



WORLDWIDE WELFARE

Various international speakers visit Waterloo to voice their concerns about humanitarian issues ... **PAGES 8-9**

OKTO-BEER-FEST

The Cord goes in search of the authentic Oktoberfest experience in Kitchener ... **PAGES 12-13**

Volume 49 Issue 10

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 15, 2008

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Conservatives take KW

Braid (Conservative): 21,871 votes

Telegdi (Liberal): 21,798 votes



YUSUF KIDWAI



RYAN STEWART

POLITI-COASTER - Both Braid (left) and Telegdi (right) saw many ups and downs during the tense election that concluded last night. The KW riding result came as a shock to Telegdi.

Conservative Peter Braid won Kitchener-Waterloo with 36.1 percent of the vote as the Tories won a minority government. Liberal MP Andrew Telegdi, who has held the riding for 15 years, was just 73 votes shy of Braid's result

DAN POLISCHUCK
WEB EDITOR

The Liberal party's strength in the Kitchener-Waterloo riding has come to an end with the victory of Conservative candidate Peter Braid.

While CTV correctly predicted yet another Conservative minority government at 9:49 p.m. local time - a mere 19 minutes after polls closed in Ontario - the eventual prediction of Liberal Andrew Telegdi winning the local riding turned out to be premature.

News outlets predicted a Liberal victory at 11:20 p.m., with the incumbent ahead by some 837 votes.

As he was about to concede the riding to Telegdi in a defeat speech shortly after midnight, a campaign member interrupted Braid. The speech was put on hold until the last of the 265 polls in the riding were counted.

The following two hours would see results jump back and forth between favouring the Liberals and the Conservatives, creating a tense atmosphere at Braid's campaign party at Morty's.

In the end, delaying the speech turned out to be a wise decision, as the first-time candidate won with a total of 21,871 votes, only a 73-vote margin over Telegdi.

Upon confirmation of the results, Braid once again took to the microphone in front of a room that was still completely full.

"I'm glad I brought along a second speech!" Kitchener-Waterloo's new MP joked.

"My commitment to all of you, and to the voters of Kitchener-Waterloo, will reflect the values that our community is built on: tolerance, compassion, innovation and hard work," said Braid, adding, "I know that candidates don't win elections alone. It takes teamwork - and boy did we show that tonight!"

With Conservative Kitchener-Conestoga and Kitchener Centre victors Harold Albrecht and Stephen Woodworth dropping by afterwards to give their congratulations, Braid eventually described the night as "unnerving, exciting, and exhilarating at the end."

"I always felt that we could win this election and I knew we were in for a long evening; that the story wasn't over yet," said Braid.

Speaking about how he and the Conservatives were able to pull off the victory, Braid commented that "the policies and platform of Mr. Harper's government resonate with the people of this community."

- SEE BRAID, PAGE 5

LAURA CARLSON
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

It was a night of great upset and unexpected defeat for local Liberal incumbent Andrew Telegdi, who ended his 15-year reign as Member of Parliament for the Kitchener-Waterloo riding in the early hours of this morning.

Although Telegdi, his supporters and the media predicted a victory just before 11:30 p.m., when the final numbers came in around 1:30 a.m., Telegdi suffered a defeat to Conservative candidate Peter Braid by a mere 73 votes.

The lead swung back and forth between the two candidates until the bitter end - Telegdi was ahead by eight votes with only five polling stations waiting to be counted - but ultimately Braid claimed 21,871 votes, while Telegdi trailed with 21,798.

Braid captured 36.1 percent of the local vote, and Telegdi 36 percent, making it one of the tightest MP races in the country.

"It's obvious we've got some rebuilding to do," said a visibly shaken Telegdi addressing his family and a handful of supporters that remained at the Huether Hotel after the majority of the crowd had dispersed assuming a Telegdi victory.

"I said when I first got into the House of

Commons I will do my job in such a fashion so I've got no regrets when it's done. I certainly don't have any regrets of what I've done in parliament, I do have regret that I didn't get 100 more votes."

Serving KW since 1993, 63-year-old Telegdi is unsure of what he will do now that he is faced with an uncertain political future, though he did note that he has given some consideration to a sabbatical from politics.

It was "not a good day, period," said Telegdi referring to both his own defeat and the defeat of Liberal MPs across the country.

"We are going to have a Conservative government with a very low percentage of the popular vote.... We're going to be going back to the polls in two years, I can guarantee you that."

The tone of the night was a whirlwind of emotions as soon as the initial numbers began to trickle in around 11 p.m. Even the local media was unsure of where to send reporters, with Braid leading at the top of the night.

"We went through a lot of emotions tonight because of course the early returns showed that we were behind and we weren't expecting to be behind," said David Cooke, Telegdi's campaign manager.

- SEE TELEGDI, PAGE 3

THE CORD WEEKLY

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WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 15, 2008

VOLUME 49 ISSUE 10

Next Issue: October 22

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I just walked in on their rainbow party."

— Sports Editor Lauren Millet, interrupting a "movie night."

WORD OF THE WEEK

Kodomontade - Van boasting; empty bluster; pretentious, bragging speech; rant.

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COLOPHON

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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Greens get local support

Green party candidate Cathy MacLellan ended the night with 12 percent voter support in the riding

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

Tension was high at the Green headquarters last night as the results for local MP trickled in.

The night was ultimately positive, however, as the Green party nearly doubled their local percent-

age compared to the 2006 federal election.

Kitchener-Waterloo candidate Cathy MacLellan warmly greeted a variety of volunteers and local citizens, expressing her joy with the party's outcome.

"I accomplished what I set out to accomplish, which was to get

10 percent of the vote. That was our first goal right from the beginning of the campaign and it looks like I'm at 12 percent so I'm very pleased about that," she commented, adding that from a financial point of view her results are particularly positive.

"Reaching that 12 percent, we'll be very well-financed moving into our next campaign."

She also noted her satisfaction with the way she was treated as a member of the Green party, explaining that she felt as "equally valued" as the three other major parties in the area.

Overall MacLellan noted her excitement about the party's support in the area, stating, "I feel like the voters of Waterloo gave me a good vote of confidence... I think that's a good foundation to build on."

Throughout her campaign, MacLellan attained several milestones as Kitchener-Waterloo's Green representative, garnering over 65 volunteers, distributing 384 signs and getting the party its first campaign headquarters for the area.

On a national level, MacLellan noted her disappointment with the 59 percent voter turnout, commenting that it "hurts smaller

parties and it works to the advantage of the major parties," because many of those who do not vote are the same demographic who would vote for the smaller parties.

An overwhelming disappointment with the three Kitchener ridings' Conservative victories was evident, however, as those in attendance watched the local numbers change.

Also in attendance were Kitchener-Centre Green candidate John Bithell and Kitchener-Waterloo Canadian Action party candidate Kyle Huntingdon, who stated he felt compelled to attend the event because he was invited and because he feels "there's a great affinity between the two parties."

According to MacLellan, she was extremely pleased with the "community" feel at her campaign office on Tuesday night, stating "I love the cross-section; you have kids, grandparents, students... and everyone made a contribution."

MacLellan's next step is to "review and debrief" the party's past campaign, and she noted that she will continue to run in the riding.

"This was a long-term commitment for me and for many of the people on the team. We want to see the Greens win."



LAURA TOMKINS

GREEN GROWTH - MacLellan was pleased with her accomplishments.

NDP secure third place in K-W

Cindy Jacobsen, New Democratic Party candidate for Kitchener-Waterloo, gets 14 percent support

DEVON BUTLER
STAFF WRITER

An excited room full of bright orange signs can only mean one thing: The New Democratic Party on election night. However, this animation was short-lived as the results for the Kitchener-Waterloo riding poured in. The NDP came up short with only 14 percent support from the riding, securing third place.

"It is a sad day for all the disadvantaged and fragile people in the world," stated first-time candidate Cindy Jacobsen.

"You would think a place like Kitchener would understand the sufferings of job loss and inequality, and action for change away from the Conservatives."

Jacobsen, however, did not let last night's results diminish her spirit. "Politics are in my blood now. I'm in this for the long haul."

With a light heart, Jacobsen gave her views on the election outcome: "Overall, I am surprised by the strength of the Tories, but not surprised by the weakness of the Liberals."

Jacobsen also commented on the relationship between members of the same party fighting for different ridings: "They are always

stepping on each other's turf and working against each other."

She believes that in these events, candidates within the same party looking to represent various ridings should work together and not against one another.

She explained that that was the reason why she shared her "Victory Party" last night with Kitchener-Centre NDP candidate Oscar "Oz" Cole-Arnall.

It was at the NDP Headquarters in Downtown Kitchener that both candidates gave hopeful speeches regarding the future of the New Democratic Party.

American-born Jacobsen expressed her gratitude towards the NDP and warned listeners that the party was something "to watch in the future."

"Though the results may say we lack support, we know different," she added.

Jacobsen explained that she is proud of the work she has accomplished and the way that she has run her campaign.

"I am so proud to have young people getting involved with this election," she added, before referring to the debate held at Wilfrid Laurier University only a week ago.

"The students were all so in-



ANDREI KOVACSIK

THIRD PLACE - Jacobsen receives warm sentiments from supporters.

terested, eagerly awaiting the answers. Out of all the questions I've been asked, the most intelligent ones came from that debate."

As the crowds thinned out in the NDP's election office, Jacobsen's smile did not.

"Throughout my campaign I've learned so much. This election started off scary but with the good help from my volunteers it has be-

come a cheerful ordeal."

Jacobsen said she has no regrets but says she would have wanted more time to knock on people's doors and meet the hard-working citizens of Kitchener-Waterloo.

As for Jacobsen's future in Canadian politics, "The stress, fear and hard work were all worth it - I will definitely be running in the next campaign."

> VOCAL CORD

"What do you think of the Federal Election results?"



"I didn't even know it was voting season, yo."

- Taureen Allen
Third-year communication studies



"I'm happy. That's who I would have voted for."

- Ashley Weaver
Third-year kinesiology



"I know the Conservatives had a minority last time, so I don't know how much of a difference this is going to make."

- Nimar Bangash
Third-year economics



"It didn't change anything."

- Ayaz Lakhani
Third-year business



"It kinda sucks. I vote NDP."

- Drew Nelson
Third-year history

Compiled by Dave Shore,
photos by Jeremy Tremblay

Conservatives win more seats, still shy of majority

Liberals major losers in election; Harper, Dion and Layton keep their ridings, Greens remain seatless

JEREMY TREMBLAY
NEWS EDITOR

Stephen Harper's Conservatives were given a second mandate to govern following the results of Canada's 40th general election.

Following the release of preliminary election results, the Conservatives hold 142 of the 308 seats in the House of Commons, 13 seats short of a majority government.

In 2006, the Tories picked up 124 seats.

Voter turnout in the election, which hovered around 59 percent,

was the lowest it has ever been for a general election in Canada.

Kitchener-Waterloo fared slightly better than average, with 64 percent of registered voters casting their ballots.

Conservative gains largely came at the expense of Stéphane Dion's Liberals, who won 76 seats; in 2006 the party won 103. The party lost four percent of the popular vote between 2006 and 2008.

Despite his party's losses, Liberal leader Stéphane Dion won his Montreal riding of St-Laurent-Cartierville comfortably, garner-

ing 62 percent of the popular vote to win by a margin of over 17,000.

Both the NDP and Green Party also made gains at Liberal expense.

The NDP won 37 seats, falling six short of matching the NDP's best election result of 43 seats, won by Ed Broadbent's NDP in 1988. In 2006 the party won 29 seats.

Party leader Jack Layton, who was the incumbent for Toronto-Danforth, won his seat with a margin of over 7,000 votes.

Despite her party's gains, Elizabeth May failed to defeat Defence

Minister Peter MacKay in her riding of Central Nova, which has been a Conservative stronghold since 1957.

She placed second in the riding, winning 32 percent of the popular vote.

May expressed her disappointment at not winning, but said she would continue to fight for her beliefs.

"I'm concerned for all the people whose lives I hoped to change by getting elected tonight - people who are facing such difficult and trying circumstances, particularly those low-income single moms in the riding, people with disabilities, and seniors without pensions.

"There is much to be done to set things right. I can't do it in the short-term as your member of Parliament, I'll continue to do it as a member of this community," she said.

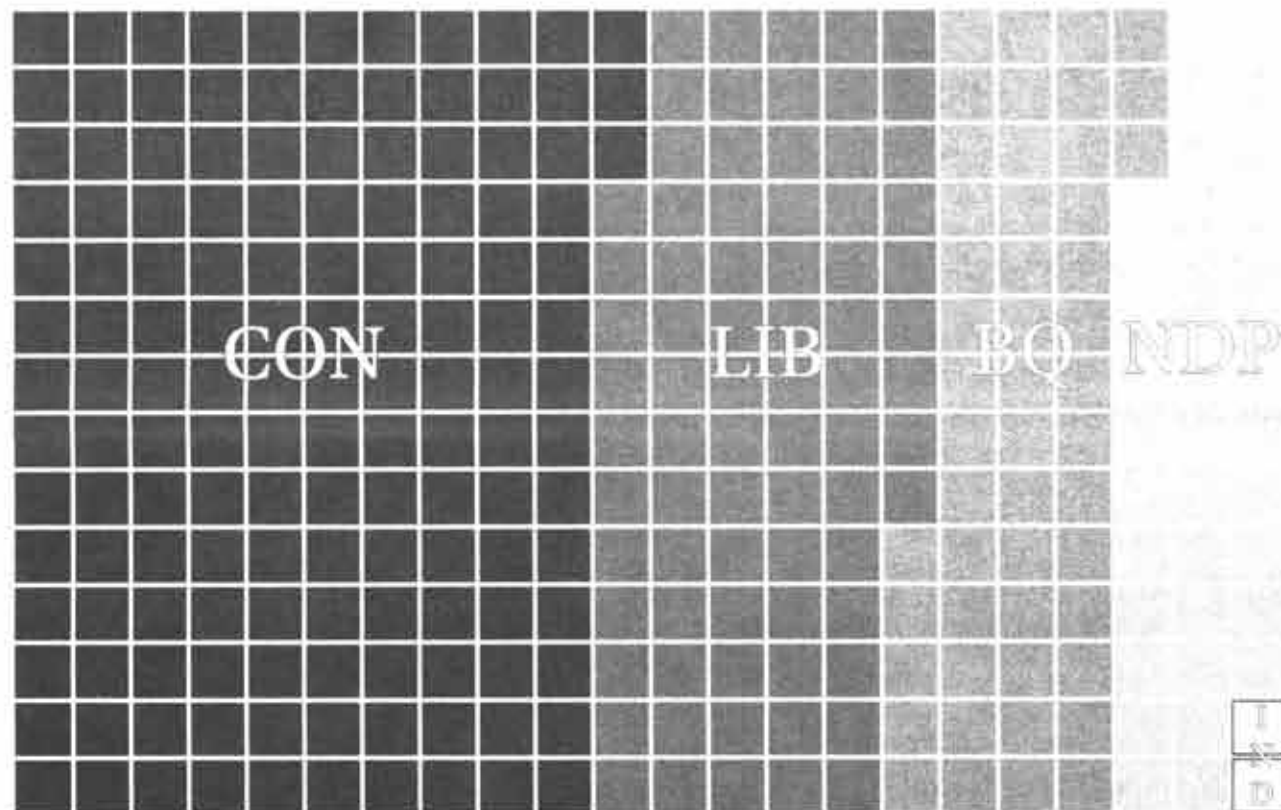
May expressed her pleasure with the gains she and her party made in the federal election. She went from 671 votes in 2006 to over 12,000 this year. Across Canada, the Greens received seven percent of the popular vote, up from four percent in 2006.

"Next time, we'll make all the difference. We will be a staying force in Central Nova because I'm not going anywhere."

- With files from CUP.

See PAGE 18 for editorial reaction to this story

House of Commons seat distribution



Liberal losses unexpected

- FROM TELEGDI, COVER

With Telegdi pulling ahead by several hundred votes and CTV displaying an image of an "elected" Telegdi around 11:30 p.m., the Liberals thought they were safe in claiming their victory.

"Let's party ... and thank you very much," an enthusiastic Telegdi proclaimed to his supporters chanting his name at the conclusion of his initial acceptance speech.

Eric Davis, Youth Coordinator for the Liberal Party, explained that with so few polls remaining to be counted they had assumed that they were destined to win.

"It's hard to overcome a certain margin of victory and I think everyone just sort of saw that we had [it]," said Davis.

"Last election he won by 11,000 votes... I think that a lot of people thought Andrew had a very good

shot of winning this riding somewhat handedly, but... the vote splitting, it was really hurting the Liberal Party," he added.

Despite the close margin, the results were not within one one-thousandth of the total votes cast in the riding. Accordingly, there is no automatic recount.

However, the Liberal Party will be asking for one.

At press time, it was not clear when such a recount would take place.

All federal ridings in Waterloo Region were won by the Conservatives, including Liberal Kitchener Centre incumbent Karen Redman who was defeated by her Conservative opponent by 339 votes.

Conservative incumbents Harold Albrecht and Gary Goodyear in the Kitchener-Conestoga and Cambridge riding were respectively re-elected.



RYAN STEWART

Candidate	Party	Votes	%
Peter Braid	Conservative	21,871	36.1
Andrew Telegdi	Liberal	21,798	36.0
Cindy Jacobsen	NDP	8,920	14.7
Cathy MacLellan	Green	7,329	12.1
Jason Cousineau	Libertarian	337	0.6
Mark Corbiere	Independent	108	0.2
Ramon Portillo	Communist	108	0.2
Kyle Huntingdon	CAP	107	0.2

591 charges in Project Safe Semester

Project run by Waterloo Regional Police Service hopes to take proactive steps in neighbourhoods

JEREMY TREMBLAY
NEWS EDITOR

A total of 591 charges were laid during the month of September as part of Waterloo Regional Police Service's (WRPS) Project Safe Semester, 111 charges fewer than were laid during the same period in 2007.

This is the second year that WRPS have run Project Safe Semester, which has teams of police officers, community partners and students "proactively [visiting] over 1,500 homes, meeting with residents to address matters of mutual interest and provide important information relating to safety and community resources."

Although the total number of charges has decreased this year, charges related to the Liquor Licence Act increased by about 50, going from 336 in 2007 to 380 this year.

According to WRPS spokesman Olaf Heinzl, the force is pleased with the results of this year's campaign.

"This is only the second year that we've collected these statistics under the auspices of Project Safe Semester. It's difficult to do an

interpretation to give us an exact reason [for the decline in charges], but we believe that the kind of proactive work that has been done... certainly has an impact on individuals' ability to understand the importance of a smooth transition to the community."

Heinzl explained that all the charges laid were not against students, adding that while the police "target behaviour, the goal is not to target students."

On most Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, two dozen officers were in the neighbourhoods around the universities and in up-town Waterloo.

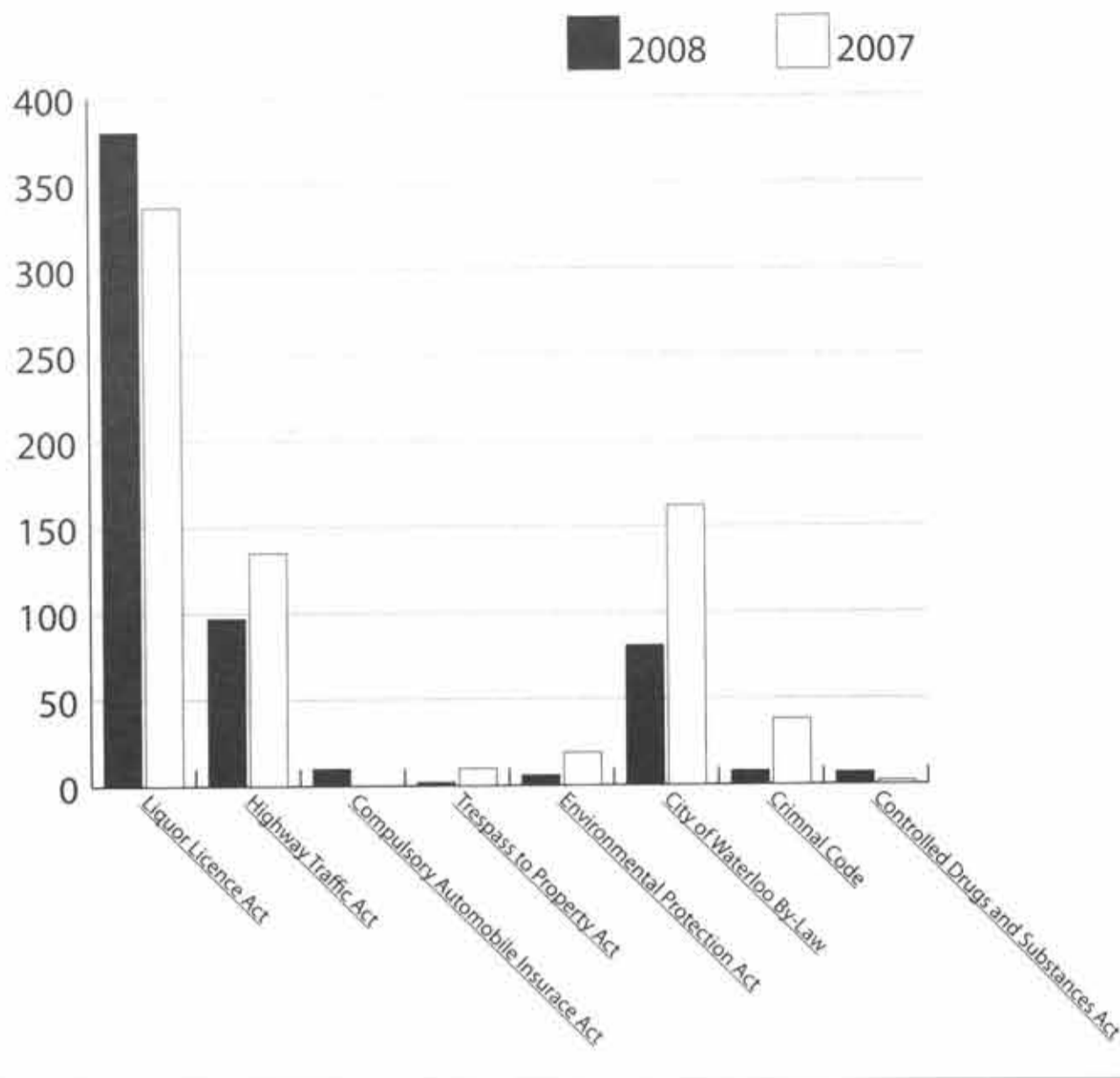
For WLU's homecoming, about 70 police and by-law enforcement officers were on patrol.

WRPS's "long-term goal is to bring charges down," stated Heinzl.

"Charges are something we would rather not lay. It is just one of the tools available to police and bylaw officers and campus police, one tool they can use really in the bigger picture to educate the public and the community."

Heinzl expects that the WRPS will continue to run Project Safe Semester in the future.

Project Safe Semester charges



GRAPHIC BY CHRISTINE PARENT

SAFETY FIRST - The long-term goal of the project is to bring charges down in the Waterloo Region.

Full-time faculty negotiations continue

University and WLUFA bargaining teams are continuing to meet twice a week; only "smaller issues" tackled thus far

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

Full-time faculty negotiations are now moving into their sixth week and, according to both parties, none of the larger issues have yet been tackled.

Bargaining sessions began on September 1 after exchanging proposals on August 27, with both the University and the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association's (WLU-

FA) bargaining units meeting twice a week.

WLUFA Media Relations Officer Herbert Pimlott stated that relations are moving at a steady pace.

"There's not really much to report. Negotiations are continuing and we are working item through item," said Pimlott.

WLU Associate Director: News and Editorial Services Kevin Crowley explained that negotiations are moving along normally.

"Negotiations continue to be fruitful.

They're still meeting twice a week, some of the smaller issues have been signed off and we're now moving towards some of the bigger issues," explained Crowley.

Neither party, however, would comment on the specific issues decided upon thus far. Crowley noted "I don't think either party wants to bargain publicly."

He explained that the "top three" issues are salary, workload and the way positional appointments are made.

The union's website was updated on October 6 with a new "Bargaining Advisory."

The post began with an overview of recent settlements made by faculty and administra-

tion at the University of Windsor, Lakehead and Laurentian University, stating "that leaves WLUFA as the only association in Ontario still at the bargaining table."

The release then went on to explain that Laurier's full-time faculty's salary is also "in last place" compared to other universities with more than 200 faculty members.

While WLUFA conceded that this does not take into account the difference in age and rank from other universities, they concluded the post with a call to bargain better salaries for their members.

WLU's administration last updated their negotiations website on September 26.

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YUSUF KIDWAI

Braid offers "change"

- FROM BRAID, COVER

"Supporting families, supporting students, keeping our community safe and ensuring that our economy continues to be managed very, very effectively. [Community members] know that they're in good hands with Conservative[s]."

Explaining why he ran in such a traditionally strong Liberal riding, Braid said it was his belief that "the people of Kitchener-Waterloo understand the benefit of having more of a direct course in

Ottawa and [having an MP] on the government's side of the House."

"I certainly want to thank and recognize Mr. Telegdi's long years of service. He served with conviction but I felt, as I was at the doors, people were indicating that it was time for change."

Responding to the possibility of a recount, Braid was confident that the end result would hold true.

"A win is a win and I'm very confident that I will, over the coming days, remain the Member of Parliament-elect in Kitchener-Waterloo."

PHL volunteer left in the dark

Student denied Peer Help Line interview after four years of volunteer service because of undocumented "issues" concerning her past performance

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

After applying to become a volunteer with Peer Help Line at Laurier for the fourth year in a row, Jaclyn Milstein, a fourth-year business co-op student, was told there were problems with her past performance; the problems, however, were not documented and she has not been informed what the issues are.

Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) Vice President: Human Resources Dan Preston says that he is not yet able to make a decision regarding this particular hire, based on the lack of any documentation.

"What I've done now is I've started to go back to the person who handed me documentation and get some more specifics because I'm not personally comfortable making a decision on the matter if I don't have more information," said Preston.

"Unfortunately for Jaclyn, I haven't heard anything back yet," he explained, adding "in this situation I have to take a little bit of accountability because when I got the information I should have pushed further right away."

According to Milstein, she applied for the position this September. After hearing back that she got an interview, she did not hear back regarding a time.

She then e-mailed Preston, who indicated that she should speak to someone from Peer Help Line involved with scheduling interviews.

She added that after being "ignored," she e-mailed Preston who indicated that Peer Help Line identified problems with her past performance.

"So far they've said that they've been able to verify that there were never any documented situations about my performance. I'm just waiting and waiting and waiting and they're not letting me know what the complaints are," said Milstein.

The major confusion faced by Milstein was the lack of feedback while she was with the group.

"Last year when I volunteered I never heard anything but great job, fantastic. I never missed any shifts, I never did anything wrong and they never told me I was doing anything wrong," Milstein explained.

WLUSU's policy, according to Preston, is to always give participants feedback.

"The coordinator should be letting the person know what exactly the problem is," he stated.

Preston explained that while WLUSU's performance appraisal system "needs improvement... I don't really think anybody's at fault here, but I think it's been unfair to Jaclyn."

Milstein is upset with the way it was dealt with, and has regrets about her volunteer experience with Peer Help Line.

"I think it's just very unprofessional and in retrospect I wish I would've given my time to an organization who had appreciated it."

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CANADA IN

Homecoming in danger

KINGSTON, ON — The future of Homecoming appears to be in trouble at Queen's University. Queen's most recent Homecoming saw a significant rise in the number of people flooding into the city, as well as a doubling of the number of arrested individuals.

Over 600 fines were given out, but tickets and arrests were limited because there simply weren't enough officers available.

The event is seen by some as dangerously drunken partying with a weak, if any, connection to school spirit. Many believe a "street party" attitude has developed as students and strangers are drinking more, partying more and creating a tense atmosphere for those living in the city.

Students and individuals lacking any association with Queen's University created issues of safety and security over the weekend. Options already discussed include delaying, cancelling and re-inventing the school's Homecoming.

The event has a huge economic impact on the city of Kingston. However, school and city officials are deeply concerned for the city and its residents, not just Queen's Homecoming. *GlobeCampus.ca* reports that a decision deter-

mining the fate of Homecoming at Queen's will be given within the next two months.

U of T student deported

TORONTO — University of Toronto student Saad Alam is being deported to Bangladesh with his family after a failed bid for refugee status to stay in Canada.

Alam completed two years of a life sciences undergraduate degree at U of T and had ambitions of going to medical school. The deportation will prevent him from getting his degree.

A rally was held in support of his bid at the start of October, where Alam explained that going back to Bangladesh would be "completely devastating."

"I don't know how to read or write the language. I can barely speak it," he said.

Alam's parents worked multiple jobs to help pay his international student tuition. His father, Badrul Alam, has hoped for "the authorities to let (his) son finish his education."

His deportation follows a report conducted in May of this year by the Canada Border Services Agency. It found that Canada has lost track of 41,000 illegal immigrants in the country.*

BC college facing lawsuit

VANCOUVER — Apple Inc. is considering legal action against the Victoria School of Business and Technology on Vancouver Island, claiming that the school's logo is too similar to Apple's.

The school insists its logo, although apple-shaped, has no relation to the computing company's.

Apple Inc. has used its apple symbol with a bite out of the side for 30 years. The logo associated with the school has been used for three years.

The symbols are very different, Dieter Gerhard, the school's president, told the *Globe and Mail*.

"An apple's an apple. It should be something that everybody gets to use, especially when our logo is by no means similar to the Apple trademark," he added.

The public voice, Gerhard hopes, will make Apple step away. The school website has begun a poll in which over 70 percent of the over 10,000 votes have been on the school's side.

Compiled by Keren Gottfried, Natalie Dias and Lesley McEwan
*With files from CUP

> BAG O' CRIME

INJURED / SICK PERSON
EMS and Special Constables attended to a student who had fainted while writing an exam.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON
Special Constables responded to the fifth floor of the Bricker Academic building regarding an unknown male who was seen on the floor after hours, and who ran from teaching staff. There were no signs of foul play.

ASSIST OTHER P.F.

A female WLU student working for Foot Patrol was struck by a

mini-van while crossing Albert Street. The driver of the van did not stop.

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

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Various views on human welfare

The Cord Weekly tackles humanitarian issues from three perspectives

Investigator: Debbie Bodkin

MARA SILVESTRI
STAFF WRITER

Sergeant Debbie Bodkin from the Waterloo Police force visited Laurier last Thursday to speak about her experience as a UN special investigator in Darfur. Coming from the small town of Florence, ON, Bodkin admits that she didn't have a worldly perspective until she began travelling.

In 2004, Bodkin made trips to Chad and Darfur. Her first trip lasted two weeks and she was assigned as a female investigator to interview people in refugee camps. Refugee camps were estimated to hold 20,000 people at the time, with numbers rising sharply. The investigation was commissioned by the US and Bodkin was required to use a questionnaire throughout all of her interviews.

Until Bodkin and her interpreter met with a refugee to practice conducting interviews, she described herself as "panicking the first night. I was hungry, tired, sweating and rethinking what I got myself into."

That first interview changed her outlook. "He was crying and had just fled from Darfur and his two-year-old child, wife and his parents had been slaughtered in front of

him," she says. "It made me stop thinking about myself."

He proceeded to tell her that "life is nothing when you have no one left." Bodkin then promised herself she would never again whine or complain, as her interviews were being conducted with survivors of burns, bullets, bombs and other forms of tragedy.

"No one ever said no to an interview," explained Bodkin, "everyone was anxious." Each interview took about an hour and they would do seven or eight per day. "[I] became so consumed with the work that [I] just wanted to keep doing interviews."

Hearing similar stories of murder, rape and kidnapping from numerous people, Bodkin expressed their strength. "People in general were so amazing in that they were so strong." In fact, the interpreters that her team worked with were victims themselves, giving them a vested interest in the investigation.

Bodkin continued conducting interviews during her second trip. When she and her partner Mohammed were assigned interpreters, the Africans they were interviewing recognized the interpreters as descendants of an Arab tribe. They were reluctant to consent to an in-

terview, afraid that the Arabs would have them killed. Bodkin then explained that not all Arabs agreed with the situation.

Within her interviews, Bodkin was once again exposed to crimes including torture, looting, forced expulsion, rape, execution and indiscriminate attacks on villages. For this reason, the team was equipped with bulletproof vests, helmets and a radio with a call number.

Bodkin and her team began conducting secret investigations at clinics so it wasn't obvious that villagers were being interviewed, putting them less at risk.

A group of men who weren't worried about being killed as a result of the interviews since they were already targets, gave Bodkin copies of government documents with signatures that indicated which village would be attacked on which date, constituting written proof of the attacks.

Bodkin began interviewing Janjaweed - the militias considered responsible for violence in Darfur. Consequently, their stories differed from those of the victims that had been interviewed. Bodkin found that the Janjaweed downplayed their tales, speaking of stolen livestock instead of rapes.



NICK LACHANCE

DEBBIE IN DARFUR - A UN special investigator tells her experience of interviewing people affected by war crimes in Chad and Darfur.

Upon return from Darfur, the UN reported the findings didn't indicate genocide, but crimes against humanity, as they could not identify a specific target group.

Controversially, Bodkin stated that "Darfur isn't letting any Canadians in [the country]; no country is doing anything active. China has oil in Darfur and vetoed all sanctions."

In the audience of about 40 people, the end of Bodkin's presentation brought on great concern. In

terms of taking action, Bodkin says the "most basic and most frustrating action is writing to our politicians," later stating that "politics is my only answer" when asked why there is no change.

"Start being noisy like me," she said, but admitted that "eventually we will have to do something more."

"I'll do my little part, if everyone else does their little part."

International responsibility: Allan Rock

KEREN GOTTFRIED
STAFF WRITER

A group of over 150 people gathered at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) last Wednesday to listen to Allan Rock, former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations.

Rock captivated the audience as he talked about the global duty to guard people from "genocide, large-scale ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity."

"If a state is unwilling or unable to provide basic protection against mass killings, the international community's responsibility is engaged to ensure that that protection is afforded," said Rock.

Theoretically, few people would deny the need for an international effort that could end the level of suffering seen in past atrocities like the Holocaust and the genocide in Rwanda.

Practically, though, it means weakening the norms of state legitimacy and sovereignty upon which the United Nations was founded half a century ago by allowing other countries to invade their territory.

The principles Rock advocated come from a document called The Responsibility to Protect (R2P). It was spearheaded by Canada in

2000 and adopted unanimously by the UN member states in 2005.

Although not a piece of international law, R2P is a set of norms that are redefining the way the world understands global politics.

The document, Rock explained, has three elements: prevention, reaction and rebuilding.

"These atrocities don't arise overnight," Rock told the audience. "They arise out of a set of circumstances that evolve, that emerge and that can be recognized."

Fragile or failed states are most vulnerable to genocide, and should be monitored and developed.

If there is evidence of "one tribe or group attacking another, literally killing them in mass numbers, there must be a reaction."

He suggested that this reaction from the international community can be anything from public condemnations to economic sanctions, with military intervention as a last resort.

The third element states that the international community also has an obligation to help the state rebuild once the intervention has occurred.

The result of the three elements means that R2P is much more than just a shifting of the idea of state sovereignty.

Rock admitted that Darfur was an example of R2P failing. The Sudanese government did not fulfil its duties to its people and failed to end the ethnic cleansing within its borders.

"I don't believe Darfur is a reason for us to abandon R2P. I believe it is a reason for us to renew our advocacy to ensure that R2P is acted upon. It takes time for emerging international norms to take root."

One way the principles can be strengthened is by ensuring that we use it not only in the extreme cases of intervention, but in "benign cases" as well.

Rock cited the example of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where the government would like to do something about the violence occurring in its eastern region but is unable to do so alone.

R2P demands that the global community provide the DRC with assistance in this case, too.

Rock closed his address by insisting that "the strongest case in favour of the doctrine is our common humanity ... that we accept at long last the responsibility we have as one human being to another."

The eager audience at CIGI engaged him in over half an hour of responses, nearly making him late for his flight home.

He responded to questions about US co-operation, the role of non-governmental organizations and the need to develop quicker response mechanisms.

"I think there is a lot of unfinished business to do," Rock acknowledged, "and Canada is in a good position to make great strides in completing the project."

Allan Rock has served as a lead-

ing Canadian litigation lawyer, as the treasurer for the Upper Law Society of Canada and as the Minister of Justice, of Health and of Industry. He is currently the President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ottawa.



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ANDREI KOVACSIIK

SURVIVAL STORY - Kamara speaks of the struggles she endured in Sierra Leone. She is currently living in Canada and promoting her book.

Survivor: Mariatu Kamara

HEATHER MACDONALD
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

A Ghanaian drummer welcomed a full house with the sounds of an authentic African beat last Thursday at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI). Mariatu Kamara and Susan McClelland, authors of *The Bite of the Mango*, told Kamara's story through a question-and-answer period with CTV reporter, Daiene Vernile.

Kamara, now a landed immigrant in Canada, was a survivor of the civil war in Sierra Leone that lasted for ten years, ending in 2002. Kamara describes in her book the danger her village endured at the beginning of the war. In 1999, when Kamara was 12 years old, she narrowly escaped death at the hands of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

After being tied up and forced to watch the brutal slaughtering of most of the people in her village - friends, family, and the man she had planned to marry - Kamara had her hands cut off by the rebels that invaded her home.

She explains in her book that the child soldiers who cut off her hands encouraged her to go to the president so he could see what they did to her. The rebels didn't want her to vote for the president. But, unbeknownst to her attackers, Kamara recalls thinking just after they cut off her hands with a machete, "What is a president?"

McClelland met Kamara soon after she came to Canada and they soon began to tell Kamara's story together. McClelland feels that by

telling Kamara's story, they can create connections among many people. McClelland believes that "there is universality in suffering." She also said she felt that telling Kamara's story would help her to heal.

Kamara agreed that the more she talks about the suffering she faced in Sierra Leone, the "more it goes away." But she also said, "Any time I look at my hands, my heart goes back to that day."

During her days in Sierra Leone, Kamara lost many of her loved ones, was raped - became pregnant only to lose the child to malnutrition, fought battles with depression and, towards the end of her time in Sierra Leone, was living in a refugee camp while begging on the streets for a living.

When Kamara finally came to Canada, she didn't enroll in school right away but, as she explains in her book, it took encouragement from her foster family to get her back on her feet again.

At the age of 17, Kamara was taught how to read and write by Lucy Sanford in an English as a Second Language (ESL) class in Ontario. Sanford recalled her experience teaching Kamara during such a "fresh time" for her.

Even when *Maclean's* published McClelland's article describing Kamara's life, the girl didn't want her fellow students to know about her story.

Sanford remembered thinking to herself, "Okay, the whole country knows, but you don't want the people around you to know?" But it didn't take very long for Kamara to

begin opening up, said Sanford.

She remembers Kamara talking about her experiences in Sierra Leone, but she tried to keep to more general topics in the classroom because with so many people coming from all different walks of life in her class, everyone had to be sensitive to one another.

When asked about how Kamara appeared to be healing during that time, Sanford said that she "didn't see any hate."

But Sanford expressed her own passion by saying, "I felt it. I could have shot the kids that had done that to her but she never said anything."

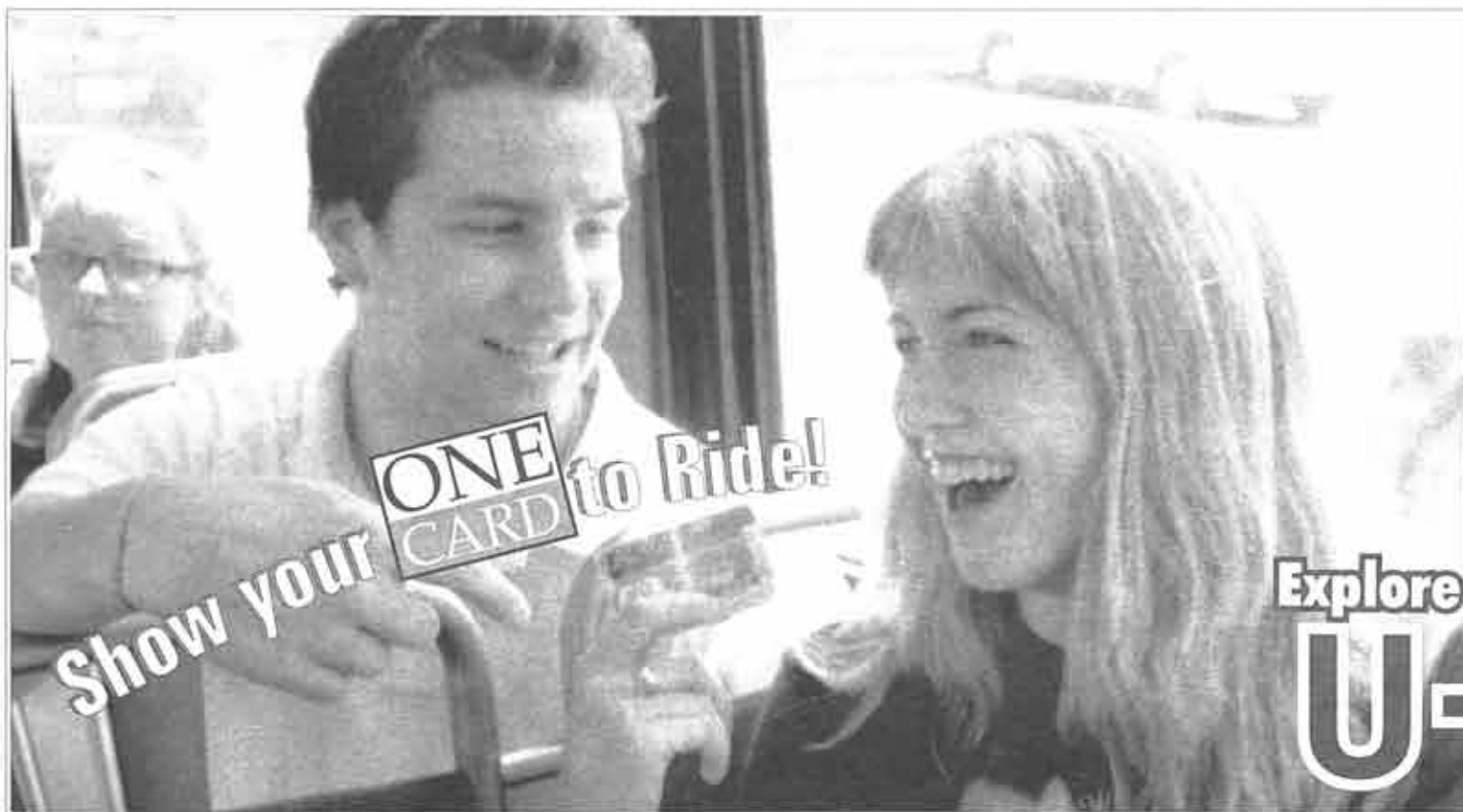
"There are all these people putting on a brave front and then every once in a while, you get a chance to look in and see a glimmer of what they've gone through," said Sanford of her experiences as an ESL teacher.

Kamara's book, *The Bite of the Mango*, has given the world more than just a glimmer of her life story. She talks about the fine details of her life in Sierra Leone, and Kamara attributes a lot of her strength to the people in her life.

"My students are all quite remarkable... there was a lot of support here for her," said Sanford. "I think she was happy to be here... and I hope she finds some joy."

"Sometimes I wonder why I'm here and [other victims of war] are still [in Sierra Leone]," said Kamara at the CIGI event.

But on Thursday night she came to the conclusion that "if I weren't in Canada, I could be dead."



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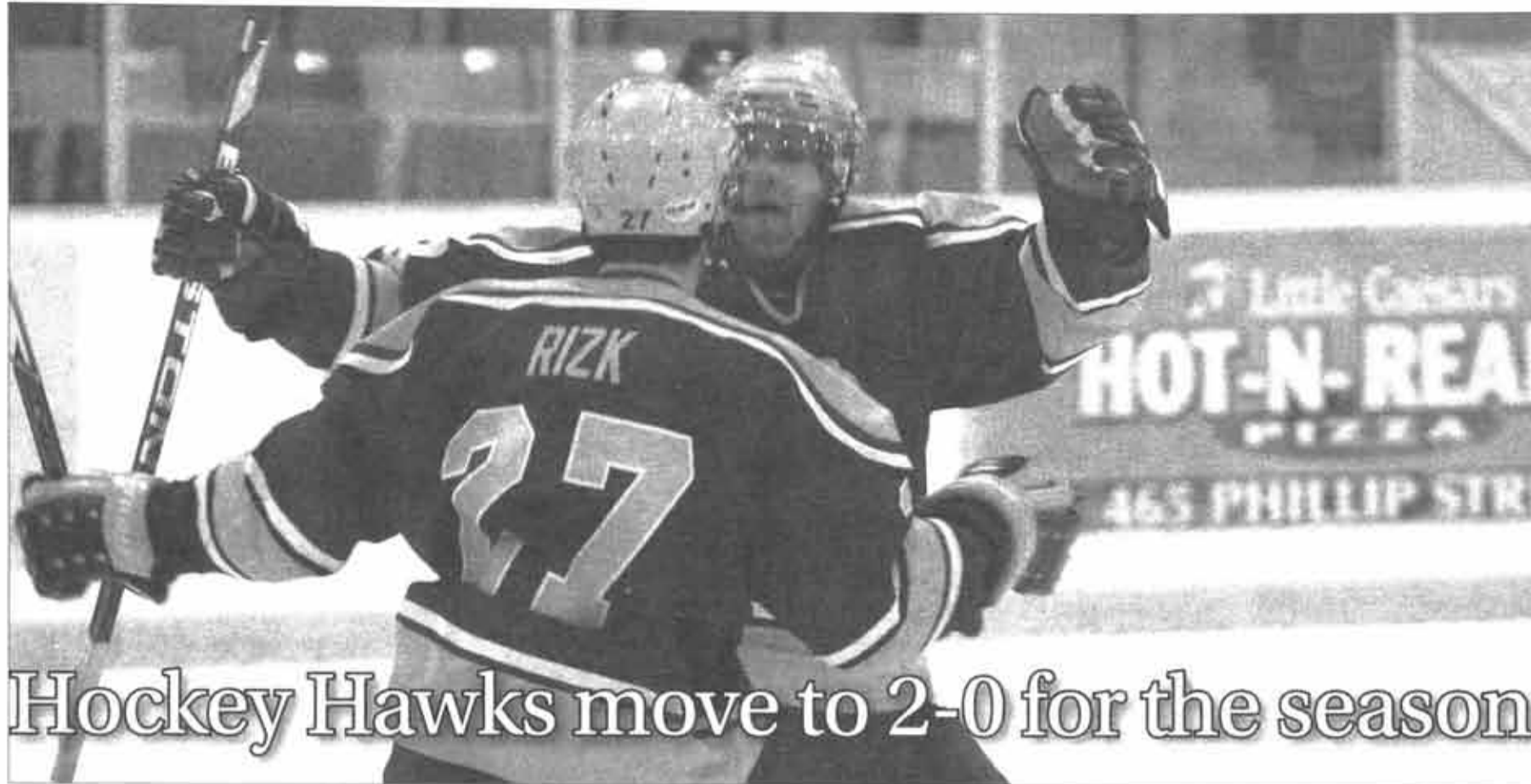
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Hockey Hawks move to 2-0 for the season

RYAN STEWART

OHH GOOD TIMES! - Jean-Michel Rizk makes an assist to Phillip Magistrale who netted the winning goal in Saturday's victory over Waterloo.

Assistant captain Jean-Michel Rizk leads the team to 5-3 victory over Waterloo with four points

TIEJA MACLAUGHLIN
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks men's hockey team met up with cross-town rivals the Waterloo Warriors Saturday night at the Waterloo Recreation Complex. The Hawks came out on top, winning their second game of the season with a 5-3 final score. In the first period, the Warriors out-skated the Hawks and rightfully earned a two-goal lead. Only two minutes after the first puck drop, Kurt Thorner of the Warriors scored

Waterloo's first goal, and Jordan Brenner added another. "We weren't moving our feet; we weren't battling," commented Head Coach Kelly Nobes. Both teams served a significant number of penalties as well as misconducts and ejections throughout the first half of the game, setting the stage for a number of power-play opportunities. The Hawks, two men up, were denied twice with post shots from veteran forwards Mark Voakes and Luke Girard. Girard finally managed to snipe the Hawks'

first goal, with a little help on the offence from second-year Jean-Michel Rizk and defenceman Ryan Bernardi. "We gained a little bit of steam late in the first ... we finally got going," said Nobes. Moving into the second period, there was a considerable change in the momentum of the game. The Hawks orchestrated beautiful plays and dominated in shots on goal, nearly doubling those of Waterloo. "We really picked it up," Nobes added. Bernardi tied up the game, completing a cross-ice pass from Voakes, set up by team captain Nick Vergeer. Minutes later, failure to clear the puck from the Hawks' end allowed Mark Hart-

man to score for the Warriors. Assistant Captain Rizk pegged a top-corner goal from the combination of veteran forward Vergeer and rookie defenceman Phillip Magistrale and, after several other attempts to take command of the game, the period ended at an even 3-3. Maintaining a strong defence, Magistrale tallied the game winner, a one-time point shot assisted by fellow defenceman Tyler Townsend and Rizk. Rizk then added one more of his own on an open Warriors net to end the game. The Hawks look to continue their perfect season, heading on the road to face the Windsor Lancers this Friday.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
October 14 - 19, 2008

RECENT SCORES

- 10.09.08
M Basketball 6 - Waterloo 5
M Hockey 2 - Waterloo 1
- 10.10.08
M Rugby 7 - Waterloo 10
W Lacrosse 15 - Ganipb 2
W Hockey 4 - Western 1
M Basketball 88 - Trinity Western 91
- 10.11.08
M Football 50 - McMaster 31
M Soccer 1 - York 4
W Soccer 0 - York 3
W Lacrosse 18 - Western 1
W Lacrosse 15 - Toronto 11
M Hockey 5 - Waterloo 3
W Hockey 1 - Team Ontario 1
M Basketball 37 - UBC 95

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

- 10.18.08
W Volleyball vs Brock
Athletic Complex, 12:00 pm
W Lacrosse vs McGill
Knight - Newborough Field, 1:00 pm
- 10.19.08
W Lacrosse vs McMaster
Knight - Newborough Field, 1:00 pm

LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

- Luke Thompson
Men's Football
- Heather Fortuna
Women's Hockey

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Hawks dominate Marauders

Picking up their fourth consecutive victory on Saturday, the tenth nationally-ranked Golden Hawks secured third place in the OUA and home field advantage for their first playoff game when they defeated McMaster 50-31 in impressive offensive style

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

In front of 2,020 fans, the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks football team extended their season record to 5-2 last Saturday, with an impressive 50-31 victory over the McMaster Marauders.

Trailing 17-15 at the half-time whistle, second-year quarterback Luke Thompson led the Hawks through a spectacular third quarter, scoring 21 unanswered points to put away the Marauders.

"Our kids just went out and played a great second half. There were a lot of great plays and we moved the ball pretty well," said Manager of Football Operations and Head Coach Gary Jeffries. "We are thrilled with our progress, we wanted to come out and continue to get better, not have another downturn and I think we did that."

On the Hawks' first possession, Thompson was able to connect with veteran receiver Troy Leach for a 24-yard touchdown just four minutes into the game. This was followed by a missed field goal by kicker Chris Mamo, and a touchdown pass from Marauders third-year quarterback Ryan Fantham.

Thompson then displayed why he has remained in the starting position all this time; finding receiver Josh Bishop up the field, he released a pass that led to a 101-yard touchdown catch and run from Bishop, giving the Hawks a 15-7 lead. Another Fantham touchdown and a 17-yard field goal for McMaster brought the game to the end of the second quarter.

"We have the playmakers to do that plain and simple," said Thompson of the Hawks' impressive game in the air. "Not a lot of receivers are possession receivers, so when they get the ball in their hands, they can make something special happen. They have all the speed in the world."

Thompson completed 17 of 27, passing for 355 yards including

three touchdowns. He added another 14 points with his rushing game, as he again led the team in rushing yards, running for 76 yards in nine attempts.

Coming onto the field for the second half, the Hawks began moving the ball and never looked back. Beginning with a 13-yard run, Thompson broke a bunch of tackles as he scrambled to make it to the end-zone giving the Hawks a 22-17 lead. Veteran running back Ryan Lynch made it 29, and then Thompson hooked up with rookie sensation Shamawd Chambers for a 52-yard pass and a 36-17 lead.

The fourth quarter saw Fantham attempt to lead the Marauders to a comeback, but their hopes were shattered by a Taureen Allen interception, a bad snap on a punt that the Hawks recovered and a fumbled punt return recovered by rookie safety Courtney Stephen; the latter two both leading to Laurier touchdowns.

"We're very, very happy. We're a 5-2 football team, and at the start of the year there probably wasn't a lot of people that ever would have said we'd be that," said Jeffries.

"They were great on offence. Luke Thompson played a hell of a game. They were amazing today," commented Fantham. "[The turnovers] were pretty disheartening for us as a team, and kind of set us back a bit."

"We were hoping to score on every drive, but to score 50 points was big. To know we can put that many points up with such a young offence is key," said Thompson. "A few key turnovers gave us good field position to score some points."

The win secured third spot in the OUA standings for the Hawks, and gave them home-field advantage for their first game.

"We're just starting to scratch the surface on our potential, we're pretty young but I think the learning curve is coming along a lot quicker. Hopefully we will make a big play-off run," commented Thompson.



RYAN STEWART

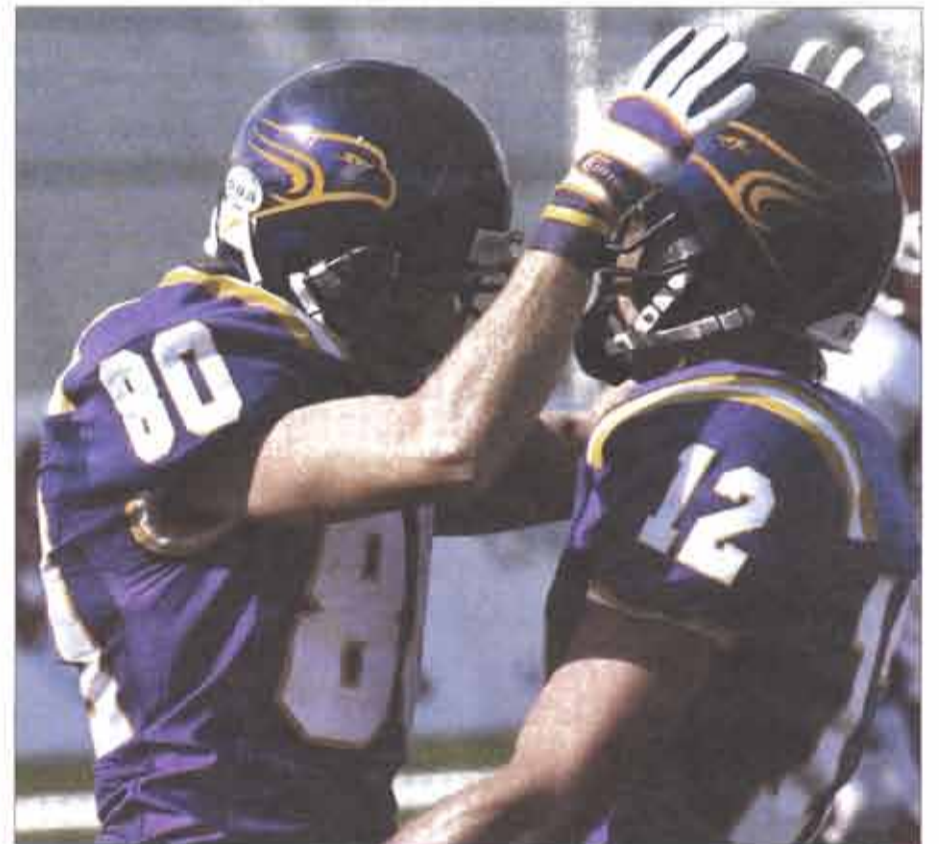
HOT PURSUIT - Shamawd Chambers runs away from Kurt Morrison en route to making the score 36-17.

This season, the Hawks' running game has been significantly less effective than in previous years, where it was heavily relied on.

"They're working hard every day, we know it's just a matter of time. We were down again at half-time, and we had to throw to come from behind. That's generally what's been working for us," said Thompson. "We're not worried about it at all; nothing that hard work won't fix."

"We like to run the ball, it will help us so it's something we need to work on. We have to be able to do both," said Jeffries. "But we'll continue to do what we do best and take what the other teams give us, but we would certainly like to be able to run the football."

The Hawks will conclude their regular season play this Saturday on the road against the 0-7 York Lions.



RYAN STEWART

CELEBRATION - Receiver Troy Leach, left, celebrates his touchdown, Laurier's first of the game, with fellow receiver receiver BJ Malott.

SPORTS BITES



J.P Wikerd to play pro volleyball in France

Jean-Paul Wikerd will hang up his purple and gold and travel to France where he has earned the opportunity to play professional volleyball.

He has signed a contract with the Mende volley-ball club, which is currently tied for first place in the N3 division, and will be able to live his dream on the courts in

France.

For the past four years Wikerd has been a dominating force on the court for the Golden Hawks men's volleyball team. While the Hawks have never been a dangerous contender in the OUA league, the 6-9 outside hitter Wikerd stood strong at the net, often ranking among the top in the nation for points per game and kills.

He blazed through his first year with the Hawks and earned himself the Rich Newbrough Rookie of the Year Award and team rookie of the year as well as a place on the OUA All-Rookie Team.

In his next two years with the Hawks, Wikerd was twice named team MVP and was placed on the OUA second all-star team and then the OUA first all-star team.

Lacrosse Hawks continue domination

This past weekend proved to be very successful for the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women's lacrosse team as they won all three of their matches played in London.

The ladies faced the Guelph Gryphons on Friday, winning their first game 15-2.

The Hawks returned to action Saturday with a commanding 18-1 victory over the host Mustangs, and then made their way back onto the field later that day to grab hold of a closer 15-11 win over the Toronto Varsity Blues.

These victories brought the Hawks' undefeated regular season

record to 10-0, with two games left this upcoming weekend. On Saturday they will be facing the McGill Martlets and on Sunday the Hawks will take on the McMaster Marauders in their final regular season game. Both will be held at home on Knight-Newbrough Field.

Perfect start for women's hockey

The Golden Hawks women's hockey team played their second regular season game this past Friday, taking on the Western Mustangs in a home game at the Waterloo Recreation Complex.

Though the Mustangs put up a strong fight, the third nationally-

ranked Hawks proved to be too much and skated away with a 4-1 victory, starting their season off positively with a 2-0 record.

The ladies also took to the ice on Saturday at the Waterloo Recreation Complex in an exhibition game against Team Ontario.

The Hawks held their own and showed why they are one of the top teams in the country, ending the game in a 1-1 tie.

The Hawks travel to London on Saturday to face off against the Western Mustangs and then return home on Sunday to host the Windsor Lancers at RIM Park.

- Compiled by Andrea Millet

Oktoberfest ist gut, ja?

Features Editor **Kari Pritchard** joins in the festivities of the 40th Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest,

and finds a mixture of authentic ritual and adolescent riot

KARI PRITCHARD
FEATURES EDITOR

It was 11:30 a.m. late Friday morning and Mother Nature was on the city's side. The sun had come out from hiding and was getting the community ready for the 40th annual Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest.

Stepping off the bus, I followed the sounds of polka, the smell of sausage and the sight of lederhosen to Kitchener City Hall.

The official start of the Bavarian festival and tapping of the keg seemed like a good place to start my search for the "real" Oktoberfest experience. Arriving at the heart of the city – the site of the largest Bavarian festival in North America – I could feel my authenticity senses starting to tingle.

The focus of this throng of people ranging from ages one to one hundred was a giant stage, housing the source of the polka: the Walter Ostanek Band. To the right of the stage hung a giant blow-up Onkel Hans and several Oktoberfest flags that could be seen by even the smallest people in the crowd.

As I joined the group surrounding the stage, the words of this year's Miss Oktoberfest Natalie MacNeil rang in my ears: "I think it's just the spirit of gemütlichkeit ... the whole community comes together and everyone gets so, so excited about Oktoberfest."

Community members young and old easily outnumbered drunken students during the day, naturally allowing me to feel like I was experiencing the real Oktoberfest. To my right, a senior citizen strolled by with her walker; in front of me a baby caught some Zs in her young father's arms. The variety of citizens showed connections amongst the entire community and illustrated MacNeil's "spirit of gemütlichkeit."

After a few introductions by CTV host Nancy Richards, the stage was handed over to Miss Ok-

toberfest, who was making one of her 150 appearances, proud to "be an ambassador here in KW and promote the festival here locally since I've done it all over the world." Next, Miss Oktoberfest and Onkel Hans led the crowd in my first experience of the beloved chicken dance – a dance that was to be replicated in a less organized manner later in the night.

The chicken dance was followed by a less-familiar German whip dance. From afar what I thought to be extravagant feathers in standard Oktoberfest hats turned out to be whips. Four German dancers used these whips to crack and snap along to a beat provided by none other than an accordion. If that isn't authentic Oktoberfest action, I don't know what is.

After a few bad whip jokes came the moment everyone was waiting for: the keg-tapping and the official start of Oktoberfest. Minister of Tourism Monique Smith did the honours, busting open the keg and starting the flow of beer as brightly coloured streamers and timed fountain displays erupted in a generally accepted love of beer.

With families and friends happily singing polka songs around me, I felt like I was getting my first taste of the real Oktoberfest; but I was wrong.

This first taste came shortly after, as I sunk my teeth into a small but delicious tube of meat. A hot, juicy sausage piled high with as much sauerkraut as it could hold was my first real taste of Oktoberfest. As I sat entranced by the mélange of flavours in my mouth, my eyes were drawn back to the stage.

Entertaining the crowd was a group of male and female dancers from one of KW's traditional German clubs.

Dancing is "a part of the culture of the German clubs," explained Melissa Udvari, who has danced with the Transylvania club for ten years. "It's just part of the festivities."

The dancing was like nothing I had seen or ex-

pected. The men linked arms with the lady dancers, effortlessly swinging and lifting them off their feet at once, while performing other lifts with male dancers. All to the perfectly timed "ooo's" and "aww's" of the audience.

After watching the peculiar end to a dance featuring men chopping wood, a good authentic end to my day events, I departed in preparation for my night hosted by the Lions Club of Kitchener at Altes Muenchen Haus, also known as Queensmount Arena.

As the sun faded into darkness, the real night was just beginning. Suited up with my generic Oktoberfest hat and over-sized feather, I was ready for the evening's events.

"I think it [Oktoberfest] is a little more tamer, calmer. There's not as much drunkenness and rowdiness because of the cheeks put in place and also because of people being more [aware] of the rules and regulations," said Orest "O.J." Wilura, a member of the Lions Club of Kitchener that has been hosting events at Altes Muenchen Haus for 39 years.

Not as much drunkenness? Calmer? This did not sound like Oktoberfest at all. But when I arrived at 7:30 p.m. I started to think Wilura may have been right... that is, until he insisted that the first thing we needed to do upon arrival was a shot of Jägermeister.

Queensmount Arena is just that – literally a transformed hockey arena filled with stands offering hats, beer nuts, pretzels, beer, schnapps and a small stage.

After expecting to be partaking in the Oktoberfest activities at a traditional German house, a party in a hockey arena only added to the inauthentic experience of my night.

Slowly but surely revelers began to fill the empty arena and by 8:30 p.m. the place was packed.

The headliner for the night was 73-year-old, three-time Grammy winner Walter Os-

tanek. "He's what they call the over the world and he's very wabably about near the end of the polka kings," Wilura described.

Ostanek may be a 73-year-old, but after playing at the KW C years, he sure knows how to "We have a party, that's what of fashion party," described C crowd participating in incremental rounds of the chicken call and response "zigga zag hoi, hoi!"

By 8:32 p.m. I witnessed this by a sloppily drunk student: a come. On the floor danced a g toeing around the beer spills intoxicated ladies with home "I love Hans," "Sloptoberfest," and "Prost!"

Onkel Hans and Miss Oktober appearance – literally no mo – to tap another keg, bringing to this Oktoberfest. But the night soon vanished with passing out free beer (a contro first students in line.

Once the traditional wooden was the authentic Oktoberfest floodgates of said "Sloptoberfest."

After this, it became a challenge the most drunk, and partiers the next level by not only seeing most drunk, but also who could pass out of themselves. Luckily was a winner in this challenge.

Ostanek commanded the crowd of drunken students' antics – in own accord – singing happily students on by saying, "the better we sound!"

As the night progressed, the of hats and feathers dancing a covered from end to end with cups.

Naturally the longest line for beer – taking half an hour to

cup or two of that golden liquid – but once you did you were back in business.

As partygoers got drunker and drunker, boundaries were dropped and inhibitions were thrown out the window. The floor was packed with dancing people and – I kid you not – couples were grinding to polka.

"A lot of the events now are geared toward students and a lot of the focus is on advertising ... especially advertising drinking and so a lot of the culture stuff is being left out," described dancer Udvari. She was right.

This was solidified by the lady selling flashing penis and boob pins, making Ostanek, his band and the fellows dressed in lederhosen from the Lions Club of Kitchener the most authentic parts of the event.

Nevertheless, students were not bothered by the lack of culture and were quite pleased with the idea of being at a generic bar that was slightly cleaner, with better lighting, more hats and a limited choice of Canadian, Heineken or schnapps.

As students consumed more and more alcohol, issues began to arise. Girls were found in the boys' bathroom and vice versa, as well as students getting kicked out and lingering to get back into the party.

At 11:00 p.m., authenticity went out the window once more, as Ostanek and his band started up a cover of "Sweet Home Alabama" to ear-piercing shrieks from the crowd, obviously pleasing rowdy students and changing it up from the usual polka.

Ostanek knew many students' intentions, and shared his thoughts with me before the night had hardly begun. "He wants to meet her and she wants to meet him and they want to drink and have a good time and nobody complains about nothing, and I like that!" said the polka singer, providing an accurate depiction of the end of the night.

Couples were dancing and making out left, right and centre, – something I did not see any of the men or women from The Lions Club of Kitchener doing – leaving others desperate to find a mate before the night was over. I even spotted one poor, dejected fellow getting rejected by the ladies multiple times, who then changed strategies and found a girl who was drunker than himself.

Around 12:30 a.m. the arena began to clear out a bit, but many were still going strong, our pants slowly becoming wet and heavy with beer. By 12:53 a.m. the lights started to come on, a clear sign of the night's end, finished off by a sing-along to our very own national anthem led by Ostanek.

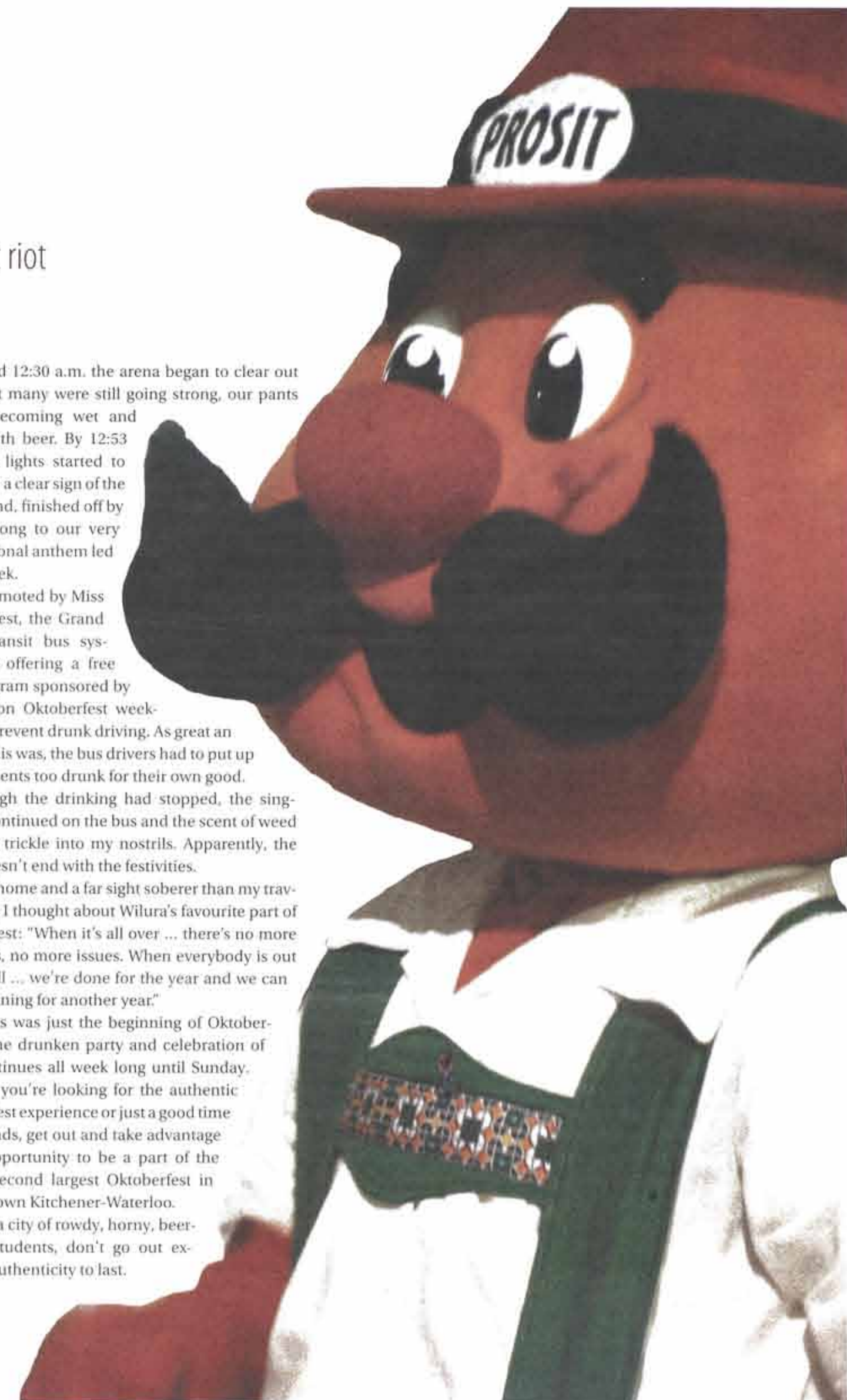
As promoted by Miss Oktoberfest, the Grand River Transit bus system was offering a free ride program sponsored by Molson on Oktoberfest weekends to prevent drunk driving. As great an idea as this was, the bus drivers had to put up with students too drunk for their own good.

Although the drinking had stopped, the sing-alongs continued on the bus and the scent of weed began to trickle into my nostrils. Apparently, the party doesn't end with the festivities.

Safely home and a far sight soberer than my travel-mates, I thought about Wilura's favourite part of Oktoberfest: "When it's all over ... there's no more problems, no more issues. When everybody is out of the hall ... we're done for the year and we can start planning for another year."

But this was just the beginning of Oktoberfest, as the drunken party and celebration of beer continues all week long until Sunday. Whether you're looking for the authentic Oktoberfest experience or just a good time with friends, get out and take advantage of the opportunity to be a part of the world's second largest Oktoberfest in our very own Kitchener-Waterloo.

But in a city of rowdy, horny, beer-hungry students, don't go out expecting authenticity to last.



PHOTOS BY RYAN STEWART



The skinny on being skinny

Diet adverts are everywhere, but not everyone is interested in losing weight



PEACH BHARGAVA
CORD STUDENT LIFE

Looking through this week's "the cycle of skinny continues," I can't help but feel sorry for the celebrities featured in the gossip section of various magazines.

Eating disorders and self-starvation are very serious personal issues that can have a detrimental effect on one's health. Often, these people need help. If you're losing weight on purpose or due to a psychological illness, you might be in it for the wrong reasons.

It's not often that we look at celebrities (with their usually thin frames) and think that perhaps they have trouble gaining weight. It's not just celebrities that are subject to this manner of thinking; regular "skinny" people like myself have a real problem putting on body mass. And it's frustrating for a "skinny person" such as myself to look at people trying to lose weight when the opposite challenge exists

in my mind.

Equally frustrating is how my body shape is seen as being the preferable option between being overweight and lacking size.

A combination of factors sometimes cause weight loss, like stress or busy lives.

Magazine covers are riddled with headlines that highlight "Lose those last few inches" or "Top ten ways to shed pounds." When have you ever seen "How to gain healthy weight?" The media is always focusing on losing weight, not gaining it.

Speaking from personal experience, I know how hard it can be to put on body mass. I have been trying to do so for the last two years and I have found it really difficult. I eat healthily and I exercise but it's tough to add pounds.

There is so much support available for people looking to lose weight - from student-formed running groups to governmental public announcements on being healthy (not "skinny!"), to talk shows (think Oprah and Tyra Banks). Even celebrities don't seem to realize they're leaving out the naturally skinny.

Online, I have attempted to re-

search techniques to gain weight, but to no avail. Weight gain is targeted at men who want to "bulk up" and seldom at women who just want to add a few pounds.

The media continues to endorse "full-figured women", with messages like "I like my curves, I don't want to be a stick." Hello! What about the group of us who can't help being "sticks?" Instead of specific messages targeted at women above and beyond the typical fashion model weight, where are the messages that embrace us all, as long as being healthy is the main idea?

Might I add, it is just as hard for skinny people to find clothes as it is for plus size people, and there is no Addition Elle or Pennington's for very skinny people. Retailers don't cater to underweight individuals. I've searched far and wide. I remember a time when I had to purchase a polo tee from Abercrombie Kids, not Abercrombie and Fitch.

The worst is when I make a comment about how I think I'm too skinny and people attack me with remarks such as "you should be happy, at least you're not fat", or "you can't complain, I've been try-



GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION

SMALL STUFF - Gaining weight is as difficult for some as losing weight.

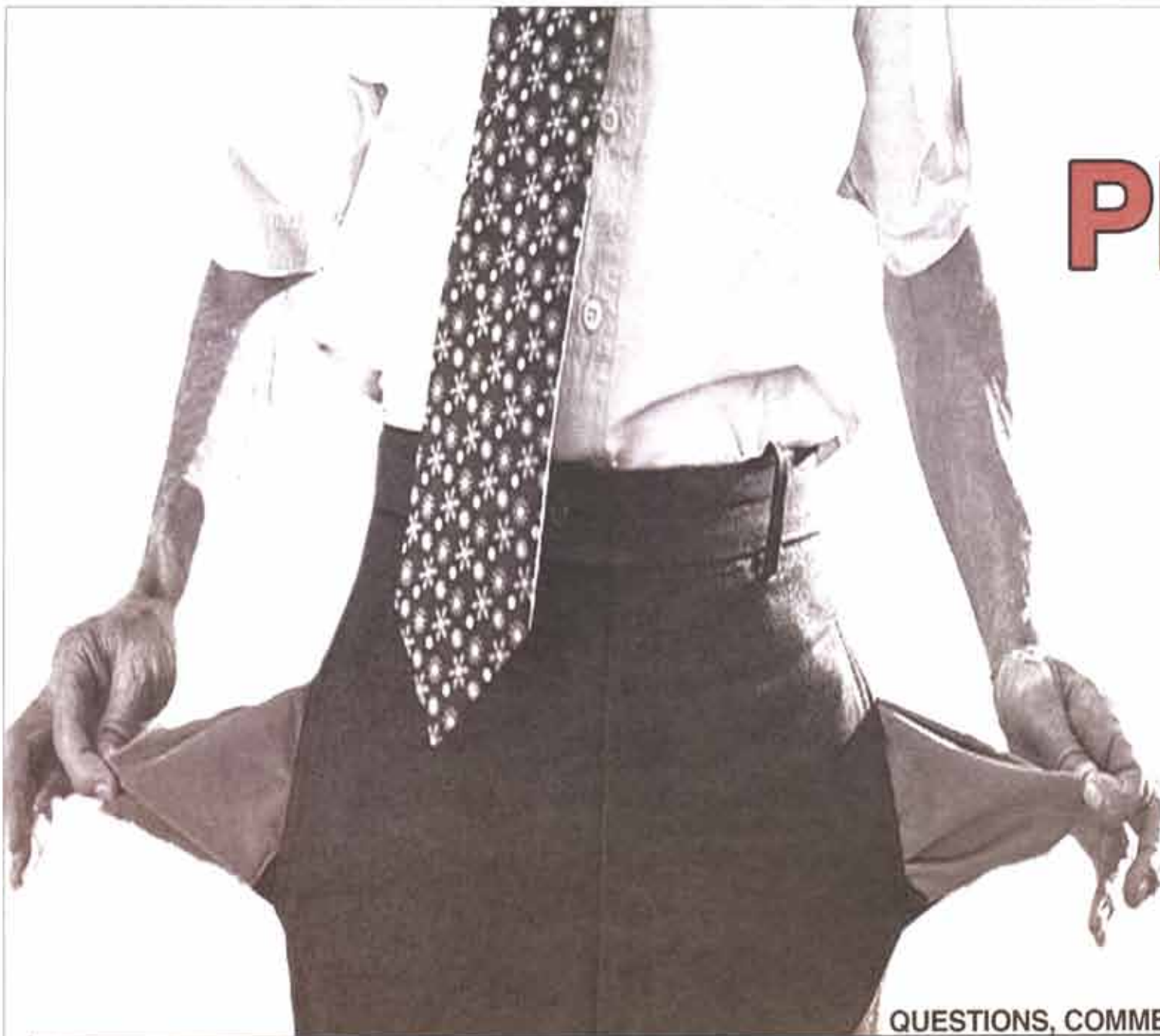
ing to lose weight forever!"

These comments are hurtful because they make skinny people feel like their weight problems don't count.

Just because someone is on the thin side, doesn't mean they're healthy or fit. And how come it's all right to tell someone that they're too skinny but not that they're too fat? I find it offensive, but people

rarely see the other side of the weight battle.

Don't get me wrong, I support being healthy and not placing emphasis on a specific body shape or weight, as long as you're happy with yourself and fall within a healthy body mass index. But it's time people take both sides of the scale into consideration.



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Laurier has its eye on you

Across the Wilfrid Laurier University campus in Waterloo, cameras are always watching you

GILLIAN FARBER
CORD STUDENT LIFE

Last month, a WLU student was walking back to his residence. Before he returned to his humble abode, nature called. He rushed as quickly as possible but unfortunately he had to let nature take its course and found the nearest bush in which to relieve himself. With a welcomed empty bladder, he pulled up his fly and turned around to see flashlights and sirens heading in his direction.

Unknowingly, he had been in full view of a hidden CCTV surveillance camera which is ultimately how his short, innocent bathroom break turned into an explicit free-for-all for whomever was on their shift in the control room that evening.

There is quite a lot of controversy over the uses of Closed Circuit Television surveillance, and for good reason; it directly impacts all of our lives whether we know it or not. There are two sides to the surveillance argument that are constantly being disputed.

One side is that it is an invasive technology that allows our lives to be spied on by cameras and does not really keep us that safe. On the other side, some believe that CCTV surveillance can deter criminal behavior and should continue to be implemented in public and private spaces.

Whichever way you look at it, CCTV cameras are around us all the time, but we seem to just ignore them.

INDEED, THEY ARE ABLE TO READ A MAGAZINE COVER FROM OVER ONE HUNDRED METRES AWAY. SO THE ORWELLIAN SAYING "BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING" REALLY ISN'T THAT FAR-FETCHED.

This sophisticated technology also operates in taxicabs, red light districts, ATM machines, vending machines, buses, 7-11 stores and many other locations. CCTV technology is so sophisticated that it utilizes special night vision, just like in the movies.

Indeed, they are able to read a magazine cover from over one hundred metres away. So the Orwellian saying "Big Brother is watching" really isn't that far-fetched.

The Laurier campus itself has 168 cameras covering approximately 80-85 percent of the grounds. Students are increasingly being watched, and we do not have a say in the matter. Director of Operations Rod Curran reassured that, "These cameras are a great investigative tool and have made progress on keeping our students safe on campus."

According to statistics and Cur-

ran's own professional knowledge, the effect that these cameras have on crime is dramatic. "We had about 100 incidents over a year - vandalism, malicious damage, etc. - but since we put camera systems in and around the arts wing, we've hardly had any," he said.

Although the ethics of using CCTV surveillance are frequently up for debate, the technology has played an important role in solving crime on campus. For instance, last year "the Athletic building had a real string of thefts going on, over 32 incidents, and it was our cameras that caught the suspect," explained Curran. WLU is heavily investing in CCTV cameras right now and this video surveillance boom is even likely to extend inside dormitories.

To demonstrate the extensive use of cameras on campus, Curran explained the attention to detail that CCTV technology grants. "From on top of the Aird building I can see a person's face in King Street residence," said Curran. "Due to the fact that we do not have enough staff to patrol, the cameras are like an extra staff member."

There is also a sign posted in front of Laurier so anyone entering campus knows that they are under video surveillance. "Once criminals see that, they tend to stay away from the university," Curran said.

And so the question remains, do students feel safer knowing there are surveillance cameras watching over them, or do they feel their privacy is being invaded as they are being tracked? For some students, it's a bit of a conundrum.

Should WLU students sacrifice some of their civil liberties for safety? Danielle Pessah, a fourth year communications student, was in support of the high

level of surveillance on campus. "As a female student I have to tell you that I feel a lot better knowing that security here is watching over us. [It] makes it easier for me to walk on campus, especially in the evening, with a bit more confidence."

However, fourth-year Political Science student Vince Zitano had another take. "These cameras are really an assault on our privacy. And I'm not convinced we are really any safer," he said. Wherever one stands on camera technology, it is definitely here to stay. It is difficult not to agree with Curran when he says, "Our goal is to make campus safe and I think that is everyone's goal."

Nonetheless, a word to the wise: better to be safe than sorry, so ensure your blinds are closed in rez.



EMILY VANDERHEIDE

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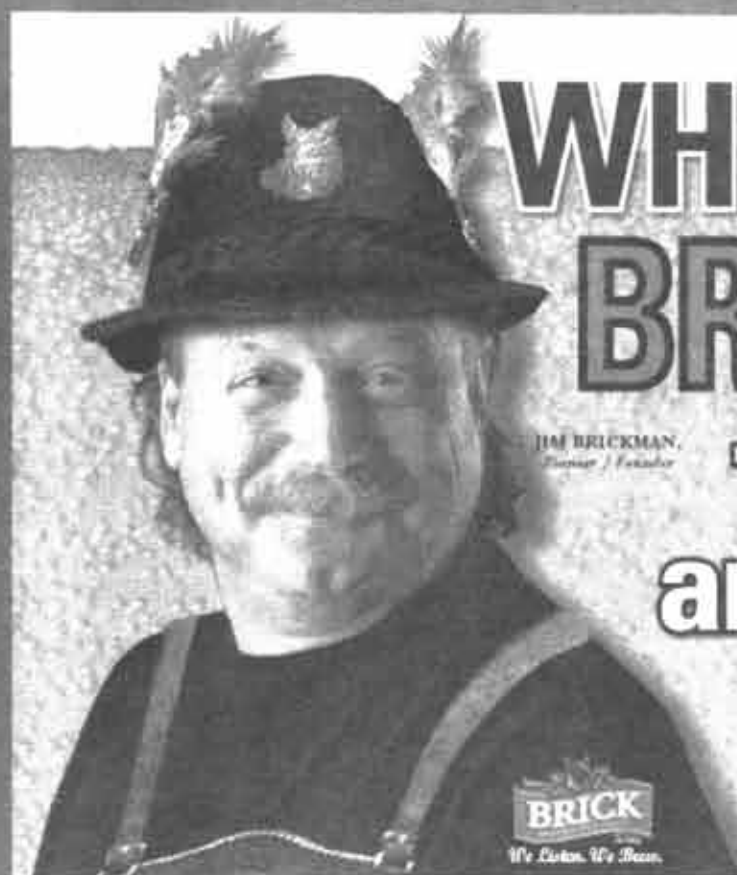


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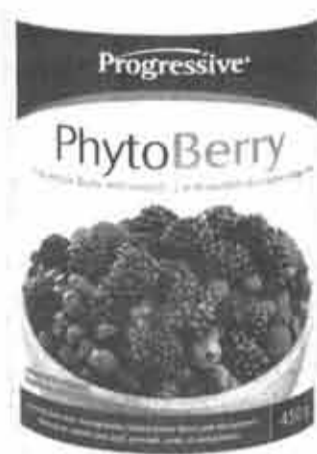
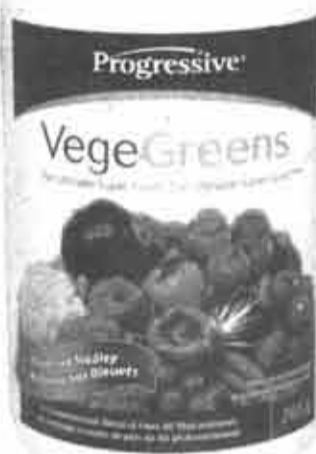


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NOVEMBER 2008

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Election lessons

In the wake of another federal election, few things have changed for Canada as a whole.

Our local riding is now represented by Conservative candidate Peter Braid – pending a recount of the votes – and federally, Stephen Harper's Conservatives have regained their minority government.

While very little has changed – the minority Harper has now is roughly 20 seats stronger than it was before – there are two important lessons to be learned from this election.

The first is that every political party must accept that majority governments in Canada are a thing of the past. There are four strong parties in Canada, plus a growing Green Party, and with so many different political options, obtaining a majority will be very difficult for any party in the near future.

Canada is clearly a country of divided interests that two parties cannot adequately represent.

Harper specifically should learn from the outcome of this election. Rather than attempting to gain a majority for the Conservatives, he must now focus on making minority government functional.

The other thing this election should teach us, and rather urgently, is that Canada is in need of elec-

toral reform to a more proportional system of representation, where seats are allocated according to percentage of the popular vote.

In this election, the Conservatives won around seven percent more seats while increasing their share of the popular vote only by 1 percent.

Until Canada achieves some form of proportional representation, there will not be true fairness in the House of Commons.

This is especially important for students, who are generally apathetic towards voting. This election saw little change in this trend. A shift to proportional representation would increase the significance of the student vote, and this would likely motivate more young people to take interest in politics.

No minority government in Canada has ever gone its full four-year term. It is fair to assume that Canadians will again be going to the polls before four years are up. With the ability to establish majorities all but gone, and the stability of Canadian politics questionable, electoral reform seems to be the best way to stabilize federal politics.

The first-past-the-post system is an old system – new generations of Canadians deserve a new style of democracy.

WLU's music scene booming

For students living in Waterloo, it's a good time to be a music fan.

While the past couple of years have only presented meagre offerings to WLU students craving some quality live acts, the beginning of this semester is ample proof somebody can study at Laurier and enjoy a vibrant musical nightlife.

The sheer number of well-known musicians visiting Waterloo so far this school year has been staggering. Names like Shad, Tokyo Police Club, The Waking Eyes, Alice Cooper, and The Dears have graced stages here at Laurier and in the Waterloo community.

But what's more exciting is the roster of acts coming here in the future: Finger 11, Martha Wainwright, Sam Roberts, Jason Collett and Ron Sexsmith, just to name a few.

With the near future so star-studded, it's hard not to be optimistic that this trend of quality musicians visiting the WLU area will continue for a long time to come.

It's gratifying to know that as students, we can attract such acts on a consistent basis. After all, students like us comprise a large portion of most bands' target audiences.

Particularly, this year's A-Team has done a great job of bringing performers to Wilf's on a regular basis to offer free shows for the student body. This has been something sorely lacking in past years.

Even though Laurier may not be a large school, there's no reason to expect anything less than big name performers.

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

THE CORD WEEKLY

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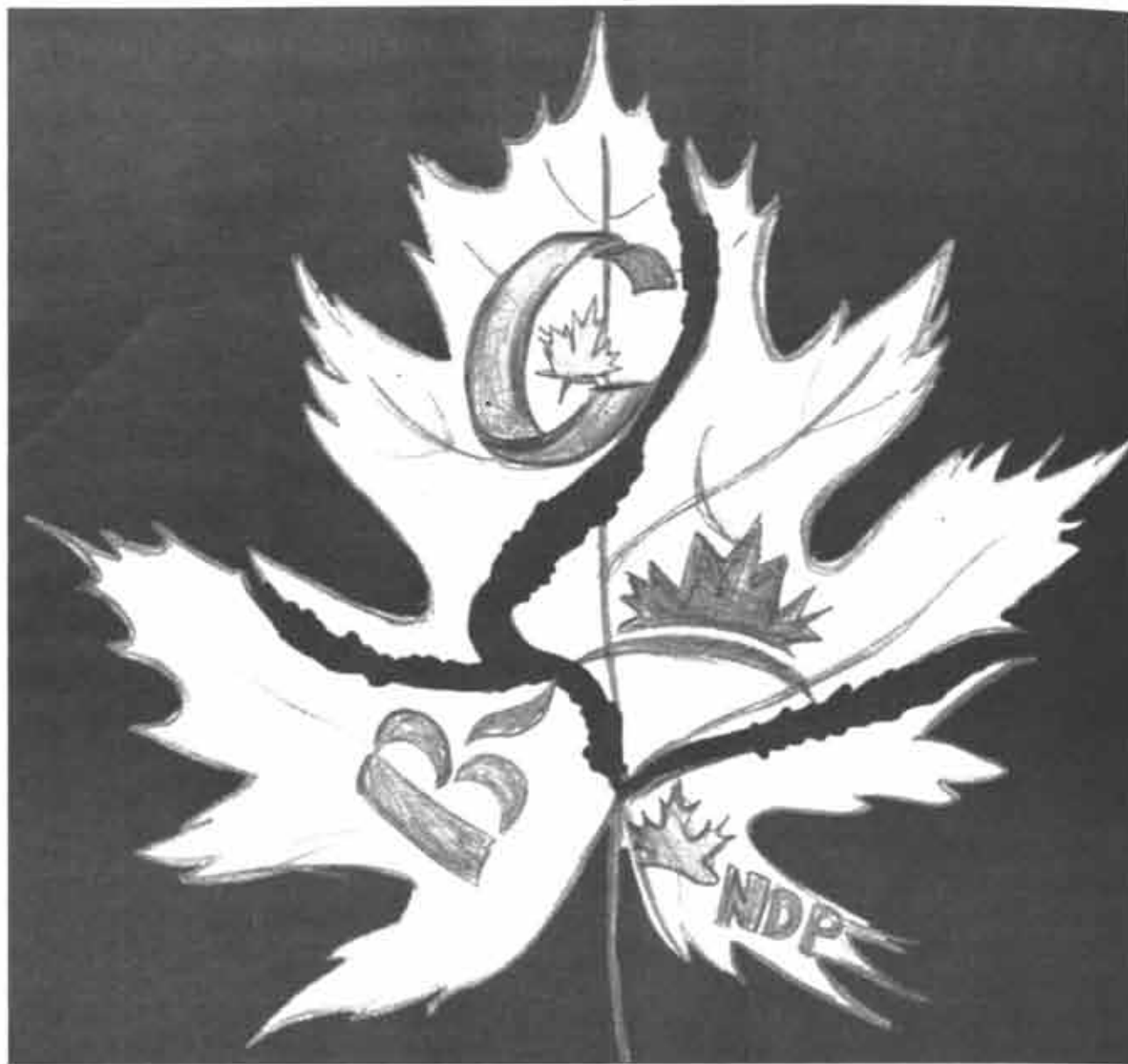
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GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION

Caring for a pet is harder than you think

The student lifestyle already places too many demands on your time



LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

Pets don't belong at university. It's as simple as that.

Many people have a longing to share a pet's company. Well, animals also have a need for attention from you too, and when you're not home or you're out late, as is often the case with a student's lifestyle, they may begin to feel lonely and abandoned.

A pet is a huge time commitment, and taking care of one requires much more than simply an "I love animals, therefore I want a pet" attitude.

Students need to realize that the real commitment is feeding, exercising and cleaning up after their pet. Cut even one of these things out, and you have a neglected pet.

Not to mention, student houses are not overly large, and animals not properly looked after can reek something fierce.

On top of this, is it really fair to the animal to house them in an already over-cramped apartment with five busy students who can barely move around?

Animals need space to run and play and to lie down and relax. Student houses simply cannot offer animals this type of environment.

Pets also cost money; it's a known fact. Students do not have money, another no-brainer. Mixing the two can lead to disaster.

Studies from the Humane Society of the United States find that

many students underestimate the cost of having a pet at school, and therefore often end up bringing their pets in to the local animal hospital to be euthanized.

Being a student is a temporary arrangement, and having a pet is a long-term commitment. You must be able to offer your animal a long-term home.

STUDENTS NEED TO REALIZE THAT THE REAL COMMITMENT IS FEEDING, EXERCISING AND CLEANING UP AFTER THEIR PET.

How can you commit to that when four years from now you likely won't have a clue where you will be living or what you will be doing? It just isn't a feasible arrangement.

"End-of-semester dumping" is also a sad reality according to the US Humane Society. When students move back home, or into a new house and find the pet no longer fits into their needs, they abandon it. This is an unfair circumstance suffered by thousands of pets each year.

While at home, you have time to enjoy the company of your pet, but when you move to school, so many other things demand your attention that you inevitably shift your pet to the back burner.

Friends, parties, extra-curriculars and – oh yeah – school work, frequently see you functioning at unusual hours, therefore messing up the animal's feeding and play schedules.

Something else to think about:

who will be able to look after the pet when you're off visiting friends for the weekend, or sipping pina colodas on the beach over reading week?

Dumping it on your unsuspecting roommates is not a good idea. For one, they know the responsibility of having a pet which is why they are pet-free in the first place, and two, the animal prefers a stable home environment, not one where he/she is shifted around between caregivers.

Now, I'm definitely not against people owning pets. An animal lover myself, I've grown up surrounded by animals. However, I was smart enough to leave my beloved pets at home when I moved here for school.

Pets are great teachers, they always love us unconditionally, improve our mental state of mind and are generally great companions. They deserve to be given back all that they give to us.

So before getting a pet while away at school, really think about whether you can provide the kind of home that is conducive to having an animal.

Think about how much happier your pet might be if you allow it to remain at home in its familiar, friendly surroundings.

It's only four years; if you can't live without a pet for that long, you have bigger problems than you thought.

letters@cordweekly.com

Don't rule out coalition government

If the parties on the left were to band together and change our electoral system, they could shut out the Tories for years to come



JOSH SMYTH
THE EXAMINED LIFE

One of the dominant streams in the navel-gazing narrative of this year's election coverage was the so-called "splintering" of the vote amongst the parties of the political left.

The process has been on-going for several years, as the NDP regained its strength (and the Liberals lost theirs). When Elizabeth May took the stage at the leaders' debates, the realignment was complete. English Canada is now a four-party system, with the Bloc bringing Quebec to five.

Of course, the chips are now down. Stephen Harper squeezed by with a minority against the best efforts of the left. Thankfully, in the aftermath of this election's results, there hides a stupendous opportunity for progressives.

Many analysts would chalk the

Conservatives' failure to win a majority up to the fluke factors of this election – the reaction against arts funding cuts and, above all, the economic crisis.

They certainly played a part, but focusing on them misses the point: that in the new political climate, majority governments will be the exception, not the rule. The right may be united, but they are united in defence of about 37 percent of the Canadian vote.

The inverse of that equation, of course, is that 63 percent of Canadians disagree, and those Canadians vote for parties that share at least some degree of consensus about the role of government in our lives.

Understandably, there have been calls to "unite the left" in the same way as the right. Let us all be glad that this is a fantasy.

To shoehorn the NDP, Greens and Liberals together into a big tent arrangement would be a tremendous waste; all three parties do have (campaign rhetoric aside) distinctive strategies for approach-

ing the big challenges.

The left doesn't need to unite. What it does need, though, is a brief moment of unity.

There has already been talk during the election cycle of a coalition government.

With the opposition holding a majority of the seats, they have a chance to formalize an agreement between the three parties and ask the governor general to give them a chance at governing.

They should do it.

There is, though, a second act to this play. If a coalition government emerged, they have a chance to banish the Conservatives (at least in their current incarnation) from government.

If the first act they passed was a reform of our archaic electoral system to some variant of mixed-member proportionality (MMP), then coalition governments would become not a fluke, but the only way to assemble a majority.

Let's think about who wins from this scenario, where the seats in the

next election are divided roughly to match how people actually vote.

With four or five strong parties, there would be no chance of one winning a majority government. This is functionally the case now, of course, but electoral reform would remove the chance of a fluke.

Who wins here? Not the Conservatives. The right is united, and it gets 35 percent. No other party would even think of forming a coalition with them in their present form.

For this to happen, of course, the Liberals have to abandon their dreams of a return to the Chrétien years, and the NDP have to calm down a little and actually start talking to the other parties.

For the Liberals especially, a proportional system would actually be a ticket to long-term dominance. Any potential coalition on the left (Liberal-NDP, Liberal-Green, even Liberal-Bloc) would include them, probably as the biggest partner.

Of course, this wouldn't bar the Conservatives from power for-

ever. The pressure would be on for them to move back towards the political centre and look for coalition partners.

If the side effect of changing the electoral system is to defang the more rabid social conservatives in that party, though, few Canadians would really shed a tear.

There is a real chance here. The stars have aligned so that a system that is in the interests of democracy is also in the interests of most of the opposition parties.

It will take bravery, because lots of people will surely be upset. The result, though, will be a system that represents the actual Canadian consensus on government, and keeps people like Stephen Harper miles away from power.

If this is the consequence of fragmentation, then let's embrace it. Jack, Elizabeth, Stéphane, Gilles, sit down this week and make it happen.

letters@cordweekly.com



GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION

Tory leadership needed to be flawless



MICHAEL KOCHEFF
THE EVERYMAN

So a majority government has once again eluded Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party of Canada. Undoubtedly, many grassroots volunteers and professionals in the Conservative party backrooms are asking what went wrong.

With just weeks left in the campaign, the Laurier Institute for the Study of Public Opinion and Policy (LISPOP) was projecting a very slim Conservative majority. In the weeks following, the situation steadily deteriorated.

The slide in Conservative support made Stéphane Dion, who had been written off as totally incapable by the Canadian media, seem like Canada's protector.

Dion, despite what you might hear from a Liberal pundit, was in the right place at the right time. He didn't have to do anything spectacular; Harper basically handed him speaking notes.

In fact, Dion had been castigating Harper for possessing a hidden agenda throughout the entire campaign. This had little success until Harper started mentioning rich people at arts galas and getting tough on crime.

At a Liberal rally in Quebec broadcasted by CBC, when Harper was near majority numbers, one reporter rightly asked Dion if Canadians were no longer afraid of Harper.

As Conservatives survey the ruins, pick up the pieces and lick their wounds – whatever phrase you prefer – they must also be asking where they are to go from here. The Conservatives need to find a Conservatism that Canadians can get behind or a better plan for converting them wholesale.

Conservatives might argue that this simply isn't the case. Canadians still need time to acclimatize, after years of Liberal rule, to our vision.

However, as Chantel Hébert of the Toronto Star retorted while on CBC's "At Issue," two straight minority governments clearly isn't the "strong mandate" Harper desired. The Conservatives, despite all nay-saying, wanted this one in a bad way.

They instead sensed apprehension and, unfortunately, sheer dislike from certain parts of the electorate.

With this background there are lessons the Conservatives must learn from this campaign. First of all, if the party image is going to be tied up in the leader, then mistakes – even minor ones – cannot be tolerated.

In accordance with that thought, the party leader is going to have to be very dynamic.

When the whole fate of the party rests on one individual, you better make sure that that individual is flexible, capable of showing Canadians another gear when times get tough.

Credit the Liberals this time around. Early in the campaign, they were selling Stéphane Dion and the Canadian people were not buying. Liberals began associating the party brand with a plethora of individuals, not just Dion, and as a result they obtained the flexibility they so desperately needed.

All of a sudden, the Liberals had opinions on everything and Canadians reacted positively. The Liberals of old seemed to be back.

Bob Rae displayed his foreign policy expertise, providing evidence that Stephen Harper had plagiarized a speech about following the Americans into Iraq, and Paul Martin successfully touted Liberals' ability to manage during tough economic times.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with focusing solely on a party leader, but that level of control demands perfection.

The Conservatives will need to know what Canadians are thinking and deliver just that. As was made clear in this campaign, a little heartfelt empathy is the dif-

ference between 40 and 30 percent support, a majority and a minority.

The other lesson is about the compatibility of Conservatism and Canadians. Stephen Harper, as reported by the Edmonton Journal, had this to say about compatibility: "We want to pull Canadians toward conservatism, but Conservatives also have to move toward Canadians if they want to continue governing the country."

In this election, we saw a leader and a party torn between, not recon-

ciling, Canadian voters from the right and the centre. Canadians, especially Quebecois, seemed uneasy with the Conservative approach to the economy, criminal justice and the arts.

Finding a balance is going to be difficult and one wonders if the Conservatives will have to lose their Conservatism in order to become the natural governing party of Canada.

Only time will tell.

letters@cordweekly.com

I hate hockey



GREG WHITFIELD
RUFFLING FEATHERS

I have a confession to make. I'm probably not a good Canadian. In fact, I'm something of a traitor. Not because of those pictures I took of Michaëlle Jean getting out of her limo à la Britney, or for those secrets I sold to the North Koreans.

No, this is much, much worse. My friends, I hate hockey.

I'll stay here while I wait for the authorities to arrive.

But see, it's not my fault. I'm the victim in all this. It's you who are to

blame; you who have been so thoroughly duped by the NHL that you think watching opposing bands of goons sliding around chasing after a rubber puck with long wooden sticks is a nice way to spend an evening. It's the country that's crazy – I'm the sane one.

Now, before I write you all off as duped loons, I guess it's only sporting that I give you a chance to defend yourselves.

But since I'm kinda busy, and don't really have time to hear successive lectures on the balletic grace of the forecheck, I'm going to go ahead and explain why most

SEE WHITFIELD, PAGE 21

Take a note from the south

We should be glad that the Hudson Bay Company is American owned; the new owners are pathfinders in green business and sustainability



JONATHAN RIVARD
FROM THE SOAPBOX

I think it's time for Canadians to get off their ethnocentric high-horses and give Americans a break.

Canadians were pretty upset when their oldest corporation, The Hudson Bay Company (HBC), was purchased by an American entrepreneur in 2006. But, after seeing HBC's environmentally progressive turnaround following the American purchase, I would call this exchange a good thing.

HBC has established a very progressive environmental initiative to turn their stores into models of green business. If making these changes to every Bay store in Canada hasn't proved challenging enough, the City of Waterloo had been stalling their efforts until very recently.

Last August, a request to install two 17-metre wind turbines on the

roof of the Bay had been rejected by the city. The plan has since made our very progressive Waterloo home to the first green Bay of its kind.

The city's reason for rejection: they had no existing policy to deal with alternative energy. "We can't do it, because we've never done it before" seems like an odd response from a city best known for its technological innovation and forward thinking.

Waterloo's disinterest in creating new policy to make positive environmental change left HBC with no choice but to appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Only after the appeal was scheduled did the City of Waterloo reverse their decision and restart negotiations. It's hard to think of a suitable adjective to describe our city's initial refusal.

"Lazy" comes to mind. I'd also include "potentially discriminatory" among the list of descriptors, considering the Bay was recently purchased by NRDC Equity Part-

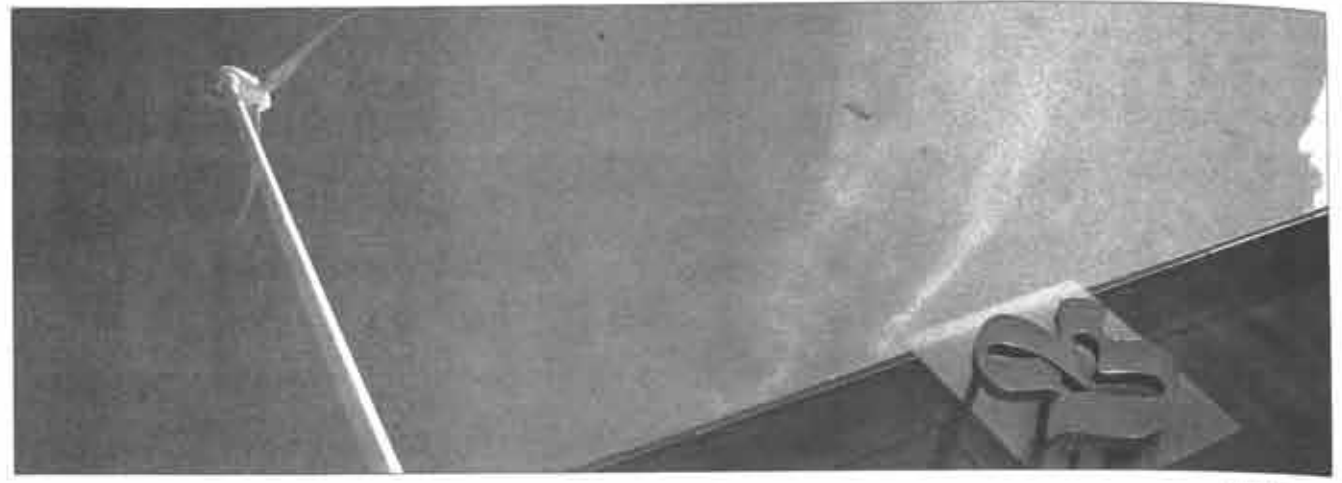
ners, an American group based in New York.

The city's insubstantial decision leads one to question the actual motives of such rash inaction. Perhaps, like for many Canadians, the thought of an American-owned company making a positive impact in Waterloo seemed like an invasive gesture; if an American leads Waterloo's environmental initiative, it could damage the integrity of local efforts.

But the truth is, Americans are handling our company better, and are making a positive change in Waterloo.

Since American entrepreneur Jerry Zucker's purchase in 2006, HBC has maintained itself as an honourable contributor to Canadian society.

The chain has completely maintained its Canadian operation and management - those on the board of directors are nearly all Canadian, and even former CEO and president George Heller remains on the board.



RYAN STEWART

GREEN BAY - No, not the city. The HBC at Conestoga Mall is the first of its kind to "go green" in Canada.

Following Zucker's death in April 2008 and the subsequent purchase of HBC by NRDC, huge progressive leaps have been taken to make this Canadian chain an environmental pioneer.

HBC is changing things throughout its stores to make them more energy efficient and less wasteful.

In addition to wind turbines, HBC is implementing energy-efficient lighting, waterless urinals, and a sunlight-reflecting white roof to make their stores naturally cooler and less dependent on air conditioning.

Additionally, much loftier commitments have found their way onto the agenda. A 90 percent chain-wide reduction of waste through thorough recycling initiatives has been projected, as well as the installation of flooring that can be completely recycled when in need of replacement.

It's apparent that the new American owners are taking this company into a safe and positive direction. No Canadian "big box" store

has ever made such an extensive environmental pledge, especially not one with such long-term ambitions.

Motives of big business aside, this is the first major box store to "go green," and will no doubt shape trends for smaller and competing businesses. Waterloo Mayor Brenda Halloran believes "it shows other corporations that it can be done."

It's a bit distressing to some that an American company is going to such lengths to preserve the name and integrity of the Bay, and to work harder than previous owners to pull our nation's oldest company away from equally old environmental policies.

Maybe, like city council, we should be less concerned with the nationality of the new owners, and focus more on bringing the rest of our businesses into the 21st century.

letters@cordweekly.com



Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group

LSPIRG Notice of Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting is called for to consider amending the following By-laws to read:

Article III – Section 1:

"The Annual General Meeting of the members of the Corporation shall be held at such time as the Board of Directors determines, within 15 months of the previous Annual General Meeting."

Article IV – Section 1:

"The board of directors shall be comprised of nine (9) directors elected by members."

Article IV – Section 2:

The nine (9) directors shall be elected in two separate groups but all members of the corporation attending an Annual General, or Special General Meeting will vote for both groups. The groups will be elected in the following groups:

- Six (6) shall be elected from the members of the corporation considered "student" members
- Three (3) shall be elected from members of the corporation considered "community" members

Please note members have the right to vote by proxy. Email info@lspirg.ca for the proxy form.

Date: October 21st at 5:30 pm

Location: Grad Pub

www.lspirg.ca

Engaging in social change

Letters to the Editor

Cord reporting failed democracy

Dear Cord,

When I spoke at the Laurier Debate about the "inaccessibility of democracy" I wasn't just talking about Election Law, I also meant media. I've suffered from being patronized despite a serious level of participation. A token mention here or there, never really listening to what I'm saying. "Oh look, a student, good for him," but little else. I've been a serious participant in all the debates, of which there were many, with the exception of the one that the Cord has covered (I wasn't welcome).

However, your election week coverage was the first time I've felt truly depressed. The reason small parties never win is because media never gives them a real chance. I'm sure Cathy from the Green Party can tell you that. Her party was in the "alternative views" section until this election what Canadian media suddenly realized they matter.

But Cord, I'm one of your own. You know me. Or maybe you don't. You never really tried. Until all views are acknowledged and given equal coverage during an election, your "democratic" system will continue to fail average Canadians.

And for the record, if you had come to any of the other debates or listened to what I was saying, you would realize that I'm not that "out there," and many people share my views.

-Kyle Huntingdon
Canadian Action Party
Kitchener-Waterloo

Homecoming went too far at WLU too

I appreciated James Popkie's article, "University must embrace transparency" criticizing Queen's University for pressuring students not to record and broadcast the partying on Homecoming weekend. I agree that Universities should encourage this kind of student-initiated documentation. I disagree, however, with his claim that we at Laurier "have fun without taking it too far." I was very disturbed this Homecoming weekend by a scene of sexual aggression I witnessed between two partygoers. (For anyone interested I described my experience in the article, "Homecoming Blues" in Blueprint's Debauchery issue.) The following Wednesday the Cord published an anonymous letter by a student who had been raped during Homecoming celebrations. These two instances are a sign that the partying at Homecoming weekend did go too far. I understand that Mr. Popkie was focusing on destruction of property in his article, but these sexual crimes should not be overlooked.

They expose very serious dimension of Laurier's partying culture that needs to be addressed; gender relations. We as students have a responsibility to each other to take an active interest in Laurier's social culture. There are many institutions on campus that invite this kind of analysis; The Women's Centre, the Rainbow Centre, The Miss G Project, Men Against Rape Coalition, LSPIRG, BACHUS, (Shh) Laurier Secrets, the Envisioning Laurier project, and of course WLUSP are just some of the avenues for this discussion. I applaud the author of the letter for having the courage to speak up; in doing so she (the letter implied the writer was female but I want to acknowledge the possibility that the writer could have been male) took a step towards preventing this kind of violence from taking place in our community again. The rest of us need to take an active interest in our campus culture to ensure that her letter was not written in vain.

-Lauren Smee

Where's our fall reading week?

After reading Keren Gottfried's article about students coping with personal or academic problems, and how the extent of those problems are not widely discussed in a popular university setting, I was struck by the fact that some post-secondary education next week will have a reading week, but Laurier will not. To be sure, being done school earlier around the December exam period is a plus, but if a reading week were enacted around the long weekend of Thanksgiving, for instance, how many of these student issues could be addressed? Having "down time" to spend with friends, family, or services like Personal Counselling, the Women's Centre, and Campus Ministries would be a stop-gap to students in crisis. An added bonus would be that many first year students, away from home for the first time and exposed to a new system of marking and academic expectations, would have time to study for the plethora of mid-term exams and essays that many of us suffer under in October. Why Laurier is not implementing such an idea of a fall reading week, I do not know.

-T.A. Pattinson

Letters Policy:

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

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

letters@cordweekly.com

Canada's game pointless

- FROM WHITFIELD, PAGE 19

of the arguments that might vindicate your obsession are empty and unconvincing.

First, I imagine you claiming that it's genuinely and objectively a great game, and to see a great game played by the best players is a thing of great beauty.

Nuts to that. Sure, you might find it graceful and powerful and beautiful to watch, but that you - the individual - believe this is no reason for me to believe it along with you.

I may just respond that you have exceptionally bad taste in most other matters of beauty as well. So your opinion on the beauty of anything is already in question.

Ah, but I've already noted that hockey is something of a national obsession, so you certainly aren't alone in your (silly) belief that hockey is beautiful.

Fine, I'll give you that one. But a lot of people think that New Kids on the Block and Katy Perry make beautiful music, so there are clear and deeply disturbing problems that go along with appealing to the majority's aesthetic sensibilities.

Point: me.

Second period: I think your next (likely shouted) retort will be about the camaraderie and enjoyable rivalry experienced by loyal fans as the fortunes of their favourite teams rise and fall.

But what are these teams you speak of? Sure they're a collection of athletes, coaching staff and management who ostensibly represent your favoured city, but the individuals who make up any given team can't be what hold your devotion over time.

The people who make up a team change quite rapidly from season to season and even from game to game.

Trades, free agency, firings and drafts shift the entire composition of a team in most cases once a decade.

So, that team you became a fan of in your early childhood is not in any real sense the same team you cheer for now. Sure they might play in the same stadium and wear roughly the same logo, but there's nothing really connecting these two teams, except maybe ownership.

And you've got a whole different

set of issues if you're cheering for the teachers' union.

The fact is that nobody cheers for a coaching staff, or an offensive line, or a GM. You cheer for an ethereal concept that unites past and present teams and exists only in the minds of fans. And you called me crazy... Point: me.

Final Period: Now you're ready to admit the truth. "Fine," you say, "it's the violence. I just love the violence."

Hmm, good point. Point: you.

So maybe I win the game, but unfortunately it's inevitable that I lose the season.

No matter what I say or do, the hordes of devotees demand more puck chasing, and of course they'll get it.

But as hockey and her fans gear up for another season of assaults on my sanity, and you sit down to watch another episode of Goons on Ice, think of me and the poor, silent and sane minority of people who, like me, will be stealing your car while the game's on.

letters@cordweekly.com

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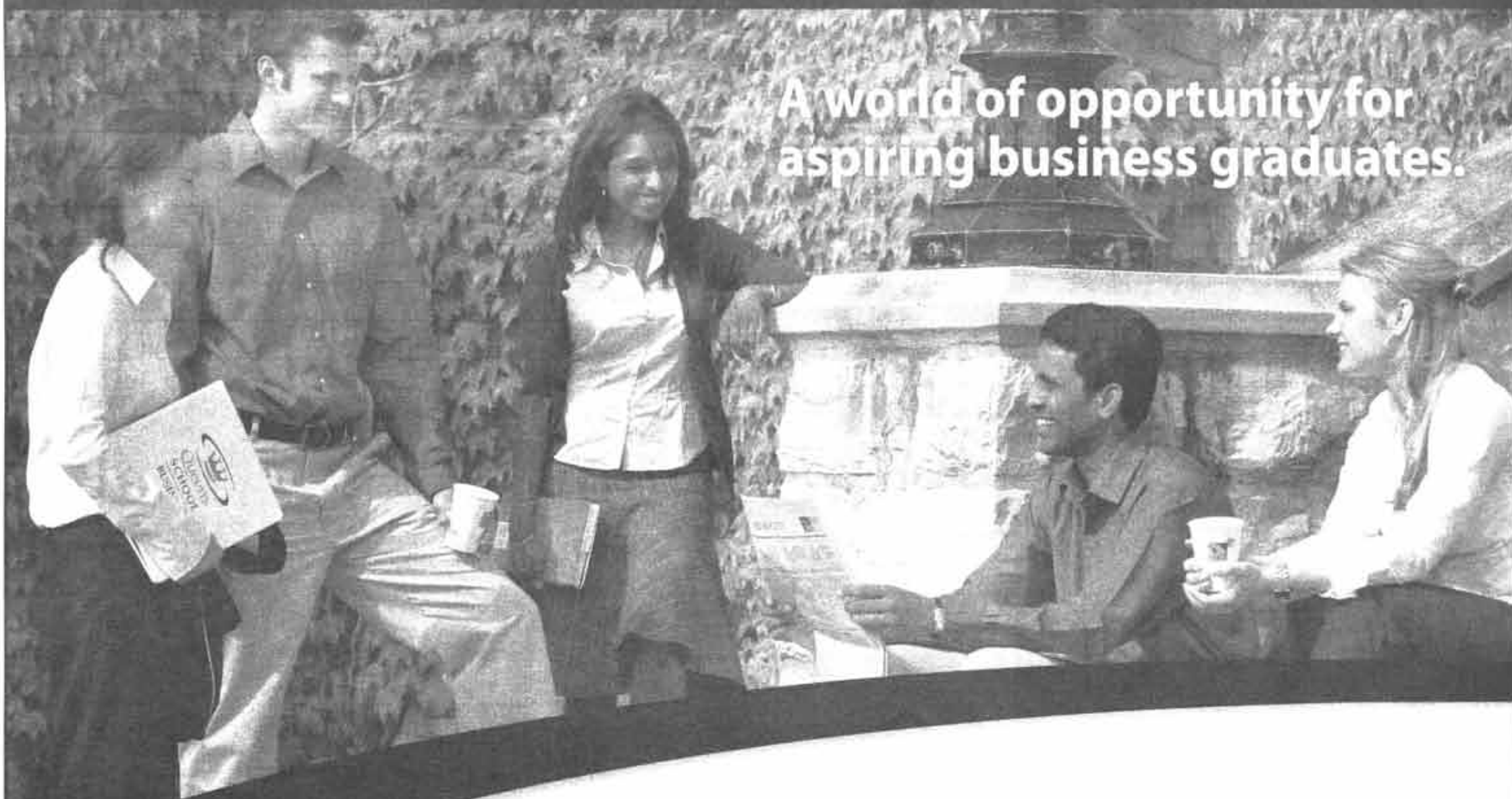
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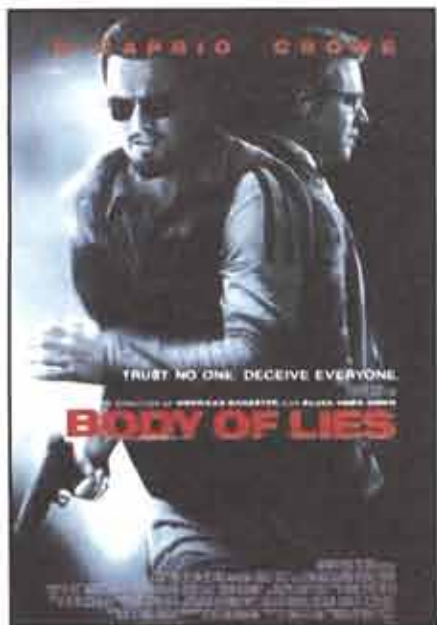


Ridley Scott's body of why?

The Cord wonders why DiCaprio and Crowe both agreed to do another contrived film based on spies in the Middle East

WADE THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

In a conversation with one of my friends and fellow film aficionados today, he enlightened me to a small yet very true point regarding spy thrillers: cell phones have completely ruined the genre. They are a cheap plot device used only to easily relay confusing information to the audience and tie up all loose ends in a matter of seconds.



Body of Lies
Director: Ridley Scott
Starring: Leonardo DiCaprio, Russell Crowe
Release Date: 10/10/2008
Rating: F

So when he kept telling me that, judging from only the trailer, *Body of Lies* was going to suffer from the problem, I took it into consideration, but put more faith in the likes of Russell Crowe, Leo DiCaprio and Ridley Scott. I mean, all of them are capable of making any movie even a little tolerable right?

The answer is no. *Body of Lies* is one of the most unintelligible pieces of "filmmaking" that I have seen since *The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor*, which was released at the end of the summer. So, for such a blatantly Oscar-hungry film as *Lies* to come out and fall as flat as it did, you can't help but cringe at how much potential it had to be good.

The movie concerns a CIA operative (DiCaprio) stationed all over the Middle East, attempting to garner any information he can about an Osama Bin Laden-type terrorist, who - like his counterpart - is in hiding, nowhere to be found.

The agent soon finds out that he isn't in charge of things as much as he thought, after his US-stationed boss (Crowe) continues to interfere with his outfit. From here, there are double-crossings, terrorist attacks and a lot of other fluff that fills the unbelievably stretched 120-minute runtime.

From his first appearance, Russell Crowe looks out of place in his character. He gained 50 pounds



GOATEE AND WHISKEY - DiCaprio definitely has played this part before... but one wonders where...

to play the "puppetmaster" leader who stays close to home base throughout the film's events. Why he would waste both his talent and his health in a role more suited for the likes of Ray Liotta I will never understand. Crowe's American accent is also on and off. He pulled off a perfect American accent twice last year (*American Gangster* and *3:10 to Yuma*), so it's really a wonder why this one doesn't hold.

DiCaprio is no better, unfortunately. The guy has proven himself a quality thespian, and yet, here he is basically just re-warming whatever was leftover from his tour-de-force performance in *The Departed*.

The single performance that

stands out in an otherwise yawn-inducing cast is character actor Mark Strong. He portrays the Jordanian equivalent to Crowe's character and outperforms him every time he's on-screen. Both a gentleman and a businessman, he keeps you guessing as to whether or not he will snap with every word he speaks. Hopefully, we'll be seeing more of Strong in the future, as he has proven time and time again that he can play with the big boys (and in this case, top them).

Director Scott does nothing to help the film's case. Sloppy editing, combined with massive amounts of plot information being spewed at the audience through an unprec-

edented amount of cell phone conversation, create a confusing and convoluted environment for the audience to follow. It's an attempt at American propaganda and doesn't come close to achieving anything remotely successful.

Overall, I couldn't believe the result of this movie. I myself, in fact, like Russell Crowe. I like Leonardo DiCaprio. I also like Ridley Scott. Why any of them would waste their abilities on a film like this is absolutely beyond me. So, I would recommend this movie for one reason, and that is Mark Strong.

Actually, scratch that. Just go and rent a good movie featuring him and bypass this one entirely.

Modern boys rock out

- FROM MODERN, PAGE 24

The crowd held steady at about 30 for MBMG's set, which was marred by some technical difficulties at the beginning, including a mic that would not stay in place for lead singer Akira Alemany, causing the band to re-start a song.

However, once the technical issues were dealt with, MBMG went on to rock the small venue. "Maybe

it's my ego, but I need everyone to come closer to the stage," Alemany urged the crowd, who obliged and danced in front of the band. The highlight of MBMG's set was "My Baby Says Boy Don't You Ever Go" from their album *I Might As Well Break It*, with the crowd clearly feeling the sound of the catchy pop-rock song. The band members interacted well with each other and the audience, and closed the set

with a stellar performance of "The Devil We Know".

With such strong and diverse Canadian rock acts around, it seems a shame that Maxwell's Music House wasn't packed, even if it was the first night of Oktoberfest. Oh, and in case you were dying to know, Alemany was wearing a white t-shirt, black skinny jeans and a pair of sweet black leather boots.

CORD/ONLINE

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Lo-Fi and the Vivian Girls

Lo-Fi rock and punk is probably going to be the next musical craze - and **Daniel Joseph** doesn't think that it's a bad thing in his review of The Vivian Girls' self-titled release.

Not so subtle advertising...

Trevor Loughborough wonders why product placement in Hollywood blockbusters and prime-time TV has gotten so common... and so sloppy.



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Wood, whisky, and folk

Jason Collett speaks with **Anne Donahue** on politics and being a part of the Toronto scene before his Thursday show at Starlight

ANNE DONAHUE
STAFF WRITER

Since releasing his first solo album in 2003, Toronto-based rock 'n' roller Jason Collett has toured the globe, won both public and critical praise for his 2005 release, *Idols Of Exile*, and remained a prominent figure in the Canadian indie music scene. After spending months on the road in support of his February release, *Here's To Being Here*, Collett is about to embark on the Exclaim! Magazine-sponsored Wood, Wire and Whisky Tour, which will take the band across Canada and will include a stop at Starlight Lounge on October 16.

"Well, we just like to play, you know?" shared Collett. "The thing that I'm really into most about this tour is we're doing a number of small towns, which is something we've never done before. And this is actually our very first coast-to-coast tour which is also something we've never done before. We've been wanting to do this for a few years now and we've finally found the time to."

Collett's music is renowned for its Canadian essence; referencing cities, landmarks and traditions. "It's not that conscious of a thing, really," Collett explained. "Those songs have just sort of happened... there's been a small bit of inten-

tion on my part to try and unearth a bit of Canadian mystique, you know, in my writing.

"Referencing some geography... It conjures up an image for everybody; even if you've never been there... It seems to strike a chord, interestingly enough with people outside of Canada. They're intrigued by those references. The thing I've discovered about referencing Canadian places is that it actually translates in a wonderful weird way for people that have never been to Canada. A little bit of intrigue goes a long way in this business."

With his tour launching on election day, *The Cord* used this opportunity to ask the long-time NDP supporter to share his thoughts on the political race. "I'm excited for the

ground that the NDP has gained in this election, they've gained quite a bit of momentum and I'm a long-time NDP supporter.

"I've got a personal relationship with some people that are in the party... and I used to live in the neighbourhood of Jack Layton and Olivia Child for ten years... So on that personal level, I've watched them interact in the neighbourhood and have seen how genuine and involved they are. They're very committed people.

"It's funny, you know, the politics in this country... people trash Stéphane Dion for being a geek and they trash Jack

Layton for having a moustache. I don't understand that, you know?"

No stranger to prominent Canadians, Collett's circle of friends consists of members of Broken Social Scene and other renowned musicians.

appearances that are made are people that are kind of auxiliary members of the band, like Andrew Whiteman and Kevin Drew [both of Broken Social Scene]... it just was the natural evolution of things.

"I'm intending on really focusing on the band even more for the next record. The lineup has changed a little bit in the last year, and it's quite dynamic right now... There's more of a collaborative effort between all of us to form the tunes. So that just makes for something really strong and promising for the next record in my mind."

However, Collett values the effort put forth by his fellow musicians and cites them as inspiration. "Toronto's been a renaissance of an amazing hotbed of great talent over the last seven, eight years... I'm kind of in the belly of it and I don't have to go any further than that to really be inspired. I'm inspired by being a part of... all the various members of the Broken Social Scene and the distant cousins of the Broken Social Scene... Those people are constantly doing spinoff projects, solo projects and, you know, I think we collectively kick each other's asses... You're sort of encouraged by what's in your atmosphere to stretch further on your own material."

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However, while *Idols of Exile* featured guest appearances by Emily Haines, Feist and Brendan Canning, *Here's to Being Here* focused mainly on the inherent talent within Collett and his band. "We got off the road and went into the studio as a band. It's more of a people I was playing with at the time. The few guest ap-

A modern show

Toronto's Modernboys Moderngirls played at Maxwell's Music House and *The Cord* was there

BLAIR FORSYTH-STARK
CORD A&E

"Don't be like every other journalist and start the story with what we're wearing," whispered Modernboys Moderngirls (MBMG) frontman Akira Alemany, moments before his band was to take the stage at Maxwell's Music House on Friday night.

"Actually, it's your story, write whatever the hell you want," he added, leaving for the stage to begin setting up.

With that blessing of journalistic freedom in hand, here's how the show went down, minus the perfunctory clothing descriptions.

Hours before MBMG's performance, the show opened with Montreal native David Martel and his three-member band. Beginning with the very mellow "Stories", which was well-suited to the intimate venue of about 30 people,

Martel then picked up the pace with his second song, "The Good Lord".

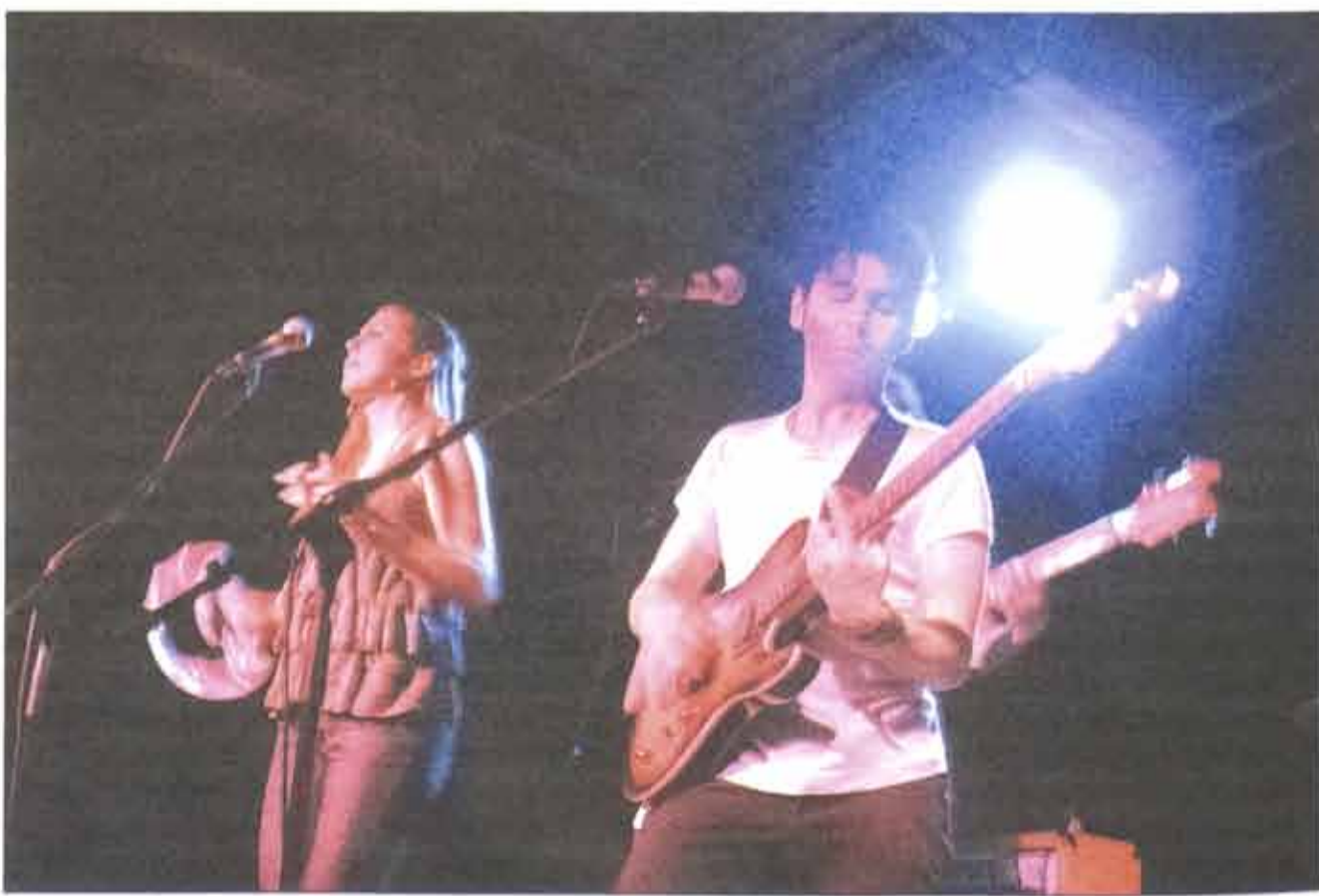
Being a band stemming from Montreal with a cello in their midst, the comparison to Arcade Fire seems inevitable, but Martel quickly eluded that comparison as he masterfully covered "I'm Satisfied" by Mississippi John Hunt, complete with country twang.

Sharing the same band with Martel, Mark Berube was the night's next performer, and the two acts effected a smooth transition by bringing all band members on stage.

But with seven people on such a small stage, it seemed that the old adage of too many cooks in the kitchen would affect the final product.

However, after a shaky start, the band found their collective rhythm and finished "Yesterday's Halo" to an applauding crowd.

After their collaboration, Martel and a few of his band members left



WALK INTO THE LIGHT - Modernboys Moderngirls on the stage at Maxwell's Music House in Waterloo.

the stage.

Berube's first song without them "We Go Down" was strangely reminiscent of a Bruce Springsteen song, but with the cello and Berube's keyboard work giving it a unique and modern twist.

While Berube's set was mostly

enjoyable, his choice to end his hour-long set with a mix of "Shiny Plastic Bags" and "Barbershop" seemed tedious and long.

Next on stage were the show's headliners: Toronto-based indie rockers Modernboys Moderngirls.

While the crowd had slowly filled

out during Berube's set, it seems many of the audience members were friends or family of Berube's and unfortunately, for MBMG, they started to clear out before the band could even begin their set.

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