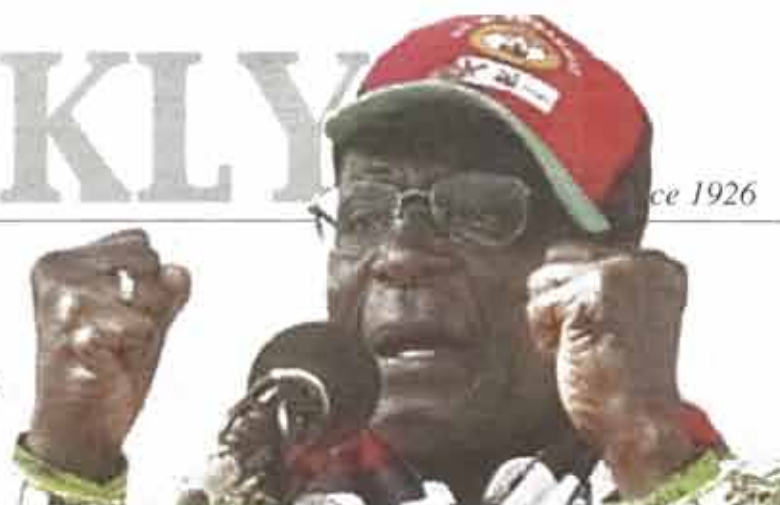


GAMERS' DELIGHT

3 guys, 6 games, 1 mission: to find the best damn sports game, period ... **PAGE 12-13**

A LEGACY OF FAILURE

Zimbabwean president Mugabe ignores economic collapse ... **PAGE 8**

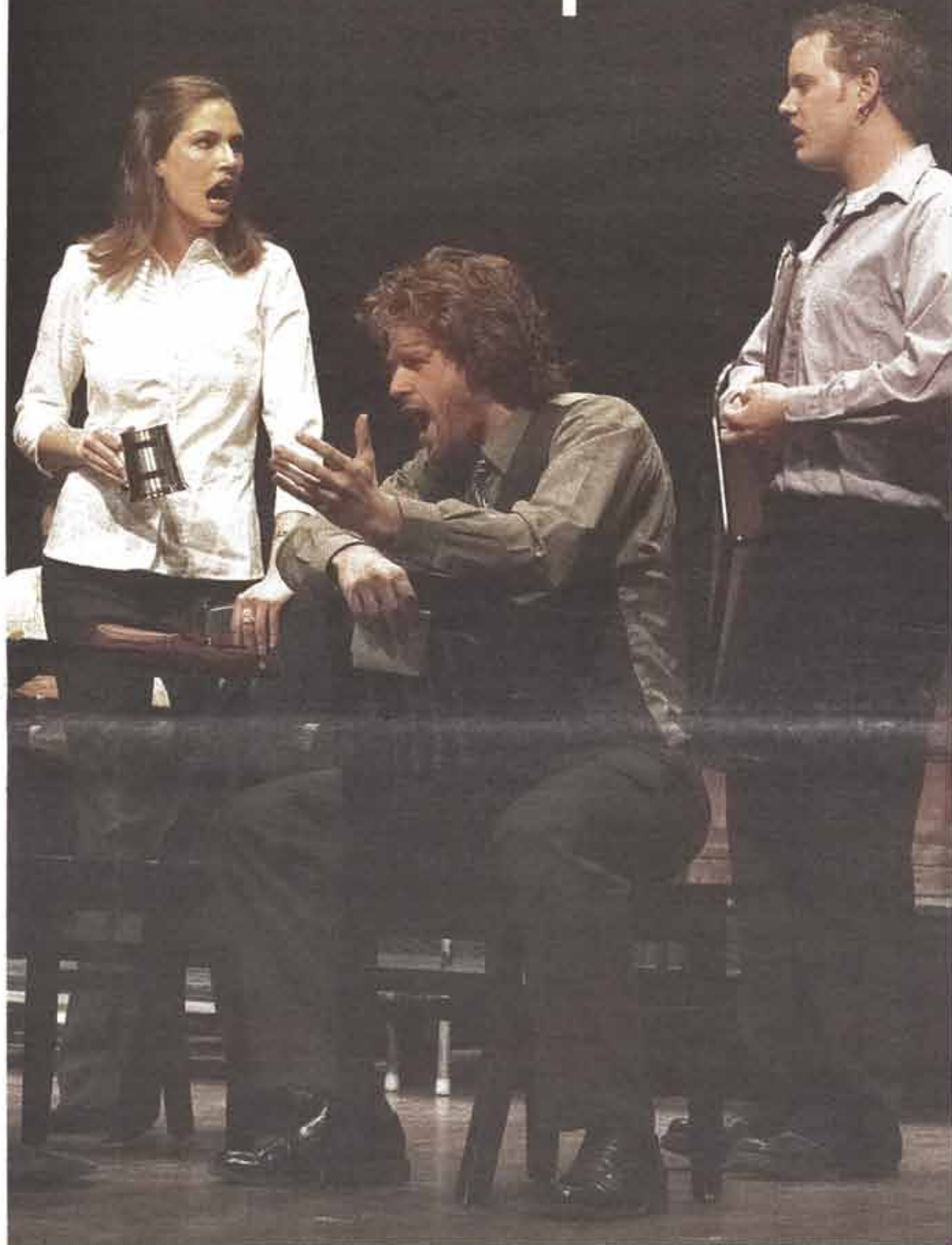


Volume 47 Issue 23

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2007

www.cordweekly.com

Daniel's opera



Sydney Heiland

BEER AND OPERA - *To Daniel*, performed February 14, is an original opera by Erik Thor and Glenn James.

Students write and produce opera to create an 'epic' legacy in *To Daniel*

ESTHER WHEATON
CORD A&E

Two students at Laurier thought it would be fun to do something with their final year of university.

"Something epic," says Erik Thor, one of the two students in question. So Thor and his partner-in-crime Glenn James turned this idea into a professional opera called *To Daniel*.

Put on independently from the Faculty of Music, *To Daniel* is a forty-five minute opera in one act. It was organized and run by students, alumni and professionals in the early stages of their careers.

When people think of opera they usually visualize large women with blonde braids, helmets adorned with wings, excessive vibrato, for-

eign languages and an over-the-top plot that seems to last for eternity. Somehow, an evening at the bar does not quite fit the stereotype, but this is where James and Thor have decided to set their production.

James explained that people often go to see opera for the music and the experience, but he hopes people will walk away from his opera with an understanding of the story.

"Opera is an outdated genre," says Thor. In order to make it more accessible to the general public, he and James chose the student-friendly idea of a night at a bar. James, the composer, maintained two strategies when writing the opera to increase student appeal—making it English, and making it short.

James, the composer, musical director and producer of *To Daniel*, is a fourth-year composition major here at Laurier. He told the *Cord* that the difficulty of writing an extended chamber orchestra work was compounded by the difficulty of using conversational English in the text.

Thor, a fourth-year student in vocal performance music, wrote the libretto (text) directed the opera and worked with James as producer. The two students have essentially devoted their lives to this production over the past few months.

"Had I known how much work it would be, I never would've done it," confessed Thor, "but the experience has been invaluable."

- SEE **MODERN**, PAGE 16

Hawks face Waterloo in OUA semis

Hawks claw Thunderbirds out of the flight to top

JAMIE NEUGEBAUER
STAFF WRITER

The men's hockey team is full of confidence and raring to go as they get set to take on the University of Waterloo in the OUA Western Conference finals, starting tonight.

Coach Nobes' third-ranked Golden Hawks handed the Lakehead Thunderwolves a two-game sweep this past week, advancing to the aforementioned series against the Warriors.

Game one of the conference quarter-final started well for the Thunderwolves as they scored nineteen seconds in, courtesy of their so-called "BMW line" (Brown, McPherson and Wehrstedt). After those brief moments, however, the Hawks turned it on and showed the Wolves how to fly, taking the first

game 4-2 and giving Lakehead their first home playoff loss in six years.

Freshman and London-native Jeff Borrows scored the winning tally 10:50 into the second period.

The purple and gold took game two at the Waterloo Recreational Complex in much the same fashion, both out-skating and out-muscling the Thunderwolves down low in front of Wolves' goalie Chris Whitley.

The result of this dominance frustrated the team from Thunder Bay into taking 34 total minutes of penalties.

Hawk power play specialist Chris DiUbaldo made them pay dearly as he notched two power play markers, including the game winner at 14:32 of the second.

- SEE **SEMIFINAL**, PAGE 10



Sydney Heiland

CREASE CRASHER - The Hawks found success in front of the T-Wolves' net

Big interest in five empty BOD spots

13 students declare candidacy for March 8 vote

TONY FERGUSON
NEWS EDITOR

The race is on for 13 board of directors (BOD) candidates who were officially given the go-ahead to start their campaign on Monday night. Of the 13 candidates, five will be selected.

The nominations for BOD candidates were reopened after only 10

directors were acclaimed, five short of the 15 available spots.

Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Josh Periard was happy with the turnout at the all-candidates meeting that was held Monday night although he would have rather seen the 15 directors elected after one campaign.

- SEE **SGM**, PAGE 2

THE CORD WEEKLY

- The tie that binds since 1926 -

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WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2007

VOLUME 47 ISSUE 23

Next Issue: March 7

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I am so thug life!"

-Aria Lano-Hall, realizing her true nature after receiving a compliment on her sweater

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COLOPHON

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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

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

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

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

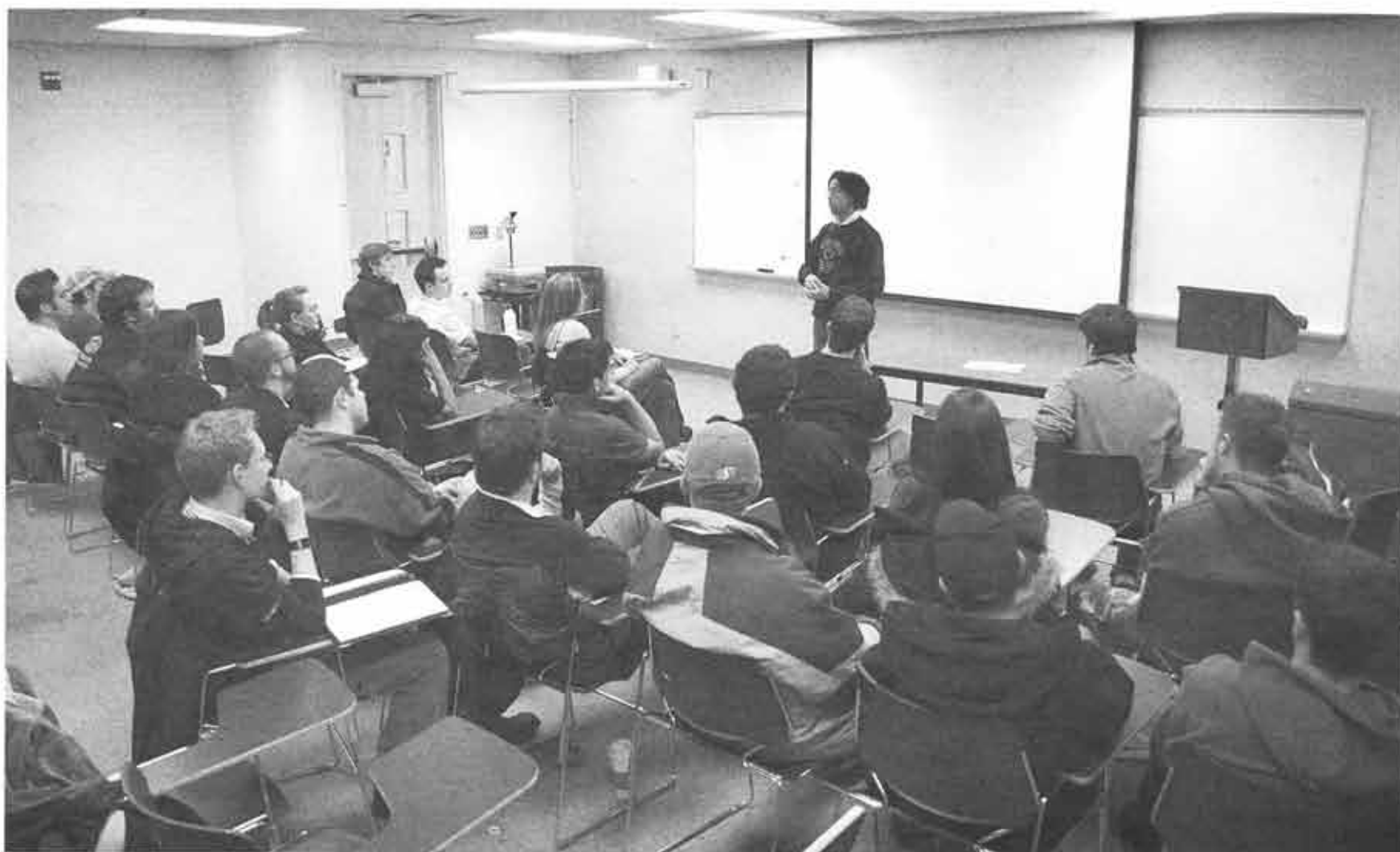
When statements are made that are critical of an individual, or an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity to reply at the earliest time possible.

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

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

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

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



Sydney Holland

FULL HOUSE - A lacklustre response to the initial call for directors sparked a spike in interest for the SGM, with 13 candidates for five spots.

Year's last election begins

After Monday's All-Candidates Meeting, the Special General Meeting is officially underway

- FROM SGM, COVER

"It's great for the [student] union that we have this many people running ... I think that it would have been great if everyone came out in the first election," he said.

Some candidates said that the main reason behind their decision to run was the poor turnout at the first round of WLUSU elections.

"I decided [to run] after I found out that 10 people got nominated," said candidate Rafiq Andani, who was also recently elected for the WLU Student Publications board of directors. "I knew it was something that needed help."

Andani explained that students can't be bothered to vote on their own accord and he felt a duty to lend students a helping hand, one that he feels WLUSU failed to provide in the last election. "The sad thing is, you have to take students by the hand ... you can blame student apathy but when it comes down to it, I'd like to blame ... a lot on WLUSU as an organization that

needs to go out there and make sure everybody knows."

Ken Matheson, another contender for one of the five positions, was inspired to run for the same reason. Seeing a representative body ascend to their positions without being elected prompted Matheson to do something.

"I have a real problem with [the

"I have a real problem with [the acclamation] and that's why I'm throwing my hat into the ring."

- Ken Matheson, aspiring director

acclamation] and that's why I'm throwing my hat into the ring," he said.

Periard agrees with Andani and Matheson and points his finger at the current BOD. "They could have done a little better of a job of marketing [the election]," he said,

while at the same time recognizing that taking on such a task in addition to board responsibilities may be too much of a workload.

"It's not like they did something wrong by not doing it," said Periard, "but I think they could have taken it upon themselves to do something more."

Mark Ciesluk, who had planned on running for the BOD before reading week, returned from his break with a different outlook on getting involved at Laurier.

"There's a great community of people at Laurier who are working very hard to get many things changed in the world and they're very inspirational," said Ciesluk, pointing to one Laurier student who was recently profiled by the *Record* for his work with sick children in Uganda. "That just seems so much more significant than student elections," he said.

Periard foresees an intense week of campaigning for the candidates. "I definitely think that [the candi-

dates] have to push a little harder this time considering there are 13 of them going for five spots," he said.

With such a short campaign period, Periard is weary of tactics that some candidates may resort to out of desperation. "I know people are going to do anything in their power to get elected and the rules may not get broken but they will be bent."

Periard is especially concerned with dirty campaign tactics that can be perpetrated via Facebook, which can be a powerful influencing tool during campaign time.

"Facebook is a concern ... but at the same time if [the candidates] do use it, I'll be monitoring it," said Periard.

Turnout is another concern for Periard. After recently voting in the past election, he fears that students might not be bothered to head to the polls a second time. "I'm worried about turnout," he said, "but if each candidate brings 100 people, we've met quorum."

An open forum will be held on Tuesday, March 6 at 9 am in the Concourse and elections will take place Thursday, March 8.

Study: Seniors gamble responsibly

LAURA CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

The image of the senior citizen gambler has become somewhat of a cliché and has for the most part received negative attention in the media. Stories of senior citizens losing the family inheritance or being cognitively unaware of the consequence of their actions are frequently reported.

However, Dr. Joan Norris, Dean of Graduate Studies at Wilfrid Lau-

rier University and her longtime research collaborator, Joseph Tindale from the University of Guelph, recently underwent a study funded by the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre to challenge this common misconception.

Norris and Tindale surveyed over 2000 senior citizens and found that although over 90 percent of older people gamble in some form, only about 7 percent are at risk for developing a gambling problem.

Instead, the majority of senior citizens who gambled did so as a social activity. Norris says senior citizens don't go to casinos for gambling but "it's the whole thing - the culture of it." Tindale adds that compared to other activities, "[Gambling] is a relatively inexpensive, safe, enjoyable recreation for older persons."

But while younger generations may claim the same reasons for gambling, Norris points to how gambling patterns tend to differ

between younger and older persons. "This generation of older people is unlike any other generation. Many of them came through a Great Depression and at least one World War and are very careful with their money."

Norris explains that most of the recreational gamblers they surveyed go out with a set limit of around \$20, they don't chase their losses, and they don't bor-

- SEE GAMBLING, PAGE 3

> VOCAL CORD

What was the most interesting part of your reading week?



"I saved a kid's life who got into a car accident."

- Chris Meyer
First-year Kinesiology



"Being able to forget about school and relaxing. I went snowboarding in Montreal."

- Fiona Lim
First-year Business



"I spent \$20 on a plate of worms. It tasted sort of like nuts."

- Josh Smyth
Third-year Political Science



"Skinny dipping in the ocean."

- Jenna Cutting
Fourth-year Sociology



"Eating freshly caught lobster and drinking Ron Ponche on a catamaran in Cuba."

- Walt Nathaniel
Fourth-year Business

Compiled by Kelly Moore, photos by Riley Taylor

Student's business honoured

Fifth-year WLU student Kevin Downe was one of two winners in an entrepreneurship contest, for his tutoring company, Mind Over Math

ASHLEY JANG
STAFF WRITER

Kevin Downe, a fifth-year business and math student here at Laurier, was recently named one of two winners of the Ontario Student Entrepreneur Competition.

After starting his own business, Mind Over Math, in Orangeville in July 2003, Downe is a prime candidate for the award. Mind Over Math is a student-run organization designed to help students in elementary and high school who are struggling with mathematics.

"I decided to start my own tutoring company to help students see math in a different way and that's how we really started," said Downe. "We've gotten into homework help, exam reviews, peer tutoring and grade-specific preparation."

CIBC and Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship (ACE), a not-for-profit organization designed to recognize young Canadian entrepreneurs, presented the award.

Downe, who was nominated a couple of years ago, said he wasn't ready to enter the competition until now. "I was nominated a couple of years ago, but I wasn't ready at that point because I was just starting school and I figured that would be a little bit too soon," he said.

This year, Downe nominated himself and was one of two students selected from 73 applicants in Ontario.

Once nominated, the applicants

were required to write a four-page report outlining how they meet the criteria set for the competition by ACE. Ten students were selected from all the applicants who were then sent to judges to select the top five.

"Those five that the judges pick out of the 10, they go on to present a live presentation for the provincial championship," said Downe. This live presentation is what awarded Downe his current title as Ontario Student Entrepreneur Competition champion.

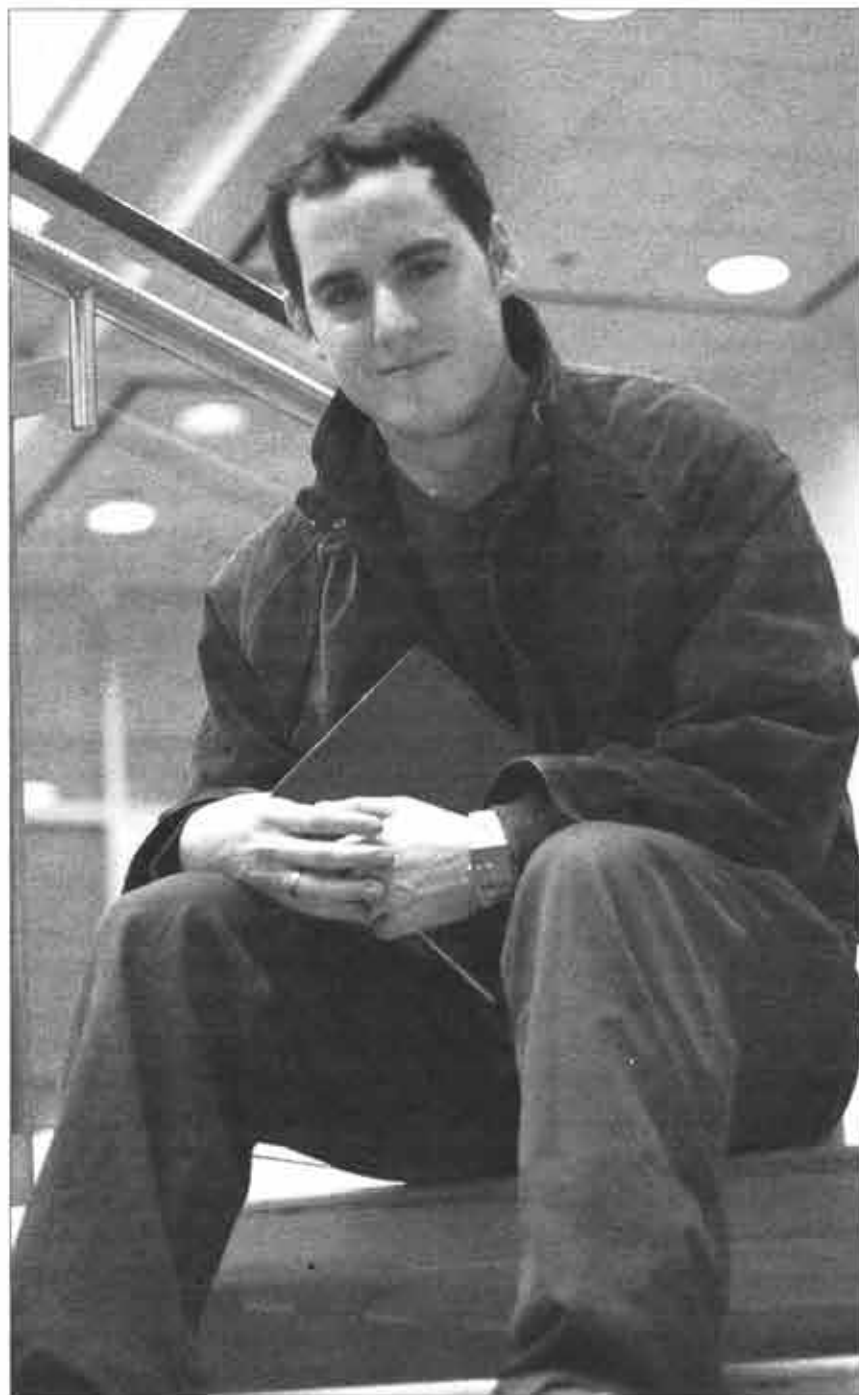
Downe, along with the other winner from Ontario, Daniel Warner from Seneca College, will now go on to the regional round against two people from Quebec.

The two students selected from the regional round will then go on to the nationals, guaranteeing them a cash prize of \$1000, while the winner of the national competition will be awarded \$10,000.

Downe believes that his experience and interest in business played a big role in getting him this far. "I think that the passion I have for business is a big thing and the fact that I've been running a business for three-and-a-half years now."

In total, Mind Over Math has helped over 250 students to date. All of the tutors are math students in co-op at the University of Waterloo.

"A lot of students are struggling with math and to help students



Sydney Holland

DOWNE TOPS - WLU student wins Ontario entrepreneurship contest.

that way and the fact that we've helped over 250 students, that's what's so incredible about it," said Downe. "To get that recognition really gives me motive to keep going, driving and expanding."

Downe hopes to expand his

company to include a Waterloo location and eventually get it franchised. He also hopes to start programs here at Laurier to help first- and second-year math students struggling with their courses.

Dean plans to further gambling research on seniors

Only 7 percent of seniors are at risk gamblers

- FROM GAMBLING, PAGE 2

row money from family. "They have an idea of a strategy in mind. The debit and the credit issues are something they don't involve in as much."

Norris adds that "the older folks are advantaged in that they are already mature and they have already had their money problems and they know what to do. Whereas for [university students], this is all new."

Tindale also feels that today's young gamblers may not turn out to be as responsible with gambling patterns as their grandparents currently are. "Adolescents today are the youngest generation to grow up with [gambling] and by the time they are 70 years of age, I'm sure the way they gamble, and

whether they gamble, and how much they gamble and the consequences will be quite different than older persons today."

Norris and Tindale are planning to continue their research on gambling with a study of baby boomers in Waterloo and Guelph and then with a study of ethnically diverse citizens in the Kitchener-Waterloo region.

Norris is determined to continue to do research on gambling, despite how these types of studies are commonly perceived. "It's almost like a taboo to do research on gambling and to give it any kind of a positive spin because it's like encouraging people to take on an addiction."

"Indirectly, I think we all benefit from a perception of old age that's more normalized."

> BAG O' CRIME

BREAK AND ENTER

Reported: Monday February 19, 2007 at 4:21pm

Special Constables responded to a call from a female student who reported her laptop stolen from her unlocked residence room.

THEFT UNDER \$5000

Reported: Wednesday February 21, 2007 at 11:15am

A staff member reported several room signs missing from the first floor Peters Building. The signs were taken sometime over the weekend by person(s) unknown.

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Email mbrown@cordweekly.com for more info

NEWSINBRIEF

Blueprint and Sputnik
hire new leaders

Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications welcomes two new additions to its team for the 2007-2008 academic year.

At Laurier's Brantford Campus, second-year honours journalism student Laura Bailey has filled the position of editor-in-chief for the campus newspaper, the *Sputnik*. Bailey's involvement with the *Sputnik* began with photography, photo editing and occasional writing. This past year, she added to that list by becoming a regular columnist for the paper as well. Bailey is also the ad hoc coordinator for WLUSU Brantford, and worked on the Journalism Open House Newsletter.

"I hope the *Sputnik* will become the first choice for news for students and faculty [at the Brantford Campus]," says Bailey.

Here at the Waterloo Campus, Josh Smyth, a third-year political science and economics major, has been hired as editor-in-chief for *Blueprint Magazine*. Smyth's previous experience includes the position of global section editor for this year's *Blueprint*, and he was a contributor for the previous year as well.

"I'd like to help foster a vibrant culture for discussion on campus, that every student can draw something from. Managing the *Blueprint* is the sort of thing that will help to do that," says Smyth. "Plus, I want to do this because it's fun."

Schultz released on
peace bond

Brock Schultz, who was charged with assault in October of 2006 after his involvement in an altercation with another Laurier student late on a Saturday night on his way home from the Turret, has been released on a peace bond.

The Laurier student appeared at the Ontario Court of Justice on February 16. The judge ruled that he must abide by certain conditions for one year; otherwise, he must appear before a judge to receive a sentence.

SBE Student Life Levy
passes with ease

Last Wednesday's vote on the Student Life Levy for the School of Business & Economics passed with an overwhelming 88 per cent. The total number of student votes was 689, representing 25 per cent of the eligible voters.

The levy will take effect in September and the majority of the money will go towards SBE student clubs.

- Compiled by Lenna Titizian,
Mike Brown and Tony Ferguson

"I earned my undergraduate degree,
now I want to
tackle the
tough stuff"

Meet Heather.

To get the specialized skills and field experience that would get her connected in HR, Heather earned her Postgraduate Certificate in Human Resources from Humber in only 2 semesters. She now works as an HR Representative in the Health Care Industry. We think she'll manage just fine.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING ONLINE
REGISTRATION FOR
UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

To select courses for next year, continuing undergraduate students must use Laurier's Online Registration and Information System (LORIS). In order to use LORIS in the summer, students MUST FIRST confirm their current program or select a new program. This can be done online (LORIS) between February 26 and April 13.

Students are urged to seek academic counseling with their department. For more information about LORIS visit www.wlu.ca/registrar or www.wlu.ca/gradstudies.

Important Dates for Students

Confirm Your Program:
February 26 - April 13

Register for Courses online (LORIS):

Year 4 students - June 18, 2007

Year 3 students - June 25, 2007

Year 2 students - July 3, 2007

All other students (unclassified/post-degree) - July 9, 2007

Check your Laurier e-mail account regularly for official messages from the University.

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Interviews on campus at
Wilfred Laurier University March 15, 2007

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News editor climbs ranks to editor-in-chief



EIC YOU IN MAY - Current news editor Mike Brown reads the Cord, which he will take over in two months' time.

Veteran *Cord* editor Mike Brown plans to focus on more investigative journalism and online content

STEVE NILES
STAFF WRITER

Mike Brown, a two-time editor for the *Cord*, has been chosen to become editor-in-chief for the 2007-2008 year.

Brown, entering his fifth year in English, has been writing for the newspaper since 2003. He began as a part-time sports writer for his first two years before becoming editor of the section in 2005. This year, he has been co-editor of the news section.

In addition to his time at the *Cord*, Brown works part-time at the *Record* in Kitchener and has had works featured in the *Waterloo Chronicle* and *Echo Weekly*.

Brown has lofty ambitions for his term, including revamping the web presence of the newspaper.

"Right now, our website pretty much mirrors our print content," he said. "I'd like to see more photos on the site ... I see no reason why we can't put the best photos in a gallery."

He also added that with his background in news, he wishes to see an increase in the amount of investigative journalism, as well as a greater appreciation for photographers.

Brown, who officially takes over the position in May, said that he appreciates the unique position of the student journalist in terms of quality investigative reporting.

"As student journalists we have an opportunity that at this point in our career, we can go out there and expose some stories," he said. "We have a little more freedom than the national media who has to consider their advertising interests a little more."

"That's not to say we would ever under my tenure do [investigative reporting] in an irresponsible manner, but if there is a story that needs to be exposed ... I'm not going to shy away from it."

Brown is now set to hire his staff, with applications now open for all editor positions. They're due on March 14 at noon.

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Fostering Responsibility

www.gcclaurier.org

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Global Citizenship Conference
Fostering Responsibility

Get Informed, Get Engaged, Get Involved!

WLUSU directors: take 2

Read on to find out why these students want your vote in the March 8 election to fill the five remaining board seats



Sheena Carson

With the opening of the Board of Directors, the opportunity to represent the students of WLU through the Student's Union fills me with great pride. As a member of a WLUSU BOD, I will enrich the student experience, pushing for better relations between students and the board by always making myself available to the Laurier community. I will advocate for better security at both the Waterloo and Brantford Campuses, as the safety of our students is a high priority. Secondly, I will assist the Union in extending Food Services hours of operation, focusing on weekend hours primarily in the dining hall and concourse cafe. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for taking time to vote.



Liran Tal

As a candidate for the WLUSU Board of Directors for 2007/2008, my primary concern will always be to serve the best interests of all students. I am running for the Board of Directors in order to contribute my ideas, and as a very approachable person, I will always be there to voice your opinions and concerns, so WE could continuously improve WLUSU. In order to better voice students' input I will aim to hold more events and accessible options for students to give the board their opinions and feedback with things like surveys and monthly meetings. Secondly, I will work towards more community involvement options and increased awareness of them. Do the right thing and have your voice heard, vote Liran Tal!



Kyle Walker

When elected, I will not only prevent this year's insufficient electoral interest from occurring again one or two years from now. Rather, I will call for the establishment of a foundation in which sees communications between the student body and WLUSU become more effective and influential for many more elections to come. Furthermore, I will also set in motion a plan to drastically improve the underutilization of study space on campus, along with the services associated with it, such as wireless internet. Finally, I will appeal to the Student's Union as a whole, to take a more active and leading role in the day to day interactions between you, the students of Laurier, and your university. On March 8th, vote Kyle Walker.



Heather Blair

I would like to offer a dedicated and enthusiastic new face and perspective to the WLUSU community. Since I was not aware of the deadline for applications to run for a position on the BOD, changes in communication and marketing need to be done to better relay information to the WLU community. Students have a large financial burden put on them with the increasing price of tuition, so students should be able to opt-out of more fees and have more access to Laurier bursaries. Because of the recent lack of interest in the WLUSU there should also be more done in incentives to hire more first year students and not discourage interest in the years to come, but rather to promote interest.



Colin LeFevre

This past year I have been heavily involved as a Director of the WLUSU. As a member of the Constitutional and Operational Development Committee I have helped create and shape new policies for the Union as well as assisted in the development of a new governance structure. I have also been involved in external representation by attending the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance Fall Assembly to represent the voices of you, the students, at a provincial level. If re-elected I will create environmental and local purchasing policies for the Union; work towards stronger relationships with WLUSU, LSPIRG, and the University; and be a knowledgeable voice in the transition to our new system of governance. Please contact me at colin@lefevre.com if you have any questions.



Kenneth Matheson

I have been involved with WLUSU for two years, in a variety of roles, and I have treasured my time within the organization. I feel it is my turn to give something back to the university and its student body as I have been given so much. I feel that on the Board of Directors I would be able to positively affect the student body. As a WLUSU Director, I would emphasize fiscal responsibility, fair student government representation for Laurier students and affordable on-campus social options and events. I believe that a focus on these three areas is important to ensuring that WLUSU will positively benefit the student body while maintaining accountability within the organization and.



Craig Stover

Here's what I want to do if I get elected to BOD. I want to bring back the Hawk that was in the Hall of Fame. I feel it was a strong source of tradition and that there is enough demand to have it back. I want to increase the availability and resources for recycling on campus. Probably one of the biggest issues is for campus involvement and awareness. Mainly around election time as well as volunteer positions. These are few of the values that make Laurier the community it is, and if they are brought back and strengthen then it will improve the students experience. I am a great representative of the students due to my involvement.



Jocelyn Butler

As a member of the WLUSU board of directors there are three key issues I would like to improve upon: 1. Increasing awareness of WLUSU events such as hiring, elections and other major events so more students can become involved. 2. Improve WLUSU's Representation of the broader student community, so more students feel the student union meets their needs. 3. Decrease WLU's contribution to negative impacts on the global environment. If elected, my term will be focused towards the achievement of these goals.



Samantha Henderson

If elected as a member of the Board of Directors, I will focus on the following three areas: 1. Providing quality representation for the Brantford Campus * Brantford students need a VOICE! 2. Practicing fiscal restraint and responsibility- YOUR money should be spent wisely! 3. Working for an increase in student voting numbers- students must be AWARE!



Rafiq Andani

WLUSU sux!



Justin Veenstra

No platform submitted.

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Asif Bacchus

If re-elected, I would like to ensure that student representation, through the Board, is not lost in the transition to Policy Governance but is actually strengthened so as to better meet your needs. I would especially like to rework the STARR hiring system concepts to be more transparent and incorporate a greater focus on relevant experience and the chance for leadership and personal development. This will allow a more diverse group of students to be hired for all positions within the Union. Finally, I would like to ensure the Laurier Student Caucus is properly used so that students in all departments, especially music, business and the sciences, become more involved and better represented. I look forward to representing you again in the coming year.



Greg Sacks

As a Director, I would pledge to ensure, above all else, that there is full and proper communication between the BOD and the student body. This includes engaging first-year students early on in the fall semester, holding more open forums and coordinating with both the VP: Marketing and WLUSP to ensure that there is always full coverage of the issues at hand. Student safety is another area which I would focus on. This includes everything from lobbying for a crosswalk at or around Bricker and King to simply ensuring that there are enough floor mats near high traffic doors to prevent someone from slipping and falling. I would also help investigate the steps necessary to work towards making WLUSU a carbon-neutral organization.

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12:15pm Travelling the South Pacific with Sunquest/Holiday House
1:15pm Egypt and Jordan with Trek Holidays
2:15pm Trafalgar Tours - Your One World Coach Tour Company
3:15pm Central America and Cuba with Trek Holidays
4:15pm Travelling Solo vs Joining a Group Tour Modern Gonzo
5:15pm The Highlands of South America with Trek Holidays

Presentation Schedule - Viking Suite B

10:15am Travelling Solo vs Joining a Group Tour Modern Gonzo
11:15am Volunteer Abroad Opportunities
12:15pm Work Abroad Holidays with SWAP
1:15pm Experience Australia
2:15pm Travelling Portugal with Signature Vacations
3:15pm Experience Europe
4:15pm Volunteer Abroad Opportunities
5:15pm Work Abroad Holidays with SWAP

NOTICE FOR 2007 GRADS:

Due to a printing delay,

THE KEYSTONE 2007 YEARBOOK

Is currently not yet available for pick-up.

The Keystone Staff and WLUSP apologize for the delay.

Watch The Cord Weekly for the updated pick-up date!

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Threats of violence at *Idol* tryout

MARY ERSKINE
STAFF WRITER

From the original *Pop Idol* in the UK to our more familiar *American* and *Canadian Idols*, to Norwegian *'Idol Jakten på en superstjerne'*, it is clear that this reality show is one of international popularity.

The threats surrounding Indian *Idol* come amidst ongoing conflicts in the region, including the killing of three suspected Islamic rebels by army soldiers this past Monday north of Srinagar.

Currently, there are *Idol* spin-offs in over 30 countries, with more being developed. More recent incarnations of the show have appeared in West Africa, Vietnam, and Bulgaria, with the first season to air this year. The franchise has crowned 88 winners to date around the world.

One such regional manifesta-

tion of the *Idol* franchise, *Indian Idol*, has been facing recent criticism, even threats of violence. The threats originate from the already disputed Kashmir region. Sony Entertainment Television announced talent search plans in the Kashmir Valley recently during its third Indian *Idol* competition. Another announcement was then made by militant group Al-Madina, which warned youth not to participate in any component of the show. Those who did would be killed, they stated.

Abu Sadiq, an Al-Madina spokesman, told the press: "We appeal to boys and girls of Kashmir not to participate in the talent hunt of the Sony television." The group stated that they were protesting against the vulgarity of the show, and its disregard for traditional values.

The auditions, held in the state



Contributed Photo

DISCORD IN KASHMIR - Contest is the same, but context differs drastically from North American versions.

capital of Srinagar last Wednesday, saw hundreds of youth ignore the warnings and audition for the show. "We have come here with confidence and good will," said Sony TV representative Shola Rajachandran.

One participant noted that the auditions "have afforded a chance to Kashmiri youth to show their talent and to represent Kashmir. It's a good beginning." Meraj Ahmed, another contestant who lost out in the auditions, also maintained a positive attitude: "There is a lot of

talent here. Sony TV is exposing it to the world."

The threats surrounding *Indian Idol* come amidst ongoing conflicts in the region, including the killing of three suspected Islamic rebels by army soldiers this past Monday north of Srinagar. Government forces have been working to curb the dozen or so rebel groups that have been fighting for Kashmir's independence since 1989.

The territorial region, which is almost completely of Muslim composition, has been claimed by

both India and Pakistan, and has been a source of contention for the two countries since the 1947 independence from Britain. Tensions have mounted since both Pakistan and India have gained nuclear capabilities.

Since the start of the conflict in 1989, there have been upwards of 68,000 casualties, mostly civilian. As for *Indian Idol* amidst this ongoing conflict, Sony Entertainment Television plans to continue with the show as planned despite the warnings.

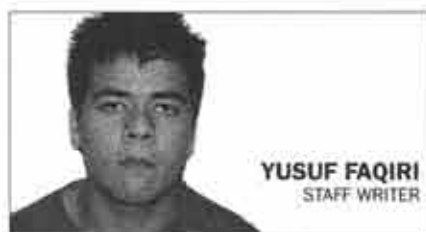
Mugabe holds Zimbabweans hostage

Out of control inflation and flagrant human rights violations have made Zimbabwe a pariah state, says Yusuf Faqiri



Contributed Photo

GOING IT ALONE - Empty promises led Zimbabwe down a dark path.



YUSUF FAQIRI
STAFF WRITER

The cancerous regime of Zimbabwe is once again in the centre of the spotlight. For the last 27 years, the people of Zimbabwe have been living under one of the most repressive regimes in the world. The country has been led since 1980 by ruthless dictator Robert Mugabe, who swept into power with promises of hope for the people of Zimbabwe. However, his rule has been anything but smooth.

Mugabe has been guilty of gross human rights violations during his tenure. It is here that our story begins: Mugabe has alienated Zimbabwe from virtually the entire outside world. The country has been suspended from the commonwealth because of flawed elections. Mugabe's Zimbabwe has turned into a pariah state, a regime with countless shortcomings, including human rights and deteriorating living standards.

The gross human rights violations that Mugabe and his Zanu-PF party have committed cannot be taken lightly. Amnesty International

has accused the regime of using the media as tools for repression, and reports that the government-controlled media have become powerful tools for Mugabe to intimidate human rights defenders. "State newspapers, television and radio have been used to vilify both human rights organizations and individual human rights defenders," it reports.

On September 19, 2004, more than 30 activists began a 440 km walk from Bulawayo to the capital Harare to protest the NGO bill and to also raise funds for women's rights work. Mugabe has crushed dissidents in many such cases.

The main opposition party, Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), is quite weak and has had several of its members killed, tortured and harassed by supporters of Mugabe's Zanu-PF party. The regime's role in marginalizing women is of extreme concern. Zimbabwe's women's rights record is on par with that of Saudi Arabia. The physical abuse of members of Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA) has gotten the attention of several human rights groups. For example, since 2003 WOZA activists have been constantly harassed by the police while peacefully protesting "the worsening social, economic, and human rights situation in the

country." The United Nations has let their concern known to Mugabe but to no avail.

Deteriorating living standards in Zimbabwe can be blamed squarely on Robert Mugabe. The Zimbabwean economy is on the brink of collapse and a humanitarian crisis is looming in the country.

This has Mugabe scared as well because his days might be numbered. The inflation is extremely dangerous in Zimbabwe. For example, the prices of meat, cooking oil and clothes increased by 223 percent two weeks ago. The annual inflation rate is now at a whopping 1,200 percent and is picking up steam. Doctors at government hospitals have been on strike for seven weeks now and want price increases of 9,000 percent.

Unemployment is at an incredible 70 percent and people with jobs are having a tough time supporting their families. In the end, the Mugabe regime has overstayed its welcome. The Western world must focus on this pariah state, ignoring that its involvement is not in its self interest.

A personal letter to Mr. Bush: stop your hawkish endeavours and focus on something that needs real attention and real effort from the United States.

Explosion on the Friendship Express



BLASTED PEACE - The blasts killed 68 and may preclude peace between India and Pakistan.

ASHLEY DOODNAUTH
STAFF WRITER

The "Friendship" Express was the target of a double-bombing on February 18 that left 68 people dead and several injured. The train, traveling through Delhi, India and Lahore, Pakistan, was carrying about 500 people, most of them thought to be Pakistani. According to the *BBC News*, approximately 12 of the 68 victims were children.

Police say they recovered 14 plastic bottles filled with kerosene, a suitcase and plastic digital timers from the site.

"I pulled out a few bodies. I think they were women. They were all black. But I think I saw a few bangles on them," says security guard

Shiv Ram.

Authorities are making it possible for DNA tests to link victims with their families, but as of now, the victims are being buried as a result of the rate of decomposition of the bodies. Over 25 people may have to be buried without identification reports *BBC News*.

Indian authorities admit to lapses in security measures at the Delhi railway that may have allowed the homemade suitcase bombs on board. Since the attack, Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav informed parliament that precautionary steps were being taken to increase security in key stations at India.

Two men and one woman are being held for questioning in Bikaner,

one of Rajasthan's four districts bordering Pakistan. However it is too early to tell what the outcome will be.

The Sumjhauta Express travels between India and Pakistan twice weekly, and is a symbol of the growing friendship between the two countries. The train service was restarted in 2004 after a two-year gap, as part of the peace process between the two countries.

In July 2006, a series of bombs were set off in the commuter trains in Mumbai, where 159 people were killed. At the time India accused Pakistan of their involvement. However, this time Indian and Pakistani leaders deem this act to be aimed at disrupting the ongoing peace process.

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Applications due **March 5th** at noon in the WLUSP office.

Interviews will be held **March 9th- 11th**.

Any questions should be directed to Keren Gottfried at
keren.gottfried@wlusp.com

A season to be proud of

Lady Hawks' coach considers this year's squad his strongest yet

DAN POLISCHUK
SPORTS EDITOR

Wrapping up their regular season this past weekend with yet another point in a tie with Guelph, Laurier's women's hockey team has finished with a program record 41 total points.

This only acted as more fuel to be added to the fire for Head Coach Rick Osbourne, who summarized the just-completed schedule as a

"great accomplishment."

"The win would have been nice — just to make it another 'best ever' ... but I felt pretty proud," he commented on coming close to a second straight twenty-win year.

"This team, in particular, I think is the best one we've had yet."

Holding this type of confidence with his second-ranked squad, Osbourne admitted with a chuckle that during the two-week break facing the team until the OUA Final Four tournament in London, there "won't be any suicide skating at all."

"This is the time of year for relaxation and mental preparation ... that's the key," he explained.

Asked to specify what things will be addressed in practice up until their first game on March 11, Osbourne only expressed a need to change things up when the team has the man-advantage.

We're going to take it one practice at a time, one game at a time until we get the job done."

- Rick Osbourne, Head Coach

"If you see anything different, it'll come on the power play," he said without giving too much away. It

would seem, however, it would be some minor tinkering at most, for the team had the second-best special teams unit in the province at 83 percent efficiency.

In terms of giving anything away, the bench boss didn't have too much to report on the Hawks' injury situation other than the fact that Andrea Ironside, after missing the season finale against Guelph with an upper body injury, will be ready to go for the semifinal.

With all things seemingly click-

ing for the team that finished with a record of 19-2-3, Osbourne does admit that he has thought about how things must fall into place for the team to clinch their fourth straight OUA gold medal.

"I do have a big picture and I have a vision but ... I don't want my players reading anything in the paper that skips us ahead ... We're going to take it one practice at a time, one game at a time until we get the job done," said Osbourne.

"We have a master plan — that's for sure. But we ... really need to focus on one game at a time. Because if you get too far ahead, that usually leads to disaster."

Spot in nationals up for grabs

Much like they did against Lakehead, the Hawks will need to get plenty of traffic in front of Waterloo goalie Curtis Darling

- FROM SEMIFINALS, COVER

Having eliminated the Wolves, Laurier will now face a Waterloo Warriors squad coming off of a hard-fought series with the Western Mustangs.

Additionally, the upcoming best-of-three contest between the Hawks and Warriors will decide a spot in the National Championships, as the winner will play the victor of the

OUA Eastern Conference (UQTR or Toronto) for OUA Gold.

WLU's key to success seems simplistic, but tactically speaking it is absolutely essential: get the early lead. Waterloo has lived off of close games all year as they effectively utilize a tight, disciplined 1-4 trap once they get ahead (much like the New Jersey Devils).

More importantly, it is necessary to get past Waterloo goal-

der Curtis Darling who has been an absolute gem in net, ranking fourth nationally in save percentage (.917) and sixth in goals against average (2.82).

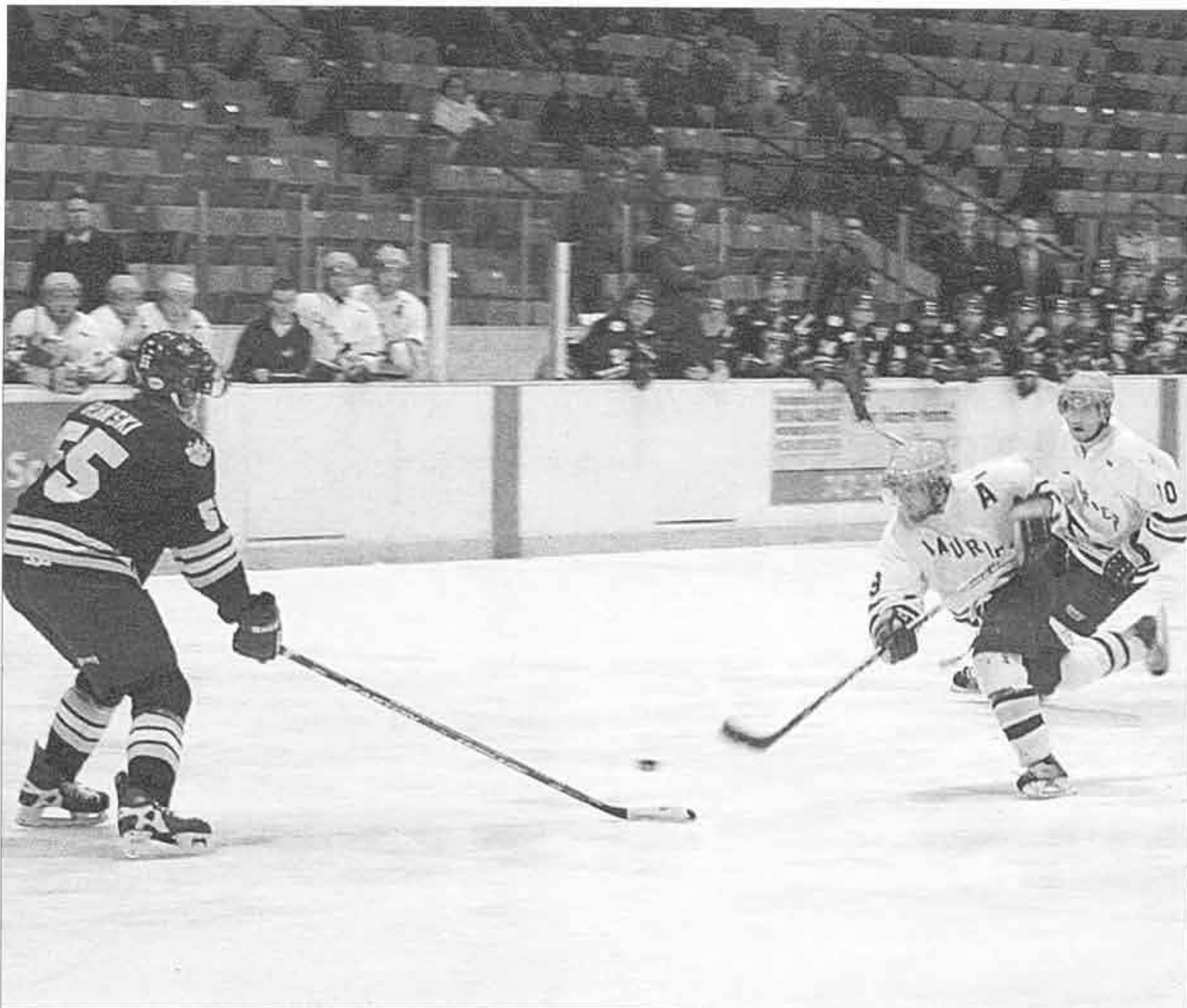
Up front the Warriors are led by former Belleville Bull David Edgeworth who scored 32 points in 25 games (served a three-game suspension during the season) and ex-Moncton Wildcat (QMJHL) David Philpott, who has 28 points on the

year.

"[Waterloo's] team is similar to ours; they play good systems, they're good defensively and are opportunistic. We need to just play our game and make them adjust to us. We're only focusing on our systems and our ability to execute," evaluated Nobes.

All match-ups and strategies aside, this playoff installment of the Battle of Waterloo looks to be

an outright war as there is absolutely no love lost between the two squads.



Sydney Holland

HE'S A STRAIGHTSHOOTER - Laurier's Nick Vergeer tries to rifle a shot through the Lakehead defence in Game 2 action on Saturday night.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
Feb 28 - Mar 6, 2007

RECENT SCORES

02.14.07
W Basketball 67 - Guelph 77
M Basketball 59 - Guelph 69

02.16.07
W Volleyball OUA Quarter Final
Laurier 0 - Western 3

02.17.07
M Basketball 64 - Waterloo 85
W Curling OUA Championships
Laurier 8 - Western 5
Laurier 9 - Trent 4
Laurier 4 - Waterloo 7
M Curling OUA Championships
Laurier 2 - Windsor 6
Laurier 2 - Queen's 9
Laurier 10 - Brock 11

02.18.07
W Curling OUA Championships
Semi-Final 8 - Western 4
Gold Medal 1 - Waterloo 6
W Hockey 3 - Waterloo 0

02.21.07
M Hockey OUA Quarter-Final 1 of 3
Laurier 4 - Lakehead 2
M Basketball 65 - Western 85

02.24.07
W Hockey 1 - Guelph 1
M Basketball OUA Playoffs
Laurier 61 - McMaster 85
M Hockey OUA Quarter-Final 2 of 3
Laurier 5 - Lakehead 2

UPCOMING PLAYOFF GAMES

02.28.07
M Hockey OUA Semi-Final 1 of 3
Laurier vs Waterloo
Waterloo Rec Complex, 7:30pm

03.02.07
M Hockey OUA Semi-Final 2 of 3
Laurier vs Waterloo
Columbia Ice Fields, 7:30pm

03.04.07
M Hockey OUA Semi-Final 3 of 3
Laurier vs Waterloo (if necessary)
Waterloo Rec Complex, 7:30pm

LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Chris Di Ubaldo
Men's Hockey
Morgan Wielgosz
Women's Hockey

www.laurierathletics.com

Finding the silver lining

Curlers clinch second at OUAs; denied Nationals

DAN POLISCHUK
SPORTS EDITOR

Despite finishing a mediocre third place in the regular season standings, Laurier's female curlers almost came out in top spot at the OUA championships during the weekend to start Reading Week.

Not having won a gold medal since the 1998-1999 season, the handful of Golden Hawks came within a game of breaking the drought. Instead, they were beaten by the Waterloo Warriors squad 6-1.

According to Laurier Head Coach Ken McCormack, his rink of skip Hollie Nicol, vice Leslie Bishop, lead Laura Hickey, second Stacey McCormack and spare Tracey O'Leary played "really well."

"They worked very hard to get to where they went to," commented

the coach, adding, "The players that we had this year have had a high skill level Just a very strong team."

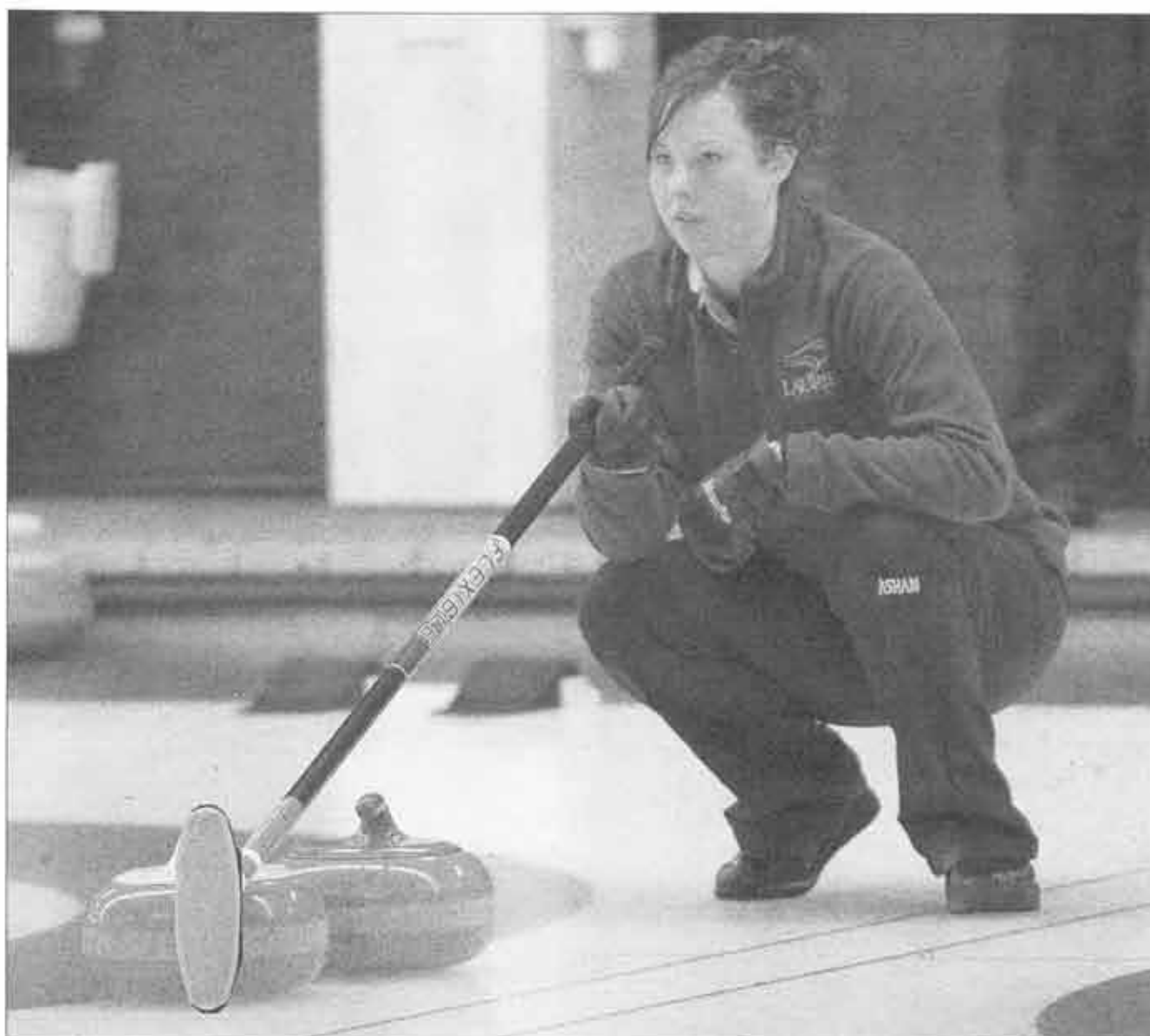
The aforementioned tactical leader of the squad, Nicol, agreed with the fact that the overall team dynamic helped keep "everyone on the same page."

"To finish second is pretty good," she said simply.

In comparison to their male counterparts, the result was also a welcome pleasure as the defending OUA gold medalists dropped their title in a very tough playoff draw.

"They're certainly disappointed but they recognize that, at this level of play, any team entering the event had an opportunity to win," said McCormack of the Laurier men.

"They knew that they had to play well. They did play well but ... subsequently, this time, the competi-



Mike Whitehouse - Laurier Athletics

LAYING IT OUT - Hawks' skip Hollie Nicol calls for a take-out at the OUA Championships in Waterloo.

tion just showed the strength and growth taking place [within the OUA]."

Quite disappointingly though, the men's squad won't be the only team watching from the sidelines as the national tournament is held March 21-25 at the University of Regina.

It was the eventual silver medalists who discovered at the begin-

ning of the year they would not receive funding from athletics.

"This year, they were up front telling us 'No, we're not giving you anything,'" explained Nicol of the decision.

Ultimately, she believes this fact

ended up creeping into the minds of the players.

"If we had been able to go, there might have been a little more motivation in our last game," said the resigned-sounding captain.

No hope for hoopsters

Hawks finish season with four consecutive losses, quarterfinal's loss

PARRY SOHI
STAFF WRITER

Despite having lost their final three regular season games, the men's basketball team was able to creep into the sixth and final playoff spot in the OUA West, which pitted them against the third-ranked McMaster Marauders, whom they both won and lost to during the season.

The game was also reminiscent of the squad's loss to McMaster in last year's OUA semi-final game.

The Marauders played tena-

cious defence, limiting the Hawks' leading scorer Matthew Walker to a mere two points on one-of-nine shooting from the floor. Despite a lack of scoring from Walker, Laurier was able to hang tough with the Mac squad, trailing by only four with 13 minutes to play: 44-40.

However, WLU was unable to find an answer for McMaster guard Martin Ajayi, who was able to single-handedly pull the Marauder squad ahead down the stretch.

Ajayi finished the game with 26 points, 8 rebounds and 7 assists.

Jesse McDonald and Trevor Csima led the scoring for the Hawks with 17 and 14 points respectively.

The final score of the contest was 85-61 in favor of the Marauders. The loss eliminated the young Laurier squad from further playoff contention.

To end the season though, three Hawks were recognized by the OUA for their contribution. Walker was named a second team all-star, while Justin Golob and Andrew Pennycook were named to the all-rookie team.

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COUCH'S CORNER

The **Cord's** three biggest gaming fans — the young, the old and the ugly — took two entire days out of their lives to review the top six sports games of 2007



ALEX HAYTER
YOUNG BUCK/GAMES GEEK

Winning Eleven: *Pro Evolution Soccer 2007*

One of the first things to be said about *Pro Evolution* for the Xbox 360 is that it's definitely not one of the more visually astounding games to play. Nevertheless, it's the attention to detail when it comes to gameplay which really sets *Pro Evo* apart from franchises such as EA's *Fifa*. It's a game that prides itself on the skill and expertise required to control your players' slightest movements. What *Evo's* design does best is create the potential for truly glorious goals: the sensation of shooting for that vital, desperate final goal is unrivalled in sports games and incredibly rewarding.

NHL 2K7

NHL 2K7 is good clean hockey, and pretty much the best ice-rink experience you're going to get in your living room. It does little else, but hey, you never really wanted it to, did you? Most impressive is the flow of players' movement: rather than boxed and linear like some hockey games, you'll feel quite in control as you breeze past opponents. Still, the offensive side of the game could be somewhat improved: scoring a goal sometimes didn't really carry the "va-voom" that I'd hoped for.

NCAA Football '07

I've never been a big football fan but after a week spent with *NCAA Football*... I still have little idea what's going on. At times, I personally find that football video games are nothing more than glorified turn-based games: too much technical jargon, not enough action. Still, as a sports game, it's very similar to EA's popular *Madden*; with virtually identical controls and gameplay. It differs in some added features, such as mini-games, and a "Momentum Meter" during play. But Laurier's Golden Hawk fans should feel at home with a colleg football game that strongly celebrates the youthful tradition.

NBA Live '07

Some gameplay issues drag this title down, really taking away from the fun of the game. For starters, a limited camera angle means you never know when your player is out of bounds on the opposite side of the court. It's also very difficult even to spot exactly which player you are controlling; in the midst of heated ball play, it's virtually impossible to know which player you have assumed control of. Finally, defending actions against offensive players are incredibly useless: players swat at the ball like it's a mosquito rather than the valuable object of scoring.

Smackdown vs. Raw 2007

WWE triumphs with both wonderful presentation and huge amounts of things to do; the amount of content in this game is seriously astounding. The game has countless wrestlers to play as or against, making for hundreds of different wrestling moves. The career mode is also hilarious: heaps of voice acting makes it as "authentic" an experience as one can get in a wrestling simulation. Granted, it's not the best game ever made, but it's certainly the best wrestling game ever made, and that's saying something.

Table Tennis

A couple years ago game developer Rockstar gave a little side project to their North American studio, which involved a white ball, two hand-sized paddles and a small table. And who'd have thought that in taking so few elements, one could make such a brilliant game? *Table Tennis* excels because of its paradoxical tendencies: it's simultaneously the most simple and easiest sports game made, but also one of the more complex and demanding simulations of a competitive exercise. Games can be extremely short, or they can progress into mind-blowing rallies where players put every effort into pounding their competitor into a loss. And the inclusion of colour-coded spin signals add further depth into how a controller can be re-envisioned.

BRANDON CURRIE
CROTCHETY OL' GAMER

Winning Eleven: *Pro Evolution Soccer 2007*

Don't let the schizophrenic name fool you; Konami's stellar sports franchise has been scattling all over EA Sports' bigger budget series for years, and looks set to continue to do so on the next-gen consoles. The selling point over the four years I've been a *Winning Eleven* gamer remains the same — its incredibly realistic gameplay. Everything else pretty much sucks, from unlicensed players to commentary that sounds better in German, but when you belt a 30-yard stunner after months of slowly learning the craft, it's the best feeling a sports gamer could ever have.

NHL 2K7

The first video game I ever owned was EA Sports' *NHL '95*, which cemented my opinion that Kirk McLean is the best stand-up goalie of all-time, and that the best video games are sports-oriented. After growing up on the action-adventure franchises, you get pretty sick of beating the same level/boss/game over and over again. Sports games, on the other hand, were different every time you played, virtually unbeatable, and once you found a cheap way to score, allowed you to mercilessly drub your friends.



Sydney Holland

NCAA Football '07

The progeny of two things I loathe – collegiate sports and football – the only thing I enjoyed about this game were the marching band themes that played after touchdowns. Maybe it's because their upbeat rhythm distracted me from the watching-paint-dry pace of football, where you spend 40 seconds choosing a play that lasts five. The excitement reached funeral home proportions when the Florida Gators' mascot did that chompy thing to taunt the other team. *Joe Montana's NFL Football '94* this game is not.

NBA Live '07

This game confirmed my long-held opinion that basketball games rooted in reality are over-complicated and not all that fun. Clunky animations, annoying commentary, redundant replays and very ordinary slams are hallmarks of a game that denies hoops gamers their inalienable right: to dunk the living shit out of the basketball. Growing up on the *NBA Jam* and *NBA Street* franchises where gravity is a mere nuisance and a successful jump-shot is an abject failure, these games give sports gamers what they ultimately crave: the ability to do what their withered and atrophied bodies cannot. Unfortunately for EA Sports, I can make awkward-looking lay-ups, too.

Smackdown vs. Raw 2007

Wrestling games have always been a big part of the idiotic culture of 'sports entertainment,' and like its real-life counterpart, has sporadically been a train-wreck watching guilty pleasure of mine. Back in the day of the WWF arcade games with a joystick and two-buttons, the gaming product lagged far behind the halcyon days of Hulkamania and George "The Animal" Steele's hairy back. Nowadays the gaming experience more closely mirrors that of television: a cocktail of aging superstars, homoeroticism and hitting each other with foreign objects. It still makes for good fun, but unlike the proverbial train wreck, it's getting much easier to turn away.

Table Tennis

Apparently the forerunner of the first-ever video game, *Pong*, Rockstar's *Table Tennis* makes an admirable yet impossible attempt to bring some credibility to the art of table tennis. It may surprise the kids out there that I'm actually not old enough to remember *Pong*, and I can't recall ever having played a racquet-based sports video game before. I can, however, recall playing countless hours of real ping-pong, and can assure you that as good as the video game is at doing nifty spin shots and trick serves, nothing beats the real-life satisfaction of a breathless rally ending in a devastating spike.

DAN POLISCHUK DRUBBED SPORTSMAN

Winning Eleven: *Pro Evolution Soccer 2007*

From the fishy penalty calls to the outrageous swan diving, this game indeed has it all. To be quite honest though, it is the appearance of such aspects of the 'beautiful game' that makes *Pro Evolution*, well, beautiful! Aside from the rosters of African nations – which are basically stacked with marathon runners – endurance plays a major role in the end result of the simulated match, which makes it match up well with real life games on the pitch. Along with ball handling that is true to form, *Pro Evo* is the epitome when it comes to reflecting the true athleticism it takes to play on any professional pitch.

NHL 2K7

There's a reason why this game has been voted the best in hockey-playing circles for the last couple of years. Much like its real life example, *2K7* has got everything that the 'new' NHL has – from crackdowns on clutching and grabbing to game ending penalty shots. This, in essence, has made the hockey game experience much more different from the *Blades of Steel* days in which one had decent odds of scoring from centre ice. Quick passing, selective shooting and smart back checking make *2K7* an intense hockey game.

NCAA Football '07

NCAA is very much like sitting down to watch any game on a Saturday afternoon collegiate game. From the constant barrage of corporate advertising to crowd shots of overzealous fans and mascots, one cannot help but sing along with the fight song being belted after every successful drive.

One detractor caused by *NCAA* regulations is that the play calling is hindered by the fact that real names cannot be used. Where some might be looking for a booming, "Florida's Chris Leak passes for a HUGE gain!" to end a play, players instead are greeted with a "Number 14 does it again!"

Aside from this flaw, *NCAA Football '07* has the makings of a complete college game.

NBA Live '07

Technically, *NBA Live* certainly has every aspect of a basketball game involved – from extensive inbound plays to dictating where players should set screens. But the fact that one can routinely pull off the most arcane offensive attempt, such as a lay up-styled attempt from the foul line, and be successful at least 90 percent of the time makes one wonder if basketball games have really evolved at all. Aside from these type of head-scratchers, ball handling, as well as passing and shooting, definitely had factors to be mastered – such as shoot-

ing form, jump height and position. With most of the arcade feel taken out of the game, there is no doubt why EA continues to be the most successful sports simulation franchise.

Smackdown vs. Raw 2007

The realism with this game begins and ends with the entrance of each wrestler in the ring. From the ring of the bell, *Smackdown vs. Raw* is a no-holds barred event that will leave players salivating with glee.

Frankly, any notion of critiquing the game goes out the window once you have played a table match that takes 45 minutes to complete – and win – only after taking numerous cut inducing punches to the head, double-team ass beatings and multiple smashes of a sledge hammer to your character's leg.

Table Tennis

Coming from the creators of *Grand Theft Auto*, I was expecting this game to have a little more flavour to it.

Quite disappointingly, this game came across a little dry. No real celebrations, no crowd noise, and, quite frankly, too much shortness in the in the players' leg wear.

Aside from the ball glow, the realness is there ... although for a game like table tennis, it was almost too real for its own good.

A Day in the Life ... of a WLU basketball player

Take a stroll in Matt Walker's size 15 trainers, and see what it's like to be a student athlete

DJ DEMERS
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier Men's Basketball team has just made an early exit from the OUA playoffs after making it with a sixth seed in the OUA West. However, their season can still be considered a success as they showed great promise with a young squad. One of the brightest stars on the team is Matthew Walker, a third-year kinesiology student.

The 6'4" forward led the team in scoring at a clip of 17.4 points per game. So, what is life like in the size 15 shoes of the OUA's sixth leading scorer?

Walker lives the life of an average student in many ways. He wakes up in the morning for his early class, comes home for a little break and some lunch, and then attends an afternoon class.

The difference is, come 4:00 pm Matt is practicing with the rest of the Laurier squad for two hours every weekday. The only days he is not practicing are when the team has a game, which are usually twice a week.

Another difference from many students is that when he comes home after class in the morning, he is reading and staying on top of his work until his 4:00 pm practice. It is this kind of discipline that has made Walker a two-time academic all Canadian.

"I just keep up on my work so that I am not faced with any last-minute study conflicts with basketball. Conflict is no fun for anyone."

Based on the above description, you may assume Walker is boring, and reclusive. However, this is not the case. When he's not focused on training, he can be found at your favourite drinking establishment or

at home playing some Guitar Hero.

He is very much like Gilbert Arenas, except he is white and less skilled, with a lot less money. Other than that, though, his quirkiness is reminiscent of Agent Zero himself.

Last season, Walker lost a lot of time due to a nasty ankle injury. When he returned from the injury, his playing time was reduced while he worked himself back into form, and his confidence took a hit with the long lay-off.

"A lot of factors contributed to my lacklustre play last season. It was as frustrating as waiting behind someone at Tim Horton's paying with all pennies."

This year, though, he was reinvigorated and had fun playing basketball once again. He does not display a lot of emotion during games (during cheers, he appears to be unconscious) but leads by example.

During training camp at the beginning of the season, he led the team through drills. He also tries to play the role of a mentor to the younger players on the team, as he valued the things he learned from the veterans before him.

"Players like Wade Currie and Andrew Mackay really taught me a lot and I try to pass that on. Sometimes, I will pull them aside, but sometimes all it takes is a simple bum slap and they know what I'm saying."

Matt Walker has big hopes for the team next season, as players develop and mature into their respective roles. "If we could win the whole she-bang next year," says Walker, "that would be a cornucopia of awesomeness."

Amen to that, Matt. Amen to that.



GLOBETROTTER SKILLS - Matt Walker showing off his basketball technique.

Sydney Holland

Are your classes a pain in the neck?

A crash course in ergonomics for sedentary students

LAN DJANG
NIGHTVIEWS (RYERSON UNIVERSITY)

TORONTO (CUP) -- "Ergonomics" is a word that has been getting a lot of attention in the workplace in recent decades. But even though student life is every bit as sedentary as most modern office jobs, it's generally left up to young scholars to figure out this important health and wellness issues.

Dr. Biljana Durickovic is a chi-

ropractor at Toronto's downtown Source Centre for Health and Wellness. She said she sees many students come in with very preventable back pain.

The majority of students' problems come from hours spent sitting at a desk and studying, sitting through lectures, working in front of computers and improperly wearing backpacks. Durickovic said students forget that simply sitting and reading can cause back problems.

Leaning over books at a table is especially bad. This puts strain in the muscles of the mid-back, a motion Durickovic likened to "repeatedly stretching an elastic band until it begins tearing."

"Also, because students' shoulders are rounded, they poke their

chins out, and that adds a lot of stress to the discs in the neck," she said. "A lot of students will come in with a headache that they can't get rid of because of that."

Students should be aware of numbness or tingling in the hands and legs and radiating pain through the legs, which are ergonomic warning signs. Pain in one area is often a symptom of improper positioning in another area.

Students need to make themselves aware of proper posture and positioning. Poor ergonomics in first year can turn into pain by third and fourth year, and often the repetitive strain injuries experienced in the workplace trace their roots back to university years.

"The thing to remember is that

by the time someone is experiencing pain, they've generally had this problem for a long time," she said. "It's your body finally recognizing it as too much."

Ergonomic Tips for Students

Try to sit upright with a straight back when taking notes.

Shift positions, do neck stretches and stretch out your legs while sitting down.

When you get a break, get up and walk around.

In front of the computer:

Your back, head and neck should be upright, in a straight line, when facing the monitor.

Forearms, wrists and hands should be in a straight line when operating a keyboard and mouse. The elbows and forearms should

be close to the body.

Thighs should be parallel to the floor and the feet should either be flat on the floor or resting on a stable support.

Wearing a backpack:

The choice of backpack is important. The backpack should not extend higher than the shoulders or lower than the hipbone. The straps should be adjustable, have padding and be at least two inches wide.

Pack the heaviest items closest to the body.

The weight should not exceed about 15 percent of your total body weight.

If improperly loaded, you may feel the backpack pulling on you from behind.

Get back on the fitness bandwagon

Bring back those fuzzy New Year's resolution memories of this being "the year" to get in shape

JENNIFER O'NEILL
STAFF WRITER

So you decided that this was the year you were going to lose that extra weight, put on more muscle, eat right and get in shape.

Two months after you swore to yourself this New Year resolution was going to stick, you've stopped going to the gym and you're back to your old eating habits.

Many times, it can be frustrating if you stop seeing results from all your hard work and that can put a real strain on your motivation to get to the gym.

Despite your best efforts to lose weight, you may not be doing everything right. Losing fat takes more than just regular exercise and "eating right."

Here are five things you can change to get the results you want

before summer.

Get your heart rate up

Increase the intensity to get the most out of your cardio. Adding more time to your workout is not going to give you the same fat burn as interval training. Interval cardio training integrates lower level intensities with high-level intensities.

Instead of running on the treadmill at the same pace for 45 minutes, try 20 minutes of switching between four minutes of jogging at five to six miles per hour then one minute of sprinting at eight to ten miles per hour.

This will boost your metabolism and will rev your body to burn more calories even after you're done working out.

Change your program regularly

In order to keep seeing results, you need to consistently challenge your body. If you use the same cardio machine five days a week, eventually your body will adapt and will no longer be challenged.

Do a variety of activities. If you run, try biking as a cross-training exercise.

There are other options outside the cardio room such as swimming lengths, playing squash, going to group fitness classes or doing yoga.

The same thing goes for weight training. Doing the same thing over and over is not going to challenge the muscle.

Each week, look up a new exercise for one muscle group online.

Do this each week for a different muscle. When you've gone through all the muscles, start over again.

New exercises will challenge your muscles and stop you from getting bored with your routine.

Control your blood sugar

Skipping meals, eating inconsistently, and eating too many or too few calories are all going to affect your blood sugar level, your energy and your metabolism.

By eating meals every three to four hours throughout the day, you will increase your energy levels and speed up your metabolism.

Bring snacks to school if you know you're going to be there for an extended period of time.

At each meal, aim for a protein, a carbohydrate and a fat source. For example, almonds and an apple, a peanut butter sandwich or cut-up vegetables and cheese are all great snacks that are easy to bring to class.

Don't forget the H₂O

Water can be your best friend when it comes to weight loss. Your liver is the organ that is in charge of converting fat to energy for your muscles.

If you're dehydrated, your kidneys cannot do their job as effectively, so your liver kicks in to help them. If your liver is helping your kidneys, it is not doing its job.

In other words, your fat is not being converted to energy, therefore is not being burned. So take water with you to class and sip on it throughout the day.

Patience is virtue

Nothing is going to happen overnight. Weight loss and healthy living is a lifestyle.

It takes patience, hard work and dedication. Therefore, you need to be ready to make this decision, because it will need to be a life change.

However, the good news is, once it becomes routine, the habit is hard to break and soon exercise and healthy eating habits will become lifelong habits.

Keeping dough during tax season

Important deductions you should know about before filing

CHRISTINE SUIZA
STAFF WRITER

It's the most wonderful time of the year - good ol' tax season. As students, it is important to be aware of useful tips and new regulations.

Tineke Vos, a Senior Tax associate of the Central Ontario Market Group for H&R Block, provides some important tips for filing your taxes.

Tip #1: File your tax return.

Vos stresses that "you should still file your tax return even though you don't have income." Three reasons: 1) If you don't file, you will not receive the GST/HST credit, 2) Student loan. You will need to provide the government information on your tax return, so without this you can expect delays, 3) Your income now can build your Registered Retirement Saving Plan (RRSP), as RRSP contributions can be tax deductible.

Tip #2: Non-refundable credit for textbooks.

This is a new regulation implemented for 2006. Full-time students will receive \$65/month for the number of months they are in school. As for part-time students, they are eligible to \$20/month for the number of months in school.

Tip #3: Medical expenses.

According to Vos, medical expenses can be claimed, "If the expense is higher than three percent of in-

come." As students, there is the option for parents to also make a tax deduction.

"If you are under your parents' coverage, your expenses can be transferred to your parents' tax return because you are still considered a dependent."

Tip #4: Scholarships/Bursaries.

Any amount can be claimed. "You will receive a tax receipt from the institution who awarded you with the scholarship/bursary."

She explains this is applicable only when you take at least one course.

Tip #5: Student loan.

"Any government loans [for example OSAP] you can claim the interest they collect as soon as you start paying off the loan." Vos points out that there's a five-year period to claim it.

Tip #6: Employment.

There are three central deductions from your pay. 1) The basic personal amount, 2) Tuition fees and the education amount (\$400/month full-time or \$120 part-time), 3) CPP contributions and EI premiums (deducted from your pay). A tax associate can also explain the other amounts you may be entitled to.

Tip #7: Ontario Tax Credits.

Vos demonstrates that there's an important distinction between living off-campus and paying rent, and living in residence. "If you are living on campus, you can only claim \$25."

This is because the university doesn't pay property tax. With most off-campus housing, you claim the entire rent because the landlords

pay property tax on the building.

Tip #8: Donations.

"Donations given to any organization can be tax deductible."

Charitable organizations usually provide a tax receipt for donations over \$10. As well, you can use the deduction over the next five years.

The deadline for filing for taxes is April 30, 2007.

MARK RUFFALO JAKE GYLLENHAAL ROBERT DOWNEY JR.

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Serena Ryder serenades Waterloo

APRIL ROBINSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Serena Ryder strolls onstage with confidence as her short, playful skirt sways along with her. She sips wine and sets down the glass. A small, attentive audience murmurs by candlelight.

And then she sings.

It's a sound that's bigger than her 24-year-old presence; bigger than the room. It has depth and breadth. The fullness of her voice sends a hush over the crowd as she sings a soulful opener without instrumental accompaniment. It raises the hairs on the back of my neck.

With these opening notes, she sets the tone for the evening at Starlight Lounge in Uptown Waterloo.

Ryder continued her Canadian tour last week on February 21, following the November 2006 release of her major-label debut, *If Your Memory Serves You Well*. The album follows *Unlikely Emergency* (2004) and a live EP from 2002.

She has a powerful, expressive voice that sounds like a cross between Janis Joplin, Patsy Cline and Fiona Apple.

Her vocal stylings are reminiscent of a sexy singer in a smoky jazz bar: deep and husky but beautiful – capable of three octaves. It's soulful and mature.

It was a perfect canvas for her new album, a collection of vintage Canadian-made tunes from the

past century, which, with her artistic touch, she makes her own.

The small-town girl from Millbrook, Ontario followed her fiery *a capella* opener with a handful of original pieces, playing acoustic guitar, and for one song, the harmonica.

Her four-piece band then joined her to break out songs from her new album including Leonard Cohen's "Sisters of Mercy" and "This Wheel's on Fire," co-written by Bob Dylan and Rick Danko of The Band. These tunes continued to capture the audience, picking up the tempo and the mood of the performance. But Ryder's voice continued to outshine any instrument.

The momentum continued with her latest single, "Good Morning Starshine," an uplifting tune celebrating the simple joys of song. The anthem was originally written by Galt MacDermott for the 1967 hippie musical *Hair*. The song is breaking through radio and television airwaves. And she recently filmed her first video for it, which, she confessed to the crowd, was a little embarrassing. "They told me to dance with random people on the street," she said with a laugh.

On a recent tour with Canadian greats Burton Cummings and Randy Bachman (formerly of The Guess Who), Ryder worked with Bachman to write "Out of the Blue."

"It's the first full-on pop song I've ever written," she said, before



April Robinson

STRUMMING SONGSTRESS - Millbrook's Serena Ryder thrills the Starlight crowd with an impassioned set.

playing the tune at the Starlight last week. But the bouncy and simplistic love song was a little too poppy and radio-friendly compared to her repertoire of folk-blues. It doesn't exemplify the songstress' full capabilities.

Following that, Serena dug deep into her blues roots for a charm-

ing performance of Zal Yanovsky's "Coconut Grove" complete with xylophone keyboard sounds and an articulate guitar solo.

Ryder didn't fail to impress with two more original songs, also found on *If Your Memory Serves You Well*.

"Just Another Day" was a powerful and inspirational tale of

self-determination. And "Weak in the Knees" was convincingly heart-wrenching in both lyrics and music.

A percussive finish with "Sing, Sing" from her last album – a toe-stomping, hand-clapping *a capella* piece – was enough to bring Ryder out for two encores.

A night for the Man in Black

Starlight Lounge mixes Johnny Cash songs with charity and succeeds

NICK BOYD
STAFF WRITER

This past Saturday, while a good portion of Laurier students were making their way home from tropical locations, the Starlight Lounge was host to a very special event.

It was a tribute to a true musical legend, Johnny Cash, in an effort to help out the homeless youth in the Waterloo region. A cause Cash would have definitely supported.

The benefit for ROOF (Reaching Our Outdoor Friends), an organization that helps the kids surviving in the streets with housing support, life skills training and substance abuse prevention programs, brought together all of KW's top musical talent under one roof (no pun intended).

With a lineup of over 15 bands and artists, and a vast range of musical styles ranging from acoustic solo artists to hard-rocking, fist-pumping bands to synth rock, the night had it all.

Todd Donald, who was making his Starlight debut, played an excellent rendition of a "Boy Named Sue."

Next up was a gentleman who will grace the Starlight stage again for this year's St. Paddy's day festivities, as NQ Arbuckle put his stamp on some J. Cash. Arbuckle was followed by other great performers like the Machines and Bob Egan of

Blue Rodeo fame.

An exceptional performance of one of Johnny's most famous covers in the Nine Inch Nails track, "Hurt," was done by the Jolly Norwegian Giant known as Lindy. The six-foot-six monster of a man definitely had the attention of the crowd, not just because of his size but because of his extraordinary musical talents.

Two acts that really had the crowd rocking on this night were Jen Militia and the collaboration of the two rock bands, the Babyshakers and the Saigon Hookers. Jen Militia's hip-hop/rock music stylings were a nice change of pace when compared to the vast majority of acoustic performances of the night. The Baby Hookers performed some hard rocking versions of "Cocaine Blues" and Cash's Soundgarden cover of "Rusty Cage."

The slick and smooth Stars Here rocked Cash's classic tune "Never Picked Cotton," while the Miniatures, a band making strides in the Canadian music scene these days, played a riveting version of another solid Cash cover of "Personal Jesus."

Emm Gryner was one of the final acts of the evening as she put her musical touch on some classics that I'm sure Johnny boy enjoyed.

The MC for the evening, Danny Michel, closed out the show with a truly rocking performance of "God Will Cut You Down." But the night

didn't end there as, in Live 8 fashion, the vast majority of performers hopped up on stage to do an all star collaboration of one of Johnny Cash's most famous tunes in "Folsom Prison Blues."



Joe Turcotte

STETSON MAN - Danny Michel does his best Johnny Cash rendition at the ROOF Fundraiser.



Sydney Helland

Modern, student-written opera set in bar

- FROM TO DANIEL, COVER

James agreed that the experience has been very positive, and that he would jump at the opportunity of doing it again. "It's worth it," says James.

The premiere came off well, despite setbacks including soprano Jessica Lalonde coming down with the flu. The opera was set in a bar just prior to opening. The bartender (Ryan Sluyters) set the stage, revealing the story of the local no-good Timothy Pritchard, a self-exiled ex-minister.

The bar opens, and four friends arrive from the funeral service of Pritchard's son, Daniel. Of the four, tenor Brandon Leis shone the most, brilliantly playing the part of a devastated man while making the most of his voice.

The ladies' voices were occasionally hidden by the orchestra, but the way they bickered and gossiped was so realistic it was easy to forget they were singing at all. Over the course of the opera, the strange connections each friend had to Daniel were revealed, culminating in how he ultimately met his end, and why.

There were a number of stellar

moments over the course of the performance. For example, the sequence where the friends order their drinks was excellent and memorable. Keith Diplock played the waiter to great effect, lending a few moments of comic relief to the intricacies of the plot.

And the music itself was a highlight. James' score was finely crafted, building and relieving tension, adding immeasurably to each scene. The chamber ensemble, although a little rough around the edges at first, settled into its role, and several solos – particularly by oboe and French horn – were beautifully rendered.

James' fears concerning the challenge of writing in conversational English were well founded, as some of the text was awkward and felt a little put on, but it was interesting to hear lines like, "Perhaps he means that bum," and "Piss off! Piss off!" sung in an operatic style.

James and Thor hope to publish their opera.

To Daniel starred Laurier students Angela Burns, Keith Diplock, Jessica Lalonde, Tavis Weber and Nathaniel Wiseman, alumni Brandon Leis and Ryan Sluyters, and features 12 student musicians in its orchestra led by Evan Mitchell.



HERE'S MARTY - Legendary director Martin Scorsese's Oscar night smile rivals the infamous grin of *The Departed*'s star Jack Nicholson.

Departed's arrival

Martin Scorsese finally ends Oscar drought

WENDY NIND
STAFF WRITER

This year's 79th annual Academy Awards was a successful night filled with stunning gowns, heartfelt speeches and many tributes to past film greats. The big winner of the night was Martin Scorsese's *The Departed*, which took home four of the little golden guys.

Scorsese has been nominated seven times since he directed *Raging Bull* in 1980, and he finally took home the Oscar for Best Director this year. *The Departed* also won for Best Picture, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Film Editing.

Helen Mirren's role in *The Queen* won her the Oscar for Best Actress, while Best Actor was given to Forest Whitaker for playing a maniacal African leader in *The Last King of Scotland*.

Jennifer Hudson, the American Idol loser turned Oscar sweetheart, walked away with Best Supporting Actress for her part in Bill Condon's film *Dreamgirls*. The night started off with Alan Arkin's win for his supporting role in *Little Miss Sunshine*, which gained just one other Oscar: Best Original Screenplay.

One surprise of the night was *The Lives of Others*' win for Best Foreign

Film, an award that was expected to be in the hands of Mexico's *Pan's Labyrinth* or the Canadian film, *Water*.

More foreign films were nominated this year than any other year in the Academy's history. Seven Oscars were handed out to non-American films Sunday night. Guillermo del Toro's film *Pan's Labyrinth* took home Best Makeup, Art Direction and Cinematography.

Melissa Etheridge's win for "I Need to Wake Up" from *An Inconvenient Truth* was quite astonishing

since *Dreamgirls* took up three of the five nominations for Best Song.

Ellen DeGeneres kept the audience laughing throughout the night by getting friendly with popular audience members. She slipped Scorsese a screenplay before getting chummy with Clint Eastwood later in the show.

Other winners this year were *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* (Visual Effects), *Happy Feet* (Animated Feature), *Marie Antoinette* (Costume Design) and *Babel* (Music - Original Score).

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> Heart of the City: A regular look at what's going down in Uptown Waterloo

Waterloo's house party

130 King St N turns back the clocks and offers an intimate music experience

MARTA ORŁOWSKA
CORD A&E

For over a year now there has been a small house in Uptown Waterloo providing a different sort of concert experience.

The house at 130 King Street North has been offering a very unique show experience to the Waterloo area, as Jeff Woods has been using his own house as a concert venue that exposes local artists and provides a very intimate atmosphere for the listeners.

The house itself is a work of art, complete with an arboretum, a pirate room, and a wall that is a fish tank. The bands set up in the living room, which has a proscenium that frames a makeshift stage.

The floor and couches seat the audience; this is part of what Woods refers to as "breaking down the barrier that has come to exist between performer and audience."

In a passionate rant on why he puts on the shows, Woods says, "the current paradigm exists to maintain a space between performer and audience. The implicit acknowledgement is that you're unlikely to ever see anything you see on TV, or hear on the radio, live."

Distressed by this tendency to downplay the live and familial aspect of music, Woods continues, "so they take that huge weakness, and try to make it intentional by selling them as superstars, so the distance is strength."

According to Woods, one of the most important reasons for the shows is to challenge the power of big labels and expose artists directly to an audience: to establish a real connection between the musicians and their audience and to make the show a personal experience.

The shows are equally valuable for performers as well as for the audience. Woods comments on the hardships of finding a venue for bands: "Canadian bands deserve

better than competing with a sports game in a seedy bar on Tuesday night," he says.

Offering so much more than loud bars filled with rooting fans, a night at 130 King Street is about the music and community.

A recent show whose lineup included Richard Laviolette, Chris Yang, Griffin and Ryan Newell ended up in a collaboration of all four artists and jam sessions with the audience during the break.

As to who plays these shows, many of the bands are from Waterloo, Guelph and Toronto, though there have been bands from other provinces too.

In February, 130 King hosted Vancouver's The Kettle Black, and in April they will be housing Edmonton's up-and-coming Desiderata.

The lineups for the shows are always posted in advance at trepid.org, as well as on posters around Waterloo.

While many shows have a hefty cover price, the 130 King Street North shows please in the monetary department too; the admission is to pay what you can.

Another especially wonderful aspect of the shows is that they are all ages, which allows people who are underage to experience the local music scene.

The house at 130 King Street North is a great place to get exposed to new artists in an amazing environment. Especially since the people are always friendly, the music is always mind-blowing, and the fish are always swimming.



Owen Cherry

THE SHOW AT HOME - Fans and bands get close in Uptown Waterloo.

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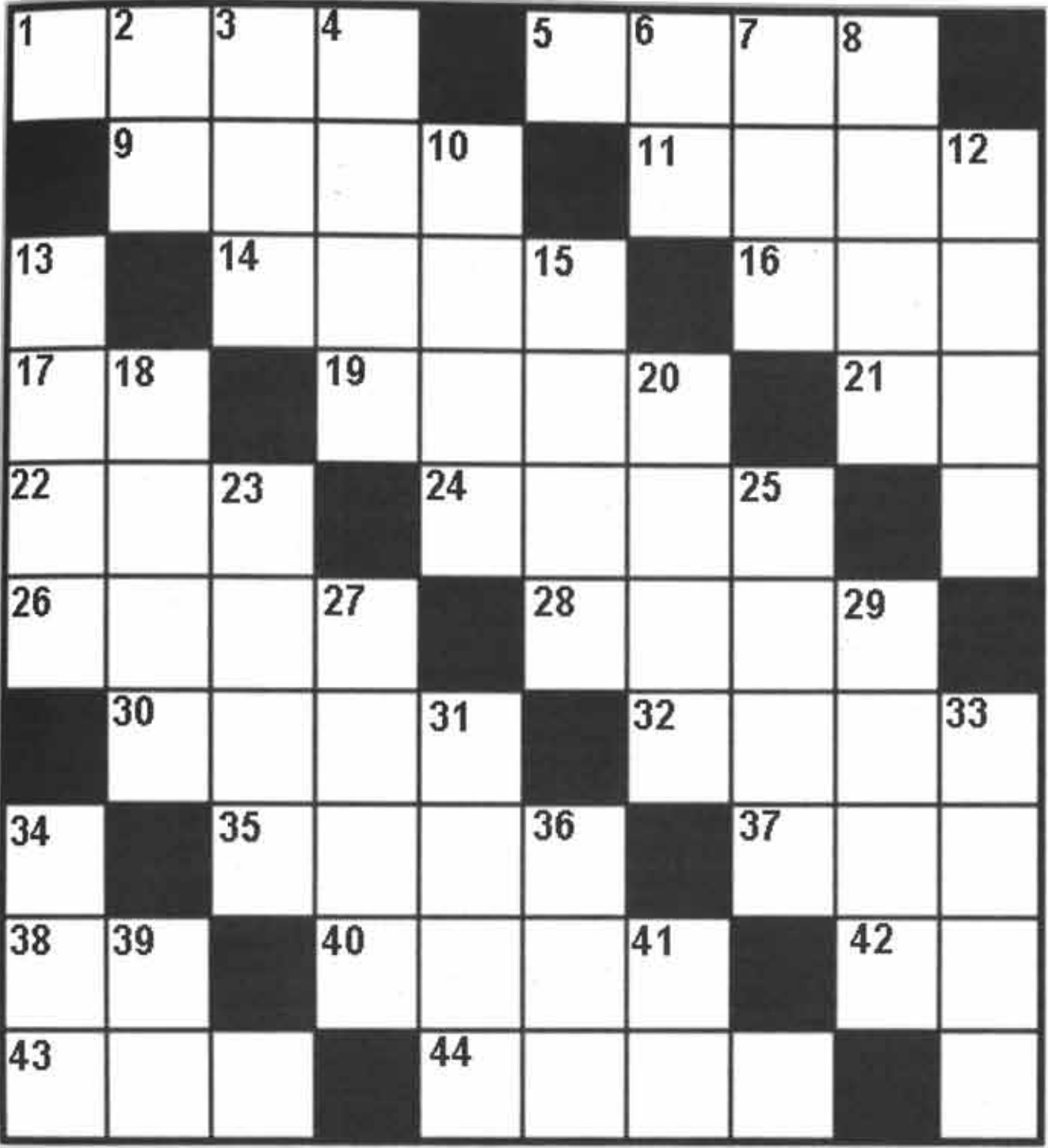
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CROSSWORD Adam Faber



- Across
- Down
1. Repose

5. Accidental toe kick

9. Honk

11. Electricity measurements

14. Waterloo dark, for one

16. Guitar speaker

17. Hospital scan

19. Boat propulsion

21. Subject changer

22. Figurant (abbv.)

24. Speed competition

26. Messes up

28. Capable

30. "Rencontre"

32. Age defying oil

35. Nature zone in a city

37. Historical time period

38. Lazy slob of *Shaun of the Dead*

40. Blessed inheritors of the earth

42. Sexual giving and receiving of pain

43. Bar bill

44. Leg joint
2. Alien who rides in bicycle basket

3. Cry noise

4. Foot digits

6. 'Don't touch' for a baby

7. Actress Thurman

8. Tempo measurement

10. 3 down by-product

12. "Out, damned ___!"

13. Property measurement

15. American CD moguls' club

18. Half a school year

20. Ontario's booze emporium

23. Well dressed social clique

25. Her, in France

27. Where cloth meets

29. Aural receptors

31. Trip

33. Sweet potatoes, to the States

34. Animal doctor

36. Ryu's rival

39. Trio's biggest hit

41. Nairobi's country (abbv.)

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HOMESLICE

A collective congratulations to our resident homeslice, Mike Brown, for sarcastically correcting his way to the top. Go get 'em bud.

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Faculty of Arts- Department of Global Studies

Thanks to a generous bequest from the estate of Alyce Adelaide (Adele) Slater, Wilfrid Laurier University has inaugurated an annual student award, "The Adele Slater Award for Writing on World Peace".

The purpose of the award is to encourage and recognise serious and skillfully written student submissions that contribute to research and reflection on world peace and its promotion.

There are two \$500 awards - one for a critical essay, and one for a shorter piece of prose, poetry, or fictional narrative.

This competition is open to all WLU students, undergraduate and graduate. The jury will look for original, independent and well written unpublished work. All submissions must be accompanied by an official entry form.

Additional information is available online on the Global Studies web pages under "Scholarships and Awards". All entries must be submitted to the mailbox labelled, "Adele Slater Award", which is located beside the door of the Global Studies Office, A524 in the Aird Building.

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old news

This past Saturday, the *Globe and Mail* reported on the Waterbuffaloes' now infamous blackface actions at Winter Carnival, a month or so after they'd happened. The controversy, if there was really any, had already died down on campus. And yet, it's still a newsworthy event, at least according to the *Globe* and other major news outlets.

There's an increasing tendency in modern media to create news rather than reflect it. It's certainly understandable, especially with the 24-hour news day and the pressure to have new and interesting information in the daily papers, but perhaps it's also creating a tendency to opt for sensationalism over substance.

While the Winter Carnival incident certainly offended some on campus, when the Waterbuffaloes, WLUSU and WLU administration all took immediate action following the occurrence, most seemed content with the response and the incident seemed to fade away. However, thanks to YouTube and mass e-mails, the story and photos kept circulating until they eventually reached the inbox of one of Canada's largest national papers. Since the campus had moved on, the story was clearly no longer a pressing issue, but since it dealt with race, everyone's favourite hot button issue, the media picked it up and ran with it.

While our publication is certainly not innocent when it comes to covering stories of a controversial nature, there comes a point when a news organization needs to seriously evaluate the priorities in what they provide as news: information or entertainment? If a story has moved past what made it a story, there's no need giving it national attention just because the topic is as hot as blackface during Black History Month.

News can be entertaining in and of itself, so there's no need to sensationalize stories that are long past relevant, solely to compete with the trash magazines and tabloids that many consumers tend to gravitate towards. After all, news should be about providing for the people, not selling to them.

Gas surge warns

In a not-so-shocking turn of events, gas prices surged last week after a fire at one of Imperial Oil's refineries caused a fuel shortage in Ontario and Quebec. While people complained about rising prices, perhaps it's a blessing being disguised by profiteering.

After this year's slow start to winter, it has become quite apparent that the world is undergoing some serious changes, and it's time consumers' habits adjust to reflect those changes. If Sunday night's Academy Awards are any indication, going green has become Hollywood's new *en vogue* cause, with Al Gore's global warning, *An Inconvenient Truth*, winning best documentary and the awards show itself employing green technologies.

However, it's not just about going green, it's about changing our over-

consuming habits. When the pumps ran out of fuel, people rushed to them to stock up, instead of just driving less, carpooling, or finding another mode of transportation.

Oil is not a renewable resource and the world's supply will likely be depleted in our lifetime, so it makes sense to start getting creative and conscious with our transportation needs. Not only will it help protect our precious environment, but it will also reduce our dependence on the opportunistic oil companies that use any excuse to jack up the price – and their profits.

So the next time an accident occurs that limits access to something you use all the time, take a moment to reflect on whether you use it because you really need to, or simply because you can.

These unsigned editorials were agreed upon by at least two-thirds of The Cord's editorial board and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Cord's volunteers, staff or WLUSP.



Emilie Joslin

University won't
'get' you anywhereARLA LATTO-HALL
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

It's this time of year that school starts kicking us in the proverbial butt. Midterms and papers come back with less-than-stellar grades, and you think for a moment – "Why am I doing this?"

For those with a deeper discontent with the university and those of us who just can't land a summer job – even a pretty menial one – this question goes one step further: How did I get myself here in the first place? And what's the point?

We know that being at university is "good for us." At the same time, we're enticed into staying because of the assurance that it will lead us to more respect, success and wealth. And it's working: university enrollment has hit record highs for seven consecutive years, breaking the one million barrier in 2004/2005.

It's been a great promotional tool for the government of Ontario, which has put full-page ads in *The Economist*, boasting that 56 percent of Ontario's workforce possesses post-secondary education, and that its 44 universities and colleges produce grads for the tech sector who will contribute to Ontario's "competitive economy committed to the commercialization of research and innovation." We can assume this is aimed at foreign investors who will saunter over the border with their fat wallets and invest in our knowledge economy. We can also infer that

Ontario thinks universities produce a steady supply of workers ready to serve its economy.

But earnings fail to follow suit. As of June 2006, men between the ages of 25 and 34 with a university degree saw their average real earnings decline of 2.3 percent between 2000 and 2005, while those with blue-collar jobs have seen theirs increase. Those with some post-secondary education have seen their average real earnings increase 2.7 percent for the same time period, according to Statistics Canada. The news is even better for those with fewer years of schooling behind them. A steady growth is good news for women with any level of education.

This is surprising in our knowledge-based economy, but the university is doing nothing to dispel the notion that a university education will undoubtedly "get you somewhere," in the conservative, career-track sense. With snowballing enrollments, universities have responded unexpectedly: by dropping their standards. As US writer and humourist Finley Peter Dunne said, "Ye can lead a man up to the university, but you can't make him think."

New students at Laurier are required to maintain a 74 percent average in their English classes – although the admin was prepared to lower the requirements to 65 percent to meet their enrollment quota. The history department has dropped its fourth-year honours requirements from two fourth-year seminars down to one. The political science department doesn't even require its honours graduates to take a seminar course. Any student pursuing

graduate studies has learned that the way to a higher level of education isn't always hard work – their key to success is a good student-prof relationship and a relatively easy workload. No wonder an undergraduate degree means less than it used to; of course we're all trying to get into graduate programs. How can it even prepare us for further education?

It is at this point that we have to take our learning and education into our own hands, irrespective of the minimal requirements. Realize that easy courses aren't rewarding, and that hours upon end in the library reading and researching contributes to our adult lives. That people who are interesting are the same ones that are interested in the world. They are the ones that will always be learning, either inside or out of the classroom. And they're the ones so wrapped up in the world of thought that they care less about their earnings and what university will "get" them. So long as they can afford a beer to accompany good conversation.

This is the point. Although we'd love to believe that these four years – give or take – will help us along our way, we have to remind ourselves that the purpose of the university, for us as students, is not to "get" us anywhere.

Gerard Delanty, a sociology prof at the University of Liverpool, puts it best: "Perhaps it is the role of the university to enable society to live with choice and uncertainty." It should stop parading itself as a forum for anything but.

letters@cordweekly.com

>Letters to the Editor

Angry Alumnus

I am an alumnus who graduated from Laurier about a year ago. Recently, the antics of the winter carnival came to my attention, and the first thought that came to my mind (unfortunately) was "I'm not surprised."

Laurier isn't exactly a bastion of multiculturalism. In fact, in the years I was there, while enrollment increased, one of the demographic ratios remained static (from my highly informal surveying): (approximately) 60 percent small-town Ontario; 40 percent GTA, which might lend some insight into this issue - (insert what that insight is here).

Now, I'm sure the so-called "progressives" at WLU will scream "but we're 14% visible minority!" - which is apparently the ratio of visible minorities within the Canadian population. This, however, only partially speaks to the issue at hand, which is, impropriety - and provides no excuse for ignorance nor alleged good-natured ribbing.

WLU is supposed to be precisely that: a university! A university is an institution of higher learning; of higher achievement; of higher aspiration; of higher caliber; of higher intellect. Yeah, I know some undergrads appreciate a stiff drink, a good smoke, and some merry cheer every now and again, but a university is a place where diversity is embraced, culture is celebrated, and people are challenged. Perhaps it's unfair that Laurier is being painted with the same brush - but it's only Laurier that can demonstrate it will rise above this and mend these wounds, which I'm sure have affected all students in some respect. My point is that there is too much cultural separation at Laurier such that incidents like these arise. I don't know whether the offending group was from a small town or the GTA, or whether it was in fact mixed. I do know however that this incident was highly offensive.

Personally, I'm a believer in unintended consequences and their attendant opportunities. Laurier is being given that opportunity now. Universities, as you are all aware, have "reputations" and are

"brands." As an alumnus whose alma mater's reputation and brand rest solely in your hands, students, I ask that you heal this.

-Jason DeSouza
Class of 2006

Blame WLU

In Saturday's *Globe and Mail*, WLU was "featured" on the front page of the Toronto section, referencing the racist incidents that occurred during Winter Carnival. As a student leader on our campus, I've been heavily involved in this from the beginning, as the first individual to complain to the Students' Union was a volunteer within my department. While there are certainly things that WLUSU could've improved on in our response to this issue, I can't help but feel like we've received some flak unfairly.

If you're looking for someone to really hold to task for this, you should be looking directly at the university and its administration. WLUSU really has no way to hold the offenders to task for their offence, as they do not exist as part of a recognized WLUSU group, and thus we can only work on fixing our events and processes. However, given the text of the university's response to this issue, I refer you to the section on Discipline and Conduct in Non-Academic Areas, contained in the Undergraduate Student Calendar, specially item number three of the list of offences that the university may discipline a student for: "... discrimination or harassment of any kind, including, but not limited to, sexual harassment, harassment based on race, religion, colour, gender, age, disability, ethnicity, national origin or sexual orientation." I'm pretty sure that this incident qualifies under that, and unless you view diversity training as a disciplinary action, which I do not, you'll believe that the university hasn't used this code clearly set out to all students. Look, if the university truly believes that "... such demonstrations of ignorance and bigotry are unacceptable and will not be tolerated" as they say in their official statement on the incident, they should prove it

with their actions. By allowing the WLUSU and the Waterbuffaloes to take the brunt of the force from this incident, the university has shifted the incident from where it should be: the Laurier community itself. In fact, the university's lack of action until February 7th, when the media began calling, shows that the university administration doesn't view this incident anywhere near as seriously as their statement claims. Until their actions back their statement up, I will continue to believe this.

As a student leader, I feel it is my job to speak up when injustices are being committed. This situation is doing you, the students of Laurier, an injustice. Don't stay quiet about it.

-Dan Hocking

GCC upset

Freedom of the press. This term is often misconstrued to mean that the press has the freedom to do as it pleases. However, it is intended to refer to the freedom of the people to a press that accurately reports on all the issues of significance. Unfortunately, our precious *Cord* has been neglectful in its obligation to us all over the past month. Given this duty to inform students of matters of significance to them, you would assume the *Cord* would jump at the opportunity to publish details on the largest student-run event this school has hosted in years. But sadly, your assumption would have you once again making an ass out of you and me, but mostly out of the *Cord*.

The upcoming Global Citizenship Conference which will run from March 9-11 will bring professors, experts and NGOs from around the province right here to Laurier to partake in 10 panel discussions, 25 workshops, 2 keynote speakers (Stephen Lewis and the Canadian Research Chair for Human Rights, Rhoda Howard-Hassmann), a unique coffee house style concert, food and art. Not only was the *Cord* informed about the status, significance and scope of this event, they were prodded on numerous occasions to mention it. They were

begged to, at the very least, publish something explaining the goals and details of Canada's global citizenship movement, but once again they refused. But this event was sadly overlooked week after week, I guess in the opinion of *Cord* editors this story just does not have the same journalistic value as a guide to blowjobs or whatever was published in its place.

I have nothing but respect for the work the volunteers at the *Cord* do, in most cases it is not an easy job. But this was not one of those cases. This was an opportunity to promote an event that can do nothing but enlighten and energize our campus, as similar global citizenship conferences have done for UBC and McMaster in recent years. This indifference toward student initiatives is nothing short of a failure on the part of our campus newspaper.

-Jesse Freeston

Human rights for sex workers

Part of my platform in running for Waterloo Regional Council in 2006 was decriminalization of sex workers. "You can't say that in an election," is what many of you told me, but we must speak up for people who can't defend themselves.

There is something morally wrong with a nation that is so afraid of sex that Canadians are willing to allow women to be beaten, tortured, and killed simply because they are sex workers. There is something uncaring and un-Christian about you if you believe these women had it coming to them. Being silent will only guarantee that others suffer and die.

These women were people. They were human just like you. They had names like Serena, Heather, Wendy, and Sarah. They were girls, daughters, sisters, mothers, friends and lovers. Their families grieved for them. If they sold sex in order to survive, how can you condemn them? A woman's body belongs to herself.

Sex workers are not ashtrays. They are not garbage. They are not

expendable. When you see their pictures in the paper, perhaps you tell yourself that they are somehow different from you, another species. Working with the poor, I have seen the predators as they groom the pretty young girls, get them hooked on cocaine and then turn them into prostitutes for survival. I have seen how they changed, but these women are as beautiful and worthwhile as any other woman and do not deserve to die. They deserve to live with dignity. They deserve support to live the lives they chose. They deserve the protection of the police. Let's become a mature society. Let's accept that sex is not going away and neither is sex work. It is a facet of human nature and a permanent part of human society. Let's decriminalize sex work so that it is in the open and women aren't at the mercy of predators.

Mike Clancy, Waterloo Region

Power to the pupils

That's it, I've had it. I will not yield, While money's being poured into Astroturf on Willison Field, I attend my classes in an elementary school, Northdale, St. Mikes... I look like a fool, As the urinals are so low, you have to kneel to pee, And waterfountains barely reaching your knee, And now what is this new blow to my cranium? Five million to be invested in the University Stadium?!!! I mean, it's great to have facilities, and support our athletics, But it would be nice to instill a little pride in our school's academics

-Jacob Clemens

Letters Policy:

All letters to the editor must be signed and submitted with the author's name, student identification number, and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00pm Monday via email to letters@cordweekly.com or through our website at www.cordweekly.com. Letters must not exceed 350 words. The *Cord* reserves the right to edit any letter for brevity and clarity. Spelling and grammar will be corrected. The *Cord* reserves the right to reject any letter, in whole or in part. The *Cord* reserves the right to not publish material that is deemed to be libelous or in contravention with the *Cord's* Code of Ethics or journalistic standards.



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Men's delusions about women

Columnist Christine Suiza counts down the top five misconceptions men have about women and ponders how true they are



CHRISTINE SUIZA
GREEK PHILOSOPHER

"She's a Super Freak!" Rick James famously proclaimed this in song, but is he right? Are all women super freaks? To answer this question, I've analyzed the top five misconceptions that men have about women and will leave it up to you to see if you agree with Rick James.

Misconception # 5: Women are shopaholics. Now, unless women buy things they can't afford and put themselves in debt like the character Becky Bloomwood in the *Confessions of a Shopaholic* series – they're not shopaholics. A woman can treat herself, especially if she's had a rough week. Every woman is different and will choose to spend her money to suit her needs.

Guys' shopping habits may be different. Many males take one big shopping trip each year, especially

on Boxing Day, and take advantage of the deals so they shop in bulk. Women shop now and then, but think of it this way: the amount women spend altogether within one year may be equivalent to how much men spend on that big shopping trip.

Misconception #4: Women are neat freaks. Monica Gellar from the TV show *Friends* is the "neat freak diva" of all time. Her need to have everything organized and clean best defines neat freaks, but all women? There are some women who are slob, many who don't clean up after themselves. They have dishes piling up in the kitchen sink and let dust bunnies pile up everywhere. However, there are women who are neither neat freaks nor slob, but rather manageable.

There are guys who clean constantly and are perfectionists. For example, I knew a guy who ironed his jeans. This shows that guys are just as guilty of wanting things done a certain way. These people are not freaks, but rather are very meticu-

lous people and it's certainly not exclusive to a sex.

Misconception #3: Women are over-emotional. "I get so emotional baby, every time I think of you." These two lines in Whitney Houston's song "So Emotional" illustrate that women can sometimes get too emotional when head-over-heels in love. However, they're not emotional all the time. They're emotional when they're overwhelmed with everything happening all at once or when watching a sad movie. In fact, a woman can be as solid as a rock. When watching a sad film or enduring stress, they will not shed a single tear.

It's a rare event, but guys have their emotional moments. For instance, a guy friend of mine recommended the movie *I Am Sam* and recalled that he got teary-eyed towards the end. Guys will refrain from getting visibly emotional and refrain from crying, because as children they are socialized not to cry. However, letting out your emotions makes you human.

Misconception #2: Women take forever to get ready. Gentlemen, how many times have you had to wait for your girlfriend, sister, mom or gal pal to get ready and it took them forever? Well, this isn't always the case. There are actually women who can get ready as fast as, or perhaps even faster than, you gentlemen; 10 minutes tops.

I've seen some guys who have taken just as long as me to get ready, especially when going out. With the many facial, hair and body products marketed for men, it's no wonder they take a lot of time. They spend time showering, doing their hair and deciding what to wear. Sometimes they've taken so much longer than me that I've had to wait on them. This habit applies to both genders and not just one.

Misconception #1: Women are sluts if they sleep with multiple partners. "The guy gets all the glory the more he can score, while the girl can do the same and you call her a whore. I don't understand why it's okay, the guy can get away with it

– the girl gets named." These verses from Christina Aguilera's song "Can't Hold Us Down" explain and reinforce how society unfairly judges women for the same action men also engage in.

If you ask me, both should get equal treatment for this type of action. I mean, if we say we're all equal and we don't live in a man's world, why should a man still be praised for promiscuity? It's probably the influence of other women's judgments of these types of women that results in the slut label, which both men and women use in reference to females.

So do you feel that Rick James is right and women are super freaks? Remember, you can't generalize a certain group of people. Each member of that group isn't alike. It's important to question any preconceived conceptions about any topic and to come to your own set of conclusions.

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Newspapers should have an ideology: Black

- FROM **BLACK**, PAGE 24

found myself preoccupied with the amount of ear hair that he has. As it turns out, photographers airbrush everyone and he kind of looks like my grandpa, except angrier.

And angry he was! The lecture was not prepared, but rather some musing on his experience in the industry followed by questions. He is one of the most composed and articulate speakers I have ever listened to, possessing a command of

a lexicon I can only dream of. However, saying something nicely does not make what one has to say nice at all.

The only information one might have heard in a typical lecture on the topic is that Toronto is lucky to have multiple print newspapers, as many have only one. Mr. Black purchased *The Financial Post* and released it as the *The National Post* in 1998 to diversify the overly liberal Toronto newspaper scene. He described the media spectrum as

a family van "being driven by *The Toronto Star*, with *The Globe* in the passenger seat and *The Sun* in the back. *Maclean's* is the family dog running alongside it, barking just to make itself heard."

This was certainly a corporate point-of-view lecture, which was refreshingly different – and highly entertaining. According to Black, journalists are the problem with media bias. Newspapers ought to have a specific ideology, and, in his experience, they are much better

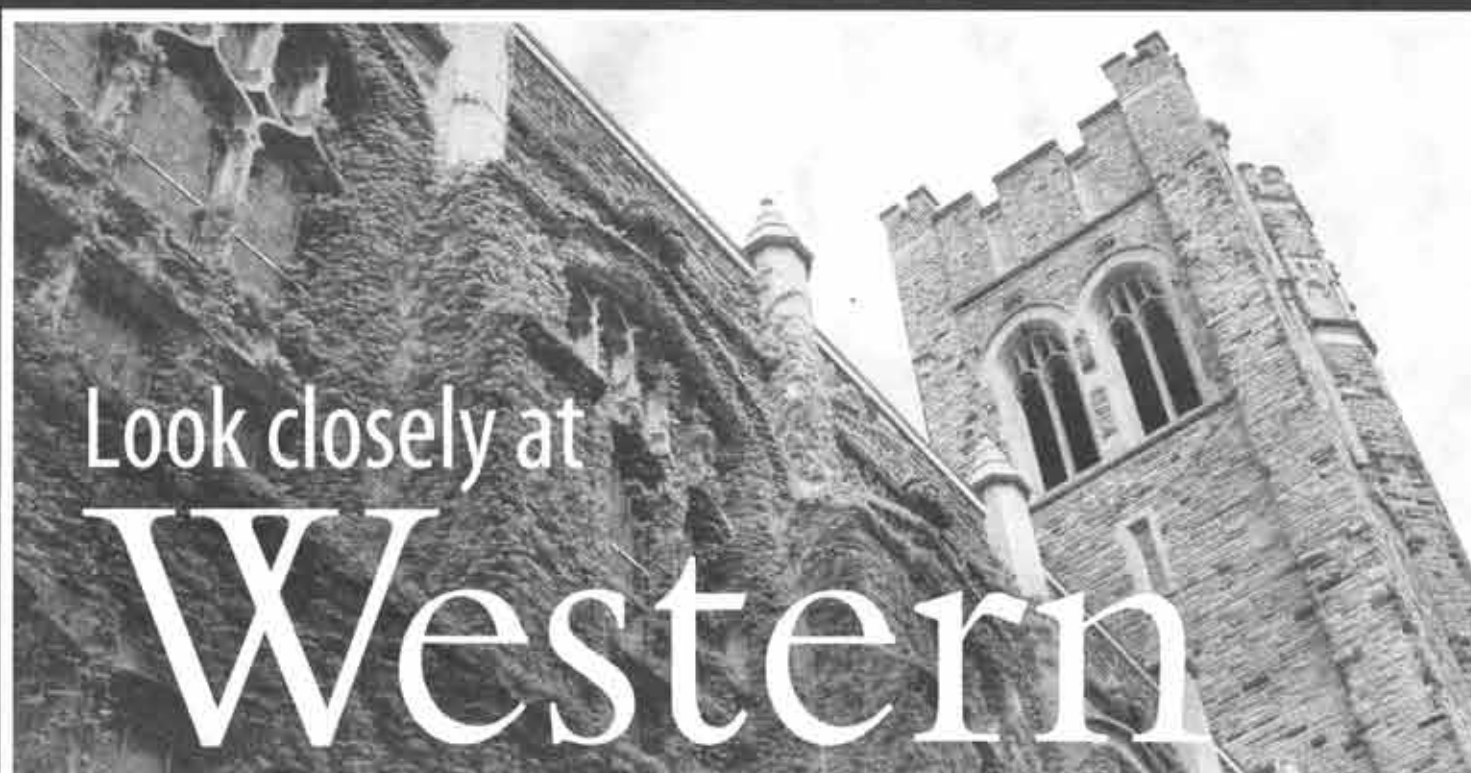
when management interferes with content. There is an "intolerable degree of laxity" in Canadian news making, and while "most journalists are [more] pleasant and more interesting" than average professionals, they are eventually bitter.

His main critique of media bias was that journalists' work is eventually poisoned by a cynicism that sets in when they feel that they ought to be running the governments and companies they criticize.

So as this aspiring journalist

avoids the inevitable descent into curmudgeonly columns, I'll work on not being awestruck by media powerhouses. The only question I ended up asking him was if he'd take a picture with me. It wasn't core-shattering, but next time I'll ask something truly important ... like where he bought his really pretty silk tie.

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Copyright laws not for wealthy



JEREMY TREMBLAY
ON THE VERGE

At the beginning of the month, Steve Jobs of Apple Computer Inc. wrote an open letter on Apple's website titled "Thoughts on Music." In it, he criticized record companies for forcing digital rights management (DRM) software on music being sold online.

Needless to say, following the release of Jobs' letter, intellectual property and copyright are now in vogue, and the news has reflected it. Articles about e-mail warnings for file sharing, surveys of music company executives and Bill Gates speaking about DRM all came out after Jobs' letter made the news.

One news-making announce-

ment criticized Canadian copyright protection directly. According to the CBC, the International Intellectual Property Alliance, a lobby group made up of American software, movie and music producers, is asking the White House to put Canada on the country's intellectual property blacklist.

"Almost alone among developed economies in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development," says the IIPA's 2007 report, "Canada has taken no steps toward modernizing its copyright law to meet the new global minimum standards."

The report goes on to cite a lack of legal framework to enforce the takedown of pirated content on the Internet, unclear laws regarding copying music for personal use, a lack of enforcement for current copyright laws and numerous other points contributing to Canada's

poor position on copyright.

While this argument has valid points, as people who create content deserve ownership rights, it also strongly indicates how copyright has become a money-making tool of corporations rather than a device protecting a creator's work for their own benefit. Instead of tightening copyright laws as the IIPA suggests in its report, the Canadian government should focus on modernizing Canadian copyright laws to favour those who create material, not corporate copyright owners who want copyright to be a long-term profit guarantee.

The public domain (material that is not copyrighted) is often described negatively. This is both unfair and untrue; material in the public domain benefits everyone. Laura Murray, a professor at Queen's University who maintains faircopyright.ca, a website about Canadian

issues in copyright, believes that "before we give more rights to any particular party in the copyright reform process, we should think about the general public's right to its cultural heritage, and if and how it is being infringed."

One of the biggest ways we can make sure copyright benefits those who create it most is to avoid extending the length a copyright remains on the work. Currently, the period of copyright lasts 50 years after the author's death. An additional 20 years, which is what the US has already extended copyright to, is excessive. A person who created a work will not gain great benefit at this point only a corporation would.

Additionally, the public loses its opportunity to use the material for a long period of time. Canadian culture would benefit if we could freely use old Canadian works when cre-

ating material, rather than having to choose old European works, for example.

As soon as a material eligible for copyright is created, it is copyrighted. No registration or application process must be gone through. Because of this, copyright affects us not only as users, but also as creators. When our country's copyright laws are updated, they should give us the opportunity to have access to materials as public domain within a reasonable time of its creation, and allow creators to profit from their work as they see fit.

Our copyright laws should not simply guarantee that a few wealthy corporations can charge us for access to our modern cultural creations for a nearly endless period of time.

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Conrad Black discusses media bias



KATHRYN FLYNN
GOOD GIRL REVOLUTION

One of the advantages of having a boyfriend at another university is the ability to take advantage of whatever comes to that campus.

While Al Gore may have been gracing the University of Toronto's hallowed halls last week, I attended the lecture of someone significantly less morally trendy. In a move of total opportunism, I snuck into a media theory class taught by *Globe* columnist Rick Salutin and received a lecture on media bias from Conrad Black.

The first half of the lecture was the usual conversational structure that Mr. Salutin favours with his class. Being the keeners that we are, Mathew and I sat in the first occupied row – I even took notes. The lecture halls at University College are two stories and that kind of old that delivers the impression of important academic thinking. The

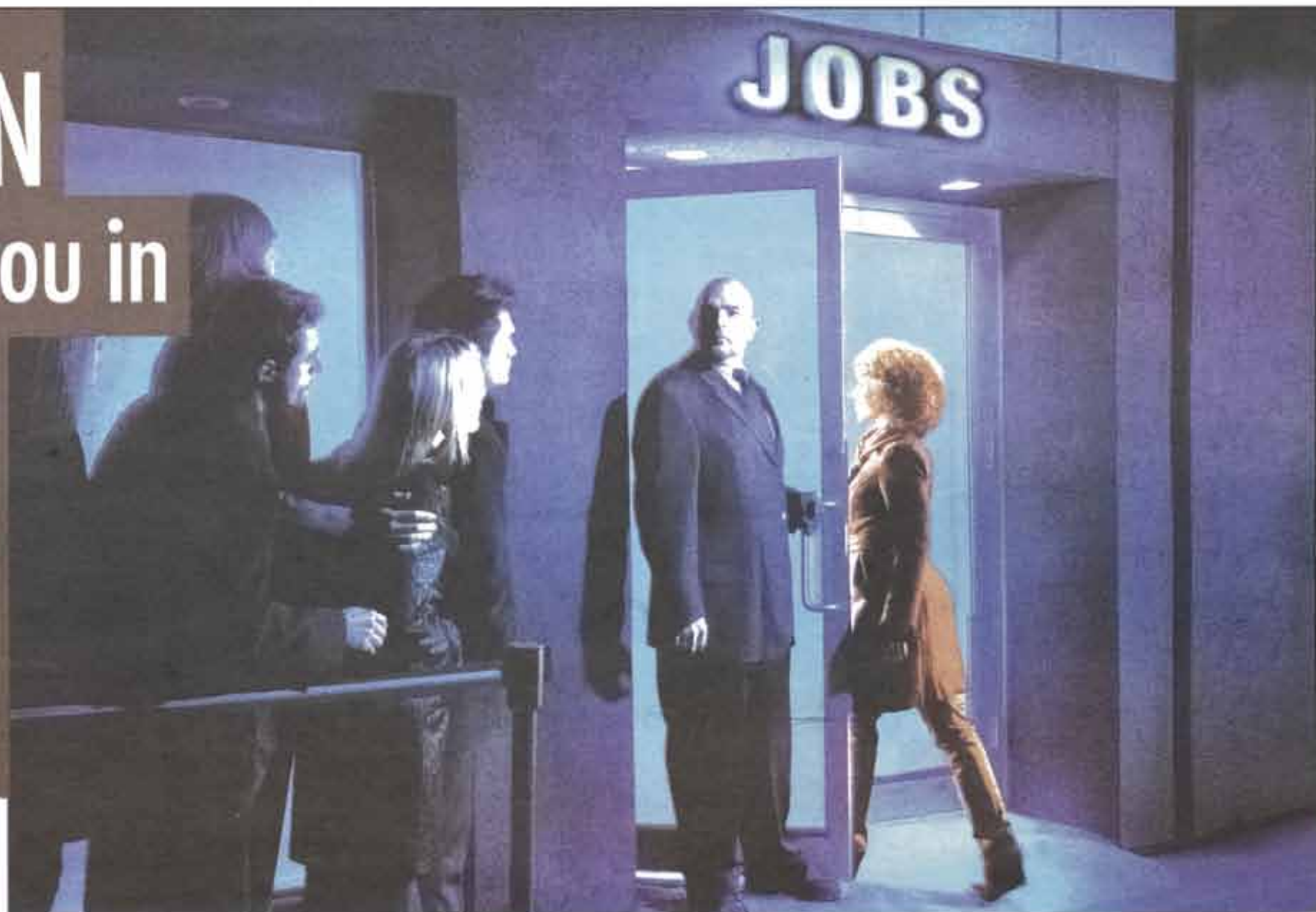
really tiny seats, harkening from an era when students were thinner, were squeezing truly prolific thoughts from my eager peers. I was so enthused that I had to fight with myself not to raise my hand and share insights into Mr. Salutin's lecture, lest I be discovered for the fraud that I was.

Mr. Black joined the class for the

second half of the lecture period, and was introduced by Mr. Salutin as being there to discuss media bias – not any present legal troubles. He had sat in front of us for ten minutes, and while I should have been dreaming up core-shattering insights to share with Mr. Black, I

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