

INDECISION 2006

With five days to go before election day, we give you all the analysis you need to make an informed decision on Jan. 23 ... **INDECISION 2006, PAGES 7-9**

Volume 46 Issue 19

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 18, 2006

www.cordweekly.com



Jordan Jocius

HAIL TO THE NEW CHIEF - Pubs president-elect Fraser McCracken (left) speaks to the larger-than-expected audience at WLUSP's Annual General Meeting while opponent Zack Weinberg looks away.

In one tension-filled evening, Student Pubs tried out its new election format in front of an unexpectedly big crowd

ADRIAN MA & DAN POLISCHUK
News Editors

In the organization's first-ever Annual General Meeting (AGM) election, Fraser McCracken defeated Zack Weinberg, becoming WLUSP Student Publications (WLUSP) president-elect.

McCracken won a decisive 156-81 victory, becoming the first-ever WLUSP president to be elected under the new AGM format.

"I think the outcome is the best for the student media on the campus and the best for Student Publications," said a relieved McCracken shortly after the results were announced.

"I just want to thank all my friends for the great turnout ... congratulations to the man [Fraser McCracken]," said Weinberg as he left the Senate and Board Chamber.

From start to finish, the election was a heated affair.

The room was clearly polarized between McCracken and

Weinberg supporters, and many members of the audience became increasingly vocal as the candidates made their addresses and answered questions.

Current WLUSP president Anthony Piscitelli, who chaired the meeting, had to interject several times, asking the crowd to maintain "a level of maturity" and to refrain from yelling at the candidates.

McCracken and Weinberg both responded to several questions, but as expected, Weinberg in was put on the defensive from the beginning.

Weinberg, author of the controversial article "The Gentleman's Guide To Getting Laid At Laurier", seemed unable to escape questions that challenged his qualifications and his sincerity in running for WLUSP president.

"I think you're fucking funny, but is this a joke?" second-year student Alex Hundert bluntly asked Weinberg during the Q & A session.

Hundert's comment elicited applause from McCracken voters and ignited a chorus of boos from

the throng of Weinberg supporters.

Throughout the discussion, Weinberg emphatically reiterated his desire to inject to WLUSP with "new blood and a new vision" and to make publications like *The Cord* more accessible and appealing to Laurier students.

Lenna Titzian, editor-in-chief of the *Blueprint*, asked for ideas as to how Student Publications will not be degraded and "laughed at" by other universities and "the community at large."

One suggestion Weinberg made was to expand and create two separate newspapers, which would cover Laurier's "diverse" campus more adequately.

"Sometimes I read through *The Cord* and there's trash; it's like a *Mad* magazine," he explained.

"I know that at Queen's University, they have a newspaper that's a reliable news resource that you could show to your parents. I wouldn't show *The Cord* to my parents," he added.

While answering most questions that came his way, Weinberg

declined to comment on two occasions: first, when asked to name all of WLUSP's different publications and again when he was asked why he never submitted an official platform prior to the election.

McCracken, who was asked fewer questions than Weinberg, felt that the evening was an important one for the growth of WLUSP.

"It was a very polarized debate," said McCracken. "I think we had an excellent opportunity to discuss our campus media."

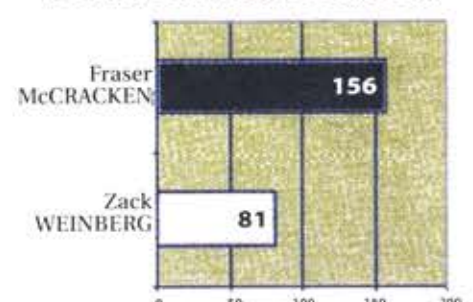
The WLUSP Board of Directors was also elected on Monday night, with Keren Gottfried garnering the most votes with 163. She was followed by Penny Shearer and Arthur Wong with 157 and 136 respectively.

Newcomer Rafiq Andani rounds out next year's WLUSP BOD, beating out Derek Bartoschek by three votes, 97-94.

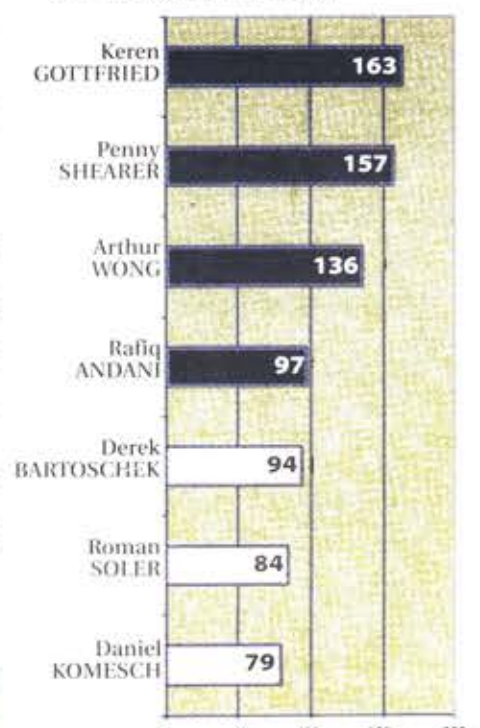
Derek Bartoschek, Roman Soler, and Daniel Komesch received 84, 84, and 79 votes respectively.

> Editorial reaction to this story on PAGE 6

Presidential Results



Director Results



THE BIRTH OF ACTIVISM

Cord History takes a look at 1966-1976 and comes across an eclectic grab bag of hippie-babble and radical activism. The findings may surprise you ... **CORD HISTORY, PAGES 14-15**

HIGH-RANKING OFFISHALL

Toronto's top Kardinal lands in the Turret along with ex-Laurier talent Shadrach Kabango to showcase Canada's emerging and diverse hip hop movement ... **A&E, PAGE 24**

SPRUCE STREET & THE 40 THIEVES

Just when you thought the student ghetto was safe enough to leave the doors unlocked like in *Bowling For Columbine*, there's more disturbing robberies in the heart of the WLU community ... **NEWS, PAGE 3**

THE CORD WEEKLY

- The tie that binds since 1926 -

phone: (519) 884-1970 ext. 3564
fax: (519) 883-0873
email: cord@wlu.ca

The Cord Weekly
75 University Avenue West
Waterloo, Ontario
N2L 3C5

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I wouldn't show *The Cord* to my parents."
- Zack Weinberg, during the WLUSP Presidential Question Period

WORD OF THE WEEK

Cacophonous (adj.): having discordant sound; dissonance.
The presidential question period was a cacophonous medley of students' concerns, criticisms and comments.

CONTRIBUTORS

Victoria Beggs Colleen Mann Mary Fikins Nancy Connolly Patty Scott Liam Miller	Matt Hickey Jennifer O'Neill Oli Dineen Wim Kien David Alexander Shirley Hickey	Ivy Giesse Lan Yu Veronica Hughes Katie Collins Ruth Elliott
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WLUSP STAFF

Pagination Editor.....	Dave Alexander
Production Assistant.....	Emma McFarlane Janet Limerman
Copy Editing Manager.....	Arla Lamo-Hall
Copy Editors.....	Regan Walsh Brenda Hickey Caitlin Henderson Heather O'Rourke Katie Chung Jordan Jocz Sydney Holland
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Human Resources.....	Sanjay Ojha
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3560 or angela@wlu.ca

COLOPHON

The Cord Weekly is the official student newspaper
of the Wilfrid Laurier University community.

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without share capital. WLUSP is governed by its board
of directors.



Opinions expressed within *The Cord* are those of the author
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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

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

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

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

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

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

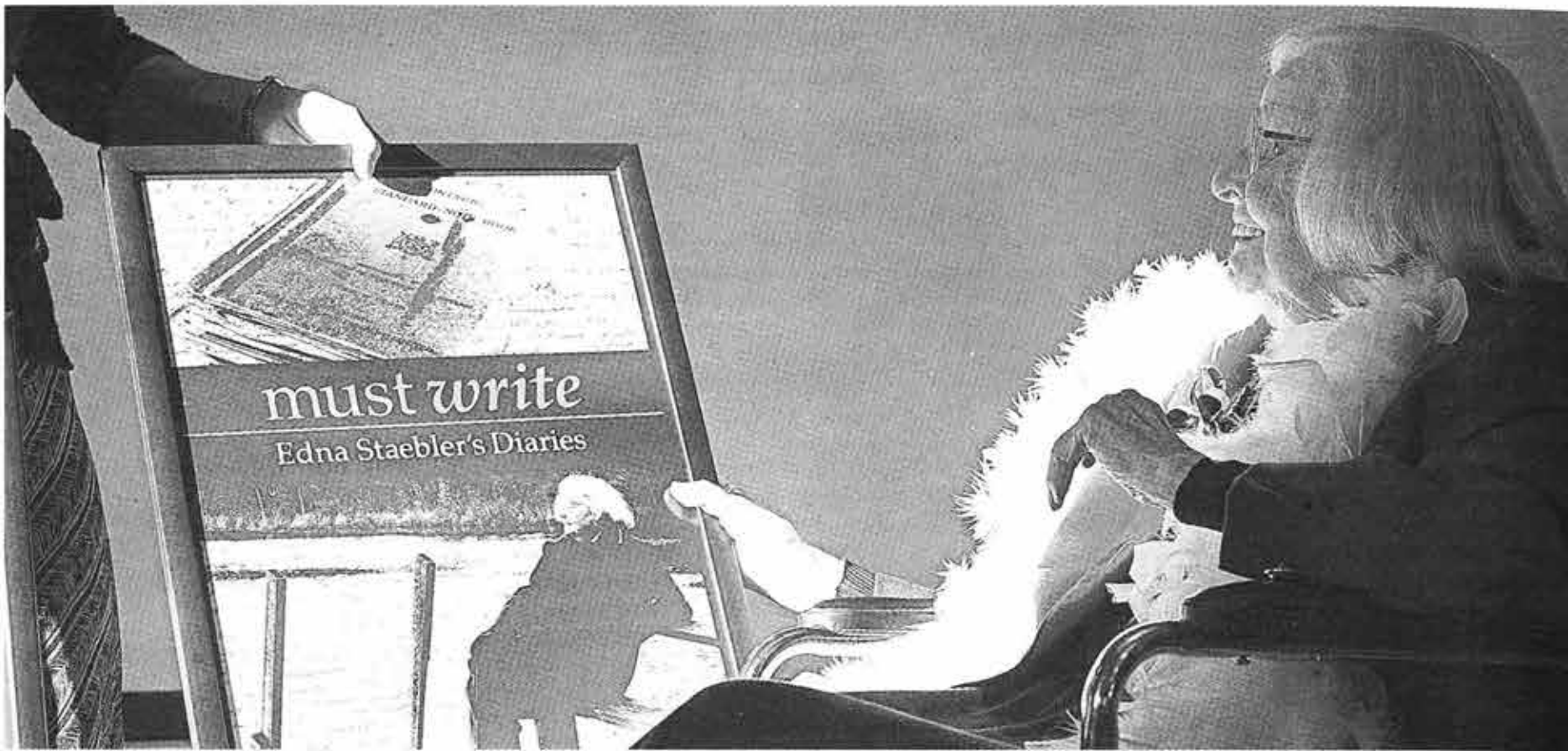
The only limits of any newspaper are those of the world
around it, and so *The Cord* will attempt to cover its world
with a special focus on Wilfrid Laurier University, and the
community of Kitchener-Waterloo, and with a special eye to
the concerns of the students of Wilfrid Laurier University.
Ultimately, *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 editorial
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 reprimands, 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.

Turning over a page of life

Nationally renowned author Edna Staebler celebrates 100th birthday amongst family and friends at WLU



Matt Symes

WALKING DOWN MEMORY LANE - Edna Staebler admires a memento of her work presented at her birthday party this past Sunday afternoon at Laurier.

VICTORIA BEGIN Cord News

This past Sunday, Laurier joined Canadian literary legend Edna Staebler in celebrating her centennial birthday.

Staebler, award-winning journalist and the author of several cookbooks, is treasured as a Canadian icon.

An assortment of family, friends and fans filled the Senate and Board Chamber, bringing Edna their best wishes. A basket outside the door overflowed with birthday cards. Among the guests present were Canadian author Wayson Choy, food critic Rose Murray and TVO's *Studio 2* co-host Paula Todd.

According to Lois van Slyck, a close friend of the author, Staebler has touched many lives in her own special way.

"Edna is a special lady with special writing," van Slyck said, adding, "I especially like her little writings before her recipes; reading her cookbook is like watching cooking on television."

A native of Kitchener, Staebler began writing at an early age. However, it was only when she turned 16 that she began writing in diaries. The first of many was published in *Maclean's* magazine in 1948. Staebler's body of work as an author includes numerous articles for magazines such as *Chatelaine* as well as the *Toronto Star*.

Before the formal program began, Edna was the recipient of many hugs, kisses and well wishes from a huge line of people that went from the front of the room to out the door.

The Edna Staebler Award for

Creative Non-Fiction, which Edna has endowed for Laurier students, stems from her own experience as a young writer.

In a video, Edna stated that it was an award she won at a young age that encouraged her to progress with her writing.

She created her award to show young Canadian writers that they are important. "It is so gratifying to me to have young writers become my friends," Edna said.

The guest speakers shared affectionate and funny stories about the author. Edna sat at the front of the room, her face aglow with a wide smile.

Kevin Thomason, a graduate of Laurier and Edna's next-door neighbor, referred to Edna as one of his best friends, saying, "We have amazing contrasts in who we are, but Edna's diverse interests

make it easy to connect with her."

Thomason's mother, Norine, shared a story about a time when she had visitors from France, and Edna, who was over at her house at the time, was able to carry a long conversation with them about the country.

On another occasion, Norine had company from Ireland and Edna was able to talk about the country and share her own stories.

"She is a very well-read, well-traveled woman with a phenomenal memory," she said.

Upon being asked by Paula Todd what the author's secret was to living such a long life, she replied, "Just because I am old doesn't mean I know everything. Just live every day."

The Waterloo - Laurier battle begins

Neighbouring schools participate in mock competition made famous by The Donald and his firing techniques

CATHERINE MANN Cord News

Last Wednesday, a twist on Donald Trump's catch phrase "You're Fired!" was heard around the Waterloo community as the first "Waterloo vs. Laurier Apprentice" debuted in the Wilfrid Laurier University Concourse.

The eleven-week competition is the brainchild of students from the University of Waterloo as well as Wilfrid Laurier University, presented by Waterloo Off-Campus Housing.

When asked what prompted the idea of creating this competition, the Executive Advisor to the

"Waterloo vs. Laurier Apprentice", Gabriel Tomescu, responded that it was their "Love for the Trump".

"The Waterloo vs. Laurier Apprentice was created as a means of getting the competitive edge out between two rival schools within the same community. It will also showcase the skills of the students and get the community involved," he added.

Through an exhaustive search, sixteen candidates from WLU and UW were chosen based upon application forms and rounds of interviews.

"As a preliminary the candidates were to respond to a series of difficult questions on the applica-

tion forms and submit their resume as well as their grades. After that we went through a series of individual interviews, in which we were looking for candidates who were ambitious, open to new things and challenges; basically, we were looking for the best students we could find with winning personalities," Tomescu said.

There are sixteen candidates for the competition, with eight coming from each school. The two teams compete in a series of weekly challenges and eliminations to ultimately reveal who will be the "Apprentice".

The winning student will receive a \$2,500 scholarship to his

or her university.

The first competition, which took place this past Wednesday on the Laurier Campus, asked the two teams to sell random articles to patrons other than themselves.

With Laurier's victory, the first-person eliminated were University of Waterloo students Saied Khanahmadi, Project Manager for UW, and Andrea Flack.

The next series of tasks will take place today in the Student Life Centre on the UW campus between 11:30am and 2:30pm, with teams expected to sell t-shirts and collecting donations for the Red Cross.

5 DAY ACTION NEWS WEATHER FORECAST



Today	
Morning:	Afternoon:
Mainly Cloudy -1°C 30% POP	Variable Cloudiness 3°C 20% POP

Friday	Saturday
Light Rain High 5°C Low -1°C 80% POP	Isolated Flurries High -4°C Low -4°C 40% POP

Sunday	Monday
Mainly sunny High 0°C Low -11°C 0% POP	Light Rain High 2°C Low -5°C 90% POP

VOCAL CORD

Who will get your vote in Monday's federal election?



"I'm voting Liberal. I don't want Canada to become America."

- Victor Pinto
First Year Economics



"I already voted for the Green Party. I'm fed up with everyone else"

- Sam Archbelle
First Year English



"I'd vote for none of [the parties]. They all have their vices."

- Greg Memmott
Third Year Economics



"Liberals, just because my family always has."

- Cassandra Trudeau
First Year Psychology



"I'm voting Conservative. I'm sick of the same old Liberal games."

- Bryan Woodman
First Year Business

Compiled by Dan Poltschuk, photos by Sydney Helland

'Student ghetto' gets sketchier

Spruce Street area experiences recent streak of break-ins; frustrated residents left looking for answers

ADRIAN MA
News Editor

A recent string of criminal activity on Spruce street has left several Laurier students extremely frustrated and frightened.

"I know [Spruce Street] is a student ghetto, but it's really destroyed my image of the town," said Mike Segretto, a fourth-year Laurier student whose house was robbed this past Christmas Eve.

Segretto was in Oakville with his family when he received a phone call from the Waterloo Regional Police. They informed him that his house had been broken into.

Segretto returned to Waterloo to find that \$600 in DVDs had been pilfered. The thieves tried to make off with his television set, but were unable to move it beyond the bottom of the stairs. Designer clothes, shoes and electronic equipment were also taken from Segretto's roommates.

"My one roommate just got an insurance cheque for \$7000," said Segretto, adding that "it could have been a lot of worse."

Segretto lives at 335 Spruce, in a building that connects four housing units. Two out of the four units have been vandalized, something that Segretto feels is unreasonable.

He believes that police should increase their presence in student areas, especially during the winter holidays when many students return home.

"I'm sure there were certain steps that weren't taken that could've been," Segretto said.

"I was just really frustrated .. I feel just violated and unsafe in this student neighbourhood"

- Cody Rosenberg, Laurier student and recent Spruce Street robbery victim

Another house on Spruce Street has been terrorized as of late. Johnny Malciw and Cody Rosenberg are both third-year Laurier students, and have been dealing with a number of recent problems with theft and vandalism.

It began last Tuesday, January 10, when one of their roommates heard a racket between 2:30 and 3:30am. Thinking that the commotion was just her friends returning home from the bar, the roommate did not investigate. The following morning, Cody Rosenberg stepped out of her room and noticed the front door

was open and a fire extinguisher was set on the ground. She stepped in to her living room and was shocked.

"Everything was pretty much trashed," said Rosenberg.

She noticed immediately that the television was knocked out of

place. DVDs were missing and her roommate's winter jacket was gone. Also stolen were two DVD players and some alcohol. Inexplicably, she found slash marks on her green couch.

She woke up Malciw and the two examined their house, discovering that their garage had been entered as well. When their landlord visited later on, they found plastic bags around their property with some of their stolen goods. But even more disturbing was what they found at the side of their front lawn - two large knives from their kitchen.

"The only thing that upset me was that they had our knives," said Malciw. "The combination of knives and [us] sleeping ... I never knew Waterloo was this scary."

"I was just really frustrated," added Rosenberg. "I feel just vio-

lated and unsafe in this student neighbourhood."

The girls were again confronted with vandals two days later when, sometime late Thursday night, one of their roommates heard unfamiliar voices in the house. The voices disappeared, but suddenly, the silence was replaced by the sound of shattered glass. One of the window panes in their front door had been destroyed, and no one knows why.

Inspector Bryan Larkin of the Waterloo Regional Police said that break-and-enter crimes are all too common in student areas, and that students must be extra vigilant and remember to lock their doors. He suggests that students should work with their superintendents to ensure that all locks are working and effective.

Larkin did not know if the area of Spruce Street was being hit particularly hard by burglarly as of late, but said that "any number [of robberies] is too high."

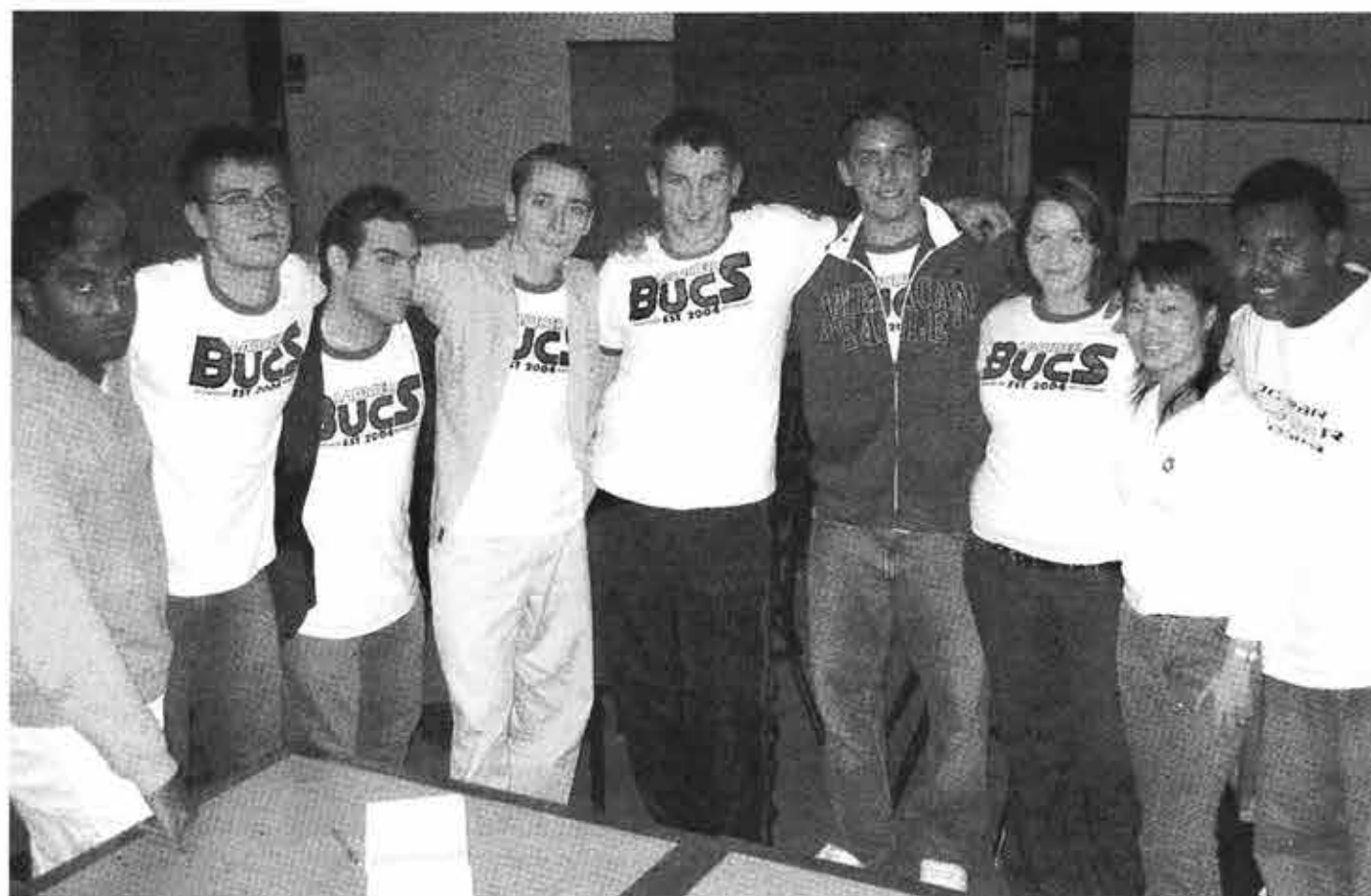
For now, all students like Rosenberg and Malciw can do is heed Larkin's advice.

"Every time we go out now, we make sure the door's locked," said Rosenberg.



Jordan Jocius

COME ONE, COME ALL! - Current Student Publications president Anthony Piscitelli (above left) directs voters to polling booths at WLUSP's Annual General Meeting on Monday night. Fraser McCracken defeated Zack Weinberg in a much-anticipated face-off and will take over the presidency in May.



THE "A+" TEAM - These Laurier biz kids are looking to make things a little easier for their peers in the classroom. Their tutelage has literally left a good mark with students using the service.

BUCS pay it forward

Biz kids help each other out with tutoring service; raise money for charities

ADRIAN MA
News Editor

Laurier business student Greg Overholt learned his lesson early in life and has parlayed his wisdom into a booming campus club that is helping students make the grade while raising money for charity.

Overholt, a third-year business and computing student, created Laurier Business and Computing Students (BUCS) with his friend Stew McKendry two years ago.

The club is just like any other; members get together socially to play cards, to study and commiserate and celebrate life as university students. But what sets the BUCS apart is their devotion to charity and the unique way they go about raising money.

The BUCS offer tutoring sessions before exams, helping first-years navigate through potentially treacherous business, economics and calculus course material.

Laurier students have been responding extremely well - this year alone, the BUCS have raised \$12,500 for charities like Free the Children and Computer Aid International. A school in Kenya, Africa has a new computer lab

thanks to funds raised by the club.

First-year BBA student Cayley Debrouwer attended tutoring sessions before her mid-term and final exams this past fall semester. She didn't know what to expect but the fact that most of her \$15 session fee went to charity made her feel like she had nothing to lose.

"It was really well-organized and the tutors were really knowledgeable and enthusiastic," said Debrouwer. She believed that the study help was of benefit and well worth the price of admission.

Debrouwer's only complaint is that the BUCS service is perhaps becoming too popular to remain effective - she would have preferred smaller sessions but understands that the BUCS likely did not anticipate such large turnouts.

Overholt attributes the success of the BUCS to its volunteer tutors - 25 students who each maintain an 'A' average.

"Every step of the way people have been there," said Overholt, who especially commended the efforts Matt Inglot and Krish Vadivale, the respective Economics and Math coordinators.

The BUCS would not exist if not for support from Laurier's School of Business and Economics (SBE)

and Waterloo-based technology giant Research in Motion (RIM). After being rejected by WLU's Students' Union, the BUCS received club status from SBE and was granted \$500 by RIM to start-up their venture.

Karen Klink, who oversees Government and University Relations for RIM, said that she is very impressed by the BUCS's accomplishments and the creativity demonstrated by the club.

She feels that the relationship between RIM and the BUCS is mutually beneficial - RIM actively recruits at universities and promotes much of their information through campus clubs. In return, student organizations benefit from much needed financial support.

McKendry recognizes that the appeal of participating in the BUCS as a volunteer is not only helping to raise money for charity, but also gaining practical experience that companies like RIM take notice of. Much like Debrouwer, McKendry feels that everyone wins from something like this.

"It's sort of that pay it forward thing," said McKendry.

U of T voters snubbed

Absence of on-campus voting booths stuns school

SARAH BARMAK
The Varsity (University of Toronto)

TORONTO (CUP) — U of T students and members of student government were shocked to learn this weekend that students would no longer be able to vote on campus.

The special voting stations were planned by the Students' Administrative Council to allow students living on residence to vote in or near their own buildings. Elections Canada nixed the stations in a phone call to SAC Saturday night, citing legal issues.

"We are shocked and angered by the irresponsibility and unprofessionalism of Elections Canada," said SAC president Paul Bretscher in a statement. "There are 4,000 students living in residence who were expecting to be able to cast their ballot today. Causing this kind of confusion for first-time voters will have a terrible impact on youth voting."

Because concerns about the legality of the special stations were first expressed by members of Liberal Tony Ianno's campaign, and not Elections Canada, cancelling the campus stations may have had a clear political motivation. Ianno is running for re-election in Trinity-Spadina, the larger of U of T's two St. George ridings.

There is some feeling in the riding that NDP candidate Olivia Chow stands to gain from higher student turnout, as there is sizeable NDP support on campus. In the last election, held after students returned home in the spring, she lost by only about 800 votes.

Tom Allison, campaign manager for Ianno, confirmed that he called a party lawyer on Friday, who called Elections Canada to raise the possibility that the special stations were not legal. He said that Elections Canada was not aware of the stations, and decided to cancel them. He insists that he was just trying to make sure everything was done by the book.

"There are no provisions in [elections law] for [this special vot-

ing] to take place," he insisted.

"We only asked the question, 'Is this legal?' And Elections Canada said 'No.'"

SAC arranged the special vote with the returning officer for Trinity-Spadina, Nick Ranieri.

Allison claims that they were kept in the dark about the special vote, and that at its highest level, Elections Canada in Ottawa was also unaware of it.

"We were never informed about this. We only heard this was happening when we saw posters put up by SAC about the stations," said Allison. "I spoke to [Conservative candidate] Sam Goldstein's campaign office and I can tell you, they didn't know either."

"It strikes me that there was a secret deal made here between SAC and Elections Canada," he said.

In fact, a fax sent to SAC from Olivia Chow's campaign headquarters, supplied by SAC, shows that both her office and Elections Canada knew about the special stations. The fax is a copy of a fax sent to Chow's campaign from Elections Canada on Wednesday that lists the addresses where each special poll was to be located on campus.

Further, Bretscher said he had been in contact with Derrick Barnes, director of operations of Elections Canada. Barnes had originally complained about the accountability of residence voter's lists last week. SAC drew up lists from the deans of each college and sent them to Barnes. After that, they thought the issue was settled.

"We've been working on this for weeks. It's not a particularly big secret," said Bretscher.

Although this is first time SAC has had on-campus voting in a federal election, it has done so for provincial elections in the past.

"I've never been able to vote before, so this election is a big deal for me. Now I have no idea what I am supposed to do," said first-year residence student Jonathan Dickson, who was planning to cast his first ballot yesterday.

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For details call 519.884.0710 ext. 6220 or write <mferraro@wlu.ca> for an appointment.

THE CORD WEEKLY

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News Editors Adrian Ma ama@cordweekly.com Dan Polischuk dpolischuk@cordweekly.com	Arts & Entertainment Editor Alex Hayter ahayter@cordweekly.com	Cord Historian Kris Cote kcote@cordweekly.com
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	Student Life Editor Michelle Pinchev mpinchev@cordweekly.com	

The students' choice

Throughout this election campaign, there have been numerous issues which have been endlessly debated by both the candidates and the media. Often, the rhetoric and mudslinging overshadow meaningful debate. So, for those of you feeling a bit overwhelmed by it all, *The Cord* breaks down the two election issues that are most relevant to students: education and economy.

First and foremost in students' minds is likely education.

While the Liberals' promise to pay half of both first and last-year's tuition, up to \$3,000, may seem enticing upon first glance, a closer look reveals some fatal flaws.

First, everyone does not automatically receive the full \$3,000. If your tuition is \$4,000 a year, you will only get \$2,000 - a far cry from the amount per year it actually costs to attend university. Living expenses account for the majority of the cost of post-secondary education, and the Liberals' plan does not address this adequately. As well, \$3,000 is merely a drop in the bucket for professional programs, whose tuition can run upwards of \$10,000 per year. But it's still money you wouldn't have otherwise.

The Conservatives want to make scholarships and bursaries tax-free, which would be a welcome change, but doesn't go far enough.

The NDP has the plan that would best benefit students. They are pushing for tuition reduction, which is sorely needed and vastly fair, as tuition has been increasing faster than inflation for many years. This is coupled with a plan to increase grants for education and improve the Canada student loans program - a very important step, as many students are often declared ineligible for government loans, despite the fact that they don't have enough money to pay for post-secondary education.

Economic issues will also have a big role in students' lives, especially those on the verge of graduating and entering the work force.

The Conservatives' major promise in this area is to decrease the GST to five percent, a plan that many argue will benefit higher-income earners with more disposable income, rather than those in need.

The NDP wants to keep the GST where it is, and institute tax reforms in other areas which benefit those with the lowest incomes (a category which includes most students). Still, some people are wary of trusting the NDP with the economy because of their strong emphasis on environmental and social issues.

The Liberals have the most effective plan for those in economic need - they increased the yearly income amount that federal income tax kicks in, providing relief for Canada's poorest citizens (highly useful for those of us graduating from Laurier with an Arts degree - we kid, we kid).

As such, a Liberal-NDP coalition would be the best for students. The Conservatives offer very little in the way of specific benefits for us, while the NDP will work to lower tuition and the Liberals will ensure there's a job waiting for us when we enter workforce.

So, if all the politicking is a bit much, at the very least keep these things in mind next Monday.

Inaugural WLUSP meeting off to a good start

It was night rather unlike any other for WLUSP. At the first-ever Annual General Meeting (AGM), over 200 people showed up to choose who would administer the student media. The fact that there was even a choice to be made was significant.

After three straight years of acclaiming the WLUSP president, it was at least good to have two candidates running for the job, even if one had no platform. It may have been a mismatch, but at least it was a match.

More importantly, the new electoral system proved itself harder to

hijack than Zack Weinberg and his "100 friends" would have hoped. In the future, if any one faction at Laurier tries to take over Student Pubs at the AGM, which anyone is entitled to do, they'll probably have to do it with a legitimate platform.

During the lively debate, someone asked Weinberg if his candidacy was "a fucking joke." It may have been, but the institution of the AGM certainly isn't.

Even if you could have a beer while you voted.



Give a damn

You've heard it all before, but it's true - every votes counts, and you're lucky to have the opportunity to do it, says **Features Editor Blair Forsyth-Stark**



The WLUSU Board of Directors just passed the following motions, effective immediately: a) in order to enhance school spirit, all students must now bow before the Vanier Cup Golden Gods, er.. Hawks, b) no student, regardless of age, shall partake in Thursday night drinking and debauchery and finally, c) students' tuition will now reflect how hot they look in a bathing suit, to be judged by the BOD.

These fictitious examples, albeit extreme, represent decisions that could be made on student's behalf should they relinquish their fundamental right to vote.

With the upcoming federal and WLUSU elections, the voter apathy of students is becoming a prevalent issue. With over 2,243,300 20-to-24-year-olds entitled to vote in Canada, students' voices can have an incredible impact on the electoral results. Politicians know this.

However, most students seem apathetic, feeling that their vote doesn't matter or that they have no vested interest in the campaign issues. They are wrong.

The old adage that every vote counts is oft-repeated around

election time, to the point of it being cliché, but every cliché is based on truth. An individual's vote is important, for a few reasons; primarily, if no one voted, democracy simply wouldn't work. By participating in elections, individuals are voicing their opinions on issues and the changes they want to see. If no one voted, the powers-that-be would have free reign to make decisions and Canada would effectively be under autocratic government.

Voting is also extremely important for reasons of personal growth. By not educating yourself on the issues at stake and not making an informed decision at the voter's station, you're doing yourself a disservice. You're limiting what you know about your country's operations and you're diminishing your role in the nation you call home. Elections raise many important issues and every citizen should know where they stand, or at least be informed of the pros and cons of the parties' positions on health care and education.

Because of the voter apathy prevalent among students, most politicians don't even bother directly addressing them. They ignore issues like tuition funding and legalization of marijuana in favour of senior citizen and child care, because that's where the votes are. By raising our collective voice, politicians will be forced to

cater to our wants and needs in order to gain our much desired vote.

To say that you don't vote because there are no issues that affect you is simply ignorant. Everyone is undoubtedly affected by health care, as at one point or another, you will need to use its services. Tuition funding from the government is essential in decreasing student debts which are worse than they've ever been. Many females, and by association, males, may have had to face the tough decisions surrounding an unwanted pregnancy, in which case a party's stance on abortion becomes important. You'd be hard-pressed to find individuals at Club Renaissance and abroad who don't have a vested interest in whether gays should be allowed to marry. The list goes on.

There is simply no reasonable excuse not to exercise your right, nay, responsibility, to vote on Jan. 23. There are many countries throughout the world who are incredibly envious of the Canada's free society, and by not voting, you are using your important voice to say nothing.

Educate yourself on the issues, find a party that aligns itself with your views, and on January 23, give a damn.

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

letters@cordweekly.com

> Laurier's campus political club leaders tell you why you should vote for their party (and not the others)



Getty Images

Paul's Liberals will further prosperity



On January 23, Canadians have to make a choice about the type of government they want. It is not an option not to vote; it is your responsibility as citizens of this great country to exercise your democratic right.

We have seen many issues emerge during this election campaign, and the choices could not be clearer. The Conservatives have, since the incursion of this campaign, introduced policy that pits of one set of Canadians against other.

Stephen Harper began this campaign by stating he would reopen the same-sex marriage debate, after the issue was settled in a vote in the House of Commons. Just recently, he said he would also reopen the missile defense debate, as well as once again voicing his opposition to the Kyoto Accord on climate change. Along with the proposed GST reduction, tax breaks for just about everyone and solutions to problems being just tax cuts, it seems the Conservative message for innovative change is just what Premier Mike Harris proposed in Ontario back in 1995.

As we know, the result of the "Common Sense Revolution" was a \$5.6 billion deficit and under-funded social programs in Ontario. The Conservatives say they can afford their tax cuts because of a large surplus, but what occurred under Mike Harris would simply take a bit longer to happen. Then Mr. Harper would have little option but to look at what social programs he would cut in order to find new money.

I believe Canadian values are progressive values, and our priorities should be on improving our health care, our post-secondary educa-

tion, our economy and our environment. The Liberals may have been in power for 12 years, and I understand the desire for change, but let me refresh your memory.

In 1993, Canada faced a \$42 billion deficit, was on the verge of financial collapse and was in danger of being declared an unofficial Third World country.

Paul Martin may not have been the most beloved man in Canada when he implemented massive cuts to all of Canada's programs in 1995, but he and the Liberal Party made those tough decisions in order to fulfill a goal that would lead us to becoming a strong country again: he eliminated the deficit and began paying down debt.

By doing so, Canada produced eight balanced budgets in a row, allowing us the extra money to fund the priorities of Canadians - priorities such as \$41 billion for health care to reduce wait times and hire more medical staff, \$2.2 billion for post secondary education (a start, and the Liberals plan to do more), cutting personal income taxes that are fiscally responsible, more money to invest in environmental protection and a new deal for cities that would result in improving the quality of life in Canada's urban centers.

Those are the Liberal priorities - a belief in a Canada working for the benefit of all Canadians, not the Conservative plan of offering incentives to separate groups of Canadians, forcing Canadians to fend for themselves in their own country.

I urge all Laurier students to not only make your voice heard and vote, but vote for the party that best represents Canadian values. That is the Liberal Party of Canada, and I hope we can count on your support on January 23 to keep Canada evolving as a great and prosperous country.

Alan Kan is the policy director for the Laurier Liberals

Tories will bring accountability

Change needed after years of corruption



Stephen Harper, a man once plagued by accusations of a hidden agenda, is now leading in the polls as we head into the final week of this lengthy election campaign.

The fact that Paul Martin's Liberals were found to be the party with something to hide contributed largely to this success. The scandals of the Liberal government have made ethics a serious concern in this federal election. Mr. Harper has demonstrated his commitment to bringing accountability back to Ottawa in the next parliament. Harper himself stated that he has evolved over the years and is more flexible on individual issues.

Throughout the campaign, Stephen Harper has focused on showing Canadians what a Conservative government would look like and what their priorities would be. The top five priorities of the Conservatives in the next parliament are to:

- Clean up government by passing the Federal Accountability Act;
- Provide real tax relief to working families by cutting the GST;
- Make our streets and communities safer by cracking down on crime;
- Help parents with the cost of raising their children;
- Work with the provinces to establish a Patient Wait Times Guarantee.

A Conservative government would mean the end of "the culture of entitlement" created by over 12 years of Liberal government. Our local Liberal

incumbent, Andrew Tegledi, has done a fine job of towing the Liberal line of thinking that they are better and more deserving than the rest of us.

During the all candidates' debate in our Senate and Board Chambers, he spouted off about how the New Democrat candidate and other challengers do not matter in this election as the race is between himself and the Conservative candidate.

Our Conservative candidate for Kitchener-Waterloo, Ajmer Mandur, does provide an accountable alternative to Mr. Tegledi, who is seeking his fifth term. After years of Liberal monopolization of our government, it is time for change in Ottawa.

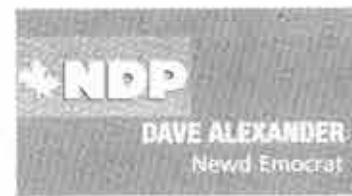
Their long reign has led to ethical problems that have become synonymous with the Canadian government. While Mr. Tegledi has been sitting in his seat on Parliament Hill, Ajmer Mandur has been working hard to become a successful entrepreneur and raise his children. Mr. Mandur served on the Regional Safety and Crime Prevention Council and the Waterloo Neighbourhood Watch Board.

He hopes that you can help him give back to the community that has provided so much for his family. He strongly believes in the Conservative values of family and freedom and hopes to help bring these values to the federal government.

Mr. Mandur hopes to contribute to a government that will stand up for Canada by standing up for Kitchener-Waterloo.

Rob Elliott is the president of Laurier's Campus Conservatives

Layton's vision sets NDP apart



On January 23, Canadians face a choice between two visions for Canada. This is what Paul Martin said, so let's go with it.

Stephen Harper's vision for Canada is clear: he would cancel the national childcare program, work to take back the right of gay and lesbian couples to get married and abandon our Kyoto commitments.

Many Canadians don't share Stephen Harper's conservative vision for Canada. These Canadians believe that a high-quality national childcare program is essential. We believe that two people who love each other should be able to receive the same benefits regardless of their sexual orientation. We believe that Canadians see themselves as global citizens devoted to environmental sustainability; as peacekeepers that participate in international institutions bound by international law; as advocates for international human rights and as a compassionate nation devoted to the elimination of global poverty.

This is Jack Layton's vision for Canada.

Paul Martin has no vision for Canada. After rewriting a conservative budget this summer (because Stephen Harper would not support the first draft of the Liberal budget) Paul Martin made a deal with the New Democratic Party to support his government. New Democrats rewrote the Liberal budget, creating new investment in public transit, the environment, affordable housing and post-secondary education.

New Democrats have a record of getting results for people. The Liberals have a record of broken promises.

Here are a few examples:

- After promising a national childcare program in four straight elections, New Democrats forced the Liberals to deliver on this promise during the last parliament.

- While New Democrat MPs have called for Canada to do its part to Make Poverty History, Paul Martin refuses to set a timeline for Canada to commit to the foreign aid target of 0.7% GDP set out by the UN's Millennium Development Goals.

- While New Democrats join Amnesty International in calling for Canada to respect international standards for arrest, detention and fair trials, Martin's Liberals have allowed Security Certificates to erode our civil liberties.

- It was NDP Members of Parliament who spoke out against the illegal US invasion of Iraq. Paul Martin remained silent. In fact, when Martin became Prime Minister, he named David Pratt, a supporter of the invasion of Iraq, as his first Defence Minister. After Pratt was defeated in the last federal election, Martin's next choice was a supporter of ballistic missile defence. Again, on this issue, it was New Democrats who forced the government to take a stand against ballistic missile defence.

Edwin Laryea, the New Democratic Party candidate in Kitchener-Waterloo, is a retired high school teacher and principal with a strong record of community involvement. Due to the strength of Edwin's candidacy, the NDP has a real chance in Kitchener-Waterloo. As your Member of Parliament, Edwin Laryea will work to turn this positive vision for Canada into positive results for Canadians.

Dave Alexander is the president of Laurier Activist New Democrats

Presenting your PM candidates

Veronica Hughes gives you some interesting tidbits about your political leaders, including the effects of their excessive hairspray use



VERONICA HUGHES
Rant Space

Liberal Party

Current leader: Prime Minister Paul Martin, former shipping executive.



Interesting fact: the Paul Martin Centre was actually named after his father.

Best known for: sponsorship scandal, family's shipping empire, cleaning up Jean's mess.

Unless you have been living under a rock, I'm sure you know about the Liberal scandal under the leadership of former Prime Minister Jean Chretien. He gave millions of taxpayer dollars to the Quebec government to keep separatism at bay that should have been spent on social programs, like education. The Gomery Commission has come out with a report on the scandal. The Liberal Party, under the current leadership of Prime Minister Paul Martin, has agreed to give Liberal Party money back to taxpayers, but as of yet nothing else has materialized.

Conservative Party

Current leader: Stephen Harper,

active politician with a masters in Economics.

Interesting fact: His hair never moves. The amount of hairspray he uses could be the contributing factor to the ozone problem.

Best known for: having a dull personality, not being able to smile at the camera, scaring off voters in the last election.

Harper usually refuses to use the media to his advantage, which is the lifeline of any election campaign, however, his campaign team has been working overtime making sure he comes off personably. He is also extremely traditional and family-oriented and has made comments about reversing the marriage law to exclude gay marriage. He has been told several times by all opposition leaders and MPs he cannot do this, but



says if elected he will find a way. The new and somewhat improved Conservative Party traditionally has strong support in the West, where its roots are.

New Democratic Party (NDP)

Current leader: Jack Layton, former City of Toronto councillor.

Interesting fact: his father was a Conservative MP in Montreal. Like father, like son? Apparently not here.



Best known for: having a great personality, but sometimes coming off as a used car salesman.

Layton is extremely personable, and uses the media at every available opportunity. At the last election he was the only party leader that went to MuchMusic's Rock the Vote campaign to try and steer some interest in the youth vote. Some say he is too much of a tree hugger and, because of that, frightens some people into thinking he does not have enough

gumption to rule a country. In the last debate he declared that the NDP is the third option, begging the question of if he even thinks he could be Prime Minister.

Bloc Quebecois

Current leader: Gilles Duceppe

Interesting Fact: according to the CBC, his separatist feelings were born out of bullying from Anglophones at his Montreal elementary school. So, the cause for



the separatist movement is bullying? It all makes sense now ...

Best known for: being a separatist, making hilarious comments about the Liberals like, "You govern like Tories and campaign like the NDP".

Not having any party membership outside of Quebec, the Bloc knows they will never become a national party, since they do not have enough seats to do so; they are simply there to remind the federal government that the Quebecois comprise an important cultural minority group that deserve representation at the national level.

Nationalists say it's to make sure Quebec has a stake in everything Canadian because if they don't whine enough we forget they're there. Basically, if you don't live in Quebec you cannot vote for them.

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Tunnel voting a necessary evil

Undecided voters: it's easy to be overwhelmed by party rhetoric and media overexposure, but not if you can find YOUR wedge issue



BRANDON CURRIE
Editor-in-Chief

Education, health care, crime, taxes, sovereignty, trust, national defence, aboriginal affairs, the economy, foreign policy, social spending, child-care and my favourite, the notwithstanding clause. Just some of the things Canadians will be considering when they go to the polls on Monday.

Yes, of all the reasons not to vote in the upcoming federal election, the 'too many issues to make a balanced, informed choice' excuse is a reasonable one, especially in an election that doesn't have a clear-

cut wedge issue.

Suddenly, the 1988 'free trade election' seems painfully simple.

Blame the media for desensitizing voters with relentless election coverage. Blame the candidates for confusing voters with beat-around-the-bush rhetoric. Blame our political process where local candidates have virtually no independent voice in Parliament to fight for the voters that elected them.

Since we're past the age of making pro/con decision-making charts and don't have the time or attention span to read and compare party policy manuals, how do hard-working Canadians have time to sit down and really weigh the options (for the second time in 18 months, no less)? They don't. At least the vast majority.

On top of this, there are columnists, candidates, commercials and commentators all telling us how to vote. In this, the information era, it's easy to see why voters are more fatigued than ever.

But voting need not be all-encompassing. It's as simple as picking one issue, your issue, and voting on that alone. While it might not be a democratic ideal to aspire to, in the fight to get as many Canadians to speak up as possible, subtlety is overrated.

While many rely on media analysis or family voting patterns to make their decision, for the undecided among us, it's all about finding that one issue that holds the most water.

Here's an example. I'll be voting Liberal because of their foreign policy. Not that theirs has been

especially great (see: Haiti), but it's been pretty good overall (see: Canadian troops rebuilding Afghanistan, not policing Iraq).

Now, I'm probably guilty of comparing Liberal foreign policy to America's, which would make almost any government look wise, but I like where the Grits have taken Canada: closer to Europe and further away from our southern neighbours. Paul Martin, who looks more apt for a nursing home than a campaign trail, has at least been the first leader to realize that the United States needs us just as much as we need them. The Liberal Party has adjusted their rhetoric accordingly.

But a vote 'for' something is always going to be a vote 'against' another, and the prospect of a Conservative-run foreign policy is

what I think scares most Canadians into not choosing them. More missile silos, greenhouse gases and official visits to Crawford, Texas are not what most reasonable Canadians want. Ask Spain and England the cost of cozying up to the American military machine.

And that's it. No further debate necessary. Liberal it is. Gomery and the RCMP investigation? Don't care. The notwithstanding clause? An overrated constitutional loophole. Paul Martin untrustworthy? He still has my trust.

It might be dangerous to dumb-down democracy, but until the electoral system, media and political parties stop obfuscating the issues, I refuse to smarten up.

letters@cordweekly.com

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- ☐ The Liberals - They're bloated with power, but still best represent Canadian values
- ☐ The Tories - They're not the Liberals, and it's time for a change
- ☐ NDP - Splitting the left is necessary to have a healthy balance of power
- ☐ Green Party - It's time to boost their funding and get on the national debates
- ☐ The Bloc - Your home riding is in Quebec
- ☐ Other - You're either a fascist or a Marxist-Leninist
- ☐ Nobody - Didn't I just vote 18 months ago?

Vote

Results

JANUARY 2006

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22						

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If you haven't received this card, you are probably not on the voters list. To be able to vote, all you have to do is go to your polling station on election day, January 23, and present an official document that includes your name, address and signature. If you do not have such a document, you will be given the opportunity to swear that you are eligible to vote at the polling station you are in, as long as you are accompanied by a voter registered in the same polling division who can vouch for your identity.

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Elections Canada

Capitalism can have a conscience

As students, we should temper the capitalist economy we're entering with the teachings of our Arts degrees - perhaps looking to the example of Grameen Bank



CHRIS COLLIE
The Space Between

It's tough when your university career begins to wind down in fourth-year.

Fascinating dichotomies appear between the "who will you become now?" question and the various critiques of the world bestowed upon us by the Ivory Tower. The way-of-the-world and the ideological content of the Arts wing never come together as a tasty beverage.

We all know the latter means well, nevertheless, its disdain for capitalism, among other things, makes answering the "who you will become now?" question rather difficult as we enter the decidedly capitalist economy.

Yet how does one escape, and where does one go with an Arts degree if not into the capitalist abyss?

Of course, what also makes this question even more difficult is how it's usually asked while drinking. It's either over the holiday season by *every single person* or while you're out cramming in all the excitement you can before you're discarded by the campus in April.

Or, as happened to me, the question is posed to you at a bar by one of the most articulate and intelligent professors you've had—

and thus, you're plagued by embarrassment when you decide to speak the truth.

My response was, "marketing." Hers was, "Have I taught you nothing?" This was to be expected.

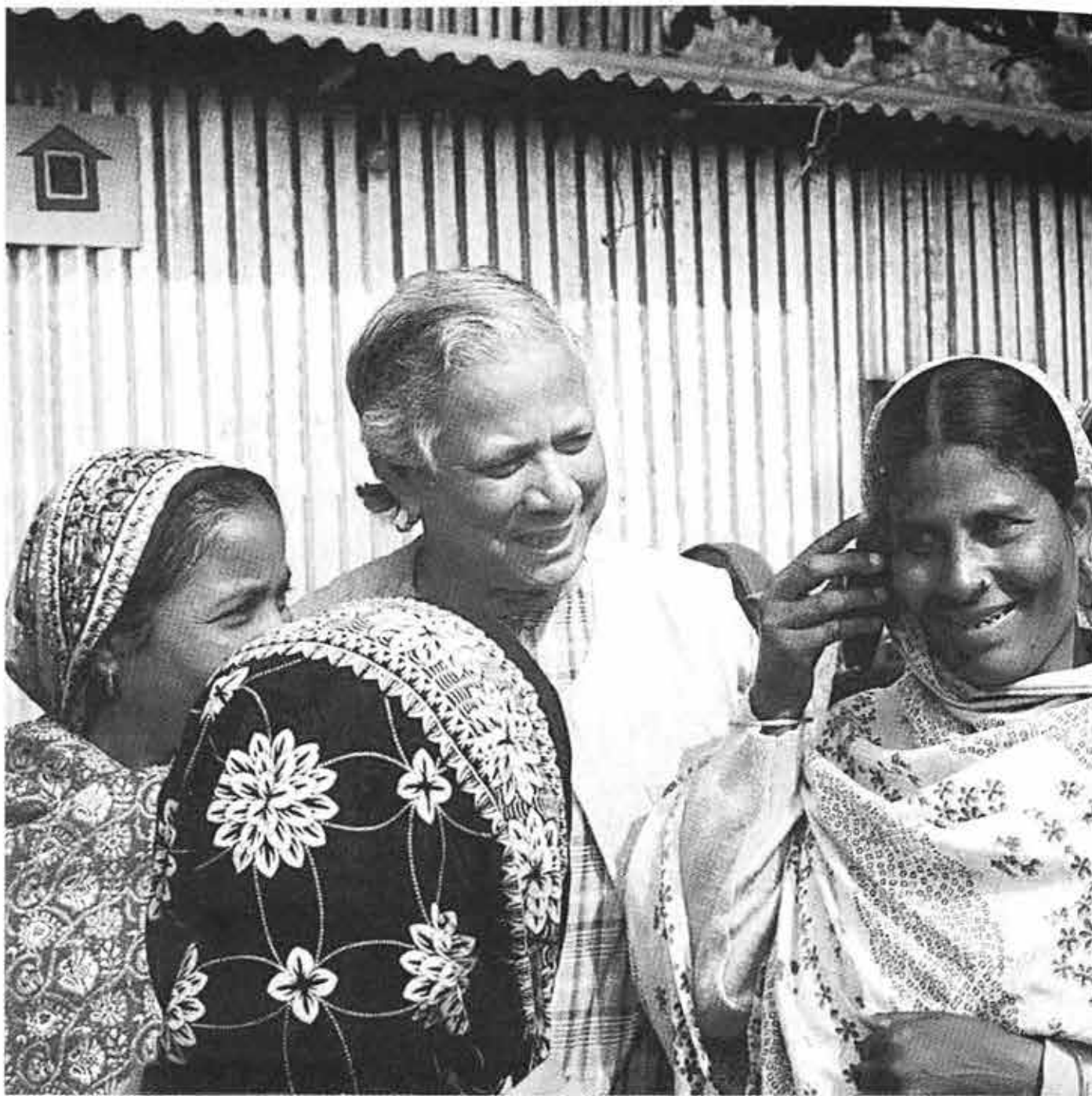
I can recall all the way back to first year, reading books such as Naomi Klein's *No Logo*, and their illustration of how marketing in our current context only exists to manufacture desires, with any fundamental grounding of utility eclipsed by the hype and image which we all can't get enough of.

Yet how does one escape, and where does one go with an Arts degree if not into the capitalist abyss?

Discussions like these always lead to further pondering, and ultimately the question: "In my life, will I be a positive and proactive source of betterment for the world, or will I choose to support and propagate what already exists?"

Let's discuss someone who really chose to think differently, in the hope that it will inspire us to think about a compromise between the two.

M u h a m m a d Yunus is the founder of Bangladesh's Grameen Bank, and considered by *Business Week* magazine to be a "leading advocate for the world's poor." Yunus started his career as an economics professor at Chittagong University, and is now currently the head of a financial organization that has lent over \$5.1 billion to 5.3 million poor people within developing countries.



Contributed Photo

TAKE IT TO THE GREMEEN BANK - Happy-looking Bangladeshis appear pleased with the bank's microcredit program as they wait outside a branch in Dhaka.

Although his company operates upon a profit-based model, its roots are anchored in concern—concern for the over 1.2 billion individuals upon this planet that lack basic necessities.

The fascinating aspect of this story is the means by which he thought of and began his quest: the first time Yunus lent money to a poor individual for development purposes was \$27 dollars out of his own pocket, to a group of craftsmen in the town of Jobra.

The premise he founded within this initial loan was simple: if given the opportunity, poor people could be both dependable borrowers and powerful entrepreneurs

The premise he founded within this initial loan was simple: if given the opportunity, poor people could be both dependable borrowers and powerful entrepreneurs.

neurs—all they required was a very small amount of initial capital as a jump-start.

The approach is called microfinance (or microcredit) and has created an entirely new method for individuals to escape poverty. It is a hybrid of financial return and a concern for the well-being of others.

Yunus looked at the idea of lending to the poor from an entirely new perspective, one which traditional financial institutions did not take the time to consider. They could never get past the question of how the world's poor could offer a positive financial return on investment, let alone pay back what was initially lent. As such,

they wrote off poor individuals as those who would only benefit from governmental (or otherwise) charity and hand-outs.

However, as Yunus demonstrated

ed through the Grameen Bank, if given a small opportunity, poor individuals could be given a chance to bring themselves out of poverty through their own drive and ambition, as charity in many cases does not allow for a ground-up development solution.

Yunus simply asked: who in life would not want to be given the chance to improve their situation with the help of those who want you to succeed? Even on a scale that is rather ridiculously small to those who already have wealth—capital can be a powerful anti-poverty agent.

Yunus is a unique success story and an example of a maverick personality who chose not to take the common path. Could we say, a capitalist with a conscience?

This is something for all of us who are finishing within the next few months to ponder as the end to our academic isolation draws closer. I wonder if he needs any marketers ...

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Campus Pictorial

~ Laurier Stars on Ice ~

No, these aren't extras for Disney's next IceCapades spectacular, they're just unfortunate Laurier students trying to navigate a very slippery Quad during Tuesday's ice storm. Alas, even *The Cord* can't fault anyone for this one. Except that bastard Old Man Winter. And PP&P.



Sydney Holland

See things a little differently?



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Matt Symes

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Lady Hawks heating up

LAUREN MILLET
Sports Writer

What looked to be an ordinary weekend of varsity basketball ended up changing the record books. Along with a couple of victories, Laurier's Meaghan McGrath shot her way into CIS history.

The weekend began with the 6-5 Hawks playing host to the 7-4 Queen's Golden Gaels. While it was an extremely energetic game that saw the scoring bounce back and forth, Laurier held on to defeat Queen's 59-48, with strong performances from McGrath and Kerri Jilesen.

"We shot the ball really well, we ran really well, everybody played extremely well. It was awesome."

- Stu Julius, Golden Hawks Head Coach

Jilesen led the Golden Hawks' offence, netting 15 for the game, with McGrath adding 12.

After the game, Coach Stu Julius explained his team's success. "What we wanted to do early was run, run, run, and it took us a while to do that. Our main goal was to shut Clair Meadows down, their leading scorer, and I think we did a pretty good job with that."

Meadows still managed to get hers, scoring 14 instead of her season-average of 15.4, but it was not enough to stop the Hawks.

With one game down, the now 7-5 Hawks headed into Saturday's match-up against the 0-12 RMC Paladins with one thing on their minds: emerging with a victory. Little did they know that another prize was waiting for their on-court leader, McGrath.

From the opening tip to the final buzzer, the Hawks ruled the court. They were superior in every aspect of the game, annihilating RMC 96-38.

McGrath led the team with a total of 31 points. On top of her outstanding all-around performance, she broke the CIS record for three-pointers in a single game. Hitting nine from beyond the arc,

McGrath upped the CIS mark by one.

"We shot the ball really well, we ran really well, everybody played extremely well," stated Coach Julius after the game. "It was awesome."

When asked about her performance, McGrath was quite modest. "We're meshing really good right now, after playing for four months together. I think we are at our peak right now," she explained.

The team's strength and determination will be put to the test next weekend as they travel to Hamilton for a meeting with the OUA's top team, the McMaster Marauders. Mac is 13-1 and have not lost at home this season.



Matt Symes

WONDER WOMAN - Meaghan McGrath goes hard to the hoop on Friday against Queen's. The next night she set a CIS record, nailing nine threes.



Contributed photo

VANDERCHOKED - Indy's previously reliable kicker, Mike Vanderjagt, shows his disgust after a badly missed 46-yarder in Sunday's Colts-Steelers game.

NFL playoff charm shown in Colts' loss



JOE TURCOTTE
Sports Writer

It was beginning to look as though the heavens were in alignment and that this was a season of destiny for the Indianapolis Colts.

After the defending champion New England Patriots had been snake-bitten in Denver a day earlier, it seemed like the stage was set for Indy to tackle their super-sized Super Bowl demons. Eager writers everywhere were ready to anoint the good-guy Colts as the team destined to win Super Bowl XL.

But the dogfight that leads to the NFL's title game is a funny beast, and Manning's men got a reminder on Sunday that the playoffs can be cruel.

During the regular season, the Colts had been nearly unstoppable as they amassed an impressive 14-2 record. With a young defence asserting itself and an offence led by two MVP candidates, the Colts entered the playoffs as the AFC favourite to make an appearance in Detroit.

But alas, the regular season is not the place where careers are defined. The playoffs are. There, a single play can haunt you for eternity - and they probably will for Mike Vanderjagt, whose badly botched 46-yard field goal cost the Colts their bid for NFL supremacy.

Just ask Jerome Bettis. After fumbling the ball on the Colts' one-yard line and giving Peyton Manning the chance to drive for a game-tying field goal, he looked as if he knew his stellar 13-year career might get summed up by a twist of fate.

As the Colts moved into position and the Steelers began to get tangled up in the blue and white glory of a Colts comeback, Bettis had to know that he had put his team's season at stake. Luckily for 'The Bus', Vanderjagt would be the biggest goat of the day as he pulled a Scott Norwood and pushed a crucial field goal well wide to the right. While Vanderjagt is the NFL's most accurate kicker of all-time, such statistics don't matter in the playoffs - only winning does.

As cruel as it may be, that's the beauty of playoff competitions. On any given play, dreams can be fulfilled; at any given moment, gut-wrenching horrors can come true. A season full of successes can come undone as quickly as it takes to shank a field goal, fumble a ball or throw an interception. Or a season of mediocrity can be forgotten with one timely catch or terrific tackle.

While the Steelers and Colts traded punches on Sunday afternoon, millions of viewers sat riveted to their seats or paced nervously in their living rooms. Fans cheered their team's successes or suffered through shock and disbelief as the fortunes of their team turned sour. The next game is a season away, which makes the next play ever-important.

Nobody likes to be the fall-guy, but when a game comes down to a single play, it's unavoidable. The pressure must be overwhelming, and it's hard not to feel sorry for the player who costs his or her team their season. But without all this drama, and the accompanying potential for unbridled success or unmitigated failure, would the games even be worth watching?

letters@cordweekly.com

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Men's Football*Ian Logan embarks on CFL career*

After five seasons as a cornerstone of the Hawks secondary, defensive back Ian Logan signed with the CFL's Winnipeg Blue Bombers on Monday. The Waterloo native was a two-time team MVP, three-time OUA All-Star, and two-time first team All Canadian in his time at WLU.

Women's Hockey*Hawks running away with OUA*

With two road wins over Toronto and Brock this weekend, the Lady Hawks increased their OUA stranglehold to ten points. Rookie forwards Denise Harrop and Andrea Ironside provided the offence in a 2-1 Friday win over Toronto. The following night, rookie netminder Kirsten Trost picked up the shutout in a 2-0 win over Brock. The Hawks are now 14-1-1.

Men's Hockey*WLU sweeps home-and-home with Guelph*

The Hawks picked up a pair of key victories against the Guelph Gryphons, winning 4-3 on Thursday in Guelph and 6-3 at home on Saturday. The team moves to 8-6-2-1 and is now tied with York for the Mid West division lead with seven games left.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
Jan 18 - Jan 25, 2006
01/14/06

W Volleyball 3, McMaster 0
W Basketball 96, RMC 38
M Basketball 85, RMC 65
W Hockey 2, Brock 0
M Hockey 6, Guelph 3

01/13/06

W Basketball 59, Queen's 48
M Basketball 80, Queen's 56
W Hockey 2, Toronto 1

01/12/06

M Hockey 4, Guelph 3

01/11/06

W Volleyball 3, Guelph 0
M Volleyball 1, Guelph 3

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

01/16/06

M Volleyball vs York
7:00 PM, Athletic Complex

01/20/06

W/M Volleyball vs Queen's
6:00/8:00 PM, Athletic Complex

01/21/06

W/M Basketball vs Waterloo
2:00/4:00 PM, Athletic Complex
W/M Volleyball vs RMC
6:00/8:00 PM, Athletic Complex

**Laurier Bookstore
ATHLETES OF THE WEEK**

James Edgar
Men's Hockey

Meaghan McGrath
Women's Basketball

www.laurierathletics.com



HANG TIME - Laurier point guard Omar Miles soars to the hoop as a pair of Queen's Golden Gaels look on in frightened awe during the Hawk's 80-56 victory Friday night. Miles

Hawks begin imposing cli

Coach Peter Campbell admits culpability for team's lack of chemistry; squad to recommit defensively entering season's challenging s

PARRY SOHI
Sports Writer

Going into this past weekend with a 3-7 record, Laurier's men's basketball team was looking to build some confidence as they faced a pair of weak Kingston opponents, the 3-7 Queen's Golden Gaels on Friday and a 0-10 RMC team Saturday night.

In the opening minutes against Queen's, both teams played to their identically poor records; turnovers, poor offensive execution and sluggish defence were all too common on both sides of the court.

But ten minutes into the half Laurier began to set the tone on defence, leading to excellent offensive opportunities. Fourth-year post presence Rob Innes led the Hawks with 12 points, asserting his dominance in the paint both offensively and defensively.

The Gaels came out strong in the second half, as third-year guard Simon Mitchell opened with a pair of threes. Despite the run, the Hawks quickly halted their momentum with superb half-court defence, led by inspired guard play from Todd Cooney.

The second-half offensive spark for WLU came from fifth-year guard Wade Currie. He scored a quick 10 points, hitting two from beyond the arc and two interior jumpers. Queen's was dealt a final blow as fourth-year Hawks transfer Brandon Gorman came off the bench to put on a shooting clinic, scoring 14 straight points. The final score was 80-56 in favour of Laurier.

After the game, Cooney expressed how important the win was for the team. "We need two wins this weekend," he explained. "Queen's was the tougher team, but we're not going to take RMC lightly."

Indeed, Laurier carried their momentum from Friday's win into the contest with RMC; the Hawks opened the game with excellent interior defence, catalyzed by Innes' shot blocking and rebounding.

Second-half action was plagued by early foul trouble for the Hawks. Laurier opened the door five minutes into the half, lacking discipline and committing seven consecutive fouls. As a result, RMC found themselves in the bonus for the remainder of the game.

Despite the poor play from Laurier, Hawks

forward Andrew MacKay gave the team an offensive push, hitting a total of five threes and finishing the game with 17 points. Currie added another 15 points, while post Bert Riviere pitched in with 11. The final score was 85-65 to Laurier.

Ultimately, WLU took both must-win games this weekend and is looking to make a playoff push. According to Head Coach Peter Campbell, "these wins were crucial. If we lost [either] of these two we could have folded it up and gone to Florida."

In the Queen's game, Campbell felt the team brought the defensive intensity needed to win, but was unhappy with the team's showing against RMC despite the twenty-point victory.

"RMC played much better than we did," Campbell claimed. "I'm very disappointed in our team's performance and lack of defensive intensity."

In light of this weekend's wins, the previous seven game fall-out seems puzzling, particularly given the abundance of key returning players from last year's squad that advanced to the second round of the playoffs.

Coach Campbell feels that the team's "confi-

was shaky" dur close games, th ing confidence in ers. However, r the team to get 18" centre. "It's round."

Order to do just elop the solid ing in this year's wingman Corey Vary.

over, it will be d a steady subs Chemistry, as it court. "Tha bell. "I sub too ing ahead, th al liter-conferer against McM em, Guelph an decide the playo ball team.

From baby-boomer to hippie : 1966-1976

With the school changing its name, the Vietnam War and prohibition on campus, it was yet another turbulent decade for WLU and its newspaper



Courtesy of Wilfrid Laurier University Archives and Special Collections

THE MORE STUDENTS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY DRINK THE SAME - Football and beer have always gone together for WLU, but in the mid-1960s students caught drinking could be expelled.

KRIS COTE
Cord Historian

A *Cord* editorial from Jan. 13, 1967 refuted *Time* magazine for naming the 'Now Generation' the Man of the Year.

While *Time* argued that the youth were a generation of activists, *The Cord Weekly* asserted that this label should only apply to, at most, 10 percent of "today's youth."

Instead, wrote *The Cord*, "few Canadian students wish to deviate from the Spartan code of professionalism."

This editorial was timely in the development of *The Cord Weekly*, which, in its fifth decade saw a fundamental shift in the attitudes and opinion of those who shaped its content.

Beginning in 1968, *The Cord* began to develop an anti-administration attitude, and the issues that were important to students were routinely deconstructed in an effort to reveal the power that controlled the university's system.

While it was not always obvious in the pages of *The Cord*, students were not operating within a bubble, and major issues like Quebec separatism and Vietnam occasionally cropped up.

At the same time, the school underwent its final dramatic change, becoming a public institution rather than a religious school.

Women: responsibility vs. liberation

Like many subjects in *The Cord*, the issue of women's rights evolved dramatically over this decade. Beginning in 1965, pictures of 'The Girls' and full-page photo spreads were routinely used

to display pictures of 'The Freshettes', 'Campus Queens' or 'Canadian Snow Queens'. These features were all phased out over 1967-68, though there was never any published opposition to them or pictures of 'The Guys'.

Other key issues were birth control and pregnancy; topics that were initially devoted strictly towards women, neglecting the role that men played in the process.

For instance, a Nov. 24, 1967 article detailed a speech given to female students concerning the pill. "Birth control," the participants and readers were told, "is essentially a woman's problem." While the pill had the potential to lead to increased sexual activity, women were reminded that the pill was only an acceptable option when it was used "in marriage."

Despite the efforts of "those in control," the era of free love stormed the campus. *The Cord Weekly*, while registering some opposition to the women's liberation movement, generally supported female students in their struggle for control over their bodies.

Through the late 1960s and into the early 1970s the main issue was whether or not women should be allowed to have abortions, and *The Cord* chronicled the ongoing struggle throughout the country, but gave explicit approval to the process.

The issue then evolved into a concern over access, and after printing several Canadian University Press (CUP) wire stories on this issue, *The Cord* examined the services offered to students on campus.

"Birth control is a fact of life," argued a November 23, 1972 editorial, "at university as in any other community of adults, and

attempts at making it known and used should not be repressed."

The issues at stake concerned the campus Birth Control Centre and its ability to freely distribute information and contraceptives to students. Apparently this was a pressing issue, as there were an "incredible number of pregnant women in women's residence."

The issue concerned the campus Birth Control Centre and its ability to distribute contraceptives to students. Apparently this was a pressing issue, as there were an "incredible number of pregnant women in women's residence."

The 'access to abortion' issue came to a head in a Feb. 3, 1973 investigative report of the K-W Birthright Centre.

The female writer, claiming to be pregnant, went to the Birthright Centre seeking council and later wrote that she was shocked and appalled that she was pressured to keep her baby and dissuaded from having an abortion.

Access to abortion, *The Cord* lamented, was lacking in K-W, as there were no abortion centres or sympathetic doctors in the area. Girls were often forced to travel to Hamilton, Niagara Falls or even further.

Control over sobriety

Today, it seems hard to imagine a university campus, or even a

university event, without alcohol. But in 1965, alcohol was indeed banned from campus and school events. Its consumption, especially at football games, became a contentious issue.

On October 24, 1965, students were warned that supervisors would be present at all football games, and if they were caught drinking, they could be expelled.

As can be expected, *The Cord* editorial policy was in favour of allowing alcohol on campus and at events, though at the time the newspaper rarely questioned the school's administration, and criticism of the prohibitive policy was muted.

It was, however, a popular issue with students, and on Nov. 3, 1967, *The Cord* gleefully announced that preparations were being made to allow alcohol on campus.

The alcohol policy did not extend to residences, however. On Jan. 31, 1969, it was announced that 13 residence students had been fined a combined total of \$625 for breaking liquor regulations.

A *Cord* editorial responded the following week on February 7, calling the alcohol policy "archaic", lamenting the absence of a bar on campus and calling on students to mount a campaign of pressure against the administration.

This campaign was occasionally revisited by *The Cord* over the next two years, until the first 'pub night' was held in the new Student Union

Building (SUB) on Nov. 20, 1970. The announcement was made on Dec. 11, 1970, that alcohol would be allowed in residences.

Vietnam

The American invasion of Vietnam serves as another example of the changing attitudes of students and *The Cord*. While the era is typically known for activism and anti-Vietnam demonstrations, both students and *The Cord* initially ridiculed these actions and spoke out in defense of the US invasion - calling it a "fight for freedom."

At the same time, despite the apparent contradiction, war was decreed as an exercise in futility and unnecessary destruction; but US actions were never applied as such.

The Cord mocked the first University of Toronto teach-in in both its news and editorial coverage of the event on October 15, 1965: "American foreign policy was decreed. The West and its imperialism was constantly touched and bantered. The people who attended were strongly biased," readers were told, and the event itself was dismissed as merely "a fad."

Two weeks later, *The Cord* proudly featured a story covering a march of twenty-five Waterloo Lutheran students in Toronto who marched in support of US actions in front of the American embassy.

"Better Dead than Red," read one of the placards, and students at the march argued that "Our Western Democracy must be defended and we must Oppose the Spread of Communism."

- See **HIPPIE**, page 15

- From **HIPPIE**, page 14

In March of 1966, a pro-US student group founded at the University of McGill, whose motto was "Peace through Victory", published an article in *The Cord* urging students to create a chapter at WLU. There is no evidence that this ever occurred.

The editorial from January 1967 marked the high tide of support for US actions in Vietnam among students and *The Cord*, and in the years to follow the paper began to support those who opposed the invasion.

Professors slowly began to speak out against American violence, and several discussions were held for students. On Oct. 27, 1967, WLU students participated in a protest march through Waterloo to the town hall, while later in the year, *The Cord* noted that University of Waterloo students had protested Dow Chemical recruiters for the company's participation in Vietnam.

In the years to follow, the invasion of Vietnam was derided. It was infrequently mentioned in *The Cord*, and students, while more critical than ever before, also became increasingly self-centered. Vietnam was more often used as an argument against 'the system,' than a statement of concern for those involved.

The 'Powers-that-be'

When its fifth decade began in 1965, *The Cord* treated student politics as it had in the past; relegated to the sphere of model parliament, where everyone adhered to party lines and nothing actually happened.

While struggling through its radical stage, *The Cord* made some untimely mistakes such as printing Hitler's *Mein Kampf* and threatening to kill university administration.

A Nov. 26, 1965 editorial hammered at students, arguing that "you think that your student government and student newspapers should continually be criticizing the administration ... how infantile!!" The editorial questioned if "this really [is] a sane attitude to have?"

Ideologically, there was a marked difference between the first few years of the decade, where students and *The Cord* represented the more conservative baby-boom generation, and the latter half, where more radical students

took control.

A "military coup" which overthrew the model parliament on Nov. 17, 1967, served as a symbolic break between these two generations; model parliament was never mentioned again, and *The Cord* came to criticize every decision and policy made by the school's administration.

For instance, the headline of the first paper in Sept. 1968 read "Welcome to WLU Frosh - meet the System." The article told frosh that "if you are ambitious, intelligent, mature, resourceful, and looking for a good education you have come to the wrong place. University is not for you ... All minds are warped by university."

Readers were also told that "this experience of being molded, beaten and broken will be priceless but unfortunately you pay for this pricelessness."

Furthermore, students were to become nothing but "a sausage like everyone else," and if they tried to resist, they would merely "struggle to get your head out of the feces but higher education will manage to pull you down again with the rest of the sausages."

Struggle became the overarching theme of the late 1960s and early 1970s, and every administrative decision, from building the Athletic Complex to the hiring and firing of professors, were questioned and decried as undemocratic and unjust.

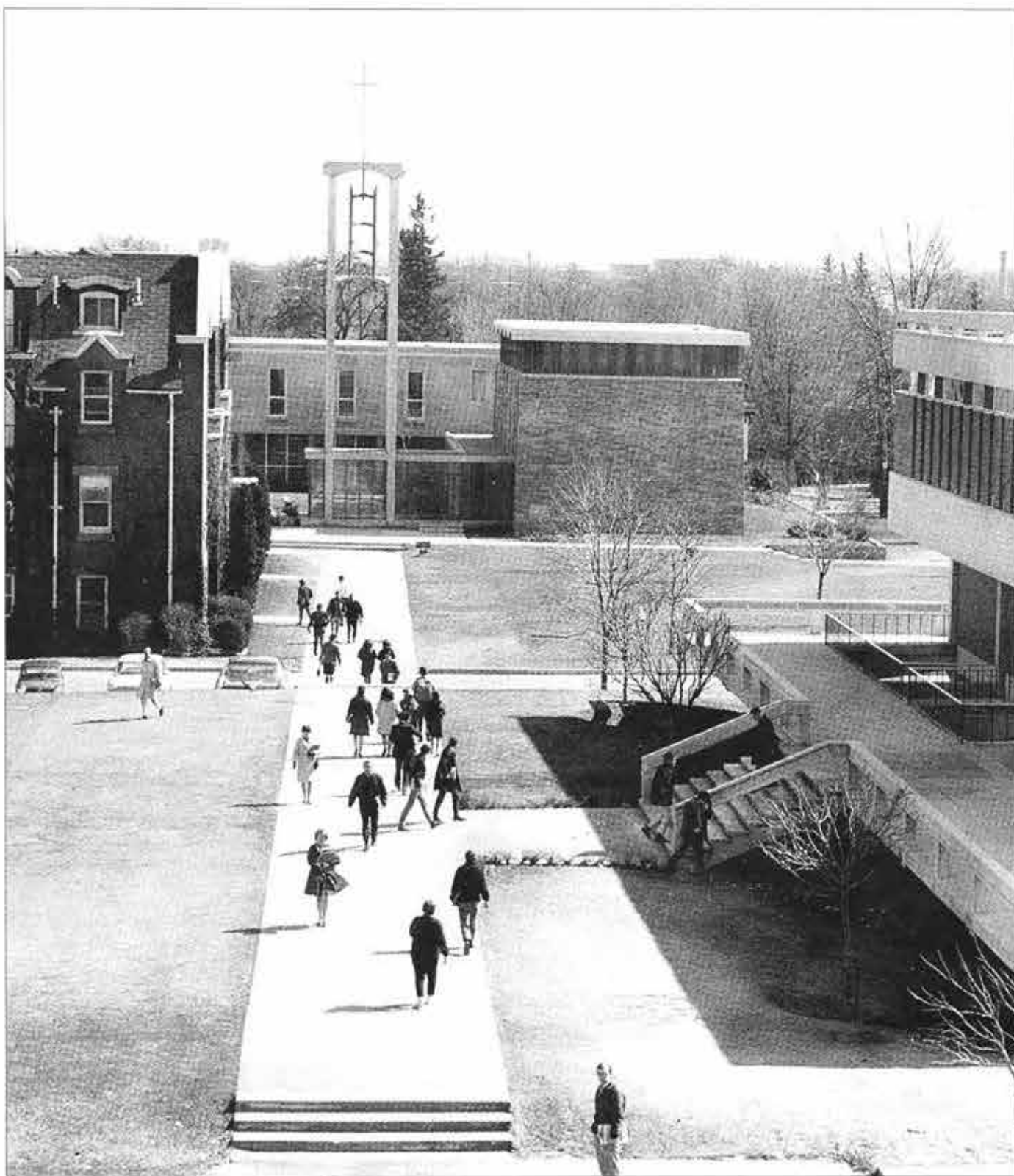
Strangely enough, Adolf Hitler's *My Struggle*, or *Mein Kampf*, was seen to fit into this parable of student activism, and a portion of it was printed as a feature in the Nov. 29, 1968 issue of *The Cord*.

By 1970, the dialogue in *The Cord* had become so radical that it became nearly incomprehensible.

The most important issue was student control over administrative policies in

the hiring and firing of professors; a historic right, claimed *The Cord*, which dated back to the Middle Ages where "university students selected and hired their professors."

Conflicts erupted in three instances where popular professors, who held supposedly left-wing ideologies, were not re-hired or denied tenure. In these cases *The Cord* argued that if students had a say in the decision-making process, these professors would have been retained.



Courtesy of Wilfrid Laurier University Archives and Special Collections

OLD AND NEW - This photo from the late 1960s shows the newly-completed library (right) the Seminary (centre) and the old Willison Hall (left). To bring the Hall to code would have cost \$750,000, so it was torn down instead.

In the 1971-72 academic year, *The Cord* further stuck it to The Man by defying the conventions of the English language by refusing to capitalize letters, mainly those in names and titles that defined power.

In a bizarre case of radicalism, an editorial on Nov. 20, 1970, actually went so far as to compare the situation and actions of the FLQ to students at WLU, implying that blood would be shed. "The FLQ wanted certain things for their people, they were finished with asking, begging, picketing. They have now killed ... they have stopped waiting," while the editorial ominously continued, "the time is closing in on you, administration ... we are finished waiting."

This attitude eventually

prompted a conservative backlash and beginning in 1974, *The Cord* dropped its hippie attitude and once again published coherent, though often tedious, content.

While portraying a radical agenda throughout this period what seemed the most important issue for students were jobs and money. *The Cord* lamented that there were no good jobs for summer employment or graduates, and scoffed at the notion that jobs were important for the extrinsic experiences, rather than monetary rewards.

"Who cried Wilf?"

So read the headline on Jan. 25, 1973. Changing the name of the school from Waterloo Lutheran to Wilfrid Laurier was the result of financial constraints and the provincialization of the school, according to *The Cord Weekly*.

As a religious school, WLU was not able to receive any grants from the provincial government.

Prior to 1967 this had not been a problem, as funding came from the federal government and it did not discriminate. However, after 1967 the federal government gave all grant money to the provincial government to deal with.

The Cord was adamant that the school not amalgamate with the University of Waterloo, despite some apparent criticisms that it would be a waste of taxpayer money to have two universities within sight of each other.

An initial list of 94 proposed names was printed in the Sept. 28, 1972 issue of *The Cord*, with some of the most unique names being the Leif Erickson University of Waterloo, the New University of Waterloo, Marlborough University,

the Iroquois University of Waterloo and Beaver University.

The Cord published the top five names according to a student vote which saw Wilfrid Laurier University as the top pick, followed by the University of Ontario at Waterloo and Louis Riel University.

The Cord dismissed the name Wilfrid Laurier as a joke or as a gimmick to retain the initials WLU. Five students wrote a letter of protest to the change of name committee, which was printed on the front page of the Jan. 11, 1973 *Cord*. Wilfrid Laurier, the students charged, was a politician of "questionable reputation," who had no connection to the school or the region. They also noted that "his record in the field of education has been of the most controversial variety."

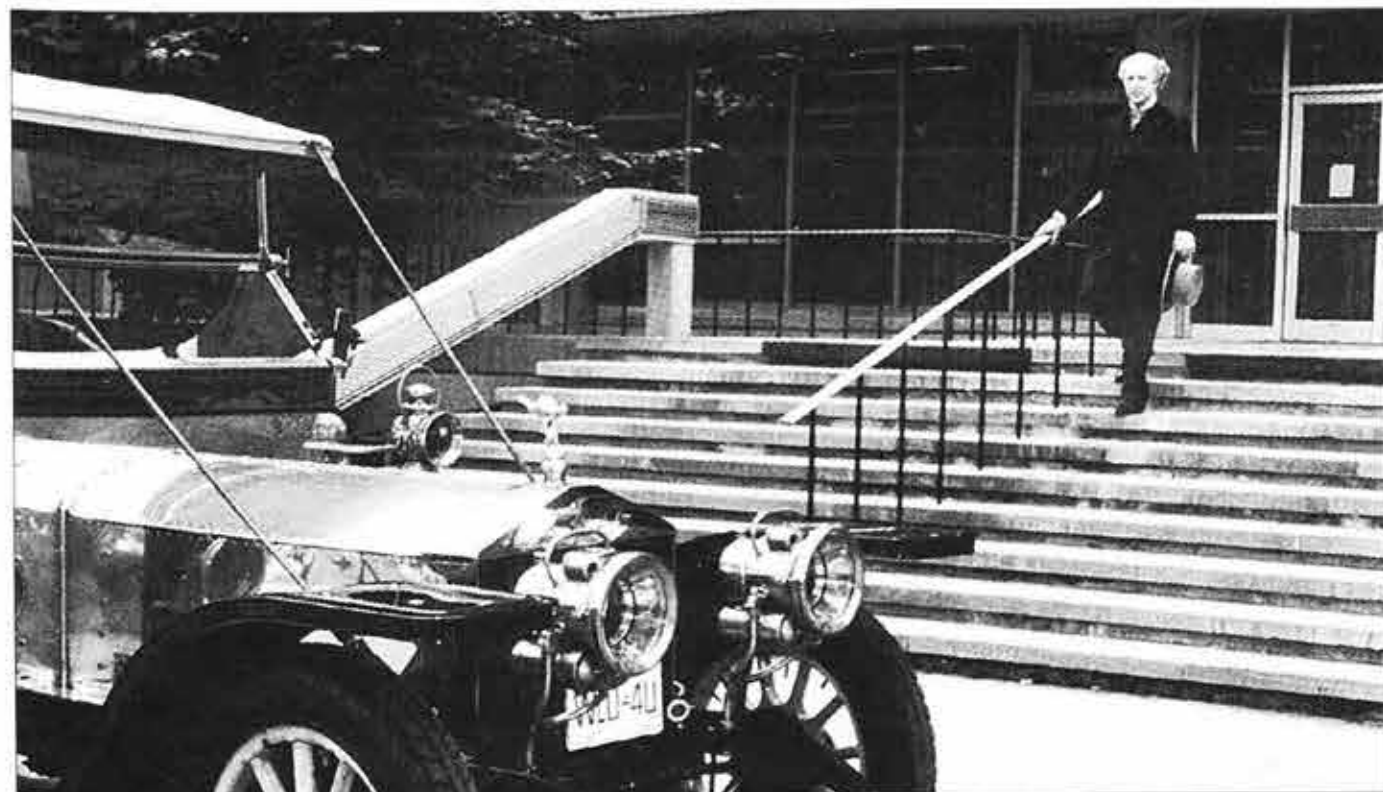
When the name change became official, *The Cord* ironically noted that a Conservative government had allowed a university to glorify a Liberal politician.

A maturing process?

Having gone through an awkward stage of development, *The Cord* promised its readers and supporters that it would revamp itself, focus more on being a newspaper and open itself up to all views.

Student radicals, the paper claimed, had been driven out of the school system out of frustration. Subsequently, the paper lost some of its colour.

On the other hand, without the extreme views that it had once had, *The Cord* finally began the process of professionalizing itself as a student medium.



Courtesy of Wilfrid Laurier University Archives and Special Collections

SIR WILF - When the school became Wilfrid Laurier University in 1973, some students and *The Cord* questioned why this name was chosen. Here, an imitation Laurier descends the steps of the library.

Goodbye UN, hello K-W

UN Deputy Secretary-General Louise Frechette is coming to Waterloo to work at CIGI, but will be associated with Wilfrid Laurier and UW



Jordan Jocius

RETURNING TO STAY - UN Deputy Secretary-General Louise Frechette is seen giving a speech last April at the Perimeter Institute in Waterloo, where she spoke about reforming the United Nations.

TONY FERGUSON
International Editor

WLU and Waterloo's prestigious international think-tank, The Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), are eagerly awaiting the arrival of United Nations' Deputy Secretary-General Louise Frechette.

Frechette, who holds the second-highest position at the UN, is stepping down after accepting the title of distinguished fellow at CIGI, which is to begin sometime in April.

She will be associated with the University of Waterloo and Laurier and will make herself available in many capacities, such as giving graduate students advice on their essays.

Down the road at CIGI, which

sits just south of Waterloo Park, Frechette will be chairing a two-year research project on nuclear energy that will examine how to maximize power delivery in an energy-hungry world while avoiding the risks that such a resource entails.

"The increasing use of civilian nuclear energy creates the potential for misuse," she said in an interview with *The Cord* from her office in New York.

As global energy consumption increases, finding new sources of energy becomes more and more important. Until alternate sources are found that can accommodate the huge demand, nuclear is the best choice that we currently have, the Deputy Secretary-General explained.

Frechette also pledged to be

continually available to Laurier students and faculty. They can "pose questions about nuclear energy, or anything, really, that relates to my experience," she said.

"I don't know. I'd have to find my way around campus first."

- UN Deputy Secretary-General Louise Frechette on the prospect of her teaching at Laurier

"It's valuable, it really is," says Dr. Yasmine Shamsie, a political science professor at Laurier, about Frechette's open-ended approach to interacting with staff and students.

The Deputy Secretary-General,

who is currently Secretary-General Kofi Annan's assistant and a UN representative at different functions, is "terrifically valuable" according to John English, executive director of CIGI.

He sees her as particularly advantageous for the organization on three fronts: "she has a broad knowledge of the UN ... she has a lot of contacts

because she's worked with so many people ... and she'll be a major presence in the community," he says.

Shamsie also sees Frechette's experience as a boon to Waterloo's universities.

"I think there are plenty of people who are academics who study global governance but there are very few people who have the experience of working on the ground, so to speak," she said.

Although Frechette will be associated with the two universities, she will not be teaching.

She has not been immersed in the university atmosphere for a long time, and when asked if she would consider a professorship at Laurier, getting her bearings was her first priority.

"I don't know," she said. "I'd have to find my way around campus first."



HOW ABOUT A MOOSEHEAD - German students, (L-R) Dietrich Kuss, Joachim Fritz and Dirk Nolte talk about their experiences at Laurier and how they miss real German beer.

'Germany is not Bavaria!'

Some exchange students are surprised by how Canadians perceive their culture

MARY ERSKINE
Cord International

Much like the experiences of other Laurier International (LINT) students at Laurier, German LINT students Dietrich Kuss, Joachim Fritz and Dirk Nolte enjoy its community atmosphere, but are sometimes confused by the way Canadians perceive German culture.

Having experienced the K-W version of Oktoberfest and the region's central-European heritage, all three students think that a distinction should be made.

"[Germany] is not Bavaria!" is the resounding message that all three want to impress upon Canadians.

This stems from the experiences and stereotypes they've encountered here, which include a trip to the largest Oktoberfest celebration outside of Germany.

Fritz was particularly intrigued by the various types of music played at the event: "First they played some folk music ... but then they played techno or hip hop, which wasn't really the adequate music for Oktoberfest," he said.

Each coming from various areas of Germany, but none from Bavaria, Nolte stresses that perhaps "Canadians have the wrong impression about Germans - they

go to Oktoberfest and think that everything is like this, but really Bavaria is only a small part of Germany."

To these German students, Bavaria (the south-east region of Germany) represents a traditional, historical and folk-like part of German culture that doesn't necessarily permeate into other areas of their society.

With Germany's turbulent history, Fritz admires the freedom to feel proud to be Canadian. "We don't show our nationality too much ... if someone has a German flag, that might be interpreted badly."

With the nation's turbulent history, Fritz admires the freedom to feel proud to be Canadian. "We don't show our nationality too much ... if someone has a German flag, that might be interpreted badly because of our history," he admitted, something Fritz feels is a common sentiment even within Europe.

Kuss also mused that although the national pride in Germany is somewhat diminished in comparison with other countries, there

are aspects of regionalism which are quite strong: "I think that's the only thing you can really be proud of, to say that 'I come from Baden-Württemberg.'"

When asked what they miss the most about Germany, all three were in agreement, exclaiming "The food!" Kuss expected Canada to have a more unique selection of food, and that the "fast food mentality" of Canada is much more pronounced than he had thought.

Fritz was also surprised by how little the girls wear in the summer and warned that Europe is slightly more conservative.

Also, wearing pajamas or track pants to class would be completely unheard of in Germany.

While speaking highly about his experiences in Canada, Nolte urges Canadian students to have their own international experience. "I have met very few people that have studied abroad here," says Nolte, "I think more people should do that."

Fritz and Kuss chimed in, saying: "Come to Germany! We don't wear lederhosen any more!"

Oil revenues frozen over broken deal

KEREN GOTTFRIED
Cord International

The World Bank has ordered the freeze of Chad's national bank account after the African nation broke their loan agreement.

Their Citibank account was used to collect revenues from the African country's oil pipeline, which exported oil to Cameroon. The account also collected royalties from ExxonMobil Corporation, the operator of the pipeline.

At present the World Bank has US\$124 million in outstanding loans to Chad, all of which are now frozen.

Since the start of crude production, Chad has exported 134 million barrels of oil and earned a cumulative total of \$399 million in gross direct revenues.

The account was frozen when Chadian president Idriss Deby approved a change to oil revenue law. The change allows his government more direct access to profits from the pipeline, which he plans to use for the military, education and other civilian purposes.

This is contrary to the agreement made with the World Bank, which stated that Chad would preserve oil profits for long-term development and poverty relief projects.

Deby was given the final approval to the amended law last Thursday despite previous suspensions by the World Bank.

For Deby and the government of Chad, it is an issue of sovereignty. In a statement on the government

website, Chadian finance minister Abbas Mahamat claimed the move by the Bank was "Totally unjustified."

"It is unacceptable that a nation should have its access blocked to revenues generated by the sale of its own natural resources," he said.

Chad wants to spend the profits on more immediate concerns like the military and youth welfare, rather than putting it aside for future generations.

"Chad's government ... will take appropriate action to recover the legitimate rights of the Chadian people," Mahamat also said, failing to mention specific actions the government plans to take.

Exxon Mobil announced that it would look into the situation and would "act in accordance with applicable laws and existing agreements with the government of Chad and others."

The New York Times reported that when World Bank president, former Bush Administration hawk Paul Wolfowitz, heard of the news from Chad on Thursday night, he spent two hours discussing it with Deby.

"I think it's very much in the interests of the Chadian government to establish in the eyes of everybody that they are honorable parties to the agreements that they undertake," Wolfowitz said. He adds that he feels that the Chadian government acted "unilaterally" in changing the oil law.

Wolfowitz hopes further discussions with Deby will end the debate.



A CRUDE DEAL - Idriss Deby opens a symbolic valve at a ceremony in October 2003 that sent crude oil on its way to a terminal in Cameroon

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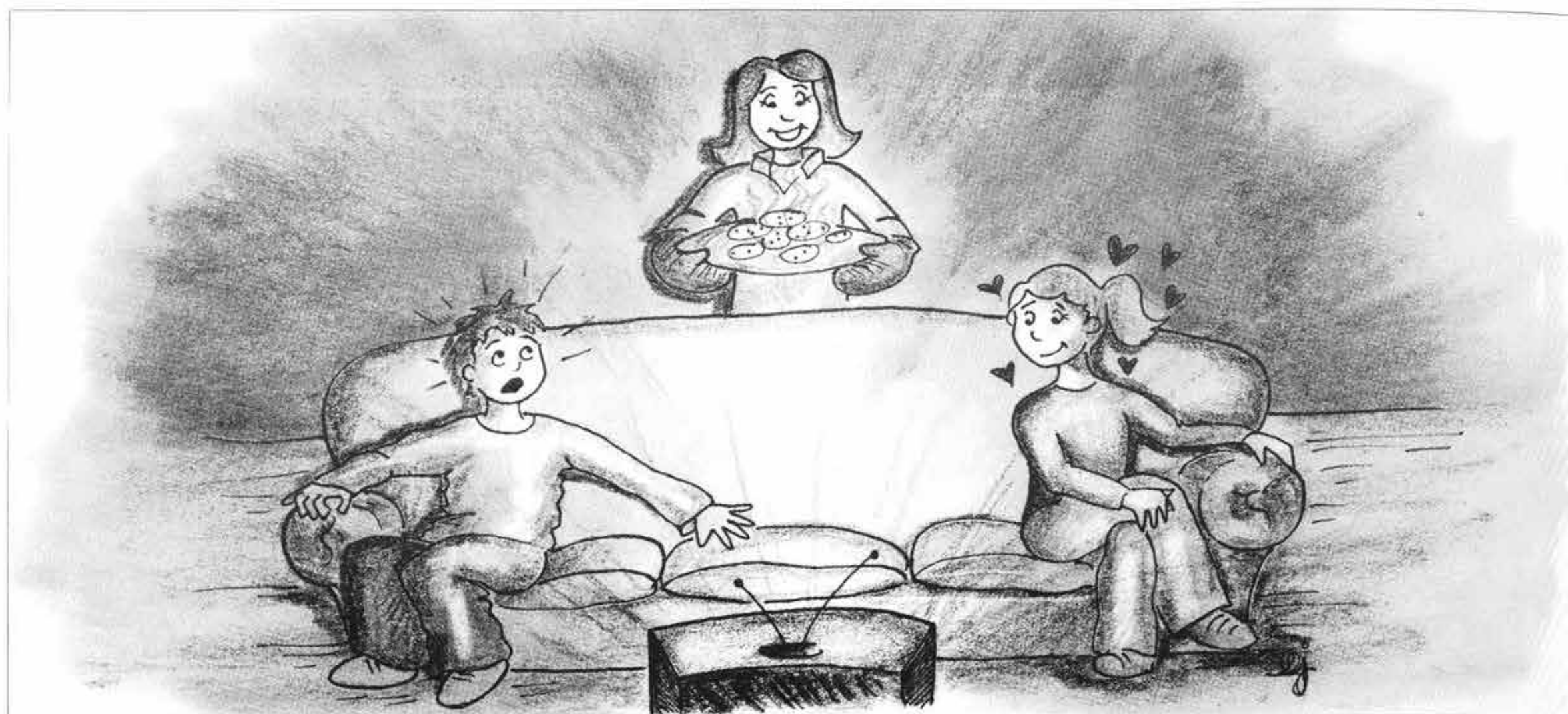
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Emilie Joslin

First dates are an endangered species

Sex Columnist D.J. Demers misses awkward first dates and the chance to put his equally-awkward conversational skills to good use



D.J. DEMERS
Sex and the University

To the list of things that once were but are no longer, we can add something new. Like quality Eddie Murphy films and Gavin Rossdale's career, first dates no longer exist.

That's right everyone. The first date, the preliminary test of the game we call dating, is dead. At least it feels that way for me. I can't talk about it from a historical perspective because I've only been around as long as I've been alive, and there aren't any archives that trace the history of first dates over the centuries. If there are archives of these sorts of things, I don't even want to read them.

In high school, I would meet girls in the usual ways. Perhaps we would talk in class meet through a friend on my sports team or bump

into each other as I waited for her after her dance class and timed it perfectly so we bumped into each other. After getting to know each other, we would go out on the first date.

Maybe you didn't kiss, or even worse, maybe this girl was more annoying than that guy in class who nods every time the teacher says something.

We would drive to the movies or for dinner, or maybe rent a movie and watch it in my basement ("Seriously Mom, we don't want any more cookies! Now stay upstairs, please!"). There was a definite feeling that this was in fact a first date.

Were these first dates perfect? No, not even close. Maybe you didn't kiss, or even worse, maybe

this girl was more annoying than that guy in class who nods every time the teacher says something. Furthermore, you didn't quite know each other well enough to be on the same level emotionally or even with each other's sense of humour. Often you would have to force conversation and jokes came off sounding unnatural and about as funny as Marmaduke.

However, I no longer have to worry about these potential problems because, since the dawn of my life as a university student, I don't believe I've had a first date.

I bet a lot of people don't agree with this statement. Some of you may happen to still have first dates that actually feel like a one. Or maybe you never had these first dates in high school to begin with. No, you're not a loser! Those girls

only made fun of you because you were so hot, it intimidated them.

I have wondered recently if maybe I do still have first dates, but they don't seem as noteworthy. When I was in high school, they may have seemed new and exciting and now, after having at least two (maybe three, but I don't want to brag) first dates in my life, they just don't stand out in my memory as much.

I have also hypothesized that maybe I have just regressed in my maturity since high school. I actually drove a car back then; now I do not. I didn't always laugh when I saw a mullet in high school; now I do. Perhaps with my regression in maturity has come the disillusion of the standard dating practice of a first date.

I don't believe either of these hypotheses are correct though. I truly believe the first date is dead, at least in university. You go from seeing someone around campus to gradually getting to know them and then, all of a sudden, you're

hanging out regularly. In this sequence of events, there is no definite first date.

This may simply be a university phenomenon, and the death of the first date might not be permanent. Once we move outside the bubble of campus into hell, I mean the real world, first dates might be necessary again. Without living in such close proximity to almost everyone I meet, more formal first date arrangements may naturally sneak back into my life.

I hope so because I sure do miss those awkward first dates. I am the king of awkward conversation. Ask anyone who knows me and they will vehemently deny knowing me. After this, they will, in fact, tell you I am the king of awkward conversation.

Without first dates, when and where am I supposed to use this valuable social asset?

letters@cordweekly.com

HOROSCOPES

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)



Happy birthday Capricorn. Sheeit!

De Virgo moon an' Capricorn sun inspire studios, efficient an' detailed wuk. We has a tendency to fin' fault in others an' ourselves unduh dis moon, but if u axe me, we use dis tendency as a tool instead uh as a debilitating force.

To de res uh you...

You will believe uh completely ridiculous hoax about uh geekbox virus an' brothas will tease ya mercilessly.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)



Now, be honest. Are ya still waiting fo' someone who cannot commit? Don't be tragic. Move on! Be open to others who wants ta be in yo' life. Don't make me come ovah there...

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)



Yo buss dis. In de gran' scheme uh thins, today rates as a 0.001. Sheeit!

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)



Today, someone named "Svlad" will appear at yo' do', carrying uh large inflatable penguin an' uh bag o' pistachio bizzawz. Despite yo' bettah judgement, ya will let him in. an don't make me pull mah gat!

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)



You will be visited by missionaries today, an' will finally gots an excellent opportunity ta slip into yo' demon costume 'bfoe opening da do'. Ya' know what I'm sayin'?

Gemini (May 21-June 21)



Be careful if ya try ta be funny, today. Although ya iz normally reknowned fo' yo' dry wit, ya may be uh bit soggy, today. Just like mammy.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)



Take a look at de possibilities uh startin a small part time bidness wit friends or relatives. Emotionally, thins may not run so smoothly, an shit. Secret affairs may be brung out in de open. Try to stay calm an' do de bes you can. Sheeit!

Leo (July 23-August 22)



People iz calling ya camel toe behind yo' back. You know das right!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)



Yo mama so nasty she brings crabs to the beach. Sheeit!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)



Libras who famous:

Eminem
John Lennon
Yo Yo Ma
e.e. cummings (das whack)

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



You will gots uh hunch, today. Perhaps ya should try uh firmer mattress? An don't make me pull mah gat!

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)



Yo partnuh will blow situations out uh proportion. Take de whoe family an' make it an enjoyable outin. Put yo energy into behin' de scenes activities.

Be careful not to sign yo time or yo cash away.

Michelle Pincher has been fabricating horoscopes since the mid-eighties. Her predictions are accurate to within 3.1 percent. 19 times out of 20. She's got skills you just can't teach, son.

Lights increase cancer risk

A recent study found that having a light on while you sleep suppresses levels of the hormone melatonin, which is linked to breast cancer

JENNIFER O'NEILL
Body Break

A new study suggests that being exposed to artificial light during the night may increase the risk of breast cancer amongst women.

Researchers found that nighttime exposure to artificial light could increase the growth of breast cancer tumors.

Amongst university students, this could be a serious issue. Not only do we work or hang out at bars or clubs late at night, but we often sit under desk lights into the early morning cramming for an exam.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer amongst Canadian women and this pattern is being continued by newly industrialized nations.

According to the study, the tumors are stimulated because light suppresses the brain's production of a hormone called melatonin, which regulates your sleeping and waking cycles and plays a key role in the development of cancerous tumors.

Melatonin is released when our eyes register full darkness. It has also been reported as being able to strengthen our immune system

and reduce free radicals in our body.

Blood samples were taken from 12 healthy, premenopausal women under three conditions - during the daytime, during the night following two hours of complete darkness and during the night following 90 minutes of exposure to a bright fluorescent light.

One potentially dangerous light in student bedrooms could be the computer ... Turning your computer off will not only prevent breast cancer, but will help you sleep better.

Scientists found that the melatonin-rich blood collected under complete darkness slowed the tumor's growth, but opposite results appeared for women exposed to artificial light.

"I would advocate people not sleep with a night light," suggests Dr. Fred Hui in an interview with *CityPulse News*, who has been studying the effects of night lights

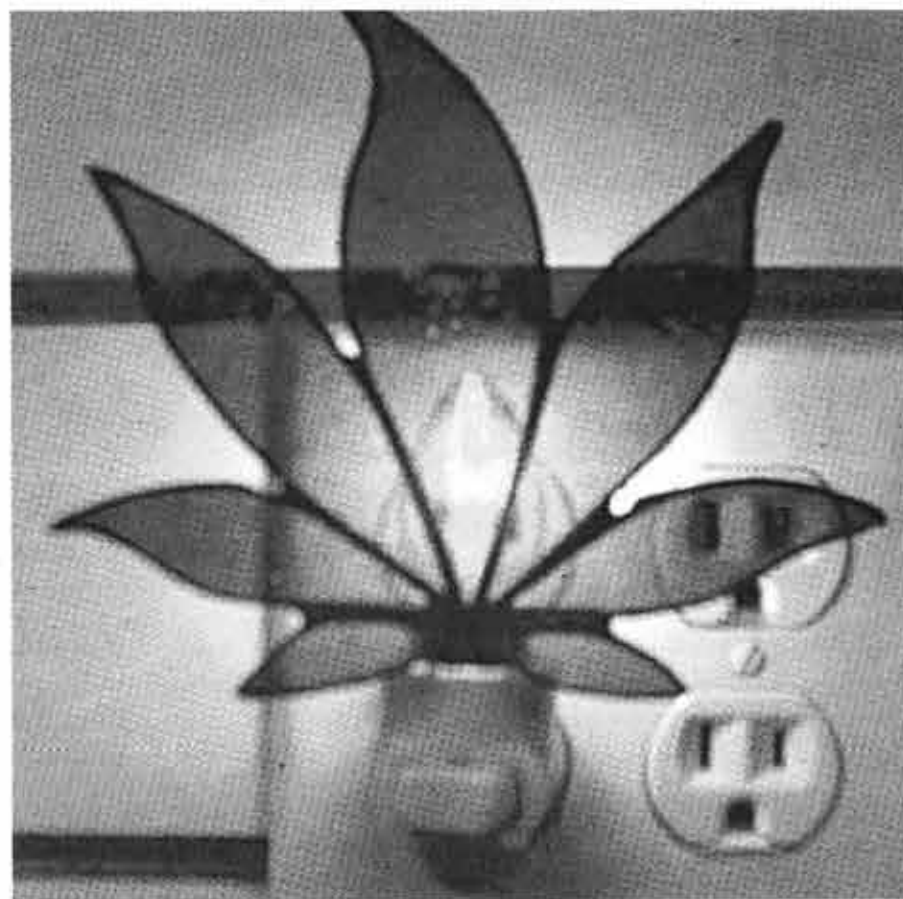
for years. "If you have any bit of light coming in, it will disturb the body's ability to secrete melatonin."

One potentially dangerous light in student bedrooms could be the computer. Leaving your computer on all night could suppress the levels of melatonin. Turning your computer off will not only prevent breast cancer, but will help you sleep better.

Often, your body can make up for lost sleep, but your brain will not be producing the same sleep hormones during a daytime nap that it would during the dark night hours. Getting seven to nine

hours of sleep each night can also be beneficial for less serious ailments such as colds and the flu.

If you have a history of breast cancer in your family or have problems sleeping at night, don't take night shifts where you will be exposed to artificial light. Turn off your computer at night and close the blinds. This will increase the production of melatonin and not



Contributed Photo

LIGHTS OUT - A light on during the night has been linked with breast cancer.

only ward off cancer, but help you sleep better at night.

This study came out of the Bassett Research Institute of the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital in

Cooperstown, New York and The Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia

Take diet fad with a grain of salt



MICHELLE PINCHEV
Student Life Editor

To me, salt is a food group. I've been accused of adding salt without even tasting the food first, and since I do this unaware, I know I have a problem.

Indeed, some professionals have gone as far as to call excessive use of salt an addiction, believe it or not.

A lot of people are skeptical about diet fads and some of the

contradictory findings of so-called "studies." The salt we eat, sodium chloride, has no calories. Clearly salt is not a carbohydrate. So what's the problem?

While salt cannot actually make you gain fat, in the short run it can make you gain weight in the form of water retention. If you eat a lot of salt, you might be increasing your body's need to retain fluid because it needs more water to keep the sodium dissolved.

Women who get PMS know all about 'bloating' when your hands, feet and ankles swell, your weight fluctuates and parts of the body feel achy. This bloating is fluid

retention, and salt can do the same thing to you.

In the long run, high salt intake can also raise your blood pressure. The water retention can slow down the process of cleansing and cause blood pressure to shoot up. You may think you're doing alright because you don't add extra salt to your cooking or to your meals, but think again. Foods like bread, condiments, processed meat products, ready-made meals and sandwiches, breakfast cereals, soups and especially sauces are often filled with excess salt, that your body (and your figure) can do without.

If all this is true, then technically, you should be able to eat exactly as you currently do without changing a thing except for your salt intake, and see steady results in your weight. One thing you can do besides the obvious, like not adding salt to cooking, is make your own sauces. Store-bought sauce has way more salt than anyone needs. Tomato paste comes in a can for under 50 cents and if you add water, olive oil and some healthy spices, you've got a great custom sauce.

Check your labels too. A lot of food companies are realizing how much there is to gain (or in this

case, lose) by cutting down on salt. Some soup cans have lowered the sodium by 50 percent. Skip the salt-top crackers and you're golden.

There are some who are excused for their salty habits. For example, people with weak adrenal function or secondary low blood pressure are supposed to add salt, but even then, it is advised to use sea salt. Like any fad diets, I would take this information with a grain of salt. Just know that anything, in excess, is bad for you.

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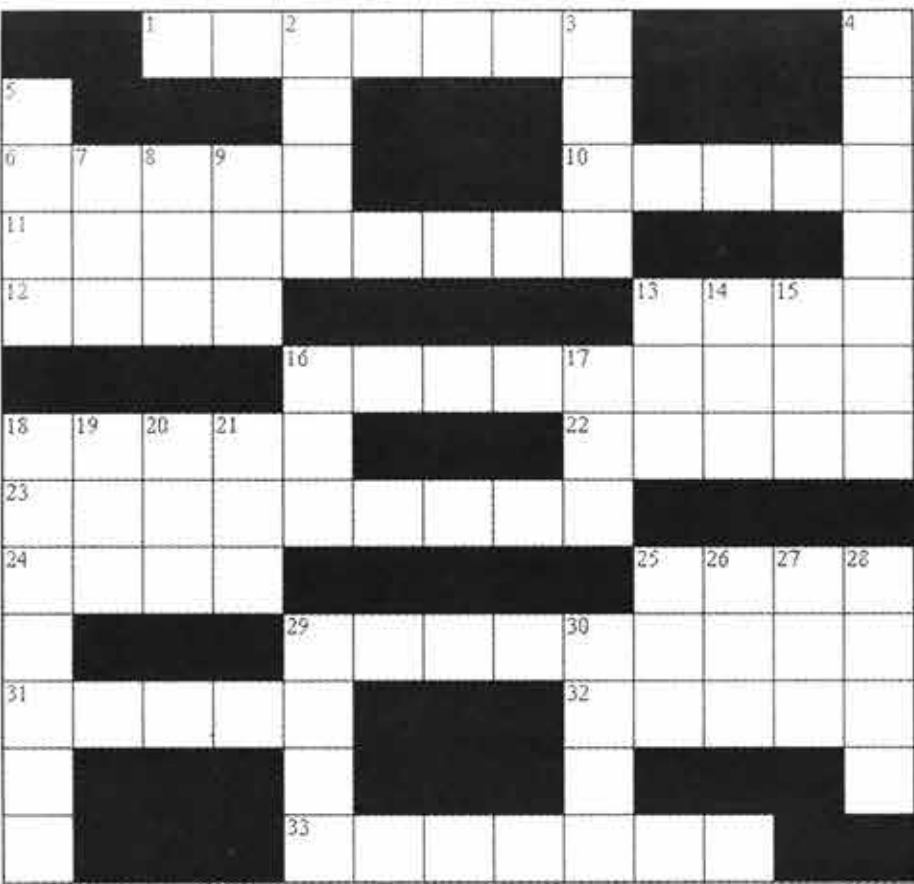
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This Week's Crossword



Across:

- 1. A lie
- 6. An Old World perennial grass
- 10. The lowest deck of a ship
- 11. Zweihander
- 12. Where fabric is sewn together
- 13. As compared with 'loses'

Down:

- 16. A box used to hold stationery and other writing materials.
- 18. Elven cleric-mage from Baldur's Gate II
- 22. On the back of feet
- 23. Language marked by the use of slang.
- 24. An omen
- 25. Egyptian snakes
- 29. Something very cool
- 31. Type of jar

- 32. A piece composed for the development of a specific point of technique.
- 33. Mythological beast, part eagle, part lion

Down:

- 2. Type of canned fish
- 3. Robin
- 4. Like 'versus'
- 5. What an actor does
- 7. To be in debt
- 8. A gazelle native to Tibet
- 9. Measure of resistance
- 13. Small, as a Scot would say
- 14. To cause anger
- 15. Same as 'void'
- 16. Hank's wife on King of the Hill
- 17. Poe's "___ Raven"
- 18. To have believed so
- 19. ___ Roth, director of Cabin Fever
- 20. Used to wipe up messes
- 21. Country motel
- 25. What the actor did
- 26. South abbr.
- 27. What dolphin's travel in
- 28. What huskies pull
- 29. To catch
- 30. Coral

Last Week's Answers

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

U	N	T	R	U	T	H
A	U			O		P
C	O	G	O	N		O
T	W	O	H	A	N	D
S	E	A	M		W	I
A	E	R	I	E		E
S	L	A	N	G	U	A
S	I	G	N		A	S
U		S	U	P	E	R
M	A	S	O	N		E
E		A				D
D		G	R	I	F	F

Fancy Yourself An Artist?

If you can muster anything better than a petroglyph, email ejoslin@cordweekly.com

Sudoku

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

HOW TO PLAY: Fill in the blank squares so that each row/column and each block of nine includes the numbers 1-9.

Insanity Lite - In Writing, To Go

Step right up! Buy my drunken friend Aaron for the low price of 50 bucks!

I love you! Jim...?

What's up Rob?

Are his arms tied behind his back?

Perhaps.

Sure it is, we have a contract.

That's a lunch menu

Touché

This can't be legal...

Written, Drawn and Inked By: Jacob Duprey

Theo and Huey by Keith Jim

Yes - I'm here to kill Theo.

Gee, that seems like everyone's New Years resolution.

You...YOU!!!!

Oh...He..Heyyyyy baby...What's up?

WHY HAVEN'T YOU CALLED ME BACKKKK?! IT'S BEEN 2 WEEKS!!!!

Boy, this is more awkward than that time me and Huey met our next door neighbours for the 1st time...

Hey!! Welcome to the neighb... Ohhhhh snapp... This is a bad time isn't it?

*Note to self: Next-door gal is one psycho mama... P.S. Ask her out on MSN

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Weekly Bad Drawing
By Pete Cram

Hey Steve, will you watch my sturgeon Tabitha for me this weekend? I'm going to Mome with Teddy.

No probs roomie.

Hey guys, how was the weekend?

Not bad, do you want some caviar?

Listen Steph, I know what you're thinking and it's not what it looks like it was totally consensual

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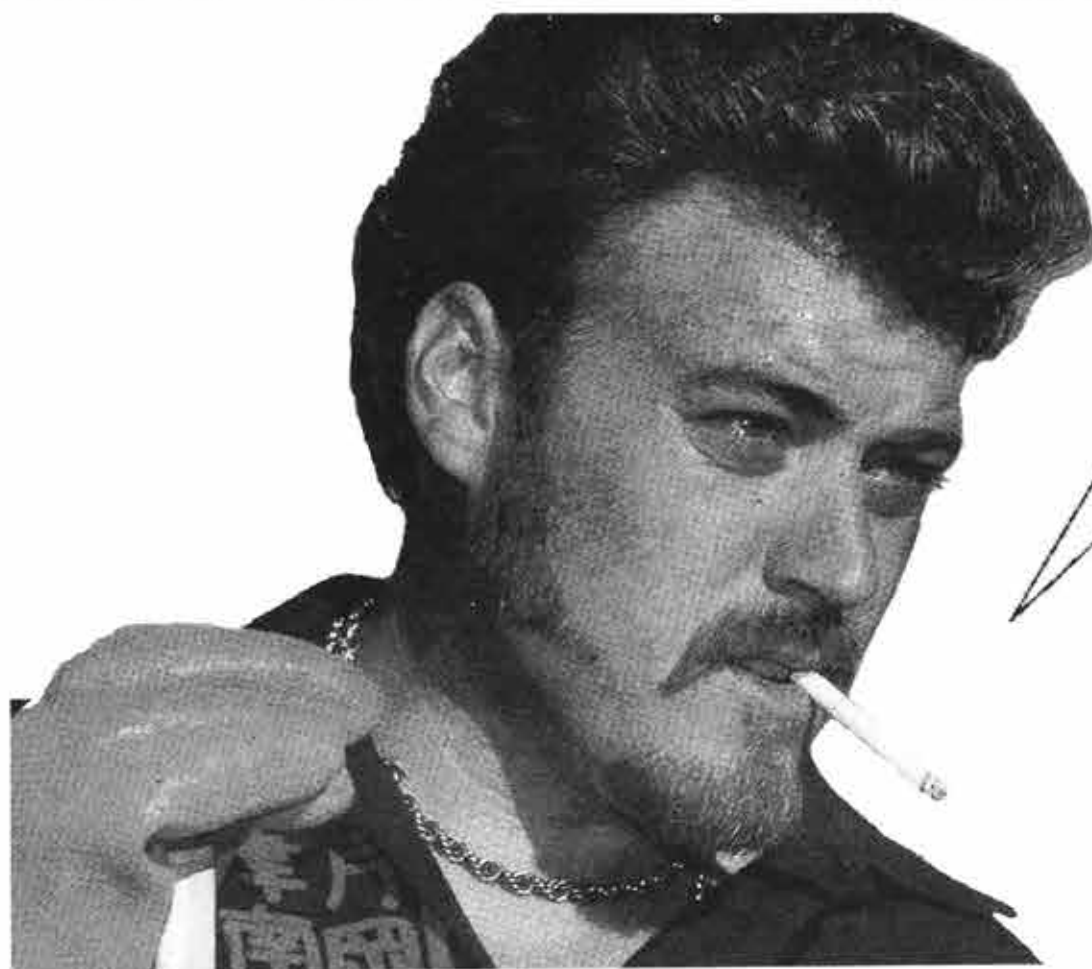
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Send stories about your awful landlord and pictures of your shitbox house to bcurrie@cordweekly.com

The contest is open until Jan 20th.

The top five finalists will be published in the Jan 25th issue of *The Cord*.

The first place story will win you two tickets to the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony. Runners-up will win whatever free shit we have lying around (cds, movie passes, etc.)

Colin Farrell in a *good* epic?

The New World



3.5 out of a possible 5 Disney Pocahontases

Director: Terrence Malick

Release Date: Jan. 17, 2005

Starring: Colin Farrell, Christian Bale

DRU JEFFRIES
Film Critic

For fans of director Terrence Malick, the seven-year wait between *The New World* and his last film, *The Thin Red Line*, was nothing. *The Thin Red Line*, only his third feature film, was made a whopping 20 years after his sophomore effort, *Days of Heaven*. Clearly this is a director that takes his time, chooses his projects carefully and doesn't bow to studio pressures.

The New World is the result of this kind of 'fuck Hollywood' attitude. It's a retelling of a familiar narrative, made most accessible by Disney's *Pocahontas*. Unlike that film, however, *The New World* is not for mainstream audiences. This is a movie that, to some, will feel like a brief snapshot of a beautiful historical and personal moment. To others, its two-and-a-half hours may seem an eternity.

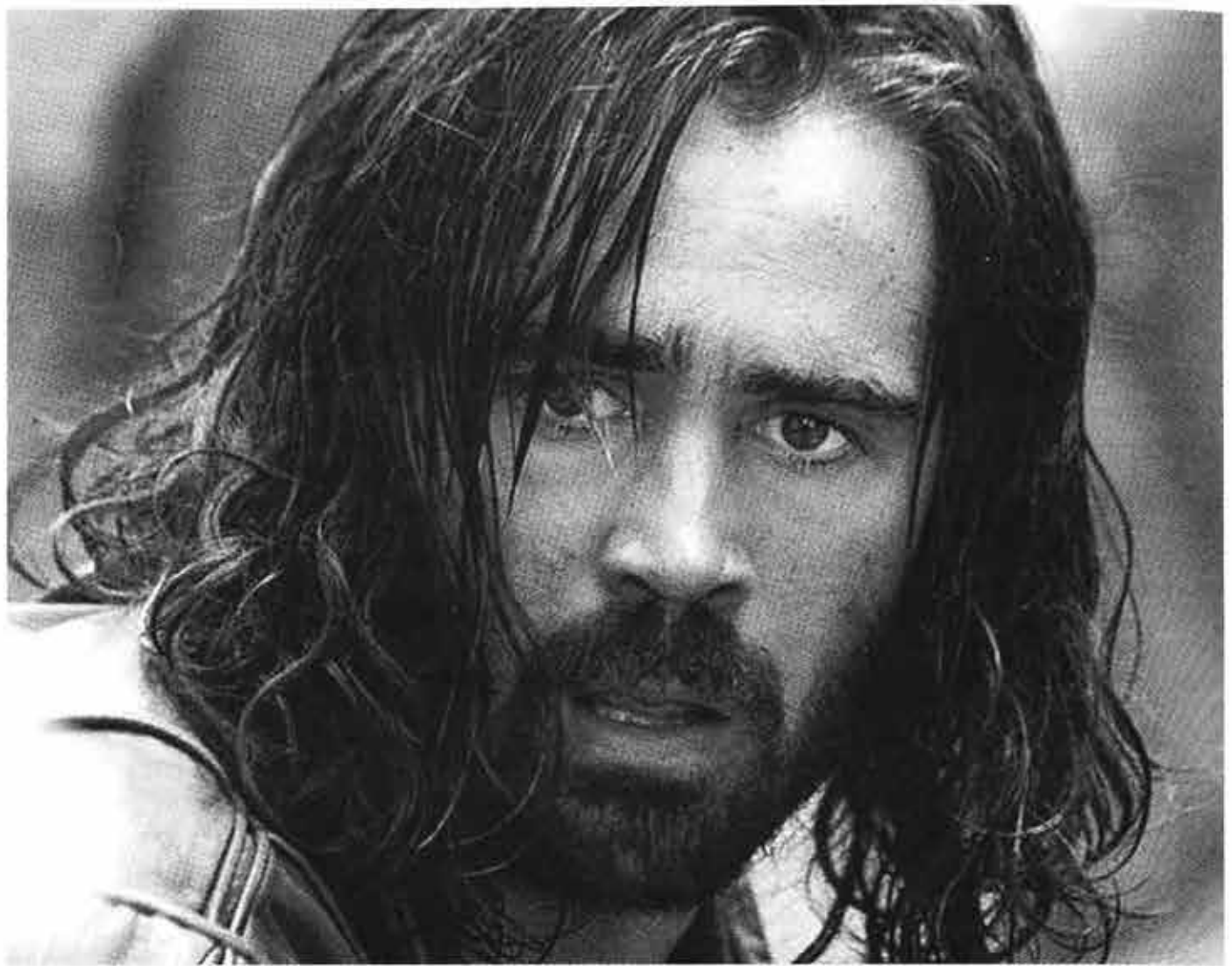
The film opens in 1607 as English explorers dock in Virginia. John Smith, an unkempt soldier, is played by Colin Farrell as a surprisingly gentle and poetic man. His

stoicism is cast aside by his unanticipated affection for "the Naturals", the youngest and most beautiful of which, Pocahontas, becomes his lover. But it's more than that: the love between them is so authentic and moving that the age difference doesn't even register. It is one of the most sensitive romances that I've seen in cinema.

This is the result of Malick's ability to tell us everything that we need to know visually. He uses the camera-style to paint a beautiful picture but does not interpret it with unnecessary and redundant verbosity. To the English, language is a tool created and used for the sole purpose of expressing desires, most of which are inevitably selfish; but John Smith loathes greed, so it's easy to see why he falls for Pocahontas, a girl raised in a society without any sense of personal possessions.

Malick's film is so immaculately composed that it would be a crime to degrade it with Hollywood contrivances. There is a scene early in the film wherein Smith teaches Pocahontas some common English words. She makes a graceful gesture with her arms that captures not only "sky", but also the expansiveness and impossibility of the heavens. The syllables may be easily understood and communicated, but they lack the beauty and nuance of Pocahontas' movements.

Even Pocahontas, as beautiful a name as it may be, is nevertheless



Contributed Photo

JESUS, IS THAT YOU? - John Smith, the generically named protagonist of *The New World*, played by Colin Farrell.

just another word. Her name is never spoken in the film, and it need not be.

There is precious little dialogue in the film, and for good reason. It's more like an impressionistic

poem than a novel. However, the dialogue it does concede to is sparse and poetic. For example, Pocahontas asks, "What's an hour?" John Rolfe (Christian Bale) answers, "60 minutes." She then

asks, "Why does the earth have colours?" Rolfe smiles; he's never thought to ask.

What happens when real life disappoints



MICHELLE PINCHEV
Student Life Editor

I don't know James Frey or what portions of his mega best-seller, *A Million Little Pieces*, are based on fact or fiction.

Frey, in case you haven't heard, has been under attack recently by critics and ex-fans after thesmokinggun.com (of the Courtroom Television Network) exposed that some key aspects of his alleged memoir were embellished, altered or just plain made-up.

Fans of his book, which graphically detail his life-long drug addiction, criminal activity and recovery in a rehabilitation centre, include everyone from drug addicts to millions of Oprah viewers.

Unlike the thousands who have demanded refunds for the book upon finding out the 'truth', I was neither surprised nor fazed by this news. I was skeptical reading it, as any vigilante reader, viewer or perceiver of entertainment should be.

People are disappointed when reality is not as interesting as it's presented to be. Strangely, all of the realities we are bombarded with in media and entertainment are constructed, scripted, biased and edited. So-called reality televi-

sion is unreal. Documentaries are often criticized for manipulating information or presenting opinions as facts. People are even skeptical of the news.

Still, I couldn't put this book down. My vacation over the break was marked by my love affair with this story. I laughed, cried, stayed up all night. On planes, beaches, car rides, or just waiting, I was with James.

Of course, the novel is not perfect. James Frey is not a scholar, he is an addict. The story is riddled with clichés, stereotypical characters and a protagonist (Frey himself) who is immoral and out of control but simultaneously has superhuman control and virtue. Sometimes it doesn't make sense, and I don't need the 'smoking gun' to recognize that the author took some liberties.

As such, it's surprising that for so many, their enjoyment of this book was contingent upon it being perfectly accurate. In actuality, all of the bad press James is facing right now probably stems from one simple reality: his overwhelming success.

We know how it works. When indie musicians achieve stardom, they've sold out. When a blonde becomes a celebrity, it's because she's a slut. Enough times these stereotypes are based on truth and it's because people are often famous for nothing that we've

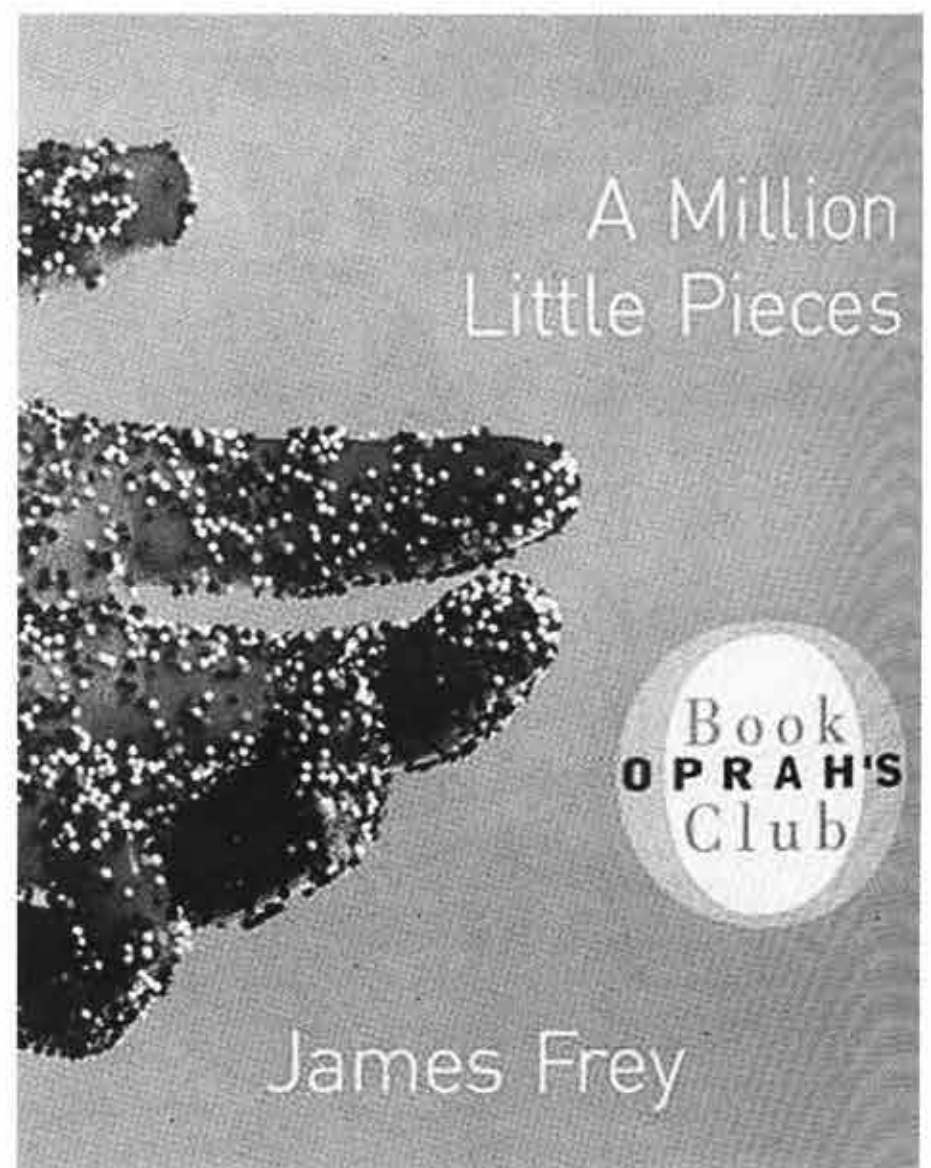
started to equate popularity with trash.

This isn't always the case. One can be launched into sensational success by talent or by providing something the public needs. Sadly, for James Frey and the like, such frenzies almost always lead to scandal, controversy and rejection.

Remember *Titanic*? How did *Titanic* become the highest grossing film of its time and sweep the Academy Awards if audiences were left crying over their eight dollars and three hours of time? The truth is, people loved and thoroughly enjoyed this movie and, despite that it was long and a bit cheesy, its only real flaw was that it got too much attention.

"Bennifer" is a perfect case of something destroyed by popularity. If we hated hearing about this couple so much, who was buying all the tabloid magazines? *The Da Vinci Code*, another book that kept me up all night, also saw huge success before the book-burning ceremonies began.

Will Frey be alright? If we look at previous cases, we can probably conclude that he will. While *Titanic* was trashed, it didn't sink and still holds records to this day. *The Da Vinci Code* is being made into Ron Howard's next blockbuster and, though still being met with some resistance, will undoubtedly do well. Jennifer and



Ben Affleck have picked up the millions of pieces of their exposed lives and gone on with their personal affairs which, luckily for them, we no longer really care about.

Frey lost credibility and his status as a hero and a total badass, as the acclaims for his novel are overshadowed by articles that call him a fraud. We watched Larry King grill him while he sweat in the hot-seat, his mother along for support. But in the end, hopefully the work will speak for itself; not the work of a literary genius or the flawless

personal account of an honest man, and certainly not a bible for addicts and alcoholics.

Hopefully people will remember that this is entertainment, that they were entertained and really, the truth is never that interesting anyway. Isn't that why we sought an escape in the first place?

I always thought entertainment was supposed to replace reality, not mirror it. As such, I look forward to Frey's follow-up novel, *My Friend Leonard*. He has smartened up with this one. It starts with a disclaimer.

Divine swearing: the *Holy Fuck* EP



Holy Fuck



4 out of a possible 5 crosses

Title: Holy Fuck EP

Release Date: Nov. 1, 2005.

Label: Dependent

JAY GUITARD
Cord A&E

Holy Fuck is a group to be approached apprehensively, and not just because of their name.

Their press release hyped the band as something rather interesting: a loose collective of Toronto-based musicians who use outdated (mostly analog) technology to create electronic-sounding music. With completely improvised live performances and recordings done in the span of a day, this release really could've gone either way. Thankfully, there was no need to be wary of this set of tunes.

Right from the get-go, it's clear the group is trying to humanize the cold sound of electronic music. As opener "Tone Bank Jungle" kicks off, you can hear the

members shouting instructions at one another while hammering out the lead melody. As the track wears on, depth and texture is added as levels of intensity rise and slowly drop thanks to some stellar drum work.

These components carry on as themes throughout the disc; setting Holy Fuck up as the anti-thesis to the likes of DJ Shadow. Both use similar dynamics in building up a track, but while the tracks found on DJ Shadow's debut *Endtroducing* are comprised entirely of samples, Holy Fuck take the opposite route by bringing live instrumentation to the forefront.

While generally engaging throughout, this debut is not without a few hiccups. The two-part end track "K.Rythm" is a little excessive at 15 minutes. Holy Fuck's style of gradually building up arrangements is a double-edged sword: some more succinct tracks never feel like they really reach their peak ("Bontempi Latin") while others are a little too drawn out ("Tonebank Computer").

The hype spreading through word-of-mouth about Holy Fuck suggests that the group has really come into their own since recording this debut (the bulk of the recording was done about a year ago) and that their live show is a reflection of their growth. If this solid debut is any indication, one should hope this experiment lasts long enough to yield a proper full-length album's worth of material.

Arctic Monkey business



Arctic Monkeys



4.5 out of a possible 5 arctic monkeys

Title: *Whatever People Say I Am...*

Release Date: Jan. 23, 2006

Label: Domino

ALEX HAYTER
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Rising from the ashes of the Britpop era, Arctic Monkeys, hailing from Sheffield, England, continue the spirit of their musical relatives with the release of *Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not*, a motley collection of pretty much all the material they could come up with.

The biggest success story of 2005 in the UK, Arctic Monkeys could be considered the end-product of Brit-pop music's rock reformation, with groups like Franz Ferdinand, The Futureheads and The Coral contributing to the sonic revolution.

If you're a fan, most of the songs on the album have been heard before, from various Internet sources. The band's success is indebted to loyal online forums and fan sites; the band was selling out London gigs in 2005 before

they even had a label.

Alex Turner's lyrical leanings, painting a dirty but vividly real image of British youth culture, could be indebted to Mike Skinner of The Streets, with poetic and honest observations of alco-pop-fuelled brawls and lager-stained dance floors. The candid slant on everyday life comes as a refreshing remedy to clichéd and vague lyrics found in other British music. A thick Northern accent commands attention, though there's no doubt that The Futureheads' regional Mackem-inflections paved the way for natural dialects to be accepted in pop music.

"A Certain Romance", closing the album, highlights the inventive side of the band, beginning with a frantic drumming sequence which jarringly transforms into sea-shanty reggae territory with a drugged-up baseline and twinkling guitars.

Production on *Say...* is practi-

cally invisible, especially so in tracks like "I Bet You Look Good on the Dancefloor", their breakthrough single, which sounds exactly the same live as it does recorded: messy power chords and shouting vocals.

The frustrating appeal of the Arctic Monkeys comes in part from the fact that they are a simple gang of youths no different from you or I; if only we shared their blind tenacity, embarking on a music career because it seemed like a fun thing to do.

The question that remains is whether or not the Monkeys' charm will eventually wear off. With solid tunes and a formidable live act, they've hit the mark among young audiences, but only time will reveal their true staying power. Their second effort will ultimately reveal which direction they are heading: an 'Oasis' future or a 'Stone Roses' self-implosion.

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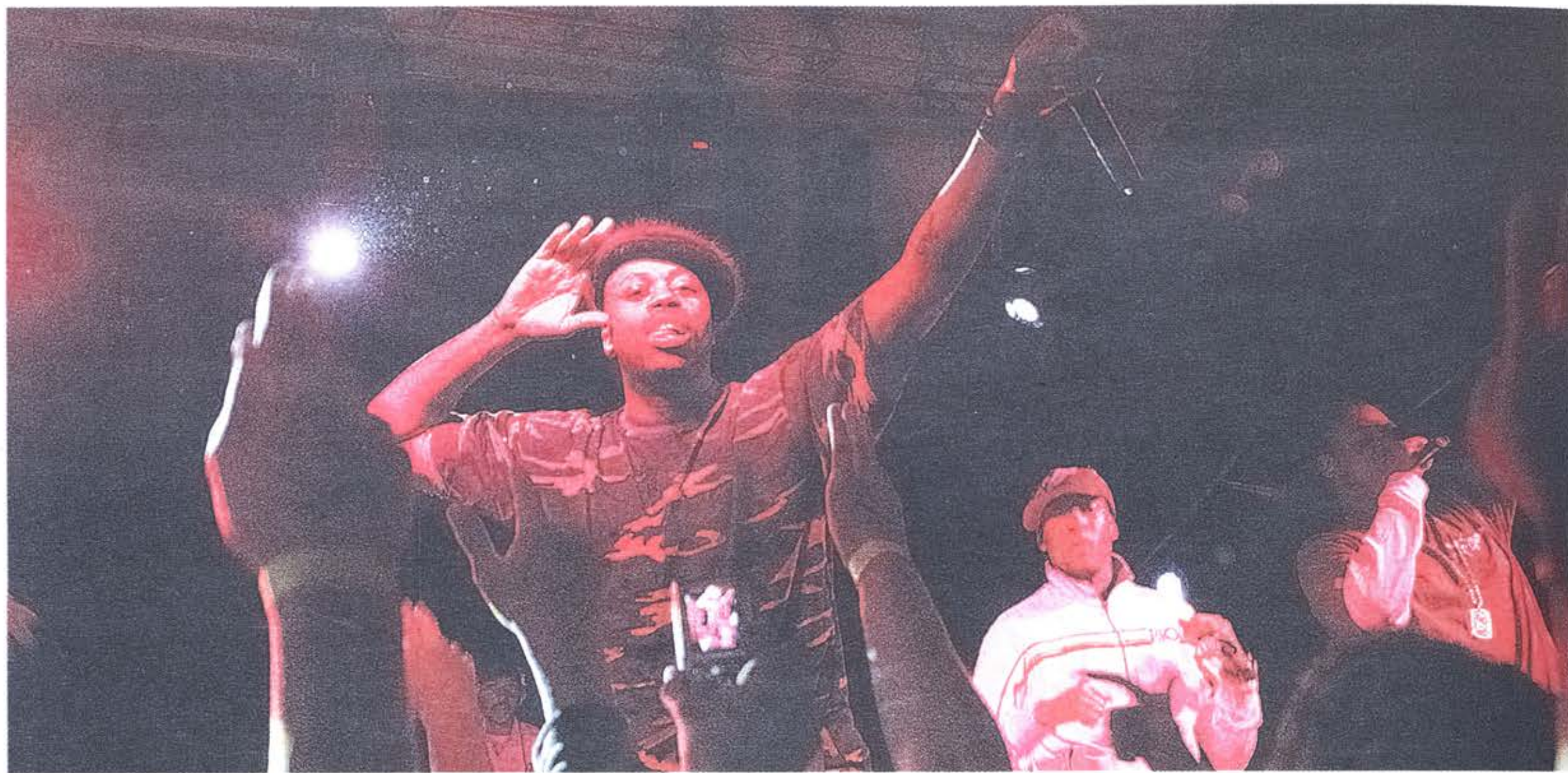
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Kardinal Offishally owns Turret



Jordan Jocius

An incredible array of Canadian hip hop talent was on display at The Turret on Monday. **Leo Yu** was there to see what the fuss was about

LEO YU
Hip Hop Correspondant

On Monday night, Laurier was treated to its first hip hop show of 2006. The highly anticipated show featured a line-up of exceptional Canadian hip-hop artists including Shad K, Rochester aka Juice, and headliner Kardinal Offishall.

It was a relatively small crowd when the doors of The Turret opened at 9:00pm, as local favourite DJ Surreal entertained the audience with his well-known mix of hip-hop and reggae sounds.

At around 10:00pm, Shad K took the stage along with fellow WLU alumni Andrew Corbin (Thoughtbug) beatboxing and Terrence Lo (DJ Tee-Lo) on turntables. The group looked like a Canadian version of The Roots.

Shadrach Kabango, a 2005 Laurier Business graduate, surfaced when he took home first prize and \$17,500 from the annual

"Rhythm of the Future" contest put on by Kitchener-Waterloo's most popular urban radio station, 91.5 FM The Beat.

Shad used the prize money to record his 2005 debut album, *When This is Over*.

Kabango captivated the small group of students who decided to show up early with his unique ability to play guitar and rap simultaneously.

In his short 25-minute set, Shad played several songs off his album such as "I Get Down" and "Rock To It". He also performed a spot-on cover of Common's "Be", with the help of Thoughtbug who provided the back beat. Overall, Shad didn't disappoint at any point of the set, and he remains one of the best young talents Canada has to offer.

After a 20 minute break, students were introduced to Toronto's own Rochester aka Juice. Born Jason Rochester, the artistically gifted emcee first gained clout in

the rap world in 2002 when he was crowned Soul Search's inaugural first-prize winner by FLOW 93.5 for his original composition "Young Luv" – an animated ode to early childhood romance.

Unlike many American rap acts who spend their time rapping about negativity, Juice utilized his stage time to show respect to women and talk about bringing hope.

His set consisted of several songs from his 2005 full-length debut, *A New Day*, such as "Young Luv" and "At the Top".

To Juice's credit, he managed to move the crowd despite his anonymity, appealing to the alcohol-infused audience by chugging a bottle of Heineken in the middle of his set.

Finally, as the crowd started to expand, the majority of the audience moved towards the stage as Kardinal Offishall made his entrance around 11:30pm.

Offishall shouldn't be a stranger to Canadians, as he has paid his dues representing the T-Dot and Canadian hip hop over the past eight years. From his 2001 debut release *Firestarter Vol. 1: Quest for Fire*, it was evident that Kardinal's unique writing and production skills set him apart from other Canadian rap artists.

Never one to shy away from embracing his Jamaican-Torontonian heritage, Kardinal has evolved into the unofficial ambassador of Toronto in the hip hop community.

Offishall was greeted with roaring admiration from students as he performed several of his better-known hits at the beginning of his set. His rendition of the "Grindin'" remix, featured on The Clipse's 2002 debut *Lord Willin'*, provided a jolt of energy among the crowd, while his latest single "Everyday (Rudebwoy)" hypnotized the audience as students sang along with

the catchy chorus.

Once Kardinal got the interaction he wanted with his audience, he proceeded to command the crowd to raise their 'Black Jays' signs up in the air while he performed some of the songs off his latest 2005 offering, *Fire and Glory*.

The sea of Black Jays signs (middle and index fingers pressed together pointing up and thumbs curved forming a J) were present throughout the set, as Kardinal treated the fans to some of his past hits, including "Husslin'", "Mary Jane" and the ever popular "Ol' Time Killin'".

After more than two hours of classy Canadian hip-hop music, the crowd slowly dispersed away from The Turret. Nevertheless, the event was a great showcase of the exceptional talent Canada has to offer the world of hip hop.



Jordan Jocius

GETTIN' DOWN – Laurier alumnus Shad, pictured with guitar, provided a stellar opening set for Kardinal.

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