

# THE CORD WEEKLY

The tie that binds since 1926

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CCNA AWARDS  
2007 WINNER  
BEST CAMPUS  
NEWSPAPER

Volume 48 Issue 25

WEDNESDAY MARCH 12, 2008

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# Martlets swoop over Hawks



SYDNEY HELLAND

**KNOX DOWN** - WLU Goalie Liz Knox sheds tears after her team's loss against the McGill Martlets Monday.

The women's hockey team lost a tough 2-0 battle against the McGill Martlets in Monday night's national championship, and settled for silver

**LAUREN MILLET**  
SPORTS EDITOR

OTTAWA – It was a tale of two goalies – one, a 20-year-old sophomore from Laurier named Liz Knox and the other, Charline Labonté, an Olympic Gold medalist from the 2006 Torino Games. The battle that ensued was fierce and relentless. The little Hawk laid her heart and soul on the line, but it just wasn't to be.

In a fight for the gold medal and the Canadian Interuniversity Sport national women's hockey title, the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks left everything they had on the ice, but came up just short as the physically bigger, faster, stronger McGill Martlets were simply too much. The Martlets claimed the title with a 2-0 victory, the school's first-ever national title in a women's sport.

"I thought she fit right in there and stood her ground. They didn't have an edge in goaltending at all,"

said Head Coach Rick Osborne of Knox. "When you're down to five defense, and you're playing that much of the time, it's really the game you just pray to get the first goal. When we were down 1-0, it was difficult. But the five of them just played their heart out."

"A lot of our players looked tired," continued Osborne. "For the first time all season, I thought there was two or three that just had a little trouble competing and being physical. It's the first time all year that we really shortened the bench in the third period."

The Hawks began the tournament with a game on Saturday night against the host Ottawa Gee Gees. After a scoreless first period, fourth-year defender Andrea Bevan penetrated the Gee Gees' line and put the puck into the back of the net for the game's only goal.

- SEE HOCKEY, PAGE 15

# Dallaire does WLU

The head of a 1994 Rwandan UN assistance mission, Roméo Dallaire gave Friday's keynote speech at the second annual Global Citizenship Conference

**WALEED HAFEEZ**  
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

1700 people from Laurier and the surrounding community welcomed back Senator Lieutenant-General (retired) Roméo Dallaire to the Athletic Centre on Friday, March 7 to officially open this year's second annual Global Citizenship Conference.

Most people present knew of Sen. Dallaire's past and his time in Rwanda as the head of the UN assistance mission for Rwanda, UNAMIR.

Sen. Dallaire was introduced by Mr. Paul Heinbecker, distinguished fellow of the Centre for International Governance Innovation and director of the Laurier Centre for Global Relations.

In his introduction, Mr. Heinbecker spoke of Sen. Dallaire's career and his numerous accomplishments. He lauded that Sen. Dallaire is a "citizen of the world, a Cana-

dian we can all be proud of and a human being extraordinaire."

Sen. Dallaire's general topic was "Peacebuilding in a New World Disorder - Where is Canada? Where are you?"

He started his talk speaking of Canada as one of the most influential countries on Earth, asking, "What should be the focus of one of the nine most powerful nations in the world?"

Relating to his time in Rwanda and the lack of international attention to the 1994 genocide, he linked Rwanda to Darfur, asking, "There's nothing really new, but did that prevent Darfur from happening?"

He spoke of the massive scale at which the Darfur crisis has escalated since it sparked in 2003. He then asked those present to question those in authority: "How come we're permitting this slow-motion genocide?"

Linked to Darfur was Sen. Dallaire's discussion on the use of child

soldiers, a practice found mostly in Africa.

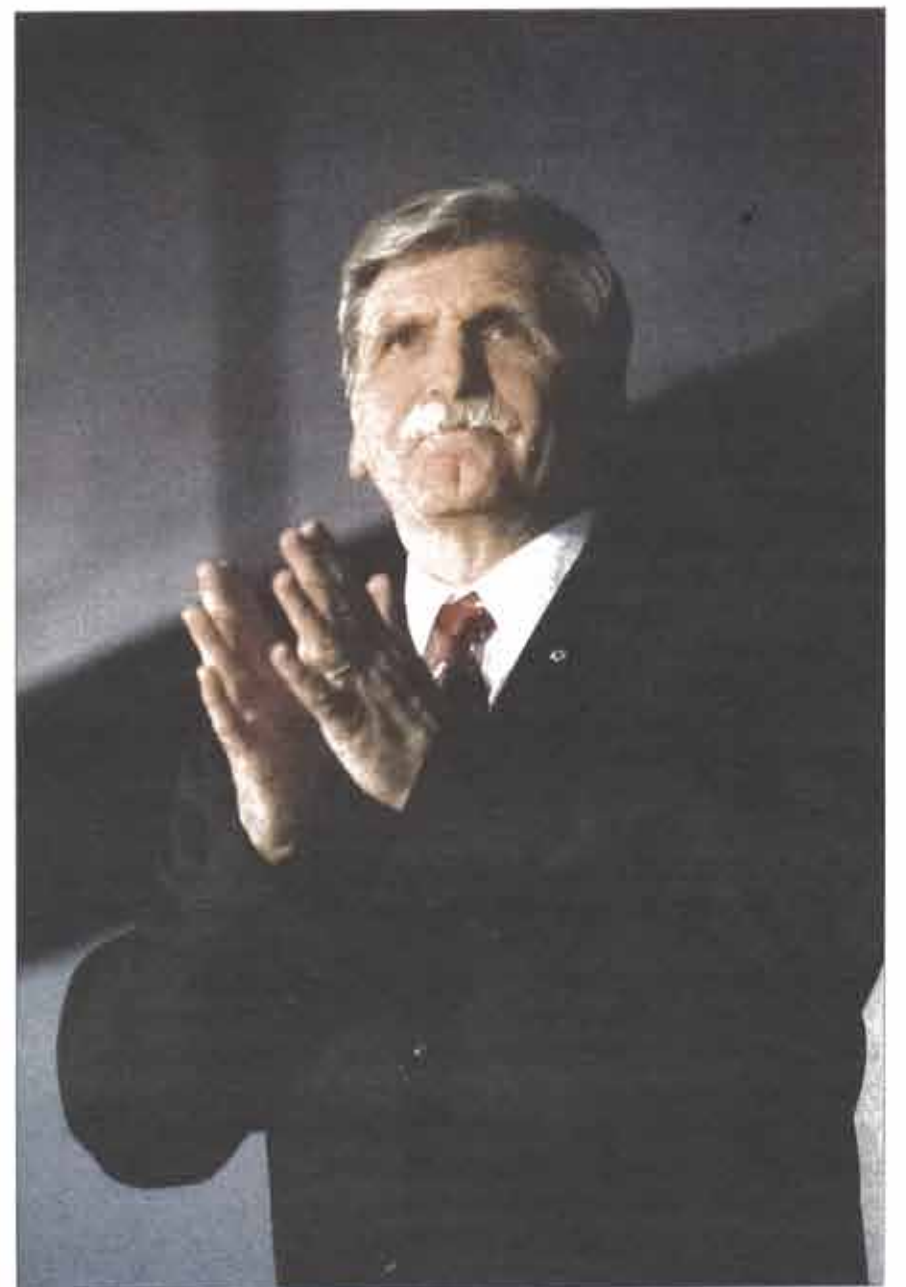
He described them as the "principal weapon of the war," referring to his tour of duty in Rwanda.

He referred to an experience where his team had to protect the lives of some Rwandans who had garrisoned themselves in a church. The rebel army attacking them consisted of young boys with semi-automatic guns and young women – some pregnant – who were used as human shields.

He asked: "What do you do? Do you kill children who will kill you and the people you are protecting?" It was a question to which no one present had an answer.

Sen. Dallaire pointed out that Canada is nowhere near the levels of international development it has committed to, the minimum 0.7 percent GDP.

- SEE DALLAIRE, PAGE 9



MATT SYMES

**DALLAIRIOUS** - Retired Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire recommended that Canadians immerse themselves in the democratic process.



**THE CORD WEEKLY**  
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**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**  
"Hey, do you want to feel something gross on my body that I have no idea what it is?"

Graphics Editor Julie Marion when she discovered a lump on her shoulder, earning her quote of the week status for back-to-back weeks.

**WORD OF THE WEEK**  
**Miser** - A person who lives in wretched circumstances in order to save and hoard money; stingy.

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**Preamble to The Cord Constitution**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Students brave the cold

The Five Days for the Homeless campaign put on by the WLU School of Business and Economics Student Council is looking to raise \$5000 for local aid organizations, have accrued 40 percent thus far

**DAN POLISCHUK**  
NEWS EDITOR

Having to get up every day for class is one thorn in the side of every university student. But to have to awaken in sub-zero temperatures on of a makeshift bed made of flattened cardboard is certainly a little more drastic.

That is exactly what a group of Laurier students is doing this week with the hopes of raising awareness of homelessness in Waterloo Region.

Joining an initiative that began at the University of Alberta in 2005 called "Five days for the homeless," Laurier's participants were coordinated by the WLU School of Business and Economics (SBE) Student Council.

Project Manager Taylor McGuire commented on how, three days into the initiative, the response from the Laurier community has been "really positive."

"It goes to show the spirit of Laurier," said McGuire. "We all care."

When asked why, as a first-year student in the business program, he felt compelled to get the school involved in such a campaign, McGuire spoke of the time he spent

volunteering for similar causes while he took a year off after graduating from high school.

"I thought getting involved would be a great way to start [my Laurier career]," he said.

It was this type of enthusiasm that got students and faculty on board so quickly.

Evan Thor, VP: External with the SBE Student Council and one of the three "homeless" students sleeping in the Quad, explained how "it's been next to impossible to sleep."

"It's cold," said Thor. "I was freezing from 2 am to 10 am this morning," he explained, adding that he "wouldn't trade it for anything," though.

"[The campaign] is getting a lot of visibility not only on campus but across the region," said Thor. "It's worth it ... 100 percent."

Talking about the experience he is sharing with two other students - second-year political science and administration student Jeff Martino and third-year BBA student Samantha Bolland - Thor spoke of how he "can't even imagine what it would be like to be out there ... without any food in your stomach."

"If this was your life, it'd just be terrible. It is really eye-opening," he added.

Accounting professor John Young is putting 25 years of boy scout leadership to good use. Bunking alongside Thor last night, Young explained how "he liked the charities the students are supporting" - which include KW Reaching Our Outdoor Friends (ROOF) and the Argus Residence for Young People in Cambridge.

Having raised approximately \$300 in his class alone, Young spoke of how he "just heard about [the campaign] and approached them" about participating.

With almost 40 percent of the intended \$5000 goal already raised, Young was very impressed with the response thus far.

"These guys are doing a good job of raising awareness and money," he said.

McGuire was also optimistic of the positive response.

"We will meet or even exceed our goal," said the coordinator.

Asked if he foresees Laurier's branch of the project expanding next year to include more participants, McGuire was a little wary of the possibility.

"One of the things we want to keep consistent is the three to four participants," he said, adding, "It's easier to follow those students."

He believes that the current set-up will maintain the "clarity of the message" about homelessness.

And with continued support from faculty, like the Dean of the School of Business & Economics Ginny Dybenko (who will be taking over Young's place tonight), there is reason to believe the project will go on at Laurier for many years to come.

"We hope to continue this ... and that it doesn't stop here," said McGuire.

See PAGE 22 for editorial reaction to this story

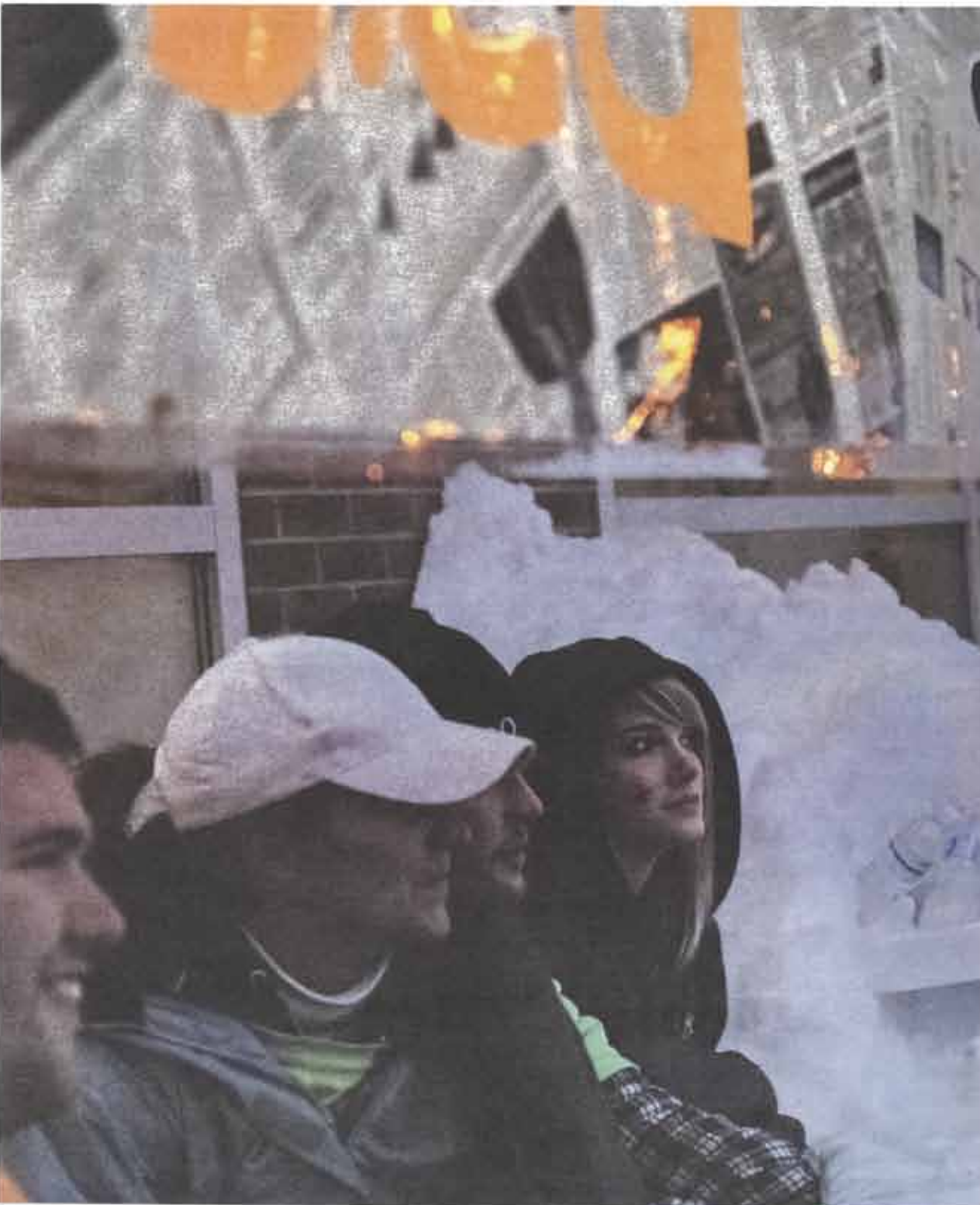
**CORD/ONLINE**  
  
> cordweekly.com  
> News  
  
Visit [www.CordWeekly.com](http://www.CordWeekly.com) on Friday for an update on how the event progressed throughout the week.

## Five Days Rules:

1. Remain on campus from Sunday, March 9 at 5:00 pm to Friday, March 14 at 5:00 pm.
2. Do not carry any spare money.
3. Pillow and blanket are necessary - but can be traded for items such as food.
4. No access to showers is granted.
5. Participants must sleep outside in the Quad.
6. All academic responsibilities must be met - including going to class.

## Five Days Facts:

- \$1,915.94 - Total money raised by the Laurier campaign, as of Tuesday evening - 38% of the intended goal of \$5,000.
- 10 - The number of schools across Canada participating in the "Five days for the homeless campaign."
- 2005 - The year in which the campaign was founded by the University of Alberta's School of Business & Economics.
- 5 - The number of days students will spend braving the elements outside in the Quad.
- \$25,356 - Total money raised by the Edmonton campaign last year after raising only \$2000 in 2005.
- 2nd, 2nd and 3rd - Years of study of the Laurier "homeless" participants Evan Thor, Jeff Martino and Samantha Bolland.



GREG MCKENZIE

**WE BE CHILLIN'** - Laurier students are sleeping outside in an effort to raise money for the homeless.



## VOCAL CORD

"If study spaces on campus were open 24 hours, would you make use of them?"



"Yes, for sure."

- Shannon Blanshard  
First-year Sociology



"I would. Sometimes I'm at the library until it closes."

- Alissa Bortolus  
First-year Communications



"Probably not during regular school weeks, but during midterms or finals, your schedule gets all messed up and sometimes you can be at the library for 10 hours at a time."

- Jeremy Krausz  
First-year Business



"One hundred percent I would. I feel that it caters more to student schedules."

- Trevor Mayoh  
Fourth-year Political Science



"Yes, I would; I stay up really late and work."

- Meghan Bunce  
Fourth-year Music

Compiled by Jennifer Rae  
Photographs by Mara Silvestri

# Study hours extension

WLU opens 24-hour access to the library and other locations on campus during exams

MARA SILVESTRI  
STAFF WRITER

With extended access to on-campus study spaces finally being settled, it seems the requests of students have been heard.

"The bottom line is students want to study and work hard, want to do well," explained Dean of Students David McMurray.

"The university is supportive of that so students can learn and be successful."

The campus now has a multitude of late night locations designated for studying purposes.

With 24-hour access to the dining hall, the Concourse and the 24-hour lounge in the Fred Nichols Campus Centre, students no longer face the challenges of inaccessible study spaces around the clock.

Monday through Friday, the library is open until 2 am, and on weekends the hours reduce until midnight.

Yet the largest adjustment of the year has been the newly implemented 24-hour access to the building during the exam period, which runs from April 7 to April 25.

The issue came to the forefront at the beginning of this semester, when access to the Science building was significantly reduced due to incidences of vandalism in that building.

While the Science building will

still only be open until 10 pm on Fridays and from noon until 5 pm on Saturdays (with the exception of scheduled Saturday exams), an extra hour has been added from Monday through Thursday, meaning the building will now only be closed from midnight until 6 am on those days.

The extended hours are not the only alteration in the plan, as computers in the Concourse labs have been equipped with updated software to provide 24-hour access for students in need of specific programs – particularly computer science students.

The key to this strategically developed plan is the importance of students finding a suitable venue for studying on campus.

McMurray explained the significance of the different study techniques students have by conveying that there are study spaces to support all needs, including spaces that cater to groupwork and individual settings where noise levels vary.

"The biggest challenge is students knowing about it. I think that may have been a shortcoming in the past," said McMurray.

Rod Curran, Director of Laurier Special Constable Service, explained that safety measures are also being taken with the extension of hours.

"We are just assisting with security to make sure it is safe for students and staff; that's our role in



GREG MCKENZIE

**NIGHT HAWKS** - With new initiatives from the school, WLU students now have more access to late-night study spots around campus.

this," said Curran.

Curran said they are trying to ensure the safety of students by providing two to three personnel patrolling campus at all times, on top of the video surveillance system that Laurier has, which covers 80 percent of the campus.

"I know at the library, for extended hours, they will be hiring private security within there so students will be well protected," he said.

VP: Academic Sue Horton spoke of the resources required in order

to achieve the extended access they did.

"We want to do it 24 hours, but it's just difficult to staff [the library] 24 hours. It turned out we could do it during exams, but it would be difficult to do it for a longer period," said Horton.

As evaluations of the plan are set to take place over the next month and a half, both McMurray and Horton agree that ongoing feedback from the students is a high concern in the matter.

## Laurier students express their peace

DAN BELGUE  
WEB EDITOR

The second annual Artistic Peace Festival kicked off last Wednesday evening, with opening festivities taking place in the Macdonald House residence 24-hour lounge.

The main portion of the festival,

which included several musical performances, booths from different campus organizations and a large art display by students and local residents, took place all day Thursday in the Concourse.

The event continued into the evening with a coffee house in the Turret offering free fair trade coffee,

snacks and more performances.

Lee Chandler, the coffee house coordinator, explained that this portion of the festival was a more structured event but still maintained a very relaxed atmosphere.

These three components of the festival made it a much larger event than last year.

"This year, we really wanted to expand the festival in order to establish it as an annual thing at Laurier," explained Laura Dowding, the coordinator of the Concourse portion of the festival.

Another new feature was the fact that the festival was opened to the community rather than being exclusive to Laurier students – making the art selection larger and more diverse.

"We wanted to use the festival as a medium to bridge the gap between students and the community," Dowding said.

With the theme of the festival based around the question of "What is your peace?", each participant who performed or submitted work was to ask that very question with the intent of getting an array of different ideas on the notion of peace.

"The goal of the festival is to express ideas of peace in all different forms," said Dowding. "We hope this develops discussion and thought about peace."



GREG MCKENZIE

**EXPRESS YOURSELF** - Jen Holden explores her creative side during the Artistic Peace Festival.



# Masters student wins grant for innovative environmental research

**MADHAVI GANJU**  
CORD NEWS

Dan Kellar, a Masters student at Wilfrid Laurier University, is the recent recipient of the Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) Canada Student Ambassador award.

With 50 post-secondary student applicants from across the country looking to win the award – which recognizes excellence in environment-related research – those contenders were whittled down to the top five.

The recipients of this award receive a grant of \$2500 and the opportunity to present their research to environmental industry leaders during GLOBE 2008, a trade fair being held in Vancouver on March 12, 13 and 14.

"It is pretty exciting to win this award," said Kellar.

"Usually, when one writes a Masters paper, it's read by a couple people and then put on the shelf. I am glad that my work is being recognized," he added.

Kellar's paper, entitled "Environmental Impact Assessment legislation for the 2010 Winter Olympics," discusses how effective the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is in actually reducing the environmental impacts for the upcoming event.

He began his research last fall when he traveled to British Columbia to gather the background information.

Making an initial stop in Vancouver and Victoria, he spent the next month and a half in Whistler, where he met with government and industry consultants as well as members of the public that were involved in the environmental assessment process.

It was there that he interviewed key figures to try and discover if the EIA actually works to reduce the environmental impacts of progress.

Based on his research, Kellar found that the government tackles each project at a certain time, basing it around social, economic and environmental impacts, and went on to explain that this is why he used the example of the Winter Olympics.

"It is a pressing issue because the Olympics is a mega event and involved a lot of construction as well as the use of the Nordic Centre,"

said Kellar.

The Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC) is the organization responsible for building everything required for the 2010 Olympics, and their mandate is that they want everything to be transparent and open. Also, both the provincial and federal government get involved if asked.

Kellar explains that the EIA process "is triggered through funding, where the proponent, in this case VANOC, gets a consultant to come in and do everything, in terms of assessing the area.

"The consultant brings in experts who prepare a report to give VANOC, who then present it to the Environmental Impact Assessment in British Columbia or the Federal government," said Kellar.

The EIA process also includes a follow up, which involves coming back to see how good or bad the assessment actually was.

Out of the 16 projects that exist under the EIA, Kellar discovered that it is primarily the Olympics project that pursues the follow-up assessment.

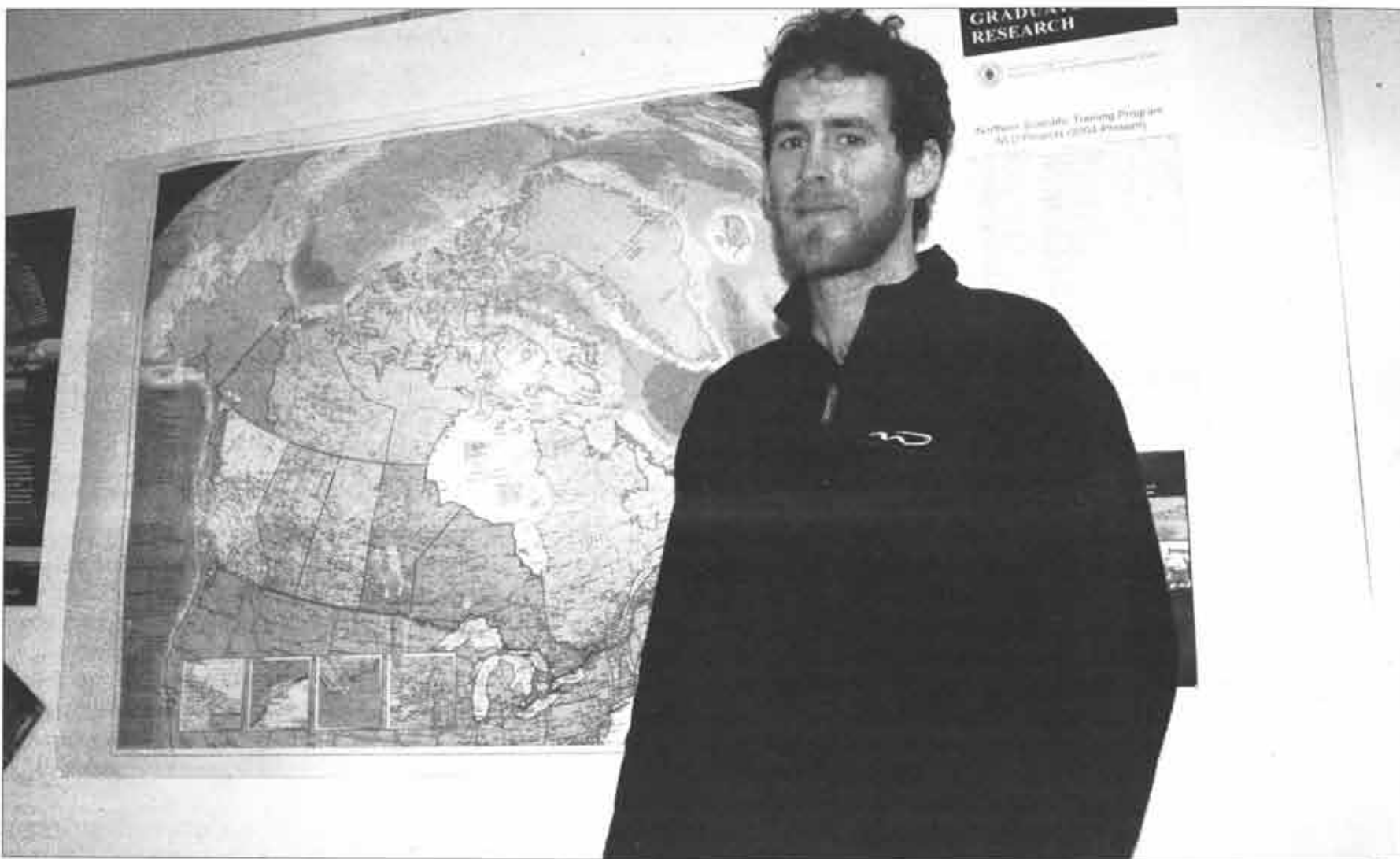
The other projects are smaller

ones such as the Olympic villages in Vancouver and hill improvements on Whistler and Cypress mountains.

Kellar says that he is extremely happy that his research is getting out there and the impact that it can have on those who get to read it.

"[It's] being applied to the industry and the government world, so that it can bring awareness to the fact that the EIA can improve," said Kellar.

**Disclosure: Dan Kellar is an Opinion columnist for The Cord**



JOE TURCOTTE

**A MAN OF THE COUNTRY** - Dan Kellar travelled to BC to conduct research on the environmental impact of the 2010 Winter Olympics.

## 🍁 CANADAINBRIEF 🍁

### York students demand no-sweatshop policy

**Toronto, ON**

Last Thursday, approximately 40 students from York University protested against the use of sweatshops for the manufacturing of the university's clothing, by staging a sit-in just outside of the president's office starting at 2 pm.

After sitting outside for 45 hours, the president of York, Mamdouh Shoukri, announced that the school will introduce a no-sweatshop policy by April of this year.

The group who organized the protest, the York Sustainable Purchasing Coalition, has been lobbying against the university for three years, yet there has been no sign of change in the practices until this week.

Just prior to beginning Thursday's sit-in, the group held a rally and collected a petition of over 1,000 signatures.

When the group attempted to deliver the petition to the president of the school, and were told that he was unable to see them,

they decided to stay, which is why they camped outside his office for two nights.

### Student facing expulsion for Facebook study-group

**Toronto, ON**

Chris Avenir, a first-year chemical engineering student at Ryerson University, has been singled out by the institution for starting a Facebook study group.

According to *The Eyeopener*, the pending expulsion of Avenir has been met with massive criticism, especially from students, who argue that starting an online study group is no different than studying together in a library room.

The school has argued that the group goes against a pending Non-Academic Student Code of Conduct, which if approved by senate will cover any online activities if they are using Ryerson's name and committing an academic infraction.

Of the 146 students who were members

of "The Dungeon/Mastering Chemistry Solutions" study group, Avenir is the only one facing expulsion because he is listed as the administrator for the group, and is scheduled to appeal his expulsion this week.

### Request for food contract

**Edmonton, AB**

Quality of food and the price students pay for it are currently a hot topic at Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton.

Most recently, the school's students' association has requested to see the contract between the college and Aramark, the food service provider on campus.

The investigation into such things as Aramark's 35-cent fee on debit transactions for food as well as the limited "healthy menu" options has been ongoing since November but has only really picked up steam as of late.

Aramark also runs the Fresh Food Co., which controls the Laurier dining hall.

### UC Crohn's disease scholarship to continue

**Burlington, ON**

UBC Pharma Canada has announced that the UC Beyond Crohn's Disease and Rheumatoid Arthritis Scholarship Program will be returning for a second year.

The company, which awards seven one-time scholarships to students living with Crohn's Disease and Rheumatoid Arthritis, grants upward of \$5000 to each winner.

According to a press release, the recipient "must demonstrate academic ambition and use their scholarship toward post-secondary education for the 2008/2009 school year."

Applications, which are due on July 30, will be judged by a panel of physicians and patient representatives from across Canada. The winner of the one-page essay contest will be announced in September.

- Compiled by Gourav Sathe and Dan Polischuk



# CAS faculty strike vote on-going

As an agreement between part-time faculty and the university has yet to be reached, CAS initiated a strike vote yesterday

**REBECCA VASLUIANU**  
STAFF WRITER

In light of continuing negotiations, contract academic staff (CAS) at Laurier held a meeting last night to commence a strike-authorizing vote.

Starting at 4 pm in the Dr. Alvin Woods Building, the meeting was held to relay the status of negotiations to part-time faculty members in light of upcoming mediation, as well as to hold a strike vote authorizing the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA) executive to decide to strike on Wednesday, March 19.

Voting is set to occur all throughout the week, ending on Friday at 4:30 pm, to allow for all CAS members, including those at Brantford, to vote.

According to Herbert Pimlott, WLUFA Media Relations Officer and Associate Professor of Communication Studies, this process does not decide whether there will be a strike or not.

"We see it as an endorsement of the negotiating team and their attempt to get a fair and competitive settlement," explains Pimlott.

"It doesn't necessarily mean there will be a strike. We're doing everything we can to get a negotiated settlement," he added.

Kevin Crowley, Associate Director of News and Editorial Services at Laurier, explains that, while the university is confident a strike will be avoided, negotiations are, at times, unpredictable.

"We're at that noisy stage now," states Crowley. "But we're mindful that we've got some deadlines looming and ... we're pretty confident that everything will get settled, but you never know. That's just the nature of the beast."

In addition, Crowley notes that CAS members are mentioning less

problematic issues than they have in the past, which is an encouraging sign.

"I just noticed that *The Record* had a story [on Monday] and the lead of the union is talking about two issues, again these being compensation and seniority ... A couple weeks ago they were talking about quite a number more ... it might be an indication," says Crowley.

As well, Pimlott explains that while there has been movement, he hopes the university will understand the time constraints involved when negotiating.

"It's like high-stakes poker," explains Sue Horton, VP: Academic. "You want to make your best possible case before you fold. And everyone wants to calculate it right; no one wants to miscalculate in those last minutes."

Both sides agree that a strike is not the preferable outcome of these negotiations, yet in the event of a strike, there is no doubt about the effect it will have on students.

"I've been through strikes at other universities and there is inconvenience," explains Horton.

"It's annoying, it causes delays in things but ultimately the students are our paramount concern here. We do not want to have students losing their academic credits ... so we will work absolutely with your interests in mind."

Pimlott also explains that CAS members, in these hard times, are really touched by student encouragement.

"I think our members are really heartened by student support," explains Pimlott, bringing up the example of the student-led group in support of CAS members.

Founder of the group, Terre Chartrand, a first-year communication and cultural studies student, explains that the petition has already garnered over 2000 signatures.

## A brief history of strikes

With the March 19 possible strike date for contract academic staff (CAS) at Laurier quickly approaching, many students are wondering what a faculty strike will mean for their semester. *The Cord* takes a look at what has happened in recent years at five other universities across the country.

**2007**  
**St. Thomas University,**  
New Brunswick

On December 27, 2007, faculty members were locked out. When the lockout concluded in January, faculty went on strike, which ended in early February.

For students, this meant that their winter term was extended to April 25 - 11 days later than the original end date, with exams concluding on May 3.

**2007**  
**Acadia University,** Nova Scotia  
University faculty went on strike from October 15, 2007 to November 6, 2007.

Students were offered a \$275 credit, which the university says came from the salaries it didn't have to pay to professors during the strike.

**2002**  
**Dalhousie University,**

Anatoly Venovcev, a second-year prehistoric archaeology student and co-founder of the group, states that the group is "trying to get student support, especially coming to classes and keeping students informed."

As part of this initiative, the group is holding a protest on Monday, March 17 at noon.

Nova Scotia  
University faculty members went on a four-week strike in 2002, which lasted until March 28, when students were finally allowed to go back to class. The term was set to end on April 9 but was extended until April 25.

**2000**  
**Memorial University,**  
Newfoundland  
University faculty went on strike from October 31, 2000 to November 14. In order to compensate for missed class time, a midterm break scheduled to occur on November 13-15 was moved back to November 1-3.

**2000**  
**York University,** Ontario  
CUPE 3903, which encompasses contract faculty, teaching assistants and graduate assistants, went on strike for 11 weeks, lasting from October 26, 2000 until

"It's a demonstration for all students, whether or not they're informed or not on the issue," explains Chartrand.

There are three meeting locations for the protest - the dining

January 10, 2001. For students, this meant an extension of their fall term until February 12 and an extension of their winter term until May 11.

**At Laurier:**

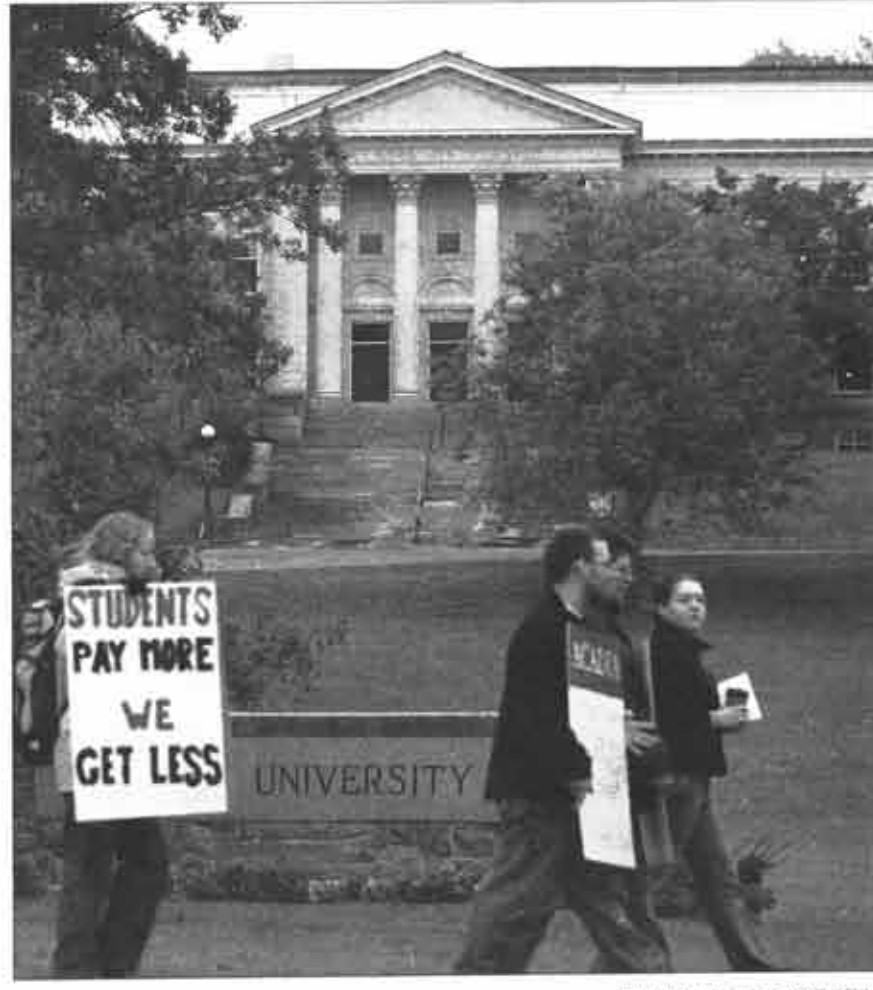
**2002**  
**Wilfrid Laurier University,**  
Ontario  
The Wilfrid Laurier University Staff Association went on strike for almost eight weeks. Coming to an end on November 4, the strike had immense effects on the services offered at Laurier including the library, health services and the Bookstore.

- Compiled by Rebecca Vasluianu

Sources: The Chronicle of Higher Education, CBC, the journal Science, The Gauntlet, The Manitoban, and The University of Waterloo.

hall, the Concourse and the science atrium - and the group will head to the quad, in front of the Fred Nichols Campus Centre to hold a rally in support of part-time faculty.

Visit [www.CordWeekly.com](http://www.CordWeekly.com) for updates on the CAS negotiation process



DAVID EMMETT - THE ATHENAEUM

**STRIKING IS NOT A PRETTY THING** - Faculty and student protesters at Acadia University during a faculty strike in late 2007; students were offered a \$275 credit for compensation.



# Laurier's own Farm Market

A pair of Laurier students take the initiative to bring fresh and organic foods to campus

JENNIFER RAE  
STAFF WRITER

A new initiative launched by two dedicated Laurier students has resulted in Laurier's very own farmer market, with the first market experiencing a successful introductory run in the Concourse yesterday.

The market serves as the new campus amenity for anyone who strives toward environmental friendliness, is particularly health-conscious or is simply dedicated to supporting the local community. The market offers a convenient and easy way to serve all three of these objectives.

"THE IDEA STARTED TO DEVELOP AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR WHEN WE REALIZED THAT THERE WERE PROBLEMS WITH ACCESSIBILITY FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO WANT TO GET TO MARKETS LIKE ST. JACOBS."

- Erica Campbell, Laurier student and marketplace co-founder

"The idea started to develop at the beginning of the year, when we realized that there were problems with accessibility for those students who want to get to markets like St. Jacob's," explains Erica Campbell, a fifth-year sociology and psychology student.

Campbell, along with Sara Conrad, a fourth-year women's studies and sociology major, decided to bring the products directly to the students, thus organizing the on-campus version of a farmers market.

Using the example set by markets that had been established at other universities, such as the University of Waterloo (UW), the girls constructed their own version of the project for Laurier.

With the support of administration and Laurier President Max Blouw, as well as the general attention currently being given to eco-initiatives on campus, the idea strengthened.

They were able to get logistical advice from various sources, including the directors of food services and dieticians at UW.

The group is also backed by the Laurier Local Food Collective, a project of the Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group (LSPiRG).

Yesterday's market ran from about 10 in the morning to 4:30 in the afternoon, and was declared a

success by the organizers and volunteers, who seemed enthusiastic about finally bringing their plans to life.

"It's the first one, so I don't think we've had as much business as we eventually will, but now people will know that we are here," said Laura Graham, who lent

her time to help run the booth.

"The response has been very positive. So many people have come up to express support and to thank us," she added.

Campbell agreed, saying, "This first market was all about working out the kinks, and seeing what was popular. Overall, we have done quite well."

The market featured all local goods, including locally grown crops such as apples and assorted root vegetables, like squash, carrots and beets.

Muffins, cookies, maple syrup, pasta noodles and a bakery items were also being sold.

"We want to make it a real market feel, and to show people that you can do your all of your grocery



GREG MCKENZIE


**FRESH FOOD** - WLU students could purchase healthy organic food on campus yesterday in the Concourse.

shopping here. The costs are low too, because market doesn't have to equal expensive," explained Campbell.

The group emphasizes the many advantages of buying local, organic food, citing things like community strengthening, reduced carbon dioxide emissions and the health benefits of eating natural, pure foods, as the some of the positive aspects associated with supporting farmer's markets.

Future markets are planned for March 25 and April 8. The group is also trying to gain approval from the OneCard office, so they can accommodate those students with a meal plan.

See PAGE 22 for editorial reaction to this story



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## NEWSINBRIEF

Laurier business group  
excels in Dalhousie  
competition

Four Laurier undergraduate students in the business and economics program placed second in the recent Dalhousie Credit Risk Case Competition.

Chad Artem, Tom Kapsimalis, Daniel Ram and Tim Soroka made up the only team of undergraduate students in the event, which focused on credit analysis and risk management.

With eight other teams competing, made up mostly of MBA students, this was the fourth year that WLU has come in the top three for the two-day event.

Snow plough hits gas  
meter yesterday

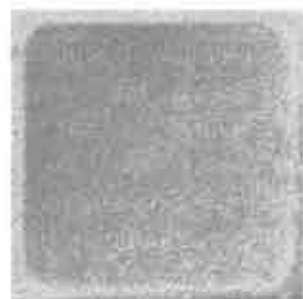
A portion of Mid-Campus Drive was blocked off late Monday afternoon as fire officials investigated a reported gas leak.

According to Campus Security, the meter was accidentally hit by a snow plough.

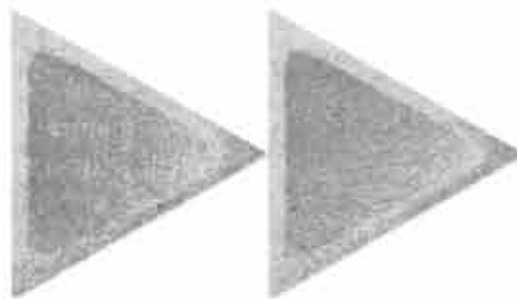
With the gas line quickly cut off, no evacuation was required, though a posting on the Laurier website advised students to steer clear of the area prior to 11 pm Monday night.

- Compiled by Dan Polischuk

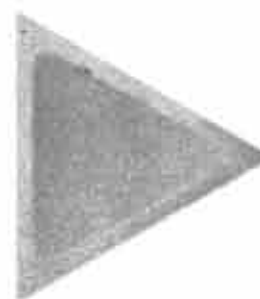
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## CORD/ONLINE

> [cordweekly.com](http://cordweekly.com)  
> News

## Oath of Silence Day

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# Peacebuilding in a New World Disorder

Senator Roméo Dallaire was invited by Laurier International, the International Student Association and Laurier International Friendship Extension and attracted a diverse crowd of students, parents and NGO leaders seeking inspiration and guidance

- FROM DALLAIRE COVER

Furthermore, the reason Canada is not involved in resolving the Darfur genocide is not because the country doesn't want to, but rather because it cannot.

Canada has, over the years, reduced its capabilities to be in both Afghanistan and Darfur, Dallaire noted, adding that it has "gutted its diplomatic capabilities."

Our component, he said, in the stake of humanity in the world is the realization that we are powerful in changing policies by "harassing the living daylights out of our politicians. Ask them why we aren't in Darfur."

Dallaire recommended that we immerse ourselves in the democratic process, as we need politicians who truly represent our needs and wants, not their own. He concluded his talk by saying that there is not a more significant time to serve in uniform, adding that we should "go out there, get [our] boots dirty, smell it, taste it, feel it, see it, hear it, and then come back."

His parting message, that "we are all humans and none of us is more human than the other," led to a standing ovation, accompanied by thunderous applause. An informal Q&A followed in which members of the audience were given the opportunity to address Sen. Dallaire.

**"GO OUT THERE, GET YOUR BOOTS DIRTY, SMELL IT, TASTE IT, FEEL IT, SEE IT, HEAR IT, AND THEN COME BACK [...] THERE IS NOT A MORE SIGNIFICANT TIME TO SERVE IN UNIFORM THAN NOW."**

**- Sen. Dallaire motivating students to pursue a career in the armed forces.**

One of the questions asked was what Sen. Dallaire sees as the future of Africa. To this, he replied that the future of Africa is the empowerment of women. He praised women of being uniquely capable of shaping society and shifting the power to cause reconciliation. Still, he said, he envisions "a lot of suffering and a lot of bloodshed on the path to democracy."

**"THE FACT THAT HUMANITY IS NOW VULNERABLE BECAUSE THE PLANET CANNOT SUSTAIN US IS REVOLUTIONARY [...] WE CREATED ARTIFICIAL MILESTONES THAT ESSENTIALLY INCREASED THE PROBLEMS."**

**- Sen. Dallaire on the emergence of the environmental crisis in the '60s.**

Among the questions asked, the one that many people applauded was asked by Mona Lisa Wessel, a former UN volunteer who spent time in the Congo during a time of great turmoil.

Wessel made clear her immense admiration and appreciation for Sen. Dallaire, telling him that he was her hero and that he sustained her during her tenure in Congo. She asked him when he intended to run for secretary-general of the UN. After the initial applause, Sen. Dallaire had one simple response: "I don't think my wife will let me, but I applaud your continued trust in the UN."

Elizabeth Swanson, the event's director, cited Wessel getting the chance to speak to her hero as a point of great pride. Swanson, a fourth-year history student, has wanted to make Sen. Dallaire's visit a reality since her first year at Laurier.

She said that bringing him to campus was probably "the best thing I've ever done here. Every little detail worked and everyone enjoyed it, and despite the weather so many people made it."

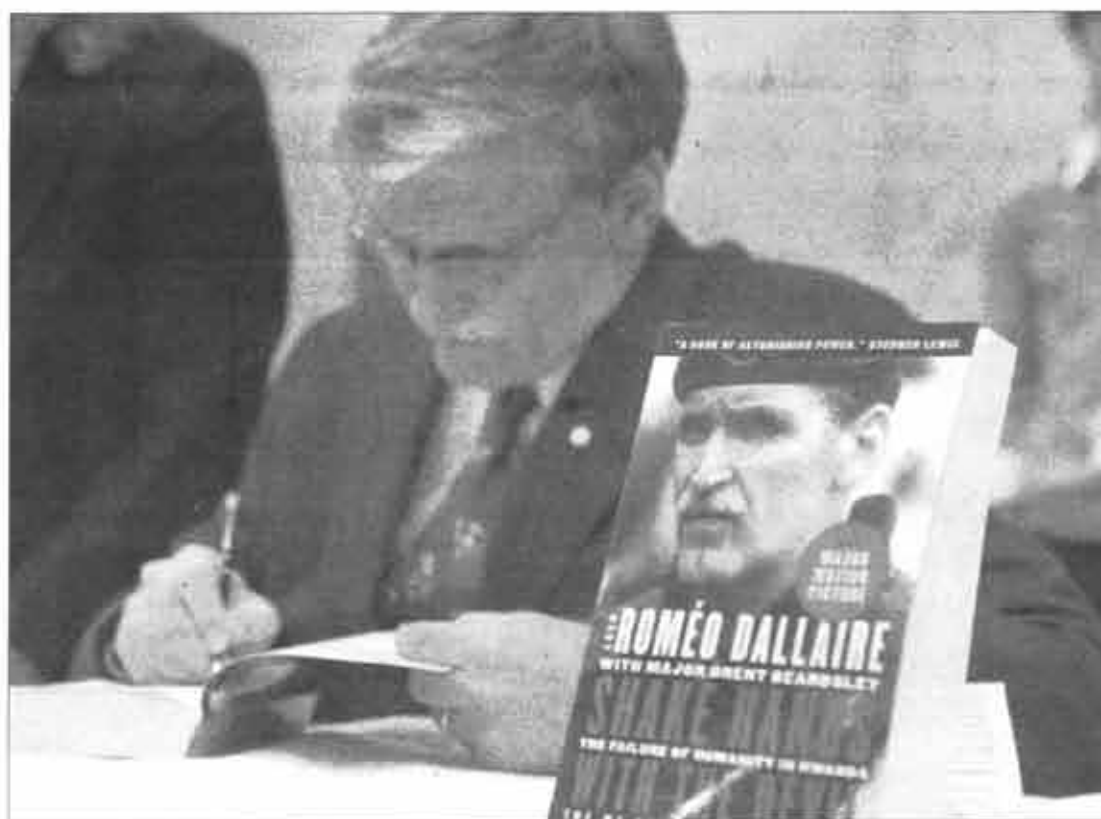
The only part of the evening that Swanson was disappointed with was the lack of attendance by the senior administration. She added that it would have been nice for the event to receive attention from them and for Sen. Dallaire to be welcomed by representatives of the entire university, although she realizes that "the current negotiations may have prevented them from attending."

On leaving the talk, it was clear that the main point Sen. Dallaire attempted to convey was that we as a human race are often overwhelmed by "the friction of our differences," but that it is our differences that often unite us.



MATT SYMES

**GUSTO** - Sen. Dallaire emoting passion over a career serving Canada and its benefits.



MATT SYMES

**REAL TO REEL** - Sen. Dallaire stayed to sign everyone's copy of his best-selling book that was recently made into a Canadian film starring Roy Dupuis as the man himself.

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# Global Citizenship Conference

The second annual Global Citizenship Conference was held from March 7 to March 9 with lectures, panel discussions and workshops on a number of different topics, each hosted by students, professors and field experts who shared their knowledge

## Understanding Canada and Human Rights

JENNIFER RAE  
STAFF WRITER

A discussion panel addressing the issue of human rights in Canada offered an intriguing interpretation of an important issue on the first day of the GCC. Although the weather kept two of the expected panellists at home, the lecture was able to proceed, featuring Dr. Gina Hill.

Hill, who recently completed her doctorate in law at the University of Ottawa and is currently the president of Amnesty International Canada, spoke about the need for what she calls "principled leader-

ship" when it comes to improving human rights on an international scale.

"Without leadership, we will never achieve what we need to," she explained. Hill recalled that Canada as an entity, as well as several specific Canadians, such as Lloyd Axworthy and Roméo Dallaire, have achieved many significant accomplishments in the move toward improving human rights worldwide.

However, she expressed concern about whether or not Canada continues to fulfill this same role as a country recognized as a champion of human rights, citing the current

Conservative government as having adopted a questionable stance on many current human rights issues. She then outlined ways in which she feels Canada has fallen short in relation to each topic.

For instance, addressing the existence of the death penalty, Hill explained that the last execution in Canada took place in December 1962, and that the death penalty has been completely abolished since that time. Canada had previously been highly regarded as a country dedicated to the fight to end the death penalty around the globe.

However, last fall, when a global

moratorium banning the death penalty was put forth, Canada made an active decision to step back from its leadership role, choosing not to co-sponsor. Canada's current policy regarding the use of the death penalty on Canadians abroad has also become somewhat muddled in recent years, said Hill. The Canadian government has decided that it will offer no clemency for those Canadians who are sentenced to death in a democratic country, although it will intervene in countries it deems to be undemocratic.

During the question-and-answer period that followed Hill's lecture,

multiple matters were discussed, including the integrity of NGOs, the use of child soldiers, and the role that young people and students can play in the fight for progression.

Ultimately, Hill stressed that those who wish to improve human rights need to "get involved, stay informed, learn from others and be open."

Hill also emphasized education as a crucial element of any advancement, saying, "The more that people know about what their rights are, the more they will be in a position to ensure that their rights are upheld."

## Youth Volunteers Abroad and Canadian Foreign Policy



RYAN STEWART

**WE ARE THE WORLD** - Dr. Rebecca Tiessen asks what we can do to foster an environment of understanding and give back to the world.

MARA SILVESTRI  
STAFF WRITER

Saturday afternoon gave rise to new outlooks on youth volunteering abroad as Dr. Rebecca Tiessen presented a lecture entitled "Youth Volunteers Abroad and Canadian Foreign Policy" at the Global Citizenship Conference.

With around 30 "global citizens" gathered, Dr. Tiessen spoke to the crowd on motivating factors for youths volunteering abroad, particularly what the findings of her studies have uncovered.

Dr. Tiessen, a Laurier alumnus, was an assistant professor at Dalhousie University and is currently on leave as she has taken on a position at the Royal Military College.

"I'm a reformed volunteer junkie," she said, speaking of her experiences volunteering and consequently learning as she travelled to Zimbabwe, Malawi, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Kenya. "I've had lots of

experience in teaching abroad and I have mixed feelings about it."

The largest topic of discussion was the motive of travelling overseas for something Tiessen referred to as "volunTOURism." A new trend in programs abroad is travelling for shorter periods of time - 3-6 months as opposed to the once typical one- or two-year session.

She said that this is largely due to the fact that many youths are unsure of their reasons for travelling abroad, and therefore shorten the duration of their stay.

"The motivations for learning abroad are mixed," she explained, conveying that the number one reason many youths decide to learn abroad, according to her studies thus far, is to find a way to utilize their knowledge on global issues and potentially find a career.

The role of young Canadians abroad was another significant matter on the agenda. Tiessen stated that, "We don't have to call

it volunteering; we can call it experiential learning." The pressures to bestow a sense of Canadian pride on a country while visiting instead of mutually sharing and learning are increasing.

As a result, Tiessen suggested that, "It's how we use our experience when we return," which is the greatest measure of success when it comes to a trip overseas.

This was especially empowering for an audience comprised of many who have travelled abroad or have plans to.

The lecture ended with a very pleased Tiessen, as she expressed her gratitude towards the views that the audience had on the matters.

Tiessen ended the session with an interesting question. "What can young Canadians do to foster global citizenship and/or improve cross-cultural understanding?" she inquired, leaving everyone with a little food for thought.

## Tourism's environmental impact

KELSEY ROSE  
STAFF WRITER

In his Sunday morning lecture, "The Environmental Impacts of Tourism" at the GCC, Dr. Geoffrey Wall, professor of geography in the faculty of environmental studies at the University of Waterloo, emphasized the need to look at tourism from a holistic perspective.

Wall says that this includes not only the environmental impacts of tourism, but also the "economic and socio-cultural impacts." Tourism is not an isolated sector: it is one of many interconnected sectors all competing for local resources.

Instead of calling for sustainable tourism, Wall discussed sustainable livelihoods. Those working in the tourism sector, especially those in more remote areas, are likely to

have many different jobs to sustain their livelihoods, perhaps including hunting, agriculture and engagement with the service industry.

Thus, Wall asks us to consider where tourism fits into the broad picture of creating sustainable livelihoods for individuals living in tourist areas. To this end, he offered the following advice for travellers.

First, it is important to understand that the money you spend while travelling may not be staying in the local economy. Spending your tourist dollars at traditional five-star resorts or hotels means that, more often than not, transnational business and their shareholders are benefitting, not the local population.

According to Wall, this choice of accommodation also results in higher consumption of resources,

including water and energy.

Wall stressed the importance of doing research prior to travelling both to gain an understanding and respect for the culture into which you are imposing yourself, but also so that you can make an effort to spend your money in places where it will stay in the local community, such as locally owned hotels, restaurants or small businesses.

Above all, Wall repeated the importance of being a humble traveller. This means trying not to be too demanding on local resources, and also engaging with the local population as a validation of their culture. It is important to avoid reinforcing stereotypes that local communities might have when they see foreigners coming into their lives and using their resources, so always be humble and ready to learn, he said.



ELISE COTTER

**VOLUNTEERS** - LSPIRG and GCC volunteers began planning in October.

He added that this will work to benefit those you are engaging with and will also potentially result in a more beneficial learning experience for you.

Finally, he recommended that you share your stories with your friends and family, so that they, too, can benefit from the experiences you have had. Wall warns even the most well intentioned travellers to remember that when it comes down to it, it would be better if tourists never created the green-

house gases that result from flying across the world, and simply sent their money to benefit these local communities.

He reminds us not to feel that we are doing local people a favour by coming into their communities. Understand rather that you are travelling for yourself, as a learning experience, and use what you learn to become a better global citizen in your daily activities and interactions with others around you.



# Leaving Port-au-Prince

Last week, Veniel Jean visited Canada from his native Haiti for the first time, with the help of the Foundation of International Development Assistance

**HEATHER MACDONALD**  
STAFF WRITER

Veniel Jean arrived in Canada last Tuesday for a week-long visit from the Caribbean nation of Haiti. He "came to see snow" and that's exactly what he got. Jean began his first adventure outside of Haiti when he stepped off the plane that night into true Canadian weather: a sleet storm.

Jean, manager of Wall's International Guest House in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, decided that a visit to Canada would allow him to gain a better understanding of his guests' desires.

His lack of empathy for his Canadian visitors, who often complained of the heat, quickly turned into a complete understanding of the need for air conditioning in every room of the Guest House.

Although Jean was likely very uncomfortable, layered in two pairs of pants, numerous sweaters and a winter jacket, his main concern was "giving better satisfaction to [his] customers." To obtain knowledge of the unknown, Jean found himself immersed in Canadian culture, which meant feeling like he had just "walked into [his] freezer."

After two short days in Canada,

Jean had already noticed many differences from what he was used to in Port-au-Prince, where Jean became manager of the Guest House three years ago. For one thing, the only thing in Haiti that resembled the mittens on his hands were oven mitts. After all, he "doesn't want to burn [his] hands when cooking."

**IN HAITI, ONLY 20 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION IS CONSIDERED RICH, 10 PERCENT CAN "GET BY" AND THE REMAINING 70 PERCENT LIVE IN POVERTY, MAKING UNDER US \$1 PER DAY.**

**- Veniel Jean, describing cultural differences between Canada and Haiti.**

With the assistance of Laurie Kitchen of the Foundation of International Development Assistance (FIDA), Jean described some cultural differences between Haiti and Canada. In Haiti, only 20 percent of the population is considered rich, 10 percent can "get by" and the remaining 70 percent live in poverty, making under US \$1 per day.

Because poverty is a stark reality

among Haitians, good education is rare, as it is very expensive. Jean spoke of his three-year-old daughter, who will be attending kindergarten in a private school for US \$1500 per year. Kitchen describes Jean and his daughter to be among the "lucky ones."

There is one university in Haiti and, along with the high prices, the acceptance rate is very slim. Only 500 of the 5000 applicants are accepted each year.

Jean stated that because there is so little room in the university, "You could have 100 percent on the exam and still not get in."

A great deal of the money put towards public schools in Haiti is not distributed properly. Jean openly discussed the input of taxpayers compared to the assistance provided by the government.

Although the government has seen a lot of corruption in the past, Jean is positive that the new president has made it a priority to get rid of that corruption and focus on a better future.

Like Canada, one freedom for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**BIG GRIN** - Jean shovelled snow for the first time and found it "nice."

many is religion. "Everybody goes to church," Jean said, describing his fellow devout Haitians. Although voodoo is very popular in Haiti, "everyone chooses what they feel comfortable with."

Despite the differences between Canadian and Haitian cultures, Jean spoke very highly of Haiti. He wanted to make a good impression of Haitians so that Canadians would feel comfortable coming to

visit, which was the main reason for his adventure into the blizzards.

The importance of understanding Canadian culture came hand-in-hand with appreciation. When asked if Jean had been shoveling the snow, he responded with a huge smile: "I love to shovel because it keeps me warm. It's a very nice experience."

How many Canadians will say that?

Canadian Excellence

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# Russian elections 'boring'



GIUSEPPE RASO  
CORD INTERNATIONAL

On March 2, Russians voted in their fifth presidential election since the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Described as perhaps the most boring presidential election in Post-Soviet Russia, over 109 million Russians were eligible to vote and a proposed 64% showed up at the polls.

Deputy Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev, 42, won just over 70% of the presidential vote and will be inaugurated as Russia's third President on May 7. The opposition leaders – Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov, ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and Democratic Party leader Andrei Bogdanov – won a meagre 30% of the votes combined.

In addition, Mikhail Kasyanov (People's Democratic Union) was barred in January for submitting too many invalid signatures for a presidential nomination.

Also, Gary Kasparov, former chess champion and leader of the political group Other Russia, did not take part in the election because he refused to recognize the validity of the December parliamentary election for its lack of fairness.

Numerous accusations have been made against the election results and Medvedev's legitimacy as Russia's new leader. British newspaper *The Guardian* reported that numerous attempts were made by the Kremlin to fix the elections.

Local election officials are said to have stuffed the ballot boxes with false votes once the polls closed, providing the Central Electoral Commission in Moscow with exaggerated numbers.

In addition, public-sector workers including teachers, students and doctors were advised to vote or face consequences.

Foreign and independent observers, including many native Russians, have also described the election as rigged and unfair. Interviews with Russians weeks before the election showed that numerous Russian citizens were not interested in the election and that the outcome was already predetermined, something reminiscent of Soviet times. Demonstrations have taken place across Russia questioning the fairness of the election.

In Moscow, protesters were arrested for staging an unauthorized demonstration, due to a recent law that prohibits Russians from staging peaceful demonstrations un-

less they are first given permission by local officials.

In St. Petersburg, home city of Russia's departing President Vladimir Putin, an authorized demonstration took place that was attended by Kasparov, who has been arrested on more than one occasion for vocally opposing Putin's regime.

These are some of the realities of Post-Soviet Russia. It seems as if Russia's leaders have been reading an abridged version of Soviet history, where only their favourite memories of power and greatness remain, and those of solidarity and dedication to freedom are non-existent.

Supporters of Putin rationalize these undemocratic means as a way to ensure unity within a fragile Russia. They believe that the country is stronger now because of Putin.

Yes, it is true that Russia appears to be stronger than it was during the last days of the Soviet Union, but how much longer can this façade really last?

Medvedev will face similar, if not greater, challenges than Putin endured during his two terms in office. Economic recovery under Putin was successful, but extremely tumultuous.

Medvedev will have the daunting task of bringing economic stability to Russia.

Although Russia is the ninth largest economy in the world, inflation is pegged at 12 percent – and rising – and an already declining population is paying more for much needed food.

Medvedev must produce some miracles in order to keep his country from falling apart.

Rising oil prices have allowed for the economic growth and the mass spending Russia has witnessed in recent years. Yet this spending is being allocated to areas where the Russian people are not reaping the benefits.

Putin, who has been president since 2000, will be the first leader in modern Russian history to step down according to constitutional law.

However, Putin will not disappear completely from the spotlight. It is expected that he will become the prime minister under the next administration.

Although Medvedev is all smiles now, a difficult road awaits the incoming president. It remains to be seen if he will eventually stray from the Putin line, but for now it looks as if Russia is taking one step forward and two steps back.

letters@cordweekly.com

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# Let the Madness begin

The Cord takes an early glance at five teams looking to dominate their opponents in the tournament

JORDAN VAN HORN  
CORD SPORTS

That magical time of the year will soon be upon us once again. It only happens once a year, it happens in March and it's not St. Patrick's Day, though that is a magical time too. However, after the St. Patrick's Day frenzy, it is time for the insanity known as March Madness – arguably the most exciting and entertaining time of year for basketball fans and sports fans in general.

It's hard not to love the Madness with the upsets, the crazy finishes and, most importantly, skipping class all day to watch college basketball and feeling completely okay about it. Honestly, I don't know how much better it gets.

This year's tournament, like all the others, will be full of surprises; however, there are five teams – my "fab five" – that you can guarantee will be going deep into the tournament. And if they don't live up to these expectations, don't blame it on me – blame it on the Madness, baby! (Input your best Dick Vitale impression into that last sentence – it will sound a lot better.)

UCLA

UCLA has reached the final four each of the past two seasons only to suffer defeat. They will go deep into the tournament once again and are a serious national title contender. The Bruins return the majority of their starters from last year's team with an added punch in freshman center Kevin Love. Look for the Bruins to wreak havoc in the tournament with their smart guard play from Darren Collison and big shot ability from Josh Shipp. They are my favourite for the title.

North Carolina

The Tarheels have been amongst the top teams all year, sitting on top of the polls for the first 10 weeks of the season. They play great defense and have the ability to outrun anyone in the country. They can play an up-tempo game, forcing teams out of their comfort zone, or pound the ball inside to their All-American center Tyler Hansbrough.

The Tarheels have looked good as of late, knocking off Duke, a team that handed North Carolina their first loss of the season earlier this year, to take the Atlantic Coast Conference title.

Memphis

The Tigers boast one of the most athletic rosters going into the tournament. Memphis has a relentless offensive attack highlighted by Chris Douglas-Roberts' smooth shooting and Derrick Rose's explosive speed, while also sustaining one of the stingiest defenses in the country. They have the ability to beat any team, as they showed by being the last team to lose a game this season with an extremely athletic line-up and some of the best depth in the NCAA.

Tennessee

This is another team loaded with athleticism. They can run the court with any team in the country and can defend as well as anyone. They were the team to knock off Memphis when no one thought they could be beaten. Coach Bruce Pearl has turned the program around quickly in the past three seasons and can get the best out of his players at the most important moments. Look for Tennessee to be a serious Final Four contender, out-running opponents and hustling their way through the tournament.

Georgetown

The G'Town Hoyas are currently ranked number 9 in the AP polls. They have had their ups and downs this season, but are riding a high coming into the tournament. They just knocked off Louisville to take the Big East title and have looked good coming down the stretch. Their big fella, 7'2" center Roy Hibbert, is playing like a man possessed under the basket. Offensively, he's scoring his fair share and getting after the boards, and on the defensive side of the ball, he's blocked three and four shots respectively in his past two outings.

With Hibbert's force down low and Georgetown's ability to play great team defense and share the ball well on offense, they have a great chance at reaching the Final Four once again.



## Harrison named OUA Rookie of the Year

The OUA announced this season's men's basketball all-star players and award winners, and Hawks' first-year business student Kale Harrison earned three honours. He was named OUA West Rookie of the Year after averaging 30.3 minutes per game and netting 381 points for the season. Harrison became the go-to guy for the Hawks and he lead the team in rebounds with 147.

Harrison has also been given a spot on the OUA West All-Rookie team as well as being given the honour of a spot on the Second All-Star team, among the much older and more experienced players from the league.

## Women also get all-rookie all-star nod

The OUA women's basketball league also announced its all-stars and award winners for this season, with one Hawk making the cut. First-year point guard Amanda McDonald was named to this year's All-Rookie team in her first year wearing purple and gold. McDonald finished the year with 152 points, good enough for third on the team.

## Hawks make their way to the pros

Four Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks men's hockey players were honoured with the announcement of this season's OUA all-stars and award winners. Fifth-year team captain Matt Grennier was named the West Division's Most Sportsmanlike Player of the Year for his dedication and leadership. Grennier is now playing with a 25-game contract in the AHL for the Toronto Marlies.

Also honoured are defenseman Rob Dmytruk and forward Mark Voakes, who both earned themselves a place on the West Division First Team All-Stars.

Dmytruk also heads for the professional world; as he was signed by the Phoenix Roadrunners in the ECHL.

In addition, rookie Craig Voakes was rewarded for his stellar season with the West Division Rookie of the Year and a place on the All-Rookie team. After scoring a CIS-high of 23 goals in 26 games and three hat-tricks, Voakes is the first Hawk since 1992 to achieve the Rookie of the Year honour.

- Compiled by Andrea Millet

Media Matters


March Madness

The Technological Earth

Ramblings From National Affairs Desk

digital player HAYTER

## Your in-depth guide to NCAA March Madness 2008



## March Madness Blog

visit

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## NCAA History

RAYMOND GIU  
STAFF WRITER

Past Winners:  
2007: Florida  
2006: Florida  
2005: North Carolina  
2004: Connecticut  
2003: Syracuse

Players to look out for (potential top NBA draft picks):

PF Michael Beasley – Kansas St.  
PG Derrick Rose – Memphis  
PG D.J Augustin – Texas  
PG Jarred Bayless – Arizona  
SG O.J Mayo – USC

Most Championship victories:

UCLA: 11  
Kentucky: 7  
Indiana: 5  
North Carolina: 4

Top teams and their appearances in the Final Four:

N. Carolina: 16 (.708 winning %)  
UCLA: 16 (.727 winning %)  
Duke: 14 (.752 winning %)  
Kentucky: 14 (.694 winning %)  
Kansas: 12 (.685 winning %)

Fun Facts:

- A #1 seed has never lost to a #16 seed since the 64-team tournament began.  
- The lowest seed to win the Championship was a #8 seed (UCLA in 1980; Villanova in 1985).



# Golden Hawks return with silver

In a battle to be named Canada's best, Laurier goalie Liz Knox put in the performance of a lifetime against top-seeded McGill

- FROM HOCKEY, COVER

"We came out a little iffy in the first period. We have a pretty young team this year, a lot of inexperienced players and Ottawa came out gunning," said fifth-year forward and captain Lauren Meschino. "It was a good first game - they worked us really hard so I think they got us ready for our next game."

The second game, on Sunday night, rekindled a recent rivalry. Having been knocked out of contention by the Alberta Pandas in each of the past two years, the Hawks were set for revenge.

Both teams came onto the ice flying in a back and forth affair. After an intense first period, the Hawks fired two quick goals at the Pandas. Rookie Kaley Powers opened the scoring off her own rebound and, less than one minute later, Daniela Di Felice caught a rebound off the post to make it 2-0 right before the first break.

Meschino made it 3-0 late in the second period. But the third period saw the Pandas begin their comeback with two early goals in the first two minutes of play.

While the Hawks seemed a little stunned, they were able to regain focus and hold off a third goal. With 31 seconds on the clock, Di Felice raced down the ice after the puck and, stretching to reach it before the Pandas' defender, she dove, swiping the puck with her stick for the impressive empty-net goal and a 4-2 win.

"We have the utmost respect for [Alberta]. They bring out the best in us and we bring out the best in them," commented Osborne. "When it was 3-0, I was not counting my chickens tonight."

"I thought penalty killing was the key to our game tonight," added Osborne. "Our penalty killers worked awfully damn hard out there and that really ignites the bench and motivates the team."

The Hawks were now ready to face the undefeated Martlets. McGill had swept their division with ease, collecting two shutouts from Olympian goaltender Charline Labonté. But Hawks net-minder Liz



SYDNEY HELLAND

**FILLING THE NET** - Daniela Di Felice nets the second goal for the Hawks in Sunday's matchup against the Alberta Pandas. The Hawks won 4-2.

Knox was prepped and ready to step up for the biggest game of her young career.

The first period was plagued with penalties, seeing a total of nine people head to the box from both teams. McGill controlled the majority of the play, and were physically much stronger than the Hawks.

The end of the period saw the Martlets on a five-on-three powerplay, and Knox showed her grit as she stopped 19 shots in the period alone, including a breakaway just before the buzzer.

"I really thought that at the end of the first period, when Knox came up big on the first three-on-five, that we really had a chance to come up big in the second period," stated Osborne.

In front of a screaming crowd of 1000 fans, the teams returned for

the second.

While the penalties were less frequent, the Hawks took another two in the dying minutes of the period, leaving Knox to defend another five-on-three. With 51 seconds remaining on the clock, star defender Cathy Chartrand finally put the Martlets up 1-0.

The Hawks started the third period playing for their lives. They soon found themselves on a five-on-three advantage; however, they were unable to convert a goal.

Their tired legs just couldn't seem to keep up with the flying Martlets and with 17 seconds left in the game, McGill sealed their victory with a final goal, taking the championship 2-0.

"I think our girls really gave it their all out there. Tonight, we ended up on [the losing] side," said

game MVP Knox.

"I think there may be some lingering physical wear and tear from the Alberta game, because they didn't have the greatest day today either," commented Osborne, referring to Alberta's bronze medal loss to Manitoba.

"The Alberta-Laurier rivalry really took a lot out of us, but I thought that would have motivated us to fill the tank up one more time.

"It's not an excuse though. It was disappointing, but I think the future still looks very bright at Laurier," Osborne added.

Knox, talking about the pressure facing an Olympic gold medalist, said confidently. "When you see her on TV, she's an Olympic gold medalist, but when you look down the other end of the ice, she's just wearing a Martlets jersey. You can't take her too seriously, and you can't take her too lightly."

Besides, there was no shortage of praise for the young Hawks goalie either.

"Liz Knox has a phenomenal career ahead of her. She stepped up huge this year, today, in this tour-

namment for us. We couldn't have asked anything more from her," said a teary-eyed Meschino after the game.

"Obviously, I can't be upset with a silver medal at the national championships. Every single person on the team should be very proud. We played a great game; we did everything we could."

After concluding the most successful career Golden Hawks women's hockey has ever seen, Meschino had no regrets. "The career I've had is more than anything I could ever ask for. It's something I'm very proud of and I loved every minute of it."

She ends her career with the purple and gold carrying away five OUA championships, one national gold and two silvers.

When the tournament all-star team was announced, Meschino found herself front and centre, alongside assistant captain Andrea Ironside and backed by none other than Knox herself. McGill stars Chartrand, Catherine Ward and Vanessa Davidson completed the team.



SYDNEY HELLAND

**TRAPPED** - Andrea Ironside attempts to skate the puck through the massive wall of the Martlets' defense.

## CORD/ONLINE

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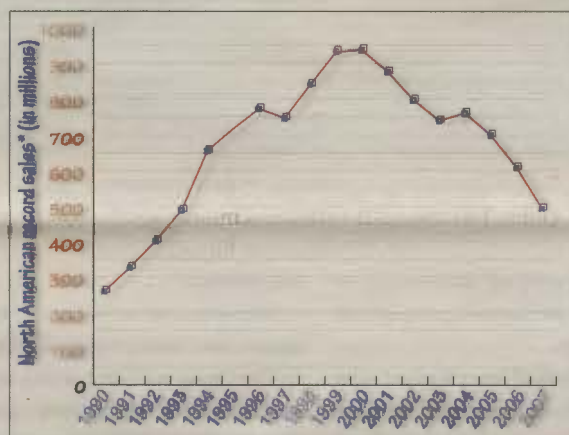
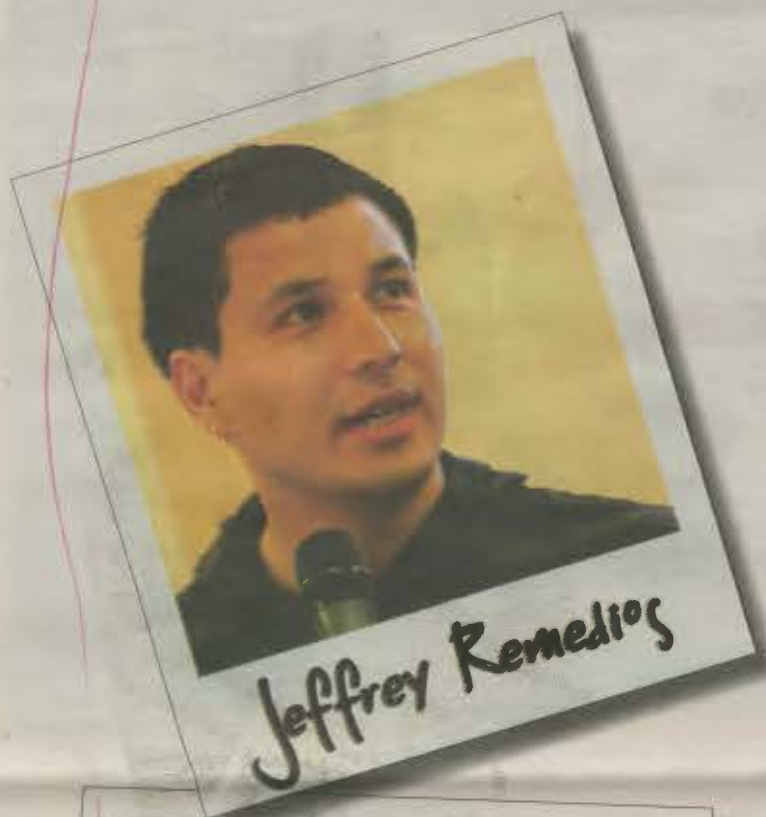
### Photo Gallery

Take a look at **Photo Manager Sydney Helland's** photos from last weekend's national championships in Ottawa. See action from games against the Gee Gees, Pandas and the gold medal game against the McGill Martlets.



# The future of music

As record sales continue to plummet, this year's Canadian Music Week became a venue for industry insiders and visionaries to share their thoughts on the future. *The Cord* was there to listen and speak to the people involved and to try and map out where the industry is headed



**JOE TURCOTTE**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

It has been a little over a decade since the North American music industry was in its prime. In the mid-to-late 1990s, album sales were buoyed by pop megastars like Britney Spears, the Backstreet Boys, 'NSync and the Spice Girls, and the numbers indicated it: in 2000, sales reached their peak, as approximately 940 million copies were sold across the continent, according the Record Industry Association of America (RIAA) and Canadian Recording Industry Association (CRIA).

However, that was before Napster and the Internet changed the way that fans could access music.

In 1999, Shawn Fanning, a student at Northeastern University, wrote the program for a file-sharing service that allowed users to access the digital music catalogues of people across the world over the Internet.

With Napster, the means of obtaining music were forever changed, as the recording industry no longer held a monopoly over the distribu-

tion of music.

Almost ten years since the rise of Napster, the music industry is still struggling to come to terms with the way that the Internet facilitates access to music. With albums sales falling to about 620 million in 2006, the industry is now beginning to seriously probe how to best utilize the Internet and other new media to ensure its own sustainability.

"It's fundamentally changing the way people access, consume and distribute media - period," said Alan Cross, program director at the Edge 102.1 (CFNY-FM) in Toronto, of the Internet during an interview following his appearance at a panel discussion at last week's Canadian Music Week (CMW).

"All you have to do is look at the Internet: that's revolutionizing the way that people are accessing and discovering new music, through Myspace, through Facebook, through PitchforkMedia.com, or whatever," said Cross. "There's just so much more out there, and so many more ways to find it and so many more ways to tell other people about it," he continued.

Much of the focus of this year's CMW, an annual event that mixes industry conference discussions and a four-day, city-wide music festival, was set upon how to deal with new media and the Internet and to try to envision how to proceed.

While many media outlets predict doomsday scenarios for the music industry, many of the speakers at this year's CMW were optimistic about the future.

"It's a really exciting time in the music business," said Jack Ross, a vice-president and agent at The Agency Group in Toronto, during a panel discussion entitled "Artist Development: Building Tomorrow's Classic Rock Today".

"The fan is in charge," said Ross, commenting on the ability for music fans to dictate how they listen to music and when.

Similarly, Steve Kane, president of Warner Music Canada and another member of the panel, pointed to the rise of digital media as a way of allowing artists that have been previously overlooked to reach the spotlight.

"With the fragmentation of media and the localization of media," said Kane, "I think one of the things we're seeing is the rise in regional music and local musicians."

An example of this trend can be found in Laurier's own Will Currie & The Country French, who made their CMW debut during this year's festival.

Having honed their musical skills by playing shows at the WLU campus as well as in and around Southern Ontario for the past year and a half, the six-member band, made up primarily of students in the school's Faculty of Music, served as an opening act for Sloan at the mur-





Leonhard

Alan Cross



Will Currie &  
The Country French



Jack Ross

derecords label re-launch party.

The group has recently been signed to murderecords, a label that was first founded by the members of Sloan in the early '90s. In an interview outside of the Supermarket following the band's performance, they expressed their excitement about having opened for one of Canada's best known rock acts.

With their hard work and commitment to playing shows and honing their performance, the band exemplifies the work ethic necessary to get noticed and signed. While this may be the traditional means of establishing any music career, the band has also employed the use of new media to help gain attention.

"At first, we just gave tons away. We just put a pile of CDs at the front of the stage and said 'come get them' and people just stormed the stage to grab free music," explained vocalist Amanda Currie, of the band's use of inexpensive and easily burnable demo discs.

Having used free CDs as a way of establishing a fan base, the members of Will Currie & The Country French also looked to the Internet as a means of reaching an audience outside of people who were able to attend their shows.

"It's the cheapest promotion that you can do for your band. Anyone can sign up for a Myspace page, you can put your recordings up for free, they can get all the way around the world and you don't have to pay for those costs," said percussionist Steve Wood.

And while many in the music industry bemoan the Internet for making songs available to download for free, the members of the band feel that this ability has a positive impact on their career and the careers of other musicians from small or independent groups.

"Because we're not Jay-Z or something, we really don't care how many records we sell," said Will Currie, the founder and vocalist for the band.

"But the Internet is really useful for indie bands because you've got Myspace and you've got these podcasts and things – that's what gets your name out there, that's what plays your songs," he continued.

Like the members of Will Currie & The Country French, Toronto-based pop-musician Lights has turned to untraditional ways to get her music heard. Having recently signed a deal with Old Navy to have her songs featured in an advertising campaign, Lights has become a fast-rising star in Toronto's music scene.

After her buzz-worthy performance at the Rivoli on Friday night, Lights explained that because of the changing landscape of the music industry, bands are forced to market themselves in innovative ways. In her case, rather than release a traditional full-length album on CD, Lights has looked to iTunes as a way to distribute

her first EP.

"One of the big things is that I think the need for a full-length album, and the hard copy in your hand, is becoming a little bit obsolete," explained the 20-year-old pop singer.

"It's just more accessible to everyone all across the globe. You can, with a click of a mouse, get the song that you want and you don't have to buy all of them.

"I think that's just a more practical means of finding new music you like," she continued.

While Myspace and iTunes are becoming industry standards for both new and established acts, Lights is also looking to explore further distribution methods in other ways.

"I'm really open to experimenting with a lot of cool ideas in the coming years. Maybe an EP after an EP after an EP, or even USB bracelets with songs on them – just cool ideas. I think the market's changing so much and no one knows where it's going to go; it's time to experiment," said Lights.

As more and more bands begin to drift away from the traditional means of producing and distributing music, the industry itself has also begun to find ways other than the CD or hard-copy format as a way of selling music.

At the "Digital Music & Media Futures: New Business Models" demonstration, music futurist, author and CEO of Sonific LLC, Gerd Leonhard discussed the problems facing the music industry and the ways in which they can be turned into opportunities instead.

Stating that the major record labels have forever lost the "control" that they once held over the means of distribution, Leonhard argued that it is time for the industry to embrace the changes that are occurring.

"What we see right now is basically wasted enormous potential," Leonhard said during his keynote address.

Rather than turning to distribution models like iTunes, which essentially attempt to transfer the old model of selling tracks or albums to a digital world, Leonhard advocates an entirely different business model.

Under Leonhard's model, publishing and distribution agreements will be re-written in order to allow music fans and consumers to access music without having to pay for each song or album.

Under this approach, music will be used as a form of content, which is licensed to various websites, who will in turn use advertising money to pay for the licensing fees.

"Consumers will pay with attention," said Leonhard, as he argued that advertising will offset the costs associated with producing and distributing music.

However, in order for a networked approach to selling music to work this will take "collaboration and agree-

ments to get the music out there," said Leonhard.

While these approaches have yet to reach the mainstream, they are already being developed and are set to launch.

Online portals – such as Kanoid, which allows users to send friends song recommendations directly to their cell phones; Slacker, an online radio station with pre-programmed stations as well as stations that are automatically tailored to the preferences of the individual user; and Project Opus, which is an online music community that allows users to share their musical preferences with friends – offer a glimpse of where the music industry may be headed.

The president of Arts & Crafts Records, Jeffrey Remedios, said that while digital media offers some drawbacks, it also presents opportunities to further expand the industry.

"Digital music, digital technology becomes the great curse but it's also the great liberator, so we've tried to take the great liberator approach to it and embrace it widely, except that it's not up to us to decide how people consume their music," explained Remedios, who is the president of the label that helped use Apple's iPod to give Feist a new level of commercial success.

In essence, he said, the onus is on those involved with creating and distributing the music to accept the digital revolution and ensure the sustainability of the music industry.

As Remedios explained in an interview following his participation in a CMW panel discussion, "It's up to us to make sure that our music is available to them where they want to have it consumed, how they want to have it consumed."

## CORD/ONLINE

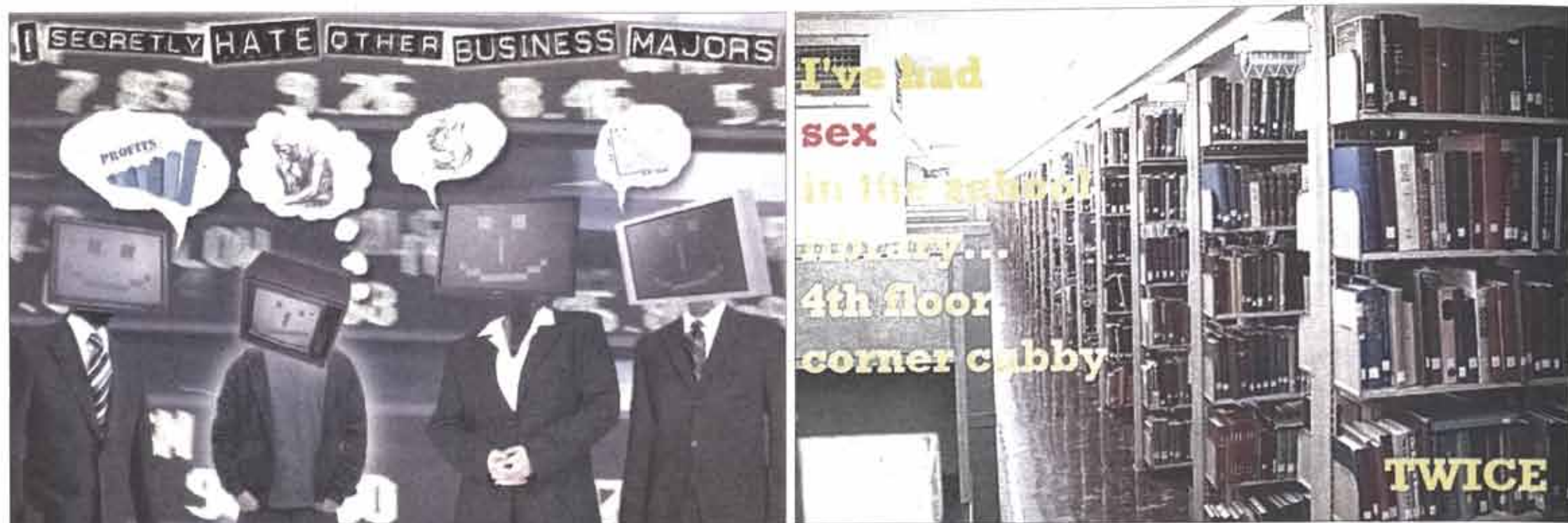
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# WLU reveals its deepest secrets

A new student art initiative called Laurier Secrets allows WLU students to expose their darkest, innermost secrets anonymously



CONTRIBUTED ART

**THE SECRET IS OUT** - Students can create 4x6 postcards, like these, which expose embarrassing secrets that students normally wouldn't be brave enough to reveal to anybody.

**ASHLEY BRADIMORE**  
CORD STUDENT LIFE

What's your deepest, darkest secret? Seriously, think about it. Did you and your significant other do the naughty in a public place? Maybe you enjoy dancing naked around the house when your roommates are gone for the weekend.

Or perhaps it's more serious - maybe you were abused, had an affair or an addiction. Maybe it's something you've never told anyone in your entire life. Have you thought of yours yet? Are you ready to expose it?

Laurier Secrets, a new group inspired by postsecret.com, is looking for students to submit their secrets so they can display them in the Concourse and Hall of Fame from March 24-27 and at the Interdisciplinary Arts Conference on April 4.

While the initiative may, at first, seem terrifying, the idea is actually pretty cool.

For one, it's completely anonymous: your secret can be posted for hundreds of eyes to see, but no one will ever know it's yours. It gives you a safe platform to expose some hidden part of yourself to the world.

Co-founder Laura McDonald explains, "Sharing your secret is therapeutic for some, and fun for others. It gives you a creative outlet to express something really personal. We've had some really great stuff come in so far. I'm really fascinated on why people get so creative, so visual and why people need to tell their stories and secrets in such a creative way."

Kale Boehmer, creator of Laurier Secrets, has been an adamant fan of postsecrets.com for about a year now. The site was launched in 2005 by Frank Warren and began as a modest blog experiment of community art.

Three years later, there are over 180,000 submissions and four popular collections of Warren's favou-

rite secrets.

Boehmer became inspired to bring the project closer to home. He decided Facebook would be the best way to launch the project and his group "(Shh!) Laurier Secrets" already had 196 members as of last night.

**"SHARING YOUR SECRET IS THERAPEUTIC FOR SOME, AND FUN FOR OTHERS. IT GIVES YOU A CREATIVE OUTLET TO EXPRESS SOMETHING VERY PERSONAL. WE'VE HAD SOME REALLY GREAT STUFF COME IN SO FAR."**

**- Laura McDonald, co-founder**

While the group is a great way to get information and awareness out to the student body, it also doubles as another platform for displaying people's stories. One would be sur-

prised at the wide array of secrets already submitted.

Some are hilarious (or sad, depending on your point of view) like the confession of "being in love with Donnie Osmond's voice," or having sex "on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the library ... twice."

Some are emotionally powerful, like one woman's story of betrayal: "I'm not sure what hurts the most ... that my 'sister's' boyfriend raped me, or that she stayed with him after I told her ... or how much I hate myself for it all."

Each secret submitted to Laurier Secrets comes from a student you could very well share a classroom with, and this close proximity makes the project and each secret

that much more compelling.

Secrets can be hand-written, Photoshopped, drawn, created using magazine cut-outs - anything goes.

Laurier Secrets only asks that you keep it roughly to a 4x6 postcard size, and most importantly, be honest! Postcards are available for free at the HUB.

Submissions will be accepted as late as April 3, but McDonald and Boehmer would prefer you get them in before March 24 so they can be included in the Concourse display.

The drop box is located on the third floor of the DAWB and submissions will also be accepted electronically through Facebook or using their [lauriersecrets@gmail.com](mailto:lauriersecrets@gmail.com) account.

For more information (or to get a sneak peek into the lives of your fellow student body), be sure to check out the Laurier Secrets Facebook group.

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# On-campus parking guide

*The Cord* talks to parking services to find out where you can park at what times and how long you have to pay off those pesky parking tickets

LINDA GIVETASH  
STAFF WRITER

Finding a parking spot on campus can be stressful when you're running late for class. Getting a parking ticket is even more so. *The Cord* talked to parking services to find out exactly how parking at Laurier works. Before you drive out to campus, here is what you need to know about on-campus parking.

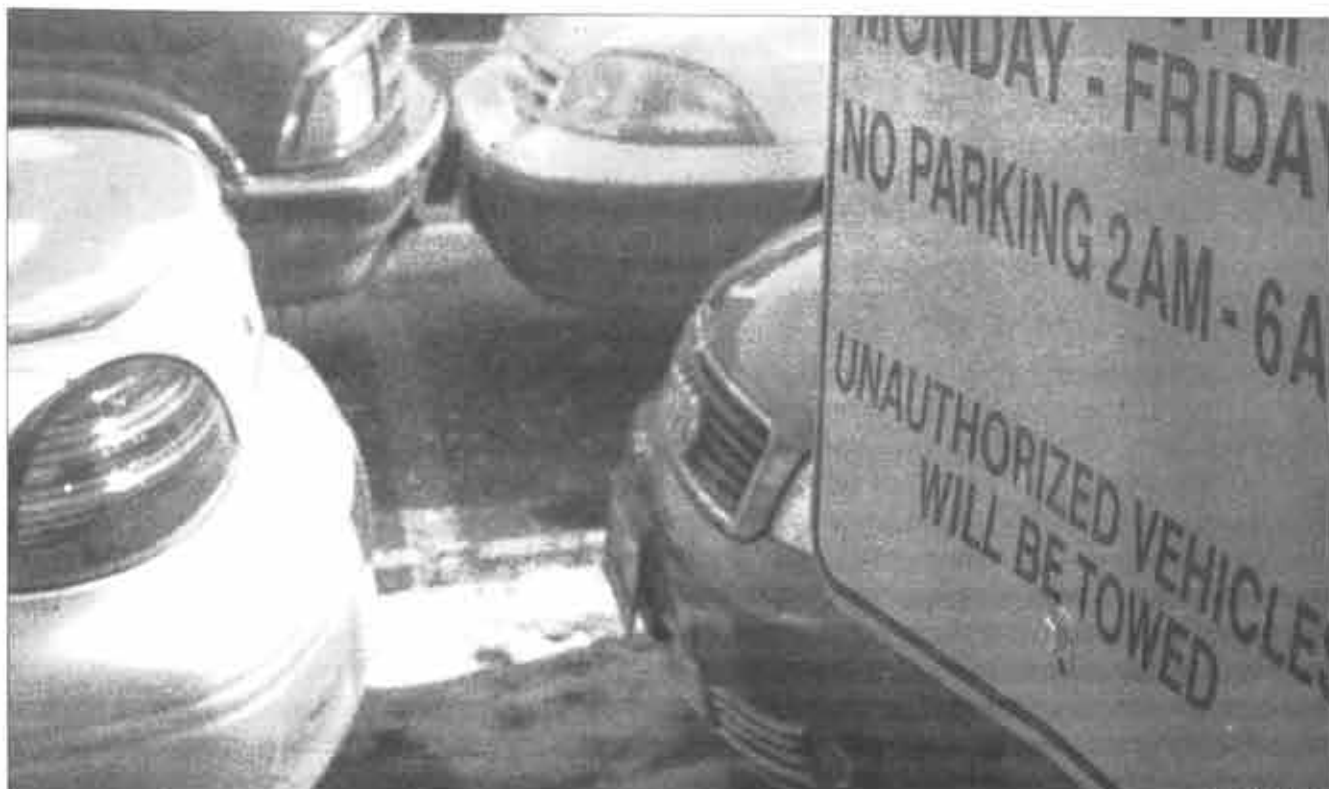
Students with a parking permit can park in all white lots on campus from 8 am to 4 pm. These include the lots by St. Michael's campus and on Bricker Ave., as well as at University Stadium, Alumni Field and the New Apostolic Church on Lodge St.

Students can get a parking per-

mit for the school year by filling out the application available online in June. If in September a student discovers they did not get a permit, they can visit parking services at 202 Regina St. for more assistance.

If you do not have a permit, metered parking is available by the Maureen Forrester building, the Athletic Complex, the library and at the Science Building. You can also purchase daily permits to park in lots 20 and 4.

You can also purchase an overnight parking permit from parking services for the nights you need it. You can then park in the first row alongside Willison Hall. From Friday night until 8 am Monday, these parking spots become available for free overnight parking.



GREG MCKENZIE

**READ THE SIGNS** - Parking at WLU is a bit difficult given the many parking restrictions at various times.

A parking permit for the eight-month school year costs \$210. Both daily and overnight permits cost \$6 per day. Metered parking is available at a fee of \$2 per hour.

If you are issued a ticket for parking without a permit, follow the information on the back of the ticket to pay it. You have seven days to appeal your case. "[Students] have the opportunity to first talk about it," explained Mary Basler, manager of parking services.

Tickets can be paid by cheque, cash or debit. You can pay off your tickets when you feel you have the money to do so. However, there is an interest charge of 1.25 percent at the end of the month.

All payments towards parking services go to maintaining the organization, such as fees for parking support, producing parking maps, funding the administrative workers and maintaining the parking facilities.

For students who feel there is not enough space to park, Basler felt otherwise. "Park on the west side of the stadium or go over to St. Mikes," she suggested. There are also many open spots at the New Apostolic lot and lot 27 on Lodge St., she noted.

For more information on parking, visit the parking kiosk at the Aird underpass, Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, or visit the parking services website through [www.wlu.ca](http://www.wlu.ca), under "Resources".

# LSSA organizes its second annual gala

This Friday, the Laurier Sociology Students Association will try to raise some money for the Canadian organization Watercan

ASHLEY JANG  
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

This Friday evening, the Laurier Sociology Students Association (LSSA) will be holding their second annual charity gala event at the Walper Terrace Hotel, located at 1 King St. in Kitchener.

This year, like last, the money raised will be going towards the charity Watercan. Watercan is a Canadian charity that is devoted to providing clean, drinkable water, basic sanitation and hygiene education to people in third world countries who have limited access to it.

The event will begin at 6:30 pm with a silent auction and raffle draw. Some of the things available at the silent auction are a portable DVD player, two rounds of golf and gift baskets.

There will also be many prizes available as part of the raffle. "We're going to have more prizes which will consist of gift certificates and things like that," said Mike Mastrandrea, an executive member of the LSSA.

All of the auction items and prizes are coming as donations from various companies around Kitchener-Waterloo.

"The prizes are all donations. We

sent out letters to different stores all across the city," said Mastrandrea.

At 7:30, the dinner portion of the event will begin. According to Mastrandrea, there are a few options for attendees.

"There's a vegan dinner for \$30, a chicken dinner for \$35 and a steak dinner for \$40."

After the dinner, there will be a dance portion, beginning at 9:00. Guests are welcome to skip the dinner and attend just the dance, at a

charge of \$10 at the door.

According to Mastrandrea, the event is not just for sociology students. "Anyone can come; students can come from any department at the school."

All of the leftover money from ticket sales and the auction after the expenses for the event have been paid off will go Watercan.

This charity was selected because the president of LSSA last year was very supportive of it.

"The president from last year really believes in this cause and I believe it kind of rubbed off on a lot of the members," said Mastrandrea.

Tickets will be sold in the Concourse until today at 3:00 pm and you can purchase tickets for the dance at the door.

"You can dress up and have a fun night, try to win some prizes and spend some time with fun people," said Mastrandrea.

## CORRECTION

Last week's feature article entitled "Trés chic: KW's indie fashion scene" stated that Loop Clothing is located at 58 King St. N. It is actually located at 56 King St. N. *The Cord* apologizes for this error.

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# Online dating lacks real connection

Advertisements seen on Facebook and other online networks make dating look simple as long as it is done through the Internet



LEN BALL  
STAFF WRITER

"Are you having trouble meeting attractive female Friends? Do you need help to say the right stuff?"

Poached directly from Facebook, banner ads like this have become more direct than ever. Do I want help in learning how to meet chicks? In this particular case, it would seem to depend on the importance placed on a bunch of pixels on a screen.

But in an interactive setting, what if the stuff said is the wrong stuff? How could anyone not want to learn how to maximize the impact of their stuff?

In meeting "attractive female friends", third party assistance, especially mediated computer assistance, should only extend to R2D2.

Even if "everyone" obsesses over dating, this does not mean that an outside source is essential for getting involved.

As the average person is bombarded by 3600 advertising images daily (according to Sut Jhally, professor of Communications at the University of Massachusetts), the increase in direct approaches to

commodifying human interactions can negatively affect face-to-face communication and limit perceptions of diversity.

Are attractive female friends found through specific Internet searches? The place or situation in which one might find this type of friend would seem arbitrary. Another question is why the object of interest is an "attractive female" and the subject a "how to meet them" in relation to an advertisement.

**DIGITAL COMMUNICATION IS LARGELY FREE FROM THE AWKWARD CHARACTER OF FACE-TO-FACE COMMUNICATION.**

If attractive female friends are looking for someone to say the right stuff, does that imply that I should want to learn how? Would banner ads be as effective if they selected a less-obvious object of interest?

A concern with dating through computers is that a particular sense of human connection is exchanged for an image when translating human expression through a virtual environment.

A sense of disembodiment or detachment makes it difficult to develop a direct connection between people, particularly if they have no

prior connection.

Digital communication is largely free from the awkward, intimidating or simply unpredictable character of face-to-face communication. But this sense of anonymous yet personal communication is less visceral than being in contact with a real person.

For example, it might appear like a serious conversation if chatting over MSN or Facebook to a friend about political unrest in Kenya. But

if this friend was sitting at home, naked, save for a cowboy hat and tie, on their bathroom floor playing Freecell, it could change perceptions of the circumstance – how involved could she or he really be?

The context under which people communicate can be more obscured if mediated over a computer, ultimately altering perceptions.

While it can be easier to discuss personal ideas or experience through a program such as MSN, it can also be less connective than speaking directly to another person. It can also be easier and require less effort and work to find "attractive female friends" through the use of a computer.

Through removing difficulties

perceived in meeting people, or simply making it easier to find people who can be "chosen" for communication, something vitally important is either absent or reduced.

The comfort and predictability of reading images and text is not the same as meeting a real person. As abbreviations in language can change the way that verbal and written communication is constituted (no writing exams in text-speak), the abbreviating of people through computer mediation can affect representations of real people and communicative potential.

Marketing on the Internet is one of the easiest and least expensive methods for seeking a wide audience (depending on several factors), particularly with popular topics like dating and sex.

The identity of self in cyberspace provides more freedom from the pressures of judgment than face-to-face interaction because it removes others from direct contact.

But it is not possible to develop relationships past a certain point without face-to-face interaction. People are not books, computer programs or images: effort is needed to develop relationships with other people.

Example of Facebook banner:

## Facebook Flyer

### How to Meet Chicks



Are you having trouble meeting attractive female Friends? Get help so you can quickly meet them and say the right stuff.

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We will also be selling the yearbooks in Sept. 2008 in the Concourse.



Any questions can be forwarded to Angela Foster, VP Advertising: [angela@wlusp.com](mailto:angela@wlusp.com)





# The mentality of a male physical



TRISH STOTT

**GET NAKED** - Physicals can cause men to become nervous wrecks over their member.



**D.J. DEMERS**  
STAFF WRITER

Some people are private. I am not. For this reason, I am about to describe to you the distress I feel before an appointment with my doctor, specifically when my doctor is going to be looking around down there.

Before the appointment, I find myself worrying about things that, in all likelihood, the doctor does not give a damn about. To tell the truth, I put more effort into basement maintenance prior to a doctor appointment than I would on a big date.

This is probably because on a big date, there is only a small chance that the lucky lady will be seeing my special parts. When I go to the doctor, no matter how bad my game is, the date is invariably going to end with him staring at my genitalia.

I make sure I've got the nice boxers ready, as I don't want Doc thinking I wear dirty drawers all day. I also make sure I am nicely groomed down there. Of course, I don't aim to be completely shaven because I don't want Doc thinking I am a porn star.

I just want to be groomed enough that he can do his work and maybe even stop to think, "Hmm, he must be having sex fairly regularly. This is well maintained. And the shaving of his initials into his scrotum hair was a classy, albeit peculiar, touch."

One part of the visit that can cause some discomfort is the initial unveiling of your penis. Men know that when a penis has been tucked inside that hot, dark region of your pants all day, it's basically a shadow of its usual self by the time you grant it freedom.

See, this is a problem because I don't want my doctor thinking I have a small penis. It's not because I am attracted to my

doctor. It's simply a matter of pride.

I wouldn't want my mailman or insurance salesman thinking I have a small penis either. It's just that in their line of work, I don't have to whip down my pants and actually show it to them. And, as I learned, if I do choose to do that, legal consequences usually follow.

So what can you do to make your penis come out of its shell? Well, you can give it the little tug. The little tug is pretty self-explanatory. You can give your little buddy a couple little tugs to coax him into blossoming a little bit.

I've never actually had the courage to try this because I am always afraid of giving it one tug too many. I could see it all going horribly wrong.

Doctor: "Well D.J., I would love to check out this worrisome lump on your testicle, but I can't help but be distracted by your gigantic erection."

With the thought of this horrific scenario unfolding, I just pull down my boxers, sans little tug, and hope for the best.

This entire thought process may seem way too involved for something as minor as a visit to the doctor, but it isn't without its merits. When Sidney Crosby retires from hockey one day and he meets up with some former teammates, they are going to ask him, "What was the most special goal you ever scored?"

Make no mistake about it, when my family doctor retires, he will be out golfing with some other retired doctors and the question will come up: "What was the most memorable penis you ever had to examine?"

And if my attention to detail pays off, my doctor will look to the skies, rub his chin and with a nostalgic timbre in his voice, he'll say, "It was winter 2008. His name was D.J."

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## Awareness campaign: five days well spent

The School of Business and Economics (SBE) Student Council's participation in Five Days for the Homeless is an excellent initiative.

Homelessness is an issue that is all too easy to forget about, even though it's a problem not just across the country but also right here at home – as any student who ventures forth from the student bubble and visits Kitchener's downtown can surely attest.

Events of this nature often end up poorly organized or dismissed because people see the same group of faces pushing for social change. But in this case, a new set of faces and excellent planning truly pays off.

The campaign's focus has remained on creating awareness for the cause and the sacrifices being made by the students involved sends a much more powerful message to the university community than the more typical events like charity balls.

Because the group is working in partnership with other universities (the campaign began at the University of Alberta in 2005), it has gained national exposure.

Accordingly, the groups' message has spread even further and helps foster an image of Laurier as a socially aware campus.

Ginny Dybenko, Dean of the SBE, also deserves credit for her role in the event, as her support has gone beyond simple encouragement or even monetary backing.

That she would commit to spending a night "homeless" with the students participating truly speaks of the quality and dedication of Laurier's administration, as it is not something that could be expected of just any dean at a Canadian university.

This commitment will also give Dybenko the opportunity to spend several hours talking to a very small group of students within the SBE, which could have spin-off benefits for the administration's understanding of student needs.

As well, Five Days for the Homeless blasts apart the stereotype of the self-interested business student with dollar signs in their eyes.

The participants, organizers and SBE student council all deserve congratulations for their effort in bringing this worthwhile cause into the limelight.

Now, let's hope the same people that so willingly donated food to their "homeless" peers learn from the campaign and don't shun those in the community that so desperately need assistance.

## WLU Farm Market a welcome event

Laurier students are all too used to seeing the Concourse full of booths during the day.

Generally, these stands range from informational ones run by student services to companies marketing their products to those selling anything from CDs to clothing.

Yesterday, however, the WLU Farm Market took to the Concourse for the first time, and was a welcome change from meaningless consumerism.

The market brings fresh and local products to an accessible location for students, and encourages

healthy eating.

It provides an inexpensive opportunity for students to purchase a variety of groceries and opens our eyes to the notion of local food from local farmers.

The market's timing is excellent, as increasing consumer awareness means that students' interest in organic and local foods is growing steadily.

Students should continue to support the market – which has already been described as a success by organizers – in the future to ensure its longevity.

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

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JULIE MARION

## End pot prohibition

Legalizing the marijuana industry is the only option that makes sense



DAN BELGUE  
WEB EDITOR

Marijuana should be legal. This statement always seems to garner a lot of attention, and rightfully so, as there are several relatively complex issues surrounding its legalization.

However, there is absolutely no logical reason why marijuana prohibition continues to be a valid issue.

All the facts point to one solution: legalization.

Now, if you've never really thought about the legalization of marijuana, this statement may come as somewhat of a shock to you, but let me give you the facts.

First of all, keeping marijuana illegal is a violation of a basic human rights. Marijuana is not harmful, so there is no reason that human beings can't choose for themselves if they use marijuana or not.

Every person should have the right to this choice.

Before you question the validity of the non-harmful nature of marijuana, take a moment to read the next fact.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 20,000 Americans die every year as the direct result of alcohol consumption, and – you guessed it – zero as a result of marijuana.

Next, let's take a quick trip

through our nation's history, all the way back to the 1870s. We tried prohibition once, remember? It didn't work.

Alcohol was sold illegally in Canada until 1930 (1948 in PEI), and was a flourishing business during that time. The ban of the substance only encouraged an underworld of illegal activity.

I think Albert Einstein said it best: "For nothing is more destructive of respect for the government and the law of the land than passing laws which cannot be enforced."

Furthermore, the reason alcohol was ever banned in the first place was because it caused disorderly and rowdy behaviour, which brings me to my next point.

Pot is far less violent a substance than alcohol. People do get drunk and rowdy. I'm not saying everyone who drinks gets violent or belligerent every time they sip a few back, but it unarguably happens to some.

We, as students, are exposed to this kind of behaviour extremely often. But ask yourself this: when was the last time you saw someone smoke some pot and then get all fired up looking for a fight, want to hook-up with a random or want to steal a road sign?

So why should it be legal to purchase and consume alcohol, a more violent and dangerous drug, and not marijuana? It makes no sense.

This theory can be applied to cigarettes as well. There is an overwhelming amount of research showing that cigarette smoke is

more addictive and dangerous to one's body than marijuana smoke, yet it's controlled and sold just like alcohol.

Also, Canada has some of the highest tax rates on cigarettes and alcohol in the world, while at the same time our government spends countless dollars, through the costs of law enforcement, prosecution, incarceration, etc. on marijuana-related offences.

According to Harvard Economics professor Jeffrey Miron, if marijuana were to be legalized, taxed and controlled in the United States, there would be an estimated \$10-14 billion (USD) worth of benefits. Undoubtedly, the fiscal benefit would be high in Canada as well.

Of course, there are several medicinal reasons marijuana should be legalized as well, including the fact that cancer and injury patients who develop adverse side effects from treatment or painkillers should be able to easily access the marijuana they need without a prescription – like any over-the-counter medication – instead of having to enter into a world of illegal activity.

I could go on and on listing off the reasons why marijuana prohibition is detrimental to society and clearly quite absurd, but that would get really boring. I've made my point. Now it's up to you to think about it. Why not go discuss it with a friend over a, umm ... pint?

letters@cordweekly.com



# Not everyone is worth saving



GREG SACKS  
SACKSUAL HEALING

Anyone who's ever watched *ER* more than once can list off more than a few truisms of medical drama.

The first prognosis is not always the best prognosis. Some people are just beyond saving. And sometimes to save the body, you have to lose a limb – pretty much par for Dr. House's course.

The clever thing about these genre staples is that they are actually focused commentaries on much larger ethical debates about choice and responsibility, which viewers can take and apply to both their own lives and the wider world.

The latter two lessons, for instance, exemplify what I think are important guiding societal principles. The fact is that, in any given population of people, there is always going to be a certain fraction who will be left behind, and sometimes the cost of helping them is too high. To promote the advancement of the many, we may have to sacrifice a few.

Callous as this may sound, it is the reality of the world that we live in, and the sooner we accept it, the sooner people will benefit from

these tough decisions.

A few weeks ago, Barack Obama stated that if elected, he would undertake a review of the American space program, suggesting that it might not currently be the most prudent investment of resources.

This comment had two effects: first, it probably lost Obama about every vote in Houston. Secondly, it reignited amongst several groups the decades-old debate about having the space program in the first place.

Detractors argue, amongst other things, that we should fix the problems of Earth before shooting for the stars. What they forget is that the space program has netted us some incredible technologies, several of which are now directly benefiting a number of people in the poorer parts of the world.

Cellular phones are the most obvious example. A number of authorities, including *The Economist*, have predicted that between their low cost (relative to PCs) and ability to access the Internet, these now ubiquitous devices will soon close the information gap between the rich and poor of the world.

And where did the micro-technology powering these machines come from? Why, the space program, of course.

This is just one of the many benefits we have enjoyed courtesy of Sputnik and its descendants.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**TAKING OFF** - US Democratic Candidate Barack Obama has suggested that money currently being diverted to the American space program could be better used to fund more deserving causes.

However, it all falls on deaf ears when presented to the "socially conscious" anti-space movement. All they see is billions of dollars that could have been spent feeding starving kids in Ethiopia.

Well, you know what? They're right – that money absolutely could have saved a few million lives. But in the long-term, investment in space exploration is allowing poor nations the chance to leapfrog many of the development stages that most Western nations went through.

Give a man a fish, and he'll eat for a day. Give a man a cell phone and he can spend an afternoon learning how to fish from Wikipedia. Then think about what a billion people with cell phones can do.

A similar debate can be found in regards to the homeless. Now,

don't think for a second that I'm against helping these people out – we need to give them as much as we can for shelter and health care. The problem is, of course, that we cannot give without taking away from something else, and so we as a society need to make a choice.

A good number of homeless people suffer from one mental illness or another, which often causes them to resist assistance. That being the case, is \$500,000 more worthwhile supporting a shelter that might save some of its beneficiaries, or invested in medical research that could strike at the root of the problem?

It's a tough choice; the former will surely save lives before our eyes, making it the easy way to go.

The easy way, however, is not necessarily the right way. The latter option could save countless lives

down the road at the immediate and horrifyingly visible expense of people who might have survived, but would never have been truly saved.

To measure cost in human lives is the most tragic of calculations, but to avoid such dire arithmetic is ultimately the result of a childish instinct to hide from the consequences of our actions.

As a society, we need to grow up and accept the awful fact that there are people who are not worth the cost of saving. Instead, they become part of the cost of saving so many more when our limited resources are invested where they should be – in the long-term prosperity and advancement of our entire species.

letters@cordweekly.com

## Letters to the Editor

### Blood Services discriminatory

The Rainbow Centre would like to address the gay male organ ban in Canada. In December 2007, Health Canada implemented a ban on organ donations by sexually active gay men and other "high risk" groups. According to Health Canada, the high risks are groups who are transmitting diseases such as HIV and hepatitis C and B. Donors who are male and who are sexually active with other males are denied the right to donate organs as well as give blood in accordance to Canada Blood Services.

It is important to note that these views that Health Canada has taken and implemented are based on very old and outdated stereotypes, and they are in direct violation of the human rights code. These discriminatory policies are not supported by members of all federal opposition parties, as well as by the Ontario Minister of Health, the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, transplant associations and queer rights organizations throughout Canada.

As a positive space on campus, the Rainbow Centre works to foster social, academic and personal growth for all individuals in the Wilfrid Laurier community, through personal support, awareness promotion, advocacy and education

regarding LGBTQ issues, rights and experiences. We are a safe, fun and supportive space where everyone at Laurier and in the broader community is welcome, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. We advocate for and provide awareness about the LGBTQ community, while acting as a social outlet and resource centre.

We would like to extend our support if you are interested in more resources about the organ ban, or if you would like to take action in any way.

Any questions or comments can be e-mailed to rainbow@wlu.ca.

Thank You.

- T.J Naven & Amanda Deschenes  
Representatives for the  
The Rainbow Centre Coordinators  
& Volunteers

### Military unwelcome

We are a group of students deeply concerned with recent increases in military presence on our campus. This increase has been seen with full-page military ads in *The Cord* and other advertising displayed prominently on campus. These recruitment campaigns promote military ideals of combat and violence, prohibitive to the development of the culture of peace which we would like to see on campus and in the broader community. As such, we are calling upon the stu-

dent body to join us in opposing military recruitment campaigns on our campus by signing a petition.

Recruiting promotes values of aggression and a culture of war, with a focus on global engagement through combat, rather than through cooperation and dialogue. It is unethical to impose these military ideals upon students under the guise of an employment opportunity. Military propaganda lures students in financial need while promoting aggression as an ideal means to approach global engagement. By enlisting, students are not only accepting a job as the recruitment campaign advertises, but are supporting the values and beliefs of the military.

Further, it makes it hard for there to be an environment in which effective, sustainable solutions to international crises such as those in Afghanistan and Darfur can be conceived and developed. If our university is to stand by its mission to "educate engaged and aware citizens of an increasingly complex world," the presence of military recruitment campaign's misrepresentation of the reality of the military has no place on our campus.

As students, we have the responsibility to ensure that our campus is dedicated to the promotion of a culture of peace. Recognising this, we have delivered letters to student representatives and school officials expressing our concerns and

requesting the disallowment of all military presence on campus, and will be circulating a petition this month.

- Rachel Avery & Vanessa Murphy  
Anti-War @ Laurier

### CAS negotiations deserve attention

On behalf of the student solidarity in support of Laurier's part-time profs, I would like to thank *The Cord*, its editorial staff, and Rebecca Vasluianu in particular for doing such a great job in covering the CAS negotiations issue.

When I talk to classes of profs that gave me permission to address their students about the CAS issue, I tell them in the same breath, aside from joining our "Support Laurier Part Time Faculty" group and reading our blog at <http://studentsolidaritywlu.blogspot.com>, to consult *The Cord* for more information on this issue. I began carrying a copy around with me just to point out that all students should read it. It is a great source of awareness on this issue and has been so from the beginning when it ran its feature article on the part-timers plight back in October that started me on the road which brought me to be so actively involved in working to get the CAS what their due.

Despite what many students

may think, we are the most powerful body on this campus. There are 14,000 of us paying our tuition fees, and *The Cord* is the flagship for our opinion. While we may differ on many issues, the reason for the continuous broadsides between op-eds and letters to the editor, most of us agree on this one issue – part-time professors deserve better treatment for all the hard work that they do. We understand that and *The Cord* understands that and I think the administration is starting to understand that as well. And when there is mutual understanding on all sides, change can happen, change for the better.

Administrators, I hope that some of you are reading these words – we will not sit quietly on the sidelines anymore in apathy over an issue that is so crucial to our education. *The Cord* has informed us – now settle this.

- Anatolijs Venovcevs

### 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](mailto:letters@cordweekly.com) or through our website at [www.cordweekly.com](http://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.



# Harper must remain neutral on US politics



**MICHAEL KOCHEFF**  
THE EVERYMAN

According to Environics Research, 15 percent of Canadians would give up their right to vote in the next federal election if it meant they could vote in the American election.

This figure should not raise alarm. In fact, it makes a lot of sense. When Canadians look across the border they see something very different from home.

Canadians see the massive funding totals, the moving rallies and the tenacity of presidential hopefuls. Meanwhile, our own leaders seem to be in a constant state of damage control.

This figure also tells another story. Canadians are tired of George W. Bush. We see the influence that America has internationally, especially in Canada.

The 15 percent willing to forgo their vote are symbolic of a broader sentiment in Canada. We want some say in American affairs.

Canadians should not expect this much desired influence, though. As this election shows, Canadians are often an afterthought in American politics.

So how do Canadians and, by extension, the Canadian government get themselves on the American radar? Well, one surefire way is by doing something controversial, as the Harper government displayed last week.

Prior to the primaries held on April 4 in Ohio and Texas, Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton both made it clear that they wished to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

According to *The Economist*, both candidates want NAFTA to include stronger labour and environmental protections.

A memo leaked by the Canadian government calls the sincerity of Obama's position into question. The memo contains details from a conversation between Obama's economic advisor and a Canadian diplomat.

The gist of the memo is that Obama is posturing. He is, in essence, being dishonest with the American people.

In a culture completely obsessed with promise breakers, this leak has not boded well for Obama. Hillary Clinton and John McCain, the Republican nominee, have both exploited the leak heavily.

At this point, it is not completely clear where in the Canadian government the leak came from.

Additionally, according to the CBC, prior to this official leak Harper's Chief of Staff Ian Brodie told a similar story to CTV reporters. Brodie is accused of mentioning that Hillary Clinton was also posturing.

Not much has come of these accusations against Clinton, most likely because she was not mentioned in the memo.

While the sources of these leaks remain somewhat unclear, the effects do not. Relations between the

Harper and Obama camps have soured.

Leading Democrats have argued that this interference was intentional. They perceive a right-wing government determined to undermine Obama's campaign of change and hope.

As mean as some think they are, the Tories surely do not despise hope. They are likely, though, to dislike the changes that Obama has in mind.

This is all the more concerning when one considers that Obama, even after the leak debacle, still leads Clinton in the race for the Democratic nomination. Polls from the Associated Press also show that Obama stands a better chance than Clinton of beating McCain in a presidential race.

Regardless of whether or not this was the Conservative Party's fault, Harper needs to change course. The Conservative Party and, in essence, our government should be positioning themselves to have good diplomatic relations with the US government no matter which party and candidate emerge victorious.

Our relations with America are too important for these sorts of mistakes.

Obama, even if he does lack substance and experience, is running a campaign that is inspiring many Americans.

Harper is no Barack Obama. He has, however, proven himself to be a good strategist.

Now more than ever, Harper needs to be strategic at least until the American president is an-

nounced. Nothing is to be gained by getting involved in a conflict with Obama or Clinton.

Canadians, despite struggles within the Liberal Party, are still quite leery of the Conservatives. Providing opportunities for Canadians to see Harper and Obama on the same stage is not going to remove those fears.

Obama is a candidate who is all about unity while Harper is still associated with divergence.

It makes good sense for Harper to do everything in his power to address this situation and prevent future problems. His success at the polls and our relations with the Americans depend upon it.

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**MRS. PRESIDENT?** - Hillary Clinton interacts with the press during her campaign for Democratic nomination.

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# Is wireless frying my brain?

Before implementing new over-the-air technologies, companies should be examining their safety



DAN KELLAR  
BEING THE CHANGE

Using a century-old medical practice, researchers at Arizona State University have been using light waves to deactivate viruses by matching the resonance frequency (which all things have) of the viruses' shells.

The process has the potential for widespread application and is accomplished by directing a laser beam to an area of the body (or a dialysis-type machine) and literally shaking the virus to death by matching the natural frequency at which the shell vibrates.

Think of an opera singer breaking a crystal glass with his or her voice.

This is a very interesting, non-intrusive, non-pharmaceutical approach that could revolutionize how viruses are dealt with, and it avoids the possibility of allowing drug-resistant super-bugs to evolve, as there are no drugs used.

The thought of waves directed my mind to human-made, information-carrying radio waves floating through the biosphere. Could they be matching the resonance frequency of any parts of the human body or any other part of the earth's systems?

A quick search of the Internet, and a look outside at the radio and

cell towers everywhere, confirmed that humans are being bombarded by ever-increasing amounts of information-carrying radio waves than we have ever been before.

Each day, new modules are added to wi-fi hotspots, Bluetooth devices are becoming more common, new cell phone towers are being erected and more people are being "liberated" from the shackles of wires.

It is impossible to avoid these waves unless you live in remote isolation.

Surely such a massive change to our communications infrastructure would be backed by studies that could verify its safety against possible threats to human or ecosystem health. Surely our governments would not allow mass experimentation. What if it were dangerous?

Dr. George Carlo was paid \$28 million by cellular companies to conduct research and show that cell phones are safe to use en masse.

When Dr. Carlo presented his research to the cellular industry, it was dismissed, as it found that information-carrying radio waves are in fact dangerous to living things; they cause a range of negative impacts including damage to cell membranes and increased cancer rates.

This work was then covered up and a pay-off was put forth, but Dr. Carlo decided instead to take his research and use it to educate the public through his Safe Wireless

Institute.

The "Tower of Doom" apartment in London, England has had five of eight residents living on the top floor diagnosed with varying cancers after two cellular towers were installed on the roof of the building.

One company (Orange) has since removed their tower from the building while the other company (Vodafone) has not.

The book *Our Stolen Future* tells us how plastics are damaging our reproductive abilities. The movie *Children of Men* unveils a world where humans can't reproduce for unknown reasons. The quasi-fictional *The World Without Us* imagines the earth after humans have vanished.

To avoid such futures, should we not use the precautionary principle to ensure no damage will be caused to the ecosphere when introducing new technologies or adding extra capacity to existing technologies?

A cell phone hasn't brought down a plane, but the precautionary principle suggests that we don't use them *in case* they pose a danger. The convenience is out-ranked by safety concerns.

In Germany, the public health officer has recommended that children under 12 not use a cell phone and has attempted to ban cell phone towers and wireless networks around schools; the precautionary principle is being used to protect the public from unproven

"safety."

In the past few years, reports (mainly in Europe and America) that entire bee colonies are dying off in an epidemic being called "Colony Collapse Disorder" have emerged.

The bees that collect pollen aren't returning to their hives and the remaining colony dies off. This is of great concern as one-third of our food is grown by pollination and with collapsing bee colonies, pollination could not occur on a large amount of our crops.

Pesticide use, stress, disease and climate change are discussed as causes for the unnatural dying of bees; the only constant that exists over the continents is a massive build-up of wireless networks. What are the frequencies of bees' hearing and navigation systems?

The convenience of having a cell phone as a means to keep in touch over distances is incomparable but the long-term effects of short-term convenience are not conclusively studied.


I will certainly reduce my use of wireless technology until we can prove its safety; I have already plugged my phone, computer and headphones back in, and I hope some honest research and discussion will occur to protect us and our life-sustaining system from the unknown effects of new technologies.

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**WIRELESS** - A cellular tower broadcasts its signal from high above the ground.

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# Finding the meaning of life

In an era full of possessions and objects, we are driven to find meaning among the self-absorbed



**DON MORGENSON**  
ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

I am sure you have noticed that there appears to be a plethora of psychics, tarot card readers, crystal ball gazers and I Ching experts, but why is this so?

The simplest answer would be that our daily lives lived in late capitalism seem meaningless to most of us, hence the hectic pursuit of alternative sources of meaning. A near-perfect example is the "Material Girl" Madonna, who has frantically sought the truth in Kabbalah.

Yet here, in late modernity, there is perhaps too much meaning around, not too little. There are so many different versions of the "good life."

Perhaps there was once meaning in life, but now there is less and less and it is this poignant contrast that makes our existence somewhat unbearable.

At least this is what our parents and grandparents told us about that distant Golden Age. They tell us rumours of a time when there was truth, reality, firm foundations, beauty and a sense of the tragic.

And, of course, you cannot have a sense of tragedy or ontological

absurdity without imagining that things might be different. If suffering were all we knew, we would not revolt against it.

We might even argue that an existence purged of meaning is an excellent thing, since it leaves us at liberty to create our own meaning.

No. What people mean when they say that life lacks meaning is that it lacks inherent or built-in meaning – ready-made, "found" meaning.

**WHAT PEOPLE MEAN WHEN THEY SAY THAT LIFE LACKS MEANING IS THAT IT LACKS INHERENT OR BUILT-IN MEANING – READY-MADE, "FOUND" MEANING.**

Meaning is what we make it, rather than assuming that underneath all the existing stuff there is one great meaning of meaning, underlying all of life.

Those among us who seek some final and ultimate truth, such as in the I Ching, tarot card revelations and the pyramids, all make the same mistake: assuming that the meaning of life must be something elusive and ethereal, something distinctly otherworldly. They probably make this assumption because

being totally immersed in materialism has abolished all meaning.

Why does it not occur to people such as Madonna that meaning, that spiritual value, might just be as simple and earthbound as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the prisoners, welcoming strangers and caring for the ill?

That sounds very familiar, doesn't it? It can all be found in the great wisdom literature of Lao-Tze, Buddha, Krishna, Christ and countless others, but maybe this familiar stuff is simply not grand enough to qualify as "true meaning."

Surely it is obvious why some people turn to the occult – because it is the exact opposite of their daily lives.

If you spend most of your life in front of huge audiences, on floodlit stages surrounded by fawning fans, afflicted with existential angst over which exotic destination you might sully next – then no wonder truth and wonder might just be the exact opposite of all that brash, showy, superficial stuff.

As professor Terry Eagleton of Manchester University suggests in *The Meaning of Life*, "Celebrities are natural Cartesians; since their external lives are usually pretty aim-

less and ravaged, they imagine that truth must lie within." On a smaller and more modest scale, the same could be said of all of us who exist largely in a "Thingdom of Evil."

He goes on to argue that this is why "reasonably intelligent people who have been driven insane by excessive wealth and adulation believe that events on earth are being controlled by a spaceship concealed behind a cloud. They would not believe this if they had only \$60 in the bank."

If the secret of life cannot be found in our daily lives, then the secret of life must exist on a completely different plane entirely, which may mean nowhere at all.

Difficult as it may be in the midst of a life lived so excessively and egregiously self-absorbed, a life lived fully ego-centrally, the truth is that the meaning of life is not so complicated as we may have been taught.

A friendly handshake, a friendly smile, a "good turn" done daily (my Boy Scout training is revealed here) or an act of random kindness – these might be the keys to the meaning of life. Living more fully for others.

Wow, is that all it is? Maybe, just maybe, it is.

[letters@cordweekly.com](mailto:letters@cordweekly.com)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**MATERIAL GIRL** - Many celebrities have sought out religion as a source of meaning.

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

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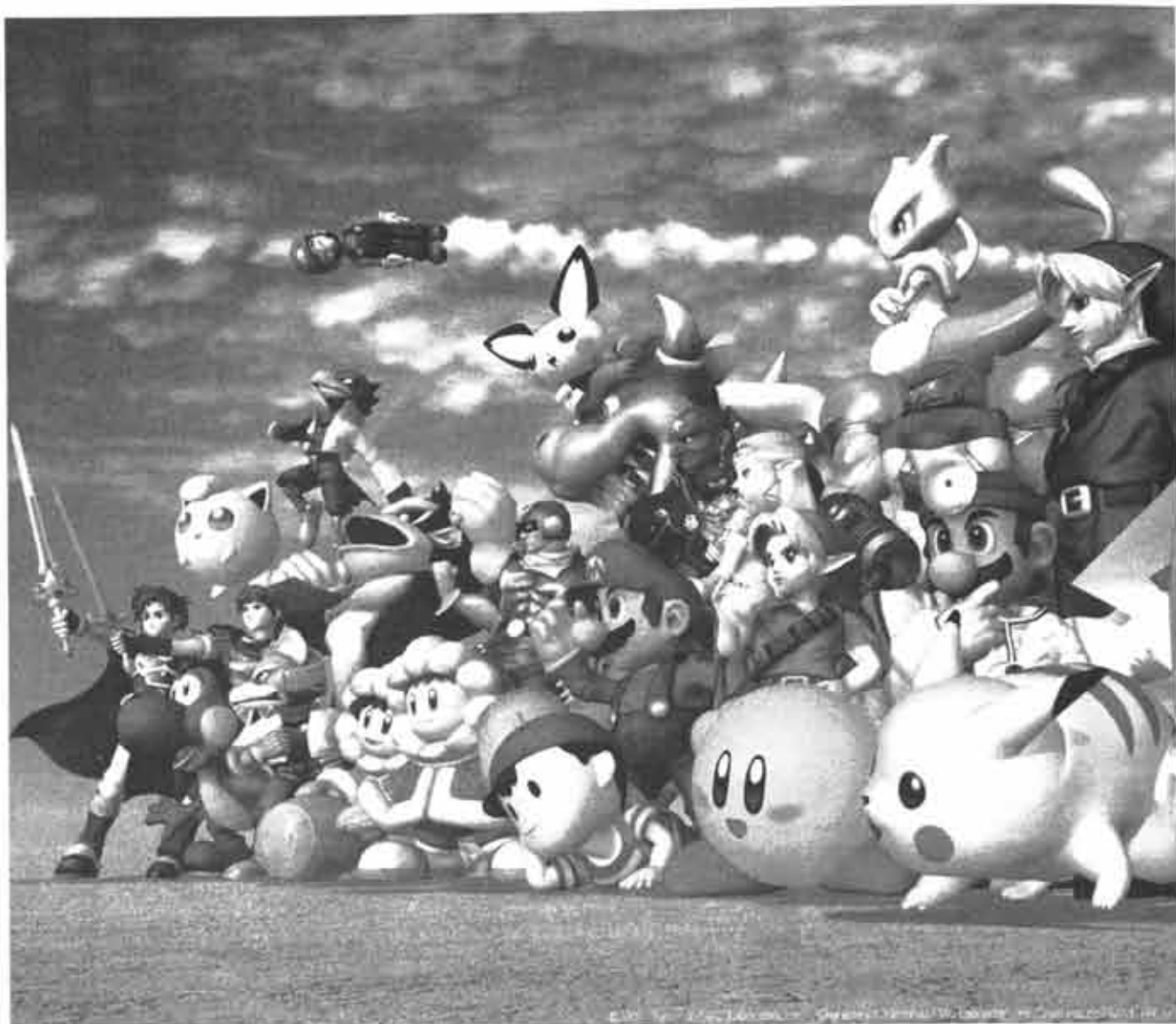
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**SUPER HERO SHOWDOWN** - All of your favourite Nintendo characters and a few extras throwdown in *Brawl*. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# A smashing good time on your Wii

The third *Smash Bros* title in the series introduces new characters, refines the classic system, adds online capabilities and might be the best Wii game yet

**TOM HOWSE**  
CORD A&E

Over the past few years, it's become evident that Hollywood is incapable of producing trilogies. They either ruin a great story, killing off half the cast (*X3*), slip into predictable plot devices and clichés (*Shrek 3*), or humiliate their high profile actor by forcing him into a tap dance sequence (*Spider-Man 3*).

Needless to say, I was nervous that sickness would spread to Japan with the release of Nintendo's biggest title of the year – and the third in its series – *Super Smash Bros Brawl*. Fortunately, when I first played it, I realized I had struck gold; *Super Smash Bros Brawl* is the best game Wii has released to date.

As mentioned earlier, *Brawl* is the third in a series that pits a roster of Nintendo's most prominent characters against each other in the battle arena. In all three games, major favorites such as Mario, Link, Kirby and Pikachu have been used, but over the years the cast has grown from the original 12 to 37.

This time, players are able to choose from some more obscure characters (Olimar from the "Pikmin" series, and a generic Pokemon trainer), as well as some that do not even belong to the Nintendo franchise (Sonic the Hedgehog, and Snake from *Metal Gear Solid*, for example).

The feel of the game is the same as before – it is a silly yet clever game that is appropriate for children.

The graphics are some of the best out of all the Wii's titles, and the music is pleasant, as most of it was recorded by a professional orchestra.

*Brawl* has revitalized the series, offering a variety of improvements. First and foremost, it has renovated its single player game.

In the previous two games, the developers have focused so heavily on the multiplayer aspect that the single player was lacking. *Brawl* has been able to remedy this problem in two ways – it offers an adventure mode, and allows you to play online.

The adventure mode engages in a story that brings all 37 players together. It combines basic elements of a platform and fighter game that lasts approximately 10 hours – and the best part is that two players can play cooperatively.

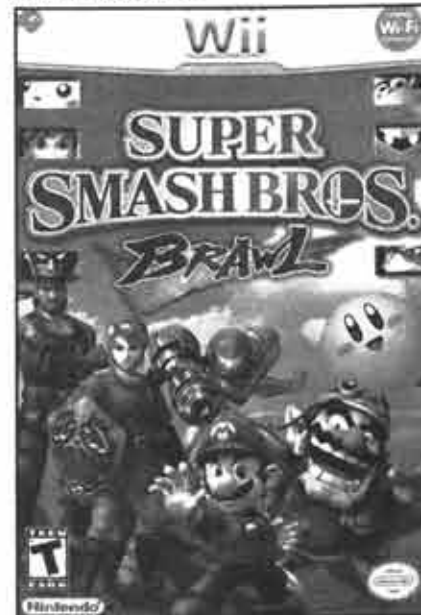
This mode also functions as a fun way of unlocking all the characters in the game. However, at times the adventure feels repetitive, and it is easy to get lost in levels while attempting to navigate.

The online feature was a much needed addition to the game. *Super Smash Bros Brawl* has excelled because of its incredible multiplayer capabilities, and online play has brought all these advantages from

multiplayer to single player mode.

While the online play has been reliable to date, it is unfortunate that Nintendo did not invest in a stronger online system – it is difficult to specify options and partners for matches that you are entering.

Multi-player is still as fun as ever, though relatively similar to the original two games. Overall, the system is still the same, but there are new and exciting stages, items and characters.

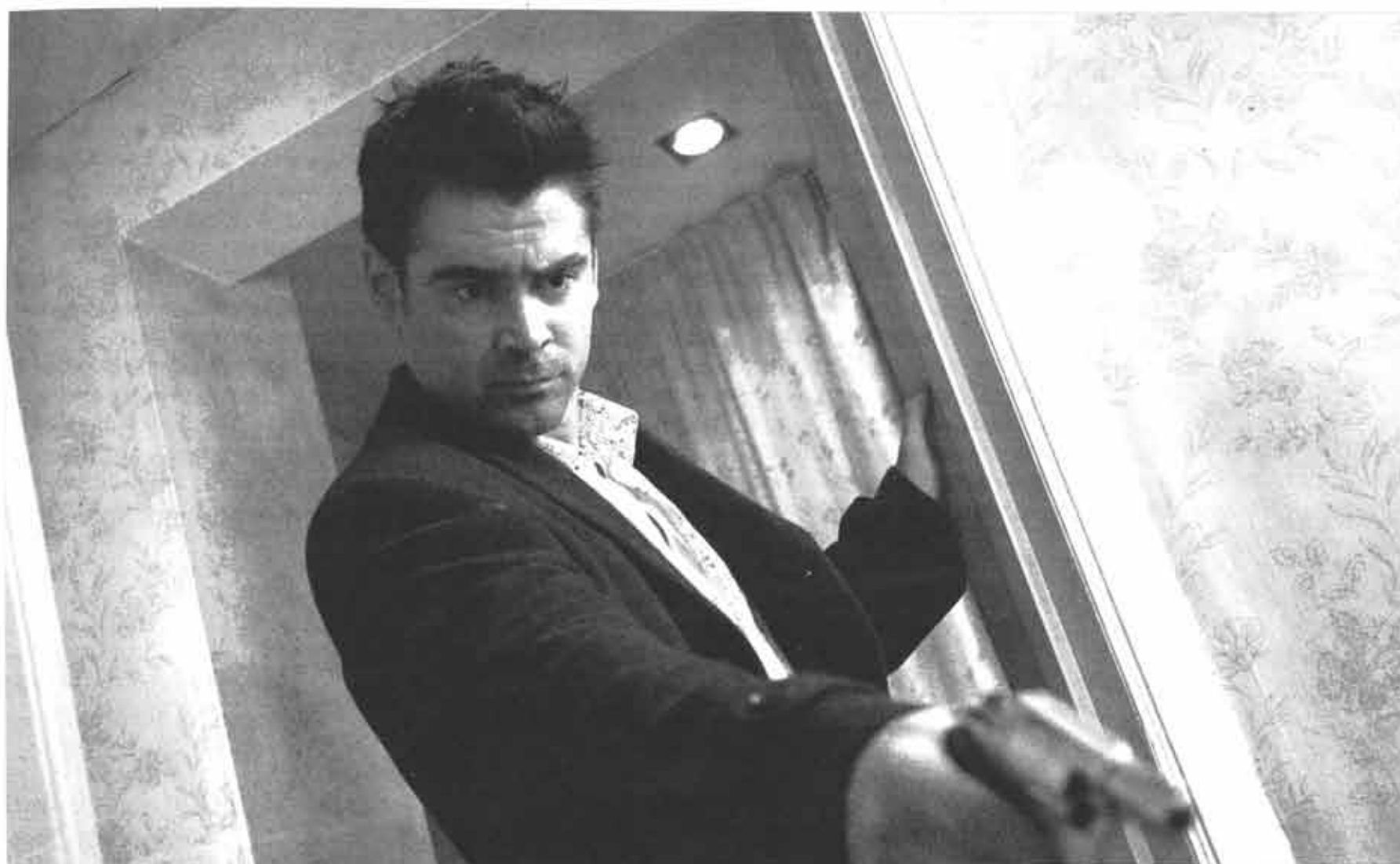


*Super Smash Bros Brawl*  
System: Nintendo Wii  
Players: Single, multiplayer  
and online  
Release Date: 09/03/2008  
Rating: 9.5/10.0



# Colin Farrell gets stuck *In Bruges*

Martin McDonagh's directorial debut is a near-perfect crime caper, with a fast talking, quick shooting pace to match Tarantino



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**MY NAME'S COLIN FARRELL, I'M AN IRISH BADBOY** - What is he pointing his gun at? It could be a person, it could be a deer, maybe it's aliens?

**MIKE LIPPERT**  
STAFF WRITER

*In Bruges* is the writing and directorial debut of Martin McDonagh and it's a film that will inevitably, if maybe unfairly, be referred to as Tarantino-esque, as if all contemporary crime films are to be weighed under the scrutiny of *Pulp Fiction* and *Reservoir Dogs*.

Of course, many Tarantino jockeys maybe don't realize that Tarantino himself owes everything he knows about dialogue to America's most singular crime novelist, Elmore Leonard.

Alas, *In Bruges* plays like an adaptation of the best book Leonard never wrote: it's funny, sexy, quick-witted, violent, has a keen ear for the small nuances in the way people converse and, most of all, allows us access to one of the most

forbidden of emotions in the crime movie repertoire: genuine remorse. To watch it is to get the sense of a great storyteller being born.

The story focuses on two hitmen who are sent to hide out in Bruges for a couple of weeks after a botched job. Ray (Colin Farrell) is young and rowdy, not impressed by much and not shy about letting anyone within earshot know.

The highlight of Ray's trip with the beautiful views, ancient architecture and exotic cannal rides? Seeing a Belgium movie being filmed which stars a midget.

Ray's babysitter is Ken (Brendan Gleeson) who is older, wiser and more optimistic, wanting to make the best of their stay in Bruges by seeing the sights and taking in the culture.

Ken climbs the tower overlooking the courtyard while Ray sits on

a bench and helpfully informs a group of overweight tourists not to bother; it's full of narrow winding staircases, after all. "What do you mean by that?" asks one of the men in the group. "Well, you're a bunch of elephants," Ray replies.

*In Bruges* is funny when it needs to be, delicate when it needs to be and action-packed when it needs to be.

The brilliance of McDonagh's script is that it provides us with the pleasant sensation of not watching caricatures or types, but rather of having dropped in on a couple of guys whose company we enjoy being in. These aren't the hard men we are used to from typical European crime films.

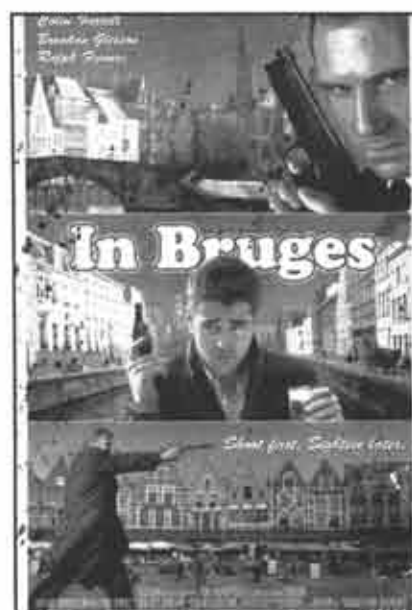
McDonagh also has the uncanny ability to know exactly how to calibrate a scene for all it is worth, observing every detail of human be-

haviour, allowing laugh-out-loud hilarity to effortlessly evaporate into affecting pathos. The film thusly never feels self-congratulatory or self-indulgent.

McDonagh constructs these characters from the ground up, allowing them a natural human dimension. They laugh, they cry, they swear, they kill people, and then they weigh the cosmic significance of their actions.

Just watch the way Ken views the courtyard as if through the view of a sniper rifle or the way Ray responds to a man who he has just blinded by firing a blank into his eyes, making for one of the film's biggest laughs.

Of course, half the battle is finding the perfect actors who can be congenial and amusing without sentimentalizing or becoming a parody of themselves. In Gleeson, we find a wise man that uses his



*In Bruges*  
Director: Martin McDonagh  
Starring: Colin Farrell,  
Brendan Gleeson  
Release Date: 07/03/2008  
Rating: 9.0/10.0

heart and his conscience first and his gun second.

Farrell naturally slips into the role of Ray, the snotty little kid who refuses to grow up, living under the belief that life revolves around a good shag and an even better pint. The performance reminds us of what a great actor Farrell can be when dealt an intimate character role.

And Ralph Fiennes plays Harry in that perfect evil way villains should be played, going just over the top enough that, any more and the performance would fall into sloppiness.

At the end of the day, *In Bruges* isn't going to change anyone's life, and just like gleefully indulging in the best work of Tarantino or Leonard, we don't want it to.

It is, above all, an exercise in style and wit, of excitement, suspense, action and bloodshed, of actors having fun playing characters who talk in that sort of mundane, ironic way that people actually talk. And as an example of the crime genre, it's just about perfect.

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## Music's future

Mp3s may be tempting, but CDs are ethical and sound better



Hello everyone, my name is Kari Pritchard and I am addicted to buying compact discs. I know, I know – but what about the booming mp3 popularity?

In our tech-savvy generation, CDs may be considered to be technological dinosaurs, but I beg to differ. Although CDs may not seem quite as appealing anymore, they have many perks that mp3s lack.

Admittedly, you'll probably never hear somebody bragging about their new Sony Discman in the twenty-first century. Alas, this is no reason to delete CDs out of your life.

Many mp3 players have the feature of ripping your fave albums on to the digital audio player, allowing you to carry all your albums right in your pocket. Convenience ahoy!

When you purchase a CD, as you peel off the shrink-wrap, you're also peeling off your guarantee that it will sound great. Whereas downloaded songs are not guaranteed to be of good quality, CDs will never give you the run around.

Expected quality in a new CD has become a naturalized notion, known and met on your first listen as well as your second, third, fourth ... and on. CDs can range anywhere from \$5.00 to \$40.00 depending on what you are looking for and where you make your purchases from. This is obviously more than the standard mp3, but let's think quantity, people.

In purchasing an album, you get to enjoy its physical presence and all the songs on it. True, you might be able to purchase an mp3 version of an album online for less, but this is a virtual album that could be lost in one com-

puter crash.

Although online downloading stores offer a lot of music, it is a challenge to find music outside of the top 40 mainstream, making artists outside of this realm hard, if not impossible, to track down. On the other hand, local alternative CD stores or online websites can offer the purchase of these rare audio treasures.

While mp3 tracks and mp3 versions of albums are available for purchase online, on average it is safe to say that free, illegal downloading is more popular.

In their 2000 article *Music Downloading and Listening: Findings from the Pew Internet and American Life Project*, Steve Jones and Amanda Lenhart found that 79 percent of downloaders got their music for free, and 78 percent felt that downloading was not stealing.

Despite the survey's dated timing, free music downloading is still popular today (check out thepiratebay.org or the online downloading facility Ares). When buying a CD, whether in a store or at a concert, you can listen to it guilt free, knowing that you didn't rob the artist of their hard work.

CDs can also have extra bonuses included in your purchase. These bonuses include booklets containing lyrics and graphics not available for mp3 users (ever spot the U.S.S. Pinkerton behind the disc in Weezer's *Pinkerton* album?).

In addition, some CDs can have special visual features like music videos or crazy band antics – intimate features that single-track mp3s just cannot offer.

Mp3s might be the new CD, but this does not make them better. CDs used to be the new record, yet records were not forgotten by their successor and are still purchased today. CDs are something you can keep forever, creating nostalgic, tangible memories that ubiquitous, forgettable mp3s cannot stack up to.

CDs are a waste of space and money, mp3 is the obvious choice



My music library consists of around 20 CDs collected since the age of 14, most of which I don't listen to, 540 songs on my iTunes, most of which I have downloaded, and 164 songs on my mp3 player, most of which I skip.

Needless to say, I am not a music buff. Since discovering the art of downloading at 16 years old, I have yet to buy a CD for myself. There is a reason for this – I don't like buying albums.

For some, music is extremely important; they enjoy knowing absolutely everything about the industry. For others, like me, music is not as significant; it is simply something to listen to. Therefore, buying an entire CD seems useless if you can get the same thing by downloading; it saves time and money.

Instead of having to travel to the store, you simply need to move to your computer, click a few buttons, and presto: you have the song you've wanted. Usually, I get attached to a single, not the entire album, so downloading allows me to be more selective. Why buy the entire album if you only like a few songs?

The quality of downloaded songs is rarely a problem. And, I'm sorry, but when have CDs ever had the reputation of being good quality? Yes, they will last a few good listens, but then they get scratched, the album cover

cracks, or worse, the CD breaks. You'll end up having to spend \$20 buying another album.

Also, I'd rather have songs in my computer than physically store a bunch of loose discs.

Albums are for those who enjoy every song and all the extra features added on. Those who enjoy knowing absolutely everything about an artist are the ones who appreciate the "Thank yous" and the song lyrics included.

Casual listeners, on the other hand, don't need that information close at hand. If ever there is something I want to look up, there is always the trusty Internet, where you can find everything. But, most of the time, I don't need those features – I just want the songs.

As for the free downloading issue, I will admit LimeWire is my friend. I enjoy being able to get songs for free, mostly because of convenience and because of the lack of money I have to spend on every song I want to listen to.

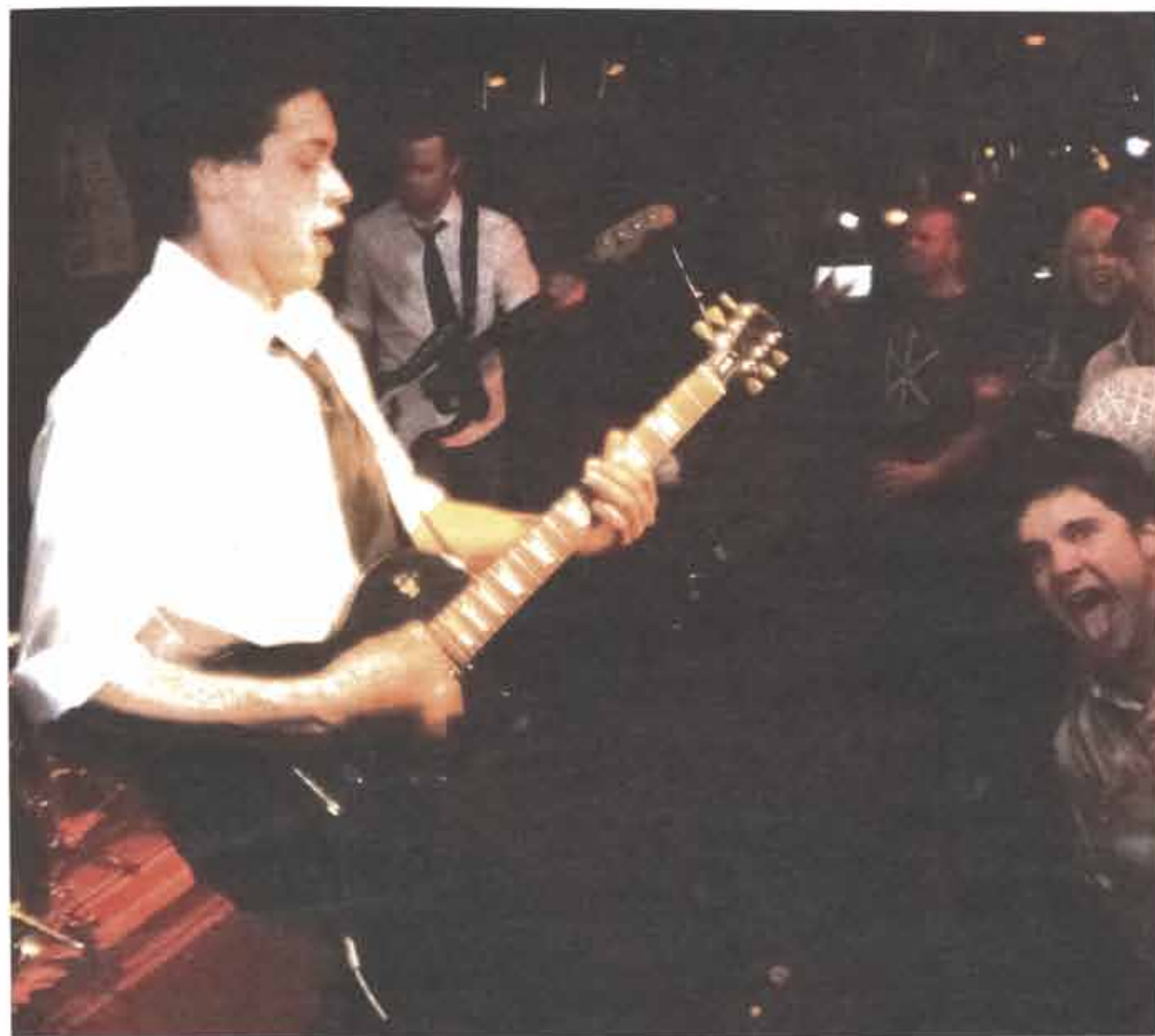
If ever there is an artist I adore and would like to support, I have no problem investing in their career, say, through a concert. However, I do not feel guilty when downloading; there are far worse things in the world to feel bad about and to support.

The decision between CDs or mp3s comes down to how much of a music fan an individual is. Those who immerse themselves with music will be more appreciative of CDs. But that is not the majority; most have come to enjoy the accessibility of mp3s and their ability to provide a wide selection of songs from different artists.



# Audio To Mute still standing

After Crown and Coke were disqualified for underage drinking, Audio To Mute defeated Supermarine and The Music Box Thursday



RYAN STEWART

**SERIOUS ABOUT SUCCESS** - Decked out in shirts and ties, Audio To Mute played like pros and won the title.

- FROM **BANDS**, PAGE 32

"When the manager on duty caught him doing that, he was written up and ejected," said Phil Champagne, the marketing and communication manager for the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU).

"In the eyes of the business, that's the exact moment that that band was no longer allowed to perform in our bar," he explained.

Though there is some discrepancy between the band and management at Wilf's about the exact details of what happened, WLUSU has now changed their policy so that underage individuals who are not from Laurier are no longer allowed to perform at any on-campus establishments where alcohol is served.

Since they only found out that they would be playing last week in an e-mail, the guys from The Music Box conveyed their excitement about having the opportunity to remain in the contest.

"Winning a thousand dollars would be nice, but playing another show is always good," explained band member Tyler Stoddart.

"Lots of people who attend these events aren't exposed to music like ours, so we're trying to get ourselves

out there," he added.

Because that The Music Box was asked to play instead of Crown and Coke and The Unibrows, who were the wildcard group, didn't show up, there were only three bands competing in the contest.

Following The Music Box's set came what could probably be described as the most well-rounded performance of the night, from Supermarine.

While they have more of a generic rock sound, Supermarine perform it extremely well and with high energy, strong vocals and genuine passion for their music. They were able to engage the audience, interact with each other and leave everyone thinking that they were the sure winners of the night.

Even Audio To Mute expressed their shock when they found out that Supermarine didn't come out on top.

"It was a bit of a surprise - the third band was pretty good," said Greg Maderak, a third-year psychology student and member of Audio To Mute.

"I really didn't expect to win. The other two bands were really good; they had a really big crowd following."



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# Just say vagina, please

This year's production of *The Vagina Monologues* hopes to continue the tradition of taking the shame out of women's sexuality

PAUL ALVIZ  
A&E EDITOR

They're everywhere. Hidden amongst us, well over half the population of our school has one: vaginas. V-A-G-I-N-A is how you spell it, and phonetically it's not that diffi-

cult to pronounce. Yet we still hear things like "poonani" "pink taco" "hoo-hoo" "hee-haw" "snapper" "afro-clam", and perhaps most recently, "Va-Jay-Jay", as seen on the cover of the latest *Cosmo*.

"Va-jay-jay?" Kate Klein and Carolyn Sacks both say in unison dis-

dain. They are this year's director and producer of *The Vagina Monologues*, playing at the Turret nightclub tonight through to Friday. Sacks elaborates, "We actually saw that and were just like ... VAGINA! People just don't say that word."

And this is one of the overall

goals of *The Vagina Monologues*, written by Eve Ensler in 1996 – to make people comfortable with vaginas, starting most simply with the word.

"Why should it be ridiculous? It should be just like any other part of your body, like 'hand' or 'leg,'" says Klein. "From a very young age, children are told that this one part of your body has a special name, because you can't call it by its real name."

However, Sacks recounts that women in the production have come to embrace the word, and may even be subject to shouting it at the top of their lungs in school hallways.

Such was the scene on Monday this week in the Hall of Fame around two in the afternoon. If you were nearby, you probably heard the word "cunt" shouted in an excess normally unheard of. It was part of the monologue titled "Reclaiming Cunt," performed this year by Angie Revell as a preview to the shows this week.

The effect is at first shocking – will people stop and stare? Will they walk on unassuming? But by the end of it, it starts to make sense. Women are belittled every time somebody uses the word cunt (a vulgar term for vagina) negatively by associating part of the female anatomy with unfavourable connotations.

This particular monologue subverts these connotations by using the word casually, out in the open, shouting it even – and reclaims it, brushing the dirt off the metaphorical vagina.

As part of creating a positive,

welcoming experience, one of the mandates of *The Vagina Monologues* is that every woman who auditions plays a role. This year's production of the monologues had an enormous turnout, with 52 women auditioning, filling enough spots to have two full casts.

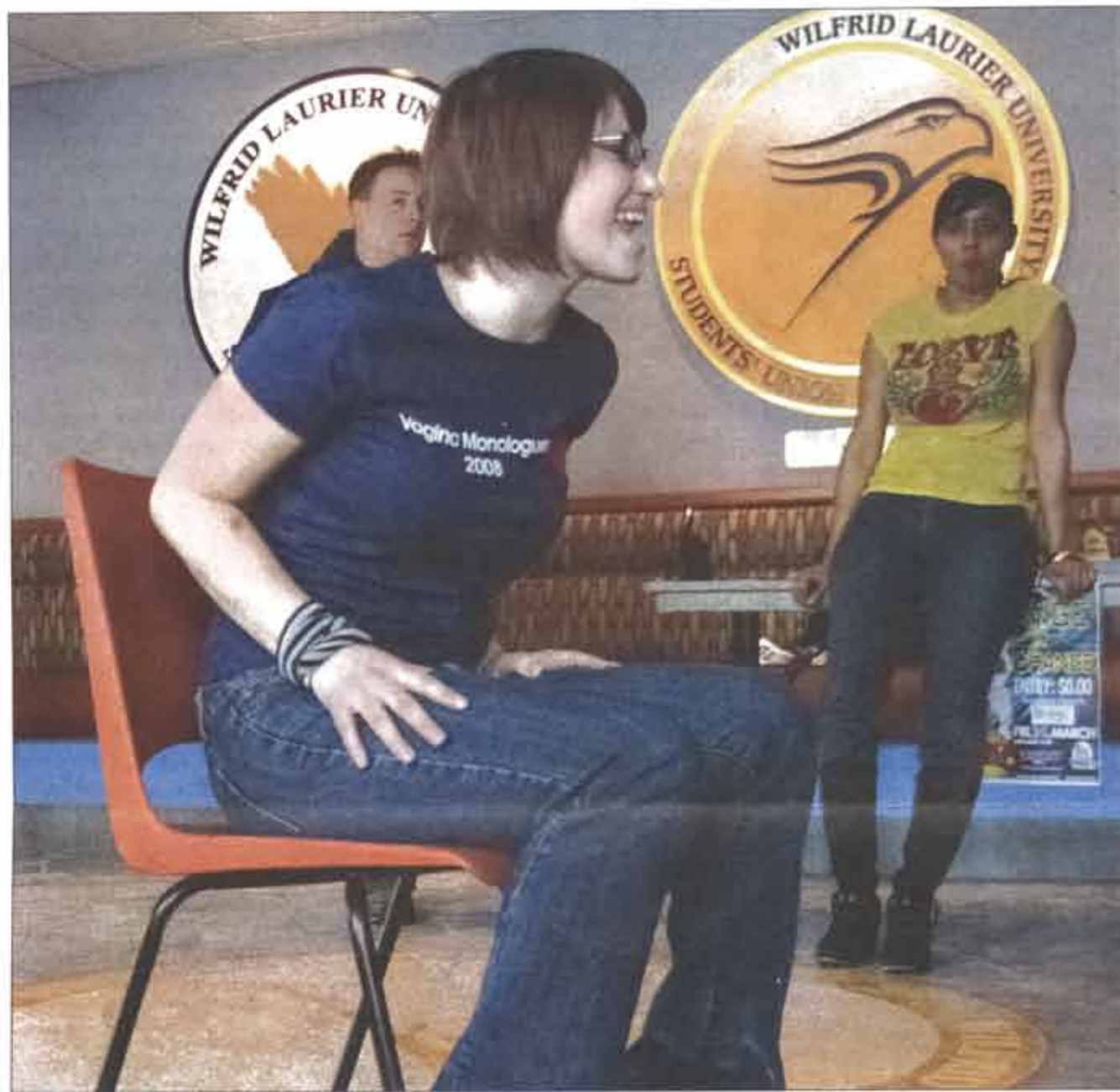
Laurier student Zinta Auzins, in her second year in the production, is excited to get back on stage. "I really like the environment because it's very woman-positive, and woman-sexuality positive, and there aren't a lot of environments that are that fostering of that type of thing. I really enjoy that vibe," she says fondly of her experiences.

"Last year I met my best friend there, so I'm kind of celebrating that being back here. I know that there are a lot of great women doing this."

Men shouldn't shy away from the production despite any perceived irrelevance to themselves. All the monologues are based on real accounts of women interviewed by Ensler and colleagues during the original scripting, and as such, Klein comments that it's a valuable forum for anecdotal education on sex, love and relationships.

*The Vagina Monologues* will be playing tonight and Thursday at 8 pm, as well as Friday at 1 pm and 5 pm. Tickets are \$10 at the C-Spot, and \$12 at the door if any are available.

"Look!" Klein laughs as she points in excited amusement at a desk in Arts 1E1, near the front right. Someone has penned a depiction of a vagina where there was once just a notch. Vaginas truly are everywhere.



PAUL ALVIZ

'RECLAIMING CUNT' - Angie Revell gives a practical lesson in self-empowerment in the Hall of Fame.

## Surprise win at LBS

Supermarine and The Music Box get the shaft at the finals at Wilf's Thursday

LAURA CARLSON  
NEWS EDITOR

Last Thursday saw this year's Last Band Standing contest come to a close, ending its final installment the same way it seems to every time, with a thoroughly disappointed and intoxicated audience, a surprising winner and the lingering question as to what actually qualifies as good music.

Starting out the night at Wilf's were Audio To Mute, who were later declared the winners of the contest and whose Incubus influence is impossible to ignore.

While they were a fairly tight band that connected well with each other, the uniform tone of the lead singer and their homogeneous songs hindered the performance more than anything else, as there was little variety or personality in the 25-minute set they played.

As the three band members rocked out and their inebriated

friends headbanged in front of the stage, the rest of the Wilf's crowd looked barely impressed. This was further communicated when it was announced that Audio To Mute won the battle.

Following Audio To Mute was The Music Box, whose creative and folk-punk inspired sound offered something original, especially in comparison to the standardized sound of the previous band.

With instruments that included a keyboard and a banjo, the quirky personality of the four-man group shone through, and the audience seemed generally impressed by their musical talent.

While The Music Box wasn't originally going to compete in the Last Band Standing final, the disqualification of Crown and Coke resulted in them, runners up in a previous night, having the opportunity to perform at WLU once again.

Kyle Brudek, a third-year communications major and drummer

for Crown and Coke was notified last week by e-mail that his band would not be competing in the contest, despite the fact that they won their preliminary round back in November.

This was the result of a violation of Laurier's policy, in which the underage singer of the band was signed in Wilf's by a WLU student and was caught without his wristband on.

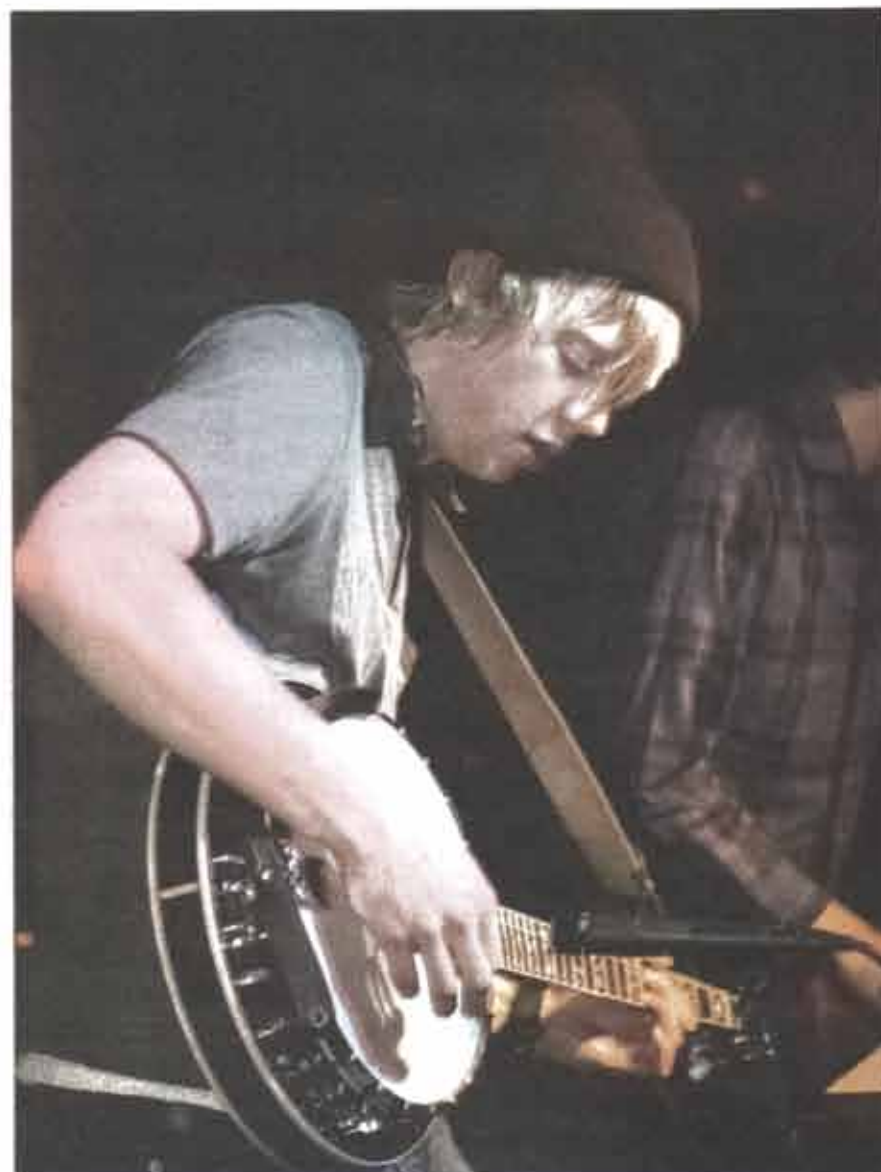
- SEE BANDS, PAGE 31

**CORD/ONLINE**

> [CordWeekly.com](http://CordWeekly.com)  
> Arts & Entertainment

**Photo gallery: LBS**

Check out the rest of the photos from Thursday online!



RYAN STEWART

HEY, HO, BANJO! - The Music Box rocks the southern strings at Wilf's.