to be satirical, and it was meant to be disturbing. It was not, in any way, meant to be funny. Obviously, this was lost on the masses. I would also like to know what Mars, Inc. thinks of it.

Matthew Cade.

NOT SHAKING ANYTHING

There was a particular paragraph in Caitlin Howlett's recent column "Athletes Deserve It" in which she compared an athlete to any other volunteer at Laurier, specifically the volunteers of Foot Patrol and ERT. The concept that any athlete is equal to a member of any of the fine organizations that provide students with services at Laurier is preposterous.

The volunteers of Foot Patrol and ERT give their time selflessly and do not expect any rewards in return. Athletes on the

other hand, seem to deserve special privileges for something for which they volunteered their time.

Frankly, I must disagree. While I do concur that athletes work hard on their teams and sacrifice their time, there is nothing special about this. Non-athletic students sacrifice their time every day for worthy causes, most of them far more worthy than sports. There are many people far more worthy of respect than athletes, from a person who merely volunteers their time at the local food shelter to the late Mother Teresa. But last I heard, none of these people expected to bypass a line, or to receive special privileges at local establishments.

Caitlin, you suggested shaking hands the next time I see them, but I am sorry, I am going to have to refuse. The next time I see them, I will probably be standing in line at the Turret with people whom I respect. And I would rather shake the hands of those people, not to mention stand in line with them, until the bar lets me in.

Wayne Money

Just relax a little

Terri Ramsawack



With exams on the horizon, most people are starting to realize that reading is not a thing of the past, but a relentless task for the next few weeks.

Stress levels are on the rise and panic stricken students are running to find a quiet spot to curl up with a good book (textbook, that is). Everyone is going to be looking for a good way to relieve stress. Some may go out to the bar and others may watch a movie. However, it would be my suggestion to take a look back on the simpler things.

The simpler things from when rationality and reason were non-existent in our lives. We need to remember when we were kids and becoming "it" in a game of tag was the only stress we had. Where we used to laugh in the face of being "it", I now we are more like "pick me."

It seems that what most of us need is a simple game of tag or a test to see who can swing the highest on the swings. We are always looking to technology and expen-

sive toys to satisfy our need for fun and relaxation. All we really need to do is embrace our past, seek our inner child and hang out with them for a while. Who needs a car or a computer? What we need is sand, metal and bunnies. THE PARK!

A simple night of playing with friends in the park is a good way to forget the responsibility of being an adult and of being in university. Go have a good time of hanging on the monkey bars or feeding the animals in the petting zoo. Forget Mr. Daniels and Mr. Cuervo for a night and just go BE. Release your stress the easiest way possible, go somewhere that you do not need to pretend, a place where fun is inevitable.

Most of us think that a good way to unwind from stress is to hit the bottle and have a crazy night on the town. Yes it works, but why is it that we always feel that that is the only way out of the insane lives we lead? Why can't we just be ourselves and have fun? Fun is a word that has lost all of its traditional meaning. All we know it to be is something that we have on the weekends at a bar, not so much just a simple trek to a park.

So, when you are feeling the exam blues and it is nice outside, take a break. Visit Waterloo Park and take time to be yourself, not the grown-up you are supposed to be. Take a friend, bring some carrots and a container of bubbles. Say "screw you" to responsibility and maturity for a day and just have some fun.

Mr. Noam Chomsky,

I think I might love you. Welfare for the rich indeed, my friend. Will you please marry me? I will have some of your babies. Or maybe we can just eat apples and sing. Whatever.

That vicious cycle

Only two more years until I'm done school and I'll be able to settle into my dream job. Then, it's only a couple more years until I get married and start a family. Following that, it's only a couple more years until I retire. And after retirement, it's only a couple more years until I pass away and I am merely a memory fading in the wind.

It's a vicious cycle that we all fall victim to at one point in our lives. We look forward to the future so much that we frequently forget about the present. It's a shame that we miss out on so much just because we forget to stop and appreciate what we have.

With the school year winding down, many of us focus on what we have to accomplish to get through this rough stage in our lives when all our major essays are due and exams take much of our time and cognitive effort. Some of us become consumed with the stress that is our "new life" during this period. For those of you who fit this description, I implore you to stop.

Take time out and think about what it is you want to be remembered for this year. Find out what you think is important to you and

focus on improving your life. We all find this type of inspiration in some form, and I realized it this past week after watching one of my favourite movies. It taught me the importance of realizing who you are, before you realize what you want. Then make sure you go after it.

Finding out what makes you happy is the first step to getting out of this never-ending cycle. For some, it can be as simple as taking a long walk in the middle

I am.

The second step is going after what makes you happy and achieving it. It's one thing to talk about what you want out of life, and an entirely different thing to get it done. This is the hardest step in breaking the cycle but it can be attained if you really want your quality of life to improve. Jules Renard states, "If I were to begin life again, I should want it as it was, I would only open my eyes a little bit more."

While most of us do not regret what we have done in the past, there is always room for improvement. In this strenuous time, cherish the time you have with yourself and think about what you need to be happy and what you want to be remembered for.

Knowing what you want now and focussing on attaining it during your everyday life will provide you with the guidance you need to take everything in stride and become a happier person.

CHRIS JACOBSON
BUSINESS EDITOR

We look forward to the future so much that we frequently forget about the present.

of a forest. For others, it's the joy you get from singing in the shower or listening to your favourite CD. My solace lies in close friendships that I have attained throughout the course of work, high school, university as well as other places that I never would have thought to look. These relationships in which I am involved have helped me in becoming who

Correction Notice: Last Week's Editorial "Put that in your pipe"

The sentence "He was decent enough to offer the revenues, which he is now taking away, to the Students' Union," should actually have gone a little something like this: "He has the balls to tell people to quit while refusing to make a profit at the same time."

My deepest apologies are extended to Kevin Klein, Student Life Editor.

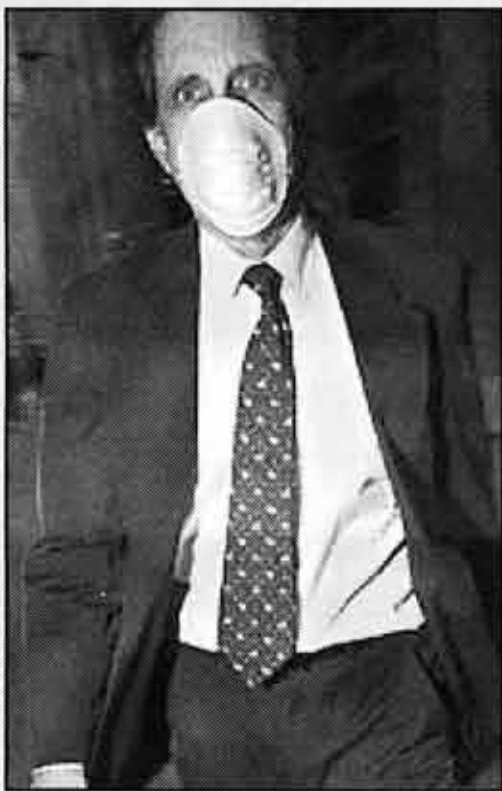
And here you all were thinking I was perfect...

The opinions expressed in this editorial are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of The Cord Staff, the editorial board, WLUSP or WLU.

**Six months later.
Bush talks of revenge,
not remembrance.
Who voted for this guy?**



**Afghanistan Refugee Camp
March 11th, 2001**



**N^Y York City
September 11th, 2001**

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Being a part of the future

Sean Geobey



Be a giver. Hit the ground running and say, "I'm good to go." Face a tough decision, ask yourself what Brian Boitano, J.C., or whomever your own inspirational figure would do. Put 110% into everything you do, from your first game of tetherball as a child to your last dying breath. Work hard, play hard, and provide yourself with the support you need to not let that stampede called life run all over you.

I am referring to you with that last paragraph, aren't I? You are the one always looking forward, always running for that brass ring, and always striving to outdo yourself at every turn, aren't you? Perhaps when certain people like your peers, your coworkers, your friends, your family look at your life, that is what they see. But that is not necessarily who you are.

When we see those amazing people around us constantly at work and driven we are routinely awed. But while we all make a big deal about how a slinky goes down stairs alone or in pairs, we do not

pay as much attention to what pushed it down in the first place.

A man's character is often little more than the combination of all his fears, his personality the sum total of his overcompensations.

When we see him run towards the light, we are so dazzled by its beauty that we ignore the darkness he runs from. We often tell ourselves that our inspiration comes from our dreams; more often than not, they stem from our nightmares.

The past forever provides guilt and sorrow; what you do today will stay with you tomorrow. Our real and perceived mistakes make us mistrustful of acting at all, a cloak

of darkness with which we shroud ourselves when the outside world approaches. We hide our strengths from the world and display our weaknesses, for our love of using our strength is what makes it prone to injury.

To cover our natural feelings and passions is to reduce our humanity. Curiosity about ourselves and others is what allows us, as people to grow. The next time you are at a big family get-together, watch all of the little ones sitting at the kiddie table. They may be uncultured and unclean, but the younger they are, the more genuine their interactions with each other. They are the ones even the best of us can still learn from.

When it comes to those lessons, try to take them. We are not all presidents or professors, generals or gentry, but we are all people. We are all people with pasts, but we are also all people with futures. These ramblings can culminate in only one brief bit of advice. Be a part of someone's future.

Hands. Some are girly, but not Amanda's. Or so says Maneesh. He says she has man-hands. But that's just his *opinion*.

The Cord wants yours. Speak the f*!k up.

letters@wlusp.com

*I actually love your hands, baby...
-Maneesh*

Wilfrid Laurier University Board of Governors'

EXECUTIVE & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Planning for the Future: Planning Update

TOWN HALL MEETING

March 19, 2002
2-5 p.m., Paul Martin Centre

The Board of Governors' Executive and Governance Committee initiated a planning update to be completed by June 2002. The strategic direction of the university has a solid foundation based on the following:

- Laurier of the Future, University Plan 1998-2003
• <http://www.wlu.ca/~wwwsecr/plan.pdf>
- long-range academic plans approved by Senate on December 7, 2000
• <http://www.wlu.ca/~wwwsecr/senate/B3b.Dec7.2000.pdf>
- the work of the Growth and Capacity Steering Committee resulting in the institutional plan submitted to the provincial government in August 2000
• <http://www.wlu.ca/~wwwsecr/bog/A3b.Sep12.2000.pdf>

However, factors have emerged recently that suggest that a planning update is required by the university. These factors include the current enrolment at Laurier well above the plan, the increased number of students in the provincial post-secondary school system and the present economic uncertainty.

The Executive and Governance Committee solicited input that relates to the current planning direction and issues from various university constituent groups including the students, staff, faculty, senior administration, alumni and Senate.

The town hall meeting will be held to discuss issues identified in the submissions and any other issues which are of concern to members of the Laurier community with respect to the planning update.

For more information contact the university secretary, Marilyn Jacobs.

E-mail: mjacobs@wlu.ca

Telephone: (519) 884-0710 extension 2037



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Any Questions please e-mail: david.field@wlusp.com or phone 884-0710 ext. 3565

Applications due Thursday, March 21, 2002 @ 4 pm

Applications due 15 March 2002 at 4 pm:

ClubLaurier.ca Editor-in-Chief
(1) Board of Director

All other applications due 21 March 2002 at 4 pm.

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Public Relations Department
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(2) Sports Editors
International Editor
Features Editor

Student Life Editor
Business Editor
Classified Coordinator
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Cord Photo Manager
Circulation and File Manager

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Section Editors
Keystone Photo Manager [\$500 Honourarium]

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In Depth Editor
Wireless Editor

Brantford Campus Editor
Layout Editor
Photo Editor

Partnership Director
Web Designers
Photographers

Electronic Book Department

WLUSP is working with WLU Press in order to create a team to investigate the creation of Electronic Books and the different forms of new media publishing. Full training will be provided and will be a unique chance for students to become involved. This department is open to every student interested in participating in this brand new venture and gaining practical knowledge about this medium of the future. Please visit the WLUSP office on the 3rd Floor of the FNCC for more information or to sign up and be apart of creating a new publishing standard.

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The "War on Terrorism" debated

Laurier and UW Professors discuss the merits and morality of the campaign

Brandon Currie

Last Thursday night the Waterloo Peace and Conflict Conference Committee opened the UW Student Services Centre to a lively debate on the morality, efficiency, and future course of President George W. Bush's assault on Afghanistan and the alleged "Axis of Evil."

The debate featured Laurier's own Dr. Peter Eglin and Dr. Alistair Edgar, as well as UW Political Science Professor Ashok Kapur and Christian Peace Committee member Angie Freeman.

Although all panel participants agreed that America's assault on terrorism will last

tactics such as imposing economic sanctions or lifting them, in the case of Pakistan. Moreover, Freeman outlined the inherent problems of supporting a war that is so loosely defined, which makes life or death an issue of semantics.

Professor Kapur denied these allegations as he pointed out that many nations have their own terrorist problems, and share a common interest in eradicating terrorism. He went on to add that if the propagators of terrorism wanted to delimit American influence they have only achieved the opposite.

Next on the agenda was the matter of what foreign policy objectives Canada should pursue

The twin goals of recent Canadian foreign policy: "to serve the interest of Canadian business, and to stay out of America's way."
—WLU's Dr. Peter Eglin

to maintain both our national sovereignty and history of multilateralism, within the context of the War on Terrorism. Not surprisingly, there was a great deal of debate over this matter as past, as well as present, policy decisions were dissected by the panel.

Dr. Edgar praised both the practicality and intelligence of Canadian multilateral objectives, pointing out that in the context of many countries, Canada has at least some clout, whereas in bilateral relations with America, it has little or none. With this, he added that we should be "separate and distinct" from US policy, while asserting that "we're not angels, either."

Responding to the same question, Eglin retorted that both Canadian and American troops are "an illegal and immoral power fighting against helpless people." Continuing his list of grievances against the war, Eglin shirked Edgar's previous statements by identifying what he believed to be the twin goals of recent Canadian foreign policy: "to serve the interest of Canadian business, and to

stay out of America's way."

Drawing upon his research specialty of the persecution of East Timor, Eglin used his previous statements as a platform to raise the issue of Canada officially supporting foreign governments guilty of war crimes, namely Indonesia and Israel. Effectively condemning the entire Canadian populace for its indifference, Eglin exclaimed that Canada's lackadaisical reaction to the bombardment of media information coming out of Israel was equal to "complicity to mass murder."

It was on this note that the floor was opened to questions, which proved to be slightly less contentious. The first inquiry concerned Canada's ability to deny their support to the War on Terrorism, or lack thereof.

While Eglin mentioned the now infamous "either you're with us or with the terrorists" speech to assert that many nations have no option but to support America, Dr. Edgar contended that America's allies have choices, as was seen when British Prime Minister Tony Blair decried Bush's notion of the "Axis of Evil."

In perhaps the most interesting and speculative issue discussed throughout evening, one student asked all panel members what they believed to be the causes behind the September 11th attacks, assuming they were perpetrated by Al Qaeda, as well as if there is any foreseeable end to the current war.

Dr. Eglin espoused the well publicized theory that Osama bin Laden masterminded the attacks as retribution for an American military presence in his homeland of Saudi Arabia, as well as for US-led trade sanctions against Iraq. He also added that bin Laden was attempting to foster a "sweeping tide of Islamic fundamentalism."

In a surprising moment of professional agreement, Dr. Edgar agreed that bin Laden wanted to start a Pan-Islamic movement, but didn't believe what bin Laden has said in videotapes released to the media, saying that, "I believe bin Laden's public pronouncements just about as much as I believe



Left to Right: Laurier's Peter Eglin, Christian Peace Maker Angie Freeman, Laurier's Alistair Edgar and UW's A. Kapur discussed American and Canadian Foreign Policy since September 11th.

George Bush's."

Kapur answered the question with little speculation, saying that the Al Qaeda network will take "years to uncover," and that "we may never know their motives."

To conclude the panel discussion, the final question posed to the board pertained to the notion in the media that the War on Terrorism is really a war on Islam, or a clash of civilizations.

All members of the panel vehemently denied this notion, with Eglin noting that the largest Muslim nation in the world, Indonesia, is an American ally. Moreover, Dr. Edgar added that it is a "clash of political goals, not civilizations," and that Muslims disagree amongst themselves, and are not united against Western Christian nations.

With a broad range of ideologies represented on the panel, there was dissension on the various aspects of the fallout of September 11th. However, there was also a considerable amount of agreement, which may be an encouraging sign for the turbulent months, or even years to come.

Discuss this story online at www.clublaurier.ca

The war is not "a continuing exercise in American imperialism."
—WLU's Dr. Alistair Edgar

video, and information on the plight of the Iraqi people. All proceeds from the event will be used to purchase medicines and school supplies for the people of Iraq. The event will be held in University of Waterloo room MC 2066. The cost of the evening is a suggested donation of \$10, payable to OPIRG. For more information email info@wpirg.org or phone 888-4882.

Please forward suggestions for notices by e-mail to john.carlaw@wluwp.com

1) On Wednesday, March 13th, The Laurier Global Studies First Year Council will host a discussion on "Refugee Issues and the International Student Experience at WLU" from 8:00 until 10:00 pm in the Paul Martin Centre. Stella Minga, a currently sponsored refugee student from the Sudan will share her experiences and a reception for all students will follow the presentation.

2) On Tuesday, March 19th, the Waterloo Region Branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs will be presenting a lecture entitled "The International

Commission on State Sovereignty: The Responsibility to Protect." The lecture will be delivered by Professor Ramesh Thakur, Vice-Rector of the United Nations University in Tokyo. He will be speaking in the University (Faculty) Club at UW at 7:30 pm. Admission is free. For more info contact Lena Yost at 888-4567 ext. 2765.

3) On Saturday, March 23rd, Project Ploughshares will celebrate its 25th Anniversary by hosting Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, who will deliver a lecture entitled "The world is

falling apart: What role civil society?" The event will take place at 7:30pm at The Cedars Worship and Community Centre, 543 Beechwood Drive in Waterloo. For tickets, call Project Ploughshares at 888-6541 ext. 256, or email wstocker@ploughshares.ca. Donations will be accepted for HIV/AIDS and peacebuilding work in Africa, with tax receipts available for donations of \$10 or more.

4) Sunday, March 24th, the Ontario Public Interest Group will be hosting a "Project Iraq" Fundraising Dinner with speakers,

The Cord's International Notices

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Laurier delegation wins Model NATO Award

Sean Geobey

Fifteen Laurier Students stepped into "diplomatic shoes" and brought home an outstanding delegation award last week at Carleton University's first annual Model North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Conference in Ottawa.

Facing issues ranging from the spread of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism to NATO expansion and the spread of democracy throughout Europe, the conference challenged delegates to step into the shoes of international decision-makers from across the Atlantic, with Laurier students representing the Czech Republic, Denmark, Spain, Macedonia, and Romania.

Delegates were expected to know their country's foreign policies inside and out, a difficult task for most.

Delegates were not left entirely to themselves, however. The conference organizers arranged meetings between delegates and actual ambassadors from the countries they were representing in Ottawa. Laurier's staff advisor, Dr. Alistair Edgar, also arranged a briefing at the Department of National

Defense before the conference began. Moreover, speakers brought in by the Carleton organizers further enlightened delegates about the current situation facing NATO.

Jean-Pierre Ollivier, the Acting Deputy Director from the Office of Information and Press at NATO Headquarters gave the conference's keynote address.

He spoke on the difficulties NATO has had in making itself relevant in a changing world because, since the end of the Cold War, NATO has largely been adrift.

As a military alliance, its usefulness in times of peace is limited. As important as expansion eastward has been in integrating former enemies into a productive security framework, the balance between this expansion and Russian uneasiness has been tenuous.

However, Mr. Ollivier was quick to point out that NATO has been at its most effective whenever the alliance has faced a crisis. He cited the breakup of Yugoslavia as having

plunged a part of Europe into depths of violence and despair it had not seen in almost fifty years.

It was in this environment that NATO sent peacekeepers to Bosnia. In Kosovo, for good or ill, NATO was quick to respond by forcing the withdrawal of Serbian troops and, some would say, toppling the Milosevic regime.

Now, in the wake of September's terrorist attacks, NATO has been involved in Afghanistan, a theatre that no one would have dared to think it would be involved in only a year ago.

On the military side, Major-General Michel Maisonneuve, Deputy Assistant to the Chief of Defense Staff at the Canadian Department of National Defense, outlined the challenges in operating an 18-nation military force (France is the NATO member not involved in defense operations).

From an organization designed to "keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down" to a body working at bring-

ing Eastern and Western Europe together in coming to the defense of the United States, NATO has come a long way.

Armed with these vital resources, the Laurier delegates held their own against students from across North America, including the Universities of Toronto, Delaware, Dalhousie, McGill, and the Royal Military College of Canada.

With the recent announcement that Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, and Bulgaria are now being considered for membership, the political and economic costs of expansion were key issues. So too were issues revolving around the solidification of democracy in Central and Eastern Europe, as delegates were forced to deal with the potential consequences of a coup d'etat in Slovakia.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was formed in 1949 as a bulwark against perceived Soviet aggression in Europe. The Soviet Union, in turn, saw NATO as a threat, creating the Warsaw Treaty Organization, or Warsaw Pact, in 1955 as its own defensive alliance. Throughout the Cold War era these rival alliances squared off

with each other in the heart of Europe.

Since the collapse of the Communist bloc in the early 1990s NATO has sought to reinvent itself as an organization. It has expanded to include Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. All of these are former Warsaw Pact enemies. NATO has also been involved in Balkan peacekeeping missions and the bombing campaign in Kosovo, an action many still argue was illegal.

Finally the defensive alliance's Article 5, which states that an attack against one NATO member is an attack against all, was surprisingly invoked for the first time ever in North America following the tragedy of September 11th.

From the outset the job was difficult, but in showing their researching, negotiating, and debating abilities, Laurier students again showed that they are among the best this country has to offer.

Our Czech Republic delegation left the conference with an Outstanding Delegation award given to them by their fellow conference attendees. The experience was tremendous for all involved and a number of similar simulations will be running next year.

NATO has been at its most effective whenever the alliance has faced a crisis.



UNITED NATIONS

A United Nations study has found that the global birth rate has declined significantly, and that the past prediction made by demographers that the population would reach ten billion people before the end of this century might not occur.

The study has found that many women are choosing to have fewer children, including those in the developing world. In 1965 the average birth rate was five children per woman. That figure has dropped down to 2.7 according to the study. The study also indicated that seventy-four nations could now be classified as having intermediate birth rates (2-5 children per woman).

Forty people died in clashes over agricultural land in the southeastern state of Cross Rivers last week.

The nation has been experiencing growing amounts of violence relating to ethnic, religious and territorial disputes since the end of its military dictatorship in 1999.

Police have launched a manhunt for a retired military officer who is believed to have participated in instigating the clash. Military personnel have often been blamed for such incidents, and for trying to undermine democracy in Nigeria.

NIGERIA

BURUNDI-TANZANIA

Both the Burundi and Tanzanian governments are trying to encourage Burundi refugees to return home. Mohammed Khatib, the Tanzanian Home Affairs Minister, and Burundi Settlement Minister Françoise Ngendehayo visited refugee camps at the end of February.

Representatives from both the Tanzanian government and the UN High Commission for Refugees stated that in the absence of a ceasefire the refugees would not be forced to go home.

Until last year, Burundi had been in a state of civil war for almost a decade.

UNITED STATES

A leaked Pentagon document is, according to many, one of the greatest threats to world stability and could renew a global arms race.

The document, which is titled "The Nuclear Posture Review," contains plans detailing the development of small-scale nuclear weapons for the battlefield, and says that the Pentagon must be ready to strike certain nations with nuclear attacks. These nations include Russia, China, Iraq, North Korea, Syria, Iran and Libya.

Compiled by Thomas Thompson

World Watch



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a tale from the east



SOME KOREAN

a year in the life of a Canadian teacher in Korea...

Tom Fenton

September 2001

To say Korean people are conservative is like saying beer is brown. It's correct, but it doesn't really say anything of substance. Actually beer is more of a golden hue but let's not squabble over details.

An example of discourse is the excessive use of middle men and third parties in social and business relations. It is unheard of to introduce yourself outright in a formal setting. You are always introduced through a liaison.

I was at a very fancy nightclub on Tuesday, which was the day of chosuk (pardon the spelling), drinking with some friends and our boss who is a very outgoing and flamboyant man. I noticed he kept summoning waiters and staff who, incidentally, resembled secret service agents with the earpiece to match. This was going on continuously, but there was no correlation between his requests and the amount of times beer or food was delivered.

In fact, it was about ten to one in favour of these mysterious requests. It turns out he was scoping out women and then asking the waiter to invite them to our table. Hitting on women through a third party! What a country! This custom procured him very minimal success and I resigned myself to my whiskey without a thought of this 'cross the dance floor' liaisoning.

I was informed they attribute this practice to their conservative nature and that openly walking up to a table was unheard of. Hmmmm, I think I will call that bottle red and I'll leave it to others to wonder why.

Often you will find those around you, peers or teachers, discussing you openly in Korean within your presence. You might get the benefit of a translation or you might not. This is very common and I have decided to essentially consider this flattering. When you are among only a dozen or so Canadians in a city of 2.5 million, it becomes amazing how much your nationalism grows and supports your self esteem.

This whole country could turn against me (though I highly doubt it would...how do you cross your fingers on a keyboard?) Basically, everyone has given me nothing but a great sense of belonging and an uncanny interest in even the most menial elements of our country.

I have them all fully won over from the other American teachers and I am enjoying a sense of being a very rare commodity over here. Not only in the sense of language and teaching, but also as a living national emblem and a symbol of potential change and cross-cultural fertilization. Most everyone here dreams of travelling and living in the west (or east according to the airlines).

Enough for now. I hope everyone is well and not working too hard (I know for most of you that isn't a problem.) Ciao...

September 19, 2001

Daily life:

5:15 am. Five hours of sleep per night and it takes on a whole new dimension of importance in one's life. Especially when sleep ends before the night does. The din of a late party coming through your window from the alleyway below accompanies your alarm like some kind of sick opera.

In half an hour you are waiting for the bus. It is a rickety old Daewoo whose driver I'm sure loves sudden shifting and breaking. It gives his life meaning to see people lurching so violently. Space is not so personal. People bang into you, step on your shoe and stumble against your body constantly.

Canadian instincts immediately inform you of an apologetic situation, but it's not. No one says anything. Soon you are returning the favour with glee.

At the institute, the planning room is where you decide what you are going to subject your students to. Anywhere from 60 to 70 twenty or thirty-something year old Koreans will be hanging on your every word, desperate to gleam as much understanding as they can.

Most of them admit they would risk their lives to speak English perfectly. Today, I asked them what they would do if they won the lottery. Yesterday it was vacations. Monday I got a little heavy and discussed reunification. They were trying to funnel so many opinions through such a small window of vocabulary that I feared a group aneurysm would ensue. Sometimes English must be spoon fed to even the oldest students.

**Space is not so personal.
People bang into you, step
on your shoe and stumble
against your body constantly.
Canadian instincts
immediately inform you of an
apologetic situation, but it's
not. No one says anything.
Soon you are returning
the favour with glee.**

The women are shy and, often blushing, they cover their faces when they get confused. The men are silent or else they are overjoyed with the opportunity to try and converse with a native English speaker.

Sometimes everyone is silent. You try every method of coercion just to get them to talk. But you have no response. They sit facing the floor too embarrassed, too shy and too nervous to talk. Your sympathy for this state disappeared on day two. You can't even beat a response out of them with a wet sack. THIS IS CONVERSATION CLASS PEOPLE! FOR THE LOVE OF GOD WORK WITH ME!!!!

So you end up doing what any dedicated foreign English teacher would do. You prostitute your intellect, swallow your pride and put on a circus show. Sing and dance and make them laugh. It's not hard. Really! Even the worst imitation of a Hollywood actor will do.

Koreans are a conservative, quiet and contained people. Their temples and historic sights give off almost a humble sense of beauty that masks a sense of awe, a powerful silence

that seems to come from miles below you. They appreciate custom and have an intricate but discernable code of social conduct. But these qualities, like the temples they have built, mask a howling behemoth that awaits just beneath the surface of every individual. And it cannot wait to rear its giggling face at the first sign of a game of hangman.

September 29, 2001

Autumn is breathing a slow and steady breath across the land. Distant scents of winter are imagined among unseasonable mosquitoes, rusting leaves and chilling mornings. This longitude is angling away from the sun and the variance in climate is but the most conspicuous of symptoms.

One month ago today I began. I was a vulnerable and culturally naked baby. Gimpo airport was almost womb-like as I emerged blinking at the bright light, instincts crying and screaming. One month has past and I can still recognize that baby (barely.)

Culture is the harshest and most expedient teacher. All mistakes are punished swiftly and made but once. Slowly you learn to walk in a crowd, how to eat and how to speak. Today I feel older and more confident in pushing my boundaries. I know I won't be arrested for minor customary infractions and that most major offences are pretty well universally recognized. So where do we go this week?

How about downtown...

If you are a shopper, which I am not, downtown Daegu will blow your mind. You will feel yourself counting remaining neurons as your brain slowly runs out of space to process the plethora of items that can be purchased.

Every available space is maximized for optimum use. Alleyways and streets alike are infected by a raging epidemic of displays, surreal mannequins and anything under the sun that could sport a price tag. The vertebrae of this throbbing beast are the many department stores, mighty towers of consumeristic euphoria and armies of salespeople.

Really, no exaggeration here, most floors have a 5:1 ratio of clerks to customer. Slowing down in front of an item draws the quick attention of two or three nearby attendants. Stopping involves an announcement over the intercom, the arrival of the floor manager (4.5 sec. elapsed - I think it's the Olympic spirit!) and the eerie sounds of vultures circling overhead as you drown under a sea of friendly service.

But this is all merely casual conjecture.

The crazy part is the sidewalks.

Navigating the crowds is hard. You have to learn how to walk all over again. Nighttime and the streets are packed. Personal space is an unknown concept.

Motorcycles and mopeds intermix with the surging crowds and somehow thread their way through the needles. They're like glorified bicycles. Sidewalks are a concept most Koreans have difficulty explaining. Believe me, I've asked many of my students. It's a very fine line between them and the street. When two crowds from either side of the street converge on a crosswalk, it is like a deck of cards being shuffled. Very smoothly.

The trick is that westerners usually plan their steps around the people directly in front of them. If someone bumps into you it's either because you or they are not pay-

ing attention, or they're just being a jack ass. Over here you gotta plan a good ten steps ahead. Forget those directly in front of you, it all gets figured out some how (magically, I suppose.)

The motorbikes, however, require constant peripheral vigilance. As is the customary timing with wedding invitations, parties and business meetings, motorcycles always honk at the last minute.

On my last day in Korea I have decided to introduce to one of these unsuspecting motorists the concept of the clothesline. It's not a vindictive or cruel impulse. I just watched too much V...

October 2000

I noticed a strange tendency a few weeks before I embarked upon my Homeric odyssey into the Korean peninsula. I had discovered that the city I was moving to had its own mascot. A funny little cartoon character that looked like a cross between a smurf and astrobob.

I paid little heed to what was to become a dominant theme in the urban landscape. Koreans love cute things. Cute toys, cute little cartoons (I've had adult students, men and women alike, freely admit their love of childish cartoons with absolutely no inclination towards embarrassment), cute bubble gum pop music and even cute cars. Women clamp cute (and very large and ugly) hair clips to the backs of their heads. I have a 35-year-old man in one of my classes who has a tweety bird pencil case. Even the police have a silly little goofy-esque cartoon puppy on the doors of all their cars.

It can really drive you nuts.

Balance is the key to everything. Some where a counterbalance must exist. The embarrassment and awkwardness of adjusting to Korean culture and etiquette is balanced by the control and qualification of the classroom's helm. All this cute crap...

November 2000

Well, I bought a CD player and some pretty heavy music. It really, really helps.

All of my classes are full, which is a really good sign. My Korean is improving and I am also much more comfortable and stable with my surroundings.

And then I went to SunMon market.

Picture
a n y
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cal

Tom has had the opportunity to do a lot of traveling during his stay in Korea. He spent Chinese New Year in Thailand, where this photograph was taken.

Asian movie and imagine the market area they show you. Now, picture yourself sitting on a plastic bucket about six inches off the ground with a small table in front of you. The smell of sewers wafting past and three old adjima preparing your ramke (noodle soup). You are surrounded by similar vendors on a street that is covered by plastic tarps. Barking dogs and screaming chickens in the background (don't worry, I'll leave that part till last, because I don't want to spoil the ramke).

Any department of any health inspector would throw away the clipboard and reach for a hand grenade. The place is packed with people constantly bumping into you and throughout it all you keep telling yourself that this is the REAL Korea.

This is what you came here for man, smell the smells, see dogs, rabbits and chickens getting slaughtered right in front of your eyes. To be able to buy any cheap trinket you can imagine for under a buck-this is it. Then your ramke comes and you wonder why you didn't just go to the McDonald's around the corner.

By now most of the people in my hogwan (school) have checked me out and are reasonably sure that I'm not a raving lunatic. I do, however, like to leave some room for doubt. What has begun to happen now is a series of invitations on the part of students to come out for lunch or dinner or to go hiking or bowling.

A lot of it is simply selfishly motivated as they are looking to gain some extra curricular material for free. It's really easy to spot this. But some people are genuine. Today I went to an optical factory with two extremely nice business men who were doing promotional work for their company. They took some pictures of me and one of the reps looking over the merchandise, bought me lunch and then paid me 30,000 won (\$35CND). Unbelievable!

Private tutoring, however, is very dangerous work. If you get reported and you haven't registered with the ministry, you get deported.

No thanks. But it is quite enjoyable to spend time with students outside of class and it is kind of like the fast track to learning the language. Apart from all of this, things are good. The life of a foreign English student is always pretty good (especially with a decent CD player!) And the next time you eat Ramke in the market, do try to get a chair facing the other way.

December 2001

CultureShock, Introvert's nightmare:

Culture shock - (def.) condition experienced when facing prolonged exposure to a foreign culture.

Usually occurring several months to a year after arrival, although the duration, symptoms and intensity are entirely subjective

and dependant of particular cultural difference.

It occurs when one becomes confused, irritated or saddened by the almost continual effort required to adapt to patterns and habits that are ingrained within the people one deals with daily. Such simple things as riding the bus or more complicated matters such as social hierarchies and etiquette.

We have all learned such things from birth, but expatriates must play a stressful game of catch up. The breaking point is culture shock. I asked my students yesterday to describe their own experiences with this. It was interesting to hear about what it is in western culture that they could never get used to.

Examples: not taking your shoes off in a house, not sharing food off your plate, actually having the nerve to bring beer or wine to someone's house for a party and so forth.

I shared some of my experiences and we all found the whole exercise very amusing, but for me it really had nothing to do with the real issue. Those examples were all of actual physical culture shocks. They happen quick and then they're over. Real culture shock is far more significant.

You feel more alone then you ever have in your whole life. Surrounded by people who don't and perhaps will never understand you, let alone a word you say. In your mind you have to continually reaffirm or justify your cultural upbringing. In Canada this is done for you every waking second...

March 2002

I haven't written anyone in a long time. I haven't really had anything to say. Well, that's not true. Just nothing that seemed interesting to me at the time. The six day work week can really dull your perspective sometimes.

It is summer now. Summer such as I have never experienced. And the sad thing is that it hasn't even started yet. Winter ends around the end of February. Since then it has gotten progressively hotter.

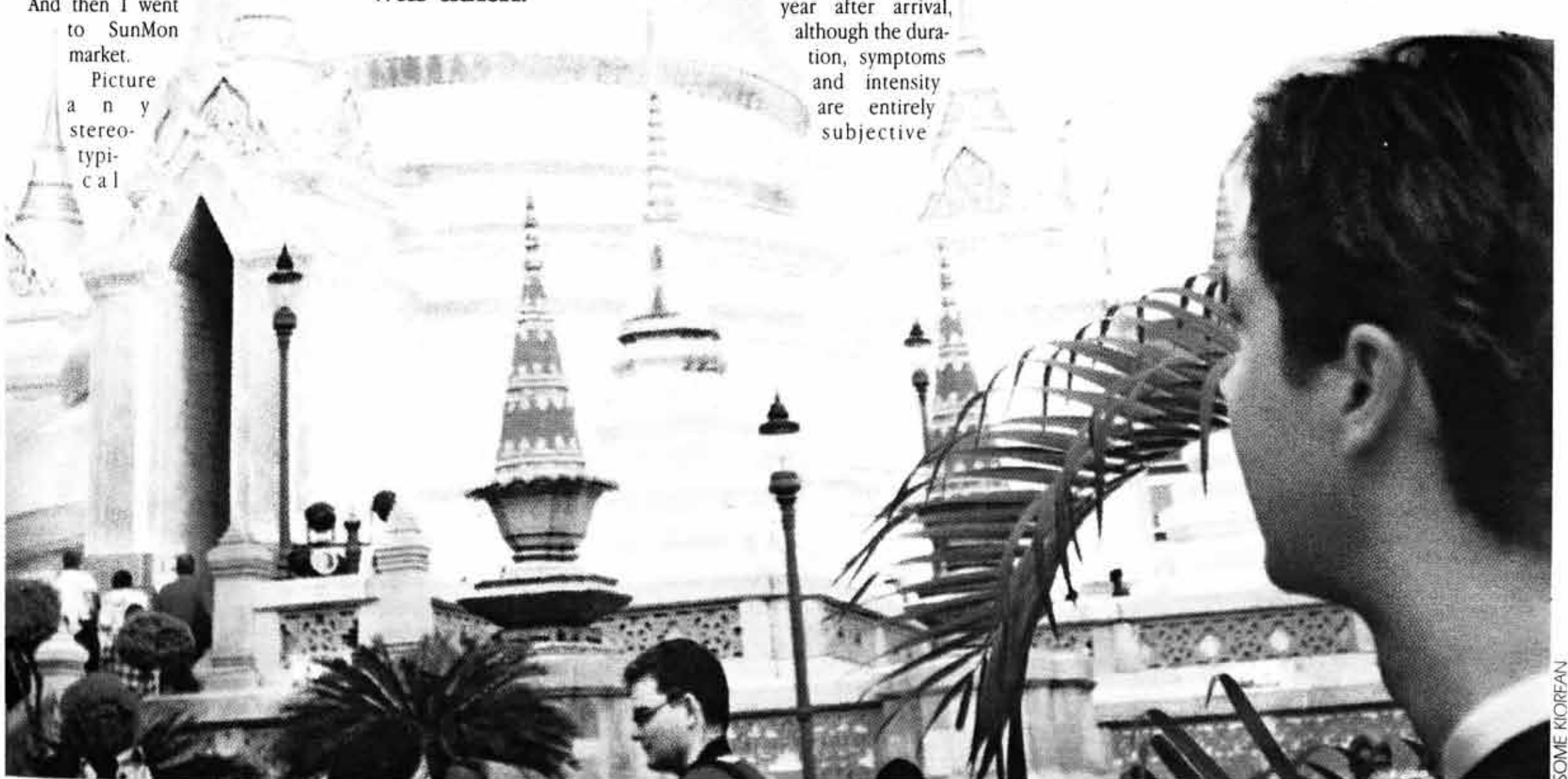
It is the humidity that is killing me. Last week the rain season started. I live in a valley so the monsoons and typhoons that I hear so much about on the Army channel don't really affect us that much.

It rains straight for about five days then we have a few days off, then the same all over again. Earlier they were even saying that this has been the worst draught in Korea in 100 years! Farmers were committing suicide all over the place. Christ! I thought I'd seen enough rain to last my lifetime. Just like in 'Platoon' and 'Forrest Gump,' but not quite so outstanding.

Korean life is still fast, friendly and furious. Living here makes you really kind and very tolerant. I'll be coming home in September so I'll just apologize for my strange behavior in advance. My sense of space and my table manners aren't what they used to be.

Well, gotta run. I believe that in this city somebody, somewhere is in need of some English. See you all September 1st...

Lots of love, Tom



SOME KOREAN

Highest of the High

Deborah Seabrook

After a split of almost seven years, the Canadian indie band Lowest of the Low are together again and touring in the wake of their latest double CD release, *Nothing Short of a Bullet*. Previously, the Low were most recognized for their singles 'Eternal Fatalist' and 'Bleed a Little While Tonight' from their debut album *Shakespeare My Butt*, released in 1991. For the band's lead vocalist Ron Hawkins, this reunion is about a more sophisticated musical sound, with a more mature outlook on rock stardom. I recently spoke with Hawkins, who was more than willing to talk about the Low reunion, touring and their 1994 break-up, which he dubbed "[A] little too bloody."

Hawkins said that after a couple of years of doing 250 shows a year, something was lost: "There was just too much bullshit getting in the way, from the industry and personally." Apparently the Low did not agree with several things considered mandatory by many labels within the recording industry. "We felt that pressure to release an album every year or every other year and touring until we just couldn't get into it any more compromised the quality of our sound." So why did the foursome (compromised additionally of David Alexander on drums, John C. Arnott on bass and vocals, and Stephen Stanley on guitar and vocals) decide to get back together?

"[It] was an idea from the musical com-

munity, and our old manager in particular, to get back together," explained Ron. For the Low, regaining that musical connection was a delicate process, but one that Hawkins says was there all along. "We realized that what was keeping us apart was not what was important." And what is important, at least to front-man Hawkins, has changed quite a bit since we last heard from the Low.

In terms of musicality, Lowest of the Low fans can expect a more sophisticated and mature sound. Hawkins said that "Listening to earlier recordings, things were faster and less together." Now, the band is focusing more on being present minded and enjoying the music that they create. "We are willing to let the doors be opened and see where we want to go." And where that is may indeed be somewhere different than before.

With a casual tone, Hawkins spoke of the writing process and how he hopes to affect the audience. "At first, I was trying to write at a macrocosmic level; but now I am more into the microcosm. Looking around and seeing what is beautiful and interesting about the individuality of my life is more intrinsically me." For Hawkins, writing is an organic process and one that incorporates both his experience and hypothetical situations, one that he hopes can have an influence on the listeners. "I think that other people can take out of the music and relate to my experiences, or at least I hope so."

Perhaps due to this new insight, the Low is having more fun than ever at their shows.



Lowest of the Low return make a comeback with the new release, *Nothing Short of a Bullet*.

With a live cover of Bad Religion's 'Kerosene' on their new album, Hawkins said they sometimes throw some "Cadillac Tramp and Cracker songs" into their sets. He adds that they have a definite energy on the road and that he hopes people are "taking the energy they can from the show and put it into their lives."

So what can fans expect from the Low in the future? Well, part of what has made their reuniting a success is to not try to look more

than 3 or 4 months down the road.

However, Hawkins did share that they are planning to film a video in a taxi cab just north of Toronto for their new single 'New Westminster Taxi Squad' soon. He adds "A new album is not out of the question." Sounds like good news for fans of this Canadian rock group.

The Lowest of the Low are playing tonight at Club Abstract.

Laurier exposed to Swollen Members

Andy Lee

The Battle Axe Warriors took the Turret by storm last night and transformed it into a hip-hop arena. Battle Axe Records artists: Swollen Members, Moka Only, and Abstract Tribe Unique (ATU) delivered a solid night of lively lyricism and thumping beats.

Los Angeles-based group ATU, consisting of Abstract Rude, Zulu the Butterfly Priest, and DJ Murge, kicked off the evening's show. A tip-off to Public Enemy introduced their set, which featured material from their recently released album entitled *P.A.I.N.T.* Abstract Rude proceeded to flow through the remainder of their tracks, one of which paid homage to hip hop classics such as the Fu-Schnickens' 'Ring the Alarm' and 'Can I Kick It?' by A Tribe Called Quest. Despite the crowd's initially lukewarm reaction, a good old-fashioned freestyle session succeeded in winning their respect and applause.

This paved the way for Vancouver's Moka Only, who danced across the stage as he shared his lighthearted rhymes. Moka performed both new and old tracks, including the brand new 'Rock Solid', and 'Ferry Tale', a uniquely West Coast sound dedicated to the "club kids" due to its drum 'n' bass interlude. Moka's playful demeanor and sing-along choruses served in getting the crowd hyped for their heroes, the Swollen Members.



Battleaxe Warriors get cheers, head, from enthusiastic fans last night.

Although it seemed to take forever, the Swollen Members finally took the stage just after one o'clock. Prevail and Madchild burst onto the stage as if they owned the joint, and immediately began throwing rhymes from their second full-length album, *Bad Dreams*. It became immedi-

ately obvious whom the audience was there to see. Prevail used his energy to climb the lighting scaffolding, which began swaying pre-

viously above the dance floor. Much to security's chagrin, he ignored all warnings, preferring instead to answer his tour manager with a mock beat-down.

The unforeseen amount of booty shaking made the record skip.

Like Abstract Rude's earlier performance, Prevail flexed his freestyle skills by taking the word "weed" and rattling off a seamless string of verbs, nouns, and adjectives. The crowd enjoyed this so much that when they were asked to "pledge alle-



Prevail, of Swollen Members: "I could go down on you, instead!"

giance to the S&M"; they didn't have to be asked twice. This segued neatly into 'Fuel Injected', their current single featuring Moka Only.

When the ladies were invited onstage for their first single, 'Lady Venom', their attempt at audience participation backfired. The unforeseen amount of booty shaking made the record skip, causing the track to come to an abrupt halt. While the DJ re-cued the track, Prevail fired off another ganja-themed freestyle, to the crowd's great delight.

The concert was capped off by

a performance by Code Name: Scorpion, a group comprised of the three Battle Axe Scorpions: Prevail, Moka Only, and Abstract Rude. These three dreads played to an audience of diehards well past two o'clock.

A low point of the evening was when Prevail mistakenly referred to the audience as "University of Waterloo." His unrelenting energy and enthusiasm, however, made us absolve him of this cardinal sin. Indeed, he and his label mates proved that the Battle Axe Warriors are a force to be reckoned with.

Backtrax: Elvis Presley

Justin Sharp

He's the "King of Rock N' Roll"; recognized as the most important American pop-music icon because of his enormous record sales and by giving rock n' roll international fame.

He was born Elvis Aaron Presley with his stillborn twin brother in a two-room house in Tupelo, Mississippi on January 8th, 1935. For his 11th birthday, Elvis desperately wanted a bike but since his parents couldn't afford it, they talked him into a \$12.50 guitar from the local hardware store.

After moving to Tennessee in 1953, Elvis' first exposure to blues and gospel music happened when he went clothes shopping on Beale Street. Because of his association with the scene, he was

radically looked at differently from other children and pegged as a good-natured misfit.

After high school, he got odd jobs at various machinists and electric companies, yet his interest for music remained steady. Driving home one night he stopped in at Sun Studio and made a demo

acetate of 'My Happiness' and 'That's When Your Heartaches Begin' for his mother's birthday.

The next year, he stopped in again to make another demo. This time, however, it attracted the attention of the studio owner. He was so impressed by Elvis' talent, the owner teamed him up with two local musicians and they performed on the Grand Ole Opry. The audience saw Elvis as too odd and no good; they suggested he go back to driving a truck.

Though hurt by the Opry appearance, Elvis tried again, this time on the Louisiana Hayride and

was so successful that it led to a one-year contract for 52 Saturday night performances. During this time Elvis met "Colonel" Tom Parker, who would later become his full-time manager. His

live appearances would have great appeal towards teenagers. The girls especially liked him because of his natural good looks and moves on-stage. To them, he represented a form of bodily freedom.

His popularity began to rise and in 1955, he signed a contract with RCA Records for a then-



"In a few, short years, I'll be very obese. Then you'll all go running to Wayne Money...like you always do."

unprecedented \$40,000, with a \$5,000 bonus for Elvis. Two days after his twenty-first birthday, Elvis recorded his first single for RCA, 'Heartbreak Hotel.' This single was released on January 27th, 1956, and within three weeks sold 300,000 copies. It was his first of many gold records.

The album *Elvis Presley* was released in March, and went to number one on the Billboard pop chart for ten weeks, with sales of over \$1 million. 1956 alone resulted in 5 number-one hits.

Elvis was a sensation. Everyone wanted something to do with him. Paramount Pictures signed a seven-year movie contract (resulting in 21 movies). His movies were banned from Mexico in 1962 after a

showing of *GI Blues* resulted in torn seats, broken windows, and other serious damage. His shows were met with mass hysteria and sometimes riot.

An appearance on *The Milton Berle Show* caused a panic among parents. The complaints that he was too sexual and too sensual a performer arose after the singing 'Heartbreak Hotel.' Ed Sullivan once stated that Elvis will never be on his show, but after seeing the ratings for his other appearances, signed Elvis to a \$50,000 three-appearance deal.

In 1958 he took a short leave to serve America in the army and was stationed in Germany until March of 1960. Immediately upon his return Elvis was horded by fans

and the press. His immediately released album, *Elvis Is Back!*, reached number two.

He got \$125,000 for filming *Welcome home Elvis* (later bringing in a 41.5% share on tv) with Frank Sinatra. Paramount also started filming of *GI Blues*. The soundtrack for that movie stayed on the charts for 111 weeks.

For the next couple years, Elvis would mostly remain in movies while performing the soundtracks. His last hit until 1969 would be 'Good Luck Charm.'

In February of 1964 though, everything would change for Elvis. That month the Beatles performed on Ed Sullivan and the British Invasion begun.

...Elvis' first exposure to blues and gospel music happened when he went clothes shopping on Beale Street.

...his insatiable appetite and increasing alcohol intake was turning the King into a large sweaty mass...

Post-1965 Elvis

Stuart Reed

Elvis Presley's later years, from 1965 until his sudden death in 1977, were marked by a period of reclusiveness followed by a period of excessive touring.

From 1961-1968, Elvis didn't shake his hips on stage once, and secluded himself in Hollywood, making movie after movie. He made 27 (of his 33) films in the 1960's, and many of them, though not very good, sold well at the box office. This was a golden time for musicals, and Elvis' audience, in withdrawal from seeing him live, flocked to his films, and gobbled his soundtracks up by the millions.

Eleven of these movie soundtracks hovered in the Billboard Top Ten during this stretch, with four going all the way to Number One. Elvis' personal life also blossomed during this period, as he married his girlfriend of four years, Priscilla Beaulieu, on May 1st 1967.

His only child, Lisa Marie was born 9 months later on Feb 1st, 1968. An impromptu television special in June of 1968 surprised many in that it displayed a rested and healthy Elvis in top form. Reuniting some of his old 50's band mates, and mixing old rock favourites with his new gospel melodies, Elvis showed that he was still one of the most talented performers around. His outfits in particular gathered huge attention, as he combined a James Dean/Marlon Brando

style black leather outfit (reminiscent of his early days as the King) with a simple white two-piece suit, while standing in front of a towering backdrop of red lights spelling 'ELVIS'. The King was undoubtedly back. Elvis' '68 Comeback Special' marked a new chapter in the story of the King.

In 1969, after rapping up his Hollywood film contract obligations, Elvis began a phenomenal run of concert performances with a 4-week, 57 show engagement at the International Hotel in Las Vegas. These shows broke all attendance records, but these new standards didn't last long.

In early 1970, Elvis returned to the International during an incredibly slow winter season in Vegas.

His popularity was at its peak, and he shattered his own records with ease. Soon after that, Elvis headlined six shows at the Astrodome in Houston, where he played to a total of 207,494 people.

Elvis took his elaborate live show

on the road in 1970, his first tour since 1957. These shows put on display a healthy and lean Elvis; his on-stage attire consisted of simple karate-inspired two-piece outfits in black or white.

This epic run of shows lasted up until his death, and he played a show or tour each year in Las Vegas and Lake Tahoe. One of the most memorable highlights of this period was the four sold out shows that he played at Madison Square Garden in 1972.



Elvis and Business editor Chris Jacobson, pose for a picture, mere days before his death.

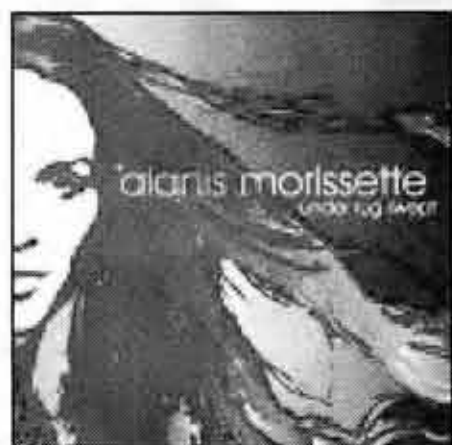
Celebrities spotted in the wings at these shows included: John Lennon, George Harrison, Bob Dylan, David Bowie and Art Garfunkel.

During his 'concert years' from 1969 to 1977, Elvis gave nearly 1,100 concert performances. The King's excessive touring schedule soon led to a decline in both his health and in his relationships. The toll of performing up to two shows in a day was forcing Elvis to take large amounts of prescription drugs, and his insatiable appetite and increasing alcohol intake was turning the King into a large sweaty mass, resembling nothing of his former self.

His decline was in full view of the public, as seen in his TV specials *Elvis: Aloha from Hawaii*, via Satellite (1973) and *Elvis in Concert* (1977). His marriage was also coming to pieces, and he and Priscilla divorced in 1973. His unhealthy lifestyle led to many hospitalizations during his later years, but he toured on.

Taking a rest at his home Graceland in mid August 1977, Elvis was in good spirits while preparing for another trip out on the road. It was not to be, as he collapsed on August 16th at 2 pm. He was declared dead 90 minutes later of cardiac arrhythmia.

ear candy



Alanis Morissette
Under Rug Swept

Led Zeppelin gave us hammer of the gods. Alanis Morissette gives us yammer of the goddess.

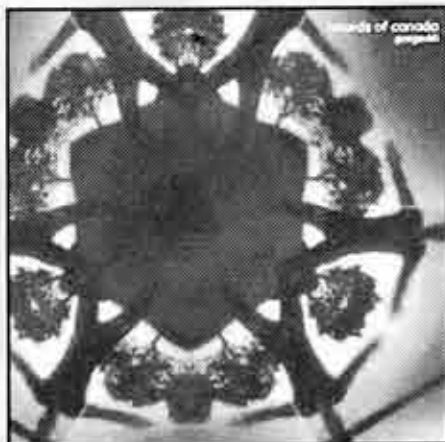
On her third album she again feeds on the open-wound emotions of the 30-odd million or so who identify with and find solace in her angst-ridden gibberish. Yes, the queen of pain, the one who's proved beyond a doubt that the overwrought can sell and sell and

sell again, still hurts. A lot.

But enough is enough, especially when she can't convey her inner turmoil into something more interesting than the mostly pedestrian alt-rock that makes up *Under Rug Swept*. Particularly annoying is how she continues to confuse instrumental misfires and anguished English with some kind of artistic statement. As for the grammatical faux pas, the title should tell you all you need to know.

Then again, who's to criticize. *Under Rug Swept* entered the Billboard charts at number one. Radio will play it ad nauseam for months to come. And millions will shell out their hard earned money to hear the world's most commercially successful psychobabble.

Ross MacDonald



Boards of Canada
Geogaddi

First off, they're Scottish. Anyone who names their groups after the Canadian Film Board without actually being from Canada is automatically cool. Pleasantries aside, *Geogaddi* is a predictably wonderful return to Boards Of Canada's signature sound of nostalgic melodies coupled with daisy age drum samples, with stranger samples that only serve to escalate Boards of Canada's perception of

psychedelic mystique.

Those who are familiar with Boards of Canada already know how distinct their sound is. Their first major label release, *Music Has a Right to Children*, is considered by many as the one electronic release in the past few years that appeals both to hardcore electronic music listeners, as well as those unfamiliar to what electronic music has to offer.

Upon initial listening, *Geogaddi* may not yield the most resounding response, but Boards of Canada's magic lies in repeated listening of the album. *Geogaddi*'s melodic elements will inevitably enter your head without leaving, almost to the point where it becomes disturbing.

The album is split between full-length songs at every even number, and melodic segues at every odd number. The 3rd melodic segue 'Dandelion' even features a Canadian nature film sample with Leslie Nielsen narrating about the effects of lava flow. A personal favourite segue of mine samples a child from the 70's talking about

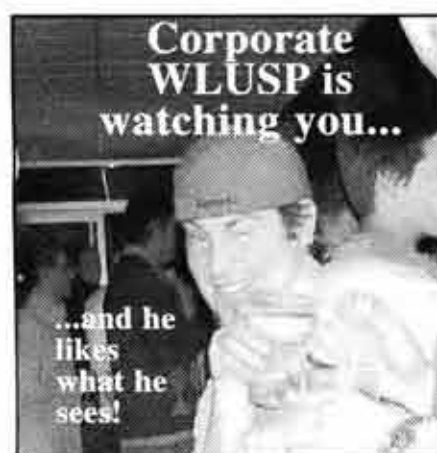
conserving energy before there isn't enough energy to go around by the time he's a parent.

Either way, their full-length songs are the true centre points of the album. Album standouts include the hazy melancholy of 'Sunshine Recorder,' the Iron Butterfly sampling 'Dawn Chorus,' and the fairly popular '1969,' which sounds as if members of Boards took a magnifying glass out to the sun and melted the recording just to make it sound old.

I've said it before in past reviews, but I think that most Canadians will undoubtedly find a certain bond towards the Boards of Canada sound, simply because of how reminiscent the melodies are to the many Canadian Film Board movies we held witness to as children. If anything, download BOC's seminal "ROYGBIV" and see if you agree. Then let your Canuck curiosity do the rest.

Scott Cairns

Editor's Note: Dillon, I have the mesh shirt. You get the chains.



3 Academy Award Nominations!
Kate Winslet plays the lusty, vivacious young Iris Murdoch with vitality!

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The 2001-2002 Cord Sports awards

Year after year, Laurier's Golden Hawk athletes toil in the trenches of anonymity. Each season passes with varsity players working ever harder to hone their skills, striving to be the very best. But why bother? What is it all for? Is there a purpose to their passion? Now there is...

Sound the trumpets. Unroll the red carpet. May the angels play their harps. Introducing the brand-spanking-new, never-before-seen, 2001-2002 super special fabulous Cord Sports awards.

Yes, that's right ladies and gentlemen, Cord Sports is giving athletes a reason to exist. Listed on this page are nine categories in which it will be decided who were the best and worst in a plethora of sporting categories. Enjoy.

Team of the Year

♦Women's Hockey:

23-1-1 season record. Lone loss coming in CIS gold medal game.

♦Men's Soccer:

13-2-1 season record. Second consecutive national championship.

♦Women's Volleyball:

19-1 season record. Went a perfect 18-0 during regular season before falling in OUA semi-finals to Toronto.

Coach of the Year

♦Peter Campbell, men's basketball

In just two years has lifted team from cellar-dweller to top OUA contender.

♦Barry MacLean, men's and women's soccer

Coached men's team to second consecutive national championship while also leading women's team to 7-3-0 record.

♦Bill Bowker, women's hockey

Carried a team with fourteen rookies to CIS silver medal.

Rookie of the Year - Male

♦Ryan Pyear, football

First true freshman to start at quarterback for Laurier's football team. Named OUA rookie of the year.

♦Chris Keith, basketball

Averaged 13.5 points per game to lead team while also pulling down 4.5 rebounds per game

♦Jason Lyall, soccer

Walk-on defender was named first-team OUA all-star

Male Athlete of the Year

♦Wojciech Cwik, soccer

Despite Kenny Nutt being the popular pick for soccer team's best player, Cwik had the better year and also fought through injuries throughout the playoffs.

♦Chris Keith, basketball

Even more awe-inspiring than his season is the fact that he's a rookie. Just what does the future hold for Keith?

♦Kevin Taylor, football

OUA first team all-star had 3 interceptions 2 fumble recoveries and one touchdown on the year.

Most Improved Team

♦Men's Basketball

After combining for a mere five wins in the past two seasons, put together a 12-10 record and made playoffs.

♦Women's Basketball

Last year's 4-17 record combined with a 1-6 start this year makes 9-12 final record look even more impressive.

♦Women's Figure Skating

For years have been a doormat in the OUA, but have broken through and are now a top Ontario team.

Rookie of the Year - Female

♦Sarah Zagorski, basketball

11 points per game and 4.5 assists per game helped her lead team to their best record in a number of years.

♦Cindy Eadie, hockey

Simple. 0.93 GAA, 96.2% save percentage and 8 shutouts make her one of the greatest things since sliced bread.

♦Cindy Eadie, hockey

Again? Yes. She is that good.

Female Athlete of the Year

♦Tara Ross, swimming/x-country

Qualified for CIS championships in both cross-country and swimming. You try that.

♦Cathy Ingalls, volleyball

Last year's OUA rookie of year continued improving and was named CIS first team all-Canadian. 2nd in OUA with 78 blocks.

♦Cindy Eadie, hockey

Perhaps the best women's goalie this school has seen.

Best Team you've never seen

♦Curling

Consistently one of Laurier's best, but never getting the recognition they deserved.

♦Men's Soccer:

What other national championship team do you think averages about 20 fans per game?

♦Women's Lacrosse

Thank goodness for families and boyfriends. Otherwise, this team may not get anyone out to their games, despite being one of the best in Ontario.

Want to help decide the fate of these Laurier athletes? To vote in the 2001-2002 Cord Sports Awards, log on to clublaurier.ca and follow the link from the home page.

Discuss this story online at www.clublaurier.ca



Saving lives for fun

Wilbur McLean

Baywatch this is not.

Hollywood seems to enjoy portraying lifeguards as people who are as concerned with their hair as what goes on in the water, but one look at the thick book of checklists which represents the requirements for lifeguards quickly proves otherwise.

The WLU lifeguard competition team has been preparing themselves in relative obscurity throughout most of the year and have been training for the National University Lifeguarding Championships, set to take place this weekend at McMaster University.

Lifeguarding competitions consist of a variety of events, some testing the fitness levels of the competitors and others judging the lifeguards on more technical aspects of the job.

One of the many events that will take place at the championships is the mannequin relay, a daunting event which involves each of the four members of a team towing a sixty-pound mannequin one length of the pool.

Other events include the timed fetching of victims from a pool, and the judging of



This chump decided to tie herself to a large board and throw herself into water. Good thing these lifeguards were there to pull this suicidal maniac out.

resuscitation techniques.

Competitor and coach, Roberto Aburto, discussed the appeal of lifeguarding competitions.

"It's a good challenge. The first aid stuff really makes you think," said Aburto, a first year business student.

Dave Baxter, another competitor agreed: "It's great for improving your skills and confidence."

The WLU team is a new venture, put together by Aburto who decided to put a squad together when he arrived at Laurier earlier this year.

He gathered other lifeguards he knew from other lifeguarding clubs, and through their connections, were quickly able to gather a team of ten core members who have been practicing often since November.

The Laurier team will be competing with 10-15 other universities from across Canada with Queen's going in as defending champions.

While the WLU team is new, Aburto doesn't feel they're at a disadvantage.

"We have fairly high expectations and I hope to bring in some medals," said Aburto in regards to his team's chances of being successful. "We have three pretty experienced guards."

The University Lifeguarding Championships is just a small part of the larger scheme of lifeguarding championships which includes regional, provincial, national and world competitions for local club members to compete in.

With the sheer amount of strength and fitness required from these lifeguards, it's safe to say that none of these competitors will rely on their silicone breasts to keep them afloat. Pamela Anderson, anyone?



It's that time of year again, when midterms are dwindling, studying is put on the back burner and finals await us not too far down the road. Coincidentally it also happens to be the time when arguably the most popular sporting event takes centre stage in the lives of millions of basketball fans across North America and around the world.

This event is the annual tournament titled, "The NCAA road to the final four", more affectionately referred to as, "March Madness".

The tournament commences this coming Thursday and will finish with the final on April 1st. It starts with sixty-five of the best Division I basketball teams in the US. The single elimination format of the tourney keeps each team on their toes in every game.

Given the unpredictability of the tournament, I thought it would be best to consult the basketball experts of the Laurier community as to who would be making the final four this year and the reasons behind their picks.

Many people were surveyed but only one could be chosen for this in-depth NCAA tournament preview. The expert that was decided upon shall remain anonymous, but for the purposes of this article, his name will be R.O.C.

R.O.C.'s picks were Duke from the South, Maryland from the East, Kansas from the Midwest and a surprising choice of Cincinnati from the West.

Maryland Strengths: Deep team that has quality players in each position on the floor.

Weaknesses: Tough time playing hard when they are losing and sometimes are unable to make the runs that are necessary to win games.

Cincinnati Strengths: Guard play will be key to the success of this squad as they have had great success on the perimeter all year long.

Weaknesses: Lack of consistency, as some doubt player Steve Logan's leadership abilities down the stretch.

Duke Strengths: Arguably having the best player in the country with Jason Williams (no, not the erratic point guard on Memphis, this guy's got a jumper) and other great players like Carlos Boozer and Mike Dunleavy Jr., the Dookies will not have to worry about offensive numbers.

Weaknesses: Lack of depth may hurt Duke late in the tournament. Their starting five may be among the best, but their bench isn't.

Kansas Strengths: Guard play on Kansas is sensational and Heinrich can produce for his teammates. NBA prospect Dwayne Gooden is a lottery pick and will have to prove this during the course of the tournament.

Weaknesses: Played poorly in their conference tournament and will have to shake off the weak play of late to be a viable contender in the tourney. Gooden's play in the finals of the conference tournament was horrible, as he couldn't even buy a basket for his life.

It's extremely rare that more than two number 1 seeds make the final four, but R.O.C. has predicted just that. The depth of the tournament is as good as any in the past with many players looking to prove that they belong in the next level of basketball.

Sleepers to look for are the no longer anonymous Gonzaga squad, Florida, who lacks consistency but can fill it up on offence, Pittsburgh, who you don't hear a whole lot about, Hawaii, simply because they have three Canadians on their unit, and Kentucky, who have been unjustly overlooked for much of the season.

My personal prediction is a Duke versus Kentucky final with Duke blowing out the Wildcats in Style (Grant Hill and Elton Brand would love it).

The tournament begins this week, so don't be surprised if the classrooms have a more spacious feel to them on Thursday or Friday. The avid supporters will be glued to their sets right from the get-go and won't come up for air until it's all over, or at least until their picks are eliminated.

Swimathon raises \$1,200

Carrie Patterson

This past weekend the Varsity swim team held their second annual Swimathon and Relay Challenge Fundraiser. They raised over \$1,200 which will be donated to Special Olympics Swimming.

In order to build awareness of the fundraising efforts, the first event held on Friday was the highly touted Relay Challenge that consisted of both a Faculty team and Athletic Staff.

Competing for the Faculty team was Dr. Richard Fuke, Dr. Robert Campbell, Dr. Peter Tiidus, and Toivo Miljan. On the Athletic Staff team was Todd Dougherty (men's volleyball coach), Kevin Webster (stadium operations), Heather Seiling (women's rugby), Peter Baxter (Dir. of Athletics), and Jennifer Mitchell (Aquatics). Dr. Robert Rosehart, also known as, "The man with the smoking gun" was the honorary starter for the event.

On Saturday, the varsity swimmers swam 200 lengths (5000 meters) of the pool along with Dr. Fuke and Heather Seiling. They collected sponsors and generated money for each length they accomplished. "Swimming 200 laps is a little bit boring, but doing it as a team and knowing I was going to help the Special Olympics made it all worthwhile," CIS qualifier Melissa Martin commented.

The group invested a tremendous amount of their effort in a quest to raise money for such a respectable cause. All funds collected will go directly to the Special Olympics team located in K-W.

The K-W Crusaders swim here on our campus every Friday afternoon. "It was a great accomplishment and a lot of fun... what a good way to end my varsity swimming career," said the women's team captain Jenny Cramm who will graduate in April. This concludes the Varsity swim season experience...until next year.

Banning the little red ball

Derek Iwanuk



Gotta love Americans.

But let's concentrate on the debate. One of the main reasons they want to ban this game that supposedly was spawned from Satan himself, is because it "encourages violent behaviour and lowers self esteem of less athletic kids."

I find this statement so ironic from a country that worships football on all levels; a sport where one of the primary goals on defence is to hit your opponent as hard as you possibly can. This is also a sport which has resulted in paralysis and even death amongst students and pros alike, but all the while we continue to cheer that blood-thirst. At the same time however, throwing a soft, foam or rubber ball, and usually below the waist is deemed violent and unacceptable.

Second point, it lowers the self esteem of less athletic kids. Okay, coming personally from someone who is not athletically gifted at all, but played sports all throughout high school this statement is amusing.

Basically you just have to learn to play for fun. It really doesn't matter who you are, someone's always going to be better than you. This is no reason for you not to play. Just enjoy the sport.

One thing I noticed was that no one in this article complained about children not liking the game. The article was more politics-based and seemed to be a debate amongst teachers and parents. No one seemed to ask any of the children what they wanted.

The bottom line is, if this is the best thing that Americans have to debate in their educational meetings, that country's system is in some serious trouble.

Let's focus our attention on the kids with trenchcoats carrying automatic weapons and planting bombs throughout the schools and not on the elementary school kids with little, soft, red balls.

Let's flash back to when we were in elementary school. In fact, let's be more specific and flash back to elementary school physical education.

Ahh, sunny days of baseball, football, soccer and dodgeball... Dodgeball? Yes, but it appears dodgeball is quickly going the way of hopscotch for elementary school children, thanks to administrators who wish to ban the sport.

In an article entitled, "Dodgeball: Clean fun or Evil Exercise," Maureen Fitzgerald investigates the debate that has grown increasingly prominent. Should we ban this evil sport known as dodgeball?

First of all, in this day and age, where gang violence, sexual harassment and incidents such as the Columbine Shootings are sweeping the nation, the fact that the education board has focused their efforts on whether or not they should ban dodgeball is insane.

If for a second, you thought that Ontario's education system is in trouble, take a look at our neighbours to the south. It really makes you want to look in at one of their educational meetings, doesn't it?

Okay...school shootings are up, sexual harassment cases are up, test scores are at an all time low... wait a minute... can't forget about dodgeball! DODGEBALL? Yes, dodgeball!

What are we doing allowing such a violent and degrading game. Ban this satanic sport.

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NCAA Tournament Picks: Who's the expert?

We've all seen it. A panel of "experts" making their "expert picks" on the NCAA tournament, claiming to be extremely knowledgeable about US college basketball. Often, they are so incredibly wrong that you can't help but think, "a small child could do better than these experts."

Cord Sports has assembled our own group of experts to see just who is the most adept at selecting the winners of the tournament. So who will be right? The six-year-old twins? A random coin toss? Peppler the cat? Or will the experts come through?

Read Cord Sports in the coming weeks to find out.



Peppler the Cat
Peppler initially seemed apprehensive about exposing his selections to the world, but soon became comfortable with the situation. His distinct tail movements and eye twitches made it obvious just which side he preferred in each of the first round matchups.



A Canadian quarter-dollar
For reasons unbeknownst to us, the coin's picks appeared random. A closer look quickly reveals, however, that the coin is a wise one, who merely wishes to mask his genius through sly selections.



Matt & Kevin, six-year-old twins
Matthew and Kevin, the young twins, showed wisdom far beyond their years. While Matthew made the first-round selections, Kevin gave us some personal insight into the number one seeds and stated he was firmly against the Cincinnati Bearcats' tournament chances because, as he said, "I don't like cats."



The Expert Panel
The expert panel, made up of Matt Cade and Brian Thode, both college basketball aficionados, also made their picks for the tournament. Cade expressed his confidence compared to the competitors: "If we don't win, we'll eat our hats." We shall see, young Cade... we shall see.

South/West First Round Picks

- (1)Duke-(16)Winthrop
- (8)Notre Dame-(9)Charlotte
- (5)Indiana-(12)Utah
- (4)USC-(13)N.C. Wilmington
- (6)California-(11)Pennsylvania
- (3)Pittsburgh-(14)Central Connecticut
- (7)Oklahoma State-(10)Kent State
- (2)Alabama-(15)Florida Atlantic
- (1)Cincinnati-(16)Boston
- (8)UCLA-(9)Ole Miss
- (5)Miami-(12)Missouri
- (4)Ohio State-(13)Davidson
- (6)Gonzaga-(11)Wyoming
- (3)Arizona-(14)UCSB
- (7)Xavier-(10)Hawaii
- (2)Oklahoma-(15)Illinois-Chicago

Cat

- Duke
- ND
- Utah
- USC
- Penn
- C Con.
- Ok St.
- Alabam
- Bos
- Ole Mis
- Miami
- Ohio
- Gonz
- Arizona
- Xavier
- Okla

Coin

- Duke
- ND
- Utah
- USC
- Penn
- Pitt
- Ok St.
- Fl Atl.
- Cin
- UCLA
- Miami
- David
- Gonz
- UCSB
- Xavier
- Chic

Twins

- Duke
- ND
- Indiana
- NC Wil.
- Penn
- Pitt
- Kent
- Fl Atl.
- Boston
- UCLA
- Miami
- David
- Wyom.
- UCSB
- Hawaii
- Chic

Experts

- Duke
- ND
- Indiana
- USC
- Penn
- Pitt
- Kent
- Alabam
- Cin
- Ole Mis
- Miss
- Ohio
- Gonz
- Arizona
- Hawaii
- Okla

East/Midwest First Round Picks

- (1)Maryland-(16)Siena
- (8)Wisconsin-(9)St. John's
- (5)Marquette-(12)Tulsa
- (4)Kentucky-(13)Valparaiso
- (6)Texas Tech-(11)Southern Illinois
- (3)Georgia-(14)Murray State
- (7)North Carolina St-(10)Michigan St
- (2)Connecticut-(15)Hampton
- (1)Kansas-(16)Holy Cross
- (8)Stanford-(9)Western Kentucky
- (5)Florida-(12)Creighton
- (4)Illinois-(13)San Diego State
- (6)Texas-(11)Boston College
- (3)Mississippi State-(14)McNeese State
- (7)Wake Forest-(10)Pepperdine
- (2)Oregon-(15)Montana

Cat

- Mary
- Wisc.
- Marq.
- Kentuc.
- Tex Tech
- Murray
- Mich.
- Hamp.
- Holy C
- W Kent
- Creight
- SDS
- Texas
- Miss
- Wake F
- Mont.

Coin

- Siena
- St. J
- Tulsa
- Valpar
- Tex Tech
- Murray
- Mich.
- Conn.
- Kansas
- W Kent
- Creight
- Illinois
- Boston
- Miss
- Wake F
- Orego

Twins

- Siena
- St. J
- Tulsa
- Valpar
- S. Ill
- Murray
- NC State
- Hamp.
- Holy C
- W Kent
- Florida
- SDS
- Boston
- McNee
- Pepp.
- Mont.

Experts

- Mary
- Wisc.
- Marq.
- Valpar
- Tex Tech
- Murray
- Mich.
- Conn.
- Kansas
- Stanford
- Creight
- Illinois
- Texas
- Miss
- Wake F
- Oregon

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NESCAFÉ One thing leads to another

120 to dead in two beers

Graphic photos, stories should be enough to stop drinking and driving. Right?

Kent McCrea

I think by now just about everyone has gotten the drunk driving speech. Or at least can conceptually grasp that it is a bad and dangerous thing.

But some people still do it and terrible things still happen. Maybe it's that spread between knowing and not doing anything with that knowledge that brought such a large audience to the Turret last Tuesday evening.

BACCHUS Laurier brought in motivational speaker Norbert Georget, who has spent a long time on the High School and University speech trail. He's turned a penchant for spreading his not drinking and driving message into a full time

occupation, bringing young people, a group enormously at risk, that much closer to not doing it. While I braced myself for the same old spiel, it turned out to be something else.

Georget used to be an ambulance attendant, and it's his experiences that make him so effective at what he does. Like all of the other

EMS services, ambulances don't get called until something bad has happened and some of the most compelling parts of his speech came from him describing the raw chaos of being the first to arrive at an accident scene.

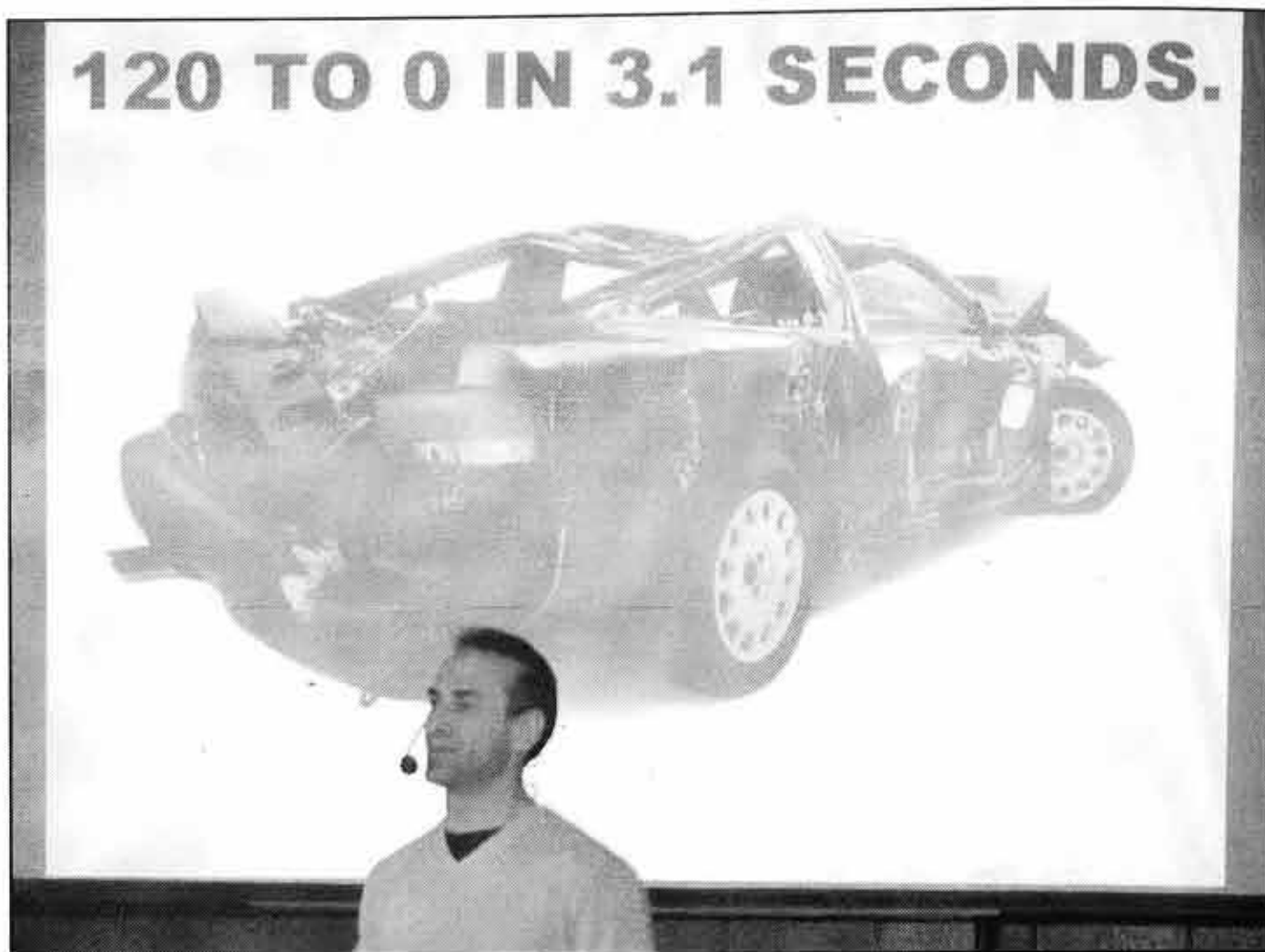
The descriptions and pictures were graphic, but not shown for shock value. Often these sorts of talks have a guilt factor and the pressure on the audience causes them to stop listening and just sort of endure as things unfold. Georget's presentation managed to steer through all of that and just concentrate on

On an average busy night in Toronto an ambulance team might have to take between two to four bodies to the morgue

a simple message — drinking isn't necessary when you go out but, if you do choose to drink, don't make any further choices that will put you in a terrible

spot.

It's a simple fact: nobody starts driving thinking they are out to kill themselves, their passengers or anybody else who might be on the road. The people who get arrested for DUI or worse, fall into two clear categories — those who are so drunk they simply can't make a decision and those who think that



Former ambulance attendant Norbert Georget shows a group of students at the Turret what can happen.

they are fine and it will all be OK. As friends and just plain people, it's really easy to spot the first group but infinitely more difficult to deal with the second. That's simply because you don't know for sure until it happens — up until then it's a risk that is impossible to understand, but one that is still very real.

I won't tell you Norbert's stories because I wouldn't do them justice and it would be too easy to stop reading. Instead, I'll pass on some of the details. First is that fully one quarter of impaired driving accidents are caused by narcotics, not alcohol, and the most dominant substance is marijuana. Second is that on an average busy

night in Toronto an ambulance team might have to take between two to four bodies to the morgue, due to avoidable accidents and alcohol. Finally, events like this are always good and never repetitive because they let you glimpse into someone else's reality and maybe, if you are listening, avoid such a future for yourself.

Clay Goddesses and uterus talk

Julie Pong

To celebrate the International Week of the Woman, a clay Goddess workshop was organized by the Women's Centre last week.

The question you are asking yourself is probably the same as I was when I was asked to take part in this event and reflect on my experience. What the hell is a clay Goddess workshop?

On Wednesday morning, I made my way to the Fine Arts Studio where I was welcomed by a handful of women who, much like myself, were there to take part.

Lisa Markus, the workshop instructor, also teaches various pottery classes from her home, and was brought in to help in creating these clay Goddesses.

Everyone was given their own slab of clay. I felt rather apprehensive about this whole Goddess-making thing because of my complete lack of artistic talent. Luckily, we began the workshop by making our very own pinch pot. I was relieved how simple this was and glided through it without any difficulties.

Our warm up exercise came to an end and we were told to think of the kind of Goddess that we

would like to make. Unfamiliar with the Goddesses spectrum, I flipped through a book and decided to make the Cycladic Goddess — related to death and rebirth.

The artistic talents of the other women emerged as three-dimensional Goddesses were created which mimicked the female body in a variety of poses. Each woman's version of their Goddess was like a celebration, not only of feeling comfortable with the female body, but also a celebration in being a woman.

The conversation reflected the idea of being comfortable with the female body. Discussions revolved around the performance of the "Vagina Monologues," as well as how Lisa used to do a workshop called the "Vagina Workshop" and the controversy that was created because some women took offence to the use of the word vagina, instead thinking it should be called the "Uterus Workshop."

Lisa's "Vagina Workshop" was a place where potters created their own clay vaginas but also had a

chance to openly discuss issues with their vaginas, because as many of the women agreed, a woman's vagina does not often arise in conversation.

The Clay Goddess workshop provided not only an outlet through which we could display our imaginations with clay, but also where we, as women, could freely

talk in a relaxed atmosphere about a variety of subject matters.

As the workshop came to a close, we were given paper to write down what we

want to manifest in our lives. Our lists of manifestations were put in our pinch pots where they were to be burnt in the kiln. I found this little exercise rather interesting because it was like having our own opportunity to make that wish right before you blow the candles out on a birthday cake.

Without a doubt, the Clay Goddess was an opportunity for those of us who took part to not only get in touch with ourselves, but also the people around us.



Julie and her clay goddess. Stay tuned to future Cord's for finished art.

Saint "Fitz" Patrick's Day: A history of beer

Jennifer Asselin

What is the first thing that comes to mind at the mention of St. Patrick's Day? Is it green beer, four leaf clovers or the infamous little green leprechaun chanting, "Lucky Charms... they're magically delicious"?

All right, so maybe it's just me having weird thoughts of the little guy with those tasty marshmallows. The point I'm trying to make is that even though we may have our own ideas, does anyone truly know what St. Paddy's day is all about?

For those whose interests I have piqued, St. Patrick's Day is a tradition that has been celebrated on March 17th for thousands of years.

Maewyn, better known to us as Patrick, was born in Wales in approximately AD 385. His life, though he remains one of the most famous Saints, is still one of mystery.

To begin, he was a bit of a rebellious stud, as he considered himself a pagan until the age of 16. At this time, he was captured and sold into slavery by Irish Marauders who robbed his home.

He was made to work as a shepherd, away from other people. During this time, he reflected on his closeness with God and choice of religion.

After 6 years of captivity and many supposed 'visions' of God telling him to convert

others, he escaped and traveled to Gaul. Here he studied in a monastery for 12 years. During this time, he realized his calling was to convert pagans to Christianity.

He begged to be sent to Ireland to convert people, but the job was given to Saint Palladius. Fortunately, Palladius soon transferred to Scotland and the job of bishop was given to Maewyn, who changed his name to Patrick with his conversion to Christianity.

Patrick was quite successful in converting which upset the Irish to the point that Patrick was arrested countless times, but he managed to always escape.

During this time, he set up schools and churches which would

help him practice his chosen religion. This mission lasted for nearly thirty years after which Patrick retired to County Down. He eventually died on March 17, AD 461. This day is now forever marked by St. Patrick's Day.

At first, St. Patrick's Day was celebrated only in Ireland. Irish families traditionally attended church ceremonies in the morning and celebrated more openly in the afternoon.

The day was observed as a religious holiday and odd as it might sound today, pubs were mandated for closure.

As the 17th falls in the time of the Christians observance of Lent, all Lent pro-

All right, so maybe it's just me having weird thoughts of the little guy with those tasty marshmallows.



Amanda couldn't wait to celebrate her day with a little drinky-drinky. Happy day Fitz!

hibitions would be waived and the people would drink and feast on anything they wished, especially that of the traditional Irish meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

It wasn't until the early 18th Century that America and the surrounding area began to recognize this day. Today, we still have those who go the traditional route, but we also

have new ways to celebrate. I mean, who can ignore the ever-popular green beer?

Only those of you who take this Sunday to sit in the Irish pub, drink in hand and surrounded by friends singing your drunken rendition of "Irish Eyes Are Smiling" know how this day is truly celebrated. Cheers!

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House #1

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The do's and doh's of co-op

Co-op students express their concerns about the structure of the program and convey possible solutions

Eva Pai &
Byron Pascoe

With the first round of the first co-op term for current second-year hopefuls completed, there's a mixture of emotions ranging from excitement to frustration. While the excitement has stemmed from the prospect of applying skills learned in school while simultaneously increasing the bank account, the frustration has created many opinions about the co-op program and their ways of operation.

Let's check some numbers for factual information. After the Chartered Accounting round, 19.4% of co-op students had jobs secured. After the first round of non-CA specific job postings and interviews, approximately 53% of the 293 co-op students had secured a position. These numbers are down from previous years, the latter figure by over 10%. This downward trend is reflective of the slide in the North American economy over the past several months. Co-op co-ordinators have warned students that times right now are tough, and students who do not yet have jobs are feeling the pressure.

Co-ordinators have warned students that times right now are tough, and students who do not yet have jobs are feeling the pressure.

Co-ordinators have been doing their best to make a bad situation more tolerable. Last week, the co-op office put on an additional session to give students not yet placed advice about what actions to take. They are also trying to convince employers who have cancelled positions to come back and re-post. With the economy looking to be on the verge of an upswing, companies may feel a little more secure and re-offer a few of these positions. As well they are working to get interview schedules in faster, speaking to previous employers that posted jobs in the past but have yet to post this year, and continuing to assist in personal job searches.

Some of the more personal assistance includes helping you reshape your resume and cover letters, as well as offering to contact employers for feedback on certain students' interviews. This feedback can help students improve their interview skills for future reference, with more mock interviews being offered. As well, the deadline to redeem part of your co-op fees has been moved to April 1st from March 8th for those considering dropping out of the program. The co-op office stresses that they are not endorsing this, but they want to give students another option.

There have been cases where a student has done a personal job search and found a job that did not meet the standards of the co-op office. However, co-ordinators have offered to call the employer to try to get the job more qualified to the standards of being a full-fledged co-op position. Reasons why a job may not have been approved include lack of responsibilities, too much clerical work, too short a term and too little pay.

Although many students are very content with the program, several concerns from others have been expressed. One of the biggest concerns is the cancelling of positions. Some jobs were cancelled outright and interviews not posted. Other companies posted interviews and then cancelled the position. Even more frustrating were cancelled positions where interviews had already been conducted. Business co-op student Jen Ash says that the "cancelling of positions is extremely frustrating for students, as it limits their job options and takes up time in terms of interview preparation and research."

Another important concern expressed by some students is the issue of marks. Business co-op student Elana Zur says "In the 'real world' employers aren't sent your marks, and for co-op it's an easy way for them to weed out a lot of people" who could also suit the

job. This concern has been backed up by others who feel that if marks are good enough to get into the co-op program, then people should be judged based on other criteria. The catch-22 of this argument is that the co-op program is supposed to provide experience. However, having a lack of experience could cost you getting the position in the first place. Therefore the current system of having a balance of marks, non-academic substance (resume), personality and being fit for the job (interview) seems to be an appropriate compromise. But there is no such thing as a foolproof system. People who are stronger academically obviously have different biases compared to those that are more outwardly involved.

There have also been issues raised with the way that rankings are handled. Of the students who get interviewed for a position, the one most suitable for the job, according to the employer, is ranked number one. The employer has the opportunity to rank other suitable candidates, who are



Here's a picture of someone resembling a co-op student. He hasn't got a job yet, and neither has his parrot.

unaware of their priority ranking. Rather, they are only told that they are ranked. For example, if a student is ranked second by an employer, they only know that they were not ranked number one. It could be beneficial if students were made aware of where they were ranked with each option so that they could better judge their options.

Another beef students have concerns Reading Week. Students knew and accepted that they would have to give up their Reading Week for interviews. However, in some cases they weren't aware of whether they would even have an interview, or not until a day or two beforehand.

With 40% of students not getting interviews in the first round, this caused frustration as many stayed in town to check the board instead of going home. A possible remedy for this is to have the entire process start earlier. This way, interviews would still take place during Reading Week, but students could plan possible trips knowing they had some time off. The problem, however, is that employers will have a shorter time to choose who they want to interview. These new deadlines could cause employers to take back more job opportunities.

Concerns about where students' co-op fees go have also been widely talked about. Students pay a fee for each school term, starting from their acceptance into co-op program to the

completion of their last work term. The costs are stressed to be an administration fee, not a guarantee of a job placement. Many students are not comfortable with the fact that not only are they not assured a co-op job, but they may have to spend \$432.50 per term (Business and Economics rate) to gain zero experience.

This money is used to cover photocopying, salaries, mailings, travel to find jobs and visit students while on work term, as well as other expenses incurred to run the program. Realistically, co-op co-ordinators can not force employers to take students; this is most likely the reason for stipulating that fees are

not placement fees, but despite this logic students are still upset if jobs do not come their way.

More suggestions to improve co-op include being able to sign up for jobs online as well as

searching for personalized interview postings. Should student numbers be posted instead of names for interview schedules, since most other co-op, academic and Student Union postings have always used just the student number? This would eliminate feelings of negativity some may have towards other students that have many job interviews, along with creating unanimity for students that are concerned with not having received as many interviews as their peers.

Third year Business co-op stu-

dent Malcolm McRae remarks that "Co-op frequently gets a bad rap; yes it is expensive and not 100% effective. However, in a recession no job search could ever be 100% successful. The people at the co-op office have always treated me very well. Being in co-op has allowed me to stay in school providing supplementary income on a four month, as opposed to eight month, cycle. The pay scale for Laurier co-ops also tends to be quite high, certainly providing more money than a typical summer job would. Perhaps some of the jobs don't provide fully effective business experience, however what employer could be expected to place serious responsibilities on someone who is only sticking around for four months? What these jobs do accomplish, though, is a foot in the door, and that is something that many people could not do on their own."

There is a trade-off made when you accept the co-op program. It may be easier to just go back to the regular summer job that you had before, and by doing so you can eliminate a lot of the stress. No postings, cover letters, hassle of ambiguity of where you will be, etc. However, this program is providing the opportunity for jobs that complement our business courses which may be harder to find if you have to look on your own.

Some second year co-op students who haven't yet secured their dream job are asking themselves whether it's worth remaining in the program. Just like every other program offered, it's a personal choice and not everyone can be satisfied. But after all, it's just like the real world, so to each his own.

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I am looking for a place to sublet for the coming Fall term. (September - December 2002) If you need a person to sublet your room, call Cheryl 747-0760

Rooms For Rent

2 rooms in house near uptown Waterloo. \$400 inclusive. Parking, laundry, cable and telephone in each room. Great location. 12 minute walk to WLU. Close to grocery, pharmacy, LCBO, restaurants. New carpets, ceramic tile and hardwood refinished. 47 Dupont Street. Contact Rob @ 888-7465 ext 2755 or Mike @ 746-1539

Two four bedroom units available. Walking distance to campus. Prices range from \$350 - \$490. Call WOCH @ 747-7276

Five Bedroom House

Full size kitchen, living room, two bathrooms, walk to campus, parking. \$365 per month. Call 885-9145

Student Rentals

May and September available! Groups and singles welcome. Check website, www.HaneyPM.com, for up-to-date rental offerings or call 746-1411

For Rent - Must See

3 very large clean bedrooms, living room, eat in kitchen. Three piece bathroom, parking. \$375 plus utilities. 12 month lease. 885-1171

5 Bedroom House

Available September '02. Great uptown location close to all amenities, parking, laundry facilities, 1 year lease. \$1675/month. Call 888-7377

Student roommate wanted to share 3 bedroom newly renovated house with two female students. Free parking. 2 minute walk to WLU. Lease May - May. \$425 + utilities. 725-1671

Summer Housing

6 rooms available May to August 2002. Located on Bricker Ave. Across from Bricker residence. Some furnishings. Full appliances. Contact Andrew @ 519-883-9589 or 905-510-9593

House for rent. 5 person, 15 minute walk to WLU. No basement bedrooms. Laundry. \$340 + utilities. Call 579-5018

Four Bedroom House

Two bathrooms, full size kitchen, living room, walk to campus, parking. \$350 per month. Call 885-9145

Seven Bedroom House

Full size kitchen, living room, two bathrooms, walk to campus, parking. \$355 per month. Call 885-9145

Four bedroom house for sublet from May to Sept. Fully furnished with washer and dryer. 39 Bricker, across from Bricker rez. \$325 per month. Call Andrew or Isaac @ 519-883-9794

Summer Sublet

3 bedroom loft apartment, hardwood floors, close to university, King and Bridgeport. A must see. Call Rachel at 883-9596. Price negotiable.

Roommate Wanted

1 female wanted to live with 2 girls in 3 bedroom loft apartment. Hardwood floors, high ceilings, a must see!! King and Bridgeport. Call Rachel @ 883-9396 if interested.

2 Roommates Wanted

3 male students in 5 bedroom house seek 2 more roommates. (Male or Female). 2 living rooms, fireplace, 2 washrooms, patio in backyard, laundry and parking available. 5 minute walk from Laurier. \$350 + utilities. May to May lease. Call Jason at 725-5293

Roommate Needed

3 fun and outgoing girls seek a fourth roommate for May to May lease. Large living area, two bathrooms and kitchen. 2 minute walk to WLU. If interested call Jen @ 883-4829

Roommate Wanted

3 girls looking for female roommate. Neat, studios and the rent is cheap. 10 minute walk to WLU. May to April lease. Call Amy and Laura @ 880-1201

6 Bedroom For Rent

Newer appliances, free laundry and parking. \$350/month plus utilities. Newly renovated, close to mall, bus routes. May to May lease. Call Jason @ 635-4455

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Summer Sublet On Bricker

3 rooms available May through August, \$225 each (negotiable) including utilities. Laundry and parking on site. Call Paula or Linda @ 747-9410

Roomie Needed

For 2 rooms available in a 4 bedroom house on Ezra. \$385/mo plus. High speed internet and fully furnished. Please call ASAP 747-1008

Summer Sublet

2 minutes from WLU. Room for rent for May to September. Corner of King and James. House is spacious and furnished. Rent negotiable. Call Shannon @ 886-3469

2 Roommates Needed

Male or female. 199 Albert, right across from Peters building. Dishwasher, 2 bathrooms, laundry facilities, parking, air conditioning. Call Lisa, Ang or Lindsay @ 885-8174

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FOR SALE

2 Leaf Tickets

March 21 vs Washington. 100 Level Row 13 Face Value \$250 for the pair or best offer. Call Beth @ 885-9863

It's all about not saying 'it's all about'

MISCELLANEOUS

ULTIMATE QUESTION

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Discombobulated About Graduation?

We can help. We have information regarding Spring convocation, graduation formal, graduation clothing and all other inquiries. Also, we NEED volunteers. Come see us in the concourse Friday, March 22nd, 2002 and in the Hall of Fame March 15, 20, 21, 27 and 28. We have answers and we also have questions. Give us your input. Or email us at wlu_grad_2002@hotmail.com

Laurier Fringe Festival

Sat. March 23 1:30pm, 7:30pm
Mon. March 25 7:30pm
Tickets \$6 for 5 Diverse Plays
Maureen Forester Recital Hall
John Aird Building
Available @ C-Spot or at the door or RESERVE 884-0710 x 2527 or wlu_fringe_festival@hotmail.com www.wlufringe.com

TRIVIA

What do Olympic gold medalists, Texas millionaires and German pop superstars have in common? All Laurier Grads! Come play mini golf with successful alumni March 19, in the Concourse from 11 - 2pm.

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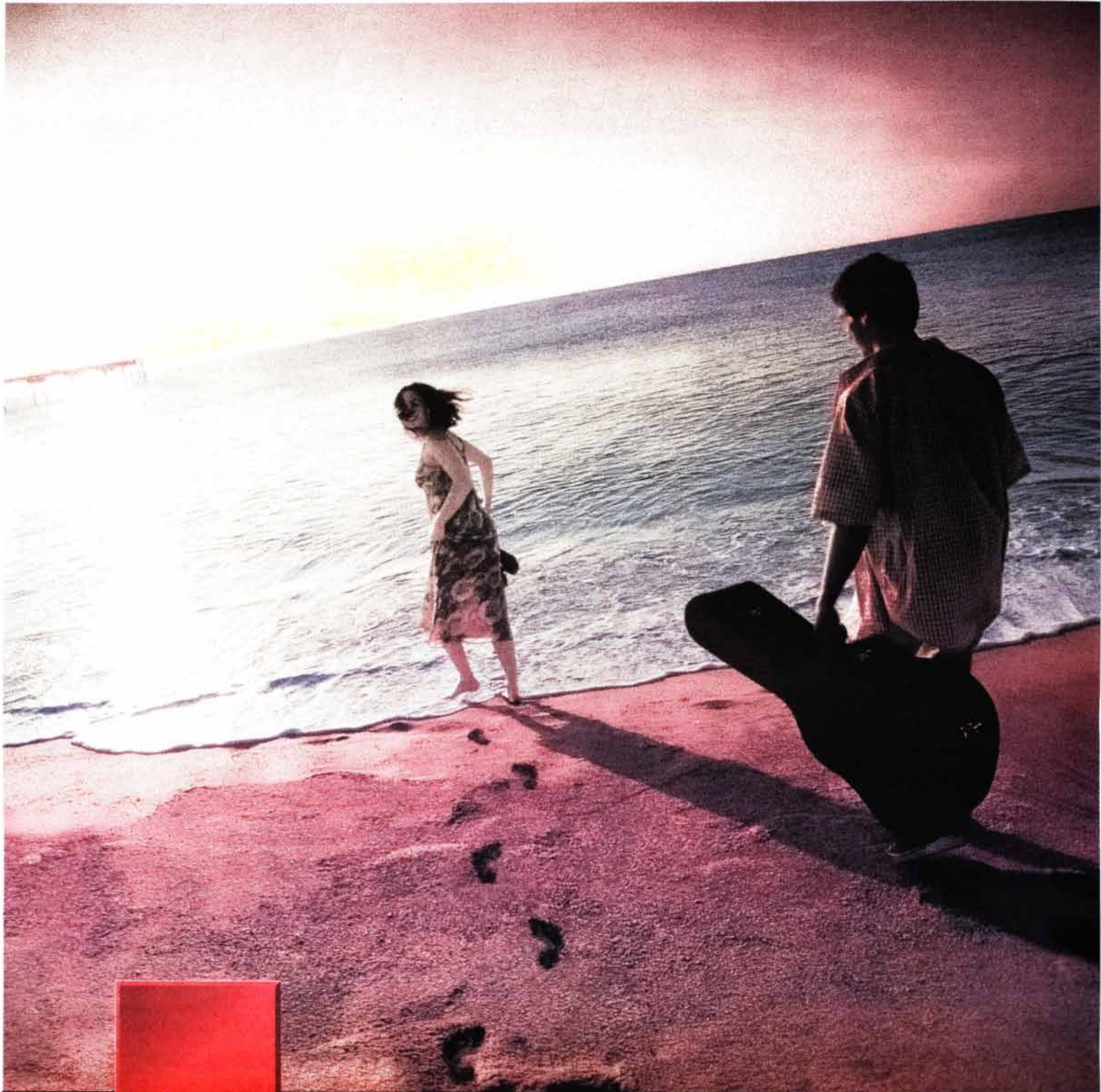
Looking for a fulfilling volunteer experience where you can help others and develop your own skill? Counselling Services is recruiting 3rd and 4th year students to be **Peer Learning Assistants**. Don't miss this excellent chance to be a part of a team dedicated to aiding others in achieving their academic goals.

As a PLA, you would assist the Learning Consultant with planning, promoting and facilitating Laurier's **Study Skills Program**. The Program offers workshops, resource materials and one-on-one consultations.

Qualifications Include: Student entering 3rd or 4th year with respectable academic standing. Must be empathetic, responsible and self-confident. Good communication, interpersonal and organizational skills. Ability to assess situations and tailor suggestions to individual needs.

Peer Learning Assistants volunteer for approximately **3-5 hours a week for 12 weeks each semester**. This provides a unique opportunity to be a meaningful part of an important program without compromising a busy academic schedule. Full training sessions will be provided. If interested in this valuable opportunity, pick up and return an application form to:

The Study Skills program, Counselling Services, Upper Floor, Student Services Centre, 884-1970 ext 2144



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