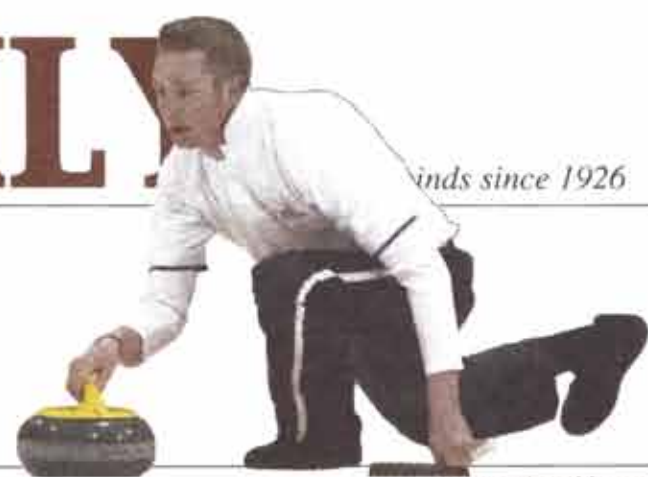


PICKING YOUR BRAIN

WLU on track to become leading institution in cognitive neuroscience... **PAGE 14-15**

MEN WITH BROOMS

Curlers have tight grip on OUA champ status as season unfolds ... **PAGE 10**



Sydney Helland

First-year applications on the rise

Profs hope increased interest won't up enrolment

ASHLEY JANG
STAFF WRITER

TONY FERGUSON
NEWS EDITOR

WLU has seen significant increases in the number of applicants for enrollment since last year. First choice applications have increased from

last year's 3,277 by 13.2 percent, making a total of 3,709 students. Total applications are up to 17,968, 10.3 per cent higher than last year's 16,296.

"It is certainly one of the more significant increases in applications over the last 20 years," said Arthur Stephen, vice president:

university advancement. Laurier is among the top four universities that have experienced the largest percentage increases for both first choice and all choice applications. This trend of increasing applicants has not gone unnoticed by some profs at Laurier. Dr. Patricia Molloy, who teaches Communication Studies, knows that numbers have been increasing at the school for the past few years.

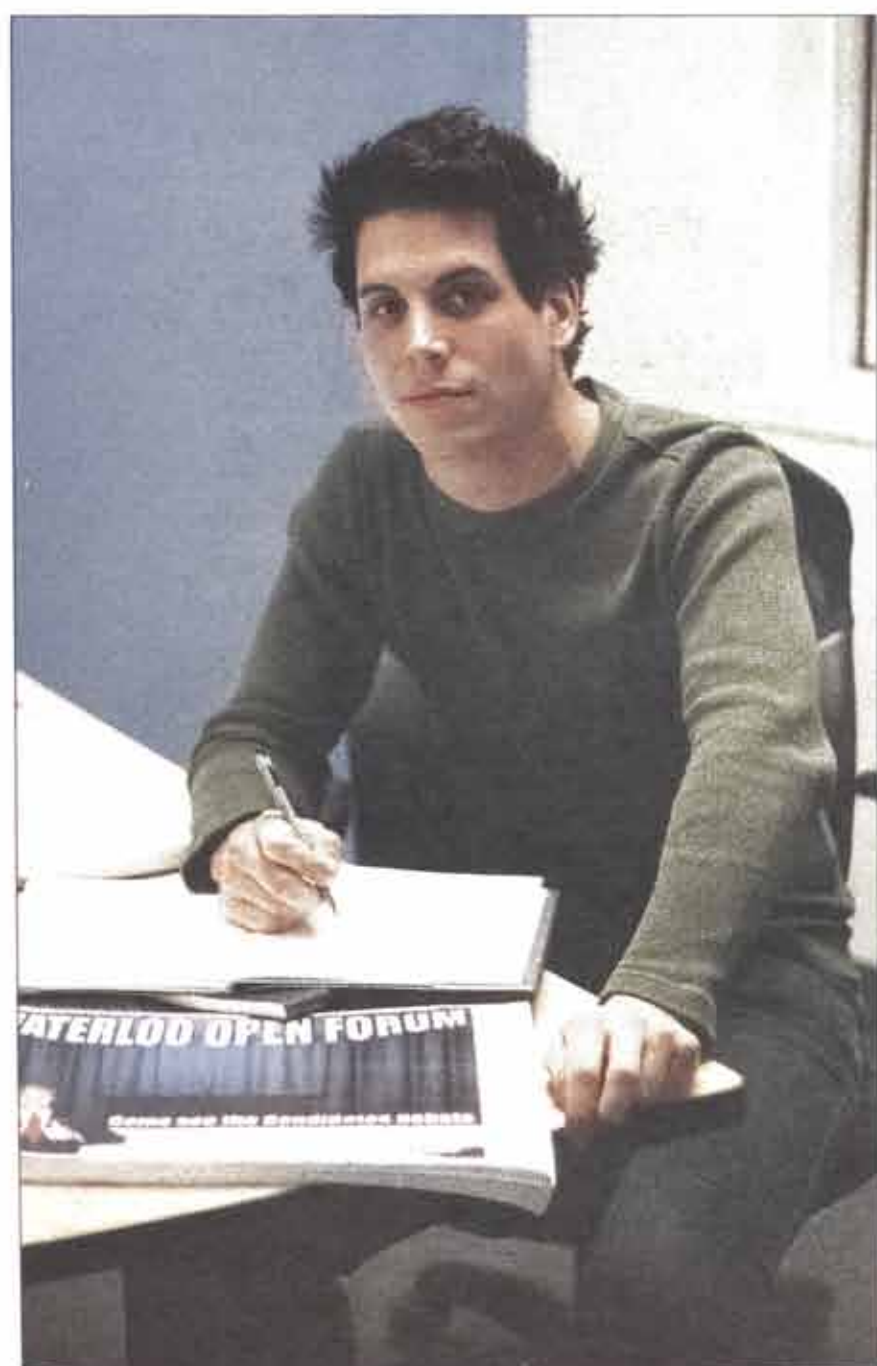
This is all going according to plan said Dean of Arts Dr. David Docherty. "[Laurier] made the decision to grow prior to the double cohort," he said.

Some faculty members don't feel this growth plan has been going very smoothly. "We have overcrowding in classrooms, we have a high proportion of courses being taught by contract and part-time faculty and we actually have one

student in the Communications Studies department graduating this year without having had a single course with a full time professor," said Molloy.

Honours Arts has seen one of the more significant increases with 4,653 applicants this year, up 28 percent from last year. All Ontario university arts programs have only

- SEE POPULAR, PAGE 3



Sydney Helland

READY TO RUN TWO ELECTIONS - Josh Periard, CRO.

Later election to follow Feb 1

WLUSU must legally hold SGM to fill five empty board spots

STEVE NILES
STAFF WRITER

In a move that may produce a second Board of Directors election, the current WLUSU Board of Directors has recommended a Special General Meeting (SGM) to reopen elections for five empty director spots.

With the resignation of Tom Wilson and the dropping-out of Mark Ciesluk from the list of acclaimed directors, this leaves the incoming board legally shorthanded, forcing the call for a SGM - essentially a second election.

The move came a week after the BOD declined to reopen nominations and chose to allow the incoming board to decide their own fate.

An SGM for the 2007/08 board would maintain ten acclaimed directors but allow new candidates to vie for the remaining five spots.

The motion, passed unanimously Monday night, calls for a second election to take place as soon as possible. The current board of directors will run the SGM, which is to take place after the February 1 elections but prior to the last week in March.

Bryn Ossington, the elections and referenda committee chair, hopes that a SGM will satisfy demands from directors, executives and students for an election.

"A small election is better than no election at all," he said. "With the amount of attention paid... I anticipate an election."

"It may be a bigger election than I'm running right now," said Periard during Monday night's meeting.

Many individuals had expressed displeasure at the current BOD for last week's decision to not reopen nominations. However, Board Chair

Matt Park said the issue was for the acclaimed board to consider.

"[Opening nominations] would set a dangerous precedent... that the board can choose to reopen nomination as a way of evaluating candidates," said Park. "It creates the potential that the corporation could reopen nominations with any amount of candidates."

Current WLUSU vice president of marketing and presidential candidate Dan Hocking agreed with Park, but was quick to express that an SGM, or a second election, is a good result for next year's BOD.

"I'd like to see it go to an SGM to ensure we have the number of directors we need... and to give some unique opportunities to students," he said.

Fellow presidential candidate

- SEE SGM, PAGE 4

THE CORD WEEKLY

— The one that binds since 1926 —

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WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24, 2007

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Next Issue: January 31

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"No more interns! Damn, I'm going to have to do more work!" — Tony Ferguson

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COLOPHON

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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Cord will always attempt to do what is right, with fair and
further representations, for retaliation. The purpose of the
student press is to act as an agent of social awareness, and to
conduct the affairs of our newspaper.

Local business vandalized

Loop Clothing on Princess Street was hit by
vandals early Friday morning

DAVID GOLDBERG
CORD INTERN

A handful of establishments including Luci's Mud House, McMullen's, and Loop Clothing were vandalized in Uptown Waterloo in the early morning of Friday, January 19.

Normally a wave of vandalism like this would be waved on as an unfortunate incident, but what makes it more unfortunate is that this is a recurring problem and these businesses are the same victims again and again.

All three venues were hit in different ways causing varying financial damage.

Loop clothing on King Street had a large recycling bin thrown through their front window that set back owner Alndor Keshvani \$500 in damages. The front window at their old location had been kicked in two additional times, costing Keshvani \$2,000 a pop.

When asked about the familiar incident that has occurred to Keshvani for the third time in a year and a half, he refers to it as "typical, stupid vandalism."

At McMullen's, there was more property damage when at the end of the night owner Chuck McMullen entered a desecrated bathroom. A hole had been kicked in the drywall about five feet off the ground and the paper towel dispensers had been mangled.

McMullen wonders what's going through people's minds when they cause damage to private property.

Luci Harmon, the owner of Luci's Mud House, has an even more disturbing tale.

"Around 2:30 am [January 19] we woke up to the sounds [and sight] of a young male throwing things off our deck into the parking lot," said Harmon. The list of dislodged items included a toppled BBQ and a children's slide.

Harmon and her husband chased the perpetrator away, only to have him come back shortly af-

ter and steal their garbage can.

Luci's Mud House, which has also been a victim of vandalism on multiple occasions, has been a victim "too many times to count," says Harmon.

"It's very frustrating," she says.

Local businesses don't want to place all the blame on students but some of the facts are hard to ignore.

"I don't want to point fingers, but in the past it has been [students] and because of the nature of the area, yeah I do think it was a student," said Keshvani.

Harmon and McMullen agree because they have seen the people who were defacing their property on different occasions.

"It's all been young males aged 18 to 23," says Harmon.

But in the end, the hard working proprietors of these local businesses see more question marks than dollar signs. All of them agree that the biggest victims of vandalism are not themselves, but the students.

"There's a reason why prices go up with things," says Keshvani. "[Students] want to bitch and complain about not having any money. Well stop breaking shit. Your stupidity is coming out of my own pockets."

McMullen agrees. "Students always talk about wanting cheaper beer." He continued on to say, "Listen, if I took all the money that I've spent on repairs after an incident of vandalism and gave it to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, I'd be their biggest donor in Waterloo."

At an interview in his store, Keshvani said, "We're a small business, people need to grow up...you can't just go around destroying things because they are there."

McMullen says, "It's not an alcohol factor; it's a personality factor."

Keshvani agrees. "Common courtesy: you're born with it or you're not."

Police classified the incident at



Tony Ferguson

CANS, PAPER AND BROKEN GLASS - This recycling box was used to smash the store front window early Friday morning.

Loop Clothing as vandalism and property damage. Business owners like to know the official terms for how they've been victimized, but they also would like charges to be laid and wonder why they aren't.

Olaf Heinzl, the public relations coordinator for Waterloo Regional Police, wants people to know that they use a method of crime prevention by looking at the patterns of occurrences.

According to Heinzl, Loop Clothing's mishap did not belong to any pattern and is being considered a random act, as far as police are concerned. Random acts like

these make it difficult for police to go further with the case because of the lack of information.

"It's a process and it starts with ongoing communication," said Heinzl. Heinzl would also like to tell people that in order to fight vandalism, people need to report the crime, no matter how small.

"We just want people to realize that [police] don't consider any crime to be insignificant."

Heinzl says a dialogue with citizens is the key to success in the fight against crime.

See PAGE 24 for editorial reaction to this story

Team theme
taken too far

TONY FERGUSON
NEWS EDITOR

For most Winter Carnival participants, last week's frigid festivities were nothing more than harmless fun. But a Laurier student feels that one team crossed the line.

Patrick Fazari, who took part in this year's Winter Carnival, became offended after he witnessed members of the Waterbuffalo team paint their faces black, put fried chicken buckets on their heads and carry around a novelty-sized

joint. This was an effort to present a Jamaican theme.

Fazari directed his complaint to WLUSU president Allan Cayenne.

"When he came to me, he was concerned over the way that a Winter Carnival team had presented itself," said Cayenne, who met with Lindsay Fleming, vice president: student activities after talking to Fazari. The meeting was to confirm whether the events had actually taken place and when it was confirmed, Fleming contacted the Waterbuffaloes and made it

clear that this behaviour was not to continue.

"We can't control the actions of our participants but we can react to their actions and that's what we did and I think we handled everything to the best of our ability," said Fleming.

Fazari remains unsatisfied with the situation.

"I haven't heard an apology myself and I don't know if they're apologizing to those in charge," said Fazari, who wants to see those involved with the incident held accountable.

The Waterbuffaloes are not affiliated with WLUSU and, as Cayenne explains, an apology would be their prerogative. Although WLUSU has no sway over whether the Buffaloes apologize or not, he feels that an apology is not an outrageous demand.

"I think that they realized what they did was wrong so I wouldn't imagine that an apology would not be that far fetched coming from them," he said.

Fazari isn't placing blame on anyone but remains concerned that this was allowed to happen.

"It's not WLUSU and it's not Winter Carnival, but certainly there's a condoning and encouraging of certain behaviours that has not been admitted to," he said.

Cayenne feels that WLUSU in no way encouraged this behaviour. "From a WLUSU standpoint it hasn't been condoned based on how we reacted to the situation," he said.

Waterbuffaloes are a charitable organization at Laurier. Representatives could not be reached at press time.

> VOCAL CORD

What do you think makes Laurier so appealing to applicants?



"It has a high rating in MacLean's and it has a good reputation for curriculars."

- Regis Dudley
Second-year
Environmental Studies



"I like the small campus. I find that the relationship with the professors ... they talk with you, they make eye contact."

- Sarah Sharp
Second-year Global Studies



"I came here for the archaeology degree."

- Kayla McKinnon
Second-year Archaeology



"The community atmosphere, the school is smaller, it's easier to get around."

- Jamie Tibbetts
Second-year Psychology



"I came, I saw it, I liked it, I liked what it's about and it's gotten better since I got here."

- Mike Fortier
Third-year Political Science

Compiled by David Goldberg,
photos by Laura Purchase

U of T students probe admin investments

ADRIAN MA
STAFF WRITER

A student group from the University of Toronto (U of T) is attracting national attention for circulating a petition to convince U of T's administration to sell off more than \$10 million of stock in the international tobacco industry.

The school currently has investments in tobacco companies like Altria Group, Japan Tobacco and Rothmans Inc.

While \$10.5 million is a small fraction of the university's overall investments (about \$2.5 billion according to the University of Toronto Asset Management Corporation), Gerard Kennedy, a student at U of T and the communications director for Education Bringing Youth Tobacco Truths (E-BUTT), says any amount of money invested in tobacco is too much.

"As a student, I don't want my tuition fees going towards products that kill people," said Kennedy, whose group will continue their lobby efforts until the school's administration divests "100 percent" of their tobacco investments. E-BUTT is also demanding a clause in investment rules to prevent the university from buying shares in tobacco again. "I don't really see much compromise on this issue."

The student group is now looking to investigate the investment practices of other campuses. Until recently, E-BUTT had a student contact at Wilfrid Laurier University, although that person has discontinued their research due to time commitments. They have also been working with students at the University of British Columbia and Queen's University in Kingston. Kennedy says E-BUTT's goal is to establish a liaison "at every major university" in Ontario.

While the investment information for U of T was easily accessible on the web, the stock investments



Sydney Helland

WHO'S INVESTING IN THIS? - Laurier invests largely in mutual funds, making it difficult to trace back to the original firms because these funds do not appear on stock exchanges.

of other universities may prove more difficult to find.

Gary Lambert, the assistant vice-president of financial resources at Wilfrid Laurier University, says the school's money is invested by Frank Russell Canada, a professional money manager that purchases mutual funds - open-end funds that are not listed for trading on a stock exchange. Lambert says it is impossible to know exactly what companies or industries WLU has bought stock in.

E-BUTT has been seeking signa-

tures from students, faculty, alumni and private donors for the past year. Since holding a press conference in January, the group has received national exposure from the Canadian media, and their story has caught the attention of the NDP's Jack Layton and his caucus. Kennedy says Layton's office has contacted E-BUTT to announce their intent in signing the petition.

Joanne DiNardo, a Tobacco Control Specialist with the Lung Association, believes U of T is being hypocritical by investing in the

tobacco industry.

"The university trains doctors and dentists, who are in the health care field," DiNardo told Canadian Press. "They really shouldn't be [supporting tobacco companies] if they're a medical teaching university."

U of T spokeswoman Rita Pocius said the university has formed a committee to explore the possibility of selling these shares.

WLU's rep attracting more

- FROM POPULAR, COVER

seen an average increase of three percent. Laurier's BBA program has also experienced a high application increase of 16 percent, compared to the Ontario average of six percent.

"If you look at business, arts, sciences, etc, we are actually running ahead of the province across the board," said Stephen.

Laurier Brantford is also experiencing more applicants for enrollment in fall 2007.

All of Brantford's program applications are up by nine percent, and journalism is up by 19 percent.

Laurier has seen continually increasing applications over the past

few years. "Historically, Laurier's applications have almost doubled since 2000," said Stephen. "In 2000, Laurier had 9,404 applications, and this year we have 17,968."

The increase in number of applicants to Laurier can, according to Stephen, be attributed to reputation. "I think it speaks to Laurier's reputation that it continues to get stronger across the country as one of the best places to go for an undergraduate degree."

According to Stephen, the university will not necessarily increase enrollment. "A target has not yet been set but it is unlikely that the target will be bigger than last year," he said.

Dr. Jonathan Finn, another

Communications Studies professor, feels that if there is an increase in enrollment, it would tighten the grip on an already burdened faculty. "Given the increased burden that's already been placed on faculty I think that [accepting more students] would just be a very dangerous move."

Docherty and Stephen stress that this might not be the case. It might, however, mean higher acceptance averages. "It could mean higher admission standards, but we haven't yet seen the quality of the applicants," said Stephen. "I think we're going to see a period where applications begin to stabilize and admission standards increase."

Laurier's increasing popularity may be attributable to the quality of the university. "Part of it is the improved quality of the facilities at Laurier over the last decade and that's an important part to applicants," said Stephen.

As the number of applications continues to increase, it is clear that Laurier has become a top choice for many students.

"The university is very optimistic about enrollment this year because of the large number of applicants," said Stephen.

See PAGE 24 for editorial reaction to this story

> BAG O' CRIME**Property Damage***Reported: January 15, 2007*

Special Constables responded to a residence after Foot Patrol reported that someone had thrown a milk jug out of a window, smashing on the ground. The student was spoken to and will be dealt with by Residential Services.

Assist Police*Reported: January 15, 2007*

Special Constables assisted Waterloo Regional Police with an on-going investigation into threatening phone calls made to a student in residence.

Disturbance*Reported: January 17, 2007*

Special Constables responded to Wilf's after receiving a call from staff reporting a disturbance between a male and female student.

The matter will be forwarded to the JAC for further investigation.

Property Damage*Reported: January 18, 2007*

A Special Constable found a toilet paper holder ripped from the wall in the men's washroom near the Grad Pub. PP&P repaired the damage. There are no suspects.

Assist Police*Reported: January 19, 2007*

Special Constables attended an off-campus address at the request of Waterloo Regional Police to deal with an intoxicated student found wandering in neighbouring backyards. The student was taken home to the care of sober roommates.

Property Damage*Reported: January 21, 2007*

Special Constables attended the 2nd floor of the FNCC after an unidentified student smashed a win-

dow in the door after being ejected from the bar. PP&P was notified and repairs were made.

Property Damage*Reported: January 21, 2007*

Special Constables attended the main entrance of a residence after an unknown person(s) smashed a window in the door. PP&P was notified and repairs were made. No suspects.

Assault*Reported: January 21, 2007*

A student was assaulted outside Little House during a snowball fight when a third party passing by became angry and punched him in the face. The student sustained injuries to his face, and the suspect fled the scene toward Bricker residence prior to Special Constables arriving.

Trespassing*Reported: January 21, 2007*

Special Constables arrested an intoxicated male student for refusing to leave the Terrace Food court as a result of dispute over a food purchase. The student was issued a Provincial offence ticket and released.

Fire Alarm*Reported: January 21, 2007*

Officers responded to the Athletic Complex to investigate a fire alarm and found that a special needs visitor had activated a pull station. No action taken.

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

NEWSINBRIEF**Proposed bus pass upsets UW students**

University of Waterloo students are upset over a proposed universal transit pass that would allow students to unlimited use of Grand River Transit buses.

The cost to all full-time undergraduate students would be \$41 per semester, \$107 cheaper than a regular semester pass.

Despite the discount, students have no way of opting out, which has some UW undergrads annoyed, much like it did at WLU.

"I know some people that don't want a transit pass but want this to go to referendum so they can vote it down," said Renjie Butalid, a vice-president with the Federation of Students in an interview with *The Record*.

In a campus survey of nearly 800 students a 60 percent rate of approval for the pass was found.

Some students are petitioning to force a referendum on the issue.

There are nine universities in Ontario, including Laurier, that have universal transit passes.

Music Ed Conference

Laurier's Student Association of Music Educators (SAME) is holding its second annual conference on Saturday, January 27 from 9am-4:30pm in the Paul Martin Centre. Aptly titled "Allegro," this conference is directed toward students and pre-service teachers who are interested in music education. It promises to be an excellent opportunity to learn more about the field, to take part in various workshops and to meet and interact with several local clinicians and professionals.

There are five workshops scheduled throughout the day: Nancy Kidd will speak about developing and recruiting for a high school music program, Dale Marcell School of Drum will lead a drumming circle, Susan Follows will deliver "How to Stay Sane in a High School Instrumental Program," Mike Ferguson will discuss the process of interviewing as a new teacher and Susan Watt will talk about the music classroom environment in the elementary school system.

Cost for the day is \$15 if pre-registered or \$20 upon registration at the door. Lunch is included. For more information or to pre-register contact SAME at wlu_same@yahoo.ca.

Waterloo still a smart city

For a second straight year, Waterloo ranks among the world's seven best knowledge economies.

MARK ADAMSON
STAFF WRITER

Laurier students can proudly say that they call one of the world's smartest cities their home. Waterloo has been recognized as one of the world's seven most intelligent communities for the second consecutive year.

The recognition highlights Waterloo's role as an innovative city. The strong educational community in the city bolstered by UW, Laurier, and Conestoga College were featured by the city in their pitch to be nominated for this honour.

In addition to housing one of Canada's top educational com-

munities, the city was recognized for the larger number of successful

"The international community is taking a great interest in what Waterloo is doing in terms of being a digital age leader."

- Mark Whaley, Waterloo city councillor

globally known corporations that call Waterloo home.

The recognition was delivered by the Intelligent Communities Forum, a special interest group that focuses on the use of broadband

technology for economic growth. The group assesses a community's ability to generate a knowledgeable workforce, demonstrate innovation, and the ability to use the community's broadband, labour, and other assets to attract new employees.

Waterloo City Councillor Mark Whaley says that the top seven ranking affords a great opportunity for Waterloo to strut its stuff on the international stage.

"It says the international community is taking a great interest in what Waterloo is doing in terms of being a digital age leader," he says.

Waterloo's reputation as a broadband community cemented their

status in the ICF's rankings. Waterloo has the largest wireless zone in the country, and the hope is that the city will be a fully wireless community by year's end.

"Our community always innovates, looks for that next new edge that will give us an advantage in a digital age and that's why it's one of the top seven intelligent communities in the world," says Whaley.

The top seven cities are honoured in no specific order, and were selected from an original list of 21 communities selected in late '06.

The top seven intelligent cities will compete for the honour of most intelligent city, which will be awarded on May 18 at an ICF conference in New York.

Two would-be directors force SGM

CRO Josh Periard blindsided by All-Candidates drama, as directors force a second election

- FROM **SGM**, COVER

Dan Allison agreed that an SGM is a positive result.

"The students need to be properly represented on the board," he said. "An election of any size legitimizes the voices of the directors."

This has continued what has proven to be a dramatic week for the electoral process at Laurier. The All-Candidates Meeting, held last Wednesday, was filled with obvious tension.

Ciesluk, who was attempting for the third time to become a WLUSU director, chose to remain outside the meeting and therefore could not accept nomination and be acclaimed. He described his actions as a protest for institutional change.

"As a body that holds democratic elections every year to choose leadership ... it is shortsighted and inappropriate to have an acclaimed board," he said. "Ultimately it is poor corporate policy to enter into a year with a board at 80 percent capacity."

"I have no trust in a process that offers immediate authority," he added.

Within minutes of his acclamation, Wilson attempted to resign and was refused by Josh Periard, Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for the election. But after speaking with Ossington prior to Monday's BOD meeting, it was determined that he could indeed resign prior to the new board's first meeting. Wilson declined to comment to the *Cord* regarding the reasons for his

resignation.

The All-Candidates Meeting also saw acclaimed Board of Governors member and incoming WLUSU president Keren Gottfried raise questions as to the merits of an acclaimed BOD.

"I wanted to get information on the table, because as a candidate, I want to know," she said. "Bottom line is that candidates want to know what kind of campaign they're running in."

Park, who was present at the meeting to accept his nominations for BOD and Board of Governors, said he respected Gottfried's opinion but expressed disapproval for raising them at a meeting typically seen as a formality in the election process.

"I agreed with [Chief Returning Officer] Josh [Periard] that the All-Candidates Meeting is an information session and the kick-off of the election," he said. "I'm happy to

talk with anyone that has questions ... but it's not right to attack the CRO because he is not responsible."

"I didn't think it was the right forum," he added. "Unfortunately this may overshadow the issues."

Periard expected that the meeting would be contentious, but not to the extent that it was.

"I was very nervous," he said. "I definitely didn't think once I got into the meeting what happened was going to happen. It kind of caught me off guard."

Periard wants to remind students and voters not to get caught up in the drama and remember that an election is still taking place for positions.

"Keep in mind there's still an election happening," he said. "There's still people working hard to get high profile positions in WLUSU."

"Come to the open forum, learn more about the candidates and get out and vote."

You know something we don't know?
Tell us.
Cord Action News
Pager:
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RADIO LAURIER

WINTER SCHEDULE 2007

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

9:00-10:30

THE RECESS
ALEX MANDOLIDIS & LUKE BENDUS

THE JON KIT RADIO SHOW
JON KIT

AROUND THE WORLD
SIMON MEWS

LEFT OF NORMAL
BRIAN POLECK

MAINSTREAM

ROCK

HIP-HOP/RAP

THEME/VARIETY

OTHER

TALK

10:30-12:00

PEZ & BON BONS
LAUREN BONNET & KARI PRITCHARD

THE SHOWCASE
KEN MATHESON

TODAY'S SPECIAL
BREE DRENNAN

MORNING JAVA
KASSANDRA MELNYK

12:00-1:30

1 1/2 CUPS OF ROCK
JONATHAN MILLER

UNPLUGGED
JONATHAN MILLER & KASSANDRA MELNYK

THE SKA SHOW
SAUNDERS FLEMMING

THE SECRET WORLD OF JUST ALEX
ALEX CYBULSKI

SINGLED OUT RADIO
JORDAN SIMAS

1:30-3:00

UPON FURTHER INSPECTION
ROCKY LI & JORDAN MOUSSALLI

SEX, DRUGS & RADIO
ADRIAN LISCHER & TOM HOWSE

DA MIX
DAVID TABI

THE DARK END OF THE STREET
JULIETTE BAIRD

LEFT OF THE DIAL - THE CLASSICS
JEREMY WOODCOCK

3:00-4:30

AFTERNOON DELIGHT
MEGAN VANDEKERCHOVE & KELLY LORIMER

THE ROCK HAWK
JAMES TCHEGAS

THE J-SPOT
JUSTIN KATZ

I LUV HIP-HOP
LOLA PLAKU

T'N'A
ALEX MORRISSEY & TAYLOR LANDRY

4:30-6:00

IT'S HAMMER TIME!
DEREK BARTOSCHEK

BROKEN BORDERS
JEN WILL & CARE LUCAS

LEFT OF NORMAL
BRIAN POLECK

MIND, BODY & SOUL
WEMI FOLUKE

FRIDAY NITE PISS UP
NICK BOYD & JOE TURCOTTE

6:00-7:30

THE SECRET WORLD OF ALEX PAT
ALEX CYBULSKI & PATRICK FAZZARI

THE ESTEBAN & CHARLIE SHOW
D.J. DEMERS & SEAN SASSO

THAT 70'S SHOW
BRANDON VENTRESCA

TAKE NOTES
JORDON MOUSALLI & ROCKY LI

SOUNDS FROM THE OTHER SIDE
ERIC STEIN

7:30-9:00

THEMES, DREAMS & SCHEMES
NICK BOYD & JOE TURCOTTE

THE MOONLIT MILE
LAURA HARTLEY

SWEET AFTER HOURS RADIO
LAUREN BONNET & KARI PRITCHARD

ALL KILLER, NO FILLER
KENTON ZATHEY

9:00-10:30

THE EMO SHOW
JOY GHOSH

SLEEPING AIDES & RAZOR BLADES
ALEX CYBULSKI

LEFT OF THE DIAL
JEREMY WOODCOCK

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Make an informed vote

From dining hall hours to pay raises, read on to find out what your candidates and acclaimed directors stand for in this election

> President and CEO



Dan Allison

During my time at Laurier I have had the opportunity to work with many different students due to the variety of positions that I have held. I have been a member of the WLUSU Board of Directors for 2 years, as well as a volunteer and employee in the Accessible Learning Office. I have also been a member of Senate subcommittees advocating for students with special needs. Currently, I am the coordinator of First Year Council which represents first year students on the Waterloo campus.

If elected, I will work with University Administration to extend the hours of the dining hall and library throughout exam periods to provide comfortable study environments for students. I will ensure an expansion of the library occurs to create a centralized learning commons. Further, I will enact a funding structure that better supports campus clubs – allowing more students to gain access to WLUSU supported activities. I will make sure that the renovation of University Stadium will accommodate both varsity athletes and students who use the facilities for intramurals and other activities. In support of the growing diversity of our campus, I will ensure that diversity related issues are a focus for WLU next year. In Brantford, I will make the Campus Commissioner a member of the Management Committee, and assist in the development of a volunteer culture. Lastly, I will ensure WLU renovation projects in Brantford maintain a student focus.

Please visit my website, www.voteallison.com to learn more about my vision for WLUSU.



Dan Hocking

WLUSU needs to provide both quality services and proactive representation of the average student on issues that matter to them. Through close work with students and student groups, I will unite the campus to provide one student voice to the administration. As WLUSU President, I will push for incremental space for student services and student groups, including a diversity centre. I will see that the Stadium is renovated to be more usable. I will ensure a permanent extension of library hours. I will see that overnight parking is brought back onto campus. I will add proper recycling facilities outdoors. I will produce an Annual Report outlining our goals, sharing our accomplishments, and offering explanations for any shortcomings. I will implement a program to offer pay raises to returning employees with good performance, ensuring a more motivated staff and higher levels of service. I will conduct a structural review of the Campus Clubs department, and a review of the club funding formula, ensuring that it is operating to best benefit the 100+ campus clubs. I will introduce trays to the Terrace, eliminating needless waste. I will move WLUSU forward technologically, adding online services and a cheap home phone plan. I will work to get a food operation in Brantford. I will work with GRT and Brantford Transit to solve the shuttle bus issue. I bring two years of WLUSU management experience to the table, and have produced results. For more information, please visit www.danhocking.com. On February 1st, vote Dan Hocking.

> Vice-President: University Affairs



Yusuf Faqiri

I Have Resolved To:

1. Raise the issue of reinstating the Laurier Student Caucus to better connect and represent various interests at Laurier. The Student's Union needs to foster this sense of community by promoting more dialogue between faculties and renewing its connection to the student body.
2. Advocate strongly for the various faculties of Wilfrid Laurier University and for the University as a whole. We have world-class Business and Economics, Music, Arts, and Science faculties and a fledgling Teacher's college. WLU deserves more recognition than it gets.
3. Strengthen this school's ties with OUSA (Ontario University Student's Association) so that we can organize a more effective petitioning body.
4. Ensure that the democratic disaster of this year's BOD elections does not happen again. WLUSU needs to be more effective in its communication with younger students and students in all academic faculties.
5. In co-ordination with the increased awareness of student government fostered by WLUSU, institute a program whereby the VPUA holds monthly open forums in central locations rotating by faculty in order to more directly communicate with students and better answer any questions.
6. Pursue a policy of environmental responsibility and renewal, raise the profile of the campus EcoHawks, and ensure through tangible means that the campus becomes more energy efficient and environmentally friendly.
7. Raise a motion before the Board of Directors supporting the reinstatement of the Golden Hawk logo in the second floor hallway of the Fred Nichols Centre.



Lauren McNiven

When elected to VP:UA I will work towards incorporating more international students into the Union, keeping in sync with Laurier's Century Plan and campus demand for a more diverse atmosphere. I will continue to work on the Academic Integrity project, which includes establishing a student-administered academic misconduct hearing board. I will work with Waterloo's new mayor to establish a strong, functional relationship and ensure that students are viewed positively and are well represented in the external community. I will maintain our strong Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance presence on Waterloo campus, and bring OUSA awareness to Brantford, to ensure that students' needs are being addressed provincially. I'll push for membership in the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations for federal representation, since at this time we are not affiliated federally. I'll create a role, Municipal Commissioner, to represent municipal interests on campus and campus interests at city hall. I will work with the Brantford Campus Commissioner to implement an environmental committee. This upcoming year is a strategic planning year and I will work diligently to ensure that environmental policy is a top priority and have the Union lead the university by example. This past year as Vice-Chair of the Board I have worked closely with the current VP:UA. I have experience with OUSA, CASA and I have lobbied the federal government on matters of post-secondary education. I know this position and I know that I can best represent your needs on campus, and to all levels of government. Vote for Lauren McNiven

> Board of Directors (acclaimed)



Adriana Bohl

1. Unite Brantford and Waterloo Campuses through encouraging both council representatives to maintain and increase the relationship between these two locations through hosting events, and programs. 2. Work towards maintaining a safe environment at Wilfrid Laurier Community. Hold monthly meetings with campus security to review current security concerns. Advocate for safety-oriented services such as Foot Patrol and work towards increasing projects, such as safety whistle campaigns. 3. Increase awareness about the Wilfrid Laurier Students Union and the role of the Board of Directors to students. Advertise the role of the Board and WLUSU on a constant basis. Raise awareness amongst students that their opinions matter. 4. Initiating a student reward program to acknowledge student volunteers within the university.



Roger Chabot

My name is Roger Chabot and I am excited to be on the Board of Directors in 2007-2008. The majority of my goals for next year concern WLUSU initiatives already in motion and insuring that they are completed. I would like to see representation committees utilized to a greater extent, assuring that students are heard by the Board so it can effectively provide for the needs of students. Furthermore, I would like to be an active part of retooling policies and procedures used by the Union in response to an ever changing student body. Finally, I would like the Board to take a strong stance on where it lies within the WLUSU organizational structure: empowering Board members to become better leaders.



Jonathan Champagne

I truly look forward continuing as one of your representatives on the 2007/2008 WLUSU Board of Director's. Being acclaimed is unfortunate and not ideal; despite this I assure you I will continue to be a strong voice and diligent worker both in and out of the boardroom. One of my goals for 2007/2008 includes a both successful and accountable transition into policy governance, if such a route is decided. Another goal of mine is an anonymous feedback system for WLUSU volunteers to ensure the most enjoyable experience possible. Lastly, an important goal of mine is to put forth a true effort to increase the board's accessibility for both students who require the board's assistance and those who would like to be a board member.



Lauren Civello

As a member of the Wilfrid Laurier Students Union Board of Directors, I plan to promote the Board presence throughout campus. I want to encourage student input on Board issues so that their needs are properly met. I would like to see a greater first year presence in the Students Union to ensure fairness. I also wish to create a positive learning atmosphere on campus. By promoting equality while at the same time encouraging diversity, I believe the student body has the opportunity to achieve an optimal environment. As a member of the Board, I would like to improve safety on campus. As well, I plan to encourage environmentally friendly operations across campus.



Fabio Enriquez

I originally had a completely different platform for my campaign to run for Board of Directors. However, due to the recent events regarding the election process, I have decided to alter my platform to address the glaring issues that have already been evident. I will work hard to improve communication between the Board of Directors and the marketing department in order to ensure that there will not be an acclaimed board in the next election. It is important that students take an interest in student government in order to have proper representation of this diverse University. I will try to make student government more visible and attractive to students who really want to make a difference at Wilfrid Laurier University.



Matthew Ichim

As a WLUSU Director I will act with a view towards the best interests of Laurier students. I will ensure that WLUSU expenditures provide maximum benefits for all students. Furthermore, I will investigate various ways for WLUSU to add more value to the student experience here at Laurier.



Kory Preston

No platform submitted.



Paul Laanemets

On the Board of Directors, I will stick with my belief that fiscal responsibility should be a governing principle within WLUSU. I recognize that the average Laurier student already pays a significant amount in student fees and I see no reason to increase it. Also, student bursaries are a valuable form of financial assistance and I will advocate that WLUSU increase the amount donated towards them. This unique campaign is the perfect opportunity for acclaimed candidates to listen to the policy concerns and suggestions of students. I will always be open to any ideas or suggestions you might have and I encourage you to approach me or any other director with them.



Matt Park

Through 2 years on the Board I've had the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Boards role within WLUSU. Going in to my third year I'd like to continue building Board training and development to ensure that the student representatives governing WLUSU have the adequate resources to proactively deal with issues of student concern. Furthermore, the relationship that has begun to develop between the Board and Management has provided immense opportunity for collaborative efforts. I would like to continue building the trusting relationship to ensure a cohesive direction for WLUSU. I have truly appreciated the opportunity I've had with the Board and would be thrilled to contribute to the development of student life at Laurier.



Jaspreet Singh

I advocate for unity, a united student voice. BOD is acclaimed, but I firmly believe that any voting and decisions that I make will be a reflection of the student voices at Laurier. My vested interest is to help promote greater awareness of this organization, perhaps see through some sort of public forums. As a Director for 2007/2008, I believe my compassion for WLUSU and my dedication for change will be my strongest assets. I will make efforts to enhance my knowledge of WLUSU. I will standby to meet the needs of students, and help meet these needs with a team of directors that care about our institution, about integrity and honesty, and that cares about you. United, BOD can create positive change, not adversity.

> Board of governors (acclaimed)



Matt Park

The Board of Governors has control over all assets of the University. We're entering into a phase where construction projects are becoming increasingly important and the development of student space on-campus should be a priority for the University. Furthermore, Laurier is entering into a new era as we welcome Dr. Max Blouw as the new University President and I am excited to participate in the direction setting role of the Board of Governors to ensure that the needs and wants of students are not ignored. I would like to use my position on the Board of Governors to advance the interests of student rights within Wilfrid Laurier University.



Keren Gottfried

I, Keren Gottfried, am running for the position of Governor to serve as the advocate for Laurier students. Throughout my extensive political career at this school, I have learned what it takes to be a strong voice for undergraduate students. It is about being very well researched, actively seeking the opinions of students, and having the courage to speak up for their interests. As a Student Senator, for example, I was responsible for establishing a task force comprised of professors, administrators and myself, to evaluate the WLU Conflict of Interest Policy. This was in response to a Laurier professor trying to charge students high dollars for what was essentially an online version of his course notes.

> Senate (acclaimed)



Rachael Baker

My motivation in running for senate is to be an advocate for the needs of students at Laurier. I am running in this election because I am fully capable of representing our diverse student population and because I demand an enriching university experience for all students. We are fortunate to belong to a campus that offers students countless opportunity to become involved in what they feel most passionately about. Learning and education are critical interests of mine. As a senator, I will be an informed voice. I will make great use of information that is provided to me as a senator and collaborate with my fellow senators to best represent the students of both the Waterloo and the Brantford campuses.

> WLU PIRG directors (acclaimed)



John Clements

I am seeking a position on the LSPIRG Board of Directors because I feel LSPIRG's values are goals are very in line with my own and I would enjoy being a part of such an organization. As a 2nd year History and Political Science student, and a current LSPIRG Board member, I would bring the experience and the fresh perspective necessary for LSPIRG to continue to grow and establish itself as a prominent student-led organization on campus. As a board member I would be a listening ear to those who seek to have their opinion heard on the Board of Directors. I would also use seek to work co-operatively with the other Board members to steer LSPIRG in a productive and beneficial direction.



Janice Lee

As a director on the LSPIRG Board, I will make decisions on what I think best represents its members based on my own beliefs. I believe in the values of the LSPIRG, especially the education of its members, encouragement of civic involvement and the enhancement of Laurier's academic culture. I will do what I can to foster these values in and around the Laurier community. I believe that the LSPIRG can be an agent of positive social change.



Bryn Ossington

In the past year LSPIRG has gone from a group of hopeful students to a budding new corporate body with so much potential to positively change the political climate of our campus. It is important to remember that the major change will come from working groups and the hard work of our volunteers and staff, but at this point we need a strong and diverse board of directors to represent the interests of all LSPIRG members and set in place strong policies that will enable LSPIRG's maximum potential to be realized. With my experience and dedication we can set in place a vision that will make LSPIRG a valuable asset to our campus and community. Vote Bryn Ossington to the LSPIRG BOD.



Kate Manktelow

As a member of the LSPIRG Board of Directors, I will aim to use my diverse background in economics and psychology to be a voice for these commonly underrepresented portions of the student body. I will focus on ensuring that all programmes and initiatives of the organization are operating effectively and will strive to create policy which reflects the unique Laurier community. I will bring forth my experience as Vice Chair of the current Board of Directors and active volunteer and in many facets of the organization to serve as an authority on its history and operation.



Josh Smyth

If elected to the LSPIRG Board of Directors, I will bring to the table a firm grasp of governance and fiscal management from my time on the WLUSU Board. I have frequently been involved in volunteer activities, both with PIRG and outside of it, since I entered Laurier, and feel that that gives me a good grasp of both how the organization works and what can be done to improve it. I will endeavor to be a responsible, informed, and critical voice in management decisions. Thanks for taking the time, I appreciate your support.



Jacob Pries

I am running for the LSPIRG BOD to help sustain an accountable, representative, dynamic, and progressive organization. My goal is to ensure students are getting value for their money while increasing our visibility on campus. I will help build on LSPIRG's strengths and successes by pushing for more active engagement in our community. I have been heavily involved with LSPIRG, volunteering in various working groups, which has given me a greater understanding of how this group functions and how I can best utilize my skills to increase LSPIRG's effectiveness. Working for LSPIRG has helped me develop an excellent understanding of the functions of the board and how I can best serve the students interest by being the change I want to see in the world.

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LSPIRG AGM

and Election of Board of Directors

Both will take place on

January 25th 2007 at 7:00pm

in the Paul Martin Centre
 Wilfrid Laurier University

Laurier keep points coming

Women's hockey team boost unbeaten run to six games

DAVE GOLDBERG
CORD INTERN

The women's hockey team finished off this past weekend with a very respectable 1-0-1 record, coming from a win against Western and a tie with Windsor.

In the Laurier victory, the Mustangs might as well have been pylons in what would end up being a 6-0 decision for the Golden Hawks.

Laurier simply skated faster and played an aggressive fore-check that kept Western's ladies from leaving their own zone.

And you can't win hockey games from behind your own blue line.

The first goal of the game was scored by Collingwood native Andrea Ironside, just 2:47 into the contest. It came with the assistance of Lauren Barch.

Ironside would repay the favour just six minutes later by feeding a pass to Barch who peeled in from the right side and put it top shelf to make it 2-0.

By the end of the first period, Laurier led the 'Stangs 3-0, thanks to a goal from Laurissa Kenworthy.

The game was put even further out of Western's reach when Kentworthy added her second goal of the night less than four minutes into the second period.

Ironside got on the board for the final time that evening when she assisted on a Kate Psota goal with just 0:58 left on the clock.



KNOCKING ON THE DOORSTEP - Laurier gets one of its many offensive chances in their 6-0 route of the Mustangs on Saturday afternoon.

Shane Porter

The Mustangs' head coach, Paul Cook, called a time-out midway through the third period, but it did nothing as Laurier continued to dominate the play, with another goal being added courtesy of Allison Williams before the game was over.

Action hit its climax when Laurier defenseman Lauren Meschino got shoved in the head near the

opposition's net but caught only the retaliation and received an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

The Golden Hawks out-shot Western 29-19 and goalie Morgan Wielgosz earned her third shutout of the season.

Sunday's game against Windsor proved to be a much more difficult opponent and women's hockey had to settle for a 2-2 tie.

Ashley McMillin and Vanessa Bennett scored for Laurier. The point was also salvaged with the help of Wielgosz's dazzling performance and the Golden Hawks' killer penalty kill that was 100 percent perfect.

The first place Hawks are now 14-2-1 on the season.

Laurier plays next at Queen's on Saturday and Waterloo on Sunday.

Curlers still rocking the ice

As defending OUA champions, Laurier's stone-tossers are looking to keep their chain of success going

MARK D. HOPKINS
STAFF WRITER

They do not play on campus, their team consists of only six men and their sport would not be considered to be a popular one by many. But Laurier's varsity men's curling squad has quietly gone about cementing themselves as a force on the university curling scene.

Coming off a provincial gold medal and Ontario championship last season, the expectations and experience are in place for another championship run in 2007. With all four regulars returning this season, Laurier is looking to build on their success last campaign to get back to the national championship scene.

The team would love nothing more than to obtain another chance at the Canadian title. They curled to a 1-4 record in Winnipeg last year, while salvaging one tight victory against Lakehead in their final game.

However, Laurier has to qualify for the provincial championships

before even considering a national gold medal victory once again.

"It would definitely be nice to [at least] get back to OUAs," said lead David Jenkins. "Anything can happen really."

Golden Hawk varsity athletics has produced a total of 43 provincial championships in history. Five of those have come from the men's curling team. They are a team flying under the radar from a publicity standpoint. Despite their success, Jenkins recognizes why curling does not receive much attention.

"We definitely are on the outside looking in," he admitted. "Obviously everyone is going to like the others. It would be nice to get more recognition, but I understand."

Jenkins, along with second Paul Arkilander, third Jeff Bennett, skip Bill Francis, and alternates Punit Sthankiya and Brent Rohrer, began eyeing another gold medal this weekend as they took to the ice to commence their 2007 campaign.

After dropping their opening match to the University of Toronto

at the local KW Granite Club, Laurier managed to plough over Trent in four ends and also defeat Queen's in the third draw of the weekend. The Golden Hawks left the weekend's action with a 2-1 record.

When asked about areas for im-

provement, Jenkins looked towards the teamwork that has yielded success before. "[We're] definitely working on building team chemistry. You want to feel comfortable out there on the ice."



HURRY HARD! - Paul Arkilander (left) and David Jenkins sweep while their skip, Bill Francis, gives them guidance from the background.

Shane Porter

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
January 24 - 30, 2007

RECENT SCORES

01.18.07
M Hockey 4 - York 1

01.19.07
W Volleyball 1 - Guelph 3
W Basketball 68 - Lakehead 76
M Basketball 74 - Lakehead 59

01.20.07
W Hockey 6 - Western 0
W Volleyball 3 - Brock 0
W Basketball 91 - Lakehead 78
M Hockey 5 - Guelph 4 OT
M Basketball 69 - Lakehead 62

01.21.07
M Volleyball 1 - Toronto 3
W Hockey 2 - Windsor 2

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

01.26.07
W Volleyball vs Guelph
WLU Athletic Complex, 6:00pm
W Hockey vs Queen's
Pillars Pad, RIM Park, 7:30pm
M Volleyball vs Guelph
WLU Athletic Complex, 8:00pm

01.27.07
W Basketball vs Waterloo
WLU Athletic Complex, 17:00pm
M Basketball vs Waterloo
WLU Athletic Complex, 2:00pm
W Volleyball vs McMaster
WLU Athletic Complex, 6:00pm
W Volleyball vs McMaster
WLU Athletic Complex, 8:00pm

LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Matt Walker
Men's Basketball
Hollie Nicol
Women's Curling

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Hawks have solid 'advantage'

Team enjoying success with power-play unit

JAMIE NEUGEBAUER
STAFF WRITER

With six games remaining in the schedule, the Golden Hawks men's hockey team is eleven games over .500.

Additionally, they are the second most successful team in the OUA, when it comes to offensive output, by tallying 99 markers thus far; a drastic improvement when compared to only 74 all of last season.

An absolutely crucial reason for this strong performance is a highly proficient power play that boasts three of the top five power play goal scorers in all of Canada.

One of these sharpshooters is OHLer Rob Dmytruk who is having a career year with 11 goals (9 of them on the power play) and 13 assists for 24 points.

As an offensive defenceman, Dmytruk quarterbacks one of the two units on a Laurier power play that scores on approximately a quarter of their opportunities - a stat that ties them for number one in the country.

"The forwards have been doing a great job moving the puck down low and finding [our point men] up top," explained Dmytruk.

Head Coach Kelly Nobles prescribed strong puck movement through the neutral zone and into the opponent's territory, and then

good use of their size up front at the beginning of the year. His preaching has certainly paid off as Laurier scored almost half of their goals up a man.

It is the workhorses in front of the opponent's goal that have been making the difference as well.

Large bodies like Mike Leclair and Luke Girard have been the Hawks' unsung heroes when on the man advantage. Though the "donkeys," as Girard stated, do the bulk of the work, creating space for the likes of Dmytruk, they avoid receiving a lot of the credit. With that kind of selflessness the Hawk power play continues to roll.

Also added to the mix is the howitzer of a shot belonging to former Barrie Colt defenceman Riley Moyer as well as the strength and vision of Mark Voakes. Together, these Golden Hawks have formed one of, if not the, best power plays in the CIS.

NHL fans need more lovin'

Recent campaign for bottom-feeder player raises more pressing issues



DAVE GOLDBERG
CORD INTERN

When hockey fans think of a journeyman defenceman, they usually think of Reggie Harris, Greg Hagwood or Larry Hillman. Or do they think of journeymen at all?

Let's ask Rory Fitzpatrick, a 12-year veteran of the NHL with 28 points in 240 career games who almost beat out four time Norris Trophy winner Nicklas Lidstrom for a starting spot at this year's all-star game.

There hasn't been an all-star game since 2004's snoozer in St. Paul, Minnesota. But Dallas's effort in 2007 has already made up for lost time (and entertainment) and the game hasn't even been played yet.

I don't think that Fitzpatrick, a native of Rochester, New York, ever saw himself in contention to play at the league's star-studded gala. Over the course of his career, Fitzpatrick, who has never scored more than 11 points in a season, has been well travelled - appearing with Montreal, St. Louis, Buffalo and Vancouver; not to mention his various stints with the lowly clubs of the American and

International hockey leagues.

But Steve Schmid, a resident of Auburn, New York, felt that "Rory" who has become a household name, should have a moment in the sun. This inspired his "Vote for Rory" campaign last November.

Armed with t-shirts and his very

the NHL some publicity in North American mainstream sport, something the league hasn't received since the lockout.

And, yes, it is nice for the fans to think that they have some say about who gets to play. Maybe in a perfect world the fans would run the entire National Hockey League.

It's just a fact that the tidal wave of changes over the years has turned the NHL into a business. And, frankly, a multi-

The NHL must ask itself a lot of questions and do some serious thinking about what just happened with an event that is second only to the Stanley Cup playoffs in generated revenue.

million dollar enterprise is no place for the common fan or their opinions - which is more reason to revisit the 'good old days.'

The defending Stanley Cup champs take on the NHL's elite, picked by the NHL. And having won the Cup gives the city the gift of being the host.

The RBC Center in Carolina would have been overflowing this year with fans if their beloved Hurricanes, Eric Staal and Rod Brind'Amour were taking on a powerhouse with the likes of Alex Ovechkin, Sidney Crosby and Joe Sakic in its flanks. And isn't that something that, in the end, everyone could agree on?

Now that the hoopla is over and Lidstrom is in his rightful place beside Scott Niedermayer on the blue line this January 24, the NHL must ask itself a lot of questions and do some serious thinking about what just happened with an event that is second only to the Stanley Cup playoffs in generated revenue.

Did this incident hurt the integrity of the game? Not at all.

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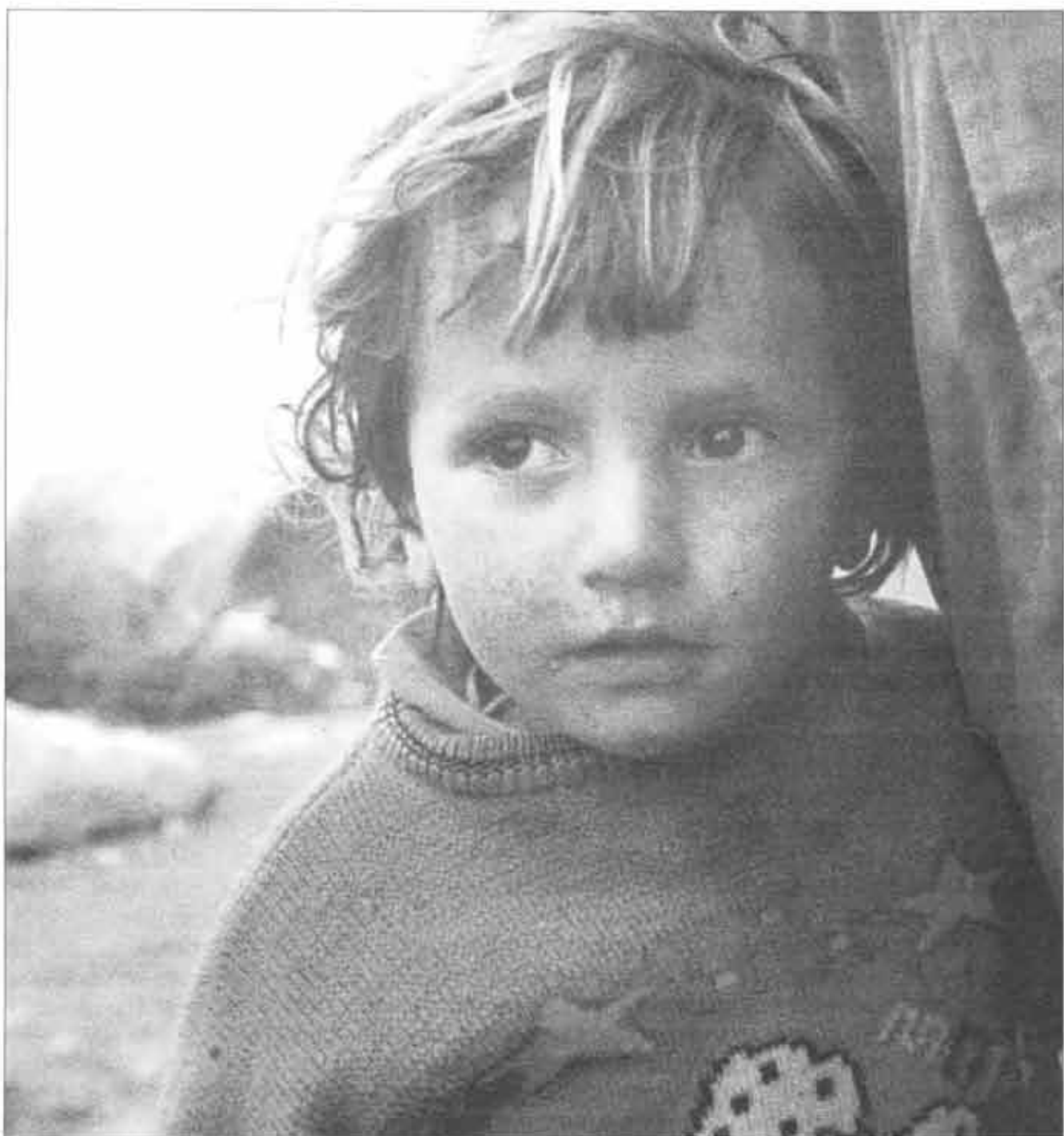
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TIME IN BETWEEN - Both Syria and Jordan are supersaturated with refugees; the US has appealed to Canada to take in more claimants, while violence in Iraq has hopefully reached its peak.

Canada must help refugee crisis: US

ARLA LATTO-HALL
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

The outflow of refugees from Iraq has taken its toll on US immigration - so much so that it is appealing to Canada to absorb some refugee claimants. Canada has accepted fewer than 50 such claimants, according to US information.

"We've encouraged Canada to make this a priority in their resettlement policy, because this is an area of tremendous need and vulnerability," said Ellen Sauerbrey, the US assistant secretary for migration and refugees. Many who have fled to Syria or Jordan will not be able to return to Iraq, she told reporters.

According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada's website, refugees are selected "because of their need for protection." Canadian legislation on refugees is based on the UN 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, and requires that refugees "must have a well-founded fear of persecution because of their race, religion, political opinion, nationality or membership in a particular social group," and have no alternative place to go.

Canada accepted nearly 36,000 refugees in 2005, of which nearly 3,000 were from Afghanistan. China and India remain the two leading

sources of new immigrants to Canada. Iraq didn't figure in Canada's top 24 source countries for refugees in 2005, the latest available data.

Refugees can also be sponsored either by sponsorship agreement holders, community sponsors, or a group of five Canadian citizens who will personally provide "settlement assistance and support" for the refugee.

Refugees from the area have increased drastically since sectarian violence first gripped the region. Recent violence included a double bombing at a university in Baghdad last Wednesday that claimed 70 victims, according to the BBC. Iraqi police report that 170 were wounded in the blasts.

Reports indicate that a car bomb exploded outside Mustansiriyah University; a blast that caused students to flee the building and left them vulnerable to a second attack by a suicide bomber positioned outside the university. Iraq's US-backed prime minister, Nouri Maliki, blamed the attack on "a hopeless group of Saddamists and extremists," while President Bush pointed to al-Qaeda for "triggering sectarian violence."

The attacks occurred only hours after a similar twin bombing in a used motorcycle market in Baghdad. Bystanders who tried to help

those wounded in the first attack were killed by a second explosion. According to a university official, "The majority of those killed are female students who were on their way home."

According to the UN, more than 34,400 Iraqis died in conflicts during 2006 - a figure nearly three times the estimate given by the Iraqi government. The repercussions of the region's violence have been the cause of a massive outflow of refugees, which the UN pins down to at least 2 million Iraqis - or nearly 50,000 monthly.

Many refugees flee to nearby Syria or Jordan to escape the violence, where they are given no special status and are often considered illegal immigrants. Instead of bombings, they are faced with discrimination. Locals assume that Iraqi women work in nightclubs and treat them with little respect, if any.

"In Syria it's OK," said Fatima, an Iraqi refugee interviewed in Damascus by the BBC. "Nobody interferes with my life if I just do my job and go home."

Another couple interviewed by the BBC fled their small, family-run pharmacy after falling victim to a steady attack. It took them two months to raise the money to flee Iraq with their two small children.

Passports required

ARLA LATTO-HALL
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

As of January 23, all Canadian travellers to the US are required to present a passport when arriving by air, according to American legislation introduced in late November, 2006. This replaces the previous requirements, which allowed birth certificates or drivers' licences to be used as forms of identification and citizenship.

The new rule is the result of recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission, which was then made into law in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. It is the first of two steps designed to "strengthen border security and facilitate entry" into the US by requiring "standardized, secure and reliable documentation" of citizenship and identification from US nationals and foreigners alike. In addition to affecting Canada, other locales subject to the new passport regulations include Mexico, Bermuda, the Caribbean and citizens of the US upon re-entry.

The second foot is expected to drop on January 1, 2008, when the same requirements are extended to travellers entering the US by land or sea.

So far, the change has drastically increased the volume of passport applications. According to Passport Canada, it received over 350,000 applications in November alone - up 33 percent from November 2005. As such, the wait time has extended from 2 - 14 days to 5 - 20 days for processing, despite hiring more employees and increasing printing shifts. In addition to Passport Canada offices, applicants are being strongly en-

couraged to use Service Canada and Canada Post outlets, which also service applications although typically with slightly increased fees and wait times.

At a cost of \$85 before the cost of studio photos required for the passport, alternatives are attractive. Canadians can also travel according to the Canadian Border Services Agency's NEXUS program, designed for frequent border-crossings, but costs remain high at \$80 and the turnaround is much longer, ranging from four to six weeks.

One set of Canadians is exempt from the new restrictions: snowbirds. With the "vast majority" of the Canadian Snowbirds Association's 70,000 members heading south this year, said a CSA spokesperson, this exception is significant. Since some may have been south before the legislation came into effect, they will be allowed to leave the US without a passport for "some significant period of time," Michael Chertoff, secretary of Homeland Security, said on Thursday. "We don't want to strand them here."

American citizens entering Canada will not face the same restrictions: they will continue to be able to enter the country using both a driver's licence and birth certificate.

According to the CBC, the US is also pressuring European countries to speed up introduction of new high-security passports containing a computer chip with a digital photograph. According to the US Department of State website, a passport card speeding up travel between the US and its Western Hemisphere neighbours is still on the negotiating table.



Contributed Photo

OOPS, I FORGOT IT! - Brave the Passport Canada lines now if you'll be travelling by air to the US this reading week.

Somalia's solution is internal



JOE TURCOTTE
A&E EDITOR

The nation of Somalia should be one of our world's most beautiful places. Making up part of the Horn of Africa, Somalia boasts one of the largest coastlines on the continent. Aside from this natural wonder the Somali people are a cause for appreciation. Often referred to as a nation of poets, the country features a culture that has existed for millennia.

Instead Somalia is a nation in crisis. It has been described by many as the most dangerous nation on Earth. It is a country where violence and chaos reign supreme. It is a place where children are born into poverty and despair, a place where the majority's only hope for prosperity, or at the very least survival, is found through the powers afforded by the cold steel of a gun.

For over 16 years the country has existed without the securities provided by an acting, officially-sanctioned and internationally-recognized government. Instead, the people of Somalia have lived through the rule of a power hungry socialist-dictator or have been caught in the crosshairs of battling warlord factions.

Living in a constant war zone cannot be the easiest life to live, so any chance of being able to finally relax and settle into a normal and familiar lifestyle will probably be appreciated. Considering this desire for any semblance of security it is no wonder that the Islamic Courts Union (UIC) was able to ef-



AFP/Getty Images

FROM POETRY TO GUNS - A gross misunderstanding of Somalian culture may leave chaos in the US wake.

fectively take control of Somalia in 2006. With little to unite the various clans that make up the Somali nation, the UIC turned to religion. For the most part, the people of Somalia all follow the teachings of Islam; in fact, the religion is one of the few common ties that the Somali people can agree upon.

As such, when the Islamic fundamentalist UIC took control of the nation's capital city, Mogadishu, and promised to remove the Somali warlords from power and institute law and order within the nation, many Somalis approved. The fact that the UIC was also insisting on implementing a harsh and devout Islamic regime did not register with much of the population. Any con-

cerns about following a strictly religious judicial code were secondary to the desire to finally be able to follow any sort of law.

And to their credit, the UIC did achieve unparalleled stability within the African nation. As promised, the nation's warlords were removed from power and forced to follow the same laws and principles as the rest of the Somali population.

However, in spite of the fact that the UIC had been able to create a relatively better environment for the Somali people, their reign was to be short. Threatened by the Islamic government, Somalia's largely Christian neighbour, Ethiopia, backed Somalia's exiled and impotent transitional government

and helped to force the UIC out of Mogadishu. Now the transitional government must work towards legitimizing itself in the eyes of the Somali people and combat opinions that see the group as merely a front for foreign and Western interests.

In response to this, the transitional government has resorted to instituting martial law, as well as attempting to shut down and censor national radio stations. These moves have hardly endeared the new government to the Somali people, who are once again threatened by insecurity and the possibility of an all-out civil war.

Further fuelling the flames of the anti-transitional government insur-

gents has been the recent involvement of American forces, which have begun targeting and bombing Islamists who are believed to have ties to al-Qaeda. By bringing the War on Terror into the Horn of Africa, Western nations have once again demonstrated the West's willingness to unsettle a nation, as well as an entire region, in order to promote its own interests.

This ethnocentric idea that the West is better than the rest of the world and is therefore best fit to cure the ills of all other nations is outdated and obviously false. The problems that Western involvement in the Middle East has created are a testament to how ill-advised intervention is never a very good strategy.

This is not to say that the West cannot play a role in helping to stabilize conflicted regions around the globe. As the economically-advantaged portion of the world that has benefited greatly from those who are disadvantaged, it is the responsibility of the West to help ensure that stability, security and justice are universal to all the people of planet Earth. However, in order for this to truly become the case, we must begin to recognize and attempt to understand the complexities created by different religions and cultures.

Perhaps since Iraq has gone so horribly wrong, and it seems unlikely that a resolution will be found there any time soon, Somalia can serve as an example for how future culture clashes of this sort should be treated. And perhaps, everyone can band together and help to bring some much needed stability to this proud nation.

Women-only peacekeeping

Nation-building is tough, but hopes are high

MARY ERSKINE
STAFF WRITER

The United Nations deployed its first all-female peacekeeping force to Liberia this past Sunday, which consists of over 100 Indian policewomen. Having undergone training since September, they have been deployed for a period of six months, with the UN assessing the need for a term extension at that time.

While women have been a part of peacekeeping missions in the past, this is the first time a contingent has been made up entirely of women. Those involved with this group make note of the perceived advantages the women will have once within the conflict zone.

"Women police are seen to be much less threatening, although they can be just as tough as men. But in a conflict situation, they are

more approachable and it makes women and children feel safer," said unit commander Seema Dhundia.

Echoing Dhundia's comments, Presidential advisor on gender and human rights to the government of southern Sudan, Awut Deng Acuil, commented that, although women are often the victims of war, they also have "the power and potential to defuse tension."

The group's tasks will include training of the Liberian National Police, assistance with prison security and the conducting of local elections, and patrolling of contested regions, among other tasks. Having been drawn from India's Central Reserve Police Force, the peacekeepers have gained valuable experience aiding with regional conflicts involving the Maoist rebels in central India and the disputed Kashmir region.

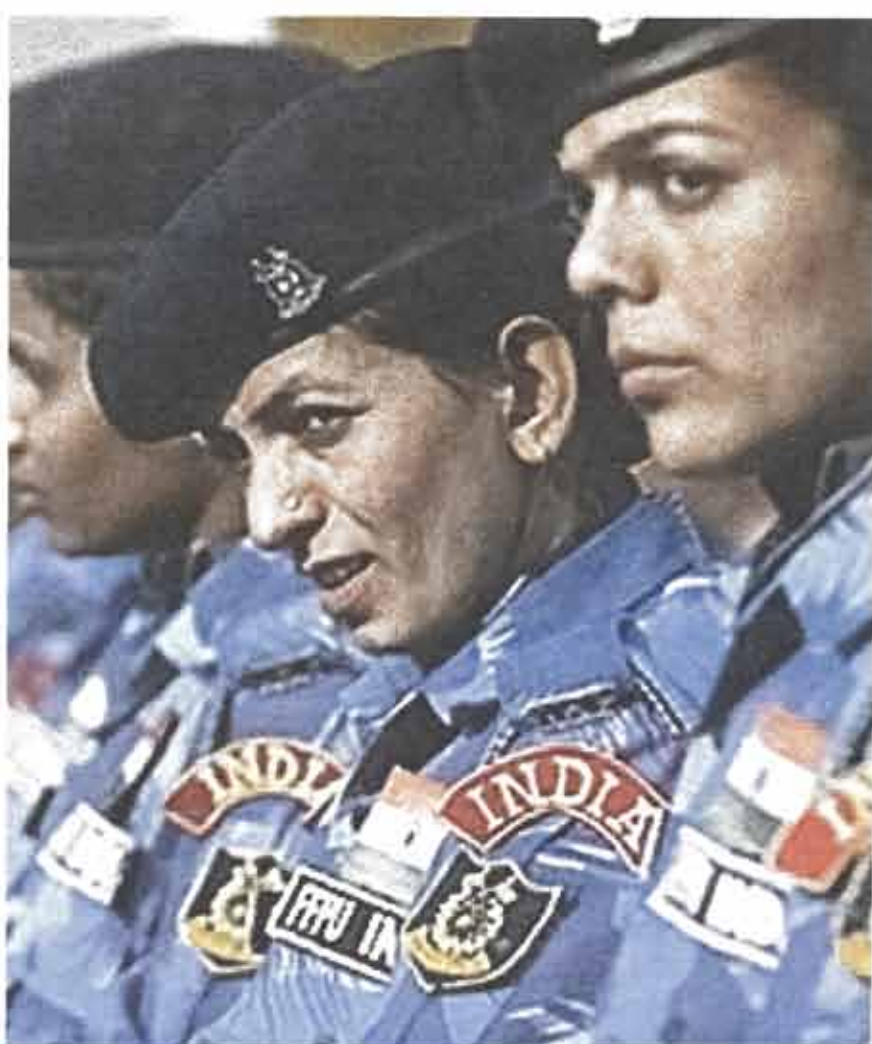
Liberia, Africa's oldest repub-

lic, was founded in 1822 by freed American slaves. It officially became a republic in 1847. Since that time it has endured two civil wars, the first from 1989-1996 and the second from 1999-2003. The wars, combined with an ongoing conflict with neighbour Sierra Leone, comprise a period of distress and upheaval of nearly fifteen years, which has shattered the economy and displaced up to half of the nation's three million inhabitants.

Approximately 250,000 people were killed during Liberia's prolonged conflict. Today, Liberia is still attempting to recover, but is facing additional challenges including an excess of weapons, rampant corruption, endemic illiteracy and unemployment. Even the capital city of Monrovia (named after former American president James Monroe) suffers from inconsistent supplies of running water and electricity.

Currently, Liberia is one of the United Nations' most costly peacekeeping operations, stationing an average of 15,000 soldiers within the country since a peace treaty was agreed upon in 2003.

Another female first: after two years of transitional government in Liberia, the country chose Africa's first elected female head of state, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, in late 2005.



Contributed Photo

READY FOR THE CHALLENGE - An "approachable" peacekeeping force of 100 Indian policewomen is the UN's response to 15 years of civil war in Liberia.

What do we owe other generations?
Matt Given finds out. See CordWeekly.com

Research in Action

Dr. Sukhvinder Obhi, a cognitive neuroscience researcher at WLU has just been awarded with \$112,023 for

MICHELLE PINCHEV
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

Since joining the psychology department in July of 2005, Dr. Sukhvinder Obhi spent much of his first year here grant-writing – and it has really paid off.

Obhi has been making headlines at Laurier since 2006, first for being awarded the Petro-Canada Young Innovator Award in July and receiving infrastructure funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) shortly after. Now, CFI has just matched this federal funding with an additional \$112,023 from the province.

"It's really a sign of the faculty members we were able to recruit," Dr. Arthur Szabo, dean of science at Laurier, says of the award. "Not only are they good teachers, but they are also excellent researchers, all picked through very competitive search processes."

Obhi joins an already impressive team of "hard-core" cognitive neuroscience researchers at Laurier, including doctors Feretti, Servos and Jones. While very humble about his achievements, Obhi is ecstatic about the direction WLU is growing in.

"We're really stacked up to become much more research-intensive."

Call it fate, but these professors, who have all come to Laurier for one reason or another, have come together to form an academic force to be reckoned with.

Still, the faculty of science at Wilfrid Laurier University has a long way to go before being internationally recognized as a major player in terms of research and development. Obhi says we're not quite on the map – yet. But that is all changing rapidly.

According to Szabo, a Neuroscience Research Centre is in the works and it will be the first research centre in science established at the university. The centre will be comprised of the labs of all faculty in psychology who conduct research in cognitive neuroscience, including Obhi's Cognition in Action lab.

"We have researchers," explains Szabo, "but this is an identified research centre. It basically brings people together with common interests and provides them with a greater profile, opportunities to interact with each other, to collaborate on research projects and perhaps apply for group funding. That's the motivation for it."

This means that Laurier's research centre will eventually sit among heavyweights in cognitive neuroscience such as Western, McGill and UBC, to name a few.

"Our aim is actually to become a premier institute for cognitive neuroscience research in Canada," says Obhi. "This won't happen overnight. It's going to take a few years."

In order to be recognized for its research, Obhi and Szabo both feel Laurier needs to continue to attract more graduate students as well as create more graduate programs.

Cognitive neuroscience explained

A branch of neuroscience, cognitive neuroscience is a field of study that deals with the biology behind mental processes and human behaviour. In particular, researchers study the brain and its underlying neural mechanisms using a variety of techniques.

One of the reasons scientists study cognitive neuroscience is for clinical purposes. Research like Obhi's can eventually help people with cognitive deficits, such as those who suffered a stroke, in a variety of ways. The cognitive neuroscience studies at Laurier range from pure to applied.

Psychology, as Obhi points out, is a very young field with entire parts of it comprised of ideas and speculation over only about a hundred years of research.

"What we're doing now with the techniques we've got available is we're mapping the ideas that people came up with in psychology and giving them some kind of biological basis," explains Obhi. "It's all very well to have a bunch

of ideas and flow charts, but at the end of the day, to fully understand it we need to understand the biology behind it as well."

This particular field of science is surprisingly rooted in something rather unscientific: phrenology. Back in the early 1800s, physiologists first drew the connection between behaviour and the brain. They believed that "bumps" in the scalp could be read to understand an individual's personality and actions. It became something of a cultural phenomenon.

Today we have come a long way from the days of phrenology when we relied on speculation. We have imaging equipment like functional magnetic res-

onance imaging (better known as fMRI) and electroencephalography (EEG), which records electrical activity in the brain through electrodes placed on the scalp, and many other methods to explore our ideas.

The hardware

You might be wondering how a small institution like Wilfrid Laurier University is capable of having a cognitive neuroscience research centre without some of the facilities that the bigger schools have.

"In Canada, there aren't an awful lot of universities that have access to things like fMRI," says Obhi, citing Western as "the big cen-

tre" in Canada for this kind of research. "Luckily we are very well connected to Western."

He, in addition to some of the other faculty in cognitive neuroscience research at WLU, all have, in some way, links to Western that has put Laurier in the fortunate position of being able to use the facilities there.

"We come from there. And [Dr. Servos] and myself are still very attached to the Roberts Research Institute, which is basically an imaging centre."

Despite the hour-and-a-half drive, Obhi says "we benefit from being able to use it and we do the data analysis here."

Having access to an fMRI greatly compliments the equipment WLU already has, as well as what they are in the process of getting.

According to Obhi, Laurier has a state-of-the-art EEG which is at par with the best in Canada, as well as several eye-tracking systems in the department.

Now that Obhi has been awarded the CFI, both federally and matched by the province, his next step is probably a lot more enjoyable than grant-writing. He's shopping for more equipment.

"This lab is going to be absolutely loaded. We are going to be so well-equipped. In fact, this is going to be one of the best equipped labs in the province. And I really think that students at Laurier should know about it because it's a really big deal."

Equipment Obhi plans to purchase includes equipment for measuring muscle activation (electromyography or EMG) as well as motion-tracking equipment, which will enable them to track at a really high resolution the three-dimensional movements people make.

"We'll be able to measure, with very high precision, your trajectories and your movements," which Obhi says will help them understand

how the brain controls that sort of behaviour.

Possibly the most exciting, Obhi says the Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation system (also to be purchased with CFI money) will be a very "cool" addition, and that not many labs have good TMS capability.

What TMS does, essentially, is stimulate the brain. Obhi says "it's almost like something out of a sci-fi film."

"We can actually make neurons fire using TMS. It lets us very selectively alter the normal neural processing that is going on in a particular brain area while measuring someone's performance in a cognitive action task. By measuring that performance and looking at performance deficits we can infer what the function of that brain area was."

In layman's terms, by firing certain neurons thought to be involved in a task and keeping them busy, researchers can make important causal links between those neurons and certain behaviours. If a cognitive task, such as counting, is difficult while certain neurons are kept "busy" firing we then can say that those neurons are critical for performing that task.

"It goes beyond fMRI because it gives us causal information," says Obhi.

The TMS can do a lot of neat things. Firing certain neurons can cause an individual to make involuntary movements or feel sensations.

"If we stimulate the neurons in parts of our brains responsible for perception of touch we can actually make you feel as if you were touched on a certain body part. We can make you see things with your eyes closed by stimulating your visual cortex."

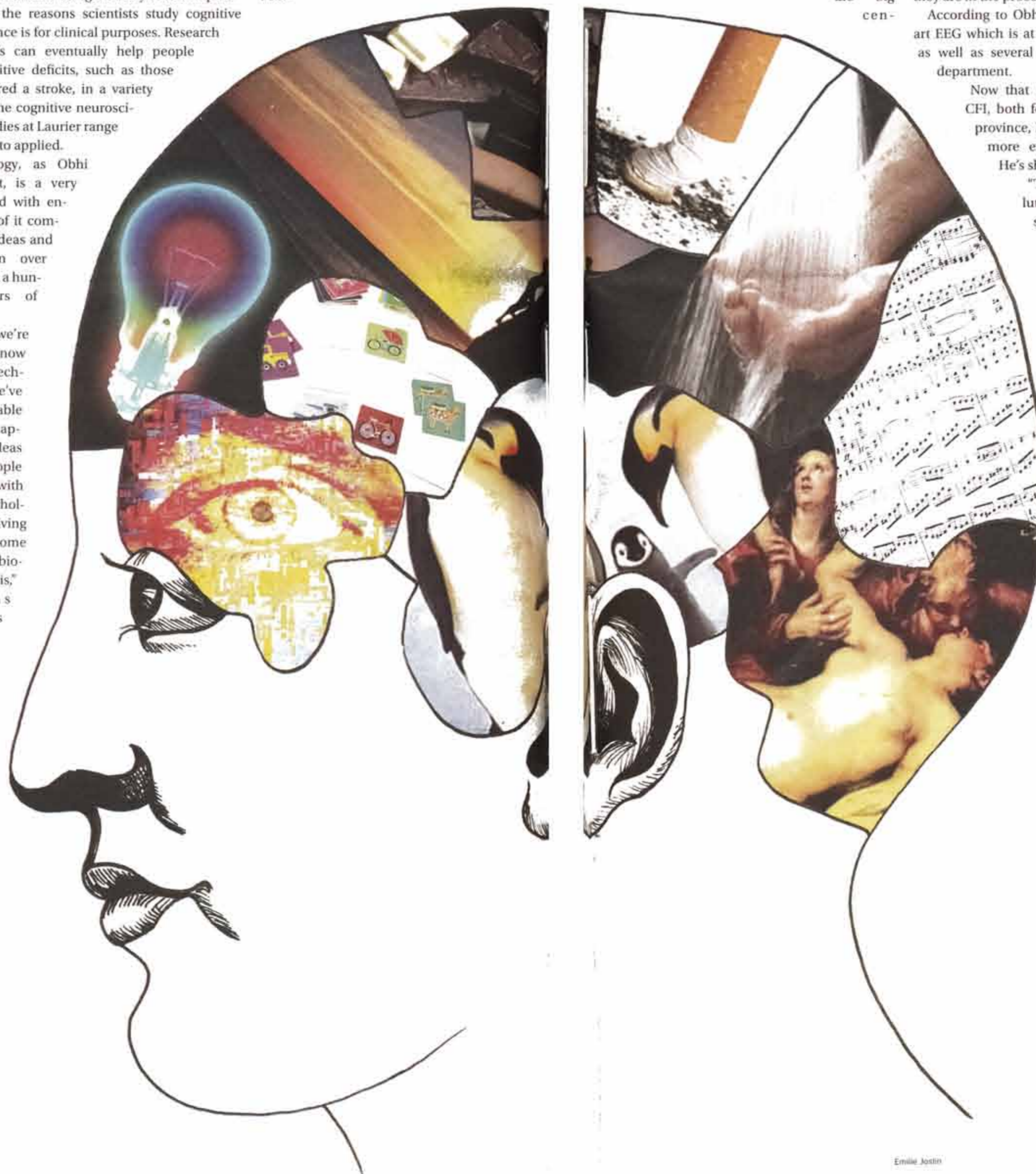
Adding to his fundamental research in cognitive neuroscience and action, Obhi says that one of the biggest problems with the brain and behaviour is stroke, and hopes his applied research in this area will help people with deficits to better recover.

Students who are interested in learning more about cognitive neuroscience or Obhi's work can find his page on the Laurier website.

Michael Gazzaniga, a big name in the field, is also scheduled to speak at Laurier early next month, an event open to all students and made possible through STEP funding.

Gazzaniga will lecture on various topics in cognitive neuroscience and sign copies of his new book, *the ethical brain*.

Obhi feels that Gazzaniga's visit to Laurier from California is further evidence of the success of our growing psychology department.





PRESIDENTIAL POSE - Allan Cayenne in front of the Students' Union office, in his last months as President.

Shane Porter

A Day in the Life... of the WLUSU President

Allan Cayenne's schedule is busy, erratic and stressful at times, but at the end of the day there's nowhere else he'd rather be

VERONICA HUGHES
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

Allan Cayenne does not have an average student schedule. The Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) President is always busy - including evenings and weekends.

He can be pulled from one duty to the next with little notice, requir-

ing a lot of flexibility and patience. "You learn a lot of people skills," comments Cayenne, who grew up in the Waterloo area.

However, a typical day will include hitting the gym in the early hours, several meetings throughout the day, lunch at the Terrace, WLUSU project work and class.

He attributes being able to bal-

ance a hectic work schedule to the hard work of his fellow management team, WLUSU executives and volunteers.

"The people allow WLUSU to be great," beams Cayenne. "There's a core group of people that want to make a difference."

Cayenne's experience with WLUSU does not stop at his current presidential position. He has been a volunteer with BACCHUS, A-Team, Shinerama, Winter Carnival executive, a Fashion 'N Motion dancer and executive, and vice-president of student activities.

All of these activities led to a Vol-

unteer of the Year award in 2005.

This has led to a solid background within WLUSU management, and several goals set forth in his platform during last year's election.

One of Cayenne's goals was to open the resources of the school to more students at better hours. This includes his efforts in keeping the concourse open until the early morning hours and his current work into extending library hours. "I'm pleased with the concourse being open, so it's accessible to students," he says.

His good works aside, dealing with complaints, unhappy students

and faculty is a daunting task. Cayenne takes it in stride.

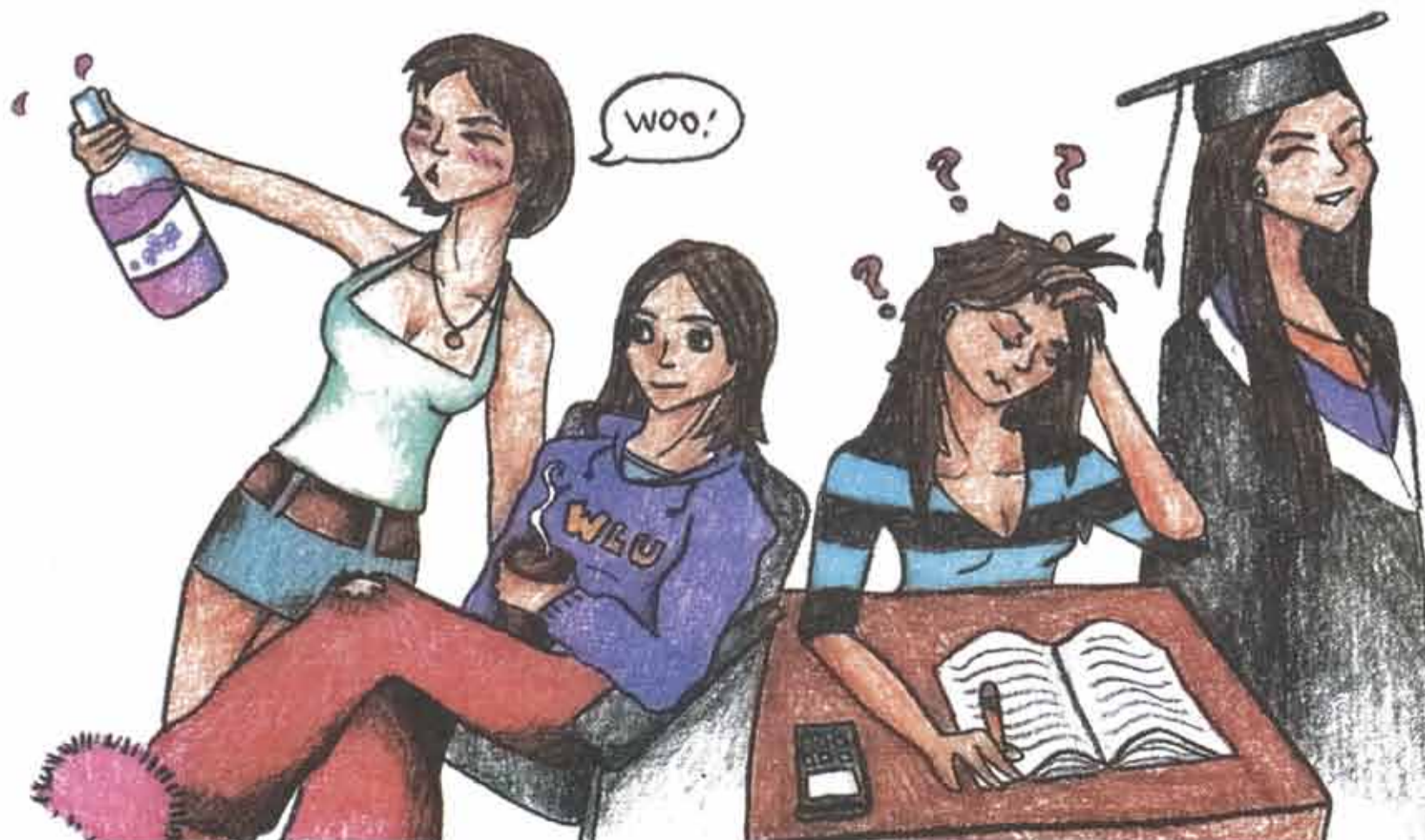
"There's going to be criticism of any decision that's made. It all comes down to someone's opinion."

He does disclose that it is frustrating when there is a language barrier, and each side does not understand the other. "It's challenging when someone doesn't have the ability to articulate why they feel that way."

He says the Hawk controversy last term was the most difficult

- SEE CAYENNE, PAGE 18

Yearly transitions of student lifestyles



There are significant lifestyle changes that occur between first year and the victory lap

CHELSEA GASKO
STAFF WRITER

Excessively philosophical and sappy I may be, but I believe that during my university years I have grown more as a person than in any other era of my life.

While it's an impossibly daunting task, reflecting on my four years as a Golden Hawk seems an important if not therapeutic undertaking.

So join me for a moment of reflection as I get a little 'dear diary'-esque and contemplate life as a Laurier student.

Ah, first year. This year brings a zillion firsts. Every new part of life is

Mollory O'Brien

IMPORTANT TRANSITIONS - Most of us don't get stuck in a first-year lifestyle due to school and work constraints.

- SEE TRANSITION, PAGE 17

Every year is its own gem

- FROM STUDENT, PAGE 16

uber-exciting and you find yourself with new friends, a new town, and for many of us, a new ID (one who is most likely ugly but is also irrefutably 19).

This really is a time of change. Before moving into residence just eight months earlier, I had felt abashedly like Wendy on her last night in the nursery, and yet come move-out day I felt like a brave warrior returning home with swords blazing and plenty of battle scars (mainly on my liver).

While first year was inordinately filled with strangers' keggers, second year might lead you to a bar with a "where everybody knows your name" feel.

You will go there every night and it will become your Mecca. For me this was Phil's, but to each her own.

Along with a brand-new house you also have brand-new bills (who knew hydro was so expensive?) and brand-new housemates.

To live with someone is to truly know them, and if you can't bum about in horrific-looking red sweatpants in front of these people, you might consider re-thinking your choice.

This special relationship, the red pants relationship, likens to a polygamous common-law marriage and shouldn't be entered lightly.

In third year you might notice that school is kind of hard all of a sudden. While this is disturbing, you do not, by any means, stop pubbing.

The actuality of being over halfway through university sinks in sometime during this year as well, and you may begin to ask yourself "whatever will I do with my life?"

Make an appointment with Career Services if you must, but I say there is plenty of time to fret in fourth year, when every older person you know will unfailingly ask you for a summary of the next forty years of your life.

It's best to prepare an answer for these dweebs. Mine has been to holler a resounding "I'm off to EUROPE!" That tends to shut them up.

Fourth year also brings a splendid "now or never" attitude. However cliché this might sound, the thought of graduating with regrets has certainly spooked me into biting a lot of bullets, so to speak.

And so, with only a matter of months before I leave this joint, I find myself exhaustingly nostalgic at the weirdest of times.

May you also be blessed by the spirit of the Hawk (rest its soul) and feel the urge to victory lap in Van Wilder-fashion until the cows come home.

A Homestyle Classic: Pork Chops and Potatoes

Dinner for Two

Adria Cehovin-Brown
Food Critic

Ingredients

4 small pork chops
1 cup of bread crumbs
4 tablespoons of lemon juice (not lemonade!)
6 potatoes about the size of your fist
5 tablespoons of butter
Half a cup of milk (amount of milk and butter for the potatoes can be increased or decreased, or cut out entirely)
For something different, add sour cream instead of milk and dice up a few shallots (tiny green onions).

Directions

Wash, peel and cut the potatoes into one-inch pieces. Put them in a pot of water with a dash of salt and cook (you do not

need to pre-heat the water).

Next, take out two medium size bowls, pour the lemon juice in one, and the bread crumbs in the other. Place the pork chops into the lemon, (ensuring the total surface area is coated in lemon), then follow the same steps with the bread crumbs.

When you are ready to cook the pork, bring out the frying pan and add a tablespoon of butter or oil. Once it has heated up at medium-low heat, add the pork chops. Watch the pork chops and flip them every once in a while. They should take approximately 15 minutes.

Check the potatoes by sticking them with a fork. If it goes right through they are done, if not, they need more cooking. When the potatoes are done, drain, add butter, milk (optional) and mash.

To make this a healthier meal add a freshly tossed salad.

Takes approximately 1 hour



Co-op means turning on "adult mode"



DJ DEMERS
STAFF WRITER

The lifestyle of the average student is very healthy and well-managed. And by "average student," I mean "me." And by "healthy and well-managed," I mean "lazy as shit, lacking any time management skills, with too many masturbation breaks."

This semester, however, I am on my second co-op term and have been thrust back into the lifestyle of what is commonly referred to as an "adult."

I wake up every morning, make the trek to work, take my hour-long lunch break, plow through the afternoon, and make the trek back home. Being an adult is not nearly as fun as I thought it would be when I was a child.

I'm also not an astronaut or an NHL player yet, so we'll reserve fi-

nal judgment on that.

For one thing, going to work hungover is not nearly as accepted as going to class hung over. In class, the comments range from, "Wow, DJ had a big night last night" to "I can't believe he made it to class. What a trooper!"

When you show up to work hungover, the comments range from "Is he an alcoholic?" to "I'm pretty sure he's an alcoholic."

Also, some daily pleasures that I take for granted become absolute missions at work. Slipping over to YouTube, ESPN.com or WWTDD.com for a little break is as easy as typing in the URL during the school year.

At work, I am required to check behind my cubicle for anyone walking by, make the window as small as possible on my desktop and have my fingers ready on the Alt-Tab keys for a quick switch to a legitimate work program.

As far as sleeping patterns are concerned, I tried to maintain my

usual 1:00 or 2:00 am bedtime at the beginning. Eventually, I became worn down and contributed nothing of any real value at my place of employment.

One day, I was asked to create a presentation on one of our competitors. I was so fatigued that I ended up making a komodo dragon out of Play-Doh and singing the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air song.

This did not fly. As a result, my bedtime has slowly been shifting downwards. I know I will ultimately end up going to bed at approximately 7 pm by the end of this term.

A student has classes that are essentially optional (you pay for them; you can waste your money if you like). An employee has set hours during which he/she has to be in the office (you are getting paid for them; don't you dare waste them).

Also, sleeping in class, while not polite or worthwhile, is commonplace. Apparently, you have to be

fully conscious at work, as sleeping is frowned upon at most companies (I don't know why they got so mad; it wasn't even explained to me during orientation).

There are obviously some positives associated with the working lifestyle. The working man (or woman, you know what I mean) is essentially relieved of stress the second he/she leaves the office, whereas a student is thinking about impending deadlines and readings all hours of the day.

It's great to come home to the roommates every night and be able to chill on the couch with no thoughts of schoolwork to do.

However, these positives are not enough to outweigh the negatives. On the whole, I would rather be in school than working. As long as I can be suspended in the bizarre state of limbo between childhood and adulthood that is called being a student, I will take it.

I must be going now. My lunch break is over. Seriously.

Embarrassing morning-after incident



ALI SCOTT
CAMPUS KISS

Dear Ali,

I got into a fight with my boyfriend and to spite him, I went to a party, got drunk and ended up fooling around with another guy, but we didn't have sex.

The problem is that everyone saw me leave with him, and every time I see him, my friends humiliate me in front of him and other people.

I just want to forget it ever happened because I made up with my boyfriend. What should I do?

Sincerely,
Embarrassed

Dear Embarrassed,

This is definitely an uncomfortable situation and I can understand why you feel the way you do.

I think the biggest concern is not just having to face the guy you did this with, but the reaction you get from the people around you.

If your friends continue to humiliate you this way, I would sit them down and have a long talk with them and tell them how it embarrasses you when they act this way. If they are real friends, then they will stop the childish behaviour.

It is more difficult to face any other people who saw you leave who may want to start gossip. I would ignore them and if they are not good friends of yours, they will move on to juicier gossip soon.

I am not sure how often you see this guy, but I am sure it will make things less uncomfortable if you confront the situation and tell him that you don't want things to be awkward.

I am sure he will be able to respect your honesty and will want to move on. He may feel just as embarrassed but is not willing to admit it.

Once you have dealt with all these people, it should be easier to move on.

It is always better to admit mistakes than to repress them and have them turn into bigger problems later on.

Good luck!

campuskiss@cordweekly.com



Cayenne enjoys his job because of the people he is privileged to work with

- FROM **PRESIDENT**, PAGE 16.

for that reason. "Some complaints didn't have a point." The issue was run in circles until it eventually died down.

With one year of a kinesiology degree left, Cayenne is looking forward to returning to the Laurier rugby team after taking this year off, and going to school full time, "just to see what school's like just going to class."

Cayenne also has big plans once he finishes his degree. "I want to start an events-planning business using the skills I've gained [at WLUSU]."

He also wants his business to serve the expanding K-W area.

With only two months remaining in his presidential mandate, Cayenne's fondest memory of his time as WLUSU President is the people he has been fortunate enough to work with.

"I will take away most from the

job is the people. I enjoy this job because of the people."

As elections for next year's WLUSU personalities loom, Cayenne

leaves sound advice for the incoming president-elect: "Try to keep your mind on the big picture," he says.

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Fr!nge's big weekend

Laurier's student-produced theatre shines at the annual *Fr!nge Festival*



Sydney Heiland

ALL HANDS ON DECK - Willing to go the extra distance to entertain their audience, this year's Fr!nge performers got down and dirty on-stage at the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall.

CARRIE MCNABB
CORD A&E

When Fringe festivals began, they were synonymous with amateur and unprofessional theatre. Over time, Fringe festivals presented artists with the opportunity to tackle topics deemed too controversial for mainstream theatre and to perform plays that did not necessarily rely on big budgets to shock and impress the audience. The festival also provides an alternative atmosphere for artists to get feedback on their work.

Laurier's *Fr!nge Festival* organizer Alexandra Apolloni cited the "good crowds for all of the shows" and the fact that "all plays ran smoothly" as the reasons for the success of this past weekend's annual festival.

With comedies such as Kaitlyn Patience's *Prince or Playa*, and Nadim Kurji's *Dr. Dr. Ultramagnus vs. The Great Wizard*, which take familiar pop-culture references and present them in a way unfamiliar to the audience, the 2007 edition of *Fr!nge* was full of insight and humour.

Patience put a contemporary spin on classic fairy tales while Kurji exposes the farcical side of fantasy literature.

Now Hiring, winner of the Fr!nge Festival's People's Choice award, was a well-written and well-performed piece. Written and directed by Kyle Wood and Meredith Brydon, this piece portrays a group of individuals trying to make the often difficult transition to adulthood.

Roommates Matt and Rocky (played by the talented Dan Cristofori and Paul Carere) are in danger

of losing their apartment. Throughout the play, the responsible Matt becomes increasingly disenchanted by his comfortable office job, as he and the rest of the cast begin to realize the importance of resisting the "sell-out." The play featured great performances by the entire cast and was deserving of the award.

Trying to shorten William Shakespeare's longest tragedy into 15 minutes is no easy feat, but with tight transitions and good pacing, this short-play was a pleasure to watch.

Phil Wolters's *The Dream Blood Gallows of Retribution* received the *Fr!nge Festival* award for Best Play. This piece was destined for excitement with characters such as arch-nemeses Steve Hitler and Trevor Ghandi (Dan Guillemette and Adam Nagel) and the sometimes-good Alexis, the monster (Juliette Baird).

A surprise ending with an impromptu dance sequence added to the random fun of this comedy. Enjoyable performances were given by every member of this unusually large cast.

Along with the usual offering of student-produced plays, this year there were four short films screened at the festival. *Green Eyes* (by Bryan Richardson and Elise Cotter), *Buddhapop!* (by Marc Heroux), *Library* (by Elise Cotter), and *ix* (by New Height Ind.).

Green Eyes featured a very impressive lightsaber fight between

the powers of love and jealousy, while *Buddhapop!* offered an alternative theological perspective for a contemporary audience.

Mortimer: A Theatrical Chamber Work was the only musical of the festival. Composed by Meghan Bunce, this piece was a fascinating adaptation of the book by Robert Munsch. This capable cast breathed

new life into this children's classic, specifically Pam Patel whose childish expressions brought *Mortimer* alive.

Doppelganger was the only non-comedic play of the festival. Written and directed by Dave Rodgers, the script was almost poetic in nature and engaged the audience by having very little interaction happening between the characters on stage and rather directly confiding in the audience.

Brittany Lavery's *I, Dispossessed* was a darkly philosophical comedy. Giving a great performance as Raven, the morbid art student, Marta Orłowska shined in this piece.

Jesus F\$%&ing Christ: A Love Story was a comedy directed by Andrew Kannegiesser. Using repetition as a comedic device, it had the audience laughing at the sheer randomness of it all.

Tom Stoppard's *The Fifteen Minute Hamlet* was directed by Apolloni. It featured several actors and directors from this year's festival, while also making space for a few from performers from previous years. Trying to shorten William Shakespeare's longest tragedy into

15 minutes is no easy feat, but with tight transitions and good pacing, this short-play was a pleasure to watch.

The *Fr!nge Festival* gives Laurier students an opportunity to both

participate and enjoy the arts scene here at Laurier. With so much creativity contained within the walls of this institution, this annual festival will undoubtedly be an enjoyable night out for many years to come.



Sydney Heiland

MISTER MIRROR - Michael Henry enchants the Fr!nge faithful with a tall tale during *Prince of Playa? A Fictitious Fiction Tableux*.

Alpha Dog's big bite

New teen kidnapping film brings real life story to the screen and finds unexpected success

LAURA CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

Based on a true story, *Alpha Dog* tells the story of Jesse James Hollywood, a gangster/drug dealer who was arrested in 2005 after appearing on the FBI's most wanted list for five years.

Alpha Dog

Director: Nick Cassavetes
Starring: Emile Hirsh, Justin Timberlake, Anton Yelchin
Rating: 7.1 / 10
Original Release Date:
November 16, 2006
Recommendation:
WORTH A LOOK

sky (Anton Yelchin) is kidnapped by Johnny Truelove (Emile Hirsh's portrayal of Hollywood) and his crew of cronies, to whom Zack's older brother owes money. Enthralled by his kidnapers' lifestyle of drugs, sex, and constant partying, Zack is seduced by this ironic sense of freedom.

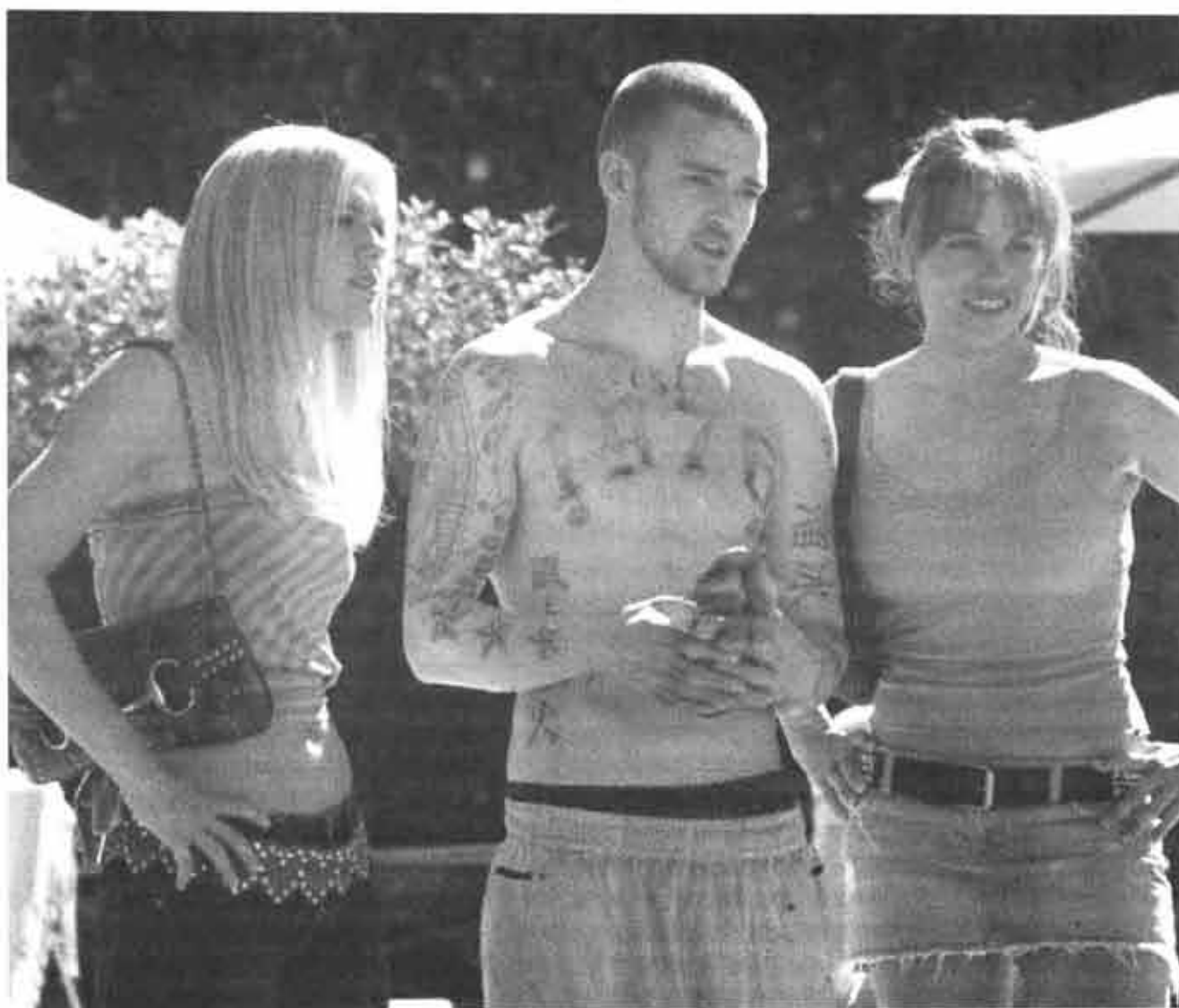
He becomes a very cooperative victim and develops close ties with the group of wannabe gangsters, who are under orders to hold him hostage.

However, after realizing the severity of the crime they have committed, Truelove proposes that getting rid of the boy will be the best way of avoiding jail time. The ending is inevitable, and as much as you wait for one of the seemingly harmless characters to take a stance and change the final outcome, you'll be sad to see they don't.

Although a remarkable story, which may even seem over the top if it were not based on actual events, the other cinematic elements are nothing spectacular. The directing efforts were good but fairly conventional. The tallying of witnesses that appears on the screen each time a new character enters the storyline is a nice touch, and through this technique Cassavetes continually

Although writer/director Nick Cassavetes (*The Notebook*) changes the names of the characters, the troubling facts of the film closely resemble the actual case. In a world in which youth culture dominates and morals have been lost, Cassavetes recreates one of the most disturbing kidnappings of our time.

Fifteen-year-old Zack Mazur-



Contributed Photo

ALL THE PRETTY PEOPLE - Banking on an aesthetically appealing cast, *Alpha Dog* makes kidnapping sexy.

reminds us that this film will end in the courtroom.

As Johnny Truelove, Emile Hirsh delivers a satisfactory performance, however, for having such a large role he fails to bring any real sense of depth and emotion to his character. Although in his past work, such as *The Lords of Dogtown* and *The Girl Next Door*, Hirsh has proved himself as an A-list actor, in *Alpha Dog* he fails to captivate the audience.

What's more, it may be hard to believe it's Justin Timberlake who

steals the silver screen. In this breakthrough performance, the man who brought sexy back is one of the few characters that develops emotionally and delivers a well-rounded performance. Aside from the increase in the number of girls in the audience, by the end of the film you'll forget you're watching a teen pop star.

Anton Yelchin also gives a heartwarming performance, and it is largely due to his remarkable acting ability that we feel so involved in this story. Bruce Willis, as True-

love's drug-dealing father, and Sharron Stone, as Zack's over-emotional mother, also deliver noteworthy performances.

While you shouldn't be holding your breath for countless Academy Award nominations, the reality of *Alpha Dog* allows us to see that in our suburban world, where parental control and ethics are void, rap music, violent video games and music videos are all a contributing factor to a downward spiral that today's naïve and impressionable youth are facing.

From songs to stand-up

Syrupy pop-rocker tests uncharted waters by trying his hand at stand-up comedy

NATALIE SIMONS
CORD A&E

Have you ever wanted to hear John Mayer sing about blowjobs? Me neither. But earlier this month, audiences at the Comedy Cellar in New York got a surprise treat when Mayer hit the stage for his second, and potentially last, appearance in the stand-up world.

It takes guts to try and transition one's stage persona from tortured mom-rock crooner to wannabe jazz bohemian to filthy-mouthed masturbation and pot enthusiast, but Mayer, the popular singer/songwriter of the adult alternative genre, succeeded in the total abandonment of his various contrived reputations through an unanticipated attempt at stand-up comedy.

According to an online *Rolling Stone* interview, Mayer's agents are alleged to have begged him not to pursue an attempt at stand-up, deeming it a career suicide and an ultimate tainting of his cultivated pop culture image. However, Mayer

has publicly shown an intense interest in the comedic writing world, making appearances on sketch shows such as the *Dave Chappelle Show* as well as starring in his own short-lived VH1 sketch special *John Mayer Has a TV Show* (clips can be seen on YouTube if interested).

Mayer first made his stand-up debut at the Comedy Cellar in November; however, the aftermath of his performance created a great stir and divide within his followers as well as bloggers who had either heard or witnessed the show in its entirety.

One blogger in particular went as far to claim that Mayer's jokes were predominantly racist, sexist and generally offensive to the entire public. Mayer's rants consisted of an accusation that all women are sluts (and that he has had sex with most of them), that he lived on a hill "away from black people" and that if white people were allowed to use the N-word Mayer himself would use it about 1,000 times a day (consistently dropping the N-bomb throughout the act).

Many comedians immediately came to Mayer's defence, claiming that "audiences enjoyed Mayer's use of the N-Word" and that much of what the bloggers have said is completely out of context. This may be so, but there is no doubt that af-

ter the show Mayer spent the rest of his days with his tail tucked securely between his legs.

But 2007 was the opportunity for a new year and after much of the dust had settled, Mayer took a second swing at stand up and must be pleased to have gotten a much more positive response from his audience as well as the blog community.

In a recent blog post, Mayer himself implied that his stand-up career is over (for now at least) stating that it was time to get back at being good at something.

For those interested, here is a taste of Mayer's stand-up appeal. You decide:

"I'm not worried about how small my penis is - I'm worried about how dark it is. I have a Dominican penis. My penis hit six home runs last year; my penis wears shoes without socks."

and,
"Everyone thinks Brad Pitt has it great because he married Angelina Jolie. I think he has it terrible, because when Angelina Jolie is giving you a blow job, what do you tip your head back and think of to help you finish? You have nothing left - just Jesus on a polar bear in the middle of the snow, saying, 'You greedy motherfucker, I've got nothing for you.'"



Contributed Photo

FUNNY FOLKSTER? - Not satisfied with dominating adult-contemporary radio, John Mayer looks to take comedy stages by storm.

> Your Monthly Dose: A counter-culture commentary that fills your required prescription

You're not as unique as you think you are



PAUL ALVIZ
CORD A&E

Do you watch *The Colbert Report* more faithfully than the nightly news? Many of us do, and aside from its witty anchor and sidesplitting satire which combine to make it a fine program, it's a cry for help from the apathetic political activist inside us.

The Colbert Report is just a part of the "over the counter" counter-culture that has slowly crept onto our screens over the past decade. I call it this because if you can buy it at Wal-Mart, chances are that it isn't really all that controversial; and moreover, anything that supports the sales of an international corporation doesn't quite qualify as running against the grain of society.

Like so much of today's music and entertainment, it's merely an artificial substitute for the real thing.

What's happened is that our craving for self-exploration and discovery is being exploited through the deliberate manufacturing of our own proposed uniqueness. And yet there exists a thriving univer-

sity populace that boasts a persona of originality, independence and distinctness.

Our desire for something different, something new, daring and exciting is being folded up and packaged like the collared cornflower blue shirts of the execs producing our generation's filtered rebellion.

Take a show like *Family Guy* for example, an animated TV program featuring a talking dog as the voice of reason; an evil genius baby as the masochistic, sadistic, hedonistic actualization of Freud's Id; and of course, an overall critique on the traditional American lifestyle through the satirical over-the-top patriotism of the main character, Peter.

At first the producers of the show were running it as an experimental deviation from more traditional cartoons like *The Simpsons* (although similar in content, the family from Springfield was much less outrageous at the time). After three seasons, this experiment was deemed a failure and the series was unceremoniously cancelled.

However, in an unexpected turn of events, the cancellation of the program, making the show a rare commodity, only perpetuated its growing popularity. Fast-forward

to the present, and unfathomable sales of the first 3 seasons of *Family Guy* programming has propelled the series back into production, along with its brother/clone *American Dad*.

Controversial TV is nothing new. We've seen the likes of *Jerry Springer* and *South Park* for many years now - but in looking at the "most controversial TV clips ever" hosted on the website *Ifilm*, the controversial subject of all the clips was either sex or violence.

The Colbert Report is just a part of the "over the counter" counter-culture that has slowly crept onto our screens over the past decade.

TV has distracted us from the critique of its distorted idealistic-lifestyle programming by feeding and manipulating our carnal desires, all the while maintaining its agenda of creating first-class consumers.

Remarkably, the video of Kanye West proclaiming, "George Bush doesn't care about black people" on national TV was absent from the list of controversial clips. So what's happened here is that a produc-

tion powerhouse like Fox, which is the butt of much of the humour on many of the network's own shows, has swallowed its pride in the name of revenue and given us exactly what we want: more vulgarity, less boundaries.

But this is only an illusion. They've really only lengthened the leash instead of cutting it loose. By running a show like *Family Guy*, which elicits a fair amount of its humour from sex and violence, any political commentary within

the show is seen as less prevalent and not serious, which keeps TV stations in a nice comfort zone.

Here are two things you will never see on TV:

something directly telling you to stop watching your TV, and something directly saying to stop buying new things. This may be true for obvious reasons, but I think we take for granted the fact that our time is being bought and sold while what we watch is decidedly not up to us.

God bless Stephen Colbert for trying to save democracy, but even he can't tell you to turn it off. If you want to do something truly coun-

ter-cultural, stop watching Laguna Beach and go do your flippin' homework.

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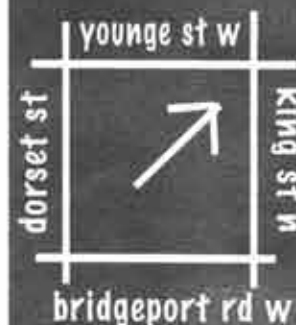
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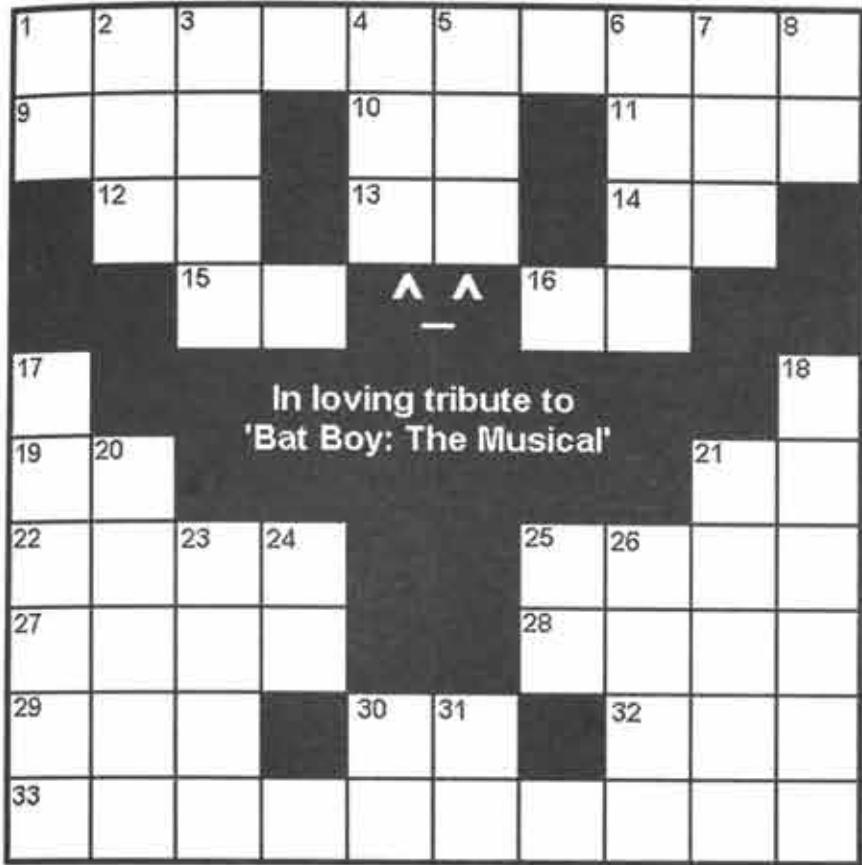
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CROSSWORD by Adam Faber



- Across**
- Devoted, if insane, people
 - A female deer
 - Rocky of "Now Hiring" sleeps through this
 - Regret
 - Take too much
 - 3.14159, approx.
 - Physics abbreviation for the energy of motion
 - No longer significant other
 - Est. en Anglais
 - Atomic number 52
 - Muscular __strophy
 - Tax-free old age reserve
 - To insert a sharp object
 - Cleared suspected terrorist
 - Living room staple
 - Cliché heart tattoo's dedication
 - Teasing jeer (when repeated)
 - Reading, writing and arithmetic, for short...
 - Attempt at telling the future
- Down**
- Famous counting horse
 - Dove's sound
 - Admit defeat
 - Siesta
 - Acronym meaning "Didn't need to know"
 - Annoys
 - Signal
 - Between right and down, on a compass
 - "The lady is ____"
 - Farmers proclamation of real estate ownership
 - Mistake
 - "You mess wit' ____, you gots ta go"
 - Identical
 - Company's publicity
 - Nazi police
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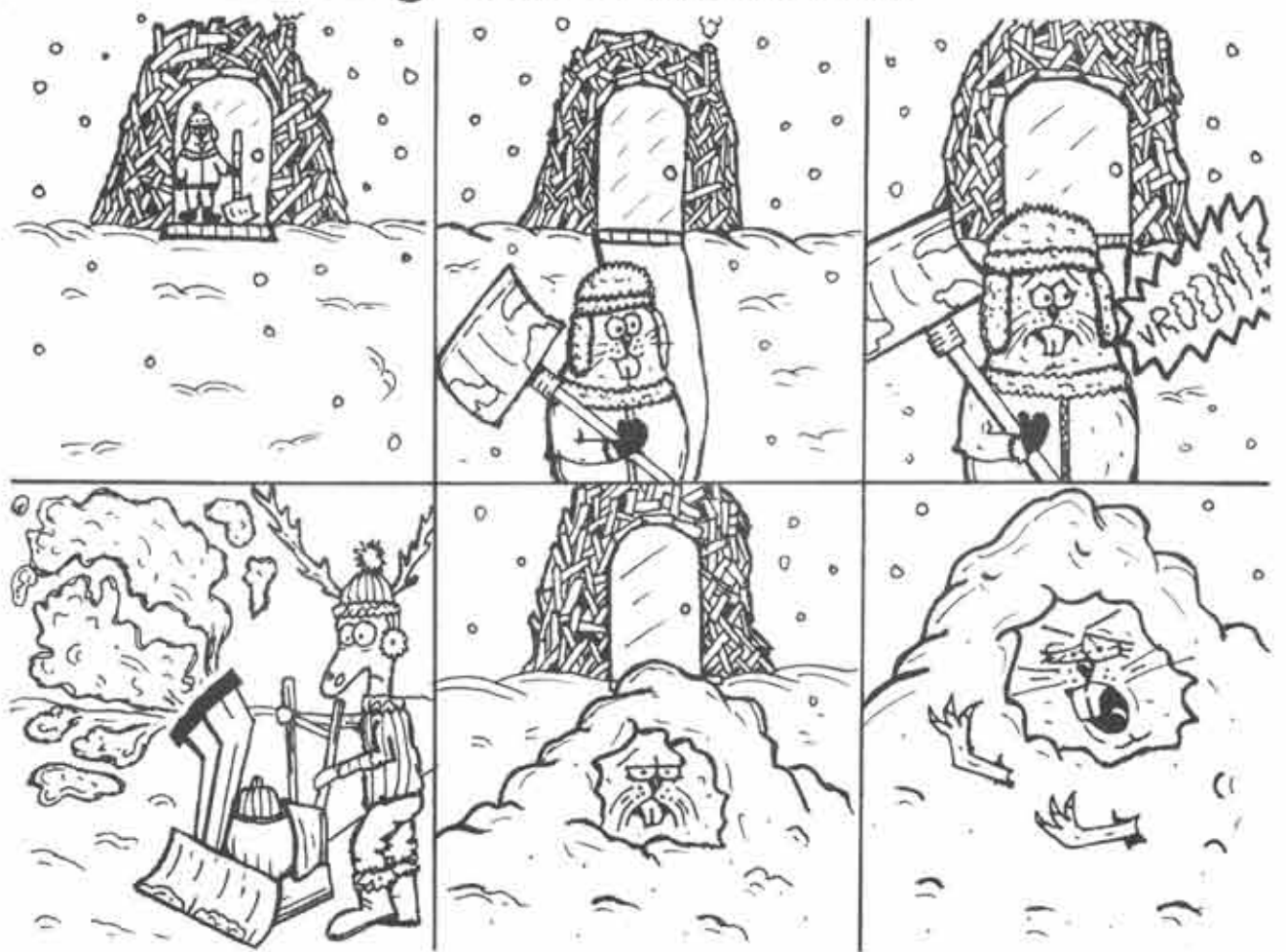
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LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS



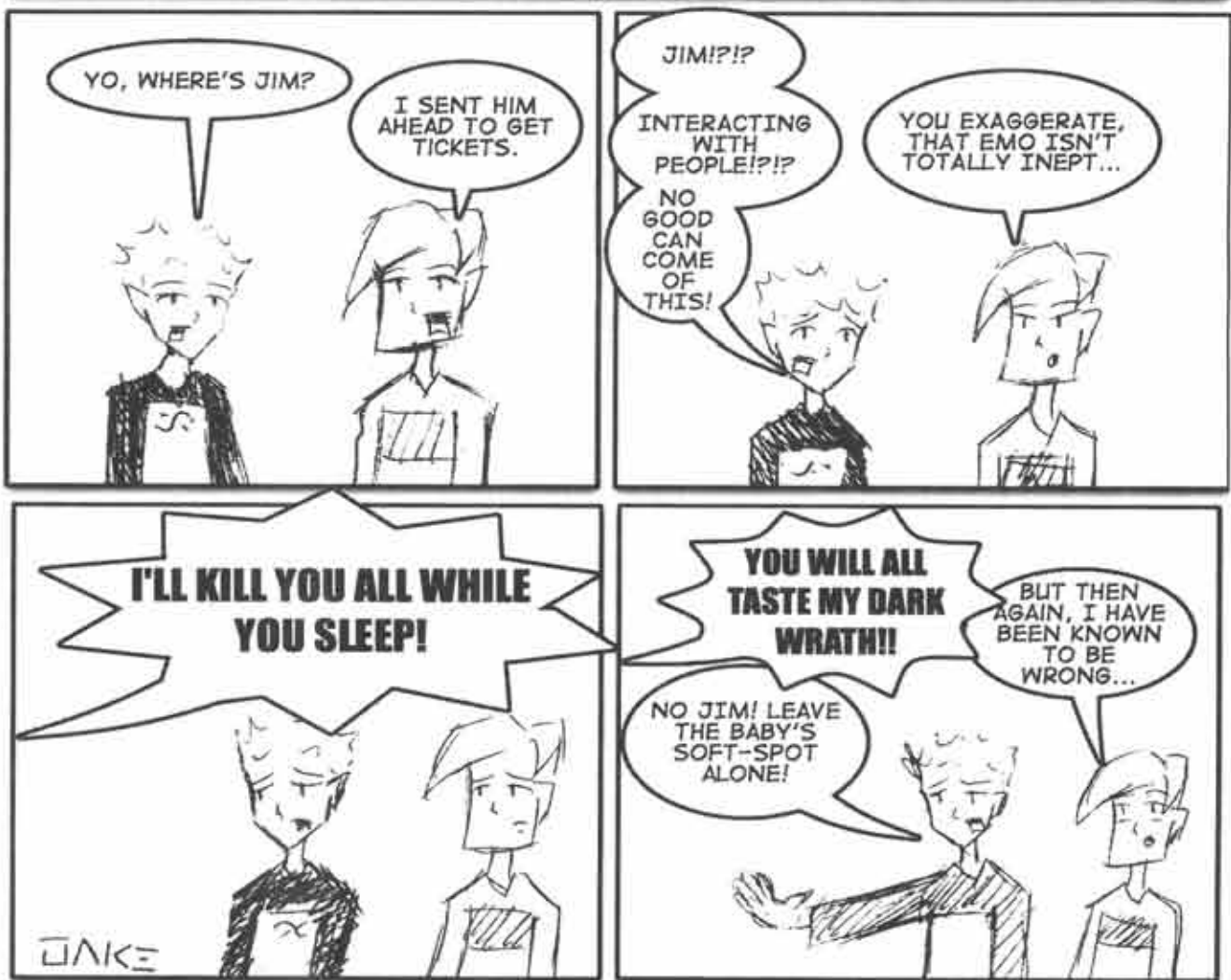
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Applications up

The votes are in and it's official: Laurier's damn popular. The number of students applying to Laurier and ranking it as their first choice rose by 13.2 percent from last year's 3,277 to 3,709. Total applications are up 10.3 percent resulting in 17,968 interested high school seniors. "It is certainly one of the more significant increases in applications over the last 20 years," said Arthur Stephen, VP: University Advancement.

Significant indeed. Almost as significant as the growth that Laurier has undergone over the last few years, exemplified by the fact that applications to Laurier have nearly doubled in the past six years. Or evidenced by the growing class sizes, strained campus resources, and displaced students.

Laurier is clearly making headway toward its goal of becoming a more comprehensive university, leaving its small-school roots behind. While the increased interest in Laurier may be a good thing if it means higher admissions standards, as Stephen indicated it might, it needs to be approached with a bit more caution. Current students can't fall by the wayside as Laurier tries to accommodate its growing influx of interested students. Change needs to be done gradually, hiring more full-time professors and increasing support services as student enrollment numbers grow.

While Stephen indicates that enrollment numbers are likely to remain the same as last year's, that's not a guarantee that numbers won't increase. This university has a history of over-enrolling students, including last year when Laurier received almost 600 more admissions acceptances than expected, leaving them scrambling to accommodate the additional first years. Clearly, Laurier's enrollment-predicting process is not an exact science, so with this year's increased interest, they should aim low to ensure the campus isn't further strained.

The Laurier admin has said the increased interest in Laurier won't mean an increase in students next year and we're holding them to it.

Raise the admissions averages and let's use this as an opportunity to improve the quality, not quantity, of students coming into this institution.

Protect assets

It was just another typical Thursday night filled with beers, laughter and debauchery. And to top it off? Some good ol' fashioned vandalism. With property damage, trespassing and theft occurring at three local Waterloo establishments in the uptown area in the wee hours of Friday morning, it's natural that the business owners think to blame the students.

Undergraduates are notoriously impulsive and after a night of imbibing, their actions can leave something to be desired. These acts of vandalism occur with a fair amount of frequency, and while it could be argued that there's no proof that it's the students, in all reality, it likely is.

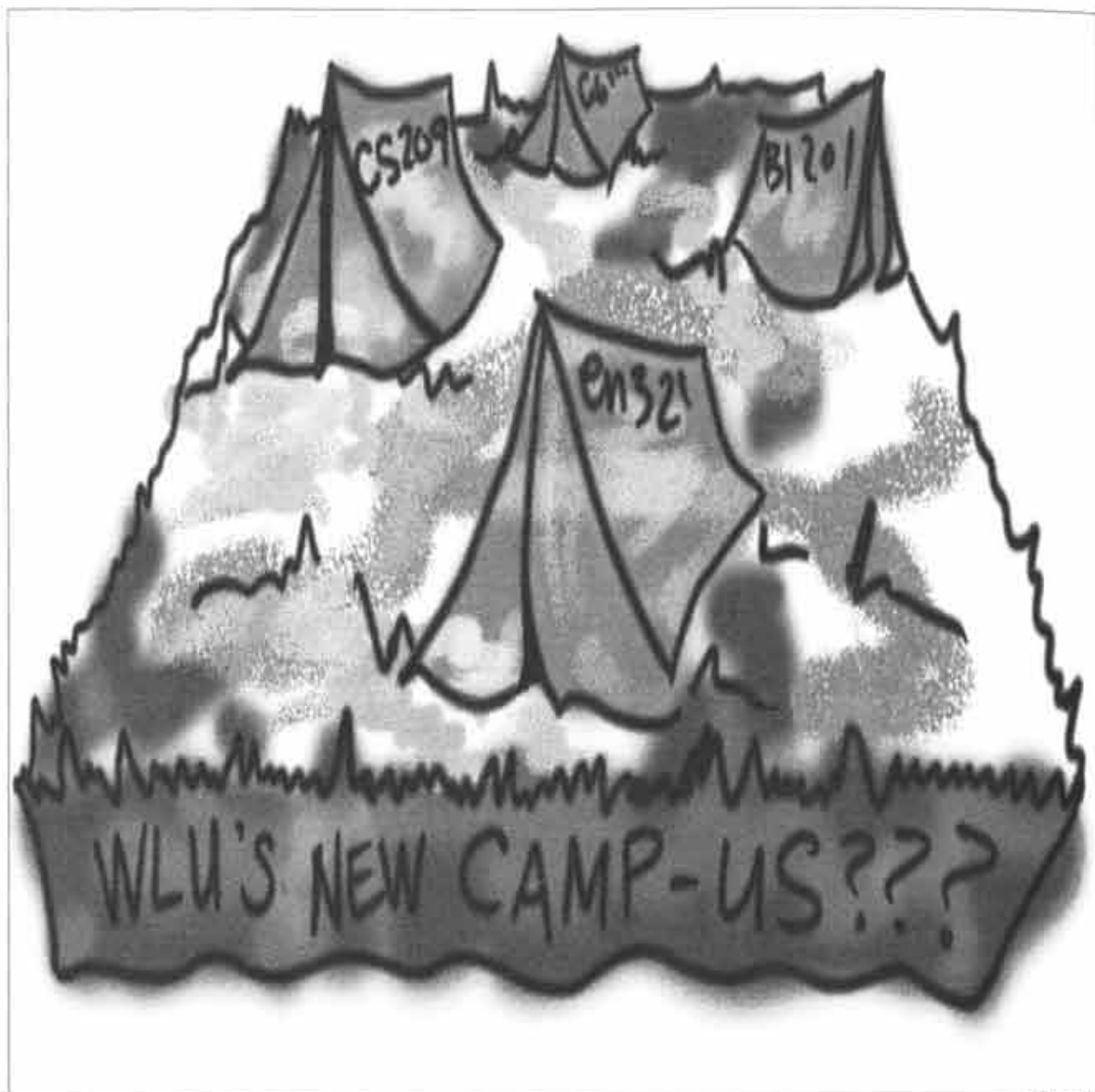
But what can be done about it? Students have been getting drunk and making stupid decisions since time immemorial and there isn't much that will change their behaviour. We all know prohibition didn't

work. It seems that the only real solution would be for local businesses to invest the money in security systems and cameras to help protect their assets.

Granted, they shouldn't have to. This type of behaviour on the part of students is unacceptable and reflects poorly on the entire academic community, but sadly, it probably won't stop. With two universities in one town, as well as a college, it's inevitable that there will be some risks with owning a business near the young hooligans. As such, the businesses should take matters into their own hands if they want to have even a hope that justice will be served and the guilty parties will be punished.

It's an unfortunate reality that businesses now have to assume the additional costs of protecting their livelihood simply because of their location, but let's face it: it comes with the territory.

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



Emilie Joslin

Digital generation doesn't value music

Tunes aren't appreciated as much with prevalence of illegal downloading



As music becomes increasingly digitized, it could be argued that there is a greater appreciation for it because more people are able to listen in.

However, I'd argue that our generation is the least appreciative of music in history.

The Internet has certainly provided greater accessibility to music via downloading programs, there's no doubt about that. But, because free music is so readily available, it seems that no one under 30 cares where it comes from. All they care about is if they can put it on their iPod so that they can have some form of entertainment when walking to school.

Nielsen SoundScan, an information system that tracks music industry statistics (such as album sales, singles and music videos) used by companies such as *Billboard*, MTV and VH1, indicates record sales have dropped significantly over the past couple years. US album sales have fallen from 666.7 million in 2004, to 618.9 million in 2005, and now to 588.2 million in 2006.

This steady decline cannot be from a decreased interest in music. The availability of free music from Kazaa, Limewire and the like has decreased the value of music

and as a result, has made Generation Y the least grateful for it.

In contrast to our parents who would have had to save up all their nickels and dimes to be able to go out and buy their favourite artist's new record, all we have to do is enter in a few keywords on a laptop and iTunes is instantly filled with thousands of albums, potentially free of charge.

Probably the most frustrating statistic of all is that our generation has the most disposable income. In a decade, disposable income has increased by 31 percent in Canada. Although most university students may argue that they don't have any money to spare for music as they scarf down their ramen noodles, we do in fact have much more cash to spend on entertainment than previous generations, but we just choose not to.

"Why buy the cow when you get the milk for free?" Right? This seems to have become the slogan of our generation. Instead of having to work and save up for luxury items like music we can get them for free.

Although it's illegal, downloading music feels like a victimless crime; artists never seem to be affected by the occasional downloaded song. Pop princesses still manage to parade around in designer clothes (maybe they save money by not eating?) and rap artists still seem to have enough *cheddar* to casually toss at the camera while shooting their music videos, so it's not like any artists are suf-

fering... at least not right now.

Because we are paying less and less for the music we listen to every day, not only is its monetary value sunken to an all time low, but its cultural value is diminishing as well.

Although most people would say that music is one of their primary interests, how interested can they possibly be if they aren't even willing to sporadically shell out fifteen dollars for a CD?

Essentially, although people of our generation may claim that music is an incredibly significant part of our culture, we just don't appreciate it enough to pay for it, mostly because we don't have to.

It never crosses our minds that our favourite indie bands may not exist if it wasn't for album sales. We take for granted the fact that music just always seems to be there, but it's essential to understand that once the pool of financial funding runs dry, so will the music. Future generations will no longer be able to listen to the music that really matters, which is culturally significant.

I'm not trying to say that you have to buy every single song you listen to - that isn't the point. But when you really like what you're listening to, wouldn't it be beneficial to support those who made it so they can make more? Show your appreciation for it and buy the album. Trust me, it'll be worth it.

letters@cordweekly.com

Don't get fit just to fit in

Making healthy lifestyle choices should come from a desire to feel better, not to look the 'right' way



STEVE NILES
DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

It appears as though history has repeated itself and the gym is once again filled with New Year's resolutionists trying to ditch the holiday pounds.

There they are, from the early hours of the morning until late at night, lifting, stretching and sweating. Counting calories, cutting inches and circumventing temptation has become a fact of life in the past few weeks for many individuals seeking to better themselves.

Within recent years, elementary schools in some American states have begun calculating the

Body Mass Index of students and sending the information home to parents. BMIs measure the relation between height and weight supposedly to determine health amongst the students. What BMIs fail to properly gauge is the affect of muscle mass on a student. By no means are fifth-graders hitting the gym and lifting weights, but because muscle weighs more than fat, results are inherently skewed.

Don't believe me? At 6 feet 4 inches tall, Brian Urlacher is a devastating linebacker with the Chicago Bears. He also tips the scale at a muscular 258 pounds. According to a BMI calculator, he is considered obese. The same BMI calculator says that a typical newborn baby, weighing 7.5 pounds and 20 inches in height, is dangerously underweight.

Should all the gym rats stop what they're doing and pick up the Cheetos? Absolutely not. Maybe, though, it's time for all those straining themselves to take a good look in the mirror and ask themselves what they're doing. If the genuine desire is to become healthier, then here's wishing them all the best in their goal. If, however, individuals have likened looking better to feeling better about themselves, no amount of weight loss or increase in muscle can make them feel better. While looking better may make you think you're going to be happier, sadly it's not the case.

In an environment such as a university that puts such pressure on individuals to conform to typical concepts of beauty, why do we put so much emphasis on arbitrary measurements of health? Some-

thing as miniscule and as common as a pimple can cause anxiety; perhaps it is time that we take emphasis off trying to look good and focus on trying to feel good. Mental health and happiness in oneself are just as important at this stage in life than big arms or a flat stomach. Why bother overemphasizing and demoralizing ourselves when we all have much bigger issues to tackle? Not everyone can have the six-pack, but not everyone can smile about themselves either.

So next time you find yourself promising to make changes and to look better, you should also promise to make yourself feel better. Change truly comes from within, and everybody looks better with a smile.

letters@cordweekly.com

Letters to the Editor

Faqiri a dissenter

I would like to commend the *Cord* for the editorial entitled "Students need to care about their directors." The sanctity of WLUSU as a democratic institution should be of paramount importance to the students of WLU. The 2006 BOD has failed to effectively market the February 1 elections, but this failure will allow them to re-think their strategy. The BOD can improve interest in student government by more aggressively marketing to students in the business, economics, music and science faculties. Many students in these faculties feel ignored. Politics and government does not appeal to everyone but it is certainly important to include all WLU students in this process.

Also, I would like to point out an omission in your front page news story "Acclaimed to Fame." The article in question discusses the fact that only 12 students completed the nominations package for BOD and were, therefore, acclaimed to the position. The article also discussed the BOD meeting on January 11 and how the current BOD voted, 8-3, to indefinitely halt discussions on re-opening the nominations for next year's BOD. The article gave the names of two of the three dissenting directors, Jon Champagne and Mike Tsuchiya, but neglected to mention the name of the third director. Should WLU students not know where all of their representatives stand on this extremely important issue?

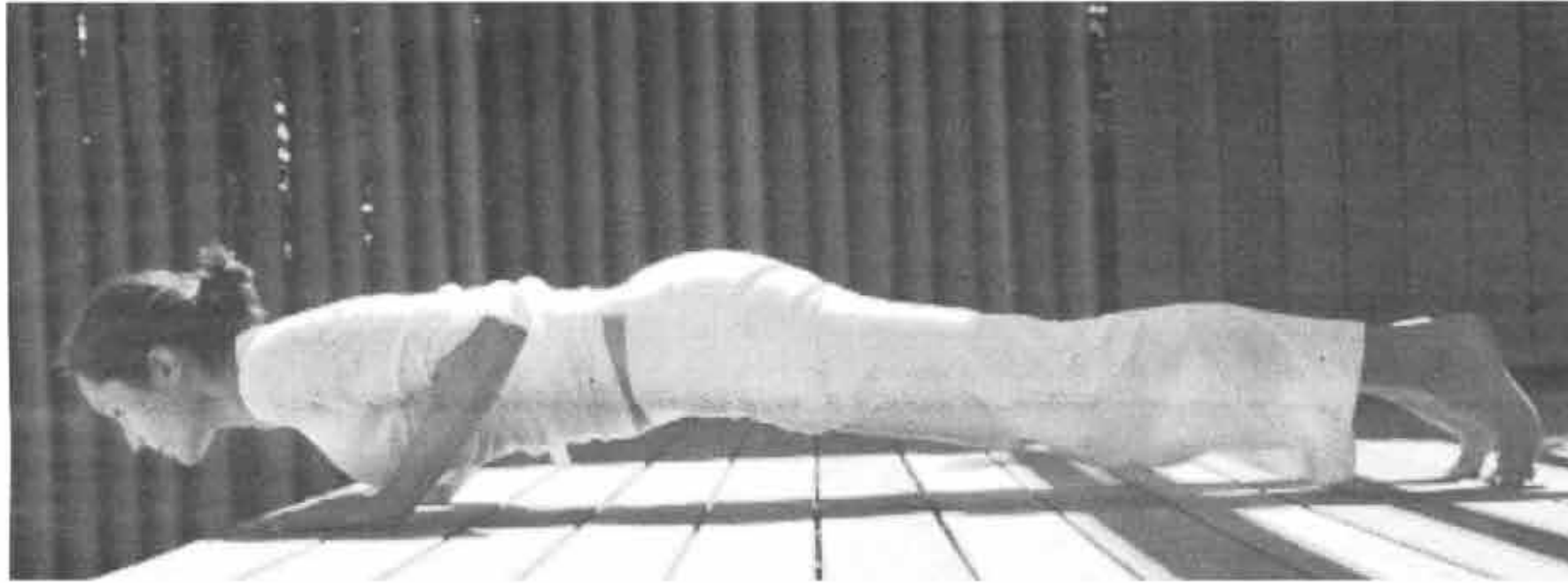
Having been present at the meeting, I can vouch for the fact that Yusuf Faqiri was the third voice of objection. Faqiri stated that he was discouraged by the fact that democracy was not being allowed to take its course and that a full and elected representative BOD was preferable to a shorthanded, entirely acclaimed BOD. I am not sure why the author of the article, who was also present at the meeting, omitted Mr. Faqiri's name but I am reasonably certain that it was merely an oversight. The alternative calls into question the integrity of the *Cord's* reporting and I would certainly not wish to do so. But perhaps the *Cord* should be more careful about what it chooses to omit.

-Justin Veenstra

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All letters to the editor must be signed and submitted with the author's name, student identification number, and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00pm Monday via email to letters@cordweekly.com or through our website at www.cordweekly.com. Letters must not exceed 350 words. The *Cord* reserves the right to edit any letter for brevity and clarity. Spelling and grammar will be corrected. The *Cord* reserves the right to reject any letter, in whole or in part. The *Cord* reserves the right to not publish material that is deemed to be libelous or in contravention with the *Cord's* Code of Ethics or journalistic standards.

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Contributed Photo

DROP AND GIVE ME 20 - This young woman should be working out to work on her health, not her physique.

Facebook wastes potential

By spending time on the popular networking site, students are isolating themselves for no benefit



JC MCLAREN
LIFE AS A SOUNDTRACK

"You'd better change your relationship status back, before things really start getting out of hand," my girlfriend's mother advised her. We looked at each other, rolled our eyes, and began to laugh - this is what we wanted.

The modern world is filled with an ever-growing amount of programs, games and institutions that serve as substitutions for and distractions from real life. The latest distraction is the Internet-based website Facebook.

Using the website, users can post pictures, comment on other friends' pictures, find friends, join groups, and even distribute internet "pokes."

I am still ignorant to the purpose or merit of an Internet poke, but in all reality, I am such to Facebook itself.

Yes, I do have a Facebook ac-

count, but I have yet to log onto the account more than three occasions in the time I've had it - I just don't see the point.

I realize that people are developing an electronic-based community that has the advantages of inviting friends to certain events and being able to contact old or distant acquaintances, but the way I see it - it's just another form of isolation in an already isolated society.

With programs like MSN messenger, even though you can't see or hear the person, at least there is the advantage of immediate responses and interaction. Unlike MSN, however, Facebook responses may take days, or hours, depending on the user.

The worst part about Facebook is that people actually spend large portions of time wasting their life in front of a computer screen when all the spoils of living are being tossed out the window, and for what? So that you can write down stories about how you met a friend, which both of you already know?

To demonstrate the stupidity of Facebook as well as how depen-

dant our friends are upon this program, my girlfriend and I discovered the "cancel" button for our relationship: let's just say relationship aborted, simply by changing the relationship status bar of my Facebook profile from "in a relationship" to "single."

As ridiculous as it may sound, within hours our message boards, telephone lines, and Facebook "walls" were flooded with sentiments of heartfelt compassion for our loss and plentiful promises of support and counsel in this our time of grieving. "Good God," we thought.

Because after nine months of dating, the first thing we would both do if we broke up would be to run to the computer and make sure that our relationship status came up "single."

And this is not the first time I've known Facebook to cause ridiculous mass hysteria and heresy. A friend from back home had jokingly entered into a relationship with a member of the same sex which resulted in many life-long friends actually questioning his sexual-

ity. Why wouldn't Facebook be the place to come out after all these years of hiding who he really was?

The mind is a terrible thing to waste and, more and more, our generation is finding ways to neglect the utilization of the beautiful and powerful gift bestowed upon us by the powers above.

As Samuel Johnson put it, "Mankind has a great aversion to intellectual labour; but even supposing knowledge to be easily attainable, (it seems) more people would be content to be ignorant than would take even a little trouble to acquire it."

Knowledge is power and I strongly believe that the world would be a much better place if the reverent minds of today weren't so frivolously wasted on irrelevant, pointless endeavours such as the Facebook craze and the like.

Read a book, sing a song, go out with friends and experience real human interaction; anything but waste a soul and mind worthy of bigger things.

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TALK TO ME - The tendency to talk through problems, like the death of a beloved cat, may not be solved by sitting on a therapist's couch.

Contributed Photo

Appreciate tragedy in life

Mood disorders often affect the highly creative and psychotherapy may be eliminating their innovative and constructive impulses



DON MORGENSON
ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

An increasing number of people are crippled by depression, and recent statistics suggest that more of us are seeking psychotherapy and other forms of treatment to get help. It's puzzling, however, that after centuries of formal and informal psychotherapy for depressed people, the world seems to be no better, and in fact looks to be deteriorating somewhat.

While the immediate causes of depression are thought to be related to personal relationship problems, a relatively new aspect of modern mood disorder is the depressed person's sense of hopelessness. It is as though a final realization has sunk in: things are just not going to get better, and may get worse.

Such a statement warranted further study, so I began to look more closely at the depressed person's assessment of the world, and I found that such an evaluation was accurate.

I then began to wonder what is or is not happening during the "talk cure."

Could the dearth of socially engaged and committed women and

men be caused by therapy's obsession with ourselves - a situation strategically aided by individual psychotherapy?

Has psychotherapy focused all of our creative powers on our past experiences in childhood rather than centering on the present realities confronting mature adults?

Does the depressed public regard itself more as patients and victims rather than as citizens serving the common good? Can we argue that many decades of psychotherapy have simply cut the depressed person off from the life forces and created instead a cult of the child?

If so, rather than focusing exclusively on the intrapsychic/intrapersonal world, the real goals of therapy should be to recapture the emotional and spiritual strength to confront, interact with and influence the external world and the unavoidable hungers of all its people. The brilliant and essentially forgotten American psychiatrist Harry Stack Sullivan (Interpersonal Psychiatry) persuasively argued that nothing is intrapersonal; everything in our lives is interpersonal. If psychotherapy focuses exclusively on the internal world we just may remain patients; we might remain victims.

Even though widespread, depression continues to be considered unacceptable. Society is character-

ized by an activity ethic - as long as you keep moving, keep active, stay on the treadmill and smile even though it leads to oblivion, you are accepted as one of us.

In years past, melancholia was accepted as a natural state, an appropriate attitude to adopt when things started to twist and fall apart. Not so today.

The depressed person is seen as needing extreme intervention - lithium, anti-depressants or even electro-shock therapy. And what is left of the creative products of melancholia... its sense of beauty, poetry, creativity?

An extensive study of British artists and writers recently revealed that highly creative people suffer from a mood disorder such as depression. Such data confirm what letters, diaries and autobiographical accounts of well-known poets, artists and composers have revealed: creative people tend to experience mood extremes, which in turn may fuel the creative process.

Leonard Woolf, husband of Virginia Woolf, long-suffering from a mood disorder, describes the relationship between Virginia's mood swings and her creativity: "I am quite sure that Virginia's genius was closely connected with what manifested itself as mental instability and insanity. The creative imagination, her ability to 'leave

the ground' and the voluble delusions of the breakdowns all came from the same place in her mind. That in itself was the crux of her life, the tragedy of her genius."

Virginia Woolf apparently agreed when she wrote "As an experience, madness is terrific I can assure you and not to be sniffed at; and in its lava I still find most of the things I write about. It shoots out of one, everything shaped, final, not in mere dribbles as sanity does."

Depressed people often become so because they are told that something in them or about them is wrong, whereas the truth may be that they see something in the world that is seriously wrong. So they internalize their frustrations.

Every time we feel angry about the way some retail clerk treats us, or we are frustrated about corruption in government, or we are enraged about the slaughter of innocents, the depressed person takes this legitimate anger into therapy and ventilates it all away, depriving us of creative, constructive rage. Such a focus may have hurried the decline of society.

Part of the problem, too, is our intolerance of sadness. "What, me worry?"

"Be happy!" Smile buttons all indicate our addiction to the upbeat. When we are blue, our friends and family typically say things such as

"Snap out of it," "Cheer up - lighten up" and "Things aren't so bad... pull yourself together."

Rather than telling depressed people to "Cheer up," some healers, such as Jungian James Hillman, argue that we cannot understand something if we are fighting it. Rather, Hillman argues, depression may force the truth upon us and we must unravel it. Carl Jung once wrote, "There is a God in the disease trying to tell you something quite significant."

Depression may reflect a profound appreciation for the tragic sense of life.

Hillman says that a true social revolution, a way of bettering all for all must begin in that sensitive individual "who can be true to his/her depression." This means transforming the child into an adult, the internal into the external, the intrapersonal into the interpersonal.

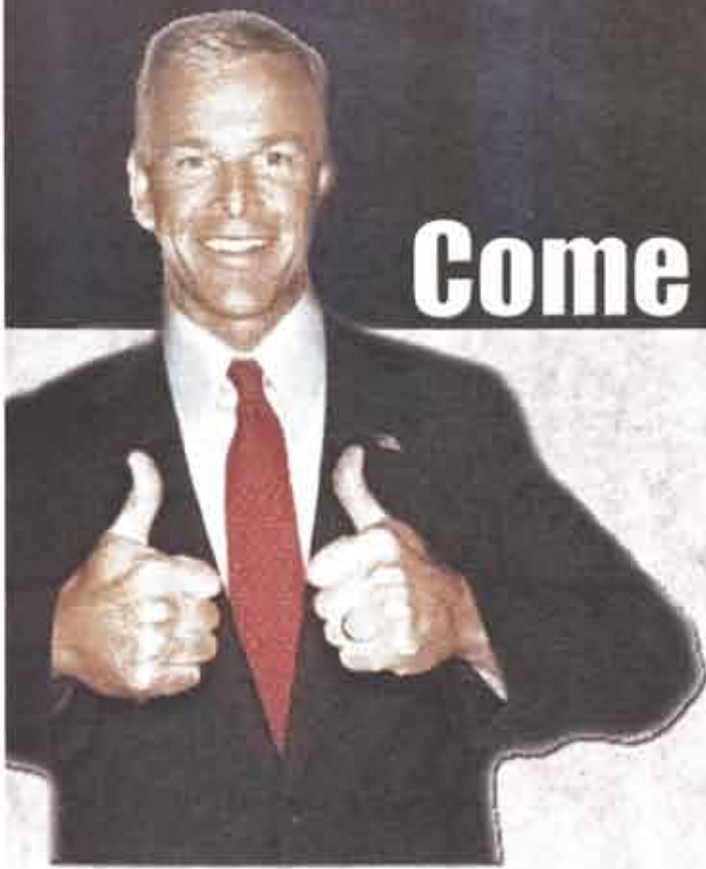
While it is difficult, it is more therapeutic for us to listen attentively to the reasons for our depression.

We might then externalize the anger, actualize the frustration rather than dissipating it in therapy sessions.

We might just be driven to do something about the many social and political injustices which, admittedly, are very depressing.

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Navy needs defence funds

Budgets are increasing for overseas military projects while financial support for homeland security projects dwindle



JEREMY TREMBLAY
ON THE VERGE

News about financial trouble facing Canada's navy filled the headlines late last week, raising concerns that Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government was neglecting homeland defence while providing greater funds to its higher-profile mission in Afghanistan.

Instead of examining issues that affect Canadians at home, it appears that Harper's government works to appease international pressure.

Accordingly, it is not only Canadians' interests, but also our ships, which are left high and dry.

Last Wednesday, the CBC reported that HMCS Halifax would not be going on its planned 35-day sovereignty patrol and would remain tied up in port.

The report suggested that all patrols would be cancelled until the end of March, which marks the end of the navy's fiscal year.

Shortly after, Reuters quoted navy spokesperson Lt. Marie-Claude Gagne as saying, "We've postponed one of our fisheries patrols. . . nothing else has been cancelled," and that the CBC's report was false.

By Thursday, CTV reported that Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor had announced that his department would find funding to allow the HMCS Halifax's planned patrol to carry on.

Critics of Canada's mission in Afghanistan have said that the funding difficulties were a result of over-spending.

Accordingly, the CBC reported that Canada will spend 1.5 billion dollars on the mission in Afghanistan this fiscal year, while the navy's funding is set to fall by 10 percent.

Others point out that American images of an insecure Canada allowing terrorists to enter the states are being proven true.

"The Americans," says Nova Scotia MP Peter Stoffer, "have consistently accused Canada of having leaky security measures and this will just prove to them that we are not even patrolling our own coasts for security measures."

However, there are many reasons that Canada's government and military should consider making a point of defending our coastline borders for our own interests, rather than just appeasing the fears and suspicions of our southern neighbours.

One of the most important reasons the Atlantic patrols should be of priority to us is the protection of our environment and resources.

Nearly two decades ago, the Atlantic cod industry, one of the most notable resources in our

country's history, was virtually shut down in hopes that we may one day be able to benefit greatly from it again.

However, one of the most serious challenges it faces to this day is illegal fishing by foreign ships.

In 2003, the value of Canada's catch on both coasts combined was over 2.9 billion dollars. In the same year, the export of fish and seafood products added an estimated 4.5 billion dollars.

The fishery provides jobs and money important to our economy. However, if the navy has no presence along our coast, how can we protect our fishing interests?

Another concern for Canada is its poorly enforced position on

arctic sovereignty.

While most Canadians feel we control the waterways existing between the islands making

Critics said the funding difficulties were a result of over-spending.

\$1.5 billion dollars is being spent on the mission in Afghanistan this fiscal year, while the navy's funding is set to fall by 10 percent.

up the Arctic Archipelago, many other countries, the US included, disagree.

While much of the water lies well beyond the standard twelve-mile limit of sovereignty, it is almost entirely frozen over for much of the year. This means that during the winter months, the Inuit hunt upon and inhabit the ice, making it an extension of the land.

However, military submarines can easily make the journey beneath the ice during the winter, which many reports suggest submarines of several nations do.

Without patrolling and regular monitoring (which currently does not exist) it is little wonder that Canada's claims at arctic sovereignty aren't taken seriously.

Harper's government has been too eager to pledge our military's resources to Afghanistan, neglecting pressing concerns within Canada that depend on a military presence at home.

In the future, the government should first consider what its citizens need at home from the military rather than jumping to do what appeases political pressure from outside the country.

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