

THE CORD WEEKLY

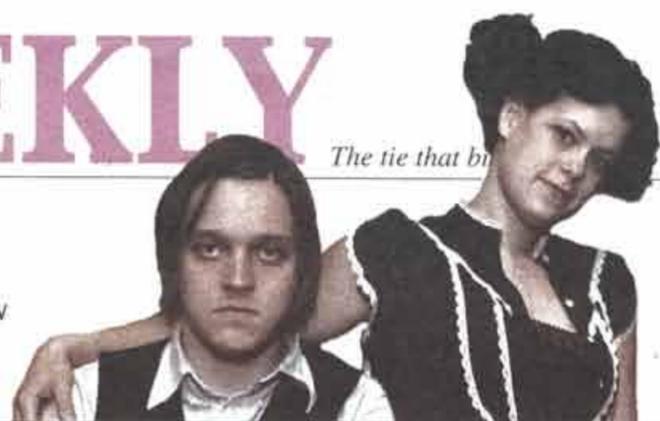
The tie that binds

A GREEN CAMPUS?

Laurier has many environmental initiatives, but little collaboration ... **PAGE 12-13**

FLAMING MEDIOCRITY

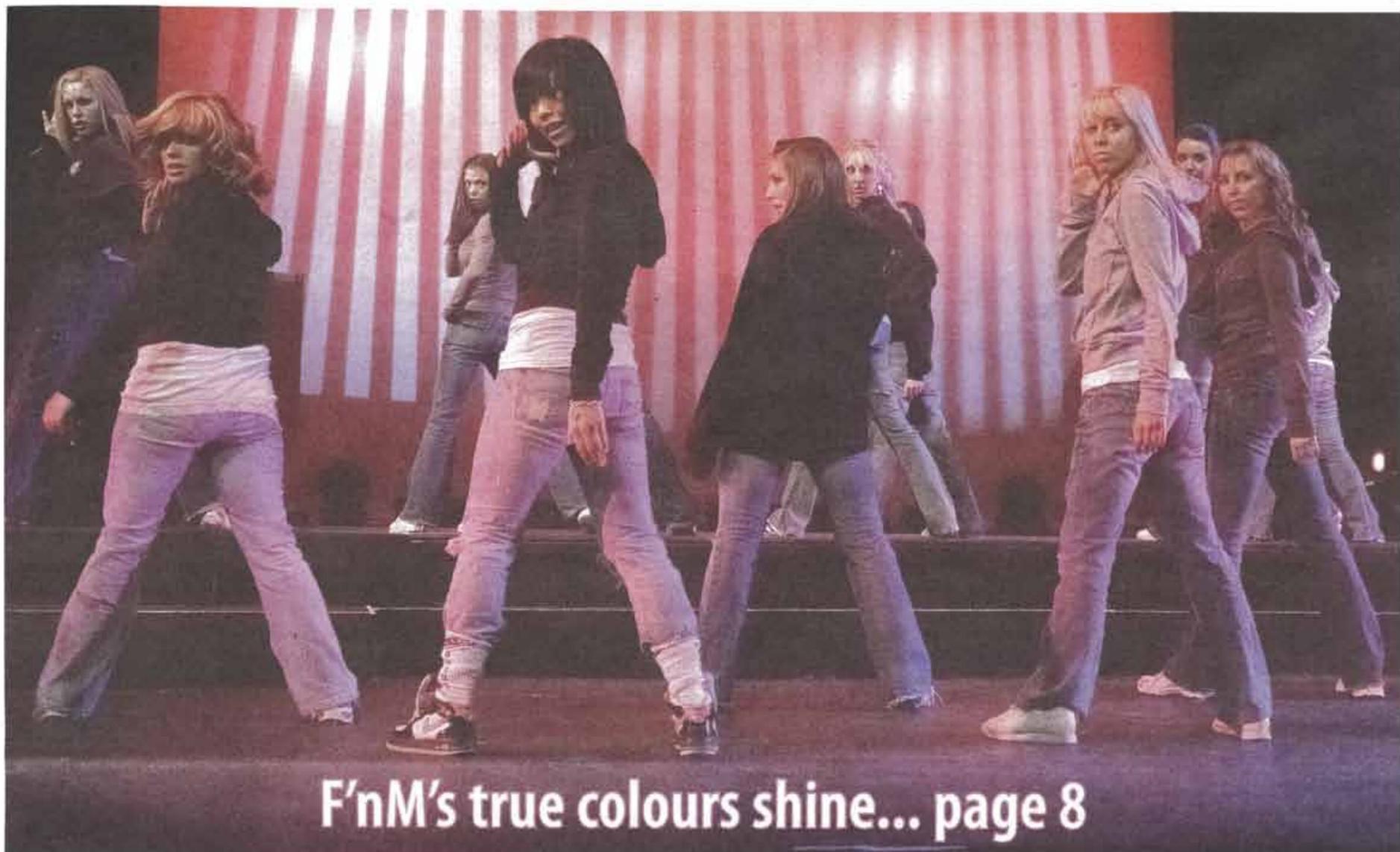
The Cord A&E gang devours the new Arcade Fire album ... **PAGE 16**



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F'nM's true colours shine... page 8

Shane Porter

Mansbridge finds awe in Canadians

CBC's chief correspondent never had any formal journalism training

TONY FERGUSON
NEWS EDITOR

Many jobs have their perks. For Peter Mansbridge, host of CBC's *The National*, one of those perks is travel. As he told a crowd of nearly 300 in the Senate and Board Chambers

last Thursday evening, this perk can also be a valuable tool.

The veteran journalist, whose visit to Laurier was arranged by the Arts Student Advancement Program (ASAP), explained to the audience that travelling has important implications for understanding the

story and how it is told.

The bulk of Mansbridge's talk on Thursday focused on three stories that he has covered and that were important enough for him to leave his Toronto desk to report from on location.

This change of scenery underlines the importance of the story. "If I'm at the location as well, it underlines for the viewer that this is really important, this is beyond the average day or why would he have left Toronto?" he told the *Cord*. Being this close to the story also helps one understand its nuances.

When the tsunami hit in 2004, Mansbridge and some CBC crew members flew to Sri Lanka to broadcast *The National* live from one of the beaches where the ocean was sporadically returning to shore a few of the tens of thousands of bodies it had claimed.

Mansbridge explained that, for him, this story not only highlighted the wonders of modern technology



Jason Chiu - CUP Graphics Bureau Chief

No capital gain

Hawks lose in semi-finals to eventual champs

DAN POLISCHUK
SPORTS EDITOR

Telling by the response of the Laurier players and fans, things just weren't meant to end this way.

Alas, the sad reality was that, despite high expectations throughout the year, the women's hockey team would not be bringing home the hardware this year - of any colour - after their 3-2 loss to the Manitoba Bisons in the CIS national bronze medal game this past Monday. It was actually the first time to happen since their 2003-2004 result.

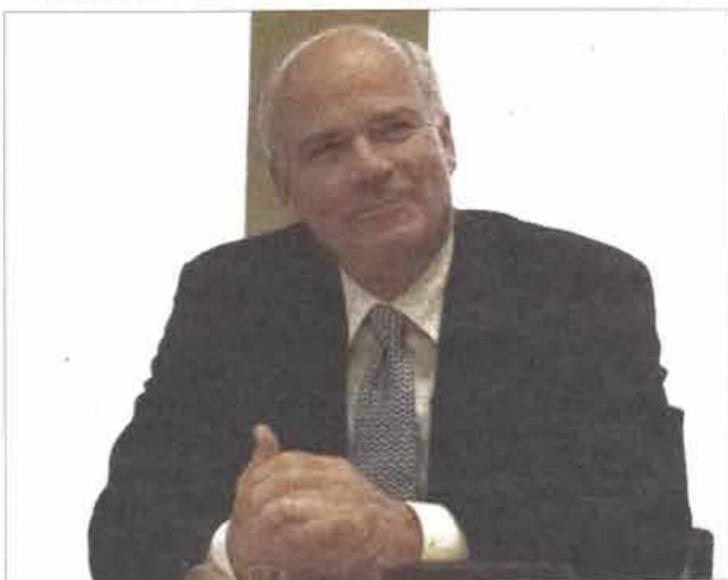
While some of the loss could be

contributed to the fact that the on-ice official for the game was just a little less than adequate, the reality was that this was a Hawk team that could not pull it out against their Western counterparts.

After a solid 5-0 opening victory against the hosting Ottawa Gee-Gees on Friday night, the Hawks received the day off on Saturday to prepare for the extremely fast and physical Pandas of the University of Alberta.

It was these two assets that essentially lead to the Hawks' demise in the Sunday evening

SEE LADY HAWKS, PAGE 6



Sydney Heiland

PROUD CANADIAN - Peter Mansbridge, host of CBC's *The National*.

SEE MANSBRIDGE, PAGE 3

> VOCAL CORD

How big of a problem do you think smoking is at WLU?



"I think it's a problem because there isn't really 10 metres between any building."

- Mark Lavrisa
Second-year Business



"It's a big problem, I don't want to take second hand smoke. I think the 10-metre rule is fair."

- Deepa Jain
First-year Sociology



"Smoking close to the school is an issue. There needs to be more enforcement."

- Nadim Kurji
Fifth-year English/Film



"I get annoyed only when they're blocking the door and I have to walk through all the smoke."

- Ruth Lewis
First-year Cultural Studies



"I don't think it's that big of a problem. We're all young adults, we can make our own decisions."

- Neil Sareen
Second-year Communications

Compiled by Kelly Moore, photos by Riley Taylor

CBC vet talks about travels



Sydney Helland

WHAT A VOICE - Mansbridge got his first job in journalism after a CBC manager heard him announce a flight in a small Manitoba airport.

Peter Mansbridge told a Laurier crowd about how Canadians are seen by the rest of the world

- FROM MANSBRIDGE, COVER

which had allowed him and two crew members to broadcast the national news live from Southeast Asia, but also hit home the importance of what Canadians do around the world and how we are perceived as a result.

This time, it amounted to a simple yet succinct "Canada, good," delivered by a young Sri Lankan girl. She had been watching the CBC crew broadcast the news along with some other children and had said this to him after he had signed off for the evening. Curious as to what would have made this girl praise Canada the way she did, Mansbridge asked to speak to the girl through a translator. After a few questions, he discovered that the girl had been taken to an emergency vaccination clinic that had been set up by some nurses from Vancouver.

"This little girl, through the love, care and handling of these nurses had gone through that moment enough to the next day look at a Canadian flag and say 'Canada good' ... for the rest of her life she is going to associate Canada with something good ... and that moment has always stayed with me,"

he told the crowd.

The next year, Mansbridge had the opportunity to cover the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. This time, the crew traveled to Holland, where Canadian troops played a huge role in liberating the country from the Nazis. The Dutch haven't forgotten this and Mansbridge saw this first hand.

He was reporting from Apeldoorn, which ordinarily has a population of about 250,000. The promise of Canadian veterans parading through the city caused the population to balloon to 500,000 people. "They were lined ten deep along the roadway just to see these guys ... we covered it live and it was very emotional," he said.

One CBC reporter was speaking to a woman who was holding her son up for him to see the Canadian veterans and she asked her why she had brought her son. "The woman looked at our reporter and into the camera as if she was saying 'Come on, you don't get it?'" Mansbridge described. "She said, 'We don't forget what Canada did for us and I want my little boy to know what a Canadian is.'"

"That phrase has always stuck with me because this, as you probably know, is one of the great ques-

tions we always pose is 'What is a Canadian?'"

Mansbridge said that we often do not know what to say when we're posed this question, but for the Dutch woman showing her son the men who liberated their country at the end of WWII, "There was no doubt in this woman's mind what to say."

The final story that Mansbridge shared with the audience was about a Canadian woman working in Afghanistan whose work would have probably otherwise gone unnoticed. This young woman was born in Afghanistan but fled with her family to Canada in the early '90s after the Taliban had taken over.

They settled in Montreal and she completed her education at McGill. Once she graduated, she "could have had any number of jobs from the private sector," but she chose to take a job with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and return to her country of birth so she could teach Afghan women their rights under the new constitution.

"She wanted to go back and make a difference in her old country based on the values she now knew as a Canadian," said Mansbridge.

Stories such as this one are important for Canadians to know because, "it's not just our troops, who are doing an incredible job on

their own part, but there are more Canadians out there than just soldiers ... who are doing good things in difficult parts of the world and Canadians should know that," he told the Cord.

He said that he is glad that his job has allowed him to travel because, for him, sitting behind a desk in Toronto his entire career "would have been bad and would have prevented me from understanding the stories that I cover and the people that I talk to."

Mansbridge has no formal journalistic training, never went to university and didn't finish high school.

In the late '60s, he was working at a small airline in Churchill, Manitoba. One of the ticket agents happened to be busy and asked him to announce a flight that was about to board. He stepped up to the mic, made the announcement and seconds later a man came up to him, quite taken with his voice.

He told Mansbridge that he should be on the radio and offered him an announcing job at a CBC northern service station in Churchill. When he realized it wasn't a joke, he took it.

Had that man not offered him the job, Mansbridge told the Cord that he probably would have never chosen a career in journalism. "Something tells me that if I hadn't taken [the job] then it would have never come up."

Laurier failing to address smoking on campus

- FROM SMOKING, PAGE 2

age any policy that is created," he added.

According to MacNeil, the policy is vague. "It's difficult to define ten metres and there's no real consequence," she said.

Third-year communication studies student Travis D'Souza thinks the university should consider smokers' needs. "If it's rain-

ing we don't really have a place to go," he said. "You don't really have an official disposal for cigarette butts," he added.

While there are cigarette butt disposals around campus, there are not many. "The containers that they have right now to put cigarette butts in are difficult to see and there's not very many," said MacNeil.

Smoking near buildings can

be a problem for some students. "Some people don't want to be in [a] smoky [area] so it's a problem because it makes people uncomfortable," said Melissa Jones, a first-year Laurier student.

"I think the hope of the committee is to respond to medical documentation that suggests that public and private institutions should do something to accommodate their workforce in a healthy and

safe way," said McMurray, adding that the implementation of the ten metre rule was the first step in response to concerns about smoking on campus.

"I think students have to be a bit more considerate and stay away from the buildings that are sucking all of the smoke in," said Curran.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Making environmental business "cents"

A few students at the University of Waterloo will hold the first ever Environment and Business Conference, Tuesday March 27. Panels, exhibits and workshops will focus on the ties between environmental sustainability, corporate social responsibility and running a successful business.

"It was originally planned as our fourth-year undergraduate project," says Ashley Page, sustainability coordinator for the conference and student in the environment and business program at UW. "It ballooned so much, though."

Carbon credits have been purchased for all delegates, the conference will be powered by wind electricity and lunch will be completely organic. "So we're trying to walk the talk," says Page.

Anyone who wants to attend the day-long event can register online at www.ebconference.ca.

International winners of stock competition

Four Laurier students in the financial mathematics program finished in the top ten of the Rotman International Trading Competition at the University of Toronto on March 11.

Mohammed Ahmed, Stephen Boss, Caine Bouwmeester and Dan Cook are now recognized as the best all-undergraduate stock-trading team from Canada.

In what is described as a "grueling competition," the event involved four simulated trading cases representing real world markets. The competition included 35 schools, including Queen's University and Duke University.

Financial math is a relatively new program in the Faculty of Science.

Carpool coordination

A new student-created website, Campuslifts.ca, now offers a link between students in Ontario who want to share rides between university/college and home. Created by Mark McGrath and Kyle MacDonald, the site allows students to create a profile and find matches for students who have posted rides for a specific day.

The site promotes itself as financially affordable, environmentally friendly, safe and fun.

Campuslifts.ca conducted a test in January at Laurier, Queen's, Guelph and Ottawa.

There is concern over safety, according to the Western student newspaper, the *Gazette*. UWO's campus security warned that since students do not know their match's driving records, vehicle safety or intentions of the driver, the site could pose some risk.

- Compiled by April Robinson

Students gather to save prof

Nearly 30 geography students are trying to keep their prof from being refused a teaching spot

TONY FERGUSON
NEWS EDITOR

Several geography and environmental studies students are upset over one of their professors being denied tenure.

Dr. Robert Milne, who has been at Laurier on a limited term contract since 2003, won't be returning next year.

His maximum term of four consecutive years as a member of the faculty association serving under a limited term appointment will expire after this school year.

Jacob Clemens, a fourth-year environmental studies student, is upset by the decision. "He's just a really good prof ... he's open with students coming in and talking to

him," he said.

"He teaches a lot of courses here at Laurier so it would just be a big loss to our department."

Dr. Milne could not be reached for comment but told his students that they "should probably be focusing more on [their] work and less on this issue."

Dr. David Docherty, dean of arts, refused to comment on the situation. "I don't think it's appropriate that I comment on personnel matters," he said.

Clemens and close to 30 other students have assembled to try to keep Milne at Laurier. Docherty made it clear that they do not have an influence on whether or not Milne will be awarded tenure.

In spite of this, Clemens and his

fellow students are trying to get Milne another temporary contract. They met Monday night to try and figure out how to keep Milne on staff.

"[The meeting] went really well," he said. "We divided up into groups deciding who's going to do what and I think within the next week there will be a lot of progress."

Sue Horton, VP: Academic, is not permitted to comment on this particular case but she spoke generically about these types of situations.

"In general, we have rules about professors who are on limited term contracts ... there are very clear rules in our collective agreement with the faculty association."

Section 13.5.6 of the Faculty Association Collective Agreement states that "When a Member is appointed for a period longer than four consecutive years, the Member shall be deemed to hold a Can-

didacy Appointment."

Milne is eligible for tenure but the arts department doesn't have the funds to support him if he were to acquire this position, which would include a higher salary and additional benefits.

Hypothetically speaking, Horton explained that "there are circumstances in which we don't have the funding for a permanent appointment and in those circumstances we aren't allowed by our collective agreement to rehire the person full time."

Clemens plans to continue fighting for Milne and is confident that things will work out the way he and his peers are hoping.

"We've just decided to keep going and I think we're going to do really well."

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story

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> BAG O' CRIME

Trespassing

Reported: 0128 hrs March 12/07
Special Constables assisted Turret Security in removing two males one student one non-student from the bar for intoxication. Both males were escorted off the property.

Property Damage

Reported: 0900 hrs March 12/07
Special Constables responded to a report of damage to a wall outside room 2C9. It appears that a larger individual struck the wall with his shoulder causing extensive damage to the wall.

Theft from Vehicle

Reported: 0113 hrs March 15/07
Special Constables responded to the King Street Residence parking garage to investigate the theft of a car stereo from an unlocked vehicle that has been parked in the garage since March 7, 2007. No suspects at this time.

Possession Stolen Property

Reported: 1220 hrs March 15/07
Special Constables received a report that a sign belonging to Laurier International was sitting in the window of an off campus residence. Special Constables responded and found that a Laurier student was renting the room where the sign could clearly be seen from the street. The student returned two signs and will be appearing before the JAC.

Theft Under \$5000

Reported: 1645 hrs March 15/07
Special Constables took a report from a female student advising that her boots had been stolen from the women's change room on March 6, 2007.

Trespassing

Reported: 0211 hrs March 16/07
Special Constables issued a non-student male with a trespassing charge after he allegedly tried to expose his genitals to a female inside Wilf's.

Theft Under \$5000

Reported: 1755 hrs March 16/07
Special Constables are investigating the theft of several personal items from a resident of a University residence. The thefts have been occurring over short period of time.

Alarm

Reported: 1846 hrs March 17/07
Special Constables responded to a fire alarm in the Science Building. Upon arrival Special Constables discovered that an unknown person had malicious-

ly activated a pull station at the North West doors. The station and the alarm were reset.

Liquor Offence

Reported: 2100 hrs March 17/07
Special Constables stopped a male non-student on Mid Campus Drive carrying a large bottle of liquor. He was issued with a Provincial offence notice and sent on his way.

Trespass

Reported: 1123 hrs March 17/07
Special Constables trespassed a male non-student from the FNCC after he was evicted from the bar for being intoxicated. The male had been separated from his friend who is a student. He male was told to wait in the Terrace Food Court for his friend. The male returned twice to the bar and on the second time was arrested under the Trespass to Property Act. Due to his level of

intoxication it was decided that WRPS would be called to transport the male to Division 1 cells for the night.

Property Damage

Reported: 1624 hrs March 18/07
Special Constables are investigating the report that students living on the sixth floor hurled oranges at a taxi cab hitting the cab. RLAC on-call was notified. The males responsible for the incident came forward at 2330hrs and took total responsibility for these actions.

If you have any information regarding these or any other incidents please call Community Safety & Security at 519-885-3333 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

You can also report a crime electronically through the Campus Safety & Security website.

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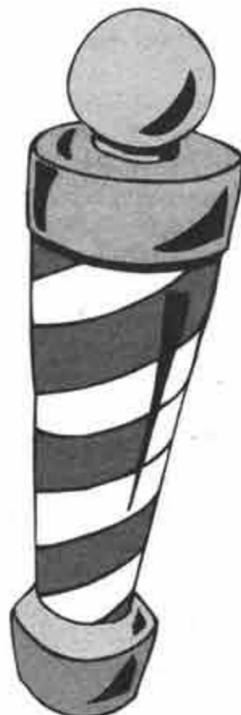
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Tourney 'frustrating' for WLU

— FROM LADY HAWKS, COVER

semi-final tilt: an eventual 4-2 loss that saw Laurier fall behind 3-0 before getting any decent offensive chances.

Obviously deflated, the Hawks came out flat once again in the third-place game Monday afternoon — giving up a goal barely a minute-and-a-half into the game.

With rookie Liz Knox between the pipes for WLU (having taken over quite impressively for Morgan Wielgosz in the semis), the deflected shot from the point found a hole to give the Bisons a 1-0 advantage.

With the Hawks facing many shorthanded situations, Knox was able to make some key saves to help keep the deficit a bearable one.

It would turn out to be a key effort, as captain Laurissa Kenworthy handcuffed Bisons' goaltender Stacey Corfield blocker side with a howitzer from the side boards to tie the game at one near the end of the frame.

Manitoba kept the seesaw affair going by scoring on a power play opportunity midway through the second. Despite a sprawled out Knox in the crease, Leanne Kisil was able to hit the top shelf to regain the advantage.

It turned out to be somewhat short-lived though as Kenworthy slammed home her second of the game at the side of the net to tie it 2-2 with just under three minutes left in the period.

Having, once again, to deal with the head-scratching disciplinary calls by the referee, the Hawks bubble finally collapsed as the Bisons took the lead for good with 2:39 remaining in the third.

While the Hawks had a chance to reply once more, a late-game power-play was annulled when defenseman Jessica Judges took a slashing call, which essentially led to the frustration boiling over a little



Jason Chiu - CUP Graphics Bureau Chief

LOOKING OVER THEIR SHOULDERS - The Hawks were constantly dealt a lot of pressure in their last two games in the Nationals last weekend.

bit with Head Coach Rick Osborne, who tossed his clipboard in the air in disgust.

With the Pandas celebrating on ice and his Hawks regrouping in the dressing room after the loss, Osborne was hesitant to blame the officials themselves.

"The referees are good, honest people who are just trying to do a good job ... I certainly wouldn't blame the officiating on the loss," said Osborne.

Instead, he expressed his frustration with the fact that most of the referee evaluation and teaching sessions are held during the final tourney.

"I think [the referees] are over supervised and over managed. It makes it really hard to prepare for,"

he added.

Besides that, however, was the fact that his squad had lost two games in a row, for the first time in a long time, which left Osborne a little taken aback.

"Didn't expect that today," he commented.

And it certainly wasn't the kind of result, on the national stage no less, that his squad was expecting — especially with their group of four players eligible for graduation. The confirmed return of Lauren Meschino, and possibly Jen Heslin, could give the Hawks two fifth-year players next year.

Unlike those two though, Captain Laurissa Kenworthy definitely has her sights set in another direction: an exchange program to Australia.

Reflecting on concluding her tenure as the team's leader both on and off the ice, the departing player couldn't help getting a little emotional.

"I feel really blessed to have been [at Laurier]," she said, fighting back tears.

"I've just ... been really privileged," added the forward who has been nominated as the Outstanding Woman of Laurier — to be determined at a banquet tomorrow.

Fellow senior and line mate Fiona Aiston, who was Laurier's most consistent player throughout the tournament, summarized her team's result as a fact that the Hawks were "lacking intensity and discipline."

"It's frustrating when we didn't

have all our players on board," she commented, insisting that the Bisons definitely were "beatable."

"I just don't think we brought our best game today," she concluded.

Admitting that she hopes to get into medical school somewhere in the province, Aiston admitted that she may very well be playing for another OUA squad during her post-grad studies.

That, she admits, "will be a challenge."

"I don't think I'll find a program that'll match Laurier."

> Follow staff writer Jamie Neugebauer from Moncton for the men's Nationals — starting this Thursday on CordWeekly.com

US Open leaves riders sky high

Vermont competition remains at top of its class

RICHARD HILLIER
STAFF WRITER

Last season, *Future Snowboarding Magazine* listed "watching the Burton US Open Snowboard Championships live" as number 23 on their list of "33 things every snowboarder should do before they die."

Having just experienced a week of snowboarding bliss down in the familiar state of Vermont, I can tell you there's a reason the Open is on that list.

Picture, if you will, a perfectly

shaped halfpipe boasting 22 feet of vertical. Surround that pipe with hundreds of adoring fans cheering at the top of their lungs while professional riders from all over the globe soar another 20 feet above their heads with smooth style and jaw-dropping glory.

Indeed, the US Open is an event not to be missed for both snowboarders and sport enthusiasts alike. The enormously high level of athleticism concentrated in one small resort is unlike anything one could ever hope to see. But per-

haps even more impressive is the impact the event has on the riders themselves.

Riders from all levels of the sport have the opportunity to compete for the big prize but, despite the heavy competition, there remains a friendly and incredibly laid-back atmosphere from day one right up until the end of the finals.

Heather Hughes, a young, strong competitor out of Blue Mountain, Ontario, and a first time competitor at the US Open, admitted that the whole experience is just "crazy."

"It's my first time here and there are pros all around me. I expected people to be telling me what to do and to be all uptight, but everyone is really chill and mellow. It's super fun."

"I keep telling myself that I'm just an underdog. I don't have to prove anything to anyone. I'm here to have fun and ride," she added.

The same sentiments are shared by one of the highest-rated female snowboarders in the world, Torah Bright.

A top competitor in the 2006 Olympics and X-games gold medalist, Torah had a big smile when



Jeff Green - Contributed Photo

IN FLIGHT - An example of some of the tricks at the Burton US Open.

asked to share her thoughts.

"I look at the US open as the most prestigious event in snowboarding," she claimed. "It's in its 25th year running so it's been around since the beginning, and really it's just a good time. Even though it's raining outside I'm still so happy to be here."

As prestigious and dangerous as the competition may be, a

little time spent hanging with the pros in the rider tents quickly exposed how excited even the most praised riders become to just hang out with friends and simply go snowboarding.

In the end, much like it had been implied in *Future Snowboarding Magazine*, the experience was definitely like no other.



VIVEK SARMA
RECORD (36-12)

UNLV is the closest thing this year's tournament has to a Cinderella. There will be no George Mason repeat of last year with the highest seed remaining at #7.

All #1 seeds are through to the second weekend, which may not come as a surprise, but may prevent the added excitement that an underdog story also provides.

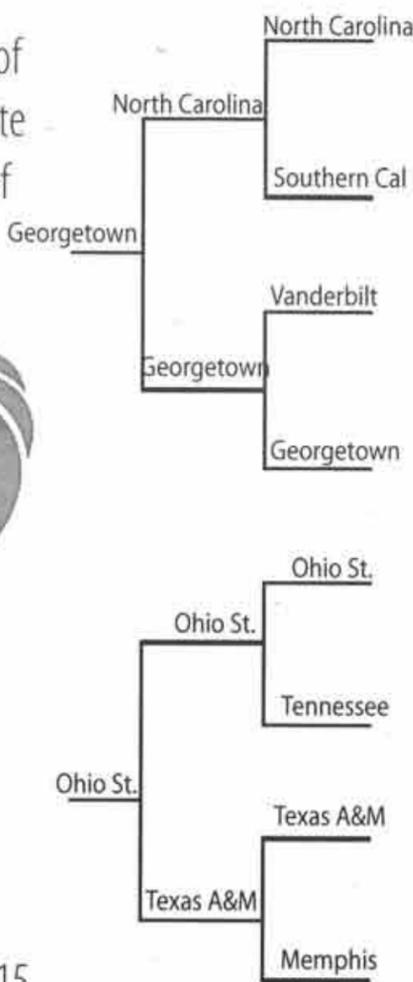
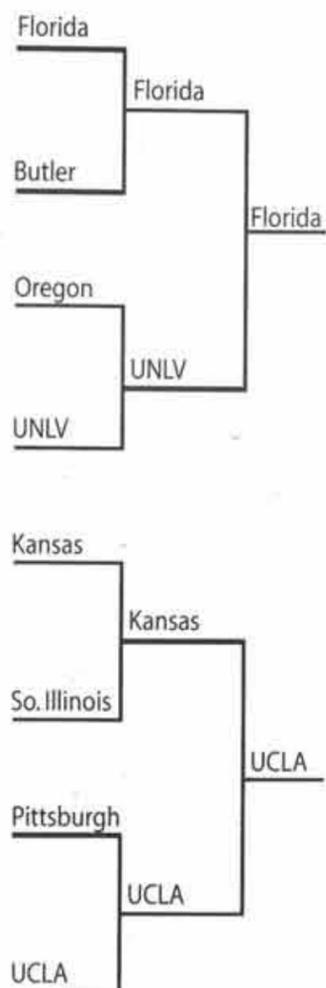
Another big surprise? That I correctly predicted not one but both first round upsets.

"VCU over Duke" may have been a popular choice given the way Duke has played over this year and their inconsistencies in both regular season and conference tournament play.

Winthrop was another fairly big surprise given Notre Dame's progressive rise to national prominence. Too bad neither of these underdogs stuck around for next weekend as both were upended in second round play.

How sweet it is

Cord Sports' panel of NCAA experts evaluate the opening week of Madness



Consensus Record: 33-15



MARK ADAMSON
RECORD (33-15)

If you picked a lot of upsets in the first two rounds, chances are your bracket isn't in very good shape after a disappointing first weekend of March Madness.

Of the top 12 seeds in the tournament, only injury-depleted #2 seed Wisconsin and inexperienced #3 seed Washington State were shown the door. There is no double-digit seed in the Sweet 16 for the first time since 1995, ensuring that there will be no Cinderella squad in this year's tournament.

So far, the tournament has been kind to the high-seeds, so don't count on any major upsets en route to the Final Four.

Florida and Ohio State both had scares in the second round, but have too much size and talent not to advance to Atlanta.

Georgetown's physical play has been dominant, and no team in the East will be able to keep the Hoyas from advancing.



PARRY SOHI
RECORD (31-17)

Aside from the two bracket busters of Wisconsin and Texas, there have been a limited number of upsets in the opening rounds.

For this week, look for the exit of two number-one seeds in North Carolina via Georgetown and Kansas via UCLA.

Of the teams remaining, North Carolina is averaging the high-

est number of turnovers per game with 16, which will cost them if they face a compensating team like the Hoyas.

In addition to North Carolina and Kansas, expect the Buckeyes of Ohio State to exit the tournament in an upcoming round.

After barely surviving a free-throw implosion by Xavier, the number-one seed in the Southern Conference looks shaky. If not Tennessee, look for Memphis or Texas A & M to eliminate the Buckeyes.

Overall, anticipate Florida to repeat and exert their dominance in the upcoming rounds.

NEXT WEEK:
It's crunch time, with *Cord Sports* wrapping up the year with its pick for NCAA champion.



MARK D. HOPKINS
RECORD (34-14)

After the first two rounds, we are still left with four #1s, three #2s and a triad of #3s. Evidently, a lot of favourites have advanced. This is different than last year where only a pair of #2s and #3s joined an 11-seed, 13-seed, and two #7s. The lowest seed in this year's sweet 16 is #7 UNLV.

I see all four top seeds winning in

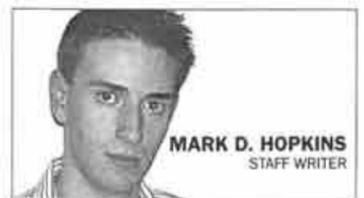
the regional semis, but only Florida and Ohio State dancing their way to Atlanta.

I've liked UCLA over Kansas the whole way and I'll drag myself behind the Georgetown Hoyas bandwagon now that the Texas Longhorns have forced my bracket printout and pool dreams into the garbage can. My theory of riding Kevin Durant à la Carmelo Anthony in 2003 to the championship game did not work out so well.

Game of the week you ask? UCLA and Pittsburgh: two contrasting styles crash into San Jose with a lot to prove.

Jays need solid work from mediocre arms

Same old questions for Toronto, but one they've never answered: will their back-end starting pitchers finally provide stability?



MARK D. HOPKINS
STAFF WRITER

The annual AL East discussion is about to commence. Can the Blue Jays, even with their increased payroll, compete with the free-spending Yankees and Red Sox?

It almost always comes down to pitching. Without question, Toronto ace Roy Halladay is an elite pitcher — when healthy. The same goes for AJ Burnett — a solid second starter. If the right arms of these two hurlers can stay healthy for the 2007 season, unlike 2006, the Blue Jays will be able to compete.

The AL East pennant is going to go to the team with the healthiest staff and strongest back-end of their rotation.

With Chien Ming Wang and Mike Mussina leading the Bronx Bombers, and Curt Schilling alongside Josh Beckett anchoring the Red

Sox, all three contenders undoubtedly have strong front-ends.

Spots three through five on each pitching staff bring along question marks for all squads though. The Red Sox broke the bank to bring in Daisuke Matsuzaka from Japan and have moved closer Jonathan Papelbon into the starting rotation.

While few Red Sox fans appear to be apprehensive about either move, they both have a lot to prove as starters in the AL East.

The Yankees have slotted Japanese lefty Kei Igawa and oft-injured Carl Pavano to join former Yankee Andy Pettite on the mound. Once again, question marks are rampant.

As for the Blue Jays, the competition for their four and five spots has been intense thus far into spring training.

Keeping with the Japanese theme, Tomo Okha appears to be solidifying himself into bench boss John Gibbons' 2007 plans. Along with incumbent Gustavo Chacin, it will be one of Josh Towers, John

Thomson, Victor Zambrano or Casey Janssen that fills the fifth-starter void.

A betting man or woman would likely place their money on Boston as the strongest staff. However, don't forget that Boston lost one of the best closers in baseball to their own starting rotation.

Former Mariner starter Joel Pinciro is dubbed as their new stopper, but his success in that role, on this team, in this division, remains to be seen.

Turning to offence, it is very difficult to find a hole in the Bronx Bombers.

One-through-seven, they are the scariest offence in the majors.

They also have Robinson Cano batting in the nine-slot with a 2006 average of .342.

Boston flaunts David Ortiz, Manny Ramirez, and JD Drew, while Toronto boasts Vernon Wells, Frank Thomas, and Troy Glaus. Take your pick on who has the best heart of the order.

Frankly, a lot needs to go right for

the Blue Jays to seriously compete in 2007.

What does this all mean?

Frankly, to have a chance, the

likes of Halladay, Burnett and Thomas need to stay on the field and out of the doctor's office.



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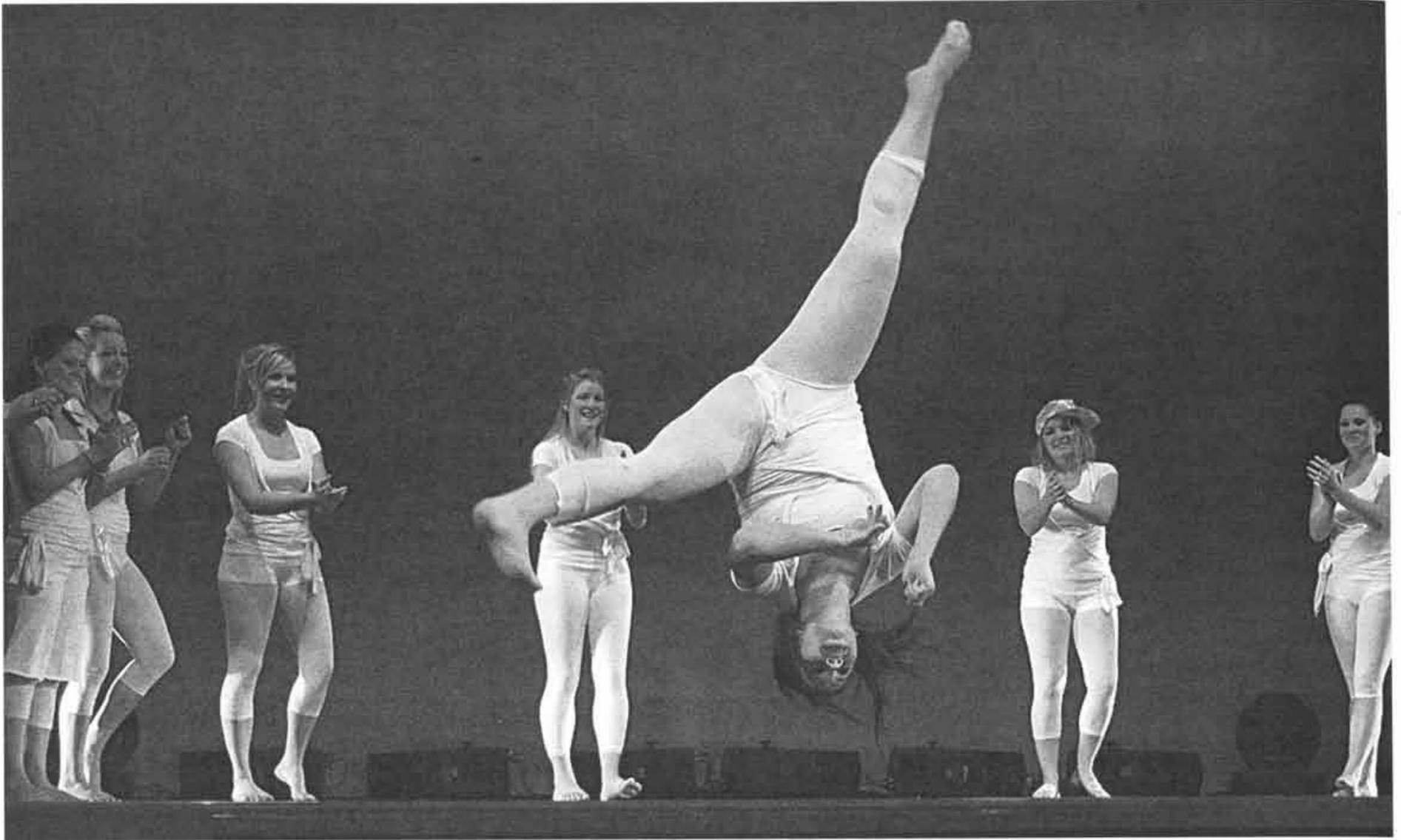
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Shane Porter

FLIP FOR FASHION - The choreographers showcase their skills after a successful show.

F'nM goes old school

Annual dance show a resounding success, with an experienced and professional cast and crew pulling it all together

LAURA CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

After four shows, 15 scenes, 106 volunteers, 80 cast members, thousands of audience members and over \$4,000 raised for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Fashion 'N Motion's (F'nM) annual production was a great success.

This year's F'nM show entitled *Lost and Found...Class of 2007* diverged slightly from past years' productions as the focus seemed to be on the technical aspect of dance.

"This year I think we really worked towards the dance aspect of the show rather than acting or the fashion part," said F'nM Artistic Coordinator Allie Funk.

In order to ensure that there were more performers with technical training, the process of casting dancers changed slightly this year.

"In terms of hiring we ended up with a lot of amazing, amazing dancers with really strong dance backgrounds," explained Jessica Mise, F'nM assistant producer. And while this new casting process may question F'nM's role on campus as a volunteer organization, it certainly made for a more skillful performance.

The show started off strong with a full cast number to "Technologic" by Daft Punk. Funk, who choreographed the opening scene, explains it as "a bunch of stereotypes dancing together." However, as the bell rings the dancers are forced to go back to school they must return

to their cliques and only dance with those of their own kind.

This separation into your typical high school groups is what inspired the numbers for the rest of the show. Each choreographer was given freedom to work with their particular clique and the dancing style and music choice for each scene came to reflect this.

Everyone from the band geeks and shy students to promiscuous girls and rebels were portrayed throughout the show. This permitted a variety of styles to be utilized by choreographers including ballet, jazz, hip hop, tap, modern, lyrical and break dancing.

The most impressive and certainly most popular scene of the night was "Goths" choreographed by Ashley Browne and Laura Funk. Browne describes the number as "a dark scene" which incorporated elements of modern, jazz and even Pointe. Although it's not very typical to see Pointe choreographed to Marilyn Manson and the Deftones, Browne explains that this contrast was meant to "challenge the stereotype of [the] ballerina."

Stephanie Denomme, a first-year performer in Goths, felt that it was this type of technical number, which allowed her to continue with the high calibre of dance she's used to. "I find that the choreographers are awesome" said Denomme. "You can tell that they've grown up with the same [dancing] background that we have."

F'nM producer, Jessica Knowl-

ton Bell, commented on this year's theme of "stereotypes" and the aims the coordinators had when developing it. "Hopefully [the theme is] easy to understand and brings a lot to the show."

During the first eight scenes of the night, this theme was very clear as the performers were only permitted to dance with members of their own clique. However, after intermission this began to breakdown, and the costumes of the characters in each scene began to reflect this.

They showed stereotypes were breaking down by, "putting some people in the scenes after the intermission in all white, so they're not in their stereotypical uniforms," explained Funk.

However, this did prove to be confusing at times, and audience members seemed slightly lost when the stereotypes they had become so familiar with in the first half were not as apparent in the final numbers of the show.

The performance as a whole was well-rehearsed and after a week of non-stop rehearsals this was to be expected. Inevitably, there were times when certain dancers were behind by a few counts, or slight mistakes occurred, but for a non-professional, student production the calibre of dancing was quite remarkable.

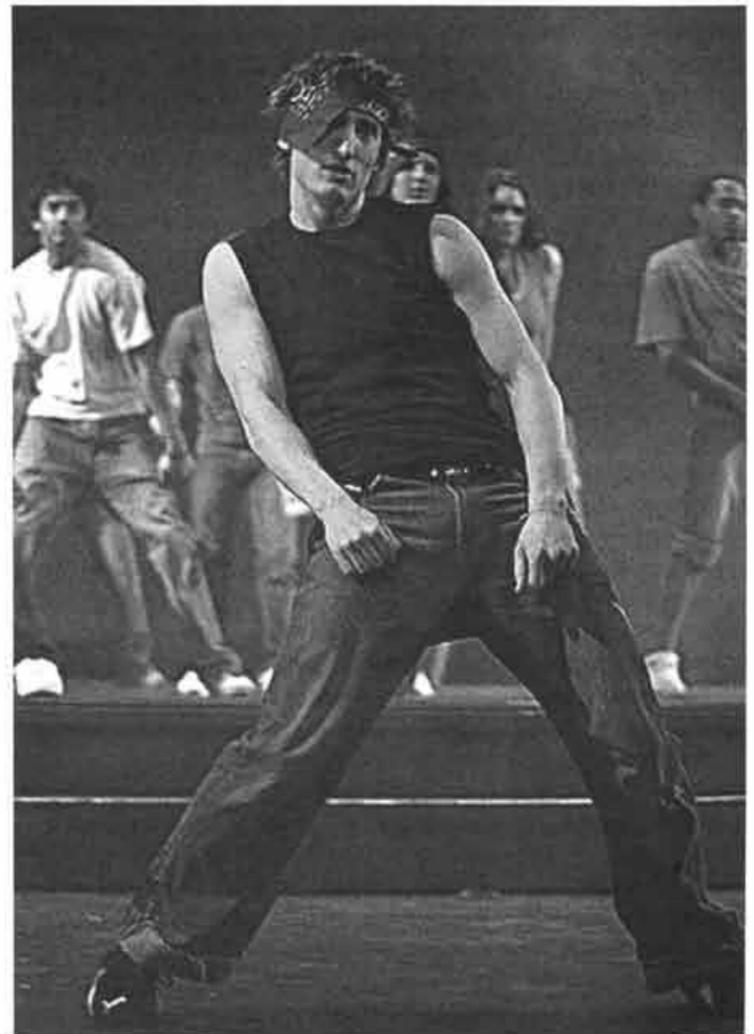
Despite the fact that F'nM has steered away from the fashion show direction, audience members had little to complain about after Friday night's sold out performance.

Walking out of the Theatre Auditorium a general tone of excitement and buzz filled the room.

As fourth-year Laurier student, Sarah Robbins, told the *Cord* "I loved it." And when asked if she

liked the new direction F'nM was Robbins didn't hesitate, "I like the dancing better."

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story



Shane Porter

BACKSTREET THRUSTER - It's all about the motion for this dancer.

St. Patty's Day reflections

A personal account of how St. Patrick's Day brings out the Irish in all of us

CHELSEA GASKO
STAFF WRITER

It's 2:00 on St. Paddy's and I'm reporting to you from Wilf's. That is 2 pm just to avoid any confusion. 'Cause today's one of the few days it's socially acceptable, nay, encouraged, to get drunk in the morning and then drunker in the afternoon.

In fact, before my breakfast of green scrambled eggs I downed an "Irish Car Bomb"; you know, with the Baileys and the Guinness.

Delicious and festive!

So, all decked out in my green garb with some sort of shamrock headdress, I sit at the Wilf's booth with my green beer and compose this oh-so-poetic article.

On a Post-it.

"I'm sorry ... I can't ... don't hate me."

"I invented Post-its."

Ha ha, Post-its are funny. Well I'm drunk, so at least I'm laughing.

Looking around Wilf's, I actually can't see a single person who isn't wearing green.

No pooper at this party. Oh Laurier. Oh Ireland. What fantastic camaraderie to be celebrating this religious-gone-dabaucherous holiday all together at the on-campus pub.

Throughout the day, I scamper happily around the bar with my Post-its asking others how they felt about St. Paddy and green beer.

"Green is the new black," says Laurier alumnus Rebecca Grant. "And beer is the new water."

"How profound," I reply. "You'll be in the *Cord* for sure."

Wilf's bartender Chuck Robertson was equally insightful.

"St. Patrick was the one who got all the snakes out of Ireland... so does that mean that Indiana Jones was Irish?"

I don't really think his Indiana Jones reference makes a lot of sense, last I checked he was just scared silly of snakes, but I appreciate the attempt.

Actually, being the responsible journalist that I am, I did a wee bit of research on St. Patrick and the meaning behind this whole shindig.

Turns out, there never were any

snakes in Ireland according to paleontologists and *Wikipedia*, but St. Paddy got rid of all the pagans and some say that's the same as snakes. What a diss.

Hair o' the Dog band member Matthew Glass reflected on why he enjoys playing at Wilf's each year. "I just love looking out to a sea of green gyrating dancers," he says.

Over the course of the day the band regaled us all with traditional Irish tunes, my favourite of which was, "Dirty Old Town".

One order of spinach dip later, I find it hard to ignore the fact that the sun is beaming through the windows and blinding my blood-shot eyes.

It's a little confusing to be drunk in such daylight.

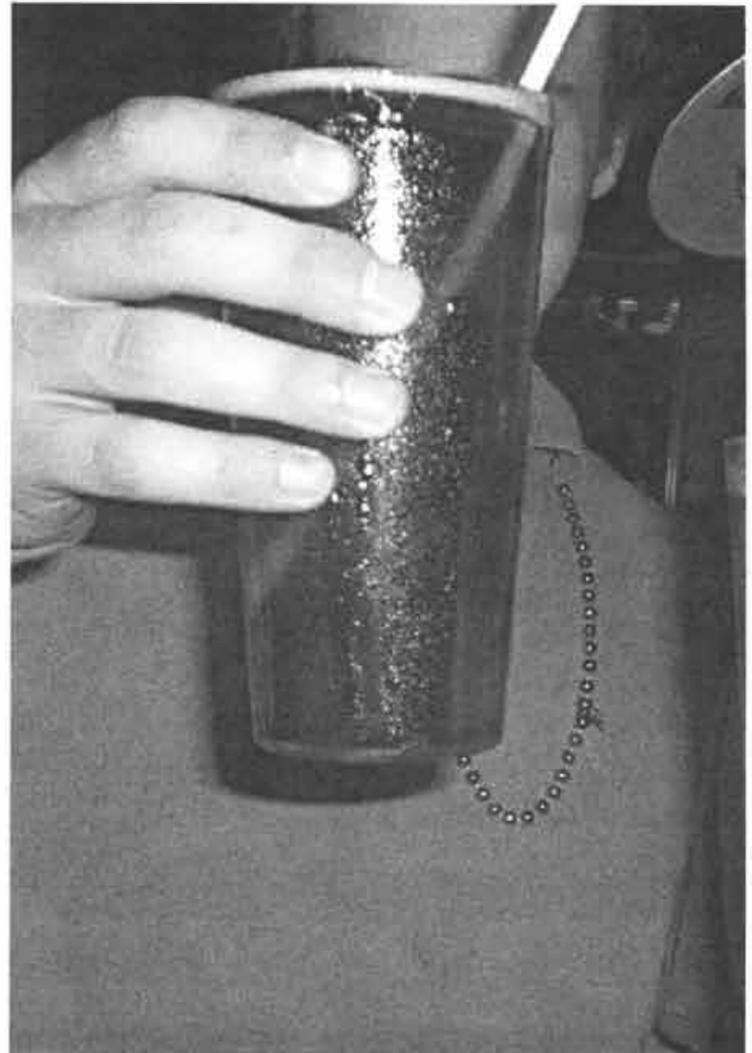
I have no idea of what time it is. It's beer o'clock as far as I'm concerned.

Time for us to go home for some Campus Pizza and a nap. We're so hardcore.

At the end of the day, by far the most profound thing I hear comes from my own roommate Breanne Etherington.

"I'm drunk!" she announces.

And isn't that the moral of the story after all?



Nisha Ganyu

IF IT'S GREEN, DRINK IT DOWN - You can't tell, but this beer is as green as a shamrock in your Lucky Charms.

Laurier Day hosts thousands of students

March Break open house seals the deal for high school applicants

ASHLEY JANG
STAFF WRITER

Last Friday, approximately 2,500 guests arrived at Laurier for a day of campus tours, information sessions, and residence open houses, also known as Laurier Day.

Of the 2,500 guests, approximately 1,000 were high school students that have applied to Laurier and wanted to see what it's all about.

The day began at 9:30 with academic information sessions for all

the different faculties so that prospective students could get an idea of what their program is all about.

The day continued on with an academic fair, a student life fair, co-op sessions, and an Athletic Complex open house.

In addition, a session on student success was held for prospective students.

"It's run by current students who give their tips on what to expect in university," said Lindsay Scott, senior liaison officer and organizer of

Laurier Day.

Residence buildings were open from 11:00 to 3:00. "The people this year are asking a lot more residence questions because they've now decided to come to Laurier," said Erin Scripnick, King Street don and community advisor.

According to Aaron Parker, vice-president of activities for Little House, the volunteer turnout for residence tours was great.

- SEE PROSPECTIVE, PAGE 11

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Is he gay?



ALI SCOTT
CAMPUS KISS

Dear Ali,

I think my best friend is gay, but we have never talked about it. I want him to know that I accept him for who he is, but I don't know how to bring it up. I am worried about him because his family is really religious and I don't think they will be so understanding.

What can I do to let him know I accept him, and how can I help him "come out" because I don't really know anything about it.

Thanks,
Worried

Dear Worried,

It has been estimated in the past

that approximately 10 percent of the population is gay; however, a much larger percentage is sexually fluid. This means that many people may identify with a variant sexual orientation, or have experiences with the same sex even if they do not identify with a variant sexual orientation.

Kinsey's sexuality spectrum was one measurement that showed how people can be sexually fluid instead of the standard "heterosexual" and "homosexual" label, which do not apply to many people today now that there is more inclusive terminology.

Regardless, sexual fluidity is much more common today, especially among young women, so it is possible that your friend is sexually fluid and not necessarily gay.

But I am glad that you are so accepting of your friend, because many people are still discriminatory towards other people's sexual orientations. Few people, however, really know how difficult it is to be

gay or sexually fluid in a very heterosexual world. So being supportive is a huge positive factor in this situation.

Sexual fluidity is much more common today, especially among young women, so it is possible that your friend is sexually fluid and not necessarily gay.

Being open-minded and accepting about what is different than you shows that you really are a good friend.

But I wonder why you think he is gay if he has never said anything to you about it? Sometimes feminine men can be stereotyped as gay

when they are not.

They are just less macho than the "average straight guy." Is it his clothing or personal tastes that make you think he is gay? I would be careful about your inquiry since it is a very sensitive topic for many people.

It is also important to know what you are talking about before you approach him. So I urge you to go to the Rainbow Centre on campus and seek support with this issue and how to go about it.

There are numerous resources and people who can talk you through the pros and cons of confronting someone about this, which

is very helpful.

I also urge you to do some reading and research on your own time. Being educated is very important before confronting someone about their sexual orientation. But if your friend hears you taking an interest, he might be more willing to open up instead of you having to confront him.

If he knows your perspective is positive and supportive, the chances are much higher for disclosure because trust is very important to someone coming out.

Being a straight ally is also a very important role in the LGBT community. I wish you luck on your new learning adventure.



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Laurea

Laurier Day was far from short of volunteers with over 100 helpers last week

- FROM PROSPECTIVE, PAGE 8

"There's way too many of us," he joked. "Almost all of house council is here, either barbequing or giving tours."

A number of guests were impressed with Laurier Day and its events. "I like the full-day schedule so that you can plan your own day because at other schools you had to stick to the schedule and there wasn't much flexibility," said Alison Ward, a high school student from Acton. "I think it's important to see a school before you decide to go there."

Rebecca Manias, a student from London, was also very impressed with Laurier Day. "It's really well organized, and really positive and

encouraging," she said. "Everyone's really informative."

Laurier Day was far from short of volunteers. "We have over 100 students that have volunteered to be tour guides for the day, and that's one of the most important parts of the day because prospective students want to see the campus," said Scott.

"I think it really shows the Laurier community in all of the volunteers that come out and help," she added.

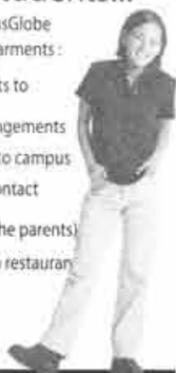
Feedback forms were given to all the students that attend Laurier Day and, according to Scott, "They all say that their likelihood of coming to Laurier after the open house is higher."

Next week Student Life features a special graduating student page. For suggestions or comments e-mail vhughes@cordweekly.com

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It's not easy going green at Laurier

For years, environmental changes at Laurier have gone unnoticed by students. Now with talks of a "green roof" and a new green

MICHELLE PINCHEV
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

Green. The colour of envy, trees and football fields. But unless it's St. Patrick's day, green is not yet a colour well-associated with Laurier.

Around North America, universities and colleges are becoming aware of environmental and sustainability issues, and they're responding quickly. Schools in the US are addressing global warming in a variety of ways, such as the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment.

They call it a "high visibility effort" to gather commitments from schools to eliminate their campus's environmental impact. The pledge includes setting target dates and milestones to become climate neutral, integrating sustainability into the curriculum and completing an emissions inventory.

While efforts are taking place in Canadian universities, they are unfortunately far less visible or coordinated. However, as awareness and dialogue surrounding these topics grow, Laurier students should expect to see some substantial changes in the years to come.

The average student is probably not aware of the changes that have already taken place on campus. For instance, the university entered two "energy performance" contracts over the past ten years. The first took place in 1997 at a cost of \$1.3 million.

"It paid for itself in five years," says Ron Dupuis, assistant vice-president of physical resources at WLU. "And we've been saving that equivalent of money every year since then."

As part of this contract, all of the lighting in the library was replaced with energy-efficient lighting. The project also included a "state-of-the-art" cold steam humidification system and variable speed drives on the large fan motors that circulate air in our school.

The school also improved the controls behind the heating and cooling in Laurier buildings.

In 2001, the improvements continued with the second phase of the project. More academic buildings on campus saw lighting retrofits and the Science Building was targeted for energy efficiency in labs.

Ever year since these projects began, readings were taken to see if their targets had been met and, according to the Physical Resources department, they exceeded their projected savings in all cases.

The university is currently looking at phase three of the project, this time zeroing in on the pool area of the Athletic Complex.

High humidity in that area, according to Dupuis, is causing corrosive chemicals to evaporate and causing structural damage to the building. A

dehumidification system proposed by the energy performance contract can solve this problem. These changes as well as more lighting retrofits are costly, but should pay for themselves within seven years.

The university is making changes as problems arise, however. Currently there are no standards imposed on universities from the federal or provincial governments, nor is there an overarching policy at WLU that sets standards for energy efficiency.

"I think we're going to see that coming," says Dupuis, "but they're not there yet."

Concerned members of WLUSU are hoping that next year the development of a "green policy" will be implemented. Such talks were put on the back burner this year, as issues of policy governance took precedence.

What Laurier does have going right now is an Aesthetics Committee, chaired by Dr. Robert Rosehart, president of Laurier, which has recently been broadened to include the environment in its mandate.

"There was a general feeling that there was no university committee that looked at the environment ... so we broadened the mandate to be called the Aesthetics and Environment Committee."

The committee consists of senior members and active faculty, as well as students such as Allan Cayenne, president and CEO of WLUSU.

Their main environmental concerns include greening initiatives, tree-planting and using environmentally-friendly material in construction projects.

"Greening and protecting the campus, to me, is an issue of pride," says Rosehart. There are currently talks within the committee of creating more green spaces on campus.

While it is reassuring to know that such a committee exists, with growing awareness surrounding sustainability issues and various groups and individuals on campus pressing for change, a more visible and accessible committee that targets sustainability alone may be needed.

JD Muir, vice-president of university affairs for WLUSU, hopes to see a committee that addresses sustainability.

"What the university really needs to provide is a separate body of interested staff, administration, students and faculty to come together and present well-researched recommendations."

Such a committee exists - sort of. WLUSU board member Colin LeFevre chairs the "Ad-hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee," a committee which, due to debate about WLUSU's governance structure, has barely been active this year and probably won't be around much longer.

"I don't think we're going to have a committee next year," says LeFevre. "We're going to be pushing an over-

arching environmental policy." This means pushing things like a carbon-neutral campus, better recycling and more availability of recycling on campus.

A far more active environmental group on campus is the Environmental Awareness Committee, better known as the "EcoHawks." Muir's University Affairs department oversees the committee and also controls the "green fee" - a 50-cent charge added to students' tuition bills each

year.

The EcoHawks raise awareness of environmental issues at a local, regional and global level, providing students with information and tools on how to be more environmentally friendly on and off campus. Over this past year, the group brought us many events including an eco-fair, the "lug-a-mug" campaign, which encouraged students to bring their own coffee mugs to campus, and residence recycling challenges.

The group also partnered with Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group (LSPiRG) to hold a screening of An Inconvenient Truth to raise awareness.

"The EcoHawks are also in charge of providing recommendations for use of the green fee," explains Muir. The group took suggestions on campus for use of the fee. It amounts to about \$11,000 for each year, according to Muir, and can be carried over to the following year if not used.

"The green fee is open to anyone who wants to access it," says Muir. They just have to go through the VP and have it approved."

Suggestions which have arisen so far include using alternative energy like solar power or wind mills, introducing trays to the Terrace and replacing paper towels with hand-dryers in the washrooms. But so far the problem getting the most attention from WLUSU is the "revamping" of the recycling system.

"How we currently collect is inefficient," according to Muir, an opinion backed by the EcoHawks as well as many students and faculty members.

Right now materials are all collected separately, when they should be "commingled," meaning collecting all plastic, glass and aluminum containers together and all papers together, and so on.

University campuses in the US and Canada are moving toward com-

mingled recycling because studies have shown that more people recycle when sorting is not required. It's also more efficient because it allows trucks to hold more materials in one load.

Laurier is still trying to make the leap forward. Groups have done the research, but so far it is only a work in progress that, like many environmental projects on campus, will have to be pushed to next year.

While the work of the EcoHawks

is important and admirable, it is a committee of hired volunteers, not a campus club open and accessible to students. As student volunteers themselves, there is only so much that they can do.

Furthermore, with Rosehart and Dupuis retiring after this year, students will have to rebuild partnerships with their replacements in the years to come.

One major project on the tip of everyone's tongues is rebuilding St. Michael's Campus with a green roof.

"When they do the St. Michael's project we could build with a green roof," says LeFevre, "which is literally a roof that's a garden." Among its many benefits, the green roof can insulate the building, reducing energy consumption.

Keren Gottfried, a student governor, is currently coordinating students who wish to be involved in this project and hopes to speak up in committees and meet with appropriate administrators.

In what Rosehart says will be a "major building" of four to six floors, WLU is giving serious consideration to things like geothermal heating as well as the green roof.

"I think this is a very significant project and a great opportunity not only to do some showcase architecture, but to do some showcase leadership in terms of greening," says Rosehart.

In the years to come, Laurier will also likely see the building at the University Stadium redone, and there is talk of geothermal heating there as well.

There are several committees dedicated to the cause of environmental sustainability at WLU. We have an Aesthetics and Environment Committee, an ad-hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee and an Environmental Awareness Committee. But even with these committees, the work of the Physical Resources department and a host of individuals trying to get involved in the push to "go green," many problems are still not being addressed.

There are still countless pressing issues of waste and over-consumption on campus. It's almost impossible not to take notice of the permeable windows in the Concourse.

"You can always feel a breeze through them," says LeFevre, who also points out that many of the coffee cups people throw out on campus are recyclable. "People don't know that."

Why is it that on a hot September afternoon you find yourself shivering in class? Why is it that some computer labs on campus get so unbearably hot in the winter you need to open a window? And why do the computers and lights stay on all night?

It seems at times that the simplest things are being overlooked, and that

can be frustrating to any concerned, environmentally conscious student.

Dupuis suggests that students who want to see things get done on campus get organized and do their research.

"Bring ideas forward," he says. "But don't bring them forward in a confrontational way."

It's a message echoed by staff and students alike, over and over again: passion doesn't necessarily translate into action.

"One thing students have to learn is that you can't necessarily just get angry," says Muir. "If you really want change, you have to work with the people you want change from."

"In my experience, you only receive positive responses when you engage in a dialogue with administration, instead of making demands," says Gottfried, who also prefers collaboration over confrontation.

Dupuis has expressed some frustration himself, pointing out that people are quick to point fingers at others while not being proactive themselves.

"The people who say we're not doing enough should really take a look at what they're doing first," says Dupuis. "Having said that, I'm not disputing the fact that we should be looking to do more."

In the meantime, students need to remember that environmental issues do not only exist on campus, but off campus as well. Students as well as the university and city need to put pressure on landlords to fix some of the more run-down houses to ensure that energy is not being wasted. As Muir points out, all-inclusive leases pose a problem as well.

"Almost everything is subsidized," says Muir. "That makes us unaware of what the true cost of everything is. But if you took away the inclusivity on student housing, which I highly recommend, students would be forced to live under the understanding that not everything comes for free anymore."

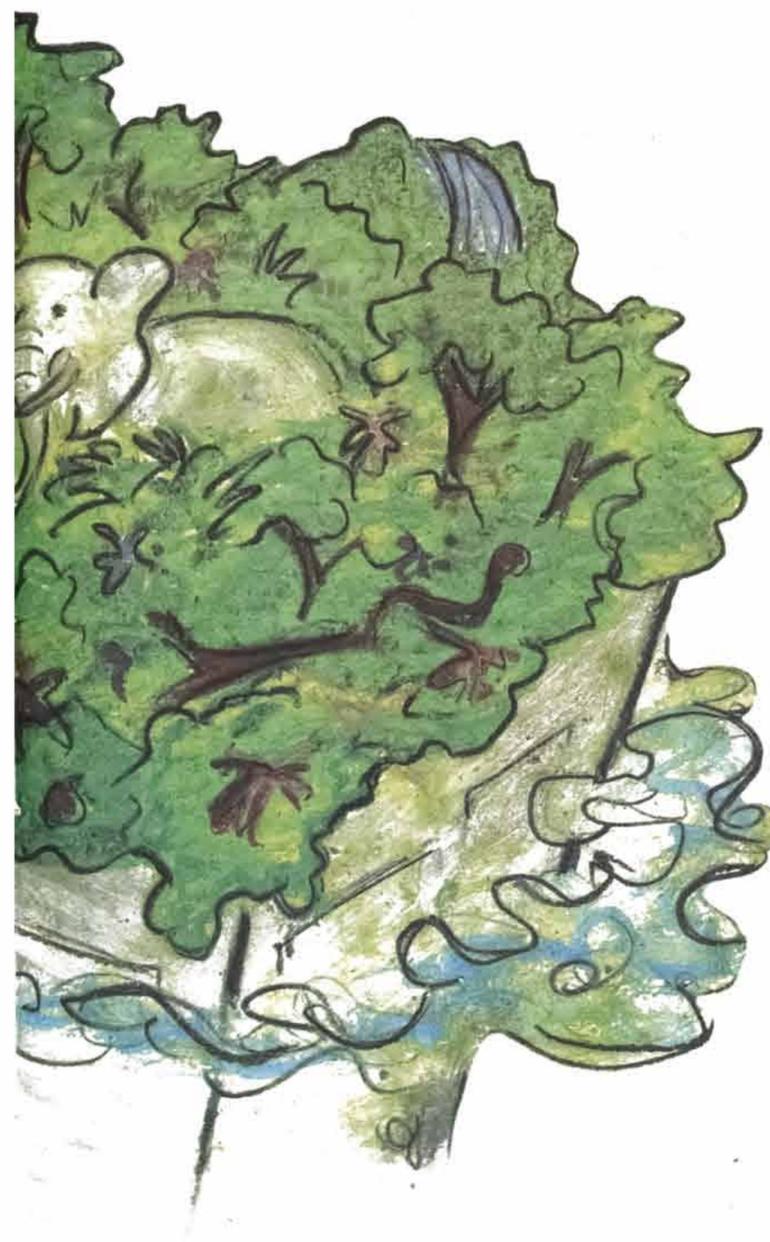
In addition to choosing to pay their own gas and hydro bills, students can also opt for the newer and larger student accommodations.

Safer, standardized and more energy efficient, the buildings also take up less space than the older houses and offer a greater sense of community.

Plenty can be done off-campus, but those who wish to see more done on campus shouldn't hesitate to contact the VP of university affairs, administration or groups like the EcoHawks with their questions and concerns.

But eventually, questions and concerns won't cut it. Thanks to Al Gore and groups like the EcoHawks raising our awareness, everyone knows what needs to be done.

It's time for Laurier and all Canadian universities to show the world that we're listening.



Afghanistan's poppy production blooms

Used in pharmaceuticals and opiates, eliminating the plant may have unwanted consequences

ASHLEY DOODNAUTH
STAFF WRITER

The United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) released information on March 5 reporting Afghanistan's increased production of poppies. Last year, cultivation was up 60 percent, and this year the Middle Eastern country is reporting record-high numbers once again. In 2006, the federal government agreed to aerially spray the crops to eliminate the poppy plant.

The poppy is one of the world's most important medicinal plants and can be used as an astringent, an aphrodisiac or a narcotic, among other things. Afghanistan's cultivation of the poppy plant is mainly for the purpose of producing opium.

Fifteen of Afghanistan's 34 provinces are increasing poppy planting, six provinces are sustaining crop levels and seven provinces are reducing their cultivation. The remaining six provinces do not cultivate poppies at all.

The UNODC stated that increased production in the southern regions is a security issue and wiping out illegal trade of opium will take at least one generation to complete.

Western powers have blamed Afghanistan's drug industry for fuelling the Taliban-led insurgency. Money from the opium trade funds insurgents by providing salaries for foot soldiers and allows for the purchase of weapons, reports BBC News.

The drug trade accounts for almost half of the entire economy, according to observers' estimates. Many Afghani farmers cultivate this lucrative plant, earning their livelihoods from taking part in illegal activities and complicating the problem of drug eradication. The task is now to combat the drug problem while observing and actively helping poor families and rural wage labourers deal with the effects.

Canada has recently given \$200 million for reconstruction and development in Afghanistan, some of which will be used for strengthening the law pertaining to counter-narcotics enforcement.

Lord Howell recently told the UK's House of Lords that Afghanistan's opium poppies should be used to make pharmaceutical products such as diamorphine rather than being destroyed altogether. The UK is experiencing a shortage of the commonly-used medicinal

drug.

In addition to the increased production of opium, Afghanistan has shown increases in cannabis production, which is a new trend for the country.

The African country of Morocco has recently made headlines for its decreased cultivation of the cannabis plant. The UNODC reports that Morocco, which was once the world's biggest supplier of hashish, has now reduced production by almost 50 percent in the last three years.

Morocco has been growing cannabis since the 15th century, with most of it grown and harvested on the Rif Mountain. However, policing is difficult because of the obscure routes and complicated terrain of the Rif Mountain.

According to BBC News, some experts believe that cannabis trafficking largely funded the militant group that bombed the Madrid trains in 2004.

"Ever since we started growing cannabis we have been afraid, but what can we do, we're just trying to earn a living, for us and for our children," says a local farmer, Mohammed.

The UNODC says that its biggest challenge is finding other ways that farmers can survive. The problem lies in the demand for cannabis and the highly inflated price at which it is bought. The task that is most



PRE-OPIATE - An Afghani farmer scrapes his poppy harvest.

pressing is finding a legal replacement for cannabis through which farmers can still make a living.

Jump on the slum tourism bandwagon

Tourism to Kibera has failed to improve living conditions for its inhabitants

MARY ERSKINE
STAFF WRITER

Starving African children with engorged bellies signaling malnutrition, barely strong enough to move or brush the flies away, stare into the cameras that surround them. This is one of the more promi-

nent images of Africa which has been hurled towards us since our childhood.

It's no surprise that the response of "slum tourism" is on the rise in certain African countries. In Kenya, the Kibera slum is one of the largest in the country, with statistical estimates placing the population at

nearly one million people. Located southwest of Nairobi, the nation's capital, these people are all located within an area just over two square kilometres, or about the size of Central Park in Manhattan. A rough calculation estimates the population density to be about 300,000 people per kilometre square at any given time. Many people living in slums gravitate towards them due to issues with underdevelopment in rural areas.

Even though the population has exploded over the years, the Kenyan government has done nothing to provide services of any kind—sewage pipes, roads, water, title deeds—to the residents of Kibera. Much like the parallel situation of the *barrancas*, or ravine slums in Mexico, governments make use of the excuse that taking up residence in slums or ravines is illegal; therefore no action is required on their part.

Once seen only at arm's length—commercially begging for donations or even incorporated onto the big screen in movies such as *The Constant Gardener*—slums such as Kibera are becoming tourist attractions in themselves.

James Asudi, a Kenyan safari manager, noted, "People are getting tired of the Maasai Mara and wildlife. No one is enlightening us about other issues. So I've come up with a new thing—slum tours."

And he's not the only one who has jumped on this "new thing." Indeed, people have flocked to the area to address the situation or to take pictures of the myriad tin roofs covering the Kibera valley ground. However, even the more high-profile visits have begun to spark criticism within Kenya. For example, fallout from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's recent visit included some harsh words printed in

Kenya's top newspaper, *The Daily Nation*.

One author wrote, "What is this fascination with Kibera among people who do not know what real poverty means? More to the point, how do Kenyans themselves feel about this back-handed compliment as the custodians of backwardness, filth, misery and absolute deprivation?"

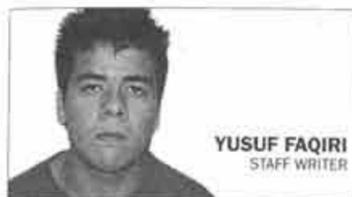
Alfred Mutua works for the government of Kenya, and has led projects aimed at promoting a positive image of the country and to improve conditions within it. When asked by a Reuters reporter what his thoughts were regarding Kibera and slum tourism, he replied, "It is very sad that when dignitaries come here, the first place they run to is Kibera; the residents are getting tired of people coming and giving lip-service."

Residents of Kibera agree: "They see us like puppets, they want to come and take pictures, have a little walk, tell their friends they've been to the worst slum in Africa," said one resident of Kibera. "But nothing changes for us. If someone comes, let him do something for us. Or if they really want to know how we think and feel, come and spend a night, or walk round when it's pouring with rain here and the paths are like rivers."



WELCOME TO KIBERA - High profile tourism hasn't helped the slum.

China, Russia block Burma's rights progress



YUSUF FAQIRI
STAFF WRITER

Aung San, to the presidency. Sadly, democracy was never able to grow roots in the country. The military junta who ruled Myanmar at the time of the election did not accept the results and also put Miss Suu Kyi under house arrest, to which she is still subject today.

Some good things can come out of the failed UN resolution. One is the fact that the criminal Burmese government has now gotten the world's attention, albeit for a short time.

Burma's record of gross human rights abuses is on par with North Korea's, including the government detaining pro-democracy political activists, and the army using land mines against civilians. Crippling sanctions imposed by the West

to encourage respect for human rights, when combined with poor investment in Burma's collapsed banking system and inadequate infrastructure for manufacturing and service sectors, have left the Burmese people among the poorest in the world. Its most productive sectors are also the most environmentally damaging and are ultimately unsustainable. Other UN reports state that trade such as "narcotics and human trafficking grow ... communicable diseases remain untreated."

Although the illegal government does not have too many allies, it has one of the world's strongest nations on its side: along with Russia, China has repeatedly opposed moves to place Burma on the formal agenda.

According to Human Rights Watch, both countries have close commercial ties to the Burmese government, including arms sales.

According to the United Nations, the Burmese military regime "arbitrary arrests, tortures, rapes and executes its own people and wages war on minorities within its own borders."

Mark Farmaner, from Burma Campaign UK, a human rights group, also says that "poverty and humanitarian problems were wors-

ening, especially in ethnic minority regions targeted by the junta." Beginning in the early 1990s, the regime waged a war on its indigenous Karen people who wanted more autonomy. Well over 20,000 people have been displaced from their homes since the military regime began an offensive in the Karen areas, and they are not yet able to return to their homes.

One would like to say that there is hope for the Burmese people, but with China and Russia on Burma's side, while fully knowing the atrocities this pariah state has commit-

ted, progress looks unlikely. It is sickening what the Burmese government is doing to its people, but why would any international actors want to help, attaching their name to such an unpromising situation?

Some good things can come out of the failed UN resolution. One is the fact that the criminal Burmese government has now gotten the world's attention, albeit for a short time. The optimist can see hope for change in Burma, while the pessimist could convincingly argue that the country is doomed.

When one thinks of pariah states, Burma often comes to the top of that list. The story of Burma is a situation of great sadness and tragedy. Also known as Myanmar, Burma is a product of colonialism, along with its Southeast Asian neighbours, and has had so much potential to be a success story. It had all the ingredients for it. Unfortunately, certain things in life don't always work the way they should.

But Burma is also different from its neighbours on many levels: it is rich in natural resources and officially became a democracy in 1990 when it elected Nobel Peace Prize-winner Aung San Suu Kyi, who is also the daughter of Burma's hero

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Contributed Photo

Neon Bible is not much to worship

After an exhaustive group review, the *Cord* finds that the Arcade Fire's new album can't match its hype

KARI PRITCHARD
CORD A&E

Everyone's favourite Canadian indie darlings have returned.

With the release of their second full-length album, the Arcade Fire is poised to take giant leaps and bounds. However, it seems that *Neon Bible* fails to meet the massive expectations.

Released on March 6, the album is hot off the presses for everybody to get his or her hands on. And judging by the fact that the album debuted in the number two spot on *Billboard's* Top 200 Album Chart, it seems that many people have.

Unfortunately, many of the tracks sound alike, and the new album is also fairly similar to The Arcade Fire's last album, *Funeral*.

In fact, the title *Funeral* may have been more appropriate for this album, considering the number of dreary songs that make you feel like you are at a funeral, a church or lying on your death bed.

It is also hard to hear what lead singer Win Butler is saying when he sings, and that's not necessarily a bad thing.

On track four, "Intervention", you can barely understand what Butler is saying until he gets to the line

"working for the church while your family dies," potentially sending listeners into a spiral of depression.

Another letdown was the title track of the album. It was one of the slower tracks and features fewer instruments; but, they still manage to overpower the lyrics and put listeners to sleep.

In fact, the title *Funeral* may have been more appropriate for this album, considering the number of dreary songs that make you feel like you are at a funeral, church, or lying on your death bed.

On the plus side, it's refreshing to hear something other than the mainstream "emotional" pop/rock that is circulating in the music business today. Although the Arcade Fire sounds different from the mainstream, many of their song lyrics are still emotional and are complimented by cheesy sound effects that make it sound like an airplane was flying over the recording studio.

The Arcade Fire produce a diverse and layered sound, as having eight band members allows the group to

incorporate various instruments.

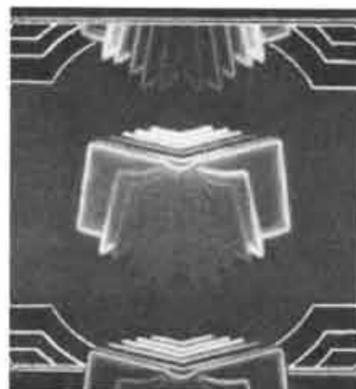
On the album you can hear the usual bass, guitar and drums, but listeners also get a taste of some violins, a xylophone, an accordion and even an organ to help you imagine sitting in church and reading your own *Neon Bible*.

The Arcade Fire also scored points for having both a male and female singer on some tracks, as Régine Chassagne joins Butler for various numbers. Chassagne's vocals can be heard on various tracks, but are most notable on track eight, "(Anarchist Television Blues)", where at the end she screams as though she is dying.

Instead of ending the album with a bang, the very last song, "My Body is a Cage" drags the listeners further into depression. The only good thing about it is that it is the last song and the album is finally over.

Whereas the Arcade Fire has been touted in many circles as the saviour of music, *Neon Bible* doesn't live up to the attention and hype that *Funeral* helped to cre-

ate. The band seems to be continuing on and, as their newest album demonstrates, the Arcade Fire is still burning, but the flames are not as hot as they once were.



Arcade Fire
Neon Bible
Original Release Date:
March 6, 2007
Rating: 7.1 / 10
Label: Merge Records
Recommendation:
**USE YOUR
DISCRETION**

This is how I sum up Neon Bible by the Arcade Fire: the band has a whiney and nerdy lead singer (never a good combo), the music makes you want to kill yourself (and people say emo is bad) and just because they're trying to be artsy and different doesn't mean it's good music (10 years from now we'll all look back at music like this the same way we look at '80s new wave music now, and think what the hell kind of cheap drugs were we on to say this was cool).

-Nick Boyd

Another album packed with incredible orchestral ensembles and powerful bass lines, Neon Bible begins with "Black Mirror" - a piece that most Muse fans will love.

"Black Wave / Bad Vibrations" opens with a duet likened to mosquitoes buzzing around your ears and transitions into a brilliantly tinkly and heavily melodic orchestral piece. No matter what others say, give the album a second listen and you'll enjoy it just as much as Funeral: I guarantee it.

-Wendy Nind

Neon Bible is not Funeral, and maybe that was the point. Maybe the Arcade Fire were trying to be new and innovative. But instead it looks like the band has regressed, and lost some of its lustre.

With their debut, the Arcade Fire became the centre of attention and they were short-listed as being part of music's next 'big thing'. Funeral's strength was found in its lighter, up-tempo numbers. Unfortunately, on Neon Bible such moments are too few and far-between.

"(Antichrist Television Blues)" is a gem, but the dark and sombre aura of the rest of the album leaves me wanting more. That's not to say that Neon Bible doesn't show the promise offered on Funeral. The bi-polar track "Black Wave / Bad Vibrations" manages to be both fun and brooding at the same time. However, that can't be said for all of this Bible's verses.

This album is far from terrible, but also far from great; unfortunately, it's caught somewhere in between.

-Joe Turcotte

I've no doubt that the new Arcade Fire album will please many fans of the mope-rock movement, but at the same time, I couldn't help but feel that the "difficult" second album proved all too difficult to listen to.

While Funeral provided a dance hall full of heart-pumping tunes, Neon Bible is all crash-and-burn. In other words, where the first album was a shot of adrenaline-filled drugs, the second album is about coming down from that high.

In theory, that's not such a bad thing. Many artists over time have shone expressing such polarized emotions (the Beatles, Primal Scream and Faithless come to mind). But the Arcade Fire just can't seem to hack it.

It takes a handful of listens even to discern differences between some tracks. I felt that the stronger tracks on Neon Bible were simply better-sounding versions of the rest of the album's songs.

In the beginning, there was greatness. But now there's just shitness.

-Alex Hayter



Contributed Photo

PRINCE OF NOTHING- Fantasy writer R. Scott Bakker stops by WLU.

Laurier gets the fantasy treatment

Fantasy writer visits campus, speaks to students

ALEX HAYTER
FEATURES EDITOR

How do you become a fantasy writer?

"By smoking dope and playing Dungeons and Dragons in my dad's basement," says Scott Bakker.

Bakker, acclaimed author of the *Prince of Nothing* series of epic fantasy books, made a lengthy appearance on campus last Thursday with a book signing and two separate lectures to students about his writing and philosophy.

At Bakker's first appearance in the Paul Martin Centre at 12 pm, the author began by giving a short speech on his personal philosophy on writing.

"I write to screw with people's heads," explained Bakker. "I've screwed with hundreds of thousands of heads."

Bakker blamed the societal situation of panic in America, especially after September 11, 2001, as a contributor to a sterile literary and cultural tradition. "Not enough heads in America have been screwed with in the past by literature."

Next, Bakker read a long excerpt from his latest novel, a psychological thriller about a scientist who lobotomizes his victims in quest of "The Argument" - the proof that all human beings are mindless automatons.

Bakker explained how the novel

was the product of a bet with his wife that he could write something other than fantasy, and that making this literary shift proved a challenging ordeal.

Following the reading, he answered questions from the audience. Discussing the possibility of adapting his books to film, video games and other media, he felt that much of the original message could be lost in the process.

Later on Thursday, Bakker could be found in Arts 1E1 giving a lecture to the English class "Tolkien and Fantasy."

This lecture traced the origins of fantasy in the context of human psychology and anthropology. Bakker spoke of how fantasy is about "the end of the world," and of how the genre arose as a reaction to both religion and the science of enlightenment.

"Fantasy is a photographic negative of the modern world," he theorized, discussing how fantasy is both anti-scientific and science-dependant.

He then theorized how, if fantasy is the polarized opposite of reality, reality may be governed by nothing but nihilism.

Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* was compared to the Bible, showing how similar features exist such as world-maps and the way that morality functions as fact.

"If you want to know the answer to any question in Middle Earth, you just ask Gandalf."

Student guitarists unite

The Faculty of Music hosts WLU Guitar Ensemble at Maureen Forester Recital Hall

LAURA CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

Last Monday night a little fewer than seventy audience members gathered in the Maureen Forester Recital Hall for a night of classical guitar melodies. The WLU Guitar Ensemble featured seventeen pieces performed by eleven students in the Faculty of Music.

The night consisted of a variety of solo, duet and quartet numbers. Terry McKenna, the students' instructor, explained that playing with a number of performers throughout the night serves a twofold purpose.

McKenna feels that it helps bring variety to the show and also allows the students to explore new ways of music-making.

"It was kind of fun to hear mixtures of different guitars and not just hear one solo after another," said McKenna. He added, "It's a lot of fun for [the students] to play music together because it's a whole other side of music making."

McKenna looks at Monday's show as the "party performance" before the students perform their solo repertoire for their juries which is in just a few weeks.

Although many of the duet pieces are only about a month old, the students have been working on their solo pieces since September.

"[The show] gives them the chance to put themselves under pressure" said McKenna.

Ruth Guechral, a third-year performer, echoes McKenna's thoughts. "I think [the idea of having a show] is great because it gives us a chance to work on our repertoires which come up less than a month later."

"It was kind of fun to hear mixtures of different guitars and not just hear one solo after another. It's a lot of fun for [the students] to play music together because it's a whole other side of music making."

- Terry McKenna, music instructor

A performer in five different numbers, Guechral is in a unique situation as she is the only female in Laurier's guitar program. Although she feels that her situation is "perfect" because the boys don't treat her any differently, Guechral still wishes that other females would get involved.

"It's too bad there aren't more girls up here," she said.

When asked about how the performance went, Guechral smiled and replied "awesome".

"This is the third [show] I've done here and I think by far this is the best one we've done," Guechral told the *Cord*. "Just [in terms of] the variety of music and all the performances," she added.

Dan Beacock, a second-year performer, also felt that the show went really well. However, still new to playing classical guitar, Beacock feels that he hasn't quite mastered it yet. "I still kind of suck at classical," he joked.

As the guitar player for Will Currie and the Country French (the first-round winners of the Wilf's

Last Band Standing competition), Beacock explains that this type of atmosphere is a big change from what he's used to.

"It's really different from playing with a band because if you forget something you have nothing to

do," said Beacock.

Although the auditorium was nearly empty, the acoustic strums that filled the room were well-received by the crowd who did attend Monday night's performance, demonstrating that a little attention can go along way.

As proud parents and classmates greeted the performers after the show, it became apparent that this night was not about how many people turned out, but instead about the love of classical music.

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Comic boom

WonderCon peeks into soon-to-be released films

DRU JEFFRIES
STAFF WRITER

According to *Geek Magazine*, WonderCon is "as much fun as Comic-Con was 10 years ago and half the hassle ... and Hollywood agents still haven't heard of it." That's probably a bit of an exaggeration, as Hollywood had plenty of presence at this year's Con.

In fact, next to its big sister in San Diego, the San Francisco-based WonderCon is probably the most Hollywood-oriented comic book convention in the United States.

Each year, more and more film directors choose these conventions to unveil major casting announcements, and to test footage and trailers to whet the appetites of both film and comic geeks alike.

Thanks to the magic of the Internet, and particularly geek-sites like Aintitcool.com and CHUD.com, in-depth descriptions of the footage shown at these conventions are available online hours after the event itself. But for the true film geek, nothing beats seeing it on the big screen with 3500 screaming fans.

The first panel on Big Movie Saturday was for Pixar's latest, *Ra-*

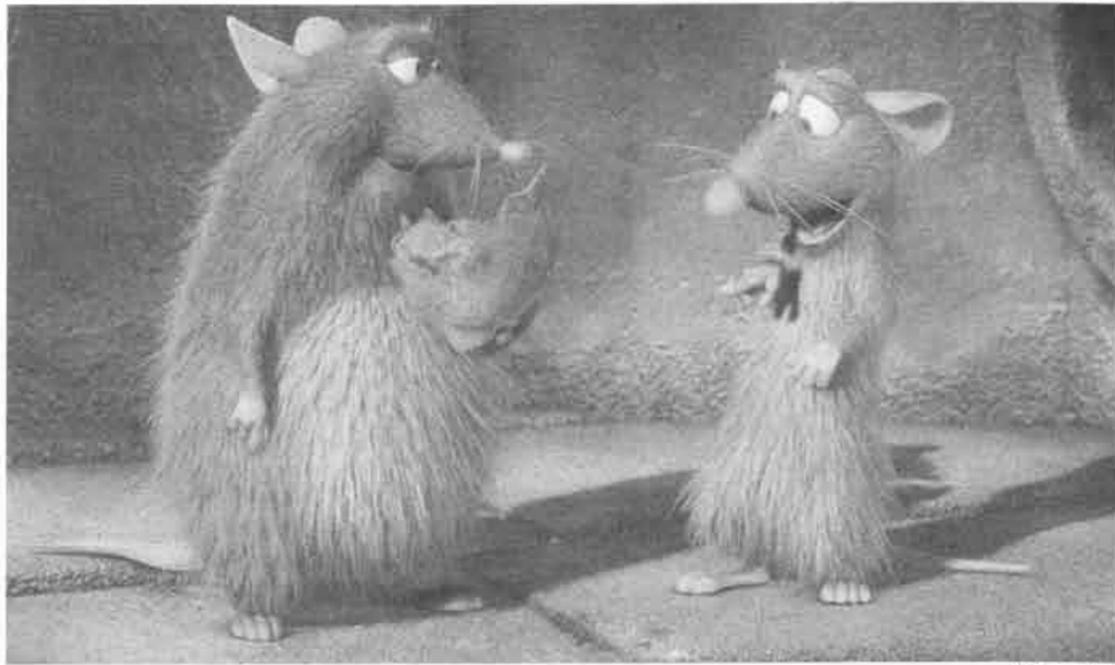
tatouille. Director Brad Bird (*The Incredibles*, *The Iron Giant*) introduced the world premiere of the new trailer, which included lots of footage not seen in the teaser.

After seeing this trailer and a few clips from the finished film itself, my faith in Pixar has been restored to its pre-*Cars* status. *Ratatouille* seems to recapture Pixar's knack for casting (with comedian Patton Oswalt in the lead role) and their unique CG-sensibility, which no other animation studio can come close to.

Regrettably, I missed the second panel of the day, which was for *TMNT* and *The Reaping*. I was back in the Esplanade Ballroom for the *300* presentation, which has since opened to almost unanimous fan acclaim and a \$70-million weekend box office take.

Nevertheless, this film looks like the worst kind of style-over-substance filmmaking, and the five-minute excerpt that I saw at WC merely cemented my reservations about the film.

I might have been the only person in the 3500-seat venue to not love this footage, but then again, I was also the only person who wasn't a raving member of the Ge-



Contributed Photo

RAT-TASTIC - The premier of *Ratatouille*'s trailer shows that Pixar might be on the rebound with its latest film.

rard Butler fan club.

Next up was a *Resident Evil: Extinction* panel with Oded Fehr (*The Mummy*) and *Heroes*' Ali Larter. The two actors seemed happy to answer questions, even though they didn't know half as much about the franchise's video-game roots as the gamer-filled crowd.

While the first *Resident Evil* film was a typical innocuous zombie film, *RE: Apocalypse* was so bad I almost walked out. Will *Extinction* fare any better? Fehr says it has the "best script" of the three. I didn't know these movies needed scripts!

Finally, we came to the Sony Pictures panel, which promised lots of *Spider-Man 3* footage and possibly the presence of stars like Tobey Maguire or director Sam Raimi. To our collective chagrin, an anonymous Sony animator came onstage for a forty-minute PowerPoint presentation about the latest animated penguin film ("Does the world really need another cartoon about penguins? We think so."), the mockumentary *Surf's Up*.

As a reward for staying awake through the dull presentation, we were treated to an "exclusive" new

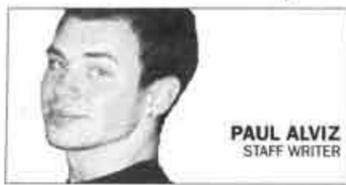
trailer for *Spider-Man 3*, which contained very little footage that hasn't been available online for months.

Last, best, and most geeky was the day's final panel with DC Comics' animation team (the good folks behind *Batman: The Animated Series* and *Justice League*), including superhero animation superstar Bruce Timm.

If you want to get in on the geek love but are scared of Americans, check out Toronto's annual Festival of Fear in August. It's not as big as the American cons, and just like WonderCon it's plenty of fun.

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PAUL ALVIZ
STAFF WRITER

If we're defined by our music we can now bring ourselves anywhere

The first effect of technology on the music experience was introduced through recording.

This was the loss of variation and improvisation in performance, as the music is created, recorded and made stagnant.

I'm not saying the creative process is gone, because there is still the original creation of music which is nothing short of amazing. What I'm saying is that the experience has changed. It's like substituting a photograph of a painting for the painting itself.

I'm not saying the creative process is gone, because there is still the original creation of music which is nothing short of amazing. What I'm saying is that the experience has changed.

Even though the photograph may be a very accurate representation of the painting, you still miss out on texture of the paint and brilliance of the colours.

The second and even larger effect recording has had on the music experience is the annihilation of the group experience through the introduction of headphones, and more so personal music players (ie, mp3 players). Where in the past even recorded music remained somewhat of a public experience through the employment of speakers and the invariable enjoyment or

disdain of others to your choice of music ensued, headphones enclose you in your own personal auditory universe where the wiles of the Foo Fighters or of the Dixie Chicks reign supreme. The live artist is gone, the crowd is gone, all that's left is a paradoxically removed yet intensely intimate experience of yourself and the music.

Now take all the music you've ever heard in your life and put it in the palm of your hand, pan over to the iPod. This is the first time in history that anything like this is

possible, but we take it all in stride, literally.

We have our music players with us everywhere from home to school to work, with emphasis being on the "to".

It's mostly these in-between stages of life that were musically destitute in the past. Although some suffered through the inconvenience and bulk of tape and CD players, never have so many of us had so much exposure to music.

If you go to a gym, it's likely that the majority of people have headphones in their ears to get "motivated" by the music. The trouble I find with music at the gym is that I'll inadvertently end up listening to something emotionally heavy, like the Smashing Pumpkins.

All of a sudden the mundane

repetition of lifting a dumbbell becomes a completely different experience. I never knew that it was possible for you to feel melancholy and pump your biceps at the same time.

So we've made a leap from having to learn to play music or seek out others who have done so and listening to them, to the categorization and commoditization of personal music preference. What has having our music with us *all* the time done? Some of us are quite particular about our tastes and criticize those who differ. Take a

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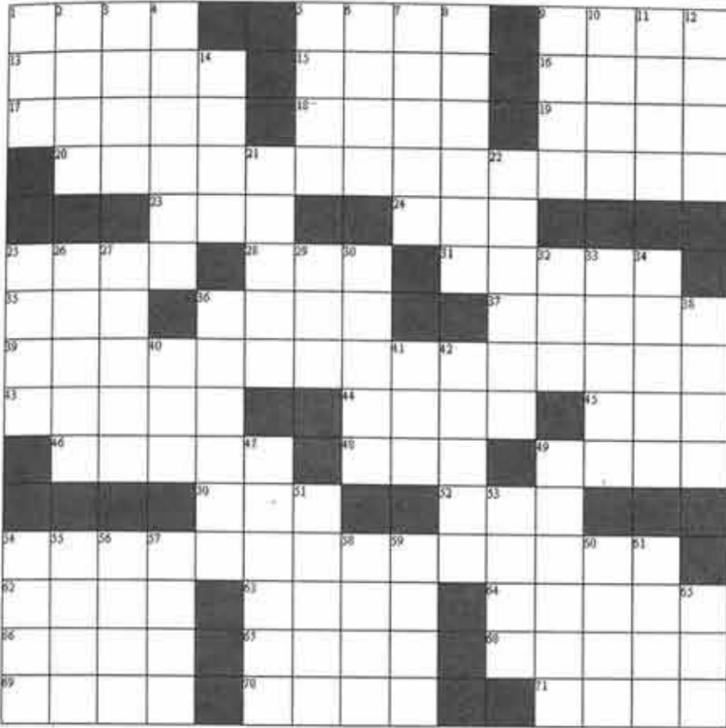
Week of March 5

1. Cupid's Chokehold
- Gym Class Heroes
2. Don't Matter
- Akon
3. Go Getta (R. Kelly Chorus)
- Young Jeezy
4. Irreplaceable
- Beyonce
5. It's Not Over
- Daughtry
6. Lips of an Angel
- Hinder
7. On The Hotline
- Pretty Ricky
8. This Is Why I'm Hot (Chorus)
- MIMS
9. What Goes Around / Comes Around
- Justin Timberlake
10. You
- Lloyd

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CROSSWORD By Krystian Imgrum The Ontario, Special to CUP (U of Guelph)



- Down**
- TV. station
 - I smell _____
 - Whip strike
 - Plan
 - Vestibule
 - Bread spread
 - Initiate
 - Dormant
 - Hollywood accolade
 - Fruit flesh
 - Nit-picky
 - Horse feature
 - Geometric art style
 - Mandate
 - Supplants
 - Globes
 - Bravery
 - Habituate
 - Portaging need
 - Actress Garbo
 - Part of ppm
 - Elicit
 - Design transfer
 - Is in a tableau
 - Credit's counterpart
 - Japanese delicacy
 - Commotion
 - Wasp weapon
 - French desserts
 - Halted
 - Australian rock
 - Enthusiasm
 - Singer Redding
 - Hindu idol
 - Russian sea
 - Identifier
 - "Jump _____"
 - Applications
 - Plunge
 - Light bulb illuminator
 - Mistake

- Acrossw**
- Indonesian island
 - Emcee
 - Unsolicited e-mails
 - Mark
 - Opera part
 - Trawler's catch
 - Social tier
 - Tragic king
 - Actor Alda
 - Winfrey's pigment?
 - And not
 - _____ better to be silent...
 - Roman poet
 - Notable bounty hunter
 - Hoodwinked
 - Was in track
 - Bosc or El Dorado
 - Counselled
 - Conifer option?
 - Biblical plague
 - Small birds
 - Taxi
 - Archaeologist's find
 - Singer DiFranco
 - Ancient European
 - Controversial org.
 - Born
 - "_____ didn't say bananas?"
 - Margaret Mitchell setting
 - Modern quills
 - Digression
 - Muslim priest
 - Ontario's neighbour
 - Always antonym
 - Consumer's delight
 - Fast planes: abbr.
 - Beloved

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	2	4	1		3	7		
6				2		5		8
9				4		2	7	6
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7		8		3				1
		6	7		4	8	3	
	4				2		9	

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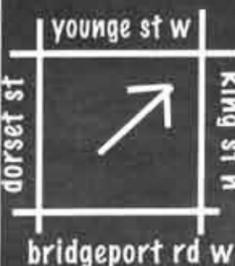
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Editorial Board 2006-07

Editor-in-Chief

April Robinson
arobinson@cordweekly.com
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3563

News Editors

Mike Brown
mbrown@cordweekly.comTony Ferguson
tferguson@cordweekly.com
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3564

Sports Editor

Dan Polischuk
dpolischuk@cordweekly.com

International Editor

Arla Latta-Hall
arlalh@cordweekly.com

Special Projects Editor

Michelle Pinchev
mpinchev@cordweekly.com

Features Editor

Alex Hayter
ahayter@cordweekly.com

Student Life Editor

Veronica Hughes
vhughes@cordweekly.com

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Joe Turcotte
jturcotte@cordweekly.com

Opinion Editor

Blair Forsyth-Stark
blairfs@cordweekly.com

Graphics Editor

Emilie Joslin
ejoslin@cordweekly.com

Photography Manager

Sydney Helland
shelland@cordweekly.com

Print Production Manager

Brandon Currie
bcurrie@cordweekly.com

The Cord Weekly is published by Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications.
Contact: Fraser McCracken, 75 University Ave. W, Waterloo, ON N2L 3C5

Students should have say in hiring

The opinions of students are once again being ignored in exchange for more pennies in Laurier's bank account. Approximately 30 students have joined forces in an attempt to save one of their favourite professors, Dr. Robert Milne, who has been denied tenure after his limited term contract expires this year.

This is not the first time that students have been upset over a beloved prof not being offered tenure. Two years ago, students protested the departure of Dr. Jeremy Friedberg, a popular biology professor who was filling in for another prof who was away on sabbatical. Friedberg spear-headed the first issue of the *Cellulae*. Unfortunately, the issue was out of students' hands, depending on seniority and contracts.

But why don't students have a say? Students' tuition fees help pay for the salaries of profs and students are the ones who have to suffer through lectures if the professor is terrible. Students have to communicate with profs about assignments and students may also need a letter of recommendation one day. If undergraduates don't have the opportunity to learn from full-time professors, how can they be expected to cultivate meaningful working relationships if their instructors come and go every year?

Hiring solely full-time staff is obviously not financially feasible, but that isn't to say that students shouldn't have access to the best instructors possible. The professor evaluation system needs to be reworked and the opinions of students need to be taken into account, so that when part-time professors are well-liked, they have a chance to get full-time work.

While hiring professors who bring in research dollars helps the university financially, allowing the school to improve resources available to students, so too does ensuring that the professors hired are able to engage students and foster friendly relationships with them. A professor with exciting research work may be lacklustre in the classroom, and if students aren't engaged and don't care, they won't do well in the class. Ultimately, an investment in hiring professors that students like and want to learn from will serve the university well in the future when it produces educated, engaged and satisfied graduates.

F'nM should give a chance to everyone

Laurier is often touted as the school where students love to get involved, and it's a well-earned reputation. But what happens when students are denied the opportunity to participate solely because they'd already missed out on previous opportunities?

That's exactly what happened with F'nM's hiring practices this year. Female dancers were required to have previous dancing experience in order to audition for a spot in the popular student fashion show. Let's forget the sexist fact that this rule applied only to females, as the scarcity of males who apply allows for almost all of them to be selected.

What if women were unable to af-

ford proper dance training, or simply chose to focus on their academic studies? Their previous priorities should hardly be grounds for denying them the chance to participate in a fun charitable event. After all, that's what F'nM is: a few fun nights of fashion and dancing in the name of a good cause.

While they should strive to put on a quality production, the F'nM executive team shouldn't deny people the opportunity to participate based on a technicality. F'nM, like many WLUSU events, is about people who share a common passion coming together, working hard and having fun; it's not about elitist exclusion practices.



Sow Joslin

New horror films fail to scare, they just gross out



TONY FERGUSON
NEWS EDITOR

The most recent horror movie I've seen was *Hostel*. A friend and I were in the mood for a good scare, so we went to Blockbuster and headed straight for the horror section.

The eye-catcher was the giant hook on the cover and what sold us was the promising plot. What could be more appropriate for two people our age?

The stars were young 20-somethings who decided to take a tour around Europe like many people our age are doing at this time in their lives. "Why not?" we thought, we'll give it a shot.

As the DVD tray closed with a faint whine, I thought about just how this film would make me scratch any future back-packing trips around Europe off of my travel list. Rather, what happened instead was a scratching of this movie off of my recommendation list.

Hostel just didn't live up to what I expect from a horror movie.

It failed to leave me frightened of what would be behind a doorway or in the back seat of my car or most importantly fear of staying in hostels around Eastern Europe.

I did come away from the movie with several things I really don't care to have again: a queasy stomach and mental images that aren't scary so much as just plain disturbing.

This seems to be a trend with newer horror movies. The tradi-

tional style of psychological suspense has been hacked to pieces by twisted scenes of gore so disturbing they make you question the psychological stability of the script writers. *Hostel* was no exception.

It feels like there's no middle ground. Movies are too gory and overstep their bounds like the *Saw* movies and this holiday's *Black Christmas*, where in one scene the antagonist sat at his kitchen table with snowman-, angel- and

This seems to be a trend with newer horror movies. The traditional style of psychological suspense has been hacked to pieces by twisted scenes of gore so disturbing they make you question the psychological stability of the script writers.

tenenbaum-shaped flesh cookies that he had cut out of his mother's back shortly after murdering her, dunking them into milk and eating them.

Not scary, just gross. Alternatively, movies with scary intent are just too weak.

Recently, I decided to rent a film based on the recommendations from my friends. They had warned me about this movie telling me that, whatever I did, I shouldn't watch it alone.

A movie about a ring didn't sound that scary but, based on what my friends had said, I decided to go for it.

Plus, I had my fear-detecting canary in the mineshaft: my older sister who would probably have

walked out of *Scream*.

Not only was I unimpressed at the level of horror but my sister lasted the whole movie and even made a few sarcastic comments! I think this is when I realized that the problem wasn't just with me.

Since *The Ring* still tops many people's lists of the scariest movie they've seen lately, I just haven't bothered to try my luck with any others.

What happened to the good horror movies of my childhood?

Fire in the Sky left me refusing to sleep with my blinds open for fear of being abducted by aliens. *Candyman* had me turning away from the bathroom mirror when I was brushing my teeth and *The*

Shining was just brilliant on its own.

These movies were all effective because they played with the mind and not with the stomach.

In *The Shining*, a mother and son trapped in a gigantic hotel in the middle of nowhere with their murderous father seeking them out leaves a lot to the imagination.

When a film requires you to use your imagination as to what could or will happen, it is much more terrifying than when the film spells it out for you. Fear of the unknown is always scarier than what we can see, no matter how grotesque.

letters@cordweekly.com

Cell phones have no place in class

Lectures are a place for learning and higher education, not an arena to check messages, text friends and distract oneself



RYAN BOLTON
NO RELATION TO MICHAEL

Riddle me this: the greater majority of the populace owns at least one, we use them on a daily basis, yet the common-sensical adage, "There's a time and place for everything" seemingly still doesn't apply to them.

It's nothing new to be berated for having your cell phone ring in the most inopportune times, like for instance the classroom. However, school boards in both Canada and the United States are going one step further and are taking initial steps to ban cell phones in the classroom,

hallway and cafeteria.

So, in an academic milieu such as Wilfrid Laurier, why do cell phones still regularly blare some popular-rap-song-ring-tone in the lecture halls? It's not ignorance.

You are politely forewarned in the Cineplex to turn them off, "dumped" if you take a call during a first date, prohibited in most museums and given vehement looks of disgust when they ring in the classroom; yet they still go off, incessantly.

Cell phones are extremely important, especially in times of emergency; however, in the classroom they are a strong interruptive force, period.

Much speculation has been made about students using their cell phones and PDAs (personal

digital assistants) to cheat on tests, text message during class, take covert snapshots in the locker room, film schoolyard fights and so forth.

A recent study concluded that alcohol-related car accidents are waning amongst teenagers, yet cell phones are now a main contributor to thousands of fatal crashes annually.

Also, a startling recent study concluded that alcohol-related car accidents are waning amongst teenagers, but cell phones are now a main contributor to thousands of fatal crashes annually.

The ubiquity of cell phones is

swiftly growing, and for a sound reason — they are useful. It was recently recorded that there are 18.4 million cell phone subscribers in

Canada to date. Albeit, in the end, the acceptability of cell phone use comes down to context. For instance, a new study conducted by two mobile communication experts: James Katz, professor of communications at Rutgers University, and SC Fang, a professor at MIT, concluded that 41 percent of the students surveyed believed it to be "okay" to check messages in class, 45 percent believed exchanging text messages permissible and 33

percent found it acceptable to play games on their cell during class. This is outlandish.

You are in academia to learn, not to be distracted by the latest iPhone. Cell phones disrupt lessons and distract students from their studies.

Indeed, cell phones are practical, and in some instances vital — but this is not the case within the classroom. From an academic perspective, cell phones simply tote another disruption to the educational ambience. If you don't want a ban on cell phones and the like in university, then turn them off in the classroom. Like a prudent professor once said in one of my lectures, "If you are expecting an important call — just stay at home!"

letters@cordweekly.com

> Letters to the Editor

Oath of Silence Day A Mockery

There is a fundamental truth to society held deep in human nature; we are possessive over power, objects and rights. We like what we have and grasp onto it until someone can wrestle it from our clutches. That is why those that have spoken up, been vocal, depended on change and depended on their rights are the ones that have gotten them, not those that refuse to speak.

Oath of Silence Day is disrespectful to all those that have vocally fought for the rights of the gay community in this country and around the world. When Trudeau was asked about decriminalizing homosexuality, he didn't stay silent, he said, "There's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation." Trudeau used his words, not silence, to fight to give rights to the gay community. He and others did not sit back and expect that society and the government would give the community the rights they deserve. He took them and others have spent tens of thousands of dollars in litigation to gain equal rights in pension, marriage and adoption.

Our words are our most powerful weapons. With our words we can win minds and change hearts. Without them, what happens? Nothing. It has also taken words to change society; it has always taken a fight. Nellie McClung didn't silence the suffragette moment in this country to have women declared "persons". With her words she changed the fabric of society in Canada — with her words!

Without a voice, without speech, without the word, there can be no change and refusing us to them, like so many have before for the rights of the gay community; it only serves to disrespect and dishonour the memory of those that fight. For evil to prevail, all it takes is the good people to say nothing, and that is what is happening on March 14th, 2007; the good people are saying

nothing.

-Josh Grigg

LSPIRG Hosted Stephen Lewis

Let me start by congratulating the GCC team. They held a solid conference, proving the scale of the possible at Laurier and engaging students in global social justice issues that face us today. The GCC being an LSPIRG working group, we at LSPIRG are very proud of them.

That being said, there a few corrections I would like to make regarding the *Cord's* coverage of the conference and the LSPIRG presentation of Stephen Lewis that the conference was planned around. Whereas the *Cord* reported that the Lewis talk was "co-presented" by LSPIRG, it was in fact solely an LSPIRG presentation (with a \$1000 donation from the President's office). We did, however, give the GCC permission to present Lewis as their keynote speaker for the conference, as the success and impact of our working groups is of the utmost importance to LSPIRG, and the benefits of allowing one of our working groups to "piggyback" on a larger event are both evident and worthwhile.

LSPIRG is as committed to student leadership and experience as we are to social and environmental justice issues, and we will always support our working groups efforts in whatever ways possible. This is why the GCC Laurier team chose to work through an LSPIRG mandate rather than independently — because they knew that they could count on the support and expertise of LSPIRG to help put on such a major event at Laurier. We also assigned an experienced, highly motivated, paid student staff member to the GCC team to help ensure that the organization and planning went smoothly. And like I said, the GCC was a huge success. I would like to take this opportunity one last time

to congratulate on their success and thank them their tireless effort and commitment — way to go guys.

-Alex Hundert
Chair, LSPIRG Board-of-Directors

Bursary not to replace planning

When it nears the end of second term, most students get very excited. They get excited not because the weather is getting warmer outside or because they have completed all their assignments work before the exam period, but because it is time to receive the "free" money from their bursary applications that they submitted earlier in the term.

I am a student who has performed prudent financial planning every year and received very little any assistance from my parents. And as such, I find bursary time to be particularly perplexing.

Why are we rewarding students for going into debt? I realize that there are some students who legitimately need the money because they do not get any support from their families and have to work on campus to make ends meet, etc.

In my four years here at WLU, however, it seems like there are a lot of students who spend money like it is going out of style, just so that they can beef up the "expenses" section of their bursary applications.

For these students, would it not make more sense to offer them financial planning advice instead of money? Students should be taught the "If I plan out my finances sensibly and stick to my plan, then I'll be much better off" mentality and not be rewarded by subscribing to the "If I go into more debt, then they will give me more money" mentality.

To conclude my letter, I will leave everyone with a little food for thought: there are certain circumstances where student debt will not be discharged in the event that a person declares bankruptcy.

Maybe students should consider that the next time they are filling out their bursary applications.

-David Jenkins

Teaching dreams don't matter

This is in response to the *Cord* editorial on the number of people applying to be teachers. What does it matter if one person has dreamed since they were younger of being a teacher and another more qualified person gets into teaching college even if this was not their dream? It does not matter at all! Hey, I wanted to play in the NHL but I am not good enough. It is unfair all those more talented people get to do it. Everyone should feel sympathy for me and we should base our system on effort, not ability (yeah right). People who are not smart enough or do not have good enough marks to get into teachers' college have only themselves to blame for not working harder. I have zero sympathy for these people. The real losers will be kids who get teachers who do not care. That should have been the focus of the editorial. You probably spent too many nights at Phil's if you are not getting into grad school. Trying to make me feel bad for someone who lacks either ability or motivation will not work!

-Neil McKay

Look out for one another

What has happened to our school? Where is the sense of community? What happened to looking out for your fellow students?

Last week, while working in the languages lab in the Bricker building, I left to use the washroom. While I was gone, someone had gone into my book bag and stole my brand new sunglasses. I probably should have taken them with

me because they were pretty expensive, but I never thought someone would go into my bag while I was gone. Besides, the room was full of students and I figured my things would be safe. The funny thing is... nobody saw a thing.

I'm about to graduate, and I have always felt like Laurier was different because we take care of each other. I have always found my teachers and my fellow students to be helpful and outgoing. We are a smaller school and that has created a real environment of trust for me. What a shame that I've lost that.

I'm pretty sure that the sunglasses are gone for good and I don't really expect anyone to turn them in to security. For what it's worth, they were a gift from someone special and I can't afford to just go and replace them. But the worst thing is that one of my final memories of Laurier will be that feeling of violation and disbelief that someone could steal from another person at their school.

I know there are far more important issues at school right now, such as the horrible disappearance of Nick Vlasov. I pray that he shows up soon, safe and sound. As for me, I've learned my lesson and I'll be more careful with my belongings. Don't worry though, I'll still be looking out for you.

-Jake Budhran

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.

Music leaks foster sales

When artists' work is "accidentally" released on the Internet, it allows fans to sample the tunes and determine whether they want to buy



DAVID SHORE
NO RELATION TO PAULY

As someone who generally listens to the oldies, I only listen to a handful of bands that are still producing music.

So when an album is set to be released by one of the few modern bands that I like, it's a pretty big deal. So needless to say, when I found out both Arcade Fire and Modest Mouse, two bands I'm particularly crazy about, were both releasing new albums this March, I was pretty excited.

So excited, in fact, that I couldn't help reading that both albums had been leaked onto the Internet prior to their release dates.

Realizing that I didn't have to wait another two weeks to get my hands on some great new music, I didn't hesitate to download either album.

Legally, I stole from two of my favourite bands. In my mind though, I refuse to consider this theft and I feel no guilt whatsoever for nabbing these albums prematurely.

I had been planning on buying

them immediately on their release, and I still do. Grabbing low quality versions from the Internet simply let's me see how good the albums are, before I shell out 15 bucks for each one.

And with some of the new Modest Mouse songs reaching 15+ plays on my iTunes after a week, my desire to go purchase the new CD has only increased, if anything.

The idea that people won't buy music once they have it illegally downloaded is, in my opinion, more myth than fact.

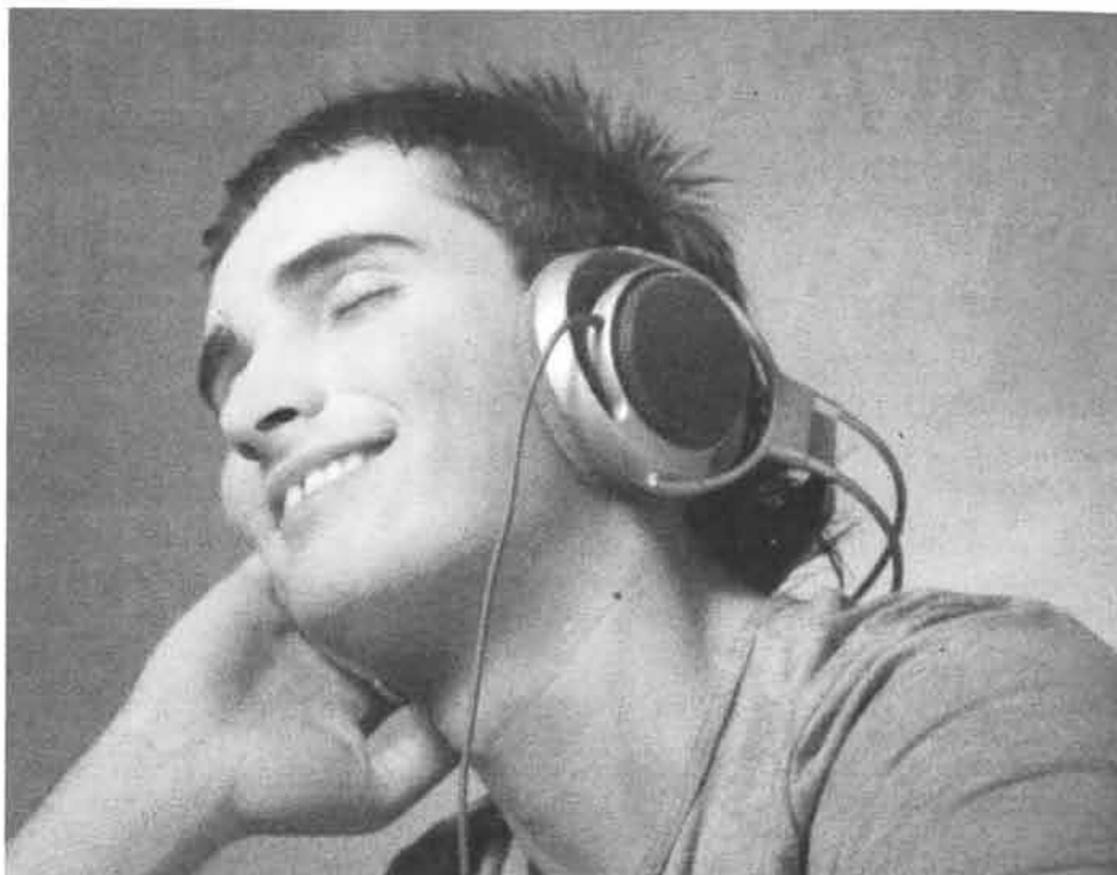
Sure, there are some people that are only interested in downloading as much music as possible, and probably never plan on paying for music again.

But I don't come across those people often.

Most of the people I know, myself included, are perfectly happy to empty their pockets for some new music. They just have to know first that it's good.

Early leaks to the Internet, which are extremely common these days, allow us to do just that.

Gone are the days of the Beatles when people would line up to buy the White Album after hearing only one song on the radio. I'm no longer willing to buy an album unless



Contributed Photo

MMMBOP - When you find music you really love online, you're more likely to purchase the actual CD.

I know I like it, not just if I think I might.

It's in this shift of consumer attitude that Internet file sharing and album leaks have been a great thing for music. Maybe not for record companies or stores, and maybe not for each individual "artist," but for music as a whole.

As more new music becomes accessible for free on the Internet, only albums worth buying will garner sufficient sales.

The trend lately is that album sales are on the decline, while individual song sales for download at sites like iTunes have experienced a huge increase, as much as 65 percent from 2005 to 2006.

These trends reflect the fact that most albums released lately only have one or two good songs on them and then are filled with gar-

bage. As record companies are experiencing low record sales, this isn't going to fly anymore.

Only CDs with good overall track listings will be able to sell enough in hard copy to keep the record companies going. This means hopefully it will become harder for record companies to market talentless commercial acts.

It also means that artists will have to try extra hard to produce quality music in order to make sales.

Of course, every time the issue of music downloading is brought up, the discussion is never complete without mentioning how much Internet piracy hurts the record companies.

I sincerely hope I'm not the only one that's utterly sick of being guilt-tripped by multi-million dollar corporations.

Internet piracy means that these companies are losing the power to manipulate their market into buying whatever it wants them to. Again, I find it hard to justify feeling guilty for this.

The reality is that albums leaking early onto the Internet are hurting the sales only of those artists that are making poor quality music.

On the other hand, creative and talented bands like Arcade Fire and Modest Mouse (whether you agree is a different story) are gaining large fan bases through the Internet and people are still buying their music.

Ultimately, when an album is leaked, the record companies lose, but you and I, and music, win.

letters@cordweekly.com

Mandatory organ donating not democratic

Proposed law does not take certain health, safety and personal choice considerations to heart



CHRISTINE SUIZA
GREEK PHILOSOPHER

The decrease in organ donation within Canada is a growing concern. There is now discussion about implementing a law that would make it mandatory for all people in Canada to donate their organs. Even though there is an opt-out option applicable for religious reasons or impaired mental state, it is not a plausible solution.

One reason why this would not work is that it takes away a person's autonomy. Because Canada runs

on a democratic system, the government does not have the right to implement such a law. In a democratic system, everyone has the right to voice concerns about any laws or policies. The opinions of Canadian citizens matter since, within this form of government, they should work together with the government to enforce the country's laws and policies. Since these laws and policies directly affect them, the proposed idea must be voted upon by both the government and its citizens before any laws can be passed. Therefore, this type of government cannot expect to force people to donate their organs.

The implementation of compulsory organ donation also raises

the issue that there are some people who are not comfortable with the idea of donating their organs for personal reasons other than religion.

If Canada claims to be a democratic society, it has the obligation to honour the system already set in place. This further complicates the enforcement of this initiative proposed for solving the decrease in organ donations.

Not only does living in a democratic society and enforcing the mandate of donating organs sound unreasonable, but also there is the issue of whether this law will apply to landed immigrants, those claiming refugee status and perhaps tourists in Canada. These are not Canadian citizens and many of the rights that Canadians are entitled to are not necessarily applicable to these various groups (e.g. tax refunds).

Since they are not Canadian citizens, it makes it harder for the Canadian government to take the policy into full effect.

There is also a rising concern that certain people are not necessarily good candidates for donating their organs.

For example, it's not necessarily advisable for a person at the age of 90 to donate certain organs because

many of their organs have started to wear down. A 90-year-old person's eyes, for instance, would not be recommended for donation because by this age eyesight tends to have worsened.

This mandate is difficult to pass, since there would need to be a spe-

The implementation of compulsory organ donation raises the issue that there are some people who are not comfortable with donating their organs for personal reasons other than religion.

cific age limit or range in which a person's organs would be eligible for donation. For example, anyone under the age of 60 would be required to donate their organs. However, if someone over that age has healthy and well-functioning organs, they may be eligible for becoming donors.

Besides this, a person who has contracted a serious, life-threatening, communicable disease (e.g. HIV or AIDS) is another example of a person that should not donate their organs. These types of diseases will infect the person who would be receiving the donated organ(s).

This defeats the purpose of the donated organ, which should help the recipient to recover and be given a second chance at life. As a result, the law cannot pass since there also need to be criteria set in place that would state specific requirements for a person's eligibility for donating their organs.

These arguments prove that this proposed mandate is not the best solution for the decrease in organ donation. Instead, the Canadian government needs to come up with a

more suitable solution for this issue. The Canadian government should also look into allocating appropriate funding towards an organ donation awareness campaign across Canada, just like they have in the past with donating blood. By tapping into media sources such as television, Internet and even newspapers, the government can create more awareness and perhaps encourage more Canadians to participate in organ donations.

letters@cordweekly.com

Going green is economical

Companies who make efforts to curb their emissions to protect the environment can end up profiting more in the long run



ROB MCINTOSH
MR. GREEN GENES

While watching Al Gore talk about the future of our planet, one wonders if he even misses the Oval Office. It seems that instead of sulking about losing out on the most influential position on Earth, he has simply found a better one.

Ever since his unfortunate defeat in the presidential election of 2000, Al Gore has dedicated his time to teaching the world about global warming, which may soon become the greatest challenge faced by modern civilization. Now when Al talks, the world listens. Since the debut of his film *An Inconvenient Truth*, global warming has rapidly become the most important issue in Western culture. But just like any other exploding trend, global warming and "going green" are not without their criticisms.

Amongst all the dialogue for "going green", there is still a minority of visible scientists and politicians who call into question the existence of a human-influenced global warming. This, of course, ignores the findings presented in February by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which said that global warming was "unequivocal" and asserted mankind's likely contributory role.

However, let us assume for a minute that global warming is actually a farce, despite all of the scientific evidence that has been floating around for close to half a century. Should we switch to SUVs, stop recycling, and plow all of the world's forests? Of course not, that would be ridiculous, regardless of how we feel about global warming.

The reality is that even if all of this global warming hype is simply "shrill alarmism" as claimed by one MIT scientist, we have only one Earth with dwindling resources, and we have yet to show any real consideration for this fact.

It seems as though among all of the trendy do-gooder hype, we have forgotten that pollution and abuse of our environment does more than make our thermometers read a few degrees higher.

I am as concerned about global warming as the next person, but we also need to remember that pollution is a significant health hazard and a danger to animal life, and that we have long had the technology to be cleaner. The challenge I put forth to naysayers and skeptics is: why not go green?

Many of the green movement's

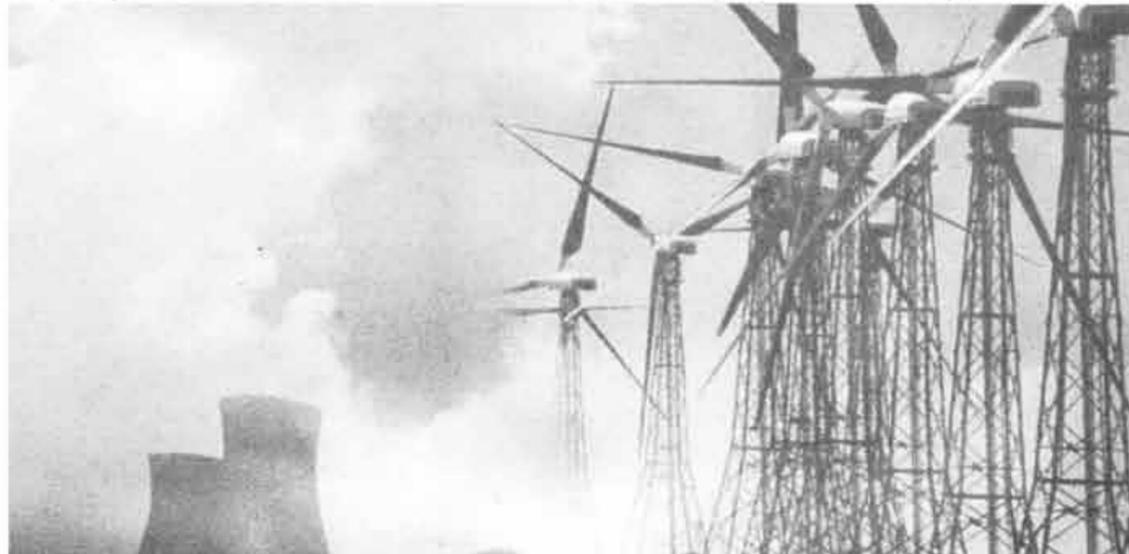
critics are supporters of the notion that environmental responsibility comes at the cost of fiscal profitability. However, there have been countless instances of companies either matching or exceeding their profits from previous years after going green.

Even the coal industry, one of the most major contributors to global warming, has taken initiatives to clean up their refinement process, simultaneously cutting down on emissions and increasing efficiency.

Ray Anderson, former CEO of Interface, saved his company 300 million dollars by eliminating waste within the company, all the while answering to shareholders, who are traditionally resistant to such change.

Obviously, not all companies can or will experience such fantastic results after going green, but the ones that do so well and do so first will certainly rise to the top. Change has always been a part of commerce, and it is a well-known fact that businesses who lead and embrace positive change survive much longer than those who remain static.

If you are looking for proof, just take a look at your TV. Nearly every major company has made an effort to go green, or at least pretended to, and they are making sure we know



Contributed Photo

BLOW HARD - By switching energy sources, companies can go green and possibly save money.

about it.

Furthermore, the Green Party of Canada has been reported at record highs in the polls, by some counts on par with the NDP. Most polls suggest slightly lower numbers, somewhere in the range of 11-12 percent, but still an enormous improvement from a party who wasn't even invited to the federal debates last election. It seems that anyone with a share in going green is reaping the benefits, and everyone else is scrambling to get a hand in it.

There have been only a handful of major societal paradigm shifts in the last century or so, which

speaks volumes, since our pace of change and development in the last hundred years far exceeded any other point in recorded history. Most of these come down to either transportation or communication, with developments such as trains, aviation, the telephone, and the Internet.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, depending on how we choose to view it, the new environmental movement cannot be contained in either of these categories. It is much broader and affects every facet of our everyday modern life.

On the one hand, going green has

the potential to be the most daunting problem we have ever faced, but on the other, the resulting benefits and improvements to our way of life will be unprecedented. Already, we have made leaps and bounds beyond our predecessors, with many towns and companies working feverishly towards zero ecological footprint, the ultimate goal in going green.

Ultimately, it is the economical choice, the ecological choice, and most certainly the right path for us to take now and in the future.

letters@cordweekly.com

Correction

In the *Cord's* March 14 unsigned editorial, "GCC a success," we stated that the Stephen Lewis lecture was co-sponsored when, in fact, LSPIRG was the sole sponsor.



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Please join us at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, March 28 at the Bricker Academic Building — Room 201, Wilfrid Laurier University. Admission is FREE. Appetizers and refreshments, including fairly traded coffee & fruit provided.

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