

THE CORD WEEKLY

The tie that binds since 1926

STAYING COOL AT SCHOOL

Our experts explain how to exercise, drink and live as a student in the midst of a balmy Waterloo summer ... **STUDENT LIFE, PAGE 6**

LAURIER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE

Bookstore opens especially for book release ... **NEWS, PAGE 2**
Dr. Don Morgenson on Harry Potter and fantasy ... **OPINION, PAGE 5**
Full review of *The Half-Blood Prince* ... **A&E, BACK COVER**

Volume 46 Issue 3

WEDNESDAY JULY 27, 2005

www.cordweekly.com

WLU's hip-hop celebration

Effervescent student emcee Shadrach Kabango highlights Laurier's hip-hop coming-out party at Huether Hotel Lounge



Brandon Currie

PARTNERS IN RHYME - Fellow Laurier students Shadrach 'Shad' Kabango (left) and Andrew 'Thoughtbug' Corbin laugh it up during a memorably goofy cover of Amerie's "1 Thing" last Tuesday at Huether Hotel Lounge. The show, entitled 'Hip Hop Hilarious', was put on by The Funkification Project and provided a platform for Shad to perform songs from his debut album *When This is Over*.



Brandon Currie
Editor-in-Chief

When Shadrach Kabango's parents sent him off to study business at Laurier four years ago, this wasn't exactly what they had in mind.

Yet as they watched their son, now more commonly known as

Shad, perform to a sold-out Huether Hotel Lounge last Tuesday evening, it was evident that his four years studying in Waterloo have been anything but a waste.

"They would definitely prefer that I did something else," Shad explains with an infectious grin.

"My mom's always like, 'I heard this company is hiring' but I just laugh and then she laughs. She knows that's not what's in my

heart right now."

Hip-hop, it would seem, currently occupies that place.

Shad, 23, born in Kenya to Rwandan parents, began his fledgling career as an emcee "freestyling at house parties" in his native London, Ontario. But it wasn't until he came to Laurier that his creative impulses reached a critical mass.

"I started taking [hip-hop] more seriously once I came to universi-

ty. It came out of restlessness, like 'I wanna be writing' or 'I wanna be doing music.' That's how it started, then it just grew."

And grown it has. Last August, Kabango triumphed in the solo male category of 91.5 The Beat's 'Rhythmn of the Future' contest.

Jokingly described by Shad as the "Kitchener Urban Idol," its top prize netted him \$17,500 to record a CD.

- Please see **SHAD**, back cover

Summer '05: an obituary



Tanya Doroslovac
Bigmouth Strikes Again

It's a sunny afternoon in the hottest goddamn summer anyone cares to remember.

Air conditioners are running full blast, a terrific use of energy that is sure to contribute to global warming somehow, or at the very least result in the Great Mongolian Pipeline Wars of 2021.

A cold beverage of choice soothes your throat while you rearrange your ass on the slightly sticky and more than slightly uncomfortable lawn chair you're too lazy to replace.

"What are we going to get accomplished today?" your right-brain asks.

Luckily, your right-brain is being sarcastic. He's been hanging around Lefty too long, listening to responses like "Accomplish? Today? Probably some math. Probably some of those backwards derivatives."

Lefty then goes into an elaborate show tune about the villain Calculon and his evil posse of jazz-loving Prime Numbers. Eventually it degenerates into trumpets and girls with batons. And thus the days go by.

Yes, the End of the Summer is upon us, and let me tell you, it doesn't wait until September 20.

Soon, fall will creep up like the shady Jehovah's Witness he is. Fall is a stray cloud between you and the sun, a breeze that leaves you damp with sweat, chilling rather than cooling.

And you think: *Fuck! It can't be over yet! I was supposed to join Lavalife and get three free meals per week from potential suitors! And aren't I enrolled in a Distance Education course? What the hell happened to that?*

- Please see **SUMMER**, page 6

The passing of a 'true gentleman'

Unexpected death of acclaimed biology Professor Richard Playle stuns Laurier community

DAN POLISCHUK
News Editor

"Intellectual, widely knowledgeable, a leader in his field, but also very humble."

These words, used by a close friend, could no doubt be echoed by anyone who ever came to know biology professor Dr. Richard Playle, who on July 8, after a brief illness, passed away from heart failure at the age of 49.

Having begun his career at WLU in 1992 as an assistant professor, Playle steadily became an internationally renowned researcher in

the physiological and toxicological effects of metals on fish. He would also go on to be a full time professor in comparative animal physiology, invertebrate zoology and environmental toxicology.

Dr. Lucy Lee, fellow professor of biology and close friend, fondly described Playle as a proud parent who had a love of the outdoors.

"He was a successful scientist but he was also a loving husband and a caring father," said Lee.

Playle, who raised two children, Colin and Evelyn, with his wife Anne, won the Alumni Association's Hoffman-Little

Award this past May for excellence in teaching, research and professional work. Speaking with *The Cord* at the time, Playle acknowledged that while balancing such a demanding life was at times tricky, he definitely loved what he was doing.

"He was very approachable and a great listener. His door was always open to the students, technicians, colleagues, and industrial partners. He was professional yet easygoing. Rick was the best colleague and friend. My scientific brother," added Lee.

With all the time and effort that

he put into his works, Playle would in turn become the face of WLU biology.

"As a scientist, Rick made a name for Wilfrid Laurier University," said Lee.

"When I started attending the Canadian Society of Zoologists meetings or the annual Aquatic Toxicology Workshops, if I mentioned I was from Laurier people would say, 'Oh, you must be from the Playle lab,'" she paused, "I can't get over his death and I will always remember him."

dpolischuk@cordweekly.com



THE CORD WEEKLY

~ The tie that binds since 1926 ~

phone: (519) 884-1970 ext. 3564

fax: (519) 883-0873

email: cord@wluwp.com

The Cord Weekly
75 University Avenue West
Waterloo, Ontario
N2L 3C5

WEDNESDAY JULY 27, 2005

VOLUME 46 ISSUE 3

Next Issue: September 5

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"He's a ridiculous romanticizer who discusses his sex life and coonatin cock with total strangers. In one story it's in his pants and in another it's in his, so he's clearly honest to a fault."
Sports Editor Mike Brown writing about his inappropriate sex co-workers on MSN

CONTRIBUTORS

Udon Munglorn
Linda Smith
Shirley J. Mault

Erica O'Rourke
Stephen Hestrich
Kendy O'Neill

Richard Trueman
Walter McLean

WLUSP STAFF

Pagination Editor: Dave Alexander
Production Assistant: Anurag Simadran
Copy Editors: Ada Sharpe
Emily Bieley
Photo Managers: Isolan Jones
Sydney Helland
Online Production Manager: Jason Shim
Human Resources: Sanjay Ojo
IT Manager: Regan Walsh

WLUSP ADMINISTRATION

President: Anthony Picculli
VP: Finance: Fraser McCracken
VP: Advertising: Angela Foster
VP: Branding: James Scott
Chair of the Board: Penny Shantz
Vice Chair: Sanjay Pomeroy
Board of Directors: Evelyn Chu
George East
Arthur Wong

ADVERTISING

All advertising inquiries should be directed to:
VP: Advertising Angela Foster at 884-0710, ext.
3560 or angela@wluwp.com

COLOPHON

The Cord Weekly is the official student
newspaper of Wilfrid Laurier University.

Started in 1926 as the *College Cord*, *The Cord Weekly* is an editorially independent newspaper published by Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications, Waterloo, a corporation without share capital. WLUSP is governed by its board of directors.



Opinions expressed within *The Cord* are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editorial Board. The Cord, WLUSP, WLU, or MasterWeb Printing.

All content appearing in *The Cord* bears the copyright expressly of their creator(s) and may not be used without written consent.

The Cord is created using Macintosh computers running OS X.2 using Adobe Creative Suite 2 (InDesign, Photoshop, Acrobat, Distiller and Illustrator) and Quark Xpress 6.1.7 (ikon D30 and Canon Rebel 6.0 megapixel digital cameras are used for principal photography. Adobe Acrobat and Distiller are used to create PDF files which are burned directly on plates to be printed on the printing press.

The Cord is printed by Master Web Printing and is published every Wednesday during the school year except for special editions which are published as required.

The Cord's circulation for a normal Wednesday issue is 7,000 copies and enjoys a readership of over 10,000.

Cord subscription rates are \$20.00 per term for addresses within Canada.

The Cord Weekly is a proud member of the Canadian University Press (CUP) since 2004.

The Campus Network is *The Cord*'s national advertising agency.

Preamble to The Cord Constitution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WLU community salutes vets



Sydney Helland



Brandon Currie

City answer residents' request to improve off-campus greenspace, builds 'Veterans' Green' across from Laurier

DAN POLISCHUK
News Editor

In an effort to restore the identity of an area overrun by university student housing in recent years, the City of Waterloo, supported by multiple funding partners, has begun to transform the grassy knoll formerly known as Scholar's Green into a commemorative park for World War Two veterans.

The \$160,000 reconstruction project, which will be taking place at the corner of University Avenue and Hazel Street, will be completed and officially unveiled to the public as 'Veteran's Green' in October.

Kaye Crawford, Project Manager for the City of Waterloo was pleased to finally see the effort get

underway.

"I just think this is the greatest thing; just fabulous. I think it's pretty spectacular to finally see the shovels in the ground," said Crawford.

Talk of changes began late in 2002 when residents of the neighbourhood within University Avenue, Hazel Street, State Street and Beech Street voiced their concern with the city over the increased noise and vandalism in the park caused by intoxicated university students.

While searching for a solution, it was found that the neighbourhood held historical significance in the fact that its housing had originally been offered at low cost to returning World War Two veterans. This initiative, implemented

across Waterloo in the late 1940's, initiated a boom in home production throughout the city.

By increasing awareness of this fact, the neighbourhood group believed that the area could be treated with a little more respect.

After holding various meetings with nearby groups and members of the Laurier community, a committee was formed to proceed with a tribute. With funding that included \$1,000 from WLU and another \$2,500 from WLUSU, the park will contain new information kiosks, interpretive signs and the addition of about 20 new trees.

Donating their time and effort to install these new features will be the 31st Combat Engineer Regiment and Corporate 48th Field Squadron Division.

With 2005 dedicated to Canadian War Veterans by the federal government as well as marking the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII, the reconstruction couldn't come at a better time according to Crawford.

"This is really a great opportunity for the Waterloo community to honour its own veterans," she said.

Mark Whaley, Ward 4 city Councillor, echoed her sentiments.

"This is big for the neighbourhood, plus the focus is able to fall back on the historical aspect of the area," he said.

dpolischuk@cordweekly.com

Editorial reaction to this story in OPINION, PAGE 4

Shaving cream, fish 'remains' highlight this month's Bag O' Crime

POSSESSION DRUGS 1930 HRS
FRI JULY 01/05

A non WLU male was found in possession of a small amount of marijuana by the entrance to the Athletic Complex. The drugs were seized and turned over to Regional Police.

MISCHIEF SAT JULY 02/05 -
SUN JULY 03/05

Person(s) unknown broke a window on the main floor of the Seminary.

TRESPASS 1650 HRS MON
JULY 04/05

A non WLU female was evicted from the Athletic Complex after reports were received that she was harassing the staff. She had been warned previously and was subsequently issued with a written trespass notice.

MISCHIEF SAT JULY 09/05 -
SUN JULY 10/05

Person(s) unknown broke a window by the Seminary entrance of Bricker Ave.

THEFT UNDER \$5000 SUN
JULY 10/05 - MON JULY 11/05

Person(s) unknown accessed a vending machine by the Concourse and removed the coin

box.

MEDICAL ASSIST 2123 HRS
WED JULY 13/05

Officers and ambulance responded to the Peters Building after receiving a report that a male was having difficulty breathing. Oxygen was administered by the officers and the patient was transported to hospital by ambulance.

FISHY CRIME OF THE MONTH

MISCHIEF 2025 HRS
SAT JULY 16/05

Person(s) unknown sprayed shaving cream on a door to a room at the King St Residence and slid fish remains under several doors.

MISCHIEF SAT JULY 16/05 -
SUN JULY 17/05

Person(s) unknown broke a window at the door to the Peters Building near room P1013.

FALSE FIRE ALARM 2336 HRS
WED JULY 20/05

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

LOST & FOUND

During this time period the following items were turned in to Lost & Found. If you have lost any of these items please contact the Community Safety & Security Office at ext 3333: One watch, 2 wallets, a ring, keys, a visa card, knapsack, computer speakers and a change purse.

The Bag O' Crime is provided to
The Cord Weekly by Laurier
Community Safety & Security.

DAN POLISCHUK
News Editor

On a day when the gates are locked and the store is usually dark, WLU's Bookstore pulled off some magic of its own, opening especially last Saturday morning to coincide with the Harry Potter novel being made available to the public.

As the second-last installment of the Potter saga, *Harry Potter and The Half-Blood Prince* was expected to be a hot buy.

Kristina Manzi, the Bookstore's Marketing and Promotions director, commented that while 90 percent of the books sold were pre-ordered, the novel is still finding buyers on a daily basis.

With special shopping hours beginning at 10:00 am on the release date, the only thing that seemed to be missing were all the dressed-up imitators of J.K. Rowling's characters waiting to get their hands on a copy.

"We had kids come in with their parents, but we definitely didn't have anything major like that," said Manzi with a chuckle.

Teach English Overseas



ESL Teacher Training Courses

- Intensive 60-Hour Program
- Classroom Management Techniques
- Detailed Lesson Planning
- Comprehensive Teaching Materials
- Internationally Recognized Certificate
- Job Guarantee Included
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

Oxford Seminars

1-800-269-6719 / 416-924-3240

www.oxfordseminars.com

AC renovations proceeding smoothly

The newly revamped Athletic Complex should be ready for the return of students in September

MIKE BROWN
Sports Editor

To those that haven't been at Laurier very long, the Athletic Complex is probably nothing more than an eyesore and an inconvenience.

Just one year after the arrival of the much-coveted double cohort class – an administration's fiscal dream – Laurier decided it was time to give the AC a facelift. Unfortunately, that meant the 2004-05 academic year would be one of decreased fitness and increased frustration as students dealt with the temporary inconvenience of renovating the school's weight and cardio facilities.

The news is good, though, as we prepare to begin the 2005-06 year and the renovations look poised to meet their deadline, according to Director of Athletics & Recreation, Peter Baxter. If the school's past construction record is any indication, this certainly came as no guarantee. The recent construction of the Bricker Academic Building missed its September 2003 target by well over a month, and the King Street Residence was far from complete when Frosh began moving in two years ago.

Things seem to be coming along more smoothly this time around and the renovations should be more or less complete by mid-August, explained Baxter. The renovations to the pool are about the

only thing that should not be operational by Frosh week. Due to the reliance on revenues brought in by its use for summer camps, work on the pool is not slated to begin until August 20 and it is expected to be a three week endeavour.

All in all, Baxter is quite excited about the progress. "We'll have one of the most welcoming weight and cardio facilities in the country, I think," he noted in a recent phone interview. "It'll be quite a showpiece."

The renovations essentially triple the size of the current fitness center and weight room. The upper floor of the Athletic Complex has been built outwards to become even with the pool, allowing some of the older facilities on the basement level to be converted to offices and kinesiology labs for one of the school's fastest growing departments.

In addition, some new equipment has been purchased to increase the facility's capacity. The AC has been unable to fully meet its users' needs on a campus that has doubled in size since 1998 and these renovations were deemed a necessary response to the growing fitness demands of the school.

Golden Hawk Athletics' Coordinator of Programs Anita Gardner echoed Baxter's optimism about the facility's increased capacity. "We're hoping to see the participation rate increase," said Gardner, who admitted that the



Jordan Jocius

WORKING OUT - Contracted carpenters Chuck Egan and Len Kochen prepare to install a new Hawk desk in the Athletic Centre addition on Monday, July 25, 2005.

renovations hurt student involvement in athletics last year.

The AC is also taking steps to get new users out. For the first time, Laurier Athletics will be offering two free orientation sessions, the purpose of which is twofold: to ensure the safety of all users and to dissuade any anxieties that would otherwise discourage new users.

mbrown@cordweekly.com

Babcock as GM - Gross Mistake

Potential draft day debacle adds to growing list of questionable calls by Raps GM



WILBUR MCLEAN
Sports Scrutineer

Raptors GM Rob Babcock is once again feeling the heat following the recent NBA draft. His response to criticism received at a press conference the following day was quite telling of his fragile mental state.

This time Babcock is under fire for his use of the seventh pick on Charlie Villanueva, a player most deemed unworthy of such a high selection. After facing a firing squad of reporters questioning his acumen, Babcock reached deep down and responded to the questioners by boasting of his staff's

experience.

"From Wayne Embry, a Hall of Famer who played the centre position, to Jack McCloskey, who won two world championships as a general manager, to all the rest of the guys on our staff, this was a collective decision. And we feel we made the right choice for our basketball team."

Essentially, what Babcock's response amounted to was the bold statement reminiscent of insecure children everywhere: "My dad can beat up your dad."

Alas, the maiden voyage that is Rob Babcock's general managing career has been filled with pirates and scurvy. Every step of the way, Babcock has been made to feel inferior by the mob of media and Toronto Raptor fans.

His candidacy for the GM posi-

tion hiring was trumped by the fact that Dr. J, Julius Erving, stated interest in the position. Why should the Raps select a man more resembling an accountant than a basketball player when one of the NBA's greatest players of all time wants the job? Needless to say, it wasn't just the 6'7" frame of Erving that made Babcock feel small in that situation.

From there, it only got worse.

Toronto Raptors followers everywhere released a collective "Who?!" upon hearing the name of Rafael Araujo in the 2004 draft, a player who subsequently performed miserably in his rookie season leading to a collective "Screw you!" directed at Babcock.

To further compound matters, it's becoming clear that Babcock would have been better off trading Vince Carter for a basketball and a pair of shoelaces, considering the dead salary he instead obtained in the persons of Alonzo Mourning, Eric Williams and Aaron Williams.

So it wasn't without merit that at the press conference to unveil Villanueva and his other draft day selections, rather than boast of his own accomplishments and defend his pick, Babcock instead cowered in the corner under the threat of the schoolyard bullies before picking himself up, sticking out his chest and brashly declaring: "My dad makes more money than your dad."

Poor little fella. Hopefully one day he'll believe in himself.



Contributed photo

WHAT HAVE I DONE? - Babcock (left) displays his characteristic frown of uncertainty as he and Villanueva address the media.

UNIVERSITY PHARMACY

10%
student
discount on
non-
prescription
&
non - sale
items

258 King St. N. at
University Ave.
885-2530
siembabin@bellnet.ca
Laurier's Drug Plan Accepted

HOURS
Mon - Fri
9:00-6:00

Saturday
10:00-2:00



WATERLOO CO-OPERATIVE RESIDENCE INC.

A whole new way to live together

Open House

268 Phillip St., Waterloo

July 15, 2005

2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Information

Tours

Prize Draws

Free Pizza and Pop

**The only residence
that really makes sense**

☆ Lower residence fees

☆ Walking distances to both campuses

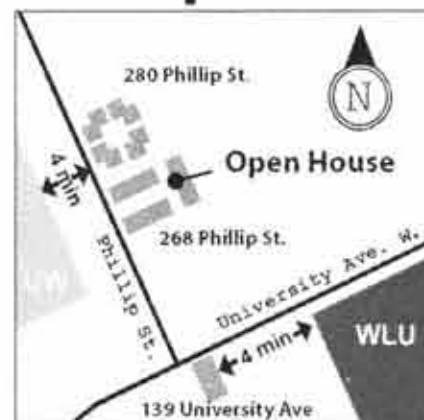
☆ AND, most important a say in
how residence works - every day.

Find out more about living in residence co-operatively TODAY!

Call:
519.884.3670
1.800.789.9274

Visit:
www.wcri.coop

Email:
info@wcri.coop





Emilie Joslin

THE CORD WEEKLY

— The tie that binds since 1926 —

Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief
Brandon Currie
bcurrie@cordweekly.com
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3563

News Editors
Adrian Ma
ama@cordweekly.com
Dan Polischuk
dpolishuk@cordweekly.com

Opinion Editor
Carly Beath
cbeath@cordweekly.com

Graphics Editor
Emilie Joslin
ejoslin@cordweekly.com

International Editor
Tony Ferguson
tferguson@cordweekly.com

Arts & Entertainment Editor
Alex Hayter
ahayter@cordweekly.com

Sports Editor
Mike Brown
mbrown@cordweekly.com

Features Editor
Blair Forsythe Stark
bfstark@cordweekly.com

Student Life Editor
Michelle Pinches
mpinches@cordweekly.com

Special Projects Editor
April Cunningham
acunningham@cordweekly.com

Cord Historian
Kris Goto
kgoto@cordweekly.com

Print Production Manager
Bryn Boyce
bboyce@cordweekly.com

Photography Manager
Jordan Josits
jjosits@cordweekly.com
884-0710 ext. 2852

Keeping confident in overweight times

University students must juggle media messages from indulgence to the ideal body

APRIL CUNNINGHAM
Special Projects Editor

A new Statistics Canada survey says that Canadians, and particularly youth, are more overweight and obese than ever before.

Most concerning to people of university age is that obesity rates doubled to 21 percent since 1978 for adults between the ages of 25 and 34. Nearly one-third of Canadian adults are overweight. There are many factors which have led to this, including sedentary office work environments, fast food, stress and increased use of video games, TV and the Internet.

But with all the Atkins diets, snazzy fitness centres and a general move towards healthier fast foods like salads and yogurt parfaits, the increase seems sort of backward. It seems as though we should be getting smaller and more physically fit.

According to Stats Canada's measures (the Body Mass Index), I am overweight for my height since I weigh over 140 pounds. Since coming to university I've gradually gained about 10 pounds. I haven't stressed about it but it has definitely been on my mind.

Like many university students, I go in spurts of working out and eating healthier but then I lapse into the Tim Horton's baked goods and the occasional brewski and plate of fries. There are also times when all I feel like doing is lounging and sleeping no matter how good my intentions might be to get my ass to the gym. Stress mounts when I can barely balance my work, school, extra-curricular and personal life, let alone my recreational and health activities.

Keeping fit is nothing short of challenging these days.

Girls in their twenties are physiologically preparing to bear children, yet we are told we're overweight and are guilted into spending our free moments fretting like Bridget Jones over body image and striving for Katie Holmes-thin thighs.

In-your-face ads, like the Weather Network's Weather Eye on computer desktops makes me long for a McDonald's McFlurry because "I deserve a break." A Tim Horton's on every street corner beckons to every exhausted student with a triple-triple, loaded with sugar, cream and caffeine goodness. Television commercials are filled with chocolate bars and fast food; the Big Harve and Oh Hungry? Oh Henry! Girls in bikinis eat ice cream drumsticks.

Girls in their twenties are physiologically preparing to bear children, yet we're guilted into fretting like Bridget Jones over body image.

Yet the other 50 percent of commercials and mainstream shows guilt women into upchucking all the junk they've consumed and turning to diet pills, diet crazes, diet centres and countless self-improvement, beautifying treatments.

No wonder we're confused.

Two years ago, when writing a news story on local gyms, I inquired for a price list at the Exclusively Women's Fitness Centre and was appalled at how the General Manager used hard-sell tactics to try to get me to sign a contract then and there.

"What are you waiting for?" she had asked. "Would you really feel comfortable in a bathing suit if you were to go to the beach

today?"

She actually made me, a fairly confident, upright young woman, second-guess myself. Why should I have to pay for my confidence and a lifestyle change? Is it just me? Doesn't that kind of thing come from within, not a top of the line treadmill, personal trainer and \$300 Zone Diet?

For the average university student, the confusion and insecurity that surrounds body image is immense. When I hear Stats Canada say I'm fat, I get a little concerned and feel guilty that I can no longer fit into my size-seven shorts from eleventh grade. But then I shake my head and realize, I'm 22. I'm getting older. It's only natural to increase in size.

We have to be aware of the advertising of the multi-million dollar fitness and beauty industries that surround us and hound us for our money and our guilt. We also have to be aware of the calories that add up so quickly in creamy coffees and mid-night pizza outings. As technology and society evolves we need the use of our bodies and our muscles less and less, but they still need regular activity.

We just need to make an effort to get a little exercise (30 minutes, 3 times a week), follow Canada's Food Guide and for goodness sakes, avoid McDonald's at all costs.

Stats Canada's report should not be taken lightly, but when all things are considered, we have to remember that sometimes it's ok to get a little bigger.

Remember what your mother told you: "It's what's inside that counts."

acunningham@cordweekly.com

Veterans' Green will test students' ability not to be idiots

At a time when the trend around Laurier is to fill every last inch of space with glitzy campus buildings and boxy student houses, the Veterans' Green project is a refreshing change of pace.

As well as helping to combat a lack of green space in the vicinity of campus, Veterans' Green offers the potential to alleviate some of the problems currently plaguing the area, such as students using it as a locale for weed-smoking and an after-bar urinal.

We can only hope that this tactic works. Laurier's campus is consistently rife with idiotic vandalism: the Parking Lot 20 gate arm was broken every week until it was removed. Seminary windows are smashed, last year's infamous 'serial shitspreeder' - the list goes on and on. It would be a sad reflection of students' collective IQ if this type of behaviour spills over to Veterans' Green.

While vandalism is never something to be condoned, there is a vast difference between tossing fish guts under residence doors as a joke (see Bag O' Crime, page 2) and defacing a park designed to commemorate and celebrate the sacrifices made by war veterans.

The hardships endured by young soldiers during wartime are far more than most of us can even imagine. If we can't identify with what their lives were like, the very least we can do is show our utmost appreciation and respect. If they could sacrifice their lives to make the world safe for democracy, the least we can do is sacrifice our childish, drunken urges.

When the Veterans' Green is officially unveiled in October, the hope is that it will be a reminder of "the historical aspect of the area," according to city Councillor Mark Whaley. Laurier's students should take the opportunity to look to the past rather than the future for once, and treat this space with the respect that it deserves.

This unsigned editorial was agreed upon by at least two-thirds of the The Cord's Editorial Board and does not necessarily reflect the view of The Cord's volunteers, staff or WLUSP.

Dream of being an opinion writer, but can't commit to a full year of writing? Write us a letter! It's a like a journalistic one night stand! letters@wlusp.com

The Century Plan is worth a try

Graduate Students' Association President **Stephen Hendricks** says The Century Plan could finally unite our fragmented student population



STEPHEN HENDRICKS
GSA President

So what's this Century Plan business and what does it have to do with me?

This is a question only briefly reflected upon by most students at WLU. For the most part the Century Plan lays out, in detail, the next few years of growth and development initiatives for the university. Student life and culture are key priorities.

Generally, the Plan calls for an expansion of graduate faculties, among many other things, and sets the stage for an increase in research opportunities and the construction of new buildings.

The plan offers great promise to

all students, not just grad students, as it is hoped that this will increase the credibility of the university as a place of higher learning. Increased grad faculties will provide opportunities for learning through teaching and research assistantships. Undergrads will benefit from the greater quality of education delivered in the classroom.

But the plan does bring up some concerns. WLU is relatively new to the presence of graduate students on campus. Short of the Faculty of Social Work, the introduction of graduate students to life at WLU has been shaky at best. The administration, in my opinion, has struggled with incorporating graduate students into their decision making and planning processes. It is easy to lose track of 1000 students all focussed on their education when contending

simultaneously with a very large undergraduate population. For the most part, graduate students receive a passing thought in the university's decision-making process. Grad students, therefore,

ferently, to create conditions for the participation of all students, not just undergraduates. The Century Plan has signaled a shift at WLU. The administration, at the request of the Graduate Students'

Association, has begun to work more cooperatively with our body, realizing the implications of trying to expand graduate programs and improve the experience of grad students. The fact is

that WLU can barely handle the numbers of grads they have now, let alone the expansion they wish to make. A great deal of work must be done, and has begun, to make graduate students a greater part of the culture of WLU. It is vital for

We can create a new and improved culture of learning and student life.

This extends to the administration, student government and yes, even The Cord.

are left with very little dedicated space for research, few funding opportunities and, generally, a weak voice on campus.

But there is no point whining about it. The Century Plan offers the opportunity to do things dif-

the success of the Century Plan.

As President of the Graduate Students' Association, my hope is to add a graduate student voice to debates, discussions and issues facing students and to work with the undergraduate student government, clubs and student body to build a new community which includes undergrads, grads and PhDs. We can develop new ways to work together, share our knowledge and enhance our education here at Laurier. We can rise above the historical disregard of a part of the student population and create a new and improved culture of learning and student life. This extends to faculties, administration, student government and yes, even *The Cord*.

It's worth a try.

Potter's popularity rooted in social depravity

We look to fantasy literature for myths that offer us assurance in an unsettled world, says **Professor Emeritus Don Morgenson**



DON MORGENSEN
Professor Emeritus

It should come as no surprise that in our age of relative faithlessness, obsessive materialism, cultural disintegration and erosion of values, we see the increasing popularity of myth and fantasy in books and films.

We continue to thrill to the cinematic version of Tolkien's great work *The Two Towers*. Last week, the world anxiously waited for *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

Beyond J.K. Rowling's commercial success - 270 million Harry Potter books in print around the world - it is clear myths, similar to those created by Harry Potter, connect us to the fiery cosmos and can show us our place in the universal scheme of things.

Half a century ago, J.R.R. Tolkien said that while his books were not intended for children, if he had not written them in the style of children's books, people would have thought he was ready for "Bedlam."

Tolkien satisfied a deep hunger few even knew existed: at the same time he created an appetite for more, a hunger for mystery and magic.

Our world and its ever-accelerating, technology-oriented, tangible computer-chip culture has created a need for its opposite: an enchantment with the inscrutable, the enigmatic, the mysterious - elements missing from modern life and sought in a certain kind of literature.

Popular as well as profitable, the Harry Potter books, together with the undeniable and enduring popularity of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, might cause us to wonder how what used to be 'fantasy' became mainstream.

Authors such as Tolkien, Rowling, C.S. Lewis, Madeleine

L'Engle (*A Wrinkle in Time*) were once categorized as writers of "children's" or "young adult" literature have easily crossed the line into adult literature.

And the platitude: "We are all children at heart" misses the mark.

The desire for fantasy is as typical of adults as it is of children. The audience for such writers is not characterized by age, but by taste and by need. And those are shared by more and more disparate readers than might have been supposed.

When the "sophisticated" Noel Coward died (1973), on his bedside table was E. Nesbit's classic 'children's' tale, *The Enchanted Castle*. Likewise, the extraordinary but unpromoted success of *The Lord of the Rings* was not just a one-time '60s phenomenon, but a trend which continues today. At our century's end, numerous polls found Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* to be the 'greatest book of the century'.

When such a ranking was reported, hostilities from the elitist literati indicated they weren't paying attention to what people read or why, and maybe they didn't care.

Fantasy literature and the appetite for it are significant signs of the times, indications of a deeply felt need for the assurance that the world is more than chaos; that it has order and a transcendent meaning (albeit, perhaps not a wholly cheery one).

Fantasy's darker side may also attract readers. Such is embodied by J.K. Rowling's evil wizard Voldemort, who after years of impotency and lying low, is poised again to take over the world.

Tolkien's Dark Lord Sauron's design for enslaving Middle-earth is frustrated by an unassuming, metre-high Hobbit from the Shire who once again vanquishes Sauron, but not completely. It is Tolkien's point that Sauron has been defeated once before but he

will inevitably return. Evil never completely disappears and has a tendency to emerge just when it appears good might prevail.

Embarrassingly rich, we rub shoulders with abysmal poverty while technology face-to-face dialogue obsolete. We have lost a sense of who we are and where we belong in a world that looks more and more unfamiliar.

For all its Hobbit happiness, Tolkien's book is more somber (and more real) than many readers at first perceive. Much that is beautiful is lost forever in the War

of the Ring. Frodo pays for his valiant efforts to destroy Sauron's Ring of Power, not with his life but with his soul. He ends up being

saved only by grace ("unearned blessing") and Gollum. Even then he remains wounded, maimed. Frodo must remain exiled from his beloved Shire and sail away from Middle-earth if any healing is to occur.

Such is not a happy or friendly ending (my son complains about the unfinished nature of the story).

But Frodo's Middle-earth, much like our own world, is not filled with unalloyed joy. It is, however, a world with meaning, even if that meaning may appear cruel and

involves great evil.

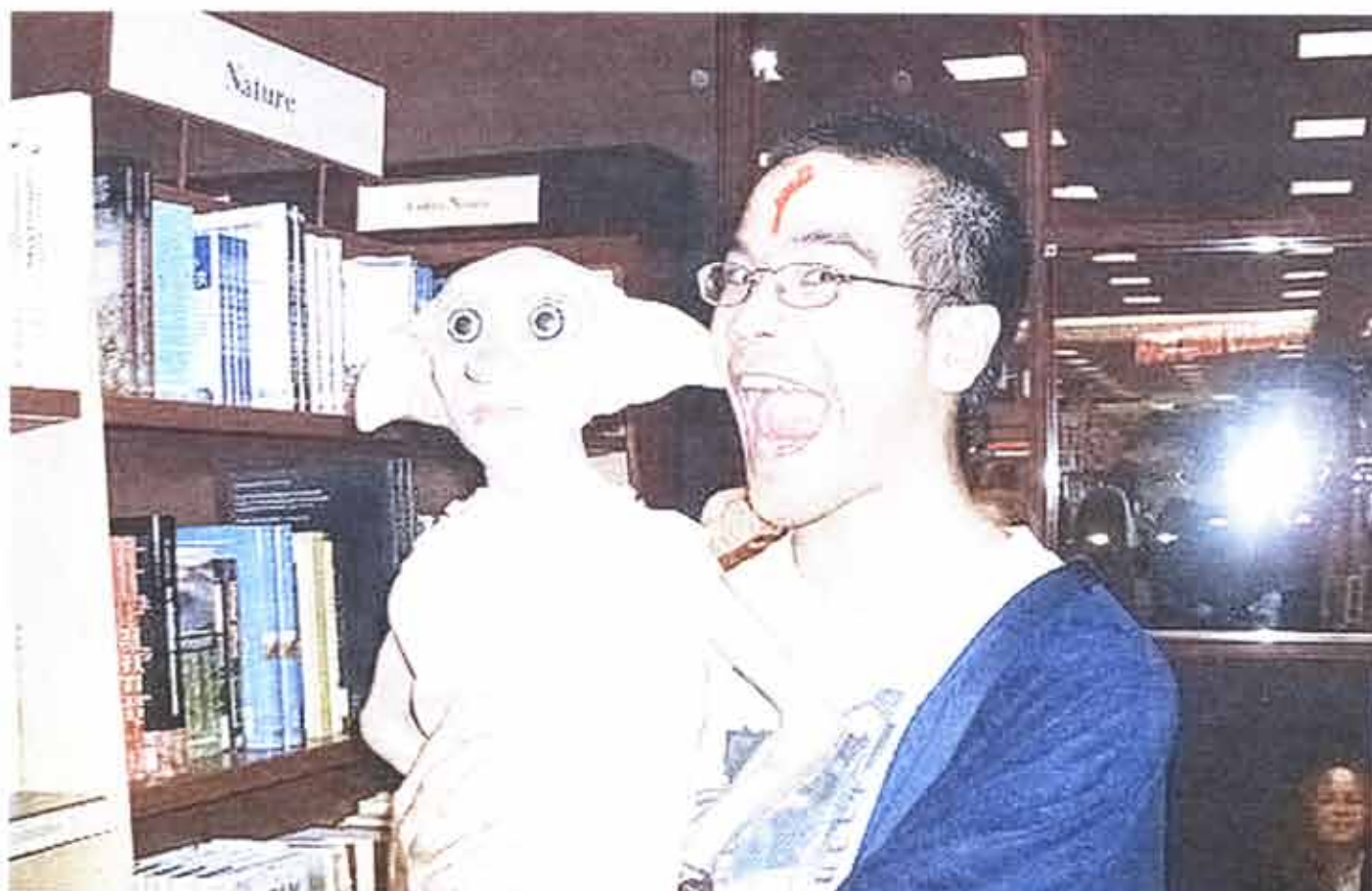
Yet it is a world in which ordinary individuals, as young as Harry Potter or as small as Frodo, can alter future human events as well as alter the current context of these events.

We need that consoling knowledge.

This is precisely what keeps us returning to Tolkien and *The Lord of the Rings*, to Harry, Ron and Hermione, to Ursula Le Guin's *Earthsea* trilogy and Alan Garner's *The Owl Service*.

Embarrassingly rich, we rub shoulders with abysmal poverty while technology face-to-face dialogue obsolete. We have lost a sense of who we are and where we belong in a world that looks more and more unfamiliar.

One of the many functions of myth is to give us that sense of belonging.



Contributed Photo

CRAZY FOR HARRY - WLU student Jason Shim can't hide his elation at the release of the latest Harry Potter novel. He dressed up with other students for the late-night book release party at Chapter's in Waterloo on July 16.



Jordan Jocius

CHILLING OUT - Andrea Steacy and Julie Hutter search for shade during a sweltering 32C Monday, July 25, 2005. Steacy is both a WLU student and an instructor for the Waterloo County Volleyball Club where members train all week for a final tournament on Friday at the AC.

- From **SUMMER**, cover

You imagine that the end of the summer is not unlike turning thirty. Start fattening up for the winter, boys and girls. Go to bed a little earlier. Leave one or two of your dreams behind for the next time around.

You have a fever dream and decide to become a teacher. There will be summer vacation every year and you convince yourself that the kids will be great. *Kids*, you think. *I'm almost thirty. Kids are something I should be thinking about.* Babies are crawling on the ceiling and it occurs to you that you are going insane.

Someone bitch slaps you awake and hands you another beer. The summer's just started, you're assured. You vow to get drunk and jump in a lake. You wonder if Columbia Lake has water in it anymore, or if it's finally become supersaturated with so much goose dung that it's actually a bog. And are there hobo bones down there? You vow to check. But it's too hot to move right now. *I'll probably go tomorrow*, you think.

Staying cool at school

Our student life experts tell you how to exercise, drink and live as frigidly as possible in the midst of Waterloo's record-breaking heatwave

SHIRLEY MANH
Food for Thought

In the sweltering heat of the hottest summer in 50 years, your body is bound to lose a lot of fluid, which can lead to dehydration, an awful side effect of a hot summer.

Water: Don't fear the tap

You've heard it before and you'll hear it again: Drink more water.

Water not only keeps us hydrated, but is also the most important nutrient in our bodies as well as the most readily available source of thirst-quenching fluid. You can choose from tap, bottled, mineralized, sparkling or flavoured water.

Bottled water doesn't seem expensive, but in weather like this, it can really add up. Tap water may taste strange if you're used to bottles, but don't believe the myths: you can drink tap water in Waterloo, and yes, it's good for you. Throw in a lime or lemon for taste and a vitamin bonus.

Remember that seltzer water and club soda technically aren't water - they're considered soft drinks and may contain added sugar or salt.

Energy Drinks

These are a combination of caffeine, herbs, vitamins and amino acids, but their effectiveness depends on an individual's metabolism. Generally, if you're a caffeine junkie, these will be right up your alley and they're better for you than a coffee or soda.

But definitely do not mix energy drinks with too much alcohol or a lot of physical activity - studies have shown that this can result in changes in heart rhythm. Finally, consider the calories: There are usually 100 to 300 calories in each 8 oz serving.

Sports Drinks

The most commonly known sports drink is Gatorade, a mix of water with carbohydrates, sodium and potassium (which are lost when you sweat). They also contain about half the calories and sugars than juice or soft drinks, and the carbs in these drinks help fuel active muscles and prevent fatigue.

However, if you're not doing anything physical, just stick to water. You don't need the electrolytes, and you haven't earned the calories.

Fitness Water

These are some of the newest beverages on the market. They boast added vitamins and minerals, less carbs than traditional sports drinks and a nice flavour.

A combination of corn syrup, crystalline fructose and sugar substitutes like Splenda help keep the carbs and calories low in these drinks. Some brands contain high amounts of vitamins and minerals, so if you take multi-vitamins, you can easily go over your daily nutrient needs. Note that the low carb content in fitness waters make them a poor choice during physical activity - stick to something like Gatorade if you require energy.

The Others

Drinks like juice and milk have a high percentage of water, but they do contain calories. Avoid caffeinated beverages such as sodas and coffee, as caffeine actually causes the body to lose water. The same goes for alcohol. Drinks with caffeine or alcohol stimulate the production of urine and promote what we don't want - dehydration.

For the energy drain that results from a caffeine withdrawal, con-

sider a good ginseng supplement.

In terms of soft drinks, they are full of artificial sweeteners and each drink has about seven teaspoons of sugar. If you don't burn all of it, it gets turned into fat. Juice and sodas aren't absorbed easily during exercise, so save them for before or after and stick to water or other sports drinks while working out.

If you really want something sweet but also want to stay healthy, try flavoured waters or herbal teas sweetened with stevia, an incredibly sweet herb that can be found at health food stores.

Remember that the best time to consume fluids is before you are thirsty because by the time you are thirsty, your body is already dehydrated.

Heat and your health

JENNIFER O'NEIL
Student Health Expert

Living in student housing it is often hard to escape the heat since

most houses do not have air conditioning.

Wearing improper clothing, over exposure to extreme heat or exercising outside can all lead to heat exhaustion or even heat stroke.

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include fatigue and weakness, nausea and vomiting, headache and myalgias, dizziness, irritability (no kidding) and muscle cramps.

The extreme of heat exhaustion, if left untreated, is heat stroke. Heat stroke includes all the symptoms of heat exhaustion, but can also include bizarre behaviour, hallucinations, altered mental status, confusion, disorientation and coma.

Although anhydrosis (the inability to sweat, although very hot) may be a classic feature of heatstroke, more than half of presenting patients sweat, especially in cases of exertional heatstroke.

The good news is that both heat exhaustion and heat stroke are preventable. Keep your room well

ventilated; if air conditioning is not an option, open your window and have a fan circulating the air. This will keep the hot air moving and let cool air into the room.

In the extreme heat of summer, it is best to exercise in an air-conditioned gym. If you must exercise outdoors, go out in the early morning or evening when the heat is not at its peak. The worst time to be outside is between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Wear loose, cotton clothing that allows your body to vent heat and stay cool. Drink plenty of liquids before, during and after. If you are exercising for longer than an hour, remember to refuel with carbohydrates too.

There are plenty of places to go to cool down this summer. The shopping mall is open to everyone, as well as community centres and swimming pools. You could even chill on campus as your tuition dollars pay for the succulent Concourse air conditioning.

Whatever you do with your time this summer, try to stay cool.

Did you know about your vision coverage???

Call us for details



Check out our Sunglasses Centre

**UNIVERSITY
VISION CENTRE**
725-8999

**Buy ONE Get
ONE FREE!**

EYEGLASSES OR CONTACTS

Buy one complete pair of eyeglasses or soft contact lenses at regular price, and get a second pair FREE.

**Same Day Eye Exam
Available**

**Free Eye Exam Call For
Details**

One Hour service on most
glasses and contact lenses.

150 University Ave. W.
Campus Court Plaza,
(corner of Philip and University)

Expires August 31st, 2005

K-W Muslim groups condemn terror

TONY FERGUSON
International Editor

After a three-week period which has seen three separate terrorist attacks, more than 80 deaths and the execution of one innocent man by police, Londoners, Egyptians and indeed the world are on edge.

Although Islamic fundamentalists have claimed responsibility for all the attacks, local Muslim organizations have unequivocally denounced the blasts.

Two such groups, the UW Muslim Students' Association and the Canadian Islamic Congress, have spoken out in the K-W area.

Dr. Mohamed Elmasry, a UW computer engineering professor and President of the Canadian

Islamic Congress, was among them.

Dr. Elmasry became the center of controversy last year when he commented on a current events television program that any Israeli over the age of 18 was a valid target for Palestinians to kill.

Muslims did more than just condemn the attacks, said Elmasry in an op-ed piece he provided to *The Cord*.

"[Canadian Muslims] work on the front lines in Canada's war on terror and take the same risks as their non-Muslim colleagues," he said. "Day in and day out, they provide unique, irreplaceable skills and services that benefit our nation."

The morning after the initial blasts, the Muslim Students' Association (MSA) at the

University of Waterloo issued a press release condemning the attacks in "the name of God, the compassionate, the Merciful."

The statement emphasized the disconnect between true Islamic beliefs and acts of terrorism.

"MSA remains consistent in its position regarding terrorist attacks, regarding them as repulsive and cowardly acts irrespective of the motivation or perpetrator. Islam upholds the life of every human being as sacrosanct and completely prohibits indiscriminate violence which sow fear and chaos in the world."

tferguson@cordweekly.com



Contributed Photo

Drop Africa from G8 agenda



RICHARD TOGMAN
International Columnist

The utter poverty and desperation witnessed across the vast continent of Africa have again struck Western headlines, this time in the form of Live 8 benefits and the subsequent G8 summit in Gleneagles, Scotland in early July.

As usual, the rich leaders of the world's most prosperous nations gathered to discuss how to pander to their own constituents rather than to address the world's real problems, this time in Africa.

In Bonnie Scotland, Western leaders' declarations in support of debt reduction and increased aid were not meant to alleviate the suffering of the poor, but to appeal to the heartstrings of voters and Live 8 attendees.

Aid is not the solution to poverty.

We have given aid for the past 50 years with little to no results. Debt is not the cause of poor standards of living in the developing world, it's their wretched governments.

I have yet to hear of evidence that the high personal income taxes being levied by the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (which were then directed to debt repayment) are the reason that there are a lack of business opportunities for Congolese.

The real problems in Africa and the rest of the world's underdeveloped nations result from corrupt and misguided government policies that have plagued African

nations since their independence.

When speaking of debt, one must realize that massive foreign debts didn't mysteriously accrue. Governments, both democratic and despotic, simply squandered the money instead of investing it in their people. Accordingly, such nations now have trouble repaying the money that was initially given to them, plus a healthy dose of interest.

The blame does not lie with those that gave the loans but with the corrupt governments who effectively stole the money from their citizens. To reward these governments with more money is not a constructive solution.

Many of the world's poorest nations are awash in resources that could have brought in vital funds for the infrastructure and development initiatives needed to hoist themselves out of poverty.

Sound macro and microeconomic policies are keys to unlocking the potential of these potentially prosperous nations. Providing micro credit, easing restrictions on creating businesses, securing property rights, relaxing labour regulations and implementing an effective judicial system are the real fuels for growth.

The cycles of dependence which are characterized by tied loans and unconditional aid, should not and cannot be allowed to continue. We should be pressuring the leaders and governments of the poor to reform so as to allow

their people to raise their own living standards and be the engines of their own success. The nations that have begun to alleviate their own suffering are the ones which have created suitable environments for business to prosper and for their populations to create homegrown domestic wealth.

This is not to say that aid should not be given or that debt should not be forgiven. Rather, these should be side issues that accompany a true discussion on reforming the decrepit and cancerous leeches that many governments have become on their own people.

Only by tapping into the skills, abilities and productive forces of the African people can these nations help themselves from their current state of hopelessness and despair.

letters@wlusp.com

Classifieds

VOLUNTEER

Drivers Wanted...

Meals on Wheels of Kitchener-Waterloo is asking you to consider joining the volunteer force to deliver meals and a smile to seniors and people living with physical and mental challenges once a week or on a spare basis. Meals are delivered 7 days a week over the lunch hour and mileage is reimbursed. If you have the time and want to help someone live a better quality of life give Meals on Wheels of KW a call at 743-1471 and join a winning team.

Interested in helping seniors in KW?

Students and faculty are needed to join an organization that will connect Laurier to seniors who are isolated or lonely by providing friendly phone calls and visitors, raising funds, planning events and sending greeting cards, letters and gifts. For more information contact Michelle: write_mich@hotmail.com.

Portrait models / Volunteers wanted

For personal portfolio composition. If you enjoy being in front of a camera or want more experience, call Peter @ 496-7007 (peter.yoon@gmail.com)

RESUME BUILDER!

Volunteers needed to visit people with Alzheimer's Disease through Alzheimer Society Volunteer Companion Program, 1-4 hours per week. Training/support provided. Volunteer and gain experience. Contact Jill 742-1422 volunteer@alzheimerkw.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Looking for a church away from home?

Want to recharge your spiritual batteries? Emmanuel United Church is a vibrant, multi-generational congregation located in downtown Waterloo, a short walk from WLU and just seconds from the #7 bus route. Come worship with us! Sunday mornings at 10:00am on Bridgeport Road between King and Albert.

PERSONALS

The End of Soma,

Ah, the last thing I have to do for the summer is done. Three issues and one WLU'er down, 25 more *Cord's* to go. A sincere thank you to everyone at WLUSP who's made this a great summer, personally and professionally. To the office staff - Angela, Jordan, Dave, Anthony, Fraser and Marilyn, you guys have made the office an oasis of enlightenment and good cheer that I look forward to immersing myself in every mid-afternoon. To the Editorial Board - you guys have produced three issues that I'm extremely proud of and quelled any doubts in my mind that we're gonna tear shit up come fall - it's gonna be a wild, yet journalistically sound year. So that's it Laurier: enjoy the rest of your summer. Don't fret, we'll be back extra early in the fall - on the first day of Frosh Week. As for me, I'm going on a well-deserved vacation, after a dose of Common Sense later tonight. Stay cool in the heat y'all, I'm Out! -BC



CALL FOR COMMENTS

Search Committee for the
Dean of the School of Business and Economics

Dr. Scott Carson's term as Dean of the School of Business and Economics ends on August 31, 2006. In accord with University procedures, a search is underway for a Dean to serve a five-year term to start by September 1, 2006.

Submissions are invited from the University community on issues that should be considered during the search process. As well, the Committee is interested in receiving nominations of individuals whom the committee should consider. Submissions (in writing or by e-mail) should be sent to Debbie Thayer, Secretary of the Committee (dthayer@wlu.ca). It would be most helpful to the Committee to have your comments by August 1, 2005 so that the Committee may discuss them at its next meeting; however, all comments will be accepted by August 31, 2005. All submissions considered by the Committee will be regarded as confidential. You may request to remain anonymous to the members of the Committee. The Committee Secretary should receive comments that indicate who the commentator is. The Secretary will delete names of those who wish to be anonymous before the comments reach the Committee.

Search Committee Members:

Sue Horton, Vice-President: Academic and Chair
Peter Curayannopoulos, SBE faculty representative
Mitili De, SBE faculty representative
Anna Ferenc, Senate representative
Sean Francoz, Graduate student representative
Laura Gray, Undergraduate student representative
Frances Humphreys, Staff representative
Pat Krajewski, External Board representative
Marc Kilgour, Senate representative
Robert Mathieu, SBE faculty representative
Alastair Robertson, SBE faculty representative
Pramodita Sharma, SBE faculty representative
Arthur Szabo, Dean, Faculty of Science
Randy Wigle, SBE faculty representative

DOLLAR FUSION
dollar store shopping at its finest for value

greeting cards \$ hardware \$ helium balloons
bows \$ lotions \$ makeup \$ pet \$ gift bags
party \$ toys \$ snacks \$ candy \$ frames
candles \$ school \$ household \$ craft \$
scrapbook \$ and much much more

DOLLAR FUSION
95 King St. N. at Young
Waterloo, ON
(519) 746-1500

**LSAT MCAT
GMAT GRE**
Preparation Seminars

- Complete 30-Hour Seminars
- Proven Test-Taking Strategies
- Personalized Professional Instruction
- Comprehensive Study Materials
- Simulated Practice Exams
- Free Repeat Policy
- Personal Tutoring Available
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

Oxford Seminars
1-800-269-6719
416-924-3240
www.oxfordseminars.com

Shad and company 'get down' in style

— from **SHAD**, cover

Almost a year later, Shad bristles with pride when asked about *When This Is Over*, his soon-to-be-acclaimed debut album.

"People always tell me: 'Hopefully you'll make it.' But to me, [the album] is what I've always wanted to do and I did it. Everything else to me now is extra."

One of those extras came last Tuesday, when The Funkification Project hosted 'Hip Hop Hilarious' at Huether Hotel Lounge, which masqueraded as a coming-out party of Laurier's tiny but talented hip-hop community.

Joined by fellow WLU students Andrew 'Thoughtbug' Corbin and Terrence 'Tee-Lo' Lo, Shad put on a 45-minute set that ran the gamut from freestyling and guitar strumming to hysterically covering Amerie's "1 Thing". The show remained ever-faithful to Shad's hip-hop roots, ending with an acapella tribute to Common's "Be".

With Thoughtbug vocally providing hooks, drums and horns and DJ Tee-Lo scratching and splicing samples throughout the set, the on-stage chemistry of the triumvirate shone and is expected to continue in upcoming shows. Shad also took the opportunity to play guitar and rap simultaneously, one of his most ballyhooed trademarks.

"[Playing the guitar and rapping] is something different, it's

something the crowd can get into. The record is more about the ideas and songs, but live I just like to do stuff to get people into it. I'm not a big star, so I can't just go up there and play an instrumental and have everyone go nuts."

If the 150-plus crowd at Huether was any indication, Shad's local popularity and attachment to The Funkification Project generated a raucous crowd that likely would have gone nuts for an instrumental. The show created so much buzz amongst Shad's peers at Laurier that three of his professors from the business department showed up to see what all the fuss was about.

Though the pros seemed to enjoy their student's performance and engage in the commensurate hip-hop swagger, Shad admits that Laurier business and underground hip-hop have been uneasy bedfellows at times.

"If I would have paid more attention in class, [Laurier Business] probably would have helped with the music more. It's helped me to manage myself better, but it's not really what I'm interested in."

While most students struggle to balance studying with their part-time jobs and social lives, Shad has managed to launch a hip-hop career on the meagre monetary and temporal resources of a full-time university student. He even recorded *When This Is Over* on a co-op work term, going into the



Brandon Currie

THREE'S COMPANY — From left to right: Shad, Thoughtbug and Tee-Lo perform "I Get Down", the lead single from Shad's album (inset). The trio will perform this Friday in Toronto at the Gladstone Hotel.

studio on weekends to ply his craft.

"When you're busy, you just find the time to create. Obviously things have to suffer here and there. I mean, my marks aren't the greatest, but I'm going to finish with that piece of paper."

But upon listening to the album and speaking to Shad, one gets the inkling that marks and pieces of paper aren't what matter most to him.

This is most evident on the track "I'll Never Understand", which features Shad's mother and Rwandan poet Bernadette Kabango. In the haunting tones of a woman who lost her father, sister and brother in the 1994 Rwandan

genocide, Mrs. Kabango provides the stark backdrop on to which her son projects his social conscience.

"I thought it was something that should get out there — not just the story of Rwanda, but her personal story. Lots of people are like, 'A lot of things happen overseas and it's crazy' and we can't wrap our minds around it. But my mom is your next-door neighbour, someone that's real."

With a stellar debut album behind him and a seemingly bright future ahead, Shad may not want *When This Is Over* to end, but much like his Laurier career he realizes that it is almost over.

"We always say, 'when this is

over something else is going to happen.' There's an implied question at the end of the album: when this is over, who knows what's going to happen? And I did feel that this is the end of a time for me in my life."

Not to worry though, because Shad has no plans to abandon his hip-hop career once he leaves Laurier, at least not in the foreseeable future. "It's good for the time being. That's what I'm happy with right now: creating and making music. I'll keep doing that until it's not in my heart anymore."

For more Shad, visit www.shadk.com

bcurrie@cordweekly.com

Book review

Hogwarts Express runs out of steam



Harry Potter and The Half-Blood Prince

Author: J.K. Rowling
Release Date: July 16, 2005
Publisher: Raincoast/Bloomsbury

Harry and his friends begin to come of age, at times the book seems to travel into soap opera territory.

Safe to say, there's plenty of full frontal snogging, not to mention that Harry gets himself laid. I kid.

Still, this book is largely about teenage angst, as seen through the eyes of a now-famous and revered young wizard.

Safe to say, there's plenty of full frontal snogging, not to mention Harry gets himself laid. I kid.

Book six starts with a few plot hints and character introductions. The obese socialite Professor Slughorn and the new Minister of Magic, Rufus Scrimgeour are intriguing enough figures but Rowling seems to neglect the fascinating members of the Order of the Phoenix, only briefly mentioned every now and then.

To begin, Harry, Hermione and the Weasleys travel to Diagon Alley for the seven hundredth time to satisfy their shopping needs.

We then learn that Draco Malfoy is up to something. We don't have a clue what, but it doesn't seem good. And it takes far too long to find out what it is, to the point

where I got bored of my own anticipation.

A question you find yourself asking as you reach the fourth quarter of the book is this: What has actually happened so far? Shit all.

Though the ending is quite terrific and surprising, it nevertheless seems pulled out of Rowling's bag of literary tricks as a token shock ending.

And the so-called 'Half-Blood Prince'? This is about the most irrelevant title character Rowling could have come up with. Maybe her next

book will have a title with more pizzazz to, such as *Harry Potter With a Vengeance* or *Harry Potter Reloaded*. I'm dying to read *Harry Potter-er*.

Though *The Half-Blood Prince* is one of the weaker books in the Harry Potter saga, I must admit that its plot and character development are necessary continuations from previous installments.

Still, one can't help but feel disappointed that this book is simply filler material to serve as a gradual build-up to the grand finale face-off with Voldemort, Potter's arch-nemesis.

ahayter@cordweekly.com

Album review

Common not afraid to just *Be* himself



Common



It's out of a possible 5 Old School Mag

Title: *Be*
Release Date: May 24, 2005
Label: Geffen Records

LEO YU
Hip-Hop Correspondent

To the average hip-hop listener, the name Common isn't a household name. Luckily, for true hip-hop heads Common's sixth album *Be* has been christened a "classic album" by *XXL* magazine and will likely see him gain more notoriety.

With his Chicago friend and co-conspirator Kanye West helming the production on *Be*, Common is back to the artistic form of his *Resurrection* days.

On the jazzy bass title track, Common kicks off the album with

the best opening song on any rap album this year, as he spits gems line after line. "Bush pushing lies, killers immortalized/we got arms but won't reach for the skies." We are then treated to the album's lead single, "The Corner", which paints a melodically perfect picture of the ongoing struggles in Common's hometown of Chicago.

On his current single "Go", West and John Mayer provide the chorus as Common informs us that conscious rappers enjoy sex too, letting us in on his sexual fantasies in a beautiful fashion. On "Chi City", Common lets the mainstream MCs know that they are destroying the state of hip-hop with lines like, "I wonder if these wack niggaz realize they wack/and they the reason that my people say they tired of rap."

In the song "Real People", Common finds his real lyrical swagger as he comments on the many issues on his mind, one of them being black men dating white females. "Told to go beyond the surface, a person's a person/when we lessen our women our condition seems to worsen."

Thanks to smooth production by Kanye West, this album could finally provide Common with some overdue media exposure. Although *Be* is just short of being a hip-hop classic, it is certainly the best rap album of 2005 by far.