



BAD LUCK PUCK

Women's hockey team suffers their first loss in 26 games ... **PAGE 12**

CAMPUS BEST-OF

Laurier votes on their favourite campus locales, profs and more ... **PAGES 16-17**

JAL, WARCHILD

Rapper and writer Emmanuel Jal stops by Waterloo's Princess Theatre ... **PAGE 31**

Examining misconduct

The Cord talks to students for first-hand feedback on academic misconduct at Laurier

JEREMY TREMBLAY
NEWS EDITOR

According to a report presented to senate by Laurier's Academic Integrity Committee Chair Mark Baetz, a professor in the School of Business and Economics, 83 students have been caught and penalized for academic misconduct since the beginning of September, 2007.

"I don't think [misconduct] happens very often," says one Laurier alumn who admits to having cheated on an exam.

"I think it's very subjective," says a current student. "I've only cheated one time in one class."

Neither was caught for misconduct.

"I knew one of the [exam] questions," the alumnus explained.

Writing the exam with the accessible learning centre, he was

given a floppy disk on which to save his work. Knowing that this would be the case ahead of time, he says he wrote an essay on a floppy disc and snuck it in.

When no one was looking, he switched the disks and pasted an essay he had written ahead of time into a new document.

"They're very lenient for special needs. I took advantage of that," he said.

Despite the fact that he cheated on an exam, he doesn't think cheating is a widespread phenomenon.

"It devalues my degree," he stated, explaining that he will always know he cheated on an exam.

The current student says she and a friend studied for an exam together and ended up sharing answers.

SEE **INTEGRITY**, PAGE 4



YUSUF KIDWAI

Opening *Dialogues*

The Cord previews this weekend's opera, *Dialogues of the Carmelites* ... **PAGE 27**



YUSUF KIDWAI

FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS - Sara Conrad, Sasha Cocarla and Kate Klein, organizers of Imagyn Film Festival.

Examining gendered violence

JEREMY TREMBLAY
NEWS EDITOR

Laurier students Kate Klein, Sasha Cocarla and Sara Conrad have taken the Imagyn Film Festival on gendered violence from idea to reality.

The organizers hope that the festival will help communicate to people that gendered violence exists in multiple forms, including

violence inflicted upon the self and peer pressure.

With help from film studies professor Katherine Spring and women's studies professor Helen Ramirez, about 20 short films will be screened at the beginning of March as part of the festival.

Conrad explained that she was initially inspired by a workshop by Jane Doe.

"She's just a very smart, savvy woman and she was saying we need to think outside the box."

Later, while having lunch, Conrad and Cocarla came up with the idea of having a film festival.

"It was just a random thought," said Cocarla. "Jane Doe's point is really applicable to what we're doing."

SEE **IMAGYN**, PAGE 4

Don't fear for Canada's jobs



JOSH SMYTH
THE EXAMINED LIFE

The economic news is getting more dire every day.

It may be news-headline cliché, but it's also quite true. With the parade of jobless figures, industry bailouts and apocalyptic rhetoric, shit creek is looking rather crowded of late.

If there's anything flowing faster than multi-billion-dollar loans to badly managed industries, it's the steady rush of promises by politicians all over the world to do something, anything, everything to save their constituents.

And it really is about saving their constituents. It's almost funny to watch the speed with which economic parochialism jumps forward in tough times. Lo-

cal, provincial and federal mucky-mucks are tearing their hair out trying to save whatever pet industries send votes their way.

This tendency is even more pronounced south of the border. When the American congress stuck "Buy American" provisions onto their stimulus bill, it made sense to many people that money spent to rescue a country's economy should be spent exclusively on local enterprises.

The Canadian government, rightly, squawked. The thing is, other than to a certain subset of the globalized business and government classes, the logic behind this sort of law makes sense to many Canadians. There's a sense that we should take care of our own first, that in tough times we should try and stop those darned foreigners from taking our jobs.

SEE **JOBS**, PAGE 24

THE CORD WEEKLY

- The tie that binds since 1926 -

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VOLUME 49 ISSUE 23

Next Issue: March 4

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Oh, it's boobless not boobies!"

Sports Editor Lauren Millet, on grade-school calculator games

WORD OF THE WEEK

Subjugate - bring under domination or control, especially by conquest.

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

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

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

"Miss Laurier" pageant cancelled due to controversy

Organizers claim the event was meant to judge participants based on non-physical criteria; a meeting will take place today between Letterman Athletes and individuals concerned with the event

MORGAN ALAN
STAFF WRITER

Following criticism from several on-campus groups, the "Miss Laurier" pageant organized by the Laurier Letterman Athletes was cancelled earlier this week.

The pageant, originally scheduled to be held on March 7 in the Turret, faced complaints over allegations that the event's advertising included imagery degrading to women.

The event's poster contained silhouettes of two scantily-clad women, while the pageant's Facebook event included a picture of a backlit woman in a bikini.

According to Imran Ahmed, president of the Letterman Athletes, the event was not intended as a beauty pageant. "Miss Laurier" was to be chosen on standards not based on appearance, but on criteria such as extra-curricular involvement and GPA.

"It's a great event ... but the misperception of the whole thing was blown out of proportion," said Ahmed.

Laura McDonald, a volunteer with the Women's Centre, objected to the "disconnect" between the intentions of the event and the method by which it was marketed.

"My biggest question is, do [the Letterman Athletes] realize the implications of [the pageant]?" said McDonald.

"I don't want to say that it's automatically negative that they're doing it, but it is problematic," she added.

McDonald and several other students brought the event to the attention of Adam Lawrence, coordinator of the Office for Student Diversity.

"[The Office for Student Diversity] was frustrated that an event like this would even be planned ... and that it had gone as far as a poster campaign," said Lawrence.

According to Lawrence, the concerns of the complainants and the Letterman Athletes were exacerbated by a lack of communication between the two parties.

In order to resolve the issue amicably, Lawrence and the Diversity Office have organized a meeting



ALEX HAYTER

MISCOMMUNICATION - These event posters stirred up controversy.

between the Letterman Athletes and those concerned with the event to occur today.

"The Diversity Office is not about cancelling events or here to control people's thinking. We're here to make things a learning experience," said Lawrence.

Both sides agree that a discus-

sion on the controversy is preferable to simply cancelling the pageant.

"The purpose of the meeting is to understand where everyone is coming from.... If [the event] just gets cancelled and swept under the rug, nobody is benefiting," said McDonald.

Full-time faculty and university ratify agreement

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

Last Tuesday, over 90 percent of full-time faculty voted to ratify the tentative agreement reached on February 9.

Negotiations had been ongoing since the end of August after the university and faculty association's collective agreement expired at the end of June. The new agreement will last for three years beginning July 1, 2008.

Bargaining was dominated by the discussion of two issues - workload and compensation. After adding a third conciliation date on February 8, both sides reached a tentative settlement at 3:30 the next morning.

"I think the end result of the agreement is that we remained in the same position we were in before we started which was low relative to other faculty at other universities," explained Judy Bates, president of the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA).

Bates said that faculty had hoped to move up in the rankings, but due to the global economic pressures facing the university it

was not possible. "I think if anything we can say we've not slid back."

VP: Finance and Administration Jim Butler, a member of the university's negotiating team, explained that the economy coloured the nature of negotiations from the beginning, as the university is facing budget cuts over the next three years.

"It's expensive," he said. "We're trying to figure out how to pay for it, but it's what you have to do in order to run a university. You have to pay fair wages."

The new collective agreement grants a salary increase of three percent in 2009 and two-and-a-half percent in the following two years. This is being supplemented with an \$1,800 Ontario system adjustment in the first year, designed to ensure faculty are at least at par with other professors in the province.

Full-time faculty will also be given a \$2,600 career development increase each year.

Most notably, however, faculty will be given a drop in workload requirements from five courses to four.

Bates explained that while many

professors had a four-course load already, there were members - particularly in the faculty of arts - who this will now affect.

Faculty will also be able to apply for course-relief for additional reductions in their course load if they are conducting beneficial research at the university.

"The university is proposing that we become a research-intensive university and in order to achieve that we believed it was necessary to reduce the amount of teaching that was required for us," said Bates.

Negotiations lasted nearly six months in total, which Butler attributes to the fact that the university was waiting to hear from the provincial government on exemptions for payment on the university's pension funds. As well, he notes that bargaining was a lengthy process on whole due to the amount of issues to be discussed and time limitations for bargaining dates.

Bates explains that the delay was unfortunate, but full-time faculty is ultimately pleased with the agreement.

"I think they're relieved ... and I think they are pleased given the particular circumstances."

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VOCAL CORD

How do you feel about Turnitin.com as an anti-cheating system?



"I'm surprised the school is still using the system. Personally, I think they could do better."

– Sunny Chan
Second-year computer science



"I don't like it. When I used it, it didn't actually send the file and it wasn't signing me in properly."

– Rebecca Watson
Second-year classical studies



"I don't mind it."

– Eric Kruger
First-year biology



"I used it last year. I think it's a good system, I've had no bad experiences."

– Drew Attridge
Second-year business



"I've used it a couple of times. I always feel uneasy though."

– Marian DeCouto
Second-year global studies/
anthropology

Compiled by Mara Silvestri,
Photos by Jennifer Rae.

VP positions filled

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

The students' union's 2009-2010 management team has been chosen, after VP hiring ended on Monday, February 9.

Hiring for the positions took place the previous weekend, with a two-round interview process deciding who would fill the positions. The hiring committee was comprised of current president Colin Le Fevre, incoming president

Laura Sheridan and current VP: Human Resources Dan Preston.

As a result of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union's restructuring project announced at the beginning of December, the number of VPs has been reduced to five from the previous six.

"We're a very well-rounded team," explained Sheridan. "We come from a lot of different areas at Laurier but we're very much united."

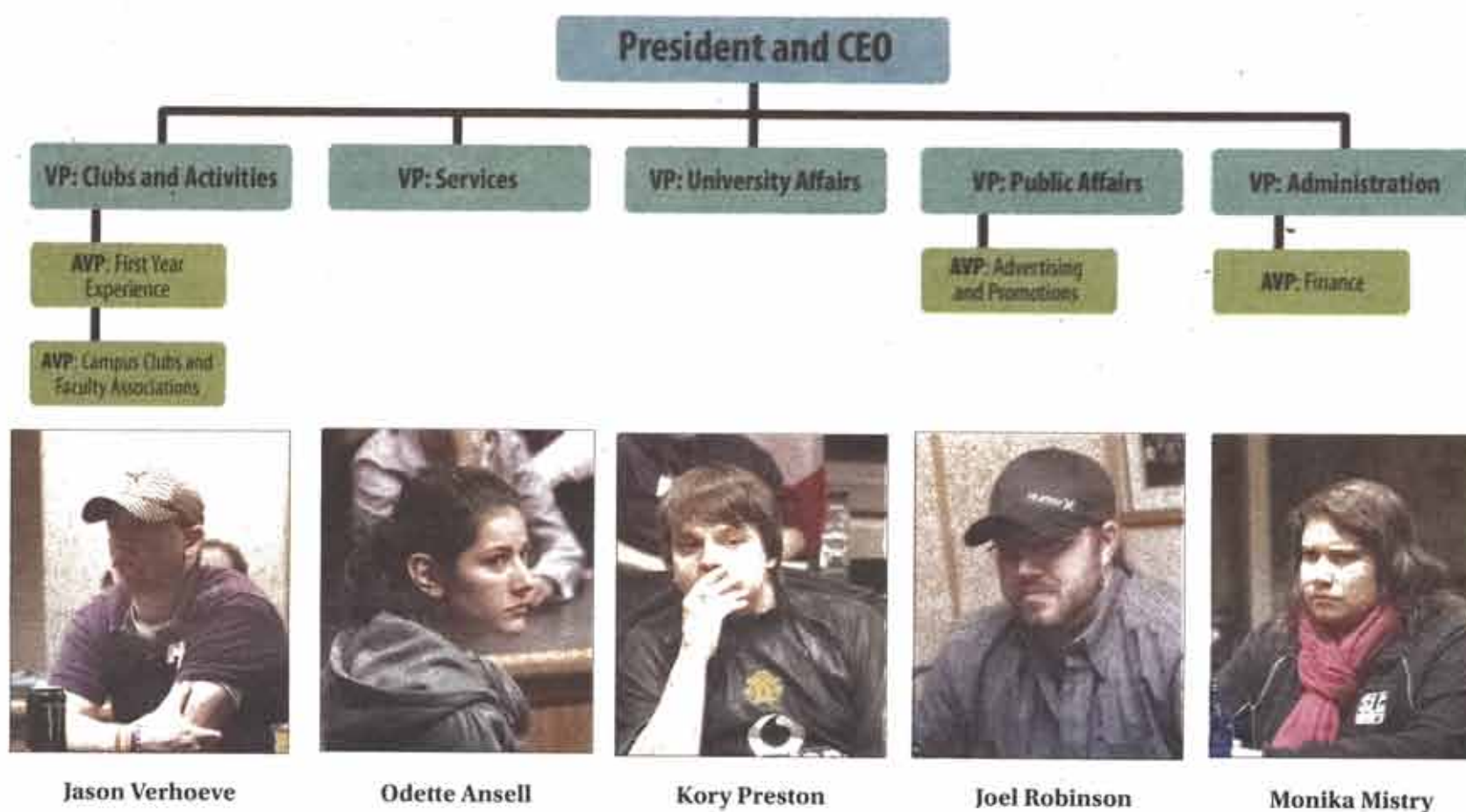
Training has already begun for the new VPs,

according to Sheridan, and while they do not begin their role officially until May 1, they will have two major tasks.

One is the hiring of Assistant VPs (AVPs), and the other is the preparation of an interim budget for the summer, which will be given to the new board for approval at their first official meeting in May.

The hiring of AVPs will take place this weekend and will be completed by the beginning of next week.

VP structure and hires



PHOTOS BY RYAN STEWART AND LAURA TOMKINS, INFOGRAPH BY SYDNEY HELLAND

Profiling the management team

Jason Verhoeve
Position: VP: Clubs/Activities
Past/Present involvements: Residence Life, A-Team, Department of Student Activities

Through the restructure, the department of clubs and activities has changed to combine the department of student activities and campus clubs.

Two AVPs will work with Verhoeve in the sections of first-year experience and campus clubs and faculty associations.

One of Verhoeve's biggest goals is to foster "consistent leaders," as he feels there is a general decline in enthusiasm and activity by the end of the year.

He also plans to assess various events within the department and examine their merits, stating, "We can identify which events are successful and why they're successful and use that to further our other events."

Odette Ansell
Position: VP: Services
Past/Present involvements: Winter Carnival, Residence Life, Foot Patrol

Ansell's role, which will be simi-

lar to the previous position of VP: Student Services, will involve the facilitation of diversity policy and training, as well as the overseeing of several committees such as the Ecohawks.

Ansell told *The Cord* that she plans to make a conscious effort to help oversee the department of services, in particular with the changed made in the restructuring process.

She hopes to increase the accessibility of services, stating "services aren't only for WLUSU people," and to conduct market research into the demographic that is using each of WLUSU's services and make changes accordingly.

Kory Preston
Position: VP: University Affairs
Past/Present involvements: Laurier Musical Theatre, Ontario Undergraduate Students' Alliance, Board of Directors

While Preston's position was not dramatically altered in the restructure, he is pleased that many of the various committees under the department have been moved out of it.

"By removing some of the more internally focused committees

from University Affairs it's really allowed University Affairs to focus on external advocacy."

Preston plans to introduce general volunteers into the University Affairs department, which he hopes will allow students to take an active role in governance and education.

"A big theme for this year is opening WLUSU up and the entire campus up to all of the students and the entire community and beyond."

Joel Robinson
Position: VP: Public Affairs
Past/Present involvements: O-Week, Campus Clubs, Hawk Squad

Robinson's role will encompass the former position of VP: Marketing with many additional features.

He will oversee market research and communication, as well as the AVP: Advertising and Promotions.

The department will be divided into team leads who act as the go-to in different specialized sections of the public affairs department.

Robinson intends to increase WLUSU's communication internally and externally.

"I want to make sure that the

union isn't blocked off in any way. Another goal is to try and research and understand what students want," he explained, adding that he will gather this information from the website.

Monika Mistry
Position: VP: Administration
Past/Present involvements: Student Leadership Centre, Shinerama

Mistry's position has undoubtedly seen one of the largest changes through the restructuring, expanding to encompass the former roles of VP: Finance and VP: Human Resources.

An AVP will work with her to help prepare financial reports for the board of directors and compile data.

Mistry plans to address a variety of issues during her term, including complaints of campus clubs being frozen.

"I'm going to be working with the current finance department to see what kind of steps we can take moving forward to make sure that anyone involved in campus clubs can have the best experience possible," she said.

Students discuss cheating

FROM INTEGRITY, COVER

When they arrived to write it, the lecture hall was so full people were sitting side-by-side.

"We decided beforehand if we didn't know the answer we'd just peek at each other's paper," she said, adding that they could even whisper without getting caught.

"I told my friends," she says. None were offended or reported her for misconduct.

Neither said they felt guilty for their actions, nor did they have friends that told them they were offended or upset.

"I've learned that students can be very frustrated when they see things around that they don't approve of, and the literature shows that about 50 percent of students cheat and about 50 percent don't," said Baetz.

To help promote discussion, mandatory student-led academic integrity sessions were introduced in 2006 as part of Orientation Week. These sessions, described by Baetz as "a major organizational innovation," are meant to send the message to students that the issue is taken seriously and that they should

feel comfortable getting involved.

"We want you engaged in conversation about [misconduct], your feelings when you see your friends crossing the line," said Baetz.

He explained that faculty need to acknowledge that students share virtually all information online today. Online quizzes are directly affected by students' tendency to share information.

Another current student explains how she enlists a "research assistant" to help her search for answers on Google.

"I never considered it cheating or unethical until it was pointed out to me by another student," she said. Even then, she didn't change her actions, she said, adding that the detail in online quiz questions tends to be so intricate that there is no other way you could receive a high mark.

She points out that Google is just one of the tools available to search for information in everyday life.

Turnitin.com plays a "significant role" in detecting academic misconduct at Laurier. The service allows professors to have their students submit their assignments online to be compared to a database

of other student papers, academic works and Internet pages.

The software, used by many professors at Laurier, is effective in detecting plagiarism, a form of misconduct that could have serious implications on how Laurier degrees are perceived.

However, plagiarism is one of the most recognized forms of academic misconduct, and one that students did feel was unacceptable.

"I would never plagiarize an essay ... or take from another source and claim it as my own," said the student who had help with her online quizzes.

Gail Forsyth, director of learning services, stressed the importance of academic integrity and pointed out that it applies far beyond the classroom.

"It's in everything that you do. It's in the classroom, it's outside the classroom, it's in research, it's in the business world, it's everywhere. I think we think of academic integrity maybe just as a classroom environment, yes that's one of the environments we're certainly focusing on, but it goes beyond that."

See PAGE 22 for editorial reaction to this story



SPENCER CLERK

Film festival to take place March 6-8

FROM IMAGYN, COVER

Her big focus was we have to make use of the fact that youth these days have a lot of access to technology ... why not use that as their means of expression," said Klein.

Imagyn solicited short films from across Canada from high school, college and university students. Students were free to interpret "gendered violence" freely.

Spencer Clerk, a Laurier student who chose to submit a film for the festival, said that although he hadn't originally planned to participate he realized that Imagyn presented a "unique way to express my feelings on the topic."

Clerk took the opportunity to express how society's norms and

the idea of making oneself pretty has become a violent act.

Cocarla emphasized that, "One of our biggest goals might have been to break who gets to give information in society. It's usually adults telling youth ... our goal was to reverse that information [chain]."

The organizers were also quick to point out that the festival isn't only for women. "If people jump immediately to conclusions, that this is another feminist thing or this is another women's nagging thing, I think it's important to question where these thoughts are coming from," said Conrad.

The Imagyn Film Festival takes place March 6 and 8 at the Senate and Board Chambers and March 7 at the Princess Cinema.

Academic misconduct recorded since September 1, 2007

(number of students) penalty
 (53) a grade of zero on coursework
 (26) loss of grade
 (7) a grade of zero for the course

(4) resubmit
 (1) suspension
 (1) warning on registry
 (1) pending

Learn more about faculty and academic integrity in the next issue of *The Cord*

Board chair election unanimous

Incoming chair Saad Aslam will officially begin his role on May 1; until then he will work on making a meeting schedule and organizing training

REBECCA VASLUIANU
 NEWS EDITOR

In a unanimous decision, Director-elect Saad Aslam was chosen as chair of the incoming board of directors (BOD) that will officially begin work on May 1.

The meeting, held on Wednesday, February 11, was the first meeting of the incoming Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) BOD elected on February 5; the election of Aslam as chair was the board's first decision.

"I'm excited to get the most out of the experience for them and myself; I can't wait," said Aslam.

The decision was uncontested; however, Aslam's lack of opposition came as a surprise to many in attendance. Fellow Director-elect Andrew Fryer had expressed public interest in running for BOD chair since the WLUSU open forums, but he declined a nomination at the meeting.

"I was completely shocked," said Aslam.

"I had no idea," he explained, adding that Fryer had told him he

was not running on the previous weekend, but expressed interest in the position again days later.

Aslam noted that he was slightly disappointed that he had no opponents, but he was pleased to see that he received unanimous support.

"It was a nice show of solidarity," he said.

According to Fryer, he decided not to run while counting ballots the previous Sunday because he wants to be able to run later in his director career.

"It may be a selfish reason, but I think that if I'm chair this year, I cannot be chair next year and since it's only my second year I would like to be on the board for most of my university career," he said.

Fryer explained that he decided not to tell anyone about it to encourage Aslam to put as much effort as he could into his proposal, stating "the impetus if you have no competition isn't as great."

In an interview with *The Cord* after the board meeting, Aslam admitted that he has a lot to learn coming into his new role, but he is eagerly looking forward to the

challenge.

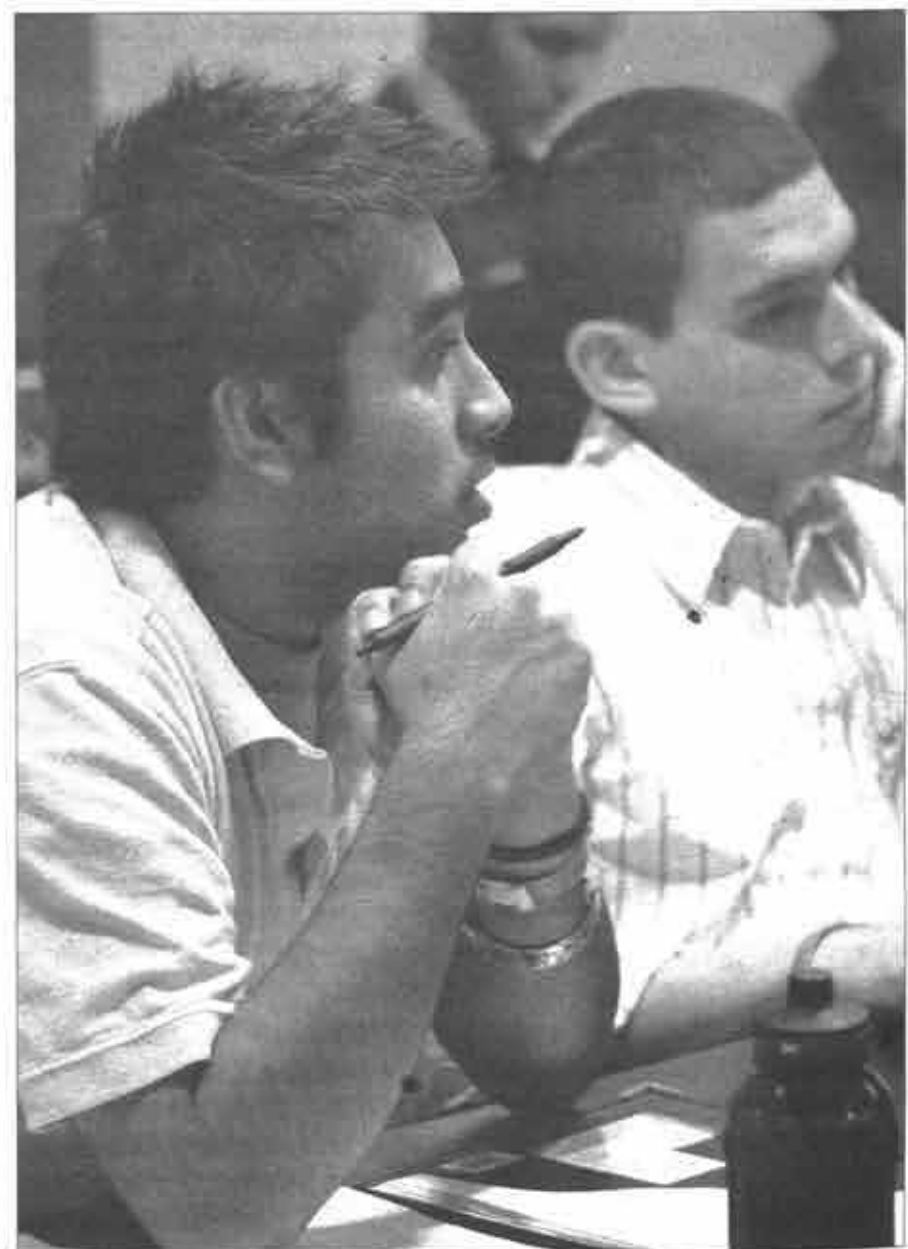
"I know it's going to be a steep learning curve for me but I'm wholeheartedly looking forward to it and I'm so excited."

Several meetings of the new board will be held before May 1, and Aslam is currently working on creating a firm board schedule and becoming acquainted with the directors.

"We have a whole bunch of diverse directors; it's definitely going to be a board with a lot of different points of view," he said.

Aslam plans to echo the extensive training this year's board was put through at the beginning of their term. He also intends to introduce regular one-on-one sessions with directors to ensure they are knowledgeable about the issues being discussed and help them accomplish their own initiatives.

"One of my biggest goals this year is to let the other directors achieve what they want to do," he said. "I will make every effort to facilitate and support them and I want them to feel a sense of accomplishment in achieving their goals."



RYAN STEWART

INCOMING CHAIR - Saad Aslam presides over his first meeting.

Brian Breckles no longer at Laurier

As of last Thursday, the former director of alumni relations is no longer an employee

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

Following a meeting last Thursday with WLU President Max Blouw, Brian Breckles, who had been director of alumni relations since 2002, is no longer an employee of the university.

Breckles had been at Laurier ever since he began his undergraduate degree in 1985. After graduation he remained at Laurier, working in various departments such as athletics and development.

When asked about his departure, Breckles told *The Cord* that he was not informed of the reason.

"I don't know," he said. "All Dr. Blouw shared with me is that he'd like to take things in a new direction in the alumni relations area."

WLU President Max Blouw explained that Breckles' employment had come to a conclusion last week due to reasons he cannot disclose.

"It was a separation that in-

volves a confidentiality agreement," he said.

Breckles, who explained that he has no plans for future employment at this time, stated that he is not "bitter or negative" about the decision.

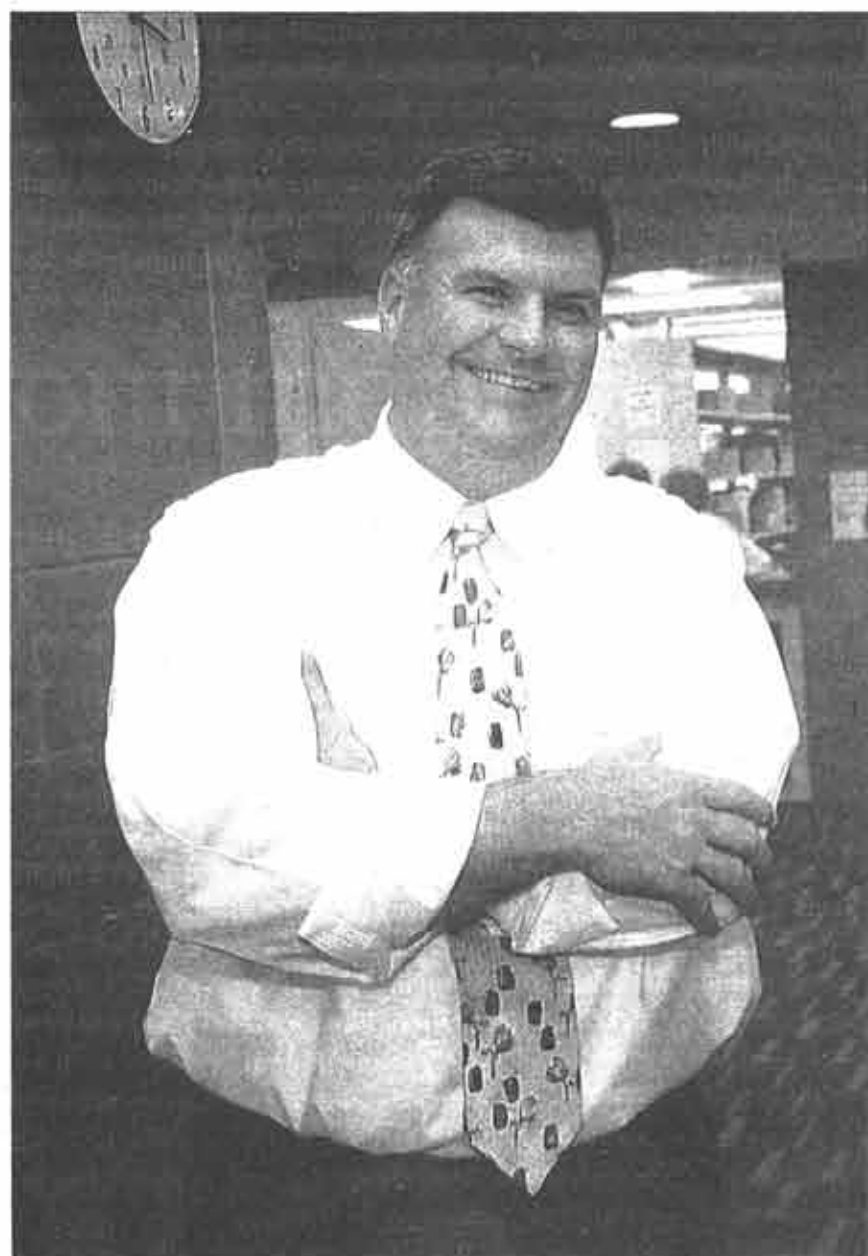
"It's like a professor giving you a B when you think you deserve an A," he said. "I've really enjoyed being director of alumni relations... I'm surprised that it happened but he made a decision and I respect his decision."

Since VP: University Advancement Arthur Stephen's retirement in December, Breckles' departure has been one of several "vacancies" that have opened up at Alumni Hall, Blouw explained.

He noted that he will not be filling the openings until Rob Donelson, the new VP: development and alumni relations, starts his position on March 30.

"It's a very short window until then," stated Blouw.

University Secretary Jennifer Casey will fill in the opening in the interim.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BRECKLES - Brian Breckles had been at Laurier for over 20 years.



RYAN STEWART

The Cord's new Chief

MADHAVI GANJU
STAFF WRITER

Long-time *Cord* volunteer Laura Carlson was appointed editor-in-chief of *The Cord Weekly* on Monday night.

"My sole commitment will be this job," said Carlson, who will be graduating this semester with a degree in communication studies.

As of May 1, Carlson will be focusing completely on the newspaper and is excited to bring a lot of change to the publication.

"I think that there are going to be a lot of drastic changes that the readers will really notice in terms of the design of the publication and the sections that are present, the type of stories that are covered ... and of course cordweekly.com will be huge in bringing our vision across."

Carlson has held several roles at *The Cord Weekly* over the past three years. She has covered important events such as the elections last

year and the subsequent run-off election, in addition to the financial audit of the Onecard office, the part-time strike last year and the negotiations between CAS and the administration.

Waleed Hafeez, *The Cord Weekly's* international editor during the 2007-2008 academic year, described Carlson as an extremely gifted writer who provided tremendous support during his tenure at the publication.

"I'm so excited for her to take over the reins as EIC. Laura's so committed to *The Cord* and I know she'll do an excellent job of making sure it maintains a level of excellence *The Cord* has become synonymous with," said Hafeez.

Carlson began her career at *The Cord Weekly* as a staff writer in her second year at Laurier, when she wrote for the news, student life and arts & entertainment sections regularly.

She became news editor in her third year and then special projects

editor for this academic year.

Over the past year, Carlson has used this role to cover areas of interest that receive little coverage in other sections.

As such, Carlson carried out an extensive project on the queer community at Laurier, speaking of its needs as well as interviewing prominent LGBTQ-identified individuals around campus.

As editor-in-chief, Carlson's responsibilities will entail the general upkeep of the whole paper, responding to any concerns people have regarding *The Cord Weekly*, hiring a staff of editors and working with all the members of her staff, including writers, photographers and general volunteers.

Carlson will be working with a team of 16 editors, including herself. As the special projects editor, Carlson missed having a staff to work with and says she's excited to be able to work with volunteers and to put out a great paper as a team.

THE CORD WEEKLY IS HIRING!

The Cord Weekly is hiring the following editorial board positions for the 2009-2010 academic year.

The following positions are available:

News Editor (salaried)
Lead Reporter
Local and National Editor
International Editor
Opinion Editor
Sports Editor
In-Depth Editor
Life Editor
Features Writer
Arts Editor
Web Editor
Graphics Editor

All positions outside of News Editor are honorarium based. Applications can be picked up from the WLUSP office in the basement of Macdonald House residence.

Applications are due Thursday March 12 at noon. Please direct all questions to lcarlson@cordweekly.com

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Tentative transit settlement reached between region, drivers

LINDA GIVETASH
STAFF WRITER

Grand River Transit and the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) local 4304 reached a tentative agreement Saturday night. CAW employees have been without a contract since December 2008.

Had the agreement not been reached, a strike would have disrupted all transit operations.

40,000 daily transit riders in Kitchener-Waterloo would have been left without transportation in the event of a strike. This number would have included many WLU and UW students.

Second-year sociology student Whitney Dale said, "I wouldn't be able to get to my volunteer placement," putting her grades for the course for which it's required at risk.

Sarah Fleischhauer, a second-year psychology student, relies on the GRT to get to her part-time job.

"I wouldn't be able to get to work," which she explained provides income she relies on to support her daily expenses.

Details of the tentative agreement will be released publicly once both parties have ratified it. When ratification will take place is still unknown.

"It's pretty dumb," said Adam Nerger, first-year political science student.

"They should be releasing that so we can get a better understanding ... of what can happen". Nerger is a student living off-campus who relies on the GRT to get to and from campus daily.

Corporate Communications Director for the Region of Waterloo

Brian Stortz said, "We have a memorandum of understanding with CAW local 4304 that there will be no disruption during the period that we are waiting for the ratification."

With 99 percent of union members voting in favour of a strike if an agreement had not been reached, this understanding - although tentative - will at least ensure riders the peace of mind that all transit facilities will continue to be accessible.



ALEX HAYTER

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Brick Brewery receives government grant

WATERLOO - Brick Brewery celebrated its 25th anniversary on February 11 with a \$1 million grant from the Ontario government as recognition of their contribution to Ontario's economy.

The Ontario Craft Brewers Opportunity Fund, which is supported by tax dollars, is intended to support local employment.

George Croft, Brick's president, told *570News* that the money will be directed towards their marketing.

Approximately 40 licenced craft brewers across Ontario are eligible for a portion of the government of Ontario's \$8 million commitment to support small brewers.

Laurier student accused of terrorist involvement faces trial

A decision will be made on March 5 as to whether or not Suresh Srikantharajah, an alleged supporter of the Tamil Tigers, will proceed on trial in the United States.

The 28-year-old MBA graduate from Wilfrid Laurier University and engineering graduate from the University of Waterloo has been accused of money laundering and purchasing military software.

The Record reported that Srikantharajah has also been accused of advising other students on how to smuggle equipment into areas of Sri Lanka that are controlled by the Tamil Tigers. These accusations have been made due to the interception of his personal e-mails.

Of the 12 men arrested in Canada and the US, Srikantharajah and three other Canadians have allegedly conspired to purchase missiles and rifles at a value of \$1 million.

Despite such accusations, Srikantharajah was awarded a \$5,000

entrepreneurial award by WLU last May.

Professor is arrested after trespassing at University of Ottawa

OTTAWA - Last month, Denis Rancourt, a suspended tenured professor, was arrested at the University of Ottawa for trespassing.

After various attempts at testing his academic freedom within the university, Rancourt was suspended and banned from the school grounds in December upon UofO's discovery that he had agreed to give all of his fourth-year physics students an A+.

Rancourt told *The Globe and Mail* that "grades poison the educational environment." He continued, "We're training students to be obedient, and to try to read our minds, rather than being a catalyst for learning."

Concourse pancakes cancelled

Due to a lack of available volunteers, pancakes were not served in the Concourse this year.

"I know this is a tradition that's been going on for a long time," said Chaplain Brian Bork, who explained that a number of circumstances combined to prevent the event from happening.

In the past, volunteers from Habitat for Humanity helped serve pancakes, but this year, the group returned from a building project late.

Bork said that the event's cancellation was a one-time occurrence.

"There will be pancakes again."

-Compiled by Heather MacDonald

BAG O' CRIME

THEFT UNDER \$5000

Reported: Feb 16
Special constables are investigating the theft of a wallet and a cell phone from a common area in a residence. The student was sleeping in another room when his property went missing. His cell phone was returned the next day by a student who found it in the lobby of the building. Investigation of the incident is ongoing.

ALARM

Reported: Feb 17 @ 15:30
Special constables attended an alarm at the marketing office in the students' union offices. The alarm was set off by a WLUSU volunteer looking for the key to the Radio Laurier booth. The alarm was reset by an officer.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Reported: Feb 18 @ 15:15
Special constables investigated a report from a residence life don that two students had been disciplined for throwing feces around the residence. The two students have been spoken to by Residence Life and have been billed for the cleanup.

ALARM

Reported: Feb 20 @ 17:15
Special constables attended an alarm in the Food Court. The area was checked and there was no sign of any forced entry. The main door was locked and secured. The area was re-secured and the alarm was reset.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Reported: Feb 21 @ 03:51
A special constable discovered that the rear door at 65 Lodge Street, Fine Arts Building, had been forced open at the bottom. There were marks on the door from forced entry.

ALARM

Reported: Feb 21 @ 18:44
A student reported setting off the alarm at the WLUSU Marketing Office. She entered the room and did not have a code to disarm the alarm. A special constable attended and reset the alarm.

ALARM

Reported: Feb 21 @ 23:31
Special constables attended a residence in response to a fire alarm. The area was checked by the Waterloo Fire Department and returned to normal.

GRAFFITI

Reported: Feb 22 @ 05:50
A special constable on patrol found graffiti in a male washroom in the Arts Building. The graffiti was of various types and markings and seemed to make no sense.

THEFT UNDER \$5000

Reported: Feb 22 @ 05:51
Damage to a product dispenser in a female washroom in the Arts Building was discovered by a special constable on patrol. The dispenser had been forced open and coins removed. No suspects and photographs have been taken.

THEFT UNDER \$5000

Reported: Feb 22 16:07
Special constables attended Wilf's bar and carried out an investigation into the theft of food from a fridge. Milk and cheese curds had been stored in the fridge and were not there upon the manager's return following Reading Week.

If you have any information regarding these or any other incidents please call Community Safety & Security at 519-885-3333 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. You can also report a crime electronically through the Community Safety & Security website. The Bag O' Crime is submitted by Community Safety and Security.



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Russian injustice

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Anna Politkovskaya was killed two years ago in the midst of her career as a well-known journalist, often critical of The Kremlin

PAULA MILLAR
STAFF WRITER

Never upset the status quo and never draw too much attention to yourself.

While North American news agencies would never abide by such conventions, these guidelines serve as fundamental rules of engagement for Russian journalists.

While not the first – and likely not the last – Anna Politkovskaya was a prominent Russian journalist who pushed the boundaries, disregarded government warnings

and lost her life because of it.

Politkovskaya, an outspoken and widely publicized critic of The Kremlin, devoted her life to bringing recognition to her choice cause – Chechnya. Never one to shy away from putting her true feelings in print, she wrote extensively on Russian military human rights abuses in the rebel-controlled territory.

Her decidedly hard-hitting pieces were published in the independent newspaper, *Novaya Gazeta*. Additionally, Politkovskaya published two books in English, *A Dirty War: A Russian Reporter in Chechnya*

(2001) and *Putin's Russia* (2004).

Seemingly ironic is Politkovskaya's own writing about contract killings within Russia. In *Putin's Russia*, she writes, "Lynch law is the order of the day, both in people's minds and in their actions. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."

On October 7, 2006, Politkovskaya was discovered dead in the stairwell of her central Moscow apartment building. The 48-year-old mother of two was found in what BBC called "a murder that carried all the hallmarks of a contract killing." It has been widely rumoured that at the time of her death, Politkovskaya had a highly critical investigative piece on Chechnya in the works.

According to Reporters Without Borders, a worldwide advocacy group for press freedom, 20 journalists have been killed in connection with their work in Russia since March 2000 – the year Vladimir Putin came to power. In fact, Russia ranks among the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists.

It was clear from the beginning; the investigation of Politkovskaya's death and subsequent trial would be no cut-and-dry matter.

Throughout the hearings, several international publications emerged as vocal critics, openly questioning the legitimacy of the trial. *The Guardian* called the murder trial's proceedings "chaotic, confused and even farcical." Additionally, the British paper termed much of the evidence brought forth "con-

tradictory, puzzling and downright strange."

Dmitri Suslov, an expert with the independent Council on Foreign and Defense Policies in Moscow, explained, "I realize this looks a bit bizarre from a Western perspective, but it is in the nature of Russia's political regime these days to assert that all things happen as a result of a particular political conspiracy."

On February 19, a Moscow jury acquitted all accused in Politkovskaya's murder. However, the "not guilty" verdict only fuelled feelings that any justice for Anna Politkovskaya had been denied. The BBC reported that even "pro-Kremlin newspapers accused Russia's law enforcement agencies of utter impotence in investigating the murder."

International reaction was swift and one French Foreign Ministry statement read, "The family of Anna Politkovskaya and her colleagues have a right to justice. The Russian people have a right to the truth." Despite protest from foreign outsiders, the Kremlin's deliberate "no comment" manner comes as no surprise to people within the country.

In fact, a man who once worked for the Russian state prosecutor's office recently revealed to the BBC that "there is a very small chance" that contract killings like Politkovskaya's will ever be solved. The insider elaborated further, "In these sorts of cases, an order may come down from above not to investigate." There is always fear, he

said, "that [any investigation] might reveal the whole chain of people, right up to the one who ordered it."

The last word belongs to Anna Politkovskaya. In her 2004 book *Putin's Russia* she appeared to be foreshadowing her own fate. "Yes, stability has come to Russia," she wrote. "It is a monstrous stability under which nobody seeks justice in law courts which flaunt their subservience and partisanship. Nobody in his or her right mind seeks protection from the institutions entrusted with maintaining law and order, because they are totally corrupt."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MOSCOW MURDER - Anna Politkovskaya was found dead in her apartment stairwell while working on a critical investigation of Chechnya.

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President Obama's first month in office

Barack Obama has been in office for just over one month and has already made numerous changes

HENJI MILIUS
STAFF WRITER

Since Barack Obama's inauguration last month as the 44th president of the United States of America, a great deal of pressure to change the last eight years of Bush-economics and foreign policies has been put on his shoulders to re-establish America as the beacon of hope and opportunity for all. Millions of people in the US and around the world have witnessed the unprecedented swearing-in with much enthusiasm, fanfare and euphoria.

However, only his performance as US commander-in-chief will determine how long his initial approval ratings of over 60 percent will last by the test of his leadership, his judgement and his vision for America.

On his first day, Barack Obama became the first African-American to hold the highest office in the United States, breaking the line of exclusively white male presidents that has continued since George Washington.

Soon after, he appointed 13 nominees to fill his new administration's cabinet posts to tackle complex issues such as the housing crisis, the banking and auto bailout, healthcare, Guantanamo Bay and Afghanistan.

Third, after three weeks in office, he signed one of the biggest stimulus bills (\$789 billion) in US history

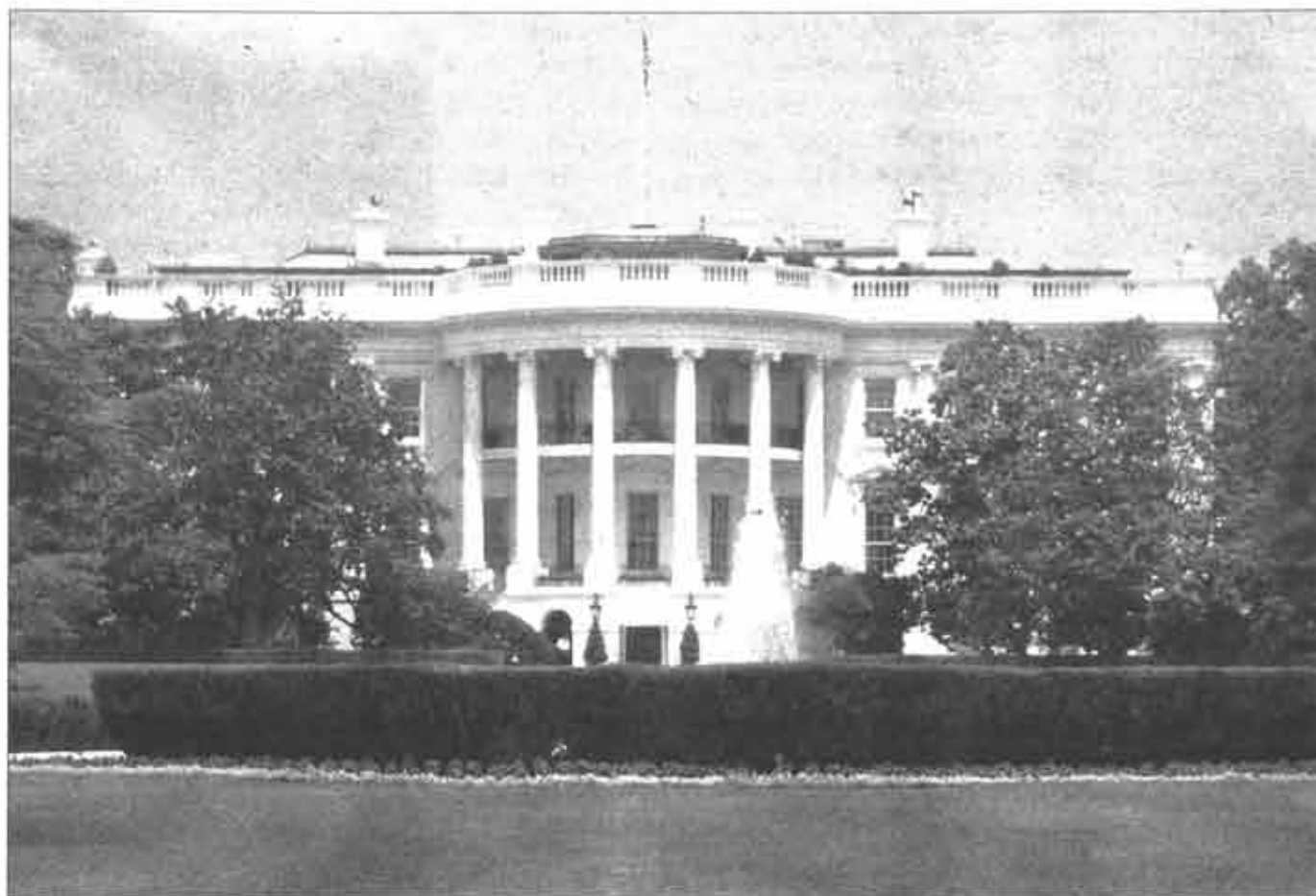
with considerable opposition from both the House of Representatives (on a 246-183 vote) and Senate Republicans (60-38).

The stimulus plan was controversial in its capacity because, "It's not perfect," said President Obama. "Broadly speaking, it has the right priorities to create jobs that will jump-start our economy and transform the economy of the 21st century," he continued.

President Obama's efforts to craft bipartisanship for the stimulus did not succeed in bringing in enough Republicans. Only three members of the Senate approved the bill among 41 Republicans, reported CNN Deputy Political Director Paul Steinhauser. This failure forced him to get outside of Washington's bickering and partisanship culture to sell his stimulus to the American people during two town hall meetings in Elkhart, Indiana and Fort Myers, Florida.

Last week, in his first foreign trip to Canada as President, Obama met with Governor General Michaëlle Jean, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Leader of the Official Opposition Michael Ignatieff and US Embassy employees. His visit sent a message of the importance and interests the US has in Canada as its international partner.

Hence, the purpose of Obama's brisk visit to Parliament Hill was generally to strengthen Canada-US relations where Canada provides



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OBAMA'S EFFORTS - The newest resident of the White House has begun tackling complex initiatives.

the US with natural resources and services such as trade (\$560 billion in 2007), electricity (major supplier of clean and hydroelectric power to New England, New York, the Upper Midwest, the Pacific Northwest and California), energy (17 percent of US oil imports and 18 percent of US natural gas demand) and climate change (by participating in the US-led International Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum), according to the Department of Commerce of the USA.


On security, Harper stressed that a threat to the US was a threat to Canada and that the war against terrorism was still a matter of utmost

importance for the sovereignty and the well-being of this country. He also reminded reporters and journalists during the joint news conference that, in 1988, both countries signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) toward the end of the Cold War to facilitate trade relations between Canada, the US and Mexico.

President Obama trumped Stephen Harper on one thing: popularity. A crowd of about 2,500 cheering people gathered on Parliament Hill

to steal a glimpse of the president as he later shook hands with others during an unscheduled visit to a shop in Ottawa's ByWard Market.

The meeting between Obama and Harper demonstrated a mutual respect and appreciation for each other. They reiterated and vowed to continue co-operation through dialogue and the sharing of ideas that can only be economically and politically beneficial to neighbouring countries, as well as to the Canadian and American people.



THE YEARBOOKS ARE IN!?!


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28 Stories *inspires its readers*



ALANNA WALLACE
STAFF WRITER

Putting a human face upon Africa's HIV epidemic is what Stephanie Nolen does best. Her work, *28 Stories of AIDS in Africa*, is not only strikingly informative but also easy-to-read and inspiring.

Nolen, the *Globe and Mail's* correspondent in Africa, paints a perilous yet resilient picture of many men, women and children in their struggle with HIV.

She does not sugar-coat or gloss over issues, but rather tackles them head-on in an attempt to rattle every reader into understanding the harsh realities of HIV transmission, protection, new technologies and even the politics behind the epidemic.

28 Stories begins with a comprehensive overview of HIV/AIDS, how it was transferred from primate to human and how it has spread around the world throughout the late 20th century. Nolen tracks its proliferation from central Africa to its rise as a stigmatizing "homosexual" and drug-user infection and now as a global epidemic.

Today, AIDS has been reported in every country on earth – no one

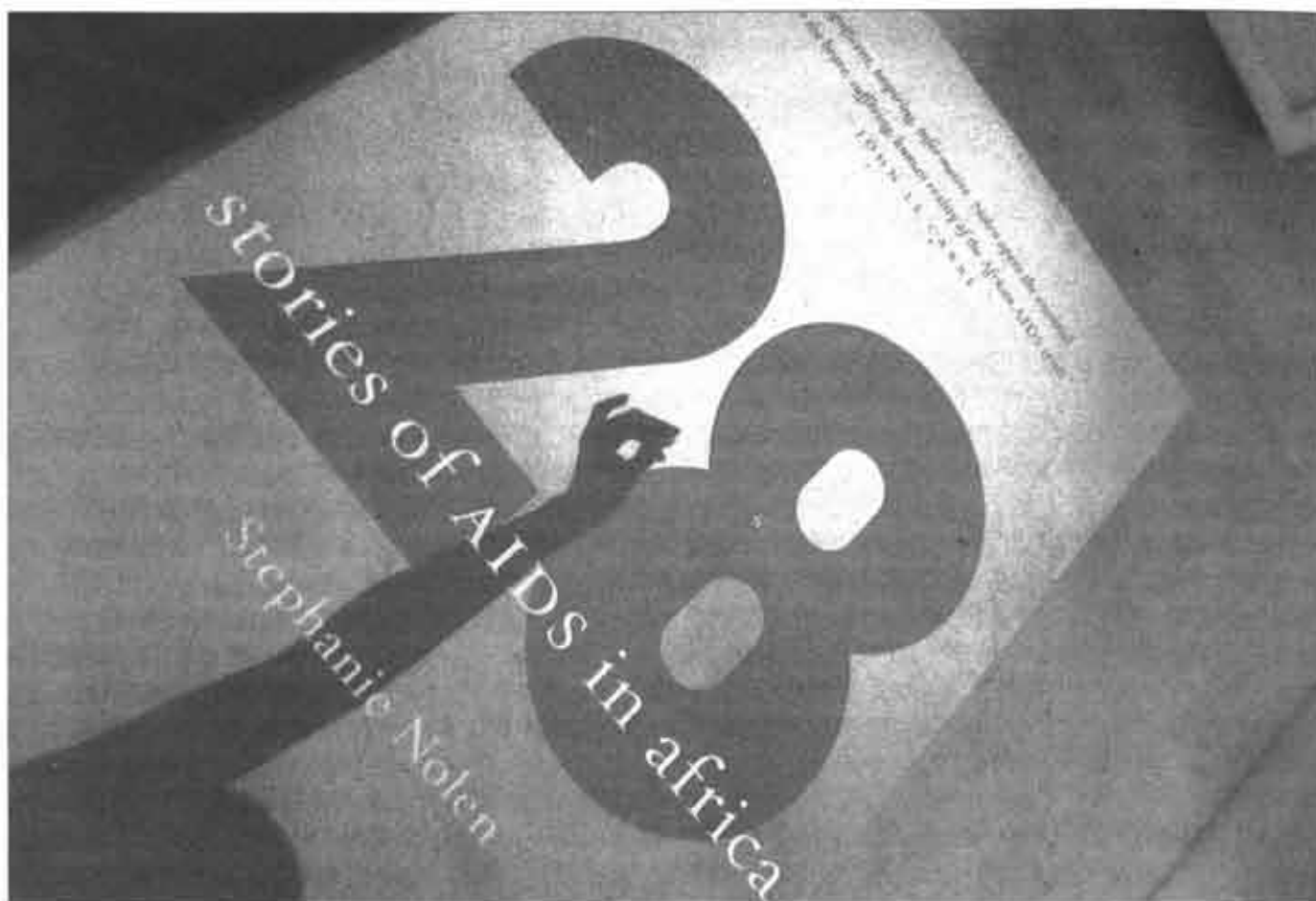
is left out of this epidemic.

Nolen further explains why Sub-Saharan Africa has become susceptible to the spread of HIV, but she never does so in a colonialist manner by separating "us" from "them." Even Canadian humanitarian Stephen Lewis claims *28 Stories* is "the best book ever written about AIDS."

Each of the stories of 28 individuals (among them, Nelson Mandela) represents the approximately 28 million HIV-positive individuals on the African continent. Nolen interviews each individual over the course of numerous years, and all those interviewed tell their own unique stories of struggle and often triumph over the odds.

Nolen travels with an HIV-positive truck driver to investigate the flow of transmissions that emanates out of the trucking industry. She investigates those working on new technologies for contraceptives such as microbicides, as well as individuals working at grassroots levels in places like Zimbabwe and Malawi, where the healthcare systems have failed to adequately address the HIV epidemic.

Despite the dismal nature of the subject at hand, Nolen's *28 Stories* leaves the reader feeling positive about Africa's future. Alongside stories of despair and dismay are



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INVESTIGATIVE INSPIRATION - Stephen Lewis raves that this is "the best book ever written about AIDS."

stories of activist Zackie Achmat or sex worker Agnes Munyiva, who is immune to HIV.

Nolen also provides information that many authors and journalists do not. "The most valuable thing you can do to fight the AIDS pandemic in Africa is talk about it," she said. In a year where Laurier has seen much discussion and some-

times upheaval regarding rhetoric, Nolen's message proves astonishingly important.

Nolen's journalistic style of writing adds a special effect to the book. "AIDS is not an event, or a series of them; it's a mirror held up to the cultures and societies we build. The pandemic, and how we respond to it, forces us to confront

the sticky issues of sex and drugs and inequality," she explained.

It is this kind of language that engages readers and leaves them with a better understanding not only of Africa's plight, but of 28 individuals who give AIDS a human face and a story, and provide a reason for why the world needs to tackle the epidemic.

WORLDINBRIEF

Emergency rape law passed

Italy passed an emergency rape law on Friday, February 20 in an attempt to crack down on illegal immigration and sexual assault. It comes on the heels of national outrage as three high-profile rapes occurred consecutively within one weekend and were allegedly committed by foreigners. The law now establishes a mandatory life sentence for the rape of minors and sexual violence that results in the death of a victim.

The BBC reported that the law, in addition to expediting the trial process for sex offenders caught in the act, also outlines rules for an organization of unarmed citizen street patrols run by volunteers, removes the prospect of house arrest, provides victims with free legal assistance and enables law enforcement to hold immigrants in custody for six months while authorities attempt to identify them and process their appeals for asylum.

The law, which has been subject to harsh criticism, was passed by Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's government and is to be enforced immediately. However, the law must obtain the approval of both houses of parliament within 60 days. Critics argue that the law may legitimize or even permit vigilantism and xenophobia.

Venezuelans vote in favour of unlimited terms in office

The Venezuelan people voted on Sunday, February 15 to remove limits on the number of terms local governors, state politicians and the president may serve in office. The vote was close as 54.8 percent voted for

the termination of term limits while 45.1 percent voted for term limits to remain in effect. Prior to the vote, the president could serve two six-year terms in office. Current president Hugo Chavez has been in office for ten years meaning that, prior to the referendum, in 2012 he would not have been able to run for re-election and would have had to leave the presidency.

According to the BBC, the president claimed that he needed to stay in office past his second term so that he may successfully secure the socialist revolution in Venezuela. Consequently, he put forth a referendum to the Venezuelan people. Of nearly 17 million eligible voters, 11 million cast a ballot in Sunday's referendum. Representatives from Latin American nations, European Parliament deputies and European academics observed the election and agreed that the ballot was free and fair. The opposition attributes the victory to vast government funding and extensive state media coverage.

Satellites collide over Siberia

A US commercial satellite and a decommissioned Russian military satellite collided in space over Siberia on Tuesday, February 10.

The collision resulted in debris being launched into space, raising concerns about the possibility of damaging the International Space Station and a shuttle which is to be launched later this month. However, the *International Herald Tribune* reports that the risk of such an occurrence is said to be low – about 1 in 50 million, according to Iridium Satellite's Executive Vice President John Campbell.

The path of the debris is being monitored

and it is hoped that it will burn up in the atmosphere as it falls to earth. According to space debris experts, the possibility of such collisions has been on the rise as litter in orbit, partly caused by the disintegration of aged satellites, has amplified to such an extent that such litter is now the principal threat to a space shuttle launched into space.

According to the BBC, Nicholas Johnson, an orbital debris expert, said that approximately 17,000 manmade pieces of debris were orbiting Earth at the beginning of this year. These pieces are currently monitored by the US Space Surveillance Network, which forwards information regarding their location to spacecraft operators in order to help avoid collisions.

The Post issues an apology

The New York Post posted an apology on Thursday, February 19 in an editorial on their website for printing a cartoon that could be interpreted as a parallel between President Barack Obama and Travis, a violent and crazed chimpanzee. In the cartoon, one policeman shoots the chimpanzee while the other says, "They'll have to find someone else to write the next stimulus bill." Readers interpreted the cartoon as racist and claimed that it reiterated stereotypes that paralleled black people with monkeys.

Initially, the editor-in-chief of *The Post* had refused to issue an apology arguing that it was simply a caricature of Washington politics. However, a public outcry that included two days of picketing and protests by as many as 200 people outside of the paper's Manhattan offices pressured *The Post* to give in. The apology on their website reads, "It was meant to mock an ineptly written

federal stimulus bill. Period. But it has been taken as something else – as a depiction of President Obama, as a thinly veiled expression of racism. This most certainly was not its intent; to those who were offended by the image, we apologize."

Japan is now facing worst economic crisis since WWII

According to Kaoru Yosano, Japan's economic minister, the country is currently facing its worst economic crisis since World War II. Japan has the world's second largest economy and is experiencing a far steeper downturn than the rest of the world. Demand for Japanese products is at an all-time low; consequently, exports of mainly electronics and cars have declined and production has been cut. Consumers, troubled by increasing unemployment rates, have also cut back on spending.

According to the BBC, Yosano said that, "The Japanese economy, whose growth is heavily dependent on exports of automobiles, machinery and IT equipment, was literally battered by the global downturn." Japan's prime minister, Taro Aso, is said to be considering a stimulus package worth 20 trillion yen. However, he is also dealing with political disarray as Japanese parliament is currently divided and recent polls show that fewer than ten percent of people support him. The situation is most likely to take a turn for the worse as a UN report suggests that 7.2 million people in Asian countries are expected to lose their jobs this year alone.

- Compiled by Melissa Cupovic

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Hawks no longer undefeated

The women's hockey team broke a 26-game winning streak, falling 3-2 to the York Lions, losing their first regular season game since October 10, 2007

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

The Golden Hawks women's hockey team is no longer perfect. After boasting a 26-game winning streak, the Hawks dropped their last game of the season last Saturday to the York Lions in a 3-2 decision.

"It was a weird day," commented Head Coach Rick Osborne. "It was Reading Week and our practices weren't very crisp or overly focused. York was pumped big time to try to put an end to [our record], and I just think we were uncharacteristically slow on foot and our puck movement."

Osborne was not overly concerned about the loss, rather the means in which they lost the game.

"The perfect season was second to the way we played. Our energy level was not our normal selves," said Osborne.

Osborne continued saying that the team needs to refocus, wheth-

er they had won or lost that game. He also said that in recent games, nerves about the streak was on a lot of people's minds.

"We have won some ugly games down the stretch ... we always got real great goaltending or a hot line that would carry us through. Those things didn't step up on Saturday," said Osborne.

Pushing thoughts of the loss out of their minds, the Hawks will be ingrained with a new message heading into the playoffs: go hard or go home.

"It doesn't matter how skilled or how good we think we are, if we aren't willing to work our asses off from now till the end of the season [it won't matter]," commented Osborne. "If we work hard, we'll get to where we want to go."

Osborne has no preference as to who his squad will face in the semi-finals, saying that while preparation will be different for each team, they will be ready for whoever they will

face.

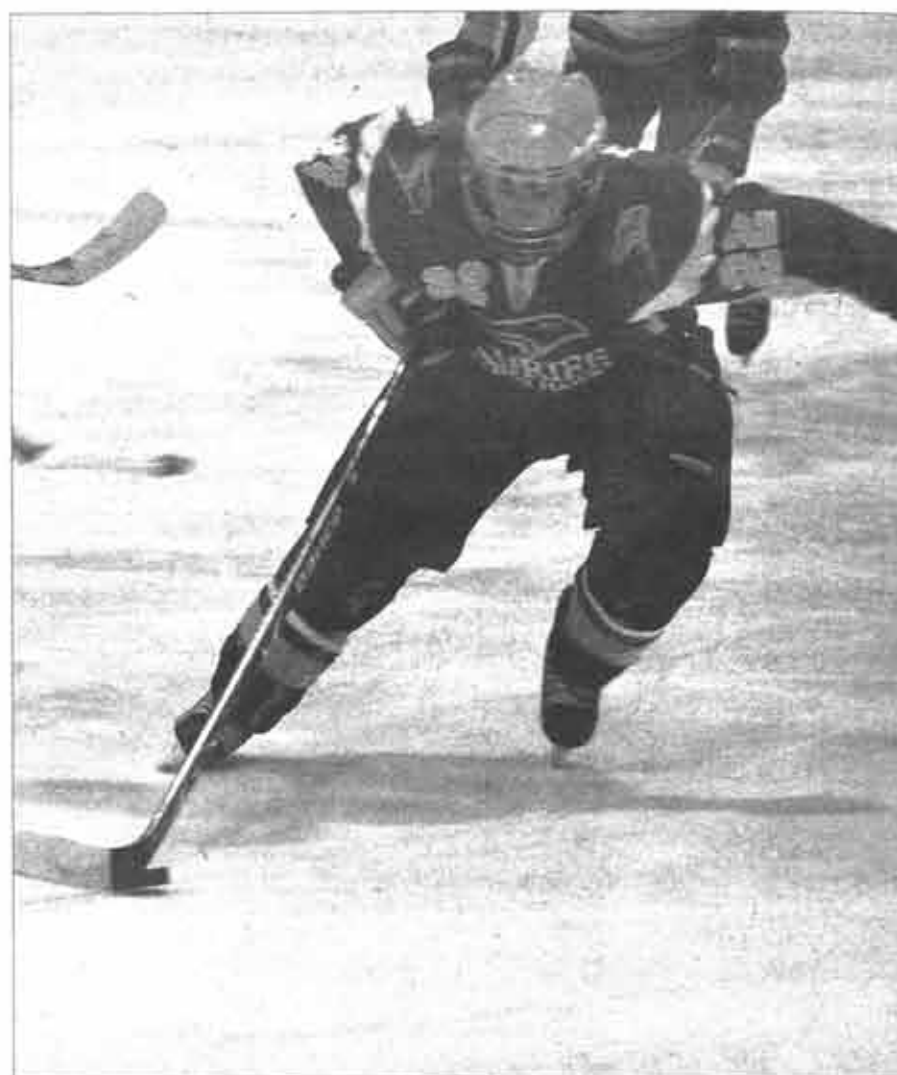
"Brock brings six lines and four [defenders] that are all balanced," said Osborne. "They play similar to us where everybody contributes. They've played some very close games this season."

"York, they're a little bit bigger, so we really have to move the puck quick and use our speed to capitalize on them."

Osborne added that while Queen's finished in sixth place, they still have a likely shot of upsetting Toronto and have always provided the Hawks with a tough challenge.

The loss did not affect the provincial or national standings, as the Hawks remain securely in first place in the OUA and ranked second in the country and will receive a bye in the first round of the playoffs.

They will face the lowest remaining seed from the winner of either Toronto Varsity Blues versus Queen's Gaels or Brock Badgers versus York.



RYAN STEWART FILE PHOTO

CHASING DREAMS - The Hawks now seek a sixth straight OUA title.

Men face tough series in first match

Golden Hawks men's hockey may have their best team in years and will face the Lakehead Thunderwolves in their first playoff game after a bye

JAMIE NEUGEBAUER
STAFF WRITER

If there is one team in OUA men's hockey that can match the Waterloo Warriors in terms of the bitterness of their rivalry with the Golden Hawks, it would have to be the Lakehead Thunderwolves. The Thunderwolves are an organization that is unparalleled in Ontario university hockey in fan support and the advantage they hold over visiting teams when on home ice is virtually unrivalled.

It is this force that the Hawks will

have to overcome in their quarter-final best-of-three series that begins Wednesday in Thunder Bay.

"I expect it will be a very competitive series," said Head Coach Kelly Nobes.

The Hawks bring the nation's top-rated offence into the series against Lakehead's Ontario-best defence, and the match-up subsequently provides a very interesting collision of styles.

Laurier's top line of Mark Voakes (50 points) between Jean-Michel Rizk (54 points) and Luke Girard (35 points) each have more points

than Lakehead's top point-producer - former OHL power forward Brock McPherson - with 33 points. The Hawks offence churned out a CIS-leading 139 goals in the regular season, while the Thunderwolves managed a meagre 102.

Lakehead relies therefore on scoring by committee with a few talented snipers, high-quality special teams and stifling, trapping team defence. Indeed, they gave up an OUA second-best 69 goals on the year.

Their one-two punch in net includes the big, strong and intelli-

gent fifth-year Chris Whitley, who played both games in their first round sweep of the Warriors and a former Nashville Predators fifth-round selection in sophomore Kyle Moir.

"They play a more defensive style," Nobes added. "They've got some big bodies, and are real stingy."

The Hawks meanwhile play a strong up-tempo style with a variety of quality weapons for Nobes to send out. From the puck-controlling and smooth styles of Captain Nick Vergeer, to the heady, play-making capabilities of Voakes, the explosiveness of team point-leader Rizk, to the gritty, aggressive approaches of Girard; WLU includes a very well-rounded arsenal.

Lakehead's attackers include the aforementioned McPherson, and the sleek and speedy former Calgary Flames fourth-round pick Kris Hogg, who is second on the team with 29 points in 28 games.

Puck movement, positional intelligence and mobility characterize the majority of the Hawks' defencemen, while the grit and experience of former Saginaw Spirit man Garrett Sinfield provides a solid, stay-at-home counter-point. WLU's goals against are also way down from last season, giving up 23 fewer goals this campaign - 96 last year versus 73 this season.

- SEE HAWKS, PAGE 13

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CURLIN' - The WLU women's curling team is well on its way to success in China after the first week.

Update from Harbin, China

Laurier's athletes began their competition at the Universiade in Harbin; here is how they're doing

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

After a week of competition has passed, our teams are finding out just how they compare to other teams on a world stage.

The women's curling team moved to an 8-0 record on Monday when it defeated China 7-6 and Great Britain 9-3 later in the day. Canada sits atop the standings and has already clinched top spot in the round-robin play.

The women played the Czech Republic on Tuesday, but results were not available at press time.

The men's curling team is not

experiencing the same success as their fellow Canadian curlers, as they dropped their third game in a row on Monday, falling 7-4 to China.

They have a record of 3-4, and will wrap up round-robin play on Tuesday against the United States and Finland.

The Canadian women's hockey team are sitting on a 4-0 undefeated record, after picking up a 7-1 victory over China, as well as wins over Finland (5-0), Slovakia and 11-0 in the games opener against Great Britain.

They take to the ice again on Tuesday against Japan.

Check out *Holy Puck!* the official NHL blog from the team of Cord Sports writers.

Hawks seeking OUA title

- FROM HAWKS, PAGE 12

The biggest issue in playing the Thunderwolves, and a great contributor to the fact that Lakehead had not lost a home playoff game in 14 years' til these same Hawks did it three seasons ago, is their location.

As Lakehead is located in far-off Thunder Bay, and is subsequently isolated from the other schools in the league, certain officials only work at Lakehead games and visiting teams have often experienced an imbalance in that area.

As well, teams have to make two plane flights - there and back - which contributes to their overall fatigue.

"We are going to have a lot of adversity to overcome, mostly with regards to the officiating," mentioned Nobes. "But we are going to have to deal with it, and step it up a notch - that's what it is all about."

The purple-and-gold won the season series versus the blue-and-gold with a record of 3-1, while the overall goals tally was an even 10 apiece.

Laurier took both games at the Waterloo Recreational Complex, while earlier in the season in Thunder Bay they took one in a shootout and lost another.

In all, it should be a fascinating battle.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of February 10 -15, 2009

RECENT SCORES

02.08.09
W Hockey 3 - Brock 1
W Curling 8 - Trent 2
M Curling 4 - Western 6
W Curling 3 - Laurentian 6

02.07.09
M Basketball 96 - McMaster 88
W Basketball 49 - McMaster 75
W Volleyball 3 - Windsor 1
M Volleyball 3 - Windsor 1
M Curling 5 - Western 3
W Curling 7 - Laurentian 4
M Hockey 3 - Lakehead 1
W Curling 5 - Western 9
W Curling 4 - Trent 6
M Curling 6 - Brock 3
M Curling 5 - Queen's 3

02.06.09
W Volleyball 3 - Western 1
M Volleyball 2 - Western 3
M Hockey 3 - Lakehead 1

02.05.09
W Hockey 2 - Guelph 0

02.04.09
M Basketball 67 - Guelph 57
W Basketball 62 - Guelph 75

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

02.11.09
W Basketball vs Waterloo Athletic Complex, 6:00 p.m.
M Basketball vs Waterloo Athletic Complex, 8:00 p.m.

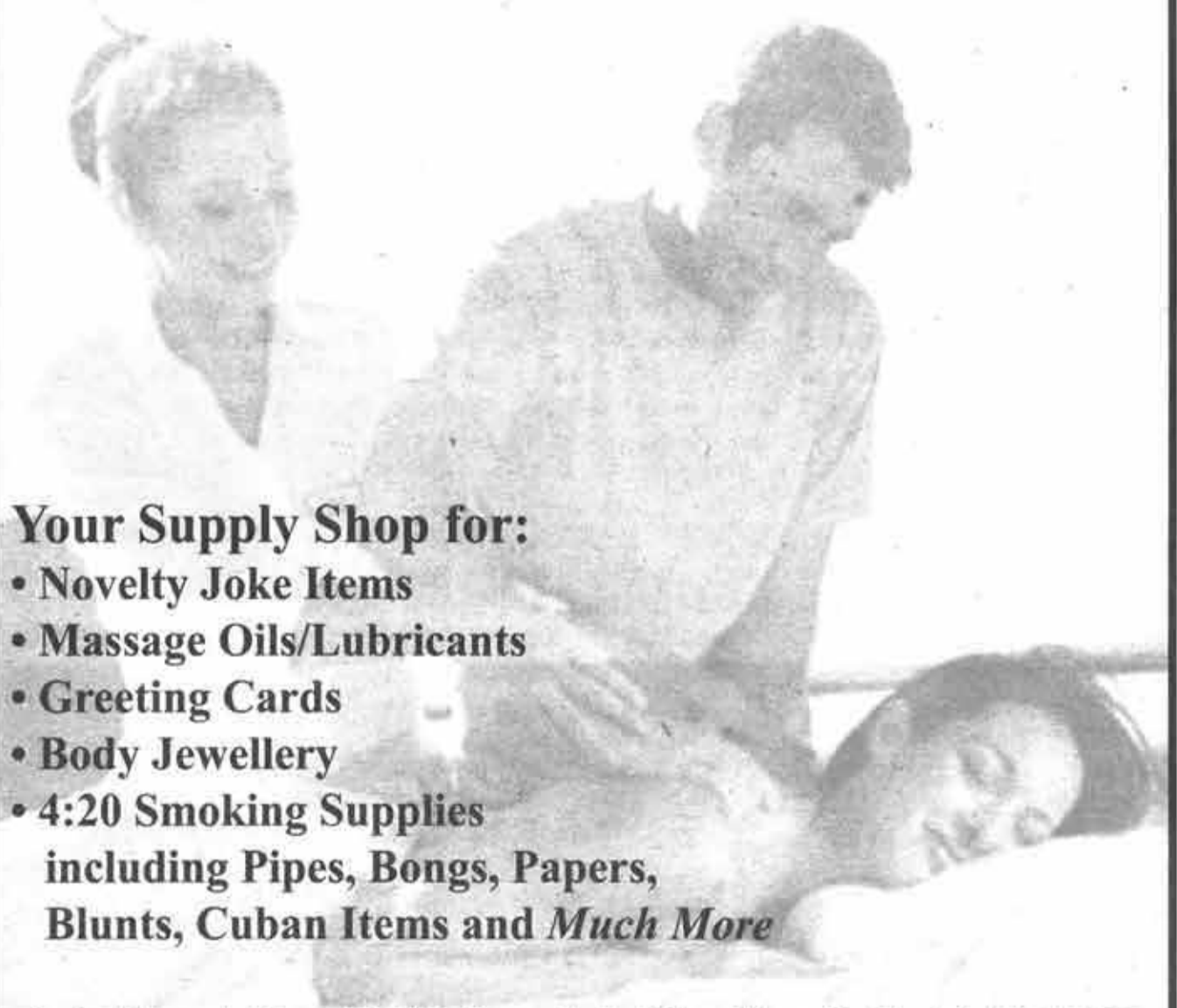
02.12.09
Playoff Game
M Volleyball vs Guelph Athletic Complex, 6:00 p.m.

LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Jeff MacDougald
Men's Hockey
Whitney Rich
Swimming

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Passion in its purest form

Travelling to England for Reading Week, two *Cord* staff members were exposed to a new form of religion: English Football

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

ANDREA MILLET
STAFF WRITER

Soccer in England is far more than just a sport. For people across the country, it is a religion.

Over reading week this year, *The Cord* had the pleasure of traveling to England and witnessing this unwavering passion first hand. We attended a Manchester United game at Old Trafford and saw a stadium filled with over 75,000 fans all chanting and singing the same songs at the same time.

Seated in the East Stand, we were surrounded by fans - some intoxicated some not - but all focused on one common thing: Manchester United.

From children no older than six or seven waving massive flags to middle-aged adults taunting the opposing fans, all were incredibly enthusiastic supporters.

The pub we went to before the match was also filled completely with United supporters; nobody was talking about anything other than the team, from the treble year in 1999 to a potential quintuple year in 2009.

Earlier in the day, we took a trip to the historic Anfield stadium, home of Liverpool FC, and sat in the famous Kop stands.

"It's not a badge, it's a family crest," states a banner outside of Anfield, referring to the crests of the respective clubs.

People are likely to leave work early on match days to prepare for and get to the venue where they will be watching their team; missing a game is simply out of the question.

Their pre-match rituals are very elaborate and almost always include some pre-game pints, as well as parties in the streets and pubs around the stadiums.

The stories of fans and their sup-

port for their clubs have greatly evolved over time, physically and emotionally changing the way they watch the game.

"Watching soccer had become a habit which people were ever more willing to take up and ever less willing to give up, even if that meant going without other pleasures or even necessities," said historian D. Russel in the late 1800s.

As the sport gained popularity throughout the early 1900s, fans gained recognition; however, not all of it was positive. Acquiring nicknames, such as hooligans, supporters were often associated with ruffianism and destructive behaviour towards other clubs and their supporters.

The *Scottish Athletic Journal* stated on 27 September 1887 that "Association Football is becoming notorious for scenes and disgraceful exhibitions of ruffianism ... that the rabble will soon make it impossible for law-abiding citizens to attend matches."

Hooliganism reached a point where steel barriers were placed between the stands and the pitch to protect the players. The breaking point, however, came on April 15, 1989, in what is known as Britain's worst-ever sporting disaster.

96 Liverpool FC supporters were killed in a crowd stampede at an FA Cup semi-final match against Nottingham Forest in Hillsborough.

A few minutes before kick-off, there was a rush of fans pushing to get into the ground, crushing fans already inside into the gate at the front of the already-full stands.

The Hillsborough disaster changed the nature of soccer fandom and led to all Premiership teams being called to eliminate standing room for all spectating in their stadiums within five years.

While this measure has reduced the danger of overcrowding and has since prevented another incident like Hillsborough, it has not

solved the problem of hooliganism; it has only forced it to search for new outlets.

"I know it sounds drastic, but the only way to deal with hooligans is to shoot them. That'll stop them," said Bobby Roberts, Colchester United Manager from 1975-1982.

At today's matches, all fans are seated to prevent injury, but the home and away fans' seats are separated into two sections, often by barriers and rows of security personnel. This is because soccer to them is not just a sport, but a way of life. And just as people fight for their countries and for their beliefs, these fans will fight for their teams.

Despite the fights on and off the pitch and the heartbreak when only one team finishes on top, it is in that moment when a player lifts the cup, or saves the ball, or drills a game winning shot into the net and thousands of fans scream and chant and wave their scarves that you realize why it is such a big phenomenon.

When Paul Scholes scored the first goal against Fulham last Wednesday, the crowd erupted into a frenzy of deafening noise before breaking out into a rendition of "Glory, Glory Man United".

At the hour mark, Wayne Rooney began warming up on the sidelines, ready to make his first appearance in weeks due to injury. Before even taking to the pitch, fans roared at the thought of Rooney entering the game.

The passion displayed by the fans is what makes the sport what it is, for, without the fans, it would simply be just another game.

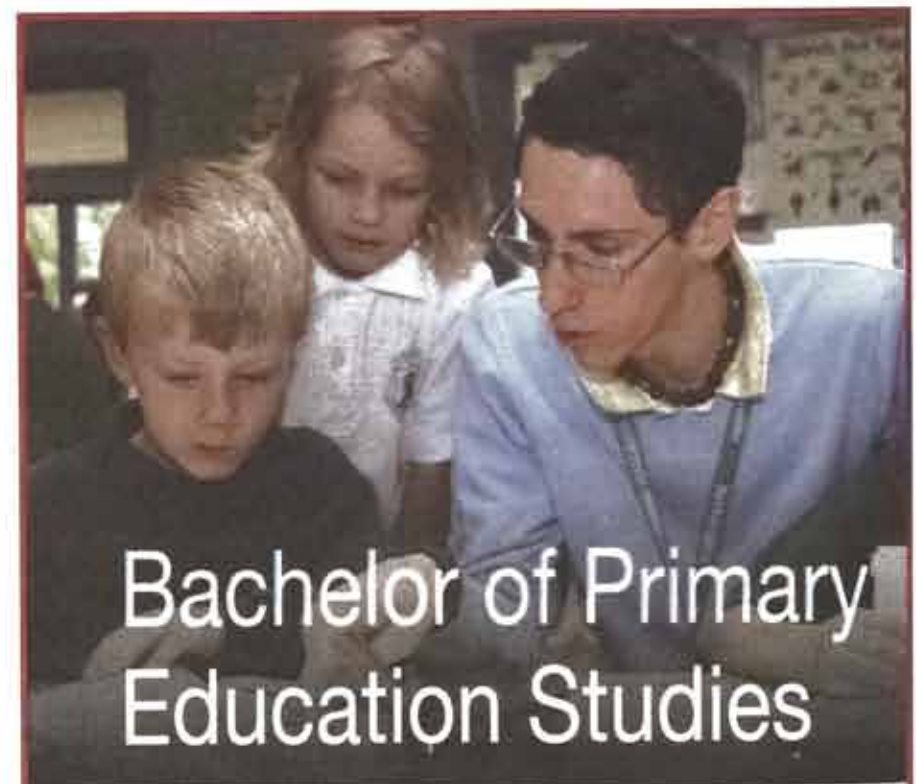
"The noise of the crowd, the singing and the chanting, is the oxygen we players breathe," said Danny Blanchflower, Tottenham Hotspur captain 1960-61.

The intensity of the fans' passion and dedication and thrill of the moment are surely enough to make anyone fall in love with the lifestyle that is English football.



ANDREA MILLET

HAIL HILLSBOROUGH - A memorial remains outside of Anfield to commemorate the 20th anniversary of those fans lost in the tragedy.



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CHARLES STURT
UNIVERSITY



ANDREA MILLET

WE LOVE UNITED! - Old Trafford gets over 75,000 fans for as simple a game as this one against Fulham.

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Additional information about the format of the contest and the rules and regulations is available at www.cga-ontario.org/contest.

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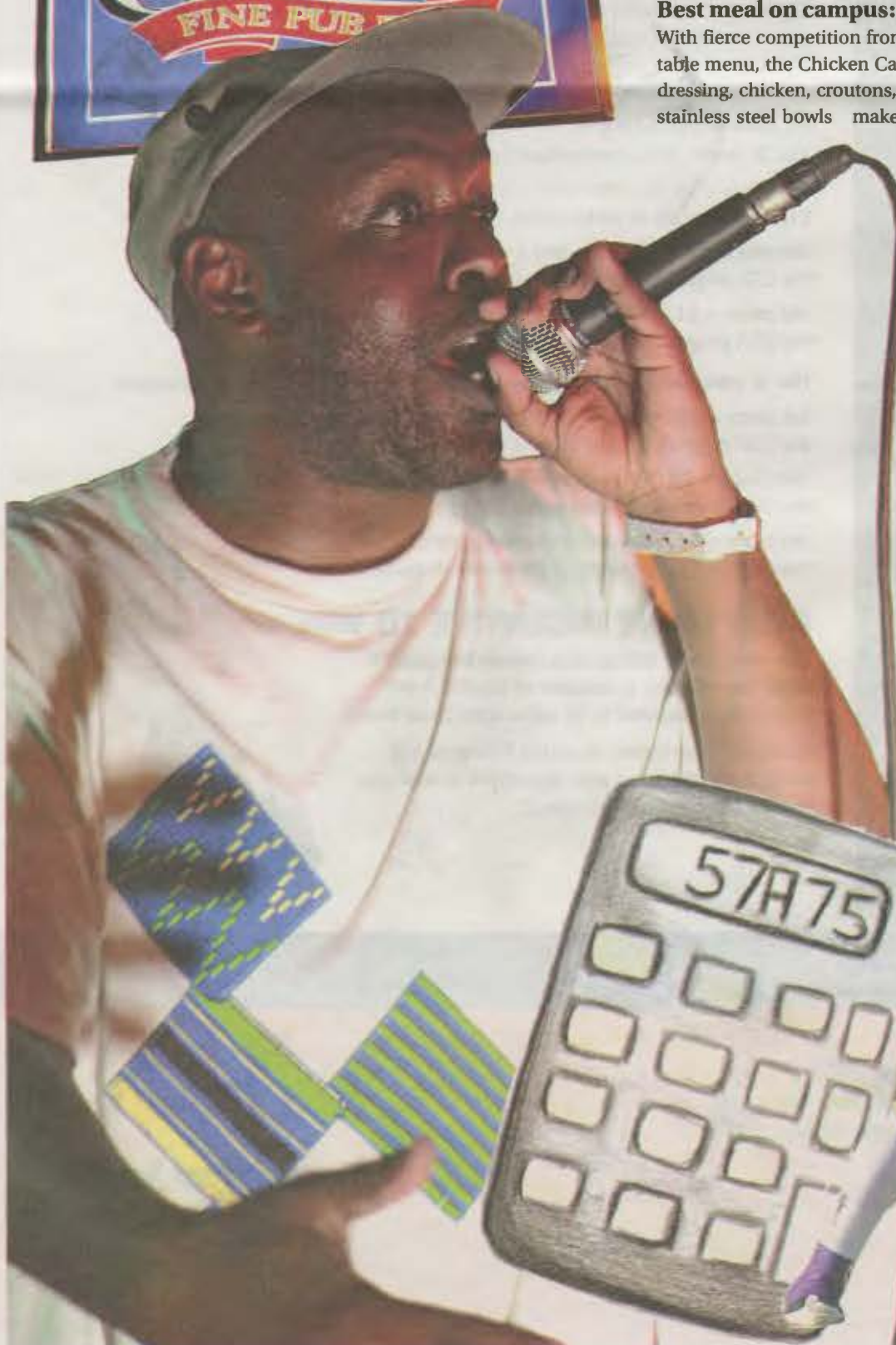
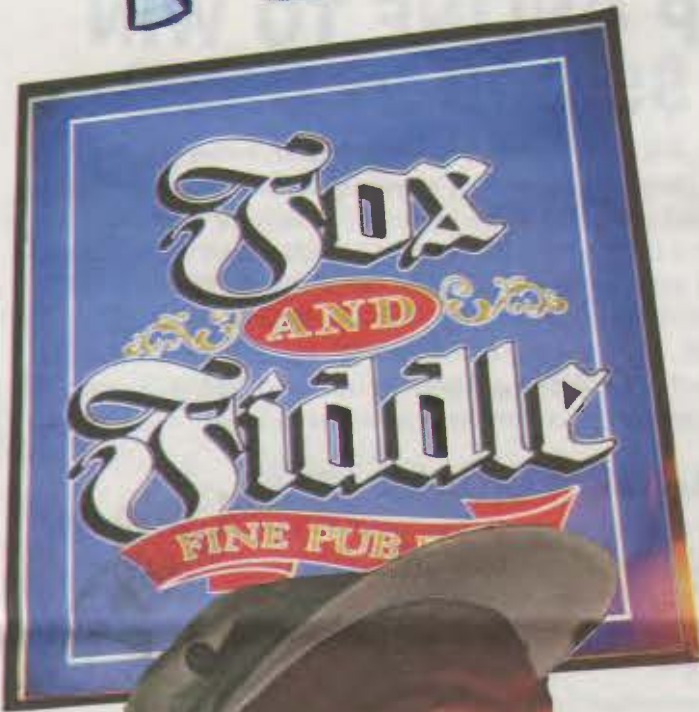
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Laurier li

As the final stretch of the school year approaches, *The Cord* turns to the valued opinion of the

TGIF



KARI PRITCHARD
FEATURES EDITOR

Scary as it may be, the end of the school year is approaching and it's time to critically examine the place where we study, eat and socialize: the Laurier community. With lots of ups and downs to our campus and surrounding area, let's get down to the nitty-gritty. Through a survey generated by *The Cord*, the student body voiced their opinions on debateable topics like food, sex and professors.

Best nightclub or pub for students in Kitchener-Waterloo: Fox and Fiddle

Students' answers varied as to their favourite K-W venues for partying, but the Fox came out on top. With a family-friendly daytime environment to enjoy a meal or a few drinks, the Fox also becomes a popular place for partying during the night. Featuring live music, a cheap wing night and a spacious venue, it's no wonder the Fox is one of students' top choices for best pub in Waterloo.

This school year's best live performance on campus: Bedouin Soundclash

As a yearly returning Laurier favourite, Bedouin Soundclash is the students' choice for favourite performance. A high-energy group who are students themselves, the music of Bedouin Soundclash resonates professionally in their live performances. In second place was Last Band Standing, showing the support of student bands by the student body.

Best meal on campus: Pita Shack Chicken Caesar pita

With fierce competition from several mentioned items from the Wilf's delectable menu, the Chicken Caesar pita from Pita Shack stole first place. Caesar dressing, chicken, croutons, cheese and your choice of veggies mixed in new stainless steel bowls makes for a mouth-watering pita that students love to consume. For less than seven dollars you can have a famous Chicken Caesar pita of your very own.

Best place to grab a coffee: Starbucks at King & University

Conveniently located just off campus and near plenty of student housing, students have chosen Starbucks at the busy King and University intersection as their favourite place to get their caffeine fix. While Starbucks came in first, students don't seem too picky as to where they get their coffee, as the Second Cup in the Concourse and the Tim Hortons in the SBE came in at a close second.

Place students would most like to have (or have) sex on campus: The library

With a winning 44 percent of the votes, the library takes the title as the most desirable place to have sex on campus (if it hasn't already). Other choices include those dark study rooms or cozy cubbies on the upper floor, the best place to make whoopee on campus. One lone student voted to the wind, suggesting Alumni Field as their top choice for sex on campus.

Best spot to study: The library

Not only is the library the best place to get it on at Laurier, it's also the opposite end of the spectrum as students' choice spot for studying. With a lot of space on each floor and the choice of studying in a lower or higher, quieter floor, the library has something for everybody. No matter how you like to study, you can buckle down and hit the books.

Favourite professor: Loren King and Jim McCutcheon

A question producing a smorgasbord of results, it's clear there is a plethora of good professors. Hailing from all departments, the professors aren't hard to find at Laurier. Political science professor Loren King and economics and business professor Jim McCutcheon were the most mentioned in the results, taking them to first place.

Best looking professor: Peter Kuling

Professor of English and Film Studies Peter Kuling has been named the best-looking professor, beating out second-place business professor Laura A. The reason? That "it's flattering" to be picked as best-looking professor. "That flirtation ... is part of the education process," said Kuling. "With the stuff that you're teaching and make it sort of fun and interesting, it comes well."

Best Golden Hawks team to watch: Football

Claiming 53 percent of the votes, Laurier football takes first place as the most exciting sport to watch on campus. With an entire stadium cheering, the Laurier Golden Hawks football team was a shoo-in for number one. In fact, Laurier's other sports in the dust, beating its nearest competitor by a large percent.

Best place to live off-campus: a five-minute walk from campus

That's right, Laurier students love gettin' their exercise. Dynamic scenes of uptown Waterloo and downtown Kitchener are just a five-minute walk from campus. As Laurier students are used to the convenience of campus, it's no wonder that 70 percent of students who live off-campus prefer to be able to roll out of bed and onto campus.



PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS BY (CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT): JULIE MARION, RYAN STEWART, SYDNEY HELLAND, TRISH STOTT, RYAN STEWART, JULIE MARION, RYAN STEWART, LAURA TOMKINS, JULIE MARION.

er likes...

valued opinion of the students in order to explore the best and worst features of Laurier

Most like to have (or have had) sex on

the votes, the library takes the cake for the most campus (if it hasn't already been done). With cubbies on the upper floors, the library seems to be on campus. One lone student threw caution Field as their top choice for fornicating.

Library

place to get it on at Laurier, it also registers on campus as students' choice spot to study. With lots of choice of studying in a lower, louder floor or a higher floor, the library has something for everybody. After some kinky antics with the books.

Loren King and Jim McCutcheon

gasboard of results, it's clear that Laurier has a leading team from all departments, apparently good at Laurier. Political science professor Loren King and economics professor Jim McCutcheon were two names mentioned to first place.

Peter Kuling

studies Peter Kuling has been voted best-looking professor. Business professor Laura Allan. Kuling admits to being voted as best-looking professor. "I've always joked about the education process," said Kuling. "When you flirt with a student and make it sort of fun and exciting, it trans-

Team to watch: Football

es, Laurier football takes first place as the most popular team on campus. With an entire stadium dedicated to it, the Golden Hawks team was a shoo-in for number one. Football has been the dust, beating its nearest competitor by 34 percent.

Campus: a five-minute radius

love gettin' their exercise. Despite the busy and crowded Waterloo and downtown Kitchener, Laurier students are used to the small size of campus. As Laurier students are used to the small size of campus, 70 percent of students who took the survey preferred to stay on campus.

Worst washrooms on campus: beside the OneCard office

The washrooms beside the OneCard office are a definite standout when it comes to poor washroom quality. They are abnormally hot and stinky, and you can always bet on at least one of the toilets having not been flushed. Despite all the negative qualities of these washrooms, they always seem to have a line.

Favourite classes: Communication studies

Generating results from all departments, one class in particular cannot be deemed the best here at Laurier. The communication studies department had the most classes listed, such as CS208, CS315 or CS402. Close behind CS was English and (surprisingly) business, listing classes like EN201 or EN345 and BU121 or BU231.

Worst class: BU255

Although students do like some of their business classes, the school of business and economics class Managerial Statistics was rated as worst class. With such thrilling topics as probability distributions, simple and multiple regression, analysis of variance, chi-square tests and non-parametric statistics, enrollment in the class would be questionable if it wasn't mandatory.

Biggest sports rival: Western

Western may not be Laurier's biggest rival for all sports played here, but students certainly feel they pose a threat to many of our teams. Although the Waterloo Warriors are just down the street, they came in second to Western. With a whopping 68 percent of votes, the Golden Hawks better start sharpening their talons when the Western Mustangs trot into town.

Best place to sleep on campus: the 24 Lounge

Taking 65 percent of the popular vote, the 24 Lounge easily takes first place as best place to sleep on campus. With tons of comfy couches and chairs to lounge on, the 24 Lounge is a great place for students to put their feet up. Whether you're stopping in for a nap between classes or taking advantage of its 24-hour availability, the 24 Lounge is the choice place to catch some Zs.

Best event celebrated during the school year: Orientation Week

Whether you're being ushered into your first year of university, breaking some ice for some first years or just a regular student, Orientation Week = party time. With a full week of nothing to do before classes, raging hormones, a love for alcohol and the use of recreational drugs are brought together for a week of madness before life at Laurier begins.

Computer of choice at university: laptop PC

Despite the fact that Macbooks are advertised as the hip choice in computer technologies, the laptop PC powered ahead of the Macbook by 26 percent. Although desktop computers still got some representation, it is clear that the laptop in general is most popular amongst university students at Laurier.

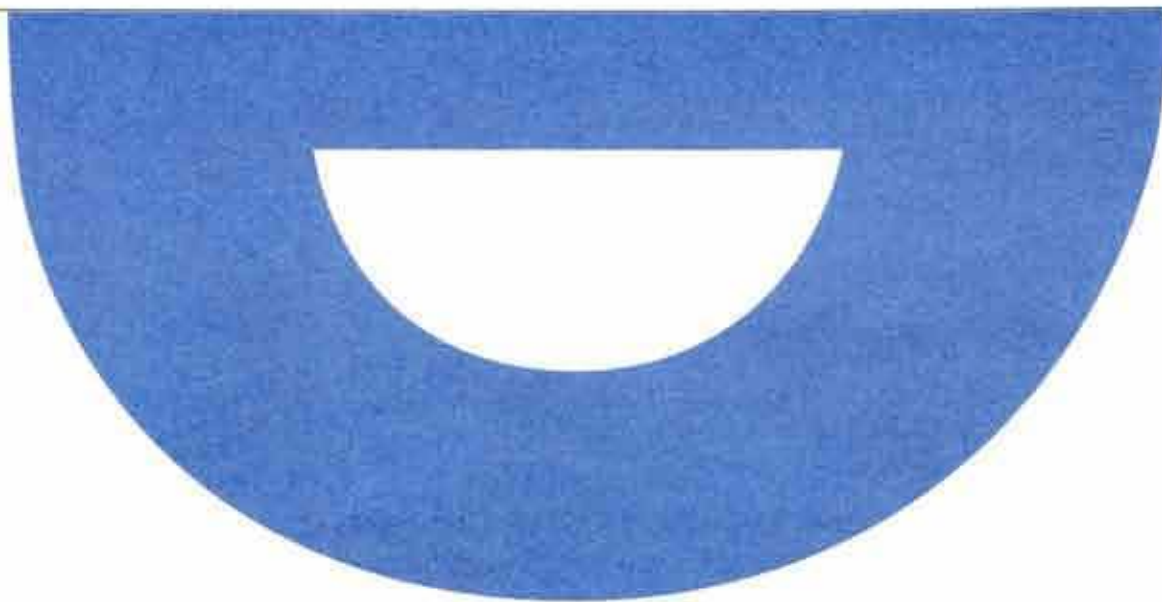
Best day of the academic week: Friday

It may seem like a no-brainer, but students named Friday the best day of the academic week. Thursday gave Friday a run for its money, but with many students having no class and the fact that Friday means the weekend, Friday remains on top. Sadly, poor Monday received no votes and is looking for support amongst students.

Favourite famous Laurier alum/student: Shad K

As a hip-hop artist making a name with his inventive, unique lyrics and mad guitar skills, Shad K receives gold when it comes to being a famous Laurier alum. Although Shad may not be as famous as MuchMusic VJ Matte Babel, Laurier can decipher the great from the mediocre, crowning Shad as their number one.





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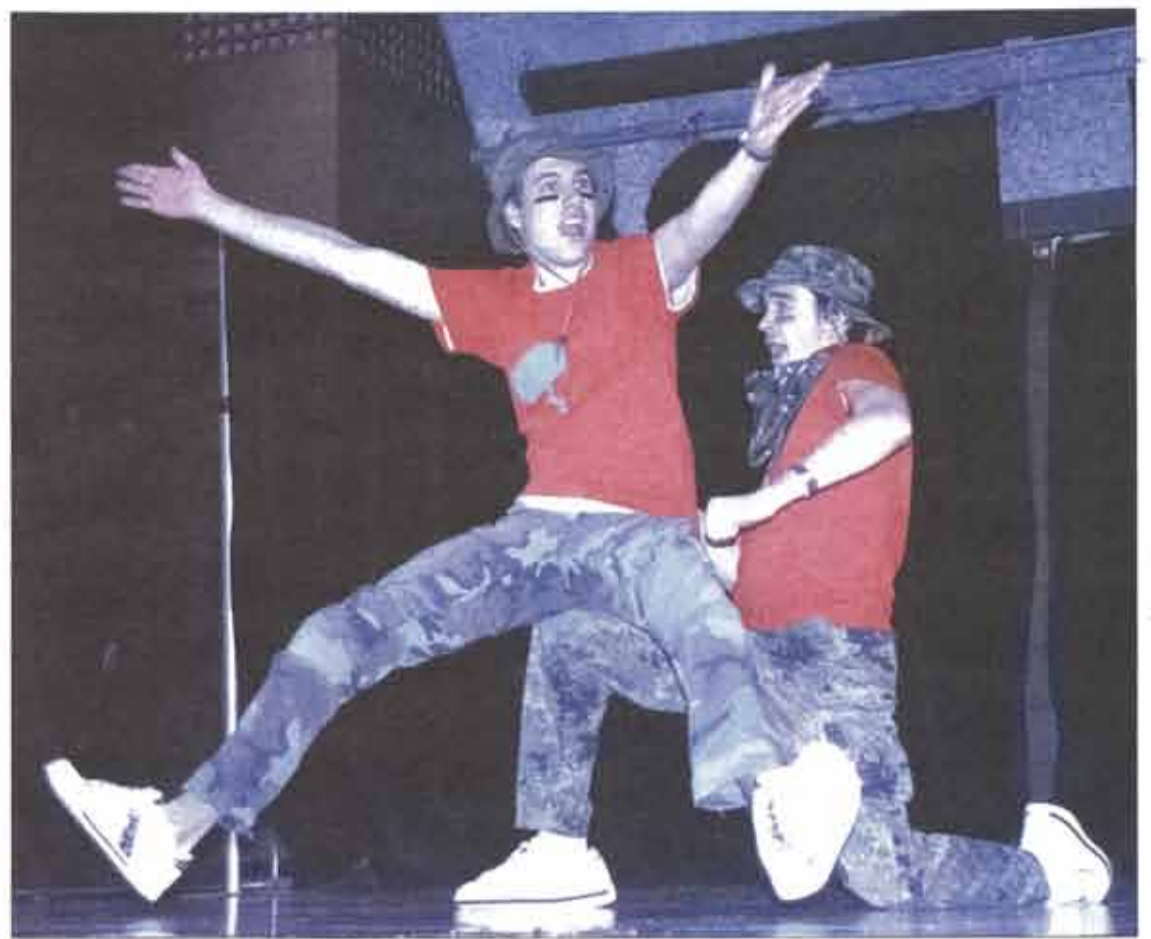


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Laurier student fees at work



LAURA TOMKINS



NATASHA DILKE

Aside from tuition, money from student fees continues to fund many student-run and enjoyable activities on Laurier's campus

ASHLEY BRADIMORE CORD STUDENT LIFE

A quick glance over your WLU billing statement tells you that you're paying for a lot more than just tuition.

Besides the standard fee for being an undergrad or graduate student, there is a long list of "miscellaneous" items that many of us pay without question, yet we lack a clear understanding of where these dollars are going.

Various fees include the enhancement of life levy, student publications fee, WLUSU faculty-based fee, students' union building fee, copyright agreement fee; we pay each of these and more every semester and though most of them are relatively small amounts (ranging from \$1.65 - \$40.48), these ancillary fees accumulate into a substantial amount after four years of education.

So, how do we see our money at work? The short answer: the majority of it is re-distributed back into the student body, realized in salaries, campus clubs, infrastructural improvements and the like.

WLU's students' union plays a large role in this decision-making process as they collect the majority of these ancillary fees directly and then budget accordingly.

Essentially this leaves the student body responsible for its own money management and gives us - the students - a greater power in choosing how our money is spent.

Vice President of finance Shady Husein is an integral part of WLUSU. The VP: Finance must work long hours behind the scenes to ensure that our money is maximized to benefit the WLU student experience.

He explains, "WLUSU gets about one million dollars in student fees, nearly all of which are put back into wages for employees at the Turret, students' union, Terrace and Wilf's. Providing part-time jobs for students is one way we give back to the student body. Essentially, our goal is never to increase student fees but to become self-sustaining."

WLUSU budgeted roughly 1.3 million dollars this past year for student departments. This included student services (Foot Patrol, BACCHUS, and the Peer Help Line), hu-

man resources (volunteer appreciation, recruitment and hiring), student activities (A-team, Winter Carnival and Fashion 'N Motion), marketing groups (public relations, video productions and Radio Laurier) and of course Brantford operations, which need to operate all the similar services and activities we have here in Waterloo.

Each club needs to prove its worth. Every year, club administrators submit a plan for budget to WLUSU with a detailed breakdown and a clear justification for their financial request. WLUSU staff like Husein then look over their budget and decide what's feasible and what's not.

Some groups, like the A-Team, get sizeable financial support simply because they're big generators of revenue.

Last year alone, A-Team was estimated to have pulled in nearly \$85,000. Other groups like Fashion 'N Motion have become self-sustaining and manage to break even between expenses and ticket sales.

Besides student services and clubs, a large portion of our fees go into operating costs, renova-

tions and general structural maintenance. This is where you see your building fee utilized.

"Up keep of places like the FNCC, Wilf's and the Turret are a part of our operating agreement with the university," explained Husein. "If anything structural needs to be done, WLUSU goes half-and-half with the University. However, anything internal - like the Terrace renovations we did in the past few years - have come out of WLUSU's operating budget."

Other campus improvements - like Alumni Field - are funded through the Enhancement of Life Levy. This fee acts like a reserve fund, utilized for specific projects deemed to benefit the majority of students.

Despite the big money we spend on tuition and fees, smaller costs, such as the \$1.65 we pay each semester as a copyright fee, often go by unnoticed.

About the equivalent to an extra-large coffee at Tim Hortons, this semi-annual copyright fee gives us the ability to photocopy and use the materials of the library.

Trevor Mayoh, VP: student af-

fairs, explained that "coursepacks were introduced as a less expensive alternative to textbooks since they were just photocopied pages from texts."

However, as most of us know, we pay copyright fees every time we purchase a coursepack. This is partially why they have become so expensive in past years.

Mayoh argues that if the library and a coursepack offer the same material, then the student is essentially being doubly charged.

"[The copyright fee] should be covering the copyright cost and our coursepack should be less expensive," argued Mayoh. It is a problem being tackled by larger groups like the Canadian Roundtable on Academic Materials and was debated in a recent student leader conference at Edge Canada.

Quite clearly, this small fee has garnered enough attention across many campuses to reach national debate.

In these unstable economic times, the Laurier student body is not the only entity questioning every fee - down to the last penny.

the good times will roll **MARCH 4**

Campus Club Profile #4:

“Handcuffs don’t cure addiction”

The Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy discuss their goals and mission as a student-run campus club at Laurier

AMBER CORDEIRO
CORD STUDENT LIFE

The controversy surrounding drugs in Canada raises many different opinions and speculation as to whether the implemented policies are effective in eliminating drug use, or whether a new constitution should be created that treats substance use as a public health concern rather than a criminal justice issue.

Jim Cavill and Matty Rivers-Moore, two students who decided to take action against the current system by forming the Wilfrid Laurier University chapter of Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy (CSSDP), hold the latter view.

Cavill explained that the grassroots organization actually started in the United States as a reaction to the Higher Education Act, which stated that if you were ever convicted of a drug charge you would never be entitled to government funding for school.

“The government was targeting students in their drug war,” said Cavill, “so they thought, ‘Well, let’s rise up.’” Five years later CSSDP was formed.

The idea to start a chapter at WLU came to Cavill when he was in attendance at a speech by Dana Larsen, an NDP candidate in West Vancouver.

“I charge you....Get involved, stir something up,” were the words spoken by Larsen that inspired Cavill

to take action. Coming across the CSSDP website, he found a kit to get started.

The organization is concerned with educating members about drugs so that you can make conscious, informed and responsible decisions, whether you are considering trying drugs or are already using them.

The first meeting, which will take place Wednesday, February 25 at 7-9 p.m. in Arts 2C3, is open to anyone who agrees with the constitution drafted by Cavill which basically states, “As long as you share the view that the current drug policy needs reforming, you are granted membership.”

The meeting will be a meet-and-greet, a place for input and the discussion of future events such as the screening of the film *How to Know Your Shrooms*, which will be near the end of March at a cost of \$2.

For students, CSSDP is a means of engaging in public discourse with other students and community members about the negative encounters you or someone you know has experienced as a result of the current substance use policies.

As well, it is a way to gain an understanding of the opinions others have about the effects of drugs in terms of health and social repercussions.

For instance, Cavill informed me that when Obama came into office he put a poll on his website asking citizens what the number-one is-

sue in the nation they wanted fixed, and by an astounding 7,000 votes over the other issues it was the legalization of marijuana.

However, CSSDP does not push drug use but is informing members to question the severity of the current laws surrounding drugs and the educational programs such as VIP and Race Against Drugs that are taught in elementary schools,

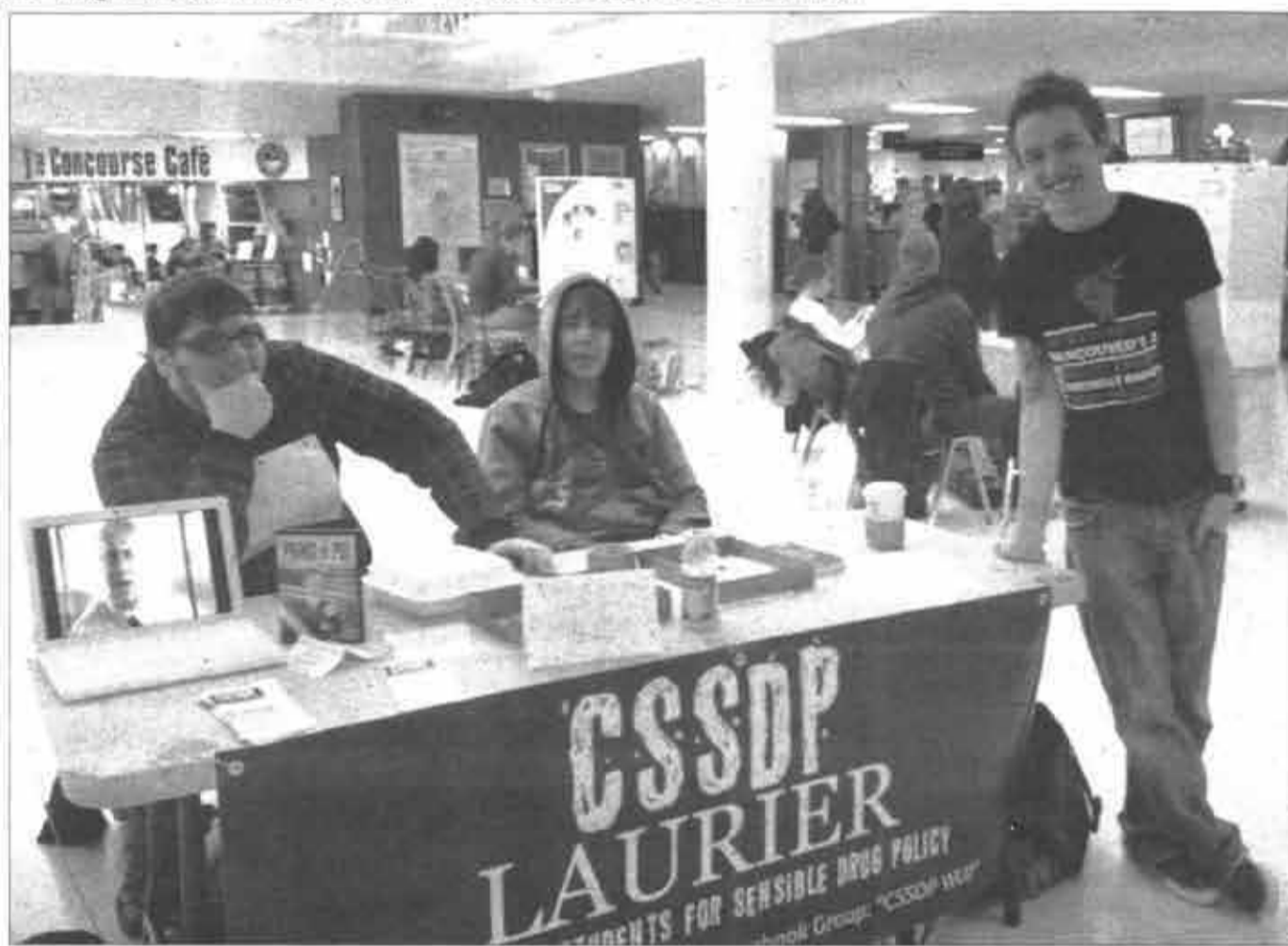
that have been proven to be ineffective in deterring adolescents from experimenting with drugs. “The club is important because a lot of students do not know their rights in terms of drugs.

“We are aware that we do not know what a sensible drug policy actually entails yet, but we are hoping through discourse at meetings, we can come up with some sort of

policy we can all agree on that provides a better solution than the one we currently have.”

CSSDP was enacted as a means of educating and raising awareness about how the current policies could affect you if you were ever caught in a situation.

As Jim Cavill puts it, “Handcuffs don’t cure addiction.”



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SENSIBLE STUDENTS - Members of the Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy group aim to change the image of addiction from a criminal justice issue to a public health concern in the eyes of Canadians.

Winning for a good cause

Roll up the rim and donate your winning tab to the homeless this winter

MICHELLE CALDARONI
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

Collecting winning Roll up the Rim tabs is somewhat of a tradition at Laurier, owing to the existence of multiple Tim Hortons cafés across campus.

Now, thanks to the efforts of a Laurier staff member, a simple but effective charity exists that makes use of the annual contest by donating prizes to Waterloo’s homeless citizens.

Wilfrid Laurier University graduate and current Development Officer: Individual and Legacy Giving Cec Joyal came up with an idea to further assist the homeless in Waterloo as an addition to the Out of the Cold program that has already been in place for ten years.

Joyal explained, “About three or four years ago I thought, ‘Why don’t I start collecting the rims from Roll up the Rim to give to the homeless?’ The first few years we did very well; we got over two hundred tabs [per year].”

Out of the Cold currently runs in churches around Waterloo, including St. Lewis parish on Alice Street. The homeless are invited to come in to the church – each church takes on one day of the week – and are given dinner, a place to sleep and breakfast in the morning.

“IF A DONUT OR A FREE MUFFIN DOESN’T MEAN MUCH TO YOU, IT COULD MEAN A MEAL FOR A HOMELESS PERSON.”

- Cec Joyal, Development Officer: Individual and Legacy Giving

In the past four years, Joyal has been responsible for giving out a few winning Roll up the Rim tabs to each homeless person leaving at eight on Monday morning during the Tim Hortons contest.

“They’re leaving the church at eight in the morning, and on those cold mornings the last thing they

want to do is wander the streets,” said Joyal. She explained that the tabs allow the homeless to enjoy a free snack as well as stay out of the winter cold.

While the donation of a winning tab may seem insignificant to some people, Joyal explained that to others it could mean a lot.

“If a donut or a free muffin doesn’t mean much to you, it could mean a meal for a homeless person. If you want to donate your rim, drop it off at the Centre Spot.”

Winning tabs can be brought to a drop box at the C-Spot.

for the duration of the Tim Hortons contest which began on Monday, February 23.

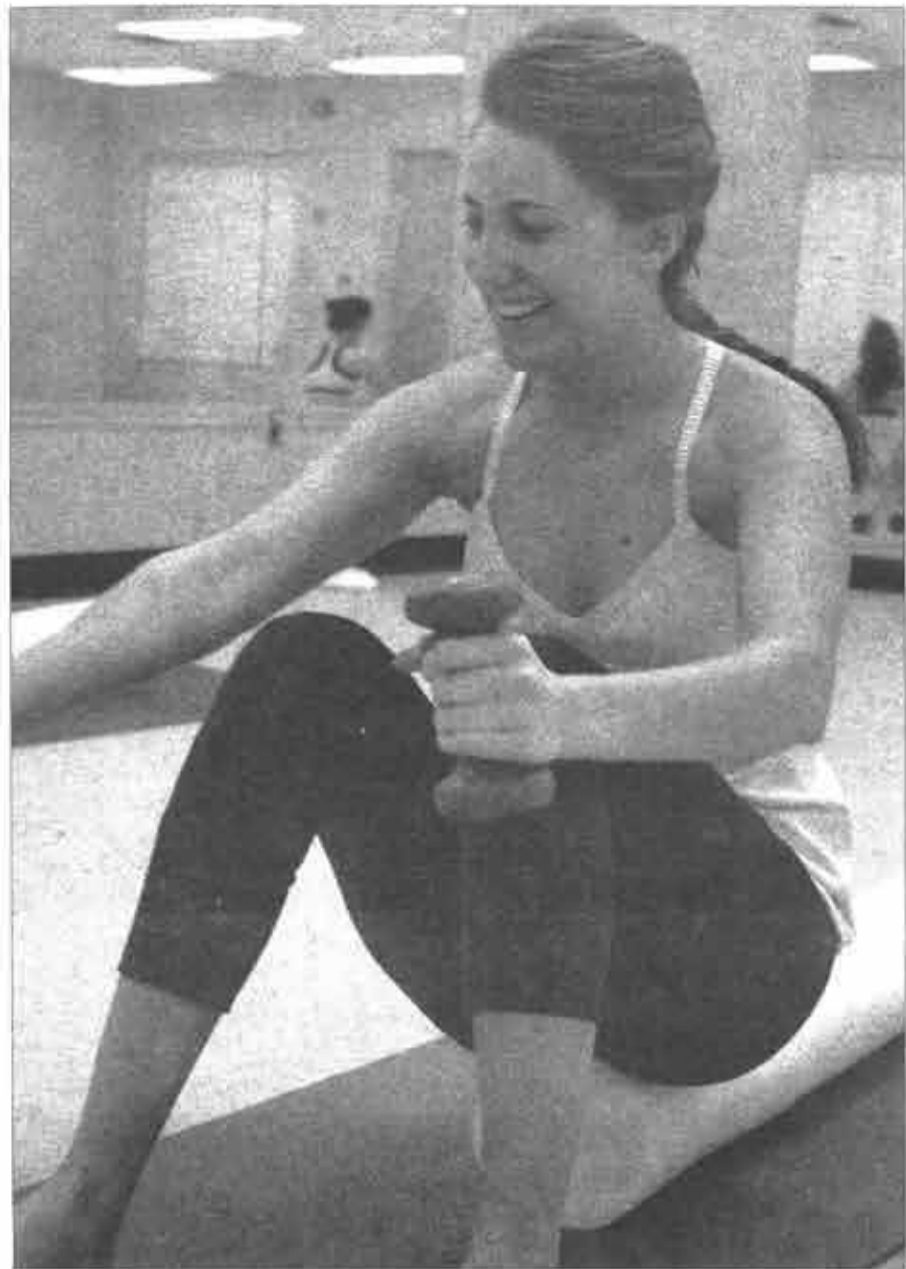
Joyal hopes that the tab drive, which ends in April, will go well. “If we collect tons and tons of rims, I’ll be sure to distribute them to the other churches as well,” she said.



RYAN STEWART

CHARITY CUPS - Winning rims can be brought to a box at the C-Spot.

Toning muscles, relieving stress



LAURA TOMKINS

POISED PILATES - Pilates is an affordable, low-impact form of exercise.

ALISSA RUETZ
CORD STUDENT LIFE

The anxiety level of university students escalates with inevitable midterms, papers and finals. With the progression of the semester, it is essential to find time to unwind and replenish your mind before stress gets the better of you.

Both yoga and pilates will decrease the inevitable stress levels that encompass university students' lives. Yoga consists of over 200 different postures designed to synchronize your mind and body.

Yoga primarily focuses on breathing, meditation, stretches and endurance. Pilates, on the other hand, focuses on muscle strength, improves posture and stabilizes the spine. Both yoga and pilates help focus on breathing and prevent stress.

A 2008 study from the Medical News Today found that yoga reduces fatigue and stress for up to two hours. Research suggests that yoga and meditation transform the body into a state of rest, which is capable of changing the overall functioning of the body.

Some students may benefit from taking yoga classes with an instructor. Within the Kitchener-Waterloo area there are many outlets available for taking yoga and pilate's classes.

Absolute Health, located at 258 King St. North (519-886-1568), offers a variety of Yoga classes; students receive a 50 percent discount on all yoga packages offered. Student prices for yoga classes are \$7.50 per session, \$65 per 10 sessions, \$110 per 20 sessions or \$425

for an annual membership. Absolute Fitness also offers kick-boxing, cardio and personal training sessions.

The Laurier Recreation centre offers over 14 different yoga and pilates classes, ensuring that every student will be able to find a class that best suits their needs.

Whether you are interested in working on your breathing strategies, toning your body or both, the Laurier Recreation Centre offers a variety of options including power yoga, cycle and yoga, cycle and pilates and rock and roll yoga as well as sessions on breathing.

Classes are offered at a variety of times Monday to Friday as well as Sundays. Classes are \$65 per semester for both yoga and pilates.

For some, the very notion of going to a scheduled yoga class can create even more stress; who has the money or the time?

For those who would rather stay at home and save some money, there are many at-home workout routines available.

The only basic materials required are a yoga mat and a quiet room. For basic instructions it may be helpful to use a DVD.

Some popular choices include: Shiva Rea Yoga Shakati (\$12.00) or Yoga for Beginners Barbara Benagh (\$10.49), available online or at local Wal-Mart stores.

Whether you prefer yoga or pilates, staying home or taking scheduled classes, it is essential to take care of your mind and body in the midst of this stressful time of year.

Take some down time to unroll your yoga matt and unwind your mind.

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Change cheating culture

It is no secret that academic misconduct can be too easy to commit.

Nearly every student has had the opportunity to cheat, no matter how minor the offence, and many have.

There is a general sentiment among the student body that cheating is morally permissible.

Students need to re-think their attitudes toward cheating. Doing so lowers the value of your own degree as well as the degree of every student that follows the guidelines.

Of course, this won't sway a cheater to confess. What is needed, though, is a change in student culture that discourages peers from academic misconduct.

University administrators acknowledge that some students do not feel guilty for cheating. They believe a dialogue needs to occur between the two groups.

Administrators must realize that it is unreasonable to expect students to report their friends for cheating.

Asking this of students presents a paradox. Students cannot be

asked to be moral regarding their own work, yet betray their friends' confidence.

However, it is not unreasonable for students to report the ways in which cheating is possible, thus allowing administrators the opportunity to improve upon the academic system.

This is the kind of co-operation that a change in student culture could produce.

But while we may be able to change the way we think about cheating, we will never be able to change the fact that some students, when given the opportunity, will cheat.

Given this, the student body should communicate to professors and administrators about where their focus should be placed.

The student body, having direct knowledge of how and why academic misconducts occur, has the capacity to reduce their frequency.

Students should realize that their co-operation in curbing academic misconduct can be in their own best interests.

Academic freedom important

The current controversy surrounding University of Ottawa professor Denis Rancourt's actions raises a number of questions about academic freedom here at WLU.

Rancourt was suspended from his teaching duties recently after he declared that every student in one of his fourth-year courses would get an A+, allowing them to think rather than being forced to regurgitate information.

Certainly nothing that extreme has happened at Laurier. However, this does not mean professors do not abuse their tenured positions.

Some professors have been known to show up late for classes, hand back assignments late and use teaching material that is years out of date. Every student has likely felt short-changed by a professor's conduct at some point in their academic career.

Restraining academic freedom can be dangerous. Overall, it should be highly valued. Allowing tenured professors the freedom to question norms and conventions is essential to the university experience: it is how students become inspired by academia.

If the fallout from Rancourt's actions can teach us anything, it's that not all rule-bending constitutes academic freedom. Professors should remember that they are granted tenure so that they can best serve students and the community, not themselves.

Students do not benefit from professors that arrive to class late or cancel lectures frequently.

Some professors tell students that a course syllabus is like a contract. If students are expected to commit to these documents, professors should as well.

At the very least, the Rancourt controversy can teach administrators at WLU that they should proactively assess the way we think about academic freedom before something similar occurs.

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.

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English essays 50 percent off: They're a steal!

GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION

Canadians should re-think the family unit

Decreasing biological births and encouraging adoptions improves society



SYDNEY HELLAND
PRINT PRODUCTION
MANAGER

In 1979, the Chinese government introduced a policy to address the social, economic and environmental strains resulting from the unsustainably massive population of the People's Republic of China.

The officially translated "family planning policy," better known as the "one-child policy," restricts (with exceptions) the number of children born to married couples to one.

This policy, made law in the year 2000 has been met with much criticism and controversy. Although the policy has produced certain benefits such as improved health care and economic growth, it is still criticized for its perceived violations of basic human rights.

However, in harsh contrast to China's extreme form of population control, Canada seems to be desperate for population growth, strongly encouraging multiple children per couple.

Various programs such as the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) and Children's Special Allowances (CSA) actually provide significant financial incentives to eligible families and institutions that support a growing Canadian population.

On one side of the globe, Canada is showering fertile couples with hard cash; on the flip side, China seems just short of putting corks up the uteri of its female population.

Despite the widespread negative associations with China's one-child policy, maybe it isn't such a bad idea after all.

The world's population is swelling at such an unsustainable rate, it is quickly becoming obvious that the earth's natural resources simply cannot handle more people.

With this population crisis in mind, Canada really ought to know better.

On top of the greater problem of the earth's increasing number of inhabitants, Canada seems to forget that despite being one of the wealthiest nations, 11.7 percent of Canadian children under 18 live below the poverty line, meanwhile, over 76,000 children remain in the care of child welfare organizations across Canada.

Why, then, is the Canadian government so baby-happy? Yes, the Canadian population isn't nearly as substantial as the Chinese one, but the problem here isn't childless families, it's family-less children.

To clarify, I'm not suggesting that Canada suddenly implement a one-child policy as extreme as China's, which would essentially force couples wanting large families to absorb Canada's orphaned youth or pay heavy fines for having more than one biological child.

But there are certainly ways by which the government can help support alternative family planning that is not necessarily tied to blood.

It certainly seems counterproductive in tough economic times to be paying for couples to bring new children into a society that cannot sustain them, while exist-

ing children desperately wait for welcoming homes and families.

It would make more sense putting at least some money from programs such as CCTB into more supportive adoption and foster parenting programs, while increasing awareness of the options available to couples looking to grow their families.

Although it's only natural for some folks to want siblings for their children (along with all the joys and trials that come with parenting), it seems that few people today can appreciate non-biological families, even as non-nuclear families become more and more accepted.

It's definitely an innate quality of humans to desire reproduction, and I'm sure it's pretty neat doing so, too.

So, individuals or couples wanting a biological child can go right ahead, but after that, parents need not worry. By having one child, your DNA has already been successfully guaranteed for another generation. So why not consider giving your child a sibling that may not have the same luxury?

Family dynamics are far too complex for making umbrella recommendations, especially when comparing countries on two separate continents with significant cultural differences.

But this is a time when much of the world is anticipating positive change, and this could very well be a small step in the direction of changing our current social structure to be more inclusive of a diversified definition of "family."

Technology isolates us from reality

Devon Butler fears that communicating via texting and instant messaging is becoming more important than real conversations



DEVON BUTLER
HYDE PARK CORNER

I often fantasize about a simpler time. These fantasies usually accompany watching *Pride and Prejudice*, after which I dream of a Mr. Darcy who sends me a hand-written letter instead of a text message. Unfortunately, I suppose this is the era in which we live, where *You've Got Mail* is much more relevant to what our social interactions have become.

Cell phones, Blackberries, instant messaging and Facebook have become so commonplace that we often fail to see the negativity they bring to our lives, our society and ourselves.

The irony of communication devices is that their creation was to connect people, yet what they most often do is cut people off from the world and isolate individuals.

Firstly, it must be said that these devices undoubtedly serve a positive purpose: to keep people in touch with each other. However, the negative effects outweigh the positive.

Services such as MSN Messenger allow people to engage in instantaneous correspondence, welcoming you into an alternative world separate from reality. Since this online world feels disconnected from the real one, it is easy to spew hatred and lies as opposed to during face-to-face interactions.

Your computer screen acts as a wall, severing you from the person you talk to, creating a false sense of

courage.

This is the root cause for online bullying, as consequences appear nonexistent. This is nothing more than a process of dehumanization.

As opposed to in-person interaction, conversations via instant messaging or texting are subject to misunderstandings, leading to disputes and the demises of friendships and relationships.

Your words are also preserved in text. Once you type an instant message, your words can be copied and pasted to other conversations, saved and manipulated.

With this in mind, these forms of communication have crippling effects on social behaviour. It is a basic human element to require social interactions, as they attribute to our overall mental and physical health.

The time we spend on the Internet could be spent engaging in something more productive or by hanging out with friends instead of talking to them online; to live a real life, as part of the real world.

Recently, I went out with a group of old friends; instead of catching up they spent the evening eagerly clicking away on their phones. This situation can be seen everywhere from the dinner table to classrooms. Cell phones shouldn't be used as a means of escape from the conversation at hand.

Not to mention how these communication devices have deteriorated the English language, they've also created a weight of dependency.

We begin to feel so attached to these technologies that they change our behaviour and ways in which we live our lives. None of these de-

vices, however, hold a candle to the power of Facebook.

We've become a generation of slaves to an online social networking site. It affects the way we dress (because we can't have too many pictures tagged of us in the same outfit), it affects the way we enjoy time with our friends (because we are often preoccupied with getting the perfect profile picture). More seriously, it affects our friendships and relationships with others.

A friend recently "de-friended" me on Facebook because some of my pictures were not up to his standards; this has been the cause

of endless frustrations. The whole concept is trivial, yet I admit I have given in to the power of Facebook, wondering what activities and interests define me as a person. Though I can only project so much of myself, I've finally realized Facebook cannot capture the essence of a human being.

Beyond the social implications, technologies have raised serious health concerns. According to Health Canada, use of cell phones can damage a body's genetic material and can change brain wave activity. It affects memory, learning ability, movement and can cause

tumours leading to cancer. In addition, chemicals in cell phones as well as laptops decrease and damage sperm.

Though technology has provided us with knowledge and opportunities, it has also created a world full of people more preoccupied with how many friends they have on Facebook than the world around them.

Though we cannot revert back to simpler times completely, some time away from technology can't hurt.

letters@cordweekly.com



RYAN STEWART

PHONE PHRENZY - These little devices play a large role in our every day lives.

Sex education curricula must be inclusive



WILL MAIN
BEYOND THE MAINSTREAM

There has been substantial progress in the quality of sex education provided to adolescents in recent decades.

We have seen the emphasis of sex education moved away from inferior, but previously dominant, abstinence-based curricula towards more effective and comprehensive ones.

However, though this progress has seen the added inclusion of many important topics and issues facing adolescents, it has unforgivably neglected the education of a substantial demographic of our society: the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) community.

Current sex education curricula present information about sexuality, protection and physical and emotional health issues from an exclusively heterosexual perspective.

It must be realized that these practices overlook the educational requirements of a substantial proportion of society.

Most estimates nowadays indicate that LGBT people represent ten percent of North

American society, though this is likely a low estimate (on account of those who are not public about their sexuality or are still confused).

Sex education for adolescents needs to begin presenting alternative sexualities as equally viable alternatives to heterosexuality and providing the same information on these topics which heterosexual topics receive.

The omission of this information presents serious risks to the general health and emotional well-being of a large number of our children.

Aside from the obvious physical risks that insufficient sexual education can prompt, with a young minority like LGBT, there is a dramatically increased probability of emotional or social struggling.

LGBT adolescents who are not properly informed or made to feel accepted are at particular risk of becoming depressed, withdrawn, confused and sadly, even suicidal.

But the inclusion of LGBT topics in sexual education would produce benefits far beyond the direct assistance it would provide to LGBT adolescents.

People are always more likely to feel irked or threatened by that which they don't properly understand. In this respect, the provision of information of this sort to heterosexual

adolescents would serve to increase tolerance, leading to improved aggregated social freedom.

The omission of such material from sex education curricula is tantamount to an exercise in hate and instils in our children a subtle homophobic attitude. Thus, the cycle of oppression is renewed.

Arguments against the inclusion of LGBT issues are often constructed upon a reluctance to "promote homosexuality."

We need to work to redefine this repulsive and ignorant social norm; that heterosexuality is somehow to be preferred.

None of this means to suggest that sexual education is still not ideally conducted by parents at home before it is instructed in a public environment: it absolutely should be.

However, this forms the basis of another common argument against the inclusion of these topics; that they are the sorts of things that should be taught at home by parents.

The plain truth is that a significant proportion of parents already fails to provide their children basic heterosexual information.

It should be easily predicted that the information provided on LGBT issues by heterosexual parents will be inadequate, especially given how uneducated and reluctant to discuss these topics parents are themselves.

Information, however, is not enough. Counselling must be made more easily accessible for all students experiencing new sexual feelings, particularly those who may be experiencing confusion or find themselves being subjugated as a minority.

Classroom information may not be enough for younger students experiencing sexual confusion to help comprehend or articulate their feelings.

It must be noted that this struggle for improved information is not merely an attempt to raise the bar in education alone; the social impact of this issue is far more wide-reaching.

Through the promotion of an education system which continually excludes a particular group based on superficial differences, we perpetuate the machines of oppression which have for too long held too many in chains.

By instituting oppression within the minds of our young, we place it somewhere that our laws and court rulings can never fully reach.

To realize true liberation for all people, we must first reconstruct an education system that fraudulently forges a distinction between "the normal" and "the other."

letters@cordweekly.com

Downturn should be viewed globally

— FROM **JOBS**, COVER

That argument is crap, from top to bottom. Not only is it bad economics, it's also bad ethics. If we think about the crisis from a global perspective, the best thing we can hope for is that every single auto-industry job in Ontario (for example) jumps overseas faster than you can say "off-shoring."

Why? Simply put, workers overseas need the jobs more. When a factory worker in Canada loses his job, it's certainly nothing pleasant.

The choice is often between mea-

gre EI benefits or a nasty temp job.

But when an Indonesian factory worker loses the same job, it might mean returning home to break her back in the fields, with no more chance of sending the kids to school. There's just no comparison.

Maybe it's just me, but I fail to see how any policy that protects a single well-paid Canadian job at the expense of several jobs elsewhere is at all morally defensible.

Even the worst-off Canadians (except for our Aboriginal peoples) will never face the kinds of material circumstances with which much

of the rest of the world has to cope their whole lives.

When times are good, there's a sense that the rising tide is lifting all boats, and we can afford not to discuss this all too loudly.

When we do, though, the thread is the same; perhaps we worry about our high-tech jobs being outsourced to India.

Again, quite frankly, if buddy in Bangalore can do the same job as me for less money and provide a new life for his family with it, he can have it.

When times are bad, like they are

now, this suddenly becomes a huge problem.

Billions of people around the world still depend on the rich countries as economic engines. Hundreds of millions have achieved something like middle-class status, with huge positive consequences for their local politics.

At the beginning of the crisis, some optimists thought that domestic demand in emerging markets might pick up the burden; no such luck. It's still on us.

We shouldn't romanticize here. The jobs we create overseas are quite often awful work, in awful conditions, for awful pay, with a commensurately terrible environmental footprint.

The unfortunate truth, though, is that the alternatives for many people overseas are even worse.

Regardless of all the many angry

things I could say about how we've organized global capitalism, the reality is that economic links between the rich and poor worlds have been responsible for a bigger increase in human welfare than simple aid could ever have sustained.

So what am I asking? For Canadians to put our money where our mouths are.

If we believe, as most of us would insist, that people are equally human all around the world, then we should act like it.

This doesn't mean mailing our hard-earned tax dollars to Bangladesh.

It means not using the financial crisis as an excuse to waste time and money defending jobs that shouldn't be here in the first place.

letters@cordweekly.com

Letters to the Editor

LSPIRG provides opportunities for all

I am writing in response to Eric Merkley's letter to the Cord in which he refers to the Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group as promoting an "ideologically extreme, left-wing agenda on campus." I feel that this statement grossly misrepresents what LSPIRG and its staff, its working groups and its dedicated volunteers are actually about. LSPIRG provides opportunities for its members to be agents of change. This sort of change can fall on the left or the right wing of the spectrum. We merely want students to become actively involved and engaged in their communities. I invite Mr. Merkley to form a working group researching and advocating for the use of school vouchers in Canada, or the benefits of Nuclear Energy. So long as a potential working group's objectives and values fall within the broad mandate of LSPIRG, they are welcome to form a working group that has access to LSPIRG's funding and resources. We accept working groups that are pro-life as well as those that are pro-choice. We welcome groups that are pro-Israel as well as those that are pro-Palestine. I think if Mr. Merkley were to actually take the time and find out what LSPIRG actually was, he wouldn't be so quick to criticize it in such a way, and perhaps might even find a place for his views within the organization.

—John Clements
LSPIRG Director

Campus Conservatives, you would use the opportunity to utilize the political system to make change when appropriate and be a leader on campus. I would say that you are using our campus to push your ideologically extreme, right-wing agenda, but you aren't because all you seem to do is bring in speakers that promote privatization. If you were really a political club, you would have had your members involved in the democratic process.

I had the opportunity to work on the sustainability office campaign and be an observer in the planning process, which has been inclusive and transparent for everyone from day one. I am very happy that we finally have the tools at our disposal to make Laurier sustainable.

A quick Facebook search in your group would also show that one of your prominent Campus Conservative members ran for WLUSU president and sought to bring a sustainability office on campus. He supported our efforts throughout the campaign just as our group supported him at the voting booth. We also had the support of members of LSPIRG. The need for a sustainability office has united students from across the left-to-right spectrum, even if it seems loosely planned.

Really, why the bellyaching now? For the next election I suggest you get up and do something about it if you don't like fees, otherwise keep the hot air inside your head. The students certainly feel that our fees are put to good use, even if we have to fund the laughably uninvolved Campus Conservatives.

—Reyn O'Born

LSPIRG is not partisan

Eric Merkley's letter to the editor in last week's Cord may have mistakenly left some readers with the impression that the Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group (LSPIRG) has an ideological agenda. I fear this discourages some readers from taking advantage of LSPIRG's services - services open to all students, including Eric - and I would like to clarify what these services include.

In the past, many undergraduate students tried to complete projects outside of the classroom but were frustrated by a lack of support and training. Opportunities for

students to tie academic work to promote social change were rare. Today LSPIRG offers students the chance to use their research and apply it to a broader community.

Students can create something called a "working group" through LSPIRG by filling out a one-page application. As long as it is consistent with LSPIRG's values - education, empowerment, innovation, social justice, environmentalism, accountability, community, volunteerism and fun - the application will receive some support. This approach is meant to encourage the development of a wide variety of ideas.

For example, a Development Through Free Trade Working Group and an Anti-Globalization Working Group would both be welcome in LSPIRG. LSPIRG is non-partisan, and support is open to working groups from anywhere on the political spectrum. Since there are other PIRGs who do work from an ideological perspective some students have not been aware of this opportunity and it seems Eric's case fits this description.

Last year, as an employee of LSPIRG, I met with Eric when I learned that the campus Conservatives had some concerns about the organization and was excited to learn of Eric's interest in a campaign to promote school vouchers. I strongly encouraged him to start a working group around this issue, and also suggested that he could provide a valuable perspective if he ran for the LSPIRG Board of Directors.

While Eric did not run for the board, there is still time to create a school voucher working group. I hope he sees that this opportunity is still present and takes full advantage of it this year.

—Anthony Piscitelli

Letters Policy:

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

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

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Gold diggers need comeback

Forget marriage based on "love;" start picking your partners for their money



KIMBERLY ELWORTHY
UNDER THE RADAR

It was Kanye West, a mere four years ago, who lamented, "Now I ain't sayin' she a gold digga, but she ain't messin' with no broke [expletive]."

The gold digger, as defined by the Merriam-Webster dictionary, is a person who uses charm to extract money or gifts from others. Historically, this has been the general strategy used by young women, whilst husband-hunting, who are cutting through all that "love" crock and making rational, objective decisions.

More current trends have directed folks into finding their true love, their one-and-only, often called the "soul mate." Romantics flock to the cinemas or sift through endless magazines, imagining their own soul mate experience.

The perfect first date, the perfect sex, the perfect wedding, with the perfect children, the perfect retirement, etc.

We all expect that Hollywood ending and eternal happiness, yet we all know this is the exception and not the norm.

The short-lived passion of marriages based on "love" only leads

to letting oneself go. This in turn leads to staying with your "loved one" just because there is simply no way anyone else would find you remotely attractive at that point.

Not to mention the added stress of having to deal with petty issues like juggling a family with your full-time career in order to keep up to par.

Years from now, when we inevitably find ourselves burdened with the menial tasks of everyday life and then fall asleep next to the chubby, droopy version of the lover we once knew, it will be time to ask that hard question. What's so bad about being a gold digger?

Our ancestors got it right the first time around. Marriage, for all intents and purposes, is a business contract. An agreement between two people who can each provide something sought after by the other.

These things tend to include money, elite status, intelligence, beauty, property and important social connections.

Gold digging doesn't have to be limited to a woman's realm as it has been before; men are quickly jumping on the gold-digging train with little, if any, shame.

Pop culture icons such as K-Fed, Guy Richie, Anna Nicole Smith and Heather Mills are ideal models for the lost youth of contemporary

society. Children have been brought up in divorced homes, the economy is in pieces; modernity offers little stability or reassurance for the romantic.

The fact of the matter is that both partners in a marriage, if not emotionally satisfied, can at least appear to have the things in life that truly make them happy, like designer clothes, flashy cars, multiple houses (to escape that pesky spouse), frequent vacations and invitations to illustrious social events.

There is a huge demographic of wealthy, older men and women looking to replace that worn-in spouse for something newer, faster and better.

You may sacrifice the thrills of lust, but there is always that love that grows over time from respect and, of course, a countless number of affairs.

Gold digging is a life choice that is long overdue for a comeback. It can offer a promising future with little effort.

So next time you're contemplating law school or a sought-after internship, just remember: you can get to the same end with far less effort as long as you're willing to make one little compromise.

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Any questions should be directed to:
Bryn Ossington at bryn.ossington@wlusp.com

*Please note the changes from the hiring ad that was placed in the February 11th issue of The Cord.

Sudoku

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

Last issue's solution:

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

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Revolutionary nuns

The Cord talks to director Graham Cozzubbo of the *Dialogues of the Carmelites* opera, which is showing in the TA Friday, Saturday and Sunday

DANIEL JOSEPH
A&E EDITOR

As far as proverbs go, "Till the fat lady sings" is one of those timeless ones - or at least it feels that way. We might even be led to believe that all operas consist of a woman wearing a Viking helmet on a hill, singing - Why? I'm not sure. Maybe Bugs Bunny that did this to us.

Is this all there is to opera, though?

Well, one opera at least, because the phrase is based on the opera *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, by the famous (or infamous) composer Wilhelm Wagner. At the end there is a fat lady singing. She most likely has a spear.

But all opera isn't necessarily some obtuse collection of Nordic mythology; it's an ongoing conversation of music, theatre and creativity that continues to live and breathe to this day.

Laurier's Faculty of Music continues to contribute to this tradition by bringing Poulenc's opera *Dialogues of the Carmelites* to the Theatre Auditorium this Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Dialogues follows the story of the Carmelite order of nuns in France during the French Revolution - all of whom were executed at the hands of the revolutionary government for their religious and politi-

cal beliefs. So it's kind of a serious play.

Faculty of Music voice professor Kimberly Barber, who has been affectionately named "Opera Mom," says that the story of *Dialogues* is "about freedom of speech, freedom of religion, about being able to express who you are. Those are ideas that resonate with us today. All of them performed within an environment that is extremely simple and straightforward."

Directing *Dialogues* is the nationally recognized Graham Cozzubbo, who describes *Dialogues* as something that is accessible for people less experienced with opera.

"What's most interesting about [*Dialogues*] is that its musical language is pretty conservative, pretty accessible. If people like their 19th century opera - well this isn't it. Its musical language echoes that but it's an unusual opera because all they do is talk. It's a story of very specific and subtle human relationships moving through time under a period of duress," said Cozzubbo.

While starting slow to introduce the variety of characters and relationships in the first act, it soon picks up action with the French Revolution and the customary employment of France's most enduring piece of cutlery: the guillotine.

Dialogues also shows off Laurier's creative talents that lurk in the John

Aird building, with the entire set, orchestra, cast and technical crew being put together by and made up of students. Cozzubbo praises this dedication to their art, saying that, "The student's here have a great curiosity and drive that I don't see in a lot of post-secondary institutions. Here there's a real appetite, a real creative and intellectual curiosity that's really a pleasure to work with."

Laurier's ambition really shines in the eyes of Barber, too. It's not often that undergraduate programs offer their students the chance to perform in opera. "It's a pretty extraordinary thing that we do at Laurier, because Opera is an extraordinarily expensive art form and we do it on a really shoestring budget."

That melds into Laurier's next step for opera beyond *Dialogues*: branding. Both Barber and Cozzubbo stressed Laurier's chance to do something special with their productions. Cozzubbo described it as "Southern Ontario's best-kept secret."

Dialogues features a sparse set (a few chairs, a table or two) and focuses more on the lighting (planned by world-famous light designer Robert Thompson) and performance. The set is intimate, with the audience sitting right up to the front of the stage.

Barber says this style is an impor-



YUSUF KIDWA

NUNNERY - Opera singers rehearsed at a performance on Monday.

tant brand for Laurier to develop. That it should "think about being at the forefront of a new movement of making the arts relevant in this economic climate.... Instead of apologizing for our lack of resources, we are saying 'we don't need all that hullabaloo.'"

And if nothing else should catch your ear, it's that *Dialogues* is in English. Cozzubbo said that, "nine out of ten times composers insist that 'audiences receive what I've created in a language they understand directly.' As Poulenc himself wrote, 'when you do this opera, if

it's Slovakia it's in Slovak. If it's an English-speaking country, put it in English.' I think that immediacy of experiencing that sung language in your own language is always fantastic."

So once again, there are no Viking hats, and no spears - just the French Revolution and nuns. Sounds like a party.

Dialogues of the Carmelites will be playing Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

Fighting for your money

Street Fighter IV proves to be more of the same for the age-old series

MORGAN ALAN
STAFF WRITER

When I was four years old, my parents relented to my tantrums and allowed me to use my sister's Super Nintendo. This privilege came with the right to play one of the greatest games on that console - *Street Fighter II*. When I booted up *SF II* for the first time, I never could have known that I'd still be an active player of the game nearly fifteen years later. *SF II* is a true gaming classic, remaining unsurpassed by its sequels, remakes and arguably other fighting series.

The timelessness of *SF II* begs a question - why is Capcom even attempting to improve on perfection in its sequel, *Street Fighter IV*?

Let me give you a quick history lesson. Though the original *Street Fighter* went largely unnoticed when it was released in 1987, it was *Street Fighter II* in 1991 that spawned the smash hit we know today.

Remakes and improved ports of the classic were made until 1997, which saw the release of the mediocre and largely forgettable *Street Fighter III*. Capcom discarded the

franchise for over a decade, until last week's release of *Street Fighter IV*.

I disliked *SF III* because, at the end of the day, it was *SF II* with shinier graphics and a few new characters. In *SF IV*, Capcom proves that (gaming) history is forever doomed to repeat itself - though I may love the *Street Fighter* franchise, *SF IV* is the same damn game I've been playing for the past two decades.

The plot, unchanged from previous iterations, is typical of a late '80s/early '90s bad action movie. The best fighters of various geographic regions face off to claim the title of strongest in the world, all the while working to bring down the evil Shadaloo crime syndicate.

The plot really isn't a point of criticism - I've always been endeared to *Street Fighter's* over-the-top campiness.

In terms of game mechanics, *SF IV* is nearly identical to its predecessors: the strings of intricate button inputs required to perform an attack are the same as they've always been. Unfortunately, the major addition to gameplay - the Ultra Combo, a super-powerful attack - is game-breaking and largely

pointless. Matches are now won not on the basis of skill, but on who can charge their Ultra Combo the fastest.

My criticism of Ultra Combos brings up another point of contention - the difficulty of *SF IV* is very unforgiving, especially for new players. Unless you're a pro, you're going to be playing on "easiest" mode for some time to come. The difficulty is aggravated by the fact that the console version of *SF IV* is a port of the arcade version. You're playing with an imprecise and clunky controller, not an arcade deck designed specifically for the game (unless you've bought a custom pad).

The game's online mode, though thankfully bug-free, is a lost cause for most. You're either going to face new players who you'll use as punching bags, or seasoned veterans who will take you down before you even get a punch in. And like most online modes for fighting games, you're going to be facing the same two or three characters over and over again.

Criticism aside, there were a few aspects of *SF IV* that did please me. After a decade-long hiatus, it was



nice to see the *Street Fighter* team of characters back in action. Before my first match playing as my favourite Chun-Li, the high-kicking Interpol agent, I rather enjoyed hearing a re-mastered edition of her classic theme song.

I also appreciated the addition of anime cut-scenes explaining individual character histories - though the production values of these scenes were a tad cheap, they were a pleasant addition to a game that was previously essentially plotless.

This brings me back to my original question - why does this game even exist in the first place? New players will be turned off by the steep difficulty curve and the complicated fighting system, while fans of the series will feel unsatisfied by the lack of new content. Call me nostalgic, but I'm going to be sticking to good ol' *Street Fighter II* for a long time to come.



Street Fighter IV
Platform: Xbox 360, PS3
Developer: Capcom
Release Date: 17/02/2009
Rating: B-

Global Glaswegian rockers

Scot-rockers Glasvegas talk with *The Cord* about their recent tour and "honest" musical quality

ALEX HAYTER
CORD EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Selling out shows across Europe and headlining the annual New Musical Express (NME) awards tour, Glasgow's Glasvegas are the hottest ticket in the UK right now – and they're set to bring their brand of moody Scot-rock to North America next month.

A quartet of brooding, black-clad knights of Glaswegia, Glasvegas grew up on the eastern side of Scotland's largest city. Tightly tied to that identity, lead guitarist Rab Allan says that success has meant that the band's world has been speedily expanding outside of the streets of Glasgow – appealing to folks from all parts of the globe.

"I'd like to say that we're a 'people' band," said Allan with a laugh.

Glasgow is also home to popular exports Franz Ferdinand and Belle and Sebastian – but Allan is quick to point out that such acts come from the opposite side of the city. The west end, a vibrantly bohemian university district, offers a stark contrast to the working-class east end that the members of Glasvegas call home.

"No other band's come from there before," drawled Allan in a thick but eloquent Glaswegian accent.

Having finished a tour of England, with sold-out shows every night, the band is set to take on the rest of Europe and, following that, North America. Unlike most bands that allow smaller acts from their label to piggyback on their success, Glasvegas are distinctly nomadic in their approach to gigging.

"We're quite uptight in that way; we don't really do things with other bands," said Allan.

Last week's NME tour proved to be an exception to the rule as Glasvegas performed an updated cover of Elvis Presley's "Suspicious Minds" with fellow up-and-comers Florence and the Machine.

Sold-out tours, headlining the top awards show in the country... Glasvegas' popularity has indeed sky-rocketed since releasing their debut self-titled album in September 2008.

So much success in such a short span of time would be enough to make anyone dizzy – but Allan and the band try to maintain a focus on doing what they do best: making music.

"We try not to think of things that much because we'd go crazy," he said.

"We signed a record deal a year ago today. So lots has happened in that year."

Allan has certainly been enjoying a year in the life of a rock 'n' roll star.

"To be honest, I've not had a bad day in months," said Allan. "We get to travel about, we go to America and Europe, we get paid to do it, we

get drunk every day."

"What's not to enjoy?" he asked with a laugh.

With bands like the Arctic Monkeys, The Enemy and The Mystery Jets popping out of nowhere before you can say "Oasis," you'd be forgiven for thinking that Glasvegas are simply another act to grab the fleeting attention of Britain's pop-savvy masses.

But this band's fame didn't come with their hands behind their backs. It took over a year of touring before they received a record deal from Columbia – and by then they were already selling out tours.

"It wasn't an overnight thing," said Allan. "We sold out 200-capacity venues every night."

"It was like a freight train, just a tank... going very fast and knocking everything over in its way."

Allan isn't worried that this train will run out of steam. That's mostly thanks to his conductor brother – singer and songwriter James Allan – who pens all lyrics and instrumental parts entirely by himself.

"James just started writing the second album," he said. "Of the songs that I've heard they're the best ones that he's ever wrote."

Glasvegas' strength in touring has brought much success in the states and this will be the second time they return to our shores: appearances on U.S. television (including the Letterman show) bought them the spotlight a new band needs – and also an opportunity to show off their unique character.

One television appearance in particular makes Allan chortle with laughter.

"The record company phoned up and said 'Can you ask the band to be in costume?'"

"Our tour manager was like: 'What do you mean, in costume? That's what they actually wear!'"

The band's trademark black jeans, t-shirts and quiffed hair isn't so much an effort to stand out; rather, it's just Glasvegas showing us who they really are.

"That's just a natural thing," said Allan, explaining that growing up on the east end, he and friends would wear black to avoid getting noticed.

The guitarist describes Glasgow as an exciting but divided place – and a home that he'll never leave.

"It's quite an electric city; it's quite on edge. It reminds me a lot of New York."

One historic source of division in the city is over the country's favourite pastime: soccer. While Allan and bassist Paul Donahue are Rangers fans, his brother James and drummer Caroline McKay are fans of rivals Celtic Football Club.

"If we don't talk about it and we don't watch it together, then everything's OK. When we start speaking about it and we watch it together, that's when things don't go so well," he laughed.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

ALL IN BLACK - Glasvegas hail from the working class 'hoods of Glasgow, where black blends in.

Despite having just these four members, Glasvegas is capable of producing that ever-popular but frequently elusive "wall of sound" that we've heard in bands like Echo and the Bunnymen and The Jesus and Mary Chain. But Allan is quick to dismiss such distinct avenues of influences.

"I wouldn't say we meant to sound like that. ... I think it's quite a natural thing."

In fact, the band had never even listened to The Jesus and Mary Chain until Scottish music icon Alan McGee introduced them to their songs, said Allan.

"Because Caroline only plays two drums, we had to fill in the gap," he explained instead.

"We wanted the guitars to be like an orchestra. The whole band should be like an orchestra."


Glasvegas brings their orchestral rock to a sold-out Mod Club in Toronto on April 3. Though Allan says there was pressure to move to a bigger venue, the band wanted to keep their audience smaller and "more natural."

After a sorely deserved hiatus from touring, the band hopes to produce a demo this fall and then set up in a Los Angeles studio to

pull together their sophomore album in January 2010. If there's one theme that Glasvegas is sure to stick to, it's keeping their music "honest," said Allan.


"I know when I'm busting out some music I like it to be real, I like it to be honest. Not to be contrived, not to be put together in a certain way for a certain movie – like some pop band to sell records."

With that in mind, be sure to grab a copy of their debut album before you hear "Geraldine" blazing an outro on *Gossip Girl* or *The Hills*. Here's praying that never happens.



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Morrissey still here, Years later

Smiths former frontman Morrissey makes a big comeback with his new album *Years of Refusal*, which bucks the trend and proves a good listen

SARAH MURPHY
CORD A&E

He's traded in his bouquets of gladioli for tailored suits, but Morrissey's meticulously-crafted quiff more or less remains atop his head and his trademark whiney-without-sounding-too-annoying eloquence continues with his ninth solo effort *Years of Refusal*.

Morrissey has never shied away from his abundant criticism of the United States, complaining on his 2004 track "America is Not the World," that "The president is never black, female or gay and until that day you've got nothing to say to me."

So what does he have to say these days, with Obama in office, Hilary Clinton's democratic leadership campaign still fresh in the minds of America and a movie like *Milk* (that highlights the career of the USA's first openly gay senator) winning multiple Oscars?

Well, it seems that Moz has returned to his roots and filled this album with songs of loneliness, unrequited love and a morbid fascination with death.

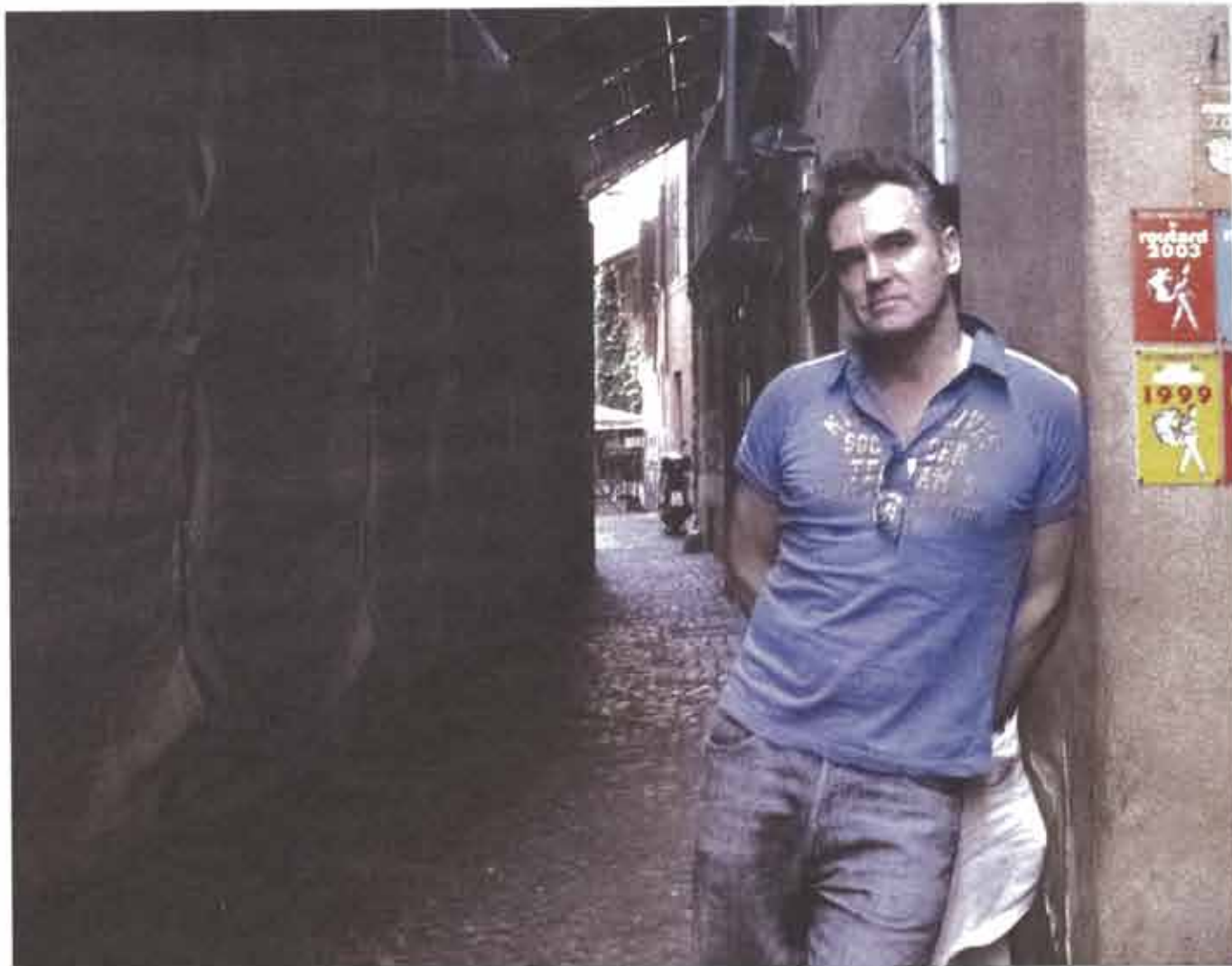
Throughout the CD's first single, "I'm Throwing My Arms Around Paris," Morrissey laments the lack of reciprocated love in his life, turning

to "steel and stone" for acceptance. This ode to rejection, however, is far from being the most melancholic tune on the album. Track number four, "That's How People Grow Up," wallows in self-pity, and claims that trying to fall in love is a waste of time that leaves one coping with disappointment, ending up with the discouraging conclusion expressed in the title.

"Sorry Doesn't Help" makes it blatantly obvious that Morrissey isn't the most forgiving indie icon out there, as he spends four minutes rejecting an apology that maybe isn't so heartfelt. He scathingly belittles the apologizer - "You lied about the lies that you told, which is the full extent of what being you is all about" - and remains miserable while doing so. Perhaps the wittiest track on the album, "It's Not Your Birthday Anymore" exploits the human race's tendency to be ridiculously insincere towards people on their birthdays.

The more he goes on throughout the song, the guiltier I feel about leaving "Happy Birthday"s on the Facebook walls of people I never actually talk to.

The theme of the record is difficult to pinpoint. It definitely has something to do with death and dying, but you wouldn't be able to



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

QUIFF'D - Morrissey is still rocking his age-old quiff - some things just never change.

tell by the instrumentation alone. "When I Last Spoke to Carol" depicts a conversation in which a dying woman admits to having flirted with the idea of death all through her life and having gone through life with a fake smile, and impatiently awaits the end.

Depressing, I know. But, the jangly pop guitar and experimental horn section is rather reminiscent of The Smiths, as is the yelping/yodelling expelling itself from Morrissey's vocal chords. The subject matter and the sound create one of the most interesting juxtapositions on *Years of Refusal*.

"Mama Lay Softly on the Riverbed," "One Day Goodbye Will Be Farewell" and "You Were Good in Your Time" are also explicitly about the dead and dying. This sinister focus is familiar to Morrissey's work, though the unexpected death of producer Jerry Finn adds an additional layer of eeriness to the CD. Best known for his work with Blink 182 and Green Day, 39-year-

old Finn died mere months after the completion of *Years of Refusal*, leaving it as the closing chapter in his production career.

Morrissey is at his most loveable being a hyperbolic activist with a love/hate relationship towards the press, and his sarcasm towards journalists constantly gets him in trouble. But the press's criticism is often warranted - Morrissey's solo efforts are either not cohesive, or so extremely uniform that it's difficult to differentiate between songs.

But after taking a seven-year break before 2004's *You are the Quarry*, Morrissey seems to be on top of his game with or without the legacy of The Smiths. His follow-up 2006 release, *Ringleader of the Tormentors*, proved that his comeback wasn't a fluke. And now, with *Years of Refusal*, a nearly 50-year-old Morrissey is set to continue his music career knowing that if he carries on in a similar fashion, there's a chance critics and fans might completely forget some of his more

abysmal solo efforts from the mid-'90s. Not that Moz has always been an extremely optimistic fellow, but for the rest of us, there's still hope.



Morrissey
Years of Refusal
Polydor/Deca
Release Date: 17/02/2009
Rating: B

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A child of conflict

Sudanese former child soldier, current musician and activist Emmanuel Jal visited Waterloo last Thursday with his message of hope for Africa

SHANNON BUSTA
CORD A&E

Emmanuel Jal thinks he is about 29 years old. Born into a war-torn world in Sudan, Africa, Jal is not sure of his exact date of birth.

This is actually not all that uncommon for those born in the 1980s, a time of civil war, violence and chaos in southern Sudan. Growing up in the centre of conflict has left him with one hell of a story to tell.

This fact is unavoidable when one realizes Jal is currently touring to promote his album, book and documentary, all of which share the title *WARchild*.

"In Africa, music was used as a way of recording history," the hip-hop star told *The Cord* in a recent interview.

Jal has carried this tradition with him to London, England and now uses his hip-hop to record his own history.

Stopping only for a night in Waterloo, Jal still managed to fit in a screening of his documentary, a short musical performance and a book signing.

Impressed? Now imagine doing all of that on only one meal a day. Sitting down to discuss his life

last Thursday, Jal was struggling through his 78th day living on 1/3 the food that he normally consumes. Jal started this fast of sorts to raise awareness for his charity Gaa-Africa.

While I had the pleasure of sipping on tea, Jal simply sipped on warm water. "I'm feeling weak today, I normally have energy, which I save to use for important things," he said, explaining that he has now lost 13 kilograms since beginning.

Currently, he is trying to raise funds to build a school in his hometown in Sudan. Despite the headaches and weakness, Jal insisted on talking with me about his various projects in the hopes that this article will help spread the word about his cause.

Jal's third album *WARchild* is a decisively personal artwork, with unmistakable political and spiritual overtones. This work of art serves to remind us that hip-hop is about music, expression and art. Not sex, "bling" and glorified violence.

Jal expresses frustration over the loss of true hip-hop. "It's the image that has been built by the system... sex and violence sells."

He manages to use his art to convey this message to the North American rap scene, focusing on

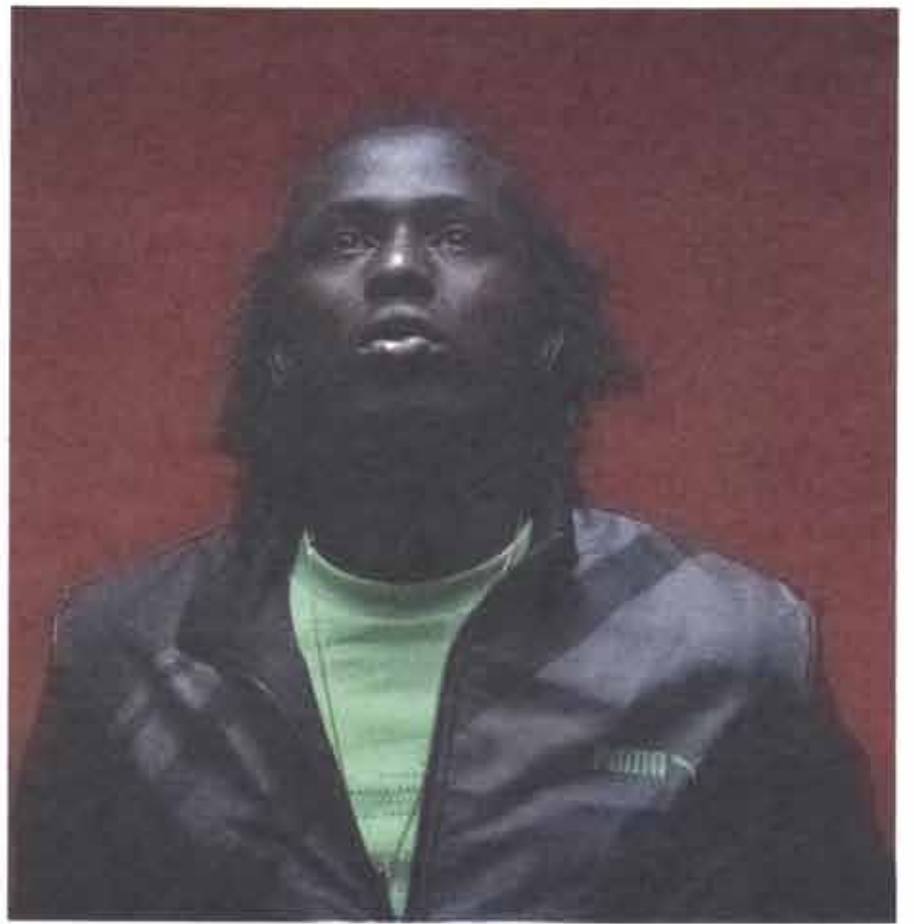
one rapper specifically. His song "50 Cent" is not by any means a hateful attack on the rapper. It is, however, a powerful and focused critique of the messages and lifestyles that 50 glorifies.

Later that day, after the interview had time to settle in my mind, Jal hosted a screening of his documentary at The Princess Twin, where he also signed copies of his memoir.

Jal, clearly fatigued from his lack of nutrients, introduced the packed theatre to his film very simply, suggesting everything we would need to know about it would soon be unveiled. Sniffles from people choking back tears filled The Twin. Jal, who returned home to his village in Sudan for the first time in over 15 years for the making of the documentary, brings us with him as he relives the trauma of his past, and confronts the injustice that still weighs heavily on his mind.

On the topic of his book, Jal warned future readers of the detail that went into it. He admitted to the audience that the release of such painful memories actually induced nosebleeds for him for a month straight.

Jal's love for the woman who rescued him from the atrocious, revenge-driven life of a child sol-



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

HOW OLD? - Emmanuel Jal doesn't even know his own age.

dier was shared with us at the end of the night when he performed the last song from his album, called "Emma". This high-energy performance made irrelevant the fact that Jal hadn't eaten a solid meal in the last 24 hours, demonstrating the man's passion for music in spite of suffering.

Ultimately, the *WARchild* triplets offer us a chance to educate ourselves about a part of the world that is all too often ignored. Jal hopes that educating the West about those suffering in Africa will in turn bring education to Africans.

He feels that education can prevent war and change Africa perma-

nently for the better. "When you are not educating people, there will always be conflict," he told the eager audience who assembled to see his *documentary*. He continued, arguing, "The reason Europe is what it is now, is because of education."

Passion and love when translated into education and awareness can change the lives of many, and Jal hopes to be living proof of this.

If you are interested in buying a brick for \$3 to help Emmanuel Jal build Emma Academy in Sudan, you can visit www.Gaa-Africa.org, or www.emmaacademyproject.com.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS


MARCH

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1 

8 FRANKIE SAYS

RELAAX

2  **Jam Night**
- every Monday -

3  **DYNAMIC DUO**
CRAIG & JOHN


4  **COUNTRY**
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5  Pat Robitaille

6  **Fresh Fish Fridays**

7  **5 Days for the Homeless**
Fundraiser Event Tonight @ **wif's**

8  **50 CENT WINGS (MIN 10) EVERY THURSDAY**

9  **Stress Relief Campaign All Week**

10  **Executive Volunteer Applications Due Online @ Noon**

11  **THE ENTERTAINMENT RACE**

12  **50 CENT WINGS (MIN 10) EVERY THURSDAY**

13  **5 Days for the Homeless**
Fundraiser Event Tonight @ **wif's**

14  **50 CENT WINGS (MIN 10) EVERY THURSDAY**

15  **General Volunteer Applications Due Online @ Noon**

16  **ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

17  **10 WINGS + PITCHER = \$20 EVERY MONDAY**

18  **10 WINGS + PITCHER = \$23 EVERY TUESDAY**

19  **HE ONE WILL PERFORM**

20  **50 CENT WINGS (MIN 10) EVERY THURSDAY**

21  **50 CENT WINGS (MIN 10) EVERY THURSDAY**

22  **10 WINGS + PITCHER = \$20 EVERY MONDAY**

23  **10 WINGS + PITCHER = \$23 EVERY TUESDAY**

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