

THE CORD WEEKLY

The tie that binds since 1926

FITNESS FIRST

How WLU's sports stars maintain healthy lifestyles ... **PAGES 12-13**

NATIONAL MYTHS

Canada isn't the peacekeeping nation we think it is ... **PAGE 20**

AFGHAN ART

CIGI displays work of female Afghan journalists ... **PAGE 23**



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Volume 48 Issue 13

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2007

www.cordweekly.com



SO CLOSE - Andy Baechler beats his man, but can't quite catch up with quarterback Ian Noble's toss.

RYAN STEWART

Yates out of reach

Hawks will miss the Yates Cup for the first time in five years, falling 38-31 to Guelph on Saturday

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

During a weekend of upsets in OUA football, the nation's fifth-ranked Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks fell victim to a much quicker Guelph Gryphons squad.

Led by third-year quarterback Justin Dunk, the Gryphons outran the Hawks to score 38 points from the second to fourth quarters, coming back from a 24-point deficit and stunning the home team 38-31.

In the last eight meetings between the teams, WLU has proven victorious seven times. It was not to be this time for the Hawks, however, as they struggled to contain the dynamic duo that is Dunk and second-year running back Nick FitzGibbon.

"We had trouble getting them stopped, they're tremendous play-

ers. Full credit to them though, they deserved it," said Manager of Football Operations and Head Coach Gary Jeffries. "But our guys played extremely hard."

"They were really prepared for us today, they played a great game," said third-year quarterback Ian Noble. Noble completed 25 of 36, throwing for 306 yards including one touchdown and one interception.

The Hawks kicked off the game, and shut down the Gryphons on their first drive. The Hawks then proceeded to string together seven plays, driving 56 yards and ending in a touchdown by running back Ryan Lynch. Lynch finished the game running for 135 yards in 25 carries, with three touchdowns on the day.

- SEE **YATES**, PAGE 15

Gathering to remember

Since Remembrance Day falls on a Sunday, the on-campus ceremony will happen this Friday

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

With Remembrance Day quickly approaching, the History Students Association (HSA) and the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) have come together to organize the annual Remembrance Day ceremony, which will be taking place this Friday.

Phil Champagne, programming and promotions manager for WLUSU, describes the service as a fairly "typical ceremony."

It is scheduled to begin at 10:30 am in the Concourse and will start with a reading by a chaplain, introductions from the HSA and a speech from a professor in the history department.

These speakers will be followed by a reading of "In Flanders Fields" by Dean of Students David McMurray, a speech by a

veteran, and the "Last Post."

There will also be a gathering in Wilf's after the event has wrapped up.

"As students, we would have been the people heading off to war had it been 1940, and it's nice to pay respects to those who went over and sacrificed so much for us and it's just a little token of our appreciation," said Alex Whiteman, a fourth-year history and political science student, and executive member of the HSA.

Though Whiteman expressed his disappointment that the ceremony will not actually be held on Remembrance Day, he noted that a lot of the individuals in attendance are typically just walking through the Concourse, so they get much higher attendance during the week.

- SEE **CEREMONY**, PAGE 2



SYDNEY HELLAND

Dalai Lama in Toronto

His Holiness delivers speech entitled 'The Art of Happiness' to 16,000 people

WALEED HAFEEZ
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

TORONTO -- On Wednesday, October 31, Toronto was blessed with a visit and talk by the 14th Dalai Lama, His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso.

Close to 16,000 people attended the monumental event held at the Rogers Centre in Toronto, includ-

ing press and media from all over the globe.

Toronto is home to nearly 4000 Tibetans, many of whom came to Canada with the Canadian government's Tibetan Refugee Program, though they were only a fraction of the people present in the enormous arena.

Looking around, one could see

people of every race, social background and religious affiliation, and it seemed like most non-Buddhists in attendance were equally in awe of being in His Holiness' presence as those who followed the ancient Asian faith.

- SEE **DALAI LAMA**, PAGE 10

THE CORD WEEKLY

- The tie that binds since 1926 -

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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2007

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Peter Baxter kinda looks like an osterich. He's big, he's tall and he's got a really big nose."

- Sports Editor Lauren Miller speaking about how we should depict Laurier Athletics as having their heads in the sand

WORD OF THE WEEK

Quixotic - Of persons: Resembling Don Quixote; hence, striving with lofty enthusiasm for visionary ideals.

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COLOPHON

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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

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

The Cord believes in a balanced and impartial presentation of all relevant facts in a news report, and of all substantiated 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 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.



JOE TURCOTTE

KEEP QUIET! - A small group of participants in WLU's Speak Silence event gathered at Wilf's on Friday night to end their six-hour vows.

The sound of silence

Laurier-Waterloo chapter of Journalists for Human Rights raises awareness for social injustice

MICHELLE CALDARONI
STAFF WRITER

The Laurier-Waterloo chapter of Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) came together on Friday for Speak Silence, an event to raise awareness for those who do not have a voice in the world due to human rights issues.

For six hours, the group of students did not speak a word, each tying a white bandana marked with a black 'X' over their mouths.

At 4 pm, the group began their six-hour vow of silence and headed to Conestoga Mall, where they took their place in the middle of the Friday afternoon shoppers.

In hoping to raise awareness of the human rights injustices occurring across the globe, the group handed out pamphlets about their Speak Silence campaign and their reasons for taking a stand.

"I am incredibly privileged in my life to be able to open my mouth whenever I want and speak on whatever I want, so shutting up for a few hours is nothing," said fourth-year political science and economics student Josh Smyth.

"Remember that some people have to shut up for their whole lives," he added.

One of the organizers of Speak Silence, fourth-year philosophy student Mark Ciesluk, had his own

reasons for silencing himself.

"Everything that makes me special, everything that gives me my rights, is exactly the same for everybody."

"Anything that I appreciate in my life is worth fighting for in somebody else's life," said Ciesluk.

While mall security did not appreciate their presence and asked the group to leave the premises almost immediately, the JHR group continued their silence at a different location.

JHR finished off the event at Wilf's, where guest speaker Ryan Bolton, a Laurier alumnus who recently visited Ghana, spoke about refugees, child soldiers and the

special position Laurier students are in.

"All of us are in a unique position; we're educated, we're able," Bolton told a small, but enthusiastic crowd of supporters.

As he spoke, photographs of the refugees he met in Ghana flashed behind him, and the JHR group looked on.

"Writing is powerful," Bolton said, adding, "The pen is the vehicle of change."

Local punk band Broadcast Zero wrapped up the event at 10 pm, at which point the JHR group finished their six-hour silence, and removed the bandanas from their mouths.

Important to pay respects to veterans

- FROM CEREMONY, COVER

"It's unfortunate that we have to do it on a Friday. Two of the last three years it's been on a weekend, so [the ceremony] kind of loses its emotional impact," said Whiteman.

Nathan Thomson, second-year history student and HAS VP: Finance, also felt that Friday was the most effective day for the event.

"We feel that it is more effective to remember before it happens rather than after. It just shows more forethought towards the event rather than making Remembrance Day an afterthought," said Thomson.

With the current debates surrounding today's war in Afghanistan, Thomson hopes that the focus for this year's event will continue to centre around those who fought in

the Great Wars.

"Remembrance Day is about remembering the sacrifices of those who brought an end to war in the hopes that there would be no war," said Thomson.

"It's important that we start making that distinction. As much as we respect those that are serving the country for us right now, I don't think that that's what Remembrance Day is supposed to be about."

Aside from the events at WLU, the Royal Canadian Legion will be hosting a parade and ceremony on Sunday at the Waterloo Cenotaph, which will begin at 9:30 am.



SYDNEY HELLAND

NEVER FORGET - WLU will remember fallen soldiers Friday morning.

See PAGE 18 for editorial reaction to this story

VOCAL CORD

Laurier Day Edition

Why are you considering Wilfrid Laurier University?



"I like the small community; it seems like fun."

- Sam St. Amand
Age 16, Oakville



"The football team and the academic level of the business program."

- James Wells
Age 17, Toronto



"Because of the atmosphere mostly."

- Katie Tsuji
Age 17, Stouffville



"A lot of my friends say it's a great place to go to school."

- Li Ban
Age 18, Etobicoke



"It's a smaller university compared to the others."

- Caitlin Moorecroft
Age 17, Toronto

Compiled by Riley Taylor

Admin reviewing ASAP after WLUSU concerns

Global Citizenship Conference trying to find alternative sources for donations to run event in March

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

As if organizing a keynote speech for 2,500 people is not hard enough to do, things appear to be getting a little more difficult for organizers of this year's Global Citizenship Conference (GCC) at WLU.

With plans to bring in Roméo Dallaire as the headliner for the weekend-long conference, a joint committee of Laurier International Friendship Extension (LIFE), the International Students Association and Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group (LSPIRG) was just recently informed that its fundraising efforts would have to be adjusted, because of the evaluation of the Arts Students' Advancement Program (ASAP).

Along with ASAP, the School of Business and Economics Student

Council (SBESC) which just voted in its fee last February, is also part of the assessment being conducted by WLU VP: Finance Jim Butler, which began in the middle of October.

Butler explained that ASAP has been restricted from donating money for the time being due to a "concern raised by [the Students' Union] about various fees."

More specifically, an overview is being conducted to determine whether the opt-out fee, and the method by which the \$3 for each half credit was approved, was "onside, with respect to ministry guidelines."

While he explained that the overall review will be completed "shortly," Butler also expressed satisfaction with how everything appeared to be up to provincial standards.

"Things look fine," he said.

However, things aren't as rosy for Luke Stewart, programming director for the GCC, which is slated to begin March 7, 2008.

"My reaction was one of 'Where are we going to get money from now?'" he explained, adding, "It's a little bit more of an irritation."

Along with Laurier International Manager of Programs and Services Janet Doner, the organizing committee of the conference was set to give a 10-minute presentation to ASAP.

Just before their scheduled meeting time, Doner was sent an e-mail from the ASAP Council Chair Brian Richardson explaining that the presentation would be "postponed until further notice."

The Cord attempted to contact Richardson on Tuesday, but did not hear back in time for print.

Doner hadn't heard from Richardson since, but noted that the group will have to "spread the net more wisely" now to get the \$26,000 needed to bring in Dallaire, as well as to cover the cost of a book signing, his accommodations and the set-up for the event.

With the Athletic Complex acting as the venue for the speech, Stewart is still "confident" that things will be able to come together, with plans already being made to create funding applications for organizations like RIM and the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI).

In explaining the importance of the event, Stewart was direct in his response.

"This conference is for Laurier students to talk about contemporary issues we are facing today."

Rating prosperity in the West

Panel discussion at Laurier addresses Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America

EVAN MILLAR
CORD INTERN

Laurier's North American Studies program held a panel discussion on Monday, in regards to the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) of North America. The three speakers addressed environmental and citizenship concerns, as well as criticisms the dialogue has seen since its initial creation in March of 2005.

The panel consisted of three individuals: Emily Gilbert from the University of Toronto (U of T),

Debora VanNijnatten from Wilfrid Laurier University and Daniel Schwanen from the Center for International Governance Innovation (CIGI).

The SPP was created in hopes of improving security and economic cooperation in North America, assisting existing institutions like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). It claims that Canada, the US and Mexico are bound by a shared belief in economic opportunity, freedom and democratic institutions.

Emily Gilbert, associate profes-

sor of Canadian Studies and Geography at U of T, focused on the discussion and analysis of citizenship in the SPP's framework. Gilbert questioned the specifics of the SPP's goals, asking attendees to question exactly whose security and quality of life are actually being improved upon.

"The SPP aims to open the borders for the economy," she said, "but at the same time, what it's also doing is restricting the movement of people."

She spoke at length on what the SPP calls "legitimate travelers" - pre-registered travelers who pay to gain access to special lanes at the borders. Citizens are met with a thorough security check upon registration and are later added to

a database for future interaction.

Gilbert also briefly discussed the increase in security the Canada-US border may see in the future, citing existing walls between America and Mexico as realistic possibilities further down the road.

Debora VanNijnatten, associate political science professor and North American studies program coordinator at Laurier, spoke on environmental aspects of the SPP, expanding on what the enhancement of the joint stewardship promised in the documentation of the SPP entails.

VanNijnatten offered several critiques, such as the SPP's trade competitiveness overpowering social and environmental concerns.

She also criticized the SPP's lack of originality.

"The SPP is a repackaging of existing initiatives," she said, "it suffers from a disjointed and un-broadened vision of North America."

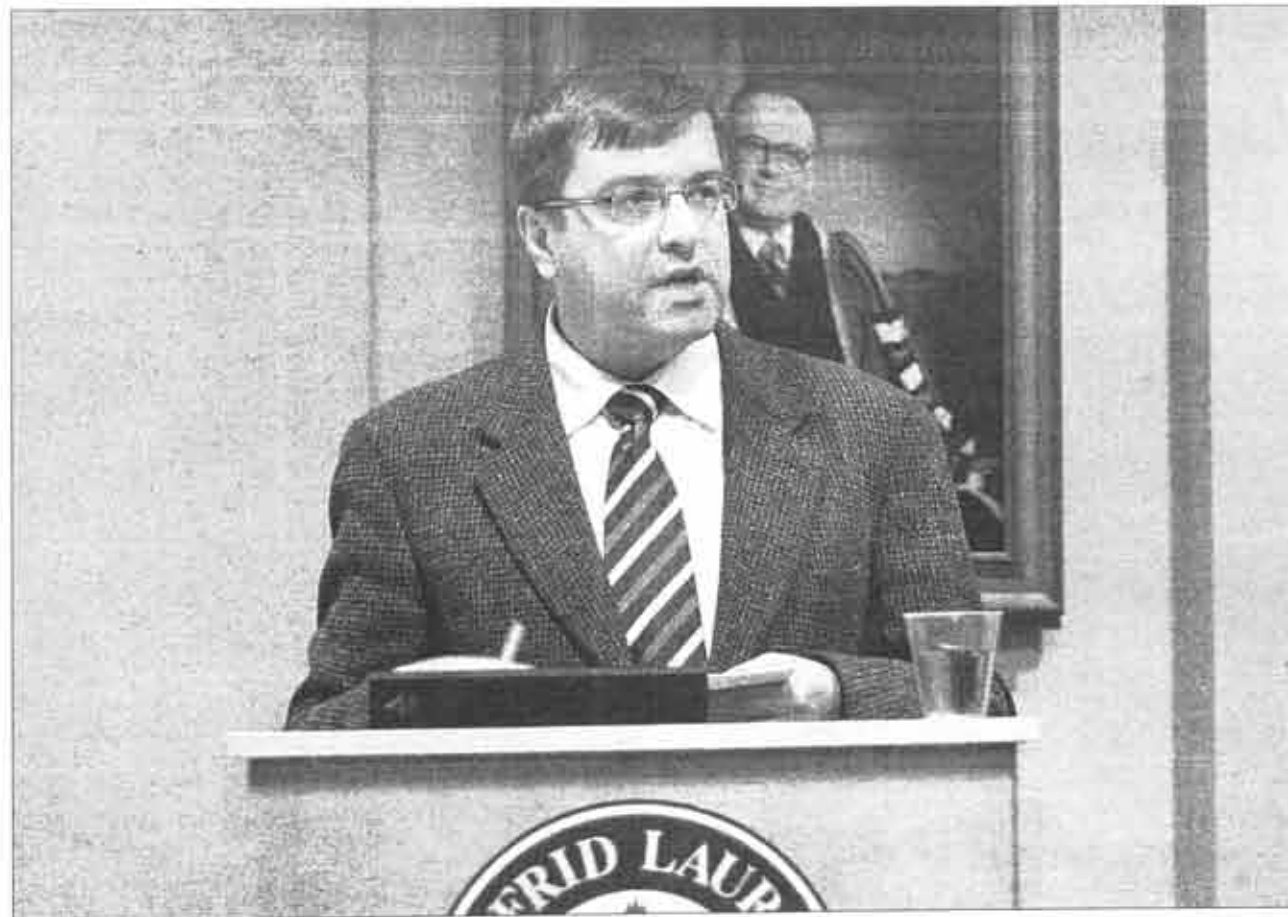
CORRECTION

AW@L's LSPIRG affiliation not under review

The Oct. 31 article entitled "AW@L affiliation still undecided," while accurate in the body text, employed a misleading headline.

Anti-War @ Laurier (AW@L) is no longer affiliated with the Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group (LSPIRG). They have not made any formal request to be reinstated since the two groups parted ways in early October, nor has the LSPIRG offered such a reinstatement.

The Cord regrets the confusion communicated by this headline.



SYDNEY HELLAND

ADDRESSING CONCERNS - Daniel Schwanen from CIGI shares his thoughts at a WLU panel discussion.

Former general speaks at CIGI

JANA RUSSELL
CORD NEWS

As part of the on-going Fall Military Series of speakers at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), former Major-General Tim Grant spoke last Thursday on the joint task force currently in Afghanistan.

Grant is trained and experienced in both the staff side and the command side of Canada's military. He held his last official position, as Canada's Major-General, between November 1, 2006 and August 1, 2007.

"My aim tonight is to convince you that when perceiving Afghanistan, in regards to its developments, we must regard the long-term processes in order to identify the successes," stated Grant.

Grant elaborated on the current conditions in Afghanistan, in particular the area in Kandahar where the Canadian forces are situated.

"I went in ill-prepared to deal with the tribes in Kandahar, not knowing that each one of the groups has their own culture and distinction."

The Canadian military is primarily focused on rebuilding and repopulating areas that were thinned out by previous Taliban invasions.

Grant noted that while working with police has been unsuccessful, the accomplishments through the military have allowed progress in governance, development and security.

Grant also brought attention to the problems associated with the Taliban and their practice of recruiting people to fight via high salary offerings.

"Why would an Afghanistan man work for the police with such low pay and a chance of being killed that is 26 times more likely?" he questioned.

Grant also highlighted the fact that the Canadian military is aiding farmers by supporting pomegranate growth while steering away from poppy growth. The soil in Afghanistan is so versatile that it can grow nearly anything when the resources are available.

Water is crucial in Afghanistan since everything, in regards to agriculture, is done by hand by its people.

"We are fixing the infrastructure by offering fighting-age males similar pay to that of the Taliban, by means of digging ditches and rebuilding irrigation systems," he explained.

Grant also addressed the conditions of education, health, community development and infrastructure.

"There are now six million kids in school, the infant mortality rate is decreased by more than 40,000, community council projects are constantly being achieved and more than 190 km of road have been built," stated Grant.

He asserted that citizens of Afghanistan are becoming more confident and that things are getting a lot better.

He also sees positive advancements that will help upcoming generations, such as the fact that children's aid is at its prime since the Civil War in 1989.

"Anything we can do for these young children is the most vital investment," he stated.

The stress on long-term progression was also extremely evident throughout Grant's seminar.

"It took us 30 years to get into this mess; it's going to take a long time to get out of it," said Grant, adding, "I am an optimistic for making a difference and so are the troops."

This was Grant's twelfth presentation this week, having started in Vancouver en route to Waterloo.

☉ CANADA ☉
IN

FOIs needed for loan info

For the 350,000 Canadian university and college students that rely on federal loans from the Canada Student Loan Program to fund their post-secondary education, large debts are usually the norm come graduation.

It has recently been reported in *The Gazette* that some borrowers are being denied access to their own payment statements. In order to view their files and find out what they owe, they must file Freedom of Information requests.

Since 2004, 127 individuals have been forced to file such requests from the agencies holding their loans. As files are often passed along between several different collection agencies, problems arise in finding the balance of the payment, as well as a breakdown of details like interest, principal and service charges owing.

Further complicating the problem is the fact that many students find themselves paying back multiple loans, with each loan being managed by a different collection agency.

Change to radio programming proposed

The Copyright Board of Canada has certified Tariff 22, which will charge royalties to those that air Canadian music through the Internet.

Proposed by the Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN), the tariff has been lobbied for by the organization since 1996.

Online music services, such as iTunes and Puretracks, will be affected by the tariff's terms. Community radio stations may fall under the tariff, potentially bankrupting some broadcasters due to retroactive fees.

If campus radio stations broadcast SOCAN's music online, they may be expected to pay upwards of \$1,080 per year starting from 1996.

- Compiled by Jennifer Rae and Evan Millar

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NEWSINBRIEF

Program for students
with disabilities

Last Tuesday at the grand opening of Laurier's new \$5 million dollar Centre for Co-operative Education & Career Development, the new RBC Career Transition Program for Students with Disabilities was introduced.

More than 750 students annually with disabilities attend Laurier and this program aims to accommodate them in their career development and exploration.

The program offers specialized services geared toward these students, such as focused searches for career options and education regarding transition to the working world.

The program is funded through a \$700,000 donation from the RBC Foundation, as well as significant donations from other sponsors.

Cram session moved

A group of students running a cram session, similar to those offered by the School of Business and Economics (SBE) club Students Offering Support (SOS), were forced to relocate last Thursday afternoon.

Because the group is running

a for-profit organization, without the permission of the university (unlike SOS, which uses the funds it raises for charitable activities), they were not permitted to hold the event on the Laurier campus.

The session was moved to the University of Waterloo to avoid having security break up the gathering.

- Compiled by Alison Grenkie and Laura Carlson

BAG O' CRIME

Crime of the week

ASSIST OTHER P.F.

Reported: Nov 3 @ 02:11 hrs

Special Constables assisted Regional Police regarding two assaults which took place, one on Seagram Dr. and the other on King St. In both cases, two unidentified males exited an older model, light-coloured pickup truck and assaulted other males with shovels and a lacrosse stick. Descriptions of the suspects are vague. Regional Police are investigating.

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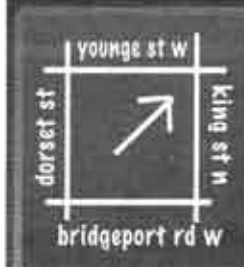
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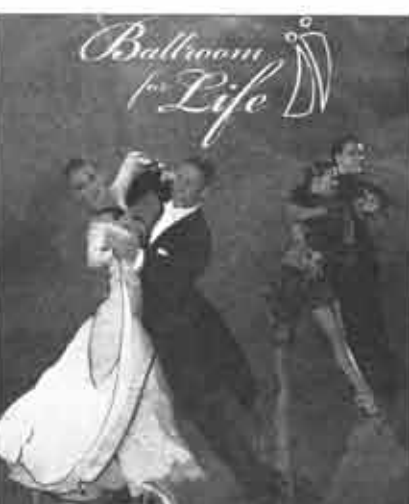
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Monday (10am-3pm)

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- non-profit organizations.
- International food and music.

Tuesday (10am-3pm)

Official grand opening of the Laurier International Office.

- Promotion of local international initiatives.
- Local international agencies, support centers.
- Belly and Scottish dance lessons.
- Local stores that promote free-trade.

Wednesday (10am-3pm)

Highlight the diverse and international community at Laurier.

- International jeopardy.
- International food.
- International campus clubs.
- Proceeds go to charity.

Thursday (5:30-7:30pm)

- Student forum with guest speaker Mona Lisa Wessel in BA 110

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LAURIER

Faculty of Graduate Studies

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12:30pm - 4:00pm

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INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN STUDY

Project Title: "Supporting University Students with Mental Health Issues: A Needs Assessment"

Researcher: Amanda Weckwerth, BA, Department of Psychology, Wilfrid Laurier University (phone: 884-0710, ext. 3718, weck2220@wlu.ca, office: K232A)

• A study is currently being conducted at Wilfrid Laurier's main campus for the purpose of gaining an understanding of the post-secondary educational experiences of students with a mental health issues (i.e., depression, anxiety, eating disorders, schizophrenia, mood disorders) at Wilfrid Laurier University, to examine the needs of students with mental health issues, to identify specific types of supports and accommodations available to them, and to determine how well available services are meeting the personal, health and educational needs of Laurier students with mental health issues. Findings from the study (which will be used to develop customized action plan), will be used to enhance services and supports available to Laurier students with mental health issues (should the research reveal that available supports are not fully meeting the personal, educational, or health needs of these students [by removing any identified barriers and putting in place needed supports and accommodations]) and/or, to sustain institutional services and supports at Laurier, (should the research reveal that specific services, or particular aspects of services are which are effective in meeting the education, health, and personal needs of students with mental health issues). The customized action plan will be used to help ensure that effective and/or appropriate institutional supports are in place to best meet the personal health and educational needs of Laurier students with mental health issues.

• Participation in this study includes filling out a survey on-line and subsequently being invited to participate in an individual or focus group interview following completion of the questionnaire. The

Questionnaire (which will be administered approximately 100 or more Laurier students with mental issues) addresses the concerns and barriers that students with mental health issues may face in pursuit of a higher education (i.e., task difficulty and personal concerns) and important institutional supports (as well as their adequacy in meeting the needs of students with mental health issues at Laurier). It should take approximately 30 minutes of your time to complete the survey. Surveys can be completed online or on a hard copy through an attachment available through the website provided below.

• Following completion of the survey you will be invited to participate in an individual interview or a focus group interview. Individual or focus group interviews will allow you to share your experiences as a student with a mental health issue at Wilfrid Laurier University and, will allow you to voice your opinion regarding the adequacy of available services on campus and the types of services and supports essential for meeting your personal, health, and educational needs.

• Interviews (which will be conducted with a minimum of 10 Laurier students with mental health issues) will take about 45 minutes to an hour of your time. Those who participate in an individual interview will receive a Tim Horton's voucher valued at \$5 as a token of appreciation for their participation. The focus group session will include 8-10 fellow students with mental health issues; refreshments will be provided to focus group participants. Your participation would consist of responding to questions in a focus group, which should take 1-1.5 hours of your time.

Instructions: if you are interested in participating in this study, please visit the following website <http://www.wlu.ca/needs> to complete the questionnaire online (or to print off a paper-based copy) and to obtain information about interviews and the focus group. If you have any questions regarding the study please feel free to contact Amanda Weckwerth at (phone: 519-884-0710, ext. 3718, weck2220@wlu.ca, office: 232 King street, K232A).

Apple Road Tour

WLU - Concourse

Tuesday, November 20





JULIE MARION

ONE CALL AWAY - Talking on the phone with your significant other can help pass the lonely days and nights.

Surviving the long-distance relationship

Some helpful tips for how to pass the time until you see your partner next

SARAH TOPPLE
STAFF WRITER

If the song "Hey There, Delilah" makes you tear up, you are likely in a long-distance relationship - or dating one of those sensitive types who plays the acoustic guitar and only knows three chords. Either way, your love life is likely far from great.

Along with midterms, being away from friends, family and significant others is a part of university if you left home to come here. Although less fun than, say, writing midterms, there are ways to make a long-distance relationship easier, so turn off *The Notebook* and pay attention.

The first and most important question to ask yourself before or in the early stages of starting a long-distance relationship is why you are staying together. Give it some honest thought.

Do you really love each other? Is there something special but you're not sure what? Does he/she do your homework over MSN?

Whatever your answer (except for the last one), there's probably something there that you don't want to let go; otherwise you wouldn't still be in this relationship. The problem may be killing time in between seeing your significant other.

A common problem with long-distance relationships is that one party will sit at home for hours on end while the other party will be, well, partying. This is important. That person probably still cares about you and is not out partying

because they know you are sitting on the other end of their dusty phone.

Conspiracy theories will only freak you out and give you something to brood over with your ice cream and inebriating beverages. It's natural to feel a little rejected when you sacrificed spending a night out because you thought your snuggly-bear might call, but you should deal with your feelings.

If you want your partner to call more often, tell them! Communication is extremely important in any relationship, but especially in ones reliant on phone contact.

SEND YOUR SHNOOKUMS PAGES OUT OF COSMO (IT'S FOR GUYS, TOO) OF SWEET OR SEXY THINGS YOU'D LIKE TO TRY WHEN YOU GET TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.

Try to establish a time each week that you can talk and stick to it. If there's stuff going on during that time, reschedule. Whether your honey-bun is the independent sort or the "waiting by the phone" sort, they will appreciate the effort you make in connecting with them. If they're the ones that need to be making that effort, you need to stress how important it is to you.

In the age of Facebook, MSN and being able to watch all the seasons of *America's Next Top Model* on YouTube for days at a time (like you've never tried it), the Internet can be

a great way to stay connected with your significant other. The 'net is full of funny, cutesy ways to send affection to each other (e-cards, anyone?), but don't underestimate the power of good old-fashioned mail. Everybody loves getting mail!

Whether it's a quick postcard or your best kick at an Oscar-winning script for Best Long-Distance Drama/Musical/Comedy, getting mail is fun and definitely more tangible than e-mail.

It doesn't have to be mundane, either. Take some pictures of yourself doing fun things that you would ordinarily do together: eating ice cream (bonus: you get ice cream!), setting traps for those damn kids on those shoes with wheels on the bottom and making out. You'll have to use your imagination for the making out picture.

Send your schnookums pages out of *Cosmo* (it's for guys, too) of sweet or sexy things you'd like to try when you get to see each other again.

The most important thing to remember when in a long-distance relationship is that one day you two will get to see each other again. Hopefully, you'll weather the storm just fine.

After all, in two years, you'll be done with school and they'll be paying the bills with that guitar. At the very least, you have it a little better than Delilah.

CORD-O-SCOPES

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21



A lot of people doubt your intellectual ability, but a lot of people also doubted that the world was round. Use that line this month to cover up the fact that you are, in fact, pretty dumb.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21



No one ever said love was perfect, so stop fretting over your lover's little faults and see the bigger picture. They're going to be rich, and all that could be yours. So what if they enjoy the odd Dutch Oven?

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19



You've recently decided to take a stand and speak out against issues such as global warming and Third World poverty. This month, you will realize you first have to educate yourself on these issues. Thinking "fuck that," you will return to reading *Us Weekly*.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18



Last month, one of your best friendships fell to pieces because of a nasty argument. This month, patch things up by saying those three simple words: "You're right. I'm no good at counting."

Pisces
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20



The last time you got some action was when you landed a bike jump awkwardly in grade 10. This month, stop worrying about finding that perfect someone and have some fun.

Aries
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19



Your provocative Halloween costume made a lot of people notice the results of all the hard hours you have been putting in at the gym. Unfortunately, your face is still ugly. So, um, November is pretty much looking like October for you. But seriously, nice costume.

Taurus
Apr. 20 - May 20



You think you love your significant other, but you're looking for the ultimate test to prove it to yourself. In November, go out on dates with five to ten other people to see if you're still thinking of your current beau. If you explain your reasoning, how can they be mad?

Gemini
May 21 - June 20



You consider yourself to be a pretty cool person, and you take a lot of heat because one of your friends is deemed to be a "loser." You've been loyal thus far, but this month, it's time to end the friendship. I heard being a loser is contagious, man. Don't take that chance.

Cancer
June 21 - July 22



Your love life is in disarray this month because there are two people whom you like and/or like making out with. You are burdened by this stressful decision, yet you have not asked either person how they would feel if all three of you hung out. Don't you think you're selling yourself short by not exploring all alternatives?

Leo
July 23 - Aug. 22



You ended October with some hard-core Halloween partying. Although you told yourself this was your last major binge this term, you will continue the partying through November. Everybody will love you and your social nature. (Except your liver. But the liver's such a hardass when it comes to drinking.)

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22



Two stars have aligned that pertain to your love life. Unfortunately, they are the star of golden showers and the sadism star, so it could be a disconcerting month for you if you are the conservative type.

Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22



Whether you noticed it or not, you were pretty self-involved last month. In November, take time to listen to your friends and take an interest in their lives. If their lives are as boring as yours, rent some good movies or video games (see *Cord A&E*).

DJ Demers has been fabricating Cord-o-scopes for longer than he cares to remember. While some "professional" horoscopes are based on the positioning of the planets, celestial influences and other junk, the Cord-o-scopes are based on something you can rely on: his intuition. Watch for them in the first issue of every month.

Fun things to do post-midterms

To celebrate the end of midterm season, we count down a list of ten relaxing and fun things to do to take a load off before finals

BRITTANY DA SILVA
CORD STUDENT LIFE

For the past few weeks, many people have been so preoccupied with studying that not many have taken the time out to enjoy their time at university.

Now that midterms are finally over, it is about time that we all do ourselves a favour and have a little fun. Here are my top 10 tips to get you started:

10. Read something *you* want to
I know it seems a little strange, but think about it: you have spent the past three weeks reading nothing but textbooks. Wouldn't it be nice to curl up with a good book and just relax?

9. Mindlessly watch TV

Watch all your old favourites that you have been neglecting, even some cartoons to get a laugh. Give your body and mind a break for a few hours and maybe even catch some Z's on the couch.

8. Get to know your roommate/neighbours better

Now that you have the chance, get to know those who live with you a little bit better. After seeing little of them, or just seeing their noses inside a book for so long, just spend a few hours hanging out with them to catch up on what you've missed in their lives.

7. Explore K-W

Either this is your new city, or you

have already been here for a few years. Either way, see what the trities have to offer. There are tons of great places to shop and eat around Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge.

6. Revisit the movie theatre

Take a few friends from your floor, reunite with old friends from high school or just a few people you haven't seen in a while. There are some great flicks coming out for Christmas that cannot be missed.

5. Join a club or organization

There are still a lot of clubs and campus organizations that are looking for new recruits. It can be a great way to meet new people as well as trying something new at the

same time.

4. Go mall-hopping

Chances are that you haven't been able to have a proper tour of the malls in this region since school started. Now that exam time is over, take a few friends and go to Conestoga Mall, Fairview Park Mall in Kitchener and even the Cambridge Centre.

3. Plan a movie night

These are so much fun to organize and always end up being a blast for everyone involved. Go down to the Blockbuster on University Avenue and rent a few flicks or get everyone to bring one of their own so there is a good selection to satisfy everyone's likes.

2. See what the Turret has to offer

There are still a lot of people who haven't gone to check out the nightclub on campus. Unlike off-campus bars, they always allow a certain number of undergrads in and their events usually turn out great.

1. Organize a building party

This will take a lot of work, so get a bunch of friends and neighbours together to do it. Invite everyone in your building as well as their friends. Everyone can bring food, snacks and their favourite dance music.

Whatever you decide to do, make sure you take advantage of your newfound freedom; exams are just around the corner!

A day in the life of ... a TA

The Cord spent a day with a Laurier chemistry teaching assistant to get a look behind the scenes

GILLIAN FARBER
CORD STUDENT LIFE

Teaching assistants, more commonly referred to as TAs, have the difficult task of expanding on the boring and dry material covered in lecture.

Many students at Laurier sit in tutorials, daydreaming about upcoming events, but some try to imagine TAs outside of the classroom. Coming straight out of high school, it is difficult for many young students to associate teachers with anything else but their profession.

Students at Laurier who take tutorials will probably have had many different types of TAs, but many students don't really understand their role. This article will hopefully help to demystify them.

Why would someone want to be a TA? How does one actually become a teaching assistant? And what's in it for them? In order to answer these questions, *The Cord* decided to shadow chemistry TA Shira Halperin for a day, to see firsthand what it is really like to be a TA at Laurier.

Halperin decided that she wanted to take on the responsibility of becoming a TA at the end of her second year at Laurier. She applied online through the Laurier website, filled out an application and, after a tedious interviewing process, she got the job.

As a third-year chemistry student at Laurier, she was confident that, even though in some cases the age difference was only a year, she would be able to handle it.

"I thought it would be a great experience for me to become a TA, mainly because I did really well in the course last year and thought I could help other students excel," said Halperin. "Being a TA will open up other opportunities for me, as teaching is another future possibility, nevermind the fact that I could make a few extra bucks."

Halperin admits that even with the close age difference, she has never wanted to establish or form any close friendships with students. Although there is no strict guideline covering this issue, Halperin, along with other fellow TAs, believe it is better to keep an "academic distance."

The long afternoon of shadowing Halperin included Organic Chemistry 301 and Advanced Instrumental Analysis 360. It was interesting to watch as she transformed into teacher mode.

"I basically just walk around the lab, make sure everyone is doing what they are supposed to, and then mark all their assignments," she said. After class, Halperin sits in her living room, watching TV while grading the students' work. "I never really thought that I would get so emotionally invested as a TA, but I actually get upset when the students don't do well," she said.

Halperin is a very focused and independent individual who sets high goals for herself and others. Attending 8:30 am classes every Friday morning is, in itself, proof that she is a very dedicated student and TA.

No doubt some students would



SYDNEY HELLAND

ALL GEARED UP - Chemistry TA Shira Halperin dressed in her lab gear ready to teach.

prefer an easier life without the headaches of being a TA - no desperate calls from students begging for better grades, no feeling of dejection when you have to fail

a student. Halperin, however, like many other TAs, has found a way to handle this stress using strong time management skills. But in the end, she thinks it's worth it.

"Just like any other job, it tires me out, but I would definitely consider being a TA again next year," Halperin said.

Dalai Lama graces Toronto

His Holiness the Dalai Lama visits Canada after receiving the United States Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honour

- FROM DALAI LAMA, COVER

His Holiness started his talk on a welcoming note, thanking everyone present for their time and attention. He then noted that, although he had spoken to the Canadian public numerous times before, this occasion was special: it was the first time he was speaking as a fellow Canadian.

In July 2006, His Holiness was awarded the third ever honorary Canadian citizenship, joining Swedish diplomat and Holocaust hero Raoul Wallenberg and former South African President Nelson Mandela. In October, Burmese pro-democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi received the fourth of these honours.

"OUR SELF-CENTREDNESS CREATES A CURTAIN - AN IRON CURTAIN, A BAMBOO CURTAIN - WHICH MAKES US LONELY. REMOVE THE SELF-CENTREDNESS AND THE LONELINESS WILL DISAPPEAR."

- His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

After the thunderous applause in response to his comment, the Dalai Lama decided to sit more comfortably, putting his legs up on the ornate sofa placed for his comfort and - much to everyone's surprise - slipping on a visor to help him see his audience better.

Dripping with modesty and sitting there in a visor that matched his traditional Buddhist robes, he laughed and seemed at home, unfazed by the nearly 20,000 people watching his every move.

His talk was entitled "The Art of Happiness", and many people there were anxious to learn about the subject from a man who seems to exude it. As was mentioned in his introduction by Senator Consilio Di Nino, the spokesperson for Parliamentary Friends of Tibet, the Dalai Lama is a man who is never afraid to smile.

In times of gravity and joy, he is always pictured with a comforting grin on his face, giving the impression that somehow things will work out for the best.

Similarly, his talk had a reassuring vibe. He spoke of compassion, saying that he believes we get compassion from our mothers. He recommended that if we were to bring compassion to all of our relationships, we'd be surrounded by happy people, thereby ensuring our happiness as well.

Although the talk started out free from politics, the topic did surface eventually. His Holiness remains a fighter for the freedom of Tibet and its people.

In his travels, he campaigns for the political autonomy of the region and its people's right to speak their language and practice their religion without persecution from the Chinese government.

The effect the Dalai Lama has on the people that surround him was palpable. His arrival somehow filled the 56.5 million square foot Rogers Centre with a slight fragrance reminiscent of Buddhist temples and monasteries in Asia.

Before arriving in Toronto, His Holiness was in Ottawa meeting with parliamentarians, dignitaries and the prime minister.

In Ottawa, he also personally thanked Governor General Michaëlle Jean for bestowing the honorary Canadian citizenship on him. She was quoted by Senator Di Nino as having said, "The karma that came from His Holiness is a factor that allowed me to take office."

The wise words His Holiness spoke contrasted well with his unassuming nature. He spoke of the commonalities between us all, both mental and emotional, and the physical differences as well - all while scratching his head and adjusting his visor.

He explained that people who create "problems" are those who take physical differences and "put too much emphasis on this secondary level, forsaking the basic level - humanity."

"Our self-centredness creates a curtain - an Iron Curtain, a Bamboo Curtain - which makes us lonely. Remove the self-centredness and the loneliness will disappear."

The essence of his talk was that we are all one. In this day and age, we cannot afford to live for ourselves only, he explained.

As a network in many ways, we have to recognize that divided we will fall. "Many problems are created due to the division between 'they and we,' he said. "Today's reality is that the destruction of your neighbour is the destruction of yourself."

The various breaks of clapping did not slow the momentum of the hour-and-a-half-long speech. One such break came after he spoke of war. He noted that the concept of war is outdated.

Linking this concept to his talk, he said that "world peace must come through inner peace. Inner world full of hatred, then outer world will have no peace. World peace is very much dependant on self-happiness."

Though His Holiness's speech touched on many elements, the general message was summed up with this advice: "Think about your place in this world and commit to get involved. Rid yourself of barriers to inner peace and it will come to you and all those around you and will turn into world peace with time."

Check out CordWeekly.com for Sydney Helland's Dalai Lama photo gallery.

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IT'S BRIGHT IN HERE - The Dalai Lama speaks to 16,000 people at the Rogers Centre in Toronto about "The Art of Happiness".

Burmese militants using children in war

New findings show that children in Burma are being sold to Burmese militants and being used to fight in the conflict-torn area. Burma was found by Human Rights Watch to have 70,000 people under the age of 18 in armed conflict, the highest in the world

ASHLEY DOODNAUTH
STAFF WRITER

Over 100 Burmese monks took to the streets last Wednesday, once again protesting commodity prices and wanting national reconciliation and the release of political prisoners.

The march in Pakokku, 360 kilometres northwest of Rangoon, is a prelude to what is to come in this conflicted country, as monks ready themselves for another slew of demonstrations.

This last rally comes after approximately four weeks of September protests. 100,000 were in attendance, and the government reports that 10 died at the hands of the military - although many reports place the number of fatalities much higher.

Over 3000 were detained; however, government officials claim they have since released most protestors. These demonstrations marked the biggest anti-government protests in the country in nearly 20 years.

After violence was used to subdue crowds of monks in late September, the military forces in Burma, also known as Myanmar, began to break down.

Many soldiers were uneasy with the prospect of having to use force against monks and innocent protesters.

According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), staffing problems due to continual expansion, high desertion and lack of willing volunteers have led the Burmese army to seek alternatives.

As a result of these high drop-out rates among soldiers, the Burmese army has begun to recruit children as young as 10 years old.

Even though the legal age minimum for participation in the armed forces in Burma is 18, forging documents and turning a blind eye have become routine for military officials.

Also, as per HRW, recruitment takes place in marketplaces, train and bus stops, and other public venues. Children are coerced and threatened into joining the army. If they resist, they are either arrested or imprisoned.

Children are now being exploited as commodities; recruitment centres offer cash payments and other incentives to families who sell their children.

A child can be sold into the army for \$20-\$40, and after just 18 weeks of training, they are sent out to fight with men many years their senior.

However, this is not a new state of affairs for this Asian country, which has been singled out before for its use of child soldiers.

Over a decade of criticism has not changed the country's practices; approximately 30% of the new recruits in Burma are children, and the estimated total number of child soldiers in the country is about 50,000.

Child soldiers are prevalent not only in Burma, but in various countries around the world. Some are as young as eight years old.

Many children are forcibly enrolled because of social or economic pressures. In some cases, it is their only option for survival.

They will be supplied food and shelter if they join, and may be able to help their families with what little wage they will receive.

Yet in some cases, children are forced to commit atrocities against their own families after which they are ostracized by their village and family members.

As HRW reports, Burma has the largest number of child recruits participating in armed conflict.

There is no way to precisely estimate the number of children in Burma's army, but it appears that the vast majority of new recruits are forcibly conscripted, and there may be as many as 70,000 soldiers under the age of 18.

"Burma has a poor human rights record, but its record on child soldiers is the worst in the world," said Jo Becker, advocacy director of the Children's Rights Division at Human Rights Watch.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations in 2000. It prohibits the forced recruitment of children under the age of 18 for participation in armed conflict and has been ratified by more than 110 countries.

Still, in places like Colombia, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Lebanon, child recruitment is a considerable problem.

Kansas church fined US \$11m for funeral picketing



HEATHER
MACDONALD
STAFF WRITER

Upon researching one of the most difficult stories I have recently come across, I found myself becoming extremely distraught.

The Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) of Topeka, Kansas was charged \$10.9 million last week in damages for picketing outside the funeral of American marine Matthew Snyder, who died in Iraq in March 2006.

The group is known to picket dead soldiers' funerals, celebrating their death as a gift from God. They believe the war in Iraq, as well as Hurricane Katrina, the 2004 tsunami and 9/11 are all the wrath of God "smiting fag America," as seen on their website, www.godhatesamerica.com.

They aggressively display signs that state "God Hates Fags," "God Is Your Enemy," "AIDS Cures Fags," and "Too Late To Pray," in hopes of informing America that their sin is unforgivable.

Shirley Phelps-Roper, a church leader and daughter of Pastor Fred Phelps, justifies protests not as an attempt to change Americans, but

rather as a way to inform them of their future damnation to hell.

Because the First Amendment states all people have the right to freedom of religion, press and expression, the WBC has grounds to make an appeal against the recent charges. The WBC stated on their website that they will continue to protest at funerals despite this outpouring of rage.

80 percent of the 72 members consist of the Phelps family. Pastor Fred Phelps teaches members of all ages to hate Americans and Canadians, Catholics and Jews, homosexuals and idolaters.

Of the church's 72 official members, many are rich, influential members in their community. Most of the leaders are lawyers and have studied the legality of their actions. They know how far they can go without inciting police action against their group.

Furthermore, the church has a constant influx of money due to its wealthy members and supporters – many of whom are not actively involved in the church but agree with its messages and tactics. They use the funding to send members all over America to protest at funerals and at war memorials.

One of the things that disturbed me most is that children are also being involved. During one pro-

test with Shirley Phelps-Roper, she allowed one of her 11 children to mindlessly step on the American flag while carrying a sign reading, "God Hates the U.S.A."

Inflamed by this disgusting display of hatred, American residents have taken matters into their own hands. The WBC church building has been vandalised, and protestors have been verbally and physically attacked.

However, this only encourages WBC members. Not only do they thrive on this hatred, but it also gives them free publicity, permitting them to spread their message further.

You can find some of Fred Phelps' sermons and interviews, in which he continually takes Biblical verses out of context, on the website. There is also a list of mp3s, including titles like "This Land is Fag Land" and "God Hates the World".

I was baffled to see some of my favourite hymns listed below these songs. I could not bring myself to listen to any of them, as I had chills just thinking about how hypocritical these people are.

This emerging cult calls itself Christian, but its members are so full of pride and arrogance. With so many newscasts wanting interviews with WBC members, these people take every opportunity they can to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HATE SPEECH - Protestors at a Westboro Baptist Church rally are monitored by the police after their recent court-ruled fine of \$11m.

belittle reporters who typically accept their abuse and rarely have a chance to ask questions. Thankfully, Fox News had the audacity to stand up to Shirley Phelps-Roper, calling her "nutty" and "insane."

As a Christian myself, I am appalled and offended by their actions. I'm not going to pretend I know everything about Christianity because I do not by any means, but I do know that the Bible contains an overwhelming theme of love and forgiveness.

According to the Bible, Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with

all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment of the Christian faith. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-38).

This is a concept that we should all be living by even if we are not of the Christian faith.

Regardless of religion, race, sexuality or lifestyle, in general there is no reason to have anything but unconditional love for one another.

The hatred demonstrated by the Westboro Baptist Church is an utter perversion of common decency.



Anatomy of a student athlete

With the academic midterm season winding down *The Cord* takes an in-depth look into the pressures that surround the lives of Laurier's student athletes

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR
& **JOE TURCOTTE**
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

Student athletes are faced with the pressures of maintaining a high academic standard, as well as keeping up with their daily schedules of training and preparing for competition.

"It can be a lot," said fifth-year receiver for Golden Hawks football Andy Baechler. "Especially for first-year guys that aren't used to the routine. Once you get used to it, it's okay."

To ensure that the students are able to cope with the stresses and balance their schedules, many support systems have been put into place to assist them with any struggles they may have.

"YOU GET KNOCKED DOWN ALL THE TIME, PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY. BUT IT'S HOW YOU HANDLE IT THAT IS IMPORTANT."

- Gary Jeffries, head football coach

"For rookies, we have mandatory study hall a few times a week," explained Baechler. "That gives them an environment where, even if it is against their will, they're studying and staying on top of their work."

The coaches are sure to make it clear to their athletes that school and academics are to come first. Women's hockey Head Coach Rick Osborne says that if a student has an exam or essay, they are allowed to take the day off from training. They also have the option to take a day off before or after every game.

"Trying to have the feeling of being stress-free, physically strong and feeling good and confident about themselves is really the goal," commented Osborne.

Manager of Football Operations and Head Football Coach Gary Jeffries says that he wants the students "to feel confident about coming to them if there is an academic issue."

"Communication is so important," he continued. "As long as these young people recognize that we care, they are going to be willing to give back."

Coach Osborne allows his office to remain open for his athletes to come in and use it as a quiet place to get work done, while men's baseball coach Scott Ballantyne says that

his program recognizes the unique needs of the student athlete while ensuring that course work takes priority, saying, "basically they're student athletes; school comes before athletes."

Although competing schedules create time constraints for student-athletes, sometimes having little or no time can even spark the students to work harder for their academics.

"The busier I am, the more inclined I am to keep going," notes Lauren Meschino, captain of the women's hockey team. "When you have more things to do, you do more."

Baechler agrees, saying, "Some of the best marks I got were during the [football] season."

"The best thing about being on a team is being with people who have been through it before," adds Meschino. "They are always willing to help you out."

Having to deal with the pressure of balancing your time around many activities is not always a bad thing. It can often build character and prepare you for the things you may face in

the future.

"You get knocked down all the time, physically and mentally," said Jeffries. "But it's how you handle it that is important."

"It changes you as a person and affects every other aspect of your life," said Meschino. "The work ethic you develop through sport can transfer over to school and to life in general."

"The leadership you learn is excellent to transfer over into other aspects of your life after university," said Meschino.

That leadership is something that Laurier Athletics depends upon to ensure that its players are able to cope with the pressures of being a student athlete.

As director of athletics and operations, Peter Baxter explains that creating a supportive and accommodating atmosphere is necessary.

"When I came here I really wanted to build a student athlete development model, which builds the person socially, academically and athletically," he explains.

However, Baxter is quick to mention that it is imperative that the athletes take responsibility for themselves and their actions, and that Laurier Athletics does not simply cater to every whim and desire that the

athletes have.

"It's not a hand-holding service; there has to be accountability on the part of the adult," says Baxter. "It's all about building community so that all of the teams feel that they are a part of the whole process."

This "caring environment" is not limited to the realm of academics, either. As student athletes, practice and training are essential and necessary components of a team member's everyday life.

The everyday rigours of practice and training run the risk of becoming overwhelming, especially considering that schedules often allow teams to offer their players only one or two days off a week.

For the most part, teams and coaches work towards accommodating their players and schedule practice around the course loads of the team members. Men's basketball coach Peter Campbell says that his coaching staff works hard to ensure that "guys can work around their own schedules."

He goes on to say that "we've selected [practice] time around our players' academic schedules."

In order to further help the training process, most Golden Hawk teams provide their players with regimented training programs. These programs contain elements that focus on all areas of the training process, including practice, strength and conditioning, and dietary concerns.

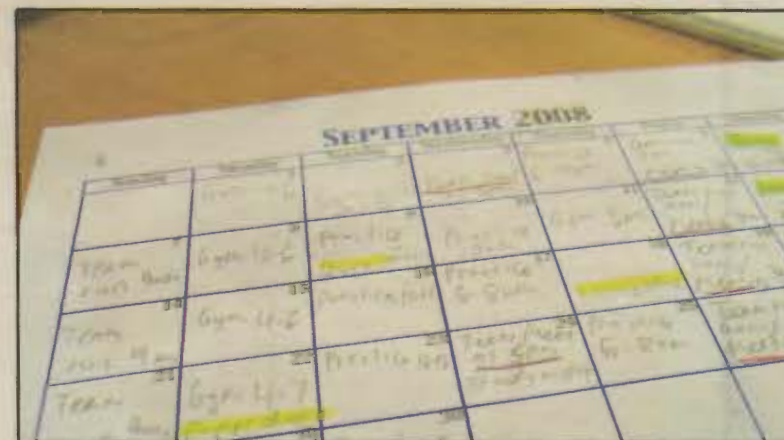
Since most coaches feel that the health of their athletes is important to their success both on and off the field of play, these programs are seen as a way of aiding in the daily routine of the student athlete.

"We certainly watch their diets, we certainly do an education system with them on nutrition; that's a huge factor," says women's basketball coach Stu Julius, as he explains the need for smart lifestyle choices. "We try to get them to understand that a cheeseburger and Coke won't do it."

"TO PUT ANY KIND OF MANDATORY TESTING OR A SCREENING PROCESS OF EVERY ONE OF OUR ATHLETES PUTS A LITTLE BIT OF AN [AURA] OF DISTRUST."

- Peter Baxter, director of athletics and recreation

For the most part, though, these programs do not include the pro-



suspicion surrounding many professional sports leagues and their play-

ers regarding the use of supplements, both legal and illegal versions, the notion that such concerns can translate to the university and college levels is not lost.

For this reason, Canadian Inter-University Sport (CIS), the governing body for all national level teams, has implemented both education and testing policies relating to the use of performance enhancing drugs (PEDs). This program uses random testing as a means of discouraging the use of illegal substances.

However, judging by the sport that an athlete plays and the success of his or her team, the amount of times that the athlete is tested varies dramatically.

"I've been tested twice," said Baechler. "I think they do a pretty good job of [testing]. It's tough when you have such a big team, but from my experience they do."

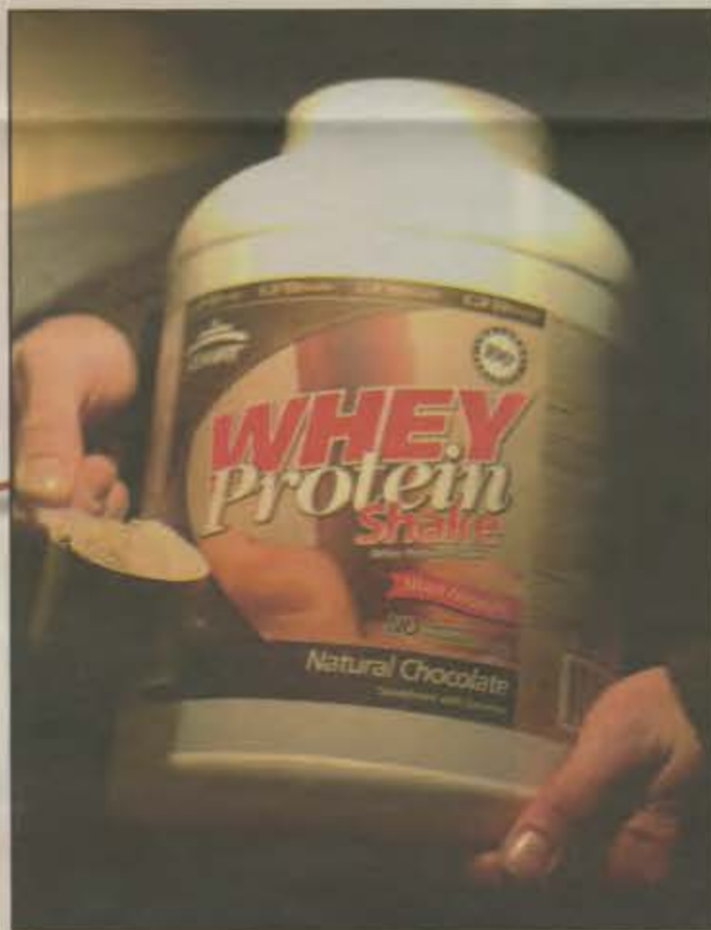
With the clouds of suspicion surrounding many professional sports leagues and their play-

ers regarding the use of supplements, both legal and illegal versions, the notion that such concerns can translate to the university and college levels is not lost.

For this reason, Canadian Inter-University Sport (CIS), the governing body for all national level teams, has implemented both education and testing policies relating to the use of performance enhancing drugs (PEDs). This program uses random testing as a means of discouraging the use of illegal substances.



PHOTOS BY SYDNEY HELLAND & GREG MCKENZIE
GRAPHIC WORK BY ALEX HAYTER



"We've been to nationals every year that I've been here and had three or four players tested everytime," added Osborne.

But while the men's football and women's hockey teams have experienced monumental success in recent years, teams that have not been as fortunate have had a different experience with the CIS testing programs.

Take, for example, fifth-year men's basketball player Trevor Csima. "It's kind of a joke that the testing is so infrequent," says Csima. "I've been here for five years and I've only ever seen twice where guys on the team get tested."

While Csima believes that the CIS testing program could use some adjustments, he also feels that its random nature does offer a sort of

deterrent.

Noting that one of the few times that he knows of a player being tested came on a relatively unassuming night after a comparatively minor game, he says, "it's a pretty random night to have guys dropping in and testing, so it's not worth taking chances."

"The thing about the CIS as a whole is that they're so strict about stuff like that so the punishment outweighs the rewards," commented Baechler.

And so, with the infrequent nature of CIS testing, one might wonder whether individual institutions do any in-house testing. As Baxter explains, this is not generally the case.

"Maybe it's faith, it's faith in young

people that they're going to do the right thing," he says. "To put any kind of mandatory testing or a screening process of every one of our athletes puts a little bit of an [aura] of distrust."

"I can't really see Laurier being more proactive about testing because it's hard to do and it's expensive," adds Meschino. "It's important for every team, however, to keep this as a focus."

The deterrent factor provided by random testing is further reinforced by education relating to the adverse effects of the use of supplements. However, for Csima, this education takes place mainly in the classroom.

"I'm actually a kinesiology student so I'm somewhat more educated on

these things, on exercise and nutrition," he explains. "If you eat somewhat of a proper diet you don't really need to supplement with protein to gain; I think there's enough protein in my diet as it is."

He continues that the largely unregulated nature of supplements is yet another discouraging factor in his choice not to take performance enhancers. "As far as supplements go, I don't think that it's worth the money or the risk," he explains.

"If you take a supplement and you're not necessarily sure what's in there, you could end up with a positive test."

As a veteran, Csima believes that it is his role as a teammate to speak up if they believe that a player may be

using something that they shouldn't.

"I would speak to him, especially at this point in my career. I might have had a different answer for you four years ago," he explains, commenting on the different feelings associated with being a veteran athlete.

"Not even [because I'm] worried about the positive test and the trouble you get into sport-wise. Just the health thing; it's really not worth it if you consider just the level of sport we're at," he continues.

"Coach encourages us, too. If you've got a concern with one of your teammates, talk to him. It's your job as a teammate."

See PAGE 18 for editorial reaction to this story

Ladies down Mac, Guelph

The women's volleyball team continue their success, extending their record to 4-1 and remaining in second place in the OUA West standings

RAYMOND GIU
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women's volleyball team came into last weekend looking to improve on a 2-1 record. Facing back-to-back games, the Hawks doubled their win total for the season, defeating the McMaster Marauders and the Guelph Gryphons.

"The success from this weekend came from playing consistently and being disciplined and playing hard in the team defensive system," said Head Coach Luke Snider.

Coming off a 3-1 loss to Waterloo, the Hawks bounced back and showed their poise with an impressive three-set shutout win over the Marauders on Friday evening. A solid team effort allowed the Hawks

to make quick work of the Marauders, winning the sets 25-18, 26-24, and 25-19 respectively.

The Hawks maintained their momentum a day later, when they faced the Gryphons. Coming out with a blazing start, the Hawks were firing from all cylinders as they took the first set decisively by a score of 25-12.

Led by superior blocking, the Hawks had an easier time defending their attack and as a result, gave themselves an effective counterattack. This ultimately led to yet another easy set as the Hawks took the second frame by a score of 25-17.

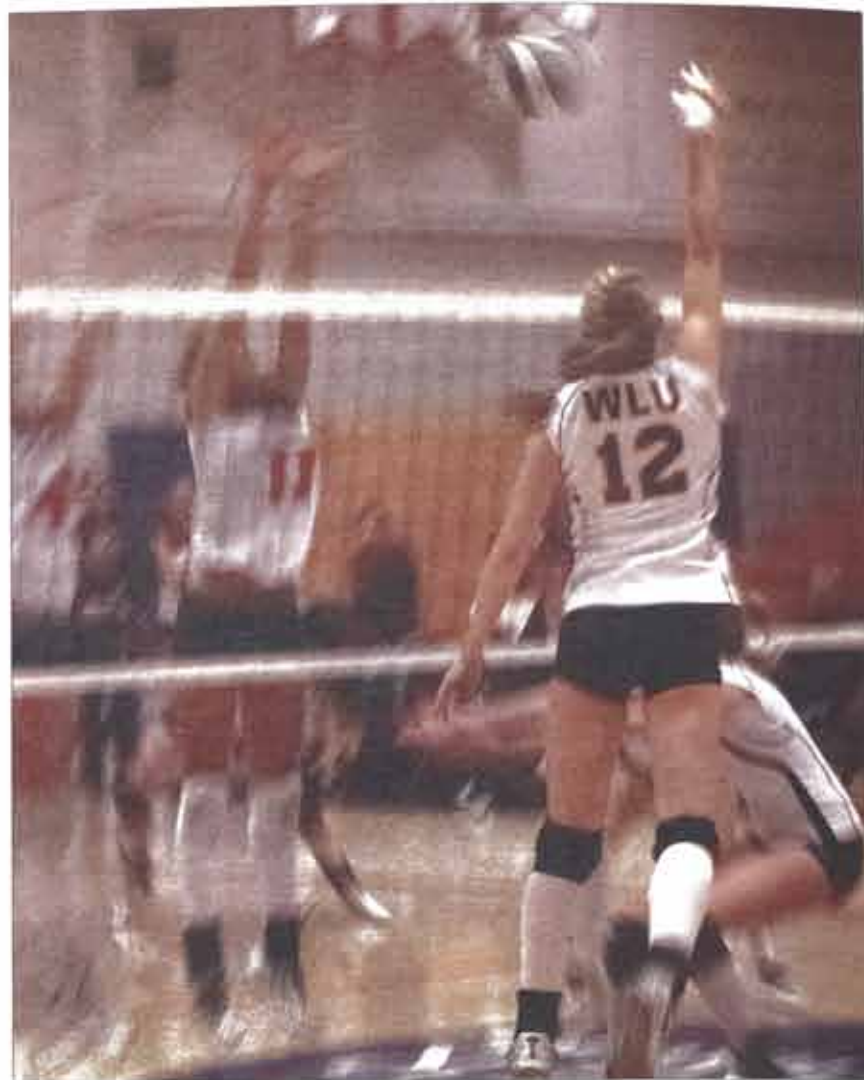
"It's something we focused on a lot this year and it's something that the girls have made huge improvements in," said Snider. "Blocking is something that is a big part of our

game and it is a great way to score points."

The blocking was highlighted by the trio of Megan Gilmore, Kaitlin Sauder and Stephanie Shleiffer, as they combined for four blocking assists apiece, leading to a team total of 16 block assists.

Only a set away from losing the match, the Gryphons came into the third set more composed and managed to put up a fight. They took control of the game with increased success on their digs, winning the majority of the rallies.

The Hawks tried to stay in the sets with their serving. Third-year outside hitter Teresa Wick came up with some crucial service aces in the third set to keep the Hawks



GREG MCKENZIE

SMASH - Fifth-year Danielle Walker spikes a shot against Guelph.

SEE VOLLEYBALL, PAGE 17

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

WEEKLY
Nov. 8 - Nov. 14, 2007

RECENT SCORES

10.31.07

W Basketball 71 - Brock 59
M Volleyball 1 - Waterloo 3
W Volleyball 1 - Waterloo 3

11.02.07

M Volleyball 1 - McMaster 3
W Volleyball 3 - McMaster 0

11.03.07

W Hockey 7 - Queen's 2
M Hockey 9 - Windsor 3
W Basketball 66 - Windsor 59
M Volleyball 0 - Guelph 3
W Volleyball 3 - Guelph 2
M Football 31 - Guelph 38
OUA SEMI FINAL
W Soccer 0 - Ottawa 1
OUA SEMI FINAL

11.04.07

M Hockey 2 - Waterloo 8
W Hockey 7 - UOIT 0
W Soccer 1 - Carleton 0
OUA BRONZE

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

11.09.07

M Hockey vs Guelph
Waterloo Recreation Complex, 7:30pm

11.10.07

W Hockey vs Brock
Waterloo Recreation Complex, 7:30pm

11.11.07

W Hockey vs Guelph
Waterloo Recreation Complex, 7:30pm

11.14.07

M Hockey vs Brock
Waterloo Recreation Complex, 7:30pm

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Men's Football
Tania Pedron
Women's Soccer

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KAREN NIELSEN Niagara Falls	NAT OSTERER Ottawa	SHIVA PARASRAM Toronto	DANIELLE RICCI Ottawa	NICOLE RIVARD Schomberg
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Gryphons upset Hawks on playoff road

After quickly amassing a 24-0 lead, Golden Hawk faithful sat by in horror as the visitors ran off 38 unanswered points, the Hawks' normally staunch defense seemingly helpless to stop their duo of Justin Dunk and Nick FitzGibbon

- FROM YATES, COVER

After once again shutting down the Gryphons offense, Noble led the Hawks to a 76-yard drive, with Lynch capping it off on another touchdown, giving the Hawks a quick 14-0 lead.

Noble connected with second-year receiver Josh Bishop in the end zone to put the Hawks up 21-0 on their third drive. Kicker Chris Mamo put an 18-yard field goal through the uprights, extending their lead to 24-0 in what would be the Hawks' last score until late in the fourth.

"WE HAD NOT QUITE ENOUGH TODAY, WE RAN OUT OF TIME. WE NEVER STOPPED COMPETING THOUGH, OUR KIDS ARE A COURAGEOUS BUNCH"

- Gary Jeffries, Head Coach

Opening the second quarter, the 3219 fans witnessed what was the start of a shocking comeback. Returning Mamo's missed 37-yard field goal, rookie receiver Jedd Gardner ran it all the way to give the Gryphons their first score of the game.

The Gryphons then proceeded to string together five plays for 76 yards and another touchdown to end the half, trailing only 24-14.

"It certainly turned the momentum," said Jeffries about the returned field goal. "We had it all early on and that stopped it. We couldn't get going again and they did."

"It sparked a 38-point run for them," commented fifth-year linebacker Anthony Maggiacomo. "We lost control of everything after

that."

It took Dunk just three minutes into the second half to connect with FitzGibbon in the endzone and close the gap to 24-21.

"We made some plays early, and then they just picked it up," said Jeffries. "We didn't cover well today and that certainly hurt us."

The fourth quarter opened with Dunk running all over the Hawks. Finding FitzGibbon wide open in the endzone, the Gryphons finally took the lead 28-24 and would not look back. After a field goal by Gryphons kicker Rob Maver, and another touchdown run by FitzGibbon, the Hawks found themselves down 38-24 with four minutes left to make some magic.

The Hawks responded with force, driving 87 yards in 12 plays and ending with Lynch finally returning to the endzone, cutting the deficit back to seven points for the purple and gold.

The onside kick failed to return possession to the Hawks, but a forced fumble on the Gryphons first attempt left the ball open on the field only to be covered by fourth-year linebacker Luke Pinder.

With 30 seconds left on the clock, the Hawks offense came out but could not connect on a third-down pass to Baechler that turned the ball over on downs. The game ended 38-31 for the Gryphons.

"We had not quite enough today, we ran out of time," said Jeffries. "We never stopped competing, though; our kids are a courageous bunch."

"We all believed that we had a chance to come back, and that put us in a position to do so," com-



RYAN STEWART

IT TAKES TWO - Linebackers Chima Ihekwoaba and Anthony Maggiacomo attempt to take down Justin Dunk.

mented Pinder about his fumble recovery.

"It was just what we needed," said Maggiacomo. "We gave ourselves one last chance to come back, but we fell a little short."

"It's tough. Those guys can go all day," said Pinder, making reference to Dunk and FitzGibbon. "They were scrambling around making plays and you got to keep up with

them. Unfortunately, we weren't able to do that today."

The season came to an unexpected end for the Hawks, however, nine players were given OUA all-star nods. Selected for the first-team offense was Lynch, along with guard Tyler Felber and tackle Scott Evans.

The first-team defense included Maggiacomo, cornerback Taureen

Allen and returner Steve Turner.

Inside receiver Andy Baechler and wide receiver Dante Luciani were given second-team offensive nods while cornerback Jahmeeks Beckford was picked for second-team defense.

Check out CordWeekly.com for Ryan Stewart's photo gallery from the game.

Hockey hawks continue OUA dominance

Two impressive weekend wins boost the Golden Hawks women's hockey team to 8-1 and place them atop the OUA

CHRIS BALUSCHAK
CORD SPORTS

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women's hockey team extended their win streak to seven games with two convincing wins this past weekend.

On Saturday, the Hawks handed the Queen's Golden Gaels a massive 7-2 loss. Just a day later, they repeated their seven goal performance with a 7-0 victory over the expansion University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) Ridgebacks at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Centre.

On Sunday night against the Ridgebacks, who have only one win in 10 games so far this season, the Hawks obviously showed up to play.

Coming off their big win against Queen's

the night before, the Hawks were looking for similar results. They put on a lot of pressure, testing the UOIT net-minder early and often.

After some great puck control and passing, it was rookie forward Kaley Powers who tallied the first goal for the Hawks a little after the half-way point in the first.

Relentless pressure by the Laurier offense contributed to two more goals, one by third-year centre Lauren Barch and the second by rookie forward Candace Kellough, bringing the period to a close.

The second period saw much of the same dominance by the faster, more experienced Hawks squad.

The Ridgebacks showed a slight improvement in their defensive game, however, it was their goalie keeping the game from getting out of hand.

While only recording three goals in the opening two frames, Head Coach Rick Osborne expressed his frustration. "The second period I thought was really tough because the referees kind of let everything go. That kind of took a little bit of the flow out of the game."

"THE SECOND PERIOD I THOUGHT WAS REALLY TOUGH BECAUSE THE REFEREES KIND OF LET EVERYTHING GO. THAT KIND OF TOOK A LITTLE BIT OF THE FLOW OUT OF THE GAME."

- Rick Osborne, Head Coach

When the Hawks returned for the third period, they came out with more enthusiasm for the duration of the game. They recorded four goals in total, two of them coming on the powerplay.

Assistant captain Andrea Ironside re-

corded two goals for the Hawks. Between the pipes, Hawks net-minder Liz Knox recorded 13 saves for her fifth shutout of the season. The statistics speak for themselves as the Hawks outshot the Ridgebacks 45-13, and won the game 7-0.

"I was happy with the outcome - the seven goals, mostly happy with the zero on the board," said Osborne. "I would like to see the same offensive production continue against Brock next week."

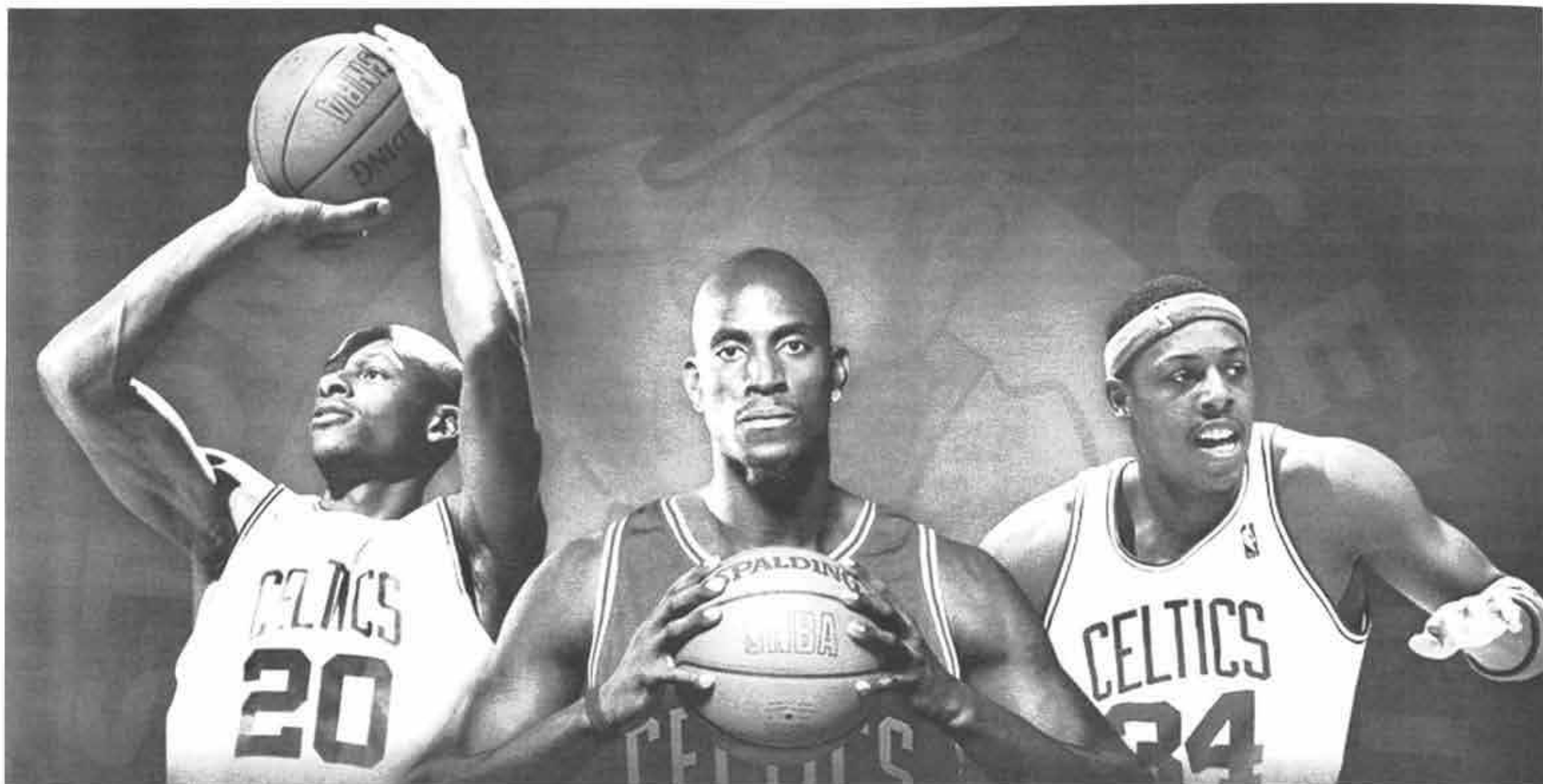
The Hawks have an important weekend ahead of them, welcoming the lowly Brock Badgers (2-8-0), but also the Guelph Gryphons (8-2-0).

With the WLU victories this past weekend and a loss by the Gryphons to the Western Mustangs, the Hawks now sit atop the OUA standings.

The games next weekend will both be held at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Centre on Saturday at 7:30 versus the Badgers and Sunday at 7:30 against the Gryphons.

Boston's return to the spotlight?

An off-season full of high-profile player moves looks to make the Celtics an Eastern Conference powerhouse in the NBA this year



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TRIFECTA TRIO • From left: Ray Allen, Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce look to inspire the fans in the city of Boston and lead the team towards reclaiming past Celtic glories.



RAYMOND GIU
STAFF WRITER

Throughout the twenty-first century, the Boston Celtics have faced a problem that has plagued many franchises: a disgruntled franchise star getting paid the maximum salary and a risk-averse general manager afraid to waste potential talent to get the pieces to become a legitimate contender.

In an association full of these teams, Celtics General Manager Danny Ainge, himself guilty of this trend and fearing a backlash from his unsuccessful attempt at rebuilding around Paul Pierce, traded all his young stars away to attain the services of two other franchise stars, Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen.

In doing so, he assembled what could quite possibly be the best trio in the NBA, at the cost of their future. However, could this be enough to vault the Celtics to the status of a championship contender?

As much as the media tries to hype the Celtics up, they just don't have enough depth to win a championship.

First of all, if an injury were to ever hit any of the big three (especially Garnett), the Celtics would struggle to stay competitive. This would be the case for all NBA franchises, but it would hurt the Celtics more than others. (I'm sure if Garnett got injured we'd all be scared of a frontcourt of Kendrick Perkins and Brian Scalabrine—wait, who?)

They would also be more susceptible to it, as their stars are not getting any younger. Allen (32), Garnett (31) and Pierce (30) are no

longer young by NBA standards; in fact, they're nearing the end of their prime years. The big three have also missed a number of games due to injury, the trio sitting out a total of 70 games just last season.

Although it is highly probable for the injury bug to hit again, let's ease the focus off injuries. What if they were caught in the perfect scenario of a healthy season?

With Garnett, Pierce and Allen earning a combined \$56 million this season, there is little room to sign players that can complement them.

The centre and point guard positions, which are arguably the two most important and difficult positions to fill, are manned by the inconsistent Kendrick Perkins and unproven sophomore Rajon Rondo, respectively.

These players, although serviceable, would not be starters on your typical competitive team. As good as the top three are, they cannot beat a team all on their own.

Smart teams will know how to pick this Celtic squad apart. Case in point, Raptors fans were treated to a fantastic showing by TJ Ford on Sunday as he tore apart Rajon Rondo with a 32-point, five assist performance.

If TJ Ford, not known for his offensive prowess, can score 32 points, imagine what Steve Nash or Tony Parker could do to a Celtics team with an inept point guard. In a seven-game series, there are too many glaring weaknesses outside the "three-headed monster" that will continually be exposed.

Let's face it; teams depending on three superstars to carry the load have failed to deliver when it counts. Not only are Allen, Pierce and Garnett all without major play-

off success to their credit, recent history has shown that a team with just three star players and no depth will not win a championship.

The New Jersey Nets (Richard Jefferson, Jason Kidd, Vince Carter)

and the Phoenix Suns (Steve Nash, Amare Stoudamire, Shawn Marion) have tried and have nothing to show for it but a depressing exit in the playoffs. Ainge has forged in Celtics fans a belief that this team

can win the championship.

With such high expectations, and just as high possibility of failure, this can only turn out as horrible as Garnett's coined nickname for this team, the Ceatles.

Hawks take OUA bronze

It took a shootout against the nation's second-ranked squad to knock a youthful Golden Hawks women's soccer team out of the semi-finals

ANDREA MILLET
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women's soccer team traveled to York this past weekend to compete in the final stage of the OUA Championships.

They took to the field Saturday in the semi-final match against the Ottawa Gee Gees. The Hawks entered with a 9-4-3 record, against a Gee Gees squad who finished first place in their division with a 13-2-1 record.

The two teams fought a hard battle, and the Hawks defense once again demonstrated their strength, keeping the ball out of their own net for the fourth game in a row.

A scoreless tie at the end of the match brought the two teams to a penalty shoot-out, and despite the Hawks' careful play and immense determination, they fell to the Gee Gees 5-4.

The second game of the weekend was the bronze medal match played Sunday against the Car-

leton Ravens. Again the Hawks came out strong, controlling possession of the ball and keeping the Ravens away from their net.

It was 15 minutes into the second half when the Hawks' efforts paid off and midfielder Monique Da Silva beat the Ravens keeper, giving them a 1-0 lead they would not relinquish.

This final shutout by Hawks keeper Mal Woeller marked her fifth in a row, and it proved the dominating force of the Laurier defense.

In the words of Head Coach Barry MacLean, it was good to go out there and "finish the season on a high note," with a third place finish in the OUA finals.

"They let everybody know that they are going to be a force to be reckoned with," said MacLean, with high expectations for his talented but young team. "Our biggest weakness was inexperience."

The Hawks had a strong season this year, finishing second in their division with a 7-4-3 regular season record. They opened the year

well with three wins and, despite a few struggles in the middle of the season, they pulled together and finished strong with the bronze.

MacLean praised the determination and development visible in his team as they worked through the challenges this year, saying, "We went through a bad patch in the season and just finding a way to get out of it, that was a growing curve for them."

Honourary mention goes out to three of the Hawks women, who have been recognized by the OUA for their hard work.

First-year midfielder Allyssa Lagonia was chosen as a first-team all-star, and both first-year midfielder Tania Pedron and team captain and third-year defensive player Sarah Hopper were chosen for the second team.

The Hawks men's soccer team received three second-team all-star nods, with defensive player Matt Smith, midfielder Alex Doma, and forward Damir Hadziavdic all chosen by the OUA.

Volleyball Hawks win two more

- FROM VOLLEYBALL, PAGE 14

within reach. It was to no avail, however, as the Gryphons were able to maintain control of the third set, winning it 25-15. The Gryphons continued their momentum, also taking the fourth set 25-23.

For the fifth and deciding set, the Hawks regrouped and got everything together, returning to the style of that made them successful in the first two sets. In doing so, they were victorious, taking the set

15-8 and the game, 3-2.

"We struggled when we deviated from our team system. We had great success staying within it," commented Luke Snider.

With a successful weekend behind them, the Hawks look to add another two wins this weekend as they travel out of town to take on the Brock Badgers on Saturday and the Ryerson Rams on Sunday.

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Doping needs to be discouraged

When Wilfrid Laurier's varsity teams are successful, they do great things for the university. We need to look no further for an example than the Golden Hawks' 2005 Vanier Cup win. The national attention that the win afforded the school shone a favourable light upon the university.

Great success like this doesn't just bring our university attention – it brings us positive attention. The value of being in the national limelight and the positive effect it has on Laurier's reputation is tremendous.

For this reason, Laurier Athletics should introduce greater efforts to discourage the use of performance-enhancing substances so that it continues to remain a non-issue. While, in an ideal world, it would be nice to be able to simply trust student athletes, the fact is that the stakes are just too high for blind faith.

In 2003, when running back Derek Medler tested positive for cocaine (a banned substance), Laurier's reputation was badly soiled. If another athlete was to test positive, particularly so close to the previous incident, Laurier Athletics' reputation would be ruined, and the whole university's reputation would suffer dramatically.

The cost of performing in-house drug testing is, admittedly, prohibitive and Canadian Inter-University Sport already performs random testing on teams that fall within its scope. Accordingly, in-house testing is a direction that Laurier Athletics should continue to avoid for practical reasons.

Instead, further education about the negative effects and consequences of performance enhancing substances should be implemented. While athletes who are enrolled in kinesiology or are sensitive to the issues surrounding the use of performance enhancers currently possess this information, those who are not may not have the same information.

Doping needs to be taken seriously. While there needs to be trust between the university and its student athletes, everyone involved must realize that the stakes run high because these teams are representing the university as a whole. While what is being done right now is okay, it's time to step it up a notch.

Time to remember

Veterans made a great sacrifice for us to be able to enjoy freedom, and this Friday's ceremony of remembrance, organized by Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union and the History Students' Association, is a good step in acknowledging and appreciating what veterans did.

It's unfortunate that the decision was made to not hold the ceremonies on Remembrance Day. The specific day was chosen for a reason – to commemorate the end of World War I – and that should not be forgotten or dismissed.

If people are willing to take time out of their schedule on a Friday morning, they will be willing to take the same time out of their Sunday morning – the point isn't to get a big number of people out because they had to wait for Second Cup to re-open. A greater effort should be made to educate students of the importance of Remembrance Day

to gain attendance instead of depending on convenience.

However, it would certainly be wrong to say that there is a wrong time to remember veterans. Despite the remembrance ceremony taking place on Friday, Remembrance Day still takes place on Sunday. Even if you have attended Friday's ceremonies, you should not think that your commitment has been fulfilled.

Since there is no official Laurier ceremony on Sunday, we can take advantage of being able to shift the focus away from the ceremony itself and back to what Remembrance Day is really about: the veterans.

If you know a veteran, visit them to say thank you. Go to Veterans' Green at 11:00 am for a minute of silence. Remember a family member who was in the war. Do something that makes you connect with Remembrance Day and veterans.

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 WLUP.

THE CORD WEEKLY

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JULIE MARION

Celebrity news inane

Focusing on gossip surrounding famous people skews our sense of reality



PAUL ALVIZ
A&E EDITOR

I don't understand celebrity news broadcasts that focus on, nay, conform to only reporting on "stories" involving the most inflated of celebrities – those within the narrow pinhole scope of the Hollywood eye. I mean, I'm not mentally incapacitated; I understand what they are and I understand why people watch them somewhat, yet their mere existence still perplexes me.

Paris goes to jail! Britney shaves her head! Random celebrity eats a taco salad! Can you imagine if you didn't know who these people were? The show really wouldn't make much sense – assuming it made any to begin with. "Bob bought a cheeseburger at McDonald's – for the third time this week!" Just doesn't quite fit, eh?

And why do we know who these people are? Because they're entertainers, it's the nature of their profession to be in the public eye. But we've come to assume that because they're entertainers, they should be entertaining us at all times. Not true. They have to eat, sleep and (have their butlers) take out the garbage just like the rest of us.

This is when things like sex tape scandals, drug addiction problems and child custody battles take the spotlight. People love watching celebrities almost as much as they love watching them crash and burn. If there's one thing these celebrity news shows provide us, it's the humanization of the Hol-

lywood icon – but only in a profoundly morbid way.

In 2004, something freakish happened. Somehow, the scientists behind the tear in the space-time continuum known as *Extra* managed to recruit a real live celebrity (sort of). Sure, it might have been three years since he'd produced anything somewhat memorable, but I still did a double take the first time I saw Mark McGrath introducing the latest "breaking news."

I actually used to like Sugar Ray. Sure, they sold out to soft rock ballads after the catchy success of the pop hit "Fly," but sometimes I still catch myself humming the tune of "Someday" or "When it's Over" in my head.

How does someone with an adequately successful musical career and – presumably – at least an ounce of self respect wake up one day and say, "You know what? I think I'd like to be a giant douche."

Assuming he's not strapped for cash because of some drug addiction gone awry, it's a sad case of mistaken identity. Rock star turned butt-sniffing, porcelain-veneered-smiling, garbage news host. He was on the cover of *Rolling Stone* for fuck's sake.

So just what does it mean when a celebrity jumps the fence and wields a camera at people they might have once considered peers? Have the celebrities themselves been duped? Has the measure of success become the number of paparazzi cameras that swarm you every time you step into the public eye without one of those pairs of glasses with a fake nose and moustache attached?

If so, then clearly Britney Spears

is ahead of the pack by a long shot. And all it took for her was self-destruction.

I don't blame McGrath for being confused; the line can get beyond blurry. Some celebrities actually strive to achieve Spears' state of public attention, despite its inherent negativity. I bet he wishes he'd married a backup dancer and lost custody of his kids so that some other "journalist" could cover the "story."

Some shows have even gathered the gall to cover themselves as stories, citing their "insider" relationship with the stars, throwing to the hounds any notion of critical observation and analysis usually associated with the profession. Yet they stand back and wag their finger at nosy paparazzi for getting in the way and being too intrusive, while at the same time salivating for another image of indecent exposure to surface.

It's a vicious cycle of finding or creating easy targets and exploiting them to their full potential. Don't be mistaken. These programs are not in the business of news reporting; they are in the business of news creating. How else would a program like *Dancing with the Stars* ever get any coverage?

At best, these shows contribute absolutely nothing to our sense of reality in the world around us. At worst, they skew it indefinitely. As celebrity voyeurism creeps into mainstream news more and more, I hope that its ubiquity reveals its irrelevance, and that the true spirit of journalism – fact-finding and reporting – remains intact.

letters@cordweekly.com

Human violence natural



KIMBERLY ELWORTHY
UNDER THE RADAR

War, greed, power and violence are the things that make us uniquely human. They are what put us at the top of the food chain. Without any of these qualities, human beings would not have had the drive to outsmart and overrule our stronger animal opponents.

We have seen this passion for violence – reflected in popular music, video games, television and movies – become even more life-like and interactive as the years go by. But is it the reproduction of violence in the media that makes humans, especially youth, the violent creatures we are or is it just our nature as people?

Much of our heritage is laced with entertainment that comes from watching death. Ancient Rome found solid entertainment in the murders of slaves and criminals in gladiator fights to the death. Although these fights were created to instill the value of an honourable death, the bigger reason for its suc-

cess was because of its entertainment value.

As recently as eighteenth- and nineteenth-century England, crimes such as plotting against the Crown, stealing and counterfeiting were punished in manners such as public hanging, beheading or burning at the stake. Crowds of as many as 100,000 spectators, including vendors selling food, and in-depth media coverage, were often regular components to the day's events.

These are only two of numerous examples of human brutality for entertainment. This is something that is currently nonexistent in Western nations. However, videotaping of executions, such as that of Saddam Hussein, are made illegally available online.

Instead of real death, we find entertainment in the staging of death and action, but it is unclear which is more disgusting: films such as *Saw IV* or actually watching someone decapitated in real life.

Recently, films and video games have been representing death more realistically as graphic technology improves. However, as a society, we are able to determine that a film is not real, and that actors and sets are behind the scenes. It is impor-

tant for our parents to teach these differences early in life.

In the past century, Western society has changed drastically, which has affected how violent acts are carried out and how violence is viewed. The Industrial Revolution made mass-produced weapons available to the public.

Since the 1950s, the idea of the teenager has also come into existence – a strange period of emotional confusion mixed with extreme boredom, no responsibilities and little to do.

Furthermore, both parents have become the breadwinners, which has contributed to the absence of parents in the home. Urban centers are more populated and people are becoming more alienated from each other. Globalization and the mixing of different cultures in Western society have brought a sense of detachment from one another.

With all of these conflicting factors, something is bound to go wrong. People – especially the hormonal, irrational creature that is the teenager – are going to find reasons to disagree about something. Just knowing the history of civilization – where violence has been used to both entertain and assert



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SHOOT 'EM UP - Today, society is exposed to violence through media.

power – we are bound to turn back to these violent traits.

It is true that violence is a large and obvious component in the media. However, previous cultures, where films, television and video games did not exist, were still brutally violent. Youth violence is a recent development resulting from many factors, the least of which are 50 Cent's music videos.

The most influential factor in juvenile delinquency, says Statis-

tics Canada, is a disconnection between child and parent.

Media violence is a scapegoat for those who have failed to properly communicate with their children and teenagers. The effects follow these children into adulthood. Even if violence in the media ceased to exist, the problem of violence in society would not. This is because human are a violent species.

letters@cordweekly.com

Letters to the Editor, continued on page 20

Augustine family says thank you

I am Amanda Augustine's father. I just wanted to thank you for that wonderful article about Amanda's very tragic passing that was in your October 31 edition. The show of emotion and support from Laurier and its students has been very welcomed.

Amanda was a very special girl. She was and always will be Daddy's little girl. As a result, my opinion of her was a little biased. Amanda had only been at Laurier for a little over a year and yet many of you thought that she was very special as well. Amanda's family had discussed whether or not any of her fellow students would come down for either the visitation or the funeral. We thought a few might but we felt you would mourn her in your way. Go to the campus pub and have a couple of pints in her honour. We were very wrong. We had a number of her fellow students come to the visitation and what seemed like a busload came to her funeral. We were overwhelmed and very impressed by this. It spoke volumes about both you and her and we truly thank you for this.

I would like to send out a very special thank you as well to Amanda's former residence mates from Bouckaert. The collage that you did up was absolutely beautiful. It will not only be a constant reminder of her but also of the fantastic friends and times that she shared in her all too short time at Laurier.

Also, I would like to thank the Dean of Students and the President of the Student Union, who came to Amanda's funeral. To take the time from your busy schedule to come to Hamilton for my little girl was truly appreciated. Thank you as well for

bringing all of the school papers. They were very much in demand.

Many of you also know Amanda's boyfriend, Jarrod Gleadall. Jarrod is going to take a bit of a break from school but when he does return, please say hi to him. Jarrod is a great kid as well and is truly hurting as well. Please let him know he has not been forgotten about through all this. Amanda very much enjoyed her time at Laurier. And after meeting many of her fellow students and friends from Laurier, I can see why. Thank you and take care.

- Gerry Augustine

Olympic Games hijacked by politics

Once again I see another article about China and the Olympic Games. Like all of them not printed in the sports section, they are about China and human rights, especially in regards to Tibet and Falun Gong. This is yet another example of an event or idea being hijacked by special interest groups to get their message across.

These groups and individuals disrespect and disgrace the athletes that work their entire life to reach the starting line at an Olympic Games. All the sacrifice, dedication, struggle and hard work means nothing to those that only see their agenda instead of the girl in an Ethiopian village who was idolizing Ethiopia's great runners and one day hopes to be there, in her country's colours inspiring the next generation to strive for their goals and be the best they can be. The Olympic Games, in their fundamental state, are being twisted and manipulated to be about the political issues of the day instead of being about the sport,

the competition and the height of sporting accomplishment. This is what the Olympics are about: the youth of the world coming together in friendship to compete to be the best they can. Anything else is trivial and, to the people who matter, the athletes, is just an unnecessary distraction.

If you want to criticize Beijing, criticize the abysmal air quality that will be damaging to the level of competition, the International Olympic Committee caving into NBC's broadcasting demands, or the simple fact that Beijing had the third-ranked bid behind Toronto and Paris, yet still won. But when that countdown begins less than a year from now on August 8, 2008, remember this is an event about those 10,500 athletes walking into their 17 days of spotlight, not yours to hijack for your own use. Look past your own agendas and revel in something that brings together every single nation on earth – the largest gathering of people in history, coming together in friendship. Don't tarnish this.

- Josh Grigg

HSA shirts offensive

I was disappointed to learn that the History Students Association was selling t-shirts in support of their club that had images of dictators and text reading "all of my favourite dictators had mustaches". This is offensive and I shall explain why.

Many of the dictators featured on the t-shirt were ones who committed horrifying acts against humanity, including genocide and other forms of persecution. The collective number of wrongful detainments, mutilations, torturings, murders

and killings caused by the dictators featured on the t-shirt are countless. By referring to these ruthless oppressors as "favourite dictators", it is insensitive and insulting towards the people and people's families who were victimized by such ruthless and evil men.

If the t-shirt only featured the visual portrayal of someone like Adolf Hitler or Joseph Stalin and referred to them as a "favourite dictator", it would be showing support for their deadly regimes and would be deemed inappropriate. By adding other dictators, the t-shirt does not become less offensive. It is just as equally insensitive and offensive.

I ask that the History Students Association halts the sale of these hurtful t-shirts, which are insensitive and offensive towards the people and the families of people who have been victimized by these dictators.

- Joshua Otis

Disillusioning the fashion parallel

Next time the author of "Fashion Suppresses Individualism" needs an excuse to ridicule a current fashion trend, perhaps she could directly communicate her intentions instead of shrouding them within a very misinterpreted parallel. I do not believe it is possible for any citizen of this country (a university-educated one at that) to seriously believe any profitable corporate industry would desire Communism. If any industry within our system of capitalism benefits and thrives from a division of classes, it most certainly is the fashion industry. They have no intention of violently pushing for a classless so-

ciety – their entire business would be in shambles without the significant unequal dispersion of capital among the levels of classes.

The sole purpose of fashion is to commodify a creative image. The industry first sells a creative designer's image to an upper-class market and profits from an upper-class income bracket. This commodified image trickles down to the "lower" classes through the media, celebrities and advertising. The individual consumer buys into this image and the retail industry exploits the image to create an affordable commodity; thus the "lower" classes further contribute to the profits of the industry. If the industry were to exist among a classless society, its profits would be non-existent in comparison to profits that exist in today's capitalist system. Profit is the only reason for going into business, according to our capitalist values, therefore the fashion industry would never push for a removal of the system that allows it to achieve its goals while ignoring the social costs.

To be fair, I do agree with the author's accusation that the majority of (undergrad) students at our school are wearing the same trends. Each individual's motivation to buy "trendy" clothing items comes from their willingness to buy into an image portrayed by the aforementioned media, celebrities and advertisements.

Lastly, it is an illusion to believe there is a lack of purchasing options. Options do exist for each individual consumer to purchase goods produced ethically and locally. These options may not be as easily located as a mall, but they do exist.

- Jackie DaSilva

Peacekeeping long-standing myth



GREG SACKS
SACKSUAL HEALING

These are strange times for Canadians. Many preconceptions that we have long had about our country are, not unlike our glaciers, rapidly melting away.

The dollar is going orbital, the nation's economic centre of gravity is steadily rolling west, and that much-maligned hockey team from the nation's capital came within a hair's breadth of winning the Stanley Cup last season.

Regional loyalties notwithstanding, I think few Canadians would offer serious objections to these, and other, breakthroughs. One national myth, however, continues to stew in our collective identity and a lot of people are refusing to let it go – that of our peacekeeping Canadian Forces. Now, more than ever, Canada seriously needs to re-evaluate this belief.

With the 2009 cut-off for the Afghanistan mission looming, the words can be heard in many quarters. "We are betraying our traditional role as neutral peacekeepers of the world," say the anti-war proponents. Less audible is a comprehensive argument supporting this

assumption. And the reason for this is that the assumption is actually wrong.

The first myth that must be dispelled is that of Canadians as inherently neutral. We are not and never have been. During the Cold War we were firmly in the anti-Soviet camp, right down to our status as a founding member of NATO. Before that, Canada was undisputedly on the side of the British Empire.

In the past, we have most assuredly taken on the role of broker between other nations, but that part ultimately gets offered to just about every country at some point and should not be mistaken for neutrality.

The second myth is that the primary role of our military has traditionally been peacekeeping of the blue-beret, United Nations observer type. Even ignoring our contribution in the world wars, this idea just doesn't hold up to scrutiny.

At their height in the 1960s and '70s, Canadian peacekeepers around the world totaled between 1,400 and 1,600. What many choose to ignore is that this is a miniscule number compared to the total strength of our forces at the time – well over 100,000 men and women in uniform.

Additionally, our largest operational commitment was in fact to the defence of Western Europe. Ca-

nadian Historian Jack Granatstein recently pointed out that we had some 10,000 troops stationed there, armed to the teeth, ready to pounce on the first sign of trouble from the eastern bloc.

That no actual combat occurred is immaterial – it was not, and was never conceived of as, a peacekeeping mission, but it occupied the bulk of our forces for the duration of the Cold War.

This is not to say that peacekeeping is not a key part of our history. Lester B. Pearson had his heart in the right place when he proposed the concept to the UN. It is a noble idea and should always remain an option.

However, it is important to realize that peacekeeping has often been unduly romanticized by politicians to deflect attention away from less gallant operations – like the West German one during the Cold War – which were necessary and rightly remained the focus of the Canadian Forces.

On top of that, the nonviolent nature of peacekeeping missions often became a convenient out when they went awry, an unfortunately frequent occurrence. Leaders could mourn a failed operation but simultaneously rejoice that not a shot was fired by Canadians, thereby preserving the spirit of the peacekeeping mission.

Frankly, I think that such a victory of principle is of little consolation to the civilians killed while our peacekeepers were forced to withdraw or just stand by and watch.

It seems to me that the idea, and the ideal, of peacekeeping has



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DEPLOYED - Today, peacekeeping does not depend on Canada.

evolved in the Canadian psyche as a benevolent counterpoint to our perception of other nations' (particularly America's) overly aggressive militarism.

Let us not forget, though, that over 150 Canadian soldiers have been killed in peacekeeping operations over the years, and they have not always been able to avoid combat. The Bosnian mission is the most obvious example – our soldiers killed more than 20 Croatian soldiers during Operation Medak Pocket.

All of this is conveniently forgotten in the call to withdraw from Afghanistan. Suddenly, we have never taken casualties or engaged

in combat before. It is a misuse of history and a slap in the face to everyone who made sacrifices and died in those previous missions.

At the end of the day, what is frustrating is not that we might pull out. That is another debate entirely.

Instead, it is that we might pull out because of an argument predicated on a falsehood stemming from some vain, pacifistic wish that Canadians do not, and never have, participated in a real war. If we do decide to leave Afghanistan, it should be a decision based on a rational, factual argument, not a semi-imagined, idealized past.

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Letters to the Editor, continued from 19

Complaint pointless

This is in response to Laura Henderson's criticism of the previously published grocery shopping article; is there not a staff meeting that you attend to bring up these issues? If you feel the article is 'inane' should you not bring it up with the student life editor? You mention that the calibre of what makes it into the paper can undermine its integrity. How does insulting previously published articles by calling them "a waste of space" enlighten and challenge our readers? I feel your public complaining about an issue that seems internal is, at best, unproductive.

- Adam Faber

Sports need equity

Your article by Amelia Lockhart on gender stereotypes for sports fans that appeared October 17 in the issue of *The Cord Weekly* was a great article. I thought it was a great topic because it shows that sport discrimination against women is not limited to the field, gym or track; women face discrimination as fans as well. Although women are slowly gaining recognition in sports, women who are fans are still being stereotyped.

The issue of feminized merchandise does not receive a lot of attention from the media. I agree that there is no need for clothing to be

gendered. It simply implies that women do not know anything about the game and that they are there only to look good. The Air Canada Centre store should provide the females with the same jerseys as the males.

Many women may not realize this issue because this stereotype has become so natural in society and most people are used to seeing women dressed this way. When women wear the feminized sport paraphernalia, especially the clothing that is revealing and tight, it objectifies women and it teaches men to view women this way. This also reinforces the stereotypes of women. Unfortunately even when women do not dress this way or when they are very talented or knowledgeable in sport they are viewed as masculine, lesbian or a tomboy. This article does a great job of getting this message across to the reader.

- Christy Bray

Letters Policy:

All letters to the editor must be signed and submitted with the author's name, student identification number, and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00 pm (noon) Monday via email to letters@cordweekly.com or through our website at www.cordweekly.com. Letters must not exceed 350 words.

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

TEACHING SCHOLAR AWARD

The annual Faculty of Arts 'Teaching Scholar Award' recognizes the teaching excellence of our Arts faculty members and affirms the importance of teaching in the Faculty's distinctive mission.

Rationale: The vital mission of a Faculty of Arts is to engage the next generation in the critical spirit, intellectual and creative attainments, and scholarly methods of our past, as well as new and emerging variations upon those academic traditions. Good teaching and good scholarship are inextricably linked. Demonstrated excellence in emphasizing this connection will be the central criterion for determining the *Faculty of Arts Teaching Scholar Award*.

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Process: Faculty, staff or students can submit nominations. A nomination for the award should comprise two elements. **First**, it should provide a *curriculum vitae* confirming that the nominee has made ongoing contributions to his/her disciplinary or multi-disciplinary field(s) of specialization. **Second**, the nomination should provide strong, concrete evidence of the nominee's extraordinary efforts and accomplishments in pedagogical theory and/or practice in integrating the fields of research and teaching. A *nomination dossier*, of no more than 25 pages, should accompany the CV, and could comprise any of the following:

- * *evidence* – e.g., excerpts from the nominee's syllabi or other;
- * *written testimonials* from colleagues or staff here or elsewhere, and from past and present students, about the nominee's successful integration of scholarship and teaching;
- * results of official and/or informal *student ratings or course evaluations*;
- * a *written statement* by the nominee.

In addition to a CV and a nominations dossier, nominations may include *authored documents* – textbooks, learning materials, articles, conference papers, etc. – if these identify or demonstrate the ways in which the nominee has successfully aimed at integrating scholarship and pedagogy. Nominations should be submitted to the Dean of Arts, who will chair a Faculty of Arts Teaching Scholar Award Committee comprising three faculty members (including two previous Teaching Award winners) and two students (chosen by the student caucus of the Arts Council). The deadline for nominations is **December 7, 2007**. The winner will be announced in time for the FOA Awards Ceremony in late January. A \$1,000 donation in the winner's name will be made to the University or Faculty prize, award or fund of his/her choice.

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

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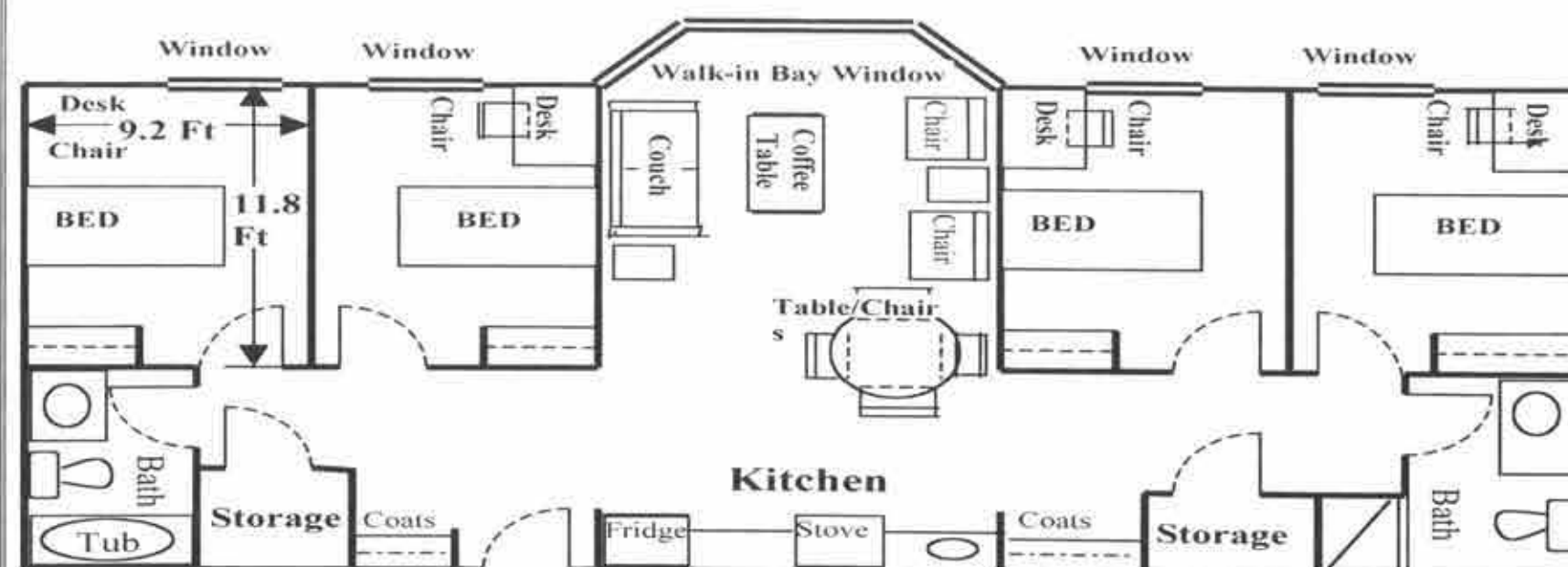
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Afghan women rise up

With an official opening ceremony tonight at 6 pm, CIGI unveils a series of photographs that hear their voices calling

ELISE COTTER
STAFF WRITER

"It's about these women, about the photos and the women in the photos," concludes Jane McElhone, curator of "Voices on the Rise," the Afghan photojournalism exhibit showing until next Wednesday at the Centre for International Governance and Innovation (CIGI).

She and fellow curator Khorshid Samad, wife of Afghanistan's Ambassador to Canada, thought up the idea to organize an exhibit showing the photos and the stories of female Afghan journalists.

"[We] thought this would be a great project ... to allow these women to continue their stories," says McElhone, who feels this exhibit is putting a face to what people hear and see on the news. Much more than this, it is showing what progress is being made in the divided country.

The current situation in Afghanistan is complicated; the country is coming out of 30 years of war and has a lot to overcome. People, especially between the north and the south, are cut off from each other, creating "different facets of Afghan life," explains Paul Heinbecker, a Distinguished Fellow at CIGI.

While the north is making progress in their health care and education, the Taliban has established itself in the south region to impede the positive changes. The purpose of the Canadian troops, and those of other countries, is to ensure the

safety of the Afghan people against the Taliban. But don't call them peacekeepers. Heinbecker insists there is no longer any opportunity for an organization to simply monitor and observe.

The issues in war-torn countries, including Afghanistan, have become too intricate, Heinbecker explains. The United Nations and countries providing aid have to now pick sides and fight, Canada included. Other than providing safety, we shouldn't expect any vast democratic progress, which usually takes years to fulfill.

However, the women in the exhibit are part of democratic progress. They are the shining example that Afghanistan is very serious yet hopeful. Even with an exasperating amount of challenges, a group of women are exercising their right to an education and to a career.

"Each one of these women represents, in the act that she's working, progress that was unimaginable 10 years ago," Heinbecker says. McElhone assures that even though these journalists make up a small part of the population, they "are leaders in their country." Most Afghan women struggle to provide basic needs, like food and medicine, for their families.

But because there are more female journalists, parliamentarians and activists that "have access to microphones, to pens, and to newspapers, they are talking about women stories and making sure women get quoted in the news,"

she adds. They are role models for young girls, proving women can work on the same level as men. Men are another challenge for female journalists. Heinbecker explains "it's very difficult for them, and the men don't want to take them seriously. They don't want to give them any kind of assistance."

The focus of the exhibit is the stories behind the photos. Some, McElhone admits, are distressing, including one of a woman losing her life over her job. "But most of the stories are of hope for the future, that despite their struggles they are making and telling other women's stories through the media," McElhone adds.

Heinbecker, a former Golden Hawks football player and former ambassador to the United Nations, and McElhone, a journalist herself, are among the volunteers who helped organize the exhibit. The photographs come from national and international photojournalists, and the exhibit has been shown all over Ontario and Quebec.

"We hope that the people who see these photos can see a different life in Afghanistan," says McElhone, speaking of a life that gives purpose to Canada and other countries' efforts. These women are the beginning of a new life in Afghanistan, a new world of opportunities that will, with our help, keep growing. The official exhibition launch is tonight at 6:00 pm at CIGI, but will be on display from 9-5 pm daily until Wednesday November 14.



ON DISPLAY - Photos of Afghan women speak volumes at CIGI.

CORD/ONLINE

> CordWeekly.com IN REVIEW

American Gangster

Another gangster vs. cop adventure, this time starring Denzel Washington and Russel Crowe, reuniting him with *Gladiator* director Ridley Scott. **Daniel Joseph** dissects what works and what's been done. **Geetha Thuraiarajah** reviews the soundtrack by all-star rapper Jay-Z, who may have retired a little early.

Bee Movie: it might give you a good buzz



REBECCA VASLUIANU
STAFF WRITER

For anyone who hasn't yet relinquished their youth entirely, and still secretly watches *Shrek* on their laptop at night, *Bee Movie* is guaranteed to please. While dealing with deeper themes, it still remains ultimately a kid's movie, full of silliness and cute humour.

Written by Jerry Seinfeld and several of his buddies from the Seinfeld writing team (Spike Feresten, Barry Marder and Andy Robin), *Bee Movie* is the story of a young bee named Barry B. Benson (Seinfeld) who has just graduated from Bee College. Ready to find a job, Barry realizes that he is not ready to choose the job he wants for the rest of his life.

Completely horrified by the decision he has to make, Barry decides to leave the hive with a group of Pollen Jocks, male bees whose job it is to gather pollen from flowers. After becoming separated from the group, Barry's life is saved by Vanessa (Renee Zellweger), a human, to whom he speaks, breaking Bee Law.

Venturing back daily into the human world to see Vanessa, Barry witnesses the exploitation of bees

by humans for honey and decides to file a lawsuit against the humans. Yet after winning the case, Barry begins to realize the value of work as the bees lose the only thing they ever had - making honey.

But who'd have expected sarcastic, dry-humoured comedian Jerry Seinfeld to write and produce an animated film about bees? Nevertheless, this adorable fable is a great achievement for Seinfeld, bringing a mature message down to a children's medium.

Just to warn you, though, if the pun in the title of this piece made you cringe, *Bee Movie* could send you into a full-on panic-attack. Full of more bee-puns than I knew were possible, this movie gains a somewhat lame quality due to its excessive use of bee jokes.

Regardless, *Bee Movie* has an endearing quality that makes them forgivable. Always hilarious voice-acting by Patrick Warburton as Vanessa's boyfriend Ken, who you might recognize as David Puddy from the Seinfeld sitcom, provides quality entertainment throughout. Also, listen for the numerous cameos by celebrities like Larry King, Ray Liotta, Sting and Oprah.

Moments to look forward to in

this film are the scenes inside the hive, making intricate and amusing commentaries on aspects of human life in an innocent way.

While it might not be worth seeing in theatres, make sure to check out *Bee Movie* and see what all the buzz is about.



Film: *Bee Movie*
Director: Steve Hickner
Starring: Jerry Seinfeld, Renee Zellweger
Release Date: 11/02/2007
Rating: 7.3/10.0

SEINFELD RETURNS - The funnyman tries to sting you with bee-puns.

Pop posse return attempt

PAUL ALVIZ
A&E EDITOR

On Tuesday, October 30th, a day of reckoning was upon us. A corporate moneymaking biological experiment which has been in the works for over 20 years, known to-

day as Britney Spears, spread herself open to the world once more and released her fifth studio album, *Blackout*.

Silently and without anticipation, a little all-male singing sensation of many Christmas' past, known as the Backstreet Boys, slipped their

sixth studio release, *Unbreakable*, on the shelves right next to Britney.

There would be no hype. This would not be another Kanye/50 battle. Rather, the simultaneous release of these two albums would have virtually no effect on the history of music. No ground would be

broken, and sales would be modest at best.

But despite the relative unthrilling facts of this day, it holds a special significance. If it was the year 2000, there might be a different story to tell. But it's not. It's almost 2008, and after nearly a decade of

hearing their soulless pop beam through our radios and seeing them dry hump on our TV screens, it's safe to say the '90s are over.

Naturally, *The Cord* felt it would be more than appropriate to weigh in on the latest efforts of our former idols.



Backstreet's back, it's not alright

"If you've ever heard the Backstreet Boys before, then you know what this album is all about: a surplus of pop-ballads about falling in love. Since the fab-five is now four as ex-member Kevin is no longer in the band, the boys may want to rethink the album title *Unbreakable*."

- Kari Pritchard

"The Backstreet Boys put out another album of generic adult contemporary songs. Surprising or upsetting? Neither. Ultimately, if you expected anything else from this you have no one to blame for your disappointment but yourself."

- Jeremy Tremblay

"After listening to Britney Spears, it is refreshing to hear good and comprehensible voices from the now four ("tear") Backstreet Boys. But being compared to Britney Spears isn't necessarily a compliment. Their new disk is a big blur of melodramatic poppy ballads, each replaceable by the next."

- Elise Cotter

"The Backstreet Boys clearly loved the piano on this CD, but I didn't. It was, once again, boring. It is better put-together than Spears's album, and scores one point better with a 3/10. Yet somehow, due to a hole in the time-space continuum it actually is worse than hers. Not sure how that happened."

- Daniel Joseph

"Perhaps it's time to slink off into the night with any money that they're lucky enough to have saved up."

- Joe Turcotte

"Their songs sound like a blend of their worst music from the '90s. With *Unbreakable*, they are clearly trying way too hard to live through old hits that found them success in the past. Please do us all a favour and see what Kevin saw when he left the band; you have been doing this for way too long. Retire already."

- Geetha Thuraiarajah

"Hearing the Backstreet Boys come out with new material makes me sad, because it means that letter bomb I sent them a year ago didn't get through. This unwelcome return hurts them more than anything, except maybe my ears."

- Paul Alviz

Someone hit her too many times



"Gimme More" is Spears's first single off her new album and is the peak of a downward spiral. I think it's safe to say that Spears has passed her prime."

- Kari Pritchard

"*Blackout* is about 45 minutes of dreck I wish I had blacked out for. Britney ends with "Why Should I Be Sad". The answer? She's responsible for that sorry attempt at an album."

- Jeremy Tremblay

"The problem with Britney is not her music, because most of the songs have potential; it is her. Her songs are all well-produced and great for clubs and party mixes; I doubt however she had anything to do with the production of the record but lending her shaky voice."

- Elise Cotter

"The first two songs, "Gimme More" and "Piece of Me" are somehow produced well, and are catchy like good pop should be. The rest of this album is boring, trashy and pointless. Props for the vocoder on "Piece of Me". This album gets two out of 10 for having at least two semi-not-crappy songs. Also, according to the track "Hot as Ice", "Hot as Ice is Twice as Nice", which happens to be the name of my aunt's shop in uptown Waterloo. Guerrilla marketing at it's finest I'm sure."

- Daniel Joseph

"While the album seems to allude to the newest fashion of "Timbaland" style production, the lack of credible producers is evident and the outcome is a cheap imitation of Nelly Furtado's *Loose*. *Blackout* is a bad dance music dream from the mid '90s and a weak attempt made by Britney's record label to bank on her bad publicity."

- Geetha Thuraiarajah

"Britney Spears has always been really needy. "Hit me baby." "Gimme more". Well, after 10 years of blowing money, fame and - worst of all - Kevin Federline, she needs a helping hand now more than ever. "Piece of me" is kind of catchy, just like if you had a piece of her you'd probably catch something."

- Paul Alviz

CORD/ONLINE

> CordWeekly.com
IN REVIEW

Reviews Extended

Check out what other members of *The Cord* had to say, including Alex Hayter's plan to dismember BSB.