

BEARING THE COLD

Emilie Joslin recalls her educational trip to Churchill, the world's polar bear capital ... **PAGES 14-15**

MAY DAY

Green Party leader visits Laurier ... **PAGE 2**

BACK TO CAMP

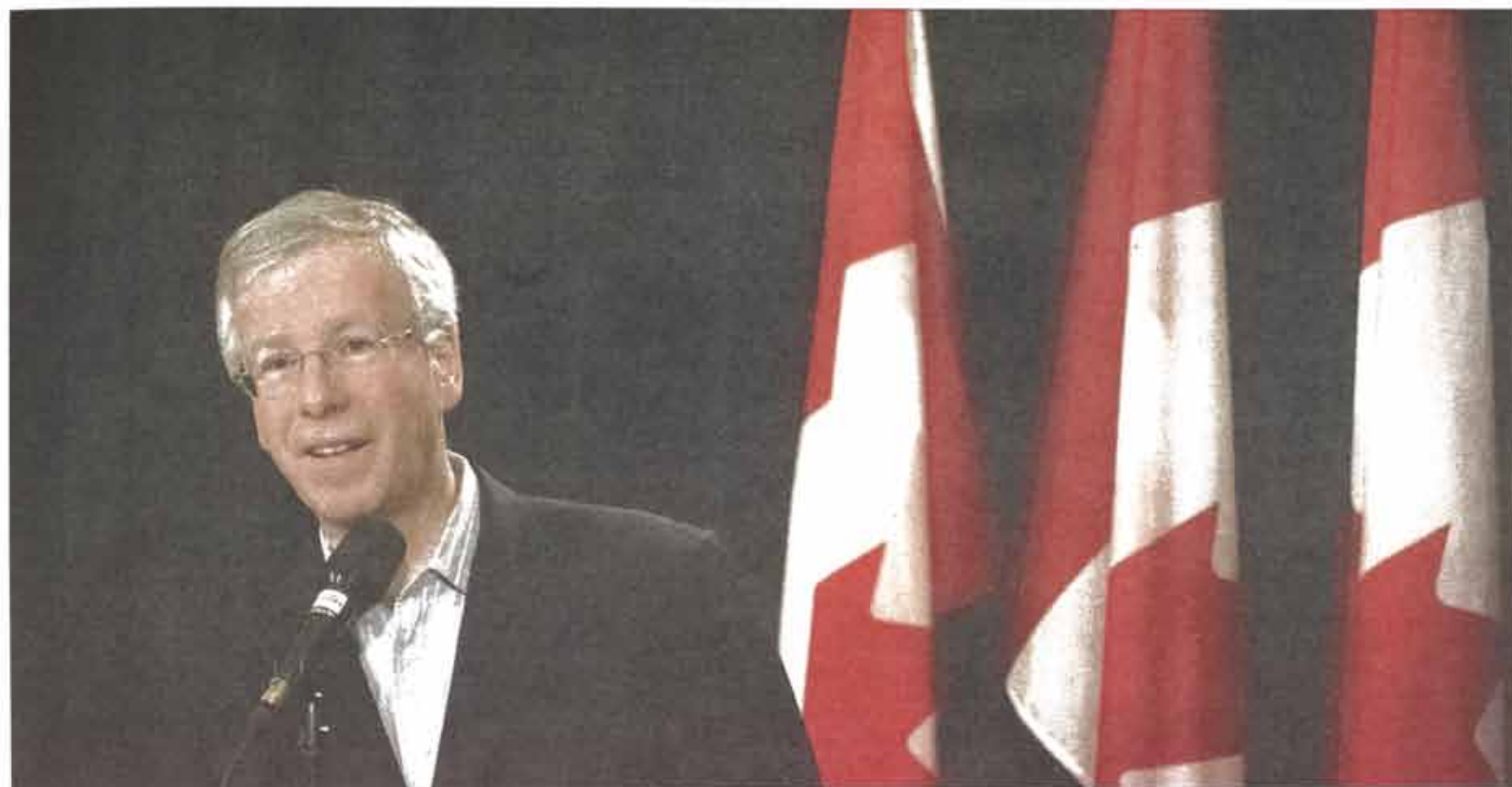
Hawk lineman to train with Argos ... **PAGE 17**

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SYDNEY HELLAND

A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME - Party leader Stéphane Dion speaks with Liberal caucus in Kitchener and does not rule out 2008 election campaign.

Liberal leader visits KW

Yesterday's caucus meeting saw Stéphane Dion address the Afghan war and Canada's economy

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR
& **DAVE SHORE**
FEATURES EDITOR

During a time when his leadership has been cast into doubt, the Liberal party leader exited yesterday's caucus meeting with a clear message.

"2008 is a new ball game," stated a confident Stéphane Dion, having just delivered a speech to members of the Liberal caucus.

Addressing reporters outside the conference room at the Fairway Road Holiday Inn, Dion was pressed to provide his insight on the just-released Manley Report, which had former Liberal cabinet

minister John Manley leading a five-person panel to determine what Canada's continuing role in Afghanistan should be.

According to *CBC.ca*, the panel included former broadcaster Pamela Wallin; Derek Burney, former ambassador to Washington during the Mulroney years; Paul Tellier, former clerk of the Privy Council;

and Jake Epp, also a cabinet minister from the Mulroney cabinet.

The 90-page document, which was released at 10 am during Dion's speech, somewhat hindered the quality of any response that the opposition leader gave.

- SEE **DION**, PAGE 4

Park's new job

Park resigns from the board to take on a part-time staff post

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

Less than a month after stepping down from Chair of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) Board of Directors (BOD), Matt Park resigned from his capacity as a director and has now been hired as a part-time staff member for WLUSU.

"I've taken on some project support work for the president and right now my project support is elections," said Park.

"When I was given the opportunity to still work on supporting the organization in a way that's conducive to what's coming up in my own schedule now, to be perfectly honest it was just one of those opportunities I didn't think I could say no to," he added.

- SEE **PARK**, PAGE 2

Sacks victorious as Student Publications president

President and board both decided by surprisingly lopsided margins after much debate during Annual General Meeting

REBECCA VASLUIANU
STAFF WRITER

Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications' (WLUSP) Annual General Meeting on Monday proved to be an interesting night of debate, as Laurier students came together to elect the new president and four members of the WLUSP Board of Directors.

In what many within WLUSP were expecting to be a close election, Greg Sacks, a fifth-year student and current director for the Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) Board of Directors, was chosen as president by an overwhelming 71 votes. He beat out Waleed Hafeez, International Editor of *The Cord Weekly*, who received 26 votes, and Matt Given, Editor-in-Chief of *The Keystone* yearbook, who received 17 votes.

The debate turned out to be riveting nonetheless, as candidates were drilled with tough questions about their platforms. They were asked to deliver a speech about their platform, each expressing their different outlooks on the direction of WLUSP.

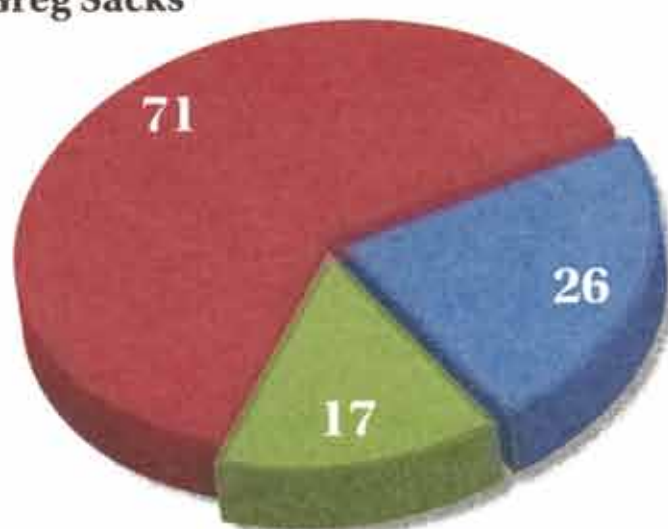
In his speech, Sacks stressed bridging the gaps in WLUSP's external relations with organizations like the Students' Union, while

Hafeez focused on a more internal level of the organization, to do with appreciating volunteers.

- SEE **WLUSP**, PAGE 4

President Votes

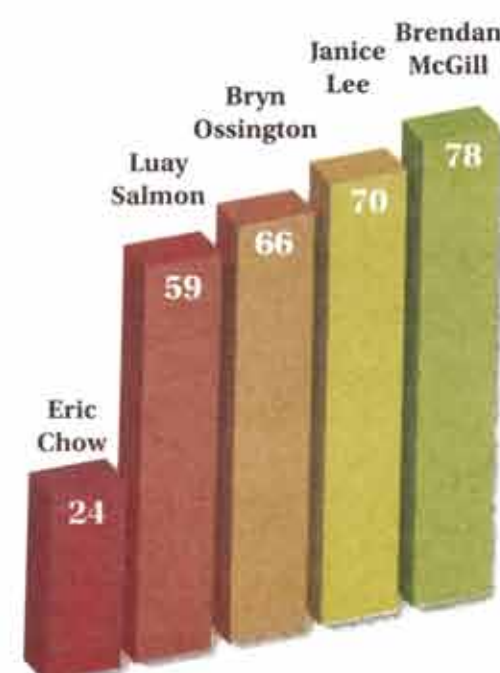
Greg Sacks



Waleed Hafeez

Matt Given

Board Member Votes



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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"So I've decided that being drunk in class is the only way I don't fall asleep and I should do it all the time."

- Sports Editor Lauren Millet, while entering Wilfrid's after drinking two-thirds of a mickey of vodka in her night class.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Overdose - a dangerously large dose of medicine or a drug, often with fatal results, especially when related to celebrities and the like

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COLOPHON

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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

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

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

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

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

Editorial 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 *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 eye to the concerns of the students of Wilfrid Laurier University. Ultimately, *The Cord* will be bound by neither philosophy, nor geography, nor mandate.

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

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

Green Party leader visits WLU

Elizabeth May speaks about climate change and Stephen Harper

DAN BELGUE
WEB EDITOR

Last Saturday evening, a capacity crowd of supporters – comprised of students, Green Party members and the general public – gathered in the Bricker Academic Building to welcome Elizabeth May, leader of the Canadian Green Party, to the podium for a fundraising lecture.

With cheering and standing ovations occurring throughout the evening, May addressed several topics in her lecture – including climate change and the aspirations for the Green Party.

She was not shy in her criticisms of Prime Minister Stephen Harper. "His vision for the country is, I think, a dangerous one," May said.

She explained that he doesn't actually care about climate change as much as Canadians do.

"The climate crisis is a central concern to most Canadians today," she said.

May hopes that there will soon be a significant change in parliament. Although she wants the Green Party to gain more support in time, she is also intent on seeing a more immediate, tangible shift in the way things are being done.

She is hoping to see an election as soon as possible, with hopes of Harper losing his current leadership position.

"The next federal election will be the single most important election in this country," she said.

May was specifically concerned with the sudden firing of Linda Keen, the President of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and a "watchdog" on nuclear safety, last Tuesday night at 10 pm, and



MICHELLE ATTARD

THINKING BIG - Green Party Leader Elizabeth May wants to see a "tangible shift" in Canadian governance.

what that means for other watchdogs and regulators under the Harper government.

May hopes that the Green Party's time is coming. With the Greens garnering 4.5 percent of the popular vote in the January 2006 federal election, there has been a significant growth in support.

"Our goals as a party are not

small," she said. "We have a different value set than other parties. We want these ideas put into practice. We will change the climate in parliament," she added.

May, a writer, activist and lawyer, has been involved with environmentalism since the 1970s. In August 2006, she became the ninth leader of Green Party of Canada,

stepping down from her 17-year position as director of the Sierra Club of Canada.

Also speaking Saturday night were the three local Green Party candidates: Cathy MacLellan of the Kitchener-Waterloo riding, Jamie Kropf of Kitchener-Conestoga and John Bithell from Kitchener-Centre.

Hiring an 'obvious choice': Allison

- FROM PARK, COVER

Having officially started his new job on January 16, Park has been assisting the Chief Returning Officer, Craig Stover, in preparing for the February 7 WLUUSU presidential and board elections – after which he will be working on various ad-hoc assignments for the Students' Union.

Dan Allison, President of WLUUSU, took the initiative to hire Park and has given the new position the temporary working title of "Policy and Governance Co-ordinator."

"He's doing a lot of the policy work that is necessary for the introduction and implementation of policy governance," explained Allison. Allison also noted that, though they are still working on an official job description for the newly created position, specific tasks could include working on the strategic plan, job descriptions and various other projects for WLUUSU.

He went on to explain that, currently, they are planning on having Park work until the end of April, but that his work may extend as far as September.

Since they are unsure of the exact details of how long he will be in his position, and no of-

ficial contracts have been signed, Allison said that he is unsure of how much money Park will be making – though he did note that he would be paid a salary.

Though Allison said the initiative to create such a position has been in the works for quite some time, he clarified that what it came down to this year was a "timely decision" because of the upcoming election.

"With his resignation from chair, I talked to him about it," said Allison. "I brought it up to be like 'Oh, it would be nice to keep you around' kind of thing and we joked about having an advisor to the president, and that wasn't really what the intention was at all, and it just kind of naturally came up again."

Allison went on to explain that they did not go through an official hiring process before employing Park.

"It was fairly unofficial – as far as [the hiring] was concerned. It's not typically how we would like to hire somebody permanent but, due to the timing of the election and everything, Matt really was the obvious choice for a job like this," said Allison.

According to Mike McMahon, the general

manager of WLUUSU, when the union hires staff members it doesn't necessarily have to go through the same protocol for hiring that they would need to if they were simply hiring volunteers.

"When we need immediate assistance on project work that has come up in kind of an immediate way, we have to move more quickly and, sometimes we've had to appoint people on short notice," explained McMahon.

Despite this, the issue of how Park was hired as a staff member has raised concern for some, such as current BOD member Colin LeFevre.

"The position actually may be beneficial. The thing that made me the most concerned was ... they hired someone without consulting any sort of hiring policies," said LeFevre.

Though it's an issue he wants to look into further, LeFevre feels that this is an issue the board may need to address.

"The board should be concerned if the president is making what seems somewhat like a patronage appointment."

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story

VOCAL CORD

"What can organizations on campus do to encourage more students to vote?"



"Get the word out there with flyers, booths, classroom announcements and even wearing t-shirts."

- Megan Lambercht
Fourth-year history/sociology



"Go around and talk to people, start up conversations so that people know what it's about."

- Jenn Donaldson
Fourth-year sociology



"Advertise elections more, put posters up so people know about it."

- Divya Shah
Third-year psychology



"People should ... realize why voting is important. The motivation will follow."

- Chris Ennes
Third-year honours history



"Give concrete examples of how an active student body will affect the university experience. More information will lead to more involvement."

- Kellen Kurschinski
Third-year honours history

Race for the presidency

Three candidates run for the WLUSU position

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

With Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) elections approximately two weeks away, it appears as if the race to the presidency will be the tightest in recent memory.

Ross Fraser, Colin Le Fevre and Brian Punambolam all declared their candidacy at the WLUSU All-Candidates Meeting this past Monday night, in a gathering at the Turret, which also included potentials for the Board of Directors (BOD), Board of Governors and Senate.

In a welcome departure from the relative disinterest of last year, which saw 10 acclaimed directors, this year there are 27 hopefuls for the 15 spots on the BOD, including current directors Jon Champagne, Paul Laanemets and Kory Preston all seeking re-election.

Current director Matthew Ichim also submitted a nomination package, though he was unable to attend the All-Candidates Meeting. Attempts to contact Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Craig Stover on Tuesday evening, to determine whether this would affect his eligibility, were unsuccessful.

In Monday's 45-minute session, Stover gave a brief rundown of what campaigning tactics are deemed acceptable, which included appropriate use of Facebook groups and, more specifically to the presidential race, that spending be capped at \$500 dollars (not including the limit of \$75 in donations allowed per campaign).

No major changes were forthcoming in terms of electoral policy, although importance was placed

on various dates of the campaign schedule, including the residence tours next Tuesday to Thursday.

Beginning in the Bricker Residence at 5 pm on January 29, the group will shift to King Street Residence the next day and will conclude the tour at Waterloo College Hall the following day, Thursday, January 31, at 7:30 pm.

And while the Brantford Open Forum will be held earlier in the afternoon that same Thursday, Laurier students at the Waterloo campus will have an opportunity to hear the candidates speak on Tuesday, February 5, between 1 and 4 pm in the Concourse.

When asked what the main focus of his campaign will be, Punambolam listed "transparency, innovation and representation."

"It's important for students to know what their elected officials are up to," explained Punambolam, who served as VP: Student Activities this past year.

Among his initiatives, Punambolam highlighted renovation and expansion at Wilf's to create an outdoor patio, an increased focus on an expanded value menu, more seating in the Terrace and creating a grocery shuttle to the nearby Sobeys.

Le Fevre, on the other hand, was adamant that he has no intentions for any "aesthetic renovations." He did suggest, however, that practical projects, such as "getting more electrical outlets on campus" for things like laptops, could be a project that he would undertake.

Having served as a director with WLUSU and as chair of the Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications' (WLUSP) Board of Directors, Le Fevre intends to "give back



SYDNEY HELLAND

LOOKING FOR THE VOTE - Campaign posters now decorate campus.

the ideas" he has "been able to garner" from the time he has spent at the university.

"There are changes that can be made and need to be made," he explained.

One way Fraser is looking to give back is to devise a system in which student leaders on campus will be able to receive an academic credit for their work. He is also looking at improving WLUSU.com to increase the "ease of communication back to the students."

Having been involved at Laurier "in various facets", including previous work with Residence Life as a don and working this past year as the WLUSU VP: Marketing, Fraser is excited for what he anticipates to be a big student turnout come election day.

"I see this year being an ability-based race."

Check for election platforms in next week's Cord.

OneCard office audit still incomplete

Outstanding items must be "explored further"; administration asks KPMG for report expediently

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

Despite the fact that the extensive audit occurring at the OneCard office has been ongoing for over 14 weeks, results from what the external firm KPMG has uncovered are still not finalized.

According to Dan Dawson, the general manager of Student Services - which is the department the OneCard office falls under - the university still has not made any information public because of the sensitive nature of the process.

"The audit is ongoing. There are some outstanding items that the auditing firm is following up on," said Dawson.

Though initially the audit was not expected to take as long as it has, Dawson explained that, dur-

ing the question and answer interview process, items came up which the auditors needed to explore further.

"Through the course of their investigation, they encountered some additional things that they wanted to follow up on," noted Dawson, who also explained that KPMG has been requested by the university to write their final report as quickly as possible.

"Pending receiving that report is kind of what everything is hinging on at the current time," he added.

Since the manager of the OneCard office, Nick Tomljenovic, was asked for human resource reasons to not continue working in the office during the audit, Richard Godsmark, the ResNet manager, is temporarily working in the office to deal with day-to-day issues.

"I'm assisting with management duties. There is no official title, nor anything along those lines. It's literally just because of my experience within the operations from a technical standpoint," said Godsmark.

Since Godsmark is not in an administrative position, he explained that he knows very little about the current status of the audit.

"I don't get to see the report ... I'm not a manager, so I have no privy to that information," he said.

Godsmark has also been assisting with The Hub operations as well, since Tomljenovic was also the manager of that business.

Though Godsmark and the rest of the OneCard staff still know very little about the situation, he stressed that he tries to discourage any rumours that may be circulat-

ing because of the strange circumstances surrounding the audit.

"Our office doesn't engage in any rumour mills. We don't engage in any speculation because we're of the opinion that we don't know, so we'll be told when it's deemed necessary," he explained.

And that is something which Dawson hopes will happen soon.

"We're kind of in a holding pattern," he said. "Most of the staff were involved in the audit process at different points."

"I think they understand both the sensitivity of the situation as well as the scope of what is going on, but they're as much wondering when this is going to be final as anybody is."

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story

NEWSIN BRIEF

Laurier students succeed at business competition

Students from the Laurier School of Business and Economics were awarded top spots at the Inter-Collegiate Business Competition (ICBC) in Kingston earlier this month.

The debating team, which consisted of students Jordan Schmidt and Dave Bornstein, won first place, as did the marketing team of Mike Morrice and Chris DePaul.

Students from Laurier also placed second and third in other categories of the competition, with Laurier taking the Chairperson's Award for the school demonstrating the greatest team spirit.

"Leave the Pack Behind"

As of this past Monday, Laurier's "Leave the Pack Behind" (LTPB) has been present in the Concourse, holding an interactive booth to promote its annual "Let's Make a Deal" contest.

The contest is designed to reinforce LTPB's mission, which is educating students "about the realities of tobacco use and its effects on one's health," according to an LTPB press release.

The contest encourages participation by both smokers and non-smokers alike, recognizing the merits of abstaining from smoking as well as of quitting.

"Let's Make a Deal" hopes to build on the success of last year's contest, with a vast array of prizes to be won.

The booth will be open for registration until Friday, January 25, between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm.

WLU professor to sit on prestigious council

Dr. Pierre Siklos, director of the Viessmann European Research Centre and professor of Economics at Wilfrid Laurier University, has been named to C.D. Howe Institute's prestigious Monetary Policy Council (MPC).

The MPC is made up of 12 of the country's most distinguished monetary economists, meeting before the Bank of Canada's interest-rate announcements to discuss the overnight target rate.

Siklos specializes in macroeconomics with a particular focus on financial markets, inflation and central banks.

- Compiled by Evan Millar and Melissa Dranfield

New president wants to 'bridge gaps'

- FROM WLUSP, COVER

Given, likewise, focused greatly on his closeness with WLUSP, which he called his "family."

One of the biggest crowd reactions came when candidates were asked to name which of their fellow candidates they would support if they couldn't win. Both Hafeez and Sacks chose each other, referencing Given's lack of experience as a major deterrent.

"I am really hoping they pick the right person in their views," stated Hafeez during the voting period. "I really hope it's me or Greg. I just think we both have the most experience with the organization and, in his case, outside as well."

One of the most intriguing segments of questions turned out to be about the fate of *The Sputnik*, the bi-weekly newspaper run by WLUSP at Laurier Brantford.

Whereas Sacks argued that more resources must be offered to let *The Sputnik* grow on its own and Hafeez suggested that *The Cord* and *The Sputnik* need to be more involved in the way of mutual critiquing, Given gave a more blunt assessment.

"I think they're hilarious," stated Given, adding that he didn't think it was possible for *The Sputnik* to become as renowned as *The Cord*.

When asked during the voting about how

he thought he had performed throughout his campaign, Given answered with only slight confidence.

"To be honest, I answered all the questions as honestly as I could and I talked to a lot of people beforehand, all through friends and different networks and I thought I did okay," said Given. "I'm only really one-third confident in the election results."

And when the results came through, Sacks won with a landslide number votes - more than doubling Hafeez's results and tripling Given's. Despite his loss, Hafeez stated that he still has great confidence in WLUSP next year.

"I think Greg is a really great choice and he'll do a really great job with the organization ... and I'm looking forward to how it's going to grow next year," explained Hafeez. "It's going to be a great year for WLUSP."

After his victory was announced, Sacks' was pleased. "I'm going to go to Wil's for a few drinks and then I'm going to go to sleep because I have class tomorrow," he said.

As for the Board of Directors election, candidates Eric Chow, Janice Lee, Brendan McGill, Bryn Ossington and Luay Salmon faced off in what turned out to be an intriguing question and answer period.

For the most part, candidates answered well. A great amount of pressure, though, was placed

on Chow for his past actions of plagiarism in *The Cord* and an inability to submit a platform or picture for his campaign.

Replying unstably, Chow attempted to save his credibility to little avail by explaining that the plagiarism was an incident of a sentence that matched another publication's by coincidence.

Later, Chow explained that he felt these moments were the turning point for him in the night.

"I was kind of singled out for the lack of a picture, the lack of submitting a platform, the issue of plagiarism," he said.

In the end it appeared that Chow's mistakes lost him the election, as he fell behind all of the other candidates by a huge margin, including Salmon - who seemed nervous and fell silent during the closing speeches.

And after all the speech and debate that occurred, the official Board of Directors for WLUSP was chosen in order of highest votes: Brendan McGill with 78, Janice Lee following close with 70, Bryn Ossington with 66 and Luay Salmon with 59, with Chow receiving a meagre 24 votes.

Dr. Herbert Pimlott, an associated professor in the communications department, delivered a short lecture on media and democracy while the evening's votes were being tabulated.



SYDNEY HELLAND

THE RESULTS ARE IN - Sacks, Given and Hafeez at Monday's AGM meeting. Sacks walked away as the 2008-2009 WLUSP President.

AW@L protests Dion

- FROM DION, COVER

"We will look [at the report] and will react to it," he said.

After it was explained that the report summarized that Canadian troops should remain in Afghanistan beyond 2009, provided that sufficient troops and equipment are provided, Dion reiterated that he still wants "the combat position to end in February 2009."

"It's time for Canada to do something different in Afghanistan," he stated, explaining that "we are willing to continue the mission in Afghanistan," albeit working in co-operation with NATO forces and the Afghan government in a training role and "to focus on development" in the region.

Whether this topic, as well as the weakening economy, could lead the Liberals to force an election remains unclear.

Andrew Telegdi, Member of Parliament for the riding of Kitch-

ener-Waterloo, commented that it would be Dion's "call" as to how long the current government will be allowed to stand before it is put to a vote for the Canadian public.

"I can say that he has announced that 2008 will be a new ball game, and I would expect that the government is not going to listen to sound advice," said Telegdi.

The MP spoke out about how the Harper-led Conservatives are "making the wrong choices in terms of the economy" and that "it's time to assist the manufacturing sector, because if people lose jobs then there's another cost that has to be paid."

"Of course, it encourages overall economic health for the country," he said of addressing the issue.

With his lack of trust that such facts will be dealt with, Telegdi imagined then that "we would be pulling the plug" on the current leadership. "But this is [Harper's] fault," he added.

Apparently, the Conservatives were not the only ones to shoulder some criticism, as the Liberals dealt with their share the previous day.

With meetings in session inside the hotel, a group of individuals including WLU students - belonging to Anti-War @ Laurier - gathered outside the hotel to protest the Liberals not forcing the government to end the human rights violations in Canada around the issue of secret arrests and trials.

Currently, five people have been arrested on Canadian soil with the use of security certificates, which, according to current legislation, allows alleged criminals to be arrested and detained without being charged and tried without being present at their own trial.

"It's a clear violation of human rights. We're treating these people similarly to the way the Americans do in Guantanamo," said Alex Hundert, a member of AW@L.

AW@L members met with the Campaign to Stop Secret Trails in Canada, a group based out of Toronto, to pressure the Liberal opposition to vote down the government on upcoming Bill C-3: legislation that will solidify the use of secret trails by Canadian officials.

"Five of the students from AW@L put on bright orange jump suits and wore black hoods, and carried cardboard jail bars with the names of the arrested on them," recalled Hundert.

The five costumed protesters marched in on the Liberal press conference in progress and lined up against the back of the stage, while a member of the Campaign to Stop Secret Trails in Canada issued a speech to the press.

"We marched right into the press room," Hundert declared.

"I think the campaign itself is proving effective," he said. "This is something that's going to be an ongoing issue."

CORD/ONLINE

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Under-representation

Mara Silvestri reports on Tuesday's panel discussion at Laurier on the under-representation of students.

Region looks at new transit

ALARIC DENNIS
CORD NEWS

This past Thursday, the Region of Waterloo held a public consultation for citizens of the community as part of the environmental assessment phase of the proposed rapid transit system line that will run from North Waterloo to Cambridge.

The objective of this meeting was to inform Waterloo residents of the route options for the new system and the different technologies available. It also provided an opportunity for comments and concerns from the general public.

The project director of the rapid transit initiative, Yanick Cyr, outlined the necessity for an improved system, as the region is expecting growth of "a quarter million people over the next five years."

Cyr said that the goal of the new rapid transit system is to address how the growing population will "move across our city" by creating an "efficient backbone" for public transportation, thereby reducing the number of cars on the road.

He feels that, ideally, the system will create "vibrant neighbourhoods" around different stations, which will be placed at "key nodes" throughout the city.

The two transportation systems proposed at the meeting were Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Light Rail Transit (LRT). A BRT system would be similar to an iExpress line where buses travel in a dedicated lane on existing roads, which is used in cities like Halifax and Ottawa.

The more ambitious of the two technologies, the LRT system, uses vehicles similar to streetcars that travel on embedded tracks built into existing roads and can use either electric or hybrid engines.

Both systems will require the construction of dedicated transit ways, possibly where existing rail lines run, and a considerable alteration to existing civic infrastructure.

In terms of a timeline, Cyr commented that the decision on technology, route and station locations will be made by the end of this year and construction could begin as early as 2011.

Applicants rising

MARA SILVESTRI
STAFF WRITER

It may not be a surprise to some people that Laurier is slowly climbing the ladder of popularity for prospective students.

A recent press release stated that just over ten percent more high school students than last year made Laurier their top choice for universities - setting a new record for Laurier, as enrolment continues to grow province-wide.

It went on to note that not only are there a record number of applicants, but the growth of the number of applicants put Laurier in the top three universities in terms of applicant percentage growth.

"We've seen this over the last five years," said Sue Horton, VP: Academic at Laurier. "We try to provide

a good quality student experience, and I think some of it is word of mouth.

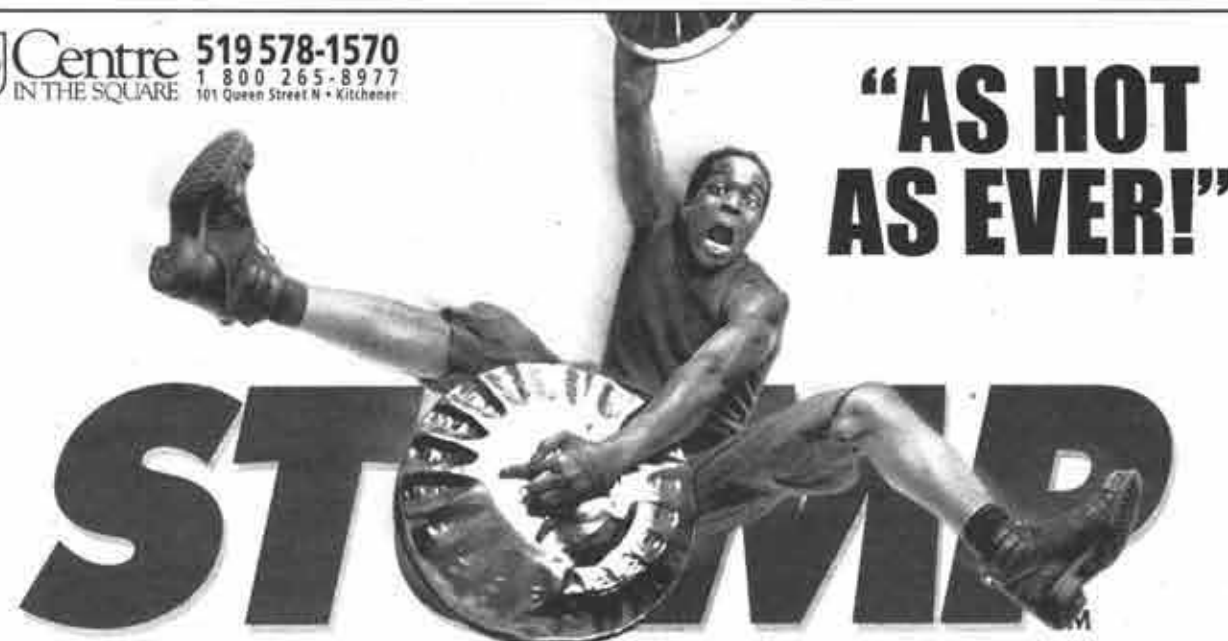
"I think students hear from their friends that it's a good experience. Also, the tours - the student ambassadors do a fantastic job. If we can get the students to come to the campus to visit, they get hooked," she continued.

Despite the growth that may be occurring, Laurier standards will continue to remain up to par, according to Horton.

"Modest growth is good. You hire new faculty and the fact that good high quality students want to come here is good for everyone," said Horton, adding that the most notable change the school may implement is an increase in the cut-off grades for admittance.

For the full version of Bag O' Crime visit www.CordWeekly.com

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Crime of the Week

Assault

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Special constables came across a large party taking place in a residence. While attempting to clear out the people, one of our officers was head-butted in the face. The suspect was a 16-year-old male.

CANADA IN BRIEF

More violence at York

Toronto, ON

York University is again being urged to address issues of campus violence after several recent incidents have raised concern about the safety of students.

On Friday, January 11, a 20-year-old woman was sexually assaulted at approximately 8:00 pm in the stairwell of Founders College, a York residence.

This attack marks the fifth of its kind to have been reported at York since the school year began in September.

In addition to this, a different assault took place on campus on December 3, involving a 19-year-old student who was swarmed and beaten by a group of four suspects, one of which has recently been arrested for a series of robberies in York Region.

According to York's student newspaper, *The Excalibur*, this assault appears to be related to two previous attacks of a similar nature on campus.

The York administration has conducted a safety review in light of assaults that occurred at the university in the fall, and have taken steps to increase the security of residence buildings.

Surveillance cameras are in the process of being installed, and 22 new "residence watch officers" have also been hired and trained.

Macleans.ca reports that, following these latest assaults, the undergraduate and graduate students' unions remain unsatisfied, and are jointly calling on the university to pursue a campus-wide safety audit in order to prevent any future acts of violence.

New debates about scholarships

Students across the country may soon be struggling harder to find financial support for post-secondary education from the federal government.

The Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation (CMSF), which began doling out scholarships and bursaries to students in 2000, is set to expire in 2009.

As students and politicians consider the upcoming loss to student funding – the CMSF currently provides \$325 million to students each year – Denise Savoie, the NDP Member of Parliament for Victoria, BC, has called for an absolute end to the foundation.

According to *Macleans.ca*, Savoie is asking for a publicly administered system which would provide upfront grants to students according to financial needs, instead of the current private foundation.

Savoie cautions people to reject the transformation of bursaries and scholarships into loans which would affect the ability of lower-income families to send

their children to post-secondary institutions.

So far, the federal government has not commented on the uncertain future of financial aid for Canadian students.

Protest at McGill

Montreal, QC

On January 10, ten students from McGill University began a four-hour peaceful protest. They locked themselves in the office of Heather Munroe-Blum, the principal of McGill University.

The students are part of a group at McGill called the Grassroots Association for Student Power. The protest was a result of the increase in tuition fees, which is rising at the rate of \$50 per semester over a period of five years.

According to *The McGill Daily*, security officials and administrators were screaming at the students to unlock the doors, but they refused. Instead, they raised a banner saying "McGill on Strike" on the receptionist's desk.

- Compiled by Jennifer Rae, Victoria Kennedy and Madhavi Ganju

Potential budget cuts ahead

Laurier administration prepares for an estimated two-percent cut in government funding 'based on preliminary numbers', says VP: Finance

ALISON GRENKIE
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier University budget, for the 2008-09 academic year, is facing many uncertainties, especially with a potential cut in government funding.

Laurier's VP: Finance and Administration Jim Butler stated that the budget is based on a number of assumptions.

These include government funding, the number of students granted admission and the outcome of two upcoming collective agreements to be negotiated for full-time staff and full-time faculty.

While a reduction has not yet been announced, Butler said that "based on preliminary numbers, it looks like a cut might be necessary."

Dr. Charles Morrison, dean of the Faculty of Music, first heard of the possible cut at a "Finance 101" meeting held last week.

The meeting, on university finances, was held as an orientation for the Board of Directors and Butler took the opportunity to introduce the possibility of a drop in funding – estimated to be around two percent.

Morrison believes that a cut would certainly present new challenges for the university, especially considering what areas this money will be taken from.

He approximates that 80 percent of the budget is tied up in fixed costs, such as faculty salaries.

"We're not a manufacturing plant, we're not making widgets. We're trying to expand minds and further the advance of research ... it takes people to do that," says Morrison.

This means it is likely that any cut would be taken

from what is termed the discretionary part of the budget.

As Morrison puts it, "This is what pays to send a student to a conference, what pays for an extra masters class here or a guest lecturer there."

Butler explains that while the university is proceeding with caution, it will be some time before the university receives a budget from the government, likely to occur in March or April.

The enrolment numbers are not set in stone until the fall term begins and students arrive on campus.

"We've been quite fortunate at Laurier. We've experienced significant growth over the last number of years, and that has paid off for us," Morrison comments.

The Ontario Universities' Application Centre has seen a steady rise in the number of applicants over the past four years, with 71,222 students in 2004 and a preliminary 83,381 students applying for Fall 2008 admission.

In the 2005 provincial budget, the McGuinty government promised to invest an additional \$6.2 billion in Ontario's universities, colleges and training programs over a five-year period.

This decision was well received and greatly improved one of the main concerns of the system – unfunded students.

However, as Butler points out, "Ontario is [still] the lowest funded province on a per-student basis."

He suggests that government priorities are reflected in this statistic. While an improvement has been seen in the recent past, when there is undergraduate growth, someone has to pay for it, Butler explains.

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Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group

LSPIRG Board of Directors Candidates (Six elected positions available)

Emily Christy

PIRGs are given a wonderful position on campus to facilitate awareness of social justice issues and to create a community of like minds. The visibility of social justice issues is the first step in empowering and legitimizing them. If elected onto the BOD I will bring with me knowledge from the University of Ottawa's OPIRG, the Visual Arts Student Association and other community based groups to aid in the promotion of LSPIRG on campus. With my organizational skills in hand, I intend to find a new space that is centralized and visible on campus, to reach out to first year students through alternative means and to jump start a group already in motion in a community that is about to BOOM (with social activism)!

John Clements

LSPIRG has come along way from its inception as a campus club to the independent student run organization that it is now. Yet, it still has great potential to expand its role both on and off campus in enabling members to be agents of social change. As a director for the past two terms, I'm running for a third and final term with the hopes of providing the continuity that our ever changing board needs. I would lead the organization to continue to focus on volunteer recruitment and organization. LSPIRG is like a rose almost ready to bloom. It just needs more water, and I'm the plant fertilizer in the water that's going to make it grow into a sunflower.

Meropi Deligiannis

I'm a first year student planning on majoring in Global Studies. I've lived in Kitchener-Waterloo for 16 years and in that time have gotten involved in many different areas of my community: like big brothers big sisters, CMHA, and a house of friendship community centre. These organizations have allowed me to find an entirely different perspective for our community and now I'm constantly trying to understand different viewpoints.

There is still a lot about Laurier that I don't know but visiting other schools, I realized the strong relationships I've made with other students like my LOCUS group, and the Laurier pride instilled in me is

unique.

I believe I am great choice, because I've worked with many issues tackled by the working groups, am committed —

Graham Engel

Cute, charismatic, and socially conscious, Graham Engel is a ripe candidate for LSPIRG Board of Directors. Constantly motivated to improve, Graham will bring his innovative imagination, personal initiative, people skills, and life experience to the Board next year.

If elected, he will make learning about the Board's initiatives and procedures, raising the on-campus profile of LSPIRG, student outreach, as well as support and establishment of campus working groups his priorities. Graham will do all within his power in order to be an invaluable support and leader to LSPIRG, Laurier, and our greater community. His passion, sense of humour, and values would be an asset to the Board.

Jen Holden

Although I lack the experience that some other candidates have I feel that I would be a positive contribution to an organization that has huge potential to encompass the spirit of change at Laurier. I am motivated by the desire to create a dominant culture on campus that will support the initiatives of social and environmental justice that LSPIRG and like minded people are working so hard to create. This is by no means an easy task, and requires a serious amount of dedication. I am seriously dedicated to the issues that LSPIRG is dedicated to and as director I will work to foster an environment on campus that will create critical discussion and action regarding these issues.

Lauren McNiven

I have worked with LSPIRG on events such as Make Poverty History, the Global Citizenship Conference and most recently on the creation of a student research opportunity. I have served on three Boards— the WLUSU BOD, the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance Board and the Canadian Alliance of Student Association's Board; and would appreciate the opportunity to use those experiences to assist our PIRG to

grow and develop into an even better organization. I believe that the Laurier PIRG has tremendous potential and through confident and innovative leadership, we may serve our students and community in a remarkably forward looking manner since natural linkages and partnerships available in our diverse community enable us to create substantial opportunities to enhance the quality of life within the community.

Jacob Pries

I am seeking re-election to the Board of Directors of the Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group so that I can continue to help build an accountable, repre-

sentative, dynamic, sustainable, and progressive organization. I am very active in working towards social and environmental justice, having been heavily involved with LSPIRG as a general volunteer, in working groups, as staff, and as the Chair of the Board this year. I hope to continue to utilize this experience to encourage and develop progressive and effective policies that will help empower students and give them the tools they need to build a better world. Peace! Jacob Pries.

Joshua Smyth

If re-elected to the LSPIRG Board of directors, I will use my experience sitting on several boards of directors to continue

bringing an informed and progressive voice to the direction of the organization. There is a phenomenal opportunity for LSPIRG to capitalize on the growing tide of student awareness at Laurier, and I'd like to use my tenure to help solidify the policies and procedures of what still is a new organization. Exciting, I know.

More specifically, I want to work hard to improve the co-ordination of the many on and off-campus groups working on social causes. Co-ordination and facilitation is exactly what LSPIRG exists to do, and our office should be the first place anyone goes when starting a new initiative. Building these connections —

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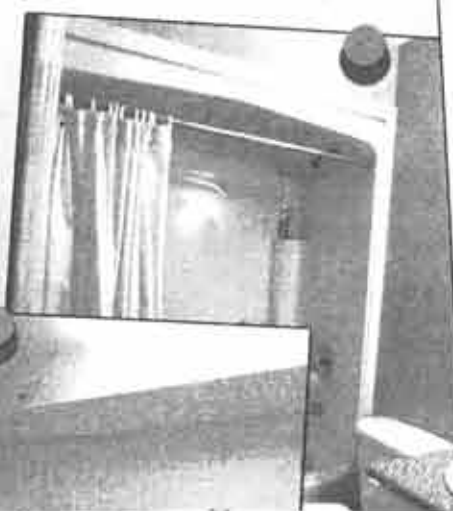
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Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group

Annual General Meeting

January 24, 2008 at 7 pm in the Paul Martin Centre

Come out to hear the candidates outline in two-minute speeches why they would be an effective Director, followed by a question and answer period!

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Deliverables

Research Proposal: Due February 18, 2008

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2. Final Report: Due June 30, 2008

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The complete Request For Proposals can be downloaded from the LSPIRG website.

To apply, please submit a resume and an example of one research report to info@lspirg.ca by February 4, 2008.



Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group

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Join LSPIRG's Facebook Group and sign up on the LSPIRG website to receive a Weekly Update!

US recession feared in '08

Staff writer **Heather MacDonald** speaks to Laurier professor Dr. William Marr about the expected recession and the effect it may have on the Canadian economy and the average Canadian consumer, as well as any impact on Canadian students

HEATHER MACDONALD
STAFF WRITER

Last week Goldman Sachs, a leading global investment bank, was one of the first to report an anticipated recession in the US economy. A recession would cause a slowing down, if not a complete halt, in the growth of the economy with a decline in the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

The Federal Reserve, the central banking system of the US, is expected to "slash benchmark lending rates to 2.5% by the third quarter" of 2008, as reported in the *Financial Post*.

DR. WILLIAM MARR FEELS THAT THERE IS ONLY LIKELY TO BE A "DECLINE IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY" AS OPPOSED TO A FULL-BLOWN RECESSION.

The *New York Times* revealed that Merrill Lynch, a wealth management company and bond trading operation, has been trying to recover from a \$9.8 billion loss since last year and a recession will not help matters.

Dr. William Marr, an economics professor at Laurier, feels that, despite the panic among Americans and Canadians alike, there is only likely to be a "decline in economic activity" as opposed to a full-blown recession.

As other top financial institutions begin to worry, pressure has been placed on the Bush administration for an act of prevention.

Last Friday, President Bush held a conference in which CNN reported relief for selected taxpayers. Bush estimates rebates of \$800 to individuals and approximately \$1600 per household.

Criticism surrounds President Bush as his decision will offer relief mainly to American businesses in hopes that they will, in turn,

create more jobs and circulate the money back into the economy. However, this leaves the millions of low-income families out of the plan.

Dr. Marr describes a more generalized method with equal distribution of rebates as "difficult for a government to pick the winners." In regards to preventing a recession or even a slump, "the Bush administration needs to make [consumers] feel confident and then encourage them to spend rather than save," explains Dr. Marr.

But how will this affect the Canadian economy? CTV reported that "Global Insight Canada has issued a stark warning." Meanwhile, Prime Minister Stephen Harper believes that "Canada is in relatively good shape as it prepares to ride out a slowing economy."

Employment rates may drop as Canadian manufacturing companies could lose business from their American consumers, now wary of their spending habits. The *Financial Post* expects the US unemployment rate to rise from 5% to 6.5% with a recession in the US.

Poverty could increase among the current 1 in 10 Canadians already living in poverty, as the welfare system and employment insurance are expected to change drastically with a recession.

On the flipside, Canadian fuel could decrease to nearly 80 or 90 cents per litre with a sustained American recession.

Dr. Marr agrees with the stand-still position of the Canadian government, stating he is "not yet convinced the recession, or even a slow-down, will be disruptive to the Canadian economy."

Although the Harper administration insures a steady Canadian economy in the next year, many Canadians are still worried. CBC News conducted a survey revealing that 61% of Canadians believe the economy will worsen while only 17% foresee a healthier



SYDNEY HELLAND

ECONOMICALLY CORRECT - Economics professor Dr. Bill Marr speaks on the recession.

economy in the United States for 2008.

Narrowing the effects of a recession down to Laurier students specifically, Dr. Marr reassures that there really is no need to worry unless by chance you are a graduating student looking to work in the States. Even then, possibilities are likely not going to be lessened in any way.

Finally, Dr. Marr left a lingering thought in

the idea of a recession scare occurring simultaneously with an election year, noting that most candidates currently running in the primaries have begun to focus their attention on the American economy. The very idea of world leaders becoming nervous about their own economy could be the foundation of a possibly unnecessary panic across the nation.

US judge orders Libya to pay \$6B

American judge rules that the Libyan government pay US\$1 million for each person killed on the bombed 1989 flight, UTA 722

KELSEY ROSE
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, January 14, a US federal judge ordered that Libya and six Libyan officials pay what will likely be more than US\$6 billion in damages for the 1989 bombing of UTA Flight 722 over Niger.

The Associated Press reports that Judge Henry Kennedy has ordered Libya to pay damages to the estates of seven American victims and 44 immediate family members, in addition to Interlease Inc., the US firm which owned the DC-10 jet.

On September 19, 1989, Flight 722, flying at 35,000 feet from Brazzaville, Republic of Congo to Paris via N'Djamena in Chad, exploded due to a suitcase bomb in the cargo hold.

Minutes later, the airline crashed in northeastern Niger, killing all 170 on board.

Though the country never directly claimed responsibility, Libya signed a deal in 2004 offering to pay approximately \$1 million for each individual killed.

In 2007, Judge Kennedy ruled that Libya was directly responsible for the attack.

The BBC reports that the decision was based on US Department of State intelligence and evidence from a 1999 French criminal case, which found Libya and the same six individuals guilty of the attack.

In his memorandum of the awards, Judge Kennedy wrote that the "plaintiffs here have established through their undisputed testimony that they suffered economic losses as well as severe pain and suffering and mental anguish during the 18 years since Libya intentionally and maliciously murdered the passengers on board UTA Flight 722."

Kennedy also described the con-

ditions under which the victims of this attack died, saying that, "all 170 people aboard died a horrific death. The many passengers who likely survived the midair explosion experienced horrific terror and excruciating pain ... as they were burned alive and tumbled to Earth," reports the *Houston Chronicle*.

Among the American victims was Bonnie Pugh, partner of Robert Pugh, then US ambassador to Chad.

Relatives sued beginning in 2002 in federal court in Washington under the 1996 law which removed the immunity from damages of states when engaged in terrorism.

The BBC reports that the figure awarded represents the value of the aircraft, compensation for the pain and suffering of both the victims and their families, money the victims would have earned if they had lived, and finally interest backdated

to the day of the bombing.

They also note that, due to US anti-terrorism laws, awards against the six individuals are tripled.

Stewart Newberger, a lawyer for the victims, was quoted by the BBC as saying that "this award proves that the rule of law will always prevail over state-sponsored terrorism."

According to the council for the plaintiffs, Libya now has until February 25 to appeal the court's decision.

The BBC reports that lawyers are confident that the money will be paid to the plaintiffs, saying that, if necessary, they will obtain court orders to seize assets from American companies Libya is currently doing business with.

The 1989 bombing of Flight 772 happened only nine months after a similar bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland in

which 270 people, from 16 different countries, were killed.

For its part in this attack, Libya negotiated a secret compensation deal which paid out hundreds of millions to victims' families in 2003 and 2004, as reported by the *Houston Chronicle*.

Under this deal, Libya would restore its ties with Western nations and end Libya's diplomatic isolation.

Libya made promises to "renounce terrorism and its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes," reports the BBC.

Since then, the BBC reports that various "sanctions were lifted, diplomatic relations restored, and high-profile visits and multi-million dollar trade deals followed."

Questions now linger as to how the Libyan state will respond to the ruling.

Australia attempts to ban Japanese whalers

Despite a 1986 International Whaling Commission ban, Japan continues to kill 1000 whales annually in the name of science

JENNIFER RAE
STAFF WRITER

Over the past week, Japan's controversial whaling practices have once again been thrust into media headlines around the world, this time due to the actions of two radical protesters. The activists are members of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, a US-based environmental organization.

The BBC reported that on January 15, the two men boarded a Japanese whaling vessel with the intention of interfering with the whale hunt, and were subsequently taken into custody by the crewmen of the ship.

The reports also said that although the Japanese government has publicly expressed its wish to release the men, the Sea Shepherd has refused to accept the proposed conditional release, which would require the Sea Shepherd vessel to remain at least 10 miles away from all Japanese whaling boats.

This most recent incident comes after years of debate over the implications of Japan's whaling practices. The International Whaling Commission (IWC) has imposed a ban on commercial whaling since 1986. The ban was deemed necessary due to the volatile state of many whale species, whose populations were diminishing and nearing the point of extinction.

The ban was also welcomed by many conservation and environmental organizations, such as the IWC, who consider the killing of whales to be immoral and inhumane.

Modern methods consist of shooting the

whale with an exploding harpoon, which ruptures the whale's organs and winches it to the side of the ship. A jabbing probe is then used to kill the whale, shocking it with electricity.

Despite the ban, Japan has been able to continue the hunting of whales following a 2005 proposal to the IWC, requesting permission to pursue a whaling research program with the purpose of gaining data regarding whale populations.

The Japanese point to the fact that the IWC ban was originally implemented due to questions about the sustainability of the whale populations, in light of a lack of certainty about the true number of whales existing.

As per BBC News reports, the Japanese insist that their current intent is simply to gather more data, although they acknowledge a wish to eventually resume commercial whaling in a properly managed manner. The research program is thus intended to offer insight into ways to conduct the whaling industry in a sustainable way in the future, so as to preserve whales as a resource.

Although Western nations are quick to condemn the killing of whales because of reasons of conscience, the Japanese maintain that the situation needs to be approached objectively.

While whales may be viewed as a special animal in Western societies, whaling and the consumption of whale meat is a part of Japanese culture, and the whale is viewed as simply another resource.

The Japanese say that theirs is a perspec-

tive that is rarely examined, leading to misunderstanding from other societies who do not share in their customs.

However, the National Geographic Society - amongst many other organizations and government bodies - remains steadfastly opposed to the Japanese whalers, and insist that the Japanese are using the premise of scientific research as a front in order to defy the IWC ban and guise commercial whaling under a different name.

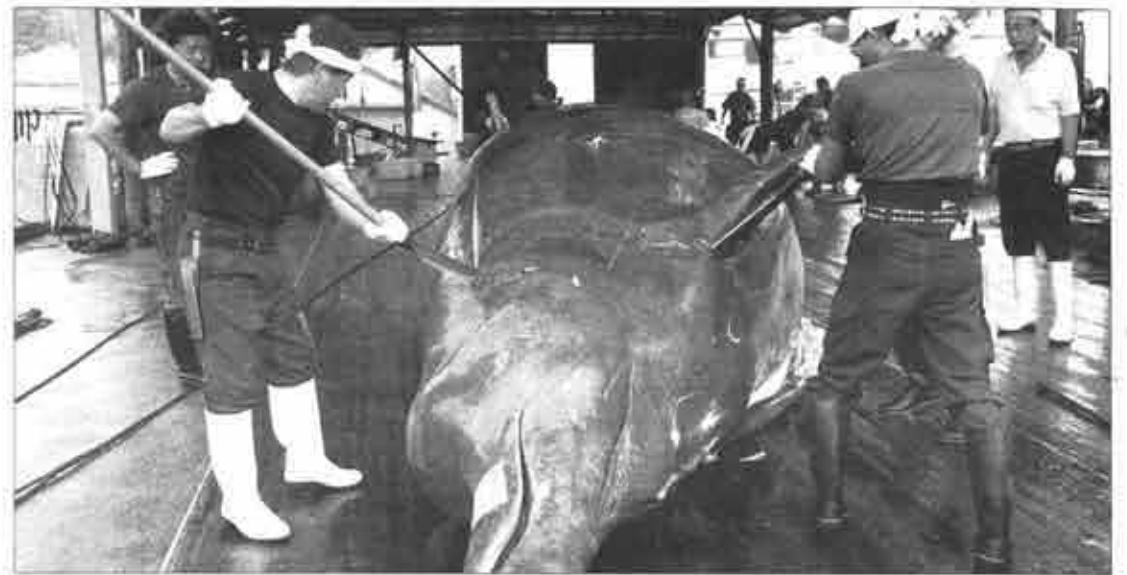
The whale meat that results from current hunts is sold for a profit that is used to fund further scientific expeditions. This is required by international whaling laws that require the by-product of any research endeavours be processed and not wasted.

Critics point to the sale of the meat as further proof that the Japanese program is simply a pretext to the slaughter of whales for commercial purposes. Further fuelling the argument are claims by many experts that

the research the Japanese allege to be doing could in fact be conducted using non-lethal methods.

The hunt that is currently underway began in November 2007 and is taking place in Australia's Antarctic waters, within feeding grounds that are actually set as a whale sanctuary. CNN reported that the Japanese began the hunt with the intention of killing up to 1000 whales, though they have recently agreed to exempt the endangered humpback whale from amongst the species to be harvested.

As per Al Jazeera's news reports on the issue, an Australian court has demanded that the hunt be halted, and the Australian government has formally denounced the Japanese program, dispatching a customs patrol ship and aircraft to monitor the whaling fleet and collect evidence against the whalers. However, Japan does not recognize Australia's territorial claim on the Antarctic waters.



MOBY DEAD - The whaling industry in Japan has come under scrutiny for their continuing whale hunts despite the international outcry against the 1000 whales killed every year.

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One strong voice

Youth representatives speak about the OneVoice initiative



MYA WUBENGA

OPTIMISTIC FACES - OVP & OVI reps Adi Labad and Smadar Cohen explain the program.

WALEED HAFEEZ
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

On Sunday, WLU played host to representatives from OneVoice New York, Israel and Palestine. The OneVoice movement is a youth-based initiative to bring peace and stability in the Middle East and end the decades-long Israel-Palestine conflict.

The grassroots movement has transcended borders and has offices in New York, London, Ottawa, Tel Aviv and Ramallah. Through its various offices, the movement has asked that supporters sign the OneVoice mandate that asks that the rights of both Palestinians and Israelis to "independence, sovereignty, freedom, justice, dignity, respect, national security, personal safety, and economic viability" are respected and recognized.

The public talk, held on Sunday, January 20, brought two field officers from the organization's Tel Aviv and Ramallah branches to Waterloo to talk about their experiences and the challenges they have faced in spreading the word about the OneVoice movement.

"THE PROBLEM WE FACE IN ISRAEL IS THAT THE PEOPLE ARE APATHETIC.... IN PALESTINE, THEY WANT TO DO SOMETHING BUT HAVE NO MEANS."

Adi Labad and Smadar Cohen represented OneVoice Palestine (OVP) and OneVoice Israel (OVI) respectively, and each brought with them experiences and stories to share with the audience.

From the outset, Labad made it clear that the goal of OneVoice was not to make "Palestinians and Israelis love each other." The goal rather was to make each side understand the common ground they shared - a want for a ceasefire and a two-state agreement.

OneVoice New York's International Education Program Manager Laurel Rapp led the talk and spoke of the dynamics of the organization and how it is run. Furthermore, she highlighted that each office works independently of the other and, as such, OVI and OVP do not communicate with each other.

The reasoning behind this, as explained by Rapp, is that, "Israelis have very particular concerns about the conflict that they're hoping to secure and in Palestine they want an independent Palestine that exists viably beside Israel."

This difference in needs is also reflected in each of their mandates, which share main demands but have very different preambles that highlight their varying requirements.

Cohen has worked with OVI in getting people to sign the organization's mandate, a task she says has not been an easy one. "The problem we face in Israel is that the people are apathetic.... Stopping them on the street is the challenge. In Palestine, they want to do something but have no means."

Furthermore, the act of signing the mandate was often preceded by statements like, "I'll do it, but the Palestinians would never do it."

However, Cohen was quick to assure them that "actually over 300,000 Palestinians have signed - and there was a complete switch and it was interesting to see the start of building trust between both societies."

The OneVoice movement aims to mobilize the modern moderate strata of Israeli and Palestinian society who are the majority. However, as Labad affirms, "the moderate majority is often silenced by the violent minority.... The moderate majority in Palestine wants to be able to speak, but they are afraid. OneVoice allows them to share their opinion."

Cohen adds that "the people who are not the majority are often heard because they use violence, and today violence sells. It's interesting to see them killing each other; it's not interesting to see them loving each other or at least respecting each other."

An interesting aspect of the OneVoice movement is that they renounce actual specific political blueprints to ending the conflict. Rather, they aim to get voters to demand that the ceasefire and a peace agreement is initiated and outlined by the government. As Cohen says, "We're not politicians; we're just trying to get people to voice their opinions."

Our leaders need to get in a room and not come out until the white smoke comes out."

She added that even within OVI there are arguments over borderlines, but that "this is the job of the government."

Since OneVoice's inception in 2002, the organization has taken steps to start a clear, respectful stream of dialogue between the two governments. The organization also realizes that "when we talk about ending the conflict, we don't mean tomorrow - we mean in the next few years. The process requires time and commitment and support from both sides."

The support they have received thus far has been enormous - as of now, they have 600,000 signatories who support their mandate, with an almost equal split between Israelis and Palestinians.

The OneVoice movement has garnered considerable support from North America and Europe as well as within the Middle East. Its funding comes primarily from grants and funds from the US such as the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Ford Foundation and many other independent donors. The organization is also waiting on charity status from the Canadian government.

The movement and its people are especially passionate about diminishing the gap between the high-level negotiations, such as the ones recently held in Annapolis, Maryland in November, and the people these negotiations really affect.

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EcoHawks ask for change

Students gathered on Monday night for a screening of *The 11th Hour* and a chance to discuss environmental change at WLU



GREG MCKENZIE

MAKING A CHANGE - A discussion was held to get students involved.

HEATHER GIES
STAFF WRITER

As part of a student movement for environmental sustainability, the EcoHawks hosted Laurier Heats Up on Monday evening, which included a free screening of *The 11th Hour* and student discussions of the ecological crisis and the potential for positive action.

Laurier Heats Up was aimed at raising awareness of the current environmental situation, as well as getting more students involved in activism and an increase in the change that has already begun on campus.

The EcoHawks, an environmental awareness group at Laurier, are "one part of what has been a student movement of the last few months around enacting environmental change on campus," says one of the event's organizers, EcoHawks member Mike Morrice.

Morrice states that, "In the last little while, we have seen a variety of factors come into play that have really led students to mobilize themselves toward change. The first was the *Globe and Mail* report card. We got a D in the *Globe and Mail* for environmental sustainability, so I think as students, we realized that some of the onus was on us to improve that."

In light of the message of *The 11th Hour*, a somewhat shocking depiction of the global climate crisis, mobilization is crucial. The film argues that "not only is it the 11th hour, but it's 11:59 and 59 seconds."

As a follow-up to the screening, 11 students discussed their own initiatives and various ways for others to get involved in working toward change.

These leaders spoke of movements including a farmers' market at Laurier, an online free market place to recycle goods, energy efficiency projects, food initiatives, recycling programs and more, all directed toward increasing sustainability.

"IN THE LAST LITTLE WHILE WE HAVE SEEN A VARIETY OF FACTORS COME INTO PLAY THAT HAVE REALLY LED STUDENTS TO MOBILIZE THEMSELVES TOWARD CHANGE."

- Mike Morrice, EcoHawks member

"I definitely think there's going to be a lot of changes," says EcoHawks coordinator, Geoff Keelan. "With the new president and the new head of physical resources, as well with the expansion of initiatives like this, the leaders that are here tonight, and with the amount of student movement that is happening I think that in ten years, Laurier won't be getting a D in the *Globe and Mail*. We'll be getting an A+."

The information presented in *The 11th Hour* could certainly be overwhelming, but Keelan says that "what it's expecting you to do is to achieve some sort of balance in your life. It's taking small steps so

you can balance your life and you can create a more sustainable life."

Though the film's content is somewhat frightening, abundant evidence suggests it is reality nonetheless.

A number of experts discussed topics within their various fields of study, contributing to the outstanding credibility and overall effect of the message.

"The other thing that is important from this film," says Keelan, "is that the time is now to do this. We don't really have any more time to waste."

Despite the gravity of the issues discussed, *The 11th Hour* takes an interesting perspective on the environ-

mental crisis at hand, presenting a number of solutions.

Rather than focusing on the negativity of the environmental situation, a positive and very proactive outlook is maintained: this is "a great time to be alive, because this generation gets to completely change this world."

Keelan and Morrice agree that this provoking statement is exciting in Laurier's context. The awareness being raised and the opportunities to get involved point toward a promising future of activism and changes that will hopefully improve environmental sustainability on campus.

WLU lacking study space

Science Building hours and a lack of 24-hour locations leave students with limited study space

LINDA GIVETASH
STAFF WRITER

With the Science Building's new, shorter hours, many students have been left wondering where they can go to study late.

But there are still several places around campus that are available to students overnight and offer a quiet and safe environment to work in, according to university administrators.

The Dining Hall remains a great space to work overnight. Although some students have complained that the lights are turned off early, it should not be a continuing issue, as it is a designated 24-hour space.

David McMurray, dean of students, is keen to promote the safe and quiet dining hall as a key spot for late-night studying on campus.

"If students really want to use it ... the dean of students office will look at how we can provide some food [now] and then," suggested McMurray.

The Concourse and the 24-Hour Lounge are always popular overnight study spots. The main issue concerning these spots is that they can be very noisy, which is problematic for students who need quiet to work. The library continues to be a hotspot since it provides a quiet environment to work in.

Since late October, the library's hours have been extended until 2 a.m. Sharon Brown, head librarian, and Dr. Sue Horton, VP: Academic, did try to organize 24-hour availability of the library during the exam period this past fall.



MICHELLE ATTARD

STUDY TIME - The solarium is one of the few spaces on campus available to students 24 hours a day.

- SEE STUDY, PAGE 13

Valentine's restaurant review series: *Saluté*

Saluté offers an intimate environment with visually pleasing dishes for an overall great dinner



JOE TURCOTTE

A COZY ATMOSPHERE - Saluté offers a charming environment with a great décor for a romantic evening.

FOODREVIEW

Saluté: 8.9/10

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

There isn't much that this trendy restaurant in Uptown Waterloo doesn't do right. With an intimate atmosphere, friendly service, delicious food and great presentation, Saluté offers the complete dining package.

With a convenient location at 21 King St. N., just across from the Silver Spur, Saluté is not only easily accessible for students, it's also close to a wide variety of local hotspots.

What may pose a problem is their hours. Saluté is only open for lunch on Tuesday through Friday (11:30 to 2) and for dinner Tuesday and Wednesday from 5 to 9 and Thursday through Saturday from 5 until 10.

Once inside the restaurant, I was immediately taken aback by the atmosphere of the small establishment. The dominating colours of black and red, paired with trendy curtains, unique light fixtures and paintings, form an unbelievable décor.

With candles on every table, it all comes together to create a vibrant yet romantic energy.

Though there is technically no

dress code, everyone looked put together so don't be afraid to dress up a little bit and really get the full "night out" experience.

To be safe, I had made a reservation in advance, which turned out to be a good idea, as the place seats no more than 40 people. On Saturday evening nearly every table was filled up.

The menu boasts a decent selection of dishes, offering just over 30 different types of appetizers, entrees and desserts, which range in price from \$7.00 to \$34.00.

Though the focus of the menu is Italian cuisine, Saluté also offers "Earth and Sea" selections, which feature items like steak, halibut and veal, as well as the daily features.

We were greeted promptly after we sat down and, shortly after our drinks arrived, we were brought complementary focaccia bread, which was accompanied with an oil-based bruschetta-like topping made with tomatoes, zucchini and onions.

Our appetizers arrived fairly quickly and I was immediately impressed by the presentation of the arancini (\$8.50), which I had to start at the recommendation of our server.

The three risotto balls made with bocconcini cheese in a bed of rich tomato sauce were served on a long, rectangular white plate, which really added to the look of the dish.

The sauce offered a great compliment to the flavour of the arancini,

and though I was impressed with my starter, the calamari (\$10.00) which our photographer ordered was probably the best dish of the meal.

Cooked to perfection and dipped in a tangy lemon sauce which was drizzled across the plate, the lightly breaded calamari offered a sweet initial taste, with a hint of spice, which would be sure to excite any palate.

Not long after we finished our appetizers, our entrées arrived, and once again the presentation was remarkable.

I had the tortellini c aprese (\$16.00), which is one of the vegetarian options on the menu. The cheese tortellini was served in a

red pomodoro sauce with sundried tomatoes, roasted bell peppers and bocconcini cheese.

Though I initially thought the tomato sauce was a bit bland, it tasted much better after the addition of some chili peppers for spice.

Our photographer ordered the lamb (\$23.00), which was tender and served with diced potatoes that complimented the meat well.

Though I was pretty full after the decently sized appetizer and entrée, we couldn't pass up the opportunity to order dessert. I wanted something light, so I chose the cappuccino ladyfinger gelato (\$7.00), which was one of three daily selections.

Our photographer ordered the tiramisu (\$7.00), which was served in a cup on yet another decorative white plate. Again, the presentation was phenomenal and the dessert was as tasty as any I've had before.

The bill for our food came to just over \$80, and though I found it to be more expensive than a normal dinner out, it was not unreasonable for the quality of food you were getting.

I was thoroughly impressed with my overall experience. This gem right in the heart of Waterloo offers a great spot for anyone looking to have an intimate evening out.

Study space woes

- FROM STUDY, PAGE 12

However, the job postings for the overnight security positions, which were required to keep the library open, received no response, leaving no options but to continue closing the library at 2 a.m.

Even with this setback, the idea has not been dropped. Brown made it clear that "we are recording the number of students in the building until 2 a.m." With enough student interest, the possibility of keeping the library open 24 hours throughout the year could become a reality.

Plans to expand the first floor of the library, called the Learning Commons, to increase study space and supply resources are also underway.

"We will centre more of the learning services department there," explained McMurray. The expansion will give students more space to work in as well as more support.

Student interest and demand for study spaces can be the key in making more spaces available. "I would encourage students to inquire, to ask, if there are better ideas, if there are more creative ideas to manage the capacity for study purposes, to let me know," said McMurray.

Concerns and suggestions can be directed to Dean McMurray at dmcmurra@wlu.ca.



JOE TURCOTTE

LAMB ANYONE? - The lamb was served tender and very presentable.

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POLAR

Laurier grad **Emilie Joslin** is drawn to the North as



"The images are not merely beautiful, an exoticness to admire, but an invitation to reattach ourselves to the Earth, specifically to a place that has now grown oddly poignant."

- Author Barry Lopez, while gazing at aerial photographs of Arctic landscapes taken by Bernhard Edmaier, in the December 2007 issue of *National Geographic*.

*

That morning I almost missed my flight.

Get up at 5:30 am. Shower and dressed by 6. Housemate serves me eggs and toast at 6:10, and then it's out the door - no time for coffee!

After a sleepless night, I cut someone off so that I wouldn't miss the exit for the elusive Park n' Fly. But I was happy to be in a rush that cold November morning; I needed to keep the adrenaline pumping so I wouldn't have time to think too much about the adventure I was embarking on. There was no turning back, no pulling my chute - no option to drop without academic penalty.

Five long months after I completed my last course at Laurier, I finally admitted to myself that I had fallen into a post-university panic while staring at the wall one

WITHOUT THE COMFORTING GUISE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY THAT TAKING CLASSES ONCE GAVE ME, THERE WAS REALLY NO ESCAPING THE FACT THAT I HAD NO IDEA WHAT TO DO WITH MY LIFE.

afternoon. Without the comforting guise of self-sufficiency that taking classes once gave me, there was really no escaping the fact that I had no idea what to do with my life. It was written on the wall: *You are lost*.

*

I was ecstatic the day fate kicked in one somber October morning, the day I stumbled upon a story in the *Toronto Star*. In "Bear necessity", Em Weekes writes about her time at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre (CNSC), where she spent three weeks volunteering at the non-profit organization in northern Manitoba.

Maybe it was the way Weekes wrote of flying over "immense nothingness" alongside some of the people who have lived there for centuries. Maybe it was how she described the captivating land once she reached her destination: "I was won over by an infinite blue sky, and the flat, bald landscape crunching beneath my feet."

In any case, something about her article

spoke to me in a way that is hard to explain. All I know is this: after months of floundering around alone without a clue, I finally felt a strong pull in one direction - north.

Before I knew it, I was on the phone to Churchill, inquiring about volunteer positions for the next month - only to find that there were no positions available. But I was too keen on visiting the centre to relinquish the idea of travelling north, so I signed up for a six-day polar bear learning vacation called "Lords of the Arctic II" - one of the many educational programs the CNSC offers the public, in addition to accommodating scientists year-round.

Thus it was settled: I was due north. And after a month of making preparations for the extreme cold with help from my generous, but perhaps overly-eager mother ("I absolutely insist that you get this \$500 goose down parka!"), I set off on my own, flying from Toronto to Winnipeg, and then from the province's capital to the polar bear capital of the world.

The night before my departure for the CNSC, I had tossed and turned until three in the morning, worrying about everything from how I would make friends to what I would do if I suddenly got explosive diarrhea.

Those were the same kinds of things I worried about back in the day, the night before my parents dropped me off at Wilison Hall. But when my tiny plane landed on the tarmac in Churchill, the cold air, though not completely unexpected, took my breath away. Scanning the horizon, only a few distant lights flickered dimly through the darkness - I felt at home.

That feeling continued well into introductions with my fellow travelers, the majority of whom came from the United States and Britain. I was one of four Canadians on the trip, and the youngest there, save a precocious 11-year-old boy who had come with his father.

But none of this mattered at all - I couldn't imagine what I was so afraid of the night before. In fact, as the week progressed, I began to feel like I was at

*



MUSH! - A group of subarctic explorers takes a dog-powered journey through the North.



AFFAIR

she tries to navigate a post-graduation identity crisis



ALL PHOTOS BY EMILIE JOSLIN



sleepover camp all over again – except this time, there were “bear grills” over all the windows, and you couldn’t go outside without a staff member and a shotgun.

*

After an introductory lecture on polar bears, our first field excursion took us out onto the shores of Hudson Bay in a giant tank-bus hybrid called a tundra vehicle. This was when my most significant learning experience occurred.

Respect for the bears was a top priority, and our driver made sure to keep a good distance from the animals to minimize disturbance. However, in such a large vehicle, with so many interesting smells emanating from within its walls, of course we could not go unnoticed; polar bears are extremely inquisitive – and hungry after a long summer of fasting.

Sitting with the engine turned off, we watched as a large male bear approached another vehicle up ahead. With powerful, sweeping movements of his paws, he made his way up beside one of the five-foot-tall wheels, and it was then that one of my fellow classmates asked, “Are they ... are they shouting at the bear?”

It was true – the group of tourists, appar-

ently lost in polar bear frenzy, were rapping on the sides of their windows in an attempt to lure the bear in closer for a better look.

It’s safe to say that my group from the learning centre was shocked. I had a knot in my stomach. There was no justifying such ignorant behaviour; provoking the largest carnivore in North America was not just dangerous – it seemed completely inhumane.

This wasn’t a zoo; we were privileged guests on *their* territory, and in that moment I felt like I was trespassing.

*

It has taken me a long time to understand what it was about my experience that day on the vehicle that put me off joining the group in a second trip onto the tundra. Travelling in such a way over a land that I undoubtedly felt a connection to, I was simultaneously an intruder.

That’s why I am so grateful that the

CNSC offered us a number of different ways to experience the Sub-Arctic, and it was through one of these alternative perspectives that I also discovered my new favourite way to explore – dogsledding!

I would have nearly frozen my toes off that morning, if it weren’t for the kindness of a local volunteer who lent me her mukluks. Despite the cold, I couldn’t have had a better time out in the fresh air, breathing in the beauty of the boreal forest.

Wind burning my cheeks, I watched puffs of hot dog breath disappear up ahead as the musher barked commands from behind. Standing in the snow next to the matrix of dog huts, birds that looked like gigantic chickadees snatched lumps of bannock out of our outstretched hands. It was hard to say goodbye.

In the days that followed – full of helicopter rides, evening lectures and nightly discussions with my new friends and a bottle of wine (or two) – I fell in love with learning again.

I carried my notebook everywhere, constantly scribbling down polar bear facts and personal reflections. I can’t remember another time when my brain felt so engaged.

*

Buckling up on the flight home, I found myself thinking of my time in university; only a handful of classes stick out as being equally enthralling, and yet, those classes really didn’t captivate me in the same way that my trip to the CNSC did.

Perhaps an undergraduate arts degree wasn’t a good fit for me, or maybe it’s just that force-feeding yourself four or five years of university is bound to burn you out like an exhausting “where do we stand?” relationship conversation that never ends. It’s much more appealing to allow a hunger for knowledge to develop naturally, something I found far away from campus.

Since leaving Churchill two months ago, I can feel the post-graduation anxiety gradually creep back in. Although I still don’t have a map for the future, I have faith that something will turn up now that I’ve rekindled my relationship with learning – thanks to my post-university polar affair in the subarctic.

I BEGAN TO FEEL LIKE I WAS AT A SLEEPOVER CAMP ALL OVER AGAIN - EXCEPT THIS TIME, THERE WERE "BEAR GRILLS" OVER ALL THE WINDOWS AND YOU COULDN'T GO OUTSIDE WITHOUT A STAFF MEMBER AND A SHOTGUN.



TOURIST TANK - A curious polar bear inspects the noise from a tundra vehicle.

Powderpuff plays for cancer

13 teams of ladies took to Knight-Newbrough field last weekend to raise money for breast cancer and play football in the snow



LAURA TOMKINS

DOWN, SET, HUT! - The quarterback for Femme Fatales tosses to her running back during their game against the Wonderbroadz on Saturday morning. They won the game 7-0.

JOE TURCOTTE
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

For a school that has historically been known for its athletic accomplishments, it's usually the men's varsity football team that receives most of the attention and fanfare.

However, every year, the Laurier campus plays home to another group of dedicated pigskin players, as the Lettermen Club's annual Powderpuff football tournament takes over Varsity Stadium.

Powderpuff includes two tournaments a year, one involving strictly teams from WLU, and another, which sees teams from across Ontario coming to the school to take part.

"IT'S COMPETITIVE AND WE'RE ALL HERE FOR A GOOD CAUSE; WE'RE TRYING TO RAISE MONEY FOR BREAST CANCER."

- Andrea Wylie, Diesel team member

The first event of Laurier's Powderpuff competition took place this past weekend, as a record number of teams competed against one another. Perennial favourites Diesel overcame the underdog Tight Endz in a frostbitten, but thrilling, overtime match up.

Since its humble beginnings, of a tournament involving a handful of teams, Powderpuff has only continued to grow.

"Lettermen started it just under 10 years ago and it's been getting bigger and bigger ever since," explains club president Steve Williams.

"It started with three or four teams and now we've got 13 Lau-

rier teams; it's the most we've ever had."

Part of the growing process for Powderpuff has been the recent commitment of the Lettermen Club and the players involved to raise money for breast cancer. The group has set a goal of \$20,000, says Williams.

In order to reach their goal, the players and organizers have been fundraising, as well as selling pink Powderpuff toques, which will be sold in the Concourse on January 28 and 29.

The event's charitable aspect adds another reason for players and organizers to get involved.

"It's competitive and we're all here for a good cause; we're trying to raise money for breast cancer," says fourth-year player and biology student Andrea Wylie, explaining her reasons for playing.

Aside from the competition and avenue for playing football, part of the

draw of the tournament is its social aspect. For the players and organizers, Powderpuff is a way of engaging with the Laurier community.

"It's just a fun way to represent the school, especially in the second tournament when there's other schools coming," says Wylie.

For many of the players involved, Powderpuff becomes one of the most enjoyable parts of their winter, and a memorable part of their time at the school.

"This has been my university experience, it's like a part-time job. With three practices a week, you can't really do much else," says fourth-year student and quarterback for Victorious Secrets Thea

Mills.

The time commitment involved with playing Powderpuff fuels the competitive nature of the tournaments, as players sacrifice their bodies in order to make a big play.

"I think that when it comes to the tournaments it's very competition oriented, it's all about winning. But three days a week you're getting together with 30 girls and we all become really close friends," says Mills.

While Powderpuff helps to create many strong allegiances between its players, coaches and organizers, some of the team names can be perceived in a controversial way.

With team names like the Spread Eagles, the Wonderbroadz and the Tight Endz, the tournament leaves itself prone to criticism that it represents women in a negative light.

For his part, Williams says that the Lettermen Club and Powderpuff in general are sensitive to

these concerns, saying, "These girls are representing Powderpuff and ultimately Lettermen when they're walking around wearing their sweaters."

Noting that some team names that have been deemed too controversial have been changed, he adds, "If you look at the names they push boundaries, but they're not as bad as some of the other names from other schools."



LAURA TOMKINS

FLAGGED - The Lady Killers attempt to prevent the Gamecocks from scoring during their matchup.

RACE TO THE PUCK - Katherine Shirriff takes the puck down the ice. RYAN STEWART

Ladies skate to victory

Women's hockey Hawks extend their undefeated streak to 19 as they head down the home stretch of the season remaining in first place in the OUA

ANDREA MILLET
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women's hockey team continued on their path of domination in the OUA with two more wins this past weekend.

Their first challengers were the fourth-place Windsor Lancers, who fell 4-1 to the Hawks on Saturday. Then, on Sunday, they skated away with a 2-1 defeat over the Western Mustangs.

Saturday's home game against the Lancers started out slow with the puck moving back and forth along the ice and neither team challenging the other's net. Halfway through the period, rookie forward Kaley Powers slipped the puck past Lancers goalie Jamie Tessier and got the Hawks started.

"We're never sure that they are ready," commented head coach Rick Osborne about the young players on the team. "I thought the last game we played was kind of a coming out game for Powers and [Alicia] Martin and [Katherine] Shirriff, and it has carried on today."

The second period began with a narrow lead for the Hawks; despite many attempts on net it was not

until the end of the period that they were able to capitalize on any. Just over 15 minutes into the period, second-year forward Laura Bartolini connected a pass to fellow forward Ashley McMillin who put the puck past Tessier for a 2-0 lead.

With less than a minute left in the second, third-year centre Lauren Barch gave the Hawks a comfortable 3-0 lead by scoring her thirteenth goal of the season.

"I think our team chemistry is great, everyone gets along on and off the ice and I think that's a very important aspect," commented Barch, the Hawks' top goal scorer.

"You don't see one line dominating ahead of the other lines, everyone's contributing," added team captain Lauren Meschino.

Coming into the third period with a three-goal lead, the Hawks had only to hold up their defensive line and keep the Lancers from getting to the net.

Six minutes into the period, fourth-year defender Andrea Bevan gave the puck to Shirriff, who drove it past Tessier to bring their lead to 4-0.

It was looking like another shut-out for Hawks goalie Liz Knox until just over halfway through the final

period, when the Lancers' Kelly Calhoun scored during a Windsor powerplay.

The Hawks outshot their opponents an impressive 33-12 and skated away with a 4-1 victory.

"I feel privileged to be the captain of this team because they make my job as easy as it can be," praised Meschino. "No one is afraid to step up when they need to."

On Sunday, they traveled to London to face off against the Western Mustangs and after barely outshooting the Mustangs 25-22, the Hawks secured a 2-1 win.

Both Andrea Ironside and Lauren Barch had a goal and an assist, while rookies Heather Fortuna and Candace Kellough were also credited with an assist each.

With a 19-1-1 record and only six games left in the regular season, Coach Osborne has his sights set on a fifth consecutive OUA title. "We're expecting a real battle from two or three of the teams in the OUA down the stretch, but I think we're ready for it."

Next up for the Hawks is a trip to Kingston on Friday where they will face off against the fifth-place Queen's Golden Gaels. The puck drops at 8:30 pm.

Hawk heads to Argos' camp with CFL hopes

After a successful WLU career, lineman Scott Evans returns to the Argonauts' training camp as the CIS Lineman of the Year

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

Entering university in the fall of 2002, the then-defensive lineman wasn't even sure if he wanted to continue playing football. Now switched to offense, Scott Evans is preparing to head to training camp for the Toronto Argonauts.

"This time around it wasn't such a surprise, because I was signed last year, and had been in camp with them," commented Evans. "At the end of camp, when they let me go, they said to go back to school, get a bit more experience and to come back to camp next year."

"It's a big relief to know that you're wanted somewhere and you're going to be in camp somewhere and given those opportunities," he continued. "You don't have to stress about it."

Evans travels to camp at the end of May, and will take part in training for three and a half weeks, which includes the two preseason games. At the end of the camp, Evans will be a free agent able to be picked up by any other team, if let go by the Argonauts.

"I'll be trying to earn a spot on the 45-man roster, or barring that, they do carry a few practice players," said Evans. "That's a bit of a

second chance if you can get on there."

Commenting on his time with the Golden Hawks, Evans says, "It's been invaluable. Coming out of high school, I didn't know if I wanted to play university ball or not."

"It's been a remarkable path, going from not dressing in my first year, playing as back-up in my second year, had some school issues in my third year and I wasn't in school that fall," Evans continued. "Then coming back, making the switch from defense to offense and basically learning a new position for the 2005 Vanier Cup season. Since then, I've been just trying to get better and build more of a leadership role with the team."

Evans also says that WLU had an integral role in his career off the field. "The support structure they have in place to get you through your schooling and help you learn who you are is huge. They help you to learn what it takes to be successful."

Playing in the purple and gold, Evans was able to develop role models that have helped shape his football career.

"Definitely the generation of players before me, there is a handful of guys who were in fourth and fifth year when I first came in," said

Evans. "Luckily now, Josh Alexander has come back and is coaching, so that is pretty special."

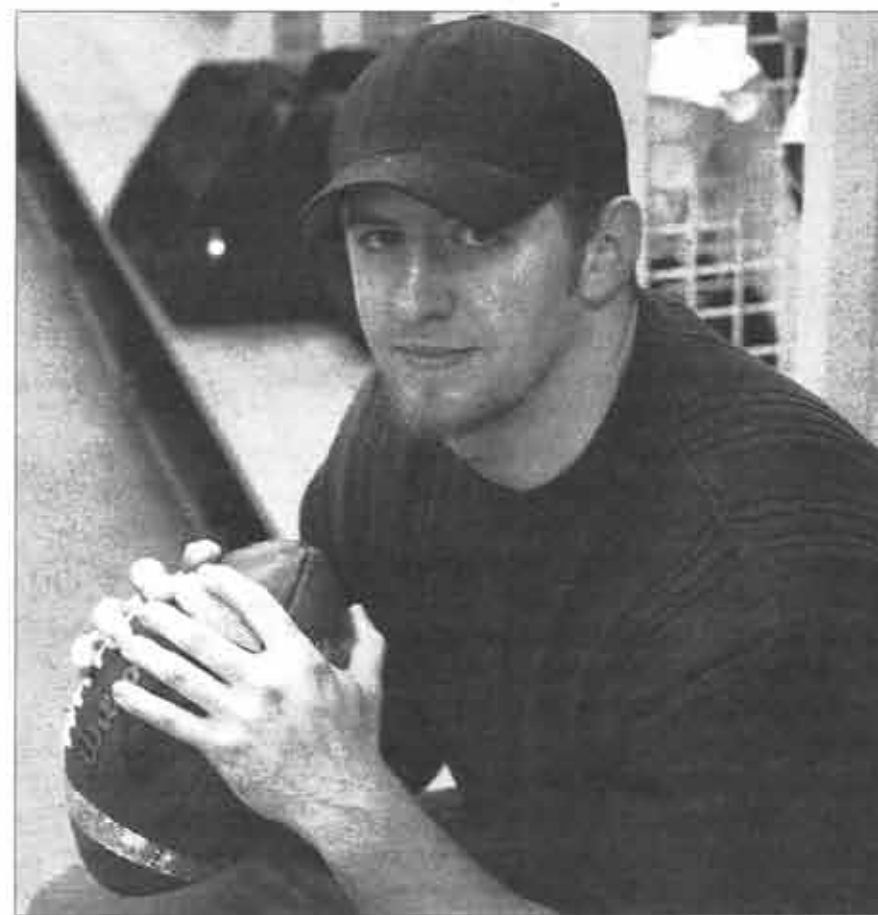
"I learned so much from them on the field, and even more off the field and I credit everything I learned about university life in those first couple years to those guys."

Evans also attributes his success to his parents, saying that without their support none of this would have been possible.

The 6'7" lineman began playing football the summer before grade 7, when a classmate suggested the idea. "I have played every year since," said Evans. "It was one of those things that sounded like fun, and my parents were keen to have me involved in something."

When asked when he first started thinking about playing professional football, he stated it was only recently. "In 2005, some of the younger coaches started saying, 'Scott, you're Canadian, you're tall enough, you're big enough, you're going to get a look.' It's the sort of thing that if you think about it, especially early on, your focus is in the wrong place. I just let it roll off my back."

The first time Evans actually began thinking that playing in the CFL might become a reality was last year at practice when he was



SYDNEY HELLAND

FUTURE ARGO? - Lineman Scott Evans hopes to soon play in the CFL.

approached by an Argo scout. "At the end of the year, the Assistant General Manager called me up to come to Mississauga to talk contracts. It all happens very suddenly, because it's not something you're expecting."

At the conclusion of the 2007 sea-

son, Evans was awarded 2007-2008 OUA and CIS Lineman of the Year. "It definitely helped my standing with the Argos," commented Evans. "There were a couple people from the Argos' administration and they were very congratulatory. It was a cool thing to see."

Men overtake second in OUA

The men's hockey team finishes season on the road after victories against Waterloo and Western

JAMIE NEUGEBAUER
STAFF WRITER

The Golden Hawks men's hockey team climbed from fourth place to second in the OUA's Western Conference with victories over divisional rivals from the University of Waterloo and Western this weekend – coincidentally, the two teams the purple and gold were chasing in the tight Far-West Division.

Significantly, the matches were the last two regular season games at the Waterloo Recreational Complex before the Hawks head on the road for the final six – all against divisional rivals.

"To me, it's the best way to go into the playoffs, playing some of the best teams in the league. You want to get your game sharp ... what better way to do that than playing with best teams going into it," said captain Matt Grennier of ending the season on the road.

On Friday evening, the Hawks faced off against their bitter cross-town rivals, the Waterloo Warriors. Coach Kelly Nobes' charges did not disappoint as third-year goalie Jeff MacDougald stopped 23 shots in the 6-3 victory.

On Saturday, WLU battled with the Western Mustangs and proved victorious after only their second shootout of the season (the first was a defeat over Brock).

The Hawks caught the Mustangs off guard in the first, jumping out to a three-goal lead. Second-year forward Nathan Peacock started the scoring for the Hawks on the powerplay on a somewhat controversial goal after he put it home with his skate.

As it was not deemed a kicking motion by the referees, the goal stood.

Rizk tallied the second marker on a feed from Grennier, while veteran defenseman Riley Moher scored the third unassisted from a bad angle through a screen.

"We wanted to come out hard after a good win last night and I think we caught them a bit flat-footed," commented Head Coach Nobes. "We were opportunistic to say the least."

The second period was a lot sloppier as both teams struggled to find their grip on the game. Peter Franchin put the Mustangs on the board on a powerplay with WLU defenseman Tyler Townsend in the box.

The Mustangs dominated possession in the third period and Franchin potted his second of the night when the Hawks defensive zone coverage broke down after Western had established a strong, even strength cycle in the Hawk end of the rink.

Kyle Piwowarczyk evened the

game up, firing an impressive wrist-shot high glove-side on MacDougald from the high slot.

With the game tied after regulation, it went into overtime. Despite some good chances by the Hawks to end it, overtime solved nothing, forcing the hard-fought contest into the dreaded shootout.

Veteran forward Nick Vergeer proved the hero, scoring the only goal in the shootout in a very Sam Gagner-esque fashion, faking to his backhand and out-waiting Western

goalie Brad Topping before sliding it home on his forehand.

"It's a good win for us at the end of the day. It doesn't matter how we went about it ... it's unfortunate we gave up a point to Western," stated Nobes. "We managed to scrounge a victory against a top team in the league."

The two victories leave the Hawks with 31 points – heading into the home-stretch of the season trailing only conference and division-leaders Lakehead by two.



RYAN STEWART

SCORES! - Nick Vergeer puts in the only goal during the shootout.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
Jan 24 - 30, 2007

RECENT SCORES

01.16.08

M Basketball 72 - Guelph 82
W Basketball 62 - Guelph 64

01.18.08

M Hockey 6 - Waterloo 3
M Volleyball 0 - McMaster 3
W Volleyball 2 - McMaster 3

01.19.08

M Hockey 4 - Western 3
W Hockey 4 - Windsor 1
M Basketball 74 - Waterloo 57
W Basketball 68 - Waterloo 84
M Volleyball 0 - Guelph 3
W Volleyball 3 - Guelph 2

01.20.08

W Hockey 2 - Western 1

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

01.25.08

M Volleyball vs Waterloo
Athletic Complex, 8:00 pm

LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Jean-Michel Rizk
Men's Hockey
Jennifer Dillon
Swimming

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

Last week's sudoku

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



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Park's hiring was too hasty

With an official start date of January 16, Matt Park has a new position with WLUSU. This time, though, Park is with the union as hired staff rather than a board member.

His start date comes less than a month after resigning from his position as Chair of the WLUSU Board of Directors. During a January 8 interview with *The Cord*, Park reflected on his decision to resign, saying, "There's been a few things that really happened in my personal life over the last few months that really made me think really hard about my time commitments."

The decision to bring Park back, despite time constraints, is troubling, particularly concerning the fact that there seems to be little serious thought about what Park will do.

WLUSU President Dan Allison, who was responsible for Park's hire, pointed out the need for work to be done on elections as the primary reason for the quick start of the yet-to-be-named position.

Last year, however, a Chief Returning Officer (CRO) had to be hired very late, when the first CRO was deemed unfit. Craig Stover, this year's CRO, was hired many months ago. He should be well ahead of the game by comparison and so the urgent need to bring in someone else seems curious.

Surely, a more thought out hiring process would have been appropriate. While the union is not bound to the same hiring procedure it uses for volunteers, time should have been taken to create a formal job description and title.

With poor peer reviews as a director, a recent resignation citing time constraints and a CRO that's held the position for months, the question has to be asked: is Matt Park the right person for the job?

And seeing as there's no job description, title or previous position that could be considered equivalent, students need to ask a second question: why the hell is there a job to begin with?

OneCard audit wrongly secretive

University administration initiated what it described as a routine audit of the OneCard office 14 weeks ago. For the duration of the audit, OneCard manager Nick Tomljenovic has been on paid leave.

Tomljenovic has been separated from the process for what have been cited as human resources reasons which administration describe as normal to the process.

As time goes on, however, concerns have surfaced regarding operations at the OneCard office.

General Manager of Student Services Dan Dawson commented that KPMG, which was hired to perform the audit, has extended the amount of time it is expected to take.

The company indicated that several findings needed to be examined further before the company

could complete the audit.

ResNet Manager Richard Godsmark is currently assisting with day-to-day operations at both the OneCard office and at The Hub, a business also managed by Tomljenovic. Despite this, Godsmark says he is unaware of the current developments regarding the audit.

Laurier business professor Thomas Kozloski said that having management stay off the job during an audit was very unusual. He also noted that a delayed audit isn't necessarily a red flag, though the combination of circumstances seems to give reason for suspicion.

The OneCard office deals with a large amount of student money. Administration needs to have more to say than "nothing strange is going on."

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

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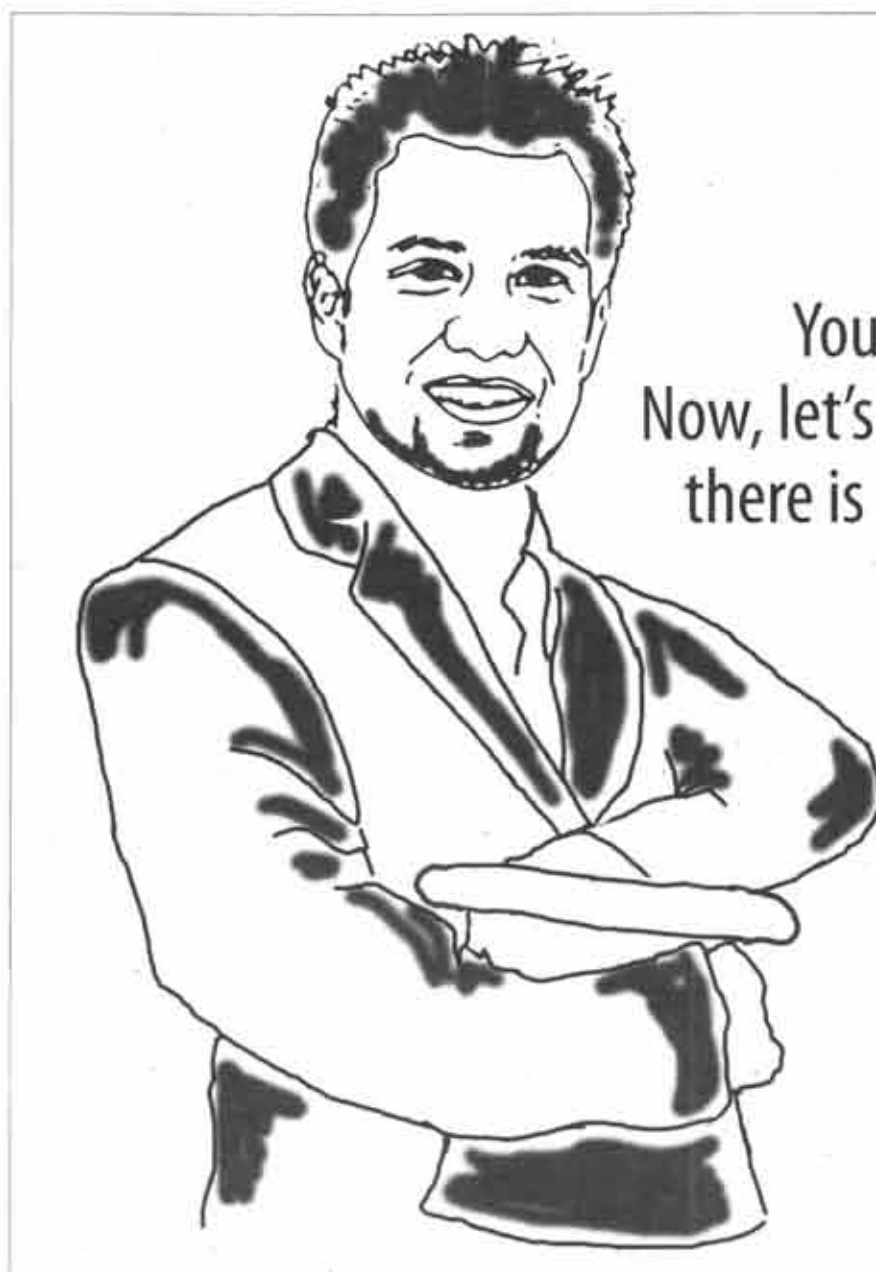
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JULIE MARION

Transparency needed for effective politics



DAVE SHORE
FEATURES EDITOR

This past week, I had the unique experience of seeing two of Canada's political party leaders in person.

Stephane Dion and Jack Layton lead the two parties that make up the opposition in government. After witnessing both of them speak live within the span of six days, I was astounded by the vastly different impressions they gave me.

One man represented everything that makes people lose faith in politics; the other represented everything that provides hope.

I saw Stephane Dion yesterday when I went with a group of editors to Kitchener to cover his press conference following his address to the Liberal Party caucus.

Only five days earlier, while attending a conference in Ottawa, I heard NDP leader Jack Layton deliver a speech to a group of aspiring journalists.

The only similarity between the two politicians is that they both made speedy exits. Dion all but sprinted from reporters hungry for answers on Afghanistan, while Layton had to catch a train to his hometown to fight the proposed development of a Wal-Mart.

Their differences, on the other hand, are numerous. Largely, the contrast was one of transparency.

Dion presented himself in front of the press after two days of Liberal caucus meetings behind locked doors discussing the future

of the party with all of his MPs. After two days of focused discussion, it's impossible to believe that the Liberals have yet to decide on any sort of stance regarding the Afghanistan mission or an upcoming election.

Yet, that's exactly what he wanted the media, and by extension the Canadian public, to swallow. When asked whether he would hold to the 2009 deadline for the removal of Canadian troops from Afghanistan, the Liberal leader danced around the questions, contradicted himself at times, and presented tired clichés like "2008 is a brand new ball game."

WHEN A LEADER STARTS TO STAND UP AGAINST THE EXPECTED AND SPEAKS HIS OR HER MIND, THERE'S A SMALL HOPE THAT POLITICS CAN WORK.

Whatever the Liberals decided in their caucus meeting, they certainly didn't want us to know about it.

Layton, on the other hand, wanted nothing more than to let young journalists know where he stands. While taking questions from the audience, he delivered clear answers about the NDP's stance on a variety of issues, from being strict on environmental policy to the reduction of tuition fees to the abolishment of the Senate.

Whether or not you agree with Layton's policies is entirely beside the point. While it is one thing to say that you dislike a politician for his beliefs, it's absurd to say that you don't like a politician because

he or she explicitly expresses where he or she stands.

This is exactly where Dion is found wanting. While many doubters insist that the NDP is making promises that they cannot keep, what is important is that they are clearly outlining their ideals and sticking to them.

The Liberal party, under Dion's leadership, is doing the opposite. With their concern for timing an election in their favour, the Liberals are hesitant to declare a strong stance on any issue and in votes of confidence in the house, they are willing to vote in favour of legislation they don't want to support so that they can time when an election will occur best for them.

Some say that to do so is to practise smart politics. And in today's political environment, they're probably right. Dion is simply doing

what he needs to do to secure the well-being of his party, while Layton's refusal to compromise on his policies can be construed as political suicide.

But with more and more Canadians losing trust in the political system and its politicians, Canada needs more leaders like Jack Layton. When a leader takes moderate positions on issues in efforts to represent as many people as possible, the result is that the so-called leader represents no one.

However, when a leader starts to stand up against convention and speak his or her mind, there's a small hope that politics can work.

letters@cordweekly.com

Society must hold individuals responsible

North Americans too rarely accept the blame for their poor decisions



DAN KELLAR
BEING THE CHANGE

I always thought that in a free society we were free to do whatever we pleased as long as Kant's Golden Rule – to treat people as ends rather than means – was applied.

There are some rules or laws that prohibit certain actions of self-destruction as those may show you to be quite insane and a possible danger to the public. There are other laws which are geared towards public "protection," but I don't think there are any laws that control a self-aware human from taking actions which cause no harm to others.

Why is it, then, that insurance companies can dictate to operators of action sport venues that some services will not be covered by insurance and, because of that, they will not be able to provide the service as our governments provide the business certificates based on

having insurance?

Why can't people decide for themselves what risks to take? Why do we have to have labels that say the contents of a steaming cup of liquid is hot? How are insurance companies able to dictate what we can and can't do?

I was in Europe a few years ago and was looking from the top of a mountain and noticed an odd-looking sign. There was a picture of a skier jumping off a cliff, an avalanche, and a money sign below the avalanche debris.

I could not understand what the sign had printed under the picture, but my friend told me that it was an avalanche area (which was quite obvious from the picture) and that if you caused the avalanche you were responsible for all damages caused by the avalanche.

To me this was a revolutionary societal and cultural idea: holding people responsible for actions that they took under no dictatorial persuasion.

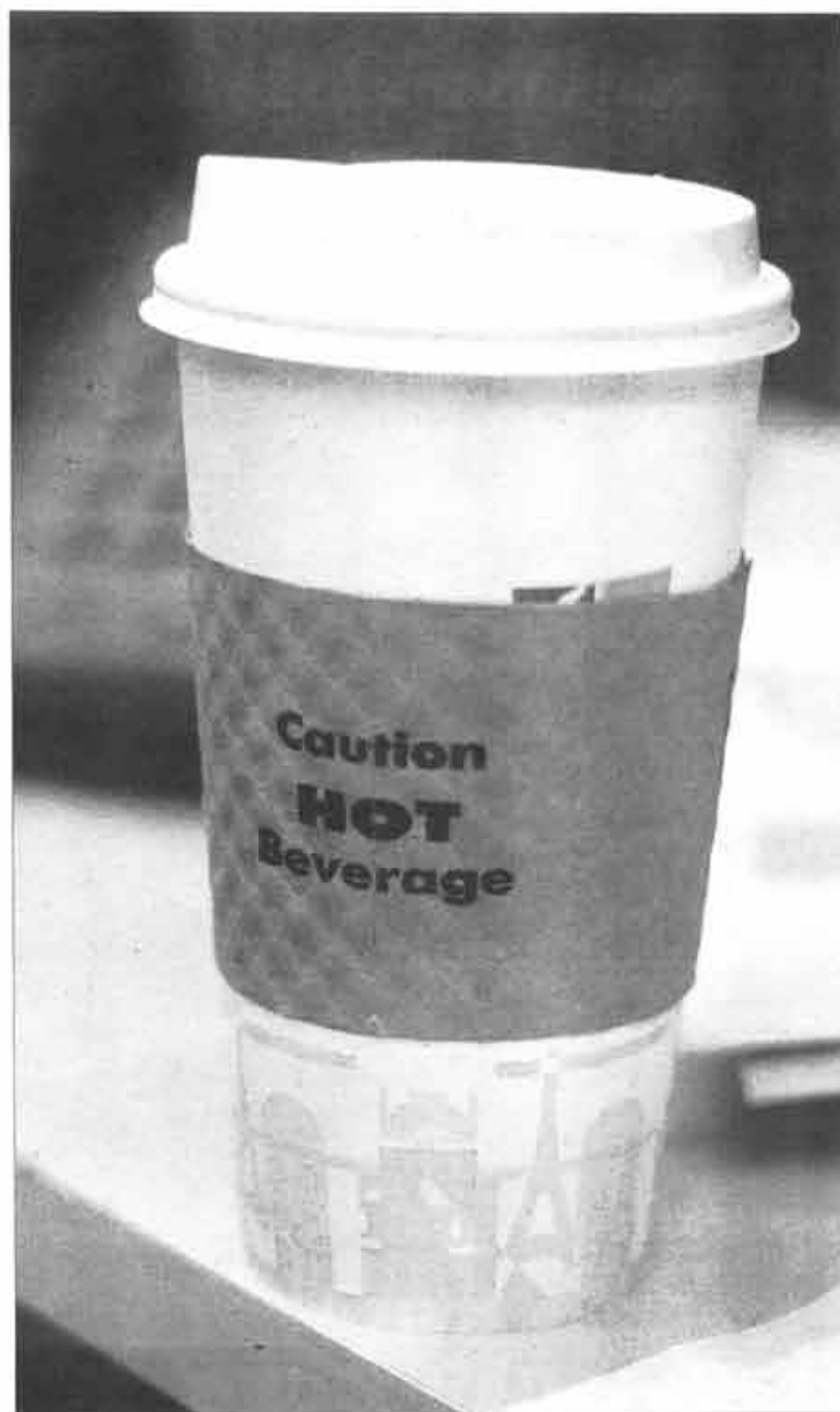
I asked my friend about other differences between ski resorts in Europe and those he visited in

Canada. He told me that the jumps are as large as the builders want to make them; you can ride in the most gnarly areas; and the ticket prices are not as outrageous as those in North America (Chicopee is surely not worth \$45+ a day).

He elaborated that, in general, people are more liable for what they choose to do. If you screw up and injure yourself, you can't just sue everyone under the sun so your paralyzed life is made easier. One has to face the consequences of one's actions (the social assistance programs will provide for you). Surely, this same idea could be applied here.

I don't know when it happened, but at some point, Americans decided to be ignorant of responsibility for their actions; insurance companies demanded safety, and padding was put on every corner, helmets on every adventurer. Canada is following suit in many regards and our self-responsibility is slowly deteriorating.

- SEE LAWSUIT, PAGE 22



SYDNEY HELLAND

HOT STUFF - Coffee cups are often labeled with a disclaimer warning that their contents are hot to prevent liability lawsuits.

Letters to the Editor, continued on 22

An open letter to Dr. Blouw

Dear Dr. Blouw,

There is a difference between staging 'visioning exercises' and possessing vision. The former is, I would argue, a waste of time and might even indicate a lack of real vision; whereas the latter is critical for university presidents.

We have been operating according to a vision of the future of higher education at Laurier for a good many years now. The problem is that it is an appalling vision! We have been tied into a financial logic of relentless expansion that has been significantly under-resourced with respect to the provision of quality education. That this has not thus far been too painfully obvious has been because of Herculean efforts on the part of faculty and staff and most particularly CAS faculty (those unfairly described as part-timers). The vision is of a casualization of higher education whereby Laurier has been striving to become a leader: the new Wal-Mart of the Canadian university world. The important question now is: do you have any alternative vision?

If you really care about the future of Laurier and the future of quality education, then some of what you need to do is very obvious. You must immediately and forcefully put pressure upon the administration's negotiating team to give our CAS faculty an equitable contract that recognizes their professional

skills, qualifications, integrity and the crucial services they perform for the university. If the board of governors is still married to their Wal-Mart model you must fight them. We the full-time faculty, the CAS faculty, the support staff, the students, we will help you fight them! There, that's a vision for you. And you don't need an essay contest to realize it. Sincerely,

- Garry Potter
Associate Professor
Department of Sociology

Death toll in Iraq drastically increases

There were many vile assumptions and insinuations made by Ms. Howard but the way in which she frames the article is the most insidious.

In order to make her argument that the death toll has been wildly exaggerated, Ms. Howard cites an October 2006 Lancet study that concluded that over 650,000 Iraqis had died as a result of the illegal US invasion. She was correct to believe that this was an accurate assessment of the brutality inflicted on the Iraqi population. In fact, the US and the UN used the same methods to document the atrocities in Rwanda, Congo and Bosnia. This method has been touted by Ronald Waldman, a noted epidemiologist, as "the best estimate of mortality that we have". It seems that the only entities that have criticized the study have been US and British govern-

ment officials. Where Ms. Howard goes astray is when she fails to scrutinize the report issued by the Iraqi Ministry of Health (rightly viewed as a US puppet by most Iraqis) and published in the New England Journal of Medicine. She cites the sheer volume of responses to the study as a sign of accuracy. I can see why she can be seduced by this fallacy but 'in truth' any statistician worth their salt would quickly correct this misconception. After a certain number of random responses, accuracy of results only increases slightly. Though she can be forgiven for her naivety, her more egregious mistake is to state that "the margin of error for the survey is relatively high" and ignore the relatively high confidence interval in the Lancet study.

If Ms. Howard was attempting to write a piece about the improved accuracy of measuring the inhumanity of the US illegal occupation, and not a hateful, pro-war rant, she should have titled it 'Death toll in Iraq Drastically Increases' and cited as comparison the official estimate of 30,000 put out by the US government as a baseline, then shown how the new Iraqi government study has improved upon these methods but still falls short of the most accurate assessment in the Lancet study.

- Culum Canally

Howard mistaken

This letter is in response to the article, "New study lowers Iraqi deaths" by Alexandra Howard, published in

The Cord on January 16, 2008. Having lived in Iraq for years and having relatives, some of whom fled the country since the American invasion and others are still living there, I was disheartened by the article for several reasons:

Firstly, the article states that 151,000 Iraqi civilians who died as a result of the US illegal invasion of Iraq is a price worth paying for "the fight for the preservation and establishment of democracy." The article states that this number of Iraqis died as a result of the War on Terror in the period between March 2003 and June 2006.

The truth is that the US and UK invaded Iraq under the pretext of destroying the Weapons of Mass Destruction and for assumed links between Iraq and the events of September 11. However, the US forces never found any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Also, the US administration admitted to the fact that there is no link between pre-invasion Iraq and the events of September 11. This means that the war was based on fabricated reasons.

Secondly, the new number was provided by the Iraqi Health Ministry under US occupation. Well, how credible was the French Vichy government under the Nazi Occupation? Not so much. Similarly, the current Iraqi puppet government is not credible either because of its complete reliance on the American occupation.

Thirdly, this study was based on samples from places that were safe enough to collect data from. There-

fore, the estimation would have been much higher had the study included such unsafe areas where the death toll would be higher because of lack of safety.

Fourthly, even if we take the number to be 151,000 Iraqi civilians not 600,000, this number is more than 50 times the number of people who died in the terrorist attack of September 11. These who kill civilians are terrorists, whether they belong to an organization like al-Qaeda or to a rouge state like the current US administration.

- Abdullah BaMasoud

Stop bashing Winter Carnival

I am tired of the negative connotations *The Cord* has been giving to Winter Carnival. Some of the greatest people I have met at Laurier I have met through Winter Carnival. These negative articles discourage other people on campus, who could have potentially been participants, not to participate. Clearly, it's undeniable there have been mistakes made with Winter Carnival in the past, but this does not mean it needs to be continually brought up. We need to move on and encourage people at our wonderful campus to get involved in great on-campus activities like Winter Carnival.

- Julia Cook

Lawsuits aren't the answer

- FROM LAWSUIT, PAGE 21

Since there is no limit to human stupidity, people still manage to get hurt and at some point they sue those who allowed them to take the risk. No person forced them to take the risk but they could not possibly be responsible for screwing up. It must be someone else's fault.

From the action sports world, I point to two examples. First, a huge ownership group of mountain resorts has banned all jumps from their winter ski and snowboard parks, as they did not want to see people get hurt on the jumps. This represents about a third of the major ski resorts in Canada: resorts that are now jump-less.

Second, this summer a major biking destination demolished their bike-jump park after two serious accidents on jumps that could fairly be considered safe. In both cases, it is clear that insurance companies had significant influence, either

through a detraction of coverage or through skyrocketing costs.

The fresh brewed coffee is hot; don't spill it in your crotch while driving with it between your legs.

The skylight is glass; don't try to break into a house by jumping on it. The 25-metre-jump is not something to take your six-year-old or a drunk first-timer friend on, either.

If you do these things, don't sue after you get hurt. Just accept your momentary stupidity.

If you screw up, it is not the responsibility of the entity that allowed you to screw up to pay for the rest of your life. In most cases, the "accused" did not cause you to screw up; you did that on your own.

Why is it, then, that people sue, driving up both service prices and insurance costs? Why can't North Americans just accept responsibility for their actions?

letters@cordweekly.com

Campus Pictorial



INDOOR LAKE - Caution signs were not present on Tuesday to remind students that puddles are indeed slippery. Hopefully no one will fall and file a lawsuit - being treated as intelligent is nice.

SYDNEY HELLAND

Letters to the Editor, continued from 21

A misnamed letter

I was pleased to see my letter to the editor printed in *The Cord*. Thank you. It is always a pleasure to read one's own work and get the "feel" of it on the printed page rather than through the synthetic glow of a computer monitor. However, I was upset, nearly outraged, upon reading how *The Cord* editors decided to title my letter, "Knowledge as Vital as Religion." It is misleading, incorrect and establishes a false mood that was not intended in the original letter.

While I understand that my soft references to the "spiritual" can certainly be read as "religion," they are simply not, by virtue of the fact that a brief reading of the my letter shows that I purposefully omitted the word "religion" to avoid any misunderstanding between the awe and fascination one feels during a "spiritual" experience and all

the pontiffs and pomp one gets under the dogma of religions. Under its new title, my letter appears to almost support the position of Dr. Morgenson, while in fact my views are closer to that of Mr. Rhodes - though I think my letter contained more consideration and tact.

Secondly, I find the composition of the title itself to be loaded, with the term "as vital as" putting the idea that religion, as an institution purporting to have contacts with the metaphysical, on some sort of a pedestal I never claimed it deserves or has. Certainly the awe and wonder of the universe has a place in our lives to define us as human but religion, as an institution and a worldview, makes us as much human as a banana makes a chimp - just because some may have it, doesn't say much as to who we really are and how we behave.

So, I urge *The Cord* editors, in future papers, to avoid as much as possible pinning their own titles

to the letters they receive in order to avoid loaded titles and misconstrued meanings like what just happened. For my letter a simple and neutral "Response to Dr. Morgenson" would have sufficed.

- Anatolijs Venovcevs

Team "Homeless-wood" a disgrace

After last year's incident and all the negative attention that was brought to Winter Carnival because of it, I was expecting this year's Winter Carnival to be a little more cautious. This expectation was destroyed as soon as I heard that there was a team called "Homeless-wood".

The very fact that there is a team called "Homeless-wood" disgusts me. The fact that their cheers made fun of things like having no running water, money or food disgusted me even further. How can the members

of this team find it funny to trivialize homelessness? Maybe I am being idealistic. Maybe this is a bit of an over-reaction. Maybe the 15% of Kitchener-Waterloo and Cambridge who live in poverty don't really mind it that much. Maybe the hundreds of people who help at drop-in centers every night around the city are just there to make good conversation. Or maybe the members of team Homeless-wood need to wake up and grow up in a hurry, and realize that what they are doing isn't funny, it's ignorant, and that they are a disgrace to themselves and to Laurier.

There are at least four campus clubs dedicated directly or indirectly to fighting poverty both in Kitchener-Waterloo and abroad. There is a student food bank that helps people who don't have the resources they need to buy food. There are people who are spending hundreds of dollars over reading week to fight homelessness and poverty. I hope

the rest of Laurier can follow the example of these people who actually do something about poverty and homelessness, rather than making a joke out of it.

We can be better than this.

- David Eikelboom
WLU Habitat for Humanity
President

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.

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Compassion and social justice

Members of society would benefit from empathizing with others through a willingness to take on their lives in the imagination



DON MORGENSON
ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

Philoctetes was a good man as well as a great warrior. Misfortune, however, overtook him, and on his way to Troy to fight the Greeks he was bitten by a venomous serpent. His wound began to ooze a foul smelling exudation and his cries of pain disturbed the other soldiers.

Concerned about the morale of the group, they abandoned him on a deserted island - a deeply wounded man armed with little but his bow, arrows and his integrity.

Ten years later, according to Sophocles' story, the soldiers returned to the island to retrieve Philoctetes. They realized they could not win the war without the great warrior. And while his superior officers had no other purpose but to use him in battle, the omnipresent Greek chorus responded very differently.

Members of the chorus imagine a man they do not know and the many difficulties he faced in the past decade. In other words, for the chorus and for the audience, it was an essential experience in empathy.

Thus began a long philosophical tradition - the systematic study of empathy. Numbered among its advocates were Jean Jacques Rousseau, Artur Schopenhauer and Adam Smith; its opponents were Bishop Spinoza, the Stoics, Immanuel Kant and Frederick Nietzsche.

Many see empathy as an essential bridge between the individual and his/her community: a fundamental way of linking our own individual interests to the interests of others.

Those who oppose it suggest it may force us to base our decisions on emotional factors rather than on rational factors.

Aristotle argued that empathy is a painful emotion directed at another person's misfortunes - such suffering must matter deeply for

the life in question. This suffering involves acknowledging the "similar possibilities" anyone else, even our loved ones, might expect to suffer.

Jean Jacques Rousseau argued that an awareness of one's own weakness and vulnerability is a necessary pre-condition for empathy. In *Emile*, Rousseau writes: "Why are kings without pity for their subjects? Because they count on never being human beings. Why are the rich so hard toward the poor? It is because they have no fear of being poor.... Make [your pupil] understand well that the fate of these people can be theirs, that all their ills are there in the ground beneath his feet, that countless unforeseen and inevitable events can plunge him into them from one moment to the next. Show him all the vicissitudes of fortune."

And apparently laboratory data suggest that a sense of empathy is deeply imbedded in our brains. In a recent issue of *Science*, researchers found that seeing a loved one endure a slight electric shock activates a brain region that processes pain, and points to a possible neurological basis for empathy.

The same areas of the brain light up when the individual is shocked; when people watched their friends suffer, their brains appeared to recreate the unpleasant experience. In effect, they felt their friend's pain.

When a female watched her partner being shocked, her own sensory cortex was quiet but emotional centers in her brain sprang into action. She was apparently reliving the experience without the physical stimulus or sensation. We do seem to put ourselves in another person's emotional shoes, and it appears to be hard-wired.

The researchers point out that we may know that children are starving in some parts of the world and cannot act on it, but this certainly does not mean we don't understand their experience or feel empathy. And empathy, as it is with other emotional responses, may have gradually evolved but it remains basically quite simple and appar-

ently shared with other species. Monkeys, for example, stop eating if they see that pressing a lever for food causes a second monkey to be shocked.

The essential point is that the pain of another must be our concern and can be only if we accept some sort of community between ourselves and others.

In his book *The Destruction of the Jews*, Raul Hilbert shows how pervasively Nazi talk of the Jews portrayed them as nonhuman, beings of a remote animal kind, insects or vermin ... or "cargo" (Adolf Eichmann) to be transported. They sensed no commonness between themselves and others.

It is eminently clear that tragic empathy can provide a powerful vision of social justice and can repudiate our contemporary tendencies toward the dehumanization of others. It is also quite clear that tragic empathy can and must be taught.

Our public education institutions must commit themselves to cultivating the ability to imagine the experiences of others and participate in their sufferings. This may mean giving more emphasis to the arts, music and the humanities, disciplines which serve to sensitize the young.

Our political leaders, often bereft of vision, must also develop the ability to take on in the imagination,

the lives of the diverse groups they supposedly serve. Consider Abraham Lincoln, whose empathy for slaves was a central source of the powerful moral force in his public speeches and his private actions.

In *Upheavals of Thought: A Theory of Emotions*, Professor Martha Nussbaum writes: "Tragic pity [empathy] provides a powerful vision of social justice ... and that judgment that does not employ the intelligence [and emotion] of compassion in coming to grips with the significance of human suffering is blind and incomplete."

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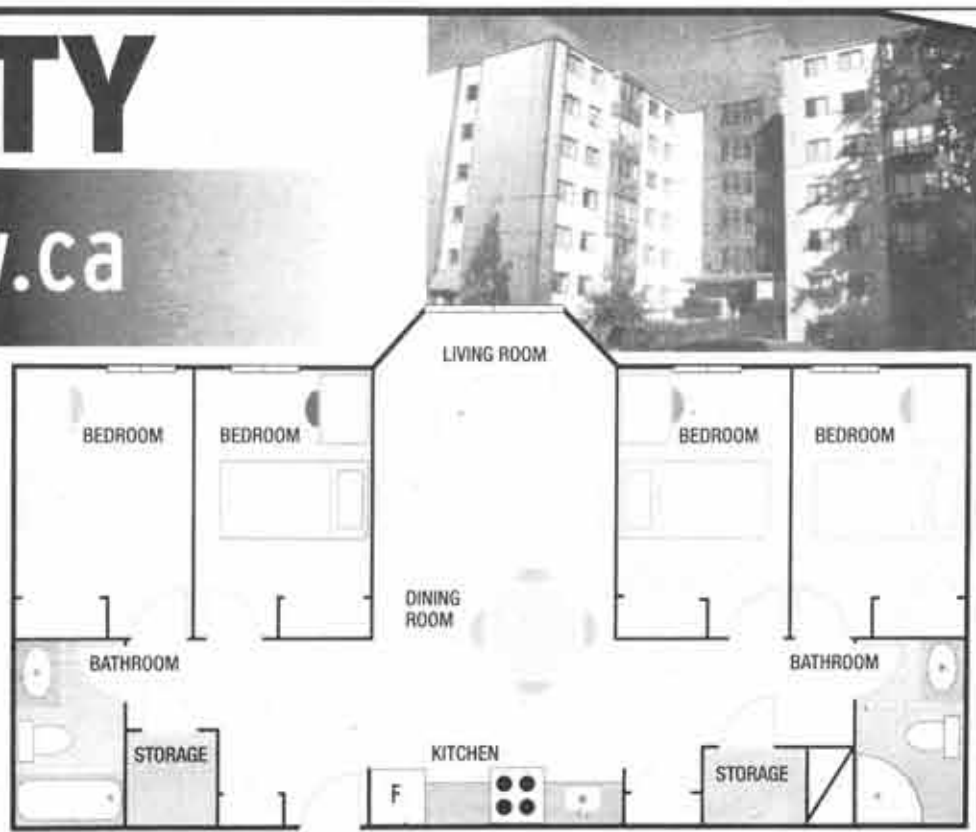
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27 Dresses

A romantic-comedy for the month of January



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LAUGHING ALL THE WAY - Jane and Kevin share smiles as singles.

PRIYAM BHARGAVA
CORD A&E

I've heard of people with skeletons in their closet; Jane (Katherine Heigl), on the other hand, has dresses! From the stereotypical lonely, single workaholic main character to a predictable drunken bar-top dance between Jane and Kevin (James Marsden), *27 Dresses* is the ideal chick flick.

Fuelled by a formulaic soundtrack, the movie runs rampant with colourful montages, from beginning to end. Typical of the life she lives, it starts off with Jane trying to balance two of her friends' weddings, each on the opposite end of town, whilst changing dresses in a cab, doing dance sequences and playing bridesmaid all on the same night!

She is a hopeful, unattached gal, secretly head-over-heels in love with her boss George (Ed Burns), who doesn't acknowledge her existence apart from treating her like his slave, mostly because she just can't say "no."

Kevin, unaffected by love and also single, has an abundance of free time, much of which is spent following Jane around everywhere in attempts to ask her out - only to get shot down repeatedly.

His cynical take on love conceals his full-time job as a writer for the "Commitments" wedding section of the *New York Journal*.

The plot thickens as Jane's boss falls in love with her perky bimbo sister, Tess, (Malin Akerman) and Jane gets stuck with wedding arrangements, of course, as bridesmaid once again.

For comic relief, there's Casey (Judy Greer), Jane's slutty friend who makes crass comments and slaps her with a reality check every time Jane gets caught in a reverie. The movie is cast well, with each actor playing their part almost naturally except for Tess, who comes across a lot like a ditzier version of Cameron Diaz.

Even in a generic movie like this, Heigl's performance commands respect and applause. There is definitely chemistry between Kevin and Jane, which makes it even more enjoyable.

Will Tess land the man of Jane's dreams or does Jane win him over in the end? Besides the usual sexual innuendos and few laughs here and there, the only other chuckle was watching Heigl wear each and every atrocious bridesmaid dress.

The movie, written by Aline Brosh McKenna (who also wrote *The Devil Wears Prada*) doesn't provide much opportunity for the audience to identify with the characters, as is the case in stereotypical storylines where talented actors remain unchallenged.

Nevertheless, *27 Dresses* is a lot like *The Devil Wears Prada* in that it combines helplessness and hopefulness in a way that would appeal to any fan of the rom-com genre.

Requirements for an average romantic comedy: sex scene in the rain - check. Drunken bar top dance - check. Unrequited love - check. Lesson learned by self-centered bimbo - check. And sure enough, the dress montage. Entertaining, predictable but obviously doesn't end sadly, otherwise it'd be called a drama.

Watch *27 Dresses* as a guilty pleasure. Be prepared for some romantic hoo-hah, predictable storylines and a once-upon-a-time-fairy-princess ending.



27 Dresses

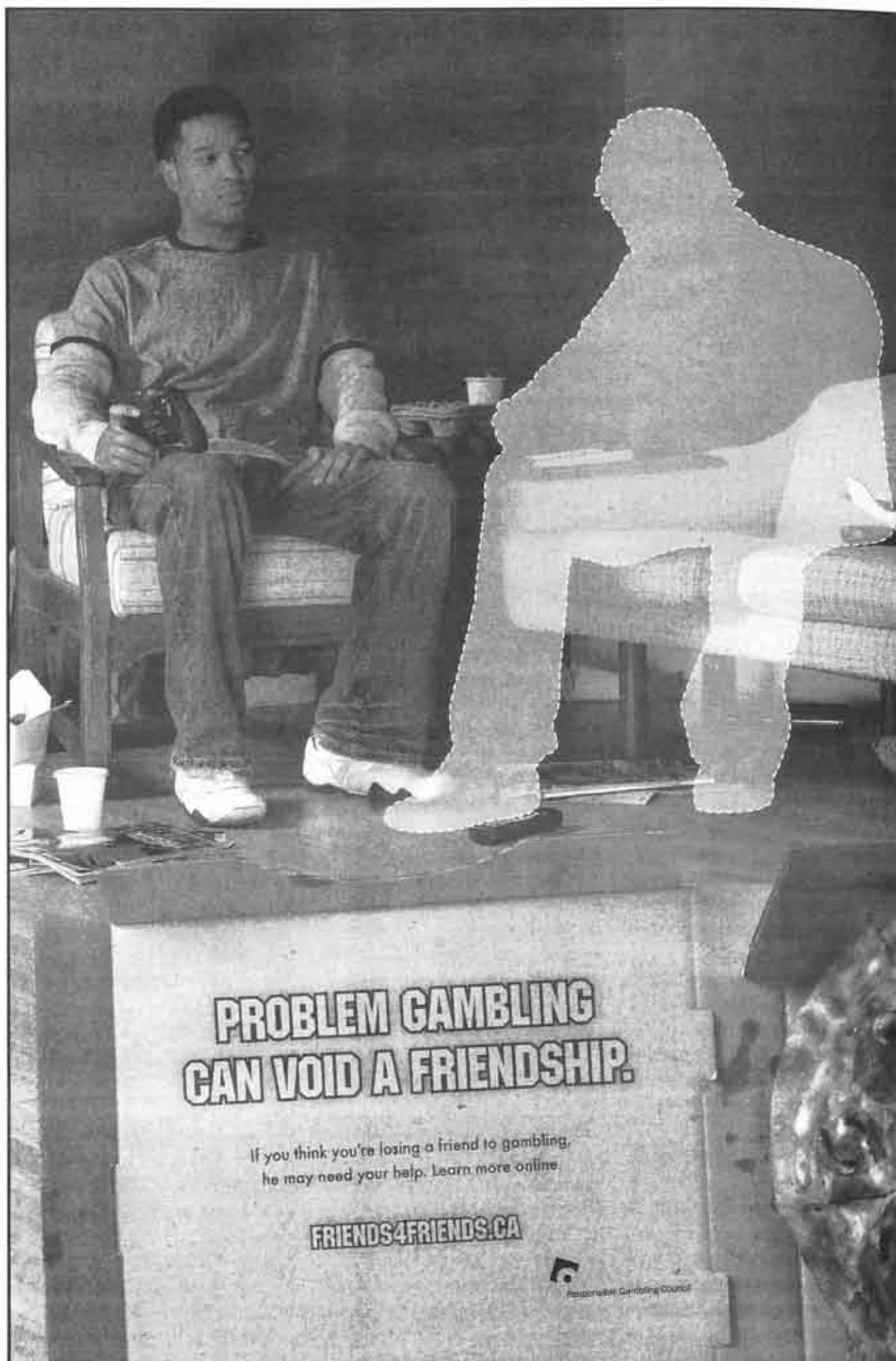
Director: Anne Fletcher

Starring: Katherine Heigl,

James Marsden

Release Date: 18/01/2008

Rating: 6.5/10.0



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Money makes the world go round

Despite the ubiquity of 'heist' films that have been released over the past decade, *Mad Money* manages to provide a fresh spin

ELISE COTTER
STAFF WRITER

When watching *Mad Money*, you realize that it is, in fact, two films. The first film is about an incredible three-year heist, taking place in a United States Federal Reserve Bank. The second is a story about three wonderful women who get together in their time of need and develop a deep friendship. Strange? Yes. Does it work? Yes.

The story behind *Mad Money* quintessentially represents "normal people doing extraordinary things."

And the director, Callie Khouri, knows this. She presents her three heroines as normal people, with normal problems.

Khouri's directing is simple and subtle, which suits the story; there is no need for Steven Soderbergh-like innovation. In fact, it was only the soundtrack, and the occasional robbery, that let the audience know they were watching a crime genre movie.

Khouri takes her time with introducing the characters and their stories, not feeling the need to rush to the climax - each scene takes its

own time to be fully appreciated. The comedy works only at certain times however, with some jokes falling flat despite the effort of the actors.

The film begins when Bridget Cardigan (Diane Keaton) learns her husband has been downsized; they owe a lot of money in debt, and, consequently, will have to sell the house. Refusing to leave her home, Bridget decides to get a job; she ends up as a janitor for the Federal Reserve Bank.

After months of watching used money being shredded, she de-

cides to take some for her own. "It's like recycling," she explains at one point. In order to steal the money, she recruits single mom Nina Brewster (Queen Latifah) and free-spirited Jackie Truman (Katie Holmes).

Nina is hesitant, but agrees because she wants her two boys to have a better education. Jackie is a young wife who lives with her husband in a trailer.

All three agree to only take as much money as they need, but that idea of "need" slowly turns into "want" resulting in an array of problems.

The heist isn't the most important, or the most interesting, aspect of the film. The marriage issues between Bridget and her husband, Don (Ted Danson), the romance that sizzles between Nina and security guard Barry (Roger R. Cross), and especially the friendship between all three ladies are all key aspects of the film.

Even more interesting is the social commentary included in between in the personal and criminal troubles.

Although not at the centre of the film, some of America's ongoing problems, such as its obsession with consumption and its racial

and class tensions are highlighted by writer Glenn Gers. Bridget's need to steal more money is compared many times to consumerism. "Our society is about consumerism, and she got consumed," notes her husband.

The story is fun, the actors are very entertaining and the morals are there. *Mad Money* offers the realities of social and personal life in an unlikely context.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HALITOSIS CAN BE FATAL - So can odd combinations of celebrities, but Holmes, Latifah and Keaton jive.

MAD MONEY

Director: Callie Khouri

Starring: Katie Holmes, Diane Keaton, Queen Latifah

Release Date: 11/01/2008

Rating: 7.1/10.0

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A Fr!nge Festival overview

After all the hype preceeding the annual student drama weekend, **Elise Cotter** gives you a brief recap of the Saturday show

ELISE COTTER
STAFF WRITER

Last Saturday afternoon, I went to the Fringe Festival and experienced a very strange play, a very funny play, an entertaining musical number, two short films, and a melodramatic closing play. Overall, it was a

good experience.

At first, the organization and promotion for Fringe may appear very relaxed, as if the festival does not take itself seriously, but that is not at all the case. All the plays were impressively produced and well acted. The participants all want to put on good shows.

The two coordinators, Zinta Auzins and Andrew Posen, comically introduced the show and the first play, *apparatus*, about three workers at a fishery. The actors spend their time chopping up fish and arguing about traumatic memories, which the audience could not understand.

Despite the efforts of the three main actors, Hutton Wierzbicki, Zile Ozols and Kate Klein, *apparatus* was confusing and not very entertaining.

The Importance of Knowing Donny was next. A welcome change, the play entertained the audience with its light comedy. The story follows the arrogant publicist Donny Worthing as he tries to fix a client's PR disaster. The excellent cast of eight worked together and created a witty and slightly profane hit.

Afterwards was a preview of the upcoming Laurier Musical Theatre's *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. The sole number featured nine men dancing and singing. A rare sight, the performers dressed up in suits and sang about their workplace in front of bathroom sinks. Even on its own it was very entertaining, and a good taste of what's to come this weekend when the whole show will be performed.

The preview was followed by two short films. First, *I Think It's Pretty*, directed by coordinator Zinta Auzins – a very short film that showed "graffiti, urban decay and other stuff." Although it seemed hastily put together, it was still a pretty film. The second short film, *Deploy, Debilitate, Destroy*, by Paul Auzins,

was a home-style documentary about two guys building a trebuchet. The film was very well put together. Even if long at times, the feature kept us entertained with its great editing and rock music soundtrack.

The final play was *Vera*. A drama set in the 1950s, the story follows an actress who knew success 20 years ago but now faces the challenge of regaining her fame. The drama was very well acted, with Alana Cardarelli as Vera Mann and Anthony Virgilio as her cruel and discontented husband, Harold.

The play may seem like an over-the-top melodrama, but it is very well balanced and creates sympathy for Vera, who tries to hide her despair from her husband and sister. Most exciting was the surprise musical performance by Cardarelli at the end, letting the audience imagine how the star Vera was in her youth.

The two-and-a-half-hour festival was wonderfully entertaining, and judging by their reaction, the audience was as satisfied as I was. Students managed to put on a professional show simply because of their talent and desire. Their efforts were not only recognized, but deserving-ly praised by the many supporters and fans.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BATHROOM BRAVADO - Singing and dancing, a regular occurrence in men's bathrooms all over the campus.



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In depth: *Panda-Monium!*

A stand-out show over the course of Fringe, **Kari Pritchard** looks closer at a festival highlight

Art attack

CARRIE MCNABB
STAFF WRITER



FASHION STATEMENT - Gender neutrality makes for interesting outfits.

KARI PRITCHARD
STAFF WRITER

This past Thursday, Laurier students were invited to see the first performances of the Fringe Festival.

Fringe is run and organized entirely by students and is comprised of various short plays and films written, directed and acted by students.

On Thursday night, the audience was privy to five plays: *Panda-Monium!*, *Hotel*, *Why I Hate Public Transit*, *Laurier 2084* and *Project Shakespeare*. The night opened with *Panda-Monium!*, written and directed by Mallory Richard and Adam Cilevitz.

The title gives a hint as to what one can expect: pandas and lots of crazy chaos!

The initial plot involves two pandas that plan to mate and who coincidentally make great animal erotica - discovered by groundskeeper Susan (Nathan Wettlaufer).

That's right! Pandas like you've never seen them before! Through some lovely shadow work, the audience and little Baxter (Mary-Grace Falvo), their panda son, get to see how pandas make babies ... in many inspiring positions.

All the characters were excellently represented, but three of them left lasting impressions on the crowd.

Baxter, a gender-neutral child, stood out with his/her costume design. Baxter's outfit was half and half; on one side, (s)he was decked out in blue, including half a hat, shirt and pair of shorts. The other half was all pink, including half a skirt to match the shorts, topped off with a glorious side ponytail.

Second - the only character that had no lines - was Slugman (Graeme Blyth), a man who thought he was a giant invisible slug, who enjoyed wiggling and rubbing himself on people for good measure. Slugman's innocence and wiggly nature had the crowd's attention from the get-go.

Another memorable character was Manny (Dylan Young), the pervy zookeeper with a lot of built up sexual tension and a surplus of sexual innuendo.

Manny was particularly memorable in a solo lip-sync and dance number where he ripped off his clothes to reveal a sexy leopard print shirt and yellow bicycle shorts.

So, how did a play about mating pandas end up with Manny half-naked on stage? Alternate endings, of course!

As the first ending was almost reached, writers Mallory Richard and Adam Cilevitz jumped up from the audience and had a brief "argument" over who wrote the first bogus ending.

From here the pandas were left behind and, beginning with Manny's solo, the "panda-monium" really started to shine. After Manny's solo, the entire cast joined him on stage to partake in various song and dance routines, even the "Time Warp."

Although the multiple endings were verging on schizophrenic, the writers acknowledged the ambiguity during one of their unpredictable endings. *Panda-Monium!* was definitely made for a mature audience, and is full of puns and jokes that were taken to the limit, but still had the crowd cracking up.

A play with horny pandas and quirky characters was a great way to start off the night. Although Richard and Cilevitz' creation was random at times, *Panda-Monium!* was a hilarious, one-of-a-kind play that won't be easily forgotten.

Entries for this year's annual Laurier Student, Staff and Faculty Art Exhibition are currently being accepted until Friday, February 15.

All mediums of work will be accepted, but two-dimensional pieces need to be framed and wired for hanging and sculptures must have a proper base prior to submission.

Be sure to label your artwork with your name, phone number and e-mail address. Only two entries are allowed per person, but multiple -piece work can be approved by the curator, Suzanne Luke.

The exhibition will be on display at the Robert Langen Art Gallery in the John Aird building from February 27 until March 15. Artwork can be submitted to the gallery during regular business hours.

The exhibition is open to any student, staff or faculty member at Wilfrid Laurier University and gives everyone the opportunity to support and appreciate the artwork that our community has to offer. Select pieces will be for sale.

Along with art submissions, an entry form must be submitted too. Entry forms and specific regulations can be found at the Robert Langen Art Gallery.

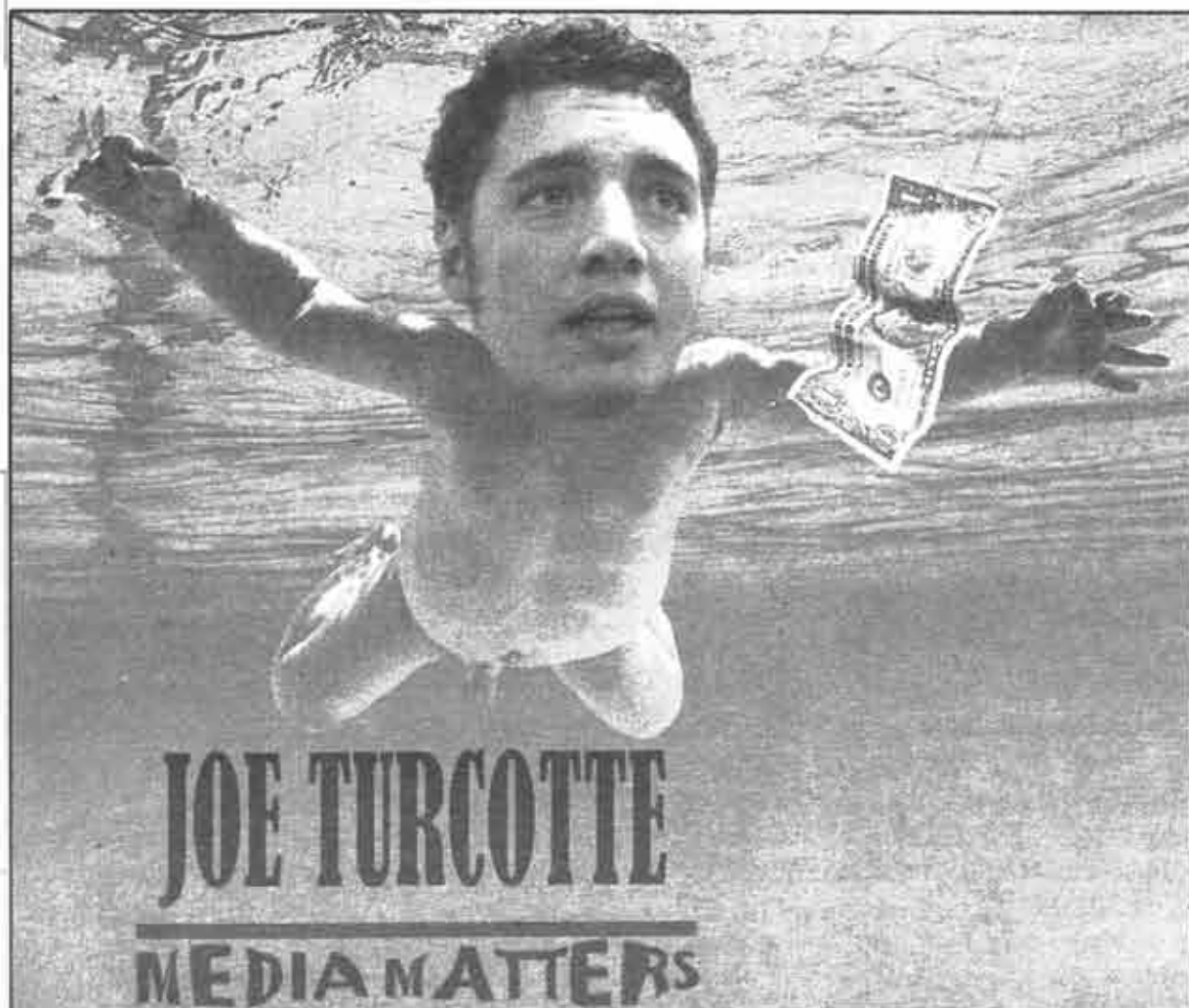
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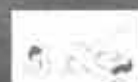
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The Yin & Yang

Is there life on Mars?

After listening to a pre-released copy of The Mars Volta's *The Bedlam in Goliath*, **Daniel Joseph** weighs in on their latest effort to blow your mind

DANIEL JOSEPH
STAFF WRITER

Let's get this out of the way first: I like *At the Drive-In* a lot more than I like The Mars Volta. Maybe it's my Texan pride coming through, seeing as how *At the Drive-In* hailed from El Paso, a town in my home state that is known for its musical history.

For the uninitiated I should point out that *At the Drive-In* is the post-hardcore outfit that Cedric Bixler-Zavala and Omar Rodriguez-Lopez, both founders of The Mars Volta, were previously engaged in before its demise in 2001. It was better.

I also completely skipped their last album, *Amputechture*, because I had slowly lost interest in the creative wanking that Cedric and Omar were churning out. I came into *Bedlam in Goliath* expecting the worst, but ended up satisfied, with each listen increasing my appreciation for the album.

Hopefully nobody has been saying that *Bedlam* re-invents The Mars Volta, because I would call them on their bullshit pretty quickly. It doesn't re-invent or approach music in a way that they haven't done before.

However, it does bring together what The Mars Volta is best known for: fucking around on guitars, synth and reverb effects for about an hour, with the type of tight song structure that was characteristic of *De-Loused in the Comatorium*. Some of the songs are short and sweet, while others can last close to ten minutes (the longest is 9:36) with distinct movements in each.

What's funny is that it's been pointed out to me that I tend to listen to a lot of emo (Rites of Spring and Saetia, not pop like The Used) bands from the '80s and '90s that made CDs chock full of identical sounding songs and riffs, yet when I hear a contemporary group such as The Mars Volta do the same thing, I'm annoyed and noticeably an-

gered at the outcome. *Bedlam* from beginning to end is such an album.

I'm the kind of person who always tells people to listen to an album front to back because that was the artist's intention, but with *Bedlam* I must recant. Listen to it in short bursts. It's repetitive, and I think that if you try to soldier through the entire thing in one go you will soon lose your focus and the music will just grind together in a psychedelic version of *Will it Blend?*

On *Bedlam* I felt, for the first time, that if I turned up my speakers really loud, I could sense the amazing atmosphere that The Mars Volta has when they perform.

I like that. I like pretending I'm in some dive of a venue listening to a few musicians who are way too full of themselves. The driving bass on the track "Goliath" combined with the climactic crescendo of instruments and vocals hit that sweet spot perfectly.

I don't imagine *Bedlam in Goliath* will win over any new fans to The Mars Volta, and if it does it's only those poor souls too unfortunate to have never heard them before. It's not very genre-pushing or as creative a workout as the groundbreaking *De-Loused*, but it's good. That's all, really. Not great, just good.



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The Mars Volta
Album: *The Bedlam in Goliath*

Released Date: 12/29/2008

Rating: 6.5/10.0

Check Out: "Goliath";