

THE CORD WEEKLY

The tie that binds since 1926



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HOLIDAY SURVIVAL

How to maintain your Christmas spirit next month ... **PAGES 19-21**

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NEWSPAPER

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Hawk rock round two

The second round of Last Band Standing results in the victory of uncreative Hedley imposters

REBECCA VASLUIANU
STAFF WRITER

Another battle between bands left the audience feeling unimpressed, energized and then just confused.

Taking place at Wilf's last Thursday, the second round of Last Band Standing proved to be an enjoyable night alternating between great ingenuity and a few lame attempts at it.

Competing for the title of Last Band Standing were Phineas Gage, Crown and Coke and Music Box.

Heading up the night, Kitchener natives Phineas Gage delivered an entirely subpar performance of depressing alternative rock, which left the audience thoroughly unimpressed.

Led by the loose and off-key vocals of Tim Matthias, the band delivered short spurts of promising brilliance and then fell back into a mess of mediocrity.

Shooting for a sombre sound

almost like Tool's, Phineas Gage's poor vocals and unkempt guitar-work made the group sound more like radio-rejects Three Days Grace.

Yet the low of Phineas Gage's sloppy performance came during their second song, when Matthias and bassist Aaron Schwab attempted a vocal harmony at which even the most tone-deaf listener would have cringed.

Despite this harsh critique, Phineas Gage showed buds of potential through their interesting intros and solos, which displayed a lot more instrumental depth than the rest of their material and were free from interference from Matthias's second-rate vocal stylings.

Evident by the empty floor, the audience was not energized by their lacking performance. Luckily, the band had an abnormally short set of three songs.

- SEE BATTLE, PAGE 29



Lady Hawks fight breast cancer

Women's basketball ... PAGE 13

Muslim social science discussion

Laurier hosts AMSS conference on "Cosmopolitan Islamic Identity and Thought" this past Saturday in the Senate and Board Chambers

MARA SILVESTRI
CORD NEWS

Dr. Shahnaz Khan, an associate professor at Laurier in the women's studies and global studies programs, and active member of the Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS), was a prominent coordinator in the conference held this past weekend at Laurier entitled "Cosmopolitan Islamic Identity and Thought," the third regional AMSS conference of its type to be held in Canada.

As an association that has been active for over 20 years, AMSS seeks to accomplish critical work occurring with Muslim issues, and this regional conference was

recommended by the association to bring these very issues to our community.

Dr. Khan feels she delivered a successful conference, as there were 8200 attendees, some making long distance treks from destinations such as England as well as various places across Canada.

Dr. Khan noted that this was an excellent opportunity for citizens, students, staff and all of the professionals who attended to set up networks, as there was such a wide variety of attendants.

"I think it went really well," said Khan. "It's an important conference, as I think it's a good venue to get diverse perspectives about what life for Muslims is like in

Canada."

Most importantly, Dr. Khan noted that "a lot of issues were raised that normally don't get raised," and that in itself fulfilled the goals she had in mind for this conference.

"That's what conference organizers hope - that there are going to be a lot of questions raised," she added, and there certainly were, as this conference was well received within the Laurier community.

Dr. Khan is hopeful about organizing another conference, which may arrive at some point in the next few years.

- SEE CONFERENCE, PAGE 5



GREG MCKENZIE

IN THE BOX - Laurier band The Music Box failed to win over the judges.

THE CORD WEEKLY

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phone: (519) 884-1970 ext. 3564

fax: (519) 883-0873

email: cord@wlusp.com

The Cord Weekly

75 University Avenue West

Waterloo, Ontario

N2L 3C5

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Apparently, a year of huffing is like the equivalent of 20 years of hard drinking."

Photo Manager Greg McKenzie, looking more than a little concerned.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Carmudgeon - a bad-tempered, difficult, cantankerous person, such as an absent Special Projects editor.

CONTRIBUTORS

Chris Bekasian	Dev Khera	Maria Swisher
Evea Cottle	Amelia Luchini	Ryan Stewart
Luke Deller	Stephanie McLeary	Riley Tester
Melissa Dranfield	Cassandra Mohr	Nick Taylor
Tony Elias	Sarah Mear	Shelley Thomson
Simon Fether	Evan Miles	Wade Thompson
Stanton Farnell	Andria Miles	Georgia Thurston
Matthew Frooming	Doc McGowan	Sarah Toole
Heather Gies	Yusuf Sagor	Rebecca Velez
Daniel Joseph	Russell	Nicole Wiles
	Shawngani	

WLUSP STAFF

Copy Editing Manager	Callin Henderson
Copy Editors	Anel Kroon
	Meredith Barrett
	Heather Claverson
	Emily Soofsta
	Kendra Howard
	Gina MacDonald
	Miriam Cunningham
IT Manager	Bryan Wiley
Distribution Manager	Nicole Lacouture
Production Assistant	Jillian Wood

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All advertising inquiries should be directed to VP: Advertising Angela Foster at 884-0710, ext. 3560 or angela@wlusp.com

COLOPHON

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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contract staff turn medieval

As Laurier part-timers continue negotiations with the university a unique new campaign is launched

MELISSA DRANFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Posters labelled "OUBLIETTE" have been posted around campus in the past few weeks, and today several part-time Contract Academic Staff (CAS) members will be in the Fred Nichol's Campus Centre's Hall of Fame in efforts to raise recognition for their "OUBLIETTE" campaign.

The campaign is geared towards making students and faculty aware of the ongoing negotiations between Contract Academic Staff (CAS) representatives and the university.

The term "OUBLIETTE" was chosen for effect; its origins are in the fourteenth century when prisoners would be placed in a medieval prison called an *oubliette* and simply left there to die, forgotten.

According to Dr. Herbert Pimlott, a professor in the communications studies department, Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA) Media Relations Officer, and CAS Liaison for the "OUBLIETTE" campaign, "the concern for the part-timers, the CAS members, is that they're not being given adequate support in terms of infrastructure and working conditions to be able to do the job to the best of their abilities."

"What happens is it becomes like the "oubliette," the medieval prison, where people are forgotten ... and [CAS members] feel that the university relies on them on one hand, but wants to forget that they're there, that they play such an important role in the university," Pimlott stated.

Pimlott feels that the issues facing part-time faculty should be a primary concern for full-time faculty and students, as well as CAS members.

For full-time faculty members, Pimlott argues, "the additional administrative service and advising requirements that are put onto full-time tenure-track faculty" are greater as there are fewer full-time faculty to fill such needs.

Pimlott warns that universities "are not investing in hiring the necessary full-time faculty, tenure-track faculty, and so what happens is universities are producing all these graduates but then not hiring them back to do the teaching, and when they do hire them, they know that there's this pool out there and they'll hire them and pay them Wal-Mart level wages ... to me, problematic is an understatement.

"What happens generally, not just at Laurier, is this focus on the bottom-line, and there's a complete loss of recognition that it's not just about money," Pimlott suggests.

"And it's time for the university to start investing in its part-time faculty who do such a substantial amount of the teaching here at Laurier.

"CAS members are always worried about whether they'll be re-



RYAN STEWART

PART-TIMERS GO FULL OUT - Signs to inform others of ongoing contract negotiations for part-time staff.

hired," states Pimlott.

"CAS members don't have that freedom [to speak out] because they worry about employment."

This became apparent when none of the part-time faculty approached by *The Cord* were willing to give their opinion for fear of the threat of not being re-hired.

"[CAS MEMBERS] FEEL THAT THE UNIVERSITY RELIES ON THEM ON ONE HAND, BUT WANTS TO FORGET THAT THEY'RE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE UNIVERSITY."

- Herbert Pimlott, WLUFA Media Relations Officer

The Canadian Association of University Teachers shares this concern: "Contract academic staff are very vulnerable. They can be dismissed at the end of their term without any administrator having to provide

a reason, without any due process and without any rights to appeal. This has a chilling effect on the expression of controversial ideas, adoption of unique teaching practices, or criticism of the university administration."

While Pimlott states that the "OUBLIETTE" campaign is simply "asking that students make themselves aware of the issues" for the time being, "if things carry on into the New Year, we will be reaching out to the students and calling on them and providing them with suggestions for ways that they will be able to support having the negotiations concluded successfully."

VOCAL CORD

What are you doing for the holidays?



"Flying home after exams for both the holidays and my birthday."

- Natalie Dias
Third-year Sociology/
Global Studies



"Four Christmases."

- Karl Lippert
Fourth-year Economics



"Going home to Toronto and chillin' with family."

- Amanda McMillan
Second-year Communications



"Nothing exciting, just going home to visit family."

- Nicholas Van Vugt
First-year Psychology



"Going home to listen to Christmas music, and eat home-cooked meals."

- Jessica Mies
Fourth-year Communications

Buy Nothing Day at Laurier

An event that originated in Vancouver in 1992 aims to promote sustainable and ethical lifestyle



DANIELLE CULBERT

NO CASH, NO COIN - Students were encouraged to curb their spending for the annual Buy Nothing Day.

DAN BELGUE
WEB EDITOR

Volunteers from Laurier Students Public Interest Research Group (LSPIRG) set up tables and booths in the Concourse last Friday to show their support for Buy Nothing Day.

The annual event, which originated in Vancouver in 1992 and now has participation in over 65 countries around the world, asks participants to abstain from making any purchases for 24 hours

with the goal of raising awareness about our day-to-day levels of consumption.

Although there is no real coordination for Buy Nothing Day, it is backed and promoted by Canadian anti-consumerist magazine *Adbusters*, and in North America the event is typically held on the Friday after American Thanksgiving.

The event is often criticized for being more symbolic rather than promoting actual change, but as LSPIRG volunteer Randell Duguid explained, Buy Nothing Day is

more about the overall message.

"Our ultimate goal is for people to stop and reflect on their consumption. We can't realistically say everyone is going to stop buying...we're trying to promote a whole attitude, a whole lifestyle, a whole way of thinking, an alternative mindset," said Duguid.

The alternative mindset that Buy Nothing Day is striving to promote is ultimately a more sustainable and ethical lifestyle for everyone.

Duguid explained there are a variety of small things everyone

can do including buying local and organic produce, supporting fair-trade goods, shopping at small, local businesses instead of large companies, but most importantly, examining the amount we consume on a daily basis.

LSPIRG president Jacob Pries thinks the critics that say Buy Nothing Day simply promotes consumption the rest of the year don't fully understand the ultimate goal of the day.

"This is a year-long event, really, this is just the one day where it comes together to spread the message around," he said.

The festivities at Laurier offered students several opportunities to refrain from making any purchases on campus for the day. Volunteers in the Concourse worked from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm serving several dishes of free food they had cooked, as well offering free fair trade coffee and tea, live music and a trade or exchange table, where they encouraged students and staff to donate, take, or trade used clothing and books.

The high-traffic concourse location ensured that there were several students taking advantage of the free offerings and learning about the cause throughout the day.

"I think it's really about raising awareness," said third-year sociology and women's studies major Sara Conrad. "It's about understanding our choices."

OneCard office under audit

Findings will be made public "within days"

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

Laurier's OneCard office is currently in the midst of an extensive two-and-a-half week audit being conducted by external auditors from KPMG.

"The university has an obligation with regards to programs of a business nature to conduct audits. So this is a very extensive audit that is taking place because of the extensive nature of the operation," explained Dean of Students David McMurray.

While McMurray stressed that such audits are standard and occur about every seven years, Mike Belanger, director of residential services, did note that there were some factors that resulted in the review of the OneCard operations.

"[There were] certain actions in the OneCard office that were unusual and as a result, the university is doing an ongoing investigation," said Belanger, to whom the OneCard office reports directly.

Since the audit began nearly

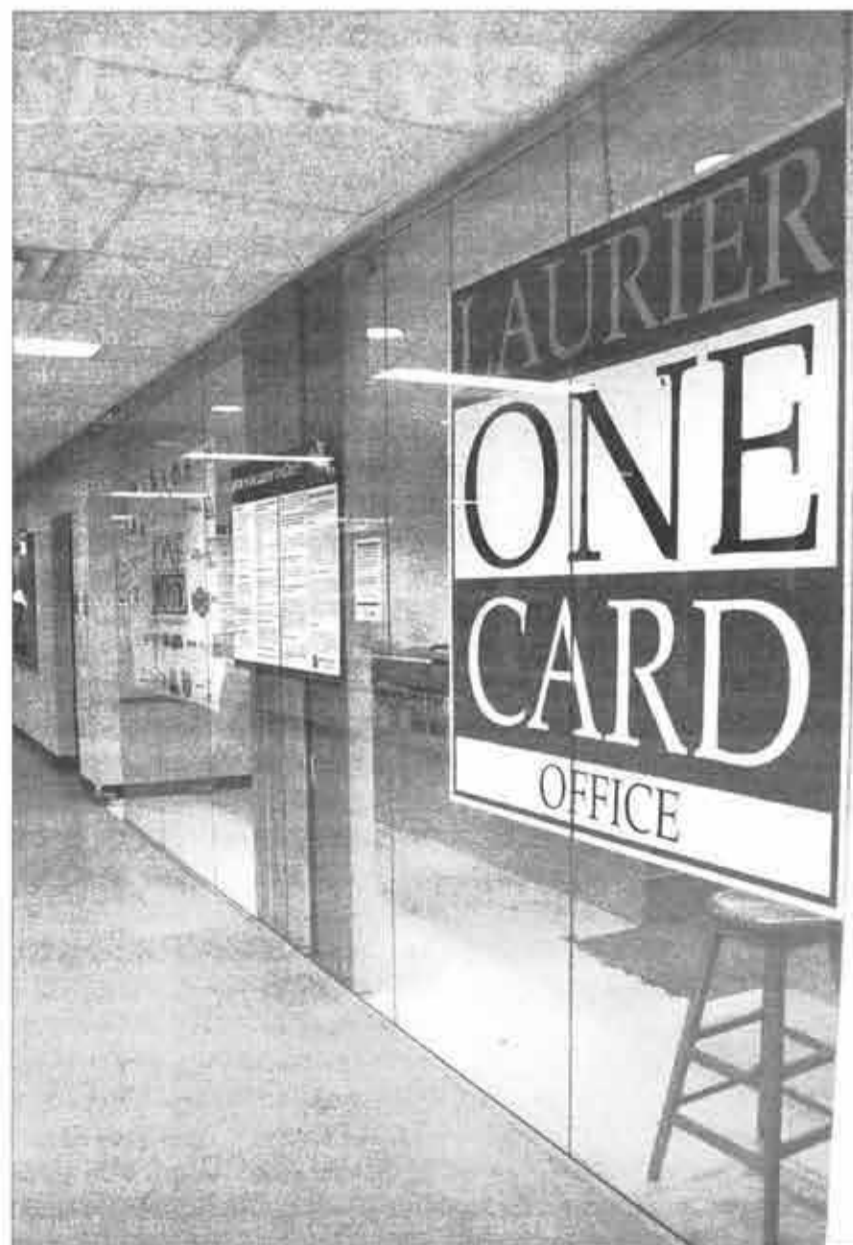
two weeks ago, the OneCard office has seen some changes, such as the fact that employees are now required to log into the computer system during shifts.

Most noticeably, the manager of the OneCard office - Nick Tomljenovic, who has been the manager since the business opened at Laurier in January 2000 - has not been able to continue working during the audit.

"Part of the protocol of that audit is to separate the most senior person. So the manager, Nick Tomljenovic, is on paid leave of absence while the audit is taking place, and that's standard protocol," said McMurray.

"You want to make sure that you're operating [in the best way] so that's what we're doing," added McMurray.

The university has been receiving very little feedback from KPMG throughout the process, and though they are unsure of exactly when it will be complete, Jim Butler, VP: Finance, hopes that the audit will be over "as soon as



SYDNEY HELLAND

UNDER REVIEW - Auditors have been working for over two weeks.

possible."

A meeting is expected to take place between representatives from Student Services, Human Resources, the finance department

and the OneCard office later this week or early next week.

"Within days, it will be done and then we'll all find out," said McMurray.

Molson's Facebook contest draws fire

SARAH MILLAR
CUP ONTARIO BUREAU CHIEF

TORONTO (CUP) - A contest on the popular social networking site Facebook was forced to close early under harsh criticism from university students and administrators.

The contest held by Molson Canada invited students from colleges and universities across the country to post pictures of themselves partying on campus.

The school that posted the most pictures would win the title of the number-one party school in Canada before judges picked the best picture from that school to win a spring break trip.

The contest did not run as planned.

Students and university administrators spoke out against the contest and Molson pulled the contest after only half of its original three-week run.

"I'm disgusted," said Jason Laker, associate vice-principal and dean of student affairs at Queen's University, in an interview with *The*

Globe and Mail.

"It is such an apparent and dangerous disregard for the way it promotes an abusive use of alcohol. In order for the photos to be eligible, to be notable, would require outrageous behaviour or profoundly dangerous levels of drinking, and of course the kind of decision making and behaviour that follow that. [Molson] are either unaware of it or simply placing profits above ethics," Laker said.

Molson Canada, however, argued that it was simply an effort to engage their target market with socially-oriented advertising.

"Our take is that this whole social media realm is new. There's going to be some experimentation, there's going to be some learning," said Cynthea Galbraith, a spokesperson for Molson Canada.

"I don't know if surprised is the word, but we learn from these things. Our intention is to become a leader in that area and we'll go back and develop some new innovations in communications for next time," said Galbraith. "Social interaction is key with that

[demographic]; it seems to be all the rage right now."

David Myers, a fourth-year student at Queen's University, disagreed with both the approach to marketing and the incentives for people to take part.

"I think it's stupid and childish to come up with immature reasons to drink for the sake of getting drunk," he said. "If you want to relax and have a few drinks, fine. But the goal shouldn't be to get completely trashed so that you do something stupid for the sake of a photo op."

Jason Poole, a second-year student at Brock University, said he heard about the contest through a Facebook advertisement.

"I thought it was kind of silly to have the opinion of a beer company determine where I could be having the most fun. And also [I didn't want to be] influenced by the results, which may consider my own school to be bottom of the barrel. University is what you make of it. I don't need to have thousands of drunk people to have fun," he said.

Myers also expressed concern with schools being labelled a "party school."

"I get annoyed when people equate Queen's with being a party school because of [the 2005 homecoming] and I'm sick and tired of people coming to Queen's because that's their perception of the place," Myers said.

Molson explained that the contest was misrepresented and misunderstood, and for that reason, they decided to end the contest early.

"We were just concerned the intent of this contest was being misrepresented. We really want to promote responsible choices and we are pretty proactive with our universities in promoting that kind of thing. We have a website - that's sort of our main thrust - and we just feel this kind of got mis-shuffled around a bit," Galbraith said.

She said while she did not have final photo tallies yet, universities on the east coast were in the lead to win. A winner is expected to be announced by the end of next week.

NEWSIN BRIEF

LGBTQ grad student group formed

Grad students from all graduate programs at WLU that are queer identified or straight allies now have a group with which they can gather. Spearheaded by students at Laurier's School of Social Work, the LGBTQ group is set to be a place where students can meet others, talk, vent and discuss relevant issues.

Group membership is to be confidential and will have a non-hierarchical structure to promote comfort and equality among the members, with the goal being to provide graduate students with a safe space where they can seek support, as well as participate in social events.

The meetings are going to be held once a month and the location will vary depending on the membership of the group.

Laurier researcher wins Polanyi Prize

Dr. Quincy Almeida, Director of Laurier's Movement Disorders Research and Rehabilitation Centre (MDRC) has been recognized for his groundbreaking research in physiology and medicine with the Polanyi Prize.

One of five researchers who were awarded \$20,000 in Toronto yesterday, Almeida's research focuses on neurodegenerative disorders seeking to further understand the mechanisms underlying movement control.

The MDRC, the only centre of its kind in Canada, allows Almeida to work closely with patients suffering from Parkinson's disease in hopes of improving their coordination so they can remain active and independent in their lives.

The Polanyi Prize, developed by the Ontario provincial government, is intended to recognize

researchers early in their careers. Almeida is the second professor at Laurier to win the prize since its creation in 1987.

Car returned to Laurier alumnus

Lenna Titizian, a recent Laurier graduate - who had her car seized last month as part of a criminal investigation when she was in Washington, DC with three other Laurier students - had her car and its contents returned to her last Tuesday.

When her car was towed from a church parking lot, where Titizian and others were gathered for a "No Wars, No Warming" activist conference, she was not presented with any search warrant or reason for the seizure.

"They've obviously realized they screwed up," said Titizian, adding that she is quite happy that she was not required to go through a formal legal process to have her belongings returned.

Police officer acquitted in charges involving Laurier prof

A Toronto police officer was acquitted from charges of assault, perjury and obstruction last Thursday, in connection with a four-year-old incident involving a Laurier professor.

The charges stemmed from later-dropped charges against Alex Levant, now a part-time professor in Laurier's Communications Studies Department, at a protest back in 2003.

After a protest organized by the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty on November 8, 2003, Constable Amar Katoch charged Levant with assault and attempting to obstruct a female officer who was attempting to arrest another protester.

At trial, Levant testified that he was shoved by the officer for no reason and that he touched Katoch to get his attention.

As a result, Katoch punched Levant and tackled him to the ground. At least two other officers helped keep him on the ground while he was placed in handcuffs.

On the second day of Levant's September 2004 trial, the defense surprised the court by producing a video of the incident recorded by a Ryerson student.

The video showed Levant standing peacefully before being pushed and punched by the policeman.

As a result, charges against Levant were dropped and charges were pressed against Katoch. He was also accused of lying on the stand and doctoring his notes.

Following the acquittal, the Crown has 30 days in which to decide whether or not to appeal the decision.

Translation of prof's book given award

The Canada Council for the Arts announced the winners of the Governor General's Literary Awards yesterday, with *Dernières notes*, a French version of *Last Notes and Other Stories* by Laurier professor Tamas Dobozy, winning the translation award.

Dobozy, an associate English professor at Laurier, had his collection of short fiction transposed by Lori Saint-Martin and Paul Gagné. They will be given the award by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean at Rideau Hall on December 13.

Director of Laurier Press Brian Henderson, who was nominated in the poetry category for his book *Nerve Language*, lost to Don Domanski's work entitled *For All Our Wonder Unavenged*.

- Compiled by Cassandra McKenna, Evan Millar, Laura Carlson and Jeremy Tremblay

King St. locks replaced

After a master key for the residence building was stolen over a week ago, there are still no suspects

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

A week after a set of keys, including the master key, was stolen from a don's room in King St. residence, all doors have had their locks replaced, according to Director of Residential Services Mike Belanger.

While Belanger said that he "hasn't seen the bill yet," due to the fact that 350 keys to the lounge areas still need to be replaced, the 350 room locks that were fixed came to an approximate cost of \$4.50 apiece.

Though the work was completed on Saturday, Belanger commented that they have "doubled up on patrols" while at the same time "simply having staff being particularly watchful."

Belanger explained that an added initiative, presented by the dons, will see steel safes installed in each don's room and bolted in a cupboard. The project should be done

"before Christmas time," according to the director.

"This is being done to remove that vulnerability," explained Belanger.

And even though no suspect has been apprehended, a "covert" investigation is still being done based on ongoing conversations between students and their dons.

"There's still a strong suspicion that [the suspect] is someone within the building," said Belanger.

With that possibility, Belanger explained that "first and foremost, someone that would have unauthorized use of the keys would be expelled [from the residence]."

Following that, repercussions would include seeking to lay criminal charges on the individual, which would be conducted through Laurier Campus Security.

Lastly, explained the director, expulsion from Laurier would be recommended to Laurier administration.



FILE PHOTO - JOE TURCOTTE

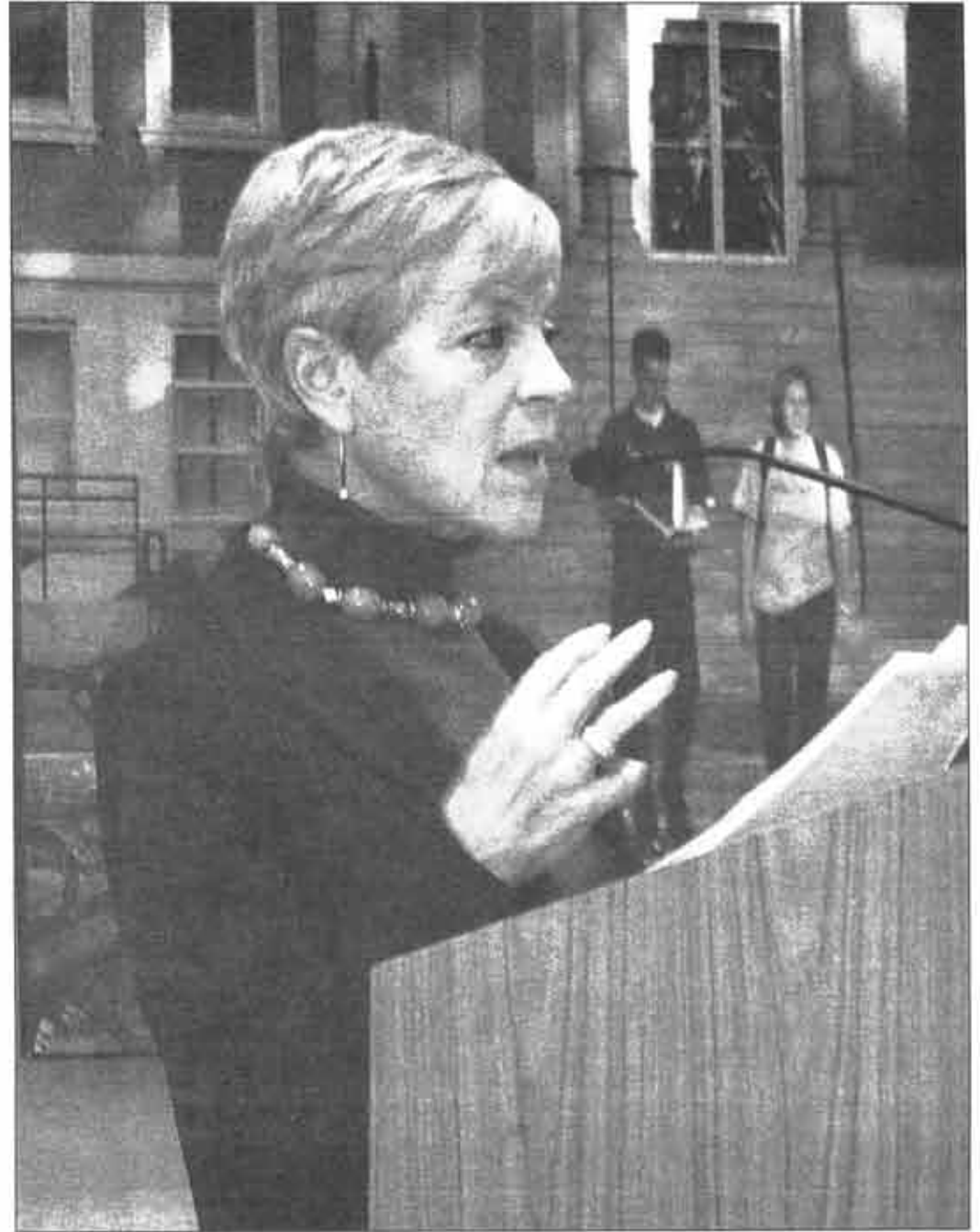
STUDENT SAFETY - Residence Life paid to have all the locks changed.

Conference on Islamic identity



RYAN STEWART

THE VEILED TRUTH - Dr. Regina Lewis dispels Western stereotypes on the the veil.



RYAN STEWART

COSMO GIRL - Dr. miriam cooke challenges labels applied to 'Muslimwomen'.

Society's misconceptions regarding veiled women discussed

REBECCA VASLUIANU
STAFF WRITER

Bringing the Third Canadian Regional Conference of the Association of Muslim Social Scientists of North America to an intriguing start, Regina Lewis, in her opening keynote speech on Saturday, captivated the audience with her take on the role of the veil for Muslim women and society.

Lewis, a renowned academic writer and professor of fashion studies at the London College of Fashion, began the conference with a fascinating address called "Consumption and Cosmopolitanism: The Veil, The Body, The Law."

Throughout her presentation, Lewis illustrated the paradox of society's representation of the veil. While people in Western nations dabble in the cultures of others through food and films to be hip, Lewis explained that the veiled woman is seen as a backwards representation of an oppressive and patriarchal system.

Lewis explained that many conceptions of the veil seem to be similar to that of British Labour Party Politician Jack Straw, who claimed that women entering his chamber in "niqabs" — the traditional covering that is worn over the face — should be forced to remove them because it obstructs communication.

"Yet that makes me wonder how David Blunkett of the Labour Party, a blind politician, would be fair," Lewis pointed out, adding, "Would his communication with others be obstructed?"

Through interesting examples and humour, Lewis made numerous points regarding the discrimination Muslim women face because of their veils.

She explained that this is because the veil is a "signifier of conflict" and an "object of attention." While women in "hijabs"

immediately strike observers as objects of pity that must be rescued from oppression, it is often quite the contrary, Lewis explained.

"For many women, piety is self-expression," she suggested.

"Veiling is an act of conscious choice and not of subordination."

Thus, what Lewis suggested society should do is reposition the veil as an article of clothing. To illustrate this, she brought up the image of shop girls in London working at hip stores like Zara and Mango while wearing their hijabs with pride.

"The hijab is not inimical to fashion," Lewis explained. "It can be an individualizing form of self-expression."

She made it clear that what people seem to ignore is that throughout history, while Western nations were progressing, so were Eastern nations where the women wear veils. Just because there has been a normalization of non-veiling in the West, stated Lewis, it does not mean that the countries in which people still wear them are backwards or anti-modern.

"The veil seems to be a source of tension in modernity," she stated. "Yet veils were used by many different cultures throughout history for gender segregation, as a social contract."

On the whole, Lewis urged the audience to reconsider their traditional conceptions of veils. Instead of imagining them as "an evil, scary symbol of Islam or patriarchal oppression," we should realize that it's not just about what is on their heads.

"Women are being tied to the veil and defined as veil-wearers," Lewis explained. What needs to change about this, she stated, is that women need to be seen as wearing the veil as a normal article of clothing and not as something that defines and controls them.

Transnationalism and cosmopolitanism in the Muslim world

SHANNON FARRELL
CORD NEWS

Transnationalism and cosmopolitanism in Muslim women was the main focus of Dr. miriam cooke (who purposely rejects the use of capitals in her name), the second keynote speaker at the third Canadian Regional Conference on Cosmopolitan Identity and Thought.

Presented by the Association of Muslim Social Scientists of North America (AMSS), cooke's speech was presented during the conference's luncheon in the Senate and Board Chambers at WLU on Saturday at 12:30.

As a professor of modern Arabic literature and culture at Duke University, cooke has travelled and researched extensively in countries such as Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Morocco.

She has also written numerous books contributing to the field of religious and women's studies, such as *War's Other Voices: Women Writers on the Lebanese Civil War* and *Opening the Gates: A Century of Arab Feminist Writing*.

Her lecture, entitled "Muslim Woman Cosmopolitanism," strongly emphasized the term "Muslimwoman" as one word.

"When these two words are used together, they describe a singular identification," she argued, adding, "The Muslimwoman is both a noun and an adjective that refers to an identification that they have not chosen for themselves."

"The Muslimwoman is not a description of a reality. It is a description of a label that reduces all diversity into a single image," she continued.

cooke further argued that "Muslim women are looking for ways to affirm themselves, to connect with each other and to create transnational solidarity and

promote cosmopolitan citizenship for all."

"In order to do so, many Muslim women are embracing and performing a single religious and gender identity, Muslimwoman," she said.

According to cooke, though, Muslim women are looking to create a change in the current stereotype of the Muslimwoman. Some are even extending the identification of the Muslimwoman in order to change it.

"Muslim women are now articulating new ways of making strong religious and gendered persons in a context of denationalization with boundaries that are being reconfigured to create new space of exception," she explained.

Muslim women are joining together and using their individual talents to change the understanding of what it is to be a Muslimwoman.

"Since 9/11, Muslimwomen actors, writers, artists, playwrights, producers directors and journalists around the world have risen to prominence with glossy magazines for Muslim women, a recent trend," said cooke.

Together, Muslim women are "constructing a cosmopolitan identity with local roots that unites them with a shared culture, demonstrating to the world how Muslim women cosmopolitans can live in many different communities while maintaining their roots and rights in each."

In the conclusion of her speech, cooke argued that a change in the identification of the Muslimwoman can be evoked if Muslim women continue to work together.

"If the actions of one can affect the actions of another, then we have the obligation to regulate our actions under a common law of freedom which respects our equality."

BAG O' CRIME

CRIME O' THE WEEK
Theft

Reported: Nov. 20 @ 19:00 hrs

A student called to report that she had a laptop computer stolen from her car. She is uncertain if she locked the car before going to class.

THEFT UNDER

Reported: Nov. 20 @ 05:00 hrs

Officers responded to the eighth floor of King St residence to investigate a report of eight door handles being removed from doors on that floor. No suspects.

INJURED/SICK PERSON

Reported: Nov. 20 @ 20:36 hrs

Officers were called to Alumni field to assist with a student who was injured playing soccer. He was taken to hospital via ambulance.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Reported: Nov. 20 @ 20:37 hrs

An officer on Foot Patrol noticed that someone had smashed a window in Mac House residence. There are no suspects, and PP&P was contacted to repair the damage.

THEFT

Reported: Nov. 20 @ 22:08 hrs

Officers were called to Clara Con-

rad residence to speak with a student who reported an i-Pod and \$80.00 cash stolen. Investigation continues.

BY-LAW COMPLAINT

Reported: Nov. 23 @ 00:30 hrs

A non-student was found intoxicated and urinating on Bricker residence. He was removed from the property.

BY-LAW COMPLAINT

Reported: Nov. 24 @ 00:40 hrs

An intoxicated student was found urinating on Willison residence. He will be reporting to the JAC.

ALARM

Reported: Nov. 24 @ 09:50 hrs

Officers responded to a report of an alarm in the FNCC. A room in the marketing department was checked and found to be secure.

LIQUOR OFFENCE

Reported: Nov. 24 @ 20:16 hrs

A female student will be appearing before the JAC after she was found walking down Mid-Campus Drive with an open bottle of beer.

LIQUOR OFFENCE

Reported: Nov. 24 @ 23:51 hrs

Two female students were found drinking alcohol outside their residence at Laurier Place. The matter is being taken care of by Residence Life.

INTOXICATED PERSON

Reported: Nov. 25 @ 01:30 hrs

The pub duty officer had to assist student security at the Turret when they attempted to evict an intoxicated male student. He will be appearing before the JAC.

DRIVING COMPLAINT

Reported: Nov. 25 @ 03:28 hrs

A non-student was stopped near Lot 21 after being observed speeding down Mid-Campus drive, spinning his tires going around a turn and almost losing control of his vehicle. He was removed from the property.

DRUGS

Reported: Nov. 25 @ 24:00 hrs

A non-student was removed from the property after being found with a small amount of marijuana. Drugs turned over to WRPS.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Reported: Nov. 25 @ 20:38 hrs

Vollunteers on Foot Patrol noticed that unknown person had broken a window in a door in Arts "A" wing.

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.

Partial access to student fees

The issue to be fully resolved in the New Year

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

While they may not have been made aware of it, both chairs of the Science and Technology Endowment Fund (STEP) and the Arts Students' Advancement Program (ASAP) finally have some money at their disposal.

According to Vice President: Finance and Administration at Laurier Jim Butler, one member of the evaluation committee looking at the collection of ancillary fees by campus groups, the School of Business and Economics (SBE) student levy is the third party that has had their fees partially unfrozen.

Meeting with the Students' Union Board of Directors last week, Butler provided a verbal update on the findings but explained that "we're going to continue to work in our working group and unfreeze, on a limited basis, the funds so that things can still happen [with campus clubs spending]."

Bryan Richardson, the chair of ASAP, had actually not been made aware of the situation until yesterday. Upon being reached by *The Cord*, Richardson explained that

meetings were being planned with Butler later that day.

While unaware of the details, Richardson did confirm that a referendum on the ASAP fee will be conducted in the second week of January.

Dr. Rick Elliott, chair of STEP, was equally unaware of his group having some funds made available.

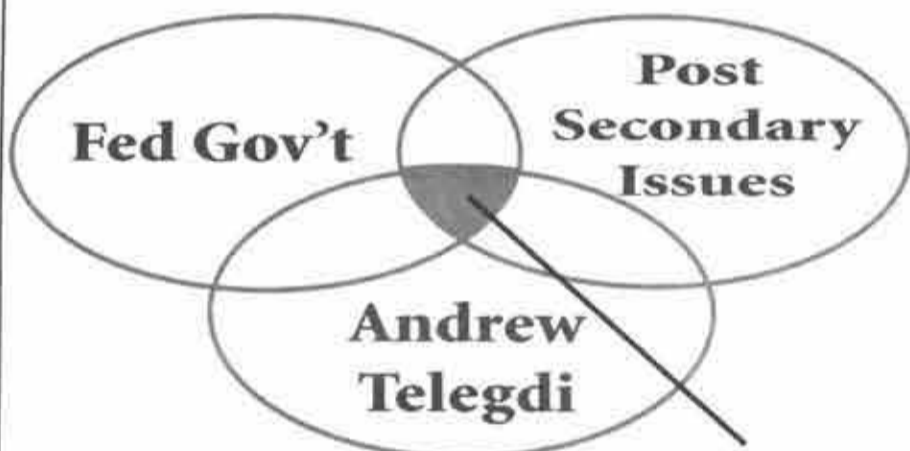
"I haven't received [any notice]," he said.

When questioned as to how long it may take to see the completion of the overview, Butler could not provide a hard deadline, explaining that arranging meeting times is the biggest logistical issue.

"My own personal view is that we have to get this wrapped up as soon as possible, but you can't hurry the baking of a cake. It's got to be right," he explained, adding that there still remains some "homework" to be done even after meeting with the rest of the working group.

With Students' Union representatives still unable to comment on the situation - having been declared an "in camera" topic by the Board - there is little hope that the issue will be fully resolved before the holidays.

Student Advocacy



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CANADA
INBRIEF

Immunization in Alberta after mumps outbreak in the West

Edmonton, AB

An outbreak of mumps has caused Capital Health, the public authority for Edmonton, to offer immediate immunization for university and college students. They hope to prevent outbreaks similar to the ones which have occurred in Calgary and Lethbridge from spreading to the city.

The immunizations will be offered on-campus for free until December 6, and then again in the New Year. Capital Health aims to reach 155,000 young adults in the city as reported on *Macleans.ca*.

The mumps outbreak in the western province comes after nearly 600 cases were reported in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, most of which were post-secondary students.

CFS blocks McGill membership and rejects Israel boycott

Ottawa, ON

OTTAWA (CUP) - The Canadian Federation of Students has blocked the membership of the Students' Society of McGill University and rejected the idea of boycotting Israel at the November 21-24 CFS annual general meeting.

At the opening plenary session, members declined to extend the prospective membership of the Student Society of McGill University (SSMU) for another year, denying the society a voice in future affairs of the CFS.

With SSMU gone, there are only four student groups left in the Quebec wing of the CFS.

Also, a controversial motion from the Ryerson University students' union that declared Israel an apartheid state and called on the CFS to "investigate the feasibility" of a boycott campaign against the Middle Eastern country was removed from the agenda entirely.

Protestors mark second week of tuition protests in Montreal

Montreal, QC

MONTREAL (CUP) - A dozen police vans crawled through the slush and snow, following 1500 students as they marched from Montreal's Berri Square to McGill University on November 22.

The demonstrations mark two weeks of mobilization against rising tuition fees in the province.

Early that morning, university students from across the province boarded buses bound for Montreal, even in the face of daunting

weather conditions.

Quebec Federation of University Students (FEUQ) is a moderate student action group that has made re-establishing the Quebec tuition freeze its primary goal. Its membership is represented by 16 student associations, comprising nearly 120,000 students.

The protest ended without incident, notable as it following the arrest of approximately 100 students on November 13 at the CÉGEP du Vieux Montreal, where protesters and riot police clashed.

But according to the results of a new pan-Canadian survey conducted by the Harris-Decima firm, the Canadian public is on side with the students.

Up to 66 percent of Quebecers are in favor of a tuition freeze or lowering of tuition fees and, of those, 25 percent believe that the government should lower tuition fees, while 41 per cent believe that the freeze should be reinstated.


- Compiled by Evan Millar, Nick Taylor-Vaisey, Toby Elliott and Matthew Fiorentino

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CIGI event hosts experts on Africa

Sierra Leone and Africa were part of a series of workshops and a keynote address, respectively, focused on Canada's foreign policies aimed at making positive economic, social and organizational implementations in the slowly recovering region

MARA SILVESTRI
CORD INTERNATIONAL

The Centre for International Governance Innovation played host to Chris Roberts last Friday. He was the center of attention as the keynote speaker at a conference entitled "At the Tipping Point: Canada's Pivotal Role in Africa".

Roberts is the co-founder of the Canadian Council on Africa and associate at the University of Calgary's Centre for Military & Strategic Studies.

The conference was jointly coordinated with Laurier's Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies (LCMSDS), headed by Terry Copp, who was also in attendance.

The conference focused on two "tipping points" that Roberts raised: Africa as a focus and the direction that Canadian foreign policy is heading.

"Even the most fragile states are going in the right direction in Africa, and without proper assistance it could be derailed," said Roberts, promoting the idea that Africa has experienced many positive signs in the past 10 years, but stressing that the countries are weak and need support.

"Canada should be taking a more comprehensive approach to Africa," stated Roberts, explaining his reasoning that this nation should prepare, coordinate and engage ef-

fectively at critical junctions as an assertive middle power.

Roberts has one main objective for the work that he does: to create conditions to stimulate debate on and development of a "Canadian African policy." Roberts made it clear that, in his opinion, Canada should have an "African Policy" because effective Canadian engagement in Africa is pivotal.

"INTERNATIONALLY, I THINK THE WORLD RECOGNIZES OUR CAPABILITIES, BUT [OUR COUNTRY'S] LEADERSHIP IS NOT MATCHING UP TO OUR CAPABILITIES."

- Chris Roberts, keynote speaker and Canadian policy expert

Upon travelling to African countries such as Botswana, Nigeria and Zimbabwe, Roberts found that Canada's reputation is not well known. He referenced the BlackBerry to illustrate his point, noting that while he was in Nigeria only three out of 200 Nigerians knew it was a Canadian product.

"Internationally, I think the world recognizes our capabilities, but leadership is not matching up to our capabilities," he continued, stating that the way in which the

federal government portrays Africa is a contributor to this – the Harper government has referred to Africa as "Europe's backyard."

In a room filled with UN ambassadors, IMATT officers, military experts, National Security Coordinators and academic representatives who have directly made an influence in Africa, this notion was well supported.

Roberts spoke of the dangers in Africa, assuring us that 90 percent of the continent is safe and "the biggest danger in Africa is driving."

When referring to the immense growth of the African economy, he enlightened the audience by telling them that "Canada

gets more oil from Africa than Iraq or Saudi Arabia. In fact, the value of Canada's imports from Africa has doubled since 2003."

He furthered this idea by saying Rwanda is an example of a country making a great recovery after its tumultuous past. "The economy is going in the right direction," he added.

The strongest point Roberts made was indeed food for thought: "There is no lost cause in Africa. Everything is solvable."



AFRICA ON MY MIND - Chris Roberts making a keynote speech about Canada's obligation to develop a more proactive policy in Africa.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Australia's PM-elect to say sorry to Aborigines

CANBERRA - Australia's Prime Minister-elect Kevin Rudd is set to repair race relations with Aborigines by saying "sorry" for past injustices, ending more than a decade of bitter division over racial reconciliation.

Outgoing conservative Prime Minister John Howard, swept from power in weekend elections after 11 years, refused to apologize to indigenous children taken from their homes and fostered by white families in what became known as the Stolen Generation.

But Rudd, 50, has promised to apologize to Aborigines early in the new parliament, with Labour party sources tipping it may come on the first day of sittings, expected in February.

"The content of it (the apology) will be real, meaningful, substantive ... it is really important to get it right," Rudd said on Tuesday, promising to consult with Aboriginal leaders.

Until 1967 Aborigines were governed under flora and fauna laws. A referendum in that year saw Australians vote to include

Aborigines in the national census and be granted citizenship.

- Info from Reuters.com

Surfer stuns physicists with theory

LAS VEGAS - An impoverished surfer has drawn up a new theory of the universe, seen by some as the Holy Grail of physics, which has received rave reviews from scientists.

Garrett Lisi, 39, has a doctorate but no university affiliation and spends most of the year surfing in Hawaii, where he has also been a hiking guide and bridge builder.

Despite this unusual career path, his proposal is remarkable because, by the arcane standards of particle physics, it does not require highly complex mathematics.

Even better, it does not require more than one dimension of time and three of space, when some rival theories need ten or even more spatial dimensions and other bizarre concepts.

Lee Smolin at the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada describes Lisi's work as "fabulous."

"It is one of the most compelling unification models I've seen in many, many years," he says.

The crucial test of Lisi's work will come only when he has made testable predictions. Lisi is now calculating the masses that the 20 new particles should have, in the hope that they may be spotted when the Large Hadron Collider starts up.

"The theory is very young, and still in development," he told *The Telegraph*. "Right now, I'd assign a low (but not tiny) likelihood to this prediction."

- Info from Telegraph.co.uk

EU trade official criticises China

BEIJING - China has been told by Peter Mandelson, the EU trade commissioner, that it must do more to prevent safety scandals and counterfeiting.

At an EU-China seminar in Beijing on Monday, Mandelson expressed Europe's concern over China's poor track record on safeguarding intellectual property rights and recent product recalls over safety standards.

Mandelson said: "I urge the Chinese government to ensure a

proper balance is restored. Europe has so far held back from testing China's practice on intellectual property protection in the WTO - preferring to prioritise dialogue and co-operation instead."

Mandelson went on to say that "China will never properly tackle the issue of product safety, without addressing the tidal wave of counterfeit goods."

Wu Yi, the Chinese vice premier, said: "I am very disappointed with Peter Mandelson's speech."

Chinese manufacturing has been under severe pressure recently after recalls of toys, toothpaste and fish.

Wu is responsible for product safety and said earlier that the government had stepped up its attempts to guarantee product quality and food safety, in a nationwide campaign.

Wu said that 99 percent of China's exported goods are safe, and asked for co-operation.

"I sincerely hope that developed nations can offer more to developing countries to enhance their standardisation level, improve their food production technology and raise food safety," Wu said.

- Info from Aljazeera.net

Unrest in French city

PARIS - A fire broke out at a library in Toulouse, southern France, and at least ten cars were burnt, following consecutive nights of rioting in Paris.

More violence occurred in the capital as youths set cars alight in the suburb of Villiers-le-Bel, the Associated Press news agency reports.

Violence broke out on Sunday after two teenagers died when their motorbike collided with a police car.

Police reinforcements had been deployed in the suburb to counter further riots. More than 80 police officers were injured, four of them seriously, in the second night of clashes in Villiers-le-Bel on Monday.

French Prime Minister Francois Fillon, who visited the scene on Tuesday, called the rioters "criminals" and said nothing could justify the attacks.

"Those who shoot at policemen, those who beat a police officer almost to death are criminals and must be treated as such," Fillon told parliament, according to AFP news agency.

- Info from BBC.co.uk

Fair trade pros come to Waterloo

The Centre for International Governance Innovation invited a series of fair trade speakers in conjunction with the local chapter of Engineers Without Borders, who spoke about the pros and cons of fair trade certification and challenges FTOs face

STEPHANIE MCENERY
CORD INTERNATIONAL

On November 21, the Waterloo Professional Chapter of Engineers Without Borders hosted a presentation on the pros and cons of fair trade certification.

This presentation featured two experienced speakers: Ian Hussey, the founder of the Canadian Student Fair Trade Network, and Paul Wellhauser, the founder of Nharol, an organization that distributes handicrafts from African tribes to local markets.

Both of the speakers provided



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HOW HAVE YOU BEAN? - Fair trade coffee, a better alternative.

information on the various aspects of fair trade certification. Hussey outlined its process and the impact fair trade has on the producers as well as the consumers. He explained that there are stringent global standards that must be met in order for a product to hold the fair trade label.

The Fair Trade Labelling Organizations International (FLO) ensure that producers and exporters practise fair trade, while TransFair Canada, which is one of 21 members of FLO, is responsible for labelling the goods that are brought into Canada. TransFair Canada audits Canadian fair trade businesses to ensure they have paid a fair price and have supported fair trade standards.

Fair trade is still a relatively new concept, but fair trading practices are increasing around the world. In 1995, TransFair Canada had one member; they are now working with more than 200 businesses whose products have obtained fair trade certification.

Despite all of the work that goes into fair trade certifications, there are still some problematic instances surrounding them. Fair trade

cotton is one such issue.

Hussey explained that while the cotton itself may be harvested using fair trade practices, the garments that the cotton goes into might not be produced under fair trade terms. These products still bear the fair trade symbol, which can be misleading. Regarding this issue Hussey said, "Fair trade is not perfect, but it's a lot better than the alternative."

FAIR TRADE COFFEE IS THE MOST COMMONLY RECOGNIZED FAIR TRADE PRODUCT; IT IS LESS KNOWN THAT TEA, SUGAR, COCOA, BANANAS, RICE, SPORTS BALLS, COTTON, WINE AND MANY MORE ITEMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE.

Fair trade coffee is the most commonly recognized fair trade product; it is less widely known that tea, sugar, cocoa, bananas, rice, sports balls, cotton, wine and many more items are also available.

Hussey estimated that 20-25 percent of Canadians are aware

and educated about fair trade and a similar number purchase fair trade items. This indicates that by increasing awareness of fair trade, the production and consumption of fair trade products will also increase.

Fair trade coffee is now being served at Parliament Hill, Shell gas stations and on VIA rail trains. As well, the city of Vancouver has adopted a fair trade ethical purchasing policy.

Hussey's organization has helped universities such as McMaster and Trent adopt fair trade ethical purchasing policies. Laurier does not have any such policy; however, the C-spot is now selling fair trade coffee.

The second speaker, Paul Wellhauser, works on a more individual basis with African artisans who create crafts, such as jewellery, out of ostrich egg shells and other available materials. His organization pays the artisans a fair price for their products, and then brings

these items back to Canada to be sold.

Nharol is a small organization that Wellhauser funds himself. For this and other reasons, it is not fair trade certified. In order to gain such certification, Wellhauser would have to ensure that 100 percent of the products Nharol sells are fairly traded.

While Wellhauser does his best to ensure that this is so, there are instances where he obtains sculptures and other craft items in markets from people other than the artisans. In cases such as these, he cannot guarantee that the artisans were paid a fair wage for their production.

Although Wellhauser does not have a certification, he ensures that the artisans he trades with are provided with fair wages or food, which in some areas is more valuable than cash.

Wellhauser will be selling a variety of unique African crafts at the University of Waterloo's Fair Trade Fair today in the Student Life Centre from 11:30 am - 5:30 pm, and again on December 5-9 at the Kitchener City Hall.

Pakistan's state of emergency

President Pervez Musharraf resigns as Chief of Army Staff after suspension of the constitution

YOUSUF SAJJAD
CORD INTERNATIONAL

On Saturday, November 3, a state of constitutional emergency was declared in the most populous non-NATO ally of the United States of America.

The constitution was suspended and all civil rights were held in abeyance until the lifting of this emergency.

The parliaments, both provincial and federal, remained intact, whilst the Supreme Court and the media were clamped down under the emergency. The other victim was the electronic media of Pakistan.

The two major channels, ARY and Geo, were ordered to stop broadcasting political coverage and to fire certain newscasters. When they refused to do so, they were removed from the list of cable channels permitted to broadcast in Pakistan.

For most Pakistanis, Geo and ARY carry the same weight and qualitative context that CNN, Fox, and CBC occupy in North America.

The state of emergency also led to a crackdown on any public figures who spoke out against President Pervez Musharraf and his dictatorial rule, the most significant of these was former cricketer and current politician Imran Khan. Prime

minister candidate Benazir Bhutto was also put under house-arrest.

BBC News reported that, due to Pakistan's pivotal role in Western control of Afghanistan, the declaration of the state of emergency is said to possibly hinder the West's most decisive ally in the "War on Terror."

The emergency was declared because the general who took power in 1999, Pervez Musharraf, feared that the re-empowered supreme court of Pakistan would declare his holding of two posts (Chief of Army Staff and President) unconstitutional.

After Musharraf's 1999 coup, he took over the presidency without a hitch in mid-2001 as a result of elections held that year, although they were pronounced by most political analysts as rigged.

The constitutionality of dictatorial actions is not something that is generally bothered about during a military junta. However, on March 9, Chief Justice Chaudhry Iftikhar, was asked by Musharraf to resign from his position on the Supreme Court.

When he refused to do so, he was suspended from the Supreme Court by presidential fiat and illegally detained, as reported by most international news sources.

This action created a furor against Musharraf and his military regime.

The lawyers of Pakistan took to the streets to demand the reinstatement of the chief justice.

On July 20, Iftikhar was reinstated. This also came a little over a week after the end of a bloody Branch Davidian-style siege at the Red Mosque of Islamabad, a mosque that had tried to enforce Taliban-style morality in its neighbourhood. The siege, though successful, shook the foundations of the Pakistani government and shone new international attention on the region.

It also instigated a wave of suicide bombings in the country aimed at its security forces, over 500 of whom have been killed since the Red Mosque siege. Meanwhile, one of two opposition leaders of

Pakistan's presently suspended two-party pseudo-system have returned.

Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived on October 18 to the port city of Karachi, where she was greeted by hundreds of thousands of her supporters. As her celebratory convoy crawled through the throngs, an explosion occurred, killing 136 people, most of them her supporters and police. It is unknown who exactly perpetrated the suicide attack on Bhutto and her supporters.

In the time between the attack on Bhutto and the declaration of emergency, strings of suicide attacks continued and an insurgency in Northern Pakistan against the Pakistan Army began.

Musharraf, in his televised address to the nation, cited these security threats as the *raison d'être* for the declaration of emergency.

However, the targets of the emergency have been the media and the higher judiciary. As for the avowed reason of fighting terrorism, a large counter attack is taking place in Northern Pakistan against Taliban-like forces.

The tribal areas of Pakistan were key to the defeat of Soviet forces during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan during the 1980s and, regardless of what the Pakistani government wants, the inhabitants of the tribal areas, thanks to their inhospitable terrain, have the ability to hold off any further government attacks on them.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PARTNERS IN WAR - President Pervez Musharraf and Former US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld at a joint meeting regarding their efforts with the War on Terror in Afghanistan.

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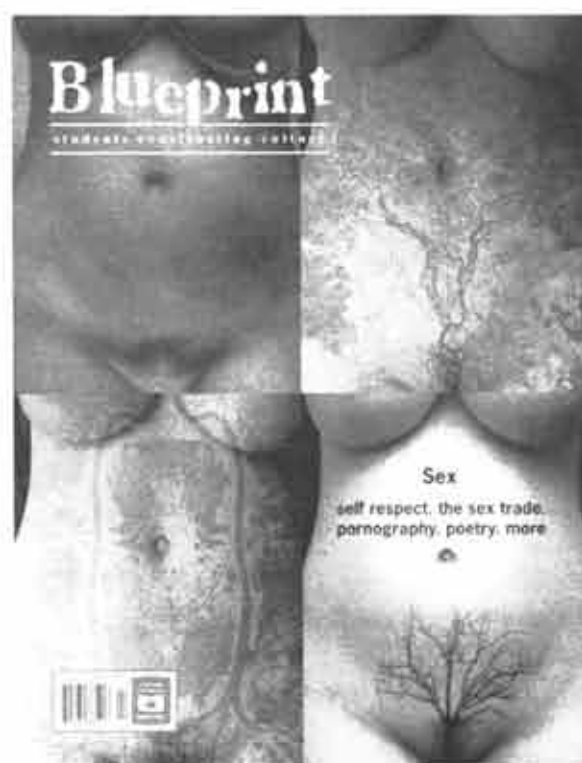
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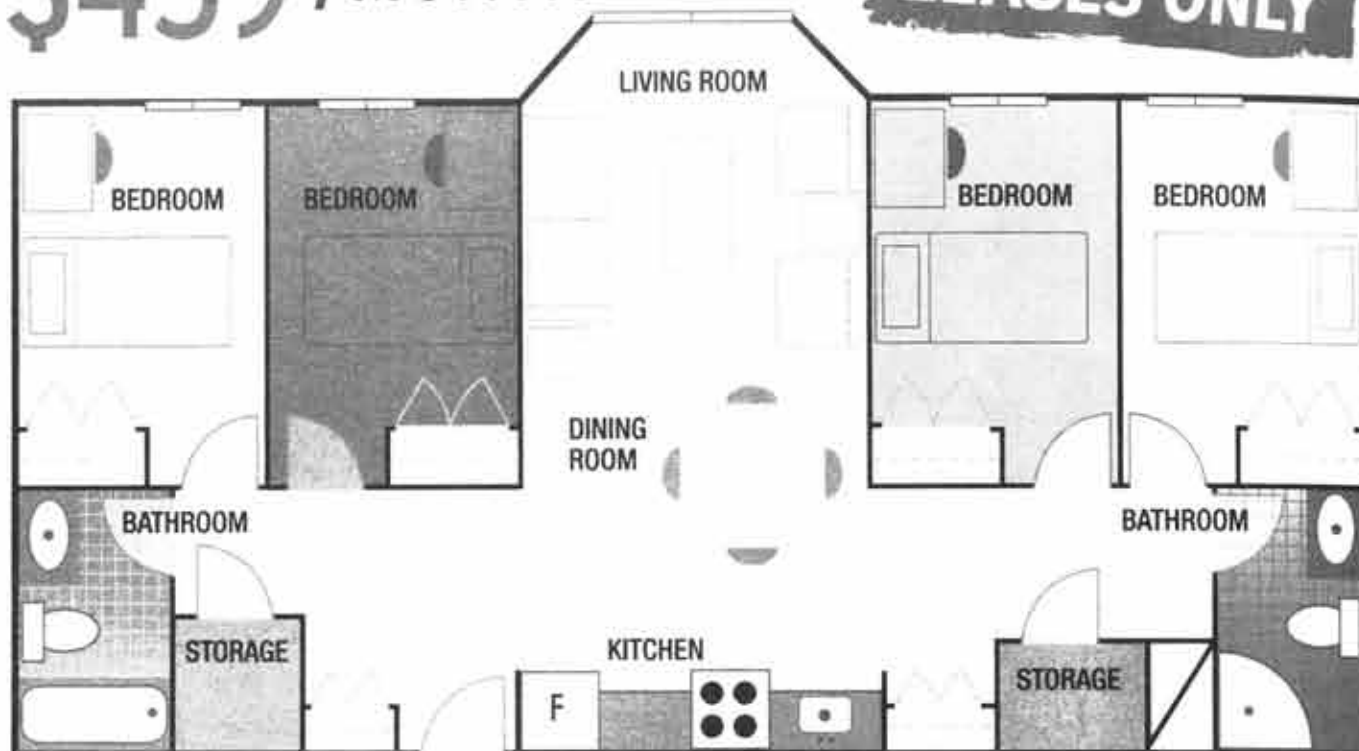


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Thanks to our generous donors, including our entire student body, we've raised \$100 million to advance learning at Laurier. Come help us celebrate this milestone!

Students are invited to drop by the Concourse on Thursday, November 29th from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm to enjoy some treats and hear how these gifts are engaging minds and creating opportunities for us all.

Ladies 'Pack it Pink' for breast cancer

The women's basketball team took a pair of wins away from the weekend's games while raising money for breast cancer research

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

An enthusiastic crowd clad in pink showed up to witness the "Pack it Pink" dedication to breast cancer, as the 6-1 Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women's basketball team took to the court against the 0-6 Royal Military College (RMC) Paladins Saturday night at the Athletic Complex.

The ladies, dressed in their special pink jerseys, jumped out to an early lead and right away took control of the game. The Hawks proved to be much too strong for the Paladins and outpowered their opponents 95-56.

"It's tough playing against RMC because they just don't have the talent," commented head coach Stu Julius. "We have the ability to do a lot of damage."

Adding this win to a 68-62 victory against the Queen's Golden Gaels on Friday evening, the Hawks are off to a torrid 7-1 start to the season, compared to their 0-7 beginning last year.

"The rookies have really played a major role this year," said second-year guard Renata Adamczyk. "They have really stepped up."

"We're pretty beat up too. We're missing Christa Mancino with a knee cap and Laura Pacevicius with a concussion," said Julius. "So to be where we are right now, I'm pretty happy about it."

"When we're healthy, we're pretty good. Our rookies are giving us lots," he continued.

Adamczyk (Dundas, ON) had a stellar weekend on the court, picking up 16 points against the Gaels and 24 points against the Paladins. Four more Hawks joined Adamczyk

in scoring points in the double digits, with guards Kandace Baptiste and Rhonda Kennedy each putting up 15, fourth-year veteran Christine Gibson adding 14 and second-year forward Aleksa Brkic pitching in with 12.

"It's a lot more fun this year; we're playing together as a team," said Adamczyk. "We know each other better on and off the court and there's a lot more team spirit."

The game was played as a fundraiser for breast cancer research, with all proceeds from ticket sales, the 50/50 draw and clothing sales being donated to breast cancer research.

"I think it's a great cause, it really strikes home," said Julius. "Every women's basketball team across the country has decided this is what we're going to do this year, so every team will have played a breast cancer game. It's very, very exciting."

Denise Ducharme, a two-time breast cancer survivor, delivered a half-time speech about her fight against it. Her motivational words brought tears to almost every eye in the gym as she displayed the strength that won her the battle over cancer.

The pledges from the team's participation in the CIBC Run for the Cure, along with proceeds from the game played earlier in the season against York, as well as Saturday's game, will be tallied with the rest of the country and donated for research.

The team raised \$2600 from the run, \$2800 from the first game and \$800 from Saturday's game.

"It was so nice to see all the fans [dressed in pink] and all the support they showed," commented Adamczyk.



RYAN STEWART

PRETTY IN PINK - Renata Adamczyk beats three opponents while putting up 24 points for the Hawks.

Russia a thing of the past, US in the future?

Canada's hockey rivalry with Russia fades as the United States steps into the spotlight as our main competitor for young players



LUKE DOTTO
STAFF WRITER

Waking up in the wee hours of a cold winter morning, enjoying my Christmas break and turning on the television set to TSN for the World Junior Hockey Championships, has always held a special place in my heart. There's just something about seeing James Duthie's baby face, hearing that epic intro music and listening to the bombastic, sometimes riotous, commentary from Gord Miller and Pierre McGuire.

I would always feel a swell of joy as I saw Team Canada warming up and, on the other side of the ice, seeing the Russians. At one point in hockey history, this was considered a great match-up of equal opponents and

bitter rivals; today however, games between Canada and Russia resemble a slaughterhouse or a car accident more than an international athletic competition.

THE NUMBER OF QUALITY PLAYERS PRODUCED BY RUSSIA IS SIGNIFICANTLY DROPPING, AND THE NUMBERS COMING FROM THE US ARE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASING, WITH STRONG EMPHASIS ON THE HIGHER-END TALENT.

The '72 Summit Series was indeed a defining moment in hockey history, but it has seriously lost some of its allure, and competitions between our junior teams have certainly lost all of the once-mighty rapture.

In the last three years, the two countries have squared off in three World Junior Gold Medal games and eight Super Series matches; Canada is 10-0-1 in those games and has outscored Russia 54-16, collecting all three gold medals along the way. Quite frankly, I'm a little surprised the Russian Ice Hockey Federation hasn't taken Hockey Canada to court accusing them of physical assault and battery, considering how much Canada has beaten them recently.

By contrast, hockey in the United States has taken tremendous leaps over the last few years to become a serious player-producing machine, for never before have we seen such high-quality NHL prospects emerge from the NCAA and USHL. No team in recent years has competed as hard against us as our southern neighbours.

We should not be organizing a Super Se-

ries or ADT Canada-Russia Challenge with our vodka-loving cross-sea competitors; instead, we should host Border Battles with the Americans. In the last five World Juniors versus the US, we are 3-1 and have outscored them 12-8. The one loss was, of course, a gold medal defeat in Finland.

But more important than records and goal scoring is the fact that the number of quality players produced by Russia is significantly dropping, and the numbers coming from the US are significantly increasing, with strong emphasis on the higher-end talent.

This talent can finally give the Canadians a good hard run for all they're worth. If these competitions are about showcasing the best young talent in the world and providing viewers with an outstanding level of quality play, why do we continue to offer up the Russians as sacrificial lambs to the gods?

- SEE HOCKEY, PAGE 14

SPORTS
BITESScott Evans and co.
honoured by CIS

On Wednesday, November 21, the Fairmont Royal York Hotel became host to the announcement of the 2007 Canadian Interuniversity Sport award winners. Honoured at this event for his skill, hard work and dedication was Golden Hawks offensive lineman Scott Evans.

He was presented with the J.P. Metras award, going down in history as only the second Hawk to achieve this honor. Veron Stiliadis took the award for the purple and gold in 1988.

Evans was selected as a first team All-Canadian this year. He was signed to the CFL as a free agent by the Toronto Argonauts last January.

Linebacker Anthony Maggiamo and cornerback Taurean Allen were selected to the second All-Canadian team.

Men split weekend
points on the ice

The Golden Hawks men's hockey team faced off against the University of Ontario Institute of Technology Ridgebacks in Oshawa this past Saturday, and then on Sunday met the York Lions in Toronto. In their first match against the Ridgebacks, the Hawks took control and outscored their opponents, skating away with a 5-1 win.

Unfortunately, Sunday turned in favour of the Lions, as the Hawks were unable to get by their opponents and suffered a 6-1 loss. This brings their record to 8-5, landing them fourth in their division. Tomorrow night, the Hawks will try to get their revenge as they play host to the York Lions at 7:30 pm at the Waterloo Recreation Complex.

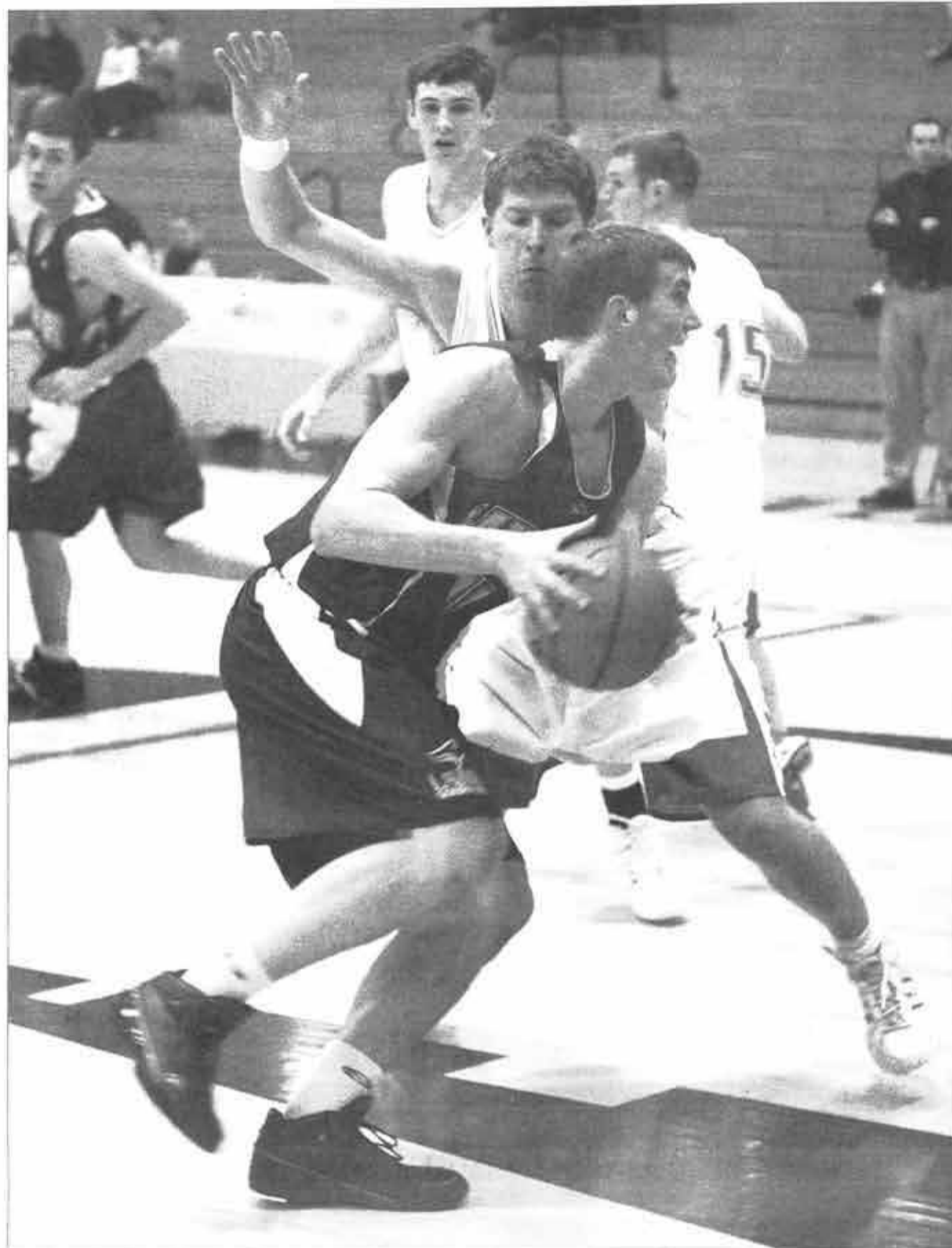
Women's hockey
continue domination

This past Sunday, the WLU women's hockey team traveled to London to take on the Western Mustangs. The Hawks did not disappoint, adding a 4-0 win, and getting their sixth shutout for the year, to their impressive first half of the season.

They defeated the Mustangs 4-0, bringing their record to 11-1-1. They are now tied with the Toronto Varsity Blues for first place in the OUA and are ranked fourth in Canada.

This weekend, the Hawks travel to Toronto to face the York Lions on Saturday the Toronto Varsity Blues on Sunday at 7:30 pm.

- Compiled by Andrea Millet



RYAN STEWART

PUSH AROUND - Fifth-year Hawk Trevor Csima pushes past a Paladin opponent during their first victory.

Men pick up first win

After a poor showing on Friday night, the Hawks claimed their first victory of the season on Saturday with a 91-63 win over the RMC Paladins

CHRIS BALUSCHAK
STAFF WRITER

Heading into Friday night's contest at the Athletic Complex, the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks men's basketball team was still in search of its first win of the season after stumbling out to a 0-4 record.

The Hawks were hoping the home crowd would be an advantage against the 2-2 Queen's Golden Gaels.

The first quarter saw a determined Hawks' squad battle back and forth with the Gaels. WLU appeared to be taking many low-percentage shots and missing the easier ones down under.

They were able to scrape some points together, however, and play fairly well on defense, ending the quarter down by only two points, 14-12.

In the second quarter, the Gaels offense had settled down and began to pick apart the Hawks' defense. The same could not be said about the Hawks offense, as they had managed to score only two points at the midway point in the

second quarter.

Confidence in their shooting and in their overall game appeared to be lacking, and the Gaels capitalized on the many missed opportunities by the Hawks. The Gaels were now ahead 32-20 heading into the locker rooms for halftime.

"We had open shots but we just weren't knocking them down," said third-year forward David Crowley.

The Hawks headed into the third quarter with their confidence replenished. The trio of forward Trevor Csima (Oakville) and guards Jesse MacDonald (Brantford) and Dominique Brown (Woodridge) came out onto the court hustling.

MacDonald was solid on defense and, with the presence of Csima in the paint and Brown's offensive talent, the Hawks were only outscored by a single point in the frame. The Gaels were persistent, however, and extended their lead to 52-39 heading into the fourth quarter.

The countering ability of the Gaels' offense, matching every point the Hawks struggled to put up, ended up being the difference in the match.

The Hawks showed a bit of spark, closing out the game on a 14-5 run. However, the Gaels dominated in almost every aspect of the game and finished on the winning end of a 65-53 final score. Rookie Brown led the team with 11 points.

Saturday night saw the 0-5 Hawks in action against the 0-5 Royal Military College Paladins. The Hawks appeared to be on their game and very confident as they jumped out to a 41-27 halftime lead.

They had a fantastic shooting night, with second-year wing Justin Golob leading the way with 20 points. The Hawks finally put the Paladins out of their misery and picked up their first win of the season, taking the game 91-63.

"We were more relaxed, we knew we had a shot to win and that motivated us to get our first win," commented Crowley.

The Hawks look to continue their winning ways next week against the Laurentian Voyageurs (1-5) on Friday at 8:00 pm in the Athletic Complex, and the York Lions (1-5) Saturday at 8:00 pm, also in the Athletic Complex.

Hockey rivalries
changing
over the
years

- FROM HOCKEY, PAGE 13

So what can be done about this problem? What competition can be implemented in the coming years to pit these two powerhouses against each other? How about the North American Junior Hockey Cup? A seven-game competition - three games held in each country, with a fourth game alternating between the countries every year.

It could be held in late summer (so all NCAA and CHL players are eligible) and hosted in the important junior hockey markets (Halifax, London, Calgary, Vancouver, Grand Forks, Twin Cities of Minnesota and Portland, for example) that have sizable arenas and strong connections with junior hockey either in the CHL or NCAA.

It would be a tremendously exciting and entertaining event, and would draw enthusiastic crowds there for the good of the game. Throw in a trophy and bam! You have a compelling event that raises interest in junior hockey, showcases the elite young talent in the game and also provides a new arena for NHL teams to scout top prospects. You're telling me you wouldn't watch those games?

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GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
Nov 29 - Dec 5, 2007

RECENT SCORES

11.23.07
M Basketball 53 - Queen's 65
W Basketball 68 - Queen's 62

11.24.07
M Hockey 5 - UOIT 1
M Basketball 91 - RMC 63
W Basketball 95 - RMC 56
M Volleyball 3 - Toronto 2
W Volleyball 1 - Toronto 3

11.25.07
W Hockey 4 - Western 0
M Hockey 1 - York 6
M Volleyball 0 - York 3
W Volleyball 0 - York 3

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

11.23.07
M Hockey vs York
Waterloo Recreation Complex, 7:30 pm

11.30.07
W Basketball vs Laurentian
Athletic Complex, 6:00 pm
M Basketball vs Laurentian
Athletic Complex, 8:00 pm

12.01.07
W Basketball vs York
Athletic Complex, 6:00 pm
M Basketball vs York
Athletic Complex, 8:00 pm

12.02.07
M Hockey vs UOIT
Waterloo Recreation Complex, 1:30 pm

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Trevor Csima
Men's Basketball
Renata Adamczyk
Women's Basketball

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CMHC would like to congratulate the 2007 Award winners of \$10,000 each!



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Sutarna Ghosh (Doctor of Philosophy in Geography, York University)

To learn more about their work, visit CMHC's website at www.cmhc.ca; search keyword HSAA.

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The next cycle of the Housing Studies Achievement Award will be in 2009.

Next time it could be you!



Juggling act: getting into grad school

DAVE SHORE
FEATURES EDITOR

It is now the time of year when students who are graduating from their undergraduate program need to start thinking seriously about what their future will entail. For many students, whether they are finishing their degrees this year or not, the idea of going to graduate school is becoming an important consideration.

For those applying to grad school in the next month or two, for those who have yet to make the decision and for those that see a Master's degree or professional school as even a distant option, here is a guide to help you through the application process.

Is grad school right for me?

A lot of students feel that going to graduate school is simply the next logical step in their lives.

But before you start thinking about which schools to apply to, applying for scholarships and how you'll write your application, you need to seriously think about whether or not you're ready to make the commitment to undertake graduate studies.

"The truth is that graduate school has a purpose of providing a very specialized type of training. [When] you go to graduate school, you go for the purpose of specializing in a particular field ... that means you have to have some idea of what you want to do with the rest of your life," advises Dr. Dave Mumby, author of the book *Graduate School: Winning Strategies for Getting In*.

Mumby enforces that one has to be very sure that graduate school is right for them before applying. It is not a decision to be taken lightly. Laurier's Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Joan Norris, agrees.

"I would not recommend that anybody go to grad school without being passionate about what they want to do," says Norris.

There are so many! Which one do I choose?

There are tons of factors that come into play when deciding which schools to actually apply to. Choosing your school will have a lot to do with what type of program you are looking for.

If you are looking for a professional school that will be mainly course work, it is important to make sure the program you apply to will prepare you well for what you want to do. The best way to make sure of this is to contact professors from that school ahead of time and ask them any questions you have.

If you are looking for an MA or MSc program, they are mainly research-oriented and will involve you working closely with a specific professor.

"What I advise students in that position to do is get acquainted with the current literature ... and find out who is doing current research that you're interested in and where they are," says Mumby.

If you will be doing research in conjunction with a professor, it is crucial to make sure that their interests coincide with yours. This detail can and often will be the deciding factor in where you end up choosing to go.

The application process

It is nearly impossible to outline how every application should look, as different items are required for different programs, and each school is looking for something slightly different.

Naturally, when deciding to apply to a school, it is essential to check their website and their literature to find out exactly what they are looking for in applications.

But with that being said, there are a few things in common that every school will be looking for.

Every school will need to look at your grades, want to see a personal statement explaining why they should accept you and need to see at least one (though usually more) letter(s) of reference from professors.

The process is not meant to be overly strenuous or time consuming, but rather requires that you be very persuasive and specific in a short amount of space.

"The application itself is not that difficult to do or put together. The main thing, for me anyways, was knowing how to showcase what I think are my strengths," explains Len Ball, a graduate student in the new Masters of Communications degree here at Laurier, who just recently went through the process of applying.

What if my grades aren't good enough?

It's true that marks are important in the decision of whether or not you get accepted to grad school, but they are not everything.

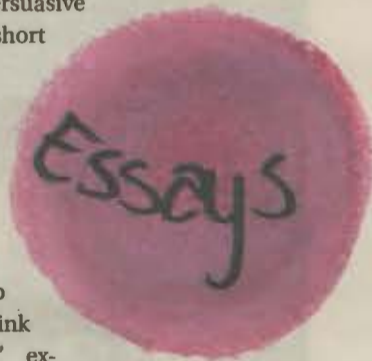
It's not uncommon to see a student with lower marks get in above somebody with higher ones if they are stronger in other areas. While graduating with a C average isn't likely to get you into grad school, don't be discouraged if your marks aren't as high as some of your friends'.

"We're obviously looking for grades," says Norris, "and most universities have about a B- to B+ minimum admissions average."

However, she insists that "applying to grad school is not like applying for undergraduate.... For grad school, it's a package."

If you have grades anywhere in the B range, don't shy away from applying to graduate school. Likewise, if you have all A+ grades, don't think you're a lock for a spot.

Grades are important, but they are but one of many considerations which go towards the final decision.



ool

For anyone thinking of going to graduate school in their future, there are many considerations in deciding where to go and how to make a proper application. *The Cord* offers some tips and suggestions to get you thinking about how to pick a graduate program, and how to apply successfully.

Making a personal statement

Your personal statement is arguably the most important part of your application. It is generally one to two pages long, in which you will explain why you are applying to the program, what strengths you will bring to the program and anything else you feel they should know about you.

"This is an opportunity for students to demonstrate all sorts of things, including their judgment, of course their writing skills, and also to explain the logic behind their decision to go to this school," says Mumby.

"Try to be as honest and specific as you can be," suggests Norris. "Avoid statements like 'I want in to this program to save the world.'"

Rather, include specific details about your background, the kind of research you want to do, and most importantly, why you believe you would be a good match for the program and the person with whom you will be studying.

This segment can depict you as a passionate and dedicated student, but it can also put your application in jeopardy if not done with care.

Letters of reference

The letters of reference you receive from profs will also hold a lot of sway in your application.

It is important here that you don't get just any letter of reference. While a prof will usually be willing to help you out, if they don't know you very well then their letter will be less specific and generally far less persuasive.

"It's a lot more helpful to have some sort of rapport, some sort of connection with the prof you're going to use," says Ball.

"One thing I always tell undergraduates is to get to know your professors in your classes," Norris says.

"When you get to fourth year and you go to your profs, and you've never sat in the front row, and you've never spoken to them, and they have no idea who you are, it's really tough for them to write a letter," she adds.

To get great letters, it is not enough to think about them at the last minute. Developing relationships with your professors is something you should be doing throughout your undergraduate studies.

One way to do this is to get involved in some research that one of your professors is doing. But however you go about it, it is important to get to know your professors.

Scholarships and awards

Looking for funding for your Master's degree is another very important consideration. Even though most schools provide funding internally, paying for your graduate degree can be cumbersome, especially if you have student loans from your undergrad.

"You don't really have time for another job in my opinion. You do your 10 hours of TA work typically," says Ball. Even with internal funding from the university and money made through being a TA, scholarships can be a huge help in covering all your expenses.

"Even though getting into grad school isn't a competition based on grades, for the most part, scholarships are," Mumby explains. If you are a student with strong grades, the best thing you can do is to start early and apply to as many awards as you can. Sometimes money is just sitting there, waiting to be claimed.

And a scholarship won't just help you financially; it may also help you get accepted.

"To say 'I want in and I'm coming with money,' it's very rare that you'd be turned down," says Norris.

Who actually makes the decision?

Graduate school applications are handled very differently than undergraduate ones.

While it is ultimately the administration's job to accept or reject applicants based on marks and other criteria, it is the graduate supervisor whose decision is the most important.

Before the administration ever gets to see your application, you must convince the professor under whom you want to study that they should agree to teach you.

Considering this, the best advice is to meet the professor with whom you want to study, in person if possible, and if not, then over the phone.

"When you contact a person, you set yourself apart - quite clearly apart - from the rest of the people that are going to be applying to work with that person," says Mumby.

"Students are at a big disadvantage when they don't understand how the selection process works and they don't take any steps that go beyond the obvious," he cautions.

These tips will hopefully be useful to you when deciding whether or not to go to grad school, and how to go about applying should you decide it's right for you.

However, these tips are in no way exhaustive, and if you'd like to learn more, there are a few ways of going about it. For one, Dave Mumby's book can be acquired in electronic form from www.mygraduateschool.com.

Ultimately, though, the best way to learn how to apply is to talk to someone who's done it. They will have valuable knowledge about the process and where it will take you.



Staying healthy this winter

The Cord sits down with Health Services to find out how students can fight sickness now that the snow is falling and the temperature has dropped

HEATHER GIES
CORD STUDENT LIFE

Final exams may be quickly approaching, but so is the cold and flu season. Ideally, we'd all like to stay healthy despite the colder temperatures, but healthy habits sometimes get neglected due to stressful and busy schedules. Hopefully, some helpful anti-cold advice will be a reminder that staying snuffle-free isn't that difficult after all.

Although we seem to be much more susceptible to sickness during the snowy months, Karen Ostrander, manager of Health Services at Laurier, says that there is really no difference between the summer and the winter in terms of what students should do to stay healthy.

Dispelling a common misconception, Ostrander notes that "exposure to the cold doesn't cause a cold. Cold has a negative impact on the immune system."

With a weakened immune system, your body is more vulnerable to viruses, making it much easier to contract a cold. This is why it's so important to take extra caution to stay healthy.

After years of mom and dad bundling you up with snow pants, jack-

et, three pairs of socks and a scarf that obscured a ridiculous portion of your face, you should not be surprised by the importance of staying warm during the winter.

"Dressing in layers can be helpful sometimes," Ostrander suggests. "Be aware of the windchill factor."

While you definitely want to be cozy and warm on our walk to school, you don't want to be overdressed in class, especially since getting too hot or sweaty may cause a chill when you go back outside.

Although getting enough rest may seem impossible at times, a tired body is also more vulnerable to sickness. We can probably all recall multiple occasions of sacrificing precious hours of sleep to enhance our social lives or finish a paper, but it is important to note that adequate rest is a major factor of healthy living.

Grabbing a coffee might help us make it through class, but a good night's sleep is what we really need to ward off a cold.

Nutritious food choices are, of course, another means of staying healthy, but, as Ostrander says, this may require some planning and foresight in regards to where you will be at different times. Students

should consider taking a healthy snack if they are unsure of the food options that are going to be available for them throughout the day.

Furthermore, during the winter months, fresh produce may be scarcer in grocery stores and the market price is likely to increase.

However, even a tight budget shouldn't deter us from developing healthy eating habits, as Ostrander explains that frozen fruits or vegetables are a good alternative, and they are likely to have a more consistent price than the expensive fresh items.

"It all comes down to a lot of self-care things," says Ostrander. This means getting the sleep you need, eating the right foods, consuming lots of fluids and dressing for the weather. Above all, though, "hand washing is the single most important means of preventing an infection," according to Ostrander.

Staying active is another aspect of healthy living, and although we aren't always eager to venture out into the elements, snow and cold weather do offer some unique winter sports and activities. Though you probably won't find it in any medical reports, even the occasional friendly snowball fight may



SYDNEY HELLAND

BUNDLE UP - Warm clothes and healthy food can go a long way.

prove to be beneficial to students' health.

We're all busy this time of year and no one can really afford to catch a cold. Getting the flu shot is always

an option, but there are a number of other simple preventative measures that can also be very effective in staying healthy throughout the winter.

MASTER CLEANSE CHALLENGE!

10 Cord Editors ...
10 days of fasting ...
... and a whole lot of lemonade.

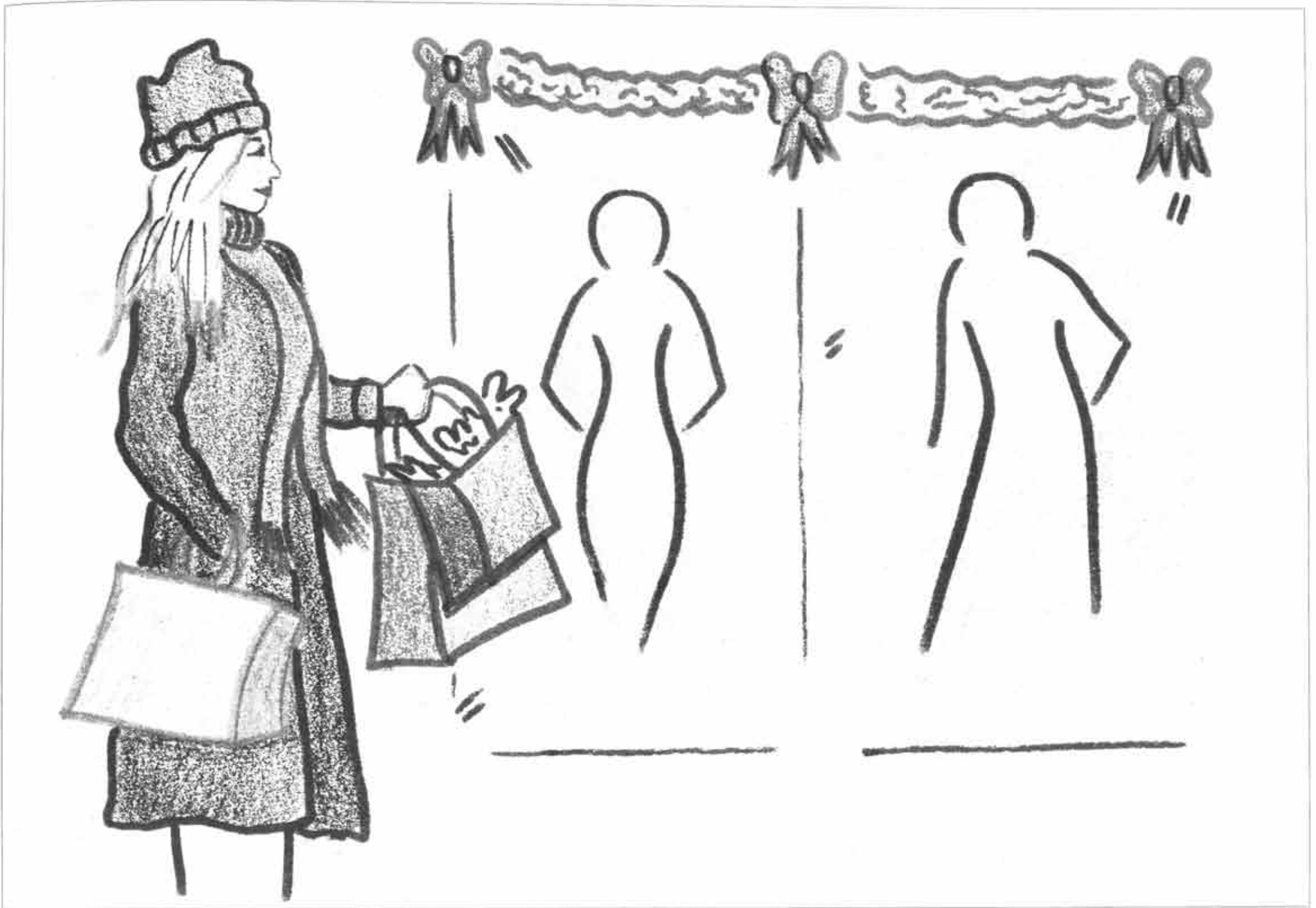
To find out more see their blogs online at

CORDWEEKLY.COM

Starting Saturday December 1st




All editors participating in this experiment did so voluntarily and WLUSP senior staff will be monitoring to ensure no participant's health will be jeopardized.



JULIE MARION

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP - Malls can get pretty crazy during the holidays, so make sure you hit them up nice and early and think about ways you can budget to buy gifts for everyone.

Surviving the holiday chaos

We all hate line-ups and crowded malls so here are some tips to help you beat the rush

NICOLE WRAY
STAFF WRITER

Family, presents, food, Christmas trees, crowds, line-ups and more crowds are things that will either make you a jolly happy soul, or a puddle on the floor like Frosty.

Hopefully, you are dreading the line-ups and crowds and not those family members you get to see yearly. Either way, it is not too late to beat the holiday rush.

Baby, it's cold outside and malls are already filled with decorations, non-stop holiday music and gift suggestions. This means that malls are quickly becoming the most difficult place to find a parking space and most likely not one of the least stressful places to be.

To ensure less time spent at the mall and more time spent decking the halls with boughs of holly, first decide for whom you are going to buy gifts. Sometimes the best holiday wishes are better than another impersonal gift.

To keep visions of sugarplums in your head instead of visions of masses at the mall, start your shopping as soon as possible.

University students are lucky in that they can shop during the day when lots of people are at work and unable to get to the mall.

Avoid the lunch hour and take advantage of those stores that open early during the holiday season; you'll feel great when you can enjoy the winter wonderland after shopping without the stress.

Imagine if you had your own little elves to get all your gifts purchased, wrapped and ready to give without ever having to go out into the cold.

Unhappy shoppers, meet the Internet. Online shopping is quick, simple, often cheaper and definitely easier than going to the mall.

There always seem to be sales online and usually, if you spend a certain amount, shipping is free. International fees usually apply when shipping to Canada, but shopping in your pajamas will leave you thinking it really is the most wonderful time of the year.

With a little planning, a few early mornings and a couple of clicks, you'll be rocking around the Christmas tree and singing joy to the world while you're at it.

Gillian Farber discusses five ways nearly-broke students can buy holiday gifts for all of their loved ones without breaking the bank

GILLIAN FARBER
CORD STUDENT LIFE

It's that time of the year again: snow, ice, spinning tires, sleet and, yes, holiday giving.

Cheery old St. Nick has no worries as he maneuvers down those chimneys leaving iPods, Apple computers, Nintendo Wiis and Playstations.

And while money may be of no concern for Santa, for students on tight budgets, gift giving for Chanukah and Christmas can be a real strain.

To help you out, here are some helpful tips for the budget-conscious student.

1. Look for a bargain

Many a bargain can be found at the dollar store. If you actually take the time to look around, there are some great items under a dollar that may have you thinking twice about walking by that big yellow dollar sign.

Miniature figurines and ornaments, clever children's toys and inexpensive makeup are some cute stocking ideas or small gifts to give away during the eight days of Chanukah.

2. Do-it-yourself

Make your own holiday gift. There is nothing parents like more than their child taking the time out of their busy social life to creatively put together a hand-made gift.

3. Movie certificates

Check out the hottest flicks this holiday season. Purchasing two or three movie tickets is an economical way to spread the holiday spirit.

PURCHASING AN INEXPENSIVE FRAME AND DECORATING IT, WITH A PICTURE CAPTURING A SPECIAL OR MEMORABLE MOMENT, IS A THOUGHTFUL GIFT IDEA, AND A NICE WAY TO SAY "I LOVE YOU."

4. DVDs

With all the rush during the holidays, it's nice to take some time to relax and watch movies. Buying some holiday DVDs, such as *Eight Crazy Nights* or *Elf*, can really encourage valuable time spent collectively with the family. Look for "previously viewed" DVDs at

movie rental stores - they are usually half the price and still in good condition.

5. Frame it up

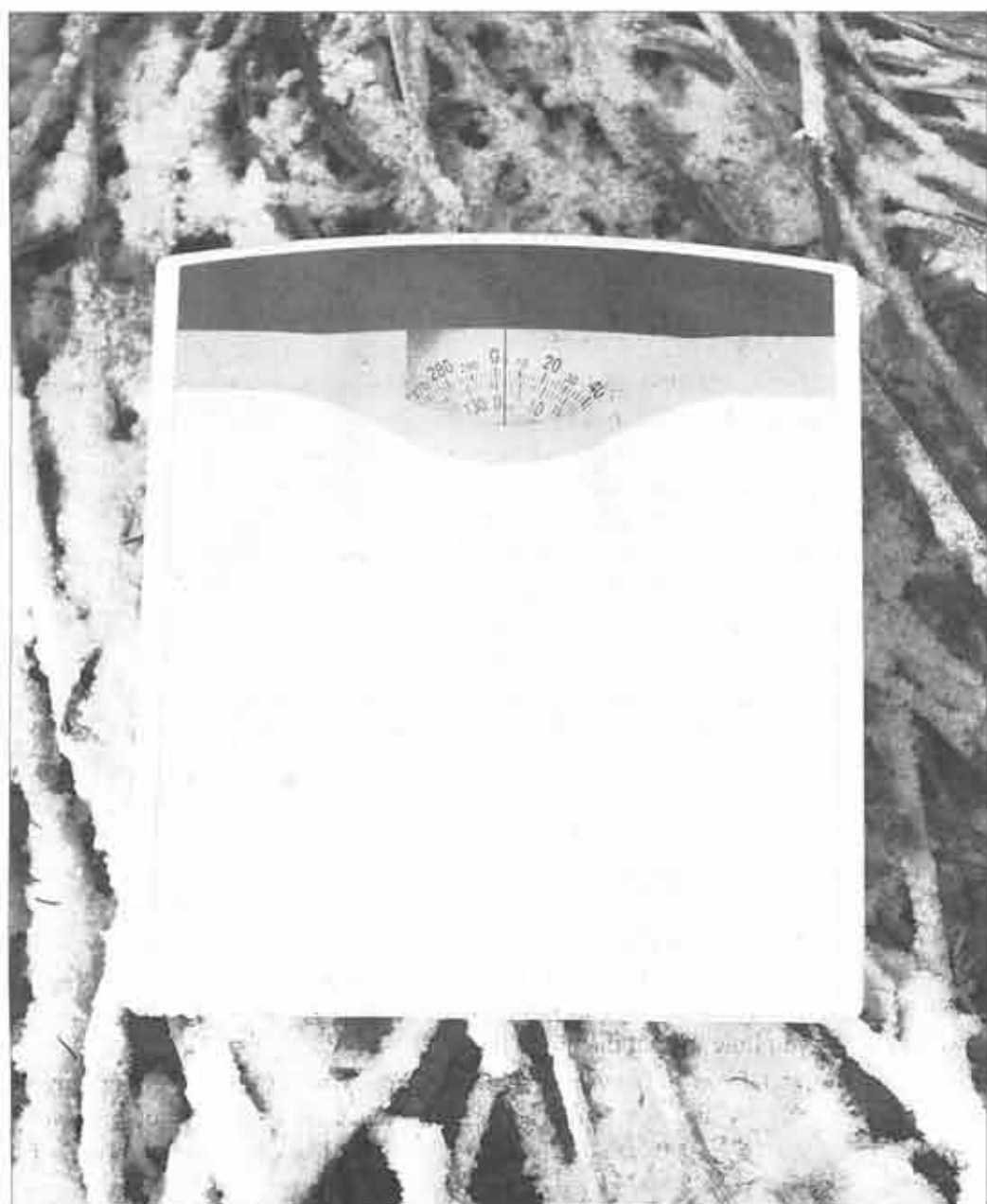
We all know from web pages like Facebook that photographs are very important as a way for students to document their four years "studying" at WLU.

Taking and developing pictures has never been simpler and it doesn't put a huge dent in your pocket. Purchasing an inexpensive frame and decorating it, with a picture capturing a special or memorable moment is a thoughtful gift idea, and a nice way to say "I love you."

All of these low-cost gift ideas allow you to express yourself in a way that is meaningful to that special friend or family member. There are many more inexpensive presents that people can come up with, but you must think outside the (gift) box for your own ideas to surprise that special someone.

Keeping off the holiday weight

Ways you can ensure that you stay in top shape this season



SYDNEY HELLAND

WEIGHING IN - This year, try not to let the big dinners lead to extra holiday weight.

ASHLEY JANG
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

The holiday season is almost upon us, which means numerous get-togethers with family and friends that will involve big, delicious dinners, inevitably leading to us eating and drinking more than usual. For us students, the thought of free food at home is enough to make us stuff our faces.

Dieting may be the last thing on your mind this holiday season, but it doesn't hurt to watch what you eat to ensure you don't gain those nearly irreversible holiday pounds. Here are a few tips from me to you to help you stay fit and look great in that New Year's dress (or suit).

Exercise

The holiday rush can often leave us stressed-out and breathless, making it difficult for us to want to work out. This holiday, try shopping online to give you that extra time to burn off the added calories you're ingesting. If you can't afford to spend two hours at the gym, take 10 or 20 minutes out of your day to run on a treadmill, or go for a brisk walk if it's not too cold.

Eat right

Holiday foods are delicious, but often not very good for us. The high levels of sugar in the numerous holiday treats we are bound to consume will likely cause crashes and give us limited energy to make it through the long days of shopping. Try to fit healthy foods into your diet, even if it means taking an apple in your purse with you to the mall or bringing a healthier snack to munch on

at your next holiday gathering.

Drink wisely

Many alcoholic beverages come with a high calorie count and provide no nutrition. With the numerous holiday parties you'll be attending, try to cut down on higher-calorie drinks like eggnog and beer. Instead, try ordering a glass of wine or substituting your mixed drink with a diet pop.

Don't just watch TV

Watching TV is a great way to relax and mellow out for a while in the midst of the holidays. This year, don't just watch TV. Do sit-ups or lift a dumbbell while you're at it - these simple strength exercises are not so difficult that you won't be able to focus on your show, so you'll still get that feeling of relaxation.

Watch your plate

People usually eat more during the holidays because of the abundance of delicious food. At dinner gatherings, we tend to continue to grab more food, simply because it is there in front of us. There's nothing wrong with taking more than one helping of food, but try to make your serving sizes smaller than usual. This way, you will be ingesting fewer calories, despite the fact that you're having more than one helping.

The holidays are all about having a good time and enjoying yourself, but there's nothing wrong with trying to lessen the treacherous weight gain. But if all else fails, at least we have free access to the Athletic Complex!

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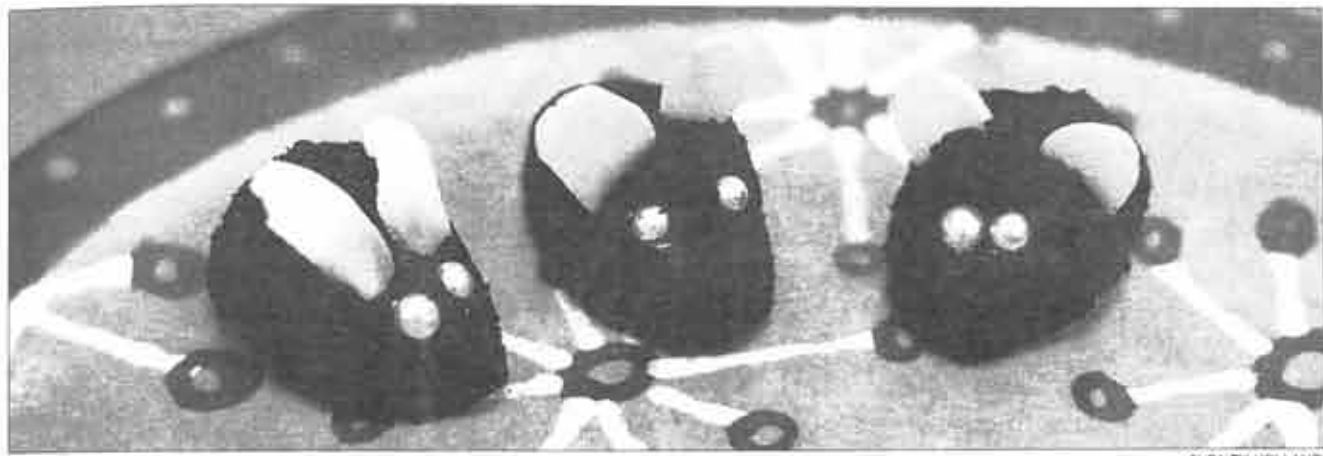
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Tasty holiday desserts

Cooking expert Sarah Topple fills us in on some sweet holiday treats



SYDNEY HELLAND

THREE BLACK MICE - These little mice are not only cute, but they are also edible and quite tasty.

SARAH TOPPLE
STAFF WRITER

For most, few things are more enjoyable than the holidays. For some of us, it's the good company, for others, it's the gift giving and for still others, it's the gigantic piles of delicious food.

Here are tried-and-true recipes from my family that will hopefully bring back fond childhood memories of sneaking cookies and shaking presents while mom and dad were busy entertaining guests. Though it may be tempting to try everything at once, pace yourself!

Read the instructions carefully and get everything you need before starting. Holiday baking is supposed to be fun, relaxing and delicious, so invite some friends over and have a festive day of baking, decorating

and, of course, sampling.

Sugar Cookies

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp cream of tartar
- A pinch of salt

Directions

Cream butter and sugar in a large bowl. Add egg and vanilla. Beat. Mix remaining ingredients in a separate bowl. Stir into batter. Roll out to 1/8" (3mm) on lightly floured surface. Cut into shapes and decorate with coloured sprinkles. Bake

on greased cookie sheet at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Carefully remove from sheet to cool.

Makes seven dozen.

Cheery Cherry Balls

Ingredients

- 3 cups icing sugar
- 3 cups shredded coconut
- 1 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 2 tbsp milk
- 1 12 oz jar maraschino cherries
- 1/2 cup graham cracker crumbs

Directions

Mix icing sugar, coconut, butter and milk until sticky. Wash and dry cherries with paper towels and coat in mixture. The easiest way is to stick the cherry in the mix and scoop out enough to coat it. Roll the coated cherries in graham cracker crumbs and refrigerate.

Whipped Shortbread

Ingredients

- 1 lb butter
- 1/2 cup corn starch
- 3 cups flour
- 1 cup icing sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla

Directions

Cream butter well. Add in sugar, flour, corn starch and vanilla. Beat until fluffy. Drop by the spoonful on a very lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake at 250 degrees for 10-15 minutes until very lightly browned.

Makes about four dozen.

Chocolate Mice Truffles

Ingredients

- 1 cup chocolate cookie crumbs (buy them ... don't try to make them!)
- 4 oz semi-sweet chocolate, melted
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- Extra chocolate crumbs
- Slivered almonds and silver balls (hard silver sprinkles)

Directions

Melt the chocolate and remove it from heat. Before it hardens, stir in the sour cream and cookie crumbs. Cover and refrigerate for one hour. Roll teaspoons of the mixture into spheres and form a point at one end to make mice; roll in the extra crumbs. Decorate with slivered almonds for ears and silver balls for eyes.

CORD-O-SCOPES

Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21



This month, you will continue to spend a lot of time with one person. It is not a romantic situation; you just enjoy each other's company and that is fine. I guess (snicker). Okay, I can't hold this in anymore. I can't believe you haven't made a move yet. They make fun of you with their friends.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19



Do not spend too much time worrying about your problems at home. Focus on the other aspects of your life and your home problems will resolve themselves. In fact, most of life's problems go away if you ignore them long enough. Except for unexpected pregnancies. They always find a way of reminding you they are still around.

Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18



Enjoy nature this month. The serenity of a walk through the park is a powerful tool in reminding you how special the gift of life is. And if you go between the hours of 9:00 and 10:00 pm, you can catch the llamas in Waterloo Park during prime mating hours. You can go to the bar if you want, but I'll take my free animal porno, thank you.

Pisces

Feb. 19 - Mar. 20



Your life is playing out differently than you had envisioned when you left home for university. You watched *Animal House*, you watched *Old School*, and yet you have not experienced parties that are nearly as crazy as the ones depicted in those films. That's because you're a loser. They're everywhere, man.

Aries

Mar. 21 - Apr. 19



This month, you will find yourself missing your family. Do not worry, young child. They do not miss you.

Taurus

Apr. 20 - May 20



Now is the time to speak up about that issue that's been on your mind. It probably won't be resolved and I can't guarantee that people will even listen to you, but get it off your chest.

Gemini

May 21 - June 20



This month, the only thing colder than the temperature will be your heart. Break up with your long-time partner and frolic freely in the fresh air. (If you can, try to avoid over-using alliteration as well.)

Cancer

June 21 - July 22



This month, you will be prone to mood swings. Your friends and family will be understanding, but I just want to be honest with you before it all goes down and tell you: Stop being such a bitch.

Leo

July 23 - Aug. 22



You will be stressed about exams, and you will not even make an attempt to hide this stress. People will instinctively know to stay away from you during this period. But I just want to tell you what they won't: Everyone has exams. Stop being such a bitch.

Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22



You haven't been getting any breaks lately, and sometimes it seems like life is trying to make it hard for you on purpose. Good news, though! I just got *The Departed* on DVD. I am super-pumped! It is such a sweet movie. My favourite scene is when - oh, this month is still going to suck for you. Sorry.

Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22



This month, that positive energy you feel building inside of you will manifest itself in powerful dreams, which you will have on a nightly basis. These dreams will not even remotely translate to real life, but hey, at least you're having some sweet dreams! It's like seeing a free movie in your own private theatre.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21



Your life is filled with much uncertainty this month. Between your job, school, your relationship status and thoughts about your future, you are feeling more than a little discombobulated. I really don't know how it will turn out. Have you tried drinking?

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

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Open Forum poorly planned

Today at 7 pm, the Open Forum is taking place in the Senate and Board Chamber. And, while WLUSU may have failed to promote the event, there's good reason for undergraduate students to take an interest in the forum and go to it.

Once a year, the Open Forum gives undergraduate students the opportunity to present the Board of Directors with their questions and concerns related to WLUSU – something that the posters advertising the forum could do a better job of explaining.

Rather than immediately dismissing poor attendance at the Open Forum as a sign of student disinterest, WLUSU should think about what it's doing that keeps students away.

First, why is the forum being held during the final full week of classes? Students have a semester's worth of papers that they're busy trying to catch up on and hand in. The stress of exams is beginning to set in and is combined with the maddening rush of the holiday season.

The forum should be held at another time when students aren't as busy – and quite frankly, there is hardly a worse time for so many students than the end of November.

Next, why is the meeting held in the Senate and Board Chamber? At one time, the Open Forum was held in the Concourse, which is a location with far greater exposure. If the constant traffic has too negative an effect on the forum, it could be held at Wilf's.

The people who would be at Wilf's are exactly the kind of people WLUSU should be looking to for feedback – the people taking advantage of the Union's services.

Undergraduate students pay a lot of money to WLUSU. Additionally, we give them loads more money when we go to Wilf's, the Turret and the Terrace.

Accordingly, we should make sure our voices are heard. While the opportunity we're given to provide feedback is poorly planned and publicized, we can't let WLUSU think that we're happy with everything they're doing.

Think before applying

It's the time of year that all students find busy – term papers, final exams, and, for those who will soon be graduating, applications to grad school. However, before jumping onto the grad school or college bandwagon, it wouldn't hurt to give the whole situation a little more thought.

Granted, the majority of undergrad students are intimidated by the real world. The vast majority of us know nothing other than being in school, even if we've had a part time job or two along the side.

There's nothing wrong with taking a year off to gain some money and experience between your undergrad and a graduate program, particularly if it's going to help you pay off your debts or give you a chance to see how you like working

in your chosen field.

Taking a year off will also allow you to focus more on your exams and papers now, instead of spreading yourself to thin on school and applications. At the very least, better marks aren't going to hurt your chances of getting into grad school.

A year off will also allow you to reflect on whether or not going into graduate studies is right for you. Granted, it's the next step in education, but is the next step of education really right for you?

Grad programs are specialized studies. They're a big commitment of both time and money. Even if you love what you study you should be expecting a challenge.

So, while you shouldn't be afraid of grad school, don't forget to take time to consider all your options.

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 WLUSU.

THE CORD WEEKLY

Editorial Board 2007-2008



Editor-in-Chief
Mike Brown
mbrown@cordweekly.com
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3563

News Editors
Laura Carlson
lcarlson@cordweekly.com

Dan Polischuk
dpolischuk@cordweekly.com
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3564

Sports Editor
Lauren Millet
lmillet@cordweekly.com

International Editor
Waleed Hafeez
whafeez@cordweekly.com

Special Projects Editor
Joe Turcotte
jturcotte@cordweekly.com

Features Editor
David Shore
dshore@cordweekly.com

Student Life Editor
Ashley Jang
ajang@cordweekly.com

Arts & Entertainment Editor
Paul Alviz
palviz@cordweekly.com

Opinion Editor
Jeremy Tremblay
jtremblay@cordweekly.com

Graphics Editor
Julie Marion
jmarion@cordweekly.com

Online Editor
Dan Belgie
dbelgie@cordweekly.com

Photography Managers
Sydney Helland
shelland@cordweekly.com

Greg McKenzie
gmckenzie@cordweekly.com

Print Production Manager
Alex Hayter
ahayter@cordweekly.com



JULIE MARION

Inclusive language at Christmas is patronizing



DAVE SHORE
FEATURES EDITOR

It's Christmas season and, like every year, I'm miserable.

Every year, I say the same three words and every year, they're met with indignation. I hate Christmas.

I don't hate it because of its blatant commercialism, nor do I hate it because I disagree with it on any moral or philosophical level. I just hate Christmas because I don't participate in it.

One of my most potent memories of my youth is sitting in a packed public school gymnasium, the only Jewish kid at my school (that I knew of), being forced to sing Christmas carols from a projector screen for hours.

At eight years old, I felt like the only person in the room who was being left out of the fun of Christmas. It was an overwhelmingly alienating experience.

I apologize if this sounds melodramatic, and quite probably it does. But this is the thought process of a little kid and, ever since then, the Christmas season has brought out feelings of exclusion and isolation.

The next year, we were inevitably herded into the gym for our annual morning of caroling. That year, though, somewhere between singing "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "O, Christmas Tree", they must have clued in to the fact that there was at least one Jew in the audience – they made

us sing "Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel".

This was my first taste of the trend of inclusiveness that the Christmas season has embraced. I suppose I should have felt happy that a Chanukah song was sung that morning, but I didn't at all.

Rather, I still felt isolated, and on top of it all I felt patronized. The dreidel song isn't a song I've ever sung with my family or in the Jewish community; it's a song sung by Christians in an attempt to incorporate Jewish culture.

I realize that, at this point, I must be coming off as overly bitter. I didn't enjoy being excluded, but what I enjoyed even less was when people tried to include me in the Christmas season. By now, you must be thinking that nothing will make me happy.

AROUND THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, IT'S INEVITABLE THAT I'LL BE IN A MISERABLE MOOD.

If you are thinking that, then you're right. Around the Christmas season, it's inevitable that I'll be in a miserable mood. The constant assault of Christmas television shows, songs on the radio, decorations in malls and the incessant barrage of Christmas advertisements never let me forget the feelings of exclusion that come to me around this time of year.

I'm sure that nearly everybody else that doesn't celebrate Christmas shares this sentiment.

But the one thing that makes Christmas time even more unbearable is this notion that everybody has to be inclusive.

Nobody wants to be the one person that changed a Christmas party into being called a "holiday party." Nor do they want to be the only one that restricted a "gift exchange" from being called a secret Santa.

All this does is further reinforce the fact that I'm celebrating a different holiday than you are.

Notice that so far I've been referring to this time of year as Christmas time, strictly avoiding terms like "holiday season." Though I may be straying from political correctness, I feel that sayings like "season's greetings" and "happy holidays" are patronizing and shallow.

You can't put up a big Christmas tree in the middle of the mall and call it a Holiday Tree. And you certainly can't tell me that Jewish kids in Israel are gathering in the streets and singing "Frosty the Snowman".

After all, it's Christmas that you are celebrating. It's Christmas that pervades every store, all media and everyone's conversations. There's no use in trying to tell me that everything Christmas-related is somehow relevant to me as well, just because Chanukah falls at roughly the same time.

So if you see me around and you know me, then by all means wish me a happy Chanukah. But if you're a stranger, have some courtesy and wish me a merry Christmas.

letters@cordweekly.com

Government selling out

Sovereignty put in danger as the government moves towards North American unionization



DAN KELLAR
BEING THE CHANGE

Why is it that the Canadian government is enforcing American border and legal policies? Is our government forfeiting our sovereignty in exchange for American ideologies regarding war and censorship?

Recent examples highlight the unconstitutional harmonization of policies that are just the tip of the iceberg of a union between the USA, Mexico and Canada known as the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP).

THE AMERICAN WAR ON DRUGS IS A WAR ON THE ENVIRONMENT, A WAR ON SOCIAL RIGHTS, A WAR ON FREEDOM AND A WAR ON COMMON SENSE, BUT IT CARRIES ON BLINDLY AND WITH DISASTROUS RESULTS.

Three times in the past four months, while trying to enter Canada to attend anti-SPP and anti-war rallies, Ann Wright (a former US state department official and now an anti-war activist) has been held by border officials or denied entrance into Canada.

The most recent incident occurred even though she had been invited to speak by members of parliament.

She was denied entrance to Canada because her name came up on an FBI database (National Criminal Information Center), though she has only ever been arrested for non-violent protest.

Two years before this, three Ca-

nadian activists were arrested in Halifax by the RCMP at the request of the American Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). These three now face extradition to the US and life imprisonment in its overstuffed prison system.

One of the three could also face the death penalty. In Canada, no legal action was taken against two of the activists and fines totaling \$5000 were given to the other. Not one of them has a criminal record.

The Americans considered one of these individuals, Marc Scott Emery, to be one of the most wanted drug kingpins in the world - responsible for 1.1 million pounds of marijuana (slightly less than 500,000 kilograms) worth over three billion dollars. The Americans consider one seed to equal one plant to equal one kilogram.

Canada considered him harmless and accepted over half a million in income taxes from 1995-2005 with "marijuana seed vendor" listed as his occupation. Emery's profits were used to fund the anti-prohibition movement in Canada and the US.

Every time Emery was featured in a positive light in American popular media, such as in stories by CNN, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* and two features on *60 minutes*, the DEA had Canadian authorities raid his shops and arrest him. Charges were dropped, fines were paid (if any fines were laid) and Emery went back to selling seeds.

After his July 29, 2005 arrest, the head of the DEA, Karen Tandy, released a memo indicating that the



FREEDOM - Protesters at the Security and Prosperity Partnership Summit in Montebello, Quebec.

arrest "is a significant blow not only to the marijuana trafficking trade in the US and Canada, but also [to] the marijuana legalization movement."

The DEA wanted Emery for his political activity and his "propagandist" magazine, *Cannabis Culture*.

Emery's extradition hearing is scheduled to begin on January 21, 2008. If he is extradited, we will have proof that our government is promoting a US policy that we don't officially ascribe to (yet, at least). We will be handing over Canadians to die in the US for actions that we do not even consider to be crimes here.

Michelle Rainey, one of Emery's co-accused, is a medical marijuana advocate and uses the plant to manage her late-stage Crohn's disease. In American jails, she will be forced to use dangerous and ineffective pharmaceuticals.

The other accused, Greg Williams, could quite possibly die of

old age in prison, giving the term "life sentence" extra gravity. These people may lose their lives in the US, while in Canada they operated in a legal grey zone and were allowed to continue with tacit approval of authorities and the government.

In Canada, we can sell paraphernalia with which to consume marijuana as well as books about it without fear of prosecution. We can legally grow hemp crops for nutrition, building supplies and textiles. We can pay taxes on the profits made from selling seeds.

If we can do all of these things legally, how can Canadians face possible extradition to the US and life imprisonment there for mailing, through Canada Post, any of these items to America?

Our government is trying to bring the war on drugs to Canada, along with prohibitionist American policies.

For the sake of Canadian sover-

eignty, I hope that our courts and our government will resist lowest common denominator harmonization with American policies, which have not worked since their introduction and have led to, according to the FBI, over 17 million marijuana-related arrests since 1965. Just this year, they may make one million arrests.

The American war on drugs is a war on the environment, a war on social rights, a war on freedom and a war on common sense, but it carries on blindly and with disastrous results.

By importing the US war on drugs to Canada, Stephan Harper is continuing his Lewinsky-style action with Bush. Unfortunately, the only stain will be on Canadian sovereignty regarding policy and policing.

letters@cordweekly.com

Letters to the Editor

More to sentencing in Saudi rape case

I'm writing with reference to the article "Saudi rape case draws international attention", dated November 21, 2007. Heather MacDonald, I would like to add some important facts to your article. You said that the criminals were being sentenced between two to nine years in prison and these criminals were being charged so lightly. At first, I believe yes, they were being charged lightly. However, you forgot to mention that four of them were also going to receive between 80 to 1000 lashes. Moreover, they were not charged for rape since there was insufficient evidence; therefore, their sentences were just for kidnapping.

When I wrote this letter, most Western media outlets (such as Reuters, CNN, CBC and BBC) seem to have forgotten to mention the additional lashing punishment and the kidnapping charges on the criminals, while Al Jazeera, Arab News and Human Rights Watch had this in their news articles. I strongly advise you broaden your sources when writing sensitive issues affecting law, ethics and religion. You may have been wondering why only four of the seven have been sentenced to lashing. The other three have been presumed to lesser charges and a lighter sentence based on the evidence obtained.

On the brighter side of your article, I appreciated that you mentioned the Qur'an for evidence of lashing as a punishment, which is

similar to the Old Testament counterpart such as Deuteronomy 22.

- Ralf Tsoi

Homophobia vs women's rights

After reading the past few papers, specifically the articles on the reaction of a band's homophobic statement and the treatment of women in Saudi Arabia, I have become disgusted with our society as a whole. There was more outrage over one person's comment, which shows his ignorance and intolerance of diversity, than that of the obviously unjust treatment of women.

People in North America have the freedom to choose to be with

whom they want and if they choose a lifestyle which most consider to be not mainstream they should expect some sort of criticism and response from the rest of society. I am not saying by no means that it is right for people to be so judgmental of a person's choice of partners, but I am trying to say that there are people with actual problems other than name-calling. These women have little to no rights and their problems should be taken more seriously than a little name-calling by an ignorant man. These women have actual human rights issues and do not share the luxury women in North America have as being equal to men.

The next time someone says something hurtful, it is their own ignorance. But it is also important

to remember that there are people in the world with worse issues than name-calling, like starvation and disease in Africa or women who are still not equal to men and get lashed and stoned to death.

- Katie Miller

Letters Policy:

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

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

Memories vital to Christmas

While you may quickly forget what presents you received, events can truly make the season



AMELIA
LOCKHART
LEFT TO WRITE

Whether you like it or not, it has become obvious that Christmas is indeed coming. Though many people are bitter because of consumerism's increasing influence, Christmas isn't entirely a bad thing.

I think that those of you who say "bah humbug" to Christmas are missing something. Even though there are still 27 days before Christmas, its approach has been anticipated since the end of October.

For those of the Christian faith, and indeed for a growing number of non-Christians, Christmas is a time of joy, giving and receiving. But it really isn't the gifts that make Christmas special - it's the memories.

AS SOON AS THE CITY LIGHTS ARE ENHANCED WITH RED AND GREEN AND THE STOREFRONT WINDOWS ARE FROSTED WITH SPRAY-ON SNOW, HAPPINESS WELLS UP WITHIN ME. THE MEMORIES BEGIN TO FLOOD BACK.

For some people, going to university means packing up and leaving everything behind. Unfortunately, the Christmas traditions and the memories they treasure are too often left at home. Once you realize that it's nearly impossible to leave absolutely everything behind, you learn that some parts of your childhood are vital to who you are.

As soon as the city lights are enhanced with red and green and the storefront windows are frosted with spray-on snow, happiness wells up within me. The memories begin to flood back.

In my first year, my roommates and I decided to make Christmas special. We adorned our Bricker apartment with decorations from the dollar store and leftovers scrounged from home.

On the day we appointed as our Christmas, since we'd be home on December 25, we dressed nicely and had a gourmet dinner. I was fortunate to have a roommate whose father was a chef, although any meal that wasn't from the Terrace or the dining hall was a nice change.

After dinner, we took the GRT to Conestoga Mall to take in a movie, to try on expensive dresses we had no intention of buying and - yes - even to see Santa.

Though it wasn't much, that day and those decorations were a nice break during the stressful exam

period.

What I found most interesting about our own celebration of Christmas was sharing the memories we had of our own past Christmases.

You probably can't remember all the gifts you've received on Christmas, but I'm sure you can remember the things your crazy uncle did, how someone in the family would always dress up as Santa, even though you knew who it was, and the good food that always made an appearance.

It is a tradition in my household to watch *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* at least once over the holidays. We never bought the video because that ruined the fun of planning to watch it the one night it was on TV. It has come to the point where every member of my family can quote almost the entire movie.

This even includes my mother, who - to this day - thinks that the famous line from *The Terminator*, "I'll be back," is, in fact, "I'll be there."

Although it may be difficult to see a Chevy Chase movie as didactic, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* teaches the true meaning of

the season.

Even if you have one messed-up family, they are still your family.

Be it crazy Aunt Bethany, who wraps up things around her house and calls them presents, or cousin Eddie, who has a plate in his head that causes him to pee his pants and forget who he is for about half an hour every time his wife turns the microwave on, family is family.

Traditions we grew up with may seem embarrassing, but they are what make us unique. Not all of us are fortunate enough to be able to go home for the holidays.

That doesn't mean we should scrap the holiday altogether; it simply allows for a more creative expression of the season. Maybe all you have are dollar store decorations, but it is the thought that counts.

Even the decorations can make good memories. In *Christmas Vacation*, Aunt Bethany's cat commits suicide by chewing the Christmas lights, burning a hole in the chair and the carpet.

This year, my roommates and I found a strange smell of burning coming from the basement. As it turned out, the string of lights strewn across the ground had burnt small holes in the carpet. It's just one of those memories that we'll never forget.

letters@cordweekly.com



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

O, CHRISTMAS TREE - Lights and trees play a central role in the traditions and memories of countless families during the holiday season. These memories far outlast the material aspects of Christmas.

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Vision needed for greatness

In place of human individualism, today's society wrongly values decadence, commercialism and the status quo



DON MORGENSON
ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

The old adage is surely true: "Without vision, a people will perish." And future historians will define our current political leadership as functionary rather than visionary.

Our leaders appear to be obsessively concerned with maintenance of the status quo and distracted by worries regarding their own wealth, such as the sponsorship scandal. Such foci have caused them to ignore urgent national needs.

Near-sighted as it is, being concerned with the bottom line means the adopted formula for success is entrepreneurial skill and comfortable capital.

The myth of upward mobility encourages being on the A-list rather than building a sense of community. Such a posture is exclusively mercantilist, aggressively acquisitive and determinedly jingoistic.

One of the results is the aching lack of a feeling of Canada's greatness. Cynically, Canadians have settled for bogus leadership and lost faith in our political system.

WHEN I LOOK AT THE QUALITY OF OUR COUNTRY'S LEADERS, SOME PAST AND MOST PRESENT, I AM CONVINCED THAT THE PEOPLE OF CANADA ARE INDEED GREATER – AND PERHAPS HAVE ALWAYS HAVE BEEN GREATER – THAN THEIR LEADERSHIP.

Look for a moment at the embarrassingly low percentage of registered voters who bother to cast their votes. Even more embarrassing, what percentage of young voters made any effort to cast their ballot?

Perhaps such apathy is the result of the uninspiring and uninspired candidates who wanted the power to rule but did not possess the political integrity to govern. Or maybe it was because none of the political aspirants had any conception of the redemptive power of Canadian idealism.

Sadly, rather than responding to John F. Kennedy's assertion, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country," Canadians typically respond with "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for yourselves." The Greek philosopher Diogenes, hunting for that honest person, might argue that "The currency of our lives has lost its value."

Indeed, when I look at the quality of our country's leaders, some past and most present, I am once again convinced that the people of Canada are indeed greater – and

perhaps have always have been greater – than their leadership.

And through it all – the scandals mocking our faith, deceitful politicians, money-grubbing, "pork barrel politics" – it is no wonder that ethnic and racial identities have become more significant to each of us than a community of Canadians.

We are living in a culture that has led us away from respect for the human individual and worships the image-making falsifications of commercial products.

Can we conclude that we are living in an era of decadence, in government, education, communication, reading habits, art, music, as well as in our collective attitudes to what life and happiness really mean?

We have not been concerned with our common needs and common difficulties; we are easily seduced by those who canonize private desires into rights.

In such a world, author Gore Vidal has asked, "But if the rich are too rich and the poor have nothing to support them in bad times, then how is liberty's tree to be nourished?"

Jacques Barzun, teacher and scholar, defined the human tragedy as that which is devoid of the spiritual elements: "Great popula-

tions without a god outside themselves will turn to national war or race hatred to find that glow of common sacrifice and the call to transcendence the human spirit requires."

We live in an age where six percent of the world consumes 50 percent of the wealth generated overall; where millions of dollars are spent on armaments each passing minute; where 30 children die every 60 seconds; where a country such as ours with compulsory education has a problem not of fluency but of mere literacy.

For many of us, one of the antidotes to such degradation is education. Universities exist to preserve, disseminate and contribute to our culture.

It is no accident that we speak of cultured people as cultivated. They are those who have been enriched by study, writing, dialogue; by the versatility of subjects pursued.

We can be, as a matter of habit, like Socrates or Diogenes and deflate pretense or chicanery with honest skepticism and not tolerate mediocrity. But this takes care, conscience, craft and concentration, reminding us of Goya's warning: "In the sleep of reason, monsters are born."

We can become dissenters demanding only that which is worthy of life and worthy of us. Henry David Thoreau once wrote, "That which is done well once is done forever" – the power of the imper-

ishable example.

Robert Frost sums it all up nicely: "But yield who will to their separation/My object in living is to unite/

My avocation with my vocation/As my two eyes make one in sight/Only where love and need are one/And the work is play for mortal stakes/

Is the deed every really done/For heaven and the future's stakes."

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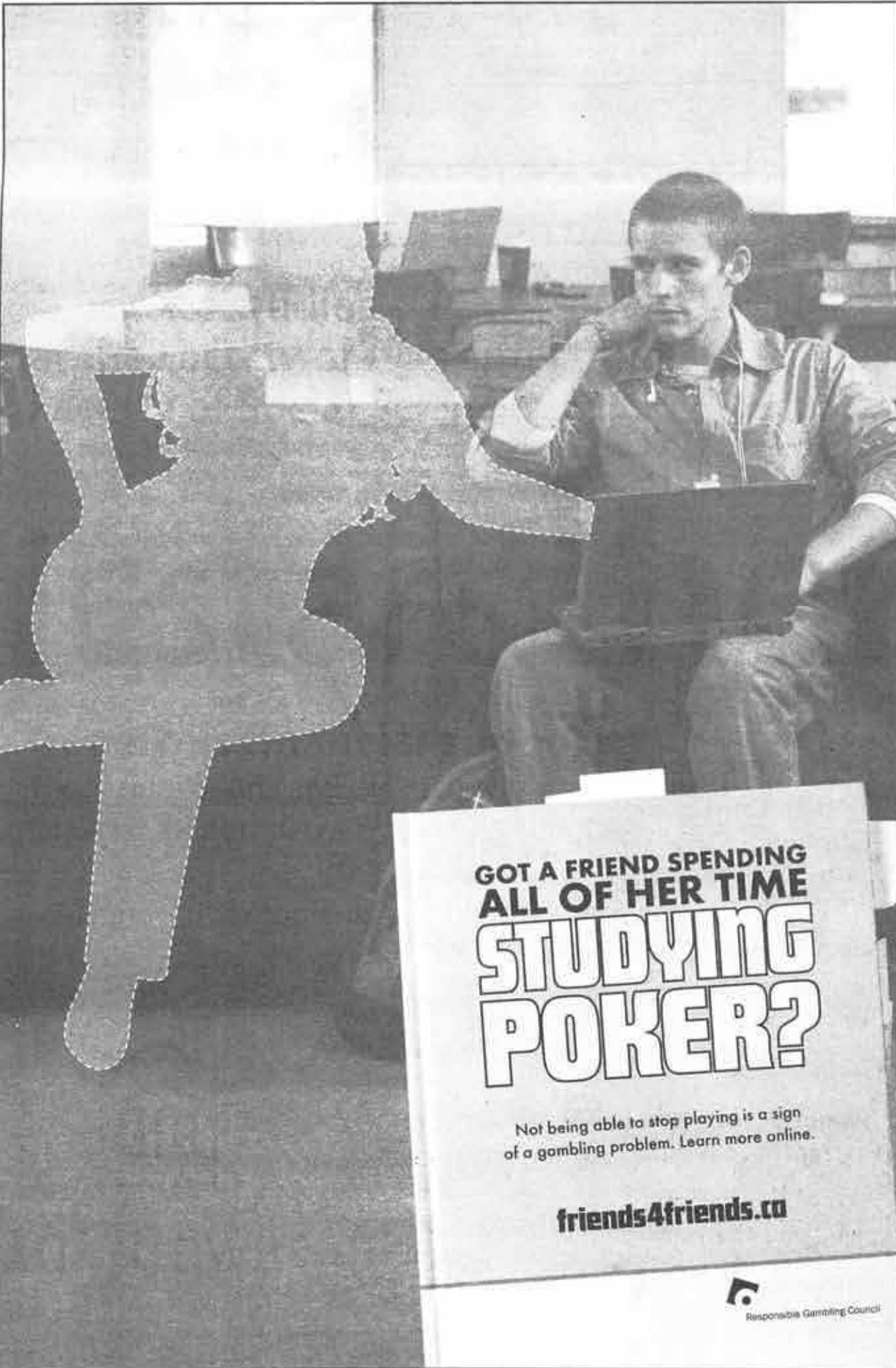
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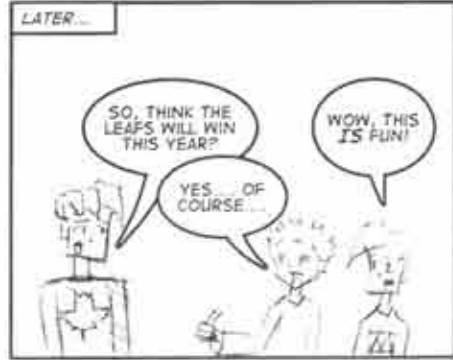
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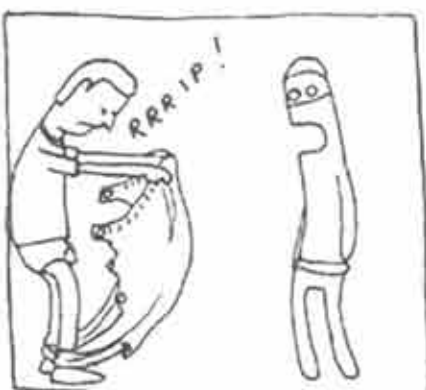
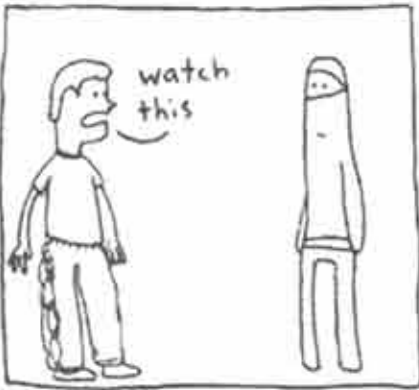
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Candid comic book artist on display

Graphic artist Ty Templeton discusses his new graphic novel, *Bigg Time Makes the Big Time*, his distaste for ballet, and life

DANIEL JOSEPH
STAFF WRITER

"I'm a firm believer that comics aren't just an art form, it's *the* art form. It kicks sculpture and ballet's ass," said Ty Templeton when he spoke to *The Cord* last week about the current showing of his 2002 graphic novel, *Bigg Time*, at Laurier's Robert Langen Art Gallery in the John Aird Building.

This rather boastful comment comes from a man who is not only well versed in creating comics, but many other forms of pop media as well.

"I recently played on an album that became a country hit in Sweden! It was the number one country album there," says Templeton. "It was probably just eight guys named Sven with a cowboy hat."

Famous Scandinavian country albums aside, Templeton has spent most of his creative effort on the production of comics and has worked on Superman, Batman, Spider-Man, *The Simpsons* and *Mad* magazine, as well as others in his lifetime.

Despite his mainstream activities, the real allure of comics for Templeton is creating his own work. "I've mostly done indie stuff. I'm most pleased with an old thing I used to do called *Stig's Inferno*."

Issues of *Stig's Inferno* are available on Templeton's website, www.templetons.com/ty.

Templeton waited almost 20 years before doing another original work, the graphic novel entitled *Bigg Time*, which follows the exploits of a homeless man who finds out his guardian angel has been intentionally doing a bad job in looking over him, and forces the angel to make him famous.

The entirety of *Bigg Time* is up on the walls of the Robert Langen Art Gallery, so any curious student here at Laurier who has an interest can go check out his satirical tale.

"I wasn't [showing *Bigg Time* at Laurier] to get my name out," continues Templeton. "I was asked to, and I thought it was an interesting idea to have comic work, which is usually considered very commercial, up in a gallery and considered an art form. Which is very pleasant to me, because I consider it an art form."

"It usually gets the same level of attention as catering. For a gallery to say we want to put your work up in a gallery, I'm going to say yes, just to represent the whole industry."

While it could be true that comics might get the same attention as food service, Templeton contends that comics are much more important than we think. "What child does not instantly gravitate towards comics in some way? There is no person alive who doesn't read some Archie or Batman or something when they are growing up."

"Not everybody gravitates to-

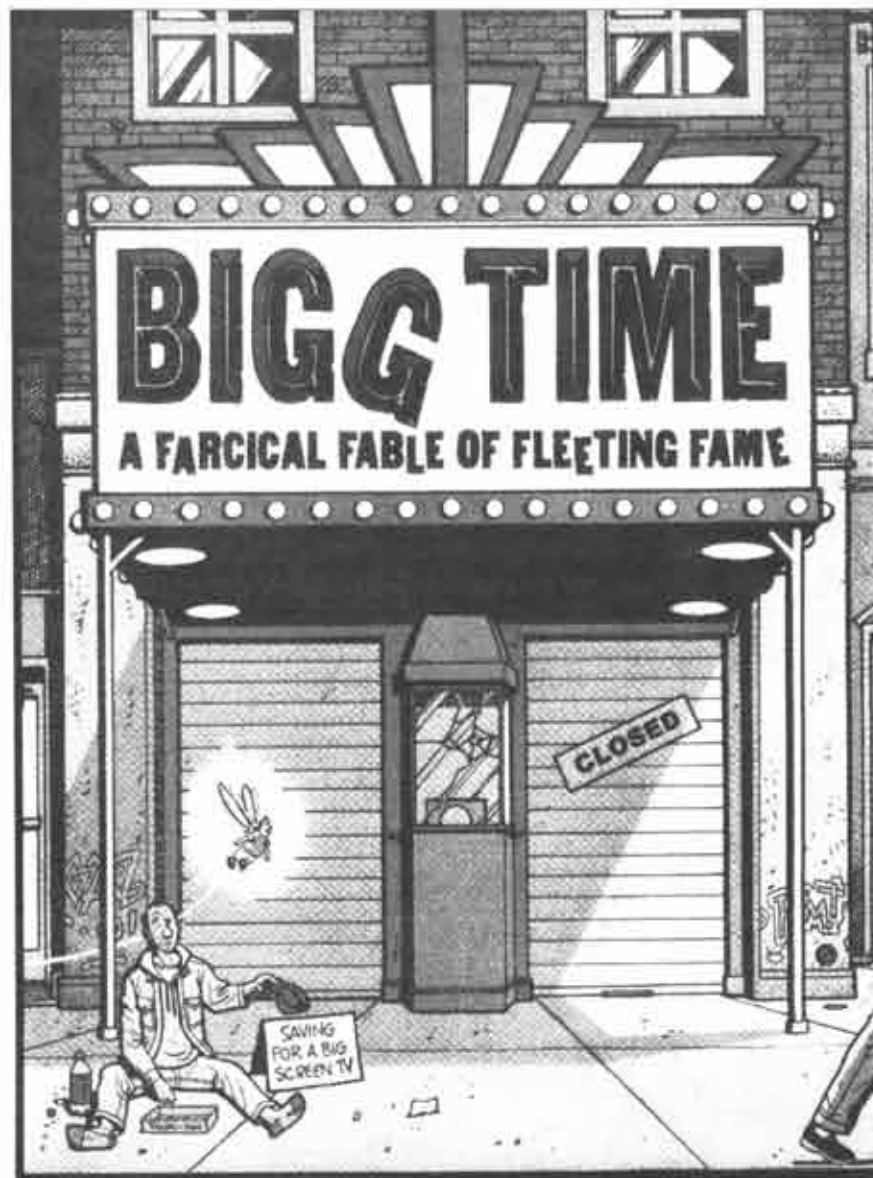
wards sculpture or painting or ballet. So on some level, there is a basic human reaction to this as the most communicative art form ever created. It just gets no attention."

When questioned about his beliefs about the contemporary culture of celebrity and fame in our society, the central theme of *Bigg Time*, Templeton has two points of view.

"There is the extreme paranoid belief that it's on purpose, that the 'industrial oil-based military complex' wants the electorate confused and baffled, and all that shit," explains Templeton. "And there is something to that. Because it certainly is astounding how the culture has allowed the lowest common denominator to control the airwaves. It really is beer, tits and cigarettes on TV."

"But at the same time, the same thing with comics, we are also living in an age when the most wonderful culture is available at your fingertips. Because of the Internet. Because of the thousand-channel television. You could devote your life to only taking in new opera if you wanted to. It's available to you. So if people are choosing to intake American Idol or *The Bachelor* or whatever else they are injecting into their brains, that's their choice."

Whether or not you find yourself up at night watching reruns of *The Real World* or completely eschew celebrity culture, you will prob-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BUMMIN' AROUND - Ty Templeton's wit translates well into illustration.

ably enjoy *Bigg Time*. As Templeton said, all of us at some point or another have picked up and enjoyed a comic.

The exhibit, entitled *Bigg Time*

Makes the Big Time, is running until December 8 in the John Aird Building, so do yourself a favour: go prove that comics are more important than catering.

Last Band Standing should take a seat instead



GREG MCKENZIE

SO MANY KEYS, SO LITTLE TIME - The Music Box pressed the right ones and inspired the crowd to dance.

- FROM **BATTLE**, COVER

Following Phineas Gage was Crown and Coke - the victors of the night. The crowd immediately jumped to their feet and got in on the high-energy punk-rock the band had to offer.

However, despite breakthrough sounds of funkiness, the Mississauga-based group was uninspired and just another popped out carbon copy of Hedley.

While Crown and Coke definitely showed a lot more technical skill than Phineas Gage, delivering a seemingly professional performance, they lacked any sort of a unique sound.

Featuring versatile vocals from Sebastian Tirvolas, who even looks like Jacob Hoggard of Hedley, their clean sound was topped off by technically sound guitar work.

By all rights, Crown and Coke offered a solid performance, but the act to follow delivered exactly what they lacked.

Waterloo natives The Music Box finished the night with an eclectic and memorable performance. Utilizing instruments like the harmonica, banjo, xylophone and accordion, The Music Box offered a sound that was distinctly theirs while keeping the audience entertained.

With vocals reminiscent of Bright Eyes, the band incorporated a vari-

ety of different influences through their folksy guitar sound and fitting splashes of synth, resulting in an energetic but melancholic sound.

One of the most distinct features of The Music Box was not only that they truly were like a music box full of different influences, but also their surprising lack of dependence on the guitar.

While most bands cling to the guitar and overuse it, The Music Box showed remarkable musical talent in their ability to sustain a full sound without it.

Most notable of their performance was the song "The Cycle," which featured vulnerable vocals and funky breakdowns in a lively mix.

On the whole, the outcome of the night was to be expected. While The Music Box offered something new and interesting, Crown and Coke were clearly masters of the craft of cliché punk rock, as one of the judges, Eric Franklin, described.

"Crown and Coke was definitely the clear winner," explained Franklin. "They had a great punk sound and were definitely the most tight-knit band technically."

And as anyone who has attended any sort of competition like this between bands should know, it's not about the art of music, it's about what the most people are willing to accept.

A fragmented life

The Tracey Fragments opened up at the Princess with a visit from director Bruce Macdonald

GEETHA THURAIRAJAH
STAFF WRITER

Tracey Burkowitz is a typical 15-year-old coping with the woes of young love, abusive parents and the insecurities of pubescent awkwardness.

Yes, the story may sound like a bad cliché from the '80s starring Molly Ringwald, but it partially manages to defy the pop culture

tendencies of teen angst flicks by bringing focus to the cinematography as opposed to the story itself. It only took two weeks to film, while the editing process took seven months, according to director Bruce MacDonald.

The entire film is done in fragments; visually, the screen is scattered with various frames emphasizing how frantic Tracey's life is as she searches for her lost brother

while dealing with her dysfunctional life.

The film is based on the book by Canadian author Maureen Medved. According to Macdonald, the idea to fragment the entire film was inspired by the 1969 Steve McQueen film *The Thomas Crown Affair*.

MacDonald has been involved in film production since the '80s and has helped produce a number of cult classics like *Roadkill* and *Hard-*

core Logo.

More recently, Bruce has been directing television programs like *Queer as Folk* and *Degrassi: The Next Generation*.

Artistically, *The Tracey Fragments* was a new direction for the director. While premiering the film this past Saturday at the Princess Cinema, he took time to answer a few questions.

When asked about the inspiration for *The Tracey Fragments*, his response was that he was inclined to experiment artistically out of boredom of the "vigorous visual style of television." He added that curiosity and the urge to break the mould of modern day cinema also contributed to the formation of his unique approach.

While *The Tracey Fragments* succeeds at setting a precedent for arthouse films, the simplistic storyline leaves little for interpretation and the film ultimately disengages with the audience.

MacDonald voluntarily admits that the film was done on a low budget, which almost seems like a vehicle for justifying the content.

His heart was in the right place when taking on *The Tracey Fragments*, but the chilling truth is that Hollywood has ruined the concept of teen angst.

Even though movies like *Thirteen* have managed to overcome this



The Tracey Fragments
Director: Bruce McDonald
Starring: Ellen Page, Libby Adams
Rating: 6.9/10.0



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO LOOK - A typically "fragmented" scene. Obviously you say? Nothing gets by you.

stereotype, *The Tracey Fragments* failed by adhering to far too many teenage clichés.

The Tracey Fragments is worth seeing in theatres, since its translation to the small-screen format is likely to affect its artistic ingenuity, which is its strongest aspect. You will also get the chance to catch the critically acclaimed stop-motion, animated film *Madame Tutli-Putli* as a bonus.

This film was a commendable attempt at testing the waters of artistry and deserves recognition for that fact alone.

Overall, *The Tracey Fragments* is entertaining but lacks far too much integrity to be fully recognized as the groundbreaking feature it had the potential to become.

Suspense doesn't miss in *The Mist*

WADE THOMPSON
CORD A&E

When it came down to Frank Darabont choosing his next film, it only seemed fitting for him to adapt a Stephen King novel.

Two of his previous films (*The Shawshank Redemption* and *The Green Mile*) were based on King's

works and both were extremely successful. Each received an Academy Award nomination for Best Picture. The question was, could he still maintain this perfect record after taking on one of the author's infamous tales of horror?

I think I can safely say that Darabont still knows a thing or two about adapting the work of Stephen King, no matter what genre.

The Mist (based on King's short story) concerns a close-knit town which is surrounded by a mysterious fog, coming from a nearby army base. Thomas Jane plays David Drayton, a local artist who takes it upon himself to lead a group of townsfolk trapped in a regional grocery store. Quickly, however, those trapped find out that this is no ordinary mist. A terrifying cast of deadly (yet amazing) creatures begin appearing from within the unknown.

A fight for survival is sparked, as the "prisoners" try to think of ways to escape the store without getting killed. All the while, they have to deal with a *Lord of the Flies*-style division between the locals and vacationing outsiders. Throw in the Jesus-praising, wannabe televangelist attempting to convince everyone that she knows the end of days is upon them, and you have *The Mist*.

For the most part, the movie delivers what is expected. It offers some magnificent thrills, a lot of which are due to Darabont's highly intelligent anti-Hitchcockian approach.

He allows silence to build suspense and uneasiness, as opposed to using music like most conven-

tional thrillers do.

A lot of the common thriller conventions are thrown out the window here actually, which adds to the film's numerous high-tension sequences.

Some familiar faces appear in the film to help fill the cast of small-town misfits. Laurie Holden, who

previously appeared in Darabont's *The Majestic*, plays a member of Drayton's posse. Jeffrey DeMunn and William Sadler also make repeat Darabont appearances. Toby Jones and Andre Braugher help round out the rest of the cast.

Among all of these seemingly mediocre performances, though, the lone standout is Marcia Gay Harden as the sadistic yet preachy Christian leader. She is so menacing and evil at some points in the film, it's brilliant. She kind of gets you to start to cheer for the mist.

Getting down to the end, however, the movie leaves you with an unfortunately sour taste in your mouth. It's a shame because the first two hours of the film provide such a magnificent rush for the audience, but in the end you are left foggy-minded (pun intended) about it as a whole, and are questioning whether or not you were satisfied with the final results.

Overall, I think Frank Darabont created a fine film. It brought some of the most intense thrills I've seen in years, and outstanding special effects. Although the cast is mediocre (save for Harden) and I would have completely rewritten the last 20 minutes, *The Mist* produces what its audience demands of it. Just be prepared for a dissatisfying ending is all.



The Mist
Director: Frank Darabont
Starring: Thomas Jane, Laurie Holden, Marcia Gay Harden
Release: Nov. 23, 2007
Rating: 8.0/10



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HOME ALONE 9? - Nope, it's monsters jumping out of the mist, silly.

Hidden plans for Hidden Cameras

The Cord speaks with Joel Gibb pre-Starlight

SHELLEY THERRIEN
CORD A&E

As members of Canada's prodigious Arts & Crafts label, The Hidden Cameras make music that lead singer Joel Gibb once described as "gay church folk music." Hailing from Toronto, the band is known for their energetic stage performances and songs filled with sexual and religious imagery.

The band's full-length albums *Smell Of Our Own* (2003), *Missis-sauga Goddamn* (2004), and *Awoo* (2006) consist of melodic, highly accessible pop songs with Gibb's rather exploratory and vulnerable lyrics.

In a phone conversation with The Cord from Berlin, where lead singer Gibb lives part-time, Gibb discussed his influences, experiences in other countries and hints about the upcoming Canadian tour.

While listening to CBC radio in the background, which makes him feel more at home, he said the hardest part about living between Germany and Toronto is just finding excuses not to go out every night. He really enjoys staying in, doing art, buying groceries and working on his songs.

That said, he will provide very little information about his new material. When asked about new songs and new stage ideas, Gibb says, "I don't know if we'll be ready for Waterloo, but there are new songs and new tricks."

The band was not planning to rehearse for tomorrow's show at

the Starlight until yesterday, so Gibb wasn't sure what would be involved. Since Waterloo is the first stop on their tour, he wants to limit information.

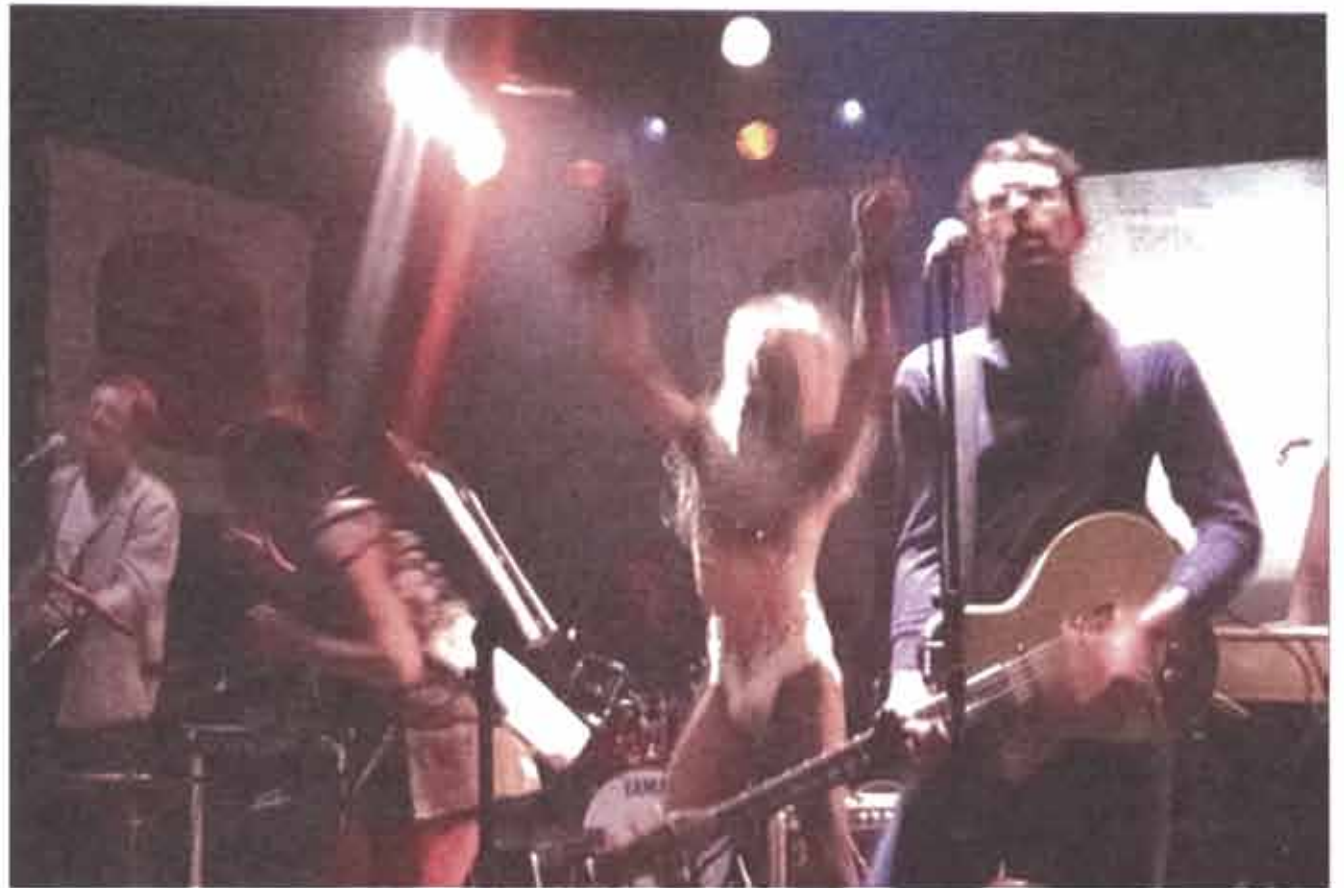
"I don't want to talk about it until we've rehearsed it," Gibb explained. "We don't know what we're going to do until right before the show when we do the set list. Being the first official show of our tour, I don't know if we'll be ready, but I think we can just do it." This spontaneous attitude tends to guide most of their performance ideas.

Though tight-lipped, Gibb hinted that he plans to have 10 band members in attendance. He also has new ideas to incorporate backing tracks into the songs, but other than that, did not delve too deeply into the new material. He likes things to be spontaneous and for the songs to speak more for themselves.

"I'm being very mysterious, I'm sorry," he says with a laugh. Because the band is dispersed across Canada and Europe, they usually meet right before shows to begin rehearsals. As he spoke, Gibb was simultaneously answering e-mails to various band members.

On the topic of recent influences, however, he describes how he was inspired by modern dance artist Michael Clarke while visiting London. He also does not like to dwell too much on the meanings behind his songs, as he finds it important for people to form their own interpretations.

In discussing some of the songs off previous albums, such as



GREG MCKENZIE

I WANNA SEX YOU UP - One of the Hidden Cameras' trademark shows featuring a live-action gogo dancer.

"Learning The Lie" from *Awoo*, Gibb displays his interest in the idea of language being a social construction. "It kind of relates to semiotics, which I studied in university," he said.

The idea of words being empty signifiers for larger concepts and the disillusionment with societal constructs are themes that run throughout many of his songs.

"That's why I love music, it's so international," explains Gibb. "People getting together, and dancing, and making music. It's so freeing and universal." The band name itself was first inspired by the idea of the panopticon, in which the fear of constant surveillance causes

people to act according to societal norms.

When asked about the different reactions his music receives around the world, Gibb says that he doesn't pay much attention to press. "They seem to like us," he says. "I'm glad I don't understand half the things people say. I don't really like to dwell on what is written. I'm glad people write about us though."

Due to the somewhat controversial nature of some of their music, Gibb says, "It should be the goal of any band to get bad press as well as good press. You can't make an impression without taking some sort of risk."

Along with putting on spec-

tacular stage shows, the band has played many unlikely venues including churches, porn theatres and, more recently, a soccer stadium in Munich, where they entertained 78,000 people.

"That was a cathedral of capitalism, and we like to play all sorts of cathedrals." In particular, he looks forward to playing in Waterloo, as he says, "It's a city where each time we play, it's better. I hope a lot of people come out."

Gibb says that the album currently in the works will probably not be released until late 2008, and it's apparent that his focus right now is on relaxing and working on his songs and his art.

One night at the gallery

The annual Neufeld sale showcases his vast career

ELISE COTTER
STAFF WRITER

The name Woldemar Neufeld probably won't mean much to most of Laurier's students, which is a shame since he is all around the

campus. Neufeld, who died in 2002, was a local artist who painted many Waterloo landscapes before moving to Connecticut and then later to New York.

In 1993, the university was able to obtain around 400 of his pieces,

most of them settling on the walls of the library and of our professors' offices.

Last night, the Robert Langen Art Gallery hosted a reception in which some of Neufeld's other pieces, chosen from the family's personal estate, were auctioned off for the Woldemar Neufeld Collection Endowment Fund.

The endowment ensures the continued circulation and exposure of Neufeld's work, a goal to which his son Laurence is devoted. He has spent the past several years trying to market his father's name and is happy with Laurier's shared commitment.

Neufeld was born November 10, 1909, in Waldheim, a Mennonite village in Russia. His father was an engineer whose drawings of bridges and machinery quickly became a major influence in Neufeld's growing interest in drawing.

Three years after his father's political execution, his mother remarried a Mennonite priest, who further encouraged Neufeld's passion for painting.

In 1924, the enlarged family immigrated to Waterloo, to escape the Soviet Union, with little money and

no extra clothes. They were quickly welcomed by the Mennonite community. Laurence remembers his father mentioning how "paintable" he thought Waterloo was when first arriving during the winter. For the next 10 years, Neufeld would continue to paint the different landscapes of the Kitchener-Waterloo region.

Neufeld studied at the Waterloo College School, now known as Wilfrid Laurier University, where he met his future wife, fellow student Peggy.

Incidentally, Peggy's mother was such an integral part in getting women accepted into the school that she now has a dormitory named after her, the Clara Conrad Residence.

The pieces featured in the exhibit were all of Waterloo. They span nearly 60 years, from the 1930s to the early 1990s. In that time, his technique changed from more precise to bolder strokes of paint.

Laurence explains this is mostly due to his glaucoma and Parkinson's disease, which started in the middle 1980s. Even with poor eyesight and little control over his movements, Neufeld couldn't stop

painting.

In the 1930s, Neufeld left Waterloo for Connecticut and New York where he developed his style of social realism based on the paintings of The Ashcan School. Laurence explains his father "would show the landscape the way it really was, without embellishing." It was during the Depression Era that Neufeld came into his own as an artist.

For the exhibit, the Neufeld family had to part with some of their personal collection. Although this was hard, Laurence explains that they still have over 1000 more paintings stored away.

Neufeld could, and did, paint all the time. Anywhere he went, even during family vacations, Neufeld would take out his brushes or sketchbook and put whatever he saw on paper. "He didn't need inspiration," his son explains. "He was always seeing paintings."

The passion for painting seems to continue with Laurence. He remembers sitting as a child in some of the many summer art classes his father taught. A retired builder, Laurence now hopes to start his own work.



GREG MCKENZIE

A SLICE OF LIFE - One of Neufeld's serene landscapes up for grabs.

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