



Volume 48 Issue 2

THE CORD WEEKLY

The tie that binds since 1926



CENA AWARDS
2007 WINNER
BEST CAMPUS
NEWSPAPER

MYTHBUSTERS

Separating fact from fiction
for Frosh ... **PAGES 14-15**

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FROSH MAILER 2007

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Mould in Leupold concerns profs

Profs felt left in the dark regarding the university's response to
air quality reports done on their temporary office space

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

Mould growing from the tiles and walls, water damage to the rooms, strange smells lingering in the bathrooms, and a lack of air conditioning in the hot summer months - these are only some of the complaints of faculty who had their offices relocated to the Euler and Leupold residences this past year during the construction on the Dr. Alvin Woods Building (DAWB).

The mould problem in particular was so concerning for one sociology professor that after experiencing health problems, his doctor recommended that the university do an air quality test in the building to ensure that it was a safe work environment.

"We took a sample and [the mould levels] were above the outdoor concentrations, but they were not really unusually high," said Stephanie Kibbee, manager of environmental and occupational health and safety at WLU.

The air quality report noted that the fungi, *Cladosporium*, which was identified in the Leupold office, could be a result of the mould growth discovered in the floor and

"IN THE MEN'S WASHROOM UPSTAIRS, IT WAS NAUSEATING... YOU COULD WALK IN THERE AND IF YOU HAD AN ALLERGY YOU WERE LUCKY IF YOU WEREN'T RUSHED TO EMERGENCY."

- Dr. James Weldon

walls, or simply from the high levels of dust found in the office space.

Because the faculty is only residing in the building temporarily, the external consultant suggested letting the current inhabitants finish their term in the building, but stressed that a further investigation should be done before the new tenants come to occupy the space in September.

Kibbee also explained that de-

spite the fact that the mould growth may be concerning, there are no strict rules the university needs to abide by when it comes to determining what appropriate asbestos levels are.

"There is not a regulation for mould; there are only guidelines," said Kibbee.

Though the report determined that the building was satisfactory to inhabit, Dr. Jim Hicks, a doctor at Health Services explains that certain individuals can experience health difficulties if they spend an extended time in an environment with high concentrations of mould.

"With mould, some people are allergic to it and allergies can trigger a major asthma attack," said Hicks.

Hicks added that those who are hypersensitive to fungi, suffer from allergies, or have asthma are especially prone to health problems when they dwell in mould-infested environments.

- SEE MOULD, PAGE 2



Photos by Sydney Holland

Sports scholarships to help with recruitment

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

Students first, athletes second. That is the motto Laurier is using when distributing new athletic scholarships to first-year recruits, thanks to a decision by the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) association.

The vote passed at the OUA's annual general meeting in May 2006 by a 16-3 decision, with Waterloo, Windsor and Trent representing the only three schools in the nay column.

It is hoped the move will begin to level the playing field in the recruitment game between Ontario and other Canadian universities, though this is the first year where Ontario universities have been able to offer incentives to lure in top high school athletes, due to the recruitment season being over by the time last year's decision

was passed.

But although Laurier wants to be able to compete with the larger schools for Canada's top athletes, they still want to maintain their academic integrity as an institution.

"A few years ago, you could be on academic probation and still receive an athletic scholarship," explained Director of Athletics and Recreation Peter Baxter. "We were actually reluctant to vote in favour of the scholarships."

In order to maintain a competitive nature with the larger universities, however, Laurier was forced to make a choice. When the committee at the OUA conference voted in favour of placing a minimum academic average requirement on the scholarships, Laurier jumped on the bandwagon.

- SEE SCHOLARSHIP, PAGE 12

Smart city just got brighter

RIM co-CEO opens wallet for creation of new international affairs institute



DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

As the new, unofficial 'rock star' of the business community, Jim Balsillie, co-CEO of Research in Motion (RIM) seems to know no bounds.

Aside from having his name in the news almost daily lately for bids to buy the National Hockey League's Pittsburgh Penguins and, more recently, the Nashville Predators, Balsillie was in Waterloo on Monday to announce his donation of \$50 million towards a new academic institute.

Unveiling plans for the new Balsillie School of International Affairs a day after biking 137 km with Lance Armstrong in Lake Louise, Alberta, the technology magnate, was all smiles.

MONEY IN MOTION - Jim Balsillie dropped \$50 million on the new Balsillie School of International Affairs at CIGI on Monday.

- SEE BALSILLIE, PAGE 4

THE CORD WEEKLY

- The tie that binds since 1926 -

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I've never seen the Leafs."
- PPM Alex Hayter*"YOU HAVEN'T? Oh, neither have I, actually."* - Web Editor Dan Belgue

WORD OF THE WEEK

Acrimony - Bitterness or hostility, as towards uncooperative university administration.

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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.

Quality of life 'a concern'

Decaying residence building compromising the health of Laurier staff; first-year students will move in as scheduled once September comes around

- FROM MOULD, COVER

"When they say [the mould] is non-toxic, it doesn't mean someone can't react to it, but they will be the exception to the rule," explained Hicks.

With some faculty who resided in the Euler and Leupold buildings for the past year expressing concerns about feeling sicker than usual since moving offices, Hicks explains that identifying the exact causes of such claims can be a very sensitive and difficult task.

"You have A and you have B and whether A and B cause one another is always an issue," Hicks said.

Dr. James Weldon, an English professor at Laurier, has spent the past year working in the Leupold residence and though he didn't personally feel any health effects, he is concerned that the university has kept the faculty in the dark regarding issues with the office space.

"[The university] has a responsibility to advise people if the health conditions aren't up to standard. You can't just let it go and not say anything," said Weldon.

Aside from the mould, Weldon said there have been other problems with the office space that the university has been very slow to address when he and others made complaints.

"In the men's washroom upstairs, it was nauseating and that was for three months and nothing was done," said Weldon. "You could walk in there and if you had an allergy you were lucky if you weren't rushed to emergency," he added.

Though the air quality test came back as acceptable, Weldon still feels that the university could be doing more to communicate with the inhabitants about issues that concern them.

"A university has an ethical obligation to ensure a healthy, safe working environment for everybody," said Weldon. "It is alarming [when they don't advise you of issues] and you wonder what else is out there that you don't know about."

Dr. Debra Nash-Chambers, a contract academic staff in the history department, also spent the last year in the Leupold residence and said that the past year has been a difficult one for the majority of her colleagues.

"There had always been concerns in the building from the administrative staff and other staff periodically," said Nash-Chambers. "The general quality of life in relation to heating and ventilation are concerns," she added.

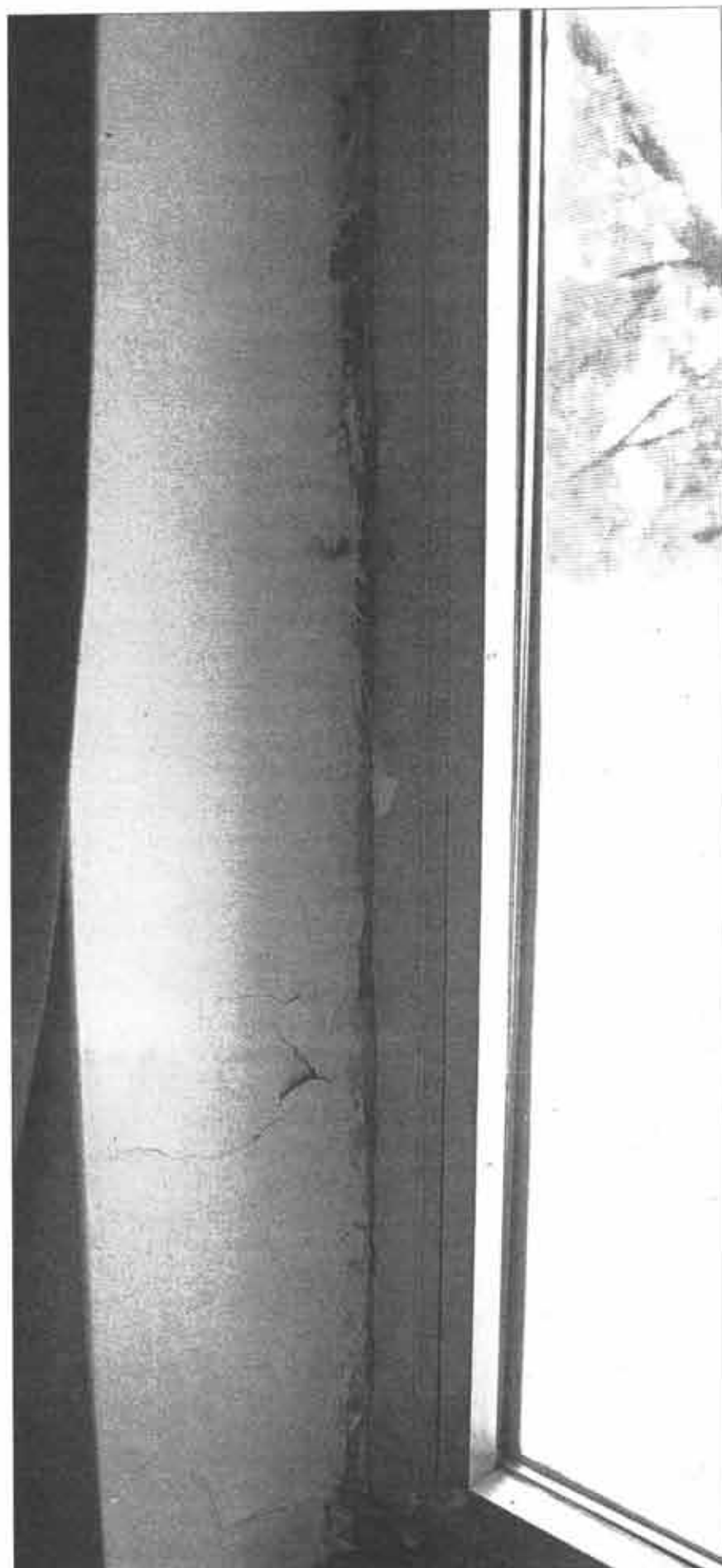
With students set to move back into the building in September, Nash-Chambers hopes that the university will take the recommendations of the air quality report seriously.

"I would think now that there's been a report, and the fact that this building is being turned back into a residence, [the university] should be expeditious to alleviate the concerns of parents and students," said Nash-Chambers.

After just recently receiving a copy of the air quality report, which was conducted back in February, John Campbell, manager of facilities operations at WLU, ensures that the problem "most definitely" will be looked into in the coming months.

"Once the faculty are out of there we'll do a thorough investigation prior to students returning and any remediation work that has to get done, we'll make sure it gets done," said Campbell.

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story



Sydney Holland

LEUPOLD OFFICE UL-131 - A residence building converted into a temporary office during renovations shows its wear.

Frosh numbers above targets

For the second year in a row Laurier has enrolled well above their target numbers for first-years

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

With the deadline for accepting admission having passed, Laurier has once again over-enrolled the number of first-years for the fall incoming class.

Though the number of confirmed students is expected to go down by about 100 for November, currently Laurier has taken 450 students more than planned.

WLU had hoped to take 2685 out of the 22,000 students who applied to the university, but after the May 28 acceptance deadline 3135

students confirmed their offer of admission.

Sue Horton, VP: Academic explained that despite taking measures to ensure that the Waterloo campus wouldn't come in above the set target numbers, the university still ended up with 17 percent more incoming students than they had hoped for.

"We raised cut-offs, so we were caught somewhat by surprise," said Horton. Each department had increased admission entrances from between one and three percent to try and avoid the possibility of the over-enrollment.

Despite these efforts the business program currently has 220 more students confirmed than the university wanted, and all science programs (with the exception of kinesiology and psychology) were 42 percent above target.

Though the university gives money to those departments with the highest increases in students to hire more faculty Peter Tiidus, chair of kinesiology and physical education, describes this as merely a "band-aid" solution.

"The difficulty ultimately is that these students are here for four years and they only give us resources one year at a time," said Tiidus.

"Every year we have to go at it again and ask [administration], because of their mistakes, to please allow us more funding," he added.

As chair of one of the universities smaller programs, Tiidus is experiencing the effects of the constant increases in incoming students.

"[The kinesiology program] has created a reputation for ourselves as a reasonably small, elite, user-friendly place, where there's a fair amount of student-faculty interaction. We're still trying to maintain that, but [the increase in students] does make it more difficult," he explained.

Tiidus sees the need for the university to increase tenured and full-time professors as opposed to just hiring contract and limited-term faculty, which is the approach Laurier is currently taking.

- SEE ENROLLMENT, PAGE 7

> VOCAL CORD

Did your first-year experience live up to your expectations?



"It was a lot of fun and I got involved. I kept myself busy."

- Matt Inglot
Third-year Business/
Computer Science



"Definitely. Residence life is definitely what made it for me. Everyone was so excited and warm."

- Maria Xourafas
Fourth-year Business



"Yeah! I partied a lot and failed some courses. That is pretty much what I expected to happen."

- Josiah Young
Fourth-year Communications
and Global Studies



"I think it did. I don't think I really knew what to expect. I enjoyed being able to get involved."

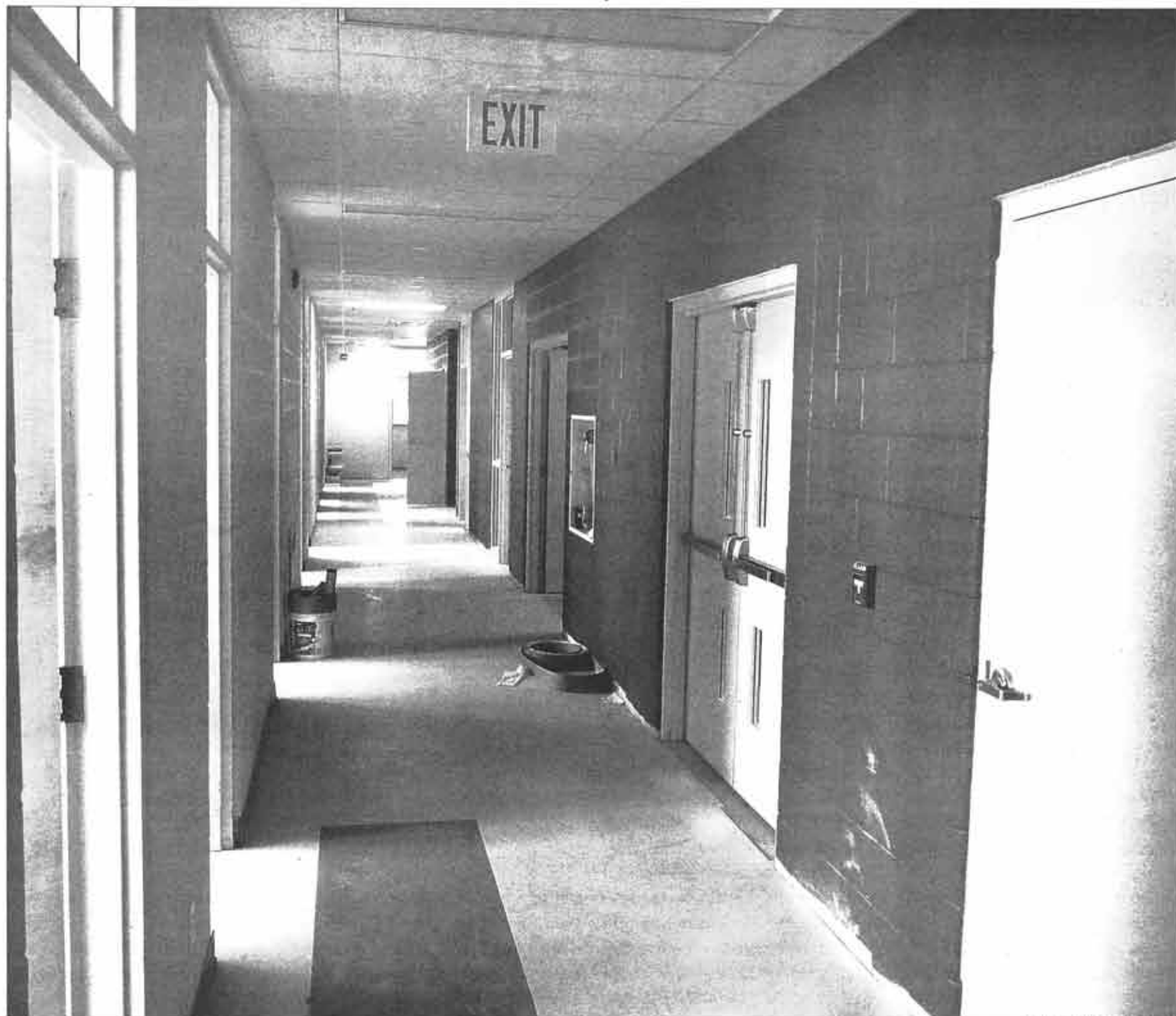
- Audrey Denholm
Third-year Business



"It sure did. It was more than I expected. Everyone was so friendly. I love it here."

- Ross Fraser
Fifth-year Business

Compiled by Riley Taylor



Courtesy of Physical Resources

A LOOK INTO DAWB - With just over a month before faculty are set to move in, the home of the arts department is near completion.

DAWB about done

With labourers back to work, the university is confident that the \$12 million project will be complete for August; arts professors looking forward to moving back into friendlier confines

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

A three-week strike by the Labourers' International Union came to an end on Monday afternoon, which has allowed workers to resume the construction of the \$12 million Dr. Alvin Woods Building (DAWB) project.

Despite the fact that the renovations to the exterior masonry were at a standstill during the Ontario-wide strike, Rob Vanderspek, Laurier's manager of facilities, planning, design and construction, is confident that the university will have full occupancy of the space on August 1.

"[The strike] has impacted the construction a little bit, but we'll still be okay and on schedule," said Vanderspek.

Since more incidental masonry tasks, such as laying the carpets and interior painting, were not effected by the strike, the upper levels of the building are nearly complete, and thus workers should be able to start moving furniture into the new building on July 16.

After having DAWB totally inaccessible this past year, David Docherty, Laurier's dean of arts, is highly anticipating the return of the arts faculty back to its permanent residence.

"It's not been like a vacation for

a couple of weeks at some resort when you look forward to going home. This has been a long time and we're really looking forward to moving back," said Docherty.

With factors such as department disconnect and low student traffic in scattered offices, Docherty feels that this has been a tough year on

"WE'RE BEING PAID ACADEMIC SALARIES FOR GOODNESS SALES - NOT TO DO THINGS LIKE [PACK]."

- James Weldon, Laurier English Prof.

the arts department and says, "it will be nice to have that central feel to the [faculty of arts] again."

The inconvenience of being away from their permanent offices was apparently so great that this year's course evaluations, which students fill out at the end of each semester, were exempt from arts professors' permanent records.

James Weldon, an English professor at Laurier, experienced first-hand the difficulties of working in the Leupold residence for the past year and is in great anticipation of moving back to the building that has been his home for the past twenty years when he began

teaching at Laurier.

"I'm delighted to be moving back; [the temporary space] is not an adequate office," said Weldon.

Although Weldon is excited about the move, he is not without his issues regarding the way everything has been organized.

"The real thing that bothers [the faculty] is the time it takes to pack and unpack. We're being paid academic salaries for goodness sales - not to do things like [pack]. That was a dreadful oversight and a colossal waste of time," said Weldon.

Though the dean's office is coordinating the move, the individual departments are responsible for doing all of their own packing and, as the only full-time staff member in the communications department, Sylvia Hoang, is experiencing first-hand the stress of the move.

On top of doing all of the administrative work for the communications department, Hoang is in charge of making sure everything goes smoothly.

Hoang foresees the toughest part of the move being the first two weeks in August when all the

departments will be preparing for the fall semester, as well as moving into their new offices.

"If we're lucky, we'll be one of the first [departments to move], but if not and we're one of the last ones, then it will be two weeks out of August with our stuff stuck in storage," said Hoang.

"It's unfortunate because if anything goes badly it will impact the students, and that's really what we're here for," she added.

As long as everything does go according to schedule the building will be open for classes in September, and members of the Laurier community can expect to see drastic design changes in the layout of DAWB when it reopens.

These include quiet study spaces, bookable meeting rooms (so students can meet with part-time professors in privacy), large conference rooms, a variation of large and small-scale classrooms, as well as the removal of the one-way up escalator.

According to Docherty, the university has worked diligently to convert the DAWB to an appealing space on campus.

"I think that within the confines of the structures that exist we've tried as much as possible to make it a user-friendly environment," said Docherty.

RIM invests in academia

- FROM BALSILLIE, COVER

"It's an enormous pleasure and a privilege to be able to do these kinds of things," said Balsillie of his investment, \$33 million of which will go towards the school and \$17 million for further research at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI).

"To take the research [that is already being done] to a much higher level ... is really going to do some amazing stuff in the disciplines and on the issues and for the communities, because these are very much the issues of our time," he added, recognizing the efforts of gaining a deeper understanding of global governance and international affairs.

When asked during the media session following the speeches and a tour of the intended location of the new institute (to be located in the vacant lot beside the CIGI building) why it is such a passion of his to donate so much time and money, Balsillie was a little more frank.

"Because I can. Because it can be done," he replied quickly.

And although he was the highest profile at the announcement, by no means was Balsillie the only one doling out some major cash.

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty acknowledged that the province will be matching the \$17 million donation.



ALL SMILES - CIGI Executive Director John English, Waterloo Mayor Brenda Halloran, RIM co-CEO Jim Balsillie and Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty pose for cameras at Monday's news conference.

Very much sold on the fact that it "is our responsibility to stand up as a shining beacon to the rest of the world," McGuinty was apparently very supportive since the initial proposal to help the "home of some of the best and brightest thinkers" in the world.

Even closer to home, both Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo will each pledge \$25 million over a 10-year

span.

"For Laurier, it's a very important initiative. We've been a growing and developing institution as we move towards a more comprehensive university status," explained Bob Rosehart, outgoing President of WLU.

"This is a very good example of what two universities, working together, can really accomplish and I'm sure there's more of these ar-

rangements in the future, building on the strengths of both Laurier and the University of Waterloo."

Scheduled to open by September 2008, the Balsillie School will move into the new building by 2009. The school will prepare students for careers in national governments, international organizations and the private sector, as well as teaching or researching in international affairs.

CANADA IN

\$200 million lawsuit filed against Ontario colleges

Ontario

Two Ontario students have launched a class-action lawsuit against the province's 24 community colleges, and they intend to launch a similar suit against the provincial government within months.

The students, Dan Roffey of George Brown College and Amanda Hassum of Conestoga College, claim that the schools have illegally collected certain ancillary fees from students to fund core academic operations such as information technology, labs and libraries, which are normally funded by tuition fees. Ancillary fees are paid by students in addition to tuition, and it is illegal for schools to charge these fees for other projects.

The students who have launched the class-action suit are seeking to compensate all students who may have paid illegal fees, which could cost Ontario's colleges approximately \$200 million.

Cheaters off the hook

Halifax, NS

Having caught 109 of its engineering students hacking into a website to steal answers for a number of assignments, Dalhousie University has decided to punish only 10 students with a failing grade and are not expelling any of the individuals involved.

Conveniently enough, the cheating students will also be able to continue with their course selection for the upcoming year since their final 'grade' has yet to be determined.

The recent goings-on at the Halifax university only further support a recent study out of the University of Guelph which reports that 53% of Canadian university students have admitted to cheating.

BC cracks down on phony degrees

British Columbia

The provincial government of British Columbia has taken a big step in cracking down on post-secondary colleges handing out degrees without the required authority.

The new measures being taken within the province include having the individual schools report their advertising within BC and around the globe, as well as going through a yearly performance review.

The most current and well-known dispute surrounds Vancouver University Worldwide, which has been stuck in a 15-year battle over their ability to hand out degrees. It is the fourth such investigation that the province has taken on against 'private universities.'

Compiled by Mark Adamson and Dan Polischuk

> BAG O' CRIME

GRAFFITI

Reported: June 11, 2007 at 0745hrs

Construction staff at DAWB advised security that sometime overnight between Friday June 8, and Saturday June 9, unknown persons spray painted several rooms and windows. There are no suspects.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Reported: June 11, 2007 at 1315hrs

Custodial staff at Waterloo Collage Hall residence reported that two window screens had been cut, but no entry to the building appears to have been gained. Both rooms where the screens were cut were vacant at the time.

GRAFFITI

Reported: June 11, 2007 at 1550hrs

Construction workers at Alumni Hall advised security that there had been some spray paint applied to the basement of the building sometime over the weekend. There are no suspects at this time.

ALARM

Reported: June 11, 2007 at 1643hrs

Special constables responded to a motion alarm at the bookstore warehouse on Northfield Drive.

No cause for alarm was found, and the building was found to be secure.

REMOVAL OF BELONGINGS

June 11-15, 2007

Special constables attended 200 King street on several occasions over the course of several days to assist with the removal of items from a room rented by a former WLU student.

ALARM

Reported: June 12, 2007 @ 2020hrs

Special constables responded to 266 Marsland Drive regarding an alarm that had been set off. The alarm had been accidentally tripped by a staff member.

MISSING PERSON

Reported: June 15, 2007 at 1253hrs

Campus Safety and Security received a call from the parents of an international student who had not been heard from for over a month. The student had registered for intersession classes, but did not attend or participate in them. Special Constables located the student and advised them to call home.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON

Reported: June 16, 2007 at 0130hrs

Special constables responded to a call from a JUMP leader regarding a suspicious looking person in the

Waterloo Collage Hall residence. Special constables checked all entrances and floors of the building and found them to be secure.

FIRE ALARM

Reported: June 16, 2007 at 0232hrs

A pull station was maliciously activated in the Fred Nichols Campus Centre in the south vestibule. There are no suspects.

THEFT UNDER \$5000

Reported: June 17, 2007 at 2055hrs

While on foot patrol, special constables noticed a Dasani water machine had been broken into on the second floor of the Fred Nichols Campus Centre. Inspection of the video cameras indicated that the machine was broken in to at approximately 0537hrs on Saturday June 16, 2007. The investigation is still on-going.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Reported: June 18, 2007 at 0209hrs

Two non-university affiliated males were arrested for kicking in a window at the rear of the 232 King St N building. Damage was estimated at \$500.00. Waterloo Regional Police Services made the arrest and are continuing the investigation.

THEFT UNDER \$5000

Reported: June 21, 2007 at 2010hrs

A bicycle was stolen from the bicycle rack Parking lot #12 Peters Building. The bicycle was valued at \$100.00. There are still no suspects.

TRESPASSING

Reported: June 23, 2007 at 2117pm

Three males not affiliated with the university were riding bicycles erratically around campus and were asked to leave the grounds. When they returned special constables issued a trespass warning to one of the individuals. The other two avoided contact by racing away on their bicycles.

BY-LAW COMPLAINT

Reported: June 24, 2007 at 0153hrs

A non-university male was observed urinating outside of the Peters building. The subject was given a verbal warning by special constables and escorted off the campus.

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.

Park's paid position

Directors express concern over how budget information is presented

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

A newly-implemented \$19,000 honourarium has been issued to the chair of the Board of Directors (BOD), which will compensate Matt Park for the work he does within the Wilfrid Laurier University Student's Union (WLUSU).

"Come this year it was a recommendation by the staff that the board office, through the chair, has a lot of work to do [over the summer] and [in] the fall and winter terms as well," explained Park.

"It's absolutely impossible for me to have had another job and I think it's reasonable to look at things and say, 'Okay, well, we'll compensate you,'" he added.

Though Park is set to receive the \$19,000 in four equal increments, which will be paid to him over the course of the year, Dan Allison, president of WLUSU, stresses that Park is not receiving any sort of salary.

"It's an honourarium for a contribution. It's just broken up four times as opposed to a lump sum," said Allison. "Don't be confused that he's being paid for anything outside of summer; it's just that it appears that way."

Although in the past, the chair of the board has been compensated up to \$9,000 for working over the

summer months, this is the first time that the chair will be receiving payments over the course of the year.

Colin LeFevre, a member of the BOD, only found out very informally that such an honourarium was implemented, which he found quite alarming considering he was one of the 12 directors who passed the central budget at the last BOD meeting in April.

"The thing that bothers me the most is that this is completely a board expense, this is something that is related directly to us and should have been brought to us," said LeFevre.

Because of the way the new policy governance system works, the board is no longer presented with line-by-line items in the budget, and instead they only see general percentages of how the budget is divided up.

"They changed too much, they went too far, and now we're not receiving an exact list of salaries," said LeFevre.

However, Park doesn't see the need for the budget to be broken down into such increments and says, "It was more prudent for the directors to be examining [budget] factors at a higher level."

"I think [that by presenting the budget in this way] it acknowledges that we can have a certain amount

of respect and trust in what management does," said Park.

Park was not aware of the line change when the budget was passed, and only at a later date did he discover that he was receiving the increased honourarium.

Michael McMahon, the general manager of WLUSU, was the staff member who made the recommendation for Park's honourarium and did so because he feels that the work of some individuals within the organization needs to be compensated.

"The board chair has a committee of directors that are very demanding and now we are saying better than ever we are going to train them, provide them with education, provide them with resources, and provide them with an experience," said McMahon.

"Instead of being the worst volunteer experience in the company it's going to be the best," he added.

Jon Champagne, a member of the BOD, only found out recently about the increased honourarium and though he does not have a problem with providing Park compensation for his work, he certainly thinks that it's an issue that needed to be addressed at the last meeting.

"A \$10,000 difference is a decent chunk on money and it's not the money itself that's the issue. It's just something that it should have been



File Photo - Tony Ferguson

BETTER DAYS - Directors Park and Champagne at 2007 open forum.

brought to the board's attention," said Champagne.

Greg Sacks, also on the BOD, echoes Champagne's thoughts.

"I wouldn't have any problem having a debate over [the compensation] and if we decided that it was a prudent course of action that would be fine. My major concern was that it seemed to be done without approval of the board or without even any debate or mention of it in any meetings," said Sacks.

Due to the concerns expressed,

Park is planning on addressing the issue of his compensation at the annual budget meeting, which will take place in mid-August.

"At this time the board can change it, the board can accept it as is, or the board can take some of it away," said Park.

"The board can theoretically give more. I'm sure they won't, but they could," he added.

Senate approves two new research centres

Laurier's faculty of science enters growth spurt with official approval for the Laurier Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience and the Laurier Movement Disorder Research and Rehabilitation Centre

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

Five years since its inception as an independent department, the faculty of science is starting to make waves in the academic research community.

Coming on the heels of the announcement that a new Master of Science degree in integrative biology would be launched for this upcoming September, the department has opened its doors to two new research centres.

With approval from the Laurier Senate, the Laurier Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience and the Laurier Movement Disorder Research and Rehabilitation Centre (MDRC) "are already running," according to Dean of Science Dr. Arthur Szabo.

The latter, which has received an undisclosed amount of support through a grant from the Parkinson's Society of Canada, will attract researchers from major universities throughout Ontario. Other participants include doctors from Grand River Hospital

and University Hospital in London, as well as individuals from overseas locales in Belgium, Australia and Israel.

When asked how Laurier seems

"WE HAVE A LOT OF BRIGHT, YOUNG FACULTY MEMBERS MAKING INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS."

- Arthur Szabo, WLU Dean of Science

to be garnering increased attention from the scientific community locally and around the world, a pleased Szabo credited the student and staff.

"We have a lot of bright, young faculty members making international contacts," he said, adding that these resources have helped the faculty "grow from essentially five or six departments [in 2000] to where we are now."

And where they are now is a unique position; Laurier is the only school in Canada where a

program such as the MDRC is available. Researchers will look at the effects of exercise on the brain and how it may lead to overall improved body movement.

In terms of support for maintaining the Centre for Cognitive Science, Szabo admitted that some fundraising has to be done. Taking up six laboratories, the centre will look at attention, cognition in action, language and cognition, memory, perception, and speech and communication.

With the groundwork already laid out, the dean was quick to note that the changes have not yet stopped, as he expressed plans to offer additional graduate studies programs for next year – specifically in psychology and mathematics.

Two degrees for Biz/Science students

WLU modifies chemistry-business double major

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

Largely on the recommendation of the few students that have remained in the program throughout the previously required four years, Laurier's science department has decided to modify their offering of a bachelor of business and science degree.

Originally offered as a combined major, incoming students will now be presented two degrees upon their graduation after the now-required five years, instead of the previous four. An individual BBA and BSc degree will now be given out, according to Arthur Szabo, Dean of Science at Laurier.

Andrew Ginn, one of the aforementioned students who is about to graduate in December, admitted that he feels "a touch" cheated that this was not offered earlier but hopes the move keeps students in the program.

"People usually just get the hell out of there, which sucks," commented Ginn, regarding the 20 or so first-year students that arrive each year.

"Everyone [eventually] leans towards business; they drop the chemistry for business. And it's just because, I think, [business] is more

flexible and easier – less time consuming," he explained.

It was because of concerns like these that the department gathered current students for a brainstorming session just before the end of the winter term.

One of the main things that was addressed was how to dissolve the feeling of alienation that was largely agreed to be an issue.

"You felt like you really didn't have a home base. I wasn't a business student. I wasn't a chemistry student. I was somewhere in between. I think a lot of people felt lost in the grand scheme of things," said Ginn.

Another thing that was brought to the faculty's attention was the very intense course load, which most felt they had no control over. It is Ginn's belief that changing the requirements from six credits a term over four years to the regular five per term over five years, will make a huge difference.

"Scheduling classes was a nightmare. Trying to schedule everything that is required was a disaster," he said, adding that incoming first-years should really take advantage of the new system.

"Scheduling wise – don't rush it. Don't feel like you have to graduate when they tell you to."

NEWSIN BRIEF

New MSc of
geography at Laurier

Come fall 2008, there will be another new addition to Laurier's expanding graduate studies department. Next year, students can begin applying to the MSc of geography program that will be done in combination with the University of Waterloo (UW). When the program begins, it is expecting to take nine students at Laurier and eight at UW.

This MSc will focus on the fields of geomatics and environmental science. According to Joan Norris, dean of graduate studies at Laurier, there has been an increasingly high demand for recently graduated students who have studied this science-focused approach to geography.

WLU is still waiting for approval by the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies before it receives the official go-ahead but Norris expects that will happen in the coming year.

Former Laurier
football star arrested

16 years ago, Ralph Spoltore was a Vanier Cup Champion playing for the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks football team. Now he faces criminal charges. The 36-year-old Laurier graduate was arrested in Port Huron, Michigan after allegedly try to sneak almost six kilograms of marijuana across the border.

Spoltore lives in Waterloo with his wife, a local teacher, who was also arrested on drug-related charges. When police raided their home, they found 8.5 kilograms of marijuana, 3000 ecstasy pills, drug paraphernalia, more than \$11,000 in Canadian cash and over \$6000 in U.S. money. The drugs found had an estimated street value of approximately \$115,000.

Spoltore was released into the custody of his mother on \$50,000 bail, and will appear in court on July 16.

ACUNS think tank to
remain at WLU

The Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) has been stationed at Laurier for the last five years and has recently decided to stay for another five. The council works as a think-tank through a partnership with Laurier and the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI). ACUNS represents nearly 1000 international scholars and practitioners who study the United Nations system.

Patricia Goff, associate professor of political science at Laurier and a senior researcher with ACUNS, is expecting the school to have a larger responsibility during the council's second

term at Laurier. The university will be taking a leading role on ACUNS programs, events, projects and publications. Goff is confident that the Laurier-ACUNS collaboration will help further Laurier's reputation for international studies.

Turnitin.com gets sued

The anti-plagiarism website Turnitin.com, which is relied upon by Wilfrid Laurier University and thousands of other schools, is facing a lawsuit launched by a group of Virginia high school students.

The students suing Turnitin claim that by using student essays, which are stored in Turnitin's archives, the company is unfairly capitalizing off of students' intellectual property without compensating them.

The lawsuit claims copyright infringement and is calling for Turnitin to pay damages of up to US\$900,000. This is the latest of several student protests against Turnitin, which receives 100,000 submissions a day and uses resources that include a database of nearly 40 million essays. The suit is expected to face trial in the fall.

Bus fare set to increase

Effective July 1, the bus fare for the Grand River Transit (GRT) is increasing by \$0.25, so that a ride on the public transit system will now cost patrons \$2.50 instead of \$2.25.

Despite the fare increase, the fees which Laurier students pay on their tuition for their bus pass will not be affected by these changing prices because of an operating agreement the university has with the GRT.

"We're protected against those type of fee increases," explained Michael McMahon, the general manager of the Wilfrid Laurier University Student's Union (WLUSU).

The bus pass fee which is added onto all full-time students' tuition has seen an increase of \$1.58 since the fee was implemented in the fall of 2005, but this is related to the cost of living and has no relation to increases in the GRT system. Students will now be paying \$41.58 per semester for their bus pass.

During the summer months, for which WLU's bus pass agreement does not apply, students can purchase discounted fares at the C-spot.

McMurray and Butler
get terms renewed

A familiar staple around campus for the past ten years, Dean of Students David McMurray will remain in his position for at least another five, having received approval from the Board of Governors yesterday.

Another returnee will be Jim Butler, vice-president: finance and administration. Holding the job since 2002, Butler will enter his second five-year term.

Compiled by Cassandra McKenna, Mark Adamson, Laura Carlson and Dan Polischuk

No solution to over-enrollment

FROM ENROLLMENT, PAGE 2

"At least as far as the first-year bulge goes, I think we're able to cover that, but again I think it's a very temporary solution," said Tiidus.

Although Horton explains that it is not possible to change the current system, Tiidus thinks that by raising the entrance averages drastically and then dropping them if need be the university could avoid increasing its numbers every year.

"If people were to actually consult us in the process, I think we could fix this very easily," said Tiidus.

Despite such suggestions, Horton says that the increase in enrollment is a province-wide problem, which goes far beyond Laurier itself. With the number of high school students entering university being up by six percent in Ontario, Horton says that it is the government who needs to take the necessary precautions.

"It's not the university, it's the government. The government's the one that's busy out there advertising to all the students," said Horton.

Along with hiring additional faculty to accommodate the increased number of first-years, the university is also trying to find more rooms for first-year students in residence.

Though David McMurray, dean of students at WLU, has been working diligently to try and find beds for as many frosh as possible the university isn't making any promises for those who haven't had their residence confirmed.

"We'll be able to accommodate everyone that's guaranteed a bed, but there are a couple hundred students on the waiting list," said McMurray.

"Sometimes you risk diluting that experience [when you increase the numbers] so we're working hard at adding new programs to keep that personal contact at the highest level," said McMurray.

Bookstore upgrades

NICOLE WRAY
STAFF WRITER

The Laurier Bookstore is set for upgrades as a result of recommendations made in the 2007 Bookstore Review. The 22-page Review contains 106 recommendations that cover financial, human resource, operational and strategic issues.

Ron Billing, the bookstore manager, is in general agreement with the recommendations made.

"We looked at the review and have taken some of the points that we feel are valid," Billing said. "Right now, we're looking at a reorganization structure, what best suits the needs of the students and the future of the bookstore," he explained.

"We are going to concentrate on academic support, so support readings for what students are taking in courses. We're going to concentrate on [selling books concerning] current issues, as well as doing seasonal stuff," he added.

Regarding what has already been attended to, Billing said that already "the store has a brand new look."

The reorganization has resulted in 2000 more square feet of air space and a neater, more organized look, making books easier to find.

Issues professors have had with ordering from the bookstore will hopefully be diminished. The store plans on having one person who will be a general contact person. In the past, there have been four individuals doing separate functions.

David Docherty, Laurier's dean of arts, was a member of the review committee, and became involved in the project after he was approached by Jim Butler, VP: Finance. He was consulted because arts professors regularly use the bookstore, explained Docherty.

"In many ways, [the review] was a normal thing," said Docherty. Typically, reviews in many of the school departments occur about every seven years.

Billing feels that the bookstore review has come at a good time as sales have grown 270% in the last seven years. Billing also noted that for the number of students, the Laurier bookstore sells more than any other university bookstore in the country.

Public Information Centre
Uptown Waterloo Parking Strategy

How can public parking best contribute to the attractiveness and vibrancy of Uptown Waterloo?

How should parking be used to support economic development in Uptown Waterloo?

How can we design our parking facilities and policies to protect the natural environment?

How should the provision of public parking be funded?

These are just some of the many questions that will be addressed in the Uptown Waterloo Parking Strategy. Input from the public consultation process will help us to build a sustainable operational plan that addresses the short, medium and long-term needs of our Uptown businesses, shoppers, visitors and residents.

We invite you to visit the initial Public Information Centre to meet with Mr. Ralph Bond, Senior Vice President, BA Group Transportation Consultants and City of Waterloo staff to provide us with your comments

any time between 6:00pm and 9:00pm, Thurs July 5, 2007
at

Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex – Hauser Haus
101 Father David Bauer Drive, Waterloo

Comments may also be submitted to:
E-mail: uptownparkingstrategy@waterloo.ca

For further information, please contact:

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Laurier a real shining star

Shinerama goes back to basics with a less pressured approach, discards fundraising goal

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

With the 2007 Shinerama coordinator, Heather Coulter, putting more of an emphasis on education rather than fundraising, it's no surprise that this year's campaign is summed up as 'Give a little, shine a lot.'

With the tagline 'Because every little bit helps,' Laurier's yearly contribution towards cystic fibrosis research will have a little less "pressure" involved without having to reach a pre-determined goal, as has been traditionally done.

"In my first year, the double cohort year, our goal was \$123,456.78 - and we did surpass it. In 2004, it was \$151,150 and they didn't reach

that. So I think it creates a lot of pressure and I also think it makes people upset if they don't reach [the goal]," explained Coulter.

"It's about raising money, but it's also about having fun," she added.

Having first started at Laurier (then Waterloo Lutheran) in 1961, Shinerama has raised just over \$1.5 million since 1978. Last year's campaign alone exceeded over \$160,000.

Despite the continuous record setting, Coulter felt it important to reel everything back to basics.

"My approach this year is to make everyone feel valued for what they can give," she said.

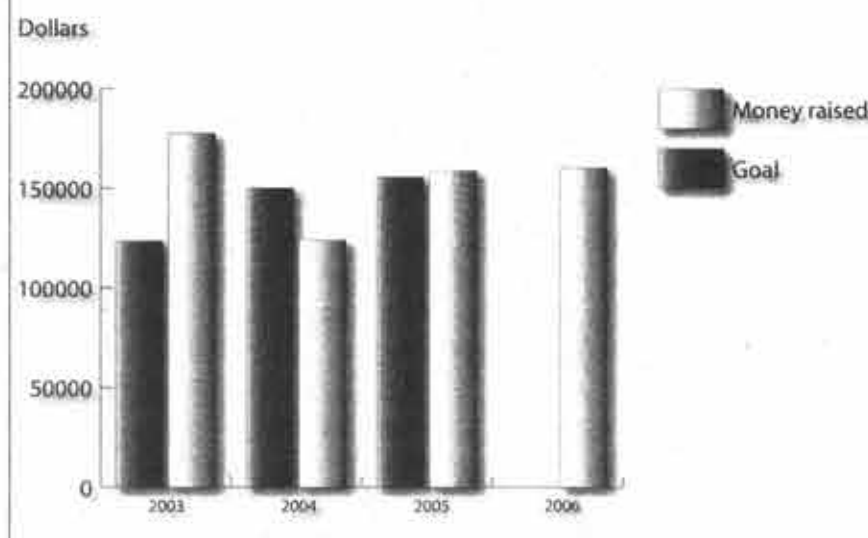
Aside from the more minor Orientation Week events, such as barbecues and 'Shine Offs,' the main

event is set to occur on the Saturday; an all-day car wash which sees first-years shipped off to all corners of Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge.

Until that time comes, Coulter still has a few things to iron out - including getting her volunteer base up to 50.

In the meantime, the Shinerama group has already been at work promoting the upcoming festivities - with promotional booths at nearby Conestoga Mall as well as an upcoming Family Day BBQ on July 22. In coordination with local radio and television stations 91.5 The Beat and CKCO-TV, respectively, the day will include a car wash, outdoor dinner and face painting.

Shinerama targets and achievements since 2003



O-week theme 'a little different'

With over 600 volunteers preparing for the 2007-08 Frosh, organizers are confident that Laurier's O-week will live up to its billing as "the best in Canada"

MIKE BROWN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With high school students across the country having just finished their final classes, the excitement of summer is complemented by an air of anticipation for hundreds of thousands of soon-to-be university students. And for a couple thousand new WLU students, there are plenty of preparations to make before Monday, September 3 - move-in day.

But freshmen aren't the only ones counting the days to the start of Orientation Week. A group of over 600 volunteers are busy planning for the arrival of their young peers.

There are the 224 Icebreakers, who are paired and given the task of mentoring new students through O-week and the months that follow. There are the 200-plus members of Student Services and the Go Team, who handle a lot of the behind-the-scenes work. And then there's

the A-Team, a small but committed group who organize the evening's activities for the week.

It's a formidable cast and Courtney Powers, a two-time Icebreaker and this year's O-week coordinator, understands that the week hinges on those volunteers. "It's the best [O-week] in Canada," she boasts. "It's something that will run itself because of the amazing volunteers we have."

"There definitely is a genuine willingness and passion to do [O-week] here that is unlike any other," she adds.

The resulting week is "pretty action-packed" according to vice-president of student activities Brian Punambolam. It ranges from academic sessions on Tuesday to a Get Involved Fair on Wednesday, which gives first-years a chance to sample all the different extra-curricular opportunities Laurier has to offer.

Last year's movie night on Alumni Field is back, as is the talent show, an evening in residence on

the Labour Day Monday, and closing ceremonies at the new football stadium when Laurier hosts the Windsor Lancers. And while *The Price is Right* may have ended its daytime run, it remains firmly entrenched as an O-week staple.

Another big draw, explains Punambolam, is the on-campus party, which will occur on the Tuesday night. It'll feature a top 40 DJ, a live band at Wilf's, the on-campus pub, and a big-name band at the Turret, Laurier's nightclub.

They haven't yet landed their major act, but Powers is confident. "We have some really good bids out right now," she says. "Everyone that they're looking at would be really entertaining."

She's equally pleased with this year's theme, but is keeping mum on that until it is revealed to the volunteers on the July 21 weekend. "The theme's a little different this year," Powers explains, adding, "but it's really cool."

But more than the exact details

of what's going on during O-week, Powers and Punambolam are both focused on the whole point of the week and impressing that on their volunteers.

And that point is? "New friends, new experiences and new opportunities," says Punambolam. "To show [Frosh] all the new opportunities and how to get them involved with it, and in the meantime transitioning them from high school to university."

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A crash course in fair trade

International Editor **Waleed Hafeez** chats with Ten Thousand Villages, a pioneering organization in the fair trade movement with a store on King St., to get a better understanding of the roots, values, challenges and opportunities of fair trade in Canada

WALEED HAFEEZ
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

Ten Thousand Villages is a founding member of the International Fair Trade Association (IFAT) and a member of the Fair Trade Federation (FTF), both of which aim to improve the livelihood of disadvantaged people in developing countries and to change unfair structures of international trade. It is one of the most recognizable fair trade organizations in North America.

Its distinctive and earthy terracotta coloured logo symbolizes a 61-year-old idea thought up by Edna Ruth Byler, a Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) worker, whilst visiting Puerto Rico. Bringing home several pieces of embroidery to sell to friends started what is now a chain of stores across North America.

People are really the heart of the matter

The core ideology that shapes Ten Thousand Villages and the fair trade movement in general is that, according to Diana Mounce, Communications and Research Coordinator at Ten Thousand Villages Canada, "There's a person behind each product and people are really at the heart of what we do."

Fair trade aims to pay artisans and producers in developing countries and poverty-stricken areas of the world a living wage that allows them to not only live with all the basic necessities, but also gives them the ability to buy raw materials and keep them out of a vulnerable economic situation.

Gender equality also plays a very integral role in fair trade and is seen as one of the founding principles of the movement. Ten Thousand Villages employs artisan groups that consist largely of women who are culturally or religiously unable to get conventional jobs. "By focusing on the craft, we can give the poorest of the poor, who are generally wom-



Sydney Heiland

KEEPING TRADE FAIR - The Ten Thousand Villages shop in Waterloo is one of many stores of its kind across North America.

en who've got children at home or if their cultural environment requires them to stay at home, a chance to earn a living for their family as well."

One of the basic tenets of fair trade is environmental responsibility. "A lot of our groups are reporting back to us on how they're trying to make their work less destructive to the environment," says Mounce. "The reality is these people live and depend on their environment a lot more than we do over here, I think. Our artisans are living in small villages. Their water source is really important to them, their trees are really important to them."

Through their own operations, Ten Thousand Villages is also doing some work through their head office to make sure their packaging process is as efficient and clean as possible. "We actually have some MBA students doing an audit to

make sure that we are reusing as much of our packaging as possible," explains Mounce.

One common criticism of fair trade is that the end product is too expensive. In reaction, Mounce acknowledges that these are luxury goods and these are not everyday things that are sold.

"It is always a criticism; fair trade isn't perfect. We really focus on the craft. The poorest people in the world do not have land to grow coffee or cocoa to make chocolate or sugar or other everyday things. These are sometimes luxury items and luxury items sometimes have a cost."

Nevertheless, Mounce notes that although a fair trade product may cost a lot, consumers must ask themselves what the true costs are. "If you think something is expensive, you have to think about how much labour went into it and where it came from, how it got here, etc. All those elements add up to a cost and I think we're so used to 'big is better' and 'cheap is better' that we forget that really there are social costs and environmental costs to everything and if you're going to be buying anything that's not a basic necessity that's something that comes into consideration."

A volunteer culture means opportunities abound

Ten Thousand Villages is run largely by volunteers, which allows them to keep their costs down. It also helps to "build a community here as well as across the world."

With a Ten Thousand Villages store just up King Street and the regional head office a short distance away in New Hamburg - just west

of Waterloo - Laurier students have the opportunity to help out in a number of ways. "We usually have a good portion of our volunteers from students in the Waterloo region. These volunteers help us unpack orders, tidy up the stores or even talk at their schools. If people are interested in doing head office things, those opportunities exist as well."

She says the most important thing we can do as students is to "shop fair trade whenever possible. If you go into a place that sells chocolate or sugar, ask if they have fair trade goods. If not, ask why. When enough people ask for them, retailers will be forced to react to changing consumer demands and will introduce fair trade products to their stores. That is a great way of influencing what is sold."

Another major concern with fair trade is quality control. Mounce assures that quality is of the utmost importance to the organization and especially to the artisans themselves. "Usually, our artisan groups have their own quality control people. They'll have someone either managing the artisan groups or one of the main artisans ensuring quality. These people are really skilled artisans [and] they want to do a good job because their livelihood depends on it."

On her last trip to India, Mounce met a group in Ahmedabad called the St. Mary's Mahila Shikshan Kendra where women stop by twice a week and pick up supplies to work from home, where they care for their children. When these women meet, they share stories and laughs and proudly show each other their work.

Global connections forge a bright, fair future

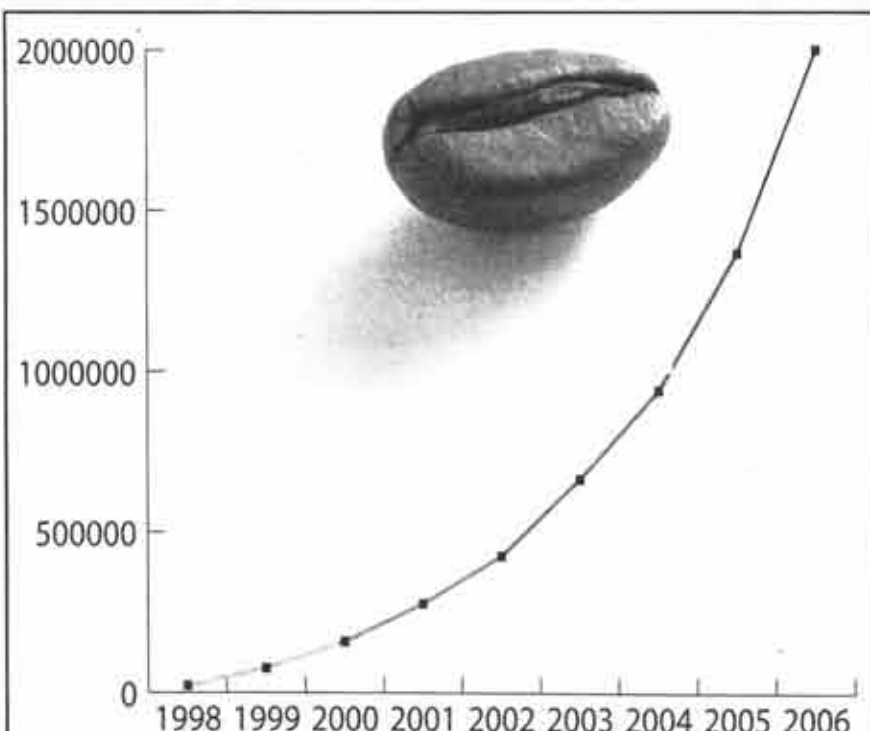
Ten Thousand Villages works with a number of other humanitarian and social organizations from around the world; two that they work with closely in Canada are UNICEF and the Make Poverty History Foundation. During the holiday season, their stores sell cards made by UNICEF and they are also the retailers of the Make Poverty History bands across Canada.

"We do carry the UNICEF greeting cards, but we really do try to limit that in our stores as we try to support our artisans fully. Having said that, those are things we sell in the store, but behind the scenes there's informal relationships we have with other fair traders and other groups such as the MCC who do relief work around the world."

Of the various student-targeted products in their stores, the ones that are most popular are their range of jewellery and table clothes that can double as wall hangings. "One thing that really frustrates me is the lack of clothing. There are some good fair trade clothing lines, but we don't really carry them in Canada. It's a hard thing to sell because of so many sizes and with changing styles."

Concluding our conversation, Mounce looked at Ten Thousand Villages's future as an exciting time. With sales increased by 16% this past year, the future is really bright. "There are a lot of people we're not able to reach, but we just don't have the capacity to take everyone on," says Mounce. "Having said that, we are growing and people are really catching onto fair trade."

Spending on Fair Trade roasted coffee since 1998



Graphic by Alex Hayter

Socially conscious retailers in K-W

Though they may not be as conveniently located as the closest McDonald's, fair trade retailers are there for those willing to look

HEATHER MACDONALD
STAFF WRITER

Chugging back an espresso at 5 am just hours before a final, catching up with a long lost friend over a frothy cappuccino, or gingerly sipping a strong Columbian coffee to cure a hangover doesn't exactly get you thinking about how the producer of your caffeine fix is making out in life. Not many of us consider that a simple cup of coffee could be worth a day of back-breaking work to a Guatemalan farmer trying to support a wife, four children and his dying mother.

The only way to become a more conscientious consumer is to know where to get the most authentic artwork, hand-crafted necklace, or the perfect cup of coffee – all for a price that may mean nothing to us but the world to another. Here's a brief look at some of the more socially conscious retailers in Kitchener-Waterloo.

Queen Street Commons

A café that includes a gift shop selling everything from candles to pillows.

43 Queen St. S., Kitchener

519-749-9177

Monday to Friday: 8:30 am – 9:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

www.theworkingcentre.org/ct/mk/mk.html

Matter of Taste

Employs the top two baristas in Eastern Canada.

119 King St. W., Kitchener

519-579-7059

Monday to Wednesday: 8:00 am – 9:00 pm,

Thursday & Friday: 8:00 am – 10:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am – 10:00 pm

Sunday: 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

www.matteroftaste.ca

Morning Glory Café and Bakery

Helps not only those trying to survive in less developed countries but also gives more opportunity to those struggling with unemployment in our own community through a program with Ray of Hope.

256 King St. E., Kitchener

519-741-1995

Monday to Friday: 7:00 am

– 5:00 pm

Saturday: 7:00 am

– 3:00 pm



Google Maps

CITY OF OPPORTUNITY - Waterloo is host to a variety of different fair trade retailers: it's just a matter of exploring to find out where they all are.

www.morningglorycafe.net

Starbucks

The largest purchaser of Fair Trade Certified coffee imports in North America.

Corner of King and University

519-886-0101

Monday to Thursday: 7:00 am – 10:00 pm

Friday & Saturday: 7:00 am – 11:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am – 10:00 pm

www.starbucks.com

Although coffee is the top import for fair trade products, you can also expand your support through groceries, clothes, jewelry and even furniture.

Retailers Sean and Amy Zister were inspired by their extensive worldly travels to create their very own worker-owned store downtown. Seven Shores Trading imports authentic pieces of furniture,

art, fashion, textiles and the ever-popular fair trade coffee from all over the world.

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Thursday: 11:00 am – 7:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

www.sevenshorestrading.com

spaghetti sauce, why not try out a local organic grocery store?

Eating Well Organically

104 King Street S., Waterloo

519-883-0734

Old Kitchen Cupboard

710 Belmont Ave. W., Kitchener

519-745-7765

Natural Food Market

75 Bridgeport Road E., Waterloo

519-884-1811

Next time you look into your noticeably student-owned fridge and realize all you have to eat is pickles and

Laurier has also jumped on the fair trade bandwagon in the past few years with specialty coffees in the Terrace at both Yogen Frus and Wilf's. Recently, the WLU Bookstore has also taken care to ensure school clothing is produced under fair working conditions.

So whether you're purchasing your morning "cup o' joe" or buying a poncho to protect you from the rainy weather that haunts Waterloo, think about where your money is actually going – dwindling down through middle-people or going directly to the single mother in the Philippines that just wants to send her children to school.



Laurier should seek to be fair trade certified



CARRIE JACKSON
CORD INTERNATIONAL

There is a growing trend amongst universities worldwide in which students and staff are integrating fair trade policies into campus life. This movement has been fairly commonplace throughout the UK in the past decade, but as this movement spreads across North America, Laurier is left to wonder – when will we make the leap?

The first step in any movement would require a full understanding of what this change entails.

Fair trade is a growing international movement which ensures that producers in poor countries get a fair deal. This means a fair price for their goods (a price that covers the cost of production and guarantees a sustainable living); long-term contracts which provide real security; and, for many, support to gain the knowledge and skills that they need to develop their businesses and increase sales.

Over the last twenty years, the value of international trade has tripled, but the benefits of this trade are not shared equally. Ten years ago, producer-countries captured

one-third of the coffee market value. Today, they capture less than ten percent. There is an over-supply of many primary products – which leads to an immense amount of competition just to sell the product. One of fair trade's goals is to promote diversification and end this oversupply.

In an attempt to raise awareness and increase involvement, schools are trying to implement policies in which all coffee sold on campus is fairly traded. If not possible, each retailer must provide customers with a choice between fair trade and non-fair trade coffee. By giving this choice, fair trade gives consumers the opportunity to make a change with their purchasing power.

According to Laurier Food Services, our campus offers fair trade coffee at the Fresh Food Company, Expressions in the Library and Waterloo College Hall, and Second Cup. "The only locations we operate that do not have fair trade are the five Tim Horton's as we have no control over the coffee they serve."

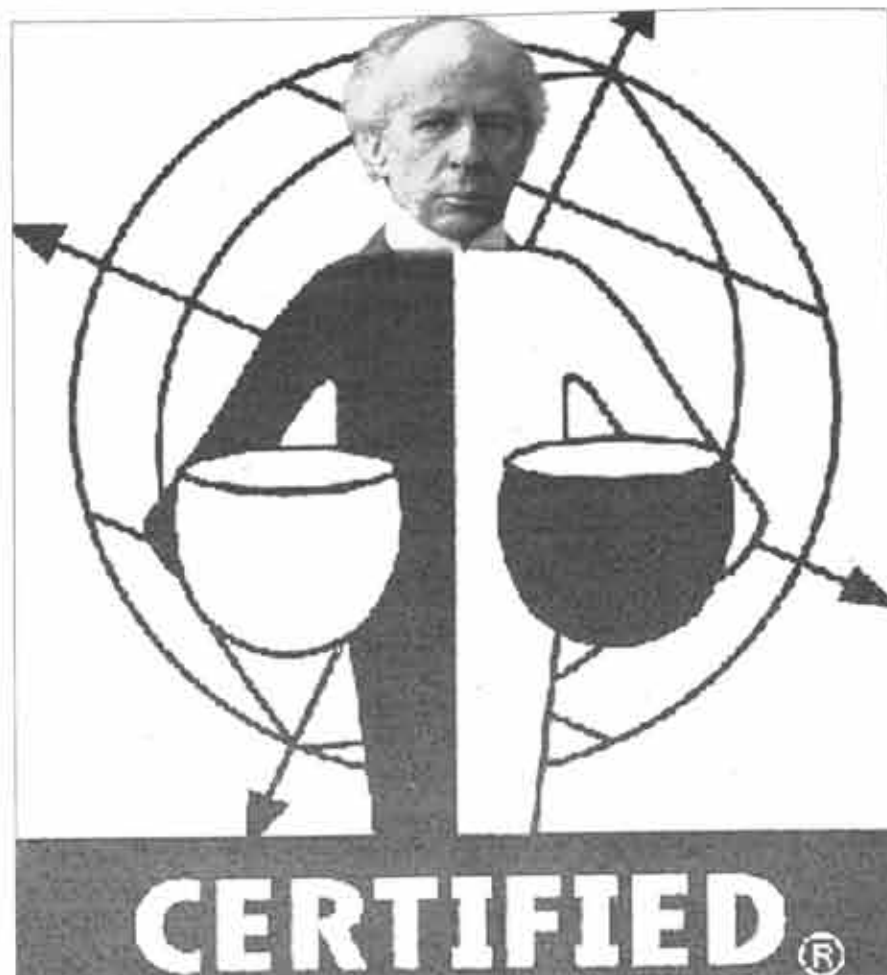
Although Tim Horton's does not serve fair trade coffee, they do have their own version of it – a 'coffee sustainability' program which offers small coffee farmers support and training to help them increase production amounts and quality.

York University – in its attempt

at integrating Fair Trade into its campus – has created its own 'Las Nubes' brand of sustainable coffee, which is not only available on their campus, but is also for sale across the GTA at Timothy's. Las Nubes is a sustainable coffee from the tropical rainforest in southern Costa Rica. One dollar from every pound of Las Nubes sold is donated to the Fisher Fund to support biodiversity protection and rural sustainable programs in the Las Nubes region. The Fisher Fund also supports York student research and volunteer programs in Las Nubes. These examples of fair trade integration can act as motivation for Laurier to become involved.

Oxfam International has created a student's guide to fair trade, which may make this transition somewhat easier. The Fair Trade Foundation (FTF) will award Fair Trade University status when these 5 minimum goals are met:

1. The Student Union and the university authorities both create a fair trade policy incorporating these five goals.
2. Fair trade foods are made available for sale in all campus shops. At the least, there is a commitment to have it in every shop.
3. Fair trade foods are served at all meetings hosted by the univer-



Graphic by Alex Hayter

sity and Student's Union, and are served in all university and Student's Union management offices.

4. There is a commitment to campaign for increased fair trade consumption on campus.

5. A fair trade steering group is established. They will be in charge of preparing reports for the Fair Trade Foundation for status to be awarded.

The Oxfam Fair Trade certification is not far from our grasp, considering fair trade coffee is offered at almost every coffee shop on campus. Just a few more steps in the right direction and Laurier could be certified and be well on

its way to proving its commitment to International Aid; and with Canada's foreign aid facing scrutiny lately, perhaps this could be our contribution to an overwhelming problem.

Important Links about Fair Trade Universities:

http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get_involved_university.htm

http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/fairtrade/uniguide/contents.htm

<http://peopleandplanet.org/ftunis>

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Laurier hosts Mexican students

Visitors surprised to see Canadian students hold part-time jobs, coming from a country where universities are publicly funded

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

Capturing the essence of the 'Canadian' experience in just two short weeks can't be an easy feat. But 10 students and four faculty members from Veracruz, Mexico were given the opportunity to try and do just that while participating in Laurier's first ever Summer Study Tour.

From May 27 until June 9, a group of individuals from the University of Veracruzana (U of V) took part in a pilot exchange program made possible by a partnership between Laurier International and WLU's new North American studies program.

"It was that good balance between educational aspects, cultural aspects, and fun," Roxy Riess, program coordinator and president of Laurier International's LIFE program, said of the tour.

During their time at WLU, the exchange students participated in a wide variety of activities including day trips to Niagara Falls and Toronto, athletic games such as inner tube water polo, a picture-taking scavenger hunt, and club hopping around Waterloo.

"It was a combination of learning in the classroom, learning by meeting Canadian people, learning by seeing cultural events, by being involved in the university life, by going on trips - every moment was learning but in different ways," said Riess.

Kevin Spooner, a Canadian studies professor at Laurier, had the opportunity to teach the students four classroom sessions where they covered topics such as Canadian history and politics, immigration, and multiculturalism and the role of Canada in the world.

"I think they were here learning about Canada, but the whole

time they're learning about Canada they're also learning about Mexico and making parallels," said Spooner.

For instance, while giving presentations on the "Top Canadians" (who ranged from Don Cherry to Alexander Graham Bell), the class engaged in discussions about who would be on the list of the "Top Mexicans" and how such a list would compare to the Canadian compilation.

Sally Heath, a University of Waterloo PhD student, also had the opportunity to teach the students a class which she focused on Canadian popular culture. Heath was both surprised and pleased with the level of participation she received.

"I think the Mexican students are able to look at Canadian identity more critically than Canadian students are because I think lots of our own students take things like Canadian identity for granted or they never stop to think about it."

The majority of the participants in the program admitted that before arriving in Waterloo they had very few ideas about Canadian identity and culture, and most had very limited experience speaking English.

Though some cultural differences did become apparent, Riess learned from her interactions with the group that there seemed to be more commonalities between herself and the visitors than divergences.

"The only differences between Mexican and Canadian students is basically language and some slight cultural things, but those are more points of interests rather than points of differences," she said.

But Violeta Contrevas Galicia, a second-year administration student at U of V, did find some variation in the student lifestyle.



Sydney Helland

CULTURE SWAP - While visiting Laurier, a group of Mexican students perform a spirited Mexican folk song.

Because universities in Mexico are publicly funded, students do not pay to attend university, but instead they must achieve high marks to be admitted into and stay in their programs.

"I'm very surprised because some students work [in Canada] and in Mexico you only focus on school."

Excited with the notion that she could visit a country which few Mexicans have a chance to see, second-year U of V tourism student, Cielito Lindo, felt that the Summer Study program offered her an experience that was just to good to pass up.

"When I heard about the opportunity to go here it was like, 'Wow,

Canada, I have to go there, it's so different than other countries,'" said Lindo. "All of the Mexicans go to the United States so why not go somewhere a little different?"

Danthe Damian Valderrama Menes, a languages student at U of V, also came to Canada for the experience of living abroad even if it was for a short period.

"I wanted to meet a new culture, new people, a new perspective of life and I need to learn English, that was the most important," said Menes.

With a successful pilot program under its belt, Laurier International hopes to send a group of Canadian students to U of V next summer, and is also toying with the idea of

offering similar programs as an intersession credit course.

Staff supervisor from U of V, Maria Teresa Barrera is very pleased with the incentive of the program, and hopes more students get the chance to participate in them.

"They get the whole [Canadian] experience, being abroad. If these programs didn't exist, many of these students would never get the opportunity."

Thrilled with the time he spent in Canada, Menes didn't hesitate about what he would do if another opportunity arose for him to pay another visit to his neighbours to the far north. "I love Canada. I would like to come back anytime."

Improvements for women in Afghanistan

Lecture put on by the Laurier Center for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies creates optimism for female Afghans

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

For Canadian women it's hard to imagine a world where you are forbidden to go to school, denied the opportunity to work, restricted from venturing into the public without the accompaniment of an immediate male family member, and even deprived health treatment because of rules which don't allow you to seek medical care from male physicians.

But such laws, which were imposed on Afghani women after the Taliban took control in 1996, affected millions, including one woman who currently resides in Canada after spending twenty-four years of

her life in Afghanistan.

Shamima Amini was a biology and literacy school teacher in Kabul until 1998 when she was selected alongside a handful of individuals to relocate, first to Pakistan and then to Canada. She shared her emotional tale with a small group gathered at WLU for a lecture organized by the Laurier Center for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies.

When recounting the difficulties of living in the war-torn country, Amini identifies that one of the darkest periods from her past was the reality that it was nearly impossible to do her job simply because she was a woman.

Knowing that she was not sup-

posed to work, or even be out in public without the accompaniment of either her father or brother, Amini lived in constant fear of her oppressors.

"When we hear the Taliban is coming closer, it was hard because every part of Afghanistan which the Taliban took capture, they told the women they could not go to work and go nowhere," Amini recounts.

"Women [were] just like animals, because somebody has to take their hand and lead them somewhere," she adds.

Amini explains that it is next to impossible to compare how different she has felt about her gender since moving to Canada.

"It is very hard in Afghanistan

to be a woman, but here in Canada, proudly we can say, 'I am a woman.'"

Yet slowly, women in Afghanistan are showing pride in their gender and a great commitment is being made by various organizations to change how these Afghani women can lead their lives.

According to David Sproude, former Canadian ambassador to Afghanistan, currently the two priorities of the Canadian military in Afghanistan are helping women and allowing the country to see economic prosperity.

New initiatives, such as a microfinance program which offers small loans to poor Afghans, are being designed specifically to aid women.

"The microfinance program is targeted at women and gives them status and a role," Sproude explained.

Though Amini still acknowledges that her native country has a long road to recovery, she has seen firsthand the immense changes that have occurred in Afghanistan in the past decade.

Last year, Amini took a trip home to visit her immediate family, the majority of whom still reside in Kabul, and ever since she has been optimistic about the future of her country.

"Last year I went [to Afghanistan] and I saw lots of difference," said Amini. "[Before] we could not go outside, but now all women can go outside."

With a smile spreading across her face, Amini adds, "Women almost have freedom right now" - a given by Canadian standards, but a ray of hope for Amini and all Afghans.

Ontario begins offering athletic scholarships

A vote by the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) association has given Ontario universities the option of offering athletic scholarships to incoming student-athletes for the first time ever

— FROM **SCHOLARSHIP**, COVER

"For about 10 years now schools in the West, East and Quebec have offered athletic scholarships to students," said Baxter. Looking at Ontario's history in university sports on a national level compared to that of the other provinces, in football in particular, we are missing something, he explained. "Ontario finally decided that in order to step it up, they would have to go along."

In order for the students to receive their scholarships at Laurier, they must have an academic average above 80% and be able to maintain an average over 70% throughout their second, third and fourth years. "It's not just about athletic performance," Baxter noted.

"We want to see them able to balance the training and their academics," he continued. "It is rewarding the scholar athlete ... it's good public exposure for the institution."

These scholarships will add to the reasons students will want to stay in Canada for their post-secondary education. With Laurier

promoting an academic focus, as well as the extra money, Baxter thinks that students are more likely to stay in Canada where tuition is more affordable.

Parents may also benefit from these scholarships. "Today, parents are much more involved in their children's careers. They want to be able to watch their child play sports," said Baxter. "Staying in Canada makes this an option."

Football coach Gary Jeffries doesn't think money's the main reason, however, that his recruits chose to come to Laurier. "Everyone is after the same good players," said Jeffries. "Since we are a smaller school, we can't offer as much as some of the larger schools, but they chose to come here anyway."

"We have eight or nine students coming on scholarships, as long as they can meet the academic requirements needed," Jeffries added.

Coach Shayne White of the men's volleyball team had reasonable success with the new scholarships. "We offered different amounts of

money to five players, and four of them accepted."

"We were first or second choice for most of the players," commented White. "With the scholarships, we were able match what some of the larger schools were offering

"EVERYONE IS AFTER THE SAME GOOD PLAYERS ... SINCE WE ARE A SMALLER SCHOOL, WE CAN'T OFFER AS MUCH AS SOME OF THE LARGER SCHOOLS, BUT THEY CHOSE TO COME HERE ANYWAY."

— **Football coach Gary Jeffries**

and bump Laurier up to their first choice."

Women's hockey coach Rich Osborne also had new recruits that benefited from the scholarships. "We offered money to six players and all six accepted," he said. "Two or three of the girls were heavily pursued by U.S. colleges. One had accepted an offer from Brown, but

turned it down at the last minute to come here."

"These scholarships give a chance to those who want to stay at home and attend university," explained Jeffries. "But it still doesn't bring us up to the level of athletics colleges have in the States."

Comparing competitiveness with the U.S. is difficult because they input more money into the athletic scholarships and have less emphasis on academic performance. Osborne boasted that

Laurier's women's hockey has consistently been ranked highly, even against American universities, but acknowledged that the top 10 NCAA teams will always be tough to compete with.

"Even though students can receive larger scholarships from schools in the States, their academic goals are more likely to be looked

after from Canadian schools," reasoned Baxter. "The graduation rates of student athletes are much higher in Canada than the U.S."

"Many athletes are becoming more concerned about their course selections and the quality of their education," added Osborne. "We got all of our top picks this year based on the school's reputation, the small campus and the genuine interest the school showed in having them become Golden Hawks."

Osborne did see some potential issues with the scholarships, though. "Students who just miss the academic cutoff may have an effect on the chemistry of the team. There may be different levels of motivation among the players with scholarships and those without."

Still, he was mostly positive about the change. "I think they're really going to help," said Osborne. "Maybe not immediately, but the foundation is now there, so who knows what the future will hold?"

See **PAGE 20** for editorial reaction to this story

Changing your 'gym philosophy'

Gym rats everywhere are looking to get their body to the 'next level,' appearance-wise, but is it all simply a trap? Laurier athletic therapist Jamie Carlson weighs in

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

"What can be done with fewer is done in vain with more." — William Ockham, 14th century English logician.

At its core, western society has always been based around the assumption that 'more is better.' Quite startlingly, however, this rule of thumb has taken a giant leap from just owning the fastest vehicle on the road or the latest fashion accessories to building the best looking body. And when it comes to our physiques, it seems like no expense is spared.

One only has to look at the most recent sales figures by NTBY — a leading manufacturer, marketer and distributor of nutritional supplements throughout the United States and the world — to understand what a huge industry sports nutrition has become. In the month of May alone, NTBY brought in \$19 million in North American sales, which was just a small portion of their \$166 million total.

All of this does not necessarily surprise Laurier Athletic Therapist Jamie Carlson, who considers this

type of consumption to be a reflection of the "expectations" that come with living in such a commercialized culture.

"It's such an impatient society. [People] don't want to put in the two, three, four months of hard work. They want to, maybe, work out for six weeks, take all the 'stuff' and be ready to go," said Carlson, adding, "That's just the way western society is now."

"Everybody is like, 'I want it yesterday and, by God, you better give it to me — or I'm going to lose my mind.'"

The 'stuff' Carlson speaks of is what fills the shelves of health supplement retail stores everywhere, including those in close vicinity to Laurier and the University of Waterloo like the Sports Nutrition Depot. More specifically, these include protein powders — used to make shakes, tablets containing nitric oxide (or NO₂ as it is more commonly referred to, which increases blood flow helping to reduce recovery time for muscles and increase frequency of workouts) and glutamine, among other things.

Carlson admits that, when creating a regimen for Laurier athletes, he may recommend taking a pro-

tein shake "if they do want to get bigger for whatever reason," without having to eat lean meat, like chicken, constantly. He still holds the belief, though, that consumption of the aforementioned supplements is simply "more about image" as well as "just gimmick stuff."

"I'm not saying all the stuff is a waste. I guess you have to figure out what you're taking it for ... There probably is some benefit [with those supplements]," he said.

"For the most part, though, a lot of these supplements are for people that don't have the patience [to work out regularly]."

He cited the most recent work he has done with the women's hockey team to prove his point, explaining how a simple twice a week weight workout has contributed to a 55% increase in dead weight strength, "without gaining an ounce."

"Their bodyweight even dropped a little bit," he commented.

Carlson continued by saying that strength work is not always "about getting bigger. It's about getting you stronger."

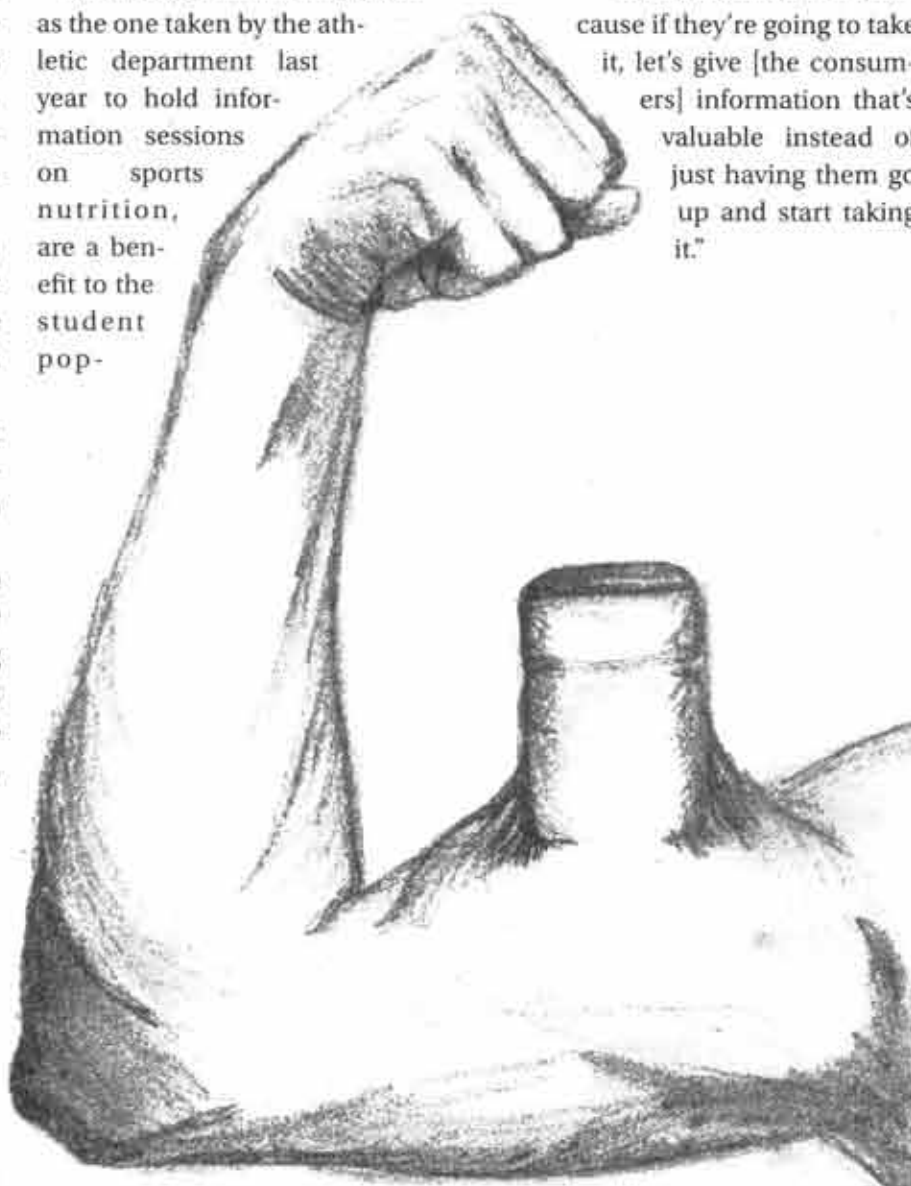
But thanks to many of the sports fitness magazines on bookstore shelves, the misconception remains that big muscles

get you strong.

When asked if initiatives, such as the one taken by the athletic department last year to hold information sessions on sports nutrition, are a benefit to the student pop-

ulation, Carlson was all for it.

"It's better to educate, because if they're going to take it, let's give [the consumers] information that's valuable instead of just having them go up and start taking it."





Stadium renovation trudges on

Renovations to Laurier's stadium are on schedule, despite a labour strike threatening to delay the unveiling

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

The \$5 million renovations at University Stadium, set to be renamed Knight-Newbrough Field, are well underway and hoping to be completed in time for the start of the 2007-08 sports season, despite a labour strike.

"We got ahead early by moving all the exams out of the stadium gym, so the workers could start right after intramurals were finished," said

the women's teams. These are being built, complete with showers, for the new stadium.

The progress, while promising, has not been without its hiccups. "The main issue we have come across is that the masons and labourers have gone on strike," said Baxter. "This could affect our long-term progress if the strike isn't settled."

The workers began striking two weeks ago across the province. If the masons and labourers are unable to finish their jobs, then the sequence is broken and the progress will be halted, explained Baxter. "Contingency plans will be in place if the strike extends longer than expected," he assures. "Of course we want to play our opener against McMaster on our new field, and the head

start we had gives us leeway." Baxter was confident the strike would not impede the start of the 2007-08 athletic season, so exact plans have not been formulated but would be implemented if the strike looks likely to jeopardize the opening.

Another problem that was discovered during the early stages of renovation was an old sewage pipe that ran into the stadium. It needed to be redone due to its age; however, it did not have any affect on the timetable or the budget. "We are well within our \$5 million budget. We were able to find savings in other areas; therefore the pipe was able to fit into our budget," Baxter explained.

Baxter also acknowledged the impact of constantly changing en-

vironmental standards on the renovation process. "We must be aware of these [standards] when painting the new stadium. Any materials that do not meet environmentally-friendly standards must be replaced."

Along with its new appearance, the stadium will also receive a new name. The Knight-Newbrough Field will be named after two legendary Laurier football coaches, Dave 'Tuffy' Knight and Rick Newbrough, who created the foundation upon which the program now stands.

Some of the team members who played for Knight and Newbrough, along with other people who were affiliated with them, have gathered together to raise money for the stadium in honour of their legendary coaches. "Their goal is 1.1 million and they are already halfway there," said Baxter.

Knight was a part of the Golden Hawk football program from 1966-1983. In '83 he left Laurier to become director of player personnel for the Toronto Argonauts. He returned to Waterloo in '88 to coach cross-town rivals, the Waterloo Warriors. Currently, Knight resides in the town which brought him his greatest successes, but this time coaching football at Resurrection Catholic High School.

Newbrough worked with the Hawks from 1968-1997, but came out of retirement a few years later, and along with Knight, once again joined the Hawks as assistant coaches. Teammates at Fairmont State University in West Virginia and fellow coaches through the years, Knight and Newbrough continue to leave their mark on Laurier football with this honorary naming.

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"THE MAIN ISSUE WE HAVE COME ACROSS IS THAT THE MASONS AND LABOURERS HAVE GONE ON STRIKE... THIS COULD AFFECT OUR LONG TERM PROGRESS IF THE STRIKE ISN'T SETTLED."

- Peter Baxter, Director of Athletics

Peter Baxter, Director of Athletics and Recreation.

"The field is progressing well. The E-Layer, which is the rubber cushioning underneath the surface, has been removed and is in the process of being replaced," he explained. "The track has also been excavated."

The turf is being replaced with a new surface, an artificial polyurethane fibre grass, similar to that which was laid on alumni field. "It's a higher end, higher performance version of Alumni field," commented Baxter. The track and gym floors are being redone and the stands will also be receiving new seat caps on all of the benches. Due to the fact that the stadium was built in 1957, Baxter mentioned that there were no actual change rooms for

FROSHBUSTERS

Check out www.cordweekly.com to read additional online-only content for this month's feature.

You've no doubt heard an awful lot about your impending university lifestyle, so we assembled an expert panel to help you wade through the common conceptions. No longer will you have to wonder if the things you've heard are really true

DAVID SHORE
FEATURES EDITOR

Congratulations are in order. You've worked hard, finished exams, survived high school melodrama, and, in only two short months, Wilfrid Laurier University will become your new home.

No more nagging from your parents. No more taking an ugly yellow bus to school every morning. No more taking classes in subjects you hate. Freedom. No doubt you're awfully excited, and a little bit nervous.

For, while you haven't been to university yet, you've already heard all there is to know about it, right?

Your mom has told you countless times that you'll be getting a rude awakening when you find out how much tougher

university classes are.

Your dad has told you about all of the crazy parties he had at school.

Your teachers have told you time and again that professors won't care about you the way they do.

By the time you step through the doors of your first lecture hall, you will have heard an innumerable amount of claims regarding what first year university is like, many of them totally untrue.

That's where *Cord Features* is here to help! We've assembled a list of some common conceptions about first year, and gathered a team of judges to help separate the facts from the false. The precise from the poor. The bulls-eyes from the bull ... well, you get the point.

In order to truly grasp which notions of frosh life are total malarkey, we've put to-

gether a diverse team of judges to deliberate over the myths. Let's meet the panel:

Dave Shore - *Cord Features* Editor, entering second year at WLU

Stephanie Cheral - Business student, entering second year at WLU

Mike Brown - *Cord* Editor-in-Chief, entering fifth year at WLU

Lauren McNiven - Vice President; University Affairs of Wilfrid Laurier University Student's Union, entering fifth year at WLU.

Dr. Don Morgenson - Psychology professor at Laurier for 40+ years.



The Claim: The Frosh 15

The Verdict: **MYTH**, by a 3-2 decision

You've probably heard about the Frosh 15, or the Freshman 15. And if you haven't, you certainly won't be able to stop hearing about it in a couple months.

The idea of the Frosh 15 is that everyone gains 15 pounds in their first year of university, and diminishes their grades by about 15 percent.

For the most part, this is a myth. While it is very easy to gain weight in a university lifestyle, many people maintain their weight from beforehand, and some even lose pounds.

Pizza, booze, dining hall food and sitting around reading textbooks is certainly a recipe for weight gain. But it is often counteracted by all the walking students do, and the fact that without parents around to feed you, snacks and even meals become less frequent.

It is also untrue that everyone's grades diminish by anything close to 15 percent. If

that happened, the university would have zero 'A' students, and that would look terrible on them. They'd never allow it to happen.

It is true that some people gain weight, often around 15 pounds even. It's also true that some people do experience a drop in their marks, and some people have a combination of these two things happen.

But is this a pattern that happens to most students? Definitely not - everybody's experiences will be different.



The Claim: University classes are harder than high school classes.

The Verdict: **FACT**, by a 3-2 decision

It is a very common pre-conception for new students that university classes will have a large jump in difficulty from high school. It's a notion pushed by parents, teachers, older siblings, and even university officials.

And when there's that many people backing one idea, they're usually right.

There are two main reasons that classes become harder in univer-

sity. The first and most significant is the sheer amount of work.

For the average high school class, the ability to breathe was usually enough to get you through with a decent average.

In university, if you don't do the work required, you will fail. Period.

The other reason classes are harder is that they move much faster.

What might have been a two or three-week unit in a grade 12 course will now be covered in one three-hour lecture.

The misconception here is that while

classes do require you to do more work, they don't require you to be smarter.

Pretty much every first year course follows logical progressions from high school curriculum, usually with a lot of overlap with the stuff you learned in grade 12.

If you were a B student in high school, you'll probably still be a B student. You'll just have to work a little harder for it.

A healthy balance is the only way

The Claim: You won't have time for a job.

The Verdict: **MYTH**, by a decision of 4-1

st students coming into first year under the impression that they'll too busy with schoolwork to hold art-time job.

his is totally untrue. While university classes do require a lot of e invested to succeed, investing of your time into academics can catastrophic.

he key to success in university is to study all the time, like many uld have you believe. It's all about ance.

ocusing all of your time towards dying means you'll end up with friends and no fun, and you'll ckly become tired of univer- r life. Focusing all your time on nds means that your marks will fer.

A healthy balance is the only way

to secure a happy and productive university career. And for many, a part-time job fits perfectly into their balancing act.

After all, university is awfully expensive. Between tuition, textbooks, booze and everything else you'll inevitably buy in first year, you'll find your wallet will thin out very fast.

A part-time job can easily be fit into a student's weekly regime. Not only does it provide extra spending money throughout the week, but it helps you meet more people than you would otherwise.

Even though you may have to do your homework a little later at night, and you may have to skip out on a few parties, getting a part-time job through school is certainly manageable.

The Claim: Everyone gets laid at university!

The Verdict: **MYTH**, by a 4-1 decision

Sorry fellas. But simply being a university student isn't going to make you like the guys from the Axe commercials.

This is a common myth perpetuated by Hollywood and the rest of the media.

While seduction in high school often seemed as difficult as playing golf like Tiger Woods, some will have you believe that landing in the

sack with your preferred sex in university is as simple as mini putt.

Well, don't pack up your 3-woods just yet, because getting some action in university isn't as easy as it's cracked up to be.

Of course, to say that not a lot more people are sexually active by the time they're finished university than when they started would be equally preposterous.

It's natural that people become more sexually active as they grow out of their teens. Not to mention that the increased amounts of alcohol floating around rez rooms often helps to grease the wheels of romance.

But to say that sex is something everyone in university experiences is absurd.

For the most part, people don't

undergo drastic changes in their personality within a year. If you're not the promiscuous type now, chances are university won't change that - at least not right away.

Sexual activity is something that begins at different times for everyone. Simply coming to Laurier just won't cut it for most. In the meantime, all you can do is keep on practicing your golf swing.

The Claim: University parties are better than high school parties.

The Verdict: **FACT**, by unanimous decision

Here's one good reason to start getting really excited about university. The parties here really are the best parties you'll probably ever have.

The unanimous vote from our judges shows that this common belief about post-secondary education is no joke. The parties here are louder, crazier and more fun than you've likely ever seen, or will ever see again afterwards.

That's not to say you had bad parties in high school. Of course, you were all little hellraisers, trashing your parents' houses, having the police

come to your doorsteps, and having a great time doing it.

But face it, despite how cool you think your social life has been so far, the parties you're about to see in the next few years will make your hometown blowouts seem like playing contract bridge with your grandmother and her friends.

It really should be a no-brainer. You no longer have to come home to your parents, so anything goes. For most, frosh year also means turning 19 and finally being legal to buy alcohol.

And even if you don't turn 19 next year, there's plenty of people who will, and who will be more than happy to buy you some booze.

As much as parents and educators wish it wasn't true, alcohol is deeply ingrained in the culture of university, and as such, post secondary parties are generally much more wild than their high school counterparts. Go ahead, get excited.

The Claim: Profs don't care about you; you're just a number.

The Verdict: **MYTH**, by unanimous decision

You've probably heard this claim from nearly every high school teacher you've ever had - that once you enter university, you're on your own, your professors only care about their research, not their students.

This is entirely untrue, and it is tragic that high schools continue to

support this belief.

It is ridiculous to assume that simply by working at a university, all people become cold-hearted and uncaring. Most professors are just as passionate about their teaching as they are about their research, and will gladly give you a hand if you need help.

This is especially true at a school

like Laurier, which is predominantly an undergraduate school. The profs here most certainly do care.

There's a catch, though. When you're in a class of 400 students, your professor will make no effort to get to know you; you'll have to make the effort to get to know them.

Professors will not take the time

to identify everyone in their course that is struggling, and go out of their way to help them. It is the student's responsibility to seek out the help of their prof.

But once you've put forward this initial bit of effort, you'll find that professors are more than happy to get to know you on a personal level.

The Claim: Laurier is a small school that fosters a great community atmosphere.

The Verdict: **FACT**, by a 4-1 decision

The alleged small school atmosphere of Laurier was probably one of the selling points that convinced you to come here in September. And this selling point is certainly no scam.

The fact that Laurier is a smaller school with somewhere around 11,000 full-time undergrads at the Waterloo campus makes a big difference.

It means you're in classes with your friends more often, and it means that it's nearly impossible to walk across campus without seeing somebody you recognize.

It also means that by fourth year,

as long as you are a little bit friendly and sociable, you'll probably know a large portion of your graduating class.

Unfortunately, the benefits of a small campus community end here. The notion that people are somehow friendlier because they go to a smaller school is a complete fabrication.

While O-week might make you think that Laurier is the friendliest place on Earth, this sensation will usually wear off by October.

Sadly, the community environment that we do have at Laurier is quickly diminishing. Every year,

more and more students are accepted into WLU as we push the limits of our primarily undergraduate reputation.

Though our small school feel is still embraced by the PR folks, Laurier is no longer the tight knit community it once was. Undergraduate enrollment has nearly doubled in the past 10 years.

So while you begin your undergraduate degree at a small school, you may be ending it at a large one. Enjoy its great community environment while you still can.

Tips for academic success

While the university workload is a lot harder to manage than high school, it's not impossible to do. Here are some tips to help you have a successful academic year without breaking the bank on overpriced tutors

ASHLEY JANG
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

It may seem like your summer vacation has just begun, but it's never too early to start planning for your next academic year. Here are some tips to help you stay ahead of the academic curve.

1. Take advantage of tutorials and office hours.

Tutorials are a great way to get the extra help that may not be available during your lectures. If you don't feel comfortable asking questions in your bigger lectures, small tutorials present a less intimidating environment for student-professor interaction. Professors also hold office hours every week for students. Keep this in mind and use office hours whenever you need extra help or advice.

2. Study on campus.

While residence may prove to be a very distracting environment that may make studying difficult, there is no shortage of places on campus where you can hit the books, distraction-free. The library is open until midnight Monday-Thursday, and Friday-Sunday until 10:00pm, the 24-lounge is open (unsurprisingly) 24 hours a day, and the Science Building is open all night with the doors locking at midnight. Other great studying areas on campus include the concourse, the study rooms in the Bricker Academic Building, the dining hall, the Schlegel Center atrium, and the quiet study rooms, which will be opening in the new Dr. Alvin Woods Building (DAWB).

The rules of residence

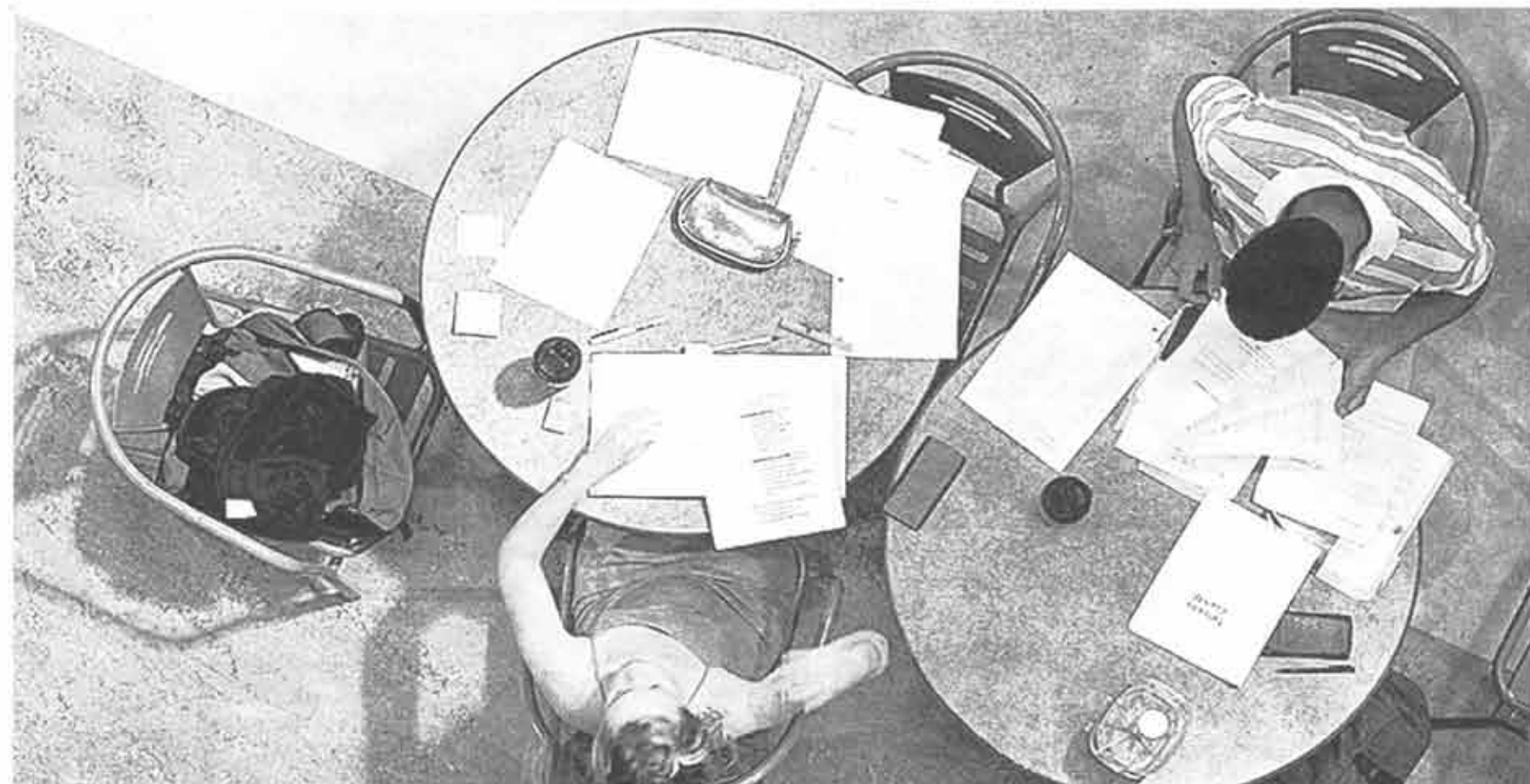
Ashley Jang sits down with the Manager of Residence Life, Chris Dodd, to get the lowdown on life in a Laurier residence

ASHLEY JANG
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

For those of you moving into residence, you're likely filled with excitement about the prospect of being on your own and free to do as you please. This can be the case—but there are some residence rules, regulations, and policies that must still be adhered to.

According to Chris Dodd, Manager of Residence Life, alcohol is the leading cause of problems in WLU residences. "If alcohol was taken away from the residence environment we would have a third of the problems that we have now," says Dodd.

Residences have a strict four-strike policy for any case of un-



Sandra Howard

HEIGHTS OF ACADEMIA - These students take advantage of the Science Building study spaces to escape the distractions of residence.

3. Use your resources.

Laurier has no shortage of resources to help you succeed academically. Learning services offers a number of centers that can be a great help, including Accessible Learning for students with physical or learning disabilities (including temporary injuries), Central Academic Advising for help when you don't meet your grade requirements or advice on what courses to take for your career choice, and the Writing Center. Students coming to Laurier in their first year can take advantage of Headstart, a program for incoming students and their parents, where Laurier ambassadors help you with things like class scheduling. "When

you switch from a high school to university, it's a change for both students and parents," says Michael Lisetto-Smith, Coordinator of the Study Skills and Supplemental Instruction Centre. Headstart is offered during the summer, but register online as soon as possible, as the business and music sessions end on July 6, arts on July 12, and science on July 13.

4. Go to study sessions.

There are programs run by Laurier students that can be a great help when it comes to studying for exams. First-year business and economics students can take advantage of the BUCS cram sessions,

put on by the Laurier Business and Computing Students association. For a small donation you receive a group tutoring session that goes over all of the main concepts from the term. Laurier SOS is another student-run program that offers group-tutoring sessions for a small donation and offers help for courses beyond first year.

5. Manage your time.

Being thrown into your first year of university, you will likely feel like you don't have enough time to do everything you need to do. The best way to overcome this problem is to manage your time effectively. According to Lisetto-Smith, time

management "is the foundation and if any student has poor time management skills, they're going to run into trouble very quickly." Laurier offers time management workshops, usually in the first week of classes, so take advantage and learn how to balance your new life.

When all else fails, don't be afraid to ask for help. "A lot of people say that when you go to university you're alone, but that's not true. There is help if you want it," says Lisetto-Smith. From your don to your friends to Laurier's learning services, there is always support to help you succeed academically.

derage drinking. "The university is concerned with making sure that no laws are being broken in our residences so it's important to us that undergrads do not consume alcohol," Dodd explains.

When a student is caught drinking underage in a residence, they are given a strike. The first strike will merit a meeting with the floor don to discuss what happened and have the student sign a document stating he or she understands the rules and will not do it again.

If the student is caught a second time, there is a meeting scheduled with the Residence Life Area Coordinator (RLAC), who will give the student a second strike. A third strike will result in a meeting with Dodd and the student is put on

residence probation. If caught once more, they will be evicted.

"It's very important to say that as a first-year student you're given the residence alcohol policy and you sign it, that you understand the residence alcohol policy and what it means to live in residence and consume alcohol," said Dodd.

Evictions, however, are a rarity—only one student has been kicked out of residence as a result of underage drinking since the four-strike rule was implemented four years ago. "We don't like to evict people," says Dodd. "I mean, sometimes it's the environment they're in, sometimes people need a fresh start, so we like to give them that opportunity before they're actually evicted."

Students are given the opportunity to switch residences for preferential reasons or for disciplinary measure. This gives them the opportunity to start over and wipe their slate clean. "It's very effective; I've never evicted someone that I've moved," said Dodd.

Drugs are another serious problem that residences face. Any sort of drug within residence is strictly prohibited. "In the past it's been completely zero tolerance; if you're caught, you're gone immediately," said Dodd. "If you're trafficking or anything like that, you're gone and we refer your name to the Waterloo Regional Police."

The rules are a bit more flexible when it comes to fights, vandalism, violence, etc. "We have a whole

judicial process that we try to go through with each side because it's not fair to have a set of rules and try to apply them across the board," said Dodd.

According to Dodd, it is not very often that fights or violence occur within Laurier's residences. "We usually only have two or three fights a year and even then it's not like anyone gets hurt or anything like that. I can't remember the last time we sent someone to a hospital because of a fight."

According to Dodd, residence is a great experience as long as you follow all of the rules and regulations provided in the residence handbook you will soon receive.

Welcome to WLU - Now what?

Okay, so you're not here just yet. But **Nicole Wray** is fresh off her first year at WLU and ready to impart some wisdom about how to make the most of the first week of the rest of your life



NICOLE WRAY
Staff Writer

Your parents have left, you may have met your roommate, had your first encounter with the shared bathroom and probably by now have thought "What am I doing here?" One of the many wonderful things about Laurier is that during O-week and all year long, there will be people to help you figure out how to make your time at Laurier the best that it can be.

When you first arrive at Laurier, one of the first people you will meet is your don. Soon after, you'll meet your Ice Breakers (your orientation week leaders). If you attend O-Week events (and you should!), you will be spending lots of time with them.

Between your don and your Ice Breakers, you will be able to have any questions about Laurier answered. If there is a club or committee for something that interests you, your don or Ice Breaker will be able to point you in the right direction to get involved.

When you move into your room in residence, you'll get a schedule of O-Week events, which is quite overwhelming and may make you feel like you've signed up for a sum-

mer camp that you would have only attended years ago.

Go into O-Week with an open mind. Not every event is for every person and you will probably be too busy to go to every event. Your Ice Breakers, on the other hand, will not be too busy to bang on your doors daily. Attend as many events as you can, and trust that you will have the rest of the entire year to wake up late.

Courtney Powers, this year's O-Week coordinator, says, "The best thing to do is to come out to as many events as possible, especially the Get Involved Fair where you'll have the opportunity to ask as many questions as you want to people who are already involved in the school."

Plus, you will get paired up with another group of people from a different residence and have an awesome chance to make friends. Introduce yourself often. One of the reasons you probably chose Laurier is the small community size; chances are you'll be happy to run into a familiar face on campus.

There are lots of positions within your residence house council that allow you to help run events for your residence or for off-campus students if you are not living in residence. Applications for these positions happen soon after you move in, but opportunities to help with

and attend residence events happen all year round.

Remember: this is probably going to be the only time in your life when you are living with a building full of students looking for just about anything to do to distract themselves from school. If there is anything you want to plan for your floor or residence, whether you join your house council or not, there is always a way to make it happen as well as people who will attend events.

Looking back and talking about the first week with friends in residence, I remember being surprised that even the people who I did not think were nervous confessed and laughed about how extremely nervous they were. Everyone is in the same position arriving at Laurier. It might feel awkward just walking into your new neighbours' rooms, but university, and especially your first week, is often about leaving your comfort zone behind and exploring.

For many of you, this is probably going to be the first time in your life that the answer to the question "What am I doing here?" can be just about anything you want it to be. Ask questions, volunteer, leave your reservations behind and instead consider the question "How am I going to leave here?"



File photo

SHINERAMA - Shine Day could help you meet your next best friend.

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THE CORD WEEKLY

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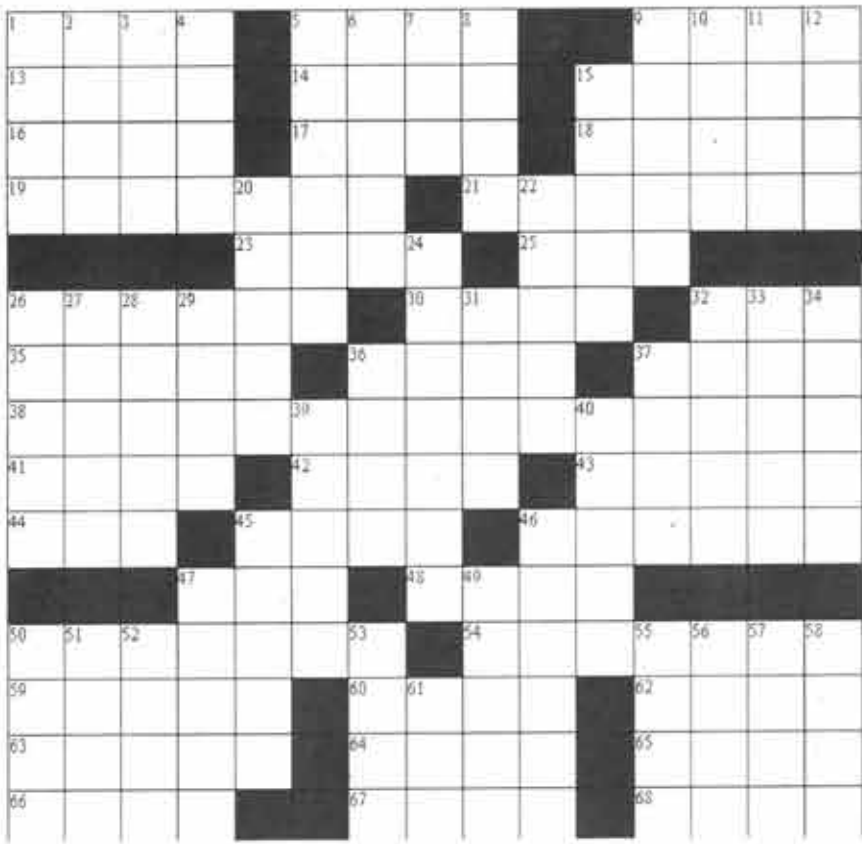


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CROSSWORD By Krystian Imgrum The Ontarion, Special to CUP (U of Guelph)



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. Muscat native
- 2. Popular card
- 3. Done
- 4. Put on the bottle
- 5. Lurks
- 6. Church feature
- 7. _____ Alamos
- 8. Strike with 65 across
- 9. Trigger or Traveller
- 10. Kristin Kreuk role
- 11. Crafts' partner
- 12. Hick hat
- 15. Daring display
- 26. What Andy Rooney does
- 22. Slightest
- 24. Gave up
- 26. Take out
- 27. Fixes, medically
- 28. English county
- 29. Plays musical chairs
- 31. Greek vowels
- 32. Fake
- 33. Flush game
- 34. Copycats
- 36. Irsome mood
- 37. Use scissors
- 39. Horned beast, for short
- 40. Spill red wine
- 45. Vaults
- 46. Shuts
- 47. Extremely anxious
- 49. Ham it up
- 50. Desperate breath
- 51. Take back: (abbr.)
- 52. DJ Davis
- 53. Lucy Lawless role
- 55. Performed well
- 56. Lariat
- 57. Native Manitobans
- 58. Give attention
- 61. The big guy

Last Week's answers



CORD CLASSIFIEDS

5 bucks for 30 words or less

Come to the WLUSP office to find out more

Rate applies to WLU students, staff and faculty only

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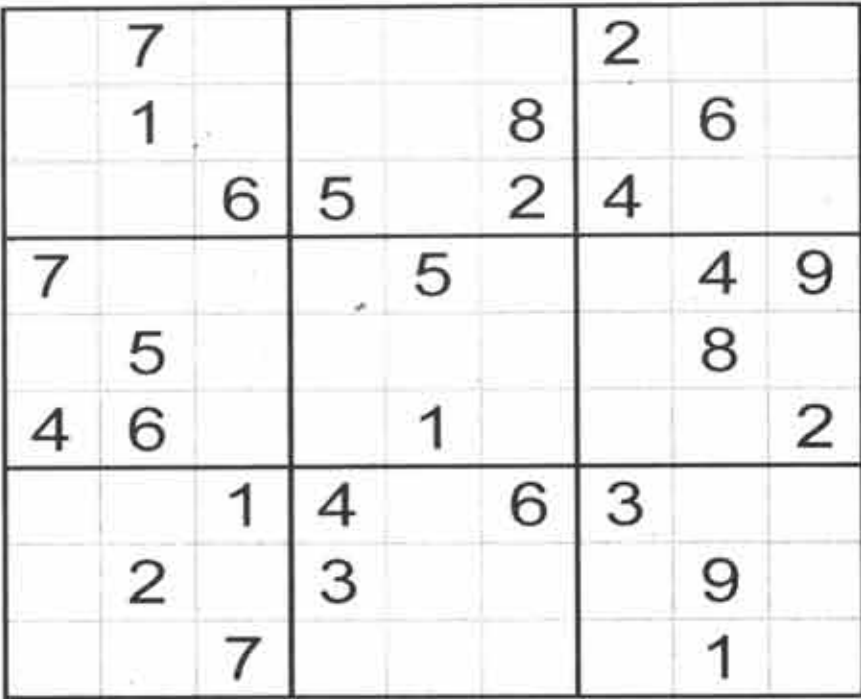
Gain experience Volunteering
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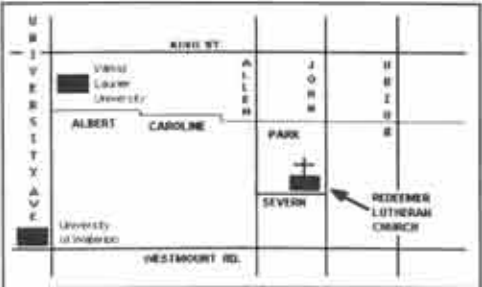
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GOLDEN HAWK ATHLETICS & RECREATION

2007 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sept 3, 2007 vs McMaster, 2:00pm
 Sept 8, 2007 vs Windsor, 6:30pm
 Sept 14, 2007 at Toronto, 7:30 pm
 Sept 22, 2007 vs Waterloo, 1:00pm
 - Homecoming Game
 Sept 29, 2007 at Queen's, 1:25pm
 Oct 6, 2007 at Guelph, 1:00pm
 Oct 13, 2007 vs Ottawa, 1:00pm
 Oct 20, 2007 at York, 1:00pm

There are 22 Golden Hawk Varsity teams that compete at the highest university level, all striving towards their goals of becoming the best in Canada. The 2007 Varsity Football team will once again contend for the Yates Cup, and are ready to prove that they are the nation's top athletes.

Admission is free to all Laurier home games for WLU students.

GET IN THE GAME

REGISTER ONLINE for INTRAMURALS, SPECIAL INTEREST CLASSES and MORE!



Look for the 2007-08 Recreation Guide in your Orientation Packages! As an insert of the Golden Hawks Calendar, it contains important program, sports, course information & details on how to register.

Golden Hawk Recreation annually services 3,000 students in a wide variety of Recreation Programs such as Aerobics, Cycle Fit, Dance, Yoga, Pilates, Martial Arts, Rock Climbing, Personal Training, Aquatics and First Aid Courses! Also, 600 teams participate in 15 different Intramural Sport Leagues that you can register for as a team, or as a Free Agent.



Drop by the Athletic Complex for a tour, an orientation of the Fitness Centre & meet your Student Leader Recreation Staff!

For complete game schedules & information, visit

www.laurierathletics.com

BE AWARE...WITH UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

WHAT IS UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS ALL ABOUT?

University Affairs is a department within the Students' Union here at Wilfrid Laurier University, also known as WLUSU. The University Affairs department of WLUSU is the **voice of advocacy for the students**, representing them on matters concerning the environment, diversity, academics, municipal relations, and post-secondary education. The overall **goal of the department is to promote a high quality environment within the Laurier community**.

WLUSU is a member of two lobby organization organizations. One being OUSA and the other CASA.

The University Affairs

Department has several opportunities to get involved. Two new initiatives this year to better represent you are:

ACADEMIC ISSUES COMMISSION:

A.I.C. is dedicated to:

- raising awareness of academic issues students may face during their University career.
- promoting a culture of academic integrity.
- conducting research in order to secure, for students, a full understanding of key issues.
- making recommendations of both WLUSU and WLU administration regarding both policy and campus attitudes towards these issues.

MUNICIPAL RELATIONS COMMISSION:

- works to create & sustain an open line of communication between the City representatives and students.
- works to show students their valuable & essential interactions within the community during their time as a Waterloo resident.
- Members on a Mayoral Advisory Committee with UW students too, to advocate & represent students needs, opinions & suggestions to the Mayor on student & community issues.
- establishing "transient" student engagement & recognition is another priority of the commission.



educated solutions

OUSA

WWW.OUSA.CA

OUSA: (PROVINCIAL LOBBY GROUP)

OUSA stands for Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance. OUSA represents the interests of over 125,000 professional and undergraduate, full-time and part-time university students at seven institutions across Ontario, WLUSU being one of them.

OUSA's vision is for an accessible, affordable, accountable and high quality post-secondary education in Ontario. To achieve this vision they have come together to develop solutions to challenges facing higher education, build broad consensus for our policy options, and lobby government to implement them.



WWW.CASA.CA

CASA: FEDERAL (LOBBY GROUP)

CASA stands for Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). It is an alliance of student associations and student unions from across Canada. Through this network of student governments, CASA represents and defends the interests of post-secondary students to federal and inter-provincial levels of government.

There are many other committees under the University Affairs department at WLUSU. To learn more about these various committees please visit **www.wlusu.com**. If you are interested in making a difference you can volunteer for any of these committees by contacting the Vice President of University Affairs Lauren McNiven @ **lmcniven@wlu.ca**

Leupold not fit for Frosh

The Laurier community deserves a clean and safe environment, and its members deserve to know what's going on when a problem is found. This was not the case for many members of the Faculty of Arts this year, and may not be the case for students in one residence building next year.

After a sociology professor fell ill, it was discovered that faculty whose offices were located in the Leupold building were subject to higher-than-normal levels of mould in their building.

What followed was a communication collapse: faculty members were not made aware of the presence of mould and the air quality report, which found mould spores in the air, failed to reach the appropriate party until just last week – four months after it was performed. This can only leave faculty and students alike wondering what other information concerning the school environment has fallen off the radar.

The poor conditions of the buildings were acknowledged by administration, as faculty whose offices were located in Leupold will be allowed to waive this year's teaching evaluations as a result. However, the mould was not found to be toxic so the university is not required to remove it.

As faculty are set to move out of the offices into the newly-renovated Dr. Alvin Woods Building (DAWB) at the end of July, this leaves only one month to locate and remove the mould to ensure the health of incoming students in September. Original plans called for only a basic paint job.

Even if more work is to be done, the timeframe for repairs is very short and may get even shorter if renovations to the DAWB aren't completed on time, forcing an extended stay for faculty, thereby reducing the time available to prepare them for September's Frosh.

Since administration has acknowledged the problem, repairs should be made before anyone new is moved into the building. Currently, administration seems to have missed the point by acknowledging the problem, telling no one about it, then shuffling it aside at the risk of the health, safety and comfort of faculty. We all deserve better.

Athletic scholarships good for all students

Successful athletes and athletic programs bring their universities a great deal of money, attention and prestige. And now, with the announcement that the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) association has approved giving athletic scholarships to qualified student-athletes as a recruitment tool, Laurier will be able to attract more top student-athletes that may otherwise be wooed by free rides in the U.S.

Being a student-athlete on a successful varsity team is a big commitment. Practice and game schedules, combined with university's academic commitments leave most athletes without the time for a part-time job during the year – a financial necessity for many students.

The financial cost of these scholarships is small compared to the

potential value the athletes' results might bring. The Vanier Cup win of two years ago put the Laurier name on the radar across the country in places that may not otherwise have heard of our small campus.

Administrators should also be commended for consciously acknowledging the importance of academics alongside athletics and putting measures in place to prevent encouraging athletes to do poorly academically. By setting a level of academic achievement necessary to qualify for athletic scholarships, the province will attract balanced student-athletes – strong on and off the field.

With the potential to attract more athletes of high calibre, Laurier can raise its profile nationally. And that's good for all of us.

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

THE CORD WEEKLY

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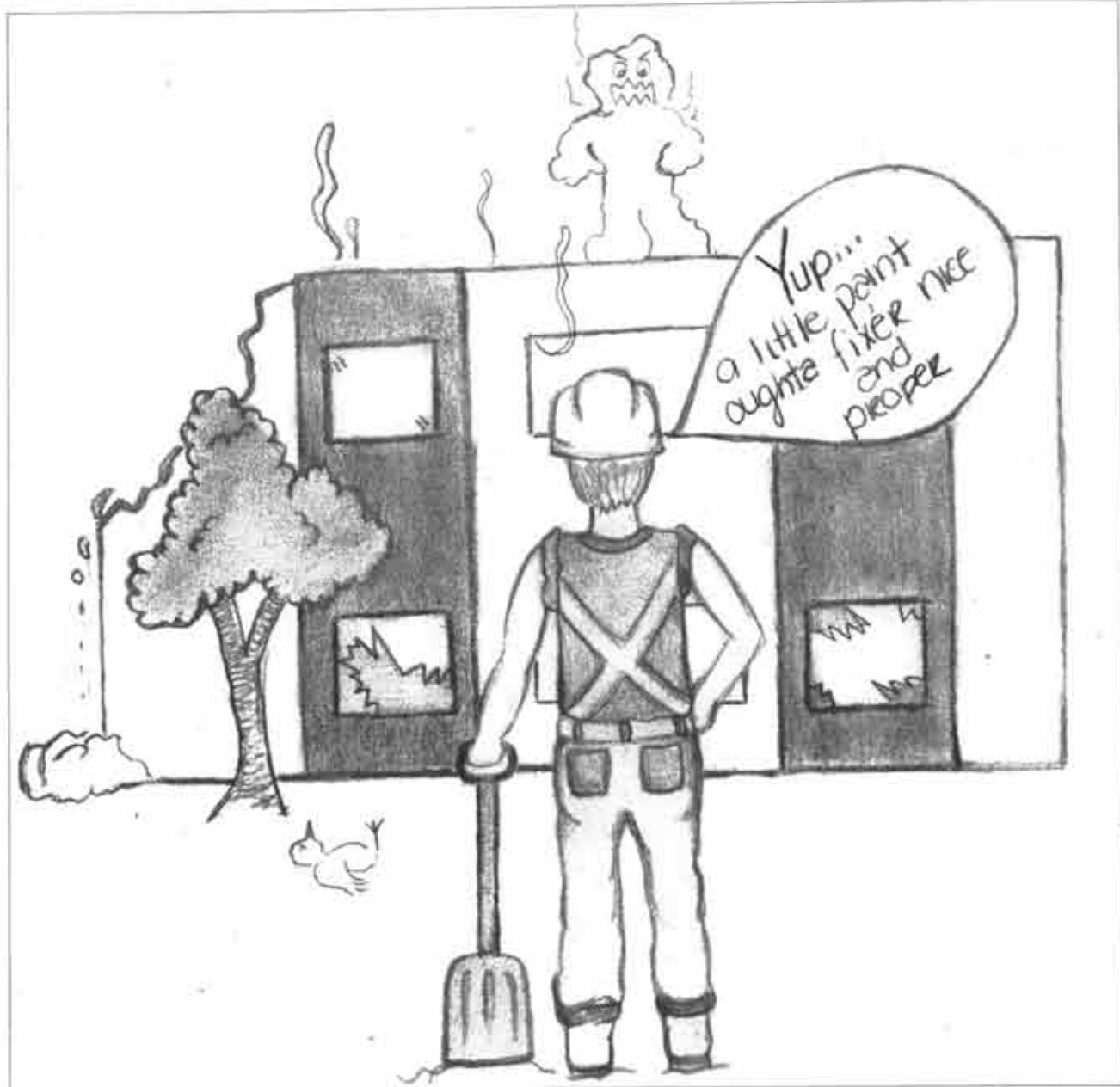
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Julie Marion

A major side-note towards your future



JEREMY TREMBLAY
OPINION EDITOR

Entering university, you'll be faced with new challenges, problems and, of course, freedoms. As you adjust to these day-to-day trials, many will simply pass by quietly and hardly noticed by you. Others will come back again and again, until you're more than fed up with the situation.

The perennial favourite of these frustrating situations, one which will last you your entire undergraduate career, is the favourite phrase of countless people you'll meet. Indeed, after you tell someone what your major is, "and what are you going to do with that when you graduate?" will be a string of words you'll continually loathe hearing.

As you enter first year, some of you already know what you want to major in, while others don't have a clue. The good news is that picking your major isn't as big a deal as people have made it out to be.

Picking a major is far more flexible than choosing a university. Remember that your major isn't going to dictate your career path and the rest of your life. And, you'll be able to switch your major down the road if you change your mind (granted, with limitations).

Unfortunately, society has given up on the idea of learning anything that isn't going to help you in the real world (that scary place hovering in the distant but all-too-near future). As more and more people

attend university, they seem to forget what it's for.

Parents are trying to morph universities, once strongholds of higher learning, into glorified colleges. They want you to go in and choose a major that will spit you out into a job four years later.

The reality is, though, that you're not in college. Especially if you're in arts, you're not going to learn anything career-specific. The good news is that while what you learn may lend itself well to certain fields, the fact that you can read, write and will have developed analytic skills isn't going to close doors for you.

PARENTS WANT YOU TO CHOOSE A MAJOR THAT WILL SPIT YOU OUT INTO A JOB FOUR YEARS LATER.

That said, planning beyond choosing your major isn't going to hurt. While you may not be limited by your degree, you may need specific skills and experiences outside of an undergraduate degree. You'll have to put a lot more thought into what you want to do when you graduate, and how you're going to get there.

According to Laurier's Career Services' website, "Your degree or field of study does not define or limit your career choices ... It always makes sense to begin working toward a direction as soon as possible, particularly as your career decision may entail specific academic requirements or experiences."

For those of you who still aren't convinced that picking a major isn't the defining moment for

everything following in your life, Career Services isn't alone in peddling this advice. In a Maclean's interview, Kate Ross, registrar and senior director of student enrollment at Simon Fraser University, spouts a similar opinion.

"My philosophy is that an undergraduate degree is an undergraduate degree," begins Ross. "In some respects, employers don't really care what area it's from but it sends a message about capability."

So, if you're considering a less popular – or perhaps a less popularly said to be employable – major, you don't have to worry that

you may be ruining your future by taking something you like. Even if the business majors won't listen when you insist that you won't be

living in a cardboard castle come commencement.

Of course, you're still faced with the problem presented at the very beginning. What the hell do you tell people when they ask you, "and what are you going to do with that when you graduate?"

So, if you don't have a clue what you're going to do when you graduate, or if you just don't feel like explaining the relation between your chosen career path and major, I'll leave you with what may be the somewhat jaded advice of a friend of mine.

The only way to keep your sanity, she insists, is to lie. Smile politely, and tell them you're going to be a teacher. No one will have questions about that.

letters@cordweekly.com

Childhood's newest extension

The frightening influence of helicopter parents has reached universities



ALLIE MAXTED
RESIDENT CYNIC

From the beginning of elementary school, parents are told to be involved in their children's education. This idea comes at us from all angles, including parenting books, the media and the schools themselves. Our schools are full of opportunities for parents to feel connected to their children's social and academic experiences. Research has shown that children thrive with the support of parents, who are told to get involved through actions such as homework aid, volunteering for class trips, and reading with their kids. The result is the popular belief that good parenting and prental involvement are fully equal and inseparable entities.

Unfortunately for everyone, some parents who encounter this message fail to read the fine print. This advice, if not used responsibly, leads to dangerous side effects. Over-involved parents, unsatisfied with their own lives, begin to derive pain or pleasure from the success or failure of their children.

The children of this growing cohort, known by schools as 'helicopter parents', become over-scheduled, over-pressured and overprotected. Unable to make their own choices, these children lack control of their lives and are prevented from devel-

oping a sense of self-identity. Most are rendered incapable of solving life's simple problems without the aid of mommy or daddy.

This phenomenon, once limited to childhood, has been enabled by technology to extend well into adulthood. The term 'helicopter parent,' once reserved only for elementary schools, is becoming more widely known at the high school and even post-secondary levels. An article on USAtoday.com notes that even employers have begun to complain about parental involvement in things such as hiring, benefits and wage negotiation.

The main technological culprit is the cell phone, which allows the helicopter parent to extend their control far beyond the reach of a conventional telephone, earning it the nickname of the world's longest umbilical cord. Helicopter parents call their children on their cell phones to ensure they get to class, and students have instant access to mom and dad to fix their problems when they have a fight with a roommate or an essay isn't going well. Some schools have been forced to ban the use of cell phones in on-campus offices and businesses, citing over-involved parents as the reason.

But the helicopter parent is relentless, and they are growing in both power and number. Rather than continuing to discourage this type of hovering behaviour, the consumer society is beginning to adapt to meet the needs of helicop-

ter parents. The emergence of products such as the Baby Einstein line of toys is one example of how society caters to the parent with high expectations for their child. Employers and post-secondary institutions are beginning to recognize the power that these parents have over their children's decisions. In order to attract the elite youth, these institutions need to make themselves attractive for helicopter parents.

Some employers are even hiring staff to accommodate controlling parents at job fairs. The world of post-secondary education, once a place for adolescents to be weaned off their parents, is no longer such a sanctuary. One look at nearly any university's website will expose a section exclusively for parents, full of supportive phrases for the hovering parent, like, "choosing a post-secondary institution is a family endeavour."

However, despite all their best intentions, the negative impact of the helicopter parent on universities is paramount. Aside from the economic effects of the time and money diverted towards dealing with them, there is also the unwelcome influence put on students and professors that has transformed the university culture. With the rising cost of tuition and the increasing view of the university degree as a commodity, these helicopter parents feel justified in their actions. Just like any other consumer, they are only protecting their investment, right?



Julie Marion

GET TO DA CHOPPAH - Helicopters parents smother and spoil

This new view of the university degree has left the products of hovering parents listlessly majoring in whatever will lead to an acceptable answer when asked what they're going to do when they graduate. Their parents, who only want the brightest future for them, have failed to ascertain where their real passions lie. The focus on grades and end results means no one remembers to account for whether or not the student is actually learning.

University, once a place away from parents to learn and grow, has become an extension of childhood.

This leaves young adults, when they are facing the "real world," desperate for the transitional environment university once was. With accommodations for helicopter parents on the rise, it doesn't look like they will be changing their ways very soon. It is up to the students to take a stand.

Make your own decisions. Pursue what you are passionate about. Explore new ideas and directions without fear of failure. And please, for the good of humanity, don't always pick up the phone when your mother calls.

letters@cordweekly.com

University culture no longer marked by intelligence



BLAIR FORSYTH-STARK
EX-OPINION EDITOR

So here you are, four long, arduous years of high school education behind you and on the threshold of your next big step: university. The mecca of higher education, the fortress of intelligensia; in layman's terms, university is the place you go to get smart.

Or so you'd think. Gone are the days of university being reserved for the academic elite, instead opting to admit every Tom, Dick and Sally who can scrape by a 70 percent average in high school and who can afford to pay tuition. It seems a healthy bank account is the new high IQ.

Nowhere was the evidence for a purchased education more clear than at my recent convocation. Yes, as an official Laurier Alumnus, I feel poised to wax philosophical

on my intellectually-impaired colleagues and offer some advice for you unsuspecting newcomers.

As I sat amongst my peers at my undergraduate graduation, I surveyed the mass of black gowns and purple and gold sashes and couldn't help but notice the vapid, uninterested expressions on many of the faces. Surely, at the culmination of their post-secondary education, these young souls could at least feign interest.

Granted, it was hot as hell and the acoustics in the arena were terrible, but these individuals weren't remotely concerned with the words of wisdom being passed on by the Chancellor and the president. Instead, they were counting down the minutes until they could start - or continue - doing shots, planning their celebratory night out and picking what they could wear that would maximize hook-up potential.

While such a bleak view of some of my peers may seem harsh, it

comes from experience, having spent four years in classes overhearing their conversations about some "sick" kegger they went to or watching in amusement as they raise their hand and share their profound "insight" with the professor, something that was likely already covered in the first lecture.

But these Mensa rejects aren't a product of the education available here at Laurier or of something wonky in the Kitchener-Waterloo water system; they are the results of a growing and alarming trend: the dumbing down of culture.

In a world where the death of Anna Nicole Smith and the shaving of Britney's head top the news stories of the day, it's no wonder that many individuals are completely uninformed about world issues. In order to maximize profits, media conglomerates have watered down the news in order to appeal to the masses, selling smut over substance.

While Us Weekly, People and

their clones dominate the newsstands, worthy publications like The Economist, Time and even National Geographic fight for space on the bottom rung. Who cares about global warming if Brangelina might have another kid?

And it's not just the news that's dumbing down our culture. High-tech gadgets like iPods and cell phones now allow access to the Internet and movies while on the go. Forget about books; our digital generation can now get hooked up to mindless entertainment at any location.

This proliferation of brain "junk food" is creating a generation of slackers who are satisfied with knowing just enough to get by, never pushing themselves or their brain power to full capacity. This problem is made all too clear in university classrooms, where students who have access to a wealth of knowledge and resources are content learning just enough to pass the course, not learning be-

cause they love to do so.

Post-secondary education has become a push for the degree, with students only caring about receiving a piece of paper and not the educational journey it takes to get there. That little piece of paper, they think, will get them the higher paying job which will get them the nicer place, which they can fill with more mindless entertainment.

As the newest crop of doe-eyed high school seniors to embark upon a post-secondary journey, be warned that you won't be spoon-fed intelligence and that most of you will be able to pass your classes with minimal effort. However, for the sake of your brain and for the sake of humanity, every once in a while, try turning off Entertainment Tonight and try picking up a book. Instead of just investing dollars into your education, try investing yourself.

letters@cordweekly.com

Celebrities need reality check

A multi-platinum album should not entitle one to an audience of the world's political heavyweights



JEREMY CARNEGIE
RAGIN' RED-HEAD

With the end of this year's G8 summit in Germany, everyone's favourite rock star-turned-activist decided to make headlines by blasting Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Canada's current commitment to African aid.

Officially, the Canadian government says it is on track with the money they have promised as relief to Africa but Bono insists that Canada single-handedly blocked progress on setting down concrete figures for African relief.

The rocker from the Emerald Isle and Bob Geldof went as far as to suggest that the prime minister does not represent the views of Canadians and implied that his actions were not typical of someone from this nation.

Upon reading this, I found myself incensed. I am all for questioning the actions of your elected representatives and holding them accountable for what they do, but I had to wonder who Bono voted for in the last Canadian election.

I found myself, as a Canadian, insulted by the audacity of this man who so transparently attempted to sway the opinion of the Canadian people by his pathetic challenge to the idea of what makes us Canadian.

Where does an Irish citizen get off questioning the policies and actions of Canada?

Who is this man to suppose that he alone understands what it means to be Canadian and to summarily pass judgment that our elected prime minister somehow does not?

How much stock should we really put in the opinions of a man who goes by only one name? (What are you trying to hide, Paul David Hewson?)

Perhaps Bono's criticism is fueled by the fact that Harper refused to grant him a private audience during the summit, instead opting to meet with other world leaders (as was the purpose of the conference).

Maybe it irks the Irish rock star that Harper sees him for what he is - a millionaire with free time and a cause - and treats him accordingly.

Stephen Harper should be lauded for not pandering to this celebrity influence unlike so many other world leaders.

It's not as though it wouldn't have been in Harper's best interest to meet with the U2 front man. Doing so could have actually helped to soften his image and dispel the view that he cares little for interna-

tional social issues.

The Prime Minister decided, however, to take the high road in this instance, avoiding the tawdry photo opportunity. Instead, he decided his time would be better spent meeting with world leaders.

I do, of course, recognize the great need that exists in Africa and I acknowledge that the U2 front man has done quite a bit of good for the cause.

That said, I am sick and tired of seeing said sunglass-wearing celebrity being given private audiences with diplomats and heads of state when an ordinary person would not be given a second thought.

More than this, it disgusts me to see star-struck world leaders pandering to celebrity influence.

Does Bono's celebrity status actually entitle him to an audience with world leaders?

It's not that I think that Bono doesn't have a noble cause and I don't even question his motives as anything less than genuine.

I do, however, find it difficult to stomach when millionaires sermonize the plight of the poor and downtrodden while still maintaining their prolific lifestyles.

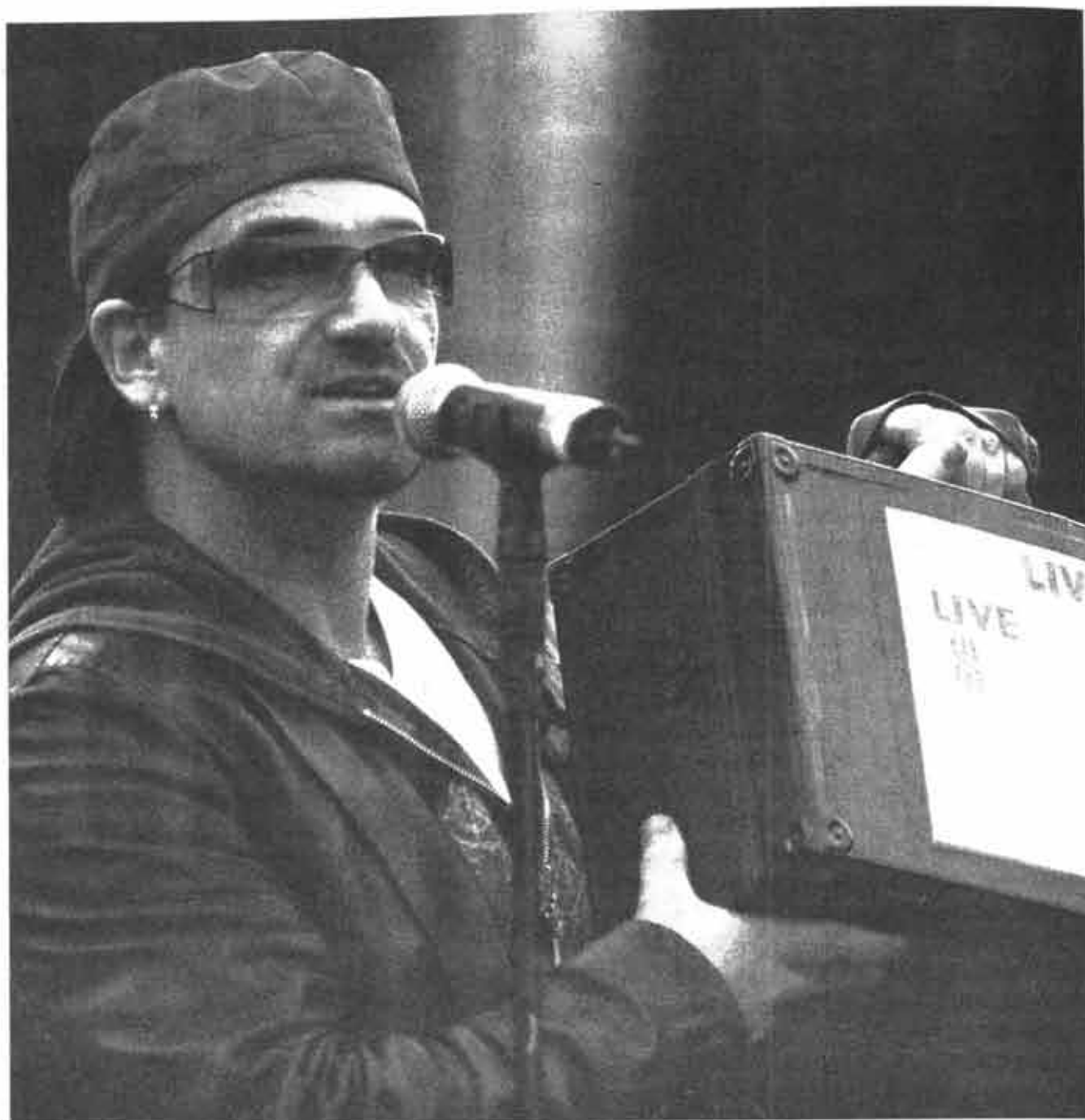
In a world where the gap between the rich and the poor is growing ever wider, to have some of the wealthiest encourage others to do more to help those less fortunate seems to go so far beyond contradictory that it borders on paradoxical.

Of course, wealthy individuals can promote any cause they choose, but to do so with such contempt and smugness as to openly and publicly chastise those who do not agree with them seems somewhat inappropriate when you look at the lifestyle and wealth of the celebrity activist in general even compared to his or her fellow countrymen.

Many celebrity activists have done great things for the causes they have taken on. A celebrity can be a huge asset to a cause, as he can be invaluable to raising awareness for many issues due to the media coverage he receives because of his status.

However, many celebrity activists need to take a reality check and realize that their status does not entitle them to an audience at their choosing nor does it make their arguments more compelling or convincing than any other learned individual.

Following the recent G8 summit, Bono expressed his disappointment in the actions of Steven Harper and Canada during negotiations. Some might say this was the frustration of a man on a mission. I would say it was the frustration of a man who's new to not getting what he wants.



Contributed Photo

THE KING OF CELEBRITY ACTIVISTS - Bono, shown here making an announcement about Live 8, is too quick to lecture governments about their foreign aid policies given his wealthy lifestyle.

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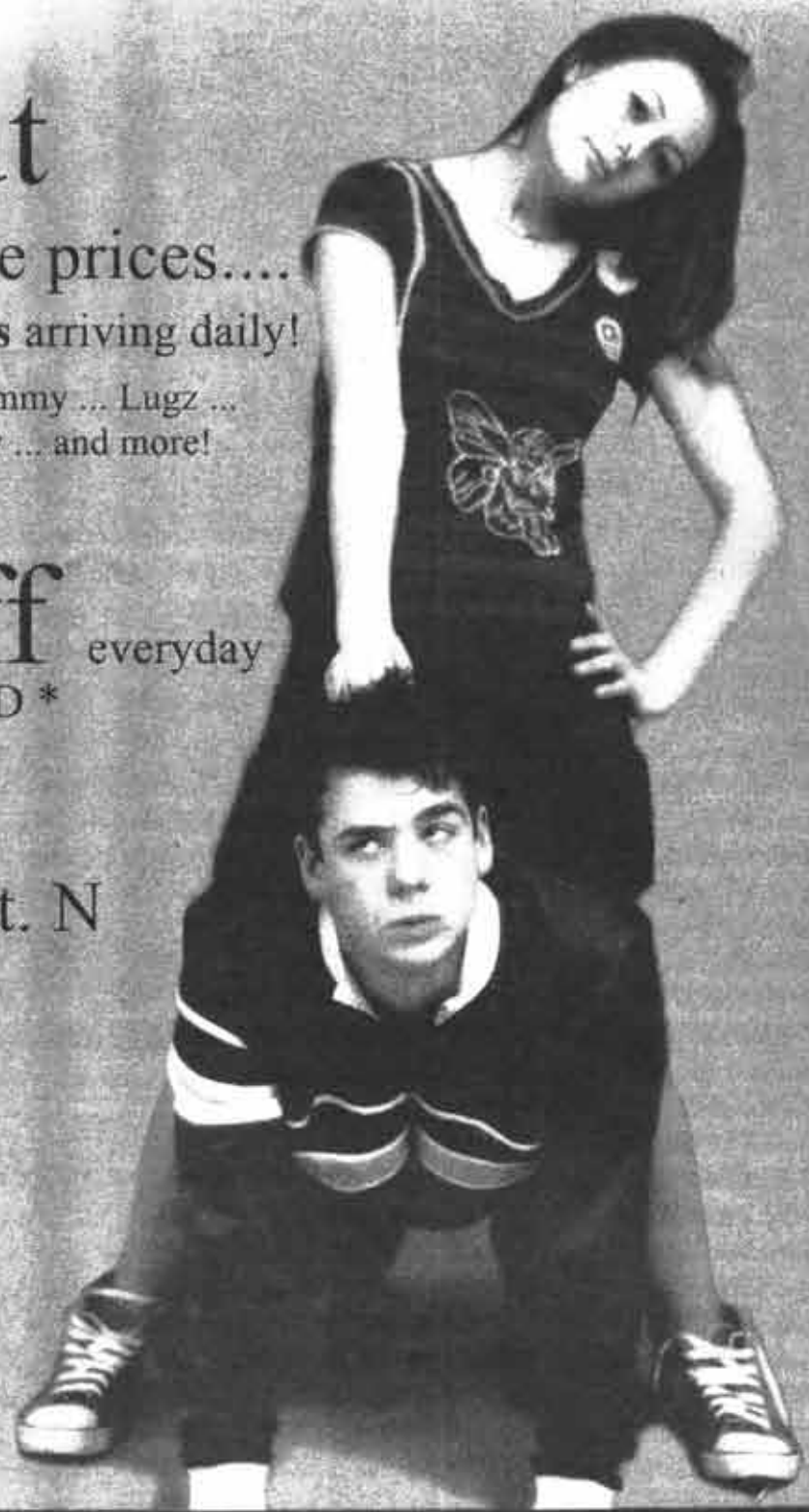
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The real cost of OSAP



CARLY BEATH
BROKE ALUMNUS

When you come to Waterloo in the fall, you'll most likely see a bar sporting a sign proclaiming, "now accepting OSAP." You might laugh. I

did, in my first year. But I can guarantee that by the time you're where I am now – out of school for over a year and paying back loans – you're not going to find it funny at all. But you might be able to ease the pain if you can avoid falling too far down the OSAP hole.

OSAP may seem like a sweet deal and, if you're not lucky enough to

have parents paying for school, it might be your only option. But if you can get by spending less loan money, do it. That last drink of the night may seem like a great idea then, but is it really worth the \$5 you pay for it at the time, multiplied by the 8.5 per cent interest you pay later?

Speaking of interest, that brings

me to the topic of misconceptions about OSAP – and the loan system is complicated, so there are many.

Common Misconception #1: A lot of people think that interest doesn't start accruing on their OSAP until six months after they graduate, when they have to start paying back their loans. Not true. Interest starts adding up as soon as you graduate.

Common Misconception #2: Many people also think OSAP is a cheap loan source, partly owing to the fact that you don't have to pay interest while you're in school and partly because people assume that since it's coming from the government, it couldn't possibly be high interest. Wrong. I have both a bank loan and an OSAP loan. I nearly hit the roof the day I realized that the interest rate on my OSAP loan (8.5 per cent) is higher than the interest rate on my bank loan (8 per cent).

A half of a percent doesn't seem like that much, but the fact that the government's rate is at all higher than the bank's is ludicrous. Banks are in the business of making ob-

get a high-paying job. Oh, child. You've been lied to. Your salary will probably be much lower, your expenses much higher and your loan payments not as large as you are envisioning.

Take me for example. I have a degree in Communication Studies from Laurier. I'm perpetually broke and I live in a closet in Toronto. Literally. My bed is in a closet. You have to step on the bed to get to the bathroom. And I'm fortunate – I happen to have found a bachelor with a walk in closet large enough.

Common Misconception #4: Many students think that once the money is in their hot little hands, they're set. Not so fast. Once you've jumped through all the hoops and managed to get a loan, OSAP can decide at any time that they've given you too much. They can demand you repay them before they'll give you any more money, ever.

I found myself in this situation, for reasons I still don't understand, in the first semester of third year. "We'll give you the thousand dollars we promised you for second semester," they said, "if you pay us back the \$1300 overpayment first." Pay \$1300 to get \$1000? Sounds like a deal! Since I didn't have \$1300 (and why would they think I did, considering

I HAVE A DEGREE IN
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scene sums of money. The government is in the business of providing social services to taxpayers. They should be eating the cost of administering the OSAP program through taxes.

Since graduating, I've paid just under \$2000 to the National Student Loans Service Centre. That money has only made a \$1500 dent in my principal; the other \$500 has gone to interest.

Every time I make a payment I think, "two steps forward, one step back."

Common Misconception #3: "It's alright!" you say. "I'll make lots of money when I graduate and pay down my debt in a snap!" Where do you think you are – college? You've probably been told all your life that you go to university so you'll

they deemed me in need of a \$1000 loan for second semester?), I just struggled through the next year and a half without OSAP.

There are a million things wrong with the OSAP system, and post-secondary funding in Canada in general, that are beyond the scope of this column. Since that's probably not going to change anytime soon, or at least in time to benefit you, my best advice is to live on the cheap while you're in school. Get by on as few loan dollars as you can. Then, once you graduate, you'll be free to spend your paycheques on fun rather than interest. You might even be able to afford a whole entire bedroom, you lucky duck.

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Pilot Speed lands at Starlight

Pilot Speed (formerly Pilate) proves a good band by any other name sounds just as sweet

PAUL ALVIZ
A&E EDITOR

With a strong following ever since their breakout album *Caught by the Window* in 2003, Pilot Speed (then known as Pilate) stopped by Waterloo for one of their more intimate shows on their busy schedule of touring and writing.

The first thing that's catching a lot of people's attention these days is the apparent name change. "We changed it at the end of the album cycle so there wasn't all that press about it to help get the point across," speculates lead singer Todd Clark on the seeming befuddlement of the fans. An unfortunate legal issue with the potential of a pricey lawsuit in the States prompted the inconvenient name change.

"The U.S. is just a different place, a lot more litigious, the potential to get sued is a lot higher," says Clark. "I was never really attached to the name, it's just something to identify by," he adds, making it clear the change was more of a nuisance than anything.

Without going through a change in line-up, dynamic or genre, it's not often that a group of musicians will change their name – but Pilot Speed is hoping a highly-anticipated third major release will help the transition go smoothly.

With moderate success in the States following their explosion on the Canadian scene, they've managed to get their foot in the door of the southern market. When asked how Pilot Speed is being received in the home of the brave, Clark responds with a casual, "So far it's good ... The next album will really have to be the one where we make an indent."

A year after the release of their critically-acclaimed second album, *Sell Control for Life's Speed* (released as *Into the West* in the U.S.), Pilot Speed is diligent in their approach to create new material for their aurally thirsty fans.

"It's kind of a day job," Clark says jokingly. "Going in and doing about six hours a day." His New Zealand accent is still clearly apparent, although he's called Canada home for over a decade. Along with their fervent work ethic, they still manage to go on micro tours to keep their name circulating and spend some more personal time with fans. The

modest show at Starlight housed only a couple hundred individuals, making for the perfect intimate atmosphere that Pilot Speed's music caters to.

Asking if there is a specific process to writing, Clark responds "It's different every time, but nothing happens until we're all in the room." When asked about inspiration, he cites the close-knit band dynamic which can bring musical ideas from a variety of sources. "It can come from a drum beat, it can come from a guitar part or something..."

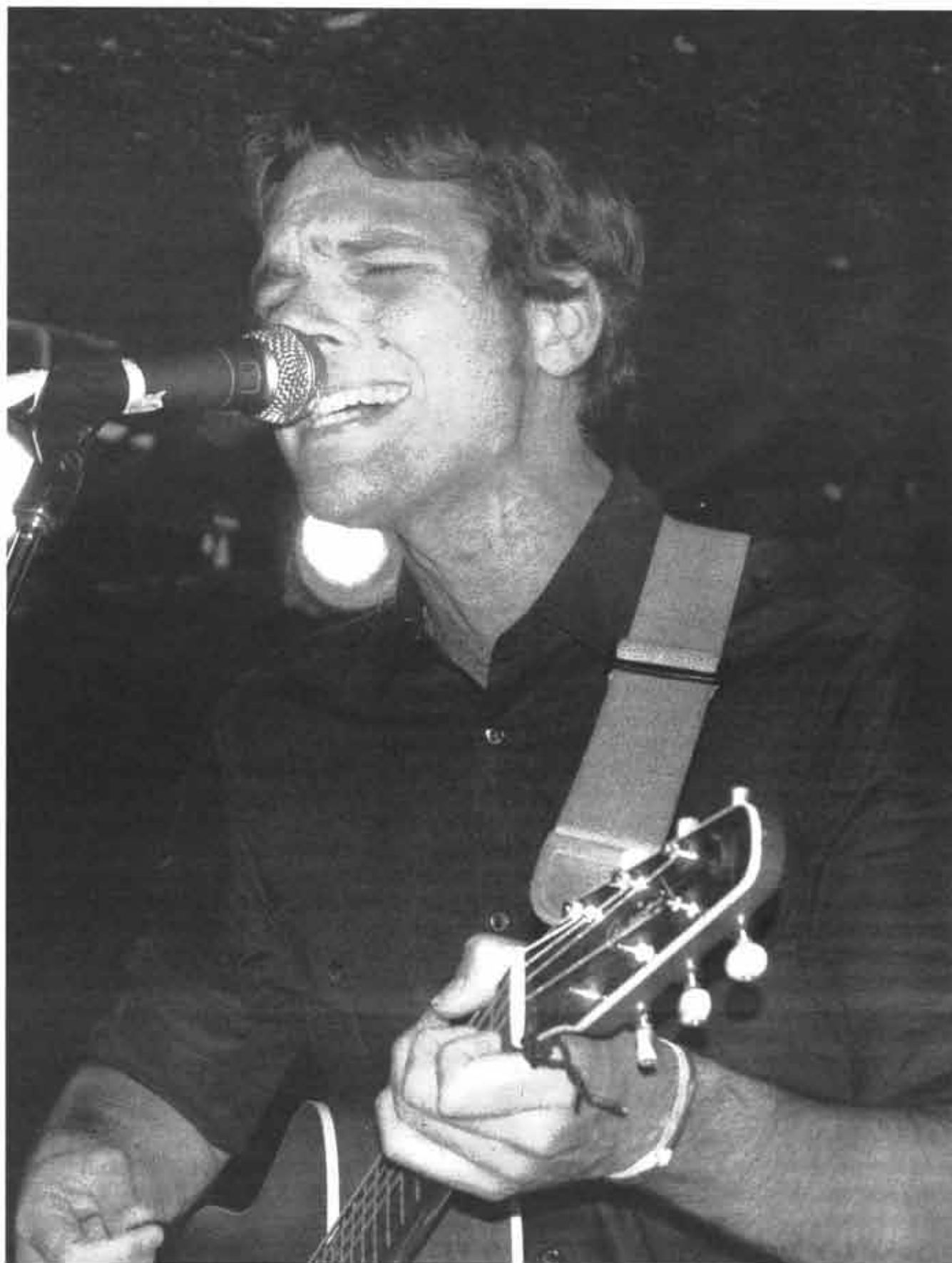
However, the process of writing lyrics is left solely up to Clark, who has a similar detachment to them as he does to band names. The influence on his lyrics "changes from song to song, album to album ... I don't know, we get to a point where the songs are done, and the songs need lyrics."

But anyone who pays attention to what Clark croons out during his harmonic and entrancing performances can tell there's more to the lyrics than just words. Questioning him on this, he responds somewhat vaguely. "The first album was a lot about one thing, and the second was about something else," he says, trying not to be too revealing about personal matters.

Pressed on, he adds, "Well, the first album was a lot about a specific relationship ... same old shit," he jokingly mocks. "And the second album was about something I won't get into here, but there was a theme that ran through the album, and was prevalent in a few songs. When you use something as inspiration, it ends up finding its way into a lot of songs on the album."

One of his rules for writing is to stick to territory that he's explored which allows him to speak from experience. "And that's why you have fans. People sense what you've been through and they can relate," says Clark.

In the song "Barely Listening" Clark sings, "You can't shape love with a hammer / You can't shape life with a will," giving off something of an existential vibe. Clark expands on the particular lyric by adding, "The whole discussion of that song was kind of the flip side to what religious people would say, where everything happens for a reason – like it's all this omnipotent puppet master stuff. And that



Photos by Jon Kit

DON'T STARE - Todd Clark comes out of his hideout to make the crowd feel alright.

was just saying it's a scary thing to think that there's nothing, that it's all just chaos ... I think that's a scary thought for a lot of people who would like to think that there's some kind of a guiding power. So those lyrics are really just the end of the song in that discussion."

Clark is something of a guitar-playing philosopher – nothing new in the world of rock – but he has a genuinely open outlook on what can be seen as the miraculous nature of life. "It could all just be like there's no reason to it, you know? And that scares a lot of people, because they'd like to believe that whatever happens to them is in some grand design that..." he mockingly inserts, "involves their happiness."

Asked if he sees that as an op-

timistic view of the world, Clark responds with the surfer tone of "Nah, I don't see it as pessimistic either. I think it just could quite possibly be the way things are. In my mind, if that is the way things are, it's all the more reason to enjoy the time that you have and live it positively and be happy and surround yourself with people that are happy. Because if it is just the 80 years that you have or maybe less if something happens, you might as well be happy."

After a successful sold-out show at the Turret a couple years ago, Pilot Speed hopes to return to WLU alongside a new album release in the near future.

CORD/ONLINE

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Surf's down

Rise of the Silver Surfer sinks to the level of soulless cash cow says **Kari Pritchard**.

McCartney's musical memories

Jeremy Woodcock finds that old Macca's still got it, on his latest album *Memory Almost Full*.

Era victorious

Ryan Sequeira appraises rock royalty with a review of *Era Vulgaris* by Queens of the Stone Age.

Junction function

Paul Alviz talks to The Junction's Matt Jameson in the middle of a scenester's paradise.



Popcorn in the park

Waterloo Park plays host to four evenings of music and movies this summer, so grab your sandals and head to the woods

RYAN SEQUEIRA
CORD A&E

Yes kids, it's summer, and that means unless you're a misanthropic little troll living in a cave somewhere in the Boreal forest, you should be outside enjoying the weather and all the things that the season has to offer. If you're living in Waterloo this summer, I have a modest suggestion.

Local entrepreneurs John Rochetta from The Beat Goes On and John Tutt from Princess Cinemas have teamed up with the City of Waterloo to bring us a series of themed music and movie nights which promise to be a good time for everyone, from your snot-nosed little brother or sister to your greying grandparents and everyone in between.

The events, taking place on alternate Thursday nights in July and August at the Band Shell in Waterloo Park (just off Westmount Rd. at University Ave.) feature live performances by a variety of artists and bands from the area. Afterwards, they will be followed by a movie screening on the largest outdoor projection screen in Canada.

Conceived of as a way of thanking and giving back to the community that has supported local businesses, all the events are free, so all you need to bring is a smile, a lawn chair and a blanket in case it

gets chilly. If you do feel compelled to spend, you can also browse the booths of local vendors, which might interest you with some of the unique goods that Waterloo has to offer.

So bring your family, bring your friends, bring your pet iguana if you want to (but put it on a leash), soak up some sunshine and live music, relax and watch a good movie, and go home glad that you had a great night out.

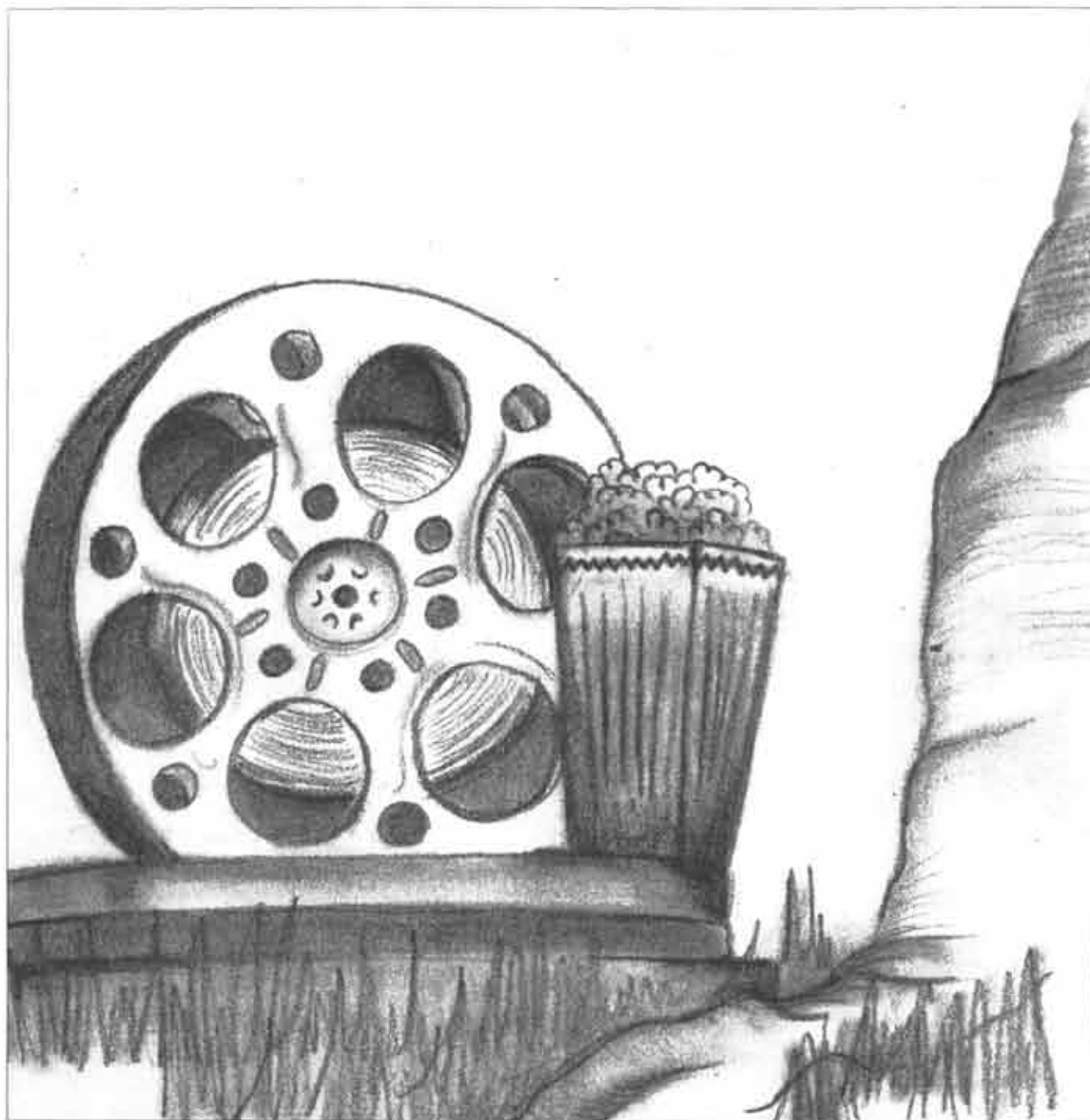
Music performances begin at 7:30 pm and movies start at dusk. For more information, visit BeatGoesOn.com or PrincessCinemas.com.

Thursday, July 12
Music: Zorba (Latin)
Movie: *Night at the Museum*

Thursday, July 26
Music: Water Street Blues Band (Blues)
Movie: *Neil Young live @ Massey Hall*

Thursday, August 2
Music: Traces (Steel Drums)
Movie: *Happy Feet*

Thursday, August 16
Music: The Shadow Wolfe Jazz Trio (Jazz)
Movie: *Casablanca*



HOLLYWOOD AU NATURAL - Check out flicks in the park while animals graze on your popcorn.

Icky Thump goes down smooth

Without doing anything especially innovative, the White Stripes return to form with one of the year's best rock albums

DANIEL JOSEPH
CORD A&E

While driving around in a van with a simple AM/FM radio, I stumbled upon quite possibly the catchiest single I've heard in a while. "Icky Thump," the first song that the world was allowed to hear off the new White Stripes album, gave me hope that Meg and Jack White had returned to full form.

After releasing the somewhat confusing *Get Behind Me Satan*,

Icky Thump clearly shows the world that the White Stripes are still capable of making good, old-fashioned, American rock 'n' roll.

The first single, "Icky Thump," features an appealing and simple song structure that embraces multiple breakdowns. It makes me wonder if either member of the band has been secretly listening to modern hardcore.

Jack and Meg have obviously taken so many influences into account that almost every song has a differ-

ent texture and sound arranged in an order that benefits the album as an experience.

"Bone Broke" features a garage rock and punk blend that is catchy, loud and stands out with production that reminded me of the Stripes' first record. The next song, "Prickly Thorn, But Sweetly Worn," is a Scottish folk-influenced piece featuring bagpipes, an interesting diversion from the rest of the record.

The diversity really defines what *Icky Thump* is: a collection of various genres and styles revolving around the White Stripes' signature sound. Meg's simplistic drumming is effective in unifying with Jack's rhythms to emphasize what he is playing. Jack still doesn't try very hard to impress anybody with his technical skills either. The simple solos should be enough to make that clear.

What is important is that the White Stripes have gone out and created a rock album that has power, diversity and spirit. To hear such a complete sound is utterly joyful. This album reaffirms that rock is

still just as entertaining and innovative as anything out there today. *Icky Thump* might not be the best album of the year, but it certainly should be one of 2007's top five rock records.

This album sets the White Stripes back on to their path of superstardom. This is the White Stripes many people remember from five years ago and it should help to bring even more fans into their already massive following.

This is probably the biggest problem with *Icky*: It certainly feels like this ground has been covered before at times, and that it is a resurrection of the old. Yet, it doesn't really take away from the quality of the material.

Icky Thump gave me exactly what I wanted: more of the Stripes. If you find yourself with some extra cash this summer, I highly suggest picking up a copy. Gather your friends around on the patio, cook some food and listen to this homage to Americana and rock.

Check out: "Bone Broke," "Icky Thump," "Conquest"



The White Stripes
Icky Thump

Release Date: June 19th, 2007

Rating: 8.5/10

Label: Bad Boy Records

Recommendation:

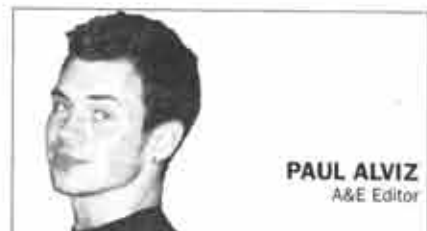
BUY IT



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Goodbye, Bob Barker

As *The Price Is Right* calls it curtains and daytime TV's most experienced personality tests the waters of retirement, A&E Editor **Paul Alviz** contemplates the strange game show that's been around so long most of us don't even think to question it



PAUL ALVIZ
A&E Editor

When Bob Barker dies, I'll know death is real. His retirement last week from *The Price Is Right* is perhaps the first step in what's sure to be a short trip to the grassy meadows of a graveyard. The end of his reign over that psychedelic acid trip of a game show, loved by so many, signals one of those points in my life when I can really sense the passage of time.

Tuning in to the program, you can't help but get a little flavour of the 70s on the tip of your tongue, where bright colours, flashing lights and absurdly overzealous announcers help Bob pretend it's still 30 years ago.

But despite the relative uniformity and longevity of the show, soon enough there'll be kids who won't even know what *The Price Is Right* was (provided CBS doesn't make a foolish attempt at replacing Bob). We'll end up reciting the past as a time when people could win anything imaginable, from bicycles to Corvettes, all just by guessing the

retail value of nominal items you might find in a grocery store.

We all know there was more to it than just simple guessing. There were techniques that could be employed, some better than others. Relying on the audience is one that I never really understood. Every audience member shouts out different answers, each one as sure they are right as the person beside them. Does anybody really know the price of a Grillmaster 5000?

Realistically, it requires only slightly more skill than chance-based *Deal or No Deal*. "Three! Three! Pick number three, DAMN YOU!" screams an audience member as a contestant picks two.

And then there are the contestants who bet last, and bet one dollar higher than the person beside them. Sure, they may have won the chance to play, but a small piece of them, known as their dignity, has died.

Looking at what *The Price Is Right* leaves behind in its legacy is quite astonishing. The show itself has been on the air for over 50 years, since its inception in 1956, making it the longest running program ever.

Taking over the hosting of the show in 1972, the 83-year-old

Barker has become a record setter in a few different categories himself. With over 50 years spent on weekday television, 35 of those being with *The Price Is Right*, it's the longest anyone has appeared on TV for five days a week, and it also makes him the oldest person to host a daily program. And unlike Santa Claus who only bears gifts once a year, Bob Barker has been giving away cars on a daily basis for over a quarter of a century.

I never got the chance to "come on down," but I don't want to hold up Barker's retirement anymore than it already has been - 18 years to be exact. If you have some spare time I'd recommend watching some highlights on the web. Some of them, like "worst player ever" give you a more intimate look at what's been running through the host's head over the course of thousands of broadcasts.

Something may very well take its place as the years roll on, but for now, the prizes are all gone and the show is over. Maybe now the host can settle down for a few years before he has to come on down to the great game show in the sky. I'll miss the cardboard sets, the seizure-inducing lights, the mute models and that skinny little microphone. Goodbye, Bob.



WHAT!? - Bob Barker doesn't need no explanation - is you crazy, son? Contributed Photo

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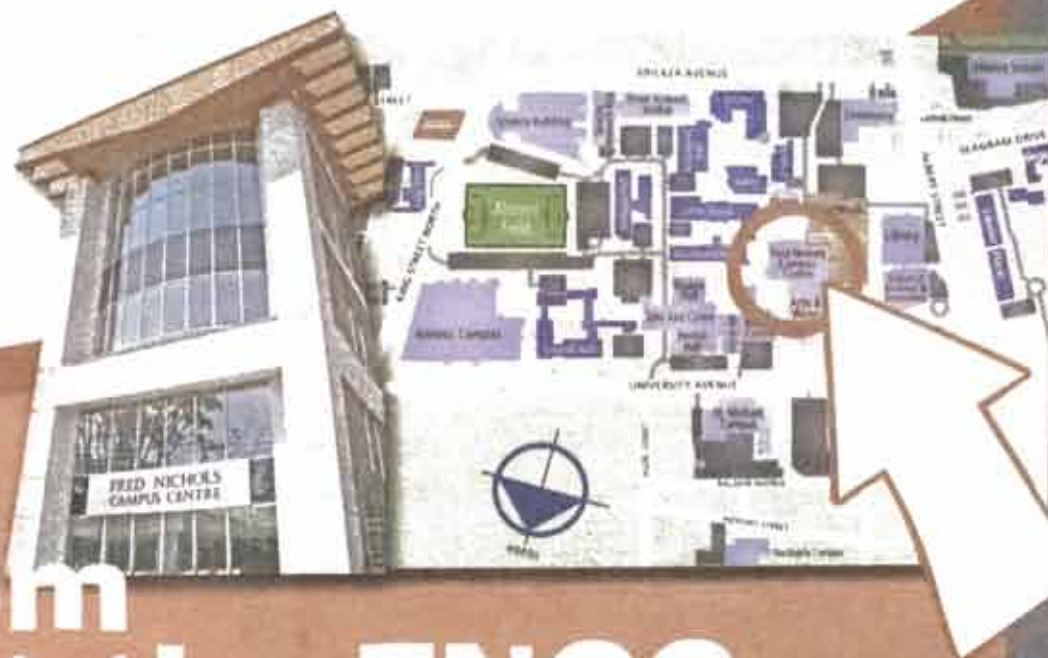
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