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INTERNATIONAL ED.

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BROOD IN TOWN

Elliot Brood talks about time travel, war and Wii ... **PAGE 24**

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Separation anxiety: WLU's satellite schools

Are Kitchener's Faculty of Social Work and Laurier Brantford feeling left out? - SEE **FEATURE**, PAGES 12-13



GREG MCKENZIE

Homophobia hit Wilf's last Thursday

Casey and the Buffalo Sinners were removed from the stage after uttering a stream of homophobic comments directed at a member of the audience

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

A live show at Wilf's on Thursday night ended with the headline band being removed from the stage as a result of them screaming homophobic comments during their performance.

After being mooned by a member of the audience, Casey Baker, of Casey Baker and the Buffalo Sinners, who also played the O-Week concert at the Turret, responded by calling the individual a "fuckin' faggot."

"They just started shouting out at the crowd, saying things like, 'Fuck you, you fuckin' faggots. You're a bunch of faggoty faggots, you're a bunch of assholes - don't show me your asshole,'" recalled Shannon Dickens, a fourth-year English and film studies student, who was in attendance at the show on Thursday night.

"It just hit me to the bottom of my stomach. It felt like someone just punched me and they weren't even yelling at me," she added.

Shortly after the comments were made, the band's microphones were cut off and they were held on stage until a verbal confrontation that erupted between angered audience members and the band

"[FAGGOT IS] AN OFFENSIVE WORD. IT'S A BIG WORD AND I USED IT ON PURPOSE FOR THAT REASON."

- Casey Baker, lead singer of Casey Baker and the Buffalo Sinners

had been diffused, and the audience members had left the pub.

Phil Champagne, marketing and communications manager for Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU), who is responsible for booking all the acts that come to Wilf's or the Turret, noted how "regrettable" the entire situation was.

"I can't express to you how cutting the words were that he used. Right when I came in the door and it started coming out of his mouth,

the first thing out of my mouth was 'Wow, is this really happening right now?'" said Champagne.

In a phone interview from his residence in St. Catharines, Casey Baker explained that he was directing his comments specifically at the individual who had mooned him in an attempt to insult this person, by using the word "faggot."

"It's an offensive word. It's a big word and I used it on purpose for that reason," said Baker.

He also went on to note that he was under the impression that the man who mooned him was straight and that this affected his word choice.

"I think that a lot of straight guys would be offended by that word and never in my head did it cross my mind that anyone in the room who might be gay would hear it and be offended by it," said Baker.

- SEE **CASEY**, PAGE 4



DAN POLISCHUK

Veteran journalist speaks out about AIDS

Canadian journalist discusses problems in Africa

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

At 35 years of age, *Globe and Mail* Africa Correspondent Stephanie Nolen carries a wealth of stories that a woman twice her age would hold. That's what happens, though, when you become a leader in the field of covering HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Speaking at the Knox Presbyterian Church on Erb Street Monday night, Nolen provided a look into the last six years that she has spent living and working in Africa, tracing the AIDS issue. Currently living in Johannesburg, South Africa with her son, Nolen just released a book entitled *28*, in which she shapes the current epidemic in Africa through stories of those directly affected by the disease.

Noting the fact that 28 million people have died because of the virus, with another 6,000 passing away on a daily basis, Nolen believes in her decision to move away from covering the wars in Afghani-

stan and Iraq as "the clear thing to do."

"I was writing a bigger story," she explained.

In sharing three sample stories, she admitted that she has been at odds, at times, with the *Globe* editors but credits them now for letting her write about the pandemic.

She explained the disinterest of Westerners on the issue of AIDS as being simply another "bad thing in a place full of bad things."

In the time that she has spent writing about the topic, Nolen is glad to see there is "good news in the world of HIV prevention" now - namely with the increased practice of male circumcision (which has a prevention rate of 70%).

"Almost nobody talked about AIDS treatment before ... and that's changed," commented Nolen, but she was still quick to chastise the West for continuing to sit on its laurels.

- SEE **NOLEN**, PAGE 2

THE CORD WEEKLY

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Oh, did you just finger me?"

- Joe Turcotte, Special Projects Editor. No explanation given.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Enigma - Something, or someone, that baffles understanding and cannot be explained.

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COLOPHON

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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Cord has an obligation to foster freedom of the press and freedom of speech. This obligation is best fulfilled when debate and dissent are encouraged, both in the internal workings of this 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 newspapers.

Nobel Prize judge visits WLU

Dr. Geir Lundestad spoke at WLU in an intimate gathering Friday before giving the keynote address on European-American relations as part of the Tri-University Conference this past Saturday

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

Leaning back in his chair, with all attention focused solely on him, the wispy- and white-haired Dutchman began his speech with a short but powerful sentence.

"I lead a wonderful life," stated Dr. Geir Lundestad, Permanent Secretary of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee - one of the five judges who choose an individual that best exemplifies the qualities laid out by its founder, Alfred Nobel.

Lundestad came to visit Laurier this past Friday and Saturday as part of the Tri-University History Conference hosted by the University of Guelph, the University of Waterloo and WLU.

Aside from sharing his expertise in American-European relations on Saturday, with a speech entitled "Just another major crisis? American-European relations after the end of the Cold War," Lundestad provided insight into his high-status job just a day earlier.

Seated in the Dean of Arts Boardroom speaking to a small group of professors and graduate students, Lundestad explained that he has been offered many other prestigious jobs over the years but none ever came close to matching the interest that comes with choosing a winner for the 106-year-old prize.

"We do not claim a perfect record over these 106 years," commented Lundestad, adding, "We've made some mistakes."

One of these included denying Mahatma Gandhi the award until long after his assassination. While he was nominated before that event, Gandhi was not recognized by the committee until 1989.

"WE DO NOT CLAIM A PERFECT
RECORD OVER THESE 106 YEARS.
WE'VE MADE SOME MISTAKES."

- Dr. Geir Lundestad, Permanent
Secretary of the Nobel Peace Prize
Committee

"Nobody [who gives out awards] will have a clean record," defended Lundestad.

"There are some [winners] I wonder about myself ... but the great mystery is not that we made mistakes. To me, it's about why we haven't made many more," he said.

In explaining the criteria for candidates, Lundestad explained that it is mostly based on the goals laid out by its founder - which were found

written out, along with a cash donation, upon his death in 1896.

Lundestad explained how Nobel was interested in chemistry and even wrote a play. Above all, though, "he was interested in [world] peace."

It is this basis that has allowed the Nobel Peace Prize to become the most sought-after award in the world.

"We have laid a solid, respectable record," said the judge.

With over 181 nominations submitted just this year alone, Al Gore was chosen as the Peace Prize winner for 2007.

Canada's only winner came in 1956 and was then-Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, who was a key contributor to the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Speaking of running for re-election in the near future (with each term on the committee lasting six years), Lundestad conceded he will most likely stay in the position for a "few more years, at least," considering what a "high honour" the award is.

"It could be the most prestigious in the world," he said. "The [Nobel] Prize virtually opens all doors."

Globe reporter gives talk on AIDS



DAN POLISCHUK

TAKING UP ARMS - While speaking in Waterloo on Monday night, Nolen expressed her constant battle with the Western world's indifference to the AIDS pandemic. Nolen was promoting her book, which recounts the personal stories of 28 individuals who have been effected by the virus.

- FROM NOLEN, COVER

"The response from the West remains terrifying," she said.

It has gotten to the point, she explains, that for all the gain the African people have worked out themselves, they are hesitant to receive any foreign help at this point.

"It's not about how [the West]

can help but how we can avoid making things worse," said Nolen.

Referring to Canada's governing role within the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Nolen provided an example of how decisions made by this international group essentially led to a shortage of nurses in the African countries that need it.

It's not that the jobs and staff do

not exist. The issue simply remains that such groups refuse to go beyond a certain cap when it comes to funding.

The fact that foreign aid is being cut by the federal government makes Nolen a lot more adamant when saying that "we are a lot slower at looking at the structural changes we could make [in

Canada]."

Having just sold the film rights to some of her work on the AIDS issue, Nolen maintains that the issue will necessitate continued coverage - that she still has "the sense in her gut" that "this is the big story."

"This is the biggest story in the world right now."

VOCAL CORD

Should Laurier feel inferior to the University of Waterloo?



"Definitely not. Grade 12 kids see UW as better, but Laurier is the underdog."

- Pat McAllister
Third-year Kinesiology



"I know a student who transferred here from UW because he didn't like the atmosphere."

- Sarah Cook
Fourth-year Sociology



"Basically because they are bigger doesn't mean they're better."

- Avneet Kharaud
Second-year Economics



"No, I couldn't care less. I'm still glad I came here."

- Julie Elliot
First-year Archaeology



"It depends on the quality of people and teachers here."

- Doug Boccabella
Second-year Communications

WLUSU delays decision on campus group fees

Postponement of meeting with evaluation committee means funds will remain frozen for now

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

It appears that any decision by the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) on what to do about student fees for certain groups on campus will have to wait, as a meeting with the committee (made up of various university administration) was formally postponed until further notice, due to scheduling conflicts.

Jim Butler, VP: Finance and Administration at Laurier, and a member of the committee, explained that WLUSU also "asked for more time" to study the overall evaluation made by the group before making any decision towards possibly unfreezing the accounts of student groups like the Arts Students' Advancement Program (ASAP), the Science and Technology Endowment Program (STEP) and PRISM.

The action of WLUSU has come on the heels of a \$200 million lawsuit launched this past summer by two students, acting on behalf of all other college students - with the help of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) - against Ontario's 24 community colleges.

The basis of their action was that

they believed ancillary fees had been collected illegally by these institutions.

While representatives of WLUSU are currently not allowed to speak about the situation, as it is an "in camera" topic. Bryan Richardson, ASAP Council Chair, explained that the freezing of assets for groups like his are a direct response to what is currently involved with the colleges.

"IT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE FOR THEM TO GET THEIR ACT TOGETHER BEFORE THE TERM STARTED."

- Rick Elliott, director of STEP

"This is a response to what the CFS is doing," said Richardson.

Commenting about the current situation with the Union's efforts to make sure fees are being collected within provincial guidelines, he described everything as "being in a stand-still."

Richardson explained how he had met with WLUSU President Dan Allison "several times" regarding the issue and carries a little frustration that he was not notified

until October about the review.

"What I don't understand is why I didn't know about this on August 1," he explained, adding that, through e-mails he has received, he says that he knows for a fact that "someone knew on July 31" that the review would be occurring.

"I'm not going to blame anyone," continued Richardson. "I'm just annoyed that they didn't look at this a little better."

"I'll be damned if I let [this year] slip through my fingers ... I had a few big plans," said Richardson, who is a first-time chair. These included bringing in Paul Martin to

speak at the Paul Martin Centre.

"Generally, I just feel sorry for the arts students who may not get funding," he commented, adding that the FRINGE festival and Laurier International Friendship Extension (LIFE) "depend on it."

Science students are being affected as well, with STEP being able to "do business as usual" but "not spending any money," according to its director, Rick Elliott.

As the coordinator for the group

that funds projects for all six departments in the faculty of science, Elliott is hoping that "cooler heads prevail."

"It would've been nice for them to get their act together before the term started," said Elliott, who is also the Associate Dean of Science: Student Services.

He added that the deadline for funding submissions was only due on November 3 and that an evaluation must now take place - so he is hopeful that the funds become available once the time comes to allocate them.

"Nobody has been put out yet," he said.

While Elliott was unsure of how STEP came to be, Richardson explained that ASAP was initially an initiative done by petitioning rather than a student referendum.

While Butler would like to see discussion turn to a referendum if it will indeed become necessary, he is still unsure of what the official assessment will be.

Richardson, on the other hand, is not so hopeful of positive results.

"We might become unfrozen," he says. "But the chances are very slim."

Natural gas leak at King Street residence

Student residence evacuated last night

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

A natural gas leak coming from an air exchanger on the north side of the eighth floor at King Street residence resulted in a complete evacuation of the building just before 11 pm last night.

"[There was] speculation from students smelling natural gas, so we called security ... and from there fire fighters were called," said Jason Verhoeve, a don on the eighth floor of King Street.

Julia Valeriani, first-year psychology student who lives on the second floor, was one of the individuals who became concerned after she smelled natural gas in the stairwell.

"Me and my friends were walking home at about quarter to 10 and, walking into our building in the stairway, we noticed a really funny smell," said Valeriani.

Though Valeriani could not find a don to report the incident to, after she informed the others on the floor about an hour later, the building's fire alarm went off.



JOE TURCOTTE

TOXIC KING ST. - Fire rescue responded to a call regarding complaints of a gas smell in the building.

"All the girls on our floor started getting really worried," she said. "We were really scared that something serious was happening."

Terry Rohr, Platoon Chief of Waterloo Fire Rescue confirmed that natural gas leaked into the building, but that it was turned off for the evening and now it's just a matter of making repairs.

"We checked every floor all the way up and zero parts were reading," said Rohr, which is why the building was declared safe to re-enter.

Though the source of the leak was located and shut down, at least one student reported feeling ill.

"We have one patient [in the

ambulance] that is just feeling unwell," noted Rob Crossan, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) supervisor.

"Everything evacuated really well, there was no real issues," added Verhoeve.

-With files from David Shore



FILE PHOTO: RILEY TAYLOR

WATCH YO' MOUTH - Casey Baker and the Buffalo Sinners were removed from Wilf's, never to return.

Wilf's crowd outraged

Baker surprised that the controversy has escalated to its current level

- FROM CASEY, COVER

"There was nothing crossing my mind that he was gay ... If [I thought] he was, I definitely would have had the filter in my head not to use that word," he added.

Though Baker became regretful of his word choice while driving back home after the show and has since issued an apology to Wilf's, he wants to stress the motives behind his actions to the Laurier community.

Though he understands why the use of derogatory words has caused such a controversy on campus, he also noted that he was "surprised that it is as big of a deal as it's become."

"The only part that gets me still a little bit upset [is that] from what we understand, people are more upset and outraged at me yelling and using a poor choice of words than they are outraged that a guy was completely nude at one point in a public facility."

Yet Dickens and her friends left the bar directly in response to Casey's comments - not because of the incident exposure.

"Nothing can justify that kind of behaviour. I don't

care if someone mooned a guy or whatever. That kind of language was so disgusting that nothing could justify it. Nothing."

Caitlin Robson, a third-year Spanish student who was also at Wilf's on Thursday, agrees.

"That's not the way to deal with anything like that. If you're in a band, if you are doing any kind of performance, you have to know to take the high road," said Robson.

"I don't want people to come to my school and do that. The Laurier community doesn't deserve that," said Robson.

Champagne feels that the situation was dealt with in a professional and prompt manner and assures that Casey and the Buffalo Sinners will never be invited to play on campus again.

"You can't do a psych test on people; you just have to go with your gut and I've worked with Casey before and never once did I ever think that that was ever going to happen. If I did, I never would have brought [them] to campus."

See PAGE 16 for editorial reaction to this story

Canada's 'new' society

Laurier's Equity and Diversity Workshop keynote speaker probes dangers of institutional racism

MELISSA DRANFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Last Friday, Laurier held a one-day workshop on "Achieving Excellence through Equity and Diversity in Higher Education."

The workshop was put together with the goal of fostering "the role of institutional stakeholders (students, faculty, staff and administrators) in developing a more inclusive social and academic environment on campus, and to promote an understanding of their rights and responsibilities in this regard," according to Laurier's diversity coordinator Adam Lawrence.

Sessions given throughout the day included "Equity & Diversity in Teaching," "Social Stressors for Newcomers," "Islamophobia," "Rethinking Women and Leadership," and "Lessons from the Margins."

"THIS NEW SECURITY-OBSESSED RACISM THAT WE ARE SEEING BEING EXPRESSED IS BEING INSTITUTIONALIZED, IT'S BEING LEGITIMIZED SOCIALLY AND PARTICULARLY ..."

- Dr. Sunera Thobani, professor at UBC

Overall, Lawrence felt the day was a huge success and feels that all attendees were highly satisfied, including Laurier President Dr. Max Blouw, VP: Academic Dr. Sue Horton and Dean of Students David McMurray.

The workshop kicked off with a keynote address entitled "Imperial Longings: Race and the Promise of Inclusion," given by Dr. Sunera Thobani, professor of women's studies at UBC and past president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.

Dr. Thobani centred her speech on the notion that "official multiculturalism became a diffusing or a muting device for the deeply entrenched conflict of race," eradicating the issue at its inception during the 1940s.

Thobani provided an insightful look into the history of multiculturalism as a Canadian order shaped by global issues during the Second World War and in the periods thereafter to contextualize the notion of multicultural-

ism that we so readily take at face value.

In referring to the vast changes in immigration during the 1960s and 1970s, Thobani argued that "the diminishing of racial distance mobilized deep-seeded racial and national anxiety and gave rise to a different kind of dislocation of white identity."

"The class composition of immigrants changed dramatically as Canada sought highly qualified and professional immigrants for permanent settlement, attracting many who had considerable expertise as entrepreneurs and professionals," she explained.

"Canadian multiculturalism proved to be a timely and effective response. It opened up the possibility of recasting national identity in a manner that maintained its uniqueness; it could be cast as distinct from the United States and Europe and thus not directly

implicated in their colonialist and imperialist histories."

Thobani also warned that we must not allow this "national amnesia regarding inconvenient histories" to continue to prevail, particularly in light of a rise in

"Islamophobia," which has unfortunately come to exist in the midst of the American War on Terror.

"After 9/11, we saw how quickly the discourse of Western superiority became instituted at a global level and continues to be so," she commented.

One of Thobani's chief concerns is that our legitimate efforts to combat racism often tend to stop at the level of policy.

"If anti-racism is not at the centre of how politics are conducted then we are going to continue to reproduce the structure of white superiority which has shaped the global order since Columbus discovered this continent."

Dr. Thobani ended her address with the proclamation that multiculturalism is basically dead, and that "this new security-obsessed racism that we are seeing being expressed is being institutionalized, it's being legitimized socially and politically, and so I think that we are moving into a very dangerous period."

Students upset with math prof

Individuals in MA105 raise concerns after the majority of the class failed the recent midterm exam

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

Israel Ncube, a part-time professor in the math department at Laurier, has recently come under scrutiny for producing an extremely hard midterm examination and for making choice comments about the value of a WLU degree.

When students in MA105, Calculus for the Sciences, received their midterm back last Wednesday, the majority of students failed the test, with a class average in the 30s.

"After he said that you can't expect to pass, he just went on to say that having a degree from Laurier... it won't be sufficient because you're from Laurier, you'll be looked down upon," noted a second-year student in the class, who wishes to remain anonymous for fear that their grade would be affected for speaking to *The Cord* about this issue.

Directly after these comments were made, this student and several classmates went straight to the department chair to bring forward concerns about the situation.

Dr. Sydney Bulman-Fleming, chair of mathematics, has been dealing with both students and the professor about the allegations and the difficulty level of the midterm exam.

"I told them the first thing I would do is talk to the instructor at length," said Bulman-Fleming.

"I told him what I'd heard from students and he replied that, for the most part, things were misinterpreted."

Despite this, the previously mentioned student felt that if there was simply miscommunication that should have been conveyed in class after the comments were made.

"I expected him to either say, 'I didn't mean it that way' or to apologize," said the student.

"Honestly, he has not said anything since the big outburst on Wednesday," said another student in the class requesting anonymity.

Ncube himself did not want to comment on anything that was said in the classroom or regarding any concerns that have been brought forward about the course material.

Both students also noted that last Wednesday was not the first time they felt disrespected in the learning environment.

They both cited instances in which the professor had talked down to the group, such as when he sarcastically asked them if they understood problems which his "grade five students didn't get" and if they knew "what came after D in the alphabet."

Both students also expressed concerns about how their instructor compares Laurier students to those from UW, where Ncube also teaches and is an alumnus.

"I feel that he would rather be at Waterloo and teach them because, to him, they're doing all the right things. I don't know if he talks to them like that, but by the sounds of it probably not," noted one of the students.

Ncube told his class on one occasion that if they could not make

his office hours at Laurier they could go visit him at UW.

In regards to the midterm examination, Bulman-Fleming proposed a new evaluation scheme for the class, which has been adopted by Ncube. This means that students can keep their midterm mark if they prefer or have the final examination count for 75 per cent of their final grade.

"It's still kind of difficult to actually do well," worries one student.

"I know a lot of the other people in the class are having problems with it too, so I don't really know what's going to happen."

The final will also be scrutinized by the chair before students take the test and the add/drop date for

the class was extended.

"The instructor has shown himself to be very amenable from the feedback of students and feedback from the chair," noted Deborah MacLatchy, dean of science.

Technically, the instructor didn't actually have to make any adjustments to the students' grades because of the "Academic Freedom" policy, but did so because of the recommendations that were made to him.

"As far as the dean's office goes, our biggest concern is making sure to the best of our abilities that no students were penalized for having to go through this situation," MacLatchy said.



GREG MCKENZIE

TOUGH TO SWALLOW - Students aren't impressed with exam marks.

CANADA IN BRIEF

Protest against Canadian Blood Services

London, ON

Students and faculty members at the University of Western Ontario (UWO) have taken a stance against Canadian Blood Services (CBS), contesting that their current policies regarding who can donate blood are discriminatory.

CBS currently prohibits donations from any male who has had sex with another male since 1977.

As many as 60 participants are reported to have attended last Friday's gathering at UWO. The event was intended to be a public information session offering an open discourse on the issue, but was impeded by police presence and a media ban.

"It is unfortunate [the way it turned out] because it is a public issue that affects everyone," stated Joshua Ferguson, the Co-Activist Director of Students Against Queer Discrimination.

Nevertheless, the group main-

tains that the protest was ultimately a success, as it did raise awareness of the problem.

The protesters see the lifetime deferral as unfair and as reinforcing a negative perception of sexually active gay men by making generalizations about an entire social group, rather than identifying the specific sexual practices that truly indicate unsafe behaviour.

Transgendered housing at York University

Toronto, ON

York University is innovating its housing policies to accommodate transgender students.

York is building one of the first residences in Canada that will be gender-neutral. The project will be in the form of six bedroom suites, each with its own private bathroom.

The project has been in the planning stages for several years and it is hoped that the residence

will be available to students entering the school in the fall term next year.

New College of Sports Media opens

Toronto, ON

Toronto is now the home to another post-secondary institution, but this one is like no other in Canada. The new College of Sports Media is the only private career college of its kind in the country.

The school offers a two-year diploma program with a guaranteed internship for their students.

The instructors at the school are all experts in their field and currently work in the sports media industry.

The curriculum has been specifically created to reflect the needs of the professional workplace of sports media.

The brand-new facility includes both a radio and a television newsroom, which are completely run and operated by students.

Carleton plans for hand scanners

Ottawa, ON

Carleton University is considering the installation of biometric hand readers in their athletics centre and residence cafeteria.

The handprint scanners would compliment the current student swipe card system, and would offer an alternative to students who had forgotten or lost their cards.

The scanners would measure the student's hand, comparing it to a database with all the palm prints of registered individuals on campus.

The system was originally going to be introduced this year, but the installation was postponed, to be revisited at a later date and is set to cost the university several thousand dollars.

- Compiled by Jennifer Rae, Victoria Kennedy, Cassandra McKenna and Alison Grenkie

NEWSIN BRIEF

Laurier stays consistent in Maclean's rankings

With the results of the seventeenth annual edition of *Maclean's* university rankings now out, Laurier has been able to make progress in a few areas.

In the Primarily Undergraduate rankings, Laurier tied with the University of Lethbridge and held onto its sixth place position from last year.

First place for this category was also a tie, going to Acadia and Mount Allison.

Another section Laurier fared well in was Scholarships & Bursaries, coming in at third place for the percentage of total operating expenditures devoted to scholarships and bursaries.

In the category of National Reputational Ranking, the "Best Overall" title and first place spot went to our city's counterpart, the University of Waterloo, whereas Wilfrid Laurier placed twentieth.

UW to open campus in the Emirates

The University of Waterloo (UW) is poised to open a university campus in the United Arab Emirates. The billion-dollar project, located in the capital of Abu Dhabi, will serve over 30,000 students and offer programs from several different universities.

UW will be contributing colleges for engineering, information and technology and financial management. A unique feature of these courses is that students will be taught by UW professors and will graduate with UW degrees.

Some of the cost for the construction of the campus and infrastructure is being shared with the Center of Excellence for Applied Research and Training (CERT), which is also the unofficial name of the new university.

The announcement from UW comes just one month after Research in Motion launched a new, fully Arabic BlackBerry.

- Compiled by Isaac Card and Alaric Dennis

*Write for the Cord
Action News Team!*

For more
information email:

dpolischuk@cordweekly.com

or

lcarlson@cordweekly.cocom

BAG O' CRIME

CRIME O' THE WEEK

SUSPICIOUS PERSON

Reported: Nov 11 @ 01:18 hrs

Community Safety and Security received a report of a male on the roof of the Student Services Building yelling down at people passing by. The area was checked but no one could be found.

COUNTERFEIT MONEY

Reported: Nov 7 @ 13:36 hrs

Terrace Food Court staff reported taking in what they believed to be two counterfeit five-dollar bills. The bills were turned over to regional police for further investigation.

DRUGS

Reported: Nov 7 @ 23:30 hrs

Special Constables responded to a report of marijuana use in a room in Little House. Residence staff found four males smoking the substance. The matter is being dealt with by residence staff and the Judicial Affairs Council.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON

Reported: Nov 8 @ 11:45 hrs

Special Constables responded to 202 Regina after receiving a report that a male had been attempting to open a window on the ground floor from the outside. When he noticed the complainant he left the area. A search for him was conducted with negative results. Description given was Caucasian male, 50-60 years of age, unshaven with short gray hair, wearing a blue winter coat and generally disheveled in appearance. Due to the size of the window, access was not gained.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON

Reported: Nov 9 @ 00:52 hrs

At the request of staff, a Special Constable attended at Wilf's to deal with a disturbance caused by one of the members of the band playing there. The band member made some derogatory remarks towards members of the audience. The power to the band's equipment was cut off and they were escorted from the premises.

ASSIST CITIZEN

Reported: Nov 8 @ 13:03 hrs

A Special Constable assisted a student who reported that she felt she was being harassed by another student. Both parties were spoken to and the matter resolved.

UNWANTED PERSON

Reported: Nov 9 @ 04:30 hrs

Special Constables attended outside St. Clements House in response to a report of a male attempting to open the door to one of the apartments. The individual was located and found to be quite intoxicated. Investigation revealed that he had in fact gained entry and made the occupants uneasy. He was put in a taxi and sent home.

INJURED/SICK PERSON

Reported: Nov 9 @ 11:42 hrs

An individual at the third-floor lounge in the Nichols Centre was taken to hospital by ambulance after reporting breathing difficulties.

THEFT UNDER \$5000

Reported: Nov 9 @ 20:54 hrs

A staff member at the Continuing Education and Co-op Building reported the theft of her wallet from her purse. No suspects.

INJURED/SICK PERSON

Reported: Nov 9 @ 11:21 hrs

A Special Constable and an ambulance attended at St. Michael's Campus in response to a report of a student experiencing a seizure. She was attended to but refused further treatment.

BYLAW COMPLAINT

Reported: Nov 10 @ 00:47 hrs

A Special Constable attended outside Bricker Residence in response to a report of a male urinating at the rear of the building. The matter is being sent to the Judicial Affairs Council.

ASSIST CITIZEN

Reported: Nov 8 @ 13:03 hrs

A Special Constable assisted a student who reported that she felt she was being harassed by another student. Both parties were spoken to and the matter resolved.

DRUGS

Reported: Nov 11 @ 12:09 hrs

A Special Constable attended at Bouckaert Hall at the request of residence staff regarding a report of marijuana use. A resident student was confronted and a small amount of marijuana and some drug paraphernalia was turned over. The matter is being dealt with by residence staff.

If you have any information regarding these or any other incidents please call Community Safety & Security at 519-885-3333 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. You can also report a crime electronically through the Community Safety & Security website.

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

Friday November 23 • 2007

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Global-local leaders in KW

International Editor **Waleed Hafeez** profiles three WLU community members who add a global aspect to their research

WALEED HAFEEZ
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

Dr. Hind A. Al-Abadleh
Associate Professor and
Seminars Coordinator
Chemistry Department - WLU

Dr. Hind Al-Abadleh has been a faculty member with the chemistry department at Laurier since 2005. She came by way of a number of stops in the United States for further education, after having completed her undergraduate degree in the United Arab Emirates. Her undergraduate studies were taken at UAE University, from which she graduated with an Honours BSc in Chemistry.

In her fourth year as a chem-

istry major, one of Al-Abadleh's professors recommended going to the States for her graduate studies. She left the UAE and was admitted to the University of Iowa's PhD program, where she did her research on the contribution of aerosol chemistry to global climate change. "It was very enlightening, very productive. I got a number of publications out of that work," says Dr. Al-Abadleh.

After spending a year and a half at Northwestern University in Illinois, she moved to Laurier and has been here ever since. She made it her goal to "implement the best teaching strategies she had been exposed to."

Dr. Al-Abadleh feels that international exposure is very impor-

tant to excel in the sciences. Being a great example of the cross-over of intellect from across the world, she notes that "you get your education at the hands of the best in the world; you get an education that is cutting-edge and are exposed to state-of-the-art instrumentation. You get to network with other scientists within your area of speciality and the whole world is your home."

Dr. Al-Abadleh's research area is an inter-disciplinary one. "I'm an environmental chemist; I like to answer the question of how chemistry can help us understand environmental processes and how chemistry can maybe help us solve some environmental problems."

Dr. Al-Abadleh feels that al-

though the Faculty of Science is relatively small, it is quite specialized. It is rare that an undergraduate university has its own research centre and employs undergraduate students in research. As an adjunct professor at UW and at University of Guelph, she feels that while Laurier's own chemistry department is small, its students here are able to use many of the resources at those respective universities.

Dr. Al-Abadleh was provided with a very technically advanced lab with equipment and instrumentation and offers jobs to her students all year long. She has also received grants worth a total of \$400,000 over the three years that she has been at Laurier.



Paul Heinbecker
Contract Academic Staff;
Director: Laurier Centre for
Global Relations, Permanent
Representative to the United
Nations

Mr. Heinbecker is a graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University, having earned his Honours BA in 1965. He was later given an Honorary Doctorate of Law in 1993 and named Alumnus of the Year in 2003.

Immediately following his graduation, he was faced with the decision to either play football in Edmonton or to accept a position within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to become a diplomat. He chose the latter.

He was posted in Turkey soon

after, and has since been in the service of Canada's foreign affairs. In the process, he has been Ambassador to Germany, Minister of Political Affairs at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC and Chief Foreign Policy Advisor to former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Presently, Mr. Heinbecker is Permanent Representative to the United Nations and also teaches a number of fourth- and sixth-year political science courses here at Laurier.

He says that his courses are unique because their "objectives are to acquaint students of the complexities of policy making. They are practical courses, not theoretical. In fact, the essays I set are the same format as memoran-

dums circulated to Foreign Affairs ministers - exactly what a young foreign services worker would do."

He is also Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) where he sees himself as the "Laurier representative." In this capacity, Mr. Heinbecker hopes to bring more speakers and researchers to our campus who "bring an international aspect... keeping an eye on Laurier's interest and trying to add to both organizations' interests."

He went on to describe how it is easy for a person sitting over here to judge another's culture somewhere else in the world. For example, he explained that his posting in Ankara, Turkey gave him an intimate understanding of Muslim

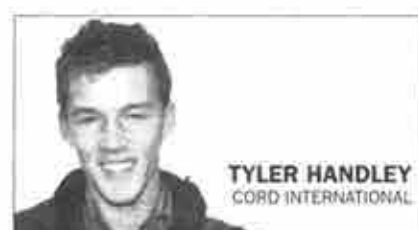
culture and practices, and an "appreciation that most people here do not have." Furthermore, it is harder to "demonize people when you know people who live there."

Mr. Heinbecker feels that working at the UN gave him an "appreciation of how countries interact on a world stage. Why people do the things they do. Why it's difficult to persuade people to do something that we think is perfectly obvious and why they don't think it's obvious."

"When I come to a place like Laurier, I'm able to impart to my students knowledge about how the world really works, rather than how they think the world works or how the world should work - a realistic view."

Visit www.CordWeekly.com to read an interview with **Dr. Lesley Cooper**, dean of the Faculty of Social Work

Deconstructing the philosophies of a killer



TYLER HANDLEY
CORD INTERNATIONAL

Last Wednesday, September 7, a demented killer prowled the halls of Jokela High School in Tussula, 50 km north of Helsinki, armed with a .22 calibre pistol. The result was the death of the shooter, seven other students and the principal in the attack - a rarity in Finland, marking only the second school shooting in the country's history.

The killing spree came as a shock to many of the online community, who knew the shooter Pekka Eric Auvinen by one of his many alter-egos: Sturmgeist, Sturmgeist89, Natural Selector, NaturalSelector89 and Prometheus.

He was a popular poster on YouTube and MySpace, grabbing people's attention with rants declaring that "humanity is overrated" and posting tribute videos to acts of murder. Among them were tributes

to the Columbine school shootings, 9/11, the Holocaust, the Virginia Tech school shootings and the Unabomber, to name a few.

The Internet has played a particularly interesting part in these killings. To many who viewed his rants, it was obvious that he could be a potential murderer, but most people thought he was joking when he talked about killing people.

There was no question from his online postings that he was obsessed with killing. His final post on YouTube, the night before the shootings, was the final piece of the puzzle that was Auvinen's killing-obsessed mind.

It depicted Jokela High School shattering into a blood red picture of Auvinen holding his beloved gun to the camera. With the video also came a posting of his manifesto, which was macabre, to say the least.

In his manifesto - easily available for the public's eye through a simple Google search - Auvinen repeatedly used phrases like "survival of the fittest" and even goes

as far as proclaiming his actions in the name of natural selection. This no doubt will load anti-evolutionists with new ammo for their argument, but if anyone delves deeper into Auvinen's rhetoric, they'll discover that the theory of evolution had little to do with the killings.

I HAD SPOKEN WITH THIS DEMENTED PSYCHO AND, ON SEVERAL INSTANCES, EVEN DEBATED WITH HIM ON THE TOPIC OF NATURAL SELECTION - THE APPARENT REASON HE KILLED PEOPLE.

I feel that I've been thrust into a situation where I must clear the air about these killings with inside information. You're most likely asking yourself how I knew this person. I met him through a friend in Finland, although our conversations remained purely Internet-based.

My friend argued with Auvinen a lot and this eventually led to the fall-out of their friendship. "He started to hate life and wanted to destroy

humanity. At this point I disliked him mostly because he saw me as one of the idiots who created the idiotic mass - the slaves of media."

By the time the shootings occurred, my friend referred to Auvinen as an enemy. I simply knew him as Prometheus, his MSN nickname - to me he was a teen with a skewed concept of evolution and reality.

So why did this young man go on a killing spree? My friend tells me that it seemed to be the result of several factors. "I think there were many reasons, many reasons which just got tied together. He was bullied and lonely."

Reading his manifesto, one gets the impression that he was well read and intelligent, using terms like collective de-individualization and existentialism. But there's something odd about his words. Every well-put sentence is an out-of-place misinterpretation, made-

up statistic, or faulty claim that deals with evolution and killing.

He makes the absurd claim that humans are actually devolving. "[The] human race has been devolving [for a] very long time now." This isn't the way evolution works. Species adapt to their environments and there's never been a case where a species actually de-adapted.

Furthermore, he labeled himself an anti-human humanist claiming that "the faster the human race is wiped out from this planet, the better." The concept behind evolution is that everything boils down to passing one's genes on to the next generation. Killing everyone, including oneself, obviously goes against this.

From what I've gathered with my conversations with and about Auvinen, he was an intelligent person who had few friends and was often bullied.

Eventually, it seems, he looked for a way to legitimize his hate so he misapplied social Darwinism to fit his views of a society that repressed him and his controversial views.



ROXY RIESS

GREAT SCOT - Scottish Dancers invited to perform by LIFE danced for visitors to Tuesday's International Education Week booth and offered dance lessons to a select few.

International Education Week at Laurier

WLU celebrates its diversity and shines a light on its international population and the opportunities that exist for everyone here

SHAGUN RANDHAWA
CORD INTERNATIONAL

Laurier International is hosting International Education Week this week with many activities on campus. Students can learn about the benefits of studying in other countries, as well as the importance of becoming globally involved, in an event that runs from November 12 to 15.

The event spreads awareness to students about world events and the role we have in them as global citizens. At Brock University, events such as photo exhibitions and cooking demonstrations are being held, as well as presentations from Namibia Solidarity Abroad.

The University of Ontario Institute of Technology will hold a lecture entitled "Breaking Down Stereotypes" as well as a talent show, and the University of Windsor will be holding a talk by Craig Kielburger called "Achieving True Well Being Through Social Involvement".

International Education Week started off with a bang at Laurier. On Monday, the Laurier Exchange Assistance Program (LEAP) presented "International Opportunities Day." Located in the Concourse, the day focused on promoting exchange to partner schools in different countries, which range from France to Chile.

Visiting international students also came in to speak about the benefits of going on exchange, and there were many opportunities for students to come and learn about the programs and how to apply for them.

"This exchange program combines education with travel. People tend to come in to the international office, already asking about the exchange, so the interest is already there. We just provide the information," says Emily Bauman, the President of LEAP.

"There are opportunities for exchange for most programs offered at Laurier, for a semester or two in our partner schools. Students who participate in this exchange program can expand their world view and diversify their expectations."

"WE TRY BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL AND DIVERSITY ORGANIZATIONS ON CAMPUS. [WE] NOT ONLY SHINE SOME LIGHT ON OUR OWN GROUP BUT ALSO ONES THAT REPRESENT MULTICULTURALISM."

- Soraya Klemenzen, ISA president

The events on Monday also included food and music. There were also many not-for-profit groups present, including the Global Youth Network, Mennonite Central Committee, Canada World Youth and Solidarity in Exchange, a group which was in fact also promoting a trip to Peru.

The events didn't stop on Monday. Tuesday was hosted by the Laurier International Friendship Extension (LIFE) and featured a "Global Local" theme, discussing how to get engaged in the global world locally.

The day began with the grand opening of the International Office, with a ribbon cutting and a cake, after which a group of Scottish dancers soon took over, performing and teaching students at the presentation some routines.

"Tuesday's main highlight was the grand opening of the International Office, which has recently been renovated. A delegation from Shanghai University was also present at the ribbon cutting," said Roxy Riess, the president of LIFE. "However, what attracted most students

to the festivities were the Scottish dancers who stayed for an hour and got people on their feet as they interacted and danced with the dancers."

Also present were groups like Habitat for Humanity, which were promoting ways to get involved locally. LIFE is also hiring, on a January-to-January basis, for mentors to be matched up with international students. With all the international food and festivities, it was a lively event in the Concourse.

Today, the International Students Association (ISA) will be hosting "Global Here and Now", which will consist of events such as International Jeopardy, and it will have students experiencing a variety of cultures.

"We're trying to bridge the gap that exists between international groups and other diversity organi-

zations that are present on campus. It's important for us to not only shine some light on our own group but also the other ones that represent multiculturalism," says Soraya Klemenzen, president of ISA. All proceeds on this day will go to charity.

On Thursday, Mona Lisa Wessel, who has done a lot of work with the UN, will be talking about volunteer-

ing overseas from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in BA110.

The International Office is located in the Dr. Alvin Woods Building, room 1-305. If you are interested in the exchange program, or how to get involved locally within the global community, you can swing by during office hours until 4:30 pm on weekdays.



WALEED HAFEZ

WORKING WOMEN - Volunteers and LIFE mentors run the booth on Tuesday, handing out information pamphlets and snacks to students.

Conference discusses climate crisis

Five WLU students attended Powershift '07 in Maryland to bring tips back to our school about protecting our environment



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GOING GREEN - WLU students Chris DePaul, Jody Miller, Erica Campbell, Heather Kendall and Mike Morrice stand in front of Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. during the Powershift '07 conference for climate control.

D.J. DEMERS
STAFF WRITER

Remembrance Day was but a few short days ago, when millions of Canadians paid their respects to those who have fought valiantly for our country.

Meanwhile, the global climate change battle wages on, with the overwhelming majority of the scientific community convinced of the massive negative consequences humans are having on the world's environment.

Currently, there is a growing movement to combat climate change in the United States. Like their forebears, today's college and

university students are banding together to change the way society operates.

From November 2-5, five Laurier students joined with 5500 other young leaders around the world to interact, share stories, learn from one another and strategize how to lead this generation to a solution for the climate crisis at Powershift '07, held at College Park in Maryland.

The Cord spoke with two of these Laurier attendees, Chris DePaul and Mike Morrice, both fifth-year computer science and business administration students. Here's what they had to say about this generation's movement and what we at Laurier can do to avert the crisis.

Cord: From what you saw at Powershift '07, how aware do you think the average Canadian is as to how large of a problem global warming truly represents?

Mike: In North America in general, there is plenty of awareness about the climate crisis. The mainstream media has been active in picking up stories on global warming and the average Canadian now knows the current, real danger of a rise in average temperature.

However, there is a gaping chasm between this awareness and action. At a micro level, look to your fellow students or your parents. Often the case is lots of talk and little action.

On a macro level, the Conservative government talks about global warming a lot, but officially rejected our Kyoto commitments in its recent throne speech.

Cord: What would you say was one of the more eventful aspects of the conference?

Chris: I would say a lecture by consumer activist Ralph Nader. The young environmental activists at Powershift greeted Nader with rock star status as he walked onto the stage with a modest demeanor.

One of his many take away points that stuck with most of us, as students, was his position on schools having an active role in creating more action-oriented citizens - citizens who fight for change, be it in their communities, corporations or governments - in order to better the lives and world around them.

Mike: Another amazing thing was that the conference finished with an organized rally on Capitol Hill. Approximately 3000 attendees descended on the west lawn of the Capitol building to clearly demonstrate to the political leaders of the United States dissatisfaction with the Bush Administration's strategy with respect to the environment.

Cord: Besides the individual lifestyle changes we all need to make, what are a couple other salient points you think are worth mentioning?

Mike: It's important to note that the lasting, meaningful change required to solve this crisis must have, at its core, a change in the way individuals understand our role in this world. This change in perspective will naturally lead us to alter our personal living habits, push organizations to innovatively redesign products with sustainability in mind, and demand accountability from our government in the form of

meaningful policy and regulation.

Chris: It is idealistic to think that corporations will make changes to their business because it is simply the right thing to do. To ensure we have efforts from organizations across the globe, a carbon tax on carbon emitted by an organization is one of the ways we can entice corporations to operate in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Mike: Going green and being economically successful are not mutually exclusive decisions. For a current example, look no further than General Electric. In 2006, they made \$12 billion in revenue, while pursuing 45 new environmentally sustainable products that combined to reduce CO₂ emissions by 600,000 tons.

Going into the next few decades, environmental sustainability and financial performance will continue to be inextricably linked.

Cord: Do you think Laurier is ready to implement the necessary changes?

Chris: Well, if you spend five minutes with an EcoHawks member about the difficulties of implementing a simple recycling program on campus, the problems already become evident.

Mike: With that being said, it's an exciting time for our campus. There is no shortage of work that needs to be done to bring our institution up to par, and there are an incredible number of student leaders that are ready and willing to drive the required change. In fact, all relevant stakeholders - the student body, senior administration and the Waterloo community - are ready for this change.

The time is right for Laurier to embrace its moral obligation and be a leader in the push towards a solution to this climate crisis.

Going green at WLU: what you can do to help

D.J. Demers runs down a list of five simple yet effective ways the average Laurier student can help preserve the environment in their daily lives

D.J. DEMERS
STAFF WRITER

Drink tap water

Bottled water is a marketer's dream: consumers worldwide spent \$100 billion in 2005 on a product that is conveniently available in their own homes for free. In fact, 40 percent of bottled water actually comes from the exact same source as your taps at home.

And what is the impact on the environment? Well, the energy costs of the lifecycle of a bottle of water are equivalent to filling up a quarter of each bottle with oil. In

the US alone, that adds up to 17 million barrels of oil, not to mention the four billion pounds of plastic bottles that end up in landfills.

Eat less meat

Yes, chicken is delicious. But you may want to consider limiting the amount of meat you consume. Farmed animals in the United States produce 130 times as much excrement as the entire population. That ends up in the water, destroying topsoil and polluting the air.

The energy required to produce that meat is even more staggering: one pound of beef requires seven

pounds of feed grain, which takes 7,000 pounds of water to grow! In fact, 70 percent of all wheat, corn and grain harvested go to feeding farm animals.

So, it's true: when you go for a veggie stir-fry at Noodle Hut instead of that Big Mac meal at McDonalds, you are actually doing your part to save the world.

Buy local food

Making that trip to St. Jacobs or to the Kitchener Market can go a long way.

The average meal in the North American diet travels 1200 miles

before it gets to your plate, and has changed hands over 6 times.

Sound a little excessive? It is. And you end up paying for it directly in increased food costs, added preservatives (to make sure it doesn't spoil en-route) and in produce that is sometimes mouldy even before you walk out of the grocery store.

Use public transportation

We have all purchased bus passes for Waterloo's transit system, so we might as well use them. By supplementing, or even just curbing the usage of your car with public transit, you can help significantly reduce your carbon footprint.

In fact, according to the American Public Transportation Association, if a commuter switches from their traditional car to public trans-

sit, they can reduce their carbon footprint by up to 10 percent.

Request recycling programs

It may seem archaic, but some organizations still have not implemented recycling programs in their facilities.

Since the importance of recycling has been told to us for over a decade now, it should be insulting to our disposal habits not to have the option to recycle.

If you are in a public space - a restaurant, store or a WLU campus building - and you notice there are no recycling bins, contact that space's administration and request one. Chances are there are no good reasons for not having a bin there already.

LSFL Walk for Literacy bests \$3000 goal

Laurier Students for Learning raise \$3418.19 for local literacy awareness organization Project Read

ASHLEY JANG
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

This past Saturday, Laurier Students for Learning (LSFL) had their eleventh annual Walk for Literacy.

LSFL is a WLU student service dedicated to promoting reading and learning among children through one-on-one tutoring.

Previously known as Laurier Students for Literacy, the organization changed its name to include promoting general learning.

The goal of the event was to raise money to donate to a local charity that runs literacy awareness programs.

This year, that lucky organization was Project Read, a literacy network for Waterloo and surrounding cities that promotes literacy and essential skills.

"It's a really great program and we've got people from there coming. They're also one of our partners in the community and they help us

a lot with our promotions, so we're hoping to give back to them this year," said Kay-Sea Taylor, the coordinator for LSFL.

To raise money for the event, participants were asked to get as many donations as possible. "A lot of them ask their friends, some parents donate, some people go door-to-door in the local community, so we do get a lot of local residents that donate money, but mainly it's students," said Taylor.

The event began at 10:30 am on Saturday with registration for the event in the Concourse. Over 100 volunteers showed up, including members of LSFL, LUCK (Laurier University Charity Council), BACHUS and other student services on campus.

LUCK in particular was very strongly involved with the event. "We're working in conjunction with LUCK this year and LUCK donated all of their volunteers to us this year to help run the event," Taylor



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WALK ON - Student volunteers march down University to raise money for literacy programs and awareness.

explained.

Hoping to beat last year's total of approximately \$3000, the volunteers set out on their walk at 12:30 pm.

They trekked for about an hour up University Ave. to Weber St., down Weber St. to King St., then

back to University Ave. and back to campus.

After the walk, the volunteers put on another event. "In the afternoon, we have a kid's carnival so we have all the services put on a different activity for the kids," said Taylor.

LSFL successfully beat their

goal of \$3000 by raising a total of \$3418.19.

Taylor was really impressed with the volunteer turnout and dedication. "We have had outstanding participation," she said. "All of the different services across the Students' Union donated members."



Wash it down with



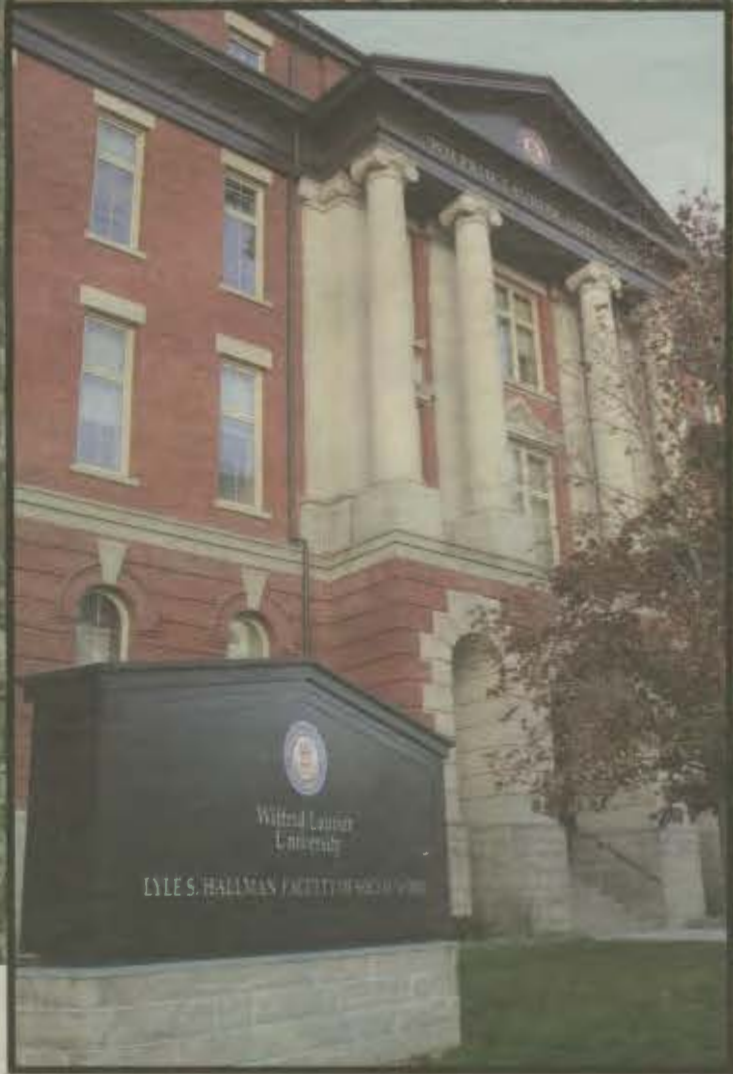
Laurier's sepa

WLU's efforts to expand over the past decade have mainly been focused on the creation and Kitchener have been beneficial to the university and their respective comm



THE AIRD BUILDING - The gateway into Laurier's main campus in Waterloo.

KATHARINA REICHERZER



RILEY TAYLOR

THE LYLE S. HALLMAN FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK - Laurier's campus in downtown Kitchener houses almost 300 grad students.



CARNEGIE HALL - The central building

parate satellites

the creation of new campuses with the Laurier name. While auxiliary campuses in Brantford and Kitchener serve their respective communities, their small size leaves students without some essential services

DAVE SHORE
FEATURES EDITOR

It is no secret that over the past decade WLU administration has been making a conscious effort to see the university expand.

We have seen our student population increase dramatically, we have seen new buildings pop up on campus and we have seen buildings such as St. Michael's Campus and Northdale Campus reopen their doors in Laurier's name.

But of all the expansionary policies WLU has undertaken, by far the most significant development has been the birth of our two satellite campuses: Laurier Brantford and Laurier's Kitchener campus.

Not only have these campuses provided the university with the new opportunities it desired, they came as a great boon to the communities they inhabit. This could not be truer in the case of Laurier Brantford.

When Laurier Brantford opened its doors in 1999, the downtown city centre was a mess. Buildings were in disrepair, businesses were faltering – the area was not a pleasant sight. Since then, things in Brant-

ford have changed considerably.

New, fresh-looking university buildings have been constructed and other landmark buildings have been refurbished to become university property. The surge of students has injected money back into the businesses of the area. Downtown Brantford is in the process of being revitalized.

"The changes that have happened in downtown Brantford in the past 10 years are really quite remarkable," said Leo Groarke, the Principal/Vice-President of Laurier Brantford.

When the city's council made the proposition to former President Bob Rosehart, he jumped at the opportunity, as it had been his hope to create a smaller, separate liberal arts campus for some time. The city was extremely cooperative with the university, including providing funding for the construction of the buildings necessary.

Having a satellite campus in Brantford has been good for both the city and the university, but it has created a peculiar dynamic for its students.

"It's smaller so it's more personal. You get to know more people. It has its pros and cons," said Amanda Petker, a third-year criminology student at Brantford. For her and many others, the small campus population is a large upside, but being separated from the main campus can present difficulties.

"I had a test the other day and they had to send out Scantron cards to Waterloo, and it took forever to get them back. It shouldn't have to take that long," she said.

Not having a Scantron machine on their campus means that they have to wait while the test forms are processed in Waterloo and then sent back to Brantford. It is by no means an isolated case of Laurier Brantford's reliance on the main campus.

Josh Maguire, a first-year student, just recently received his OneCard. It too had to be processed through the Waterloo campus.

Another first year student, Jacilyn Stettner, found it very challenging to try to get an internship position abroad. At first, the university told her that the internship program was only available to students of the Waterloo campus. It wasn't until she contacted some organizations directly that one of them convinced the school to allow her to apply for the position.

Now, filling out the paperwork

has presented another roadblock. "The thing is I'll have to travel four hours one way and four hours back every other week or so just to be able to do it," explained Stettner.

With no buses traveling straight from Brantford to Kitchener-Waterloo, students without access to a car must take transit either to Toronto or London before making their way to Laurier's main campus. It not only takes a whole day's worth of travel, but it becomes costly to get between campuses.

HAVING A SATELLITE CAMPUS IN BRANTFORD HAS BEEN GOOD FOR BOTH THE CITY AND THE UNIVERSITY, BUT IT HAS CREATED A PECULIAR DYNAMIC FOR ITS STUDENTS

And with some student services only being accessible at the Waterloo campus, it is one reason that attending a satellite school can be frustrating.

Groarke identified the decentralization of services as one of the issues the Brantford campus must address as it grows. "I think it would be good if we moved a few more things out here, but in any case we've made some advancements," he said. "We're moving in a direction to deal with those issues, and I think some positive things have happened."

Most recently, Laurier Brantford acquired its own OSAP office. Before this year, all OSAP applications from Brantford students were sent to the Waterloo campus, where they were usually only processed after all the Waterloo students had been dealt with. It usually meant that Brantford students wouldn't see their OSAP money for a month after they applied to pick it up.

While making student loans available directly on campus is a step in the right direction, Groarke admits that more needs to be done to bring services to Brantford.

One thing that would help ease the distance between the main campus and its satellite would be university-organized transportation between them. Ashleigh Cook, Vice-Chair of WLUSU's Brantford Campus Council, said there has been talk of a shuttle from one campus to the other, but so far no such arrangement has come to fruition.

When WLUSU made the effort to implement a shuttle system two years ago, they estimated the cost

to be around \$150 per student per year, which was more than they were willing to commit to.

"At this point there doesn't seem to be enough demand for people here at Brantford wanting or needing to go to Waterloo," said Cook. "It would be greatly beneficial, even if we could take some classes there."

Most recently, WLUSU has been dealing with Brantford Transit to have them extend one of their bus routes to Cambridge, where students can then catch a transfer to

Waterloo. As of yet, no arrangements have been finalized.

Even though students of the Brantford campus often become frustrated with the relationship between the two campuses, it would be unfair to say that their university experience is less desirable.

"You get the small atmosphere which I think is definitely a better learning environment. But you also have Laurier as a backdrop so you know your degree is coming from a reputable school," said Megan Murphy, a transfer student from Mohawk College. "Because there are smaller class sizes you can get that one-on-one with your teachers."

Erin Hirsch, a third-year contemporary studies student, also believes that everybody who comes to Brantford enjoys it for its small, community feel. "Our students really love this campus. It's got a family feel," said Hirsch.

The picture of Brantford campus is one of growth, with a small, contented student body and a supportive community. The very same picture can be painted about Laurier's Kitchener campus.

The campus opened in 2006 in downtown Kitchener in what used to be St. Jerome's College, a landmark high school building. The building had fallen into disuse, and Laurier's Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work was looking for a new home.

Moving the Faculty of Social Work, or FSW, into St. Jerome's wasn't only beneficial to its students, who are now within walking distance of many social services, but it also helped to bring freshness to a stagnant downtown core.

The roughly 280 graduate students at the Kitchener campus feel the same way that students at Brantford do about attending a sat-

ellite campus. While having their own building and having such a small group of students can be advantageous, they are often frustrated by the lack of services available to them.

"Sometimes I wish we might have some of the services [of the main campus]. If you want anything more than a basic library you have to go to the main campus," said Kimberly Sproul, a grad student in her first of two years of study in the FSW.

Even though the Waterloo campus is only a 15-minute bus ride away, being separated from it creates a different atmosphere. Sproul pointed out that not having undergrads around makes it a lot easier to get work done, but also less exciting. "I want that, and then I don't want that," she said.

Two other students, who preferred not to give their names, said that not having any other faculties around can have negative effects academically. When researching things in another discipline, there are no professors of that discipline to consult for insight. While they enjoy being at the Kitchener campus, they said they preferred Laurier's Waterloo campus, where they both did their undergraduate degree.

The stories of Laurier's two satellite campuses run roughly parallel to each other. The Brantford campus and the Kitchener campus have been beneficial to both WLU and the respective communities that foster them. Both campuses provide students with small community environments, but have a dependence on the main campus that holds them back at times.

While the Kitchener campus is close enough to Waterloo to cope with its dependency on the main campus, Laurier Brantford, which has grown from 39 students in its inaugural year to over 1500 students today, is at the point where more autonomy and independence is needed.

"Think baby steps," Hirsch suggested. "You can't expect to start a campus and 'bang' have your say in everything, and I don't think that's the right way to go." She is not alone in being optimistic about the current state of the satellite campus, and its future. It is an optimism shared by the students, the faculty and the administration.

See PAGE 16 for editorial reaction to this story



REICHERZER



GREG MCKENZIE

entral building on Laurier Brantford's campus.

OUA honours top Hawks

Two Golden Hawks were commended for their outstanding seasons last week

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

Last Thursday, the OUA honoured the top football players in the province, and two Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks walked away with awards.

Linebacker Anthony Maggiacomo took home Stand-up Defensive Player of the Year while Scott Evans was awarded Lineman of the Year for his work at the front of the offense.

Maggiacomo was a consistent threat to opposing offenses during his time with the Hawks, leading their defense in tackles. The fifth-year Cambridge native received his first all-star recognition to the OUA first-team defense earlier last week.

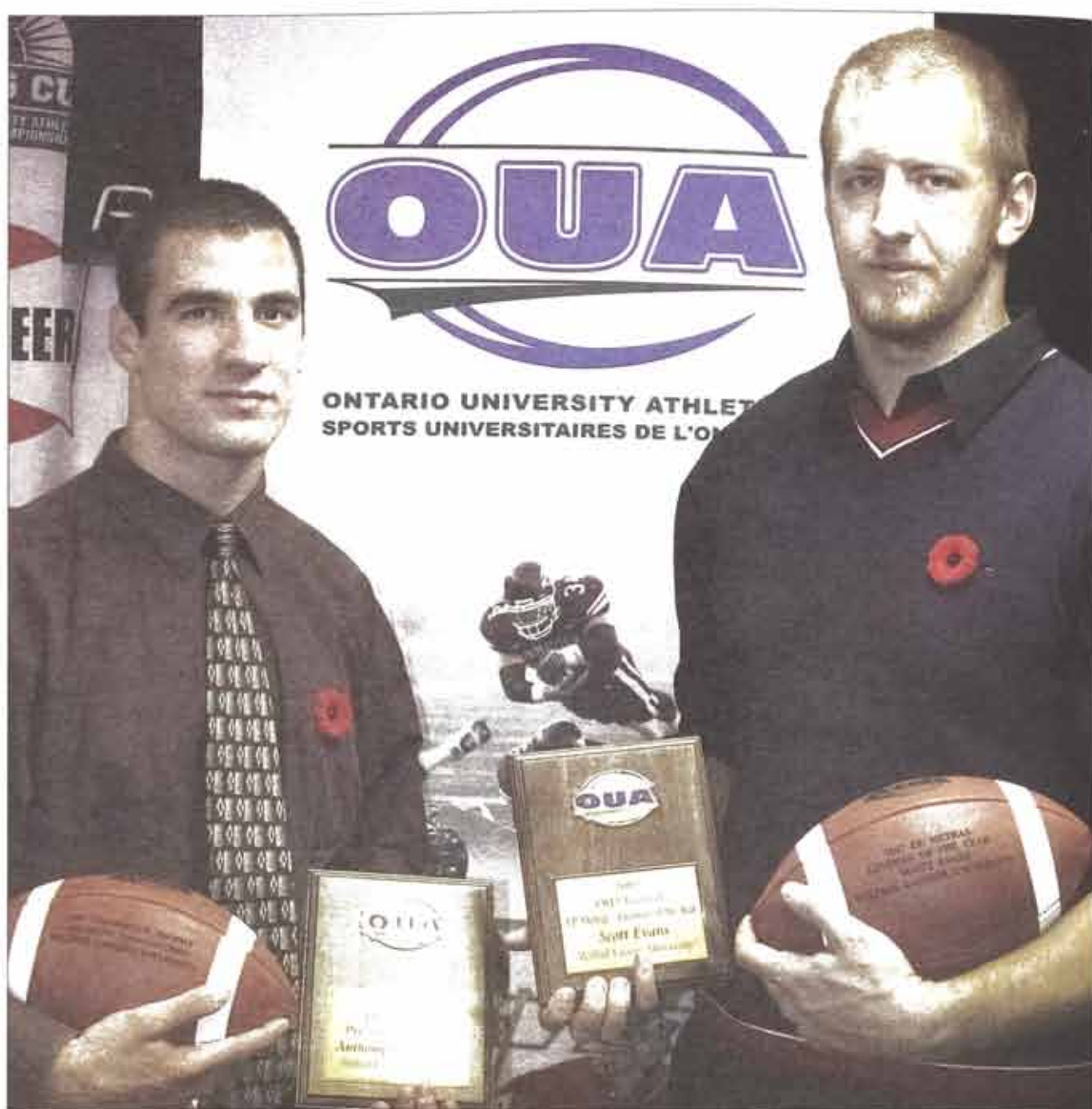
He finished the season with a

Laurier record of 60.5 tackles, ranking him first in Ontario and fourth in Canada. He also returned one interception for a touchdown and recovered a pair of key fumbles. Maggiacomo keeps the title at Laurier, after linebacker Jesse Alexander brought it home last year.

Evans, in his fourth year with the Hawks, was solid at the front of the offense throughout his time in the purple and gold. The 6'7", 295-pound Cambridge native helped the Hawks rush for 1,923 yards, the highest in the OUA this year and third-best in Canada.

He graduates with two all-star nominations and one CIS all-Canadian recognition.

The OUA Lineman of the year has seen the hands of a Hawks' player a total of seven times, the last being Ryan Jeffrey in 2004.



TOP OF THE LINE - From left: linebacker Anthony Maggiacomo and offensive lineman Scott Evans.

ARI GROSSMAN / LAURIER ATHLETICS

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Voakes' hat trick steals game from Guelph

JAMIE NEUGEBAUER
STAFF WRITER

It was a complete team effort that saw the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks men's hockey team blow out the Guelph Gryphons 7-0 last Friday night at the Waterloo Recreational Complex.

Seven different Laurier players had multi-point evenings - led by sniper Craig Voakes (3 goals) and power forward Luke Girard (1 goal, 2 assists).

The Hawks started precisely how they wanted to as Voakes fired a one-timer in the high slot past Gryphons goaltender Andrew Arklie a mere 26 seconds into the game.

After another goal only 1:25 later, courtesy of Mississauga native Girard, Voakes' second goal of the period made it 3-0 within 2:32 of the start of the game. At this point, it was clear that the Gryphons were over-matched against the high-tempo, intense forechecking game of the Hawks.

Jean-Michel Rizk put the Hawks four up at the 13:15 mark with a short-handed tally. The former draft pick of the Minnesota Wild was sent in alone on the Guelph goaltender after the puck was chipped past the Gryphons' defense.

Defensively, the Hawks were outstanding, not allowing a single shot on Laurier net-minder Mike Thomson until the midway point of the first period. And even when the Gryphons did manage to hit the net, they were mostly long-range efforts, all visible to Thomson.

Voakes completed his hat trick

in the second frame after Hawks captain Matt Grennier brilliantly rushed into the Gryphons zone on the powerplay. Grennier fed the St. Thomas native who calmly fired the puck home.

"It felt really good to finally bury a couple out there in one game," Voakes said. "It seems every game I've gotten the chances. ... It felt really good."

The Hawks' biggest player - the 6'7", 240 pound Matt MacCarone - gave the purple and gold a 6-0 lead at 8:33 of the second period when a Guelph defenceman pushed a Hawks forward into his own goalie, giving MacCarone an open net.

Ex-Barrie Colt and Hawks veteran defender Riley Moher finished the scoring at 11:37 of the third period on the powerplay, firing a heavy shot through a screen in front of Arklie, who could not have seen the puck.

"We were looking to have a good defensive outing and to establish a strong fore-check," commented Head Coach Kelly Nobes. "We knew if we did those things we would be successful."

Currently, the Hawks sit fourth in the tight far-west division after an inconsistent start to the season, though only four points separate first from fourth after 10 games played.

The Hawks next play on Wednesday when they face the nation's fifth-ranked team and the mid-west division leaders, the Brock Badgers, at the Waterloo Recreational Complex. The puck drops at 7:30 pm.

SPORTS
BITES

Women soar high

This past weekend was a busy one for the women's volleyball team as they played two games, traveling to both St. Catharines and Toronto. Saturday was their first match against the Brock Badgers, and the Hawks demonstrated precision and skill, winning the first three sets of a best of five match.

Sunday brought the Hawks to Toronto where they faced the Ryerson Rams. The Hawks fought hard, and in a close match-up that saw all five sets played, they came out victorious. This brings their early season record to 6-1, placing the Hawks second in their division just behind their local rivals, the Waterloo Warriors.

This weekend, the ladies will travel to London on Saturday, where they will face the Western Mustangs at 2:00 pm. On Sunday they will head off to Windsor to meet the 0-8 Windsor Lancers at 1:00 pm.

- Compiled by Andrea Millet

Visit cordweekly.com for more

GOLDEN HAWK
UPDATE

Week of
Nov 15 - Nov 21, 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
W Soccer 0 - Ottawa 1

11.04.07

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

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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Where art thou parity?

The dominant play of a few high-powered teams leaves the NFL landscape looking unequal, as others struggle to find the win column very often



LUKE DOTTO
STAFF WRITER

Parity has been rearing its welcome head in almost every sport in the past few seasons, as demonstrated by the success of the Colorado Rockies, Golden State Warriors, George Mason, the southern NHL markets winning Stanley Cups and the entire 2007/08 NCAA Football season.

It has been the driving factor behind some of the greatest games in recent memory, yet this current NFL season has had an odd reprieve from parity and the league is suffering for it. But why?

Parity isn't a mathematical equation or a business model that can be figured out with enough time, energy, effort or resources; it's an anomaly that has become less anomaly-ish and more commonplace in the world of sports.

Yet it still retains a sense of mystery and surprise. Nobody can predict where the next freak incident such as Boise State's "Statue of Liberty" or Appalachian State's "Complete and Utter Destruction

of Physical Reality and Possibility" will surface, but we do know they have the potential to surface.

That exact fact is what has made the past few seasons in the NCAA and MLB some of the more exciting over the last 25 years. The NFL - not so much; with the exception of (maybe) the Colts-Pats AFC Championship game last season, there has been a serious lack of exciting games, particularly playoff games, over the last couple seasons.

How many of you reading this are really intrigued with this NFL season? To prove my point, I can formulate the headlines of each week for you before the games are even played: "Tom Brady meticulously decimates defense, Pats win by 30+;" "Brett Favre pulls a win out of nowhere with another 350-yard game;" "Dolphins lose;" "Rams lose;" "Insert player here* arrested for DUI/gun charge/drug charge/assault charge;" "What will Chad Johnson do next?;" "Michael Vick volunteers at the SPCA."

Now, when the same headlines appear week in and week out, it doesn't make for a very exciting season (unless you're a Detroit Lions fan, in which case, enjoy it while it lasts), so what can be done to make this league the best and



CONTRIBUTED GRAPHIC

PATRIOT GAMES - New England leads the charge in a two-tiered NFL.

most exhilarating in North America once again?

The ultimate answer is that parity is gone in the NFL and there's nothing we can do but wait it out like a bad Adam Sandler comedy. There's no doubt in my mind that it will eventually find its way back to the League, but only once some of the less traditional/less fortunate franchises begin winning (come on, Texans!).

That is the essence of parity in the sports landscape: teams that aren't supposed to win will win and beating supposedly better teams.

Right now, that's just not happening; rather, the reverse is hap-

pening. The traditionally good teams are losing, but this is not creating parity because the bad teams are still bad.

This in turn hurts the NFL even more, and it is quite unfortunate to witness.

Dear parity, please come back. The NFL just isn't like it used to be; it's boring and predictable and everyone on the planet is tired of hearing about Manning and the Colts and Brady and the Pats, so please come back home. We need you, the players need you, the Buffalo Bills need you - we just want to go back to the old days.

Sincerely, the fans.

Women's hockey remains atop OUA

After a surprising tie Saturday night against the 2-8 Brock Badgers, the Hawks pull out important win

CHRIS BALUSCHAK
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women's hockey team prevailed this weekend by earning three out of a possible four points.

Saturday night, at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Centre, fans saw the Hawks tie the lowly Brock Badgers.

However, the women's team recovered from their 1-1 tie with the Brock squad and played a very exciting, physical game against Guelph on Sunday night.

The Hawks knew that they would have to step up their game against the Gryphons, who, at the time, were ranked second in the OUA standings.

Guelph appeared to have simi-

lar motives and started the game fast and aggressively, burying one past Hawks net-minder Liz Knox in the first minute of play. The Hawks responded with a powerplay goal from captain Lauren Meschino shortly afterwards, bringing the score to 1-1.

The two teams continued to battle for the majority of the period with very physical play and quick stick work, and all of the players put forth tremendous pressure and effort.

"We all played fantastic; when we had to bear down and get the puck deep, we did that," said Meschino.

Their determination paid off, as a shot by third-year defense Vanessa Bennett ricocheted off the end boards, bouncing back out front of the Gryphons' goalie.

Forward Alicia Martin wristed it in off the goalie's mask from the side of the net. With the second powerplay goal of the period, the Hawks headed into the first intermission up 2-1.

The second period saw the continuance of the physical play and the back and forth attacks by both teams.

Third-year centre Lauren Barch, known for her offensive contributions, was quickly becoming a thorn in the opponent's side with her aggressive and effective play.

Nearing the halfway point of the second period, the Gryphons were fortunate enough to leak out on a breakaway and put a shot past Knox to tie the game once again.

"They were really matching us. Their back pressure, their back

checking was the best I've ever seen," said Head Coach Rick Osborne about the Guelph squad.

Entering the third, the Hawks were relentless. Knox made a fantastic toe save midway through the frame to keep the Hawks in the game. "As a coach you get spoiled, having goaltenders as good as we've had over the last little while," commented Osborne.

With a strong effort and plenty of shots on net, the Hawks finally sealed the fate of the Gryphons. Second-year forward Laura Bartolini picked up the winner for the Hawks late in the third.

The Hawks improve their record to 9-1-1 on the season and will play the Queen's Golden Gaels next Sunday at 3:00 pm at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Centre.

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Satellite campuses have great benefit

Since 1999, the Laurier brand has consisted of two universities rather than just one. The choice to expand Laurier through satellite campuses is a logical one due to the limits to the growth of the Waterloo campus.

However, student services and the quality of student life and experiences at Laurier's Brantford campus have often been an afterthought.

It's understandable that growing pains will take place and that a campus that began with 39 students cannot have all the amenities of a campus that has existed for nearly a century.

But now that Laurier Brantford has a student body upwards of 1500 undergrads, it's imperative that the campus has the services it needs to operate on the premises. Particularly because further expansion is planned, it is no longer appropriate to depend on services located at the Waterloo campus.

Attention should be paid to make the Brantford campus more efficient so that, instead of relying on the Waterloo campus, the relationship between the two allows for integration. Currently this is not the case.

Improving the Brantford campus will benefit the Laurier brand as a whole, not just students at the satellite school.

For example, in the *Maclean's* university rankings, Laurier Brantford does not appear separately from the Waterloo campus. Nor should it. The quality of both campuses is measured together and, as the same institution, Laurier should work to provide the same quality of experience and education in both Waterloo and Brantford.

Currently, Laurier Brantford isn't negatively affecting us as students at the Waterloo campus. However, it's difficult for us to see the benefit of our satellite campus.

Having satellite campuses provides the opportunity for students at each campus to experience a larger variety of classes. Today, only a small number of students are taking advantage of this.

This is because of a lack of transportation between the two campuses. While students at the Kitchener campus can easily take Grand River Transit to the main campus, students at Brantford must take a bus via London or Toronto if they do not have a car.

Being able to take some of the more specialized courses offered in Brantford would also benefit us at the Waterloo campus.

We should not dismiss the issues surrounding Laurier Brantford as unimportant to us. Just because WLU's growth is taking place elsewhere doesn't mean that we can't benefit from it.

Intolerance unwelcome

The incident which occurred this past Thursday at Wilf's, in which Casey Baker of Casey Baker and the Buffalo Sinners shouted at members of the audience and called them "faggots" was a prime example of intolerant behaviour that should be unwelcome, not only in a university setting, but in society in general.

Fortunately, Wilf's handled the incident extremely well – the band's equipment was shut off and they will not be booked again.

Comments made by Baker in an interview with *The Cord* suggested that homosexuality is an offensive

concept. Hopefully, the audience's reaction is an indicator of tolerance from the student body as a whole and not just a few people who have completed positive space training.

The suggestion and concept of homosexuality should not be considered offensive, and the belief that it is offensive is both ignorant and unwelcome, particularly at an educational institution.

While homophobic incidents cannot always be foreseen, students' reactions last week were positive ones. They send the message that ignorance and intolerance are unwelcome at Laurier.

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

THE CORD WEEKLY

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JULIE MARION

Bars and their staff deserve your respect



JULIE MARION
GRAPHICS EDITOR

University is a time for partying, hanging out with friends and having fun while, at the same time, doing endless amounts of schoolwork. Working hard to make the grade is what students do and a good night out with friends is well-deserved for the most part.

However, this well-deserved night of fun usually ends up chaotic, messy and even unremembered because of the copious quantities of booze most students consume.

Most nights of the week, there's a place that hosts loads of students, like The Spur on "Spursday." These evenings are amusing for those heading out, but those few hours of craziness are sometimes dreaded by the establishment.

Having waitressed for my entire university career, I'm acutely aware that students provide great business for the bars in Waterloo during the school year, but they can also be irresponsible and offensive to their nightly hosts. Students may be unaware that they are doing things that always put a damper on the night for those that provide service to them or just make them laugh and shake their heads.

First of all, some (often younger) students just do not know how to handle themselves while drinking. They get sloppy and ridiculous, of-

ten due to the fact that some are not even of age when they enter their first year and the whole bar scene is still new.

After this, there is the matter of respect towards those working. In this university town, most servers and bartenders are university students themselves. While everyone is out drinking, servers are making sure you are getting those desperately needed drinks.

It's always interesting to stand back and watch the crowd around the bar and observe the variety of tactics used to catch the bartender's attention. Whistling, crazy arm gestures, a little head nod, leaning right over just to make sure that you're seen. Trust me, they see you.

IF YOU CAN SPEND \$100 OR MORE ON DRINKING WITH YOUR FRIENDS, YOU HAVE THE MONEY TO TIP.

They serve in a manner that is fair to everyone and being obnoxious is going to get you nowhere. If you're at a bar that allows you to grab a table for the night, you will most likely have a waitress or waiter look after you. They will run around for you most of the night and keep a tab for your table.

When the cheque comes, you may be surprised by the amount of liquor ingested and some tabs may be higher than you thought. Being a student myself, I understand that money is tight at times, but if you can spend \$100 or more on drinking with your friends, you have the money to tip.

At the bar, tipping is required as well. Ever heard that weird cowbell at Phil's? Yeah – that's to make sure that everyone knows that someone didn't tip. If you had a tab, it means that there was someone running around and serving you all night. There should be at least a 10 percent tip, if not a 15 percent tip, which you calculate from your total bill.

Most of your servers are students. We don't get paid the servers' minimum wage – which is below the usual minimum wage – to run around for you if you're not going to tip.

Another thing that students tend to do while out partying is vandalize. Breaking glass and stealing things from the place you

are drinking at is never appreciated, nor is it as funny or awesome as you think it is.

As a student myself, a night out is something I like to partake in, just like anyone else. I may get hectic, but I try to make sure that I am not being an idiot so I can make it easier on those working. The same is not true of all students.

While it is often hard to understand your behavior and its impact without working in the industry, you should at least remember that when you're sitting in class hung-over after a night of irritating me, I'll be beside you, tired from running around for you all night.

letters@cordweekly.com

Buy Nothing Day counterproductive



WINSTON HIND
MY TRUTH

November 23, 2007 is the fifteenth annual Buy Nothing Day (BND). The first BND was launched by *Adbusters* in Vancouver in September of 1992 and was based on an idea by artist Ted Dave.

It is a loosely organized event for society to examine the issue of over-consumption.

In 1997, it was moved to the Friday after American Thanksgiving, which is historically the start of the Christmas shopping season in the United States. Outside of North America, BND is usually held on the following Saturday.

Despite controversy, *Adbusters* has advertised Buy Nothing Day on CNN, but many other major television networks have declined to air the ads. Soon after, campaigns started appearing in the United Kingdom, Israel, Germany, New Zealand, Japan, the Netherlands and Norway.

Participation today includes more than 65 nations.

The intentions of BND are good. We, as members of North American society, buy a lot of useless crap that we don't need. But there is a problem – this protest of consumerism perpetuates the mentality that drives what we call consumerism while limiting the ethical market at the same time.

Consumerism is a combination of our materialistic needs and our inexplicable need to distinguish

ourselves; consequently, we try to distinguish ourselves through our material possessions.

It is detrimental to our society and our environment and there is little discussion of what actually perpetuates it.

As a result, attempts to stop it – like BND – sell short.

The desire to be elite drives consumerism and it is the same motivation behind BND. People who actively participate in BND, join the Facebook groups, have protests and give speeches are not better or above anyone else because they do those things. They are not unique and only distinguish themselves as gullible.

BND should not be a day to celebrate ethical superiority.

– SEE BUY, PAGE 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SHOPPING SPREE – North Americans are defined by consumer culture.

Letters to the Editor

Violence not unique

Ms. Elworthy's opinion piece "Human violence natural" in the November 7 edition of your paper draws a frightening conclusion based on frightening premises. Luckily for all of us, she is exceptionally wrong.

The column opens with the premise that "war, greed, power and violence are the things that make us uniquely human." Perhaps Ms. Elworthy has never watched wolves fight to be the alpha male on the Discovery Channel. This is hardly unique in the animal kingdom.

The truly unique nature of humanity is seen in our nobler pursuits. A human being can sing a beautiful song or paint a beautiful painting. One human can look at another and imagine that person's perspective, giving us the gifts of compassion and empathy. A human being has a relatively advanced brain, allowing for introspection and abstract thought.

The conclusion, that violence is pervasive "because human [sic] are a violent species," is based largely on an analysis of the entertainments of civilizations – from Roman Gladiators to the film *Saw IV*. The fact that violent entertainment is so prevalent is a signal of hope, not of despair. Because such scenes are absent from our daily lives we can enjoy the entertainment value of it. When was the last time you were in a fight or killed someone? When was the last time you kissed a lover, hugged a friend or were moved by a work of art? It is love that pervades the lives of mankind and violence that is the exception.

It is easy to become saddened thinking about all the ills of the world. It features constantly on the front page of the newspaper and television, but it is the newsworthiness of these awful things that gives us hope. It is news that a man was

assaulted downtown because it is rare. It is not news that lovers made love or that friends shared a special moment because it is common.

Violence is in our nature as human beings, but it is only a very small part. The true essence of our being, the force that truly moves us, is love.

– Jody Miller

Thank you football

If you go to YouTube and search for "Laurier football," you'll find highlights from this past season. If you watch the Waterloo and Windsor clips, you'll see excited players pour out of the tunnel and onto the field. If you watch closely, you'll also see a little boy running with them. That little boy is my son, Hunter. He's six and, I'm sure, the youngest Hawk on the turf.

Hunter loves Golden Hawk football. The walls of his bedroom are papered with jaggedly clipped pictures. He has been to almost every Laurier game since he was born. He stormed the field in 2005 and over the last two years, even attended away games. This year, however, was different; he was a Golden Hawk. For the 2007 season, the coaching staff and players invited him to the sidelines for every game. From training camp in spring and late summer to the final play, the Hawks were the highlight of his week.

What is so important for Hunter is what Golden Hawk football, its coaches and players taught him. For him, so hungry to learn and grow, their words and actions were far more than clichés: "Demand the best of yourself," "never give up," "believe that you are part of one team." He learned about pride and hard work, about winning and, importantly, about dignity in defeat. Being part of this community of

coaches and student-athletes positively contributed to his developing personhood, to his growth, to who he is and who he can become. On behalf of Hunter and my family, I would like to thank all the coaches, players and staff of Golden Hawks football. In important ways, they played a vital and memorable role in the life of a little boy.

– Stephen Connor
Department of History

Habeas corpus disappearing

Thank you for your full-page coverage of the demonstration against secret trials at Speakers' Corner in Kitchener on Sat. Oct. 20. If only the mainstream media recognized the importance of the assault on basic human rights that's happening right now in Canada!

The demonstration was to draw attention to the five Muslim men whom the Canadian government has been detaining without charges for many years, under security certificates, on the basis of "evidence" that it refuses to disclose to the men or their lawyers. Most Canadians don't even know this is happening.

In your article, a quote was attributed to me that was scrambled and didn't make sense. I was carrying a sign that said "FREE HASSAN ALMREI". I explained that he is now the only one of the five security certificate detainees still in the high-security Kingston Immigration Holding Centre. This amounts to solitary confinement for him. (The other four men, meanwhile, are living under extremely restrictive house arrest with their families – but Hassan has no family here.) A refugee from Syria, Hassan has been imprisoned without charge since Oct. 2001 – six years!

Another sign I had with me that

day said "HABEAS CORPUS NOW." The right of habeas corpus is the most fundamental principle of the justice system, going back to the Magna Carta of 1215. It is enshrined in Canada's Charter of Rights in the phrase "security of the person." It says (among other things) that the government can't detain people without due process of law.

Today Canada and other democracies are eroding away the right of habeas corpus, by saying that "some people are exempt." If you are a refugee to this country, or even a landed immigrant, we can detain you without proper procedure. I believe this is a slippery slope, and the civil liberties of all of us will be in danger if we continue down it. It is absolutely essential that we resist the practice of arbitrary detention now.

More on secret trials can be read at <http://zerra.net/freemohamed/news.php?extend.2405>, www.homesnotbombs.ca and <http://users.sgi.com/~peacenews>.

– Eleanor Grant

Rights hijacked by selfishness

In response to the letter "Olympics Games hijacked by politics" printed in last week's paper, I would like to say how naïve and self-centered such a view is. The Olympic Games, in its ideal form, should represent such things as youth and friendship, but sadly this is not a reality. The reality is that the Games are about politics and it's not until the political mindset is directed towards peace and friendship that the Games will actually represent such an ideal form.

From the use of the Games in Nazi Germany as a vessel for propaganda, the assassination of the Israeli team in Munich, to the political competition between the US and

the USSR during the Cold War, the Olympic Games has been used to serve political interests. This goes to show that the Olympic Games represent the state of the world during such times in history. If the Games are to represent "friendship" and "peace" then this is the world that we need to create.

We are now presented with an opportunity that allows not just state actors but citizens to use the influence of the Olympic Games to contribute to creating a world of peace. Just as Hitler used the Olympics to tell the world his message of a racially pure and disciplined united force, students, teachers, children and parents can also send a message that human rights abuses will not be tolerated.

It is not until we all demand it that people will actually listen and if you feel so strongly about an Olympics that represent peace, unity and friendship then you too should embrace and speak this message. When we demand a world of equality and peace, then maybe the girl in Ethiopia (or million of other youths like her) will no longer be afraid to join the boys in practice and may actually receive the required funding from the government to reach the starting line of the Olympics. Until then, use whatever means to demand peace.

– Jen Holden

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 p.m. (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.

Retaliation without value

Remembering an incident from his past, **Don Morgenson** suggests that compassion and empathy should be used to measure a person's value rather than the physical ability to fight back, as pacifism is far more rewarding than short-term exhilaration



DON MORGENSON
ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

In the summer of 1952, I was a rather green recruit – a young US Army Private, struggling through basic training with the 101st Airborne Division (Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky). For all of us, it was a difficult transition. I had been a graduate student taking some time off from my studies, visiting my very ill father, when I was “drafted” for duty in the UN Korean “police action.”

During training, each platoon required some leadership from the ranks: a person selected by the cadre non-commissioned officers (NCOs).

As I was somewhat taller than average, I was selected to be “platoon guide” and required to wear sergeant's stripes over my fatigues. In and of itself, it meant very little. I was the pivot around which the platoon (80 men) would rotate during parade marches. The sergeant's stripes were more symbolic than real.

After a difficult day in the field

being tear-gassed, exposed to fragmentation grenades and having to spend what seemed like hours on the rifle range, most of us would adjourn to the Post Exchange.

Some trainees would head for the bar and try very hard to get drunk on 3.2 percent beer to ease the fatigue and humiliation. I would usually find some spot of green and eat a pint of Neopolitan ice cream and then head back to Easy Company's barracks.

It was getting dark and, as the lights of the barracks came in sight, I turned to the rear of the building when three men menacingly blocked my way.

No words were exchanged as they attacked me, beating me; it seemed, inch by inch. Their grunts muffled my cries as I was kicked and beaten, outnumbered. Before fading into unconsciousness, I heard voices and knew that other recruits were coming to my aid; my attackers fled.

When I came to, I was troubled by many questions. What had provoked the attack? Who were the attackers? Was colour involved? But perhaps most troubling was: Why did I not fight back?

My platoon members explained

it by noting I was outnumbered. Discretion is the better part of valor, etc.

Surely if I had retaliated the violence would have escalated and someone could have been killed. All of us had, by now, been well-schooled in hand-to-hand combat tactics. But I had no deeply satisfying answer to my question.

MAYBE THE ATTACK WAS RACIALLY PROVOKED, AS THOSE COMING TO MY AID SUGGESTED. PERHAPS, THROUGH THE YEARS OF OPPRESSION AFRICAN-AMERICANS EXPERIENCED, THE ATTACK ON THIS “PRESUMPTUOUS HONKY” WAS JUSTIFIED.

Part of the answer may lie in my past – growing up in a somewhat sheltered world, a small town in Minnesota with good friends and a stable family, violence was always deplored. And even in my basic training as a rifleman, I continued to worry less about being killed and considerably more about killing. Yet fighting back is a central dimension

in society's concept of manhood, even its concept of integrity.

The important and operable distinction for me was that between self-defence and retaliation. Fighting back is active, defiant, involving an attitude that retaliation is justified. And maybe in this case retaliation was justified. Maybe the attack was racially provoked, as those coming to my aid suggested.

Perhaps, through the years of oppression African-Americans experienced, the attack on this “presumptuous Honky” was justified.

For me, however, I preserved something in not retaliating – tolerance, compassion, even empathy. Were I to have fought back, something might have been lost. Had I been able to crush one of the attackers, broken a jaw and/or injured someone, I wonder what I might have felt.

I am convinced I did the right thing and would probably repeat that strategy today. Yet, some-

where in my body there remained a cold rage, rage at some end of innocence.

Today, I have a young son and I wonder – should I teach him non-violent strategies or should I teach him to fight back with fury? Should I teach him the grace of pacifism or should I teach him to react with all his physical strength in response to some form of violation?

I feel a trace of sadness when I realize that perhaps teaching him to fight back might be considered by society to be the most appropriate strategy. But I fear that my son might feel that same sadness, that same sense of loss, even while feeling a moment or two of triumphant exhilaration as he pummels someone.

In time, I will share what happened to me those many years ago and hope that my son will see no diminished sense of “manhood” in his aged father. I hope that someday my son will measure his size by his compassion and empathy rather than by his muscle girth and his ability to “dish it out” as he has had it “dished out” to him.

letters@cordweekly.com



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SENTENCING - Bill C-41 allows judges to use conditional sentencing, which focuses on parole and community service.

Jail sentences too common



ALLIE MAXTED
RESIDENT CYNIC

If somebody commits a crime, they deserve to be thrown in jail. This attitude is pervasive in Canadian society, but it may not be the best way to do things. At a cost of \$52,000 per prisoner per year, throwing criminals in jail not only means that they pay for their crimes, it also means we do too.

With so many tax dollars invested in the correctional program, Canadians should be assured that its methods are the most effective possible.

This is true for things such as healthcare and education; however, if Canadians were to look for this assurance in their criminal justice system, we would come up short.

Caught between two ideologies, which demand the public be protected from criminals and that criminals be reformed and reintroduced into society, Canadian prisoners are not merely kept in jail to keep society safe from them, nor are they given enough of an opportunity to rehabilitate themselves.

The unwillingness to choose between either of these two options has rendered the Canadian jus-

tice system relatively ineffective at both tasks.

Because the cost of holding prisoners is so high and because of the evidence that, in the majority of cases, jail time is not the most effective deterrent for re-offending, it is time that we reconsider our stance on jail time.

This is not to say that people should not be punished for their crimes, but to suggest that there are better ways to punish them than jailing them.

This idea is not a new one, and, in fact, most proponents of alternative options advocate some kind of return to the past. One group of such proponents is the aboriginal community. Faced with a much higher than average rate of incarceration, a movement has arisen to reinstate the traditional "circle sentencing" method.

Circle sentencing works on the idea of community involvement both before and after a crime is committed. The laws of a community are agreed upon by everyone so that they may live safely. When a crime is committed and the community's trust is breached, every citizen is a victim.

The circle sentencing method, then, considers not only the direct impact on the victim, but the impact on the community as well. Along with this consideration comes the belief that the community has a responsibility to its

members - if a person has committed a crime, the dysfunction of the community itself is considered to play a role.

Methods such as this are often criticized in our society for being too soft on criminals. But, even though this option is available, many aboriginal offenders choose to go through the formal court system. Because offenders do not have to face the community in a regular trial, it is easier for them to distance themselves from the effects of their actions.

Just like in circle sentencing, this particular problem is what the new rise in creative sentencing aims to address. In 1995, Bill C-41 was passed to allow conditional sentencing in Canada. Characterized by less jail time and more parole and community service, conditional sentencing allows for more creative sentences, which are crime-specific and focused on rehabilitation.

By forcing criminals to face the victim and community and giving them the tools to deal with the consequences of their actions, restorative justice reduces the chance that they might re-offend.

For example, in Florida, one judge has sentenced thieves to wear a sign saying, "I stole from a local store" in addition to community service and parole. Similarly, one American charged with vehicular homicide was ordered to

carry around a picture of her victim in his coffin.

Judges handing down these sentences hope that the criminals will feel remorse for their actions, which is something that is not as common as it should be. Some sentences are meant to carry out this task while at the same time benefiting the community and individuals involved.

In Newfoundland, a company held responsible for a workplace safety infringement was sentenced to provide funding for high school workplace safety courses.

These sentences, and others like them, require criminals to give back to the community they've harmed and have the ability to turn something negative into something positive.

Despite the opportunity to use creative sentencing, politics and the risk of looking "soft on crime" have meant that judges must risk their reputation in order to use them.

In 2006, only about six percent of all sentences handed out in Canada were conditional sentences.

Before this number can rise, Canadians need to let go of their "tough on crime" stance. To be truly tough on crime, we must force criminals to face their actions and stop allowing them to hide behind the bars of a jail cell.

letters@cordweekly.com

Purchases need more thought

- FROM BUY, PAGE 17

On Remembrance Day, we think about veterans and the wars they have fought in, why they were necessary and how we can use these historical lessons to prevent the same occurrences in the future.

The same idea should apply to BND. It was started to mark one day a year to remind us to think about this phenomenon of consumerism, what we buy - individually and as a nation - and how the flow and transfer of money and resources shapes our planet more than any democratic process.

When you buy something, you are sending a message to the company: I endorse what you do in order to create this product and I support your social and financial belief systems. My money is yours along with my endorsement.

Ultimately, BND should force us to question what we are consuming. Is there a connection between consumerism and the fact that one billion people on this planet are dying of starvation and malnutrition and one billion more are dying from diseases associated with over-consumption?

According to Amnesty International, one child in a developed country will consume, waste and pollute what more than fifty children will in a developing country.

If everyone lived like North Americans, we would need the equivalent of over 3 Earths to survive. A report from the UN Environment Program in 2000 said: "If population growth, economic growth and consumption patterns continue, the natural environment will be increasingly stressed," and "the present course is unsustainable and postponing action is no longer an option."

Young people today in developed countries belong to a highly educated, internationally aware generation. Shouldn't we be able to devise new and innovative ways to have a healthy economy and a healthy planet? Don't join the bandwagon with BND. Think about what you spend every day instead of only on this one day in November - buy consciously year-round.

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Last week's sudoku

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

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SHOUTS

Happy 18th Sarah!

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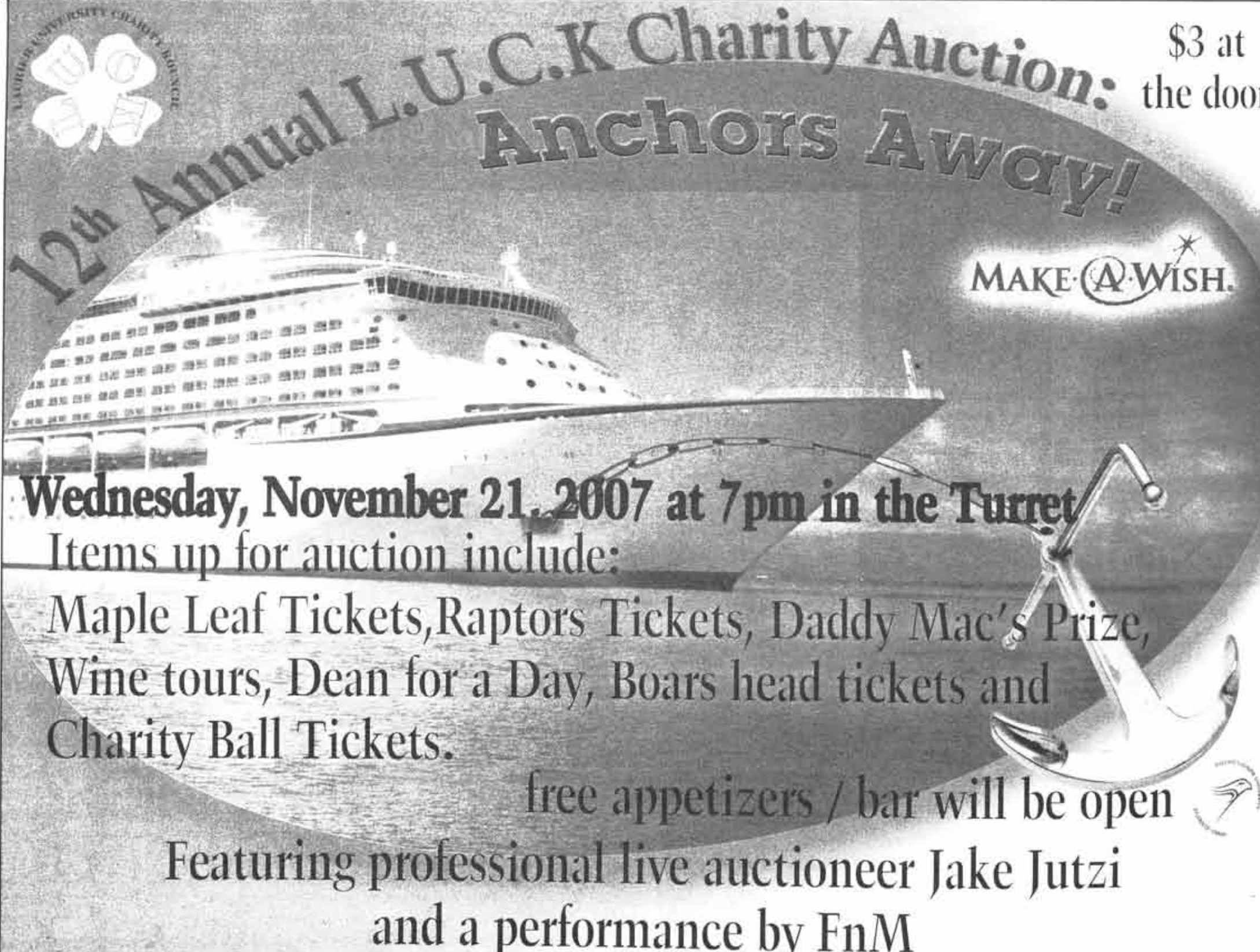
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For the love of plastic breasts

Ryan Gosling takes the love of objects to the next level in his latest film *Lars and the Real Girl*, opening at Princess Twin soon

CARRIE MCNABB
STAFF WRITER

Breaker High, *The Mickey Mouse Club* and *Young Hercules*. London, Ontario native Ryan Gosling certainly did not start his acting career out very well. Nevertheless, somewhere along the way, it started going right.

With an Oscar nomination last year for the under-appreciated *Half Nelson*, Gosling may repeat his luck this year for his performance in *Lars and the Real Girl*.

Lars and the Real Girl seems like an unlikely and far-fetched story: a lovable loner (Gosling) buys a sex doll off the internet and, calling her his girlfriend, treats her like a living person. The entire city responds by buying into it and gives him nothing but unconditional support.

To conclude this heartfelt comedy, *Lars*, complete with David Arquette-inspired facial hair, somehow manages to steal the heart of his pretty young co-worker in spite of his slightly unconventional tastes in women.

Ridiculous, yes, but the actors make it work. A good ensemble cast involves, most notably, *Lars*'s brother played by Paul Schneider. Schneider's character is the only one to voice concerns and any resistance in indulging the fantasy.

Showing both distress over his brother's mental state and a whole lot of remorse, Schneider is able to breathe life into an otherwise flat



Lars and the Real Girl
Director: Craig Gillespie
Starring: Ryan Gosling, Paul Schneider, Patricia Clarkson
Release Date: 11/02/2007
Rating: 7.5/10.0

character.

Another phenomenal performance is given by the always-amazing Patricia Clarkson as *Lars*'s psychologist.

The doctor/patient scenes between Clarkson and Gosling bring a lot of truth to the movie, giving the plot some credibility and, aside from Gosling's main character, Clarkson's is the only supporting role with real depth.

What truly makes this film great is Gosling. More often than not, Gos-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

I'VE BEEN TESTED, HAVE YOU BEEN TESTED? - Gosling at the doctor's office with his "real girl" girlfriend.

ling is required to bring the dynamic of a two-person scene when only one participant is a breathing, talking and non-silicone human being. He executes these scenes perfectly and begs the question of mental in-

stability versus loneliness.

Gosling deserves a great amount of praise for this role and there is no doubt he will receive it. He can finally prove that *The Mickey Mouse Club* is in fact good for something.

Yes, Britney, I'm looking at you.

Lars and the Real Girl is not currently playing in the K-W area, but the film is scheduled to be shown at the Princess Twin Cinema in the near future.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE CRUISE - Lil' Tommy plays the role of Senator Jasper Irving.

ELISE COTTER
STAFF WRITER

Lions for Lambs is a rare treat. Its style and format are unusual in today's films. While there is no major action, the film is still intense. While there is no melodrama, the film is still emotional. And while the film is about American politics, there is a universal appeal.

Robert Redford, director and actor, has managed to create a well-rounded and fulfilling experience. The film surrounds six main

characters, each paired up to make three very different stories within the Iraq War.

The first segment places Tom Cruise as Senator Jasper Irving pitching his new plan to win the war against Iraq to journalist Janine Roth (Meryl Streep). During their hour together, they play political games. Irving is trying to persuade Roth with his new strategy on how the United States will win the "War on Terror". Roth is doubtful; she doesn't want to support the government again when the first six

Lions for Lambs engaging

The latest star-studded Hollywood offering of Iraq War commentary

years of war were such a failure.

As she continues to question Irving, he remains calm and determined, trying to manipulate their interview to win Roth over using arguments such as "How and why is not the issue now. We have to move forward."

Their interaction is by far the most intriguing of the film; they are both strong characters trying to impose their opinions on each other - not to mention two of Hollywood's older giants in roles that could renew their careers.

Next is the Vietnam War veteran Dr. Stephen Malley (Robert Redford) and his student Todd (Andrew Garfield). Malley is an older professor at West Coast University who meets with Todd to push him towards his natural intelligence by engaging in the surrounding political and global issues.

Todd is cynical, resisting his professor's arguments with reasons why he shouldn't get involved in problems that don't concern him. Professor Malley mentions two former students of his, Ernest and Arian, who decided to enroll in the army. They are the third story.

Ernest (Michael Pena) and Arian (Derek Luke) are lifelong friends who have worked extremely hard to escape the dangerous neighborhoods of their youth. Despite deserving a comfortable and successful future, the two decide to enlist in the army; they hope to come back and change things.

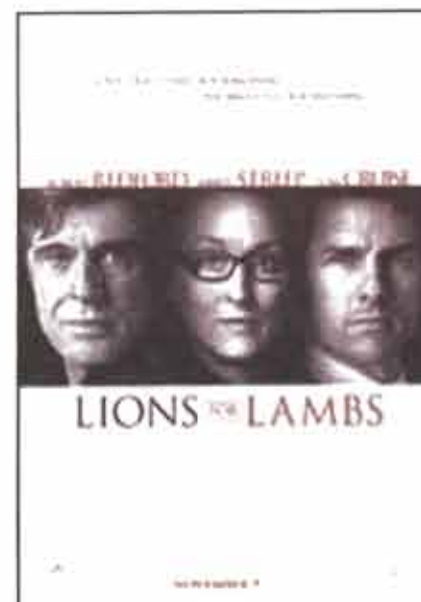
Each of the three segments represents a theme with which Redford wants us to identify. Irving and Roth's story is about integrity; Roth tries to prevent cognitive dissonance by supporting a cause she doesn't believe in.

Ernest and Arian represent humanity and brotherhood; they are compassionate not only as friends but as citizens, feeling the need to help others before helping themselves.

Finally, Malley and Todd's story represents the overall theme of the film, engagement. Todd is the young adult with the potential to push himself towards the real world, the world that actually makes a difference.

Throughout, Redford is asking you to engage in life - not just your life, but the life happening around

you - and to actually try and do something useful. But first, you'll have to engage with your opinion on the film.



Lions for Lambs
Director: Robert Redford
Starring: Tom Cruise, Meryl Streep, Robert Redford
Release Date: 11/09/2007
Rating: 8.5/10.0

Elliot Brood coming to town

The brooding three-piece take the stage at Starlight tomorrow night for their signature boot-stomping, crowd-pleasing show

PAUL ALVIZ
A&E EDITOR

The sun sets in a western sky on top of an open plain. The sound of saloon doors swinging breaks the silence of an otherwise quiet town. A lone man carrying a black case walks up to the stage of the bar and pulls out an old guitar. He begins

playing soulful rhythm, and with a broken heart sings of the fall of his brothers in a gun battle some years ago. His name is Elliot Brood.

Of course, this is just one possible incarnation of the aforementioned character. For Mark Sasso, Steve Pitkin and Casey Laforet, members of country-folk-rock band Elliot Brood, the character is

somewhat of a time traveller. The band finds him at different points in history and tries to see certain events through his eyes.

Taking a break from playing Nintendo Wii, Sasso, lead singer for Brood, explains what he uses to find the situations that help the band craft their music, and his thoughtful – sometimes cryptic,

sometimes dark – lyrics. To be fair, it's the first gaming system he's gotten into since arcade days before the Famicom.

"You have to keep inspiring yourself with different things. We use a lot of books and film and stuff that keeps inspiring you, so that it's other people that are inspiring you, as opposed to you trying to inspire yourself to live a certain life so that you can write about it. That would be kind of difficult if you're constantly morose and sad to constantly use that as your impetus to write. I think that would get really hard to do," explains the thoughtful frontman.

After the western gunslinger style found on their last album *Ambassador*, Elliot Brood jumps an era to the mid-twentieth century for the next album. Lately, the band has been inspired by war themes, but not in the sense of "let's get political because it's the hip thing to do" that many artists seem to have. Stories of history and a trip to Juno beach last summer, a site for Canadian operations on D-Day during WWII, impacted them just as much as current affairs.

Sasso expands on the breadth of the theme. "It's more about people and their lives during that time. And it could be in the war-torn part, where it's in Europe, or it could be in the States, or in Canada and people just experiencing it. So it's not just necessarily in the heart of the battle." In the next few months, they hope to finish up the new record in time for a spring release date.

However, Elliot Brood's creativity doesn't end in the studio. They take it upon themselves to look at an album as an entire package, with the cover, booklet and extras included. Sasso explains that he wants to give

fans something more than a jewel case. "For us, we always say that we want to put out something that people will actually want to own physically. As a band, the onus is put on you to actually design something that somebody is inquisitive about or wants to own as opposed to [just] downloading."

He takes note of other artists who have taken a similar creative initiative. "Look at all of the Radiohead albums, all the art and all the stuff that goes along with it. That's amazing, and it's great artwork, and that makes me want to own it and purchase it and have it," says Sasso. "I love that I can bring music around on my iPod, but I really love to sit and listen to music on my bed, and look at the album, and kind of take it all in as a whole piece."

A boutique release of their album *Ambassador* will be available soon with a bonus DVD and artwork included. The package comes in a wooden box that represents the suitcase carried by Joseph Bowers, a main character in the song "The Bridge". The character and suitcase can also be seen in the animated video for the song, available on YouTube.

When unexpectedly asked if there's anything he'd like to say to his fans at Laurier, Sasso improvises a quick response: "Uhhhhh, hello?" he says with a laugh, initially. "Study more than I ever studied? Hopefully you're doing well, and hope to see you down the road sometime soon; if not at the show, then some other time we'll have a drink."

However, if you would like to see them at a show, you can catch the soulful, death-country folk of Elliot Brood at Starlight tomorrow, Thursday, November 15.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

I CAN'T TURN LEFT - Left to right - Mark Sasso, Stephen Pitkin and Casey Laforet make a Zoolander pose.

Laurier professor put to the test on national TV

Zichermann to appear on *Are you Smarter than a Canadian Fifth Grader?*

REBECCA VASLUIANU
STAFF WRITER

As someone who holds three degrees in communications and is currently working towards her doctorate in Sociology, it is obvious that Sandra Zichermann is smarter than a fifth grader.

Or is it? Set to appear on this week's episode of *Are you Smarter than a Fifth Grader?*, the 29-year-old Laurier professor will show the nation what she's got on the pop-culture quiz show.

Part of the department of sociology, Zichermann was one of the nine contestants chosen out of 5700 applicants to appear on the show. And ever since she received the call, she has been beaming with excitement.

Yet the reason why Zichermann wanted to be a participant on the

quiz show might come as a surprise. She applied not for the prize money, not for the fame on campus, but for purely academic reasons.

"Because I teach media and pop culture, I wanted to try stepping away from being a presenter and instead becoming the subject," states Zichermann.

Once on the show, Zichermann explains that she wasn't really nervous at all. Having studied extensive amounts of trivia, she was just excited to be there.

"It was actually an interesting experiment in socialization. The show was a spectacle, and I became a completely and utterly different person when I knew I was on TV," she admits.

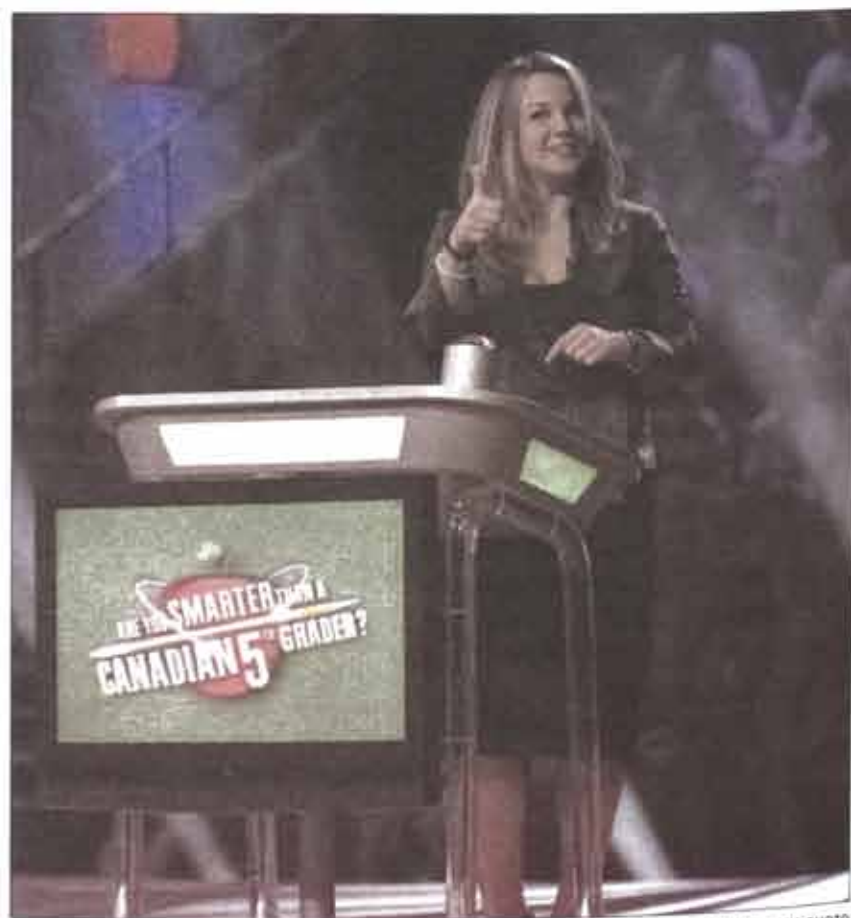
While Zichermann's time on the show was a valuable learning experience for her, she also says that it was a lot of fun, and she was grate-

ful to have two of her students and one of her colleagues in the audience cheering her on, holding up signs that said, "Don't Drop out of School, Sandra. We Believe in You."

Although she cannot make any comments on how she did, Zichermann acknowledges that many of the questions were extremely challenging and she had to think them all through carefully and strategically. To her students, Zichermann wants her experience to serve as a lesson.

"I want my students to see what I've done at a relatively young age, and realize that they too can reach their goals."

While we all have faith in our very own Laurier professor, make sure to tune in Thursday night at 9 on Global to find out how Zichermann sizes up against the little ones in competition.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PUT ON YOUR THINKING CAP- It's thumbs up for Zichermann on TV.