

THE CORD WEEKLY

The tie that binds since 1926



BIG LEAGUE HAWKS

WLU's football stars drafted to the CFL ... **PAGE 8**



AFGHAN ACTION

Experts congregate at WLU to discuss Afghan role ... **PAGE 6**

CO-OPPORTUNITY

Five different dream jobs, all at your choosing ... **PAGES 10-11**

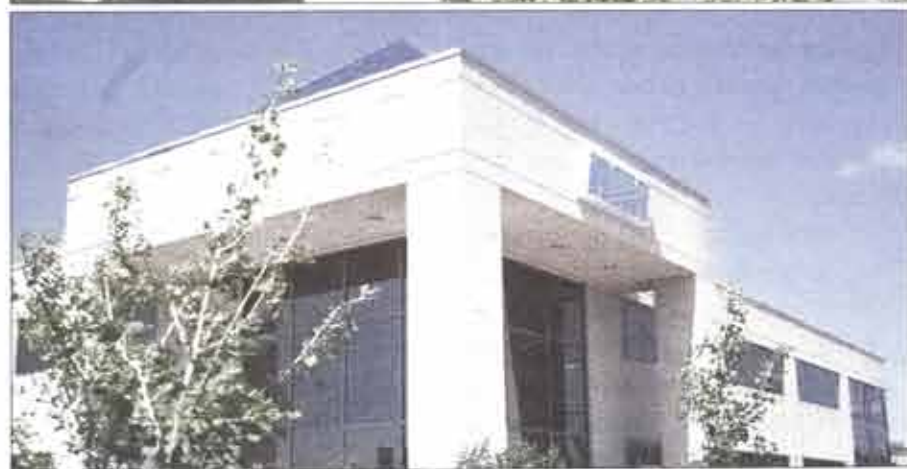
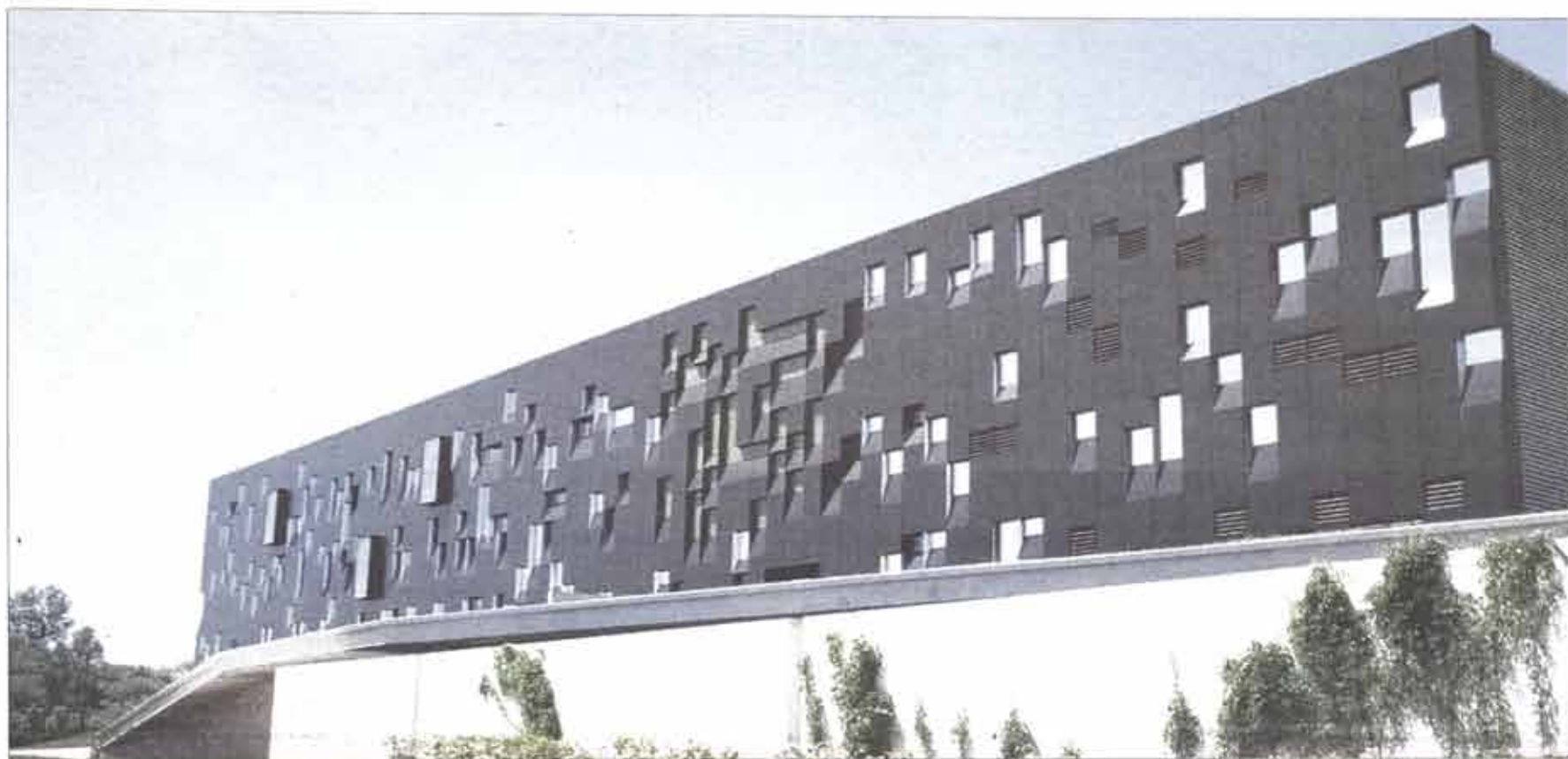
Volume 48 Issue 1

WEDNESDAY MAY 30, 2007

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World's smartest city

Waterloo was recently recognized by the Intelligent Community Forum as the world-leader in the use of broadband technology, taking the title in their second year as one of the top seven



Photos of Sydney Holland

WE ARE SO SMART. S-M-R-T - Clockwise from top: Perimeter Institute, UW's Dana Porter Library, CIGI, and Research in Motion.

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

"Intelligent" may not be the first word that springs to mind when a Laurier student searches for a way to describe the home of their university. But an international think tank based out of New York seems to think that "intelligent" is the perfect way to refer to our dear city of Waterloo.

After making the list of the top seven intelligent communities last year, the Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) has declared Waterloo the smartest city in the world for 2007. ICF gives out the award based on statistical data that analyzes how well a given community uses broadband technology.

115,000

POPULATION

"In Waterloo, every sector of the community - the academic, the technological, the governmental, the businesses - have all seen tech-

8.5 sq km

TOTAL BROADBAND COVERAGE

nology and the importance of it," said Louis Zacharilla, co-founder and director of development at ICF.

Zacharilla explains that ICF does not just look at a city's technology as an isolated factor, but analyzes the "relationship between broadband communication technologies and their impact on economic development, social development, job growth and other factors that relate to sustainability of communities."

Simon Farbrother, chair of the Intelligent Waterloo Committee, feels that this year the city was finally rewarded for the "continuing journey" that began over two years ago when the committee was first formed.

"I think [this year's award] was a consequence of taking a very strong foundation and building on that and really demonstrating our

ongoing leadership and collaboration," said Farbrother.

Brenda Halloran, mayor of Waterloo, felt that the theme ICF put forth this year, which revolved around leadership and innovation, also had a factor in Waterloo's success. "We connected to exactly what they were looking for in a community," said Halloran.

With Waterloo being the home of world-renowned companies such as Research in Motion (RIM), the Perimeter Institute of Theoretical Physics, the Center for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Open Text and DALSA, it seems hard for anyone to be unclear as to where the city's "buzz" is coming from.

And when 30 percent of Waterloo's population attends one of the city's three centres for post-secondary education, the fundamental role of Wilfrid Laurier University, the University of Waterloo (UW) and Conestoga College cannot be denied.

"The two universities and the college are absolutely instrumental because I think there is a strong

link between the community and the educational institutions," said Farbrother. "It's not just about learning, it's the co-op programs and the partnership work."

Steve Farlow, the executive director of Laurier's Schlegel Cen-

10,957

POST-SECONDARY DEGREES LAST YEAR

ter and a former member of the Intelligent Waterloo Committee, has seen first hand the extreme collaboration between the universities and businesses within the community.

Farlow is optimistic about the benefits this award will bring to both the city and the universities in particular. "That [Intelligent City] brand, that award, will help us attract top students who are driven to innovation," said Farlow.

- SEE **WATERLOO**, PAGE 2



Vlasov's body found

Body discovered in Grand River

MIKE BROWN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The mysterious disappearance of first-year Laurier student Nick Vlasov has come to a tragic conclusion, as his body was found in the Grand River shortly after 2:30 pm on Saturday, April 21.

According to Olaf Heinzel, Public Affairs Coordinator for the Waterloo Regional Police, Vlasov's death was consistent with the effects of drowning.

"We are not treating it as a suspicious death in the sense that we do not believe foul play was a factor in his death," he said.

Police were called to the scene when a local woman and her husband stumbled across the body of the Mississauga teen - who disappeared just weeks prior to his twentieth birthday - while canoeing a stretch of the river approximately one kilometer upstream from the Freeport Bridge in Kitchener.

"Some trees had slid down the embankment and were in the river, and he was caught in the trees," explained the canoeist, who preferred to remain nameless.

"His body was in excellent condition," she added. "I knew that he was missing and ... the minute we saw him, I knew who it was. I didn't have to get an ID from the police or anything."

The body was sent to Hamilton for a post-mortem examination, and the positive identification followed that Tuesday morning, an unwelcome ending to six weeks of anxiety for Vlasov's friends, family, and the WLU community.

- SEE **VLASOV**, PAGE 4

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK
"At some point, Laura had to take off her pants in my room - and then leave without pants."
— Some drunken miscreant, aka, Student Life Editor Ashley Jang, after a particularly debauched Saturday night

WORD OF THE WEEK
Homeslice - A close friend whose sudden appearance elicits joy.

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COLOPHON
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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WLU continues expansion

New \$5 million Career Development and Co-op Building to open in September



Sydney Helland

TOOL TIME! - Construction of the new Career Development Center and Co-op building is underway at the corner of King and Lodge Street.

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

As one looks to the corner of King and Lodge, it's hard to believe that in just three months a brand new \$5 million Career Development Center and Co-op building will be complete. Though only a general framework appears to be in place, the three-story building is scheduled to be open for the current 950 Laurier co-op students in September.

The infrastructure plan of the building includes 24 interview rooms, a large employer lounge, a reception room for either workshops or Accessible Learning test writing and a Center for Research Innovation and Career Development. The two upper level floors will both be equipped with large resource centers, computer labs for student use and lecture rooms

that can hold up to 75 people when the retractable wall is removed.

Career Services will also change its name to the Career Development Center when the building opens in September to better communicate what the department offers, according to Jan Basso, director of Co-op and Career Services.

The university undertook this project after receiving several complaints from employers regarding the current Co-op and Career Services building located at 232 King Street.

"We find employers complaining about the space and not necessarily wanting to come here to do interviews," said Basso. "We're very much hoping that with the new facilities we'll be able to bring more employers here, particularly for the interviewing process," she added.

After initially looking into reno-

vating the existing space, the university decided to construct a new building, as the estimates for extensive reconstruction were very costly.

"Why not take that opportunity to construct a building that will be more acceptable for the longer term?" reasoned Ron Dupuis, vice president of physical resources, when the issue was raised with the university about two years ago.

The \$5 million needed to fund the building comes from the university's operating budget, as well as some significant donations from external employers. Jim Butler, vice president of financial resources, explained that "the priority [placed on a project] in part comes from the donor."

Compared with the many construction projects in progress all over campus - including renovations to University Stadium and the

Dr. Alvin Woods Building (DAWB), as well as a 9000 square-foot addition to Alumni Hall - faculty and students currently using the 232 King St. building are experiencing very little inconvenience.

"It's minimal impact on anybody. Compared to the DAWB it's the two extremes," said Butler.

Aside from being grateful for the very smooth transition that Co-op and Career Services is expected to have, Basso is thrilled about the new building's prime location. She hopes that the strong presence of the newly-acquired space will encourage more students to come in and use the facility.

"I think it's really a positive step," said Basso. "It really speaks to the value that Laurier puts on the department of Co-op and Career Services."

Laurier offers 'balanced community'

- FROM WATERLOO, COVER

Scott Hayter, assistant vice president of university development and WLU's representative on the Intelligent Waterloo committee, noted that while UW may be larger and more involved in the development of new technologies, Laurier still plays a critical role in the success of the region.

"We're not as big as UW, but so what, because we contribute a lot to this community and it's important that we sing to the rafters and

raise our voices and tell them how successful we are," said Hayter.

"It's a balanced community, particularly on the education sector and that's where Laurier really comes to the floor," he said. "You can't have all these smart geeks, you've got to have the geeks that provide a bit of culture," Hayter added with a chuckle.

Although the protocol seems to be that after winning the award once you don't apply again, Waterloo is expected to remain in the limelight for quite some time.

Mayor Halloran is hoping to see visits from more international delegates and businesses starting up in the area, and a higher retention rate of graduates from the local universities. And as excited as she is about the future Halloran seems to still be celebrating in this great accomplishment.

"Winning this award is such a prestigious acknowledgement of what we're doing right and shows that the world wants to get on board with us. How cool is that?"

Past Winners

- 2006: Taipei, Taiwan
- 2005: Mitaka, Japan
- 2003-04: Glasgow, Scotland
- 2002: Calgary, Alberta & Seoul, South Korea
- 2001: New York City, New York
- 2000: LaGrange, Georgia
- 1999: Singapore

> VOCAL CORD

What do you do for fun in Waterloo over the summer?



"I like going to the Starlight and hanging out at Jane Bond."

- Roxy Riess
Third-year Communications/
Global Studies



"Sports: baseball, hockey, tennis, golf. I'm athletic."

- Neil Parker
Masters of Business Administration



"Hanging out with my friends. We went to the park for a barbeque."

- Dong Lim
Third-year Economics/
Global Studies



"I like going to the Starlight and Jane Bond. I also go to Waterloo Park."

- Stefan Sereda
English Grad Studies



"I play on the MLSB baseball team, it's awesome. There are a lot of keg parties and I get to be outside all day."

- Melissa Abercromby
Masters of Business Administration

PM opens the vault

Feds to invest \$9.2 billion in science and tech.

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

On May 17, Stephen Harper chose the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Waterloo as the site to announce a \$9.2 billion investment by the federal government in Canada's science and technology (S&T) industry.

This strategy to advance S&T growth is in accordance with the government's 2006 *Advantage Canada* economic plan, which aims to make Canada a world leader in the global market.

"In today's world, a scientific and technological innovation is fundamental to economic and social progress of all kinds," Harper told those gathered at the Perimeter Institute.

"We're lagging behind our competitors in the next generation of scientists and engineers."

With the enrollment of mathematics and computer science students dropping 13 percent between 2000 and 2005, the Conservative government has serious aims to increase the number of engineers, graduate students and S&T students at both the graduate and undergrad levels.

"Recognizing of course that education itself is obviously primarily a provincial jurisdiction, our activities as a federal government are largely focused on trying to

fund the research side and direct income support for students," said Harper.

Specifically, Canadian universities are expected to see an increase in the number of scholarships and internships available for students in S&T related fields, as well as available incentives for skilled in-

ternational students.

Dr. Bob Rosehart, president of Wilfrid Laurier University, is generally optimistic about this "long awaited" announcement. However, Rosehart does have concerns with the government possibly limiting research that isn't necessarily S&T related.

"I think it's good to identify some national priorities, but on the other hand [the government] should be cautioned that they don't try to tie basic research to only [S&T] areas," said Rosehart.

Specifically the government has identified four key areas to focus research on: environmental S&T, natural resources and energy, health and related life science and technology, and information and

communications technologies. Rosehart wonders where research in disciplines such as religion, music, and history fit within this plan.

Paul Maxim, associate VP: Research, feels that Laurier is evolving into a much more comprehensive and research-active university, and that the plan put forward by the government will have a very positive effect on our dynamic community.

"I think, given a chance, strategies outlined from this position paper and in this document will have beneficial effects across the board," said Maxim. "In some ways, this was one of the most comprehensive strategies that I've seen."



BEARERS OF GOOD NEWS - RIM founder and CEO Mike Lazaridis, Minister of Industry Maxime Bernier and Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the Perimeter Institute in Waterloo.

Masters in integrative biology

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

Having received approval at the beginning of April from the Ontario Council in Graduate Studies (OCGS), Laurier is now in the process of admitting students for its brand new Master of Science degree in integrative biology.

Sights are set to accept six individuals out of a pool of 12 applicants to kick off the new program this September - something that only fuels the high level of eagerness of Dr. Arthur Szabo, dean of science at WLU.

"We're really pleased with this because [the program] will attract high quality graduate students," said Szabo, adding, "It should enable our research activities in the biology department to really thrive."

For those who are not intimately familiar with integrative biology, Szabo describes the "niche for graduate studies in biology" as science rooted in 'organismal biology'. In short, one learns to understand organisms while moving more towards a molecular biology approach.

As obscure as something like this may seem, Szabo feels that there should not be any problem with reaching their goal of having 20 students enrolled for the two-year program within the next couple of years.

This expectation is supported by Joan Norris, dean of graduate studies at the school. Besides Laurier graduates, the new program has peaked the interest of students from the University of Waterloo, University of Guelph and the University of Saskatchewan.

To fund such an academic endeavour, Norris explained that students are guaranteed at least \$12,000 for their studies with opportunities provided to them through T.A.-ships and scholarships.

Norris added that this particular field was chosen because it was something the heads of the department felt really passionate about.

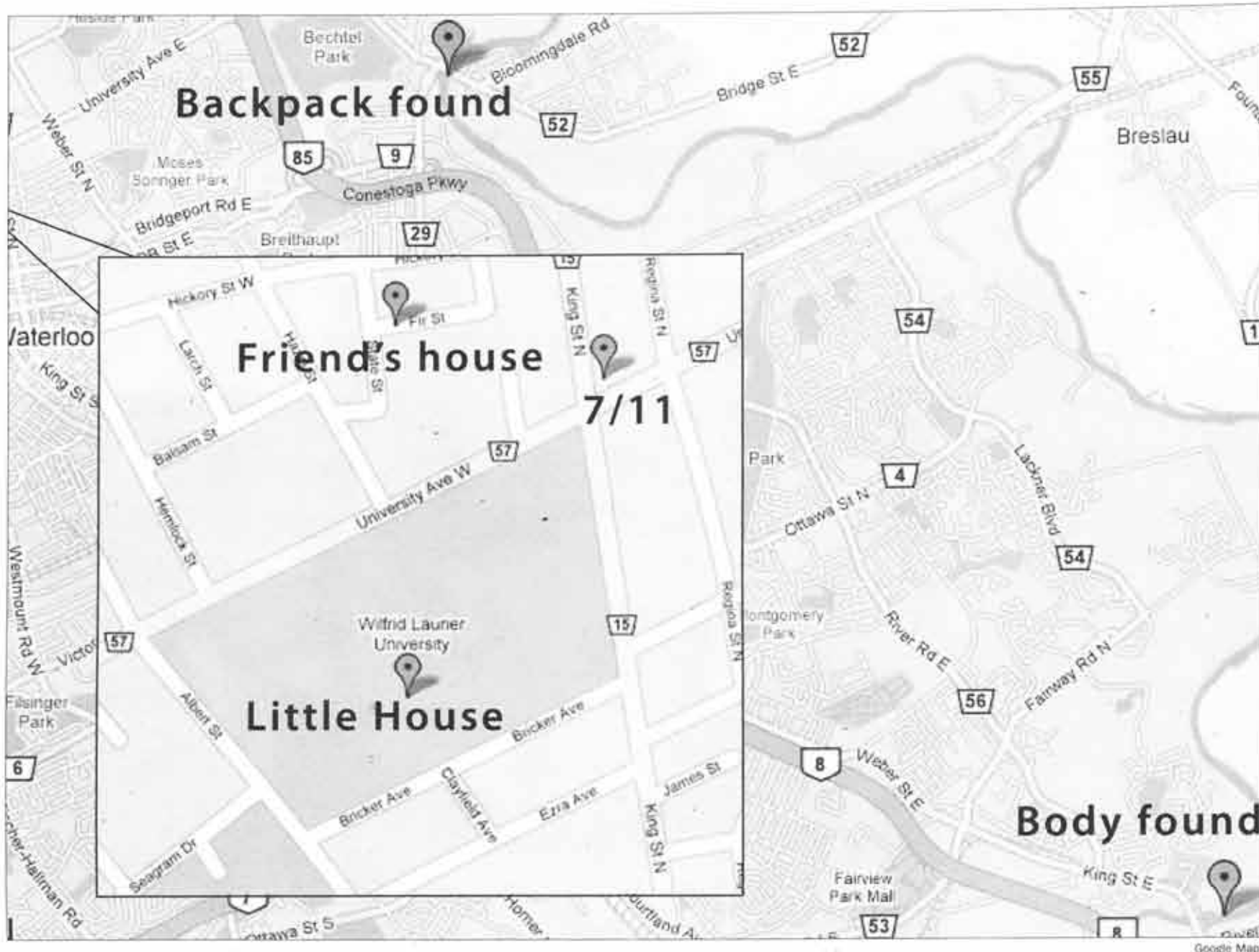
"Because of the nature of the department and the interest that they have in their knowledge of this emerging way of dealing with biological problems, they felt that this was the direction to go," she explained.



STEADY HANDS - A biology student carefully mixes chemicals.

Canoeists discover body

Laurier computer science and math student found on banks of the Grand River amongst forestation



TRAGEDY - After leaving Little House residence on Laurier's campus for either his friend's house on Fir Street or the 7/11, Nick Vlasov's whereabouts were unknown for over a month until his body was finally discovered in Kitchener, 15.5 km from his discarded backpack.

- FROM VLASOV, COVER

Vlasov, a first-year computer science and math student, went missing from his Little House residence around 11:30 pm on the evening of Monday, March 5, shortly after an intramural soccer game and a floor meeting. Friends said he'd been his usual joking self just prior to his disappearance.

From there, Vlasov told some friends and residence mates that he was headed to a friend's house

on Fir St., while others thought he was bound for the 7/11 at the corner of King Street and University Avenue.

He was reported missing to police on Wednesday, March 7, and a backpack containing some of his clothes and books was found along the banks of the river the next day, near Bridge and Lancaster streets.

According to a spokesperson for the Grand River Conservation Authority, the winding stretch of river between the location where

his backpack and body were found is approximately 15.5 km.

Between Vlasov's disappearance and the discovery of his body, Waterloo Regional Police conducted numerous canine-assisted searches of the river, even bringing in dive teams from Niagara region, explained Heinzel. But these yielded no results, in part owing to how far downriver Vlasov's body had traveled.

Friends described Vlasov as an avid chess player, with a sharp

mind for math.

"His passing away has definitely brought all of us closer together and has helped us to value the time spent with those we love," said long-time friend and second-year psychology and English major, Alana Vieira.

Vlasov was buried at St. Volodymyr Cultural Centre in Oakville on Friday, April 27, with approximately 200-300 visitors attending the funeral.

> BAG O' CRIME

THEFT UNDER \$5000
REPORTED: 12:37 AM
MAY 21 /07

While on patrol a Special Constable found a vending machine at a residence had been broken into. The coin box was empty. A wrench was found on the top of the machine and has been turned in to the Regional Police Forensic Identification Unit. No suspects.

THEFT FROM VEHICLE
REPORTED: 8:47AM
MAY 21 /07

A guest at the King St. Residence reported that sometime during the night someone damaged the lock on his vehicle while it was parked in the garage and had gone through the car. It appears that nothing was stolen.

THEFT UNDER \$5000
REPORTED: APR 26 /07

A WLUSU official reported a possible theft. The matter is still under investigation by Special Constables.

MVC HIT & RUN
REPORTED: 2:00PM
MAY 23 /07

A student reported that her car was struck by another vehicle while parked in lot 3A. Damage was minor. A Special Constable attended and a MVC report was submitted to Regional Police.

STOLEN GOODS
REPORTED: 12:35AM
MAY 26/07

Regional Police contacted Community Safety & Security to advise they had arrested a male at the corner of Albert St. & University Ave. and charged him with possession of stolen property when he was caught with a WLU parking sign.

THEFT UNDER \$5000
REPORTED: 9:20PM
MAY 26/07

Footpatrol reported that two vending machines on the third floor of the Nichols Centre had been moved and broken into. Investigation revealed that the coin boxes had been removed. Special Constables and Regional Police Forensic Identification Unit was called in to check for fingerprints. Investigation continues.

PROPERTY DAMAGE
REPORTED: 3:29AM
MAY 27/07

While on patrol a Special Constable found a window at the rear of 232 King had been damaged. No entry was gained. PP&P were called to make repairs.

THEFT OVER \$5000
REPORTED: 8:03AM
MAY 27/07

Sometime between late night

May 26 and early morning May 27 person(s) unknown broke into several PP&P vans parked at 81 Lodge St and stole various tools from the vans. Total value of the tools taken is approximately \$30,000. It appears that those responsible also attempted to steal one of the vans as it had the ignition punched out and had been moved. Regional Police Forensic Identification was called to check for evidence. Investigation continuing.

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 Community Safety & Security website.

The Bag O' Crime is submitted weekly by Community Safety and Security.

CANADA IN BRIEF

Western newspaper loses its free voice

London, ON

The University of Western Ontario's student newspaper *The Gazette* lost its independence over a controversial spoof issue released on April Fool's Day. One article in particular was said to trivialize rape and ridicule feminism.

University administration now has the power to withhold student fees from the publication and prevent the paper's distribution on campus if they find any material contained within its pages inappropriate. This decision by the Board of Directors makes Western's newspapers one of the only student publications in Canada to have their distribution and funding subjected to the influence of administration.

U of M butts out

Winnipeg, MB

Effective April 2, the University of Manitoba has become a completely smoke-free school.

The newly-implemented policy placed a ban against smoking anywhere on the university's property. This forces individuals to travel to the public sidewalk before lighting up.

Laurier is considering implementing a similar policy, but the audits and compliance committee must first approve the motion before it is presented to the Board of Governors. However, Dr. Rosehart, president of WLU, feels that without strong enforcement, smoking policies such as a campus ban or the current 10-meter rule are not necessarily effective. "We've tried a whole bunch of different schemes, but I don't think we're winning," said Rosehart.

\$210 million gift for universities

Ontario

In March, Ontario universities saw a commitment of \$210 million from the government to help post-secondary facilities across the province deal with cost pressures of operating higher learning institutes.

A one-time lump sum was distributed to various universities that can be used for capital, quality or growth. Wilfrid Laurier was one of the universities to be approved for funding and received \$5.6 million.

- Compiled by Laura Carlson

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for breaking news

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Laurier to offer unique MBA degree

WLU to offer the nation's first entrepreneurial masters degree program

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

September will see the launch of a brand new one-year entrepreneurial MBA program at Laurier, which is the first of its kind in Canada. Laurier is planning on opening its doors to between 10 and 15 students who are looking to get a business education that includes a more hands-on approach.

"The program is designed for people who either want to start their own business or work within the young firms that have just started up and are entrepreneurial in nature," said Peter Carayannopoulos, MBA director at Laurier.

"We feel like we've built a lot of expertise in the particular area so it only makes sense that we will capitalize on that," he added.

According to Carayannopoulos, the most unique part of the program is that students are actually given course credit for developing their business and will be graded

on how well the start up process goes.

"It's a very different environment that we're preparing our students for than a typical academic environment offers," said Ginny Dybenko, dean of business and

"WE FEEL LIKE WE'VE BUILT A LOT OF EXPERTISE IN THE PARTICULAR AREA SO IT ONLY MAKES SENSE THAT WE WILL CAPITALIZE ON THAT."

- Peter Carayannopoulos, MBA director at Laurier

economics at Laurier.

Steve Farlow, executive director of the Schlegel Center, echoes Dybenko's thoughts. "Historically, [entrepreneurial companies] haven't been able to turn to business schools for graduates which have skills which are really relevant to them."

And Dybenko feels that the

program planning of this MBA will give students the problem solving and critical thinking skills to survive in the business world. This includes the development of three new courses, which focus on things such as leadership and creativity, as well as plans to bring in speakers from local businesses.

Dybenko is confident that this rigorous combination of academic skills and a more informal workshop-type environment will prepare students for what is to come in their professional careers.

"This provides it all in one package because you get to come out with your MBA and you come out with a brand new business all set up and ready to go," said Dybenko.

The program is still pending approval from the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies (OCGS), but Dybenko is expecting to see that happen "momentarily."

Although other post-secondary institutions are expected to follow suit and develop similar programs, Dybenko feels that

the vibrant community of Waterloo will contribute to the success of the new program.

"When you have such a hotbed of innovation and entrepreneurship in the community, it's only natural that that be reflected in the [educational] institutions as well."

NEWSINBRIEF

2006-2007 Student Life Levy Projects

The Wilfrid Laurier University Students Union (WLUSU) has recently announced the Student Life Levy projects from the fees collected during the 2006-2007 academic year.

WLUSU receives almost \$700,000 from Student Life Levy funding, which is divided between the Waterloo and Brantford campuses proportionate to the number of students enrolled.

Projects at the Waterloo campus include computer lab upgrades, an accessible learning accommodation bursary, an audio system for the Athletic Complex, video equipment for the Theatre Auditorium and the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall, as well as a project enhancing Laurier's wireless network.

Each year at WLU, full-time students pay \$38.04 per semester towards the Student Life Levy. Part-time students are required to pay \$9.51 per 0.5 credits.

University enrolment expected to increase

Despite the fact that the number of 18 to 21 year-old Canadian citizens will begin declining in 2012, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) predicts university enrolment will increase by up to 150,000 students nationally in the next decade, due to an understanding that Canada's future labour market requires an educated and skilled workforce.

The AUCC noted that the number of Canadian jobs for degree-holders has doubled from 1.9 million to 3.8 million since 1990. The increase in students will test the ability of a university to add students to existing physical and human resources. On the other hand, the increased enrolment will be unequal, meaning some post-secondary institutions are expected to face lower enrolment rates because of the general decline in the youth population.

AUCC researchers have noted that higher participation rates cause even low-level jobs to require a university degree. Statistics Canada agrees and even claims that we may be over-educating many Canadians by encouraging everyone to go to university.

WLUSU becomes full member of CASA

On April 23, 2007, the Wilfrid Laurier University Students Union (WLUSU) became a full member of the Canadian Alliance of Students Association (CASA).

Lauren McNiven, WLUSU vice president of university affairs is the primary delegate of CASA at WLU and will attend CASA's

conference in Ottawa, where delegates have had the chance to meet with people such as Belinda Stronach and Stephen Harper in the past, to voice issues that these political figures can then address because of their positions of power.

McNiven explained that CASA's goal is "focusing on post-secondary education and lobbying for accessibility and affordability."

"The fee for the whole year is \$46,000, which is not an additional student fee since it comes out of the WLUSU budget," she said.

McNiven was excited to explain that CASA will benefit Laurier's students, as it is the "only group that has been able to meet with three prime ministers. CASA looks at problems and develops a solution and works cooperatively with people in power."

'Peeping Tom' busted

Wieslaw Mozdzen, a 45-year-old man residing in Kitchener, has pleaded guilty to voyeurism and prowling at night. Mozdzen will be sentenced in Kitchener's Ontario Court on September 28, 2007, but must undergo a psychiatric assessment before being sentenced.

Last December, Mozdzen was found coming down a fire escape in a student house on Noecker Street and his footprints in the snow led to other locations on Noecker and Elgin Street.

Brad Dempster, Mozdzen's lawyer, is trying to arrange a conditional discharge so Mozdzen can continue with his job in the United States. This decision will be based on a psychiatric assessment to make sure Mozdzen has no issues, especially of a sexual nature.

No leads in King St. fire

No culprit has been found in the King Street residence fire that occurred in the sixth floor lounge on March 31, 2007. Chris Dodd, manager of housing services and residence life, says there is an "ongoing investigation by the regional police and Safety and Security at Laurier."

- Compiled by Nicole Wray

Union buys BlackBerrys

Student leaders aim to increase availability with new wireless devices

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

With the transition into the tenure of a new WLUSU president already underway, Dan Allison's vision has started to take shape – and that apparently means hooking up his staff 24 hours a day.

This will basically be the result of the decision to purchase five new BlackBerry devices for himself and four other Management members. While the goal is to increase availability to students, other committee members and individuals within the local community, Allison joked that the technology (new to WLUSU) could very well become a thorn in his side.

"It's a blessing and a curse all at the same time," he said with a slight chuckle.

Explaining in more detail, Allison backed up his decision as having performed a thorough deliberation – in his mind.

"After talking to a number of Management Committee members from last year, as well as the incomings, going to the electronic organizational model would be the best idea," he said.

Matt Park, Chair of the WLUSU Board of Directors agreed that "it was a decision with Dan [Al-

lison] and with Management that it would increase productivity and reliability." But Park also admitted that the decision raised some eyebrows with some of the directors initially, regarding whether it was really a necessary expense.

"The question that it really came down to with a lot of board members was, 'Was [the decision] prudent?'" explained Park.

"I think the people that look at it throw the balance by asking 'are they just toys and, if so, how much money do students actually have to pay for toys?'"

Having already purchased the Blackberrys under a \$90 per month plan for each of the users as part of the interim budget, Allison explained that everything will be reevaluated in August when the operational budget for the upcoming year will be worked out.

CORD/ONLINE

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Exams stolen

Film class has final exams stolen in a break-and-enter.

By Dan Polischuk

New cameras

Laurier installs 15 new cameras to increase campus security.

By Mike Brown

Campus break-in

A Laurier Tim Horton's becomes crime scene after a break-and-enter.

By April Robinson

Join the Cord's Action News team!

Email Laura Carlson or Dan Polischuk at:

lcarslon@cordweekly.com or dpolischuk@cordweekly.com



2009 troop return unlikely

Experts gather at WLU to discuss Canada's role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

With every soldier that comes home in a body bag, and with every multi-million dollar tank purchased by the government, Canadians seem to be feeling increasingly skeptical of our current mission in Afghanistan.

However, comments from international experts who gathered at Wilfrid Laurier University on May 14 and 15 confirmed what you would suspect representatives from the United Nations, NATO, the US State Department and the Canadian Forces to say: while our efforts in Afghanistan are making a difference, they are, at the same

"I DON'T THINK WITHDRAWAL IS DESIRABLE OR LIKELY IN THE NEXT FOUR TO TEN YEARS, BUT MODIFICATION IS INEVITABLE."

- Professor Terry Copp

time, not enough.

Lt-Col. Simon Hetherington spent over seven months in Kandahar as the commanding officer of a Canadian Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) and, from his experience, the aid we are currently offering in Afghanistan has allowed the country to see real improvements.

In responding to the needs of citizens, Lt-Col. Hetherington's team actively worked with the Afghan government and in 2006 witnessed the re-population of key villages as well as the re-opening of schools and markets.

"We are making progress and people are getting back to their way of life," said Hetherington.

He explains that the people of Afghanistan receive Canadians very positively, which he attributes to the tangible changes that have occurred since PRTs began the rebuilding process in 2001.

"[The people of Afghanistan] need to see results and we provid-

ed deliveries across the board," said Hetherington.

He also believes that the key to success in Afghanistan is ensuring that any aid offered is not imposed. Upon entering the Kandahar region, Hetherington says his team made one thing clear: "We are here to support the government and let the government help the people."

He feels that "understanding the needs of the local population is essential and if that is done, then a great deal can be achieved."

Hetherington was one of 30 military, foreign affairs, development and academic professionals who gathered at WLU to participate in the fourth of a series of workshops about Afghanistan. The conferences were put on by the Laurier Center for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies (LCMSDS), the Center for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) and the Academic Council on the United Nations Systems (ACUNS). This workshop focused

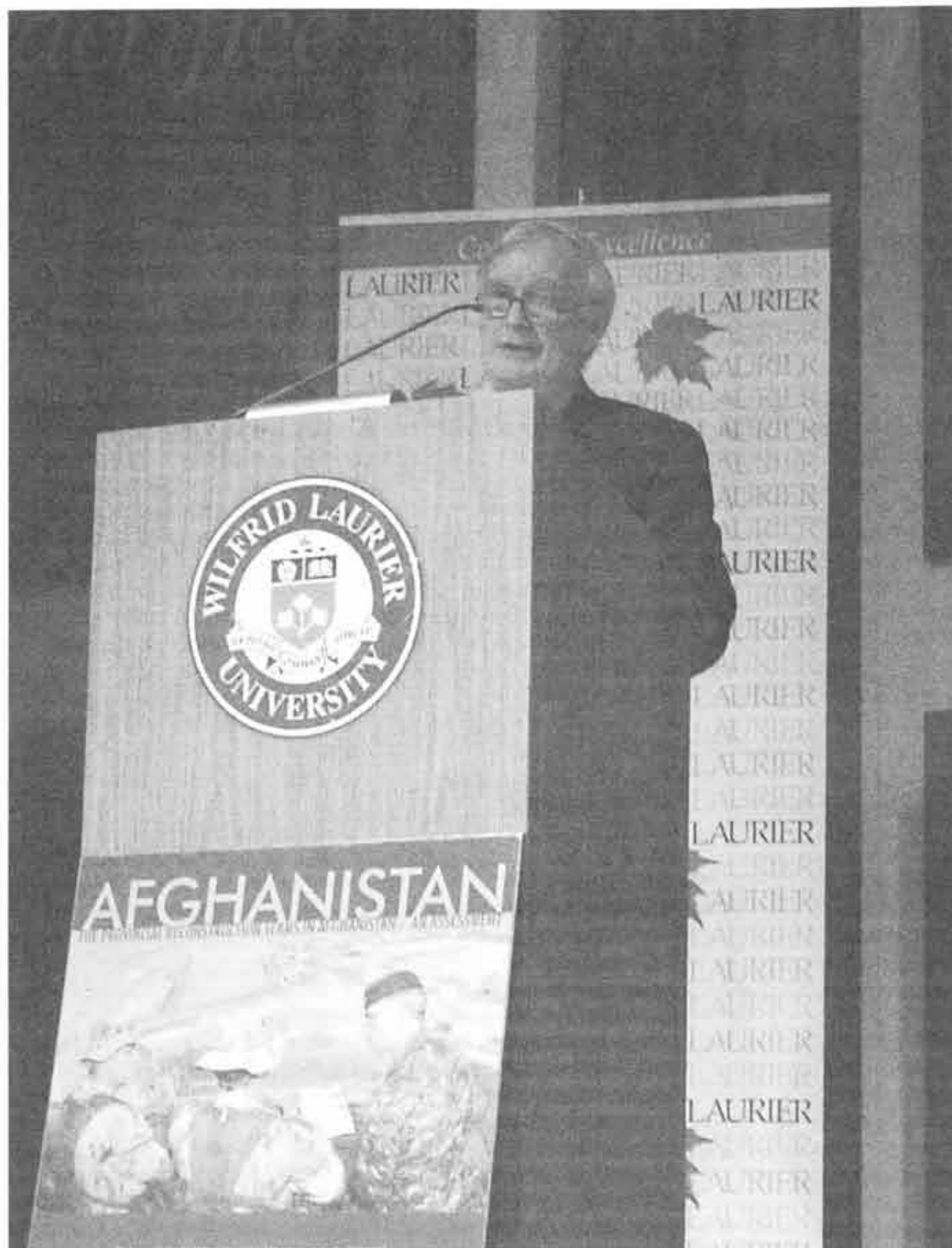
specifically on the role of PRTs in Afghanistan.

Katherine Sage Hayes, the workshop's coordinator, says the goal of the conference is to make the Afghanistan mission clear to the public.

"It falls on the people of Canada to ask the hard questions," said Hayes. "If we're reconstructing in Afghanistan, [we need to ask] what are we reconstructing?"

Though the workshop remained closed to the public to protect participants' opinions from falling under government and media scrutiny, a report of the conferences' findings will be made available to the public at a later date. Hayes hopes that many of the looming questions Canadians have about the mission in Afghanistan will be answered in this report.

Aside from various written documentation, a public lecture on the first day of the conference entitled 'Afghanistan and After' gave members of the Waterloo community



Riley Taylor

MAKING SENSE OF IT ALL - Prof. Terry Copp speaking at the conference about PRTs in Afghanistan.

a chance to ask selected experts some questions themselves.

The panel discussion held in the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall featured three of the workshop's key participants, each of whom were able to offer a plethora of knowledge to an eager and mostly senior audience.

Professors William Maley, Ramesh Thakur and Terry Copp spoke of their opinions regarding Afghanistan and unanimously agreed that we must continue to offer our sup-

port to the war-stricken country.

"Afghanistan is not in black and not beyond salvation," Professor Maley - director of the Asia-Pacific School of Diplomacy at the Australian National University - told the crowd.

Though 2009 seems to be the date burned into everyone's minds regarding the removal of Canadian troops in Afghanistan, at the moment Professor Terry Copp, director of LCMSDS, does not necessarily see this happening. "I don't think

withdrawal is desirable or likely in the next four to ten years, but modification is inevitable," said Copp.

Professor Thakur also felt that a quick exit from Afghanistan is not the best strategy for the military to take. "Costs of exit and re-entry are high and if we believe [helping reconstruct Afghanistan] is worth doing and doable, then we need to focus on the things we need to do so we don't have to come back again."

See PAGE 14 for editorial reaction to this story

Army besieges militants in refugee camp

Civil unrest reaches fevered pitch in northern Lebanon; death toll hits 80

WALEED HAFEEZ
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

In what has now become the worst case of civil unrest since the end of the 1990 civil war, the Lebanese army surrounded and tried to weed out members of the Fateh-al-Islam group who had set up base in the Nahr-El-Bared refugee camp in the north of the country.

Near Lebanon's second largest city, Tripoli, the Lebanese army set themselves up around the Nahr-El-

Bared camp, which consists of Palestinian refugee families, in hopes of luring Fateh-al-Islam members out, dead or alive.

Initially, militants had seized Lebanese army positions at the entrances to the Nahr-El-Bared camp and had captured two armored carriers. It was also reported that gunmen had opened fire and ambushed a military unit, killing two soldiers.

The Lebanese army's retaliation, which began on May 20 and still

continues, began with a barrage of artillery and heavy machine-gun fire aimed at points within the camp where it was known that Fateh-al-Islam had set up.

The current death toll from the offensive is at 80, with even more injured on both sides. In a camp of approximately 40,000 refugees, the civilian death toll has remained relatively low — eight dead and 60 injured.

With electricity and water cut off to the camp, refugees have had to

slip out of the camp during sporadic moments of calm, or sometimes dodge militant sniper fire or the army's constant shelling in order to save their own lives.

As of now, only 13,000 refugees have been able to leave the camp, with many calling for a ceasefire and for the military to at least let UN relief workers into the camp.

Fateh-al-Islam is an Islamist group led by fugitive militant Shaker Al-Abssi and has set up base in the middle of the Nahr-El-Bared camp since November of last year.

Their main goals have been to reform Palestinian refugee camps

under Islamic Sharia'a Law and to fight Israel.

Since the beginning of the Nahr-El-Bared clash, the Lebanese government has asked for \$280 million for military assistance from the United States.

According to US State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack, approximately \$220 million would go to the army and another \$60 million would go to security forces. He added that the United States was weighing the request.

Green Zone under attack

'Baghdad Country Club' is no longer an oasis of security after a number of attacks over the last two months

ASHLEY DOODNAUTH
STAFF WRITER

Amidst a war-torn country and an international controversy lies an oasis. The International Zone, better known to locals as the "Green Zone" or the "Baghdad Country Club", is a 10-kilometer haven beside the Tigris River in Baghdad.

Prior to the American invasion, "The Bubble" was the site of Saddam Hussein's Baath party headquarters. The area included villas, palaces and various monuments, including the very recognizable crossed sabers.

The district also housed Uday and Qusay Hussein's numerous torture chambers and often doubled as the roaming grounds of their pet lions.

After the Americans took Baghdad and the Green Zone in April 2003, the area now holds the US Embassy as well as the Iraqi government.

According to the *Washington Post*, since the US took over the area, approximately 5000 Iraqi squatters have moved into abandoned buildings scattered across the surrounding periphery, referred to as the "Green Zone's Slum."

The "Red Zone" is US jargon for the unsecured areas outside the walls of the International Zone.

Often called the ultimate gated community, it consists of various checkpoints and is patrolled by bomb-sniffing dogs, body and vehicle scanners and is excluded to the outside world by barbed wire and chain link fences. The entire complex is encircled by "T-Walls," which are made of reinforced blast-proof concrete to ensure maximum security.

IDs and credentials vary between different people so as to distinguish a hierarchy of personnel within the walls.

According to BBC News, up to eight checks can be encountered for those who are going into the parliamentary area within the Green Zone.

Military police also have the authority to stop anyone en route to the International Zone at any time.

Yet, with all these measures in place to protect people within the Green Zone, September of 2003 saw the first of many future attacks. Guerrillas fired three rockets at the Al Rashid Hotel — which was home to American soldiers and media at the time.

According to BBC News, this attack was in retaliation to the new power that had taken over the International Zone earlier in the year.

Recent events within the Green Zone have officials worried about their current security levels. On April 17, a bomb went off in the Iraqi Parliament cafeteria, killing one person and injuring 22 others. In mid-March, discarded suicide belts were found within the walls of the International Zone.

And on March 22, during a news conference held by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, a mortar round landed in the Green Zone, which once again highlighted the obvious lack of sufficient security measures.

So where are these breaches originating from? According to BBC News and Fareed Sabri, a spokesperson for the Iraqi Islamic party in the UK, the oversights are the result of the number of bodyguards that need to be checked on a daily basis.

"I'm sure some of the MPs have got people who are either affiliated to al-Qaeda and some who have been able to smuggle bombs inside the Iraqi Parliament," says Sabri.

Seeing as 10,000 bodyguards enter the Green Zone for the sole purpose of protecting politicians, performing background checks on all would be practically impossible.

A once serene place, the "Baghdad Country Club" has been compromised. Determined Iraqi resistance will continue to infiltrate the security measure, leaving the fate of the International Zone hanging in the balance.



BLACK HAWK DOWN - Black Hawk helicopters land at the very recognizable crossed sabers inside the Green Zone, once home to Saddam Hussein's party headquarters.

Contributed Photo - US Department of Defense



Summer Fest



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Football stars drafted to CFL

Drafted fifth overall by the Calgary Stampede, linebacker Justin Phillips becomes the highest WLU draftee since 1978



Sydney Holland

GOLDEN FUTURE - Justin Phillips, left, and Yannick Carter enjoy the sunshine while tossing a pigskin as teammates for one of the last times, while Phillips' faithful dog looks on.

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

The dreams of two young Laurier men came a step closer to being realized on Wednesday, May 2.

The CFL draft saw two of the best players to ever come out of Wilfrid Laurier's football program say goodbye to their beloved school and make their way into the world of professional football. Justin Phillips was selected fifth by the Calgary Stampede, while Yannick Carter went 20th to the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

"I could not be more pleased the way things worked out in the draft," said Phillips. "I wanted to play for Calgary, and everything seemed to work out."

Carter had slightly different emotions following the draft. "I was a little shocked about how late my name was called," he reflected. "But for the most part the situation that has presented itself is the best possible outcome for me. The opportunity I have to be successful is far greater at Saskatchewan than any other team."

Not to mention he will be joining former teammate Jesse Alexander and former Golden Hawks Donnie Ruiz and Corey Grant. "All in all, I was pleased with the outcome of the draft, and most importantly that

I got drafted at all," said Carter. "It is a huge accomplishment regardless of how late or early I was selected."

Carter and Phillips began playing football for the Golden Hawks when they came to WLU in the fall of 2003. "I knew they were special athletes who would be outstanding university players," commented Manager of Football Operations and Head Coach Gary Jeffries. "I was confident if they put in the work and the dedication they would have an opportunity to play at the next level."

Phillips said that ever since he was a child, playing sports and watching games on TV, he knew he wanted to become a professional athlete. "When I started playing football at age thirteen, it became something I really wanted, and to finally have the dream come true is a great feeling."

Both guys will be playing similar positions to those which they experienced in their time with the Hawks. Carter will most likely remain as strong side linebacker; however, he states optimistically that if faced with a new role, he will be more than accepting of it.

"For me, it's not about the position, it's about playing football. I feel I would be able to play any position they threw at me."

Phillips was told by his new

coaching staff that he will be playing in the position of weak side linebacker. "This is a great spot for me because it entails a lot of duties that I am good at and comfortable with. I will be rushing the passer and blitzing quite often - something I did at Laurier with a lot of success."

"With Justin's versatility, he could play defensive end, linebacker or free safety," praised Jeffries. "We have never had a player in the 37 years I have been at Laurier that was capable of playing those three positions equally well. He is very gifted and he works extremely hard."

Carter also received some high accolades from his former coach. "Yannick has exceptional speed and can pressure the quarterback and cover an inside receiver at his [strong side] linebacker position. To be able to do both as well as he can is certainly what the CFL scouts are looking for."

Coming from a school that primarily utilizes its speed to its advantage, the players may be considered undersized when compared to the likes of Laval, their giant neighbours to the East. This did not seem to hinder their chances in the draft however; in fact, smaller, faster players may become a thing of the future.

"Speed equates to a more excit-

ing and faster game," reasoned Carter. "Both Montreal and Toronto have already moved to a smaller linebacker system and have done very well with it." He added that it's not always just about the size of the players, but their motivation to be successful, and turn the strengths of the other team into weaknesses. "Football is a mental game, if you ask me."

Phillips has noticed an increased importance for players to train to build strength and speed, instead of simply focusing on getting bigger and relying on natural speed abilities.

Jeffries was eager to commend his prized players for their abilities both on and off the field. "They stood out because of their exceptional ability. They made plays for us consistently; they have to rank in the top 10 percent of all the football athletes who have ever played at Laurier."

"Off the field they have a presence - not cocky but confident," he continued. "They have worked extremely hard for this opportunity and their time has come. They are very proud young men - proud of the school, the football program and where they have come from."

Notable Golden Hawk draft picks

Corey Grant - WR (1999)
#7 to Hamilton Tiger-Cats
Last Top 10 draft pick

Bruce Holland - DT (1978)
#4 to Hamilton Tiger-Cats
Last Top 5 draft pick

Brian Beckles - C (1989)
#54 to Toronto Argonauts
Currently the director of WLU Alumni Relations

Stefan Praszek - WR (1994)
#9 to BC Lions
Now the Head Coach of arch-rival McMaster Marauders

Drafted Players Since 2000

Ryan Jeffrey - OL - #15 (2004)
Connor Healey - DB - #27 (2004)
Andre Talbot - WR - #34 (2001)
Jesse Alexander - LB - #37 (2006)
Joel Wright - DB - #41 (2006)
Justin Shakell - DL - #45 (2004)
Steven Frake - DB - #52 (2004)
Ed Becker - K - #53 (2003)

AC closed for damage control

Renovations are taking place in the Athletic Complex to repair damages that occurred last summer; AC to open in mid-June

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

The gymnasium at the Athletic Complex (AC) is wrapping up six weeks of construction to repair \$170,000 worth of damages to the floors resulting from a combination of severe weather and an unfortunate mistake.

DESPITE THE FACT THE STORM DAMAGE OCCURED ALMOST A YEAR AGO, THE UNIVERSITY CHOSE ONLY TO COMPLETE REMEDIAL REPAIRS TO THE GYMNASIUM FLOORS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FLOODING.

"We had a major problem last August when the contractor was fixing the roof," said Peter Baxter, director of athletics and recreation. "[The workers] forgot to tie down the roof one night and we had a major storm which caused a flood."

According to Baxter, insurance claims have been filed and thus aside from a \$50,000 deductible, no repair costs will be falling directly on the university. "We worked with

the contractor, who is cooperating because they understood that it was their fault," said Baxter.

Despite the fact the storm damage occurred almost a year ago, the university chose only to complete remedial repairs to the gymnasium floors immediately after the flooding. Though the gym was closed for nearly a month last September, the university was fully aware that a major overhaul needed to be done this summer.

"We knew that we couldn't just replace the floor right away. We knew we had to do it in two steps because we didn't want to disrupt any obligations we had to students," explained Baxter.

Though the damage has certainly been an inconvenience for both students and faculty, the Athletics Department is taking advantage of what Roly Webster, coordinator of facilities at the AC, calls an "unfortunate opportunity."

The gymnasium upgrades include moving the controls for the scoreboards, eliminating a dead space in the floor (a hangover from the 1970s), installing a new audio system, and making some electri-



Mike Whitehouse - www.laurierathletics.com

RECONSTRUCTION - With gym renovations also come upgrades, including a new audio system.

cal upgrades, which permit access to the internet and tracking online scores.

"It's a positive for our facility in the end, but it's a big hassle for our operations and our customers, but there's not much we can do about it," said Webster.

The gymnasium will open for convocation on June 6 and will be open for public rentals again on June 11.

However, just as the gym renova-

tions finish up, new ones will begin with the excavation of an AC wall. Contractors are trying to locate a piping problem which caused over \$100,000 worth of damages to the dance studio and multi-purpose flooring when the snow melted in March.

"We know what caused the leak that time but we're still concerned with the way the rain water is being drained away from the building," said Webster. "The problem is we

don't want to risk it flooding again and we haven't got to the bottom of where it is."

"Generally for most people, although it is an imposition for them, it's understandable that there is a necessity to do major maintenance as well as repairs at a time when the bulk of the users, the fee-paying students, are not necessarily using it," added Baxter.

WLUSU



Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union Summer Update



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Friday Night Special

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9PM - 2aM

Just Dial 886 - FOOT

Far from home and far from bored

Students who choose to find summer employment through Laurier co-op and other WLU institutions get a chance to explore exciting career opportunities. Take a look at our case studies below.

Steven Hughes

Hometown: Owen Sound, ON
Program: BBA, completed 2nd year.

Summer Job: Working for Honda Canada's Human Resources Department.

Steven Hughes is a very driven and highly responsible student, currently studying at Laurier in the Faculty of Business. He's just beginning his summer job, but he'll be working at Honda's HR headquarters in a co-op placement that will last him the next eight months.

He landed the job with a lot of help from Laurier Co-op, and their website in particular. "I saw the posting on the site, I applied, I went for an interview and I had to say 'yes' or 'no' to the position. It was just like applying for any other

job."

So what exactly is it that Steven does for Honda? Lots. His main responsibility is recruiting new employees to the company. Over his work term, he will have to work closely with the managers of many departments to decide whether or not to approve applicants. He also takes time to go out into the field and actively recruit possible employees.

He's also "responsible for delivering orientations to all new employees, which involves explaining Honda policies and answering any questions they may have." And as if that isn't enough work, he's already finding he's got many administrative tasks around the office to attend to.

"There are lots of students

[working] in Honda in general," says Hughes, "but I'm the only one in HR." Still, he's met others scattered around Honda Canada's expansive three-building office. And while he may not come into contact with other co-op students on a regular basis, Steven was quick to mention that his favourite thing about his summer job is the staff that he works with. "Honda has been great," he says. "I've really enjoyed it. I work with really great staff... they've been great at getting me oriented."

Steven is hard pressed to find a downside to his job. "[Noth-

ing] really comes to mind. It's all just a learning experience." The Owen Sound native, who's renting a basement apartment to work and live in Toronto, has taken the large responsibility he's received and turned it into a thoroughly positive experience.

Steven's business education at Laurier has helped him a great deal, especially the course he took in organizational behaviour, which has been very relevant to the HR field and will help him in the eight months ahead. But Hughes has already learned a lot, namely the "importance of working well with people, working in a team." He also cites keeping the lines of communication open with supervisors to be of key importance.



"YOU'RE NOT DEALING WITH THE SAME THING EVERY DAY. IT'S LIKE OPENING A PRESENT ... YOU'RE NEVER BORED."

- Sheena Henderson, co-op student

Sheena Henderson

Hometown: Cambridge, ON
Program: Archaeology major, completed 2nd year.

Summer Job: Co-op with Parks Canada, working with War of 1812 artifacts at historical sites.

Sheena Henderson knew since she was in 5th grade that she wanted to work as an archaeologist. This summer she begins her first ever job in the field: a co-op placement with three other Laurier students at Parks Canada.

After two and a half weeks at the position, most of her time has been spent preparing for field work in labs, but she's also taken three field trips to historic forts where her supervisor gives guided tours. "It's good for us because we get to learn history," says Henderson. "[It's] really an information rich experience."

had an agreement with Parks Can for some time now," says Henderson. "I have a 30-year-old colleague at Parks Can who also went to Laurier." One of the best things for Sheena has been the interesting people she's working with. "Archaeologists can't just be desk jockeys; they have to be free spirited," she jokes.

"I'm really, really excited for the dig season," Henderson exclaims. Over the summer she will be digging at Fort Henry in Kingston, as well as some other Kingston historical sites, to find what archaeologists call "historic material culture" from the time period of the War of 1812.

Sheena's favourite part of the job is "the fact that there's variety. You're not dealing with the same thing every day. It's like opening a present ... you're never bored." But there are some tough parts to the experience too.

"It's frustrating to look at a

tray of ceramic shards, having to divide them into five piles when they all look the same," she said. But while some tasks seem daunting, listening to the professors give the history behind the artifacts makes up for it.

Sheena is staying in a residence room at St. Lawrence College in Cornwall, much like her room in Clara Conrad Hall when she was in first year. There's not a lot to do in Cornwall, she says, but she loves the travel opportunities. "You can go to Montreal for \$35!" she says happily.

Though she always knew she wanted to end up in archaeology, the amount of people in the field she's met have helped her decide exactly what she wants for the future. "I've found my niche through

this experience," proclaims Henderson.

Sheena has nothing but praise for her Laurier education. "If you ask anybody, they'll tell you Laurier has the best Archaeology program in the province," Henderson says. "I've applied so much of it to my work."

However, after being immersed into the culture of 1812, Sheena can't wait to take some courses in Canadian History.

Shrishma Davé

Hometown: Emigrated from India, still looking for a hometown.

Program: Political Science major, graduating in June.

Bronwen Fitzsimmons

Hometown: Oakville, ON

Program: Sociology and Women's Studies, graduating in June.

Summer Job: Interns with Defensa

de Ninas y Ninos Internacional (DNI) in Costa Rica.

Each year, the Laurier Research Chair in Human Rights, Dr. Rhoda Howard-Hassman, sponsors an internship in human rights. This year, Dr. Howard-Hassman, in collaboration with Human Rights Internet, an Ottawa-based organization, arranged for Shrishma Davé and Bronwen Fitzsimmons to travel to Costa Rica to work for Defensa de Ninas y Ninos Internacional (Defence of Children International).

As stated on their website, www.dci-is.org, "Defence for Children

International is dedicated to ensuring on-going, practical, systematic and concerted international action directed towards promoting and protecting the rights of the child."

The two women have slightly different tasks within the organization. Shrishma is working with the Fundraising and Communications Unit of DNI, currently spending much of her time searching for English-written human rights articles online and translating written proposals into English. Bronwen, meanwhile, is working on DNI's campaign on inclusive education, an initiative to achieve better education for child labourers and other marginalized children.

For both Shrishma and Bronwen, their time at DNI has been exciting. "We have access to reports and documents from across the globe. It's a lot of fascinating information at my fingertips," says Davé.

Fitzsimmons agrees. "It is great to work in a human rights organization. I want to do international development for my master's degree so that I can eventually work in this field as a career. This opportunity with DNI is an incredible stepping stone to help me reach those goals."

Even more exciting, though, is adjusting to life in a new part of the world. "Costa Rica is gorgeous. I can see the Irazu Mountains from my window," says Shrishma.

"San Pedro is really nice and full of students," adds Bronwen. "We are walking distance to all the shops. The people are really friendly and helpful, and the weather is beautiful when it's not raining."

They share a two-bedroom apartment in San Pedro, the university district of San Jose, and take a taxi to and from Moravia, the town where DNI: Costa Rica is located. "Over the last two weeks, my Span-

ish has become so much better," says Fitzsimmons. "I am now able to give the taxi driver directions!"

The girls have been taking Spanish lessons twice a week, but the language barrier has made life challenging for them. "We felt like infants when we got here, because we could not communicate how we felt or what we wanted," says Davé. Working with all Spanish-speaking co-workers has been difficult for them, but with practice and lots of body language, they have been learning to cope.

Still, their internship so far has been an unparalleled learning experience. "DNI is making a huge difference in the lives of children around the world," says Bronwen.

"I am starting to see the beauty in this simple lifestyle," adds Shrishma. "People are kind, helpful and unrushed."

"WE HAVE ACCESS TO REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE. IT'S A LOT OF FASCINATING INFORMATION AT MY FINGERTIPS."

- Shrishma Davé, Laurier Grad



Kayla Renaud

Hometown: Northern Ontario

Program: Global Studies and Spanish, completed 2nd year.

Summer Job: Research Assistant for Northern Ireland Housing Executive in Belfast, Ireland.

As a Global Studies student, Kayla Renaud was thrilled at the prospect of working internationally this summer. Like all other co-op students, Kayla saw her position posted through Laurier Co-op, and went through the required application process. But unlike most other co-op students, her placement has taken her all the way to Belfast, Ireland to live in residence at the University of Ulster.

"It's pretty awesome," Renaud says of living on campus at Ulster. "There are lots of international stu-

dents right now. I've met people from the U.S., Africa, Europe, Ireland." Laurier has a co-op exchange program with the University of Ulster.

Right from the start, Kayla, along with Laurier business student Paul Radoja, knew how different life in Ireland would be. "The first thing we noticed was [cars] driving on the other side of the road," she laughs. But Kayla believes that it is the abundance of history and culture in Belfast that really make it feel different from Canada.

Kayla and Paul are working as research assistants, doing housing surveys for the municipal government of Belfast. Their time is split between compiling survey results and entering the data, and going out in the field to collect surveys. Right now they are conducting surveys on neighbourhood renewal, homeless rates, and overall housing satisfaction.

"Sometimes it's hard getting people to do surveys," says Kayla, when asked what the hardest part of her job is. "We try to get a seventy percent rate of response." Dealing with difficult people hasn't been the only tough part of her job either. Renaud is finding that adjusting to

her new kind of work can be tricky. "I didn't take business, so I don't know much about Excel or other data programs."

But despite the challenges she's faced, Kayla's time in Ireland has been extremely rewarding. "It's a life-changing experience; it's awesome," she explains. "It's a once in a lifetime opportunity." Kayla plans to have a career in international development, and she feels that her time working in the related field of community development will be very helpful.

She's already learned a lot from it. "You have to be open to new things, I think ... and have patience." When things go wrong, "you have to be strong about it," she adds.

Kayla and Paul return to Canada in early August, after completion of their three-month co-op term. Both are very excited to continue working in Belfast and see how their summer plays out.

For more information about Laurier's co-op opportunities, visit www.wlu.ca/co-op/

A summer to-do for the 'Loo

Waterloo is a great place to be during the summer with lots of things to do for those who have to stay around for summer courses or work. There are lots of fun things to do in the Kitchener-Waterloo area that don't require a car.

MYA WIJBENGA
STAFF WRITER

ASHLEY JANG
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

Music festivals

In search of a great time at a music festival? The Uptown Waterloo Jazz Festival takes place from July 12th until 15th with headliners like Ivana Santilli and Sophie Milman. If you're not into jazz, check out the Kitchener Blues, Brews, and Barbeque Festival from August 9th to 12th with groups like Eric Burdon and the Animals and the Jeff Healey Blues Band.

Waterloo Park

Tight on money, but still looking for a fun way to fill your day? Waterloo Park has a petting zoo, fields to play all sorts of sports on and it is perfect to shape up and go running, take a stroll or just sit in the sun on one of the swings. Go out and have a cheap lunch by packing one up and enjoying the picnic facilities.

Arts and crafts

Summer is a great time to do all those crafty things that came to mind, but were pushed back due

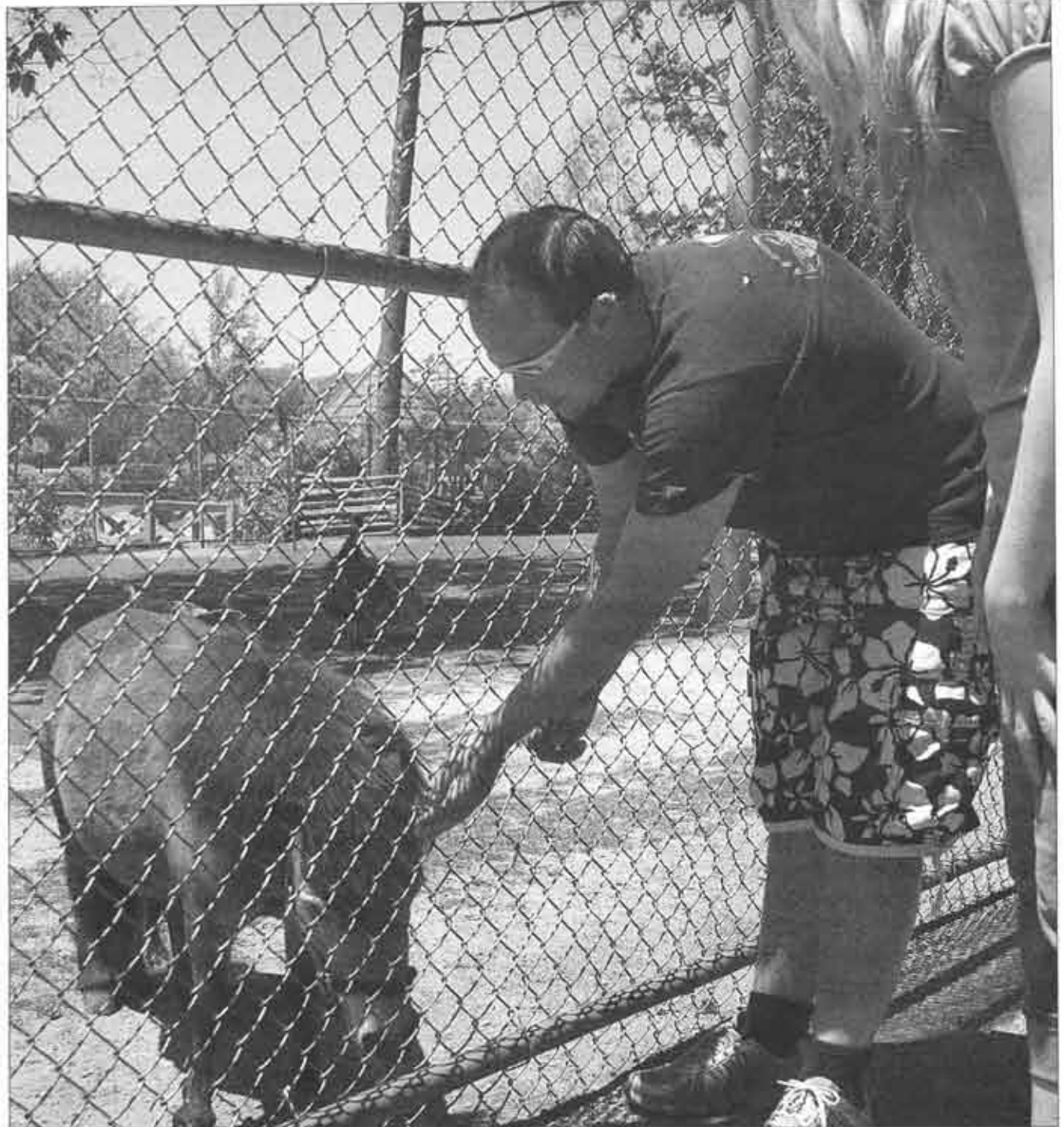
to a lack of time. To get some craft ideas, head over to Michael's, a bead store like the Bead Bazaar on King Street or a pottery shop like Lucy's Mud House. If you feel like seeing or buying some art, check out Stitch'n'Kitsch's summer fling sale and show on June 9th, located at the corner of King and William streets.

Biking

Biking can be a great workout and a great way to see more of Waterloo Region. The Iron Horse Bike trail is just one example of the routes you can bike along, found on the Waterloo Cycling Club website. It's a five kilometer paved trail that stretches from one end of Kitchener through Waterloo.

Endurrun

The Endurrun is held in Waterloo from August 12th until 19th and is what they call the Tour de France of running. It starts and finishes at RIM Park and goes all around the Kitchener-Waterloo region. It takes a great runner to run 160 kilometers in eight days.



Mike Kitchen

A DONKEY - Waterloo Park is home to many beasts of the wild world, excluding gryphons and gold sheep.

Having a car means that going away is a lot easier. Day trips are a great way to feel like you're having a (very) short getaway.



Contributed Photo



Mike Brown

Canoeing the Grand

A way to see more of the Waterloo Region's surroundings is by canoeing the Grand River where you can rent canoes or kayaks for up to 10 hours. It will be a great workout and it will definitely be more fun that hitting up the gym.

Go-karting

Grab a few friends and find out who's the fastest person on wheels at Erbsville Kartway, located in the northwest corner of Waterloo. It's a combination of action and fun while having a great time with a few friends.

St. Jacobs Farmer's Market

One of the area's tourist attractions can also be attractive for locals. St. Jacobs Farmer's Market is a place to shop, visit the outlet mall and find some amazing foods that seem to be impossible to find anywhere else. You can also go for a horse-drawn trolley ride for a tour of a Mennonite farm.

Camping

Spending the weekend at a campground can be very relaxing without breaking the bank. Waterloo offers some campgrounds like Laurel Creek, which is located at Northfield and Westmount, a 10-minute drive from Laurier. It offers swimming, windsurfing, hiking, and bird watching at 130 campsites.

Bingeman's

Venture into Kitchener and hit up Bingeman's, which offers the area's biggest water park, beach volleyball, and campgrounds. Play a round on the golf course at Glen Ridge Golf, also located at the park.

Baseball

Catch a Kitchener Panthers Inter-county ball game at the Kitchener Auditorium, located just 10 minutes from downtown Kitchener. Their schedule can be found at <http://panthersbaseball.com/schedule.htm>.

No valedictorian voice for convocation

Laurier still has no valedictorian speech during graduation ceremony, despite the efforts of a grad student to bring it back

ASHLEY JANG
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

For the past three years, Laurier's convocation ceremonies have been missing what some might consider an essential part of the graduation process: a valedictorian speech. Unlike many other campuses, Laurier has essentially accepted this as tradition.

"The experience in the last few years was pretty negative and that's why we suggested not doing it at convocation," said WLU President Dr. Bob Rosehart. "We also ran into problems with convocation being so large so we started to have timing issues."

Speech content was also a key factor in the removal of the speech. "The speeches were mixed; that's one of the reasons it disappeared," said Rosehart.

As a result, the valedictorian speech was moved to take place at the grad formal, an event organized by the grad formal committee. At the formal, various awards were typically presented, including the valedictorian. "[It] seemed like a more appropriate venue for the comments that were being made," said Rosehart.

The grad formal, however, no longer takes place. "What happened over the years was that the level of interest in the grad formal events really declined," said Dean of Students David McMurray.

Because interest in the event declined, there were limited volunteers who wanted to help organize it. "Interest in students to organize the formal committee and the voting for the awards was very low," said McMurray.

With a process as long as convocation it's difficult to make time for everything. As a result, not only has the speech been removed but the hooding, alumni address, and Board of Governors' welcome address as well. "If the whole ceremony lasts more than a couple of hours, it's not a positive experience," said Rosehart.

In an attempt to get the valedictorian speech reinstated, Laurier graduate Jason Shim has been in contact with the university to discuss the matter. "There have been some embarrassing or inappropriate speeches made by previous valedictorians and that was a little disappointing to hear," he said.

According to Shim, a valedictorian speech is an important part of



Contributed photo

STUDENT PRIDE - The valedictorian speech is a tradition in academic institutions, but no longer at WLU.

the graduation process. "It's a tradition at most other schools and at my own graduation I would like to have some student input, given that we're spending years and money at this school."

Despite Shim's attempts to have the speech reinstated, the Senate Executive Committee has rejected it.

"We've tried everything we could

in the last few years to keep it, to keep the pomp and ceremony - but to keep it moving along as well," explained Rosehart.

"I'm not saying that getting a valedictorian up there will suddenly make convocation 100 times better but I guess my expectation is that someone could make it really meaningful and touch a few people in the audience," said Shim.

"If they're going to tell students to elect the valedictorian I'd like to see it fulfilled in all senses of the word," he added.

Waterloo's convocation ceremonies will take place in five ceremonies spread over three days, from June 6-8.

See **PAGE 14** for editorial reaction to this story

Convocation schedule

Wednesday, June 6, 1:00 pm

Faculty of Graduate Studies - doctoral, masters degrees in Arts, School of Business & Economics, Science, Social Work, Music, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary
Location: Athletic Complex, WLU Waterloo Campus, Corner of King St. and University Ave.

Thursday, June 7, 10:00 am

School of Business & Economics - Bachelors degrees and diplomas
Location: Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex at 101 Father David Bauer Drive.

Thursday, June 7, 1:30 pm

Faculty of Music, Science - Bachelors degrees and diplomas
Location: Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex at 101 Father David Bauer Drive.

Friday, June 8, 10:00 am

Faculty of Arts General Bachelors degrees
Location: Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex at 101 Father David Bauer Drive.

Friday, June 8, 1:30 pm

Faculty of Arts Honours Bachelors degrees
Location: Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex at 101 Father David Bauer Drive.

Campus services Summer hours

C-Spot

Monday-Thursday
9 am-10 pm
Friday
9 am-3 pm

Dining Hall

Monday-Friday
8 am-1:30 pm

Wilfs

Monday-Thursday
11:30 am-3 pm
Friday
11:30 am-2 am

Tim Hortons

Peters Building
Monday-Thursday
8 am-9 pm
Friday
8 am-1 pm
Science Building
Monday-Thursday
8 am-2 pm
Friday
8 am-1 pm

AC

Monday-Thursday
7 am-10 pm
Saturday
10 am-6 pm
Sunday
10 am-8 pm

One Card Office /The Hub

Monday-Friday
8:30 am-4:30 pm

The Bookstore

Monday-Friday
8:30 am-4:30 pm

Library

Monday-Thursday
8:30 am-10 pm
Friday
8:30 am-5 pm
Saturday and Sunday
11 am-5 pm

Health Services

Monday and Wednesday
8:30 am-7:30 pm
Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
8:30 am-4:15 pm
*closed 12 pm-1 pm

Counseling Services

Monday, Thursday, and Friday
8:30 am-4:30 pm
Tuesday and Wednesday
8:30 am-8 pm

Foot Patrol

Saturday-Thursday
9 pm-1 am
Friday
9 pm-2 am

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Terrace

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Grads need student voice

At universities across the country, a valedictorian address is a customary component of convocation ceremonies. Not at Laurier. Since 2003, there has been no valedictorian address, and for years before that the address did not take place at convocation because of administration's concerns of time constraints and inappropriate content.

It is time, though, that this changes. A valedictorian address provides the opportunity for a final peer send-off for graduates. And after years of hard work, time and money invested in the school, it is a well-deserved opportunity.

While convocation is a long ceremony, a number of measures – from putting time limits on speeches to making sure that the administration's speeches do not overlap – should be implemented long before the students' voice is removed.

The valedictorian is chosen for a reason: he or she is the person who best represents the experiences, hopes and achievements of the majority of the graduating class. The administration should not say the content he or she picks to share is inappropriate, for they are the kind of moments that graduates will remember the best of their time at Laurier. After all, many students will never even speak to the likes of Dr. Bob in their four years, and the reflections admin offers are undoubtedly less important to the average graduate than those of a peer.

While it is reasonable for administration to review the address before it is given, it would be foolish for them not to realize many of the most important occurrences in students' university careers do not happen in the classroom as quiet, routine events.

Currently, administration is controlling convocation and shaping it into what they desire it to be, but the ceremony should be for the graduates. Let them have their day.

Conference a missed chance for WLU PR

As Laurier works toward fulfilling its Century Plan, change can be seen all around campus. Building expansion and renovations are taking place hand-in-hand with a growing number of applicants and a growing student population. The university is also working to strengthen its international reputation, developing links with other institutions across the globe.

With news that Laurier hosted a number of internationally respected experts for a conference on the role of PRIs in Afghanistan, it seems as though administration is doing a good job strengthening that international reputation.

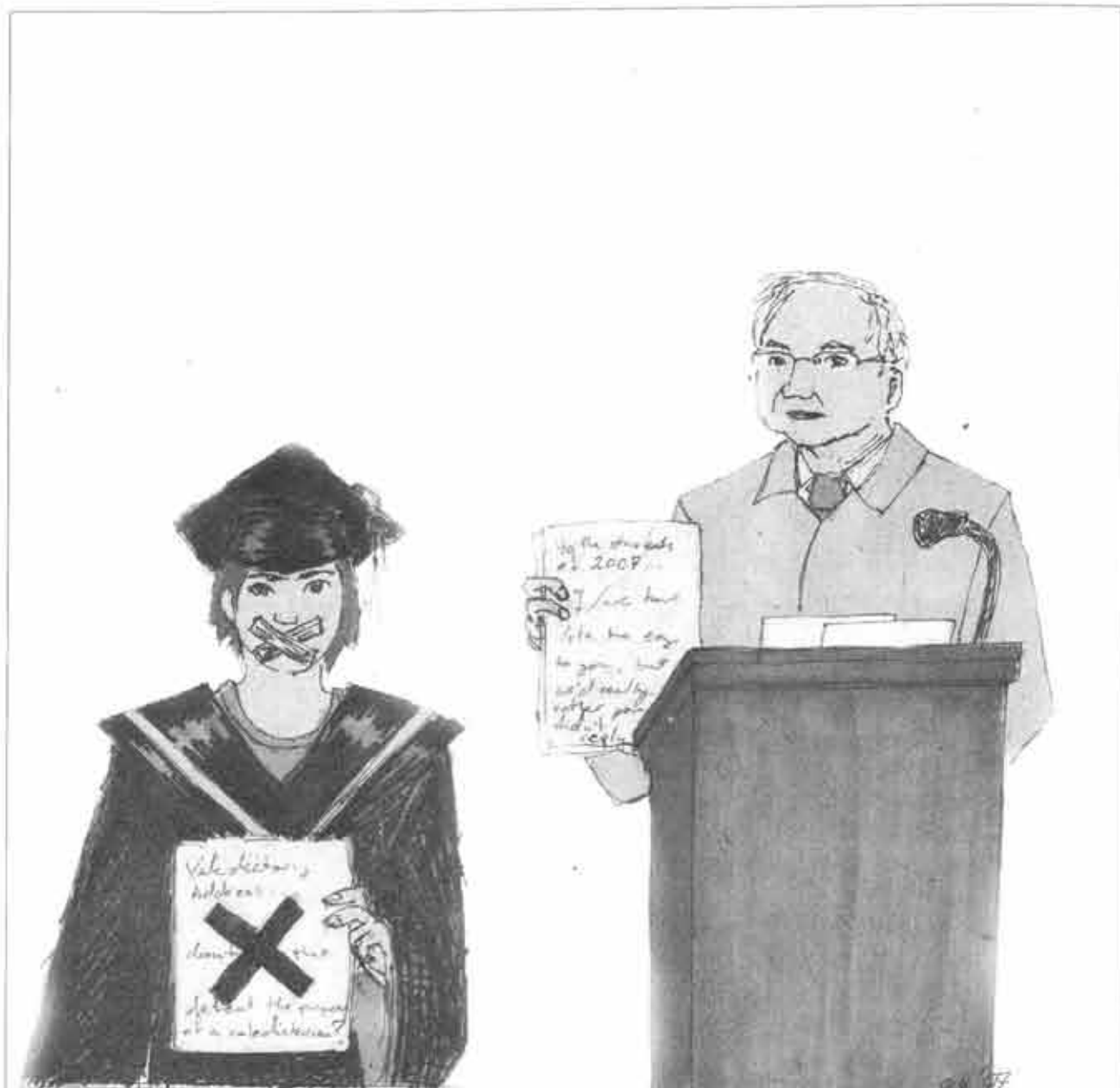
There is one problem, though: no matter how many international conferences take place at Laurier, they don't do a thing for WLU's reputation if nobody knows. And this

conference? Nobody knew.

It's understandable that the conference didn't take place through the September to April academic year. To schedule and run the closed-door workshops while a student population of over 10,000 is in class would be a logistic nightmare. And the primary purpose, after all, was the bringing together of these experts, so their schedule no doubt factored in.

But this doesn't excuse the fact that the public lecture – and conference in general – should have been publicized more.

Big changes are being made at Laurier. It's time to get the gears to its PR machine running, and let everyone know that it isn't a backwoods school with no international role.



Dawn Zamboni

Right to protest vital

Keeping peaceful, though perhaps unlawful, demonstrations out of court saves time and money in an already overburdened system



If John Tory had his way, any individual or group who chose to stand up for their rights would be sued – or worse yet, thrown in jail.

Ontario's Opposition Leader stated at the beginning of May that citizens who participate in illegal protests or blockades should be subjected to legal repercussions for their actions.

As Tory explained, "if I was made premier, I would use the court system to say to people: we have ways of dealing with our complaints, and they don't include blockades and occupations."

Right. How could people forget? The government has incredibly effective ways of dealing with complaints. Like ignoring them until such a significant backlog is created that it forces them to say they're taking action, if only to appease the public, as is the case with nearly 800 land claims made by the Native community.

While Tory claimed to be taking aim at all protesting groups, whether they be advocating for environmental change or farmer's rights, it is clear that Tory was specifically taking aim at the highly publicized Native protests of late, such as the Caledonia blockade that began last year.

The disruption in Caledonia was spearheaded by members of the Six Nations of the Grand River in response to a development project on land that the commu-

nity claims was wrongly taken from them.

The blockade began in February 2006 and there has been a police presence patrolling the site ever since.

Tory thinks that the costs incurred by these illegal protests shouldn't burden Canadian citizens, and thus thinks that by pursuing legal action against protesters, it will benefit the greater good.

Aside from the fact that Canadian court systems are already overburdened and delayed, Tory's proposal demonstrates yet again a preference of 'Canadian' priorities over those of the aboriginal Canadians, as if Natives aren't full-fledged Canadians, entitled to the same rights and privileges as other Canucks.

The preferences of government officials are made increasingly apparent when developers are given permission to build on land whose claims have yet to be resolved while the Native community's rights are ignored and their claims lost in the backlog.

It is evident that aboriginal people, among other groups, don't have a level playing field when it comes to having their demands considered. And as the old cliché goes, desperate times call for desperate measures.

The Six Nations people of Caledonia surely didn't want to begin a 15-month protest, costing them time, money and energy, but when their claims weren't acknowledged, they resorted to one of their few options.

And it worked. Sort of. The protest brought national attention

to their issue and to the issues of other communities around the country.

For many Canadians, this was probably the first time they realized that land disputes were still ongoing and hadn't been resolved when the pilgrims made dinner – or whatever the Canadian equivalent is.

By bringing light to their issue and gaining media attention, the Native community has been able to gain more leverage than they would have had they stuck to the "legal" route of simply filing a complaint or a land claim.

By persecuting protestors, Tory would not only be infringing on the right of Canadian citizens to their freedom of assembly and speech, but he'd also be making it damn near impossible for any group that wasn't a favoured 'Canadian' priority to gain any kind of resolution to their complaint or issue.

All Canadian citizens should be given the right to peaceful protests.

Whether in the courtroom or in the boardroom, dealing with the problems raised by protestors is going to cost Canadian citizens. They might as well be given a voice in the streets and leave the judicial system to deal with more important matters.

If all else fails, the Canadian government might even consider dealing with the complaints before they become protests, saving everyone the headaches and heartaches of another 15-month blockade.

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THE CORD WEEKLY

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Green trend lacks sacrifice



ALLIE MAXTED
RESIDENT CYNIC

Wind turbines, electric cars, carbon offsets, animal rights: one of these things, according to the increasingly popular green movement, is not like the others.

With consumers finally being convinced of the realities of global warming, it seems green will continue to be the buzzword of choice for corporations and news media alike for quite some time.

But what does it mean to go green?

As I witness more and more media telling me how to go green, I increasingly see the movement as a bandage placed around a cancer-stricken body. It makes us feel like we are doing something, but a bandage is an overly simple and dangerous solution for a problem that will only grow more destructive if left unchecked.

A recent Toyota ad serves as an example of the feel-good nature of the movement. Buying a hybrid is equated with warm fuzzy things like life-changing medical breakthroughs and charity work. We crave such reassurances and the huge green product market has opened up to fulfill this need.

The positive intent of the movement, for consumers if not corporations, is likely genuine. You are, no doubt, doing a good thing by buy-

ing a hybrid car. We are better off with the movement than without. My intention here is not to argue these points.

Nonetheless, as cynical as it may be to say so, the nature of the products born out of the movement demonstrate it to be little more than a way for people to feel like they are saving the world without truly understanding the issues.

Where do animal rights come into this equation? Animal rights and other deeply important environmental concerns have managed to dodge the spotlight that shines so brightly on carbon reduction.

This neglect is the force behind the future problems we will face in battling climate change and environmental destruction.

On the CBC's website I came across an article about reusable shopping bags designed so as not to compromise style (as if the plastic ones we have been using were stylish in the first place).

I love the idea of reusable shopping bags and applaud the government's plan to cut the use of the plastic version by 50 percent. But the particular reusable bag that I am talking about, valued at over \$900, is made of silk and calf skin.

I wonder if I am the only one who sees the irony in this. Silk has long been under the attack of environmentalists, as the silk worms die when the cocoons are harvested. And calf skin, well, it's calf skin.

The bag is a contradiction in itself and is a symbol of everything that's wrong with the green movement.



Contributed photo

AIN'T EASY BEING GREEN - Many trendy new green movement products don't address environmental concerns. British handbag designer Anya Hindmarch's cotton "I'm not a plastic bag" tote does a better job.

The difficulty is that people see things like animal rights and carbon emissions reduction as separate issues; however, they are all connected to how we see our place in the world. As long as we continue to see ourselves as the ultimate masters of nature, we will always believe that we can fix our problems with new ideas and technology rather than sacrifice.

Carbon offsets are one way we've chosen to do this. Carbon offsets al-

low those who can afford it to pay to become carbon neutral. You don't need to avoid flying if you can pay someone to plant a few trees to make up for it.

A similar idea applies with emissions trading, where low-emitting companies are able to sell their unused permission to pollute to dirtier companies. This idea has grown into a multi-billion dollar business.

Unwillingness to sacrifice and to fundamentally change one's

lifestyle can be seen in nearly all popular products of the new green movement. Such an attitude has enabled us to get by in the past, and as a result we feel that it can continue into the future.

The problem is, we've never faced anything quite like global warming before.

letters@cordweekly.com

The orchestra of life's smaller players

History may glorify the leaders and conquerors, but the lovers, family-makers and workers of the world are just as important



DON MORGENSON
ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

The best parts of human history are never written at all - family life, giving children life and love, patient service and quiet endurance are rarely noted by historians. The person who leads a conquering army into victory is immortalized; a political leader bringing his/her country into prominent history is "beatified." All the while, multitudes of us who make this possible are rarely mentioned. Fame, glitter and brilliance are found on the upper rungs of the social ladder of achievement - but life has other treasures equally great, which all people, regardless of position or place, may possess.

Many of us are second fiddlers in the orchestra of life. We happily reconcile ourselves to occupying positions of humble obscurity expecting to be names and little more - tenants and tax-payers, produc-

ers, consumers - respectable, quiet and plodding folk.

Yet it would be a mediocre orchestra which relied exclusively on its first violins. The second violin section is absolutely vital and biographies of so-called "great lives" throw into quick relief the importance of "background figures": wives, husbands, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers and friends whose names may not be known to history but upon whose influence the more visible lives turned crucially to their destinies. If it had not been for the second fiddles, the first fiddles would never have been able to play at all or become the virtuosi they were destined to be.

Every player in the orchestra of life is important - every person is unique with individual gifts and talents, wonderfully varied and beautiful. Whatever we are or do, and whatever others may think of us, nobody else can be us; nobody else can be you and nobody else can be me. We have happened only once in this awesome, fiery cosmos and it is this uniqueness which

gives us our place - always and everywhere. We cannot do without any one of us. If only we could get this truth into our hearts and live by it, life would take on new meanings and any labor would become a new dignity.

And is it not the common purpose of the orchestra of life which really glorifies the second fiddles? Every note and tone, dominated by the composer's mind has its essential place whether one is playing second or third fiddle or even waiting in the wings. The one great question we have to answer is whether the purpose for the common good of humanity is thriving through love and service? Our own personal ambitions and positions in society matter very little, but the earnestness with which we make our contributions and the fact that we make that contribution consistent with life's plan and purpose - this matters most.

Those of us playing second fiddle continue to make regular attempts to keep in touch with the "noosphere" - that world of the mind as

the Greeks called it. It contains the values, ideals, conceptions that enoble us and make us more than mere dust. This world of ideas, the "eidos" of Plato, requires constant cultivation and effort at its expansion or it slowly dims out of our lives. Through such a connection, we grow in the grasp of the why of things and the richness of sharing in the intellectual and spiritual achievements of our species.

And to realize that even we second fiddlers can leave behind nourished ideas, mentorships, cultural advances and perhaps some material prosperity for the support of those who come after us, is deeply satisfying.

As second fiddlers, sitting in the back tiers of the orchestra, it is important to make clear the ultimate disposition of human life. Reflecting on our late stages of life, we cannot mistake the fact that we use each stage to prepare for the next. Our formal schooling, employment, marriage, our children, usually followed the preparation at each former level. Expanding our

consciousness, relating ourselves to a larger frame of reference, taking responsibility for our behavior in a broader vision of things, belonging to a more inclusive world community - these are the norms of human growth. Is there any convincing reason to think these forward thrusts should stop simply because we have moved from the first violins section to the second?

Through the many eons of past time we have all contributed to building a redeemed humanity and at all ages continue to be invited as workers in that sacred purpose. Tasks that are great and conspicuous are assigned to some, and they deserve our recognition and some duties that seem small and unimportant are given to others. But whether tasks given us are great or small we do them exceedingly well. In life's work the little one may become a million and we continue to depend on those who may play the second fiddle.

letters@cordweekly.com

AC neglects students

Renovations at the Athletics Complex inconvenience while technical problems constantly cause a bother



JEREMY CARNEGIE
RAGING RED-HEAD

A few years ago, the fitness centre at the AC underwent renovations. During this time, anyone wanting to use the weights or non-cardio machines that were previously housed there had to cram into a small squash court and a dance room, or make the trek to the defunct gym at Northdale Campus (which housed a limited selection of "heavy" dumbbells and weights). It was a dark time for athletes and fitness fanatics alike, but it was tolerated due to the promise of the brand new facility opening in the fall of 2005. Now in the summer of 2007 (less than two years after the new fitness centre opened), renovations have begun again, leaving users with a bitter taste in their mouths.

The current renovation, which began on May 14 and will continue until early June, is intended to improve soundproofing between the free-weight section of the gym (located in the southwest corner of the fitness centre) and the kinesiology labs below, preventing disturbance

of the classes from the dropping of weights above.

These renovations have rendered close to one-third of the fitness centre unusable, and have subsequently displaced many of the free weights and benches that were previously housed there. Although the staff has attempted to rearrange the room in order to accommodate the equipment from the space being renovated, much of it has been removed.

As for whether anything is planned to compensate or accommodate members during this time, Roly Webster, Coordinator of Facilities, Events and Sponsorship for the Laurier Athletics and Recreation Department, indicated that AC staff see no need to extend hours during "the off-season." He said that staff was able to inform community users, alumni, faculty and staff of the renovations before May 1, when term or year memberships have to be purchased.

Communications studies alumni Tyson Wentworth disagrees: "Nobody told me about the renovations and I wouldn't have gotten a membership had I known about it."

This is not simply a matter of the current inconvenience of renovations, but rather that these renovations are yet another example of a

facility that seems to care little of the comfort or satisfaction of their patrons.

Since the opening of the new fitness centre, it has been fraught with problems and inconveniences, from a lack of usable barbells – the number actually being reduced to three during the winter months, while there were six benches and one squat rack designed specifically for their use – to pieces of equipment being rendered out-of-order for months at a time.

A much more pressing issue, however, is the lack of a focus on safety in the facility. An example of this is the absence of operational collars (metal clips placed on bars to prevent the weights from falling off) for barbells. At last count, for the five barbells in the fitness centre, there were four sets of collars with two of the four not actually able to adequately perform their stated purpose on the bar I was using.

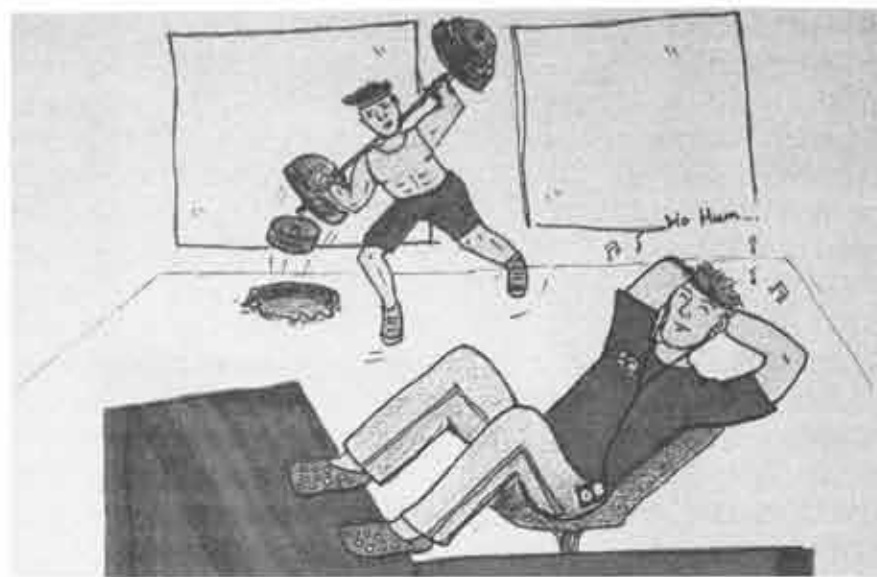
Often, it is not discovered that equipment is broken until it falls apart or fails to operate while in use. Of course, it is understood that equipment often only malfunctions during use, but the question has to be asked why fitness centre staff do not test and check the equipment more often.

Many malfunctions, such as barbells and dumbbells breaking apart, can be dangerous when they occur during use, but can often be prevented by simply tightening them with an allen key on a regular basis.

All these problems together seem to paint a picture of a facility that is completely comfortable in its poor service. After all, poor service would rarely correlate to a decrease in membership (as the majority of members are the Laurier student body). As fourth-year student Louie Dimatteo puts it, "the gym doesn't seem to be run by people who actually use it."

Maybe the 2004-2005 improvements to the fitness centre have spoiled us by creating an expectation that the performance of the equipment and facilities will correspond somehow to its new appearance. However, is it an extraordinary request that out-of-order equipment be fixed within a month? Is it completely unreasonable to expect that AC staff check the equipment for malfunction on a regular basis? Is it too much to ask that a new facility function properly for at least two full years before it has to be repaired again? I don't think it is.

letters@cordweekly.com



Sydney Heiland

GYM IN A JAM - Poor service brings down the quality of the AC.

> Letters to the Editor

Give it an F'N chance

In response to the article, "F'nM should give a chance to everyone" I would argue instead that "You should give F'nM a chance." This dance show did indeed bring everyone together, creating an airtight bond of girls in tights, fake eyelashes, and guys with hilarious backstage antics. Perhaps you have decided to remain anonymous because you have made completely invalid claims regarding the technical requirements of female dancers during the audition process, which could in turn damage the positive reputation of F'nM. You pose the question, "What happens when students are denied the opportunity to participate solely because they'd already missed out on previous opportunities?" Nobody ever told us in info sessions, at the interview, or at the audition, "Leave the gym if you can't do 20 back flips and kick yourself in the face." There was no prerequisite for female dancers to audition. Perhaps it was easier to actually HIRE "dancers" because they have the discipline needed to come to every rehearsal, can take risks in choreography, and are comfortable onstage.

I also find your overdramatic clincher sentence, "its about people who share a common passion coming together, working hard and having fun; it's not about elitist exclusion practices" to be quite off

the mark. You make F'nM seem like some freakish hierarchy with girls in tutus at the top, proudly sporting their competition medals from third grade. It's really not. If you went to the show I'm sure you saw that many scenes were not technically based. I even know of a few choreographers hired who had no formal dance training!

And for the record: everyone has the opportunity to learn dance. I say this because alongside training at a dance studio I taught myself from watching others, going to open classes, and taking opportunities in high school. Whining doesn't make things happen; getting off the bitter bus and doing something does.

- Marie Laramée

The Death of Ezra Avenue

Recently, I stared in dismay as I watched the demolition of four houses at the tail end of Ezra Avenue. The demolition crews were clearing the way for yet another apartment building. These bland, life-killing, money-making buildings have been sprouting up on Ezra like dandelions on my front lawn. I can only guess how long it will be before my house falls victim to the development guillotine, as landlords seem bent on securing themselves a good retirement and care little for the death of what

once was a masterpiece in student community.

I felt very honoured as I was able to move onto Ezra Avenue this year. I knew I was moving to a street that had a legendary history and a glamorous reputation. Early in September I set out to find out what made Ezra the "party street", and I quickly found the reason. It was not simply the fact the Ezra is a student ghetto, but rather the marvelous invention of the front porch. The front porch enabled students to maintain the comfort of their own house, but still interact with the street. Students would sit on their front porch with drinks and interact with their neighbors and passers-by. I fondly recall students yelling through megaphones to their neighbors to come and get tanked. When the parties became larger the street was informally closed off, and the masses would spill onto the streets. Walking down Ezra on a Friday night in September was a remarkable sight, a genuine experience in culture.

But alas, this is all coming to an end. These houses and their porches, these remarkable venues of student gatherings, are being knocked down for more profitable apartment buildings – buildings that, while nice on the inside, destroy community. Ezra is now a shadow of its former self. While the parties sometimes became too rowdy, Ezra provides a true experience that no student should go through school

without.

- John Clements

Awareness vital

This is in response to your article from last week, entitled "Good ride-dance, WLU." In the most polite manner possible, let me start by explaining how ashamed I am, not only as a Laurier student, but as a human being, to hear how "awareness" is not one of the things we'll miss. As a person who devotes much of his time helping the homeless, orphans and less privileged in other countries (i.e. California, USA; Argentina, Uruguay, Venezuela), I feel insulted that the 'Student Life Staff' would place a higher importance on things such as "Always having someone to drink with" over awareness issues. If "awareness" were such a problem, why would you bother including articles on Stephen Lewis, an individual who devotes his entire career to raising awareness on important issues? Why would you bother mentioning my name in last week's article on Mykola Vlasov, where my main goals were to raise awareness on his disappearance and present awareness to his family that the Laurier community cares? You claim that the main problem is the lack of energy the Laurier community is devoting to solving the problem, but how can one solve a problem if he/she is unaware of the issue?

Although many do not care about the atrocities that happen in the world, it is still a worthwhile effort to attempt to find those that do care and present them with a situation where they can devote their energy to help the cause. While not all of those that 'talk the talk walk the walk,' it's crucially important to find those who are able to do both. This is the only way change can occur. If you believe that finding someone to get hammered with is more important than informing people about worldwide injustices, I seriously suggest you consider getting your priorities set straight. As a university, we should pride ourselves on having a platform where we can instigate change, not self-absorbed individuals who pride themselves on consuming pizza-and-pitcher deals.

- Gilad Cohen

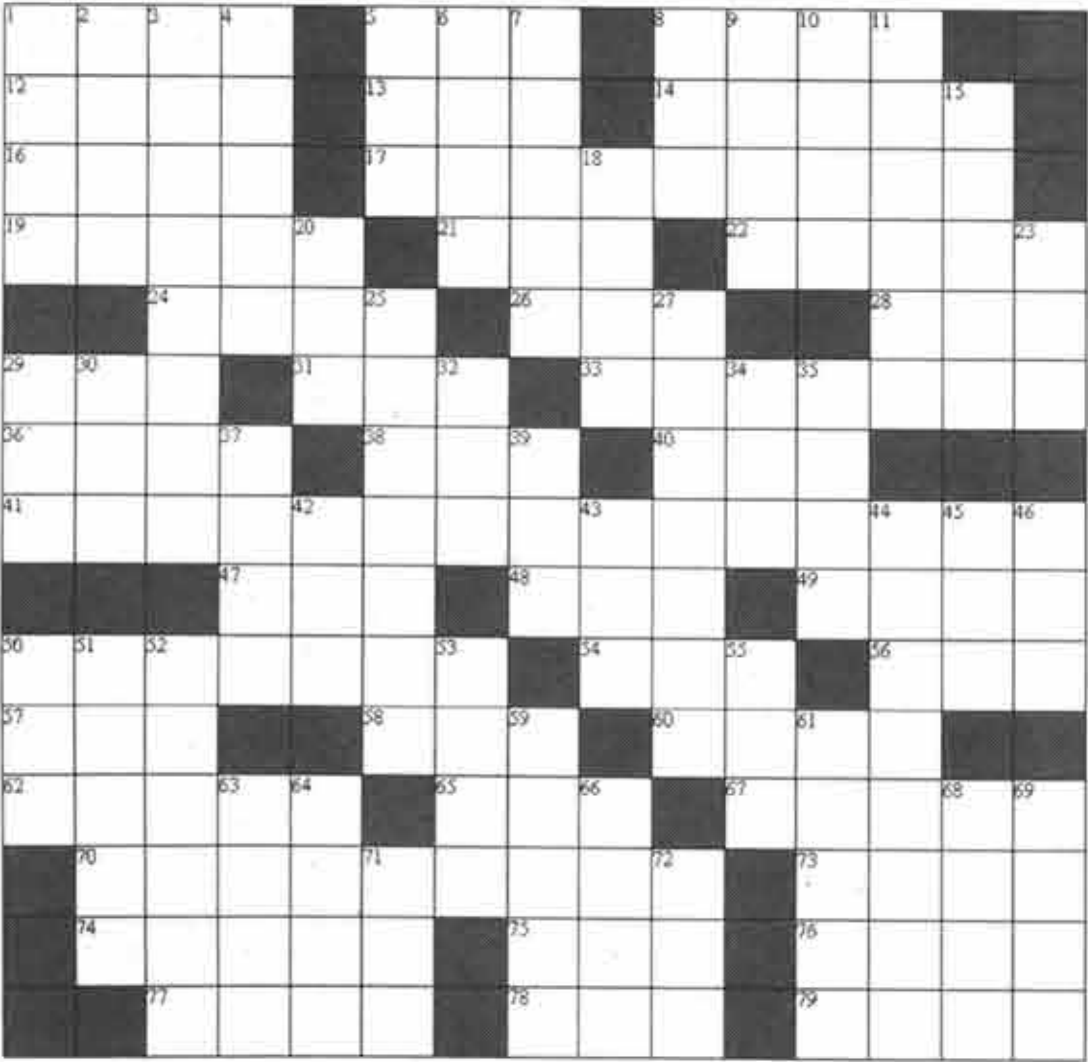
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The Cord reserves the right to edit any letter for brevity and clarity. The Cord reserves the right to reject any letter, in whole or in part. The Cord reserves the right to not publish material that is deemed to be libelous or in contravention with the Cord's Code of Ethics or journalistic standards.

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



- Across
1. Important time, for 3 down

5. Religious path

8. Mormon state

12. Nautical direction

13. Airport acronym

14. Goes it alone

16. Use an awl

17. Horrifying villain

19. Sows

21. Clown's ammo

22. Lethargic

24. Actor Noah

26. Blue

28. Star Trek shape-shifter

29. Long, long ____

31. Thanksgiving treat

33. Scorning speeches

36. Popular video game

38. Republican's colour

40. Finish a roof
41. Horrifying director

47. Aura

48. Homer's phrase

49. Urban problem

50. Like the green-eyed monster

54. Green or white

56. Recede

57. Food scrap

58. Pop's business partner

60. Tow

62. Croc kin

65. London timepiece

67. Land parcel

70. Horrifying novel

73. Actor Epps

74. Duck down

75. Eggs

76. Female equine

77. Beatty and Flanders

78. Capture

79. Chip in chips

- Down
1. Pats

2. Burn lotion

3. Horrifying creature

4. Dependent

5. Pin number

6. Overhead

7. Gallagher band

8. Exploit

9. Punishable deed

10. J'ai ____

11. Dragster

15. Elvis' fabric

18. Daring deed

20. Cunning

23. Early IBM software

25. Hearing necessity

27. Abandoned (sl.)

29. Eureka!

30. Buffalo ____

32. Apathetic utterance

34. Stadium cheer

35. Rainbows

37. Dentist word

39. Performed

42. A ____ U

43. Wee one

44. Horrifying film (with 'The')

45. Corn unit

46. Soviet agent: (abbr.)

50. Refresh the memory

51. Turn a pencil around

52. Get

53. Weeps

55. Skill

59. Brunch serving

61. Fragrance

63. ____ English

64. Marsh feature

66. Super ____

68. Buggy's partner

69. Ancestry guide

71. Fem. Title

72. Bill

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

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K-W theatre gets intimate

Twelfth Night

Waterloo does Shakespeare with a student - and musical - twist

CARRIE MCNABB
STAFF WRITER

Director: Alan K. Sapp
Starring: Andrew Lakin, Kathleen Sheehy
Performed May 10-12.

If you ask any high school student, they will tell you that Shakespeare and fun are certainly not synonymous. In fact, they may go so far as to say that Shakespeare is not cool; in fact, he's pretty lame.

But this is where *Twelfth Night* turns the tide. *Twelfth Night* is one of the more popular plays to perform, because anyone can produce this show (amateur or professional - with or without a budget) and it is relatively easy for modern audiences to understand and relate to.

Where many of Shakespeare's comedies have become unpopular due to the lack of relevance to today's issues, such as *The Merchant of Venice* and its clear anti-Semitic values, *Twelfth Night*'s theme of unrequited love has managed to stay popular with audiences throughout the years. But from this comes a slight problem: how can a theatre company differentiate their production from the countless others? Easily - with the addition of a little spice known as music.

Kitchener-based Lost & Found

Theatre joined forces with UW Drama to stage *Twelfth Night* from May 10 to 12 at the Theatre of the Arts on UW's campus. Director Alan Sapp attempted to set his show apart from others by integrating original music designed just for the show. This gave it a contemporary flair as it departed from traditional Shakespearean boundaries.

Music director Meghan Bunce composed the entire score in what is certainly a grand achievement in her music career. It includes the medley for several songs sung by Feste the clown (Michael Albert), and the music for a short movement piece involving the entire cast, which precedes the play. Bunce is no stranger to music composition, studying that very subject here at WLU; she also directed an operamusical for this past year's Fringe Festival based on Robert Munsch's *Mortimer*.

Wonderful performances were given by the entire cast, most notably UW drama veteran Michelle Jedrzejewski, as the striking Viola and her masculine alter-ego Cesario. Jedrzejewski captures the all-too-familiar pain associated with unrequited love and without a doubt captures the hearts of the audience.

The gullible Sir Andrew Aguecheek, played by another UW

drama veteran, Brad Cook, receives laughs from his physical comedy and his character's simple wit. Kathleen Sheehy toyed with gender expectations to play the crude, drunkard Sir Toby Belch, and had the audience absolutely convinced that she was no sweet ingénue, but a crass, sexualized, drunken old man.

In a part that lends itself to great physical comedy, Andrew Lakin stole the show as one of Shakespeare's most infamous and memorable characters, Malvolio the puritan. When Lakin waltzed onto the stage in his yellow cross-gartered stockings, there was not one dry eye in the house - it was nothing short of a miracle that the contagious eruption of laughter did not spread onstage to Lakin's stoic face.

Although this is the first joint production by UW Drama and Lost and Found Theatre, it surely can't be the last. According to the Lost and Found blog, Sapp hopes "to help bridge the gap between the academic and the professional" with this production, giving both students and professionals the chance to learn something from their peers.

PAUL ALVIZ
A&E EDITOR

Director: Leah Cherniak
Starring: Kerry Ann Doherty and Paul Braunstein
On until June 3, call 519-571-0928

It was a bit of an unusual night at Kitchener's King Street Theatre Centre, something not uncommon for the small, audacious venue.

Theatre and Company's production of *Intimate Exchanges* is somewhat of a tour de force for actors attempting the behemoth of a script from writer Alan Ayckbourn. In total, all of the scenes comprising the script can run for a full seventeen hours. But don't worry, Theatre and Company won't strap you into your seats and take you hostage. In fact the seats encircle three sides of the stage, making for a close "intimate" environment. Not to mention that there isn't a bad seat in the house.

Each night the show runs, there are a series of paths which the story can twist and turn down, alternating the storyline itself, and ultimately the ending. A live-action-choose-your-own-adventure story, if you will. An intriguing prospect, although it makes for a potentially precarious review.

Despite the inherent unpredictable outcome of the complete story, there are a few structures which the play follows. It's comprised of four separate scenes: one each in the present (the year 1982, when the script was written), five days later, five weeks later, and finally five years later.

In each scene a character is faced with a choice, at which point a blue light engulfs the stage accompanied by some ubiquitous elevator music, until a decision is arrived upon. The choice made ultimately affects all the following scenes and range of options for the story to develop.

Intimate Exchanges is a British farce, poking fun at the lust, deceit and melancholy brought about by close relationships. The show features six lively, archetypal characters, played seamlessly by only two actors, without discrepancy or confusion as to who's who. A quick change in costume and the actors' keen grasp of facial expression, body language and dialect let the audience know clearly which character is on stage.

The main characters are a lovable alcoholic schoolmaster, his anxious and repressed wife, their scraggly, hormonal teenage housekeeper, and a boorish sexpot of a gardener. The too smooth, innuendo-ridden speech of the gardener in particular had the audience in stitches much of the time. Tension, attraction and hilarity ensue as these characters face sometimes simple - and other times moral - dilemmas.

With only two actors portraying six characters, the set is made up



Contributed Photo

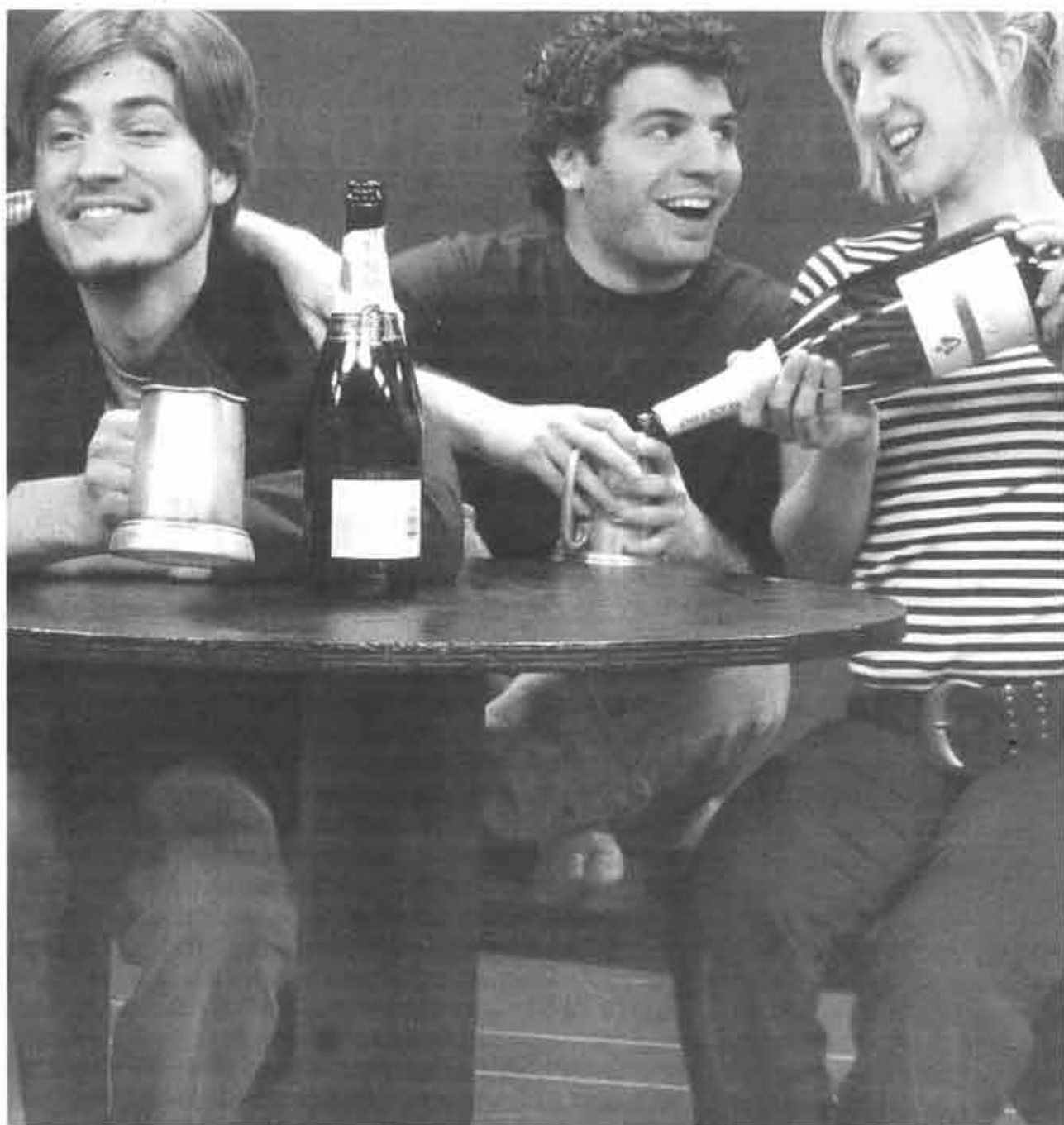
of a collage of naturalistic panels in the background, with a few doors that triple as a house, park and church. The stage is home to cylindrical objects that are tables, rocks and plants intermittently.

This particular version of the show concluded with a funeral, although some nights it ends with a wedding or Easter. A second viewing of the show is half price with a ticket stub from your first viewing. Check out *Intimate Exchanges* for an unpredictable night.

King Street Theatre Company opens its doors

All actors in the region should keep their schedules open for June 18 and 19, when the theatre will be holding general auditions. The Company's new artistic director, Daryl Cloran, is excited to see the talent that springs forth from a simmering, theatrically enthusiastic place like K-W.

Along with the new Director of Development and Marketing Cheryl Ewing, Cloran is hoping to see Theatre and Company take a more serious dive into the art of theatre, and offer performances that challenge the community. King Street Theatre Centre, the physical home to Theatre and Company, can be rented out to other performing companies, increasing the prospects of a greater variety of shows in the area.



Contributed Photo

SOME WINE WITH YOUR UNREQUITTED LOVE? - Lovers share drinks and tales in UW's *Twelfth Night*.

A fellowship of funny

The Perry Bible Fellowship's creator gives his take on surrealism, revolution, and giant "mutant hero" rats with extra limbs

- FROM **COMIC**, BACK COVER

A lot of people comment that PBF is "fucked up." Gurewitch expands on the notion of surrealism. "I really enjoy the idea of a revolution. I love it when chaotic things happen."

And chaotic things do happen, as a matter of course, in the comics. Things like unicorns who impale schoolyard bullies, "mutant heroes" turning out to be giant rats with extra limbs, and a group of recurring characters who look like barbarian slug aliens.

"I think the magic of those guys is that they're simultaneously reptilian, mammalian, intellectual, and yet disastrously low-brow. I think their fundamental characteristic is that of a fraternity brother," says Gurewitch.

PBF is unusual as an online strip, perhaps, in that Gurewitch maintains the traditional format of three or four panels, aligned horizontally, with the punchline or image found in the final panel. His art is colourful and eye-catching, although he demonstrates his skill as an artist by changing the style for a number of his strips. One is done, for example, in the style of Edward Gorey.



Used with permission

IGNORANCE IS BLISS - Sgt. Grumbles is content in a fan favourite from the PBF comic strip drawn by artist Nicholas Gurewitch.

Another was made entirely in pixels, as opposed to his usual pencil and paper approach.

For comic strips, breaking through the print industry can be harder than teaching a cat to fetch. Syndicates put boundaries not just on the art, but on the content. On the internet however, there are no restrictions - not for space, not for content, not for traditions. It's the perfect forum for a strip like PBF

to prove that the public can handle jokes that "go there."

Webcomics cover a wide range of artistic styles as well as a wide range of content. Everything from manga to clip art, scribbles to beautiful art, and everything in-between can be found in this medium. As far as content is concerned, there is a comic for everyone: from science puns to the life of a scenester, and from dark or even tragic humour to

crack rocks of pure, silly joy. On the internet, the humble comic strip is flourishing, and has been since the 1990s. Today, there are thousands of them, a number of which are hugely popular and are bound to show up in culture as much as classic print comics like *Peanuts* or *Calvin and Hobbes*.

PBF comics challenge, question and entertain at the same time. Being a fan of *The Far Side* and *Calvin*

and *Hobbes*, Gurewitch invokes the spooky philosophy we're used to seeing in Larson's single panel jokes, or coming from the mouth of a stuffed cat. Readers who are easily offended may shy away, but those appreciative of Gurewitch's firm grasp of wit and irony are challenged to leave without a smile on their face.

The Perry Bible Fellowship can be read at www.pbfcomics.com

Ogre epic gets overdone

Shrek the Third runs like a broken record that won't stop spinning, no matter how much it needs to

WENDY NIND
STAFF WRITER

Usually film sequels fall in one of two categories: they attempt to be too different from the original, or they go overboard and use too many of the same jokes and plot sequences from the earlier films. *Shrek the Third* fits easily into the latter category; the jokes fit the



Shrek 3
Director: Chris Miller
Starring: Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz, Eddie Murphy
Original Release Date: May 18, 2007
Recommendation:
WAIT FOR DVD

Shrek series to a T, the only issue being that there are just too many of them.

It's easy to discredit sequels, and this film certainly doesn't deserve a bad rap, but there are many faults that could have been easily avoided in this third installment of the ogre epic.

The film begins with the death of the Frog King of Far Far Away, which leads to Shrek's search for Princess Fiona's cousin Arthur - the next heir to the throne.

Meanwhile, the evil Prince Charming gathers an army of fairy tale villains to overtake the kingdom and becomes king in Shrek's absence. In the midst of the mayhem, Shrek tries to come to terms with becoming a father and the fairy tale world is turned around to reveal princesses with power and villains with heart.

There are plenty of adult jokes to relish, as well as the silly stuff that's great for everyone to enjoy. The overall plot of the film is focused mostly on Shrek and his journey toward becoming a father, which is a nice way to top off the trio of films, but it makes it a little less accessible for youth and young adults. One of the pluses in the first two films is that they managed to make great movies that seemed both refreshing and effortless.

Regrettably, *Shrek the Third* is jammed full of constant action that it seems forced and sometimes

overdone. It's unfortunate that there seems to be too much action, too many characters, too many plot lines and too many anti-cliches.

Though it is normal to expect a poor acting job from a singer-turned-actor, Justin Timberlake's half-assed portrayal of Arthur in the film isn't entirely his fault. His character is supposed to give the film depth, but the little amount of time that is spent on developing his story just feels too uninspired.

The problem is that it isn't possible to create enough emotion behind his character without the movie being too serious, but the bits they try to add don't fit well with the comedy, and so they end up sticking out and being tedious.

In addition to Arthur, *Shrek the Third* introduces many great new characters to Far Far Away, including Merlin, Snow White and Sleeping Beauty. Unfortunately, their roles are undermined by a lack of screen time to expand on their potentially hilarious roles.

Similarly, older characters that added a great deal of depth to *Shrek 2*, like Queen Lillian and Puss in Boots, are either poorly written into the story or have only minor parts. Julie Andrews' talent goes to waste, and a plot twist involving Puss in Boots and Donkey just overwhelms the already jam-packed tale.

Simply put, *Shrek the Third* uses too much of its own medicine, which leaves it with an odd com-

bination of great comedy and the feeling that there is just too much going on to concentrate on any one thing in particular.

Still, while it's easy to find fault, there are definitely some good laughs.

Though you might want to wait for the DVD to come out, it's still worth a look.



Contributed Photo

INFAMOUS GREEN MUG - Friendships are tested in *Shrek the Third*.

CORD/ONLINE

> cordweekly.com
> Arts & Entertainment

Pirates ahoy

Pirates' final voyage leaves the trilogy on a high note, albeit not so final, says **Kari Pritchard**.

LP's new direction

Mike Brown takes a stab at Linkin Park after they take a stab at reinventing themselves - to a bittersweet end.

Plaskett packs punch

The Joel Plaskett Emergency pumps infectious, quintessentially Canadian rock into Waterloo's Starlight Lounge



NOWHERE WITH YOU - Far from going nowhere, Canadian rock sensation Joel Plaskett has built a reputation for heavy touring, especially within his beloved home and native land.

BRIAN WEADICK
CORD A&E

For Waterloo's busiest street, it is definitely the season for filled patios, busy sidewalks, and for the Steve Miller Band to be played loudly from car windows. In this town, summertime calls for earnest 1970s rock and roll to accompany frothy cold beers as the party gets started. Last Thursday night, the Joel Plaskett Emergency provided such inspired rock, as the filled-to-capacity Starlight Lounge danced and drank into the early morning.

Nearing the end of yet another cross-Canada tour, the 32-year-old Plaskett and his band mustered

an ample amount of energy to persuade the receptive Waterloo crowd to sing along on almost every song. With fists and drinks in the air, the Starlight heard Plaskett play a diverse set, ranging from 1999's *In Need of Medical Attention* to the recently-released *Ashtray Rock* (2007).

His material covered a wide range of themes, from bizarre love triangles and teenage 'bromance,' to small town devotion and highway traveling stories. Such a diverse song book led to a long night of entertainment by the humble boyish demeanor of Plaskett, and his 'Emergency' band.

A veteran of the Halifax Pop Ex-

plosion of the early 1990s, over the years Plaskett has accumulated a number of dedicated fans, resulting in a mixed audience of teenage youth and thirty-somethings last Thursday. Distinctively Can-Rock, Plaskett's passion and presence was a testament to years of touring the country as a solo artist, as well as with former band Thrush Hermit.

Towing the line between singer-songwriter and indie rock, the melody-driven anthems of Plaskett appealed both young and older concert goers. Plaskett at times evoked the sentiments of a full 'Americana' sounding band, such as Bruce Springsteen's *E Street*

Band, but equally evoked Canadian patriotism as he referenced Kelowna, B.C., numerous Maritime locations, as well as Toronto and Montreal, in "Work Out Fine," off of 2004's *Truthfully Truthfully*.

Plaskett's stylings are classically familiar, doing nothing less traditional rock and roll. Riff happy rock songs brought to mind Led Zeppelin (albeit with an enthusiastic small town Canuck on vocals), while others sounded much more pop oriented in the vein of Big Star.

A well-rounded backing band provided bass, drums, and piano, with guest spots for saxophone and harmonica. The band's set-up permitted a focused agenda, allow-

ing Plaskett's songs to shine, with a little flair for show. The evening had a distinct feeling of a house party with a perfect soundtrack to dance and sing to. Plaskett played the experienced showman, working hard to entertain and get the crowd interested, and he was without a doubt successful in doing so, as few concerts in recent memory were as energetic as this one. As Canadians seem to love nothing more than hearing rock bands sing about Canada in the summer, The Joel Plaskett Emergency's performance Thursday was a great way to kick off this year's summer music season.

The most comic of online comics

The *Cord* speaks with Nicholas Gurewitch of the Perry Bible Fellowship comic strip, a world-wide comedy success story

PAUL ALVIZ
A&E EDITOR

ESTHER WHEATON
CORD A&E

There is no better example of the interweb reviving a medium than comic strips. (Well - besides porn.)

The Perry Bible Fellowship, drawn by Nicholas Gurewitch, is a weekly comic, and is certainly not to be confused with anything religious. The name is something of a signifier of what to expect, in the sense that it finds itself completely misplaced within the comics. A common theme throughout is the displacement of the regular.

"I don't necessarily want to bring down a government or destroy anything, but there's a lot to be said for chaos where order is making things very, very boring," says Gurewitch in a telephone interview from his

home in New York. "It's so much fun to see the levy break sometimes."

Although known internationally by its online home, the PBF is printed in over 30 publications (like the *Rochester Insider*, the *New York Press*, and the UK's daily *Guardian*), and has found a follow-

ing larger and more loyal than the artist ever anticipated.

His humour is sometimes dark, with tragedy employed as a comedic device. There is nothing he won't joke about, including religion, sexuality, suicide, violence, and misogyny, often juxtaposed

with childlike whimsy or absurdist puns.

And yet each illustration manages to maintain its comic merit — although some strips take a few readings to sink in. There is so much time put into the comics that the short five-second time frame it takes to

read them often isn't enough. "I like that," said Gurewitch. "I'm glad that you can do that. Because I do that myself. I think I read the comic a thousand times before I actually make it."

- SEE COMIC, PAGE 19

