

TALE OF TWO GROUPS

Two student lobbies, two different directions - why the tuition lobby should unite instead of fight ... **OPINION, 5**

OUR OWN AMBUSH MAKEOVER

Jumping on the bandwagon of makeover mania, a normal Tuesday turned into a day of pampering for our lucky nominee. See her remarkable transformation in ... **STUDENT LIFE, 12-13**



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VETERAN OF THE STUDENT COMMUNITY - Long-time Waterloo resident Dorothy McHugh stands at Veteran's Green, a park directly across from WLU, with a picture of her late husband John, himself a veteran. Having lived across from the school for a staggering 46 years, she knows the ups and downs of living in a student-infested area, and recently talked to *The Cord* about what she thinks of her younger and decidedly rowdier neighbours.

'What's wrong with these kids?'

We drive down their property values and keep them up at night, but what do the permanent residents of Waterloo really think about students? In this Special Project, we found out the answer isn't all that obvious

APRIL CUNNINGHAM
Special Projects Editor

The chilling winds of St. Patrick's Day chase the sun over the horizon and green-clad students stumble through the streets of Waterloo. There are hoots and hollers floating through the air in the Hazel-Hickory vicinity.

Yet amid the inebriated excitement, 76-year-old Dorothy McHugh sits quietly watching Wheel of Fortune in her home alongside Veteran's Green.

"In years [gone] by it was difficult," she says. "But it's been really quiet lately. I saw them going with their green today, but it's really quiet."

"Maybe they realize they have to study, with all the money it's costing these days to go," she adds.

McHugh has lived across the street from Wilfrid Laurier University for 46 years. She and her late husband John moved into the area after World War II, when the city set up low-cost housing for returning soldiers and their families.

As a member of the British army, John McHugh fought in Japan at the age of 21 and was taken as a prisoner of war for four years. He helped to build the famous bridge over the river Kwai.

When he came home, he

weighed only 68 pounds.

"He was lucky to survive," says McHugh. She says most of the men who were a part of his unit were friends and relatives from their hometown in Wales. Most of them died as prisoners.

Just a few years ago, McHugh's husband died of cancer.

Now Veteran's Green, a memorial space with benches and historical signs near Hazel and University, serves to honour those such as Mr. McHugh, who served in the war and whose families helped to build the local university community.

After a fundraising campaign by students and the surrounding community, the memorial was

finally erected last summer.

But, McHugh thinks it came too late.

"I just wish my husband had lived long enough to see it," she says. She adds that she was pleased with the idea to honour the local veterans, but she was afraid that students would not respect it.

"A lot of these kids, they don't know what these men went through for them," she says with concern in her voice. "How they're having the free life they have now. A lot of them don't appreciate what these guys at their age went through."

- See **WATERLOO**, page 14

American education cheaper than ours: report

ADRIAN MA
News Editor

Canadian students are usually under the impression that post-secondary education is more affordable in Canada than in the United States. But a soon-to-be-released report from the Education Policy Institute (EPI) is set to state otherwise.

The EPI, a research group based in Washington DC and Toronto, asserts that Canadian provinces are falling far behind American states when it comes to the affordability of post-secondary education.

In an analysis of 50 states and 10 provinces, Canada fails to break the top 30.

The report, entitled "Beyond the 49th Parallel: Affordability of University Education", states that in spite of higher tuition fees, American universities are more affordable because of the increased financial aid that US students receive.

"Tuition is a small percentage of money in education," said Sean Junor, an analyst at the EPI.

The data, which was collected up until 2001, shows that the average total of cost of attendance for a Canadian university student (\$8,336 a year) is lower than in the United States, where the average student can expect to shell out over \$10,000 a year.

Where the US outperforms is in the amount of grant money and financial assistance available. In 2000-2001, the Canadian government spent an average of \$955 per student on grant aid, while US students were provided with an average of \$1,562 (\$1,288 USD).

In terms of student loans, the average Canadian student borrower is allocated \$4,601. This is eclipsed by the United States, where \$19 billion from the US Department of Education translates into \$7,248 per borrower.

Junor said that Ontario in particular is a major cause of Canada's low rank.

"It's fair to say that the previous decade ... hasn't been fair to Ontario students," said Junor, citing that accelerated tuition costs and stagnant financial aid have hampered post-secondary access, especially for students from low-income families.

- See **FUNDING**, page 2

> Editorial reaction to this story on **PAGE 4**

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I thought it was like high school, where you could get away with anything."

Features Editor MARS, reflecting the needs 20 credits to graduate

WORD OF THE WEEK

seems (n.): Contempt or disdain felt toward a person or object considered despicable or unworthy. There are no words to describe the seem I just put you. Except seem.

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COLOPHON

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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

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

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

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

When statements are made that are critical of an individual, an organization, or a group, those affected the opportunity to reply as the earliest time possible.

Editorial permission requires impartiality, and consequently conflicts of interest or 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 eye to the concerns of the students of Wilfrid Laurier University. Ultimately, The Cord will be bound by neither philosophy, nor geography in its mandate.

The Cord will always attempt to do what is right, with the aid of student representatives, on its behalf. The purpose of the student press is to act as an agent of social awareness, and so shall conduct the affairs of our newspaper.

Canada behind US: EPI

- From **FUNDING**, cover

Ashlea Crowe, a third-year History and Political Science student at Laurier, was "shocked" to learn about the findings in the report.

"It's unfortunate, really, that students in Canada, one of the richest countries in the world, have to go through this," she said, adding that some of her friends in university have racked up to \$70,000 worth of debt.

"I know so many people who are starving because they're in so much debt," she said. "Beyond tuition, people have to pay for rent, people have to pay for books ... there are so many bright individuals out there who are turned off by the cost of university."

Junior feels that the report is a reflection of the problems of the last decade, and believes that results will be positive if the Canadian government extends tuition grants and OSAP loans in the face of rising tuition.

Pam Frache of the Canadian Federation of Students, however, is skeptical about the findings in the EPI's report. She calls the EPI's work, "politically motivated research."

"It is true that the US has had a national system of grants ... but that program and the upfront grant program has been deteriorating in the last few years," she said.

She said that organizations like the EPI idealize the American system of higher tuition rates and increased financial assistance, failing to realize that "things



Contributed Photo

PRICE NOT RIGHT - Students want lower university costs. But is American-style funding really the answer?

aren't all that rosy."

Despite high levels of financial assistance, university education in America is not necessarily more affordable.

Susan Dynarski, associate professor of public policy at Harvard University and research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research, discovered that 74 percent of students with top math scores in high school, who are in

the top quintile of family income, go on to earn a BA.

However, only 29 percent of students with top math scores coming from low-income families do the same.

Dynarski also found that since the 70s, the adjusted average earnings of a university graduate has remained level, but that student debt has risen immensely – a struggle that Alison Crowe's

friends are also facing.

"The evidence is showing in the US that they're heading into a real crisis of university access," said Frache. She remains unconvinced that adopting American-style education funding will be the answer to alleviating the financial barriers facing Canadian students.

"We need an upfront grant program, not more student debt."

Doors to health centre stay open

Last-minute donation
 eases worries of a closure
 after 34 years of service

MICAELA BONTJE
 Cord News

Thanks to a generous anonymous donor and contributions from the residents of Kitchener-Waterloo, Planned Parenthood of Waterloo Region has finally been taken off life support.

With the funding, the public health group, which "aims to promote healthy and responsible sexuality by providing education and access to information to residents of Waterloo region," will be able keep its doors open to the public, explained executive director Marylu McGrath.

The organization, which receives about \$30,000 per year from the Regional Municipality of Waterloo's Public Health

Department, would have been forced to shut down if they could not find any additional funding.

At the beginning of February, a press release was issued stating that if the organization could not raise \$100,000, they would need to close by the end of March.

"We went to the Public Health Department on February 15 to appeal for help and were granted an additional \$20,000," explained McGrath.

"Additionally, a couple came forward with close to \$100,000," she added, noting that the donors wished to remain anonymous.

When asked what her reaction was to such a large donation, McGrath said, "I was thrilled, I was ecstatic, and extremely relieved."

As a result of this and numerous other donations from throughout the community, including the Wilfrid Laurier University Women's Center, Planned Parenthood Waterloo Region has now raised about \$190,000.

"This gives us elation and great relief, and provides us with breathing room," said McGrath, stating that it was difficult to operate the organization when they could not focus on long term viability.

With money now to spend, plans include the immediate increase of staff support.

And the donations continue to trickle in, with the Women's Centre organizing a coffee house at Wilf's this past Sunday.

"We have felt lots of support from the Wilfrid Laurier University Women's Centre," said McGrath. Having attended the fundraiser, she described it as a "lovely event."

"We were really gratified that the Women's Centre and WLU chose us as the recipient of the fundraiser and that our situation was important enough to them that they wanted to do something to help out."

More important than money, it is important to know that university students care about Planned

Parenthood Waterloo Region," she commented.

According to their website, the health services group, which has been in operation for 34 years, have trained staff and volunteers to inform people about making safe and healthy decisions when it comes to sexual health.

The organization offers counseling programs and, since 1998, a "PEER Education Program" that branches out to regional schools to educate.

With money in their pockets, McGrath explained that "the whole movement now has to be towards receiving more sustainable funding, and we really have to work hard on that."

"The support was extremely gratifying to me. It's not just that the community came to our aid financially, but it's the connections that have now been made in the community that can be fostered."

With files from Dan Polischuk

5 DAY ACTION NEWS
WEATHER FORECAST

Today

Morning: Cloudy with breaks
 -14°C 30% POP
 Afternoon: Flurries
 -6°C 50% POP

Thursday

Wet Flurries
 High 3°C Low -3°C
 40% POP

Friday

Wet Flurries
 High 3°C Low -4°C
 40% POP

Saturday

Variable Cloudiness
 High 4°C Low -3°C
 30% POP

Sunday

Light Rain
 High 5°C Low -2°C
 60% POP

VOCAL CORD

What did you do for St. Patrick's day?



"What day was that again?"

- Steven Jackman
Third Year Honours
Psychology & History



"I went to a really fun dance party at a friend's house."

- Kate Fullerton
Third Year English



"I was on the bus to Rhode Island to play rugby."

- Jeffrey Hunter
First Year Geography & Political Science



"Had a water fight!"

- Sarah Currie
Third Year Communication Studies



"I helped my girlfriend study for an exam, and then drank a green beer."

- Ben Ryan
First Year Archeology

Compiled by Emille Joslin,
photos by Sydney Helland

K-W against racism

City of Kitchener and WLU honour the UN's week of solidarity against racism



Carly Beath

MULTICULTURAL JAM - A diverse mix of people check out the various displays at Kitchener's City Hall.

ADRIAN MA
News Editor

Julie Wild knows about the importance of multiculturalism - her job depends on it.

She's the community promotions manager of 98.5 CKWR, a Waterloo radio station that features broadcasts in several languages, representing twelve different cultures. Wild is always on the lookout for new programs to add to their on-air schedule.

This moment is no different - at Kitchener City Hall, while attending her display booth as part of the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Wild spots a group of young men milling around.

"Do you want a radio show?" she asks one of them eagerly. "What's your background?"

"Portuguese," replies Paul Mendez, a spiky-haired high-school student from nearby St. Louis.

"Oh sorry," smiles Wild. "We already have one."

The foyer is bustling with activity; young children walk hand-in-hand with their mothers, elder men and women mingle at the various information booths - people of all different ethnic origins are a part of this annual event to promote racial awareness.

"I didn't realize how culturally diverse the Waterloo region is until I got involved in this radio station," admits Wild as she glances around.

Mendez is also happy to see the strong showing of diversity.

"When you look into the crowd, you don't see one white guy ... you see a whole mix of friends," says Mendez. "I have a lot of Muslim friends, Arabic friends, Portuguese friends, Asian friends ... if we're all living here together we might as well get along."

Fauzia Mazhar, 41, works for Islamic Books and Multimedia Products and volunteers for the Muslim Women's Network. She says that racism and discrimination affects everyone, but that

women are particularly vulnerable. Events like the one at City Hall are excellent ways to reach out to the community.

"All but 14 percent of Muslim women belong to a visible minority," says Mazhar. "Education is the best way [to help eliminate racism] ... you talk to someone, you interact, and you learn."

The United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed every March 21 to commemorate the day in 1960 when South African police opened fire upon 69 people at a peaceful protest.

"This generation has the potential to be able to see [racism] in a way that previous generations never could."

- Dr. Leeno Karumanchery, executive director of Diversity Solutions Inc.

Wilfrid Laurier University got started a day earlier: on Monday afternoon Dr. Leeno Karumanchery was invited to speak about racism and discrimination.

Karumanchery is the executive director of Diversity Solutions, which offers diversity training to businesses, youth groups, and government organizations.

"Being able to see what [discrimination] does to you everyday single day - that's a powerful tool," says Karumanchery, who immigrated to Canada from India as a toddler. "Most people don't have that, you know. I always run into people of colour, or women [who say] 'It doesn't affect me.' Yeah, it affects you. You might not see it, but it affects you."

Karumanchery, who will assume a teaching post at Laurier in the spring, was asked to speak to an audience at the Turret as part of an open forum entitled "Racism and the Intersection of Oppression: Beginning a Dialogue." The event was sponsored

by Laurier's Faculty of Social Work, and participants included several ethnic student organizations. Getting his message across to young people is something Karumanchery is excited to do.

"I think the biggest thing is that this generation has the potential to be able to see [racism] in a way that previous generations never could," he says.

"We have more knowledge about the ongoing, everyday systemic features of oppression that we didn't ten or fifteen years ago. Realistically, fifteen years ago, I'm not even giving this talk."

He knows from experience how important it is to push issues of racial discrimination to the forefront. He credits a "powerful academic," a former professor of his, for inspiring him to speak out against prejudice. During a lecture

about discrimination, Karumanchery, then a 20 year-old university student, accused his old professor of being "racist towards white people."

"I was one of those kids who'd say 'Oh racism doesn't affect me, you can't be too sensitive.' I used to say all those things ... and at the same time be really really hurt," he recalls.

This professor told Karumanchery that he could go through life with blinders on, or that he could see the world for what it was. He no longer struggled with denial.

"When she said that, it was like a veil got pulled off my eyes," he says.

Karumanchery is impressed with the effort that students and faculty have made for the forum, but it is his hope that events like this will continue.

"It's a wonderful start and I hope they keep working at it," he says. "Does it filter into the hiring policy? Does it filter to what they do on a systemic level at the university? I don't know."

Lucky Laurier Day

Prospective Laurier students swarm the campus on a particularly "festive" day

DAN POLISCHUK
News Editor

As Laurier students packed the pubs last Friday for St. Patrick's Day, it was the prospective university students milling on campus that filled in for them in the lecture halls and campus centres.

With approximately 2,500 high school students touring around WLU on a day dedicated to binge-drinking, one could not help but wonder what the repercussions of combining the two events would be.

But according to senior liaison officer Lise Pederson "everybody behaved themselves."

"Certainly there was ... spirit, in terms of students getting dressed up and celebrating the day, but no incidents," she said.

Having been well aware that the spring edition of Laurier Day was to fall on the day commemorating the Irish saint, Pederson commented that the school was "prepared for [the bar crowd]."

"We were prepared for any large lines that were going to happen outside of Wil's ... We had some discussions with [WLUSU president] Dan Robert about things we might do. One thing we decided not to do was ... anything in the Hall of Fame," she said, adding, "Sometimes the challenge is when the Open House falls the day after St. Patrick's Day because sometimes the campus isn't in the best condition at that point. Having it the day-of is never really an issue for us."

With little to worry about in regards to drunken and rowdy students, the second Laurier Day of the school year went off without a hitch.

"It was a great day. We had one of our largest crowds ever," said Pederson.

With the crowd easily doubling the 1,300 students that toured in the fall, there were some new additions to the itinerary, including an "Open House" in the brand new Athletic Complex.

Giving attendees the chance to meet varsity coaches and athletes as well as witnessing classes in action turned out to be a "great hit."

'Academic Sessions', which gave a chance for students to meet professors from the various faculties and question them about the workload a first-year student should expect, were also met with a lot of interest.

Maybe it was the luck of the Irish, but when all was said and done, Pederson was very impressed with how the day progressed.

"It was a good showing of support from the Laurier community on what is, traditionally, an exciting day on campus."

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Students need more grants, less debt

In a recent report by The Education Policy Institute, Canada fared dimly in terms of affordability of post-secondary education. The report claims that while the US has higher tuition fees, they also offer more money per student in grants and loans; American students on average received 30 percent more in grant aid than their Canadian counterparts in 2000-2001.

Pam Frache of The Canadian Federation of Students disputes some aspects of EPI's report, but nonetheless sees problems with Canada's system. As she put it, "We need an upfront grant program, not more student debt."

Canada's student assistance is already weighted far too heavily towards interest-saddled loans, rather than grants.

If the best the government can do is lend students the money to go to school rather than give it to them, at the very least it should make the loans interest-free entirely, not just while students are in school. The government should be looking to help students, not make money off of them.

'Expenditures' on post-secondary education are, in reality, investments. It's something that's often spouted by Queen's Park and Ottawa, but philosophically, their mentality is that student aid is still, more or less, a handout.

The government, both provincial and federal, needs to realize the benefits of post-secondary education for the economy and social well-being of the country, which is why they need to start providing students with meaningful assistance in the form of grants, not loans.

Statistics Canada, reporting on the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics, says that students from high-income families were 2.5 times more likely to go to university than students from low-income families.

This proves that the current system of loans isn't working; the cost of post-secondary education is clearly prohibitive, and the assistance the government is offering isn't enough to counter that.

The idea of graduating with an average debt load of \$25,000 just isn't appealing to many people.

According to an analyst at EPI, Ontario is one of the main reasons for Canada's poor performance in the report. With about 40 percent of the country's population residing in this region, any systemic problems - education or otherwise - exert a serious effect on the rest of Canada. The Harris government's handling of education in Ontario has led to tuition fees increasing faster than inflation, while student aid has leveled off.

Countries like Finland and Sweden manage to provide free post-secondary education; Canada should be able to do the same.

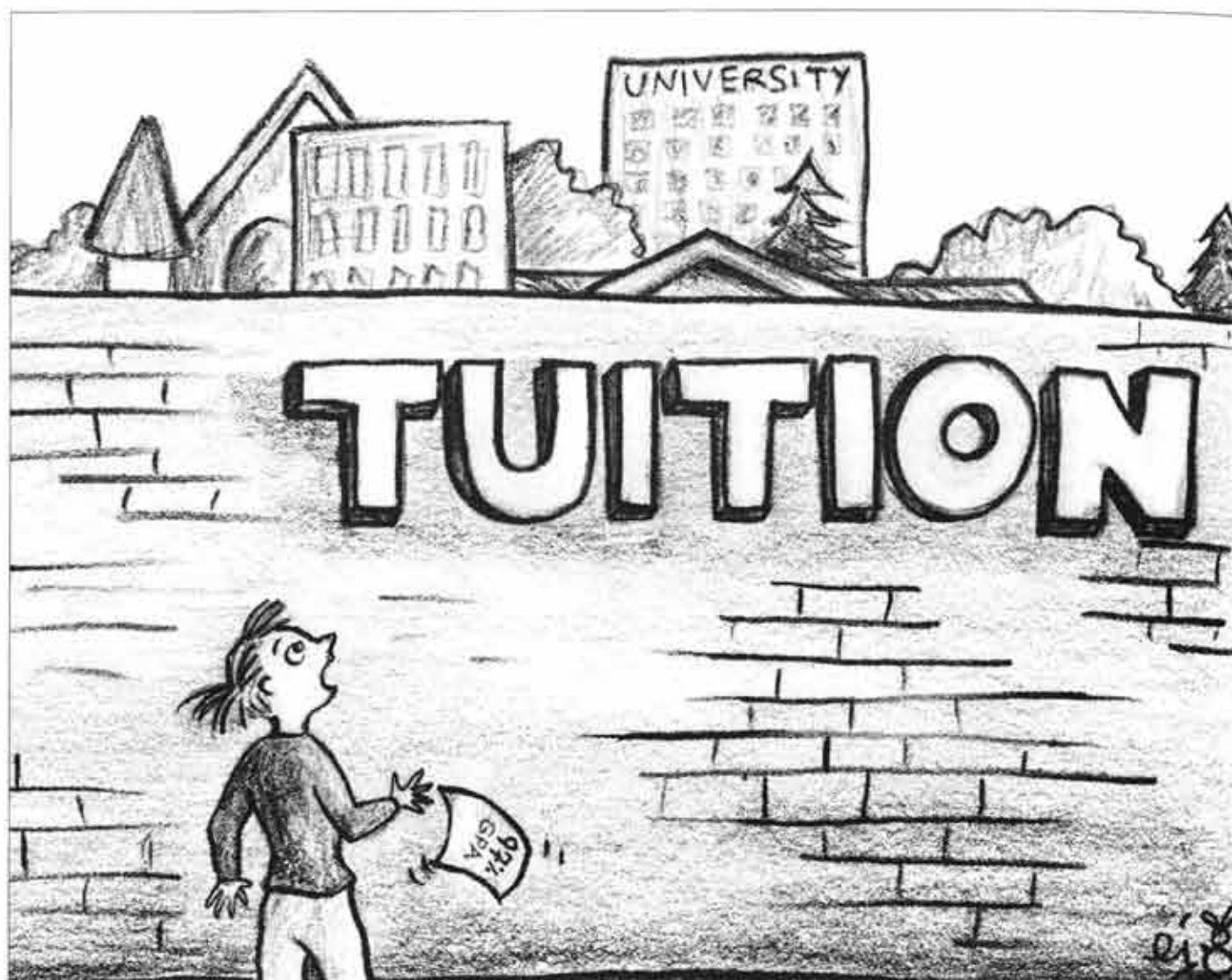
The Graduate Students' Union at the University of Toronto writes on their website that Canada signed on to a United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which states that post-secondary education "shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education."

This hasn't happened, and it's time that the government lived up to its promise by working towards providing grants that truly make college and university affordable.

The worst part is that we're wasting the talents of many people who just can't afford Canada's skyrocketing tuition fees.

Everyone should have an equal chance at education, and students should be able to attend university or college and better their lives without the burden of thousands of dollars worth of debt.

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



The problems with MIT's \$100 laptop

Bill Gates and MIT's laptop creators are out-of-touch with the realities that many face - one where basic necessities are needed before computers



CARLY BEATH
Opinion Editor

After just shelling out almost \$1800 for my new iBook, the idea of a \$100 laptop seems pretty good, even though I wouldn't get a chance to buy one. At first glance, that is.

A group comprised of MIT faculty members is working to create a \$100 laptop for children in developing countries. Their plan is to have the laptops purchased by government ministries, who would then dole them out to students. They're already in talks with Brazil, China, Argentina, India, Thailand, Egypt and Nigeria.

Bill Gates has criticized the project, ostensibly because he thinks the computer is lacking in quality (although others have pointed out that it might have just a little to do with the fact that the computers are running Linux and not Windows). Instead, he's pushing his own "low-cost" laptop, priced between \$599 and \$999.

Gates' assertions are extremely out-of-touch with reality. It's like he's forgotten that not everyone is in his situation, or even the situation of an average North American. \$599 is couch cushion change to someone worth US \$27 billion. It isn't even really that much to someone with an average-paying job in North America.

But stop for a second and contemplate Nigeria. According to Nigerian Senator Udoma Udo Udoma, "70 percent of Nigerians live on less than a dollar a day. The

per capita yearly income of Nigeria is about \$300."

It's almost obscene for Bill Gates to suggest a \$599 computer as a reasonable alternative in a country where people make \$300 in an entire year. Even if people were sharing the computers. Even if the government was paying for them, rather than individual citizens.

But Gates' view is really just mirroring the view of many people in developed countries. We can't even relate to what an income that low would be like. So we continue to look at things from our own frameworks - frameworks where a few hundred dollars is a manageable cost.

It's like someone with a \$60,000 income paying \$20,000 for a computer. Doesn't seem so great now, does it?

I bet at the start of this column \$100 seemed like a good deal. But think of that as a third of your income. It's like someone with a \$60,000 income paying \$20,000 for a computer. Doesn't seem so great now, does it?

But it's not just Bill Gates' critiques of the project that are problematic. It's the project itself, too.

The whole thing is propped up by an underlying myth about progress. It's a myth that says we need to keep pushing ahead with technology, that we need to be wired the world over, that technology is king. It sets up the Western world as the pacesetter, the example that everyone else needs to

keep up to. It forgets that maybe we have too much already; we have more than we deserve, and no one can keep up to us.

Computers aren't a bad thing. Giving kids in poor countries opportunities for learning isn't a bad thing. But when, as Senator Udoma says, children in Nigeria under the age of five are dying at rate of 79,500 per month due to malnutrition and lack of health care, it's time to re-examine priorities.

Instead of spending their resources on creating a laptop, maybe American companies should be working on cleaning up oil spills (mostly caused by Shell), so that Nigerians can reclaim valuable farmland and fishing waters that they need for basic survival.

It comes back to being unable to look at things from other peoples' perspectives. We assume that everyone wants, maybe even needs, a computer. It's not that

children in developing countries don't deserve the same opportunities as those in developed countries, but progress shouldn't outpace necessity. Trying to keep up to our

excess will leave developing countries in an even more dire situation. A child who doesn't make it to her fifth birthday because of a lack of food won't have any use for a laptop.

If it were me, if I wasn't as lucky as I am, I'd choose the luxury - and that's what it is - of food and clean water. I'd choose being alive over my iBook any day.

As they position themselves as benevolent Improvers of Lives, MIT and Bill Gates should keep in mind that most people would do the same.

letters@cordweekly.com

Unity lacking on tuition increases

The Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance and the Canadian Federation of Students both represent university students, but one does it better



DAVID ALEXANDER
Keystone EIC

Last week, Dalton McGuinty's government announced it was opening the floodgates.

Over the next four years, Ontario universities will increase our tuition fees, despite the fact that fees have skyrocketed at over six times the rate of inflation in the past 15 years, leaving students three times more indebted than ever before. This announcement occurred despite the united opposition of students across Ontario.

Wait, did I say united?

Two major lobby groups represent university students in Ontario.

The Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) represents about 125,000 students at seven universities, including undergrad students at Laurier. The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) represents about 300,000 Ontario college and university stu-

dents, and thousands more nationally.

In short, OUSA supporters prefer to lobby government officials for 'realistic' reforms while the CFS is seen as more 'radical' in its outright opposition to policies that could harm students.

OUSA did not support a continuation of the government's two-year tuition freeze and it shies away from participation in public protests, fearing that these tactics might tarnish their legitimacy in the eyes of Ontario legislators.

But what about their legitimacy in the eyes of the undergraduate students of Laurier, Brock, Waterloo, Western, Windsor, Queen's and McMaster?

Critics of OUSA see it as an under-resourced and ineffective organization that does not reflect the beliefs of the students it claims to represent.

A plebiscite conducted earlier this month at McMaster University revealed that 99 percent of students opposed tuition increases. This result has raised some serious concerns since McMaster has been part of a year-

long OUSA campaign calling for annual tuition increases of two to three percent.

If it seems wrong-headed that in the middle of a tuition freeze, an organization that supposedly speaks for students would call for a tuition policy that leaves students worse off, perhaps some clarity is needed.

The OUSA position was agreed upon after Ontario's Minister of Education told members of the organization that a continuation of the freeze was not possible; students would be more likely to achieve a cap on the coming tuition increase.

They say pragmatic, I say complacent.

While OUSA was helping to justify the coming tuition increases, CFS schools were left to fight to continue the freeze by themselves.

Was CFS any more effective in their efforts than OUSA? Not this time. But it is worth keeping in mind that the two-year freeze on tuition was adopted as a Liberal platform at the demand of CFS while the 'pragmatists' of OUSA were still calling for a cap on the rate of increase. The CFS admits that governments don't always like their oppositional tactics, but they claim their strategies are effective.

They may be right too: in Manitoba, where every university

student is a CFS member, tuition fees have been frozen for eight years running.

Meanwhile, in Ontario, tuition has skyrocketed in recent years, almost tripling since 1991.

They say pragmatic, I say complacent - while OUSA was helping to justify the coming tuition increases, CFS schools were left to fight to continue the freeze by themselves.

Yet, for every extra dollar students paid in tuition, \$1.25 was cut by the government. Despite assurances that quality and accessibility will improve with these tuition increases, we've heard the same story from provincial governments of every stripe as class sizes and debt levels have reached new heights.

What is needed now is for a broad alliance of groups to come together and advocate for accessible education. Affordable, high-quality education is an investment that is in the best interests of parents, educators, business leaders and students alike.

The CFS has begun the process

of organizing a series of protests against the tuition increase. Meanwhile, at a policy convention last weekend, OUSA resolved not to organize demonstrations or to work together with CFS, opting instead to write a "sharply-worded" policy response to deal with the situation.

In a recent press-release, OUSA explained that they were "disappointed" and "concerned" about the announcement on the basis that "Ontario students are already paying proportionally more of universities' operating costs through tuition fees than their Canadian counterparts."

They should be disappointed and concerned; their attempt to get in bed with McGuinty failed, and now the students they supposedly represented will be put further in debt.

Sharply-worded indeed.

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Disclosure: David Alexander is editor-in-chief of the *Keystone Yearbook* for WLUSP, as well as a WLUSU director.

Aliens a metaphor for human atrocities

"The creature that lurks in the night" could really be a government figure, like McCarthy or Bush



CHRIS COLLIE
The Space Between

If you watch a lot of science fiction films, you will surely notice one of the strongest premises running through the genre.

No matter how the green, bug-eyed and hideous alien-monster is displayed visually on the screen, its disturbing physical image means nothing compared to what it represents metaphorically.

The creature's significance always goes beyond its skin-deep fright of bad skin and bad posture. Those physical attributes do not hold the balance of the ability to scare an audience, regardless of how real they come across on screen.

This is because it's never the alien-monster itself that is most frightening, but what it's capable of doing.

We create these inhuman and other-worldly creatures to stand in for the atrocities that we as human beings don't like to admit we are capable of.

This way, we don't have to face our own truths. "Of course it's not us who could commit such terrible atrocities towards humanity, only the alien-monster could!"

This is why films such as George Clooney's *Good Night, and Good Luck* are even more terrifying than Ridley Scott's *Alien*.

If art imitates life, then the start-

ing point of humanity paints a very disturbing picture.

I mention Clooney's film because it was recently released on DVD, its content raising a number of important questions.

Although no blood is spilled and no one is physically attacked as they are in *Alien*, lives are quite similarly ruined with alien-like precision at the hand of the antagonist's lust.

Fascinatingly, Clooney couldn't find anyone more insanely terrifying to play Senator McCarthy in the film than McCarthy himself, using original stock footage of him for every scene that he is in. This allows for a very accurate showcase of his rage-eyed and focused insanity.

Senator McCarthy was far more frightening than any alien-monster from the sci-fi vaults, yet he was not a work of fiction. He was a real person. He acted with the emotional disregard of the inhuman alien-monster, and with that same unrelenting determination.

Yet he was one of us, lived where we lived, and talked like we talked. Dare to challenge him and you were susceptible to the alien-like precision highlighted by the best sci-fi.

In real life, the creature that lurks in the night can work for the United States government as a paid public representative. And the only thing more frightening was the degree to which McCarthy believed in his task, making it impossible to discuss its parameters intelligently with him.



Contributed Photo

NOTHING TO FEAR BUT OURSELVES - Is a movie like *Good Night, and Good Luck* scarier than *Alien*? It just might be, since Joseph McCarthy's Communist witch-hunt is currently being mirrored in the War on Terror.

This was another human trait that he lacked - "the ability to reason." If Edward R. Murrow and his CBS counterparts hadn't stood up to him using that very power of reason, who knows how far his reign of terror would have reached.

Maybe all of us would have been labeled communists - those against his crusade cast into the shadows to this very day.

At last check, *Good Night, and Good Luck* had grossed \$34 million at the box office, with a sci-fi blockbuster such as *Star Wars: Episode I* grossing \$431 million (both USD).

That difference of \$397 million dollars is surely due to a lot of things: marketing push and mind-

less-entertainment value being two of them.

However, more profound psychological reasons parallel these, one of which we must keep a sharp focus upon because it's based in a certain reality.

This is that the defeat of Sen. McCarthy and his HUAC communist witch-hunt was only in 1954, and the reality that something similar can and will happen again.

As a matter of fact, *Good Night, and Good Luck* mirrors all-too-accurately our present time and such endeavors as the "You are either with us or against us" War on Terror that worked so fervently to divide the world into two opposing camps, leaving no room for neutrality. Minus a more visible

and sweaty figurehead, the similarities are striking.

When I recently asked a quite intelligent classmate of mine if times had changed since McCarthy, he responded, "Oh, I don't think so."

I took a moment to think about it, and realized that he was correct; just take a good look around. Witch-hunts will never go out of style, both on the national and international stage.

But neither will our fear of the alien-monster, and hence our fear of ourselves and each other. It looks like it might even be coming back into fashion. Sleep tight everyone.

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One last bit of sagely queer wisdom

Marcos Moldes waxes nostalgic on the overlaps between queer culture and straight culture, and the merits of angry letters



It's hard to believe that we're already near the end of the semester.

To wax nostalgic for a moment, my five years here at Laurier, and two years writing "My So-Called Queer Life" have come and gone faster than I thought they would.

As I'm sitting in my pyjamas procrastinating while I should be getting ready to move out and graduate, I can't help but think about how quickly time passes.

That's one of the sad things about university; the party ends, and people graduate and move on to whatever their next adventure might be.

I do love this time of year though. People start talking about what they are going to do for the summer, grads start thinking about leaving and moving on.

Even winter starts to let up; the days get nice enough that dons and first years start sporting shorts and flip-flops again. Suddenly, waiting in a lineup to get into the bar doesn't involve worrying about hypothermia anymore. I can see the start of patio weather on the horizon, and I'm waiting for it with gleeful anticipation.

If there's one thing you do during your time here at Laurier, I would tell you to spend a summer here in K-W (Waterloo in the summer is probably the city's best kept secret).

So while I sit here drinking coffee after coffee, trying to figure out how to sum up the last two years, I just can't seem to find the words I want.

I could just fill this column with some sort of sagely queer wisdom, I could drop in a few "just be true to yourself" clichés or the kind of catty one-liner that has so often punched my column every few lines and tended to result in angry letters.

The truth is that I grew very attached to the angry letters in the paper with my name on them.

I like knowing that I made people stop for a minute and feel the need to express themselves, to get their point of view out for others to read.

So thank you, dear readers, for disagreeing with me and taking the time to write in and say your piece, even if you may not agree with my views about conservative family values, Ugg Boots or the liberal use of the word fascist.

Well, a few catty one-liners won't do it. Wrapping up for the year should be sentimental, and it should make people as emotional as all of the WLUSU volunteers who didn't make icebreaker the

day the lists are posted.

I want tears! I want huge sobs and people looking for hugs! (Okay, so maybe one catty remark, just for old time's sake).

After many a missed deadline, a few last-minute edits because I need to learn how to be tactful and a lot of hair pulled out, I came

to a major conclusion: while queer culture and straight culture may look different, I think I can say that there isn't a fundamental difference.

We're all really the same, boring, badly dressed undergrads who

spend too much time in flannel pyjamas and hooded sweatshirts.

And you know what? That's a pretty fabulous realization.

letters@cordweekly.com



IDENTICAL? - We're fundamentally all the same, right down to the hoodies and pyjamas, Marcos Moldes has happily realized.

Don't go for credit in the real world

Sure, charging it seems like a good idea at the time, but is that extravagant purchase really worth the trouble and interest? asks **Veronica Hughes**



I must make one thing clear about myself: I am very practical, most likely too practical for my own good.

And one thing I am anally practical about is money.

Every bill is paid as soon as it comes, otherwise a panic attack ensues in the form of creditors banging down my door.

Because of this, I don't go on massive shopping sprees with my Visa, or buy things without agonizing if I really need them.

I realize this isn't healthy, but neither is racking up debt because

you can.

Take for instance my good friend from home. Visiting her involves the usual gossiping, then inadvertently discussing her financial situation.

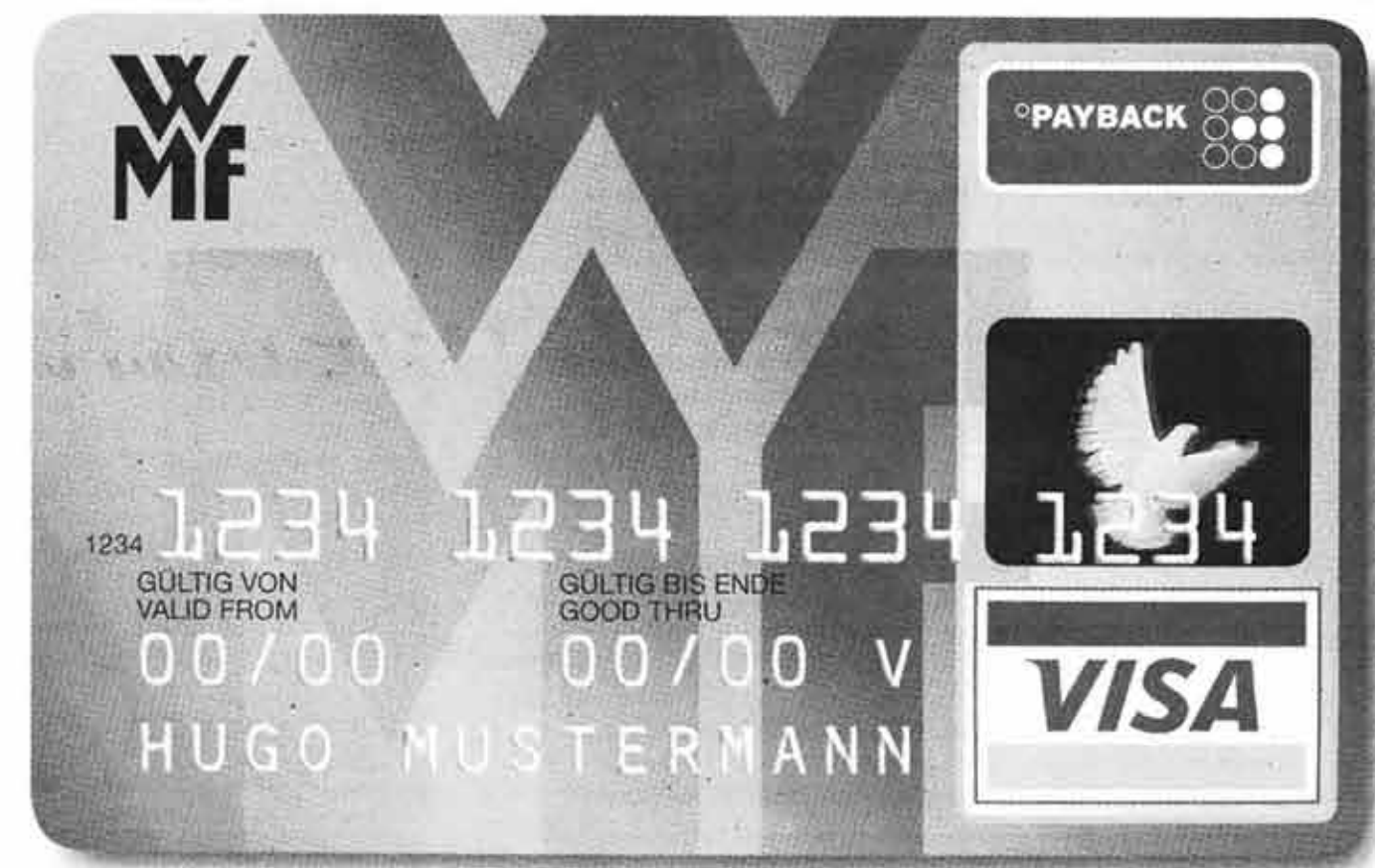
The subject arises after she displays all the new outfits she's acquired since I've been away. I know she can't afford them, and that she's living beyond her means.

The fact that she is one of my closest friends is the only reason I ask her how she did, in fact, pay for all of this.

A couple years ago it was Visa, then department store credit cards and then overdraft.

Let's keep in mind there is a couple years of OSAP on top as well.

This past visit she actually



PLASTIC FANTASTIC - Credits cards are an easy way to get what you want when you want it, and also an easy way to amass a tonne of debt.

replied that she had paid for it all in cash. I was so relieved.

Has she finally realized that the interest she pays to buy clothes makes the sale cost more than regular price?

That was until she replied that she used cash because she's maxed out all her cards. Feeling of relief gone....

The scary thing is, my friend is part of a huge group of people our age who are doing exactly the same thing.

I have friends at Laurier, friends from home and friends of friends who all buy things and live well beyond their means.

I know I sound like my boring

practical self by saying it, but it really scares me.

How can you have a chance of being able to make it in the 'real world' with debt weighing you down, usually on top of educational debt?

Should we conclude from all of this that money really does buy happiness, since none of us can seem to control the flow of money from whatever source we can get our hands on?

In the US, students have committed suicide because they've racked up so much credit card debt.

Parents of those children are trying to change legislation so that

you cannot get a credit card or credit until you are 21 or 22.

The one essential problem with this is that after 18 we are consenting adults.

If we can vote and die for our country, we should technically be able to responsibly hold a credit card.

I want a fancy MP3 player and designer bag as much as the next person. I just don't think it is worth the sleepless nights and 20 percent interest that goes along with the purchase.

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BACCHUS bureaucracy

What harm could a chapter of Students Against Drunk Driving do, especially since BACCHUS' efforts lack the dignity and passion that the issue should command?



I'm proud to be a university student, and especially proud to be a member of the WLU community. Undoubtedly, university is a time in our lives when we cultivate a view of the world that promotes endless possibilities, especially recognizing that we can affect positive changes and impact the world around us. Laurier students, through clubs, lectures, rallies and publications, voice their opinions about countless topics. But couldn't we do better? For instance, the issue of drunk driving has been handled with carelessness. Even if we are supposed to be an educated community, too learned to drink and drive ourselves, this is the time and place where we have the opportunity to become passionate about such a cause. There is a vast difference between passion and the, "Yeah, I know I shouldn't do it" mentality. *Scenario:* You're at a bar five years from now and you overhear Buddy at the next table rambling: "I'm gonna...uh "burp" go home...me think...where are my keeeeeeys?" *Choices:* You ignore the words because you know better, or your memory reverts back to your time spent at WLU when you were petitioned by your fellow students to

internalize the message of "Don't Drink and Drive" - so much so that it has become a second nature virtue that compels you to intervene and firmly suggest to Buddy that he should take a cab. Sadly, a 'second nature' response to this prevalent issue is nonexistent since BACCHUS has failed to entice the student body to develop it. I guess they think we are already perfect and don't need to be informed about the realities of life while we are here at university. Their pathetic attempts to promote this issue include: having a smashed car in the quad every year with no information or leads to get information (I had to ask around to find out it was indeed them that put the bloody thing there!), and a sad chalking on the side of the DAWB - both lacking in creativity, passion and respect. So why doesn't someone else pick up the slack and cover this issue properly? A good and obvious question. Last year I applied to begin a Laurier chapter of S.A.D.D (Students Against Drunk Driving) and was continuously turned down by Campus Clubs because this issue is under BACCHUS' jurisdiction. So you might be wondering, "Who is this girl and why is she hating on BACCHUS?" Here's the deal. Over the past two years I have worked with the Anthropology Society to fundraise for HIV awareness. You yourself might have been a part of the drum circle last year, or

seen the "Fiesta in the Concourse" this past February, where Macro Fiesta played and 300 condoms were handed out to students - all of this amounting to over \$700 raised in four hours for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Thank God I did not try to start an HIV awareness club, because that too would probably be turned down since BACCHUS supposedly makes valiant efforts for this cause as well. Both the issues of drunk driving and HIV have the "It happens to other people and not me" mindset attached to them.

This is highly problematic on so many levels and perpetuates ignorance, which doesn't really go hand in hand with a university atmosphere. I would just like to add a personal component to this thought and tell you that my very own brother, Kevin Toperczer (age 31), was killed by a drunk driver two Septembers ago - by one of those "Buddies" at the bar who quite possibly could have been persuaded not to get behind the wheel if someone who was exposed to a passionate attitude concerning this issue had been around. Is it too idealistic to hope that when we say we care about issues and wish to promote them that we actually do so with the dignity and passion they deserve? I know

many people and clubs do, but why not our riddle chanting 24-hour-lounge clique BACCHUS? At this stage in our lives it is dangerous to assume we are perfectly aware of ourselves and the world around us. It seems as though BACCHUS acts like we are already perfectly aware of the horrors of drunk driving, so why mess with perfection? For them to continue ignoring our potential to discover our passions is an insult to us as university students. Become passionate. Become informed. Become the best you that you can be. Know that you and this world are not perfect - but always strive for perfection.

letters@cordweekly.com



HITTING A WALL - See how you barely notice the anti-drunk driving message on this wall? That's exactly the problem, says Suzan Toperczer.

Reevaluate irrelevant evaluations

WLUSU needs to push for course evaluations that provide useful information, not empty scores



"This course contributed to my learning." Rank your opinion between zero and seven. Now. Well, the Discovery Channel contributes to my learning - sometimes more meaningfully than certain classes at Laurier - but that doesn't mean it would make for a stimulating educational experience worth offering to university students. The problem with the upcoming teaching evaluations is that they reduce student opinions into superficial statistical aggregates. This is an easier way to evaluate professors, but it tells them far too little about what they should do to improve both their teaching style and their course content. How many times have you gone to a class and found it to be an utter disappointment? "Hegemony. Globalization. Globalization. Ethnocentric.

Hegemony. Have a good weekend class, and remember next week's exam will be on why globalization is the devil." Without a good way to identify which classes are truly interesting to students, how can we expect our professors and departments to respond with new options and improvements? What does a question like, "The instructor speaks clearly and audibly," really contribute? No student would wait

until the end of the term to tell their prof that they can't hear them... The Arts and Science Students' Union (ASSU) at the University of Toronto publishes something they call the Anti-Calendar, which is meant to act as a student-based review of the University's official course calendar. It uses the data that students give during these evaluations and it includes specific comments from past students to decide on the best courses to take. Brandon University in Manitoba uses an online course review program that allows stu-

dents to make specific comments about their experience. The Dean of Arts, and Laurier Alumnus, Dr. Scott Grills even goes so far that students have a responsibility to review their class and since it's in electronic form, these evaluations can be done more easily than ever. So far, unsurprisingly, the Students' Union's political will is nowhere to be found. Improving the professor review system has been talked about - but that's pretty much all. Petty squabbles about the activities of individual directors keep these Unionites from moving on issues like the Anti-Calendar. The current evaluation is lacking because, on the student end, they force us to tack a number to our experiences and watch as our real opinions become lost in a sea of statistics. On the professor's end, the numbers only reflect anything when something is going really badly - everyone (including PhDs) can stand some feedback. The Faculty Association has taken a fairly cautious approach to student-led evaluations because of the questionable methodology and a fear that these ratings could cost some union members their jobs. That being said there are many professors, including Dr. Steven Brown, who think that students

"are very fair in the way they evaluate" instructors and acknowledge that there is consistency in the ratings from year to year. Dr. Scott Carson, the Dean of the School of Business and Economics, is in full support of wordier forms of feedback as a result of his time at St. Mary's University. "I personally would like to see course evaluation forms with commentary sections. I've found them to be the most helpful," since they tell a more complete story, he explained. The concept of evaluation isn't just about venting some rage because you got a D in first year Psych. It's about trying to improve the courses and teaching styles that we're paying for. If we send our departments and professors more thorough feedback, we'll see higher quality teaching and more realistic course expectations. This, of course, won't happen until WLUSU realizes that questions like, "The instructor is well-prepared for each class meeting" aren't exactly ensuring that valid student concerns are being heard inside faculty offices. But if you intend on waiting for WLUSU to lead, well, you just may graduate first.

letters@cordweekly.com

ENG 216Y1Y Twentieth-Century Canadian Fiction

Instructor(s): B. Thomas

Enr: 65 Resp: 39 Retake: 71%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	7	17	23	38	12	5.3
Explains	0	0	10	12	20	38	17	5.4
Communicates	5	7	18	18	23	23	2	4.3
Teaching	0	5	5	17	28	35	7	5.1
Workload	0	0	2	89	5	2	0	4.1
Difficulty	0	0	5	82	10	2	0	4.1
Learn Exp	0	3	6	46	21	21	0	4.5

While students agreed that the instructor was very knowledgeable, a few felt his lecture style was dry and monotonous. Some students felt Thomas read from his notes too much and did not allow enough time for discussion. Some students also found him difficult to contact through email or office hours.

Contributed Graphic

ANTI-CALENDAR - An example of U of T's detailed course evaluations.

From Sweet Sixteen to Final Four

Week one is in the books and, with the standard abundance of upsets, your bracket is undoubtedly a tangled mess. Why not turn to Pro-Line and make back what you've lost? After three of our four upsets panned out, *Cord Sports* is back to tell you who to put your money on

MIKE BROWN

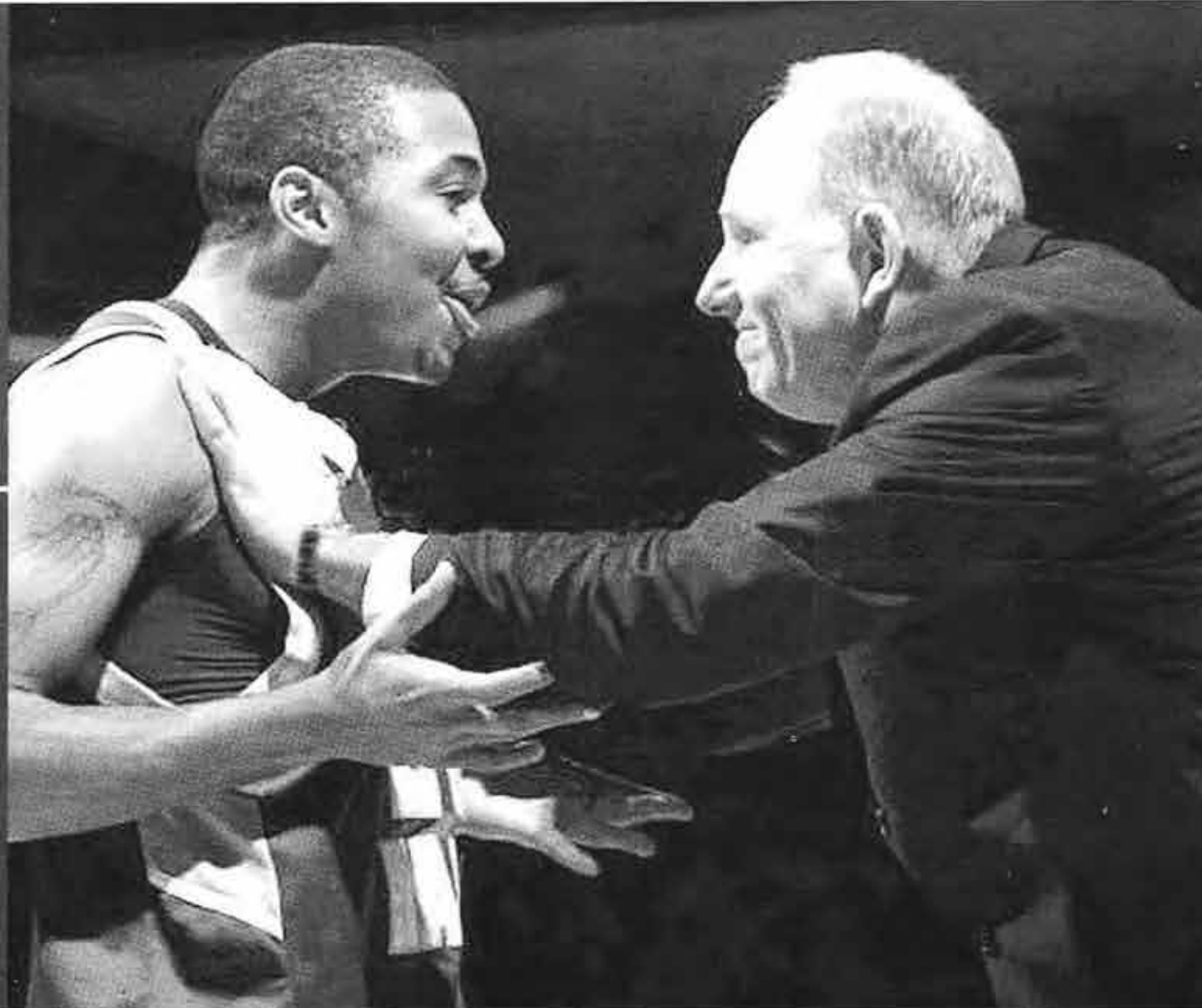
Sweet Sixteen:
Duke over LSU
Texas over West Virginia
Memphis over Bradley
Gonzaga over UCLA
UConn over Washington
Wichita State over George Mason
Villanova over Boston College
Florida over Georgetown

Elite Eight:
Texas over Duke
Gonzaga over Memphis
UConn over Wichita State
Villanova over Florida

JOE TURCOTTE

Sweet Sixteen:
Duke over LSU
West Virginia over Texas
Memphis over Bradley
Gonzaga over UCLA
UConn over Washington
Wichita State over George Mason
Boston College over Villanova
Georgetown over Florida

Elite Eight:
Duke over West Virginia
UConn over Wichita State
Gonzaga over Memphis
Boston College over Georgetown



DRU LEMEISURIER

Sweet Sixteen:
Duke over LSU
Texas over West Virginia
Memphis over Bradley
Gonzaga over UCLA
UConn over Washington
George Mason over Wichita State
Villanova over Boston College
Georgetown over Florida

Elite Eight:
Texas over Duke
Memphis over Gonzaga
UConn over George Mason
Georgetown over Villanova

MARK D. HOPKINS

Sweet Sixteen:
Duke over LSU
Texas over West Virginia
Memphis over Bradley
UCLA over Gonzaga
UConn over Washington
Wichita State over George Mason
Villanova over Boston College
Florida over Georgetown

Elite Eight:
Duke over Texas
Memphis over UCLA
UConn over Wichita State
Florida over Villanova



MIKE BROWN
Sports Editor

Record: 35-13

I gambled with nine first-round upsets and got five of them, with the twelfth-seeded Montana Grizzlies and Texas A&M Aggies paying big dividends. However, UNC-Wilmington's second half collapse and San Diego State's heartbreaking last-second loss leave me in a tough stretch drive as I seek to defend my title as *The Cord's* top college basketball seer. Upsets have made headlines thus far, but look for the heavy-hitters to take over and send Cinderella home as we head to the Final Four.

Minneapolis Regional

Many see Villanova as the first #1 seed to fall, but I'm standing by my Wildcats. Boston College has not given the ball to their bigs enough and when 'Nova's top-

notch guard quartet put the clamps on the BC backcourt, the Eagles will be grounded.

The Florida-Georgetown battle is another interesting one, as the seventh-ranked Hoyas play their traditionally hard-nosed defence and Florida is very young. But they're also very good. Look for the emotional Joakim Noah to be a game-changing presence in the post as the Gators move on.

Good as they are, I think Florida's youth catches up to them in what will be the tournament's most interesting game against Villanova. 'Nova starts four guys under 6'3", whereas Florida gives significant time to five guys 6'8" or taller. The matchup problems are obvious.

In the end, though, the Wildcats' seniors will pull them through. Allan Ray proved his eye was not an issue with 19 and 25 respectively last weekend.

The kid's from the Bronx and he's got ice in his veins. Also, don't sleep on freshman point guard Kyle Lowry, who can create off the bounce for teammates like Ray and Randy Foye.

Bottom line: if you can call the tight Minny region, it'll go a long way to ensuring bracket success.

capable of upsetting Texas, and making it to the Elite Eight.

1) Kevin Pittsnogle is the best Mountaineer since Jerry West. Yes, that Jerry West.
2) In their last meeting against one another, Texas narrowly escaped a Mountaineer upset, surviving 76-75 on November 21.
3) West Virginia's on a roll. Having beaten Southern Illinois and Northwestern State by a combined 31 points, Pittsnogle and company have the confidence and aggressiveness to stick around for one more dance.

Of course, I'm no fool. That's why a strong and determined Duke squad should be able to make their way past LSU and into elite company.

That's where I envision J. Reddick and company ending the fairy-tale that has been West Virginia's 2006 tournament.



JOE TURCOTTE
Cinderella Supporter

Record: 33-15

Turns out I'm a sucker for a Saluki. I should've known that, with a mug like this, Cinderella wouldn't take a second look at me.

Considering she granted my pleas regarding Wichita State, it was no surprise that Southern Illinois was quickly booted. But hey, at least I had a better showing than the Big Ten Conference. And now to the week ahead, where I'll need a few upsets to get back into contention.

Atlanta Regional

Here are three reasons why West Virginia is



DRU LEMESURIER
Hired Gun

Record: 34-14

Through two rounds, the Mid-Majors have dissuaded the rampant skeptics who questioned the legitimacy of this year's relative unknowns. Wichita State, Bradley and George Mason have surprised many outside the conference, but few within. Meanwhile, my confidence in the Big Ten was clearly ill-advised with all four teams from this 'power' conference returning to their studies at their respective campuses. Even so, I retain faith in the power of the Big East as I look towards the Final Four.

Washington Regional

Despite looking vulnerable through two rounds, UConn still holds all the cards of a team destined for Indianapolis. Much like last year's national champion Tar Heels,

UConn boasts a wealth of talent with six potential NBA prospects.

Two of those stars, Marcus Williams and Denham Brown, carried the Huskies out of Philadelphia and now the spotlight shifts to the local Baltimore boys, Josh Boone and Rudy Gay, as they head to DC.

Their next opponents, the lesser-known Huskies from Washington, are a quick team, adept off the bounce. If UConn can effectively limit Washington penetration from guards Brandon Roy, one of the nation's most underrated players, and Justin Dentmon, then they should be in good shape.

In one of the most intriguing Sweet Sixteen match ups in recent memory, upstarts Wichita State and George Mason do battle. Look for Mason guard Tony Skinn, in his second game back from suspension, to be a key factor. Despite beating heavily-favoured MSU and UNC, George Mason heads into Minneapolis with their backs against the wall. Something tells me they like it that way. Look for them to pull one more upset before UConn slaps them back to reality.



MARK D. HOPKINS
Regularly Used Gun

Record: 35-13

While I didn't have an outstanding first couple of rounds, I'm marginally satisfied with my performance. I would still take MSU and Kansas over George Mason and Bradley if they were to do it again. Syracuse was a big surprise for me - not too pleased with the Orange right now, having screwed me for back-to-back years.

Oakland Regional

Let me establish three things: Memphis is worthy of a #1 seed, Gonzaga isn't a final four team, and Adam Morrison, while very good, needs to learn to be a more complete player if he hopes to succeed at the profes-

sional level.

It is always popular to take the perceived weakest #1 seed and have them knocked out in the second round in your bracket, and many had Memphis doing just that. I don't think so. Memphis, while unknown to most, boasts Conference USA player of the year, Rodney Carney, and defensive guru, coach John Calipari, leading his young squad through the bracket. Wave goodbye to Bradley's Cinderella attempt.

While I expect Gonzaga-UCLA to be a close game, I can't see the Bruins losing to this soft Gonzaga squad. Trust me - I do think that Bulldogs forward Adam Morrison is a solid player with a great offensive game.

However, he needs to understand that basketball is played on both ends of the court and needs to take some of his energy and learn how to play defence and be a leader. Memphis-UCLA should be a great Elite Eight tilt - Memphis rides their solid defence to a win.



Mike Whitehouse/www.laurierathletics.com

TO THE HOLE - Jesse MacDonald splits two York defenders in Laurier's 76-65 win. The first-year guard can expect a spike in playing time next season.

Hawks vets end career with a win

PARRY SOHI
Sports Writer

The men's basketball team entered the CIS National Championship this past weekend as underdogs, much as they'd done in the recent OUA playoffs. With the lowest rank in the ten-team field, it would be an uphill climb all the way.

The opening game saw the Golden Hawks battling the seventh-seeded Cape Breton Capers. Coming off a tough loss to the McMaster Mauraders in the OUA semi-final, Laurier came out rejuvenated, led by strong post-play from Bert Riviere and solid shooting by Andrew MacKay.

In addition, fourth-year guard Omar Miles provided the necessary leadership at the point with his unselfish play and clutch free throws to keep the Hawks in the game early on. A confident Laurier team surprised many, emerging at the half with a 33-29 lead.

After the break, though, the Hawks were unable to convert from the perimeter, while Ryan Keliher and Paul Blaker of the Capers capitalized in transition to put Cape Breton ahead late in the second half. Not to be outdone, fifth-year guard Wade Currie countered with a three-pointer, returning the lead to the Hawks, 50-47, with under seven minutes to play.

It was not to be, however, as Laurier's inability to hit key free throws down the stretch sunk their

upset hopes, and Cape Breton closed the game on a 13-3 run to advance with a 62-53 win.

"Breton wasn't playing great defensively and the shots were there," explained Laurier sharpshooter Brandon Gorman about the loss. "We just couldn't hit them down the stretch."

Though the expectations outside the program weren't high going in, coach Peter Campbell refused to use their low seeding as an excuse.

"We knew going in we had an outside chance," he explained on Tuesday, one day after returning to Waterloo. "We certainly thought we could've taken Cape Breton ... and then maybe have the chance to steal a few games."

There was no time to mope about the loss, though, as the Hawks found themselves with a Friday night date with the York Lions, the ninth-place spot in the tournament and a measure of pride on the line.

The aforementioned Gorman was the story in the first half. The St. FX transfer converted on three consecutive three-balls, ending the half with six three-pointers and 18 points. His offensive explosion was enough to give the Hawks a 41-34 halftime lead.

"I was getting the same looks as the night before," shrugged Gorman about his hot hand. "They just fell."

Things would not come so easy in the second half, as Laurier's col-

lective will was tested when big-men Rob Innes, Bert Riviere and Trevor Csima all fouled out. This opened the door for York co-captains Dan Eves and Jordan Foebel. Both finished with a game-high 23 points and nine rebounds for York; however, it was not enough down the stretch.

Rookie point guard Jesse MacDonald once again demonstrated his lofty potential, nailing a clutch jumper to put the Hawks ahead by 18 late in the half. MacDonald finished the game with 13 points, four assists, and four steals. Despite a late surge from the Lions, the Hawks prevailed with a 76-65 victory to end the season on a high note.

For many within the program, it was more than just their seasons that came to a close, though. While Miles and Riviere will be considering rejoining the team for their fifth year of eligibility, MacKay, Currie, Innes and gritty guard Todd Cooney have all played their last game in the purple and gold.

Indeed, it will be a vastly changed squad that takes to the hardwood come fall, but Campbell remains optimistic.

"The nucleus is there to be decent next year," he explained, referring specifically to MacDonald and versatile second-year guard-forward Matt Walker, whose sophomore season was plagued by injuries. "We just have to add some parts and do some recruiting."

Show skaters some respect



ROD PERRY
Beleagured Boarder

Curbs, handrails, and stairs.

For most people, they're only a simple part of the everyday urban aesthetic, but to a kid with a skateboard, they represent a Mecca of possibility.

The fact is that skateboarders represent an ever-increasing subculture that has witnessed significant progressions over the years, as more and more youngsters are catching on to the sport. It's almost sickening to go to a skate park and see 12-year-old kids doing kickflip noseslides.

Over the past 15 years, pro skateboarders have had a lot to do with the sport's expanding popularity.

Guys like Rodney Mullen, who invented the kickflip, darkslide and primo slide to name but a few, and Jamie Thomas, with his infamous 'Leap of Faith', have revolutionized the sport along with the likes of Tony Hawk through his

video games which, I'm sure, everyone has at least watched someone play.

Skate videos in the past were dominated by the ollie and kickflip, but now you'll be lucky if you go two minutes without witnessing a 360 flip down a 10-set. So, with all the professionalization of the sport, where does society stand with regards to its image?

The answer may lie simply in the multitudes of handrails dotting the city of Toronto which have been capped or 'skate-proofed'. The message is loud and clear: skaters are being stigmatized as vandals by corporate society.

There's an office building down the street from my house in Etobicoke and the security guards there are just assholes. As soon as I make my way over to the stairs, I'm intercepted by a screaming 5'4" security guard, telling me to go across the street or he'll call the cops.

Calling the cops seems to be society's solution to what they perceive as a "threat," but how many skateboards have actually been used as weapons in assault cases (ignoring the movie *Kids*)?

Sure, I've politely told many security guards to go lick their mother's breasts, but I'm not going to go beating them over the head with my board. Even the suggestion is just ridiculous.

The fact is that corporate society and skateboarders are just going to have to learn to get along, and businesses need to quit proliferating the stereotyped hatred of the sport via their "no skateboarding" signs and the like.

Recently, my mom showed me an example of the two worlds amalgamating.

An article in the *Toronto Star* pictured a 28-year-old lawyer with a skateboard in hand, wearing a business suit and standing in front of a skate park.

While this could be a healthy example of boundaries being transgressed, it remains to be seen whether that was just an isolated case.

Hopefully, the sport will continue its progression to the point where skateboarding in a parking lot becomes as socially acceptable as rollerblading through a park.

letters@cordweekly.com

Equestrian Club seeks to raise profile

Despite a short two-year existence, Laurier's equine supporters have high aspirations for continued growth

MARK ADAMSON
Cord Sports

Most Laurier students would be surprised to find that the university even has an equestrian club, but that hasn't stopped the group from becoming active in competition on the Ontario university scene.

They hosted the first-ever Ontario inter-university horse show earlier this month, competing against four other Ontario universities and finishing first overall.

The event is a culmination of increased activity within the sport in Ontario, and the club hopes that it can work to establish more frequent competition next year in the form of a circuit with other schools in the province.

Many are looking to raise the profile of their equestrian programs and join in the competition, which points to the potential for continued growth at the university level.

Founded in 2004, the Laurier Equestrian Club has about 25 members and is a campus club under the jurisdiction of WLUSU. They are not yet affiliated with Laurier Athletics.

By hosting an inter-university competition in just their second year as a club and winning the award for best new campus club in their first year, the equestrian club has shown the ability to grow and improve its profile. Still, club sponsorship coordinator Frances MacLaren admits that there is still a lot of work to be done.

"We need to get the sport going in the high school system, and up to competing at the university level," explained MacLaren. "We understand that we have to create a circuit. There's so much that we know we have to do, and we're working on getting there."

One of the club's goals is to ultimately gain varsity status for the sport here at Laurier. "We want to go varsity someday, but we understand it's going to be a long process," says MacLaren.

The club is hopeful they can obtain varsity status in the future, but is aware that there are a number of governing bodies which would have to approve such a move. "We understand that we might not ever get it," said MacLaren. "We're really pushing for it."

National pride can't come before contract



MARK ADAMSON
Cord Sports

Many professional athletes who represent their country in international competition describe the experience as being one of the greatest of their lives. Often, these major sporting events can capture the imagination of a sports fan in a way that professional leagues rarely can.

Even though many fans think that participation in these international competitions should be a player's priority, the reality is that an athlete's responsibility to their professional club should outweigh their desire to play for their country.

Miikka Kiprusoff of the NHL's Calgary Flames opted out of the 2006 Winter Olympics out of respect for his professional club. He was coping with nagging injuries and decided his focus should be to help the Flames win the Stanley Cup, not to help Finland win Olympic gold.

So instead of starting a premiere NHL goaltender, Finland was left with Philadelphia Flyers' backup Antero Niittymäki between the pipes. The Scandinavians lost the gold medal game by just one goal, and while Niittymäki played well, the difference between gold and silver just might have been the absent Kiprusoff.

While Finland must have been disappointed that Kiprusoff had declined the chance to compete for his country on the greatest stage of international competition, he has a responsibility to the Calgary Flames. They pay him nearly \$3,000,000 (USD) a season to keep the puck out of the Calgary net. For their hefty investment, the Flames should expect Kiprusoff to focus on being the best Calgary Flame he can be, not the best citizen of Finland.

Meanwhile, in this month's

World Baseball Classic, professional baseball players are playing in major international competition for the very first time. However, the timing of the event has been a cause for concern for Major League Baseball teams.

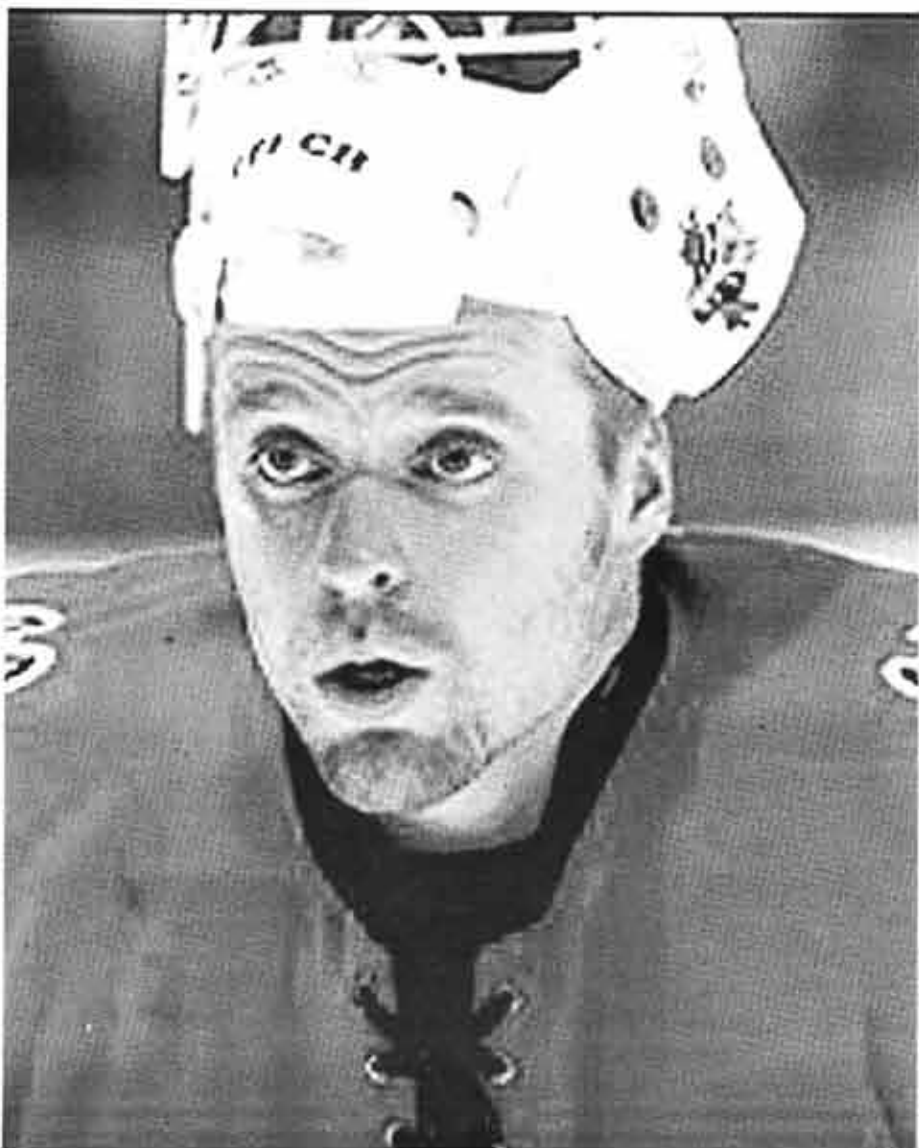
Players competing in the Classic did so by skipping spring training with their professional clubs, which is a crucial time of year when players prepare their bodies for the rigours of a 162-game season and develop a rapport with teammates. Several clubs have expressed displeasure with the tournament, claiming that its timing is causing players to miss out on this valuable training and preparation with their teams.

Outspoken Yankees owner George Steinbrenner has been particularly upset about his players participating in the Classic. Most of the Yankees' best players chose to play, including Derek Jeter, Alex Rodriguez and the newly-acquired Johnny Damon. Steinbrenner has been openly critical of the tournament and managed to convince some players, such as catcher Jorge Posada, to stay with the club and pass up the opportunity to play for their country.

Steinbrenner is justified in his anger at the player participation. Spring training fans have rightly complained that they are being deprived of the opportunity to see Jeter, Damon and other prominent Yankees. Likewise, Steinbrenner pays his players hundreds of millions of dollars to play baseball for the team, and in turn, those players should adhere to his wishes.

When a player signs a big league deal, they must make certain sacrifices for their club. If an employer asks that an employee abstain from participating in international competition, the player must realize that club comes before country.

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AMBUSHED - Rebecca Cuff (left) helped us surprise our lucky winner.



BEFORE - Top student, swimmer and volunteer, Jayne is due for a new look.



CRAZY CURLS - Hair genius Shawn Sayer shows Jayne how to style her hair.

A Cord makeover

We ambushed a deserving Laurier student for a new cut and do' and a splash of makeup; with the help of Cowboys and Angels, Jayne Thompson is turning heads

MICHELLE PINCHEV
Student Life Editor

Originally made popular by daytime television and talk shows, makeovers have recently been pushed into the media spotlight.

The core idea, being that of a transformation, has become a key ingredient in the recent success of reality shows. With enough makeover programming to warrant a 24-hour 'Style Channel', it seems that makeovers have hijacked tra-

ditional programming as we know it, giving television a makeover of its own.

The leading makeover shows such as *What Not To Wear*, *Queer Eye for a Straight Guy* and *Extreme Makeover* (to name a few) all deal with different aspects of personal transformation, from clothes to lifestyle to one's actual physical appearance. Some go as far as putting makeover recipients under the knife, from head to toe.

Our agenda is far less extreme: Cowboys and Angels Salon agreed to cut, style and make-over one lucky Laurier student.

We placed an ad in the Student Life section of *The Cord* and encouraged students to nominate themselves or a deserving friend. We had dozens of applicants send in photos and explanations as to why we should pick them. In the end, it was a simple letter from a friend that moved us to choose Jayne

Thompson.

Rebecca Cuff nominated Jayne, a top student at Laurier, a fellow member of Laurier's varsity swim team and a good friend. Cuff told us her friend could use a self-esteem "boost." This, and the fact that Jane is a swimmer (we all know what chlorine does to our hair) made her a perfect candidate.

This past Tuesday, we ambushed Jayne at Rebecca's Macdonald House dorm. Jayne had no clue, walking into Rebecca's room, that we would be waiting for her with a camera and some good news. Unfortunately, we caught Jayne off-guard and sick, but she was a trooper from start to finish.

We quickly learned that our makeover recipient had an interview that evening with WLUSU and that Rebecca had arranged for their swim team and friends to meet at Wilf's beforehand. This meant we had two hours to cart the girls off to Cowboy's and Angels and get Jayne party and interview-ready.

On the way, we got to find out more about our winner. Jayne, a second-year Political Science and Communications major, attends WLU on a full President's Centennial Scholarship, meaning she has to maintain a 10.5 average.

She also swims twice per day when training for meets and once a day in the off-season, helped lead

the "Green Breaker" at WLUSU as a tradition she v (night).

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Student's hair

Carolyn Brunner grew her hair out for 18 months, just so she could chop it all off for a very good cause

CAROLYN BRUNNER
Cord Student Life

Earlier this month, I walked into X-Centric Salon, sat down in the chair, and when the stylist asked, "Are you ready?" second thoughts raced through my mind.

I had just spent 18 months growing my hair just so I could chop it all off for a good cause.

The anticipation had been building for what seemed like forever. I

had been telling everyone for months that I was planning to donate my hair so there was no way I could chicken out now.

It's not that I would have changed my mind, it's just hard to let go of something that you've had for a such a long time.

She pulled my hair into a ponytail and got out the ruler to measure just to see how long it really was.

I closed my eyes and the next thing I knew, hair was falling all

around my ponytail was

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Shawn Sayer shows Jayne how to tame those unruly locks.



SMOKY EYES - Shawn lines Jayne's eyes with an angle brush and shadow.



HOT MAMMA! - Her silky face-framing strands and fresh makeup is a hit!

over story

Photos by Sydney Helland



THE VENUE - This fabulous salon agreed to transform our lucky winner.

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the "Green Dragons" as an ice-breaker and currently works for WLUSU as a PR volunteer (the position she was re-applying for that night).

"Jayne tries really hard in school and she doesn't have a lot of time for herself ... I just thought she really deserved it," Rebecca said when asked why she responded to the ad.

Cowboys and Angels, currently located at 16 Princess St., has been around for almost ten years.

Shawn Sayer, a trendy Kitchener stylist who's worked there for two years, agreed to do Jayne's hair and makeup for free.

While it's a higher-end salon, Cowboys and Angels is anything

but conventional. We were greeted at the door by Taz, the owner's adorable pug, and immediately observed the friendly, upbeat staff and edgy décor.

"We're a higher-end salon," Shawn explained, "but we're not uptight at all. It's a very laid-back atmosphere. The biggest thing I hear from clients is they love coming in here because they feel like they're hanging out with their friends."

Jayne's thick, curly locks were once quite long, but tragically right before her high-school graduation a scissor-happy stylist chopped it way above chin-length. Since Jayne wears glasses and had to remove

them for the cut and style, the results were going to be a surprise.

Shawn cut very little, so Jayne could still pull her hair back in a pony-tail, but gave her some flattering face-framing layers. He blow-dried her hair straight first with a ceramic flat paddle brush (the ceramic is key in getting it as straight as possible) and then flat-ironed it with a ceramic 'fhi' straightener.

Before he straightened her hair, Shawn kindly showed Jayne how to create a curly style as well. "You don't want them to go home looking fabulous and then wash it and not know what to do with it," he said.

Shawn offered some helpful tips along the way, pointing out that a girl with curly locks (and who happens to be a swimmer) should not be shampooing every day.

"Curly hair is naturally very coarse and dry; even if it feels soft it's still coarser than straight hair; the dirtier it is, the better," Shawn said. "The oils make curly hair look a lot softer and more manageable; the drier curly hair is, the fuzzier it'll be."

Shawn says that a simple rinse and conditioning should get rid of that chlorine smell and that a bit of baby powder at the roots keeps curls looking gorgeous and grease-free for as long as three days.

After he straightened her hair

and back-combed the top for volume, Jayne got to put in her contacts and see the results. "It's so light! Wow ... I love it."

Shawn then applied light, interview-appropriate makeup while giving us a few pointers. "Using eyeshadow instead of eyeliner is really big right now," he said. "Instead of using eyeliner, use an angel brush and just put shadow right at the base of the eyelashes, and in the corners for a smoky-eye look." He also pointed out that a light shadow under the brow "opens up the eyes."

Jayne and Rebecca were both thrilled with the transformation, as were we.

hair chopped in the name of Love

just so

around my face and a 14-inch ponytail was placed in front of me.

What a bizarre feeling it was to hold my hair in my hands like that. I looked down and realized that my small sacrifice would be helping a child in need.

After the initial shock wore off, I was extremely proud of what I had done.

I got my hair cut at the XCentric Salon, located across the street from Wilfrid Laurier University in the Quizno's Plaza.

They did an amazing job and since I chose to donate my hair to the Locks of Love foundation, they were generous enough to cut it for free.

I decided to donate my hair after my friend told me how she had donated her own hair a few years ago. I thought it was a noble and selfless act and I was determined to do the same.

If you are donating your hair to charity, there are a number of salons in Waterloo that will cut your hair free of charge. It is simply a matter of asking around.

I chose to donate my hair to Locks of Love, a non-profit organization that makes wigs out of human hair for children who are suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

Wigs made from human hair cost anywhere between three and six

thousand dollars, because each hairpiece is handmade, a single strand at a time.

It takes six to ten ponytails to make one hairpiece and the production is a long, drawn-out process.

Since these wigs are so expensive, Locks of Love makes the hairpieces for families who cannot afford to buy them.

The wigs boost children's self esteem and confidence and allow them to feel comfortable around others.

Locks of Love has some requirements but the commitment is by no means a large one.

The rewards that are reaped from

being able to help others are well worth the effort. For example, they accept a minimum of ten inches of real human hair only.

If your hair is long enough and you decide to go ahead and make the donation, make sure your hair is clean and dry. While coloured or permed hair is accepted, bleached or chemically treated hair is not; if you're unsure, you can always ask your stylist.

Locks of Love needs hair from people of any race, age or gender. Right now the majority of hair donated comes from children who are wanting to help other children like themselves. Laurier students need to get on board!

The most difficult aspect of the entire process is, obviously, letting go of your locks; but you have to remember that it is for charity and that hair eventually grows back.

So, to all who want to do something that will surely make a difference, start growing your hair and donate it to Locks of Love.

It's a great cause and a very rewarding experience. If you do not have long locks or would not feel comfortable parting with them, financial donations are accepted as well.

Personally, I'm very proud of what I have done and I only hope that I can encourage and motivate others to do the same.



Jordan Jocius

MEMORIES BY THE GREEN – Local resident Dorothy McHugh wishes students would stop and think about the sacrifices soldiers made so we can be so carefree today. She is disgusted by the disrespect shown by drunk students who stumble through the Veteran's Green without appreciating its meaning. Above, McHugh shows a photograph of her husband John and a map of where he was a prisoner of war in WWII. He recently died of cancer.

A delicate balance: students and seniors on the same block

Students make up 40,000 of Waterloo's population of 110,000, but are we really welcome here? Local residents, community organizations, student politicians and the mayor of Waterloo weigh in on how students shape the city

– From **WATERLOO**, cover

Now she regularly witnesses, and must live with, the shenanigans of Laurier students living in her community. She says her younger neighbours on Beech Street have been charged numerous times for building fires on the street and letting off fireworks.

"What's wrong with these kids?" she asks. "They're 19, 20. What's wrong with them?"

Over her 46 years living across from the university, she has had to call the police on occasion due to rowdy students. She has also had a few sleepless nights.

"Other years when they go home at two or three o'clock in the morning, it's been really bad," she says.

Yet McHugh continues to live in the area, enjoying her retirement.

"I love it here. And where would I get it cheaper?" she laughs. The rent for her attached home when she moved in 1960 was just \$54 per month. Now McHugh pays about \$455 per month while non-veter-

an tenants in the same building pay nearly double.

The veteran and senior community surrounding Laurier continues to subsist in spite of the growth in student numbers. They seem to put up with the noisy students because of their own roots in the area.

For Anthony Piscitelli, a politically active Laurier student, the Veteran's Green is a symbol of the university and the community working together.

"There are always a few people that are acting out for whatever reason ... Students are students."

– Herb Epp, Mayor of Waterloo

"It shows there was a community here long before we got here," he says.

He chose the Veteran's Green to kick-off his campaign to run as

councillor in Ward 7 of Waterloo last week.

Piscitelli believes his presence on city council could help bridge the gap between young people and the city.

"Communication is the biggest thing," he says.

A recent example was when a number of citizens in the community raised concerns regarding the potential noise at Polar Jam, a day-long concert held by WLU and the University of Waterloo at University Stadium in January.

Piscitelli says the issues didn't get to the people who could address them quickly enough.

Although councillors were aware, the university didn't hear about any complaints until an internal employee brought it to the administration's attention.

Despite such miscommunica-

tions, the City of Waterloo embraces student growth in the community for the most part.

After all, it translates into big bucks for local businesses and the economy. Out of a total population of 110,000 Waterloo residents, 40,000 are students from UW and WLU.

Herb Epp, the mayor of Waterloo, agrees that students "absolutely" have an impact on the economic growth of the city. He says there are two particular impacts: as students and once they graduate. This leads to physical growth.

"We're almost out to our borders, soon we'll have to build up," he says. Students also add to the intellectual and cultural growth of the city as well, he adds.

Epp is also firm in his belief that students make Waterloo what it is. "There's one identity in Waterloo, and that is the universities," he says.

But the image of students is not all rosy and positive.

"I think it's very mixed," says Piscitelli. "It's usually one or two individuals or instances that cause some frustration."

Epp agrees. "There are always a few people that are acting out for whatever reason," says the Laurier grad of '61. "Students are students."

He pledges that students don't receive any special treatment in council decisions. However, students are conscious of their impact on the community.

Student housing is one impact that has angered a few local residents recently.

Brian Costello, president of the Uptown Waterloo Residents' Association, has had to deal with the issue of student housing and how it encroaches on single-family housing.

He says that often the problem lies with landlords who do not take adequate care of student houses.

"Students themselves complain," he says. "There have been years when it was pretty bad ... the landlords wrote the rules." For permanent residents like Costello, lazy landlords are the enemy when unkempt houses detract from property values.

But in some cases, communities have successfully formed covenants against the encroachment of student housing on their family lifestyle.

Costello says the Central and Albert Street area has frozen the ability of owners to turn single-family housing into duplex units

– See **WATERLOO**, page 15

From **WATERLOO**, page 14

for students.

McHugh is disgusted with the amount of student housing that has been raised in her area in the last few years.

"They've really spoiled the whole place with making these big houses," she says, "because they were all built for veterans." She is unhappy to see the landlords squeezing out the quaint housing that was originally intended for young families.

And the students that come along with the large new units?

"Most of them are pretty good," says McHugh. "It's just those few idiots that make it bad for everybody. But I guess they're away from Mommy and Daddy and they think they can do anything."

And who could blame McHugh?

When her husband was the same age as those students setting fires on Beech Street for kicks, he was a prisoner of war, starving, with the belief that his sacrifices could make a difference.

Disclosure: Anthony Piscitelli is the current president of WLUSP.



STARTING EARLY - Anthony Piscitelli is a current Laurier student running for councillor of Ward 7 in the municipal election next fall. He kicked off his campaign last week at the Veteran's Green since it represents a connection between students and the community -- something he wants to address at city council.

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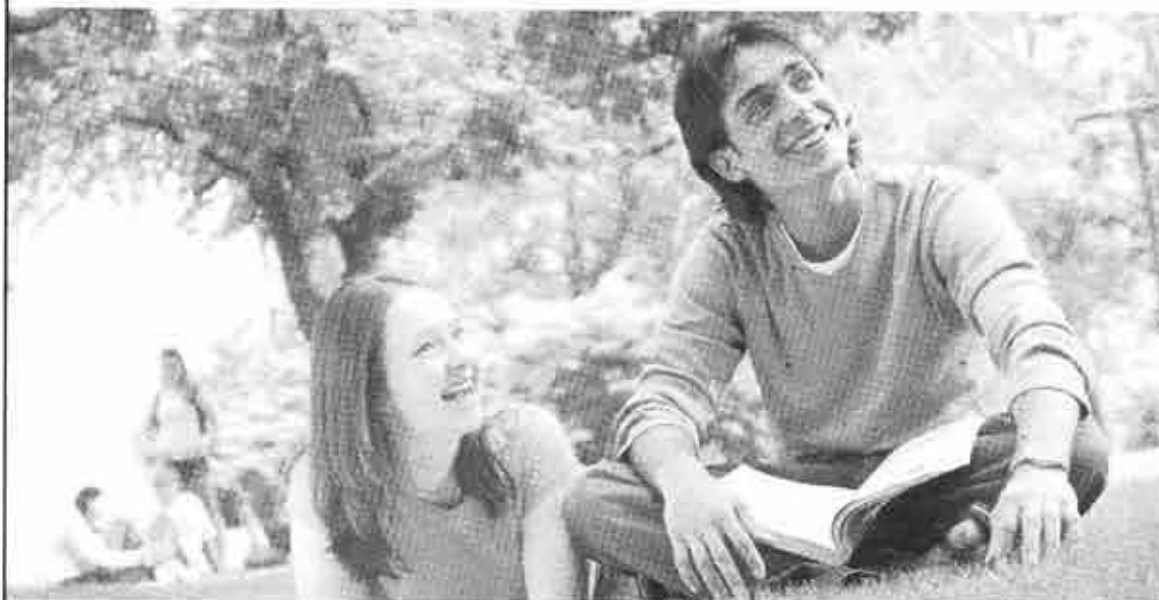
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National Survey of Student Engagement



Over the past month, a random sample of Laurier's first- and upper-year students have been invited, via email, to participate in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).

This is the first time Laurier is taking part in the survey, and the first time all Ontario universities are participating.

The data students provide is intended to be part of the new accountability measures for improving post-secondary education in Ontario. It will also give the university important information about what you think of your experience here.

If you've already completed the NSSE survey, thank you! If you've received an email about the survey, but haven't yet completed it, there's still time. And if you've deleted your invitation, reminders will be going out, so you can still take advantage of the opportunity to share your opinion! The survey emails have been sent to your Laurier email accounts—if you do not check this account regularly, please do so to see if you've received the invitation.

Grim anniversary draws protests

Activists use Iraq War landmark to protest violent actions worldwide

BRUCE HARPAM
The Varsity

TORONTO (CUP) - Hundreds of protesters assembled near the American consulate on Saturday to condemn military action all over the world.

Though ostensibly held to mark the third anniversary of the March 20, 2003 invasion of Iraq by the US and Britain, the protestors addressed a variety of world issues, including Canadian involvement in armed conflicts in Afghanistan and Haiti.

The protestors' global concerns were epitomized by their repeated chants of, "From Iraq to Palestine, occupation is a crime."

At the pre-rally for the student contingent of the protest, held at Dundas Square, an Arab Students' Collective representative condemned what the group sees as oppression of the people of Palestine.

Other speakers talked about Canada's participation in a coup d'état in Haiti in 2004.

The variety of issues energizing the protesters was considerable: some hawked leftist newspapers, while others carried large Palestinian flags. Most had placards made by the Toronto Coalition to Stop the War.

The only student group in the march to explicitly identify itself



Contributed Photo

HAPPY THIRD ANNIVERSARY - A protestor stands outside the US Consulate in Hong Kong to express dismay over the ongoing occupation of Iraq.

was the Ryerson Student Union whose members carried a banner.

Although any kind of oppression seemed fair game for condemnation, Canadian military involvement in the Kandahar region of Afghanistan was at the top of the agenda.

Some of the protesters focused on the death of Nasrat Ali Hassan, an Afghani who was shot and killed in a taxi this week by Canadian troops.

"It takes more courage to leave a war than fight one," said sergeant Patrick Hart, a former US sergeant attending the protest who fled to Canada last August rather than be sent back to Iraq.

"My enemy is not foreign, it's domestic," continued Hart, referring to the US Army oath to protect America from "all enemies foreign and domestic."

"We can't slide into George Bush's wars," said Toronto NDP

MP Peggy Nash in a speech. "We should be declaring war on poverty, not Afghanistan."

The theme that military spending was detracting from more important domestic issues was reinforced by student's placards which proclaimed, "Books not bombs" and "Healthcare not warfare!"

"I'm against this war of aggression against Muslim countries," said Ismail Norman, a retired uni-

versity professor who attended the rally. "I'm also here to support the US war resisters who are trying to stay in Canada."

Despite the multitude of speeches and placards, the protest was noticeably quiet, attended by only a few hundred people.

The roughly 60 police officers present on University Avenue stood at attention throughout the protest, but the demonstration was without incident.

Student goes Irish

TONY FERGUSON
International Editor

Despite what many students may have believed last Friday on St. Patrick's Day, Ireland is not the place to go to if you want to see shamrocks and leprechauns.

"It got to a point where I was embarrassed to go inside a tourist shop to buy silly things because that wasn't Ireland at all," says Anne-Marie Fischer, a fourth-year Laurier student double majoring in English and History.

Fischer spent her first term of fourth year in Ireland on exchange through Laurier International.

"The biggest thing was that I realized that Ireland was completely different than everyone's perceptions of it," she said.

Fischer had taken a trip to the island nation two years earlier and was blown away.

"I absolutely fell in love with the country," she said. Being Irish and wanting to get connected with her heritage was another reason for her to spend a term there.

Fischer attended the University of Limerick, which is just outside the town on the Shannon river, which she could see from her residence.

"It was absolutely beautiful ... first class," she said.

Hoping to make some new friends at her new school, Fischer was disappointed with the way

she was received.

"I didn't find the people as friendly as I thought they would be," she said.

It was mostly the girls who didn't give her the time of day, but Fischer found the guys to be a lot friendlier, especially when she visited the bars.

Of all the things to do in Limerick, this was the best thing the town had to offer.

"I didn't like Limerick too much itself but it had a good night life," she said.

Also known as "Stab City", Limerick is home to two disputing families stuck in a chronic battle over drugs.

"It was really scary," said Fischer.

While out shopping with a friend one afternoon, Fischer and her friend were approached by a woman who warned them that they were being followed by two men. Fisher and her friend noticed the men and clutched their purses but they eventually disappeared.

Because of Limerick's unwelcoming atmosphere, Fischer used as much of her spare time as she could to get out of the town. One weekend she went to Paris and another was spent in Stockholm. Traveling was easy because everything was so well connected. There was a major airport (Shannon airport) 30 minutes from her house where she could

fly out to almost anywhere in Europe for around 50 dollars.

She also spent one weekend in Northern Ireland where the long-running tension between Catholics and Protestants became quite apparent.

"There's a lot of hate there between the two religions ... Belfast in particular is very scary," she explained.

Nearly everywhere she went in the city she saw anti-Catholic or anti-Protestant posters as well as security measures such as watch-towers with special microphones used to record the conversations of passersby.

"You feel really sad, you see kids walking around knowing that they hate a certain religion but they don't really know why ... it's ingrained in them," Fischer said.

Overall, Fischer was glad that she went on exchange and that she was able to dive into an unfamiliar situation and adapt.

"I learned a lot about myself ... it was a really good way to start the segue into adulthood," she said.

Fischer currently works at the Laurier International office and hopes to continue this work at another university when she graduates.

She also hopes that more students will inquire about going on exchange because, she says, "it can change your life just like it changed mine."



Tom Fischer

YAHOO! - An overjoyed Anne-Marie Fischer jumps over an incoming wave at Inch Beach on the West Coast, one of the places she went with her parents who stayed with her for two weeks before she started school.

Wombs open for business in India

TONY FERGUSON
International Editor

Ajay and Saroj Shah wait patiently in an Indian fertility clinic, but the Anglo-Asian couple aren't having tests done or even seeking treatment. They are taking advantage of what has become an attractive option for desperate, infertile couples: Indian surrogate mothers.

Daksha, a shy Gujarati woman in her early 30s, will carry the Shah's baby for its first nine months at a price of 150,000 rupees (CDN\$4,000), an improvement over her current job which pays only 2,000 rupees a month.

She got the idea to become a surrogate mother from her friend. What was most appealing to her was the remuneration. "I am not rich so the money will help me a lot. I have no problem bringing joy to this family. I do not need another child. I have two of my own," she said.

The Shahs, who have already spent 60,000 pounds (CDN\$120,000) on fertility treatment in Britain with little success, are finding the deal also works well for them financially. After they were told that Mrs. Shah would not be able to bear children, they tried looking for an Asian egg donor in Britain. As the search became more and more hopeless, they considered India.

"We were at the desperate stage, both of us are not getting younger," says Mr. Shah. "We met a doctor from India who came to give us a talk about surrogacy. She [said] it is easier to get an Asian donor here. So we decided to give it a try."

Kaivla hospital in Anand, a city in western India, has found seven surrogate mothers in the past 18 months for British and American couples of Indian descent, including the Shahs.

Nanya Patel, medical director at Kaivla hospital, says that convincing healthy mothers to become surrogates is still difficult.

"You see, Indian society is still

quite conservative and questions still get asked. So often these women will just move out of the local area to have the child," she says.

The couple are part of a growing trend of paying women for pregnancy in India, where lax regulations make the procedure much easier.

"What is missing here is a debate about not protecting the rights of the surrogate mother," says Susan Seenan, of Infertility Network UK, a network that provides support to those facing fertility problems. "It does not matter where you are - in the UK, US or India - giving up a child is a terribly emotional issue."

The loose regulations in India are creating a global baby industry, leaving loopholes that can be exploited by customers who are willing to travel, she adds.

Apart from the lower costs in India, couples who travel there to find surrogate mothers can expect a higher chance of having a child. Indian medical guidelines allow five embryos to be implanted into a surrogate mother, compared with a maximum of two in Britain. Some European countries are moving towards a single embryo transfer.

Once the child is born, the couple can also expect a greater chance of keeping it. While British law stipulates that a surrogate mother can claim the baby as her own within the first two years of the child's life, a surrogate mother in India signs away her rights to the baby soon after birth.

This 20-billion-rupee-a-year (CDN\$5 million) business has been fueled by its relatively cheap costs, making it appealing to couples like the Shahs who have exhausted their bank accounts trying to have children. An in vitro fertilization (IVF) method, which is a procedure used to increase the chance of fertility in women, costs about 3,000 pounds (CDN\$6,000) in Britain, four times what you could expect to pay in India.



Contributed Photo

MOTHERS TO BE - Dr. Nayana H. Patel is seen here with a group of surrogates. These women will carry children for foreign couples who are willing to pay up to \$4,000.





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Cryo-pioneers' dream of revival melts away

A French couple were cremated after the chamber in which they were being preserved malfunctioned and they started to 'thaw' out

JACKIE MARTINZ
Cord International

After 22 years of lying in a freezer, the bodies of Raymond Martinot and his wife have been cremated.

The couple believed that if they remained cryogenically frozen until 2050, technology would be advanced enough at that point to bring them back to life.

They had been France's best-preserved corpses until it was discovered that the freezer used to store their bodies had broken down and the couple had begun to thaw. The discovery was made by their son, Remy Martinot.

"I realized in February after a technical incident their temperature had risen to -20C probably for several days. The alert system on the freezer had not worked," Martinot said.

Supporters in the Netherlands and Colorado had offered to let him store the bodies if he failed. However, following the technical failure, Martinot gave up.

"I don't feel any more bereaved today than I did when my parents died," he said. "I had already done my grieving. But I feel bitter that I could not respect my father's last wishes. Maybe the future would have shown that my father was right and that he was a pioneer."

Martinot's father, Raymond, was a respected Parisian doctor and teacher. After the death of his wife, Monique Leroy, of ovarian cancer, the doctor placed her in a stainless steel freezer and allowed paying visitors into the cellar to meet his high refrigeration bills.

In 2002, at the age of 84, Dr. Martinot died of a stroke and was placed in another freezer beside his wife.

But Remy Martinot is not the only one disappointed by the loss of his parents' dream. The Cryonics Institute in Michigan was hoping Martinot would win his case so cryo-preservation would become more accepted.

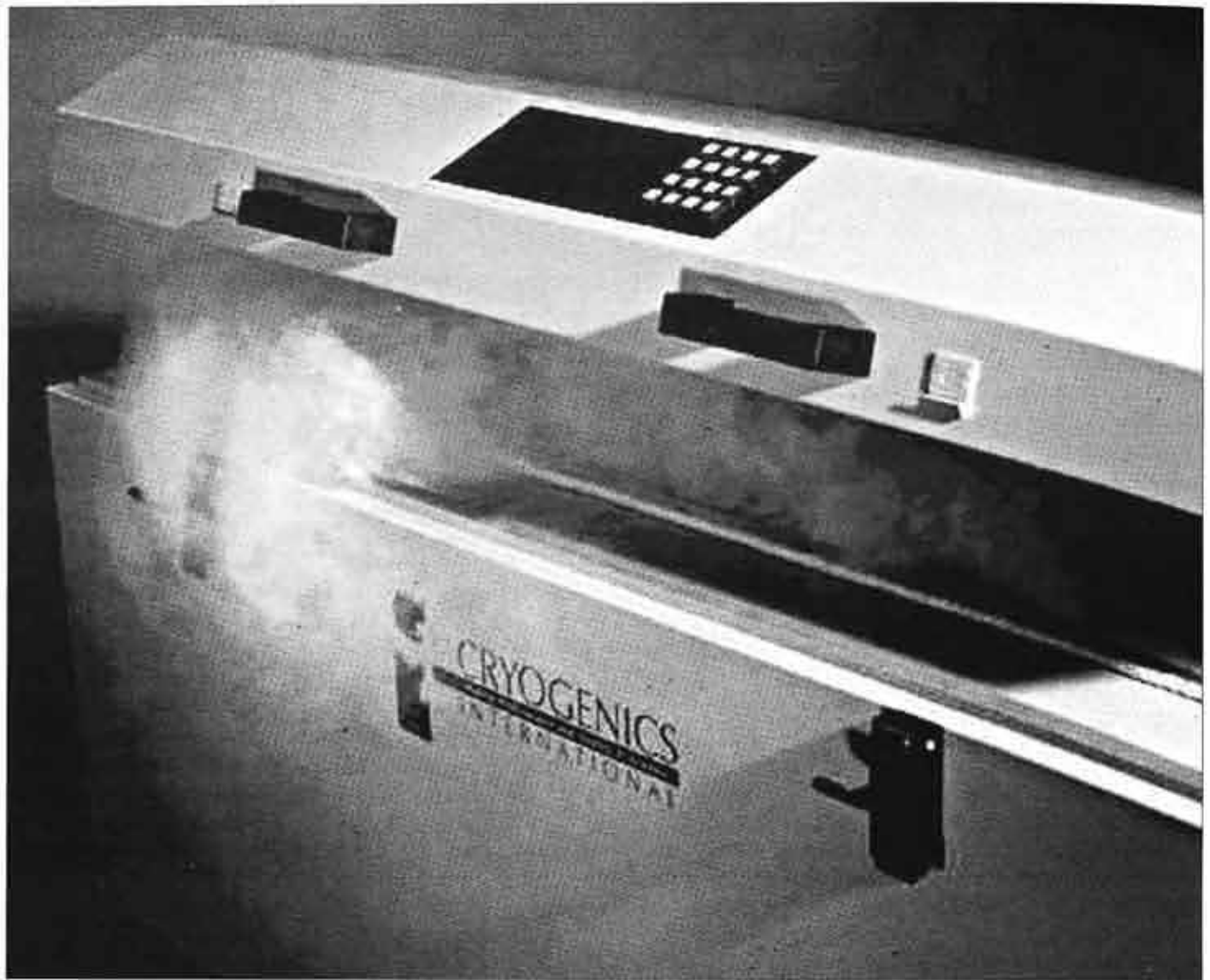
Ben Best, president of the institute, said, "We think cryo-preservation should not be treated as a crime. France seems to be one of the worst countries for intolerance of different ways of dealing with people who are legally dead."

David Pegg, who runs medical cryobiology at the University of York, agrees with Martinot's decision to remove the bodies. "minus 20 C would have been disastrous. I would say even minus 65C was far too high."

They had been France's best-preserved corpses until it was discovered that the freezer used to store their bodies had broken down and the couple had begun to thaw.

He had no choice but to remove their bodies from the freezer once their temperatures had risen above the required level of -65C. "I decided at that point that it was not reasonable to continue."

For years Martinot had fought with French officials over the law that a corpse must be buried, cremated, or formally donated to science. He threatened to take his case to the European Court of Human Rights so that his parents could remain in his cellar.



Contributed Photo

JUST CHILLIN' - The Martinots spent their after-death years in a cryogenic capsule similar to this one. Cryogenic freezing is a delicate process involving many complications such as ice crystal formation that can tear tissue.

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PERSONALS

Thanks for the penultimate issue go to:

*Prii for being the best Spec Proj editor of all-time (seriously), ending the year on a decidedly high note and being a good all-around maternal influence. Jordo for nailing a cover shot in a pinch, Avian Cord Flu for its debilitating effects and actually making me want a flu shot next year. Pinch and Emille for the timely meds. Fraser in advance for end-of-year spoils and MSNing about Cord stuff while in Italy. Much more to come next week, when I don't feel like a bag of smashed assholes, with the good ones taken out.

Bag O' Smashed Assholes

This is it

To my beautiful and amazing husband, here is the shout out that you have always harassed me about! Now you can stop! But seriously, I love you and you make my day that much better. To my E-Sista and my Soul Twin: you both are so amazing and so eerily like me that it phases me out at times. Can you have too many perfect specimens of humanity? Evidently not. To the Cord Staff: thanks for making this year interesting after my radio incident (and bless you too Zach - without you this sexpert could not have risen to the occasion). You're all amazing and I'll see you all next semester (except for Bryn, but I have no doubt he'll make his presence known). And to BC and Pinchy for taking a chance on an outspoken sex god. To my girls in Guelph: thank for being there and I know our experiences will continue to be memorable...random dance fests anyone??? Or how about the L-Word? Watch out for after the show activities. This is goodnight and not goodbye.

-Em

ps. Tell Bubblegum and Punkin to hold tight

One More Night

Holy shit, one more Cord left after four years. I'm going to have a nervous breakdown. Get ready for the final Carly's OK party of my tenure. It's going to be a shit show. There will probably be crying again this year, but no rolling in pee.

Carly's OK aka The Matriarch

Word,

Happy Birthday Old Man Rankin, you're going to be on the wrong side of bar this time. Douche bag. Thanks to Mom for the coffee. Rizz for the Finnish rage, Homeless 'Scrappy' Nicholson, only one more week of ad-hell, Monkey!, inside joke, Big ups Mama 'Prill, Emma for her surprise appearance.

Bryn

Sausage Party

Mad props to Laura and the rest of the Pit crew for helping out a pair of famished brothers on a long production night. You made beautiful flames spew forth and pulled from the fire some of the most delicious meat ever to grace the lips of man. Forever indebted, Small Asian guy and lanky white dude



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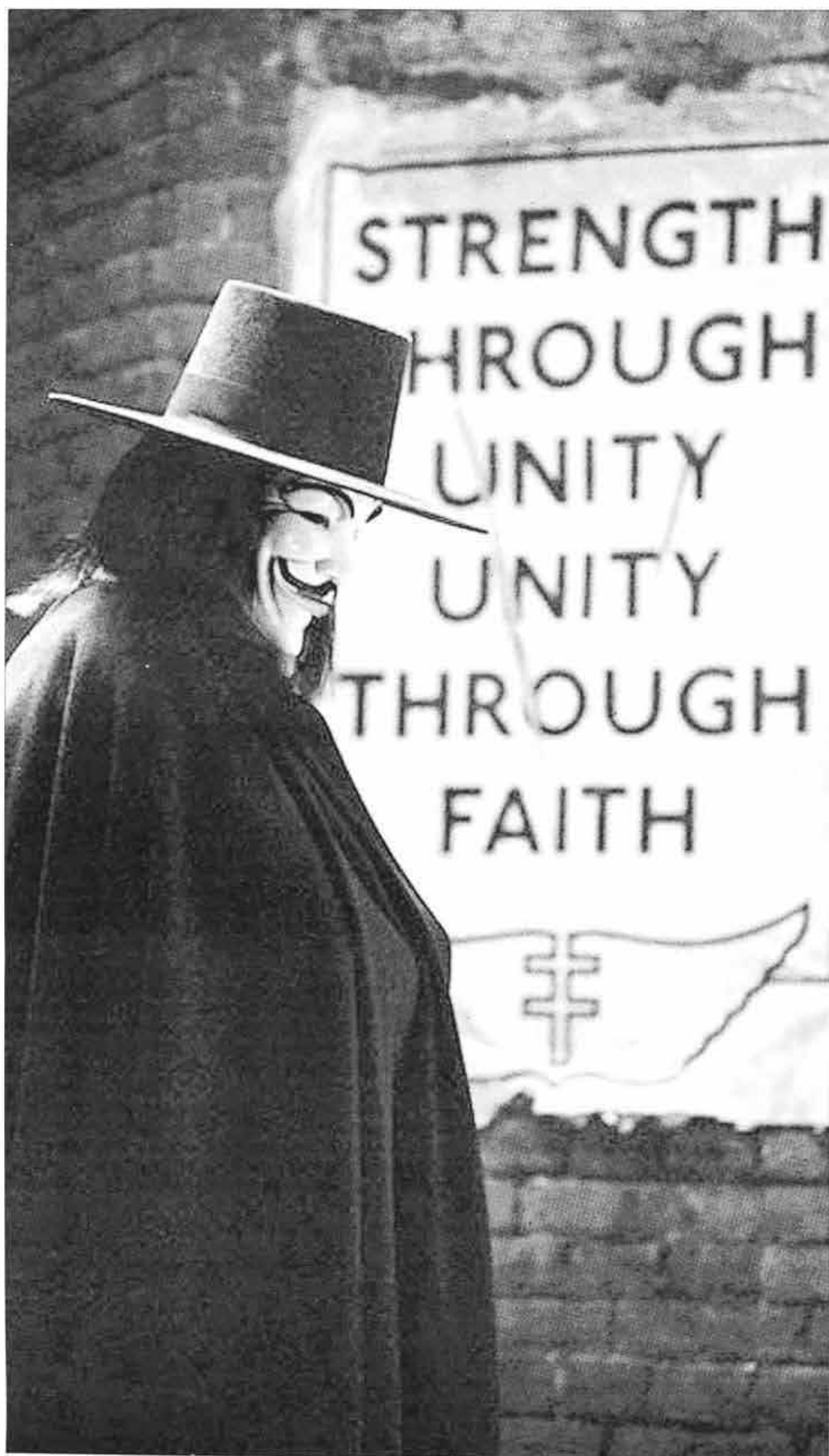
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DARKNESS! UNITY! - Hugo Weaving is the man behind the Guy Fawkes mask in the fantastic *V for Vendetta*

Contributed Photo

V for very delicious

Graphic novel turned film much better than expected

V for Vendetta



5 out of a possible 5 sexy Georges

Director : James McTeigue

Release Date : March 17, 2006

Starring : Natalie Portman

DRU JEFFRIES
Film Critic

"Artists use lies to tell the truth."

This, paradoxically perhaps, is not a lie, despite its source.

Codename V in debut director James McTeigue's *V For Vendetta* is an artist, a historian, a hero, a villain, a dandy, a vaudeville clown and a great tragedian. He is a paradox.

Like the devil, he's a 'man of wealth and taste' and a "street fightin' man", to quote two relevant Rolling Stones songs. He's simultaneously human and much more than human. He is an idea.

Vendetta is based on Alan Moore's graphic novel, an Orwellian parable on tyrannical governments (Bush?), terrorism (9/11?), the politics of torture (Guantanamo Bay?), justice (Iraq?), revenge (Hussein?), epidemics (Avian flu?), fear (Patriot Act?), the media (O'Reilly?) and revolution (Communism?).

It was originally written as a response to the Thatcher administration, but you can see as well as I can why these ideas are as relevant now as ever.

"Words will always maintain their power," according to V, even if his actions speak louder than them. Speaking of which, source author Moore asked to have his name removed from this adaptation. Perhaps he didn't care for the slight liberties that were taken with his material.

But I think it's more likely that he doesn't care for the cinematic apparatus, period.

Past films based on his comic material have tanked, including *From Hell* and *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, the latter being an abysmal shadow of its

comic version.

I haven't read Moore's *From Hell*, and its cinematic adaptation didn't particularly inspire me to seek it out. Knowing Moore, I should anyway.

The combination of written word and static picture, the double-medium that is the comic book, is too often compared to the cinema, perhaps unfairly.

I've been guilty of this, often calling particular epic books (Mark Millar's *The Ultimates* and Mard Waid's *Superman: Birthright* come to mind) "cinematic" in scope.

Moore would probably tell me that I've got it backwards, that cinema at its best has the capacity to be 'graphic-novellian'. I think the language could use a better adjective for this idea if it's to catch on.

The point is, the mediums are fundamentally different. That said, Moore has nothing to be ashamed of in this film.

I think that comparisons to last year's comic book film par excellence, *Batman Begins*, are useful when talking about *V For Vendetta*.

Essentially, V is like Ras Al Ghul, the villain/mentor to Bruce Wayne (remember, remember that his League of Shadows "burned London to the ground").

Both characters are of dubious morality, steadfast in their dedication to the cause and willing to kill for it. Can we get behind these characters? Absolutely. They're charismatic leaders, and they do make a certain kind of sense. At the end of the day, V might be equal parts Batman and Ghul. After all, what is the difference between a terrorist and a vigilante, really?

Despite its subject matter, *V For Vendetta* is an unabashedly hopeful and unapologetically idealistic film. In the voice-over that bookends the film, the grandiose plot is brought down to an intimate, entirely personal level.

At its core, *Vendetta* is not about terrorism, but rather an individual's right to make a difference, to have their voice heard.

Perhaps the two are more comparable than we'd like to think.

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Jack White starts a new family

White Stripes' new supergroup with Brendan Benson fails to 'rac' up the points



ALEX HAYTER
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Raconteurs' debut is simply Jack White emulating Brendan Benson. No, wait. It's Brendan Benson stealing everything the White Stripes ever did.

Maybe it's a bit of both. On first listen, these are probably going to be the first thoughts popping into your head.

After all, the band is simply Jack White and Brendan Benson tied together, assisted by The Greenhornes' Jack Lawrence (bass) and Patrick Keeler (drums). Should I be expecting anything original?

Actually, I was. I wanted to hear something by Jack White that doesn't just consist of four chords,

played repeatedly until finish. I wanted epic, experimental stuff that sounds incredibly funky. But like the bigger, meaner kid on the alt-rockin' playground, Jack White's a bad influence on Brendan.

Wait a sec. I'm not trying to tear apart White too much here, but really- has he even written a new song in four years, since 2002's *De Stijl*?

And Brendan - you were doing so well! I thought epic pop-ballads were closest to your heart, not brainless blues-fuzz.

The Raconteurs' EP offers only two tracks, "Steady as She Goes" and "Store Bought Bones". It really gives you very little sense of who the band are, so in some ways maybe this critique is made



redundant by the subject itself.

Anyway, let's focus on what we've got. "Steady as She Goes" starts with a bass intro somewhat thieved from Joe Jackson's classic "Is She Really Going Out With Him?". Things get good, but never great. White seems to be singing about stuff he knows nothing about: "Find yourself a girl, and settle down / Live a simple life in a quiet town", a lyric which seems to sum up the song as a whole.

Benson offers only back-up vocals throughout the song, while White seems to imitate his voice through most of it.

"Store Bought Bones" sounds exactly how you'd imagine Benson

singing a forgettable White Stripes song in the style of Elephant. Its stomp-guitar rock, with most of it sounding like Jack writhing spastically on the floor with a slide-guitar as Brendan nods earnestly.

After listening to this song, you'll probably just appreciate "Steady as She Goes" a little bit more, because this one sucks.

It's sad to say, but maybe someone should separate these guys, because I'm worried that things are only going to get messy for The Raconteurs. Word of advice: stick to your day-jobs.

Still, if you aren't sick of the White Stripes yet, you might like this.



OMGWTFBQQ!!!1 - Infamous rockers Tool are set to release a classic.

Tool's next epic should be worth the wait

DAVE RICCI
Cord A&E

Since their first release *Opiate*, Tool have cemented a dedicated fan base and an astounding catalogue of distinct releases.

Their unique blend of off-time arrangements and precision drumming has brought them both critical and commercial success over the years, but as any Tool fan knows, the band is notorious for taking their sweet time recording new material.

Even though eager fans are appeased by lead singer Maynard James Keenan work with A Perfect Circle, nothing quite satisfies like a new Tool album. Nearly five years after the release of their 2001 opus *Lateralus*, Tool is reemerging with a highly anticipated new album, tentatively titled *10,000 Days*.

With a full album track listing

available on Tool's official website (www.toolband.com), *10,000 Days* is slated to be released in North America on May 2, 2006.

Boasting track titles such as "Rosetta Stoned", "The Pot", and "Right in Two", *10,000 Days* is already being hailed as one of the years most anticipated releases.

Music magazine *Kerrang!* boasted that the album, consisting of eleven songs spanning 77 minutes, will be, "packed with plenty of eight minute-plus twisted riff-athons, odd-tempo polyrhythms and the band's trademark, eerie interludes."

With all the pieces in place, it's only a matter of time until Tool unleash what promises to be their most challenging work to date.

Some music fans will argue that Tool is an overrated rock act with grossly artistic claymation videos. On most occasions it would be

best to agree to disagree but not in the case of Tool.

Since the release of their first album, Tool has proven to be one of the most superb and consistent mainstream rock acts. Their most recent album, *Lateralus*, was one of the most acclaimed releases of 2001.

Similarly, their earlier releases *Aenima* and *Undertow* are as strong as their later material. Tool's strength as a band lies in how each of their releases is distinct and musically challenging. Citing math metal masters Meshuggah as an influence, *10,000 Days* is shaping up to showcase a heavier side of Tool.

In today's music industry there are few bands that can deliver like Tool. Even though the wait for a new album is painfully long, Tool has proven time after time that it is worth the wait.

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Barber talks shop

Canada's answer to Ryan Adams sounds off on jumping to a big label and the finer aspects of songwriting

ADRIAN MA
News Editor

It's been two years since Matthew Barber made the jump from Canadian indie-rock darling to major label musician. Since then, he's noticed some significant changes.

He used to be label-mates with bands like Stars, Plastikman, and Magneta Lane. Now he and Green Day have the same bosses at Warner Music. He's actually making a little bit of money these days, and he's also managed to shoot a video and score a hit on the radio—"The Soft One", a song from his major label debut *Sweet Nothing*, was a Top 20 tune across the country earlier in the year.

"It's been a positive experience for sure," says Barber over the phone from his home in Toronto. "But there's always the risk of getting lost in shuffle with a label that has so many acts."

"It's kind of a struggle in this industry, even on a major label."

For Barber, a pop rock troubadour who writes songs with a bucolic back-porch charm, success is something he strives for—he says that he wants to play more shows and reach a wider audience. But his priorities are still writing tunes and playing in a band.

"I guess I just love the idea of bringing something into the world, bringing something into music history," explains Barber. "It's trying to make sense of your feelings and also the world around you ... something that's really satisfying."

His most recent LP, *Sweet Nothing*, reflects Barber's ambition to combine a romantic's vision of the world with uncomplicated but emotive rock structure.

Songs like "Easy To Fall" and lead single "The Soft One" are filled with heartache sentiment and wide-eyed pondering about life and love, all set to a hi-fidelity folk rock soundtrack reminiscent of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers.

The record also features contributions by members of Metric and Jill Barber, Matt's younger sister and a rising star in the Canadian music scene herself.

For Barber, succumbing to his love of songwriting was not always a clear choice. The idea of being a professional musician was swimming around in the back of his head while he attended university, and although he didn't want a "nine-to-five job", Barber struggled with the decision until he found a home with the indie-scene in Hamilton, Ontario.

"Time goes by quickly, and you wake up and go 'holy shit' ... I've been a touring musician for four years now."

Some things never change—Barber continues his life on the road with a show at the Starlight Lounge tonight. Tonight's gig—

which also features indie chanteuse Emm Gryner—kicks off a cross-country tour, taking Barber from Halifax to Victoria. With the tour wrapping up in late-April, Barber, ever the songsmith, is anxious to compile new tunes and get back into the studio.

"Until that drive goes away, I think I'll keep at it."

You can catch Matthew Barber and the Union Dues with Emm Gryner tonight at the Starlight Lounge at 9pm. Tickets are \$10.



Contributed Photo

THINK YOU'RE LUCKY, PUNK? - For some reason, alt-country rocker Matthew Barber never had much luck hunting



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