

## EVALUATING STUDENT POLITICIANS

Find out how we rate WLUSU's directors in representing your interests, midway through their term ... **PAGES 6-7**



April Robinson

**FILLING ROSEHART'S SHOES** - Dr. Max Blouw, currently VP of research at the UNBC, will become Laurier's new president as of September 1.

## Laurier grieves loss of former Hawk

Maggiacomo's death leaves family reeling

**DAN POLISCHUK**  
SPORTS EDITOR

To lose a family member is always a tragic occurrence. But to lose a teammate, role model, and brother all at once would seemingly make the pain unbearable.

Unfortunately that is what Anthony Maggiacomo has been forced to endure after the death of his eldest sibling, Lee, this past December 13. And Anthony, along with his 17 year-old sister Aimee and mother Nina Macarella, have no idea how they will be able to move on after such a tragic event.

"The basic answer to any question I've been asked by anyone over the last couple of weeks has been 'I don't know.' I don't have a set answer on how I want to go about anything," said the younger Maggiacomo brother recently.

Reflecting on who Lee was as a person, Anthony described a very well-rounded individual.

"Aside from sports, if you heard what Lee did, you would think he was a nerd. He was [into] video games, cartoons, comics ... much like myself," he offered.

The elder Maggiacomo had also been a speedy linebacker with the Golden Hawks football team from 2000-2004 as he worked his way towards an honours degree in history with an English minor - which showed his articulate and intelligent side.

- SEE **MAGGIACOMO**, PAGE 2



Contributed Photo

**BROTHER, TEAMMATE** - Lee Maggiacomo passed Dec 13.

## The new face of WLU

With his background in small universities and research, a presidential search committee unanimously agreed that westerner Max Blouw would be the best person to fill Rosehart's ten-year-old shoes

**MIKE BROWN**  
NEWS EDITOR

As most students trudged home for the holidays and a stoic few finished their last exams, the Laurier community unveiled its future leader. At an intimate press conference in Alumni Hall on Tuesday, December 19, Dr. Max Blouw, vice-president of research at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) in Prince George, was announced as Dr. Bob Rosehart's successor as WLU's president and vice-chancellor.

Blouw will take the reins as Laurier's figurehead on September 1, ending a decade of unprecedented growth under Rosehart, and everyone involved in the extensive search seems convinced he's the perfect man for the job.

"We were looking for someone who was going to be able to build on the foundation that Dr. Rosehart has so ably built," explained Beverly Harris, chair of the Laurier Board of Governors, who also chaired the search committee. "Somebody who was going to help the universi-

ty find a crisp view of what we want to be in the future and work with Laurier to discover that and then to advocate for us - and we think we found that in Dr. Blouw."

It was not a decision the committee came to lightly, Harris explains. In fact, Blouw's selection marked the culmination of a nearly year-long process. They began consulting various stakeholders from across the university community last January, searched for suitable candidates over the summer, and ultimately interviewed six hopefuls over the fall. Blouw emerged as the unanimous selection, which was no small feat in Harris's eyes.

"The search committee is very representative of the university, so you've got a lot of different constituencies represented in those 15 people," said Harris. "For them all to come together and support one candidate, I think is remarkable."

At 55, Blouw boasts an impressive resumé. He holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Zoology from the University of Manitoba, and a PhD in biology from the University of New Brunswick.

He taught at St. Francis Xavier in Antigonish, Nova Scotia before crossing the country to make a home in BC. After two years of teaching biology at UNBC, he switched into an administrative role and has been largely credited with the growth of UNBC's research budget from \$3 million to \$18 million in his time there.

**"Laurier has grown significantly, but it retains many of the characteristics, the heart and the soul, of a smaller institution."**

- **Max Blouw, next WLU president**

From Manitoba to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to BC, Blouw has covered the country coast-to-coast, but he and his wife Lynn are very excited to move to Kitchener-Waterloo, which he calls the "heartland of Canada," after living for so many years on the nation's periphery. They're expecting to make the move over the summer, when his current role at UNBC ends in June.

He leaves a university that is itself nearly a decade younger than some WLU students (UNBC having opened its doors in 1994) to join one that will undergo its centenary in 2011 under his leadership.

But Blouw's no stranger to change. In fact, as a biologist, adaptation is one of his primary research interests, one that took him to the high Arctic to study fish adaptation for his master's work.

That research background intersects fittingly with Laurier's current move towards more research and graduate studies, as

the school continues to pursue its Century Plan aims and move to become a comprehensive institution.

"Certainly, research is a passion of mine," says Blouw. "My entire career has been either very actively engaged in research or in research advocacy or in the administration and management of research."

- SEE **BLOUW**, PAGE 4

## THE CORD WEEKLY

- The tie that binds since 1926 -

phone: (519) 884-1970 ext. 3564

fax: (519) 883-0873

email: cord@wluosp.com

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

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## QUOTE OF THE HOLIDAY BREAK

"Allan, I've got a bit of an embarrassing situation here. I appear to have shoved my bank card up the receipt slot."

- News Editor Mike Brown,  
drunkenly at Wilf's to WLUSU President Allan Cayenne

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

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

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

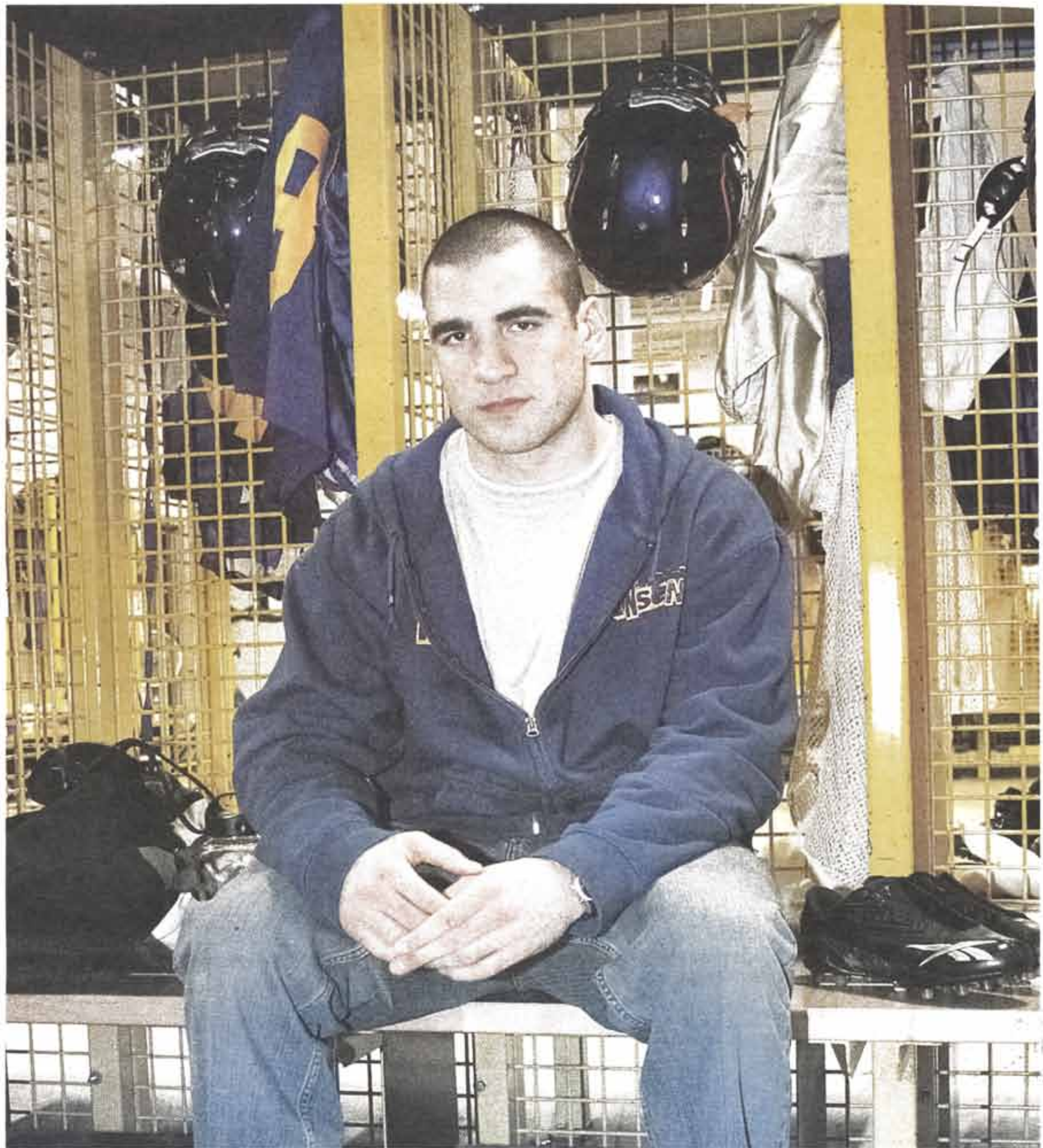
When statements are made that are critical of an individual, or an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity to reply at the earliest time possible.

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

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

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

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



Sydney Helland

LEFT BEHIND - Lee's brother, Anthony, sits at the locker that both he and Lee used during their varsity football days at Laurier.

# Maggiacomo missed

Lee's death left his brother at a fork in the road, no longer knowing who to turn to for guidance

- FROM MAGGIACOMO, COVER

After graduating from Laurier, Lee took a full year off to work - a time that caused him to "spin circles" because he "wasn't doing really anything day in and day out," explained his brother.

In a decision that his brother "didn't even really understand," Lee would go off to Sandford Fleming College in Peterborough and enrol in a program to become a museum curator.

This type of independence was a trait held firm all throughout his life, explained Anthony.

"It just wasn't in his nature to get into people's faces about stuff. He just knew how to go about things and he would just do it and people tended to follow."

Given Lee's ability to juggle

up actually winning an award for his work.

"[Just] another one of those things that Lee kept to himself though," he said.

But the shock the family may have had from that poem was nothing compared to what they felt on the second Monday of December when they were informed that Lee had been found by his roommates in his room "conscious, but not very coherent."

With his condition worsening, he was admitted to the Peterborough Regional Health Centre. Anthony and the rest of the family knew by 4 pm that day.

Eventually slipping into unconsciousness before the family could get by his side, Lee would never wake. He passed away two days later at the age of 25.

With his death came an outpouring of support from family and friends from Laurier, Sandford Fleming College and Jacob Hespeler High School Community.

"My mom ... she was blown

away [by the support]," recalled Maggiacomo, adding, "I can't even say how grateful we are to all the people who reached out to offer us their help."

As the family struggles to move on, it is evident that it will take a while to do so - having lost such a dependable family member.

"My biggest challenge now is ... my number one guidance counselor is no longer there. That's where I'm at a little bit of a fork in the road. Like, who do I turn to? I know I have everyone else but that number one person, who would be best to help me through this, is the one who's gone," explained Maggiacomo.

"The best advice he gave me was: anytime you have a problem, take that as an opportunity to re-evaluate yourself - where you are and where you want to go and figure out how you have to change to get by. Pretty much, I just have to use that now ... for any challenge I face."

## &gt; VOCAL CORD

What's the first thing Max Blouw should do for Laurier?



"I think he should make a trolley that takes students around campus."

- Max Spear, Denise Candiff  
First-Year Mathematics



"Charter the book store to make lower prices."

- Jenna Bailey  
Fourth-Year History



"Get the Hawk back!"

- Renee Yip  
Second-Year Business



"Get a licence for the boxing club."

- Neil Mac Donald  
Third-Year History



"Speed up construction on the Arts Building."

- Paul Tershakoulec  
Fourth-Year Economics

Compiled by David Goldberg and Laura Purchase

# Arms seizure on Albert

Police took 11 guns from an Albert Street rooming house

TONY FERGUSON  
NEWS EDITOR

In a tactical raid that took place Friday morning, Waterloo Regional Police seized 11 stolen firearms from a rooming house at 66 Albert Street.

The weapons were taken from a house on Hillmount Street on January 4. There were 14 firearms stolen from the Hillmount residence, three of which had already gone missing by the time police raided the Albert Street house.

"There is an extensive market for gun sales," says Inspector Bryan Larkin of the Waterloo Regional Police. "It's always a concern when a gun is stolen ... we know quite often that when a gun is stolen it is used in the commission of other offences."

Waterloo Regional Police are unable to comment on what the accused intended to use the weapons for, but they do believe that the firearms would have likely been used to commit additional crimes.

"We believe [the seizure] thwarted future crimes and the potential sale of illegal and stolen firearms," says Larkin.

Larkin is relieved that most of the weapons have been recovered.

"It's certainly a community concern and a community priority to get them off the streets."

As for the other three weapons, Waterloo Regional Police are in the process of recovering them.

"We do have some information but we're trying to track them down," says Larkin.

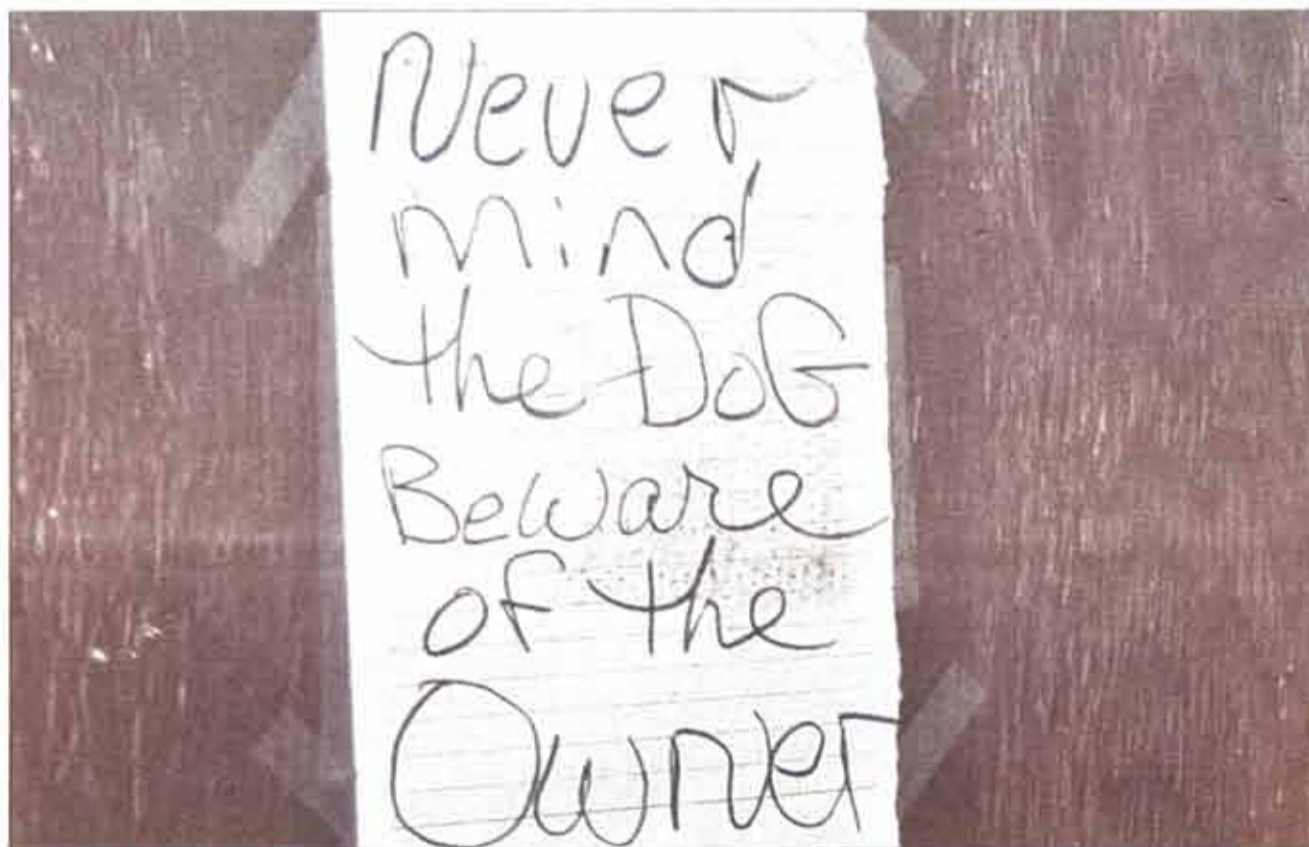
Police seized the firearms in a tactical raid that began with two bursts as they threw a pair of distraction devices into the house. Tactical officers entered the house and arrested three men, one of which was later released. Police are still looking for a fourth.

Pamela Heurud, a fourth-year University of Waterloo student, lives next door to the house and was getting ready for class when she heard the drama transpire.

"I heard two really loud bangs, louder than you would normally hear," she said. She came upstairs to the main floor of her Albert St. house and discovered something resembling a scene from a movie.

"The whole street was blocked off and we were blocked off in our area," she says.

Despite the excitement, Heurud was not surprised. "We knew that house was really shady in the first place because we'd had experiences with them before," she said. Among these experiences with the house next door were police officers paying frequent visits and fights that would sometimes take place on the front lawn.



Photos by Tony Ferguson

**BAD NEIGHBOURS** - Some residents became suspicious of the tenants of 66 Albert Street after witnessing violent behaviour and frequent visits by Waterloo Police.

"My friend that used to come over wouldn't want to walk home by herself," she said. Heurud says that she feels safer now that the individuals have been apprehended.

It's not the first time problems have stemmed from 66 Albert Street. Last year, fourth-year Laurier student Scott Cameron moved out of neighbouring 62 Albert after he and his roommates consistently fell victim to theft. At that point, the police claimed they could do nothing, as there was no proof to link the residents of 66 Albert.

Heather Johnson, who helps her mother manage the property, was surprised and "disgusted" when she found out what happened. According to Johnson, the accused had been living at the house illegally, using forged papers to collect welfare cheques.

Johnson and her mother, who refused to talk to the *Cord*, are not sure what to do with the now boarded-up house which has sustained substantial damage from the raid.

"We're either going to sell it or we're going to fix it. We've got many options," says the daughter.

## Holiday fire

TONY FERGUSON  
NEWS EDITOR

At approximately 5 am Christmas morning, a fire started in a bedroom of a student house on High Street.

Six university students were living at the house but all had gone home for the holiday break.

The cause is undetermined and will remain so because, since the fire has not caused personal injury, the Ontario Fire Marshal has declared that there is no need for a further investigation.

"Had there been a fatality, we would have gone the extra mile but because it's just a property loss we weren't going to go to that extreme to conduct an investigation," says Mariani Perini, an investigator with the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal.

The fire damage was so substantial that it rendered the house structurally unfit. One fire captain suffered minor back injuries as he fell through a bedroom floor that

had been weakened by the flames. Lack of safety was also a factor in abandoning the investigation.

Brad Forwell, an inspector with the Waterloo Fire Department, offers some tips to students to prevent fires in their homes. Forwell has seen many fire safety violations in student homes.

"We find that [students disconnect their smoke alarms] quite often ... it's a serious violation and it carries a serious penalty with it," he says.

Forwell warns not to use extension cords as permanent wiring and not to damage fire separations, or thick drywall that is used to prevent the spread of fire to other floors in the home. The most common reason for breaking through the firewall is to run internet cable.

He urges students who have concerns about fire safety in their homes to call the Waterloo Fire Department at 884-2121 and ask for Fire Prevention.

# WLU welcomes Blouw



April Robinson

**FUTURE, PRESENT, PAST** - Dr. Max Blouw (left) will take over as WLU President from Dr. Rosehart (right) in Sept., announced chair of the Board of Governors, Beverly Harris (middle).

- FROM **BLOUW**, COVER

That said, don't expect Laurier to forget its roots, he cautions.

"People often feel that research and teaching are in conflict with one another. Moving to a more comprehensive university status, I think, might be perceived as put-

ting those two into increased conflict. I don't view it that way myself.

"I value very highly an undergraduate experience that is very rich, that grows the entire student," he added.

Blouw said he has a strong preference for smaller universities and for smaller communities.

"Laurier has grown significantly, but it retains many of the characteristics, the heart and the soul, of a smaller institution. Such institutions can be nimble and innovative in seizing opportunities and in being responsive to the needs of society.

"As institutions grow, as size in-

creases, it's very important to try to focus on what is it that makes those environments special, and size is sometimes as much a matter of how we think about things as the actual, physical size."

As for the outgoing president, Rosehart plans to stay in Waterloo Region and hinted at keeping his

hand in the machinery of WLU, noting also that he's "pondering public office."

See **PAGE 26** for editorial reaction to this story

## Interim dean for faculty of education

**ASHLEY JANG**  
STAFF WRITER

As Laurier's faculty of education gets underway, WLU has hired a new interim dean to take care of the many tasks that are presented with the development of a new faculty.

Lynne Hannay, a former curriculum professor for the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), which is located at the University of Toronto, began her term as interim dean on January 1.

According to Dr. Sue Horton, Laurier's VP: Academic, Hannay was a prime candidate for the position. "She had the combination of being a full-time professor of curriculum by an internationally recognized university, U of T, and being familiar with our local area.

"She's done innovative teaching, she's done courses in person and also distant education, and she has a close working relationship with the local school boards," she added.

Hannay has also conducted impressive research and has received grants totaling over \$1 million from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the

Ontario Ministry of Education and Training.

She was a major contributor to the development of the faculty, which Horton noted as yet another reason she made for a sensible choice. "Without her involvement in the proposal writing to the ministry, we wouldn't have gotten the thing approved," said Horton.

After working for OISE for nearly 20 years, Hannay developed many relationships that she hopes will benefit the new faculty. "I have really deep connections with the school boards and I worked with the VP: Academic of Laurier for the last two years, Sue Horton, in developing the original proposal for the Faculty of Education," said Hannay.

Many tasks await Hannay in her new position, one of the most important being the hiring of new faculty. "The goal is to have faculty hired by July 1, a combination of full-time and part-time faculty," she said.

The position of interim dean is an 18-month contract after which Hannay will remain a professor at WLU. The faculty of education will then search for a full-time dean.

As the interim dean for a new faculty, Hannay has her hands quite full. "We have to create it from square one, which is a benefit because it allows us to create what we want to create," she said. Hannay believes that this will give Laurier's faculty of education an edge.

With classes beginning August 27, the faculty of education has already received 2,600 applications for only 70 positions that are currently under review.

Laurier's faculty of education will be located on the Waterloo campus on the third floor of Bricker Academic. It is a one-year primary-junior education program that consists of both theory and placements at partner professional development schools.

Horton has high hopes for the new faculty. "I hope it will have Laurier's tradition of strong student involvement and school spirit and I hope that it will produce excellent students and excellent research."

"I think the faculty of education is very much geared towards the future in terms of trying to create a whole model that brings about change to education and I'm very excited about that," said Hannay.

## Spring Break

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# Muhammad cartoons spark debate at York

**SIMONA SIAD**  
EXCALIBUR (YORK UNIVERSITY)

TORONTO (CUP) -- The controversial Danish cartoons have made an appearance on the York University campus again, this time in the form of an academic presentation.

On Dec. 11, Free Inquiry editor Tom Flynn gave a presentation called "Blasphemy, Censorship and the Media," on behalf of the Toronto Secular Alliance.

Free Inquiry is an American bi-monthly "secular humanist" publication with a circulation of about 30,000.

During the presentation, Flynn showed four of the 12 cartoons that were originally printed on Sept. 30, 2005, by a Danish daily newspaper, *Morgenavisen Jyllands-Posten*, that he published in the Inquiry's April-May issue.

At the time, critics called these controversial cartoons inflammatory and offensive, while others said they were merely satirical.

One image shows the face of a bearded man with a bomb in his turban along with an inscription from the Qur'an Islamic holy text; another shows suicide bombers in heaven with an Arab man saying

that they've run out of virgins.

Free Inquiry received a firestorm of controversy when it was one of only a handful American publications to publish the images; *Harper's Magazine* soon followed, publishing all 12 caricatures with commentary by leading American cartoonist Art Spiegelman, who offered what he called a "fatwa bomb meter" to rate their offensiveness.

In Canada, Indigo Books and Music took action and removed all copies of the June issue of *Harper's Magazine* from its 260 stores.

In the U.S., Borders and Waldenbooks bookstores would not stock the April-May issue of Flynn's magazine.

"For us, the safety and security of our customers and employees is a top priority, and we believe that carrying this issue could challenge that priority," said Beth Bingham, a spokeswoman for Borders Group Inc., in an interview with the *Washington Post*.

"Religion is treated differently in public discourse, in the media, than any other human endeavor, to our detriment. Religion is too important to not be subject to criticism," said Flynn.

Although it is difficult to find

these images in print, they are easily accessible on the Internet and can even be found on Wikipedia, a popular online encyclopedia.

Flynn forewarned the audience at York before he displayed the images and he noted that it was important to see that it was ambiguous whether any of the images actually depict the prophet Muhammad.

Flynn believes that the issue is not whether people should actually see the images, but rather that the right to see them shouldn't be taken from them.

"North American media declined to let readers see for themselves what the ruckus was all about," he said.

"Responsible journalists have an obligation to show the images that caused so much violence."

The controversial Danish images are not new at York.

In March 2006, posters by an organization known as the Undercurrent, with the title "The twilight of freedom of speech", were found lining the campus with the Danish images and questionable statements against Islam.

The posters had a picture of one of the 12 original cartoons. A part of the flyer read:

"We ourselves do not consider this cartoon to be offensive. We consider it to be an accurate view of the religion of Islam, whose followers make the news everyday, all over the world, for mindlessly

obeying Islam's orders to murder heretics. It was originally intended to expose a widespread fear of criticizing the Islamic religion in Denmark. It has done its job."

Many York students were upset, but were cautioned against taking action.

"We have advised all our members not to take any individual action but to let the embassy handle it. We have spoken to York, and we have asked them to investigate," said Mohammad Sheikh, public relations representative for the Muslim Students Association at York during that time.

Borna Radnik, president of the Secular Humanist Association at York, helped organize the Free Inquiry event.

He admitted that there is always going to be controversy, but that students should maintain an open dialogue about the issues raised by the cartoons and censorship in the media, if there is to ever be any understanding.

"It's a subject that needs to be spoken of -- it's the media, which represents us all," said Radnik.

"Anything that attracts emotion, especially negative emotion, needs to be talked about. If the issue is there, it's not going to go away," he continued.

"What is really important is that there is a positive, open dialogue between all the different parties."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Tough-luck vandalism

Matthew Dunphy, a first-year philosophy student from Millbrook faces charges of public mischief and being intoxicated in a public place in connection with the shattering of a detective's window at the Erb St. Division Three headquarters around 1:30 am on December 1. For the full story, visit <http://www.cord-weekly.com/archives/1425>.

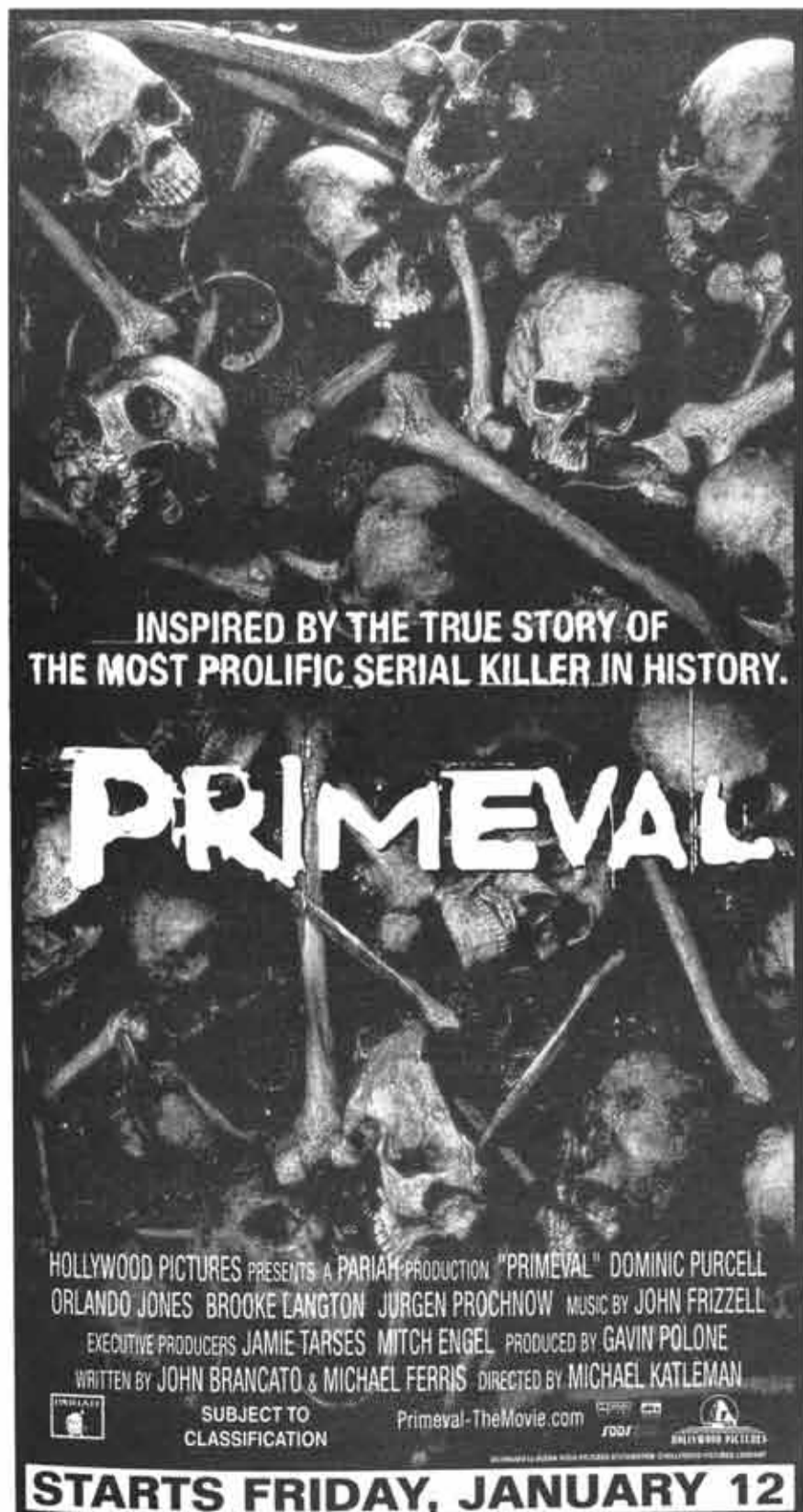
### Coke addict arrested

Steven Elliot, 31, of Kitchener was arrested on December 6 by Campus Safety and Security in connection with a string of thefts from the men's locker room of the Athletic Complex. A known cocaine addict, Elliot confessed to the crimes, which occurred throughout the first term. For the full story, visit <http://www.cord-weekly.com/archives/1431>.

### Sushi at Union Market

Union Market has expanded its services for 2007 by adding fresh sushi to the menu courtesy of Ah-So Sushi. The menu included sushi for the first time last term, but students will now see it prepared before their eyes.

"It's the same product, but now it's prepared fresh, there's more variety, and more things available to students," explained Cayenne. And the best part? The price to poverty-stricken students hasn't gone up at all.



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## LSPIRG Board of Directors Election

Nomination packages for the LSPIRG Board of Directors are available in the LSPIRG office located in the Library Room 3-301 and at [www.lspirg.ca](http://www.lspirg.ca).

The packages should be returned no later than 12pm January 15th, 2007 to the LSPIRG office.

# Director reviews 06-07

You voted them in, but what are your student politicians actually doing this year? The *Cord* sat down with the elected members of the WLUSU board of directors to find out how well they're representing your interests in the boardroom and around campus



**Allan Cayenne - President and CEO**

There's no arguing that Allan Cayenne is a really swell guy.

A reoccurring theme in our current WLUSU president's footprint is his general "niceness" – a characteristic that's his greatest asset but also his greatest vice.

Not only did he win the presidential seat by a landslide, but he has also managed to gain the respect of most WLUSU directors. This has created a fairly seamless relationship between the hired VPs and the elected directors – which has been rare in past years.

He's a good listener and his door is always open. He is also well aware of his role in that the board controls the corporation and he controls WLUSU operations. Cay-

enne is honest and approachable and seems to be less of a typical politician, which is refreshing to the role. He's less concerned with his own agenda than with what truly matters to students – and he usually goes out of his way to determine student opinion.

But, at the same time, many agree that Cayenne could stand to be a bit more assertive and decisive. It took a long time for the president to take a stance on the current issue with the potential for student workers to become part of the staff union. And his efforts to gain a broad spectrum of research and information on issues often make him seem pokey with updates and opinions.

Cayenne often seems afraid of

hurting people's feelings and stepping on colleagues' toes. It has been said that he doesn't want to be the boss, but the team leader – perhaps a hangover from his years as a WLUSU volunteer.

As for campaign promises, Cayenne has managed to tick most of them off his list, keeping voters happy. He has extended hours in the Concourse, has implemented a student food bank, and oversaw renovations to the C-Spot and the Hall of Fame.

Maybe something that won't resonate as nicely in students' memories, however, is his removal of the coveted Hawk from the floor outside Wilf's



**JD Muir - VP: University Affairs**

The word passion is synonymous with JD Muir in his position. Though he was acclaimed, Muir has taken the hefty university affairs portfolio by storm, impressing and inspiring his colleagues.

He can be counted on to express an informed and impassioned student voice in all levels of government, but most notably through OUSA (Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance), in which he is heavily involved. He organized a provincial conference for OUSA at Laurier this fall, providing opportunities for several directors and student politicians from the Brantford campus. And Laurier's delegation was said to have been more organized in

their policy stances than ever.

Muir's passion can just as easily cause him to be spread too thin. So while Muir put tons of effort into the fall's OUSA conference, he failed to plan any student-centered events or debates regarding the November municipal election. He also admits to being unpunctual, a scatter-brain and a little absent-minded.

Some of his passion makes Muir seem a tad unprofessional. He sent an open letter to university leaders expressing hurt and disgust surrounding homophobia on campus. It was well-intentioned but written informally and he admitted to "venting." Yet, the personal way Muir involves himself is

the exact reason why people admire him.

That said, in a role that is defined by the person in it, Muir has picked up the pieces that many of his predecessors dropped. He sits on numerous committees. His approachable and friendly persona has brightened the university affairs ambiance, yet he is not afraid to express opinions of dissent, such as his disapproval of the recent motion for the board to take a negative stance on the violence in Darfur. He has mastered the art of taking a strong stance in the boardroom without hurting working relationships – a skill that his colleagues would do well to learn from.



**Matt Park - Chair of the Board**

Matt Park is an extremely capable board chair. He knows Robert's Rules inside-out, he's well-versed in policy and he maintains order in the board room. But while he started the year off with amicable relations between himself and his board, some directors have become concerned that he has lost some of the neutrality that is imperative to his role.

Nowhere has this issue been more pertinent than with Policy Governance. In board discussions, though Park tries to be impartial, his support of the possible new governing structure for WLUSU is quite obvious.

This could become problematic as the board comes to a decision on this important issue.

It also seems that Park's formal working demeanor has got the best of him, causing some relationship strain with a few directors. He has been tagged as antagonistic, and several directors have said he does not value individual ideas or concerns unless they are expressed wholly as a board.

Park is also admittedly strapped for time. As vice president of the Sigma Chi fraternity, among other time commitments, he hardly holds office hours – although he does keep his cell

phone number on the door.

Despite these shortcomings, Park can be credited for getting the board off on a good foot, focusing on making their volunteer role an "experience" and increasing their training from previous years. And although he tends to politicize governance discussions, he has done immense amounts of Policy Governance research on behalf of the board.

Ultimately, even directors who have been miffed by his perceived politicizing of the role admit they couldn't see anyone else as chair.



**Lauren McNiven - Vice-Chair of the Board**

Generally, Lauren McNiven has performed quite adequately in a role that is very difficult to define and that may, if Policy Governance is adopted, be eliminated from the board.

She has been working hard on projects outside the boardroom, while providing support to the board chair when necessary. In particular, McNiven has done great work concerning food on campus – increasing vegetarian and vegan alternatives at WLUSU food opera-

tions, working on a nutritional database for students and speaking to food outlets to increase awareness and sensitivity surrounding allergies. She is also working on an interesting academic project, investigating the value of degree minors.

McNiven is honest in saying she knows what students need and want – she's not afraid to walk up to complete strangers and ask for their opinions and concerns.

The token "socialist" on the Management Committee, McNiven ran

to shake things up on the board, but has toned down her politics, feeling as though the most effective way to get things done is to work cooperatively. However, some feel she has fell in line with the "third floor" way of thinking.

When McNiven chairs meetings, she lacks the confidence and proficiency of Matt Park. She's also not as well-versed in policy. But McNiven should be careful to understand her role as a check and balance to the chair, not as his subordinate.



**Emily Anson**

It is difficult to see what Emily Anson has done for students this year. She sits on the Environmental Sustainability Committee, but any action has been stalled by Policy Governance.

It is taking her a long time to learn the WLUSU operating structure, and she admits to having a complete ignorance of business. Unfortunately, she does not balance this lack of knowledge by asking intelligent questions in board meetings or presenting alternative viewpoints. She stays rather quiet most of the time.

Her idea to increase inclusiveness of community groups was accomplished without any need of her help (through the Rainbow Centre and Diversity Centre), but she has not set any new direction for herself. She has done work with the Aboriginal Students' Association, even though it is something any non-director could do.



**Jon Champagne**

Jon Champagne has been a quintessential member of this year's board. As one of only two second-year students, he has been the perpetual questioner. Without ever pointing an accusatory finger, he unabashedly asks the questions that he needs answered to be effective in his role. Though they sometimes cover topics that the majority of the board is already versed in, they just as frequently voice the concerns of many and incite some of the best discussions.

As far as tangible accomplishments go, Champagne assisted Mike Tsuchiya in his charter bus project. He has done a lot of in-depth research on Policy Governance while remaining neutral on the issue.

As a young director, he hasn't let a steep learning curve prevent him from diving into his role. He has not accomplished many of his platform initiatives but hasn't been a poor director because of it. This is a director we'd like to see run again.



**Asif Bacchus**

A true policy guru, Asif Bacchus's accomplishments are direct results of his role as chair of the Constitutional and Operational Development Committee. He has cleaned up vague policies, specifically regarding HR issues in light of the questionable dismissal of the campus clubs coordinator.

He has looked into his platform objectives of academic lenience for WLUSU volunteers and opt-out procedures for student fees, but hasn't had time to really pursue them.

The main fault of Bacchus is in stirring up politics both inside and outside the boardroom. He has been pitted as a manipulative character who influences directors to join his "side" and upset order without productive reasoning. This adversarial nature is not healthy to student democracy.



**Freddy Enriquez**

As a right-hand man to Mike Tsuchiya, Freddy Enriquez has worked hard to make tangible contributions on behalf of the student body. Enriquez has contributed to the pepper spray and charter bus initiatives and is still working on improving WLUSU-WLUSP relations.

However, Enriquez's board political knowledge is less than stellar. He is the first to admit that he has little interest in board policy – a challenge in a year where the big issue is a possible switch to Policy Governance. He has not been very articulate at meetings in the few times he has spoken up.

Although he was on the renovations committee, Enriquez was shocked when the Hawk was removed from the Hall of Fame. Whether there was failed communication on his part or on the President's side, unfortunately it was students who lost in the end.



**Yusuf Faqiri**

For the second straight year, Yusuf Faqiri has the dubious distinction of being one of the board's least effective directors. He has acquaintances with a lot of students and thereby has potential for representation, but it's hard to point to many actual accomplishments.

Faqiri is not a great communicator, does not show a lot of interest in policy and consistently sends in his work and information late. He also doesn't seem to show much interest in getting things done. Though he made promises to improve Accessible Learning and make off-campus housing easier to get, he has made no progress.

Faqiri has set out to make visits to residences for election and board awareness this semester. But based on his track record, it's not too likely he'll meet even this small goal.

*Disclosure: Yusuf Faqiri writes for the International section of the Cord.*



**Kathryn Flynn**

Though Kathryn Flynn ran on a platform focused entirely on sexual assault awareness, she has admitted defeat in achieving these goals. Be it due to bureaucracy, lack of time or simply dropping the ball, Flynn has been something of a disappointment in terms of tangible outcomes with the students in mind.

Instead, she has shifted her focus to boardroom participation – representing student viewpoints and concerns with her articulate wit. Though sometimes she remains quiet and seems afraid to ask questions, when she does speak, it's worthwhile. A recent example was in the discussion of student wages at Wilf's. She raised dissent against Cayenne's argument that the status quo should be maintained.

Flynn also sits as chair of the Health Plan Committee and was recently elected to the SSAC fee committee.

*Disclosure: Kathryn Flynn is an opinion columnist for the Cord.*



**Janice Lee**

A real advocate for first-years, Janice Lee stands out as another young, informed voice on the board. She prides herself in giving the perspective of a woman and a visible minority and is heavily interested in issues of representation.

Lee provides a careful analysis of issues in board meetings, and is not afraid to ask for more information before she takes a stance. But often this means she does not take firm positions against things she does not believe in.

She has pushed her platform initiatives as far as possible without going into operations' territory (which is believed to be beyond the scope of a director). One such initiative students can expect to see is a pamphlet that breaks down all student fees and why we pay them. Lee can balance getting things done while providing a fair voice in the boardroom, making her a great director.



**Colin LeFevre**

A director knee-deep in behind-the-scenes activity, Colin LeFevre does a lot of important committee work. He chairs the ad hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee, but the group has not been able to achieve much due to hovering questions in WLUSU's governing structure (a switch to Policy Governance), which would remove the existence of the committee altogether.

He has also shown great interest in the University Affairs portfolio, acting as an OUSA (Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance) conference delegate, attending City of Waterloo "Town and Gown" meetings, and working on the External Affairs Committee.

At board meetings, LeFevre is an informed voice on the heated Policy Governance topic. But he should be careful not to be influenced by the most appealing arguments and to speak for his own ideas.



**Bryn Ossington**

Bryn Ossington has become disillusioned with the Board of Directors. He came in with high hopes of giving WLUSU a wake-up call in taking student interests more seriously. Although he has been a voice of dissent, he feels he has let people down – himself included – in terms of speaking up for alternative student viewpoints.

That said, he has worked hard as chair of the Elections and Referenda Committee, sitting on the Finance and Building Committee and also the Environmental Sustainability Committee. It is clear that Ossington is not there for personal gain. He has a genuine concern for representing the students and does not seem to care what people think.

There has been concern, however, that Ossington is easily influenced by a few other board members. So it will be important for him to stick to his own guns throughout his remaining months as director.



**Josh Smyth**

Never adversarial, Smyth is fairly vocal at meetings and manages to play Devil's advocate in the boardroom with a constant smile on his face. He is well-respected by fellow directors and admired for his work.

The obviously intelligent director has poured himself into the role of chair of the Finance and Building Committee. Though the post is not traditionally held by an arts student, his unique perspective has helped tone down jargon so the board can ingest a clearer financial picture of WLUSU.

A disadvantage for Smyth is the competing demands on his time. He hasn't pursued platform goals such as increased student financial assistance and achieving a carbon neutral campus as much as we'd like to see, but overall he's been an effective director.

*Disclosure: Josh Smyth is the Associate Editor of the Blueprint's Global section.*



**Mike Tsuchiya**

Emerging as a star director, Mike Tsuchiya has done a great job of ticking things off his platform list. Most recently, the returning director has worked with a few others to coordinate a charter bus service

from Laurier to the GTA on weekends – a project that he began last year.

He has also worked closely with Freddy Enriquez to research and try to implement the ability for Laurier security officers to use pepper spray as a form of protection.

The initiative is currently on hold, as it has run into obstacles in the office of the university president.

His business sense and experience is helpful as he sits as a repeat member on the Finance and Building Committee.

It seems a second year on the

board has brought much more maturity and many more results than Tsuchiya's first term may have otherwise predicted.

*Editor's note: Josh Perlard and Agatha Przybylska were not reviewed due to their resignation.*

# Choosing WLU's media barons

Student Publications has a new president, but nominations are still open to serve on the board of directors for 2007-08

## > PRESIDENT: KEREN GOTTFRIED (acclaimed)



I am running for President to serve as the facilitator for our community of talented and dedicated volunteers. I will build on WLUSP's existing strengths and bring new ideas to the table. I aim to professionalize our policy and governance department so that we have, for example, job descriptions that ensure our volunteers know what is expected of them. I will focus on the rewards of the volunteer experience by dedicating more resources to volunteer appreciation and working with Career Services to provide workshops

on how to get a career in journalism after graduation. I will work with the Brantford crew to continue the growth of the Sputnik by turning it into a weekly paper. Besides these specific ideas, I am qualified for the role because I bring with me a wealth of experience, a hard working personality and a passion for student journalism. Over the years I have volunteered as Chair of the WLUSP Board of Directors, staff writer for the Cord, and production assistant for the Blueprint, so I know intimately how this organiza-

tion operates. My extensive experience in student politics will equip me to push our interests at the Laurier governance level and with the Canadian University Press. We can work together to enhance the volunteer experience and produce publications that make Laurier a leader in Canadian student journalism. Vote someone with the skills set to get the job done right, and the enthusiasm to be fun to work with. Vote Keren Gottfried for WLUSP President.

## > BOARD OF DIRECTORS (nominations still open)



### Ryan Clubb

I'm seeking a position on the WLUSP Board of Directors because I feel I possess the skills necessary to uphold the values and integrity of this great organization. As a

5<sup>th</sup> year economics and business student, a part-time schedule and an academic specialization in this field will help me guide this organization's operations.

If elected, I will always be available to meet with any member of

the Laurier community to discuss any concerns and ideas to improve our organization. I feel my previous experiences and business knowledge makes me a worthy candidate for this position.

## WLUSP Board of Directors Nominations

The deadline for nominations for WLUSP Board of Directors had been extended to  
**Friday, January 12 at noon.**

Any questions can be directed to Fraser Mccracken  
at [fraser.mccracken@wlusp.com](mailto:fraser.mccracken@wlusp.com).



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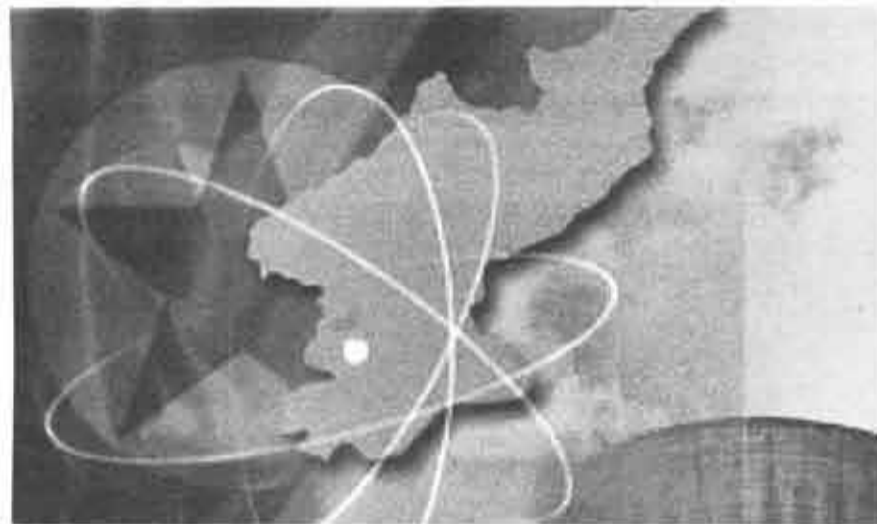
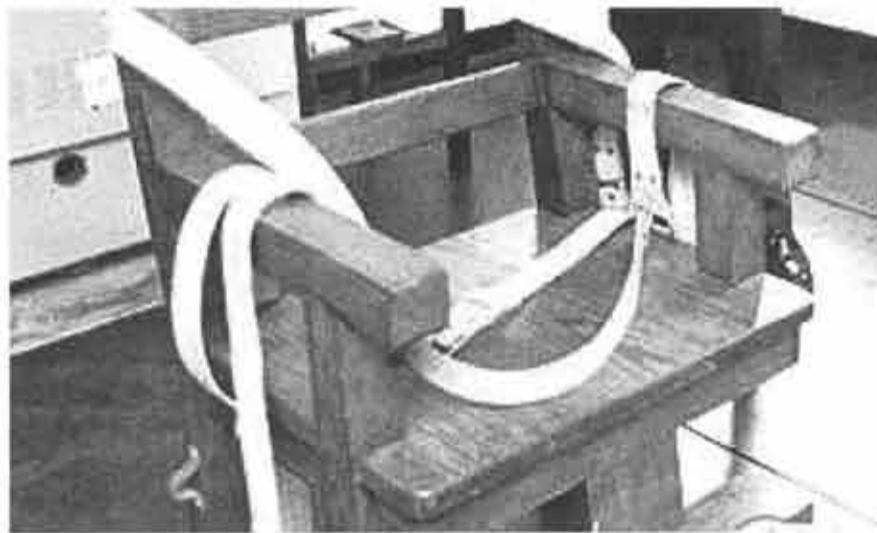
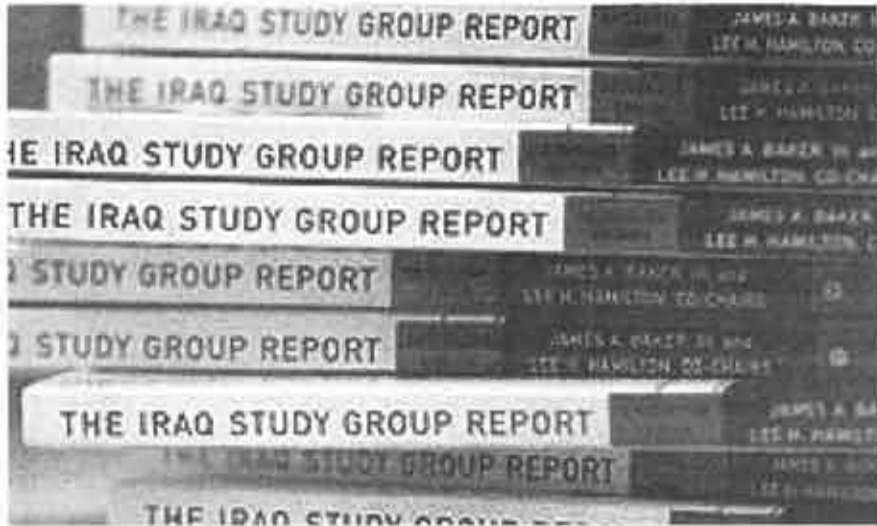
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# While you were out

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**NEWSMAKERS OF THE BREAK** - Clockwise from bottom L: Escalating conflict in Somalia; suspected serial killer caught; talks with N Korea in stalemate; death penalty suspended in Florida, California; Bush's reaction to Iraq Study Group Report expected today; (next page) Madrid airport bombings point to rebel group; Vinson Massif scaled; China loosens media restrictions until 2008 Olympics end; Mochi cause of three deaths and 15 hospitalizations in Japan.

## Bush to respond today to scathing Iraq report

**December 6 :: USA.** The Iraq Study Group, headed by former secretary of state James Baker III and former congressman Lee Hamilton, released its much-anticipated report on December 6, recommending that president Bush withdraw all American troops from the region by 2008.

Although the report issued 79 recommendations, the two most important recommendations called for "new and enhanced diplomatic and political efforts in Iraq and the region, and a change in the primary mission of U.S. forces in Iraq that will enable the United States to begin to move its combat forces out of Iraq responsibly."

Facilitated by the United States Institute of Peace, at Congress's urging, the group's mandate was to "conduct a forward-looking, independent assessment of the current and prospective situation on the ground in Iraq, its impact on the surrounding region, and consequences for U.S. interests." Its explicit goal was to build broad consensus for US Foreign policy towards the region, without which "any course of action in Iraq" was doomed to failure.

President Bush will unveil his new strategy for Iraq today in response to the report, says international newswire Reuters. It is expected that he will commit to sending up to 20,000 troops to Iraq, and has already dismissed many of the report's recommendations.

The group itself was composed of ten civil servants, advised extensively by four expert working groups in the White House, and met with 170 American and Iraqi people from both inside and out of government before preparing its report. The US administration appropriated \$1 million to the group for the study.

Titled *The Way Forward - A New Approach*, the bipartisan report was downloaded over 1.5 million times in the first two weeks of its online posting.

- A.L.H.

## Executions suspended for those on death row

**December 13 :: USA.** In the United States the death penalty has been called into question after Floridian convict Angel Nieves Diaz took 34 minutes to die by lethal injection on December 13, 2006. Autopsy results indicated that chemicals were injected into tissue, rather than the vein, which resulted in a long and painful death.

Two days later, after a series of court proceedings, Governor Jeb Bush of Florida suspended all executions and launched an investigation into the constitutionality of lethal injection. The same day, U.S. District Judge Jeremy Fogel also stopped all executions in the State

of California and made the statement that the procedure of lethal injection is inhumane.

Since then, the number of states in which executions are now on hold has been raised to ten, which is over a quarter of those states which make use of it.

Further international criticisms of capital punishment have been renewed by the footage of Saddam Hussein's execution on December 30, 2006. Footage of the hanging, taken with a cell phone, showed a crowd shouting remarks including "go to hell" and has since provoked further sectarian activism in Iraq, as well as international attention and outcry.

British Finance Minister Gordon Brown remarked that the hanging was "deplorable," while U.S. President George W. Bush said that while the execution achieved justice, it should have been conducted in a "more dignified way."

Amnesty International stated: "Welcome to the sordid world of the execution chamber, brought to you by the YouTube generation."

More than 90 percent of the world's executions take place in China, Saudi Arabia, the U.S. and Iran. In China, 68 crimes carry the death penalty, including tax fraud, drugs offences and embezzlement.

- M.E.

## US sanctions of \$24M antagonize N. Korea

**December 20 :: North Korea.** A multi-party financial summit on North Korea's nuclear disarmament reached a standstill on December 20, as a US proposal was tabled and dismissed. The disagreement was based on North Korea's refusal to scrap its atomic weapons program until the United States stopped its economic sanctions, amounting to nearly \$24 million.

According to BBC News, unnamed diplomats say the proposal outlines North Korea's eventual nuclear disarmament in exchange for a pledge to not topple the regime by force, provided UN inspectors are allowed access to verify disarmament. Food, energy and economic aid would follow, helping the country's impoverished hungry survive.

According to the South Korean Foreign Minister, the parties will resume talks during the week of January 22, but no official date has been set.

Discord between the US and North Korea was dealt another blow on January 3, with the announcement of the death of Paek Nam-sun, the familiar North Korean minister to the US.

On January 5, American television network ABC issued a report that Pyongyang was planning to detonate a second nuclear bomb. If it goes ahead with the test, American officials have warned of deeper isolation.

- A.L.H.

## Suspect in murder of 5 prostitutes arrested

**December 21 :: England.** Five bodies found within 10 days at the beginning of December 2006 led British authorities to arrest and charge Steve Wright on December 21.

The five female prostitutes were found naked along the countryside of Ipswich. The cause of death has only been established in two of the deaths, one from "compression to the neck" and the other from "asphyxiation." It was reported, that none of the corpses showed signs of extreme trauma or serious sexual assault.

The 48-year-old former forklift driver of Ipswich, England, targeted five prostitutes ranging in age from 19 to 29 years old. Wright lives on the edge of the Red Light District in Ipswich, where all of the prostitutes are said to have worked.

Tom Stevens, 37, was arrested prior to Wright's arrest; however, now Stevens has been released on police bail without charge.

Wright has yet to enter a plea or ask for bail. He is being held in custody until May 1; at this time he will be entering his plea in front of a high court judge.

It is rumoured that his lawyers will be requesting a transfer of his case to a court outside Ipswich at the next hearing to avoid a bias trial.

The feeling of a need for a fair trial has also been voiced by the prosecutors, as they stress the importance of keeping reports free of prejudice. This is so much a concern that Britain's Attorney General, Peter Goldsmith, has warned the news media to show restraint in their coverage of the court proceedings along with the investigation being carried out by police authorities.

It has turned into one of Britain's largest ever manhunts, including over 500 officers and 31 police forces from all over the country.

Comparisons between this event and the murders of at least five prostitutes at the hands of Jack the Ripper in 1888 have been triggered.

- A.D.

## East vs. West tension plays on Somali stage

**December 27 :: Somalia.** It looks as though the Horn of Africa has just encountered its own Iraq-like situation. Backed by the largely Christian Ethiopian government, the UN-recognized Somali has forcefully taken over the nation after two years in exile.

Less than two weeks ago Somalia was being governed by the Union of Islamic Courts, who had only recently begun governing the nation by overtaking various clan-based warlord factions. While the UIC brought stability to Somalia for the first time in 15 years, their Islamic

- SEE LIMELIGHT, PAGE 11

- FROM LIMELIGHT, PAGE 10

style of governance, which included the public floggings of criminals and legislation based upon the Qur'an, worried neighbouring Ethiopia and many Western governments, including the United States. Fearing that the UIC would become like Afghanistan's Taliban regime, and harbour al-Qaeda, Ethiopian forces agreed to back the displaced Somali government and remove the UIC from power.

However, the interim Somali government has done little to endear itself to its nation's people. The presence of Ethiopian troops has enraged many Somalis, who have historically strained relations with their neighbour. Furthermore, a proposal to forceably disarm the heavily armed population has met vehement local opposition. Residents of Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, took to the streets of the city to oppose the interim government's proposals. Two people died during these protests, as rocks were thrown at Ethiopian troops and tires were burned in city streets.

With the United States now beginning to target and attack al-Qaeda suspects in the nation, tensions within the African nation look like they will intensify and stability for Somalia seems like a distant dream.

-J.T.

**Bombing ends ETA-Spanish negotiations**

**December 30 :: Spain.** In Madrid, ETA broke their eight month ceasefire with a car bomb attack at Barajas International Airport on December 30, 2006. Two Ecuadorian immigrants were killed in the bombings, with the second victim being recovered from the scene nearly a week after the incident due to the difficulties of working within a collapsing parking building. The bombing marked the first death since May of 2003 which ETA was responsible for.

The victims were both sleeping in their cars awaiting the arrival of family members to arrive at the airport when the bomb detonated.

ETA, or the Euskadi Ta Askatasuna, Basque for "Basque Homeland and Freedom," is a nationalist paramilitary group founded in 1959 which has been active in the Basque region of northern Spain

and southwest France since. Negotiations towards a ceasefire between ETA and the Spanish government were begun in 2005 only if ETA made a clear effort to renounce their violent tactics.

Government representatives have now stated that attempts at furthering peace talks are now over. Upon a visit to the site of the bombing, Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero stated that "Nothing will stop the right for our lives to be lives without bombs ... I want to affirm that ETA has, with this vile and despicable attack, chosen the worst possible road."

Six days after the bombings, regional police seized explosives and a vehicle in the nearby city of Durango. Investigations continue as to whether or not the over 220 pounds of explosives confiscated were related to the airport bombing.

-M.E.

**Ring in 2007 at the bottom of the world**

**January 1 :: Antarctica.** Many people spend New Years Eve partying with friends and family but this year four Australians decided to ring in 2007 with a record breaking climb to the top of Antarctica's tallest mountain. Vinson Massif, reaching heights of 4900m, was about a 300km trek for the four brave men. Many other climbers have attempted this but have surrendered or been defeated by injury or death.

Duncan Chessell led the three other men on a three-week journey to nearly 5000m above sea level, making them the very first people in history to complete this trek. Chessell can now add this feat to his resume along with the six other summits of the world. It is every mountaineer's dream to say they climbed the seven summits (the tallest mountain of each continent) and Chessell is the first to have accomplished this.

Because Chessell has climbed to so many heights, including Everest at just under 9000m, Vinson Massif's temperatures (reaching as low as minus 35 degrees Celsius) probably seemed like a breeze. Bringing in the New Year at the top of one of the tallest mountains in the world was "exhausting but exhilarating," according to Chessell.

-H.McD.

**'Open door' policy to sunset in 2008**

**January 1 :: China.** As the clock struck midnight, not only was a new year ushered in, but a new era of enlightenment for China's judiciary, the country's human rights and its openness to outsiders celebrated the end of self-imposed restrictions and a better promotion on human rights.

The most notable change for foreign observers are new regulations on foreign media for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The guidelines, issued by the communist giant, grants foreign media more freedom to report in China in the run-up to and during the Olympics, including visiting sensitive regions like Tibet and Xinjiang. The new regulations came into effect on January 1, 2007 and expire on October 17, 2008.

The new media regulations abolish decades-old restrictions on foreign reporters' ability to travel and conduct interviews in China.

Under new media guidelines, only the consent of the person to be interviewed is needed.

"If the new regulations prove beneficial to our development and to exchanges between us and the foreign media, and if they aid communication with the international community, then I imagine there will be no need to change the policy," said Cai Wu, minister of the Information Office of the State Council.

- SEE LIMELIGHT, PAGE 12



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<b>Current wage rate</b>	\$7.75/hour	\$7.25/hour	\$6.75/hour	\$38.75	\$77.50	110% of the minimum wage
<b>Feb. 1, 2007 wage rate</b>	\$8.00/hour	\$7.50/hour	\$6.95/hour	\$40.00	\$80.00	110% of the minimum wage

On February 1, 2007, the general minimum wage will increase to \$8.00 per hour from the current rate of \$7.75 per hour.

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- FROM LIMELIGHT, PAGE 11

Cai Wu's statement indicates that China's decades-old policy of reform and opening-up the free flow in news and information could also be reformed and opened with this cautious but sure step.

- T.T.

### Rice cakes are deadly

**January 1 :: Japan.** Three Japanese died and 15 were admitted to hospital after choking on sticky rice cakes traditionally eaten during the New Year's holidays, said police and fire department officials on Tuesday.

Official Hiroyuki Komatsu of Tokyo Fire Department said a 76-year-old man and a 68-year-old man in Fuchu City choked to death on Tuesday while eating the chewy fare. Another 14 people between the ages of 65 and 91 were taken to local hospitals on Monday and Tuesday, including seven who were unconscious and in serious condition.

The chewy fare known as 'mochi' is made of highly compressed sticky rice, typically grilled and wrapped in dried seaweed or served in a soup called 'ozoni.'

Ever year, some Japanese die from choking on mochi. In Tokyo last year, three elderly Japanese died and 30 others were admitted to hospital after mochi became stuck in their throats.

Police officials have issued warnings about the risks of eating mochi, urging people to take small bites, chew well and drink plenty of liquids.

- T.T.

### 'Mild-mannered' Asian tiger takes the reins

**January 1 :: UN.** Ban Ki-moon assumed his post in office on January 1, 2007 as the new United Nations Secretary-General and the first Asian to lead the organization in 35 years.

The new Secretary-General has inherited several issues from his predecessor, Kofi Annan, including continued violence in the Darfur region of Sudan, pressure for UN reform, and the stand-off with North Korea, to which Mr. Ban can bring his regional experience as the former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea.

He has pledged to rebuild trust in the organization, focusing on greater internal trust and greater external accountability. He was the first in the organization to submit a financial disclosure form to the body's Ethics Office on January 5, setting an example for others in the organization.

Labelled as "mild-mannered" by several international news media, Mr. Ban has already been very vocal on wide-ranging issues. On January 6, he called for the Iraqi government to abstain from executing those on death row, an issue at the forefront of consciousness with human rights groups after Saddam Hussein's controversial treatment immediately preceding his hanging.

- A.L.H.

**Try a pilgrimage: travel to clear your sins**  
January 2 :: Saudi Arabia. January

2 was the last day of the Hajj. Muslims from all over the world travel to Mecca, Saudi Arabia to stand before the Kaaba so they can worship Allah together. This is one of the holiest practices a Muslim can perform in their lifetime and are required to do so at least once in their life.

The trek of Hajj is the last of the five pillars of the Islamic faith. The first is a testimony of faith that Allah is the one true god, the second is the devotion of five prayers a day, the third is almsgiving (giving a certain amount of earnings to the poor), the fourth is siyam (fasting) and the last is the pilgrimage of Hajj. Once a Muslim has completed all five aspects of the Islamic faith, their sins are considered to be washed away.

During Dhul Hijjah (the 12th month of the Islamic lunar calendar), Muslims are required to stop outside Mecca to bathe, change into the Ihram (white clothing) and then continue to recite the Talbiya Du'a (a prayer stating their faith in Allah as the one and only god).

Next, everyone is instructed to circle the Kaaba seven times while saying prayers and then onto the sacred well in which all Muslims are to sip water from the Zam Zam well. Finally, all participating Muslims are to walk between the hills of Safa and Marwa seven times.

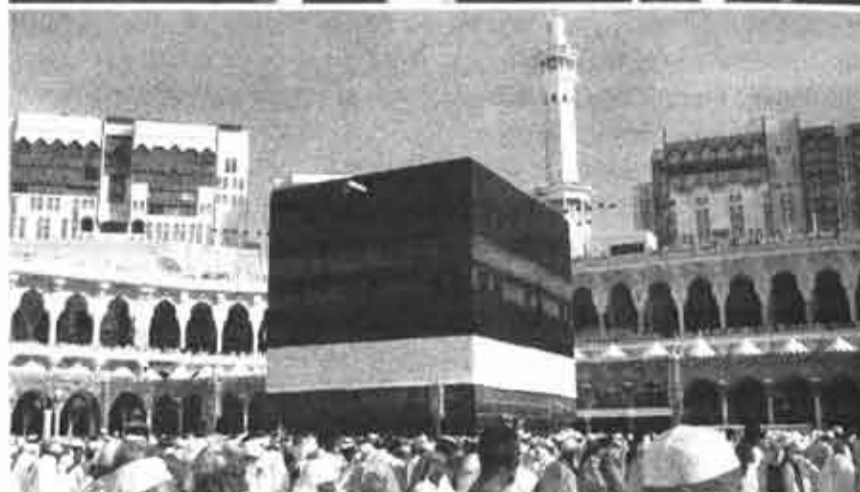
When the Muslims finally return to Mina, they gather stones and throw them at pillars representing the devil. Many people have been struck and killed by the stones over the years. Last year 345 people died during this stage of the Hajj but luckily no one died this year.

- H.MacD.

### First and only unelected president dies at 93

**January 3 :: United States.** Gerald Ford, known to some as America's 'accidental president,' was buried in the grounds of his presidential museum in his hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan, on January 3, 2007. He passed away in his California home on Boxing Day at the

- SEE LIMELIGHT, PAGE 15



Contributed Photos

**ASIAN TIGER AND THROWING STONES** - Ban Ki-moon replaces Kofi Annan as UN Secretary-General (top); Hajj ends without casualty.

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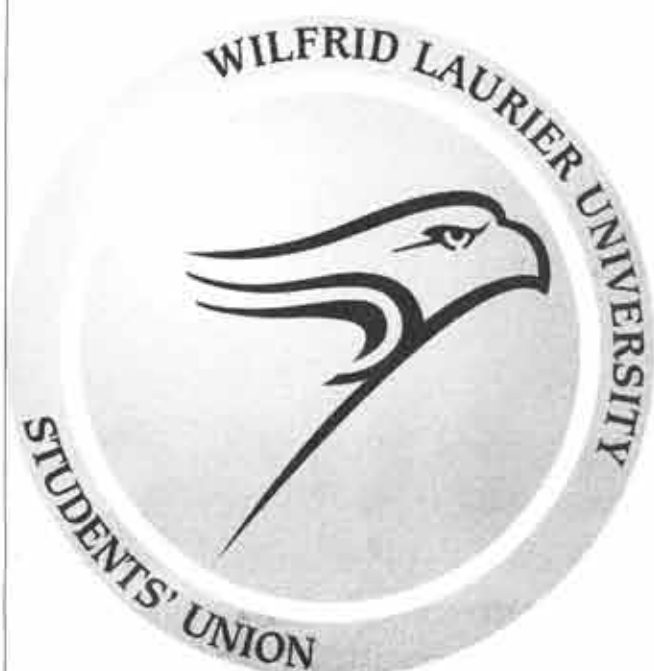
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- ERT
- Tutorial Services
- Foot Patrol
- LSFL
- Peer Help Line (internal and external)
- EcoHawks

### Executive Positions:

- Tutorial Services
- Economic Aid Team (First year only)

## Part-Time

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- Turret
- Centre Spot
- Info Desk
- Harvey's
- Mr. Sub
- Pita Shack
- Pizza Pizza
- Union Market
- Yogen Fruz

[www.wlusuhr.com](http://www.wlusuhr.com)



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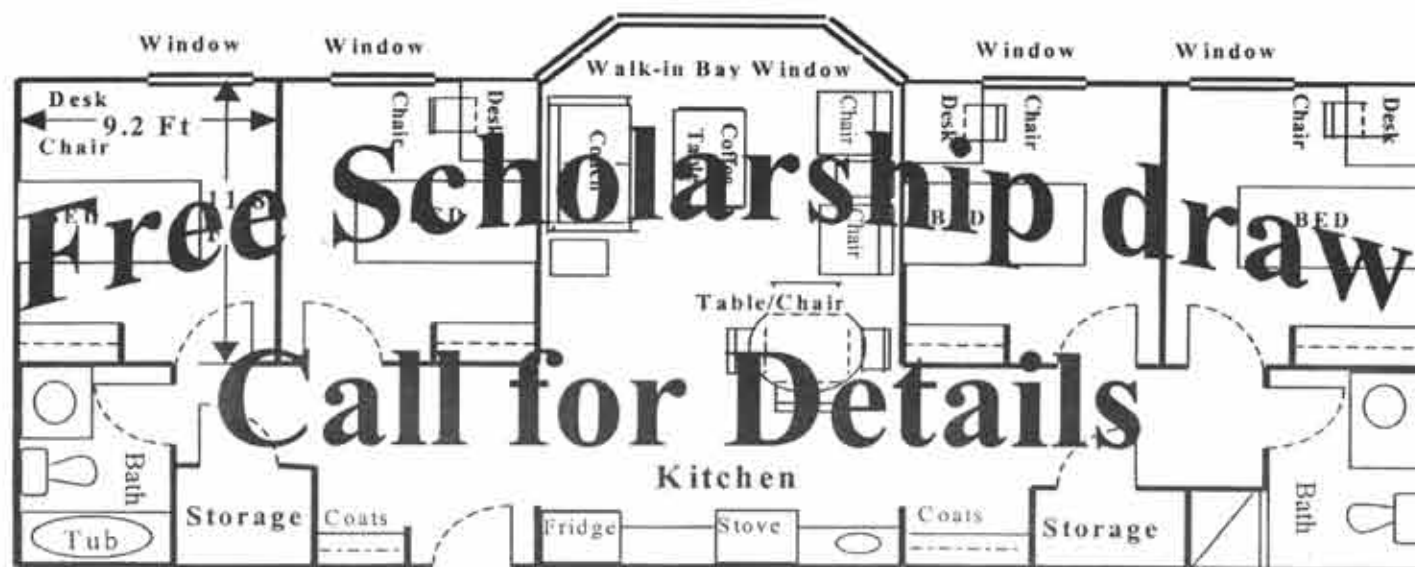
173 King Street North, Corner of King & Ezra Streets

e-mail ---- [173kingstreet@rogers.com](mailto:173kingstreet@rogers.com)

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Elect your campus media leaders at WLUSP's

# Annual General Meeting

**Monday, January 15th, 2007**

**at 7:00PM**

**in the Science Building, N1001**

**Proxy Forms, Audited Financial Statements and Agenda available  
in the Student Publications office.**

**Undergraduate Student ID Required**

**THE CORD WEEKLY**

**Blueprint**

**The WLU'er**

**The Sputnik**

**The Orbiter**

**THE KEYSTONE**

- FROM LIMELIGHT, PAGE 12

age of 93.

"He could be tough as nails when the situation warranted. But he also had a heart as big and as open as the Midwest plains on which he was born," said former president George H. W. Bush during his eulogy. Henry Kissinger also spoke at the ceremony, crediting Ford with restoring confidence in the United States' public institutions after the Watergate scandal.

Ford became both vice-president and president of the country without election, after the resignations of vice-president Spiro Agnew and president Nixon. He is remembered as the president that brought peace in a period of political turmoil, having been faced with the recent Watergate scandal that presented a 'bumbling' public image, and who led a rocky campaign against Jimmy Carter in the 1976 presidential race. Carter later succeeded Ford as president.

-A.L.H.

**Most popular festival sees millions camp out**

**January 3 :: India.** Over 70 million Hindu devotees are expected to wash their sins away over the 45-day festival which started in northern India on January 3 at dawn. Allahabad, the site of the Half Pitcher Festival, is the ancient and holy city built on the confluence (Sangam) of the Ganges and Yumuna rivers and the mythical river, Saraswati.

Allahabad plays host to this festival every six years as it commemorates a mythical battle between

gods and demons over a pitcher of the nectar of immortality. Hindus believe bathing in the river will cleanse them of sins, bring them closer to their attainment of nirvana and liberate them from a continuous cycle of birth and reincarnation.

Men, woman and children wanting to be the first to bathe in the holy waters were seen converging to Sangam, chanting verses from Hindu scriptures and singing holy songs as they walked toward the bathing areas at dawn last Wednesday morning.

This festival falls midway between the Maha Kumbh Mela, or the Great Pitcher Festival, which is celebrated every 12 years. The volume of people gathering in Al-

lahabad has grown over the years, and the Maha Kumbh Mela has been recognized as drawing the largest gathering of human beings for a single purpose.

As a result of the high volumes of worshippers expected, authorities in northern India, have pitched 50,000 tents and erected 25,000 lavatories to accommodate the visitors. Possible terrorist plots were also suspected; as such, security and police in plain clothes will be patrolling the area during the festival.

-A.D.

Compiled by:

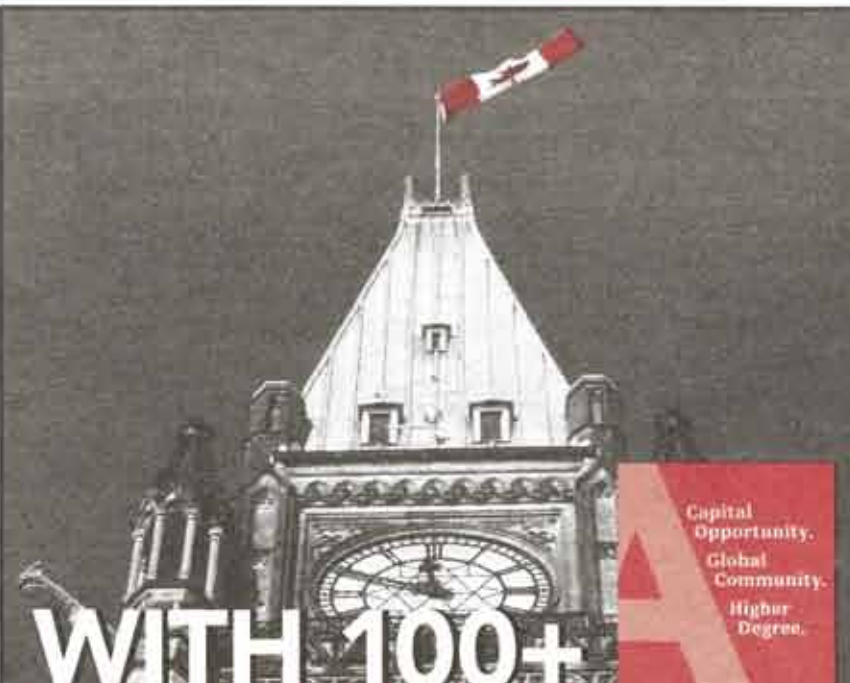
Ashley Doodnauth, Mary Erskine, Heather MacDonald, Thuy Tran, Joe Turcotte and Arla Latto-Hall

Hey Laurier...  
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 Mon.&Wed.: 11:30am - 4:30pm;  
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**Date:** January 22 - 25

**Time:** 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

**Place:** Concourse  
 Fred Nichols Campus Centre

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# Varsity report card: Fall 2006

With the fall sports completed, the *Cord* takes a look at a term that provided the sweet smell of success and the dank stench of disappointment

## Women's Lacrosse A Men's Football A-

9-1-0, OUA Champions

Winning 46 out of their last 49 games over the past four seasons, Laurier's lacrosse team pulled out a clutch 7-5 victory over Queen's to capture their fourth OUA championship in as many seasons.

Led by OUA scoring leader Kirsten Gerrie and graduating captain Erica Howard, the team once again proved to be the top in the province. An aggressive attacking offence and veteran defensive core allowed the Golden Hawks to dominate the league and once again climb over their arch-rivals from Kingston.

With a few key players leaving due to graduation, the squad will have to work hard to defend their title next season.

- Mark D. Hopkins

6-2, lost to Ottawa in Yates Cup

With another Yates Cup appearance and six All-Canadian nominations to go along with it, Laurier's football team didn't appear to suffer much of a Vanier hangover.

Despite early season ineffectiveness from the quarterback position, the Hawks were able to fall back on a consistently stingy defense that ranked fourth best provincially and 10th overall in Canada. The defence was able to reach this elite level with one of the best linebacking corps in all of Canada.

Ravaged by injuries since training until the very last game of the year, the team overachieved - but in very impressive fashion.

- Dan Polischuk



## Men's Rugby B+

6-2, lost to Queen's in quarter-finals

The men's rugby team, having come off the best regular season record (6-2) in twelve seasons of play, made significant improvements from the previous year. The team kicked-off the season with six-straight victories and looked to

be a legitimate playoff contender. However, closing the season with two consecutive losses to divisional rivals McMaster and Western seemed to stunt the team's run. Injury plagued and combined with the two-game losing streak, the team bowed out in the first round of the playoff to Queen's.

- Parry Sohi



## Women's Soccer B

5-5-4, lost to Western in first round

Having improved from the embarrassment that was last year's record of 1 win, 8 losses and 2 ties, the young and relatively inexperienced women's soccer team began the season with impeccable form. In fact, they found themselves atop the divisional table at one point.

This failed to last the whole season however, as their inexperience finally caught up to the hardworking Hawks. Finishing with a record of 5-5-4, the Hawks neglected to bring their early season form into the playoffs, for they lost to Western in the first round.

- Lauren Millet

## Women's Tennis C-

First victory in three years

For the first time in three years, the women's tennis team managed to squeak into the win column. Bringing in OTA Tour veteran Rob Hazel to coach the squad proved to be extremely beneficial.

Confidence hasn't been higher in recent memory. With the monkey finally off their back, the team will look to build on the marginal success of 2006 as they look forward to the next season.

- Mark D. Hopkins

## Men's Baseball B

9-9, lost to Brock in semi-final

Limping out of the gate in '06 with four consecutive losses and an eventual 3-8 record in late September, the Hawks rallied with a post-season push - winning six of their last seven to earn a playoff spot.

While finishing with a respectable .500 record, the team was eliminated by the regular season champs from Brock.

Despite five Hawks being honoured with OUA all-star selections, the season's slow start put a damper on what could have been the best season in the history of the relatively young baseball program at Laurier.

- Mark Adamson

## Men's Soccer B-

5-5-4, lost to Windsor in first round

While the men's squad quailed for the post-season for the seventh year in a row, they did so in less than impressive fashion.

Without the goal striking ability of Damir Hadziavdic, who finished seventh in the OUA with six tallies, it is more likely that the squad would have been watching from the outside in.

- Dan Polischuk

## THE UNKNOWNNS

### Cross-Country

This year's team provided their best result at the Waterloo Open in September, with the women finishing third overall in the 4K, 1. The men provided their best showing at the Mustang Open with a third place finish in the 6 KM.

### Men's Golf

With Steve Tsandalis' 75 (-3), the squad finished 6th out of 12 teams at October's OUA Championships.

## Women's Rugby D

0-5, did not make playoffs

The Women's Rugby team struggled throughout the season finishing with an 0-5 record. Despite many tough losses, the young squad will be able to utilize vital game experience to hopefully build for next year's season.

Positively, improvement was evident on a game-to-game basis within the team, an essential component of rebuilding for upcoming seasons.

- Parry Sohi

## GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of  
January 10 - 16, 2007

### RECENT SCORES

01.04.07

M Hockey 3 - York 4

01.06.07

M Hockey 4 - Guelph 3  
W Basketball 56 - Waterloo 71  
M Basketball 73 - Windsor 78 OT

### UPCOMING HOME GAMES

01.10.07

W Basketball vs Guelph  
WLU Athletic Complex, 6:00pm  
M Basketball vs Guelph  
WLU Athletic Complex, 8:00pm

01.11.07

M Hockey vs Brock  
Waterloo Recreation Complex, 7:30pm

01.13.07

W Basketball vs Brock  
WLU Athletic Complex, 2:00pm  
M Basketball vs Brock  
WLU Athletic Complex, 4:00pm

01.14.07

W Hockey vs Toronto  
Waterloo Recreation Complex, 7:30pm

01.15.07 - 01.18.07

RECREATION REGISTRATION  
Golden Hawk Lounge, 3:00pm-7:00pm  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE

### LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Trevor Csima  
Men's Basketball  
Ashley McMillan  
Women's Hockey

www.laurierathletics.com



# A not so happy New Year

Season turnaround put on hold with OT loss

**PARRY SOHI**  
CORD STAFF

Having to face the OUA's three divisional leaders in their upcoming games, Golden Hawk Coach Peter Campbell paced the sidelines having lost four straight games ending 2006.

Hoping for a better start to the New Year, Laurier opened up the group of divisional games against the Windsor Lancers this past Saturday night.

WLU started off well enough, displaying a solid defensive game. However, they were unable to execute offensively - which led to the Lancers capitalizing on the missed shots as they opened up a 16-point lead midway through the half. Despite a push from the Hawks, Windsor was able to hold on to a ten-point lead, going into the break with the score 32-22.

The second half provided a much more committed Laurier squad though, with energetic play from veteran Omar Miles and tough post-play by Trevor Chisma. The team was able to creep to within six of the opposing Lancers early in the third quarter, with Miles' quick eight points off steals and aggressive transition offence.

The leadership play from Miles opened the door for contributions from rookies Evan Eliason and Justin Golob as well - who finished the contest with 15 points apiece. The two combined for six-three pointers and clutch free-throws that eventually put the Hawks up 64-62 with twenty seconds to play.

The Lancers went to guard Kevin Kloostr, who finished the contest with 25 points, in the closing seconds to tie the game up. After making a tough lay-up, followed by a

missed opportunity by Laurier with seconds left on the clock, the game was sent into overtime.

Although in the first-half of overtime the two teams exchanged baskets, Windsor was able to stay consistent down the stretch, pulling out a 78-73 victory. Post-game, Miles felt the difference in overtime was simply the fact that "down the stretch they were able to hit shots and we weren't."

Chisma, who finished the contest with 13 points and 10 rebounds, commented that the difference in the second half was that "we were much more aggressive on offence and we just kept getting it done on defence."

In terms of making a playoff run that will need to resemble last year's final push, Chisma believes that in order for the playoffs to be realistic "we need guys coming out and looking to play hard everyday."

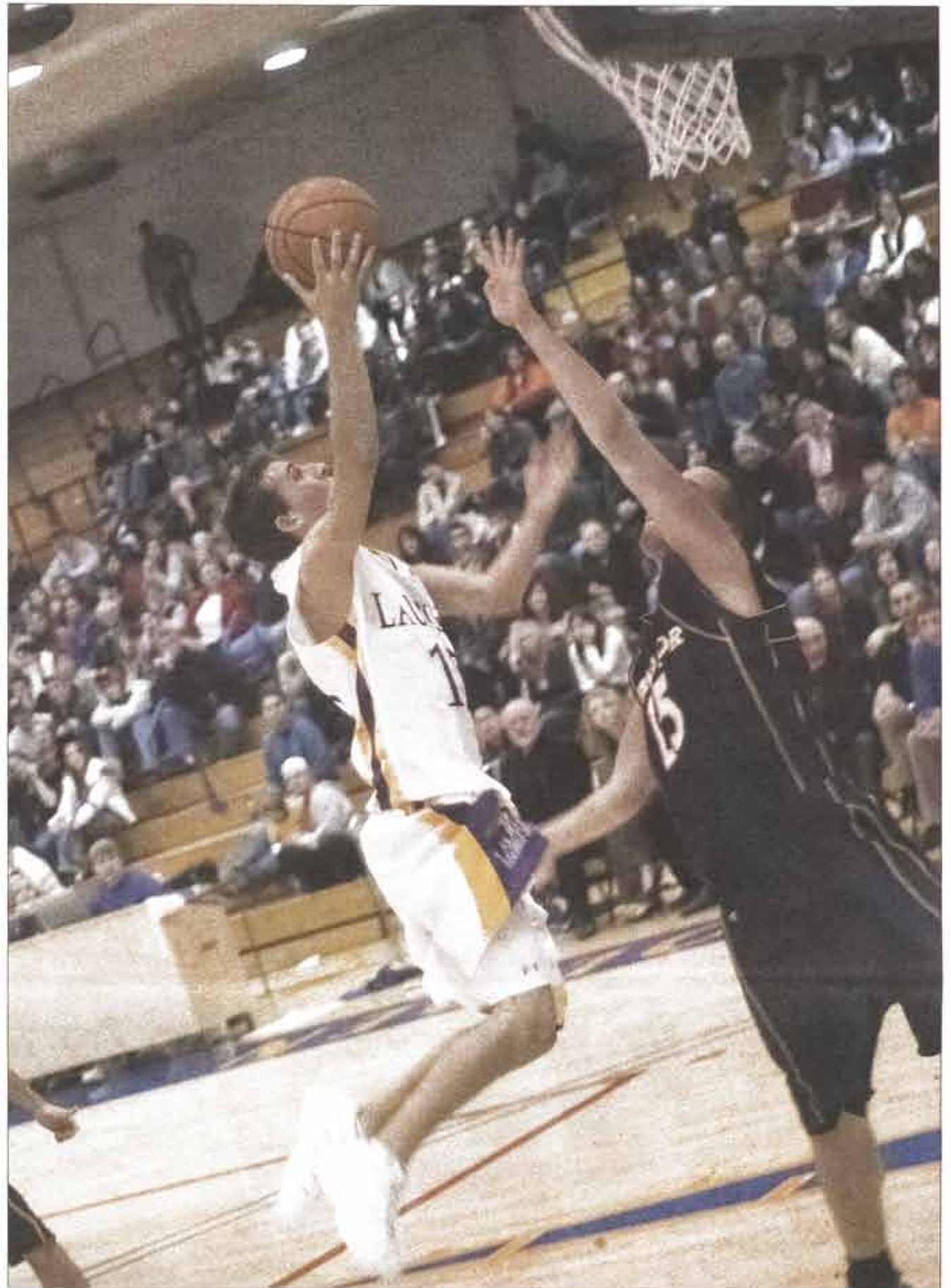
Coach Campbell echoed similar thoughts post-game.

"We did a great job defensively, we just missed some shots in the first half... but I thought we came out strong in the second and put ourselves in a good spot to try and win the game."

In terms of playoffs, Campbell believes the team will have a good chance.

"If we can come out and play like we did today, we'll have a good shot at the playoffs."

Although having lost to Windsor, the young Golden Hawk team looked impressive as they kicked-off the second half of the season. However, the inexperienced Laurier squad will need to play two solid halves of basketball in order to make a legitimate run at the playoffs - an issue that has plagued them throughout the season.



**UP, UP AND AWAY!** - Laurier took it to the Lancers hard in the second half but still could not get the victory.

## Hawks still skating with best in CIS

WLU get back into the swing of things with road loss to York while nearly blowing victory against last place team in Mid West

**JAMIE NEUGEBAUER**  
CORD STAFF

The Hawks men's hockey team hosted the Gryphons of the Uni-

versity of Guelph last Saturday after dropping their first match of the second half of the season to York in Toronto on Thursday.

The result was far from deci-

sive as Laurier just about learned the importance of playing the full 60 minutes the hard way; nearly blowing a three-goal, third-period lead but hanging on to earn a 4-3

victory.

It took only 1:30 for Golden Hawk defenceman Riley Moher to take the game's first penalty and then twenty-two seconds more for Laurier forward Jeff Borrows to open the scoring on a shorthanded, odd-man rush.

Despite a Gryphon power play goal 1:06 later courtesy of Guelph's Thomas LaPlante, the Hawks dominated play in the first ten minutes of the first period as former Kelowna Rocket Chris DiUbaldo's power play tally and Nathan Peacock's goal off a strange bounce behind Guelph goalie Adam Jennings put Laurier up 3-1 before the seven minute mark.

After Peacock's marker, the game slowed down considerably; quickly turning into a scrappy affair. The next goal of the game came at even strength - despite the penalty-filled nature of the second period - as

Matt Maccarone neatly tipped in a Riley Moher point-shot with three minutes left in the frame.

Down 4-1 going into the third, the Gryphons showed some resiliency and finally used their size in front of Laurier goalie Jeff MacDougald. Only seventeen seconds into the third, Thomas LaPlante scored his second of the game on a goal-mouth scramble as the Hawk defence was soft on the puck in front of their own goal.

Forward Matt Willoughby edged the Gryphons even closer with 6:25 to play in regulation on another scramble in front of the Golden Hawk net.

The Golden Hawks' checking tightened up for the rest of the period as they held off Guelph's attempts at parity and took the game 4-3.

With the victory, the Hawks improve to 13-4-1.



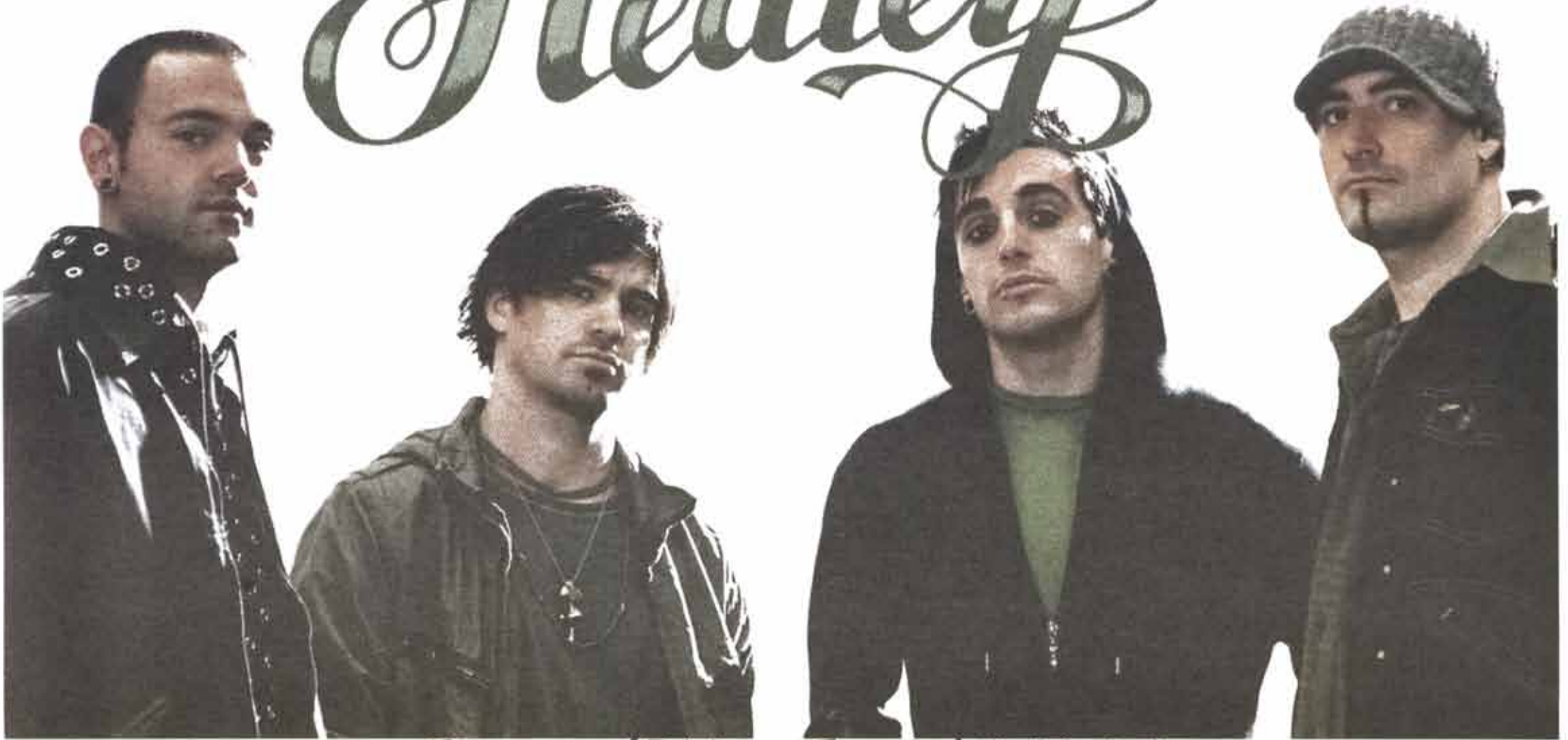
Sydney Holland

**TUG O' WAR** - The Laurier defence holds firm as Guelph tried storming back for a comeback win Saturday.

**Now on sale at the Centre Spot:**

*Winter Carnival and A-Team present*

# *Fledley*



*January 15th - Turret Nightclub*

*\$15 for WLU students, \$25 for non WLU students*



**RISE AGAINST**  
*with Anti-Flag*

**FEBRUARY 7**

**TURRET NIGHTCLUB**

**\$29 WLU STUDENTS - \$40 GUESTS**



Sarah Bradfield

**DON'T WORRY, YOU CAN TRUST ME** - Landlords can have a range of properties, from all inclusive, clean units, to sketchy houses with plenty of insect and rodent roommates.

# Finding a suitable rental unit

Leases are written in a different language, one that is not taught at Laurier

**NICOLE WRAY**  
STAFF WRITER

You've picked your roommates, started to look for houses and, like many students, started to worry about signing a lease. Luckily, Legal Resources offers help with the legal aspects of finding a place to live. Sarah Bird, the coordinator of Legal Resources, organizes free services made available to students.

"We hold office hours every day where people can come in and we can look at their leases or answer questions about what their landlord can do and what sort of rights they have," Bird explained.

Also, Legal Resources runs several events. "We do mock LSATs and things that are related to law school. We also do this presentation that we're running January 17 called Know Your Rights."

She says the event aims to inform Laurier students what their rights are as students, "because a lot of the time they don't really know."

While Legal Resources encourages as many people as possible to bring in their lease to be reviewed, some things to think about when reading your lease are:

## The Specifics

Little things in the lease are often what conflict occurs over.

"Make sure your lease is as specific as possible...even things that might seem tedious like who's go-

ing to take out the garbage, who's going to mow the lawn and how you're going to pay," says Bird. "You should have all the stuff in there."

## You and Your Landlord's Responsibilities

If you don't read your lease carefully, you might end up being responsible for things you don't want to be, like that roommate who doesn't pay their rent on time.

"Sometimes all roommates are on the lease which means they are all responsible for each other, so you might want to take it back to the landlord and tell them you would like it to be just a personal lease, so you're just responsible for yourself," warned Bird.

The landlord is responsible to "keep everything in proper working order, or in a reasonable state of living."

## What You Should be Entitled To

Asking for post-dated cheques and not allowing pets are often included in a lease but they are not legal.

"You can't tell people that they can't have any pets," Bird explained.

Also, landlords often ask for post-dated cheques, but it's not required. "(Paying monthly) is a good way to make sure that every month you will be in contact with them so if you do have any concern you make them come."

Being picky when selecting roommates isn't shallow, it's creating a good living situation for yourself for an entire year

**DJ DEMERS**  
STAFF WRITER

There is an old adage that proclaims opposites attract. We see it all around us. The bad-ass guy falling in love with the straight-A princess, the renegade cop partnered with the by-the-books police officer, the drop-dead gorgeous supermodel marrying the awkward *Cord* columnist.

I am not disputing that the "opposites attract" theory may apply in some situations, but there is one situation where it definitely should not: choosing your roommates. You could fill a novel with the horror stories of people who chose their roommates poorly and paid the price.

One obvious concern is cleanliness. If you like to keep things nice and tidy and you have a roommate who keeps his or her house as clean as Paris Hilton's vagina, you're going to have problems.

Many houses make little schedules to split up the various chores. This is a very democratic way of keeping your rental clean, but what can you do if one person just doesn't do their part?

Usually, you just get progressively angrier as the year goes on and you'll end up stirring their toothbrush in toilet water on a daily basis.

When you first start university, some professors give the advice

that you should read your textbook for two hours for each hour of class you attend - or something like that.

Some people follow this advice (incidentally, some have found the loophole in the advice by simply attending a minimal amount of classes).

The people who truly do place great importance on staying on top of their work would be ill-advised to pair with a party animal.

Although you can always take off to the library if your roommate is making too much noise, the inconvenience factor can be too much to bear.

And when you attempt to eat your cereal in the morning but find that you first have to push all of their beer bottles from the night before to the side, you may become slightly frustrated.

It is easy to forget in today's society filled with pornography, debauchery and even offensive calligraphy, but some people still have moral beliefs. As you may have suspected, though, some do not.

It is wise to get a sense of your future roommate's moral compass and ideologies. You should be firmly aware of their views on alcohol, drugs, sex and the show "MXC."

I am in no way saying that you should rule out living with people who are different from you. The

little differences are what make living with others a rewarding experience.

As Andrew Burns, a third-year business student, says, "The people I have lived with were not carbon copies of me, but that is what made it interesting. I learned a lot about myself on this journey we call life."

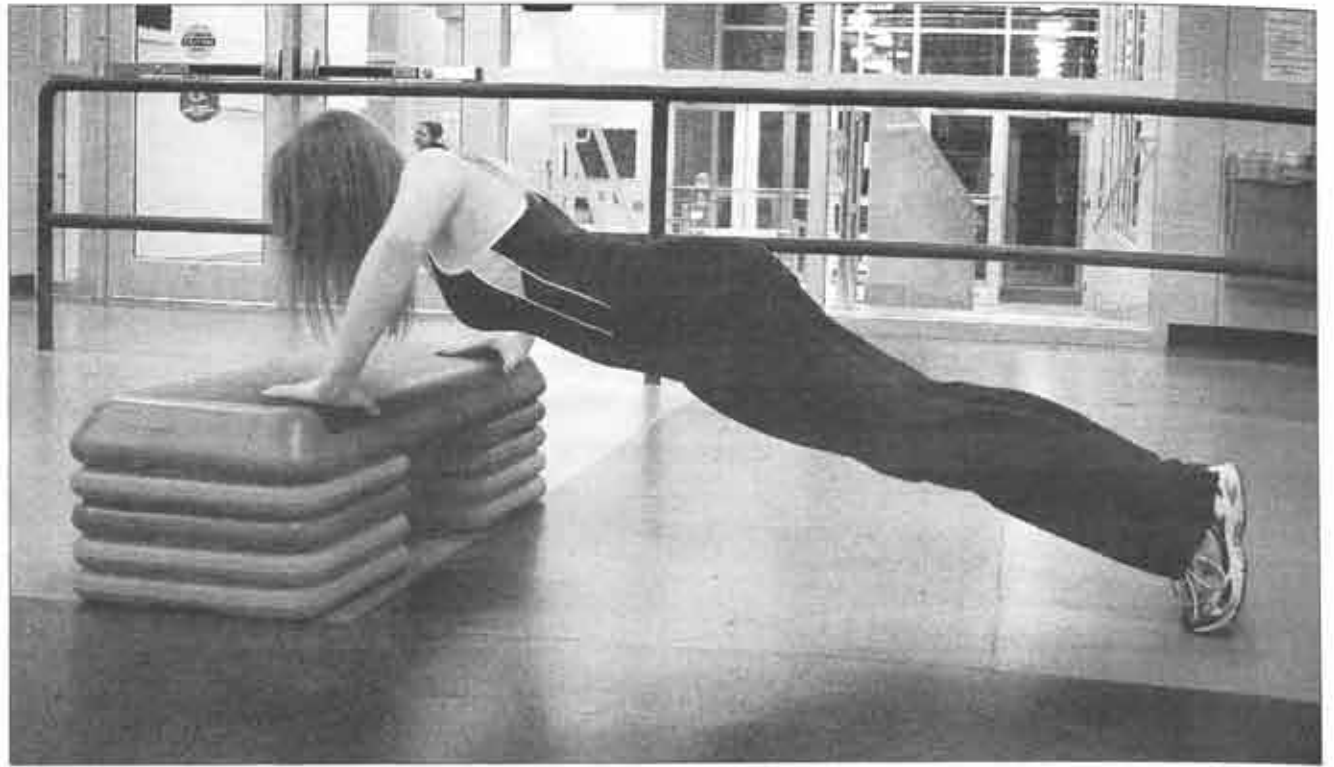
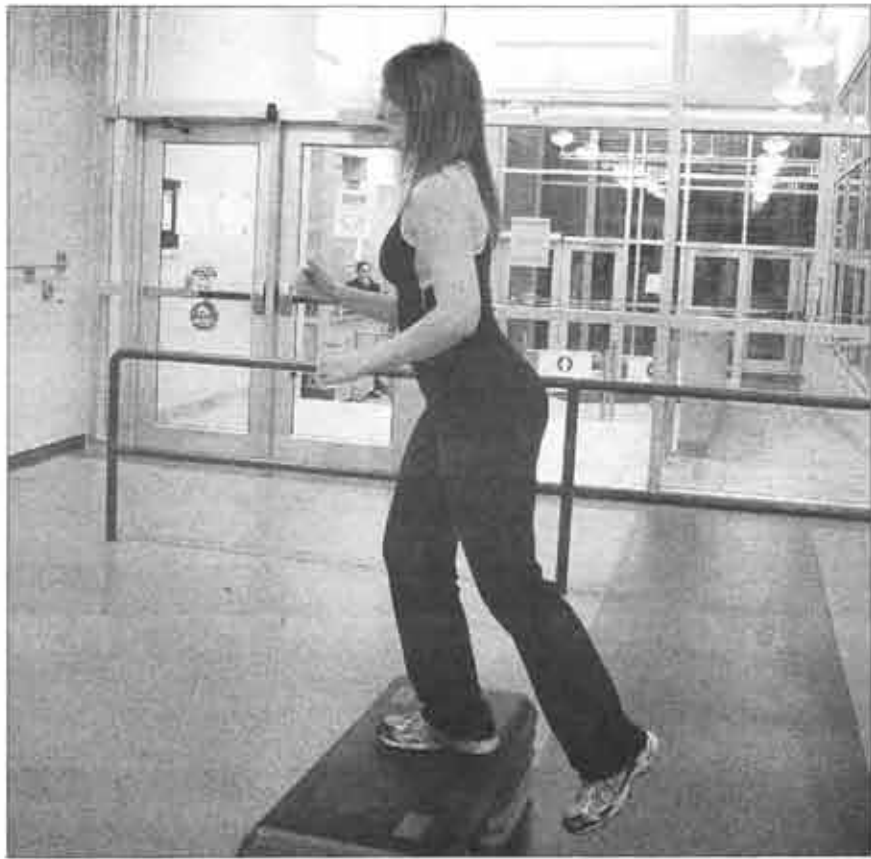
It can be very hard to turn down living with someone, especially if you consider the person a good friend.

However, as Marie Bryce, a don at Willison Hall, says, "Don't be scared to say no to living in a house. It's better to have a few moments of awkwardness than a year of it."

I strongly dislike my roommates. All of them act like the world is coming to an end when I walk around the house naked. Follow the rules I have just outlined and maybe you will end up with more accepting roommates than the ones I'm currently stuck with.

- MORE ON RENT ON PAGE 21

If you have any doubts about your lease come out to Know Your Rights on January 17 at 5:30 pm at N1001 in the Science Building, or make an appointment with Legal Resources.



PUSH IT TO THE LIMIT - (L) STEP-UPS (ABOVE) PUSH-UPS

Sydney Holland

# O'Neill's holiday burn workout

Here's a fast routine to get rid of a month of gorging on holiday sweets and carbs

**JENNIFER O'NEILL**  
STAFF WRITER

After a holiday season of numerous turkey dinners, seconds of dessert, rich chocolate and sitting around the fire, many put on that infamous holiday weight.

Whether you just let your routine slip or you are new to exercise, the New Year can be the perfect time to start moving again.

Gyms can be a great place to workout, but they are also not the only place you can exercise. You can take this routine to the gym, go outdoors or do it in your living room.

There are no excuses for lack of equipment; this routine just needs your commitment to see results.

If you are at the gym, set-up a raiser four platforms high on each end. If you are in the living room use a bench or the couch. If outdoors use a stone retaining wall or a park bench.

Complete each of these exercises for the allotted time with no break in between exercises.

When you complete the last exercise, take a break for approximately two minutes, then repeat four more times.

Not only is this a complete workout that challenges your cardiovascular system and muscles, but it only takes 30 minutes.

**Step-ups (standing on top of the bench, top left photo)**

Stand in front of your platform. Raise your right foot, stepping on top of the bench, and follow with the left foot. Make sure both feet are completely on the bench. Your heels should not be hanging off.

Now step back down one foot at a time. Keep your back straight, head up, feet on bench and no hands on knees. You should be going as fast as you can handle without compromising good form. Repeat for 2 minutes.

*This exercise works your legs and glutes.*

**Push-ups on bench (hands on bench, top right photo)**

Place hands on bench. Extend

legs back resting on either your toes or on your knees (for beginners). Drop your nose toward the bench by bending your elbows. Keep your bum down and your neck straight. Then push back to starting position. Repeat at a steady pace for 1 minute.

*This will tone your upper body, including chest, back and arms.*

**Rock Climbers (one knee comes into chest, bottom right photo)**

Keeping your body in the same position as above (move to your toes if you were on your knees) and bring one knee in towards your chest.

Keep your bum down and your

arms straight. Release that leg back to the floor and bring other knee into chest. Contract the abdominals each time you bring the knee toward the chest. Keep the movement controlled, but at a quick pace. Repeat for 2 minutes.

*This will work your abdominals.*



ROCK CLIMBERS - Pretend you're scaling the rockies while in the AC.

Sydney Holland

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Housing costs usually depend on proximity to campus, as well as included utilities & services

**CHRISTINE SUIZA**  
STAFF WRITER

It's now the second week of January and with only three months left, many students are left wondering what their housing situations are going to be like next year. Perhaps the number-one concern for most students is the price range of off-campus housing.

However, most students don't realize that one of the most helpful ways to look the price range of off-campus housing is right at their fingertips.

In the past, Residential Services would have the off-campus housing listings printed and students would just pick up a copy.

However, Mike Belanger, the director of Residential Services says, "They found that it is easier to make these listing available to students on the internet." Residential Services upgraded its webpage so all the postings are available online, through MyLaurier.ca.

Belanger says the best aspect is being able to customize your searches by looking up different features. To name a few you can search by: availability, building type, distance to school, lease period, and much more.

This can help narrow down your search and cater it towards more of what you are looking for.

To give you an idea of the price ranges you can expect to find in your searches here are rough figures:

*Apartment Bachelor: \$470-485*  
*Apartment 1 Bedroom: \$437-775*  
*Apartment 2 Bedrooms: \$350-1150*  
*Apartment 3 Bedrooms: \$350-495*  
*Apartment 4 Bedrooms: \$365-475*  
*Apartment 5 Bedrooms: \$380-495*  
*House: \$300-460 (per room)*  
*Townhouse: \$295-1450 (room and total unit)*  
*Semi-detached house: \$330-410 (per room)*

Keep in mind, these prices are based on location of the place. As a general rule the closer the place is to campus, the higher the rent.

As well, some of these prices may include other services such as utilities and Internet. Therefore, if you are unsure if the places you are considering include these services in their prices, check with the landlords and the lease.

Also, when comparing the price of off-campus housing to residence, a lot of it depends on the lease period of the place, as well as services included. If you look at website listings, you'll see that the prices of an eight-month lease can be anywhere from \$350-\$700, vs. a twelve-month lease, where the rent ranges from \$350-\$1,450.

Again, there are many factors to consider when looking at these prices such as the location of the place, the distance, and the type of building for varying prices in the leases.

The best advice that Belanger can give to students is that: "It's never too early to start looking."



## Friend worried about unsafe sex



ALI SCOTT  
CAMPUS KISS

Dear Ali,

I'm a recently married man but have a lot of single male friends. They are always bragging about how many women they have slept with and emphasize the fact that they are sleeping around and not using protection.

I think this is unsafe and foolish behaviour, but I know if I try to give them the safe sex talk, they will just laugh at me or bring up the fact that I am married, which they think is boring. How can I get through to them and tell them that their behaviour is unsafe and really not as cool as they think it is?

Sincerely,  
Mr. Concerned

Dear Mr. Concerned,  
I am glad that you are concerned about unsafe sex, because it really is an issue that more people should be concerned about.

Too many young people think

they are immune to STIs and very rarely think about the consequences of AIDS. Not to mention issues related to unwanted pregnancy.

Too many people are risking their safety and the safety of other people in order to fulfill their lustful wishes, but they are making a very unsafe choice by doing so.

The excuse most men give for unprotected sex is that they forgot to use a condom, or they were too drunk. Or they say that bringing it up will just "ruin the mood." But I can't think of something less sexy than a case of chlamydia, an unwanted pregnancy or HIV.

If your friends are not taking their health or the health of the woman they are sleeping with into consideration, then they are likely not going to respond to scare tactics.

They will likely accuse you of being lame for bringing it up, or be envious that you are married and don't have to worry.

The way to get them to listen is to personalize it, and to make it a reality for them.

You could tell them stories about people you know and what happened to them when they got an STI. Or you could show them the scary pictures of diseases you can find on the Internet.

I think the best way to handle it is to go to a local sex store with them—under the pretense you want to get something for your wife. Then, when you are there, bring them to the condom section and tell them the great things you've heard about a certain brand of condoms (flavoured or textured).

You could show them the savings when buying a multipack, and encourage them to try them. If they refuse, you could buy them yourself and give it to them. Most people don't refuse free things.

If they still refuse, you could "accidentally" leave it in their car. This is the courteous way to approach it. But if this still does not work (after all the warnings and consequences are discussed), you could just ask him if his genitals have fallen off yet the next time you see him. The embarrassment might just work.

Men are often harder to convince because safe sex does not stroke their ego. But doing this may make them realize how stupid their behaviour is.

So good luck! I hope one day they will realize what a great friend they have for you to care so much about their health.

[campuskiss@cordweekly.com](mailto:campuskiss@cordweekly.com)

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Tuesday January 16, 2007 @ 5:30 PM

Location: BAB 101

Wednesday January 24, 2007 @ 5:30 PM

Location: BAB 101

### Applications Available

Monday January 8, 2007 – Residential Services

### Applications Due

Monday January 29, 2007 - Residential Services

### 1<sup>st</sup> Round Interviews

Saturday, February 10, 2007 – Location: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor BAB

Sunday, February 11, 2007 – Location: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor BAB

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Interviews

The week of February 26 to March 2, 2007

### Final Offers

Friday March 9, 2007 – Residential Services

For More information Please contact Dave at the Residence Life Office at 884-0710 ext. 2458 or [dshorey@wlu.ca](mailto:dshorey@wlu.ca)

# Stars' Resolve

*With a little help from our best friends (the power of imagination) the Cord has hacked into the Blackberries and other PDAs of some of 2006's most (in)famous celebrities, and discovered their New Year's resolutions*



## JOE TURCOTTE & ALEX HAYTER CELEBRITY HIJACKERS

### Justin Timberlake

Bona fide pop superstar  
*"In 2006 I brought sexy back. For 2007, I'm bringing the Jew 'fro back, yeah baby."*

### Britney Spears

Burgeoning party-girl, negligent mother

*"For 2006 I promise that I won't get married... unless I go to Las Vegas or hook up with a sketchy, no-talent hack. Oh, and yeah, I'll spend some time with my kids. Like maybe I can get a high chair for the club."*

### Renee Zellweger

Almost British

*"This year, I'm going to stop having such an ugly face. I'll do this by curing my perpetual state of constipation, which resulted in my fixed expression in the past. Because everyone hates a dirty-looking smile."*

### Bob Dylan



Iconic folk-rock superstar and musical expeditionary

*"I'm going to just keep on keepin' on. Or I might try to love my neighbours and do good unto others."*

### Elisha Cuthbert

The Princess of 24

*"This year I'm going to stop dating hockey players. Instead, I'm only going to date awkward student journalists. Watch out 2007!"*

### Timbaland

Hip-hop producer extraordinaire

*"Yo, for 2007 I'm going to keep my streak of saving and reinventing careers alive. K-fed or Michael Jackson, who's it going to be? Naw, even I'm not that talented."*

### Jay-Z

Biggest rap mogul in the game



*"I'ma prove that I really am the 'Mike Jordan of this rap shit.' 2007's gonna see me pull off the biggest crossover of all time. I'm goin' country! Bubba Sparxxx aint got nothin' on Young Hov."*

### MuchMusic

Pioneer of Canadian music TV broadcasting

*"Keep on fending off MTV Canada by getting prettier, duller and by running American-based reality TV shows. Oh, and more Matte Babel!"*

### Johnny Depp

Persona shape-shifter and Keith Richards' love-child

*"Time to make the Good Doctor proud and finally finish The Rum Diary. Plus, I think I'll invent a brand new way to be cool."*

### Will.i.am

Founding Black Eyed Pea and corporate America's best-friend

*"Work with Michael Jackson. Hell, if I can get Fergie a hit record I can do almost anything."*

### Mel Gibson

Anti-semitic spokesperson

*"In this, the two-thousandth and seventh year of our Lord, I will no longer drive drunk. Unless, of course, the Jews make me do it."*

### Tom Cruise

Manic scientologist

*"To officially become a member of the 'Operating Thetan Seven' and combat all those wacked-out Nazi scientists. Everyone knows we're descendants of aliens. Just look at my behaviour."*

### Michael Jackson

The King of Pop and other soda-can beverages

*"Oh my, is it 2007 already? I should really start working on being a grown-up. I know, I'll be the best father in the world and get to know all of the world's children. My love will spread everywhere."*

### Axl Rose



1980s rock genius and egomaniac

*"For the 16th year in a row I promise Chinese Democracy. Only a couple million more dollars in production costs and this record'll be perfect. But get this straight: George W. Bush is a hack. I'm the inventor of unattainable democratic movements. Iraq isn't close to G'n'R!"*

### Jack Bauer

American superhero

*"Keep on taking names, and keep on kicking ass."*



### Flavor Flav

1980s rap icon and reality show caricature

*"Yaaa boyy. I just talked to Chuck. He said, 'Flav bring it back to the streets, stop foolin' for the man.' But Flav said, 'No way, the only thing bigger than my clock is my debt.' Flava Flav!"*

### Michael J. Fox

Rush Limbaugh's biggest fan

*"I'm going to time travel back to 1985, to get the Doc to come up with a cure for Parkinsons. Along the way there will be amusing, ZZ-Top sound-tracked antics and miscellaneous incidents of tomfoolery."*

### Kanye West

Outspoken hip-hop saviour

*"2007 will be the year of the West. Kanye West doesn't care about failure. Kanye West cares about changing the game."*

### The Internet

World-shaper and porn paradise

*"In 2007 no celebrity or person of 'worth' will be able to escape thier stupid mistakes. I'll make sure of that. Plus, I'll help keep bored university students and 'Net lovers busy, one way or another."*

### The Arcade Fire

Canadian Indie rock darlings

*"Take music's possibilities to new heights. Unless, of course, all those Indie rock journalists become increasingly cynical and turn their backs on us. Oh well, the spirit of music will prevail."*

### Bono

U2 frontman, tireless entrepreneur and Third World saviour

*"This year I'm going to try and do what I do every year, Geldof: try and take over the world."*

### Celine Dion

Canada's favourite banshee

*"My career's been on a downward slope of late, so I'm going to have to step things up a bit more this year. Female pop-artists need sex appeal, and it's something I'm losing quickly. That's why I've decided to add a third breast to my chest, exactly like the three-tit-ed alien from Total Recall. Then all of Canada will suck at the musical teets of Queen Dion!"*

### Mischa Barton



Former O.C. heiress

*"Send a cake and a card to all of those suckers who didn't get off of the O.C. in time. I hate to say I told you so, but it looks like I got out just in time. Who's laughing now? Wait a minute... do I even have a career right now?"*



Contributed Photo

**THE GODFATHER PASSES** - Born on May 3, 1933 James Brown succumbs to pneumonia on December 25, 2006.

# James Brown dead at the age of 73

Iconic funk superstar and '70s civil rights champion dies on Christmas Day

**PAUL ALVIZ**  
CORD A&E

Each year on Christmas we are bestowed with an onslaught of gifts from friends, loved ones and family. But this year we had a gift taken away, a gift that was given to us over 40 years ago. And that gift was James Brown.

Also known as the "Godfather of Soul" and the "Hardest-Working Man in Show Business" (both of which were self-appointed, but nonetheless caught on as axioms), Brown helped create the distinct sound known as funk, and remained a prominent figure on the music scene ever since his first single in 1957.

Looking over Brown's career it is no wonder that the "Hardest-Working Man" moniker stuck. James Brown continued to perform over 150 shows a year well into the 2000s, after over 40 years in the business. He's had over 98 singles on Billboard's Top 40 List, and his work continues to be some of the most sampled by various rappers and R&B artists.

Never shy, the confident Brown was once quoted saying, "Disco is James Brown, hip-hop is James Brown, rap is James Brown; you know what I'm saying?"

Born into depression-era America in 1933, he dropped out of school in grade seven, helping to support his family by picking cotton and shining shoes downtown. Appropriately dubbed "Godfather," in a manner similar to the infamous Don Corleone, he was far from being a saint.

At the young age of 16, he was arrested for armed robbery, a crime for which he served a three-year sentence. However, it was in prison that he made acquaintances vital to his shortened jail term and the release of his first hit single.

Luckily, this was by far his most serious infraction of the law, although his later life was riddled with charges of possession of drugs or weapons, and various counts of domestic abuse reported by his wives at different times. These are all relatively minor in contrast to his larger-than-life persona, and are further reduced in significance

when compared to his contributions to society through philanthropy and social revolution.

James Brown's 1968 single "Say it Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud", after which he noted young Blacks no longer referred to themselves as "coloured," was a definitive marker in his career as not only a world-class performer, but also as a socially conscious activist. On many a Christmas past, he could be found in his home state donating turkeys, disguised as a gyrating, hip-thrusting, funky, soul-filled Santa Claus.

As we forge on into the new century, it's inevitable that we'll have to let go of some of the people who helped shape the past. Much like the way they were sensations for the same generation, Johnny Cash, Ray Charles and James Brown have left us at relatively the same time. There is solace to be found in the fact that they died still being able to do what they loved, and that their voices will be heard for generations to come.

Mr. Brown, wherever you are, I hope you're feelin' nice, like sugar and spice.

## Andy Samberg's holiday treat

Online shorts help Saturday Night Live stay funny

**NATALIE SIMONS**  
CORD A&E

Finally, gift-giving has been given a much-needed reform! No more overcrowded malls and overpriced merch - we're going back to basics. Last December, *Saturday Night Live* comic Andy Samberg and the bringer of "sexy-backs" himself,

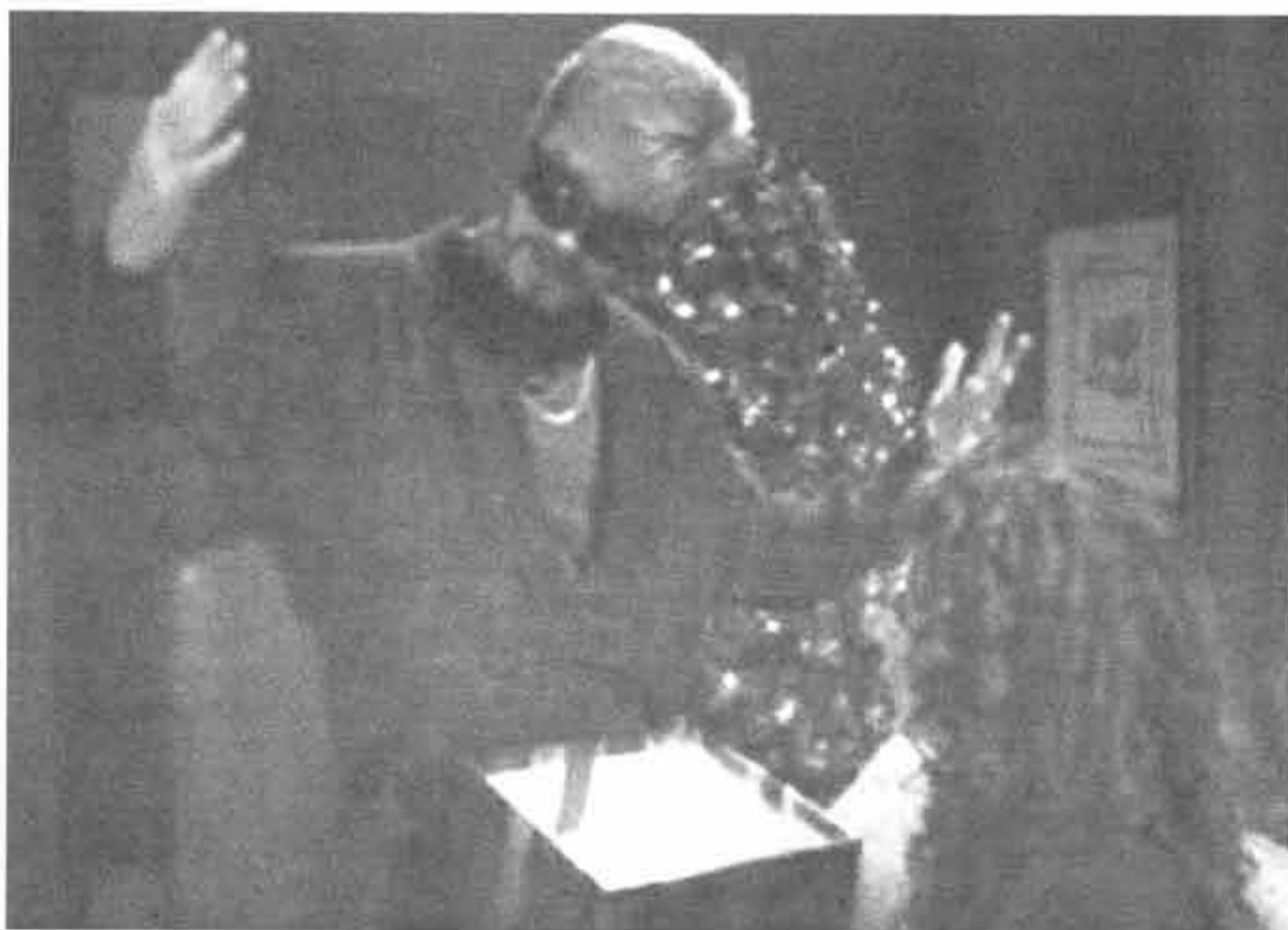
Justin Timberlake, teamed up for a special holiday digital short.

In the clip the two baby-faced jokers concocted three easy steps to create the perfect gift: "Step 1: cut a hole in the box / Step 2: put your junk in that box / And Step 3: make her open the box / And that's the way you do it."

There is no doubt that most of you have probably already seen and/or experienced the relentless hype that has followed this mock music video. However, for those of you still sitting outside the loop (a loop that was arguably considered passé at least a week or two after its birth in mid-December) this three-minute *SNL* short, entitled *Special Treat in a Box*, is a treat to behold.

Featuring Samberg and JT, *Special Treat in a Box* finds the pair crooning a song about achieving holiday romance via the fusion of their genitals with strategically placed ribbon and wraps.

Decked out in gold chains, a wardrobe reminiscent of '90s R&B band Color Me Badd and hideously disturbing goatees, it would be an enormous shocker if the impact of this parody didn't spawn an entire subculture of obnoxious box-wearing drones during the last holiday season. You may have even seen an



Contributed Photo

**SMALL-BOX? BIG-BOX?** - Having already brought "Sexy Back" Justin Timberlake, along with *SNL*'s Andy Samberg, gave the web a holiday treat.

action figure or two.

During the original airdate of the *SNL* episode, the word "dick" was bleeped out a whopping 16 times. However, the producers released the uncensored Director's Cut on YouTube immediately after the broadcast had ended. There, it received an overwhelming response and remained the number-one-watched video for several weeks.

Due to its unwitting popularity, the uncensored release of "Special Treat in a Box" is considered to be one of many leading examples that demonstrate the power of viral (or word-of-mouth) marketing.

A year ago it was a short about two Upper Eastside friends (Andy Samberg and Chris Parnell) spitting rhymes about eating cupcakes and watching *The Chronicles of Narnia*, which first hinted YouTube's undeniable popularity amongst an untapped target market.

Samberg himself has admitted in several interviews that having a popular short on YouTube is a sign of great success. In fact, before he was considered the "King of Mock Music Mastery", much of Samberg's early career relied on the availability of shorts and sketches via the Internet.

Though *SNL*'s embrace of viral video campaigns to inspire greater ratings for the show is admirable (though clearly late), they will undoubtedly find themselves competing with other bandwagon jumpers within the new year.

Many have deemed Samberg's uncensored "Dick in a Box" an act that may save *SNL* from its stodgy ruin of writer's rot but it is far too early to tell.

Though this joke hit big over December, we have yet to see the NBC late night show pull itself from its all-consuming grave.

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&gt; Pop-Culture Corner: Warning -- May contain traces of sarcasm

# Teen angst tanks

Once unstoppable force that was *The O.C.*, gets cancelled after four seasons

JOSIAH YOUNG  
CORD A&E

Ever since the end of *Beverly Hills: 90210*, the world had been in desperate need of a California-based teen angst drama. The 2003-2004 FOX television season would deliver our saviour, and quench our insatiable thirst for rich-kid drama. *The O.C.* would take us all on quite the thrill ride, but perhaps its immense popularity during its initial run was its own undoing.

Garnering audiences of up and around the 10 million-viewer mark, *The O.C.* was a genuine phenomenon. From drinking games to making everyone know that the geeky kid could land the popular girl (thanks Seth, you were a true inspiration), *The O.C.* taught us many things.

Everyone knew that on Thursday nights the bar scene would have to wait until after Ryan and Marissa solved whatever alcohol induced

problems they were facing.

That was until, of course, Wilf's brought us *O.C.* Thursdays. Why lose an hour of quality bar time when you can watch *The O.C.* at a bar? Wilf's opportunistic marketing team gave us the perfect answer.

However, while *The O.C.* continued to provide compelling storyline after compelling storyline following its first season, *The O.C.* would hit a lull in its second season.

Ratings for the show dropped drastically, and even a disgustingly cliché ratings grab like a lesbian romp in the sand couldn't bring the kids (or dirty old men) back. I admit that even I, after not missing a single episode of the first season, found myself bored and looking elsewhere for my teen angst stories (thank you *One Tree Hill* and *Dawson's Creek* reruns). Different time slots and tired storylines would continue in the third season and viewers jumped ship even faster.

Trying to shake *The O.C.* and its viewers, the writers had decided that even they had exhausted all possible storylines for Marissa Cooper, the show's star, and had

her killed off in a car crash in the season finale. This was perhaps an attempt to lure people back for the fourth season to see how the rest of the cast would cope.

Surely Ryan would be back to his fist slinging ways in no time! But, alas, the fourth season stalled and ratings dropped even further.

Some have argued that the fourth season has not been a disappointment and in fact has been quite enjoyable. Seth, Summer, Ryan and the rest of the cast have delivered some memorable moments, from a pregnancy scare to a bizarre coma-induced alternate dimension, but the viewers have not been buying it. After its current run of 16 episodes, *The O.C.* will be no more.

So mark your calendars for February 22, because my friends, it's time we once again take to the streets and declare our love for the outcast loner, geeky emo kid and spoiled-yet-transformed rich girl.

Thanks for the memories *O.C.*; I look forward to when you are slotted next to *90210* on TV Tropolis. That'll be heaven.



Continued Photo

**NO MORE DRAMA** - Unable to survive the death of the much beloved Marissa, FOX's *The O.C.* will not be returning for season five.

# Daniel Craig is: a blonde Bond-shell

Latest *Bond* film returns iconic franchise to classic status

MIKE LIPPERT  
CORD A&E

I sure do like a good action movie and in *Casino Royale* a lot of things blow up—they blow up really good. In fact, maybe as good as things have ever blown up before.

All things considered, this is classic James Bond. And yet, despite this, he is not the Bond we remember. This Bond is darker and more intimate.

Yes, it's true. This Bond is more reckless, more physical, less witty and more athletic. He uses his fists more than his wit; he has very few gadgets, which means he is also a headstrong Bond.

Most importantly, though, he is fallible. This Bond sweats, he bleeds, he is capable of love because he doesn't yet know enough not to invest personal emotions into his work, and after chasing a villain up and down a construction site in exotic Madagascar his hair is unthinkably a little messy. Dare I say it? This Bond is human!

I'm not going to discuss the story of *Casino Royale*. I haven't the time nor the patience and I forgot my spreadsheet so I've lost track of all the double crosses. What you need to know is this: the film roughly revolves around a poker game in which Bond must play against a terrorist trying to win millions of dollars in order to fund terrorist activities. This hardly makes for the most compelling of Bond villains or Bond plots, but there is a trick to this kind of thing.

The reason that people love Bond plots is because they all stick to the same basic formula. In them, someone is always smarter than everyone else and everyone is always smarter than the audience. There are so many ingenious twists and turns in Bond films that dramatic irony ceases to exist because the plots have a way of wrapping themselves around us, placing us in the middle of the clutter. These films create a universe unlike most others, comprised solely of entertainment and excess, and it is exciting to be there along for the ride.

If there is one thing that I have always cherished about the 007 films it is the precision and clarity of their action sequences. Recently, action sequences have tended to be cluttered and messy, filmed with hand-held cameras that shake uncontrollably, losing the visual in the chaos. *Casino Royale* has some of the most remarkable aerial shots I have seen in the last ten years.

My friends, these are not kids' shots. They are big, expensive, complex sequences. For instance, there is a chase atop a large crane in which Bond and a villain jump from one elevation to the next, the camera circling overhead like an airplane.



*Casino Royale*  
Director: Martin Campbell  
Starring: Daniel Craig, Eva Greub, Judi Dench  
Rating: 8.1 / 10  
Original Release Date:  
November 16, 2006  
Recommendation:  
**SEE IT BEFORE IT'S GONE**

There is one moment in particular in which the camera flies towards Bond and then over of him, and as it begins to turn around we get a remarkable view of the ground and an unnerving sense that these people are really at risk. That single shot is more exciting, more unnerving, and more exhilarating than any computer-generated action sequence I have ever seen.

Now to finish with what you've been waiting for. How is Daniel Craig, the sixth and newest face to play the infamous James Bond? The difference between Craig and the other Bonds before him is that he is an actor, not a show-off. He brings Bond down to a more accessible level, so that we can understand the man as a human being and not just an icon.

*Casino Royale* is by no means a film that tries to understand the true human nature of James Bond, but Craig adds a dimension to the character that has not existed until

now. He allows us to see that to be Bond is not always about exoticism and excess. Sometimes it is not fun to be Bond; it can be cold, hard and tragic.

And did I mention he messes up his hair a little?



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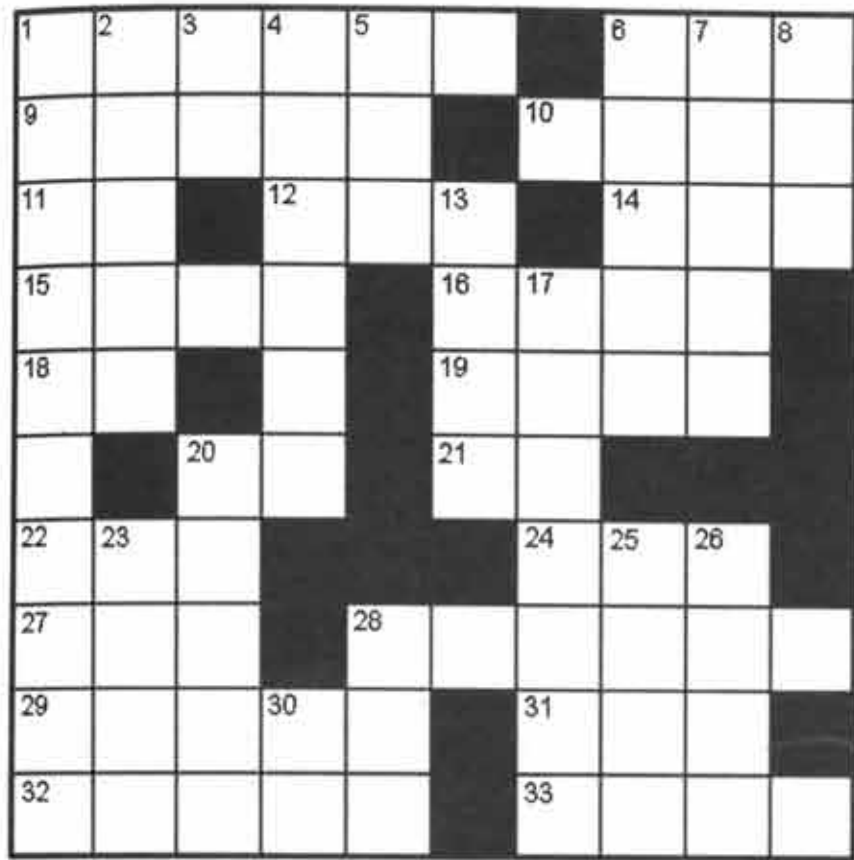
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6. Mass transit acronym
9. Van Gogh's missing piece
10. For sticking, not eating
11. The elusive fifth food group
12. Woman who is married
14. Tolkien dwarf, brother of Gloin
15. Snakes of the sea
16. What a strong will is made of
18. Man who is married
19. Mailers of confections
20. Word often used by similes
21. Fifth note in solfège scale
22. Dr. Seuss thought we should do this on pop
24. Smartest of the three stooges
27. German for Grandfather
28. To make oneself smaller, often in fear
29. Common Christmas adjective
31. Prefix for nature
32. "Abandon all hope ye who \_\_\_\_\_ here."
33. Directed to

Down:

1. Desired response to pickup line
2. Evanescence song: "Going \_\_\_\_\_"
3. Common E-Mail subject beginning
4. Egyptian pharaoh
5. Make a mistake
6. 32 down advocates doom and \_\_\_\_\_
7. Ancient cities, no longer useful
8. Pennies in a dime
13. Computer game of pretend people
17. Slang for partial payers of your rent
20. Separated
23. Ajar
25. A single time
26. More intelligent Ghostbuster
28. Father of the yellow school bus, Dr. Frank \_\_\_\_\_
30. Prefix for do again

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**PERSONAL**

How about this for writing down your resolutions: I resolve to not leave my clothes at the girls' house, to read the newspaper every day, to run at least ever other day, to be more adventurous and not stress the little things, to restart my single life and grab life by the balls.

What's left for 2008?

**The Screaming Beaver** by Sarah Bradfield



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# THE CORD WEEKLY

Editorial Board 2006-07

## Editor-in-Chief

April Robinson  
arobinson@cordweekly.com  
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3563

## News Editors

Mike Brown  
mbrown@cordweekly.com

## Tony Ferguson

tferguson@cordweekly.com  
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3564

## Sports Editor

Dan Polischuk  
dpolischuk@cordweekly.com

## International Editor

Arla Latta-Hall  
arlalhb@cordweekly.com

## Special Projects Editor

Stephanie Pinchev  
spinch@cordweekly.com

## Features Editor

Alex Hayter  
ahayter@cordweekly.com

## Student Life Editor

Vernica Hughes  
vhughes@cordweekly.com

## Arts & Entertainment Editor

Joe Turcotte  
jturcotte@cordweekly.com

## Opinion Editor

Bhair Forsyth-Stark  
bhairst@cordweekly.com

## Graphics Editor

Emilie Joslin  
ejoslin@cordweekly.com

## Photography Manager

Sydney Helland  
shelland@cordweekly.com

## Print Production Manager

Brandon Currie  
bcurrie@cordweekly.com

The Cord Weekly is published by Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications.  
Contact: Fraser McCracken, 75 University Ave. W, Waterloo, ON N2L 3C5

## BOD confusion

There's something that becomes abundantly clear every year when the *Cord* interviews WLUSU directors for our annual performance review.

The platforms upon which these students are elected have absolutely nothing to do with what they can - or should - realistically accomplish.

Promises such as "increase sexual assault awareness" and "improve bursary system" sound great to student voters. But it isn't until directors take office that they begin to really understand their job description.

And it's not easy to comprehend. No wonder students have next-to-no interest in board politics - as evidenced in the pitiful attendance at November's Open Forum.

Student directors are more of a visionary body for the corporate interests of WLUSU and are less about a group of individuals with independent goals. It seems that, with this shift, the idea of student representation has also become foggy.

As the Union budget has grown over the years, the power of these directors has steadily decreased. They're seen as a rubber stamp for high-level financial decisions, while operational details are left to full-time managers, VPs and the president. Although it's not democratically ideal for the student representation, it is a widely practiced structure in corporate business. Directors act in the best interest of their stakeholders, the students.

The problem we have with this system is that director hopefuls write platforms without knowing much about their potential role. This not only confuses and misleads students, but makes it incredibly hard for anyone to rate their performance once elected. But WLUSU election officials let them do this every year without fail.

With an upcoming election looming in less than a month, WLUSU should consider setting the record straight. They should invest more time and effort into role awareness, so those running for the BOD can start off their campaign on the right foot.

With luck, we'll get some students to run who have a good idea of student viewpoints and interests, a good knowledge of WLUSU operations and a questioning, watchful eye.

Though directors have good intentions, there's no point in making empty promises and misleading student voters.

## Dear Max Blouw

It's nice to see a changing of the guard in the Office of the President. After 10 years of leadership under Dr. Robert Rosehart, Laurier is in need of a fresh perspective.

We realize you have some research to do on the needs of the Laurier campus and its students, so we've decided to get you started.

Please stop the reckless growth. In the past decade, the enrolment at this university has doubled. As a result, there has been constant construction, poor classroom quality and burgeoning class sizes.

This huge growth has strained several programs such as Communication Studies that are fighting for adequate funding to support the skyrocketing number of students that are accepted with lower and lower averages each year. At

a university that claims to have a superbly tight-knit community, student-professor relationships are degrading with higher prof turnover due to an increasing number of cheaper contract faculty.

As Laurier moves to become a more comprehensive university with expanding research and masters programs, keep the undergraduates in mind who have funded - and who've been hurt from - the massive growth the university has experienced over the years.

Please help out the existing programs on campus that are in dire need of attention before adding new ones. We're in need of some TLC.

Sincerely,  
The Students

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



Mallory O'Brien

## You're more than where you're from

Asking a person's hometown doesn't glean much information about them



"Where are you from?"

For me, trying to answer such a question from a stranger immediately creates a conversational dilemma. I could go on to tell you where I was born: Fredericton, New Brunswick. Or, I could tell you in which town I lived out the near majority of my life: Welland, Ontario. On the other hand, I could reveal where I lived the most formative years of my life: Durham, England. Finally, I could offer that my family is now (mostly) based in Kitchener.

Last Sunday, at a mass team-building exercise on campus, one of the activities was to mingle amongst the other participants until the leader told us to find partners (then repeat, ad nauseam). Once partnered up, idle chatter of course made its appearance. And after finding out my name, what was the first thing each partner asked me?

As you can tell from the range of possible responses, it would probably just have been easier to say: "I'm from Planet Earth." But typically, I find myself having to explain every single detail. I tell them everything. Missing out one piece of the puzzle would be failing to communicate the whole picture. The picture of me.

Of course, revealing such a plethora of information in one mouthful is almost always greeted with looks of confusion, mystification and awkwardness. Sometimes befuddlement too.

The second person who I partnered with at the event, a young first-year girl, responded to my life-story (concerning the England part) with a wide-eyed "Why?!" to which I simply responded "Because I lived there." And what more could I say?

First impressions, as a result, are never really proper impressions at all. They work to make us both egotistically comfortable and uncomfortable at the same time.

As a result, I feel that I'm separated from the majority of my peers. Almost everyone else can provide a simple answer, using only one word from their vocabulary.

I understand that things will change as we get older: more and more people will find themselves in a similar situation to me; describing not where you're from, but how you got there.

But why is it that people seem to hold this question to be so important? Well, because, for some reason, in this fleeting moment of initial greetings, our description of where we're "from" is the only way of expressing who we are. And so much of our lives are controlled

by first impressions of people: we worry and try to sense about what people immediately think when they see and speak to us. Or we make our own quick judgements of people around us.

First impressions, as a result, are never really proper impressions at all. They work to make us both egotistically comfortable and uncomfortable at the same time. Quickly judging people allows us to possess them, to have power over them. But then allowing ourselves to be so quickly judged puts us in a position of horrible discomfort. No one knows themselves better than, well... themselves.

To really get to know a person, that person has to show you their own impression of themselves. Don't try to create one for them. Because what else can your impression of them be other than a skewed, incomplete, irrelevant perspective?

So that next time I have to greet a stranger, rather than asking where they're from, I think I'm going to just ask "Who are you?" And hopefully I'll find out who they really are, and not just what part of the globe they've stood upon the longest.

letters@cordweekly.com

# Hussein's trial unjust

U.S. played a role in many of the atrocities blamed on the former Iraqi dictator, yet their involvement will remain unpunished



**JEREMY TREMBLAY**  
ON THE VERGE

Back in 2003, the US began their invasion of Iraq. To make it acceptable, Washington told the world that Iraq was hiding weapons of mass destruction and that they would get rid of them for the safety of the world.

When it turned out there were no weapons of mass destruction, America needed a new story. Suddenly, the US was in Iraq to save the country from Saddam Hussein. Spreading stories of Hussein's atrocities, such as gassing Kurds, and his ferocious repression of the Shia revolt in 1991, Washington declared that they were in Iraq to save the people.

While America's war in Iraq is far from over, many of the US's concerns regarding Iraq ended with Hussein's execution. His execution not only gives them a milepost towards "freeing Iraq," it also keeps much of Washington's dirty laundry from being aired; for nearly two decades, Washington played a role in every major war-crime Hussein committed.

By carefully structuring all the details surrounding his trials, the US was able to keep its involvement in Hussein's crimes quiet. His execution brought only revenge: not justice.

Right from the beginning of the invasion, the US had begun to make plans for Hussein and others high-up in his regime. Washington refused to allow Hussein to go to an international tribunal, and insisted that the Iraqi war crimes would follow an Iraqi-led process.

Making no attempt to seek UN involvement, Washington directed the Iraqi Governing Council, a group of exiles the Administration had placed in power (and would pull from power only a few months later), to devise the regulations for Iraqi war-crime trials.

When the council decided that

the death penalty could be administered in the trials, it became apparent that no international body or NGO was willing to play even an advisory role in any trials that would take place.

After Hussein was caught, the US began to schedule his trials. First was a trial for the murder of 144 villagers in the town of Dujail, who were rumoured to be involved in a plot to kill him in early '80s.

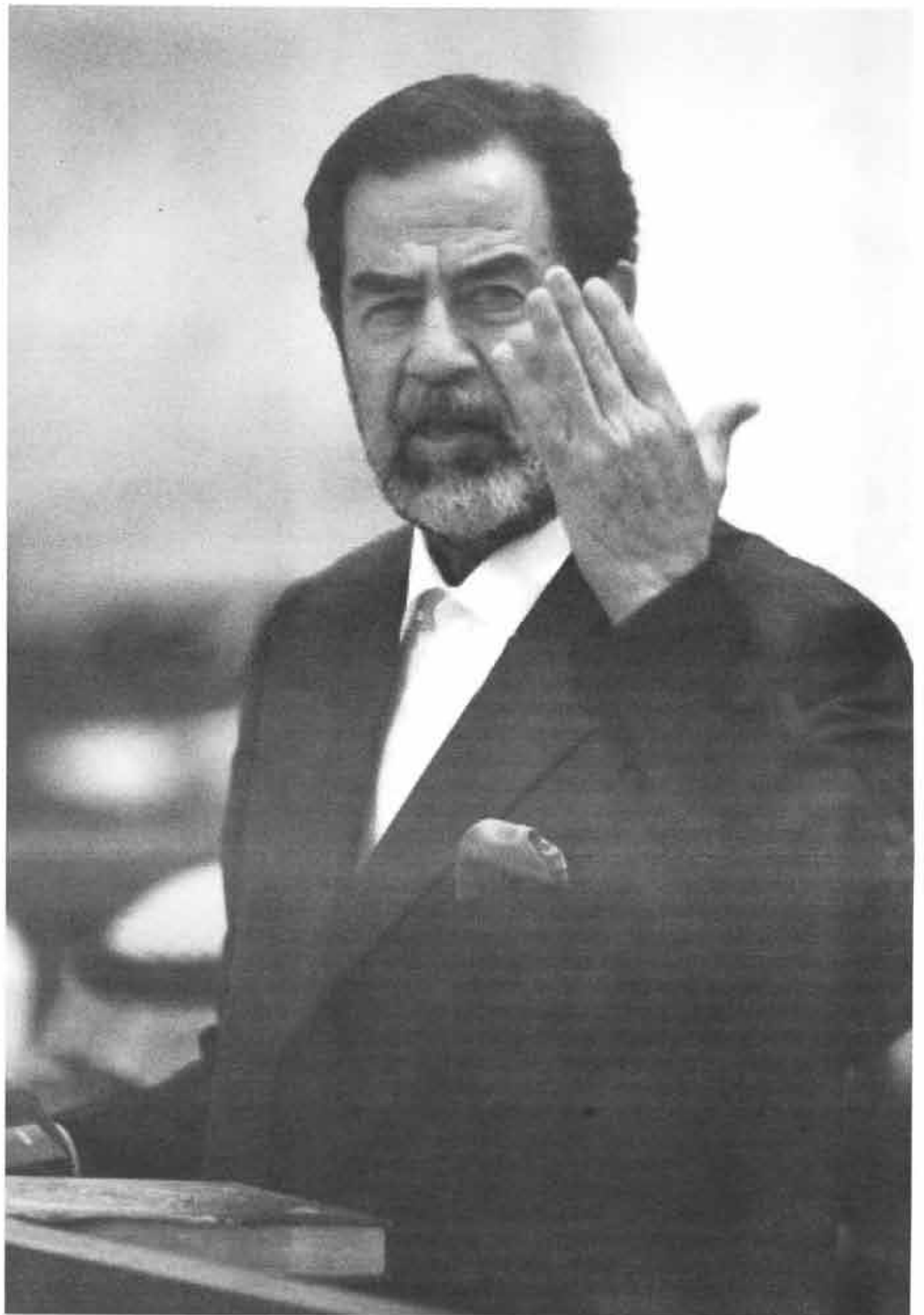
Trials for Hussein's big crimes, such as his invasion of Iran, gassing Kurds and massacring Iraqi Shias, were scheduled at a later date, as spin-doctors in the US government realized they would be cancelled after the death penalty was confirmed for the Dujail trial.

Dujail was selected to be the first trial because it stood apart from Hussein's other war crimes: it was the only one in which the US was not deeply involved.

In 1980, the US arranged for Baghdad to be supplied with the chemicals to create poison gas, provided Baghdad with satellite data on Iranian targets and sent US photo interpreters to create detailed maps of Iranian trenches, allowing Iraq to gas them effectively. In 1988, the US State Department intentionally spread false stories that Iranian planes had dropped poison gas on the Kurds when it had been Hussein's doing.

In 1991, George Bush Sr. encouraged Shias to rebel after Hussein was driven out of Kuwait. After rebelling as Bush pressured them to, the Shias were massacred because Bush refused to use US airpower to protect them.

Had these trials been carried out, a great deal of information Washington did not want exposed would have been broadcast globally: selling weapons to fuel expansionist wars and mass murder stain the "peace and freedom" banner the US waves to the Western world. However, by carefully structuring the system under which Hussein would be tried, and ensuring that international involvement would be extremely limited, Washington kept its secrets.



Contributed Photo

**NO MORE MR. NICE GUY** - Former Iraqi president was found guilty and executed on December, 29, 2006.

As planned, Hussein was given the death sentence in the Dujail trial, and his other trials were cancelled. While Hussein was respon-

sible for the deaths of countless lives, he was executed and was only ever charged for the death of 144 people, but he's taken Washing-

ton's secrets to the grave.

[letters@cordweekly.com](mailto:letters@cordweekly.com)

## > Letters to the Editor

### Broader Palestinian picture

I have been debating for some time whether or not I should write in response to the articles written by Faqiri regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The letter by Rick Hall only increased my desire to write in. The articles written by Faqiri serve the purpose of representing Palestinians from a non-western perspective and bring their struggle to an academic audience. As a Palestinian, myself who has lived

in the Gaza strip for fifteen years, I find his article quite harming to the Palestinian cause, resulting in such responses as the one by Rick Hall.

If you wish to represent Palestinians and be an advocate for their cause, you need to go beyond simply re-stating what the BBC has reported on. Yes, Palestinians are victims of the occupations, but we need to move beyond that in order to more forward and find a solution to the conflict. You need to report on the cultural, political and reli-

gious factors that are affecting Palestinian men and women in their daily lives in a positive manner so to generate positive discussion.

Secondly, I found the letter by Rick Hall extremely offensive. He himself is a victim of propaganda. You cannot place all Arabs and Muslims in to the same category, what you hear and see in the news is not representative of an entire region. At the same time, the experiences and objectives of Palestinians are completely different from

others who use the Palestinian cause for their own purpose. Most importantly, I do not appreciate being called a terrorist, or insulted by claiming that our schools and religion instill hatred. You should get your facts straight so that you do not participate in racism yourself.

-Karima Nigim

### Letters Policy:

All letters to the editor must be signed and submitted with the author's name, student identification number, and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00pm Monday via email to [letters@cordweekly.com](mailto:letters@cordweekly.com) or through our website at [www.cordweekly.com](http://www.cordweekly.com). Letters must not exceed 350 words. The Cord reserves the right to edit any letter for brevity and clarity. 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.

# Education not a right

University is a privilege not afforded to all so students fortunate enough to attend school should be grateful and stop their complaining



**STEVE NILES**  
THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

"Woe is me" laments the young student as he shrugs off to early class at the god-awful hour of 11:30 am. "Why do they have classes at Northdale now?" he asks. "It's an extra four minutes on my walk time!" He has a lot to complain about too, with the abundance of snow on the ground and the all-too-common drive-by shootings that plague the nightmarish streets of Waterloo.

Oprah just opened a private school in South Africa for a hundred or so young girls. Their education system is so bad that an American celebrity is now their ministry of education.

"The break was so short. I mean, we had to go back to classes after the holidays on a Wednesday. And the entire break was filled with boring family crap with people I barely know. My parents didn't get me a big enough iPod, and all that was on TV was dead guys like James Brown, Gerald Ford and Saddam Hussein. Like, what's up with that?"

What is up indeed.

While it is inevitable that every student will complain about something at one point or another, perhaps it is time that we take a step back and think about what is really important in our lives (albeit three weeks too late, but whatever).

Here we are at a beautiful institution, surrounded by sometimes-beautiful people, with perhaps 20 hours of work a week on average. We can choose generally where we work, when we work, and how much of it we choose to do and not to do.

It's unlikely that there will be a better time in our lives than right now.

So why do we continue to complain our way through four months before collapsing into an extended break during summer or the holidays?

Is there a culture of cynicism that has pervaded our society?

Or are we just spoiled brats?

Whatever happened to looking on the bright side? Nobody put guns to our heads and said, "Go to university."

We all chose to do this and will be better off after four years or so for it. Coming back to university, even if it was earlier than many would have liked, is the penul-

timate expression of both our freedom of choice and freedom of education that we so often take for granted as Canadians.

Your mother was right when she told you to think of the starving children in Africa when you wouldn't eat your vegetables.

While I will not go so far as to implore you to get your daily vitamins, I will remind you that things here are damn good.

Oprah just opened a private school in South Africa for a hundred or so young girls. Their education system is so bad that an American celebrity is now their ministry of education.

So think of the children in other parts of the world where this choice of education we enjoy is incomprehensible to them.

By no means is our society perfect, nor is our university or our lives.

But here we are, miles ahead of most of the world, complaining about how it just isn't perfect.

Does the fifth-richest man in the world complain about not being as rich as Bill Gates? Probably not, because being a multi-billionaire is a nice consolation prize.

If it's not too late for a New Year's resolution, I am going to offer one to my fellow students.

Let's try to keep our heads up and not complain about things.

Except that Iraqis have better cell phones than I do. That really grinds my gears.

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**BUCK UP, BUTTERCUP** Students shouldn't treat their studies with disdain, no one's forcing them to attend.

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# Action needed for Sudanese tragedies

Students should stand up to the government's lack of action in the ongoing Darfur conflict



JOSH SCHEINERT & BEN FINE

One of the dominant narratives of the twentieth century was that of humanity's collective failure to stand up to evil.

In its face of global indifference, however, one group of people consistently raised its voice to demand justice: students.

In October 1956, Hungarian students marched down the streets of Budapest triggering that country's revolt against Soviet rule.

In the 1960s, white students from the North partake in "Freedom Rides" in an attempt to de-segregate busses in the racist American South.

Around the world in the late 1980s, students helped lead an international boycott against apartheid South Africa, crippling its economy and helping bring down the regime.

Fast forward to 2007 in Darfur. Its endless graveyards are evidence of crimes against humanity.

Burned-out villages are becoming permanent reminders of what has thus far transpired under our watch. The faces of refugees tell stories of unspeakable horror.

But, for Darfur, the tides have been turning. World leaders and celebrities alike are speaking out. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-

moon has called the situation "unacceptable." The UN Human Rights Council held a special session on Darfur. Sudan is starting to feel the pressure.

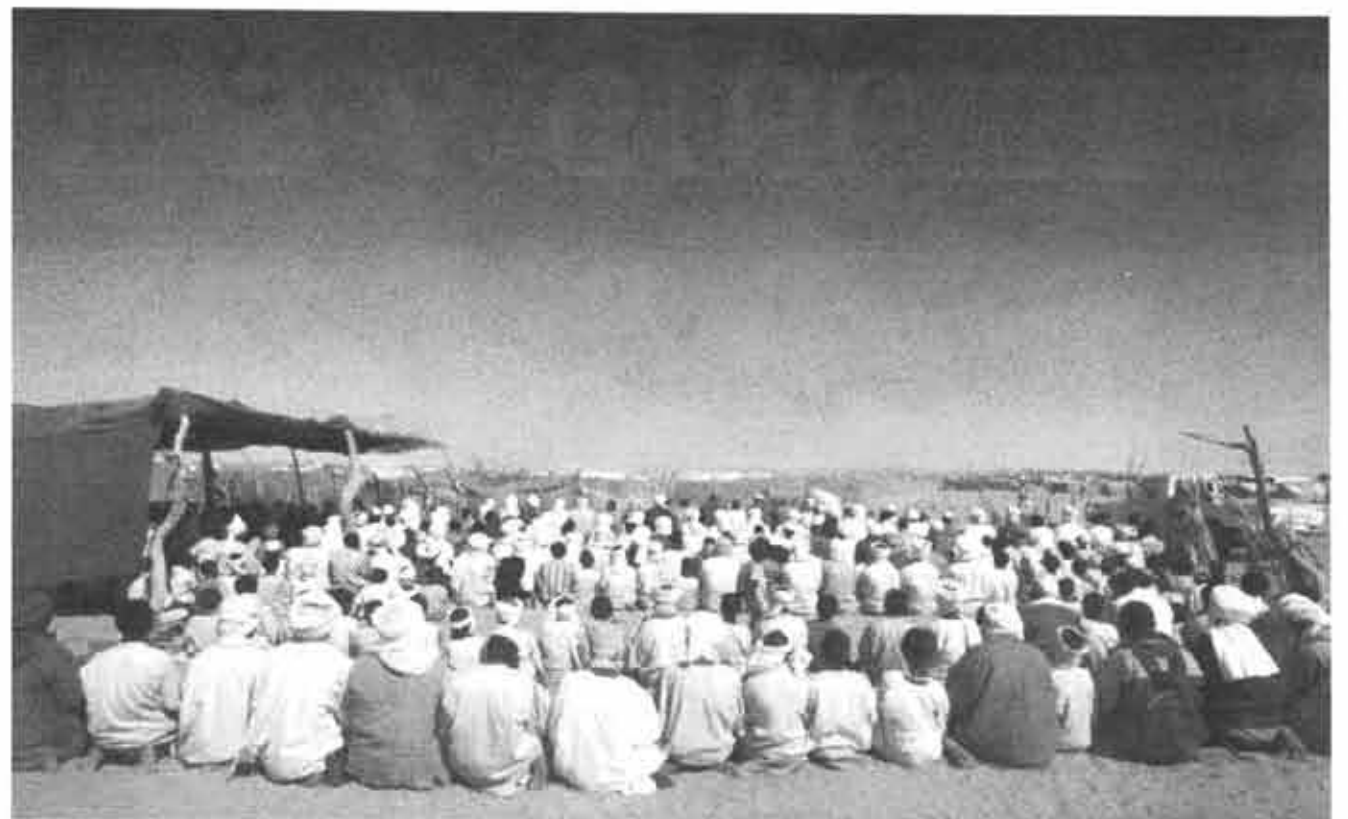
In short, we are moving closer to putting UN peacekeepers on the ground to strengthen civilian protection.

We are at a critical moment. It is time that Canadian students join together en masse to pressure our government to take concrete steps to bring about an end to the killing in Darfur.

After four years of inaction, over 200,000 dead and millions displaced, we need to take a stand. Never Again means never again.

Canada can and must take on a leadership role in ending this crisis. On the diplomatic front we can help jump-start a multilateral mission to protect civilians.

Our CF-18 aircraft could help enforce a no-fly zone to prevent Sudanese aircraft from bombing villages as they aid the *Janjaweed* militias. Financially, our aid dollars can provide critical support. It's time



S.O.S.- Sudanese refugees gather for prayer at the Oure Cassoni Refugee Camp in Bahai, Chad.

Contributed Photo

we come out and commit; we have the capacity to lead.

Acting on that capacity is simple. The prime minister needs to pick up the phone, rally his government and world leaders to join in implementing a strong multinational force on the ground to protect

**The prime minister needs to pick up the phone, rally his government and world leaders to join in implementing a strong multinational force on the ground to protect civilians.**

civilians.

To this point he has not been nearly vocal enough - and we are seeing the results of inaction. But politicians do not act without a reason.

If the prime minister is going to pick up the phone he needs to see that his constituents demand more - that Canadians demand leadership.

This is where we come in. Our government answers to us. We just need to be heard. Students know how to organize and mobilize; we do it on our campuses every day. We're experts at writing letters, signing petitions and getting our message out there. This instance should be no different.

From Victoria to St. John's, it's time Canadian students speak as one national voice demanding a real response to the Darfur crisis.

The narrative of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is being written as Darfur is at a crossroads. As

students we have a critical role to play in shaping history. Either Darfur will start to live again or it will continue to perish. Let us fight for change as hard as students have before us. For if we don't, and Darfur dies, a part of our humanity dies with it.

*Ben Fine, the Executive Director of STAND Canada (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur) is a student in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. Josh Scheinert, STAND Canada's Advocacy and Communications Director, is a student at Osgoode Hall Law School.*  
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**YOU MISSED A SPOT**—A simple act of kindness can reap many benefits and is easy enough for a child to do.

Contributed Photo

# Being nice benefits all

Studies have shown that helping others and acts of compassion have biological triggers that inspire others to do good as well



**BLAIR FORSYTH-STARK**  
OPINION EDITOR

Life sucks. Or so it seems from a quick perusal of any given day's newspaper or news channel.

Ongoing overseas conflicts, increasing crime rates and gun violence, rapes, murders, child abductions: it's enough to make even an eternal optimist feel overwhelming despair.

But what can the average citizen do to spread a little hope in an increasingly bleak world? Surely they can't be expected to become vigilante crime stoppers, roaming the streets looking for evildoers and ne'er-do-wells. It is possible, however, for individuals to actively contribute to a more positive community and, it's surprisingly easy to do: they must simply choose to be nice.

Simple acts of kindness, compassion and generosity can have an incredibly powerful and contagious effect in communities.

According to the research conducted by psychologist Jonathan Haidt, when individuals see a complete stranger perform an act of kindness towards another person, it gives them a feeling of "elevation," which Haidt describes as "a warm, uplifting feeling." The witnessing of an act of kindness can, as Haidt observed, result in an individual's change in their views "about humanity in a more optimistic way" and triggers "higher goals for themselves."

Haidt's findings are exemplified in the case of one of his study subjects.

The subject reported that while driving home with a few other individuals after their weekly volunteering shift at the Salvation Army, one of her car mates requested the driver stop the vehicle and let him out when he noticed an elderly

woman shoveling her driveway after a heavy snowfall.

His immediate action to help a complete stranger triggered an intense response in the female subject. "I felt like jumping out of the car and hugging this guy. I felt like singing and running, or skipping and laughing. Just being active. I felt like saying nice things about people."

**I felt like jumping out of the car and hugging this guy. I felt like singing and running, or skipping and laughing. Just being active. I felt like saying nice things about people.**

#### - Study subject, reacting to kind act

Clearly a small but significant action on the part of one individual has the ability to inspire many more.

It's sort of a "pay it forward" type of phenomena, but rather than being obliged to do good, one is simply inspired.

There seems to be a biological reason why humans are so motivated by acts of goodness. According to Dacher Keltner, research conducted on brain activity while people were helping someone else showed activity in the caudate nucleus and anterior cingulate. In layman's terms, "helping others brings the same pleasure we get from the gratification of personal desire."

Not only then is helping others beneficial to the person being helped, it can also inspire others to do the same and can be quite pleasurable for the individual helping. Why then wouldn't you want to be nice?

Simple acts like helping a classmate who dropped their books pick them up, lending a textbook to a student in need, or even complimenting a random stranger's outfit can brighten their day as well as yours.

As other New Year's resolutions fall by the wayside, don't let being nicer follow suit.

It shouldn't have to be a resolution but simply a lifestyle choice. Everyone could benefit from a little more positivity in their lives and by being nice and helping others, everyone wins.

So the next time you pick up a newspaper or watch CNN and feel like the world is falling to pieces, instead of losing hope, let it serve as a reminder to put a smile on your face and treat those around you, whether they're friends or strangers, with kindness and respect. It's what the world needs now.

letters@cordweekly.com

It's not too late to join the Cord's writing team. E-mail [arobinson@cordweekly.com](mailto:arobinson@cordweekly.com) for more information or fill out an application at the bottom of MacDonald House.

# Buildings affect learning

The aesthetics of academic structures can influence students academic success, as a new field of research indicates



**DON MORGENSON**  
ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

Winston Churchill once made the observation that "we shape our buildings and thereafter they shape us, we should all beware of becoming ruins."

Churchill would be warned by the new scientific data supporting his oft-quoted maxim. A relatively new field combining architecture and the neurosciences is beginning to reveal how our brains and our abilities are affected by our environments of concrete and steel.

Early work by Dr. John Zeisel (President of Hearthstone Alzheimer Care) and his co-workers reported that Alzheimer's patients' environments could influence symptoms of the disorder.

Zeisel found a relationship between behavioural and emotional health and certain aspects of the patients' surroundings, such as whether they could decorate their rooms with personal furniture and pictures and had access to outdoor areas or gardens where they could walk and/or sit quietly.

Dr. Zeisel said: "Things such as privacy, personalized bedrooms and common areas where residents could socialize were all associated with few psychotic symptoms and aggressive behaviours.

I think when the residents are in an environment they can understand, it places less cognitive stress on them so they experience less anxiety as well as less social withdrawal."

Such work can be applied to learning environments as well. Data suggest that not only professors and the quality of classroom experience influence learning - campus structures themselves also play a significant role in academic achievement.

University buildings themselves can stimulate accurate memories and improve performance on in-class activities.

When academic environments contain meaningful physical cues, students can consolidate material to be mastered and more successfully recall such materials.

In the past the emphasis was on "institutional blandness" so as not to interfere with what it was hoped would be a very colorful set of lectures and interactive activities.

In fact, such dull institutional colors provided much less emotional input into learning and as a consequence, students apparently learned significantly less.

While studying at the Maudsley Hospital some years ago, it was a very pleasant experience to mount the stairs up two flights leading to the roof rose garden.

Behind a 15-foot wall, the traffic noise on Denmark Hill was dimin-

ished and health professionals and patients alike could enjoy a restful respite, re-integrate ourselves and when refreshed, confront the internal and external strife we all suffered.

My wife once taught at Charles University on a street in Prague, in a room which had been a studio used by the musical genius Wolfgang Mozart; she can still remember today, in great detail, the room's many features as well as materials presented.

The same can be said of the magnificent British Museum Reading Room, with its splendid stained glass dome overarching all the students busy at their research, among them Karl Marx and Ho Chi Minh. Such environmental beauty clearly

stimulated learning and assisted in the consolidation of knowledge.

Moving between classes, not only is there time to de-compress but there can be soft and restful

University students today are under a great deal of pressure so that such nooks and crannies are becoming more and more essential in reducing stress levels.

Again, according to Dr. John Zeisel, open spaces around and between buildings also play an important role in the students' lives.

He argues that such spaces give the students an opportunity to

get in touch with their "hard-wired feelings about and memories of nature; such spaces can relax the brain and enable the student to

more easily switch from thinking about one subject to thinking about the next on his or her schedule."

Corbusier, Frank Lloyd Wright and other great architects have created buildings which inspire all of us and fill us with joy and sensitive park planners give us settings which enrich our everyday experiences.

Zeisel concludes: "By bringing the neurosciences into the design picture, we have a better idea and understanding of how and why certain elements affect users."

**When the residents are in an environment they can understand, it places less cognitive stress on them so they experience less anxiety as well as less social withdrawal.**

**- Dr. John Zeisel, Hearthstone Alzheimer Care**

places where a student can enjoy a few idle moments while their creative thoughts as well as their bodies regenerate.

[letters@cordweekly.com](mailto:letters@cordweekly.com)

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# To Do List:

- refill ink cartridge
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- pick up greyhound ticket
- buy snacks for studying
- buy milk
- buy bread
- get Friday's photos developed

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