

## SOME NICE ADVICE

Second-years give their advice to incoming first-years ... **PAGES 14-15**

## INDIA'S TOIL

A famine that occurs every fifty years is destroying Mizoram ... **PAGE 8**

## WE SUCK YOUNG BLOOD

Reg Hartt talks to *The Cord* about mixing Radiohead with Dracula ... **PAGE 25**



SYDNEY HELLAND

**BUNK BUDDIES** - Students can opt to share a room with a friend, pay half-price and receive a free laptop.

## Double-rooms deal with over-enrollment

3,902 first-year students to attend Waterloo campus this fall; Residential Services must convert some single rooms to doubles to deal with increase

**LAURA CARLSON**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

When WLU opens its doors in September, the largest freshman class in the school's history will become students at the school, which once prized itself on being a small Ontario university.

3,192 first-year students have accepted their offer of admission to the Waterloo campus, and combined with the 710 first-years attending the Brantford campus, a total of 3,902 new students will be entering Laurier this fall.

"Laurier has grown faster than almost any of the other universities over the last decade," explained VP: Academic Sue Horton.

In the 1998-1999 academic year

Laurier had 7,515 undergraduate students, this year the number of undergraduate students between the Waterloo and Brantford campuses is estimated to be above 13,500.

The number of students enrolled in graduate studies programs at WLU has also seen a drastic increase, growing by over 70 percent in the last 10 years.

"We've really tried to slow down deliberately," said Horton.

"We've increased the cutoffs quite significantly ... because it's also important to maintain the quality of the experience," she added.

This year WLU had hoped to boost enrollment by about 200 students, however after sending out 9,922 offers of admission 32 percent

of students accepted their offer, leaving Laurier more than 400 students above the intended incoming class.

"We know that a student can have more than one offer and once we make an offer we're committed to it, so that's where the guessing game comes into it for us," explained Ray Darling, Registrar at WLU.

"There's a bit of crystal ball activity."

Darling explained that the school sends out offers of admission based on the ratio of students that accepted the year prior — yield rates — and that this year the yield rate was simply higher than expected.

- SEE ENROLLMENT, PAGE 3

## Underagers barred from the Turret

'Dry' events will be organized next year, but underagers will not be allowed into the campus nightclub on regular bar nights

**DAN POLISCHUK**  
WEB EDITOR

Starting in September, Laurier's newest batch of first-year students will not be permitted access to one of the two on-campus establishments that serve alcohol.

At the summer Board of Directors (BOD) meeting held almost two weeks ago, Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union President Colin LeFevre informed the Board and Management Committee, of his decision to not allow first-years access to the Turret during its usual operating hours on Friday and Saturday nights.

LeFevre explained that there were several factors that led to his

decision.

The most important factor, explained LeFevre, was associated with the fact that "this is the first year [WLUSU] has had its own liquor license."

Having originally been under the license for the entire university, WLUSU applied for its own just before the start of LeFevre's tenure at the beginning of May.

This and the fact that the Judicial Affairs Council (JAC) has been bogged down by cases of underage drinking during the last year, ultimately led the President to believe the Union should make some changes.

- SEE TURRET, PAGE 3

## Union website budgeted for up to \$165,000

WLUSU will upgrade their website and will also begin renovations to the Pita Shack on campus

**DAN POLISCHUK**  
WEB EDITOR

The Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) has settled on its budget for the upcoming year and it appears that the largest expenditures will be going towards reconstruction of the Pita Shack and the creation of a new WLUSU website.

Coming in at the most expensive budget item budget is the redesign of the WLUSU website, scheduled this year.

At the recent summer meet-

\$163,000 for its construction.

While that figure may not be spent in its entirety, WLUSU President Colin LeFevre commented that "we cannot go over that amount to receive Board approval" for the project to get underway.

Phil Champagne, Marketing & Communication Director for WLUSU, is awaiting Request for Proposals (RFP) from various website designers and has set a deadline of June 30 for all submissions.

**THE CORD WEEKLY**

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phone: (519) 884-1970 ext. 3564

fax: (519) 883-0873

email: cord@wlusp.com

The Cord Weekly

75 University Avenue West

Waterloo, Ontario

N2L 3C5

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**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"Nobody got Aids in Apples to Apples"

International Editor Heather MacDonald, lamenting on the lack of a certain trump card in the popular board game.

**WORD OF THE WEEK**

Prink - To spend time making minor adjustments to one's appearance.

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Mark Lybush, Kathleen Simons, Heather Cox, Linda Corneah, Kyrre Gauthier, Steven Knicker, Terry J. (Lug)borough, Britnick's Lightbulb, Our Magazine, Everett Taylor, Pamela Schindler, Alison Schindler, Leah Birch

**WLUSU STAFF**

Copy Editing Manager: Merrilyn Barrett  
 Copy Editor: Emily Stohstra  
 IT Manager: Kayleigh LeBlanc  
 Distribution Manager: Nicole Weber

**WLUSU ADMINISTRATION**

President: Greg Sacks  
 VP: Advertising: Angela Foster  
 VP: Brantford: Molly Gibson  
 Chair of the Board: Bryn Oslington  
 Vice Chair: Janice Lee  
 Board of Directors: Brendan McGill, Lucy Salmon

**ADVERTISING**

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

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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.

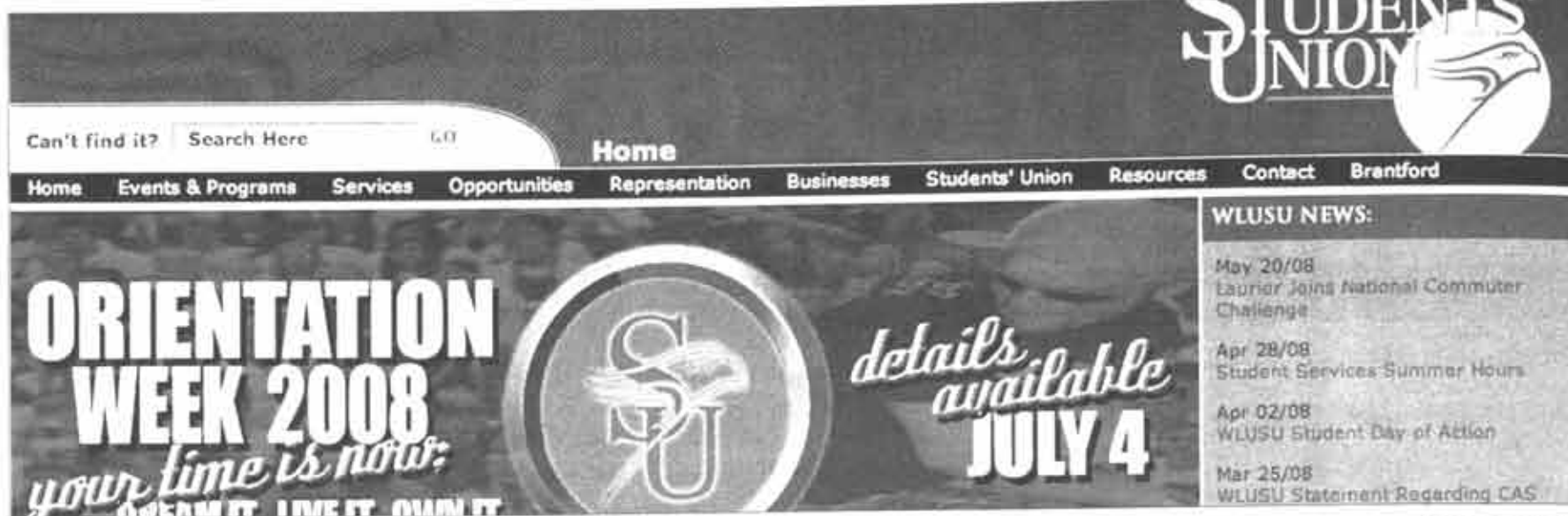
When statements are made that are critical of an individual, or an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity to reply at the earliest time possible.

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 communities 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.



**CH-CH-CHANGES** - WLUSU'S old website (shown above) will be completely rehailed, and the upgrade may cost up to \$165,000 in total.

# New WLUSU website

The Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union will be upgrading their website by the end of the year

- FROM WEBSITE, COVER

The website committee will then have until July 14 to go over the RFPs, at which time those making the shortlist will come in for one final sales pitch. A final group will be chosen by the end of the month.

When asked why the website was such a priority, LeFevre was blunt with his assessment.

"Our current website, for lack of a better term, sucks," he said.

"It's awful. You can't find anything; I barely know how to update it."

While LeFevre admits he would rather see a smaller price tag for the project, he is leaving most of the technical work to Champagne.

Commenting on what he is expecting from the RFPs, Champagne explained how there weren't many guidelines put forth for groups to follow so as not to hinder the creativity of the website's design.

The number one goal for the project is "to be more engaging."

Champagne explained that the

final cost can be broken down into basic construction, maintenance and hosting an archival database, as well as having an online business component to it.

**OUR CURRENT WEBSITE, FOR LACK OF A BETTER TERM, SUCKS [...] IT'S AWFUL. YOU CAN'T FIND ANYTHING."**

- Colin LeFevre, WLUSU President

Such a component will be used for things like concert ticket sales and will also give students the ability to opt out of the health and dental plans online.

The current site is the first one that WLUSU has ever had; its format dates back at least five years.

With what is hoped to be a more "clean, concise and easy-to-find" website, Champagne explains how his attempts to "market the hell out of it" will attract Laurier's stu-

dent body to it as a source of information and interaction. The new site is scheduled for completion in January.

Aside from the website, \$130,000 was also approved for the reconstruction of the Pita Shack, located in the Terrace Food Court. This goes along with another \$17,000 being spent on adding new table tops and internet cable outlets around the seating area of the 24-hour lounge.

With major costs at the Pita Shack going towards construction (\$85,000) and new equipment (\$37,000), LeFevre defended the project as not being a "completely aesthetic" one.

"We are currently running an incredibly inefficient business [at the Pita Shack] ... it just doesn't really work," said LeFevre.

"When you look at how inefficient it is, [Lynn Pauli, Food Court Operations Manager] is quite sure

that [they're] going to be able to up sales [and increase] the speed of service. Yes, [he] admit there is the aesthetic side to it ... but the biggest thing that sold [him] was the fact that [they're] running an inefficient business that could be a lot more profitable."

"It's about efficiency, it's about customer service, it's about broken equipment," continued LeFevre.

Director Jon Champagne was also pleased with the fact that all "were well justified." He explained that presentations for the three aforementioned projects and the purchase of a Momma's Pizza franchise for the Brantford campus were exceptionally thorough.

With the changes to the main campus set to be ready for September, LeFevre hopes that the final result will prove beneficial.

"The more successful our businesses are, the more services we can provide [to students]."

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story

# WLU takes "softer approach" to security

The University of Waterloo has made plans to have a Waterloo Regional Police Service staff sergeant on campus, but WLU's Special Constable Service does not plan on following this example

**ALEX HAYTER**  
CORD EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Beginning in August, the University of Waterloo will enter into a year-long collaboration with the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) to enhance and improve security on campus.

As part of the change, a WRPS staff sergeant will manage police and security for the university campus. The move reflects Wilfrid Laurier University's hiring of current Director of Security Rod Curran, who served with the Guelph Police Service for 31 years prior to coming to Laurier.

"It's actually the same thing that we've done here," said Curran. "They hired me as the expert to come and change things around [using] the community policing

model."

With the presence of a WRPS police officer on-site, the University of Waterloo's security service may now have an armed member.

The appointed staff sergeant will report jointly to both the superintendent of WPRS #3 division and to the director of UW Police Services.

According to Martin Van Neiropp, UW media relations officer, the WRPS staff sergeant will be allowed to carry a firearm on campus at his or her own discretion and will wear the WRPS uniform. Regular UW campus security will not carry firearms.

The new constable will replace UW's current Staff Sergeant Wayne Shortt, who is leaving along with Al MacKenzie, Director of Police Services. With the new position,

Van Neiropp hopes that UW Security will have even closer ties to the regional police.

"We will have a person with an inside view," Van Neiropp stated. "We can make things work more seamlessly."

Curran says that having armed police officers on campus may not be in Laurier's best interest and thinks that Laurier already has a good working relationship with WRPS.

"At this point, I think we have a pretty good special constable service right now, that we've trained well and [is] up to speed on things," he said.

Curran says that Laurier has seen drastic improvements to its security in the past three years.

"We've changed this whole service around," explained Curran.

"We've made the campus a lot more secure. But we haven't really infringed on anyone's rights; like making it an armed campus or restricting things."

"We've taken a softer approach but you're still secure here," he continued. "Our plan was to integrate technology with physical patrol."

Curran thinks that, for the time being, there's no need for WLU to follow the example set by UW and the WRPS, though he'll be keeping an eye on how the arrangement progresses.

"We have to try new things," he said.

"We're at the level now where I can say that we're a professional organization."

**VOCAL CORD**

"How do you feel about underagers being barred from the Turret nightclub?"



"I'm against it. It's part of the Laurier experience to go there."

**- Mary Beth**  
Fourth-year Business



"It's unfortunate. Most of the first years are underage and they miss out - especially on retro-night."

**- Jamie Richardson**  
Fifth-year Classical Studies



"I'm against it. People are missing out on a big experience here at Laurier."

**- Danielle Inglis**  
Third-year Sociology



"I didn't know it was such a big problem! I'm against it - it's not like the problem of underage drinking will go away now."

**- Chris Silivestra**  
Third-year Business and Computer Science



"It's unfortunate. I understand the problem, but I don't agree with what's happened. I guess they are doing their best though."

**- Dale Hadwen**  
Third-year Business and Computer Science

Compiled by Daniel Joseph  
Photographs by Sydney Helland

# Bar bans underagers

Students under the age of 19 will no longer be allowed entry into the Turret on bar nights

- FROM TURRET, COVER

"The biggest problems have been of-age friends passing on drinks to underagers... Another problem is people coming in intoxicated already, [because] even though...

they haven't had a single drink in our establishment ... it's on us."

"We're not able to take on that big of a risk," said LeFevre.

Director John Champagne, who was a member of the JAC last year and is acting as an advisor on the

council this time around, commented how "seeing all those cases really steered [the decision] in only one direction."

About 70 percent of all the cases addressed by the JAC in the fall semester and 58 percent in the winter (lasting until St. Patrick's Day) dealt with underage drinking offences.

LeFevre went on by saying that simply increasing security at the Turret "was not going to happen" because of the cost involved and the fact that it's simply too difficult to start "policing what happens in the middle of the dance floor."

In response to the situation, WLUSU's Programming and Initiatives Team (PIT Crew) will be teaming up with Residence Life to come up with 'dry' events for first-years to take part in throughout the year.

Laura Sheridan, who is working alongside the group's coordinator Bobby Thompson, listed off numerous events that have already been planned.

Aside from a monthly coffee house at Wilf's, plans include a Snow Cup (a Mission Impossible type of scavenger hunt scheduled for January), Return to 'O' (an O-Week reunion) and a year-end event that Sheridan explained will be "left up to the first-years to design."

"Hopefully the quality [of these events] will be able to draw students as well," noted Sheridan.

LeFevre defended the decision

to continue to allow underage students into Wilf's by saying "incidents at Wilf's are very few and far between because of the atmosphere and the way we are able to have security around."

In respect to concerts being held at Wilf's, an area for drinks will be set aside in the Hawks Nest while alcohol will not be permitted throughout the rest of the venue.

LeFevre is also working on a policy which states that anyone buying a drink at Wilf's would have to show a piece of ID, leading him to admit that WLUSU is "going to be really tight on things."

"We're still trying to figure out how exactly to do it on a Tuesday night, when it's really busy - because showing ID for every drink might be difficult," he said, adding that the solution might involve everyone of age wearing a wristband.

"It's going to be really tight[ly] controlled in Wilf's though," he added.

Having been permitted access, in one form or another for at least 20 years, underagers simply weren't going to the Turret any longer, said LeFevre.

Not once last year did the facility come close to housing its cap of 80 underagers for a bar night.

"We just don't ever hit that cap. Underagers just don't use the Turret," said LeFevre.

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story



SYDNEY HELLAND

**ACCESS DENIED** - Only those 19 and over will be let in the Turret's doors.

# Laurier enrolls record number of first-year students for the fall

- FROM ENROLLMENT, COVER

"Yield rates have been going up every year, and you never know what's going to happen," said Darling.

"You can guess, but the reality is on the May 28 application date in most cases you don't want to be under."

Darling noted that if the school under-enrolls, they run into difficulties with the university's operating budget, as it relies on government funding and tuition from incoming students.

"It's difficult because sometimes you have budget targets that don't match up with other targets," said Darling.

"Residence and classrooms are your two concerns. Are you going to have space for the [students]?"

Horton explained that classroom space has not been an issue this year, as they won't need to utilize the Northdale Campus as they did during the renovation of the Dr. Alvin Woods Building. She also noted that more part-time and

limited-term staff are being hired to meet the 23:1 student to professor ratio.

"On this campus an extra hundred students won't make an enormous difference," said Horton.

"The biggest area is residence and we absolutely need to build more first-year residence space."

Since all first-year Laurier students are guaranteed a bed in residence if they complete their application by the May 28 cutoff, and about 81 percent of first-years generally do, Residential Services is currently seeking ways to accommodate these students.

"Normally we have 2,275 beds in residence for first year students and we had 2,556 applications," explained Mike Belanger, Director of Residential Services.

"We can absorb by internal changes about 180 students" - which include methods such as converting a portion of the living rooms in Laurier Place Residence into double bedrooms and moving graduate and International students to off-campus housing units

- "and past that we're left with 100 students that we're going to have to creatively house in some other way," said Belanger.

To do this the university has converted some units in Bricker Residence, the single room apartment-style residence, into double rooms.

"The solution we all agreed was the most beneficial to students, had the least impact ... and we could manage the best was to put an extra hundred students in Bricker" said Belanger.

In the past, four individuals (each with their own room) shared one of the 75 units in the building, and now five or six individuals will be in each apartment, bumping the number of students living in Bricker up to about 400.

For those students who are willing to voluntarily live in one of the residence's newly created double rooms, they will be able to select the roommate of their choice, pay half-price for the room and receive a brand new laptop computer.

Bricker residence will also be-

come completely wireless so that students can use their computers outside of their bedrooms.

"We thought Bricker is such a popular building and we have so many people who want to be roommates with each other, that if we can combine the two and make them an attractive offer both financially and for other reasons, that we think we can get the majority of these rooms filled voluntarily with students," said Belanger.

Residential Services will not be hiring additional Dons to supervise the extra 100 students in the building, as all parties seem to be "okay with it."

However, Belanger doesn't expect to have more than 300 students, which Bricker was designed to hold, after this year.

"There's a very active group of senior administrators at the campus now who are looking very strategically at how we can increase the residence capacity at the university for 2009 and beyond in a way that would not put us in this predicament next year."

# Copyright Act updated

New changes to the Copyright Act have been greeted with mixed feelings across Canada, but for university students the results will be negative

REBECCA VASLUIANU  
NEWS EDITOR

With the introduction of Bill C-61, — which outlines various amendments to the Copyright Act — in the House of Commons two weeks ago many campus bookstores across Canada worry about the continued overpricing of course materials, as well as the decrease in their accessibility.

According to Chris Tabor, Manager of the Queen's University Bookstore, Bill C-61, which was introduced by Industry Minister Jim Prentice, threatens to maintain old limitations that have kept course books expensive while creating new restrictions which will make it more difficult for students to complete their readings.

As a member of Campus Stores Canada, an organization of almost 100 member stores across Canada and is designed to provide the best quality and services to their associate institutions, Tabor believes that "the copyright act has not been fair to students both academically and financially."

He notes that, after changes made to the 1997 Copyright Act, publishers across Canada have

been given the right to create Canadian import monopolies, making it impossible for bookstores to buy from distributors around the world whose prices may be cheaper.

"In Canada, publishers do two things: publish and distribute. If they have exclusive distribution rights in Canada, the book stores aren't allowed to purchase from cheaper places in the United States, the United Kingdom or others," he stated.

"Students are paying a 10 to 15 percent premium. We believe we can have that decreased by 15 percent overnight just by purchasing from other places in the world like the United Kingdom," he added.

Bill C-61 will keep these high costs in pace, but the amendments made to the Bill will also add detrimental rules regarding the copying of reading material.

These changes would allow creators of the material to put digital locks on their work in order to impose copy restrictions.

In addition, all electronic copies made could be designed to "self-destruct" or delete after five days.

"A lot of copying that could've taken place under principles of fair use will be put into question," stated

Tabor. "I think it's a step backwards and it will make things a lot more confusing."

Tabor notes, however, that the Bill is still in discussion and he will continue to fight for its removal.

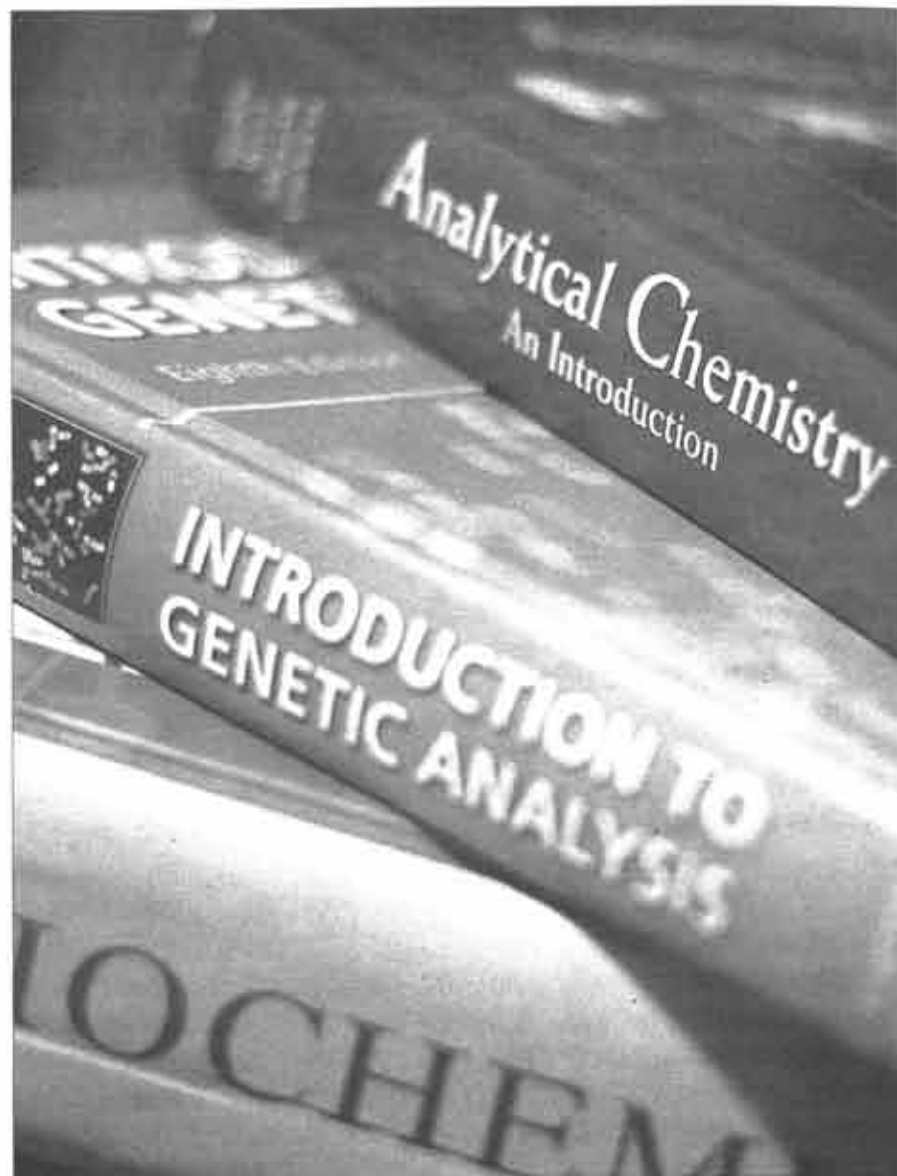
"We've been lobbying the government and individual MPs for the removal of the clause [imposed in 1997]," he said.

"A great many students can be part of the grass roots effort. They could visit faircopyright.ca and there's a great deal of discussion there about the act and how it affects students," he added.

While the Bill may prove harmful to university students, it is also a source of great controversy in Canada in general, as many avidly criticize or support it.

CBCNews.ca writes that one of the greatest problems critics have with the Bill is the strengthening of digital locks by CD makers, DVD makers and even television networks, allowing them to make it impossible for users to copy chosen media.

Moreover, individuals caught illegally uploading to YouTube or a peer-to-peer network could be sued for as much as \$20,000 per file. Many critics also believe that these



LAURA TOMKINS

**BIG BOOKS** - Buying textbooks can be a big expense for students.

new restrictions will take power out of the hands of Canadian individuals and transfer them to the United States and entertainment lobby.

And for members of the entertainment lobby, Bill C-61 will have obvious gains. Canada's video game industry lobby group entitled the Entertainment Software Association of Canada supports the legisla-

tion, as it will serve to keep profits in the hands of game developers and publishers.

Likewise, musicians, moviemakers, record labels and other media creators praise the new Bill, as it could serve to help entertainment industries, giving them back a greater cut of the profit.

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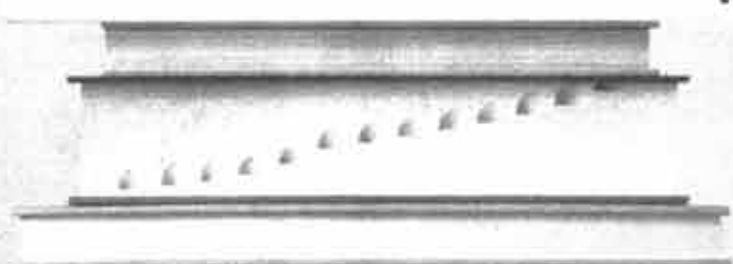
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## NEWSINBRIEF

## WLU professor wins international prize

Dr. Phelim Boyle, a professor of Finance in the School of Business and Economics, was named as a recipient of the London, England-based Institute of Actuaries' Gold Medal at the end of May.

Boyle's Gold Medal is the first to be awarded in a decade, and is only the 13th such award to be given since it was founded in 1919.

Actuaries use complex mathematics to assess the financial impacts of risk and uncertainty. Boyle has an international reputation for his work on options.

In 1977, he wrote a paper presenting the Monte Carlo pricing method for options. The Institute of Actuaries has described this paper as one of the most important financial papers on the topic. The method is still widely used today.

According to the Institute of Actuaries, Boyle has written nearly 100 published papers, written or contributed to several books and is Associate Editor of 10 journals of Finance and Actuarial Science. He was also named Financial Engineer of the Year in 2005.

Boyle held a position at the University of Waterloo before coming to Laurier. He attended Trinity College in Dublin and Queens University in Belfast and has held various international positions, including visiting professorships at Cambridge University, the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Tokyo.

## Lazaridis donates \$50 million to Perimeter

Mike Lazaridis, co-founder of Waterloo-based Research in Motion, announced the donation of \$50 million to the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics at a public lecture at Waterloo Collegiate Institute on June 6.

Ontario Minister of Research and Innovation John Wilkinson was present to recognize the \$65 million of recent provincial investment. The federal government, also a partner of the Perimeter Institute, was recognized for its contributions as well.

The institute was founded by Lazaridis in 1999. Since it opened in 2001, it has housed 85 resident researchers and garnered international attention and acclaim for being a leader in researching theoretical physics.

Lazaridis has donated a total of \$150 million of his money to the institute since it was founded. He currently sits as chair of the institute's board.

## Faculty of Ed. Dean appointed

Dr. Colleen Willard-Holt was named inaugural dean of WLU's Faculty of Education on June 10. Her five-year term begins on July

1. Willard-Holt was a teacher and administrator for over a decade before she completed her PhD in Educational Psychology at Purdue University.

She is currently associate professor of education at Pennsylvania State University in Harrisburg, where she directs the university's initial teacher certification program and coordinates its elementary education program.

Willard-Holt says she was happy to learn of her appointment, and described her next step as getting truly acquainted with her new position.

"I need to learn everything I can about what's going on now, learn the area a little bit - I'm from out of the area - and understand the rules and regulations."

She said that minor changes and modifications have been made for the coming year, but the program will largely continue as planned.

"There's a need for an education program to prepare teachers in the region, so I think that the location is great," Willard-Holt said. She also stated that plans for expansion of the faculty are under discussion.

Laurier's faculty of education opened in September of 2007. It offers a one-year, full-time teacher-education program for teaching at the primary and junior levels.

## Waterloo Region fatter than average

According to Statistics Canada, 54.6 percent of adults in Waterloo Region are overweight. The national average is 48.5 percent.

An even greater difference lies in the number of obese adults: 24.6 percent in Waterloo Region compared to a national average of 16 percent.

Dr. Liana Nolan, Chief Medical Officer of Health for Waterloo Region, described the statistics as alarming to News 590, and said she didn't know the reason for the striking difference between the national average and Waterloo Region statistics.

- Compiled by Jeremy Tremblay

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# Pollock installed as Chancellor

Local businessman suggests a more active role in university interests in his new position at Laurier

JEREMY TREMBLAY  
NEWS EDITOR

John Pollock, a local businessman, was officially installed as chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University at a June 4 ceremony, after being appointed the position in March.

Pollock's family founded Electrohome, a century-old business that was once one of Canada's largest manufacturers of televisions and consumer electronics.

Pollock is currently chair and chief executive officer of the company, which no longer manufactures electronics.

He is well known as a philanthropist in the region, and has been involved with several organizations, including the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery in Waterloo and the Cambridge Memorial Hospital.

The position of chancellor is largely a ceremonial one. The chancellor is the titular head of the university and is involved in ceremonial activities — notably graduation ceremonies.

During a speech at his installation dinner, Pollock commented that awarding diplomas was "a pleasure that [he] will remember all [his] life."

He noted that that the position of Laurier's chancellor has been occupied by high-profile individuals, commenting "I have some big shoes to fill with the predecessors Bob Rae and John Clayhorn."

However, he appeared eager to engage with the Laurier community.

"[The] Chancellor is supposed to be the titular head of the university and involved in ceremonial activity," he said. "However, I think there are some other challenges that should face a chancellor as well."

Pollock highlighted political involvement as an area of concern which he felt the Chancellor is adept to address.

"Regretfully," he said, "govern-

ment funding here in the province of Ontario has been at the lowest level of any province in Canada in terms of post-secondary education and that is something that has to be addressed."

He suggested that the provincial government has begun to recognize "deficiencies" in the current system, and challenged John Milloy, MPP for Kitchener Centre and Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, to work to bring significant improvements to the delivery of post-secondary education in the community.

Dr. Max Blouw, President of Laurier, said that he saw the role of Chancellor remaining the same now that Pollock holds it, though he suggested that one of the benefits of Pollock's appointment is that he is local.

"I think the engagement of the individuals in the role may differ depending on their circumstances," Blouw explained.

"I believe that John Pollock may have, because he's local, a bit more ease in spending some time on the issues of the university and Bob Rae I think found that more difficult given A) the distance and B) his schedule."

Bob Rae, who had been chancellor of WLU since 2003 and was Premier of Ontario from 1990 to 1995, stepped down from the position after being elected to the House of Commons in March.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## CANADA IN BRIEF

### West Bank barrier magnifies religious tension at Carleton

Students from the *Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi)* fraternity at Carleton University have created a wall as a means to simulate the West Bank barrier erected by the Israeli government to separate Palestinians and Israelis.

The move has been the centre of controversy on campus, with certain parties stating that it complies with CUSA (Carleton University Students' Association) stipulations, and other parties stating that the move "promotes hatred between ethnic groups and could likely lead to [aggravated instances of] violence."

In response, another group called SPHR (Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights) launched an event on April 7<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Students Coalition Against War, who claim that the actions of the Jewish fraternity provoked hostility.

The CUSA is allowing both the Jewish fraternity and SPHR to hold their events. While the incident sparked great animosity between the groups, individuals like Angela Sumegi, a professor of religion at Carleton, believe that both sides should have the right to openly express their opinions, stating "as long as we don't demonize each other, as long as we don't dehumanize each other, then we can hold our differences."

- Compiled by Gourav Sathe

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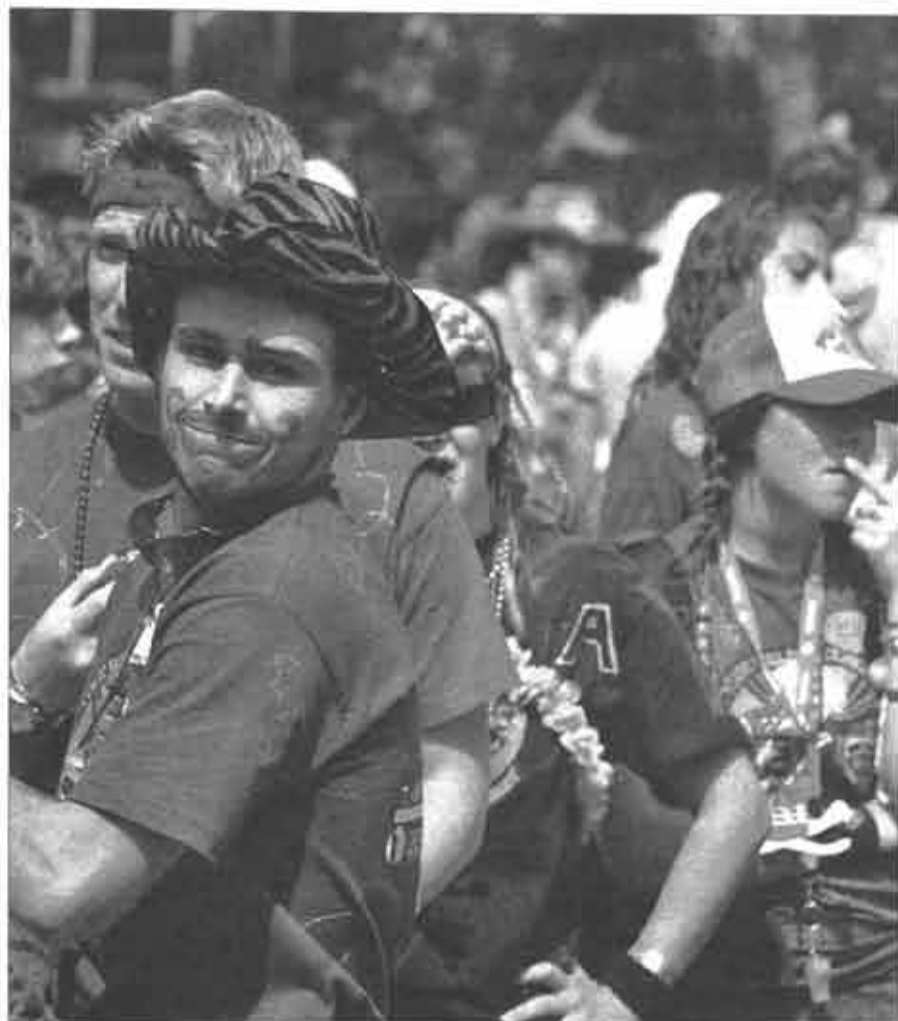
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FILE PHOTOS - LENNA TITZIAN

**RADICAL ORIENTATION** - With LSPIRG providing first-years with the freedom to choose activities that suit them best, O-Week is likely to become a more customized experience.

## LSPIRG offers variety to first-years

During O-Week, a campus group plans to hold complimentary activities to provide additional choices for first-year students

**REBECCA VASLUIANU**  
NEWS EDITOR

This year, Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group (LSPIRG) hopes to diversify the Orientation week experience for first-year students by leading complementary activities in addition to Laurier's traditional Wilfrid Laurier University Students Union (WLUSU) organized events.

While the timing of the two groups' events may conflict at times, Josh Smyth, LSPIRG Board of Directors member and fifth-year political science and economics major, explains that the "Complementary O-Week" is not meant to make students choose one group's

O-Week activities over the other.

"The basic idea is to expand the sort of type of activities offered to students on O-Week, not to compete...but just to recognize that there are a lot of students who want to do something different," states Smyth.

"You won't have to choose [one or the other], the idea is just to expand," he added.

According to Emily Slofstra, Summer Conference Coordinator at LSPIRG and second-year geography major, the incorporation of complimentary activities will allow students the freedom to build their O-week schedule as they choose.

"A lot of us [at LSPIRG] didn't enjoy O-Week that much, but we

would have liked to have some complementary activities that are a little more academic or something where you can sit and meet other people who care about the environment for example," she explained.

"But it's not like you have to come to all the events. You might want to do all of the events of regular O-week and do one or two LSPIRG events."

For students, LSPIRG's Complementary O-Week will be free because all undergraduate students are members of the student group; however, Slofstra notes that the nature of the activities will not be the same as those offered in the WLUSU package.

"The activities will be different..."

instead of having a big on-campus party we might have a coffee house event or something like that," Slofstra said. In regards to LSPIRG's role at Laurier, she added that "It's a working group model so the main thing that we do is the students may have an idea of an event they want to do and we try to run it on campus."

Also, unlike WLUSU's O-week, LSPIRG's events will not necessarily have the central goal of supporting Cystic Fibrosis (CF) research. Slofstra explained that while some working groups of LSPIRG may have specific charities they fundraise for, these may vary from group to group.

On the whole, she notes that one

of the central aims of a Complementary O-week is to involve first-year students in the general goal of social change.

"We hope to get students to recognize that there is that element of a desire for social change on campus, so we get first year students who are focussed on that sort of movement and see that there are upper-years who are also interested in it," said Slofstra.

For updates on LSPIRG's Complementary O-week visit [lspirg.ca](http://lspirg.ca) or email [info@lspirg.ca](mailto:info@lspirg.ca).

## Shine on you crazy diamond

The coordinator of Shinerama 2008 sits down with *The Cord* to discuss this year's themes and goals

**REBECCA VASLUIANU**  
NEWS EDITOR

Though it's the middle of summer, nearly three months before O-week 2008, the Shinerama planning committee is already hard at work preparing this year's charity event led by first year students in support of research for Cystic Fibrosis (CF).

An event that began over 40 years and boasts 60 participating college and university campuses, Shinerama has risen over \$18.5 million altogether and a record-breaking \$985,638 in 2007.

The impressive fundraising of Shinerama is realized through the actions of volunteers, first years and community members who do everything from shining cars and shoes, holding barbeques and other inventive activities.

Yet Shinerama Coordinator Monika Mistry, a fourth-year psy-

chology major, explains that the goal of the event is not just raising money.

"Our focus isn't really on the financial aspect," states Mistry.

"Of course we want to fund the research, but we don't any more have financial goals because the emphasis is to really create a positive experience for volunteers and help them realize that every little thing they do matters."

According to Mistry, the planning committee has come up with a theme for this year's Shinerama that has two parts.

Mistry explains that the first part of the theme which is called "You make me want to shine" is meant to empower others and allow them to see how much they inspire other people.

"People who live with CF every day, they make us want to shine and looking at the first year students

and volunteers and how much they help, that makes us want to shine too," states Mistry.

"Everybody has their reason to make us want to shine," she adds.

The second part of the theme, Mistry says, is entitled "Simple actions make a difference" and it is designed to make individuals see that their actions can make a huge impact on the world.

She offers the success of Shinerama as an example.

"It was one person's idea 40 years ago and now it's a huge campaign across Canada that raises almost a million dollars every year," Mistry notes.

While this year's event is still in its planning stages, Mistry states that one of the changes the committee will be looking to make this year is incorporating more individuals with CF.

"All the people in the [Athletic

Complex], how much they care, we hope we can incorporate more people with CF to show them that," states Mistry.

As event coordinator, Mistry is eager to see how this year's Shinerama unfolds, stating, "it's a huge part of our culture at Laurier, it's a huge source of pride for us because we started it and it's really exciting to see."

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# Do you really need a car?

As gas prices skyrocket across Canada, the cost of operating a vehicle is becoming increasingly expensive, and the region is looking for ways to allow students to navigate their way around the city without a car

**LAURA CARLSON**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

The reason why Alana Peer doesn't have a car at university is simple.

"To be honest, I can't afford one," said Peer, a fifth-year student at Laurier.

And while Peer completes her triple major in history, medieval studies and classics, she says that getting around the city without a vehicle is just fine.

"I don't mind not being able to drive at all."

Peer lives about a 15-minute walk from campus, and if she can't walk to her destination, such as when she wants to go to the mall, she opts for the bus.

"The Laurier community and the things I need are fairly close by," she said.

Though Peer notes that having a car can be beneficial in particular situations, generally speaking she thinks that students are quite capable of travelling around the city without a vehicle.

"I know that having one sometimes is a bit of a perk ... but generally speaking I don't really think you need a car."

As the manager of Park-

ing and Transportation Resources at Laurier, Mary Basler deals first-hand with students who are trying to determine if they need a vehicle while they are at school.

While Basler notes that transportation requirements are determined on a case-to-case basis, she also finds that many students can

**"I KNOW HAVING ONE SOMETIMES IS A BIT OF A PERK ... BUT GENERALLY SPEAKING I DON'T THINK YOU NEED A CAR."**

**- Alana Peer, fifth-year Laurier student**

get to campus without a car.

"You sit down and talk to the students about their needs," said Basler.

"[And often] you say 'You don't need to buy that vehicle, you do not need to have all those extra costs.'"

Yet even if a student decides they want a vehicle, being able to park it on campus is another issue.

Permits at the university typically sell out quite quickly, as there are only 412 passes available for commuters - and you must live at least

two kilometers from campus to obtain one of these - as well as an additional 251 spots for those living in residence.

However, Basler is willing to work personally with students struggling to find their way to campus, and will issue parking permits in cases where alternate modes of transportation are not possible.

"I think certainly the region is moving forward with transit and other initiatives, but in the meantime we've got this gap here that we can't just say 'you can't

bring your car'."

Basler notes that the university is striving to offer additional transportation services to students, such as the possibility of introducing car and bike share programs.

"We're Parking and Transportation Resources," said Basler.

"You can't sit back as a department and say 'we're just going to sell parking permits,' we have to adapt as a university."

As part of such an effort, from June 2 to 6, WLU took part in the Commuter Challenge, an annual event which encourages individuals to use alternative methods of transportation.

"The Commuter Challenge is a one-week event that's hosted every year across Canada

to try and get people out of their cars, driving alone," explained K a r a

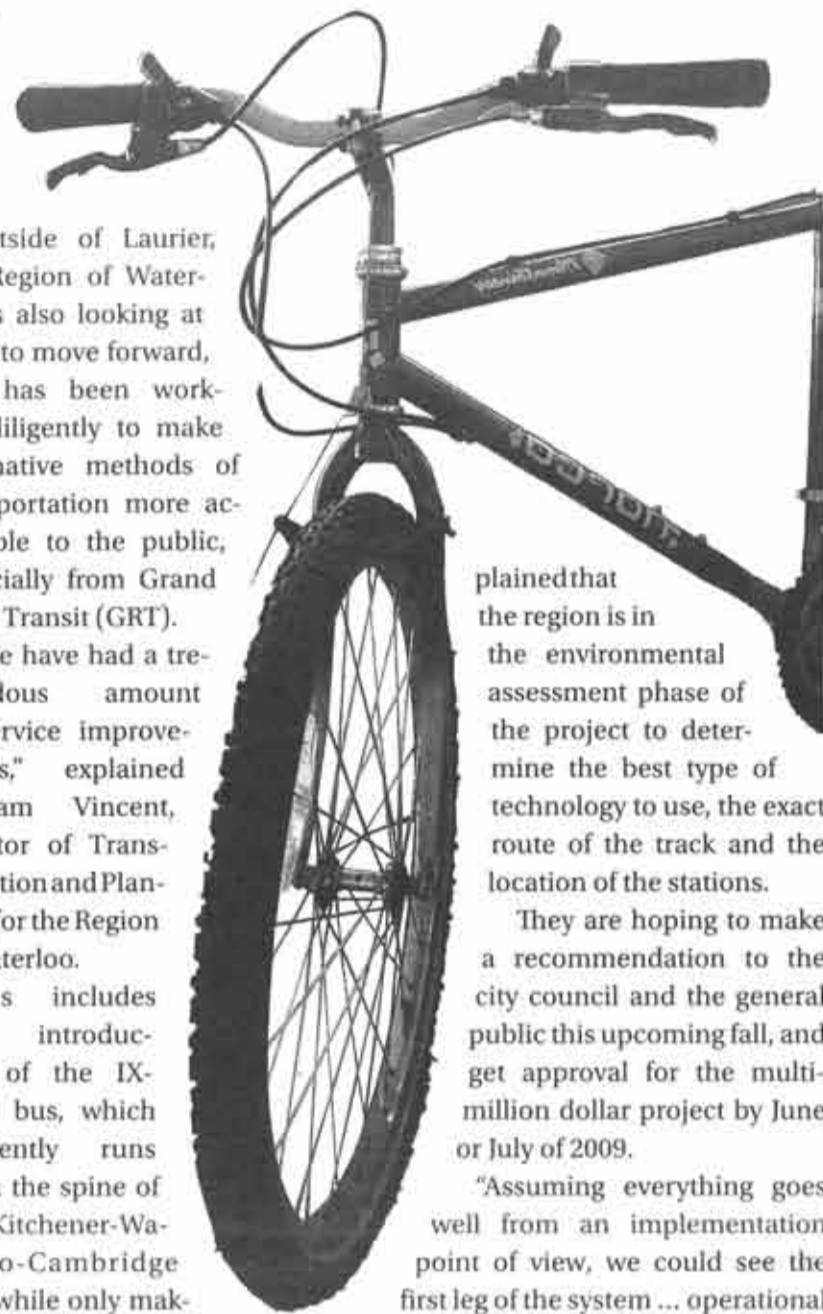
Singbeil, a student planner for the region and co-ordinator of the Commuter Challenge in Waterloo.

"People are realizing that it is possible to take other modes of transportation," she added.

Across Waterloo 76 businesses and over 2000 individuals were involved in the event, and with a 20 percent participation rate WLU came in first place for the 500 plus employee category.

However, Basler noted that this attitude towards sustainable transportation shouldn't end when the event does.

"You can't just say one week of the year ... 'oh great we've done something,' you have to keep going and you have to keep pushing it forward," she added.



plained that the region is in the environmental assessment phase of the project to determine the best type of technology to use, the exact route of the track and the location of the stations.

They are hoping to make a recommendation to the city council and the general public this upcoming fall, and get approval for the multi-million dollar project by June or July of 2009.

"Assuming everything goes well from an implementation point of view, we could see the first leg of the system ... operational by 2013," said Serreti.

While improvements in public transit may be the most fiscal transportation investment the region is focusing on right now, Vincent notes that they are also looking at other ways to aid people without a car.

"We're increasing the cycling network and also working on pedestrian networks as well, because those are two key areas to encourage other forms of transportation," said Vincent.

Peter Carr, the store manager of McPhail's Cycle and Sports, a bike shop located near the university, feels that the city is becoming more conducive to cyclists with initiatives such as additional trails, as well as bike lanes on roads.

This, combined with skyrocketing gas prices, means that Carr is seeing an influx of bike sales.

"[Business] is pretty good right now," said Carr. "With the price of gas we're finding a lot of people are commuting ... I would say there is a direct correlation."

Carr also noted other factors influencing the increasing number of cyclists in the area, such as a pilot project launched in November making bikes and safety equipment sales tax exempt, and the improving riding conditions for cyclists.

"For getting around the city and with the price of gas and parking issues that associate with the university, you get around quickly with a bike," said Carr.

"I definitely consider that [cycling] would be a better lifestyle than having a car."

Outside of Laurier, the Region of Waterloo is also looking at ways to move forward, and has been working diligently to make alternative methods of transportation more accessible to the public, especially from Grand River Transit (GRT).

"We have had a tremendous amount of service improvements," explained Graham Vincent, director of Transportation and Planning for the Region of Waterloo.

This includes the introduction of the IXpress bus, which frequently runs down the spine of the Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge area while only making limited stops, new routes and more frequent service.

"Since we started implementing the transit service improvements we've actually increased ridership by 52 percent since 2000," noted Vincent.

In addition to this, GRT officially launched the EasyGO system on June 6, which Vincent explains is a "suite of technology" aimed to make planning trips easier, through things such as a 'next bus' call and text system and real-time 'next arrival' displays at IXpress stops.

"What's important to riders is convenience and reliability ... so by providing this information it helps people reduce their wait times and the time of their total trip," said Vincent.

And as a result of a 2005 referendum, full-time undergraduate students at Laurier have unlimited access to the GRT with the Universal Transit Pass (UPASS).

Students pay a mandatory fee of \$41.58 per term, and their OneCard serves as a bus pass.

"[Public Transit] is still a very economical way to get around," said Vincent. "We've introduced the UPASS to both Laurier and the University of Waterloo to help provide inexpensive transportation to students."

However, GRT isn't only interested in improving bus services. Currently, the Region of Waterloo is in the midst of designing a 35-kilometre rapid transit system, which will link Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge.

"Donna Serreti, project director of the Rapid Transit Initiative ex-



PHOTOS BY SYDNEY HELLAND

# Plight of the people

The Mautam phenomenon that hits Mizoram, India every fifty years has struck once again. In 2008, the effects of the famine are once again disastrous



ALISON SCHOFIELD

**MANAGING THE MOUNTAINS** - With increased rice prices and a famine in the midst, the already close-knit communities of Aizawl, Mizoram bond together in times of need.

**ALISON SCHOFIELD**  
INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM  
GRANT RECIPIENT

A family of seven in the North Eastern state of Mizoram, India sits down for a slightly untraditional meal. What's so unorthodox about the menu? A rather large Asian rat. For the last year, the Mizo people have literally been eating their enemy.

Currently, there are hundreds of thousands of people in the rural villages of Mizoram that are starving to death because of a natural phenomenon known as Mautam or 'bamboo death.' During this process the predominant species of bamboo in the state flowers all at once, produce a fruit and begin to die. Then, inexplicably, the rat population increases dramatically. Of the close to one million people living in the state of Mizoram it is estimated that there were 10 million rats during this cycle of Mautam.

Most of the rats have now gone west into the jungles of Bangladesh, where the bamboo crops the villagers planted, and rely on for rice, are still flowering. These rats don't just eat the rice though; they will eat any ground vegetables and even banana trees. The impact they have left on the people of Mizoram is profound.

"We have not eaten more than fruit and vegetables in weeks," a

Mizo man of the Chakma tribe said last month. "My family is hungry and I have nothing to give them."

But this famine, which started at the end of 2007, may have been completely preventable. One of the reasons why Mautam is considered a natural phenomenon is because - without fail - it occurs every 48 to 50 years. The last famine lasted up to ten years after the bamboo flowered; the death toll from starvation during that time is unknown.

Up until 1958 when the last famine began, Tim Morgan, project director of the Global Youth Network Mizoram Team, said many locals believed that Mautam was just folklore.

So, there were no preparations for the famine of '58 and few were made for the famine currently ravaging the state. Even more surprising is that the government — both state and national — have done little to prepare for Mautam themselves.

The people of Mizoram have always been culturally isolated from the rest of the Indian population. One might not even notice the North Eastern "arm of India" that rests between Bangladesh and Myanmar on a world map, which is where Mizoram is situated. The people of Mizoram are a very distinct people that cross between Indian and Chinese descent.

The state is almost entirely Chris-

tian, which sets them apart from the rest of the country which many Hindus and Buddhists call home. To add to their isolation, the Mizos also speak their own language along with many other tribal dialects that are not spoken in the rest of India.

Unfortunately during this famine the Mizos are getting little more than blank stares back from their government. The central Indian government is subsidizing the price of rice to make it more affordable for the Mizo people, but most of the people worst affected by the famine, live in the remote jungles of the state and cannot afford even this basic food. Because of their isolation and differences from the rest of the Indian nation, this state of India is often neglected by the central government.

The Mizoram state government is doing even less. The money the government had set aside to aid those in the famine after the last one began fifty years ago was spent in other areas unknown to the people in suffering.

"Those who are here [with aid] are here in revolt," a village elder said. "In revolt for how the people are being treated by their government."

One initiative that was started by the government was to place a bounty on rats. For every jungle rat-tail brought into the govern-

ment office, people are given two Rupees (the equivalent of about five cents).

This initiative would do little to decrease the rat population in the state, but was a way for farmers and others who lost their means of survival to make some money. However, they would need to be killing hundreds of rats on a weekly basis in order to feed their families. And these rats are not easily hunted, inhabiting jungles far from human settlements.

There have been varying estimates of the approximate amount of people that central and state governments are acknowledging as being affected by the famine throughout India and Bangladesh. Morgan, who frequents between Canada and Mizoram and spearheaded plans to aid the famine before it began, believes that to say that even 800,000 people are affected by Mautam across these borders would be a conservative estimate.

In dire need of more aid, the Mizo people are known for their incredible warmth and sense of community. As Morgan explained, "When you are Mizo if a distant cousin shows up on your doorstep, you invite him in, feed him, and give him a place to sleep. If a total stranger shows up, the Mizo people must show them the same courtesy."

As for the rats, most have left Mizoram for Bangladesh where the

bamboo is still flowering. Tested for diseases when the famine first began, these grain-fed rats are completely edible because they have been eating food the Mizos had intended for themselves. With the departure of the rats, the rural Mizo people are being left with literally no food, and many may have to make a long trek to the closest city by foot or they will perish in their villages from starvation.

Without even rats for consumption, and a lack of national and international attention, the people of Mizoram may see even more suffering in the years to come.

"It is hard to have hope," a Mizo woman said of the famine in her state, "But faith, we have."

*Alison Schofield, along with 14 other Laurier students, volunteered with the Global Youth Network in May to bring food aid to 4000 people suffering from the famine in Mizoram.*

*For more information on the GYN, visit [www.globalyouthnetwork.ca](http://www.globalyouthnetwork.ca).*

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### Mizoram Mautam

Read back through Alison Schofield's India blog and check out exclusive photos.



**UNITED BY FAMINE** - (Left) Villagers discuss which families among them are most in need of an extra supply of rice. (Right) In a village near Chawngte, children are too hungry to play.

PHOTOS BY ALISON SCHOFIELD



# Economist looks at malnutrition

Vice President: Academic Sue Horton's proposal to cure world malnutrition has been ranked as the number one solution among global problems

ALEX HAYTER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A research paper written by Wilfrid Laurier University's VP: Academic Sue Horton has been chosen as the highest priority solution to welfare issues in today's world.

Copenhagen Consensus, a project that seeks to prioritize advancements in global welfare economics, chose Horton's challenge paper entitled "Hunger and Malnutrition," which was written with the assistance of Harold Alderman of the World Bank and Juan A. Rivera of the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico.

A panel of economic experts – including five Nobel Laureates – selected combating malnutrition as the number one challenge in front of nine other areas. "It was pretty exciting to hear that I had managed to convince them," said Horton, speaking in her office during a lull between the media attention of her topic's selection and the busyness of WLU Convocation week.

Horton's paper suggests that with just \$60 million a year, 80 percent of the world's 140 million malnour-

ished children could be provided with essential micronutrients in order to boost health and economic stability in developing countries.

Challenge areas that Horton's paper defeated include "Education," "Global Warming" and "Conflicts," as well as other categories. But Horton felt that her topic was an easy sell. "Let's be fair – what can be more important than nutrition?" she asked. "Poor people spend 80 percent of their income on food."

"Whereas I'd love to take the credit myself, it's the topic itself that people recognized as being really important," she continued.

Horton says that the topic of nutrition is something that she is extremely passionate about, and describes Canada as a "world leader" in nutrition research.

The micronutrients that her paper describes are simply the "things that you need in very small quantities to keep you healthy," said Horton, referencing the information gleaned from the side of a cereal box. "Eat your vegetables!" laughed Horton, echoing the typical sentiments of parents across the globe.

Horton feels gratified to see that

her work is having an impact on world governance. "Most scientists work on such an abstract level that you don't actually see it going into policy," said Horton. "So it's really cool to actually have that happen."

"One thing it points [out] is that interdisciplinary work is really interesting and it's where the cutting-edge is."

Horton has been researching in the field of nutrition for the last six years, but her interest goes back to her time as a Graduate student. While at Harvard, she spent a summer working with the World Bank, assisting in the development of health projects. Combining economics with health – "Wow, that would be neat," she thought at the time, and has been doing it ever since.

Many of Horton's peers have been perplexed by her focus on health, rather than economics, in studies. Her fellow students spent most of their time on advanced economic theory. "What was I doing? I was spending six months [working] on the economics of diarrhea," she laughed.

"Instead of co-authoring things



ALEX HAYTER

**NUTRITION EXPERT** - Sue Horton challenges global malnutrition.

with people in economics, typically I co-author with nutritionists, epidemiologists, medical doctors, or anthropologist," said Horton. "Often the most exciting work requires

people from different disciplines." Stepping down from her role as Laurier's VP: Academic at the end of the summer, Horton plans to dive headfirst into her research.

# Elite panel of Canadian journalists speak at CIGI

Canadian foreign affairs reporters discuss their personal experiences, tricks of the trade and the dangers of world journalism

HEATHER MACDONALD  
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

The Canadian International Council (CIC) presented a roundtable discussion to its members at CIGI on Tuesday, June 17. Special guests included four foreign correspondents from CTV, the Toronto Star and Maclean's along with moderator Rick MacInnes-Rae, host of CBC's *Dispatches*.

MacInnes-Rae opened the night by asking "why foreign coverage was important?" The four pan-

elists spoke passionately about each of their unique careers, essentially stating why their job was necessary.

"Everybody in the world is connected," said Olivia Ward, Toronto Star foreign affairs writer. "Canada is a country of the world," she claimed as the panel discussed immigration and diversity in Canada.

Tom Clark, CTV's Washington Bureau Chief, spoke on the importance of international news to Canadians, saying that "international news is becoming local

news" because of the direct effect on Canadians.

When asked to speak of their experiences of being pushed to the furthest point of empathy, each journalist in attendance had a difficult story to tell, all of which revolved around war.

For senior writer for Maclean's magazine, Michael Petrou, the most emotionally difficult story in his career thus far was also his first big assignment.

Petrou was one of the first Canadians to enter Afghanistan after

September 11, 2001. Being the naïve young journalist he was, Petrou befriended a local but it wasn't until he was being separated from his new friend in order to reach safety, that he realized how attached he had become.

Petrou spoke of his desire to bring along the locals he knew were being left to die as he was flown to safer grounds. He couldn't bear the thought of leaving behind his newfound friend, and eventually managed to convince the authorities to save the man's life.

After saving only one friend, Petrou realized just how cynical many journalists become after witnessing atrocities. "You get used to it," he stated after describing stories of leaving innocent people behind in war-torn areas.

Most people criticize the negativity that seems to dominate the media today but all four panelists agreed that "conflict sells," as Petrou nervously admitted.

Lisa LaFlamme, National Affairs Correspondent for CTV National News explained the need to tell the truth through journalism: "Water nothing down - show exactly what it is."

When the panel was asked about the emergence of technology in the media, they were torn. With blogs so readily available for any amateur writer, Clark felt that this "new media" was merely "noise."

LaFlamme and Ward felt that because of newly required "instant deadlines," the new media can be

helpful, yet it pushes journalists to "file stories immediately," meaning that most stories are created with an outcome already in the writer's head prior to reaching the destination of coverage.

Petrou gave a resounding "yes" when asked by MacInnes-Rae if technology was "all good" because it puts "news in a larger number of hands." He explained that there was no need to worry about receiving valid news because the "cream rises to the top."

LaFlamme, a Kitchener native and apparent audience favourite of the night, spoke on behalf of most journalists in saying that "journalism is a drug." She, along with the rest of the panel have been through a lot in their young careers already and have seen many horrifying things – in spite of this, they continue.

After a long-winded explanation of the psychological toll journalism has on many people, LaFlamme claimed the only therapy she's needed from her job is the job itself.

LaFlamme laughed as she told the audience that the best medicine for dealing with the horrific events she's seen, is to "talk a lot," nodding towards her family seated at the front.

The foreign correspondence panel, "Reporting the World to Canadians," was the final CIGI public lecture series of the summer. Public events will resume in September.



SYDNEY HELLAND

**TOP REPORTERS** - Petrou, Ward, Clark, LaFlamme and MacInnes-Rae disagree on the future of journalism.

# Looking forward to Africa's future

Tk Azaglo, a Ghanaese International student, shares his experiences and the passion he feels for humanity since moving to Canada



SYDNEY HELLAND

**TK AZAGLO** - An inspirational student, looking to change the world.

**HEATHER MACDONALD**  
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

Anyone who attended Senator Lieutenant-General (retired) Roméo Dallaire's visit to Laurier last March likely remembers the Q&A period at the end of his presentation. The last student to ask a question was Tk Mawuli Azaglo. Upon opportunity, Tk asked Dallaire what he thought the future of Africa was.

After some discussion, Dallaire essentially decided that Africans had to be the future and change for Africa. It was then that Tk, an international student from Ghana replied, "Senator Dallaire, I am the future of Africa."

This inspirational statement has likely stayed with many people since that night and it doesn't end there. Tk Azaglo's passion for changing the lives of Africans goes beyond one statement; it pours out of him with every word he speaks.

As a second year student in Global Studies and Political Science, Tk didn't know much about his own country until he left Ghana in August 2005 to attend school in Canada. It wasn't until he heard a Canadian speaker talk about AIDS in Africa, at the Global Citizenship Conference, that he found his deep love for Africa.

"Ever since I discovered my passion, everywhere I go, people I talk to, I see something in them. They fire you; they motivate you to go forward and it's nice."

But Tk didn't always feel so en-

couraged by the people around him when he came to Laurier. Dealing with culture shock and the feeling that everyone was staring was a difficulty Tk had to face. As he became more comfortable speaking in class, it became easier.

Because tuition for international students is significantly higher than for local students, Tk is working at a food company for the summer. But, his dreams span much higher than that.

Tk left Ghana in search of a better education than he saw back home and chose Canada because of its high level of education and reputation for peacefulness.

"When you go to lectures to discuss, they teach you how to think, but it's not like that back home. They just spoon feed you [information] but here you can apply things on your own and it can still be correct."

Still, Tk claims, "I'm not here for the degree, I'm here for the knowledge I'm getting from Laurier."

Besides the difference in education, Tk has noticed a difference in the way people treat each other and what their main focus is.

"If there's something wrong with you back home, there are people there for you and people who don't even know you are willing to help... here it's hard to find people like that... Everyone thinks of themselves."

Tk aspires to give back to his home community in the future by working for NGOs: building

schools, hospitals and community centres in Africa. He would also like to work for the UN some day if conditions are right.

But while Tk is getting his education at Laurier, he is thinking of ways to encourage students to make a change rather than just talk about it.

He has ideas for a Laurier peace festival in which students would donate time and money, becoming a part of a certain cause, such as poverty or AIDS.

Inspired by Laurier alumnus Ayiko Solomon, Tk hopes to set up a program in which students can live with host families in various African countries to see first-hand how they can help.

An optimist, Tk dreams of a world where "everyone gives wholeheartedly and expects nothing in return."

Echoing the emotion displayed at Dallaire's address, Tk feels that there's one human quality that can help people to achieve such dreams. "If you have a passion and you believe you can do something, you can do it."

## CORD/ONLINE

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

### Talking with Tk

Read a transcript of Heather MacDonald's interview with Tk online.

# A free trip to Israel — but what's the catch?

**Keren Gottfried** reconnects with her family history through an all-expenses paid, 10-day trip to Israel in the month of June



**KEREN GOTTFRIED**  
RESIDENT GADFLY

I have always had a personal connection to Israel. I spent the first three years of my life there, all of my relatives live there, and two weeks ago I participated in a 10-day, highly intensive tour of the country. The tour took me to many of its diverse regions, visiting and learning about its people, historical sites, and geographical phenomena. And I didn't pay a dime.

My trip was created by Taglit-Birthright Israel, an organization financed by philanthropists, community organizations and the Israeli government. Since its inception about a decade ago, Birthright has hosted over 165,000 Jewish North Americans from the age of 18 to 26. The organization seeks to unite the Jewish Diaspora by influencing an entire generation.

As an atheist Jew, I joined the trip to get a free ticket to Israel. I was not in it for the Jewish party. Before the trip I braced myself for the worst:

anticipating Zionist preaching, religious ceremonies, and rose-coloured discussions about Israel's role in the Middle Eastern conflict. I was waiting for the catch.

Instead, I was given an experience with 39 other Canadians, many of whom I was able to relate to very quickly. I stood on the top of Masada to greet the sunrise. I listened to an Israeli soldier tell me about her family's emigration from Ethiopia. I visited Jerusalem and saw the separation fence, blocking off contact from the West Bank. It was a trip to remember, and I walked away with mostly positive experiences.

One negative experience occurred on our trip to visit a Bedouin tent, the nomadic Muslim group that settled due to the creation of state borders. We were told about the great relationship between the Bedouin people and the Israeli government. When I asked about unrecognized Bedouin shanty towns, I was treated with repulsion. I felt the frustration you might feel if someone denied that Canadians oppress their Aboriginal population.

I can deal with Zionist and Jewish suggestions; I knew what I was



KEREN GOTTFRIED

**A LAND SHOFAR AWAY** - A local man tries to sell his products to market shoppers in Tzfat, Israel.

getting into by signing up for the trip. My biggest criticism of the program is its "make Jewish babies" mandate. This mandate combats the issue of assimilation, where Jews marry non-Jews and shrink an already small religion. Birthright seeks to get Jews together. If two participants meet on a trip and get married, Birthright flies them to Israel for the honeymoon.

This mandate means that leaders keep less of a watchful eye on

Canadian-Israeli matches. The Israeli medic on our trip engaged in sexual activity with more than one participant, and spent less time guiding and more time walking with one woman at a time.

He was removed in the last days of the trip. Since Birthright I have befriended other Israelis who have worked as medics, and they admitted that many medics discuss the "action" they get by joining the tour groups.

Although I am critical of these other elements of the Taglit-Birthright program, I am ultimately grateful for the experience. I not only received a free flight, but I also made genuine friendships, learned a lot from a remarkable tour guide, experienced the incredible beauty of the country and began to learn about its conflicts. My connection to Israel and the Middle East has never been stronger.

WORLD IN BRIEF

US & South Korean officials meet in beef trade

South Korean trade minister Kim Jong-hoon and US trade representative Susan Schwab, met in Washington on June 13 to launch talks over the resumption of American beef shipments to South Korea.

The US is unwilling to renegotiate the April agreement with South Korea to accept US beef under international trade safety rules. Jong-hoon is expected to seek that all beef imported is slaughtered at under 30 months, as instances of mad cow disease increase with age.

The US insists there will be no free-trade agreement with South Korea unless they lift the restrictions on beef, though American companies are willing to label beef according to age.

South Korea was America's third-largest beef market, but banned imports after mad cow disease was detected in American beef in 2003.

Ireland vetoes Lisbon treaty

Friday, June 12 - The EU Lisbon Treaty was vetoed by Irish voters. 14 of 27 European Union nations have ratified the reform treaty in parliament; remaining nations are encouraged to continue the ratification process. Unanimous approval by all 27 nations

is required.

Only Ireland's constitution requires the treaty to be brought to popular vote. Of the large turnout of 53.1 percent voters, 53.4 percent rejected the treaty.

Designed to increase the power of European and national governments, voters rejected the treaty as a threat to Irish independence.

The Lisbon Treaty will either be dropped, renegotiated or brought to a second referendum in Ireland.

In 2001, the Nice Treaty was vetoed by Ireland, revised with an appendix asserting Ireland's independence and was then passed upon revote in 2002. It is doubted whether this process would be effective a second time.

The European Commission will determine its course of action at the Brussels Summit on June 19-20.

Nigerian police crack illicit baby trafficking ring

Doctor Kenneth Akunne has been arrested for baby trafficking from his Uzuoma Clinic in Enugu. Twenty pregnant women aged 18-20 were arrested with him.

Akunne has been buying infants from pregnant women and selling them for profit for over 20 years. Babies are bought for \$300-420 US, and sold for \$ 2,880 US.

Nigeria has a strict adoption policy and il-

licit baby farms have become an increasing issue.

Baby selling is an illegal option for adolescent pregnancies; rights groups claim that babies' body parts are used in rituals conducted by witch doctors or used in welfare fraud schemes throughout Europe.

Transporters in Jammu & Kashmir call off strike

The four-day strike over a fuel price hike in Jammu and Kashmir was called off Friday, June 13. The strike left commuters stranded with 100,000 vehicles off the roads.

The transporters were demanding a 50 percent hike in passenger fare which has not been raised since 2005. The government agreed to raise fare by 14 percent, remove of the passenger tax, abolish service charges, and levy the welfare tax. Fares will be reviewed next April.

Clinton backs Obama

Senator Hilary Clinton has suspended her campaign to become the democratic nominee for President, asking her 18 million supporters to unite behind Barack Obama. Obama has thanked Clinton for her support and her encouragement to American women.

Clinton was the first female candidate to run for presidency, while Obama is the first African-American candidate. By suspending her campaign Clinton can continue to raise funds, control the delegates she won, and re-enter the campaign, though she has shown no intentions of doing so.

Compiled by Rebekah Ludolph.



OBAMA - US Democratic nominee.

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# How to be hydrated

The Cord asks experts how athletes can best avoid dehydration in the hot summer months

**LAURA CARLSON**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

With the summer weather heating up, athletes engaging in strenuous activity face serious health risks if they don't take the proper precautions to stay hydrated.

According to a report released in 2007 by the Center for Catastrophic Injury Research, 33 football players in the United States have died from heat stroke since 1995. 25 of the deaths occurred at the high school level, five at the college, two at the professional and one at the casual level.

Dr. Douglas Casa, Director of Athletic Training Education at the University of Connecticut, has been conducting research related to heat and hydration with athletes for the past 15 years, and explains that staying hydrated is one of the primary ways to avoid serious health risks such as heat strokes and heat cramps.

There are three primary reasons why staying hydrated is important for athletes.

"One, to either maintain or enhance performance. Two would be to maintain or enhance psycho-

logical functions ... and third would be reducing your health risks," said Casa.

Casa explains that a person's individual sweat rate is what determines their fluid needs, and that this is greatly affected by the intensity of the exercise session as well as the environmental conditions.

"In the summer months if someone tries to do something hard and in hot weather, that's when they're going to have their highest sweat rate," said Casa.

Casa recommends that individuals have personalized hydration plans, as two individuals doing the exact same physical activity in the same conditions will lose different amounts of fluid based on their personal sweat rate.

"You have to have a good feel of what your own individual hydration rates are; you can't just go based on public recommendations," said Casa.

In order to determine your sweat rate, weigh yourself naked before going out for an hour of hard exercise and then weigh yourself again. However much weight you have lost during this time (assuming you haven't drunk anything or urinat-



GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION

**WET N' WILD** - According to athletic trainers, sports stars need to pay attention to how thirsty they are.

ed) is what your fluid loss is.

Casa recommends drinking one litre of water for every kilogram you lose, and switching to sports drinks if your activity lasts for over an hour.

Simply listening to your thirst is a general parameter for monitoring your hydration, but Casa says that this may not be sufficient because often during intense exercise your thirst might not keep up with your fluid needs. Instead Casa recommends looking at your urine colour.

"If it looks like apple juice you're probably dehydrated, if it's resembling lemonade you're probably doing a pretty good job of staying hydrated," said Casa.

Casa explains that during certain sports it is especially difficult to maintain hydration in, particularly soccer because players are on the field for a long time, and football

because of the equipment load and the size of some of the players.

Teresa Hussey, a certified athletic therapist and trainer for the Laurier football team says that Laurier Athletics takes the issue of hydration very seriously. They ensure water is always available for the athletes and that they are aware of the effects of dehydration.

"Our biggest thing is just making sure that everybody is educated about it," said Hussey.

"You've got to have coaches on board ... you can't have the philosophy that 'you can't have water' it's got to be something that you have to give [the players] constant access to it and it has to be something that everybody agrees on," she added.

Although Hussey and the other trainers do what they can to educate the players, she says that actually getting them to drink enough fluids can be a "constant battle."

"Just telling them to drink water, they won't listen to you, but if you get it into their head that they'll actually perform better, that's what they're looking for," said Hussey.

Hussey notes that there have been several game situations where they have had to pull players because they were getting heat cramps, which is a side effect of dehydration.

"In that case we have to shut them down. We pull them from the game, and they're done. Generally that only happens once to them and they realize it's a little bit more important," said Hussey.

"Dehydration will affect their performance ... We notice it, the coaches notice it, by the end of practice, by the end of games, you can just see the exhaustion starting to set in."

## WLU intramurals nationally recognized

Laurier receives Canadian Intramural Recreation Association award for the development of the intramural program

**TREVOR SCHEIDEL**  
CORD SPORTS

The department of Athletics and Recreation of Wilfrid Laurier's Waterloo campus has been acknowledged for its intramural programming during the 2007/2008 season.

Laurier's Athletic and Recreation Department has been rewarded with the Outstanding Intramural Achievement Award by the Canadi-

an Intramural Recreation Association (CIRA). Diverse choices of intramural and recreational activities as well as a vast amount of students working in leadership positions are contributing factors to receiving this award. These characteristics of the department have not gone unnoticed by fellow peers and ultimately the CIRA.

"This award really is a reflection more on the type of student leaders

the program has," said Peter Baxter, Director of Athletics and Recreation. "Because that's where the ideas and energy come from."

This is the first year that Laurier's Waterloo campus was honoured with this award, but the program has made great strides over the last decade.

"When I came here ten years ago, [intramurals and recreation] was more of a staff-driven program and it didn't adapt to new trends," Baxter said. "With students being involved, they know the likes and dislikes of [other] students, and they can really change things."

And change things they certainly have. Since 2003, intramural participation has grown by 164 teams. Not only is there a commitment to increased participation, but a constant effort to promote female involvement is evident through the many dance classes, special interest courses, and exciting co-ed leagues. Dance classes alone have had participation increase by 245 people since the 2004/2005 season.

"This was really a male dominated building in 1998," said Baxter.

"Now we provide opportunities for both men and women," added Patricia Kitchen, Associate Director of Recreation and Facilities.

There has also been a continuous effort the Residence Athletics Council (RAC) to build the residence athletics program for first year students. In 1998, Laurier did not offer residence athletics. This year there were approximately 95 teams participating in various sports.

RAC can be a springboard for first-year students who may be shy or not quite confident enough to join the regular intramural leagues, according to Laurier Athletics. In these leagues, they can make some new friends and become more comfortable with what intramurals are all about.

Both Baxter and Kitchen agree that if students in first year are participating right away, and have a chance to meet people, they will be encouraged to further invest their time into intramurals.

Success of the program depends on its student leaders and no one more than Frances Minemma and Ian Schwartz (last year's intramural

coordinators). They were in charge of overseeing every league and ensuring that the entire program was running properly and efficiently to maximize the satisfaction of each student's experience. Continuing to grow and create awareness of the program is an important part of their jobs as well.

"People come to use the workout centre and see that there are all these programs going on, it's just awareness," said Minemma about the growth of participation. She added that the expanded facilities and easier online registration have also contributed to the increasing numbers.

Intramurals and Recreation at Laurier have blossomed over the years and will continue to do so with increasing interest from the students.

"[Intramurals] offer an outlet for students to just get away from it all. It's one of those programs that is so fun and like a night out, and it's such a social setting," said Minemma.

To participate in a Laurier intramural or recreational program look for registration beginning in September.



FILE PHOTO - SYDNEY HELLAND

**MARCO POLO** - Laurier's intramural water-polo league is very popular.

# One world, one game connecting us

In a world often stricken with fighting and poverty, sport provides a medium for people to come together as equals



LAUREN MILLET  
SPORTS EDITOR

Every couple of years the world puts aside its differences. White, black, brown, rich or poor, it doesn't matter; because in sport the playing field is equal. It's about passion, it's about purity, and it's about friendly competition between countries on a road to be called the best.

Soccer, or football as it is referred to in Europe, has a unique ability to bring people of all kinds together for one common cause. It's a love for a sport so great that it superceeds all else that is bad in this world.

It is not only sport's fanatics, but the everyday Jane and Joe who follow their country's team through the tournament. People from all corners of the world come together and are cheering for the same teams.

This year, it is to Europe that the eyes of the sporting world have turned. And while it is only European countries competing for the top title, the whole world is watching.

That is the beauty of this sport. It has the power to bring nations to-

gether under one roof for one common goal. Whether your country wins or loses, one can always appreciate the talent that is brought to the field, from the superbly skilled Portuguese, the lightning quick Spanish or the golden hearts of the Turkish or Swiss. Soccer always pro-

**THIS YEAR, IT IS TO EUROPE THAT THE EYES OF THE SPORTING WORLD HAVE TURNED. AND WHILE IT IS ONLY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES COMPETING FOR THE TOP TITLE, THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING**

vides an entertaining 90 minutes of action. And it doesn't even matter where you're from, because if you can compete against the top teams, you can gain respect from others.

In sport, anything can happen. There is always room for an underdog. Nowhere else, is a complete nobody able to take down the best in the world for a place at the top. Think back to 2004 where Greece defeated Portugal for the European Cup. Four years later people are still saying Greece did what? Or in

the 1998 World Cup when the then relatively unknown french squad demolished heavily favoured Brazil in the finals.

It is also a ground for which the players, signed by clubs to bring home league titles, must put aside who plays against who in order to join under their country's colours for three weeks. In no other sport are there as many players scattered across the world only to come together every two years for an event of epic

proportions.

This year's European tournament has seen no shortage of all of these aspects. From underdogs knocking off the bigshots to just plain good sportsmanship, the sport of soccer has yet again risen above everything that is wrong in the world and brought together a world of fans.



GRAPHIC BY SYDNEY HELLAND

## Athlete back on track

Canadian paralympic athlete Jeff Adams returns to top form after a two-year hiatus from sport



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LAUREN MILLET  
SPORTS EDITOR

After nearly two years of being banned from competition, Canadian paralympic athlete Jeff Adams didn't waste any time getting back in game. On June 15, he competed in the US National championships taking home a gold medal in the 1500m wheelchair race in Tempe, Arizona.

His first race after the two-year absence caused by a tampered drug test, Adams finished atop the best athletes in North America.

"The last two years have been absolutely the most difficult of my entire life, so to win in my first race back - against all of the top Americans, after not racing for two years, and after everything I've been through - took an enormous effort,"

said Adams in a press release.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport recently exonerated Adams from allegations of anti-doping. The decision took two years to announce, and was at Adams' own expense.

"Sitting out for two years only to be found completely innocent was frustrating, but having to spend \$750,000 of my own money to prove my innocence is completely devastating," said Adams.

He is appealing to the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport to cover the costs spent during the trial.

Adams faces yet another hurdle however, for he has yet to meet the standard qualifying times Athletics Canada requires of an athlete in order to proceed to the olympics. He will be attempting to meet those times this week at a track meet in Atlanta.

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RYAN STEWART

**ESSENTIALS FOR RESIDENCE** - Don't forget to bring laundry detergent, liquid soap, plates, cutlery, air fresheners, cereal... the list goes on. You might want to pack some clothes too.

# What will you forget?

The most important items that you'll need in residence are ones you'd likely never think of: read on for our recommendations

**HEATHER GIES**  
STAFF WRITER

As the summer months inevitably slip by quickly, whether you're ready or not, September will arrive. While returning students spend their long weekend enjoying the final moments of summer solace, first-years have a unique Labour Day experience to anticipate. To Laurier's new arrivals, September 1st represents one fate: move-in day.

Regardless of whether you have been packing since you received your acceptance letter or you plan on procrastinating until the day before your move, a few words of wisdom from the been-there-done-that-ers of residence may be helpful in revealing something you may have overlooked.

Naturally, there are certain items that are obvious necessities for your move to residence. Clothing,

bedding, towels, dishes, and personal care items are easy enough to remember. However, scissors, garbage bags, nail clippers, clothes hangers, thumbtacks, and cleaning and laundry supplies are all very useful but much more likely to be neglected in the packing process.

Returning Residence Life Don Paul Reifenstein suggests that essentials in residence include "anything that makes a student feel the most at home they can be."

It may be balmy weather when you arrive at the beginning of September, but be sure to bring some socks and sweaters in case the temperature plunges. Not only will you be ready to face all elements, but this will ensure the possibility of a prolonged stay in Waterloo before your first visit home.

Residence rooms tend to look rather stark and sterile when you first arrive, and some minor redecorating is probably required. Post-

ers and pictures are classic, working perfectly to conceal bare walls. A large calendar does the trick while serving a functional purpose as well, plastering your wall while reminding you of important academic dates and other events.

For extra flair, cactus plants, goldfish, and stuffed animals are great homey touches and also conveniently low-maintenance. Especially the stuffed animals.

However, a word of caution: don't bring too much. Residence rooms do not exactly boast the luxury of spaciousness. Furthermore, the icebreakers hauling your luggage into your new accommodations will also certainly be grateful for your efforts to lighten the load.

Though it's easy to get preoccupied with packing living necessities, be careful not to forget about needed school supplies. Don't underestimate the inconvenience of not being able to find a stapler or

hole punch when you need one.

Reifenstein also notes that after moving in, many students realize that they may be in need of earplugs. "As hard as dons try," he comments, "they might not be able to keep the building as silent as possible."

Also consider that the lighting may not be ideal for reading and doing homework, so for the sake of preserving eyesight, a small desk lamp may be a wise investment. Additionally, many students choose to bring their own office chairs, but this can be addressed easily after moving in.

It would also be wise to consider technicalities other than packing before your move to residence, such as changing your bank account or cell phone plan if necessary.

According to Reifenstein, "The most important thing that would help a student to move into residence comfortably would be to

come with an open mind." Though a few students are somewhat unenthusiastic in regards to their building assignment, he assures that "any scepticism before move-in day is usually gone by the end of O-Week."

With an abundance of advice coming from friends and family and your own thoughts as well, your suitcases must be virtually bursting with all the essentials you simply cannot live without. It can become rather overwhelming, but keep in mind that you can make the required adjustments as you learn about living in residence and university life in general.

Your residence life staff is available to aid in the exciting — yet at times nerve-wracking — transition, and with icebreakers and other volunteers present during O-Week, there's no shortage of friendly faces eager to help with your initial university experience.

## Five things to do while in residence

A top five list of essential things to do when you aren't sleeping

1. Play sports on Alumni Field well into the wee hours of the night.
2. Get a strike. As a wise man once said, you have three strikes so you may as well use them!
3. Host a themed party that doesn't quite fit your residence room.
4. Take cost-cutting measures like using plastic utensils all year, or sticking to frozen juice concentrate.
5. Wait outside a residence in the rain, wind, and snow for a stranger to be kind and let you in.

# The Cord guide to buying textbooks

Sick of buying brand new textbooks and blowing your school budget at the bookstore? We investigate other avenues for getting the best deal on textbooks for your hard earned cash, such as ordering online or heading downtown to look for used items

**LINDA GIVETASH**  
STAFF WRITER

Buying textbooks can get pricey. No matter what your course load or program, you can be sure your textbook bill will amount in the hundreds. But before you say goodbye to your summer savings, be aware of some tips and tricks to buying textbooks.

When looking at a lengthy book list, the one question university students can't help but ask is, "do I really need *all* of these?"

More often than not, you will need all textbooks, novels and course packs. Writing-guides and citation style manuals are incredibly helpful, but it's not necessary to have all of them. Choose the ones related to your major, and you can always find the rest at the library or borrow from a friend.

Before buying anything, go to all your classes in the first week of school. If you decide to switch out of a class, you'll be glad you didn't buy all of the books. You will also find out if the professor cares which edition you buy or if the book will be on reserve at the library.

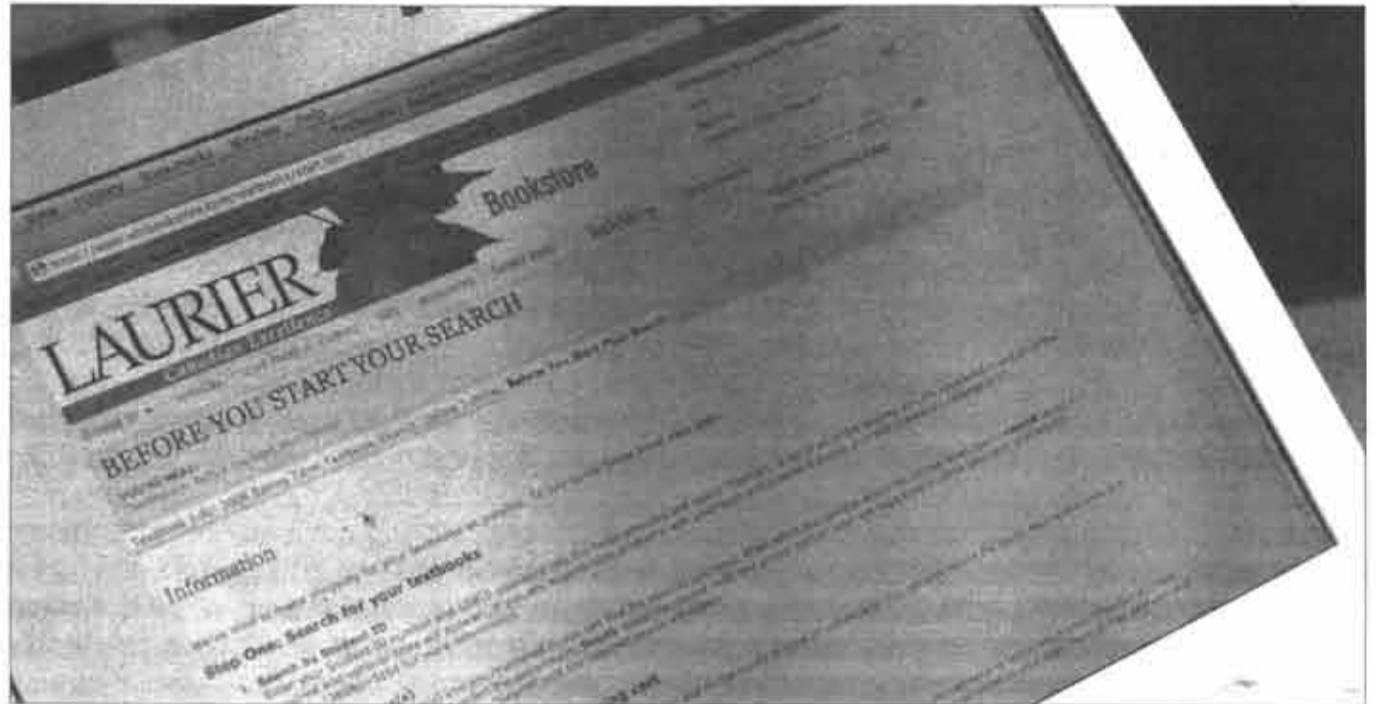
The Laurier Bookstore is the most convenient source for text-

books. Through the bookstore's website you can get a list of all the books required for your courses and the prices of buying them new. You then have the option of ordering your books for an easy pick-up, or going into the store to find your books (which are organized by department and course).

The bookstore offers both new and used textbooks. You can also sell your old textbooks to the bookstore as long as they are in good condition and the current edition. But, if the bookstore doesn't have your textbooks in used condition, or you're looking for a better bargain, there are other options.

For both fall and winter semesters, Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) holds a Laurier Bookswap. This resale system allows students to sell their old books at their own asking price and buy textbooks at prices far lower than new. To check for updates on the event, visit [www.sifelaurier.ca](http://www.sifelaurier.ca).

For those who prefer to shop online, there are several venues for finding textbooks. [www.half.com](http://www.half.com) is a textbook resale venue created by eBay. You can search for your textbooks by title, author or ISBN and compare sellers to find the best



LAURA TOMKINS

**BOOK BUYING** - The bookstore offers a textbook search engine online, but not always the best prices.

price.

A similar venue is [www.book4exchange.com](http://www.book4exchange.com) where you also have the option of searching by school. For online shopping, be wary of shipping charges that can range drastically based on shipping methods and location.

The Facebook Marketplace can also be an option for buying used books. Sellers commonly post listings just before or at the beginning

of the semester. When searching, make sure you look within the WLU network in order to set up convenient swaps on campus.

Finally, you can always hunt for sales at bookstores. Chapters Indigo, accessible both online and in-store, has many sales throughout the year which can get you a good bargain on books. Visiting local bookstores can also provide great bargains and the opportunity to ex-

plore Kitchener/Waterloo. Try Old Goat Books (99 King St. N.) or KW Bookstore (308 King St. W.) for the best deals.

Whether you're looking to buy textbooks new or used, online or in-store, there are plenty of options available to ensure you find your textbooks easily and within your price range.

## GOLDEN HAWK ATHLETICS & RECREATION

### 2008 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

- Sept 1, 2008 vs Guelph, 1:00pm
- Sept 6, 2008 vs Western, 7:00pm
- Sept 13, 2008 at Queen's, 1:00 pm
- Sept 20, 2008 vs Windsor, 1:00pm  
- Homecoming Game
- Sept 27, 2008 at Waterloo, 1:00pm
- Oct 4, 2008 at Ottawa, 1:00pm
- Oct 11, 2008 vs McMaster, 1:00pm
- Oct 18, 2008 at York, 1:00pm

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# CORD-O-SCOPES

**Cancer**  
June 21 - July 22




Always an avid fan of prime-time satirical cartoons, you will have two failed jobs as a nuclear power plant technician and a propane salesman. Eventually, just when you have reached your financial low point, your story will be discovered and featured on the show TV Made me do it. In a stroke of luck, you will suffer a crippling injury on set, and the money from the ensuing lawsuit will be enough for you to live off of comfortably for years.

**Leo**  
July 23 - Aug. 22




Though you have always had the aspiration of being a world-renowned model, you have decided to get a university degree just to fall back on. But fear not, for your dreams will come true. After a freak panda bear attack, you'll be a consistent centerfold model for Bear Attacks Monthly. Sweet.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22




Without ever having any real motivation to do anything in life, you've decided to do a degree in English just to make your parents happy. Little do you realize, though, that your lack of motivation is so powerful that you'll simply stay in university out of laziness until, one day, you wake up to find that you've become a well-respected professor of English literature. Yet, despite being an academic, you'll never realize the irony in it all.

**Libra**  
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22




With a passionate heart for the environment, you will dedicate your life towards inventing a new eco-friendly fuel source out of cabbages and recycled plastics. But just as you are about to make a breakthrough, the world will finally agree that Global Warming is a myth, and your painstaking research will have been for nothing.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21




You will earn your PhD in comparative economics, but you won't ever find true happiness until you discover your true gift as a bingo caller. It appeals to your desire for power, and your creepy attraction to senior citizens.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21




You'll quickly become disillusioned with medical school, drop out, and open up a practice as a holistic healer. You'll face legal allegations, however, after trying to cure cancer with a scorpion's venom, leaving your friends and family to collectively ask, "What the hell were they smoking?" It was hashish.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19




You will have great fortune as a world traveler, ambassador and translator of many languages. But after an interview with the media in which you say that you believe Winnipeg to be the most beautiful city you've ever seen, you'll never be offered work again.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18



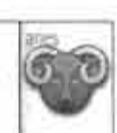
You'll come to university to get a degree in accounting. After graduation, you'll get a job as an accountant. Then, some years later, you'll retire from accounting, having responsibly built up a hefty RRSP fund. Good for you.

**Pisces**  
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20



You will be part of a team of elite scientists that, while looking for ways to clone livestock, will mathematically prove the existence of Zeus and the rest of the Greek gods. It will confuse the shit out of everyone, and you will make a pact to burn your research and never speak of it again.

**Aries**  
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19



The stigma of arts students going on to work in dead-end jobs - such as fast food - is unfair and untrue. Except in your case. Way to ruin it for everyone else. But on the bright side, at least the sound of beeping deep fryers will drown out your thoughts of regret.

**Taurus**  
Apr. 20 - May 20



You will realize early on in your illustrious career that you have a passion for being feared and abhorred by everyone. Thus, the stars are telling you one of two things: you will either become a dentist, or an insurance salesman. From there, your destiny is in your own hands.

**Gemini**  
May 21 - June 20



You have always had a sharp eye for detail. This will be your strongest asset when you enter your career as a highly respected architect. But this will be cut short, after your post-modern design of roofless housing units doesn't catch on with major building companies. But, you will bounce back and discover your true calling, and in only a few short years you will rise to become the world champion of the "Where's Waldo?" circuit.

*Dave shore was just an ordinary Jew, until he found out that "Shore" means "bull" in Hebrew. He's also a Taurus, so, if you believe in that stuff, that makes him some sort of prophet. Or, if you don't believe in it, he's just full of bull.*

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# Blog Central

# CORD WEEKLY .COM

Heather MacDonald explores the lighter side of world news

Dave Shore offers his comic life lessons

Alex Hayter looks at video games as an art form. Seriously.

Sydney Helland tracks her fitness training on Wii Fit

Laura Carlson breaks down the latest news headlines

Kari Pritchard fills you in on her summer reading



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# Welcome-to-Laurier Word Search

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- athletics
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- concourse
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- hawks
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- research
- seminar
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- university
- webct
- bacchus
- bricker
- canadian
- espot
- education
- future
- icebreaker
- lefevre
- mcmurray
- owweek
- read
- residence
- shinerama
- study
- undergrad
- volunteer
- wilfrid
- blouw
- business
- class
- dawb
- essay
- golden
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- music
- party
- registration
- science
- stadium
- terrace
- union
- waterloo
- wilfs

## Last issue's solutions

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RIM	JETTY	ALPHA
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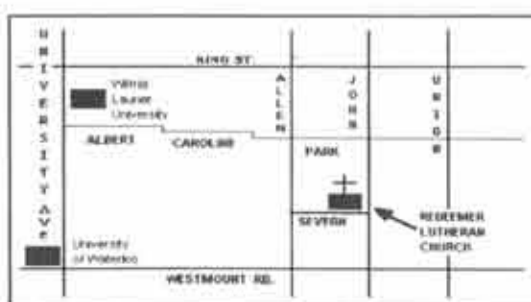
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## Turret restriction a sorry reality

For underage Laurier students, the Turret nightclub, operated by the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU), used to be one of the few available options for a night out at the bar.

Sadly, 2008 will mark the first year that the Turret has closed its doors to students under the legal drinking age in Ontario, leaving many first and second year students without much alternative access to the nightclub atmosphere in Waterloo.

The ruling unfortunate but necessary. WLUSU's reasoning for making this move is sound, and the decision is ultimately required to ensure that the Turret remains an available service to the majority of the student population.

With well over half of the cases heard by the university's Judicial Affairs Council last year involving underage drinking in the establishment, it is no doubt that such incidents are very common.

And with WLUSU acquiring their own liquor license this year, it is a safe bet to try and maintain it. A liquor inspector would likely have little trouble finding an intoxicated minor during the typical Turret night.

Furthermore, it's not as if the Turret could have simply tightened their control over underage drinking. It is very difficult to stop people from buying drinks and passing them to their underage friends.

To compensate for underage students not being allowed in the Turret, the Students' Union needs to make sure that first-year oriented events are well planned, and should consider the possibility of increasing their frequency should they be in demand.

Also, it is only fair the Turret allow for all-ages events when musical acts are visiting the school. Many other establishments around Waterloo that are normally 19+ usually make this same exception.

While the Turret may not be an option, at least underage students can still spend time at the campus pub, Wilf's.

While every other generation of students currently studying at Laurier was able to enjoy the Turret's full service when they were underage, it is a tragic reality that this incoming one will not. Still, WLUSU must ensure that these students, who pay the same fees as everyone else, are offered equivalent services.

## Website budget too high

Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) President Colin LeFevre campaigned under the conviction that he would not make any aesthetic renovations or unnecessary expenditures with the union's operating budget.

For the most part, he has followed through on his campaign promise with a reasonable and functional budget. Improvements to the Pita Shack are long overdue, and renovations to the 24-hour lounge will directly benefit students.

In one area though, WLUSU has budgeted for something entirely excessive: a high-end cap of \$163,000 was allocated towards the redesign of their website.

Granted, the union is not necessarily planning to spend the entire amount that they have budgeted for, but even the fact that the WLUSU Board of Directors has passed this portion of the budget is overboard.

For the functions they require for their website, a quality redesign should not cost anything near \$163,000. More research and debate should have occurred before student's money was allocated to be spent in this manner.

Next for WLUSU is to ensure that they acquire a website that will meet their needs, yet won't cost such an unreasonable amount.

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

## THE CORD WEEKLY

Editorial Board 2008-2009

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Alex Hayter  
ahayter@cordweekly.com  
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3563

**News Editors**  
Jeremy Tremblay  
jtremblay@cordweekly.com

Rebecca Vasiliuanu  
rvasiliuanu@cordweekly.com  
(519) 884 0710 ext. 3564

**Sports Editor**  
Lauren Millet  
lmillet@cordweekly.com

**International Editor**  
Heather MacDonald  
hmacdonald@cordweekly.com

**Special Projects Editor**  
Laura Carlson  
lcarlson@cordweekly.com

**Features Editor**  
Kari Pritchard  
kpritchard@cordweekly.com

**Student Life Editor**  
Michelle Caldaroni  
mcaldaroni@cordweekly.com

**Arts & Entertainment Editor**  
Daniel Joseph  
djoeph@cordweekly.com

**Opinion Editor**  
David Shore  
dshore@cordweekly.com

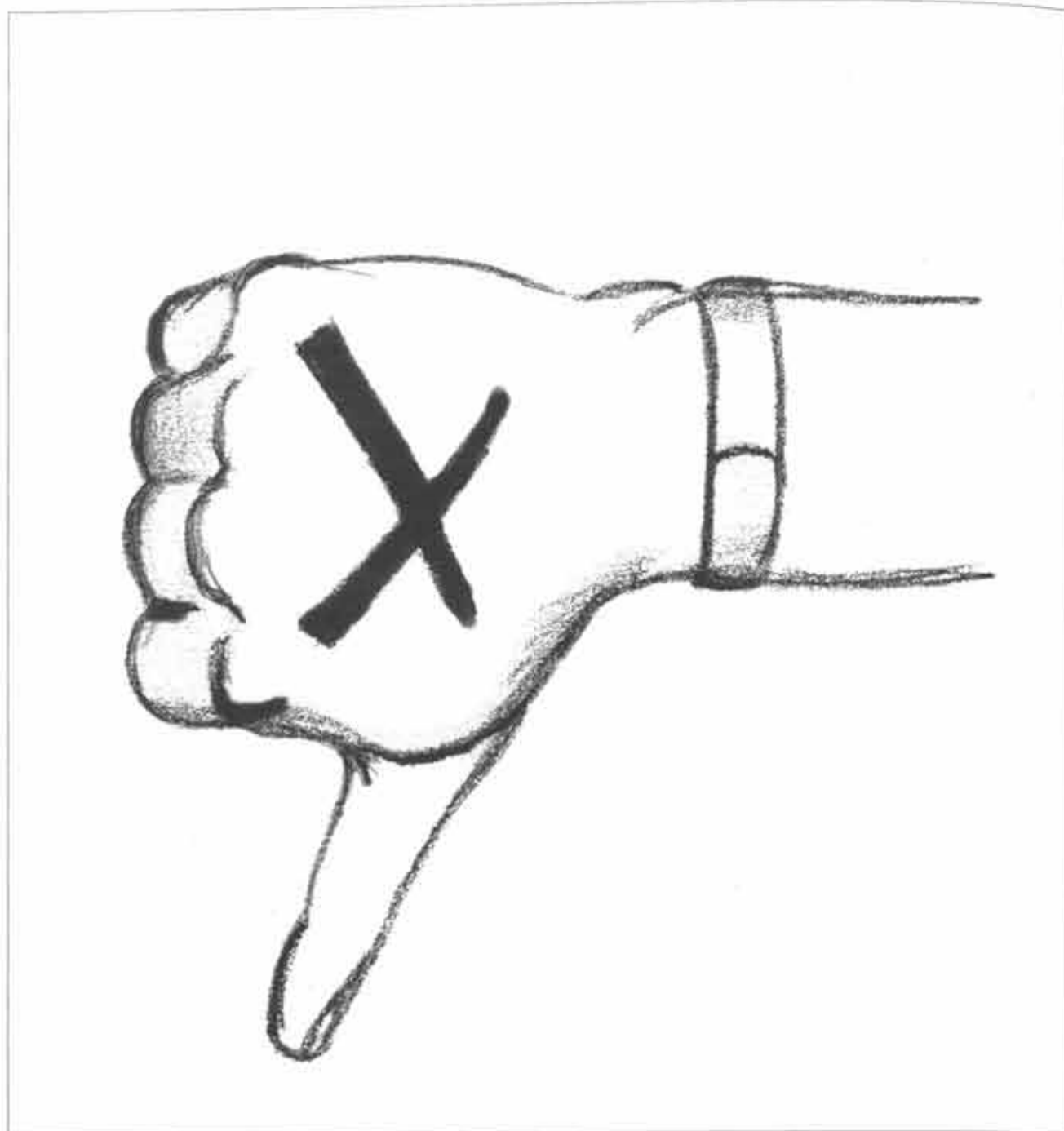
**Graphics Editor**  
Julie Marion  
jmarion@cordweekly.com

**Web Editor**  
Dan Polischuk  
dpolischuk@cordweekly.com

**Photography Managers**  
Ryan Stewart  
rstewart@cordweekly.com

Laura Tomkins  
ltomkins@cordweekly.com

**Print Production Manager**  
Sydney Helland  
shelland@cordweekly.com



JULIE MARION

## Explore culture at WLU

University is a time for exploring culture, says **Daniel Joseph**



DANIEL JOSEPH  
A&E EDITOR

For those of you coming to Laurier in September, welcome to a University in a predominately homogeneous place. On first sight, it could seem that south-western Ontario has little to offer in varied cultural experiences that say, Toronto, would provide.

To this, I must concede. This is a place where those from the countryside might never get their views challenged (unless you find yourself in one of the more subversive arts undergraduate degrees).

The dominate fashion here is Uggs and T&A bags for girls, Hollister board shorts and running shoes for guys. Never mind that identifying with southern California beach culture here in Ontario is just plain insanity, these styles are boring and say nothing about you as a person other than - "Hi, I have no original thought in my body".

So to get to the meat of it all, it feels sometimes like we don't have any real subcultures in Waterloo. Even the pseudo-mainstream ones have been co-opted by major corporations to feed the needs of our inner consumer.

Luckily, university is not the depressing social existence that high school was. Sure, kids in towns around North America buy into pre-packed culture - but in high school, that's all anybody really

has to choose from. Being from a rural town in East Texas I completely understand this. The closest damn mall was an hour and a half away going 120 km/h.

Coming to a University town, even one as homogeneous as Waterloo, can give you a lot of opportunity to try out new things, including music and art, but also culture in general.

**THERE ARE MORE INTERESTING THINGS TO DO THAN JUST EMBRACING THE TYPICAL BRO LIFESTYLE OF BEER BONGS AND BUSINESS DEGREES**

Trust me; there are more interesting things to do than just embracing the typical bro lifestyle of beer bonging and business degrees. Go ahead and explore. University should be about trying out some art and culture that isn't vapid or corporate.

This is one of the best times in anyone's life to begin exploration of all those things that seem to be out there or, more importantly, out of reach.

The chance to be surrounded by thousands of intelligent young people concentrated in an area as small as Laurier doesn't happen often, and looking for acceptance about any aspect of your lifestyle is easy here.

There are numerous clubs to suit anyone's interests. Is there a club that doesn't exist that you think might hold some water? Make it. A friend of mine helped organize the creation of Laurier's Metal Club last year.

Find what you love and chances are there are more out there with the same interests that you can bring together. I have yet to run into somebody that has discouraged this type of initiative.

In Waterloo the alternative culture is available to you quickly. Walk to Uptown and mosey about - there are independent shops (and really friendly people) that embrace multiple subcultures.

Have you always wondered what those pretentious hip kids who listened to indie bands are

all about? Well here we have more than a few places that offer shows just about every week to expand your musical lexicon beyond Bob Marley and Incubus.

Have you enjoyed the occasional film that makes you think about more than how rad the explosions are? Run to Generation-X Videos to find just about every film you could want on DVD.

Best of all, you can forget about trying to look cool to impress your peers. That part of your life is over, thank god. Here nobody really gives a damn.

Do your best to take chances and create and engage with the culture around you; you'll learn a lot about yourself and where you want to go in life. Break from the norm and easily accepted.

And most of all, please don't wear Uggs, and don't buy Family Guy posters.

letters@cordweekly.com

# Your window of opportunity

The first two weeks of university are the most important time of your entire post-secondary life



DAVE SHORE  
OPINION EDITOR

It hardly needs to be said, but university will be a time in your life unlike any other. It will be a time to embrace youth without regret, to do things unthinkable at any other point in life, to learn things you would never otherwise learn, and ultimately to decide who you are.

In a sense, your time spent at university is a window of opportunity into a unique, difficult, and exhilarating lifestyle that will never be accessible to you again.

But this much, I'm sure, you already know.

What's important, though, is that as an incoming first-year student, you know of a second window of opportunity. It's much smaller than the four-or-so years of your undergraduate degree, but in many ways it is equally important.

By this I am referring strictly to the first two, possibly three weeks of your university life; O-week, and the week or two that follow it.

About these two weeks, there is good news and bad news.

The bad news is that the first two weeks you spend at school will have an unparalleled affect on the quality of your entire university career. It is the time when first friendships begin to form, or at least the seeds

of which are planted. It is the time when the first few strands of everyone's social networks are being woven.

Weave those strands, plant those seeds, and your social life during your entire time spent at Laurier will unravel with shocking ease. Fail to do so, however, and you'll be playing catch-up for years to come.

Why try to break into a group of pre-existing friends when you have the perfect opportunity to form one from scratch?

Unfortunately, I don't exaggerate. Two weeks is really about all it takes, and it's surprising just how rapidly the time can pass you by if you're not careful. After about two weeks of time at Laurier, your social destiny will have already been written.

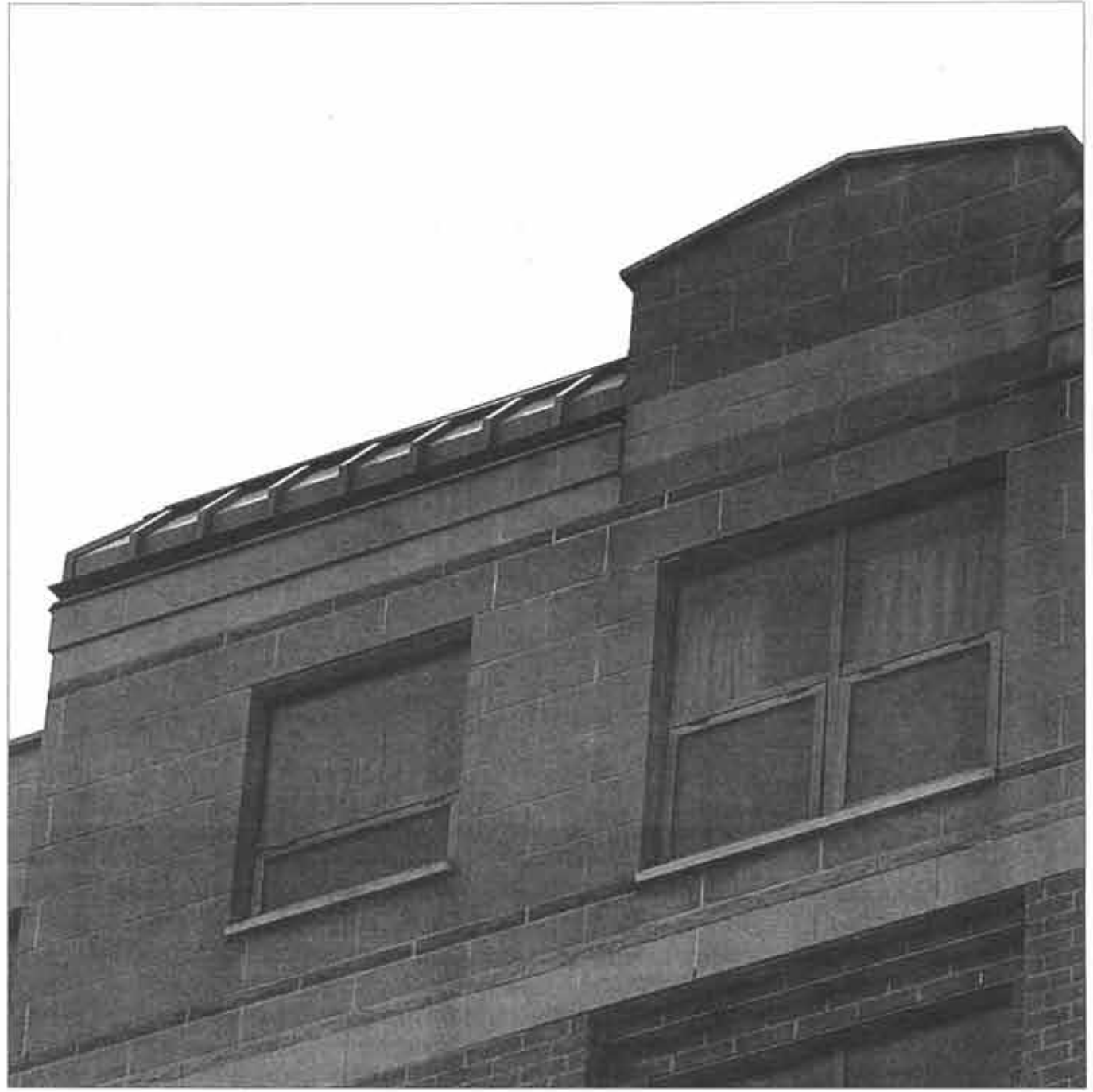
Granted, no one's destiny is written in stone, but why take your chances?

In short, the bad news is that there is a great deal of pressure on you in your first days at university; you will have to use them well to decide the quality of your future for years to come. Nerve-wracking? Just a little.

But, I promised you some good news. The good news is that once you know a simple truth, it's easy to beat the system.

All you need to know is one thing: everyone is afraid. Everyone is intimidated. Everyone is just as nervous as you are.

Yeah, sure, you've heard that all



SYDNEY HELLAND

**CAMPUS GATEWAYS** - Just like these windows, the beginning of first year is your entrance into a long and bound-to-be exciting university career full of opportunity and excitement.

before, right? But, herein lies the importance of the first two weeks of school, because they are quite possibly the only two weeks of your entire life when this is actually going to be true.

After two weeks, even when friendships are in their infancies, this intimidation and fear will begin to dissipate. But for a very short period of time, no such friendships will exist - everyone will be staring into the same sea of unrecognizable faces as you.

So, how do you beat the system?

Talk to everyone. Introduce yourself haphazardly to everyone in sight. Forge as many relationships as humanly possible in two weeks, armed with the knowledge that everyone you meet will be as equally afraid as you are.

That girl who's probably way out of your league? She's intimidated. That cute guy throwing a keg-party in his rez room? He's intimidated. The guy claiming he got a \$10 000 scholarship into first-year with a 97% average out of high school? He's intimidated too.

It is very much the case that the first two weeks of school carry unprecedented weight in your social life. Don't take this as a bad thing, though.

Take it as your window of opportunity, your chance, no matter who you are, to live without fear or intimidation. Don't miss out - you probably won't ever get the opportunity again.

letters@cordweekly.com

# University is the time to seek understanding



MICHAEL KOCHEFF  
THE EVERYMAN

You've probably heard this line from a lot of people already, especially your parents, but university does cause people to change significantly.

University brings a vast number of new challenges, and how you react to them will very much define who you become and what you stand for. So, consider your outlook on first year carefully.

The situations you're confronted with can be pretty straightforward, such as doing laundry alone for the first time, or rather painful, like deciding for or against a "turkey break-up".

Through these experiences and many others, your whole outlook on the world is going to be questioned numerous times. When you feel as if you've finally got a grip on things, a housemate, fellow student or a professor will introduce an idea or perspective that will cause you to wonder.

This constant questioning isn't bad; the university experience is all about figuring out

how to view and approach the world around you.

Furthermore, having a sense of wonder doesn't require you to compromise your values.

University, like the "real world", demands that you do one of three things. You must either stand up for your values, whether they are spiritual, political, social, economic or otherwise, compromise/qualify your values or abandon them altogether.

These choices are rather stark, largely because your value-set and accompanying worldview will, for better or worse, play a role in everyday decision-making and interactions.

The important thing is to understand which choices to make. We aren't always afforded control over what we see and hear, especially in a university setting, but we can choose how to respond.

On a university campus like Laurier, one part of your worldview that will almost certainly be questioned is your politics.

Not just whether you vote Liberal, Conservative, NDP or Green, but how you feel about the many problems facing our campus, our country and our world.

You're likely to find that our campus has a great deal of diversity. Most people, for

example, agree that eradicating poverty is imperative, yet making people agree to a solution and certain sacrifices is another issue entirely.

Just last semester a very political issue arose on campus. A strike by part-time professors caused a number of different reactions within the student body.

While some students militantly supported part-time professors, others were much more hesitant when it came to throwing their support behind the administration or the part-time faculty.

Homosexuality and racism have been and continue to be hot-button issues on campus and within Canadian society as well.

Numerous other causes like the promotion of fairer trading practices with the Third World through the consumption of fair trade goods have also been highlighted on campus.

The topics of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan always seem to rear their ugly heads too. Some on campus argue that war itself serves little purpose while others wouldn't be afraid to slap a "Support our Troops" sticker on the back of their car.

University gives you the chance and ultimately the choice to engage with these varying perspectives; to discover who you are,

where you're going and whether or not you want to change course.

After all, the phrase "Support Our Troops" can take on many meanings. Supporting our troops, in the best possible manner, may mean bringing them home or keeping them on the ground in Afghanistan.

These debates and the ideas they generate need to be heard. Standing by one perspective is perfectly acceptable, but consider the alternatives.

When you cease from considering other points of view what you might find is that you've ceased from looking for the truth altogether.

This type of pragmatism doesn't necessarily require that you make major concessions for other people. However, at least being receptive to the intricacies of politics and life is key.

It would be quite the burden to know the truth of the matter at all times, especially in the realm of politics.

Seeking the truth, however, is a lot less burdensome. Laurier, with all its diversity, is as good a setting as any for that pursuit.

letters@cordweekly.com

# Cappuccinos and the charm of the psychopath

Psychopaths are a product created by our society



**DON MORGENSON**  
ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

They met over cappuccinos, total strangers at first; then a torrid summer romance and a promise of an August wedding. Her parents, beguiled by his charm, welcomed him into the family.

There were nagging doubts: details of his past were few and undiscussed, and while she was picking out her bridal gown, he disappeared.

Facing a worried daughter with a broken heart, her father tried to have her "lover's" whereabouts traced. The private investigator found him in Vancouver - a man with seven children and two wives, both of whom were suing him on several counts.

When she came into my office, the young student's question was: "How could I have been so easily fooled?" I tried to console her by saying: "Even the most experienced professionals are deceived by such people."

From what was alleged, she was fortunate not to have shared a cappuccino with a much more aggressive psychopath, a Ted Bundy, for example. We have all met these people, been deceived by them, been manipulated by them, but inevitably charmed by them. Their principal feature: they are without a conscience. As Thomas Hobbes once said: "The wicked man is but the child grown strong."

The psychopath is like this child, absorbed in his own needs, vehemently demanding satiation. He is also impulsive - flitting from woman to woman in volatile passion.

He has few stable goals and his life is dominated by fleeting desires which leave very little space for long-term goals. He has a warped capacity for love; he is often cold and compassionless, forming superficial attachments that lack emotional depth and tenderness.

But the most worrisome trait: his guiltlessness.

While forensic psychologists debate the cause of such a psychological disorder, for me, the greatest worry is that it appears the numbers of psychopaths is growing.

There is evidence to suggest that our society itself may be partly responsible for the creation of such people. . . Jeffrey Dahmer, Ted Bundy, Paul Bernardo, those CEOs in the executive suits who compromise their integrity robbing workers of their "retirements".

Indeed, there are some among us who might exalt the psychopath as representing a very successful individual, at least in the marketplace.

Alan Harrington (*Psychopaths*) wonders if we all shouldn't develop psychopathic traits which would lead directly to our success.

He writes: "No more meditation, musing over this doubt and that fear. No more plodding in earnest pursuit of a sober and responsible life plan. For the psychopath, and now his many followers, this is a fool's game. Instead for them, physically, spiritually - travel, move, make out, exploit, strike back, enjoy, unimpeded by any guilt whatever, cross all borders, made new after each illegal crossing. . . keep going."

Harrington sees the psychopath as the person of the future. I am inclined to agree; such a psychopathic style here in North America is more the rule than the exception.

My argument is that the psychopath adopts a style that is an accurate reflection of the princely value of our culture: success in a material sense.

Our psychopath markets his personality just as we market orange juice, laundry detergents, or tooth pastes.

Erich Fromm ("The Sane Society") spotted this tendency some years ago and introduced the designation the "marketing personality" while discussing it. Fromm suggested that the obsession with selling and buying was carried to the buying and selling of one's most private possession - namely one's personality.

The self has come to be viewed as a commodity to be bartered in the marketplace. The psychopath develops superficial charm and sells himself to all who would consume. But what we buy is a dangerous predator who guiltlessly steals all that we prize.

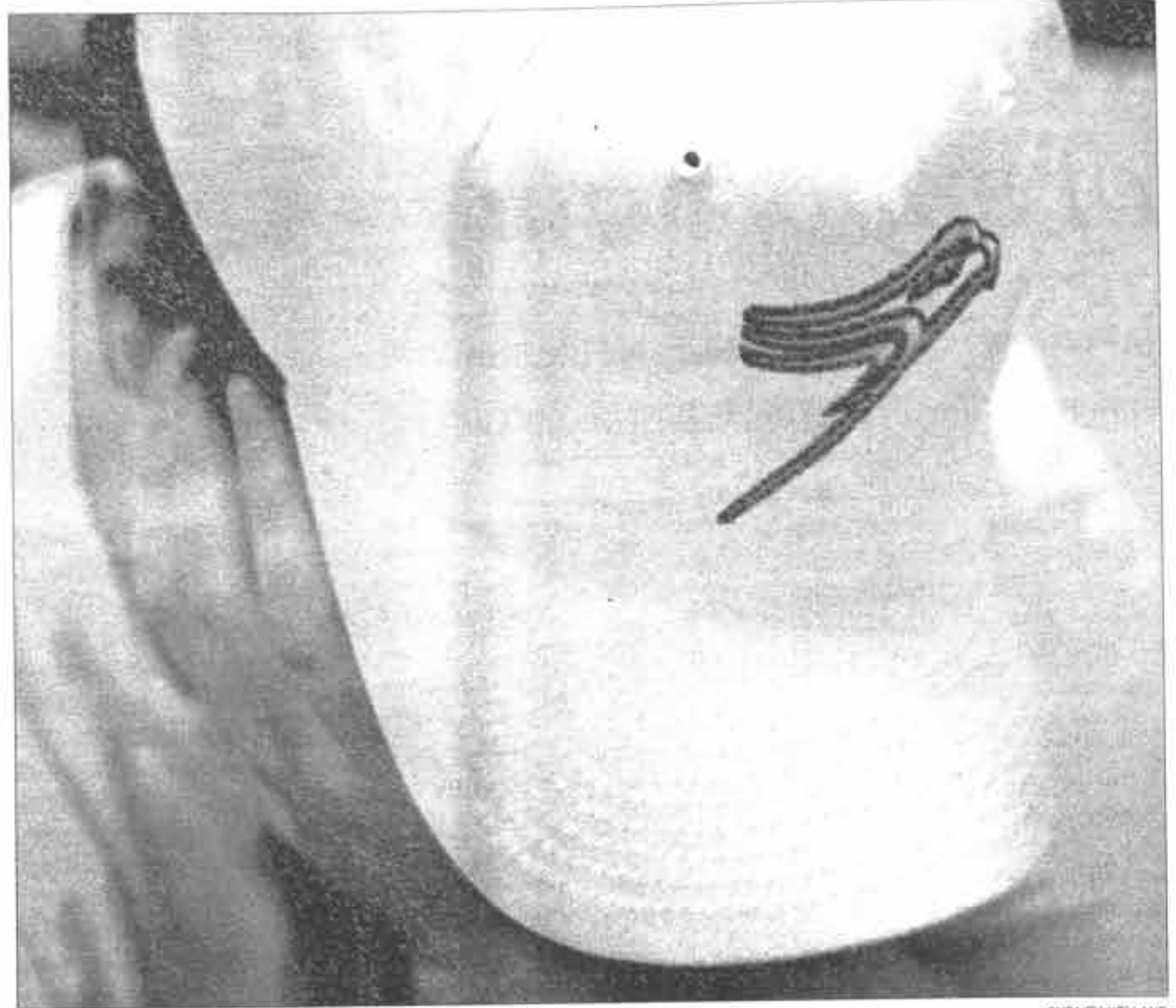
So when we look bewildered and confused, wondering where such unspeakable cruelty, such base violations come from, we must not be tempted solely by the "bad seed" theory of mutated genes or by childhood trauma or a loveless infancy.

No, I suggest we look at what we worship: success through pathological egocentricity, unreflective egoism, total self-centeredness; untruthfulness and insincerity, superficial charm, power and competitive success.

Such is the perfect vignette of the psychopath but it is also the iconic character many of us worship. The psychopaths of the world are not quite so deviant as we might wish them to be. They grow from the soil society richly fertilizes.

Yes, the wicked man is merely the child grown strong, and however much we may dislike the truth, all of us have succored such a child.

letters@cordweekly.com



SYDNEY HELLAND

**UNMOTIVATED** - Many university students would really have a better time doing something else.

## Get out while you still can

If you are going to spend numerous hours and dollars at university, make sure you are doing it for reasons that are entirely your own



**JOSH SMYTHE**  
THE EXAMINED LIFE

I'm headed into my fifth and final year here at Laurier, and I've often thought that if there was one piece of advice I could give to many arriving first-years, it would be this: turn back now, this is not the place for you.

In so saying, I don't really mean that I think that the demands of university are beyond people, although that certainly happens.

I'm reflecting more on the tragedy I see everyday - people wasting the best years of their lives chasing other people's dreams.

Each one of us has our own reason to walk through these doors every morning; for some of us, it's the simple love of learning. Others are looking for a ticket to a stable career, or a high income.

Perhaps you might be here to play sports, to escape a small town, or to improve your sex life. Who knows?

Too often, though, we judge people along those lines. Arts students attack business majors for being soulless automatons, business majors mock the woolly-headed hippies, and so it goes. It's hard to think of a bigger waste of time than these conversations, but they happen all the same.

After four years, I honestly don't give a damn what your reasons are for being here. What I do care deeply about is that those reasons and motivations are yours and yours alone.

It's an absolutely heartbreaking thing to see people all around me at Laurier who would obviously be happier somewhere else.

Many are here because their parents pressured them. Many more have parents who didn't need to pressure them, university being just "the thing that one does." Lots of people are sticking to elaborate plans that their guidance counselors wrote up with them. Some people just think it'll be useful to have a couple letters to go at the end of their names on a business card.

The biggest group, though, is of people who are at university out of momentum; out of a sense that if they drop off the educational wagon, they might nev-

er get back on. Never mind the destination, at least they're going somewhere.

Letting any of these reasons push you through the Laurier doors is a betrayal. It betrays what an institution of higher learning should stand for, but more importantly, it betrays us as individuals.

For many of us, the transition to university life is our first taste of real freedom; it's likely your first time away from home, your first time being responsible for your own learning, your first time paying for an education.

All of us make a transition in lifestyle. What should follow, but often lags, is the transition to a different mode of thinking about our lives.

High school is predicated on trusting authority, whether about the fundamentals of calculus or the fundamentals of our career paths. We get used to this paternalism, and carry its expectations with us to Laurier.

Although this place may look and feel like a big high school sometimes, it isn't. At Laurier you are not just a student, you are also a Business Income Unit (a.k.a. a dollar sign).

The university has a strong incentive to keep you here. Take their advice with a grain of salt. There is also a deep snobbery here about any life paths that don't involve a university education.

It is up to you to look with a critical eye at your own life, and especially at the chorus of voices telling you to do this or that with it. There's no sense in ignoring parents or academic advisors; don't just trust them, either. Too often, they want to live vicariously through you, to see you jump the obstacles that stood in their way.

I have a good many friends who've figured this all out. Some of them are learning a trade (and already earning more than I will for many years). Some are working. Some are travelling. Some are raising families.

All of them, though, are far happier than they were when crammed into lecture halls. These are all big decisions, and shouldn't be made hastily.

Still, if after a little while at Laurier you find yourself dreaming of something else, use your newfound freedom - walk out the door and never look back.

letters@cordweekly.com

# Letters to the Editor

## Fight for lower tuition fees

Re: A mounting slope: the Ontario tuition fee problem.

It's no surprise that the tone of this article on the state of tuition fees in this province is depressed and disheartened. Not just because tuition fees are so high but also because the writer seems to only be aware of the two different student "lobby" groups operating in Ontario that are mentioned in the article, both of whom have a long history of inaction and even actively supporting tuition fee hikes. If I thought that those groups were representative of the student movement in Canada and Ontario then I would be very disheartened as well. But luckily they do not represent the student movement and there is hope because there is a student lobby and advocacy organization that is and has been standing up against these shameful tuition increases. There is a student organization that unites not just undergraduate and graduate students but also full and part time university and college students right across Ontario and Canada. There does exist a real student movement and it is called the Canadian Federation of Students.

Hopefully this year students at Laurier who are concerned about the high cost of tuition fees will work with other students from across Ontario to send a clear mes-

sage to Dalton McGuinty that the tuition increases have gone too far and have got to stop.

There is strength in numbers and if we work together we can succeed.

- Chris McNeil

## Pro-life clubs deserve voice

Recently, I've learned that York University's student government has placed a ban on pro-life groups and made it impossible for these groups to meet in student areas on campus. Additionally, at other Canadian universities, anti-abortion clubs have had their club status revoked. I cannot claim to know the bylaws of every student government in this country, but I know that where I attend university, every student pays equal fees for their student government. This means that every student has equal access to the clubs and services offered. How is it legally possible to discriminate against a group of students that are entitled to participate in their activity of choice on campus as a result of paying the same student fees? Additionally, these students' personal rights are being targeted. Individuals in Canada hold freedom of speech, expression and association rights. All of these are being limited in this situation.

Regardless of your stance in this

specific debate - please recognize the slippery slope that is occurring here: when one group's freedoms are limited, dangerous principles are left behind that pave the way for limitations coming from all walks of life. The next time your book club wants to meet, maybe they won't be allowed because the book you're reading offends a particular group. The group you meet with at the coffee shop will perhaps be kicked out next time because all too often you discuss your views on marriage. These examples may appear to be far-fetched, but there's little difference between these and

what is happening in the universities across Canada.

Do we not live in a free country where everyone is entitled to freedom of speech and expression? I hope that the York University's student government, as well as the other universities that have been making decisions like this, takes a step back and realizes the example they are allowing to be set for all of society - and I hope they reconsider and follow the principle set forth by our nation: freedom.

- Erin Stewart

## 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.

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**C(hild) Spot** - Like a bad fever, school kids are abundant on campus during the summer months. **ALEX HAYTER**



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# They mostly come at night... mostly

Toronto's Cineforum founder Reg Hartt comes to Waterloo to present his films *Kid Dracula* and *Cartoon Sex and Violence Festival*

**KIMBERLY ELWORTHY**  
CORD A&E

For many, movies recollect memories in lavish cinemas, juggling oversized drinks while stuffing down popcorn as big budget Hollywood effects unravel. There is much more to the film experience than this and Reg Hartt, a Torontonian film buff, has made it his business to open our eyes and ears to film - uncensored and revamped.

"It always needs to be stirred up — Andre Gide once said, 'everything has been said before, but since nobody listens we have to keep going back and beginning all over again,'" thinks Hartt, a clear critic of popular culture and society in general.

The Princess Cinema is presenting Reg Hartt's two shows - *Kid Dracula* and *Cartoon Sex and Violence*. For Hartt, nothing beats an enthusiastic audience: "[sitting] in a theatre with a couple hundred people and [hearing] the kind of laughter that you don't hear anymore."

"How often do you sit in a theatre where there are people going crazy laughing?" Hartt asked. "You take these films out and people respond to them enthusiastically. They are ready for it but they are not being served."

*Kid Dracula* incorporates Radiohead's *Kid A* and *OK Computer* as the entire soundtrack to the classic horror film *Noseferatu*. An homage to musical accompaniment during the silent film era, Hartt grasped the opportunity to experiment with a unique canvas.

"When these movies first came out they were brand new and nobody was stuck in any kind of idea of how things should be," explained Hartt. "With silent films, each theatre would create its own score and sometimes there were scores that were written to go with them but usually what they did was throw that out because it was more fun to do your own thing."

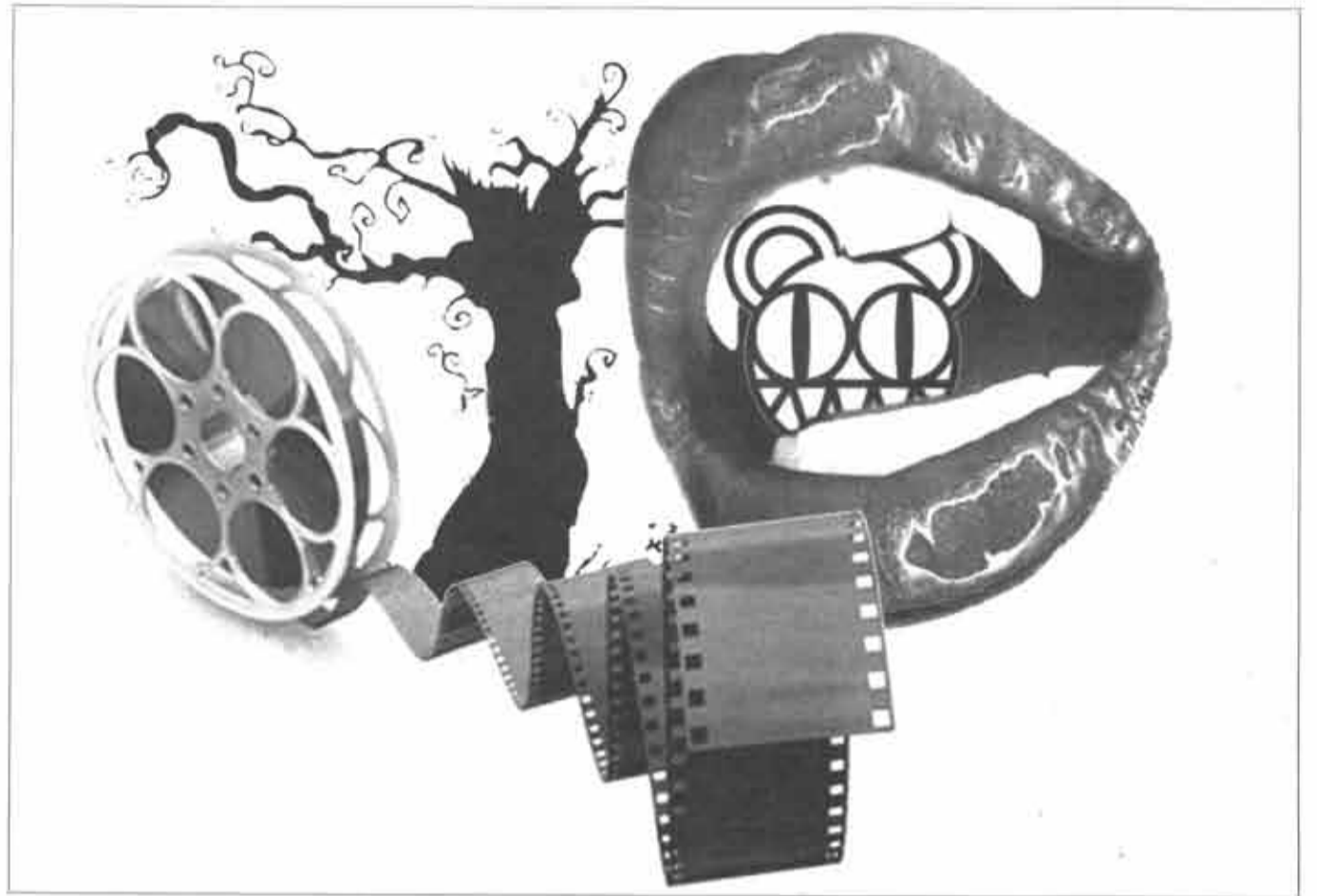
I thought it would be neat to do that with Radiohead. I gave it a shot and then promoted it and people came out and went wow that's really cool, so we just kept it up."

*Cartoon Sex and Violence* unearths the uncensored versions of many of our favourite cartoons. From Looney Tunes to Disney, the presentation shines light on how censorship can destroy art at its finest moment.

The Cineforum is Hartt's private cinema, which also acts as his home and is open to anyone interested in investing a couple hours to get a taste of his rare film collection.

Uniquely, Hartt welcomes his guests to bring their own food and beverages as his cinema is private and does not have to adhere to your typical cinema guidelines. "If you go across the road and pick up a six pack, you can bring a six pack because it's private... So what that means is I have the best selection and the best prices. I've got the beer store across the street and some people bring wine or something stronger."

In his youth, Hartt found salvation in Toronto's Rochdale College after finding out that even the L.A.



GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION

**MASHED-UP** - *Kid Dracula* and *The Cartoon Sex & Violence Festival* offer a truly blended visual experience.

police were well aware of its infamous reputation. "Rochdale was a student high-rise where Pierre Trudeau decided to allow the legal use of Hash, marijuana, LSD and Meth- it was 18 floors and the higher up you went the higher you got. I realized if the L.A. police knew about Rochdale it must be the hippest place on earth."

Despite his seemingly positive experiences with education, he no longer endorses it; "Part of the nature of what I do is I encourage [students] to get the blazes out of school because the whole idea is

not to encourage you to think or anything else. It's just to become a part of the factory process."

Since then he has dedicated his life to the Cineforum. "One day I realized, do you want to be the person who writes about a person living or be the person living? So I abandoned everything I ever learned completely and tried sailing some uncharted seas, it's been a lot of fun ever since."

For Reg Hartt, it's about rediscovering film and bringing others along for the journey. He often reiterates the importance of recognizing film,

like any other creative work, as art and therefore remains enduring through decades, whether you like it or not. Film is more than the pre-approved packaged products filmgoers often await; film has a history that remains to be explored and enjoyed by the general public.

Hartt's showing of *Kid Dracula* and the *Sex and Violence Cartoon Festival* will be tonight, Wednesday the 25, starting at 7pm at the Princess Cinema. You get in for one show for 15 dollars, but can attend the double bill for 20.

## CORD WEEKLY.COM

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### Seriously scary

**Kari Prichard** says that while some horror movies just rely on gore for a scare, *The Strangers* doesn't - and succeeds fantastically.

### MaybWii not

**Sydney Helland** is pretty sure that if you haven't bought the new *Mario Kart* for your Wii yet, you might still want to maintain your distance.

### State lines, post-hardcore and an animal fight

**Daniel Joseph** discusses geography, his love for post-hardcore and why Bear vs Shark continues to be one of his favourite groups from the last 5 years in his blog, *Tex Sound Mex*.

### Visitation rights

*The Visitor* breaks from the mold of your typical summer blockbuster, and tells a sweet story, says **Wade Thompson**.

### Game frames

**Alex Hayter** discusses how videogame coding can be compared to other frameworks used to construct art.

## THE BIG QUESTION

"What music has been on your summer playlist?"

Compiled by Daniel Joseph  
Photographs by Sydney Helland



"Yelle - 'Je veux le voir.'"

- Kojo Otoo  
Fourth-year Business



"House. I don't know the name of the group but I know it's house."

- James McGarragle  
Fourth-year Business



"MGMT and some M.I.A mostly."

- Sara Pender  
Third-year Business



"Lots of Death Cab! The new Coldplay is okay too."

- Victoria Whalen  
Third-year Business



"A big variety - top 40 and alternative."

- Andrea Beaudry  
Third-year Business



# In the future, there is comedy

*The Beast With a Billion Backs* is not only a brave sci-fi outing but also one of the best episodes in the series so far

TREVOR LOUGHBOROUGH  
CORD A&E

In the interests of disclosure, I must begin this review by stating that I am a huge *Futurama* fan. That may seem to make this biased, but the *Futurama* movies, of which this is the second of four, are peculiar from a review standpoint.

Being released straight to DVD after massive fan support, these movies are quite clearly targeted towards people who are very familiar with the series, either through excessive rerun watching (like me)



*Futurama: The Beast with a Billion Backs*

Director: Peter Avanzino  
Starring: Billy West, Katey Sagal, John Di Maggio  
Release Date: 24/06/2008  
Rating: B+

or purchase of the box set seasons (... like me).

For people that dislike *Futurama*, I don't even really need to tell you to steer clear. And for those who have never seen it, you'd be better off watching some of the TV shows before sitting down with the series for 90 minutes. The question in the end is: will fans enjoy this movie, even after the often-lukewarm reception of the first film? Does it live up to the reputation of the series? Rest assured, fellow fans, *The Beast with a Billion Backs* is not only a step up from the previous film, it's one of the best *Futurama* stories yet.

After the last film, life on Earth seems to continue as normal, other than the mysterious hole in the sky. There are numerous subplots, from Kif and Amy's wedding, to Bender joining the mysterious League of Robots, and the Professor teaming up with his rival Wernstrom to investigate the tear in space. The main plotline follows Fry, who begins dating a girl named Colleen, only to be put off by discovering she has 4 other boyfriends. In his loneliness he ventures through the rift, and meets a many-tentacled creature living in the other universe.

Fry's return marks the beginning of the second act, and one of the most bizarre sci-fi plotlines I've ever seen. The monster's tentacles descend onto Earth and begin attaching to people's necks, immediately filling them with a sense of comfort and love. As Fry's new religion of the tentacle continues to gain converts, the Planet Express crew try to



CONTRIBUTED GRAPHIC

**BACK TO THE FUTURAMA** - The cast of the hit show are back for another feature-length, epic adventure.

keep their necks unsullied.

The third act will be where opinions will divide, as it does something that so many sci-fi stories pretend to, but never really do - explore the possibilities and honestly speculate. Instead of "What if tentacles invaded the universe, how would we get rid of them?" the writers ask, "What if tentacles invaded the universe... and turned out not to be so bad?" The culmination of that line of questioning is an oddly moving scene that eschews the sort of tired pseudo-moral that rejects anything different from our current existence. It may put off some, especially on first viewing, but it's a

brave move for the film, especially when there were lots of easy laughs that could have been obtained by just going the conventional route.

The flaws of the previous film are, for the most part, fixed in *The Beast With a Billion Backs*. The jokes come fast and furious, there are no songs and the pace is kept up through most of the movie. I definitely laughed a lot more during this movie than *Bender's Big Score*, and the jokes range from surprisingly raunchy to face-palmingly nerdy, with some hilariously offensive bits like the brief scene involving Bender's son. That said, there are still a lot of jokes that won't

make much sense or be as funny to people who haven't watched the show a fair bit.

In the end, there's little this review can say that most can't figure out on their own. If you didn't like *Futurama* before, I doubt this movie will change your mind. If you've never seen it, you probably won't understand this movie's plot or half of its jokes. But if you are like me, *The Beast With a Billion Backs* recreates all the aspects of the show that fans loved, with a plot that is surprisingly daring and well written. Anyone who enjoys the show owes it to himself or herself to give this movie a look.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**BAR TUNES** - The Hold Steady kick back appropriately in a bar.

ALEX CYBULSKI  
CORD A&E

One can't help admiring what The Hold Steady have accomplished in the past few years. Since releasing *Almost Killed Me* in 2004 on French Kiss records the band has gone on to release two more albums in four years and the fourth, *Stay Positive*, arrives on June 20th from Vagrant Records. By releasing three albums

in four years and touring extensively it is not surprising that the band's following has grown rapidly.

For those who are unfamiliar with the Hold Steady, they sound like the an amazing punk band combined with Bruce Springsteen's finest bar rock moments. This is to say they are accessible to almost any musical generation, endearing themselves to just about everybody who appreciates rock.

## Always stay positive

Alex Cybulski tells us why *Stay Positive* is a great example of what The Hold Steady have to offer: punk and classic rock coming together perfectly

*Stay Positive* is the latest effort from the band that hails from St. Paul, Minnesota. The album continues to blend the punk slash classic rock sound that the Hold Steady has been developing.

At forty-three minutes long, the record blurs by in a wake of excellent melodies and rarely lags: the last few songs slow the pace, a hallmark of the band's previous efforts. However these songs sound unlike anything in the back catalogue of Hold Steady songs.

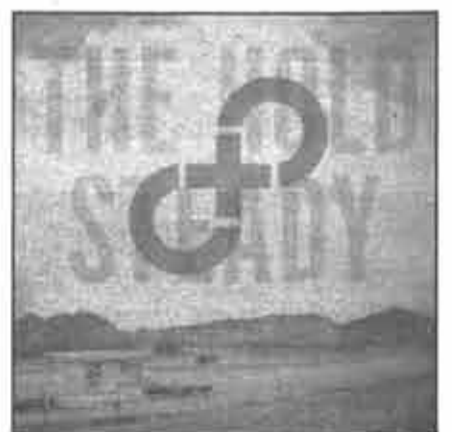
The musicians in the band make their instruments sing in their own ways and pound at the forefront of the biggest songs on *Stay Positive*. "Joke About Jamaica" and "Navy Sheets" speak to the artistry of the band, virtually punctuated by distinct and ingenious moments.

New listeners who are fans of classic rock will really get something out of the instrumentation, while the band's indie fans will find the hybrid sound of the band to be their finest quality.

*Stay Positive* demonstrates a musical fidelity which is unlike the Hold Steady's previous efforts. Tonally, songs like "One for the Cutters" and "Navy Sheets" demonstrate a change from the overall bar-rock structure which encompasses most of the band's library. These songs deviate into a new-wave feel which seems culled from the 80's before they had the chance to become worn out. While some songs remind me of the bests straightforward rock efforts by their predecessors The Replacements, the backup chorus in "Magazines" sounds like it was stolen from an 80's pop-rock hit.

I can't help but feel like *Stay Positive* is a little more sugarcoated in terms of instrumentation; the songs are consistently upbeat and more layered than any previous album. There is less dead space for single instruments or singer Craig Finn's a capella vocals. Furthermore Finn is obviously taking strides to sing, instead of the candence of speech/song any Hold Steady fan is used to.

The changes are welcome and after three albums a new sound is dynamic and uplifting; appropriately it feels positive. *Stay Positive* is an uplifting call out to a broader rock generation, divided by marketing but united by bar rock.



The Hold Steady  
*Stay Positive*  
Vagrant Records  
Release Date: 14/07/2008  
Rating: A-

# Cat power on the rise

VG Cats videogame comic artist Scott Ramsomair chats with *The Cord* about Waterloo, classes at Laurier and his life in general

DANIEL JOSEPH  
A&E EDITOR

*Spore*, the newest game from Maxis studios, has recently released a demo of sorts, in the form of the *Creature Creator*. With it, you can pretty much design any kind of creature you want, adjusting close to every aspect of its outward appearance.

While many gamers have created various alien manifestations, Scott Ramsomair saw exactly what many would do - create hilariously juvenile ones.

A simple YouTube search today reveals hundreds of spore videos featuring monsters in the shape of a phallus. In one of Scott's comics from 2006, Will Wright - the mastermind behind *Spore* and dozens of Sims games - stands by as Leo, one of the comic's characters, creates another creature. "So it's got butts for eyes?" Will asks. Leo calmly replies, "He poops to see."

The developers of *Spore* were so impressed with Scott's observation they went off and created all of the characters from the strip, and subsequently sent a re-worked version of it to him - completely with genuine *Spore* creatures.

So it goes without saying that VG Cats holds a level of influence in the vast dystopic land that is the Internet.

Scott Ramsomair proved himself to be a hard individual to finally speak with, but it turned out to be worth the wait. For the uninitiated here at Laurier, Scott runs the rather popular web-comic *VG cats*.

Every Monday, Scott tries to put out a new comic that in one way or another parodies the games he is currently playing. Though updates are frequently off by more than a few days, Ramsomair still commands a following of die-hard fans that are more than willing to buy stuffed animals modeled on his main characters.

Ramsomair also has a history with Waterloo - and Laurier. Until two years ago he was himself a resident of our fine town, frequenting what can only be described as the very best establishments Waterloo had to offer. He also once attended courses at Laurier, and his father Dr. Franklin Ramsomair is a professor in the Business faculty.

While Waterloo and Laurier might have been a part of Ramsomair's life, the latter managed to be a short one.

"I took very limited courses," laughed Ramsomair. "They were art history and something else. I got rid of them quickly because I

just didn't care too much." While it's clear that his academic career at Laurier came to a halt rather quickly, he has found success with producing art through *VG Cats*. Trading art history for actual artistry, Ramsomair now gets to travel around the planet and visit conferences attended by loving fans.

Ramsomair can now be found in the state of Texas, currently residing with his fiancé. He works full time with the comic strip and attends conferences in addition to writing. Ramsomair is the exception to the rule in the world of online video game themed comics: you can count the successful ones that create an income for their creators on one hand. While other comics may slowly fade away with time, *VG Cats* has been around since 2001 when his first comic about *Counter-Strike* was uploaded, and it has continued to grow in popularity since.

Texas can be fun for some, but Scott has a few complaints about the weather and the lack of a health-care system like Canada's.

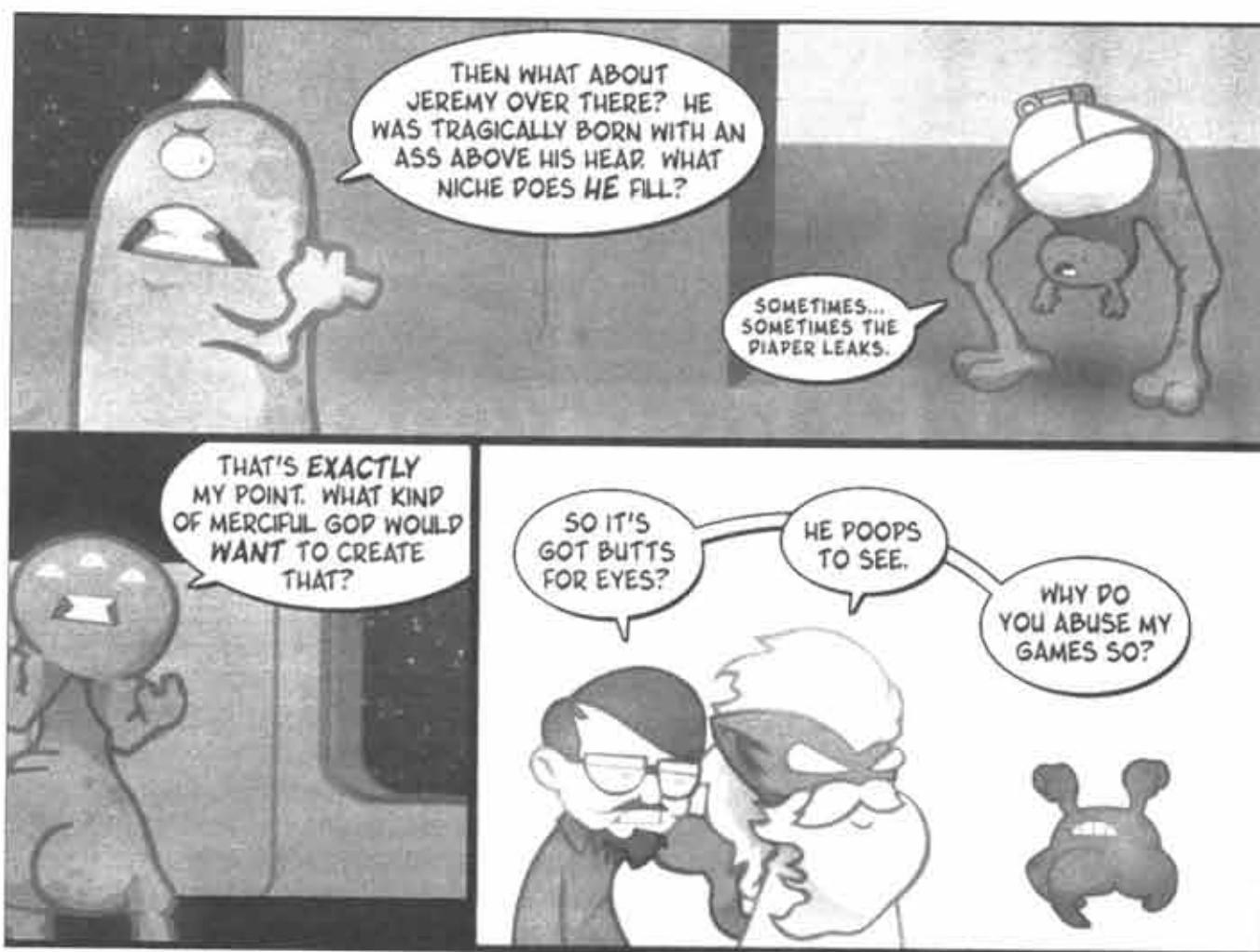
When asked about what he thought of his own national identity, especially now that he lives in the heart of America, Ramsomair clearly stays committed to some of the tenets of being a Canadian. "Sometimes I try and fit things in about being a Canadian," he said, speaking of his comic. "Spelling is one - if I can fit in a 'U' in colour or put in a Canadian flag as a backdrop."

Health-care and nationality aside, for a person who comments often on video games, it's clear that he he must play them fairly frequently. "I'm still on Grand Theft Auto. That game is so big. I have no idea where I am in it," said Ramsomair.

"I'm also playing *Team Fortress 2* finally. See, being an artist I have a Photoshop-ready computer, so it's not very powerful. So while *Team Fortress 2* has been out for a year, I figured it was about time I gave it a shot."

Ramsomair travels a lot these days between comics conventions and publishing. So one wonders just how much time he will get to play those computer games at home. "I've seen so many places. It's so nice because I love to travel. I just recently made a trip to New York." Though as he mentions, "it's always nice to come back to a home with your cats."

You can catch this former Waterloo-ite's work at [www.vgcats.com](http://www.vgcats.com) for (tentative) weekly updates and an entire archive of past work.



CONTRIBUTED BY SCOTT RAMSOMAIR

UNFORTUNATE EXODUS - VG Cats manages to work in acute humour about evolution, as well as poop.

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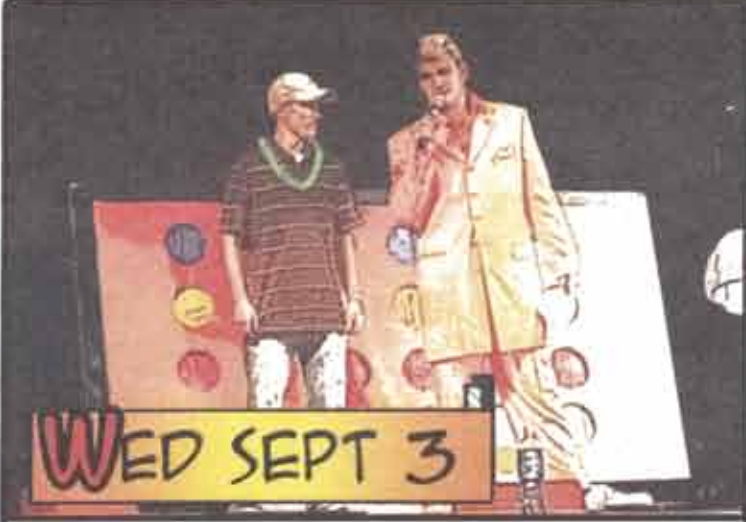
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**WED SEPT 3**

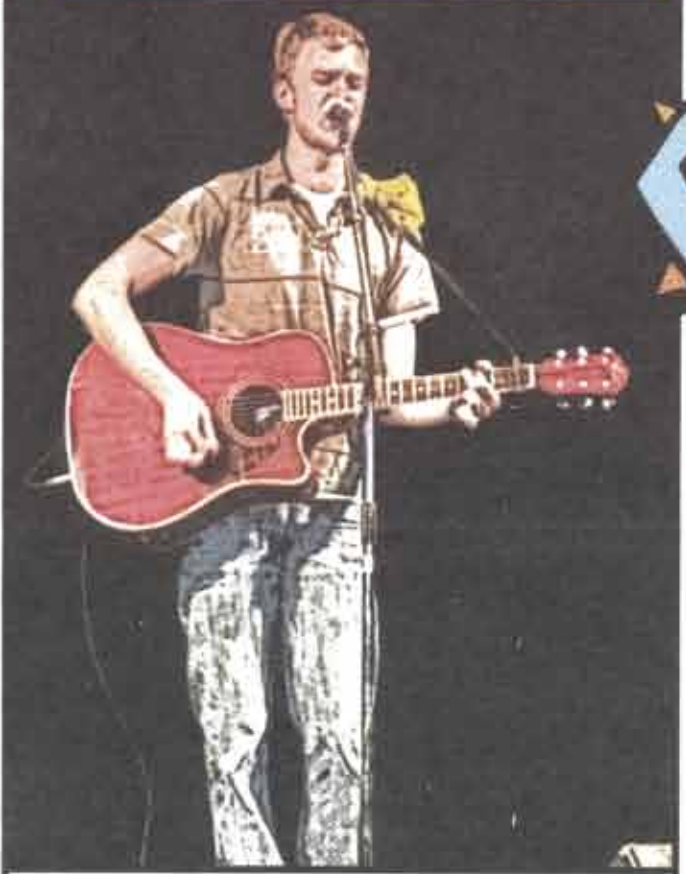
WIN GREAT PRIZES AND ELECTRONICS AT PRICE IS RIGHT!



**THURS SEPT 4**

A DAY AT BINGEMANS WATER PARK! GO CARTS, MINI GOLF, WAVE POOL, VOLLEYBALL + MORE!

**MEANWHILE...ON FRI SEPT 5**



SHOWCASE YOUR TALENT AND BE AMAZED BY YOUR PEERS AT THE TALENT SHOW!

**POW!**



**SAT SEPT 6**

SHINE DAY! SPEND A DAY IN THE SUN RAISING MONEY FOR SHINERAMA! THEN COME TO CLOSING CEREMONIES, THE BEST WAY TO END A GREAT WEEK WITH NEW FRIENDS!



**ZAP!**

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