

HISTORY HOOPLA

Student-sold t-shirts generate controversy ... **PAGE 4**



TECHNO TUTORING

Exploring the evolution of technology in university education ... **PAGES 14-15**

SKIING SEASON

The Cord profiles the Laurier Ski and Snowboard Club ... **PAGE 14**

Value of WLU's portfolio tumbles

Laurier may be forced to make cuts due to the global financial crisis

JEREMY TREMBLAY
NEWS EDITOR
REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

As universities across Canada announce hiring freezes and cuts to scholarship and research chair funding, Laurier has begun to "plan carefully for what seems to be a very constrained future," according to VP: Finance Jim Butler.

An estimated loss of nearly \$4 trillion - over 30 percent - in world financial markets has left Canadian universities in a tough financial situation.

At Monday's Senate meeting, Butler announced that an investigation into Laurier's financial position revealed that Laurier will need to find millions of dollars to offset losses in the university's portfolio.

If new funding isn't received, as much as \$21 million may need to be cut from university spending depending on the rate of return for the university's investments. Potential cuts could come from capital spending or WLU's total operating budget.

"It would be inappropriate," explained WLU President Max Blouw, "to underestimate the seriousness of our financial situation. It is a very serious situation. We are not in it alone, so part of what is important is to see how government does in fact react to this situation. Nevertheless, we've taken major losses along with others and we can't ignore that."

The \$21 million in cuts would be needed to make up for a \$42.5 million deficit in the university's pension fund assuming that the university's investments have a zero percent rate of return through 2009.

"The markets have crashed out so badly that it would take a 40 to 50 percent return to cause us not to have a problem. That's not going to happen," explained Butler.

- SEE **BUDGET**, PAGE 3

Championship dreams dashed



RYAN STEWART

The women's and men's soccer teams missed the chance to take home a national trophy; both teams lost their first-round games at the hands of the Trinity Western Spartans

Men knocked from tournament ... **PAGE 11**

Women take fifth place at nationals ... **PAGE 13**

WebCT access back online

After being down for over a week because of file corruption and hardware malfunction, the service is back online. Despite problems the outage has caused, no policy exists to address future breakdowns

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

After 10 days, WebCT became functional again yesterday afternoon at around 3 p.m.

The service went down on November 1; since then, Information Technology Services (ITS), Teaching Support Services (TSS) and hardware technicians have been assessing the issue.

At Monday's Senate meeting Director of ITS John Kearney explained that a group of six individuals was working "around the [clock]" to fix the problem.

According to Carl Langford, manager of Network Operations at ITS, while the problem had to do with hardware originally, that specific malfunction was fixed by last Tuesday.

The lingering issue concerned a

"file corruption," says Langford.

"At some point there was some file corruption, now whether that happened prior to the hardware issue or after the hardware issue is not clear but what we've done since then is dealing with that corruption," he explained.

Langford noted that what held up the process of getting WebCT up and running was the "re-indexing" of data.

"There's an absolutely massive amount of data sitting there that had to be gone through and indexed so I really think that's where the bulk of the time has gone," said Langford.

At the Senate meeting, Kearney explained that there were three attempts before Monday to re-index the material.

The fourth attempt, of which only ten percent of the process was

completed, took nearly 30 hours, he told those in attendance.

Langford commented that it appears no data has been lost throughout the process.

"We were able to recover data from before the minute it went down. So I don't know if we've lost anything but that will be known within the next few days," he explained. Some features of WebCT are not available yet, such as the ability to back up files, while repairs continue.

Looking into the future, TSS wants to explore a back-up for WebCT so that there will be an alternative system in case the online resource malfunctions again.

According to Sandy Hughes, director of teaching support services, "There will definitely be some discussion in the future," bringing up the possibility of a "mirror system"

which TSS plans to look into.

"It'd almost be like having two WebCTs. If one breaks we would have another one up with hardware; that way we could fix what's not working while the other is doing the job. It's our best option to safeguard," she explained.

On the whole, WebCT's breakdown had profound effects on faculty and staff who were left without information or policies to guide their actions regarding assignments and mid-terms which may have relied heavily on WebCT.

As of yet, no guidelines have been established regarding future technical problems.

"As far as we know at this point there isn't a policy that deals with problems," said Hughes.

- SEE **WEBCT**, PAGE 2

THE CORD WEEKLY

- The tie that binds since 1926 -

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"With my uterus?!"

News Editor Jeremy Tremblay, reacting to Sports Editor Lauren Miller's suggestion about carrying babies.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Ligature - A thing used for tying or binding something; lightly; a character consisting of two or more joined letters.

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COLOPHON

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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Veterans honoured

Students, staff and faculty gathered for a memorial service organized by the Students' Union and History Students' Association

DEVON BUTLER
STAFF WRITER

Yesterday at 11:00 a.m. the Laurier Concourse was filled with the rare sound of silence as students, staff, faculty and guests took part in a memorial service to honour Canadian soldiers of past and present.

Concourse businesses such as the Bookstore, the Hub and the Concourse Cafe, all closed down to pay respect and attention to the memorial.

The service was organized by the History Students' Association (HSA) and the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) with staff and administration input.

"Laurier is a large part of this community and our service is not just for students and staff but for the greater community," said Kellen Kurschinski, VP: Academic of the HSA.

Ultimately though, Kurschinski was glad to see large student involvement in the service, commenting "it's a student-run event so it should have student input."

The ceremony included performances by "The Radical Choir" and music by the Brass Quintet, courtesy of the Faculty of Music. The ceremony also included a heartfelt speech from Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Barrie, who served in World War II.

Barrie, born and raised in Kitchener, enlisted in the army just a few days after his 19th birthday.

In June of 1942, he was sent overseas to Britain to act as an Officer for the Highland Light Infantry of Canada.

During the ceremony, Barrie recounted his journey to the beach, a reflection of his landing on D-Day. He was wounded three times throughout the war, which eventually forced him to return to Canada.

Barrie also spoke of the significance of November 11.

"Today is a day to stop the busy cycle of life and remember. Remember the sacrifices made; the sacrifices which made it possible for us to be here today and remember," he stated.

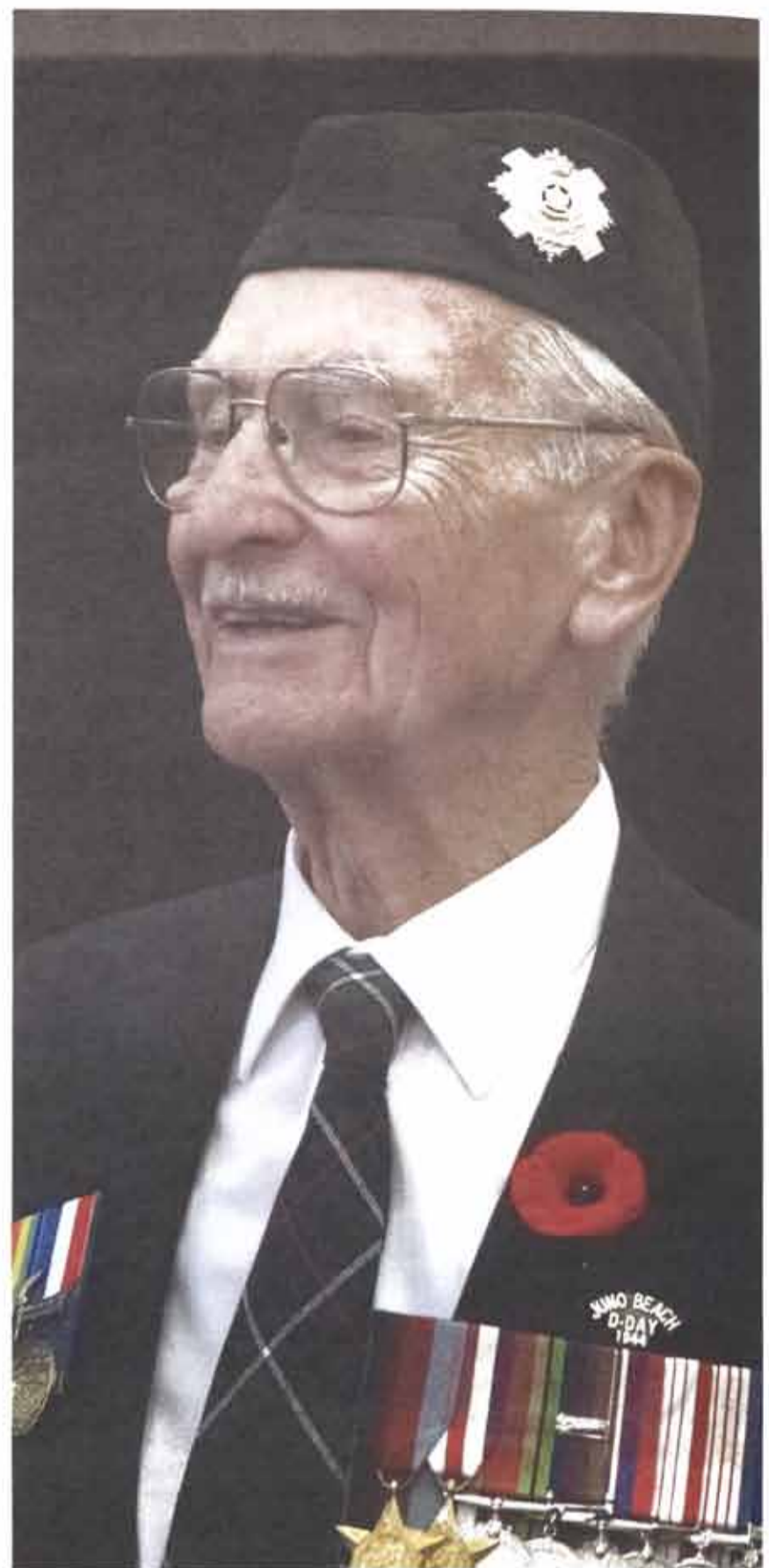
"To me, every day is Remembrance Day."

Barrie was promoted to Captain after the Battle of Buron.

After the war ended and Barrie recovered, he rejoined the militia. He became the First Commanding Officer of the Highland Fusiliers of Canada. In 1967, he was appointed an Honorary Aide-de-Camp to the Governor-General of Canada and in 1989 was appointed Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel.

The number of veterans decreases year by year. As a result, Canadians commonly question whether future generations will appreciate and respect this day. Barrie however, had no worries.

"I think young people today are more appreciative now than they ever were in years before. They know we are diminishing peoples



LAURA TOMKINS

BRAVE BARRIE - Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Barrie spoke yesterday.

and therefore want to learn more." Kurschinski also spoke about how Remembrance Day is always evolving.

"Youth will always care about the tragedies of war; as memories fade, youth will make sure these memories stay preserved as reminders," said Kurschinski.

"Days like today make people appreciate the peace they have in Canada. It's not just memorializing the past, but looking to the future."

A prayer from Laurier Chaplain Brian Bork, remarks from University of Waterloo's Associate Director of the Department of History Geoffrey Hayes and a reading of "In Flanders Fields" by Dean of Students David McMurray closed the ceremony.

However, there was a lasting message from Barrie: "Survivors like me survived for a reason; to come back home and spread the message that war is evil."

WebCT technical problems fixed

- FROM WEBCT, COVER

"At this point from here on in ... professors will make decisions on a case-by-case basis."

Student Senator Rachael Baker brought up the suggestion of drafting specific policies to deal with cases like this at the end of Monday's Senate meeting, but she explained that the issue was not given the full attention it deserved, stating "it was almost like I was just there speaking out of my ass and that no one wanted to listen to what I had to say."

"It seemed like no one was really interested in supporting or at least contributing to that kind of discussion," she continued.

According to Baker, many stated

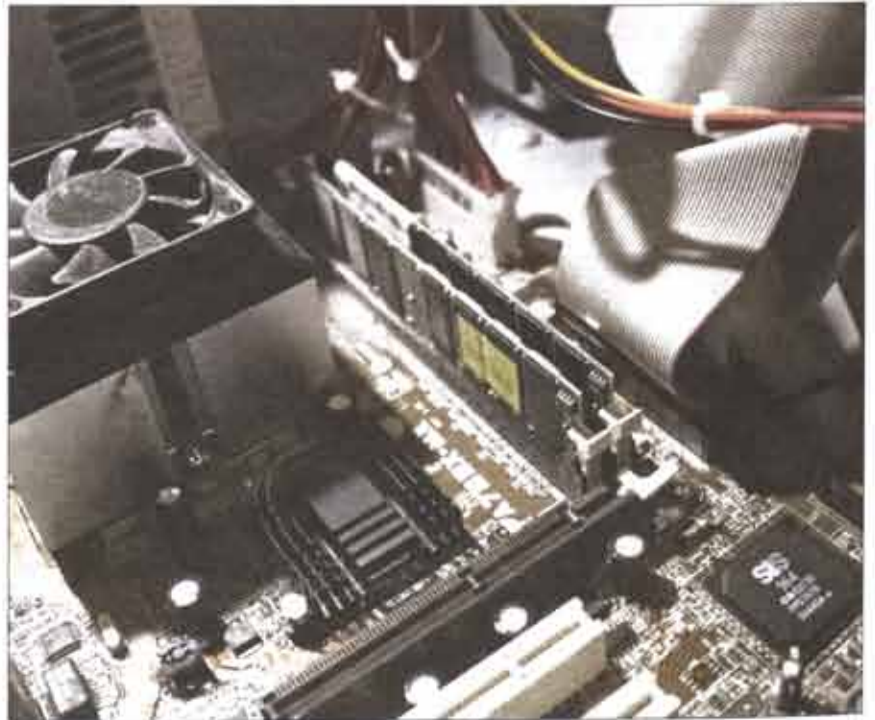
that the issue was "too specific" and could not be generally applied to academic issues; four staff senators, however, agreed with her point.

The issue is being directed towards the Academic Planning Committee that has its meeting on November 19.

While the issue is not currently on the agenda, Baker plans to try and get it added.

"It's a resource that students at Laurier completely rely on to do their course-work," she stated.

"Technology and the use of technology in the institution is not going to go away and it's not going to decrease, so why not address now, why not be proactive instead of reactive."



RYAN STEWART

HARDWARE HEADACHE - WebCT was affected by file corruption.

> VOCAL CORD

"Have you been affected by the problems with WebCT?"



"All of our lecture notes are online. I'm in MBA [and] we pay three times as much tuition... it's really annoying."

- Ritchie Bains
First-year MBA



"I couldn't access any of my courses, and some due dates have been pushed back."

- Stephanie Beaulieu
Fourth-year psychology



"In a huge way. A lot of my classes have participation marks online, so it's been really annoying."

- Samantha Battistone
Fourth-year communication studies



"I'm the wrong person to ask. As a math student, I wasn't really affected because I rarely use WebCT."

- Francis Emery
Second-year financial mathematics



"All of my courses were affected. I couldn't get any information for economics."

- Esra Firatli
First-year business

Compiled by Jennifer Rae,
photos by Mara Silvestri



LAURA TOMKINS

FINANCIAL FORECAST - VP: Finance Jim Butler presents a report on Laurier's fiscal future in a period of economic turbulence.

Millions lost as market crashes

Student awards may be in danger as WLU's endowment loses value; pension fund also suffering

- FROM BUDGET, COVER

If university investments have a 6.5 percent rate of return, WLU's pension fund will face a \$34.9 million deficit resulting in \$9.3 million in additional costs to the university.

The deficit in the pension plan stems from the fact that the program is a hybrid model based on both contributions and payouts.

Laurier's plan defines what pensioners must contribute, but instead of simply investing it and allowing the markets to determine the payout value, payout value is defined. A formula based on salary and years of service determines how much a pensioner will receive regardless of what he or she contributed.

Legally, the university must have an actuarial report on the pension fund prepared every three years.

It assesses two things: whether the fund has enough assets to cover all the pensions for all current members on an ongoing basis, and whether it has enough assets to cover all members' pensions if the university were to cease operations at the time of the report.

The first category looks at the number of pensioners, their ages, their expected payout values and other data to determine if there is an ongoing concern. The second issue refers to solvency - are there enough assets to cover the liabilities in the short term?

"Because of the market meltdown we did some projections going through to the end of 2009. We won't have enough assets to cover the liabilities," said Butler.

The university is required by law to make sure that the pension fund does not carry a deficit. Payments may be split over a five-year period, which - with the assumption of zero percent return - results in annual payments of about \$11 million.

Butler explains that to find that money "creates a requirement to cut, over the space of a couple years, close to \$21 million. That presents a very challenging problem."

In response to a senator's question about the urgency of the situation, Blouw emphasized the fact that Laurier's situation is not unique.

"I don't think panic serves anyone well... we must recognize that a great deal of what's happening now is beyond our control. We're in the same position as many other universities and we'll move forward together."

The university's endowment, valued at about \$37 million at the beginning of 2008, has also been negatively affected by the economic downturn. In the first ten months of the year, the total value of it has dropped by \$5.4 million.

Butler explained that Laurier is less dependent on money from its endowment than many Canadian universities are largely because of its comparatively low per-student value.

In 2007, WLU's per-student endowment was about \$3,100. The University of Waterloo's per-student endowment was about \$6,100 and Mount Allison University, which had the biggest per-student endowment, had \$37,600.

"We just don't rely on it as much. We do rely on it for student awards, but we also... budget for about \$8 million a year. That has nothing to do with our endowments," explained Butler.

The potential loss of student awards concerns Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union VP: University Affairs Trevor Mayoh, who told *The Cord* that the province currently funds few scholarships that are awarded for academic performance.

"We want to make sure that there's money left for scholarships. That's huge; it's something that students actually count on. It's something that we should be striving towards: making sure that we're rewarding academic excellence."

Throughout November, Butler will be holding a series of town hall meetings to answer questions and gather ideas from interested parties.

Policy options will be prepared during the coming month, and Butler hopes to present them to the senate when it meets on December 10.

"Laurier will look different... it's irresponsible not to do anything so we're making contingency plans now so that's why we're engaging the community in town hall discussions and presentations."

Board 'accepts' use of pepper spray

JEREMY TREMBLAY
NEWS EDITOR

The Wilfrid Laurier University Students Union (WLUSU) Board of Directors (BOD) released a statement addressing the university's special constables being authorized to carry pepper spray (Oleoresin Capsicum) yesterday.

It reads: "We accept the introduction of Oleoresin Capsicum spray as it allows for a greater variety of response options to be employed by special constables when engaging in situations where there is a justifiable threat to their

personal safety or to the safety of students."

Discussion between directors also addressed a desire to mention that WLUSU sees a bigger concern in the usage of pepper spray.

"The Students' Union is concerned, however, with the circumstances under which OC spray would be considered a justifiable usage of force, the specific nature of such usage and the adequacy of any training special constables would receive," the statement continues.

The statement was approved by the board at its Friday meeting.

Seven directors voted in favour, three against and one abstained.

Before this motion passed, two were defeated, one of which endorsed special constables being equipped with pepper spray using the words "encourages the university."

Several directors expressed their concern, suggesting such a statement was too enthusiastic.

"I don't think we should be too gung-ho about it," said Director Michael Lockhart, who felt the motion implied an endorsement of the use of pepper spray.

Directors had previously dis-

cussed issuing a statement at the board's October 24 meeting, but referred the matter to legal counsel.

During the meeting, the board was told that it was free to write what it wants in regard to endorsing such an action, as long as the statement is free of libel.

The board is also free to change its stance at any time.

University governance is currently considering whether or not special constables will be allowed to carry pepper spray. The WLUSU statement has no official power in such a decision.

Milton proposal under review

Proposed campus will only go ahead if government funding is secured; newly released document examines potential for growth

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

Since Laurier administration and the City of Milton signed a letter of intent to pursue the possibility of a WLU Milton campus last April, the proposal has been included in a capital funding submission to the provincial government for consideration.

At Monday's Senate meeting, Laurier President Max Blouw tabled a document made available to the public.

The document discusses various models and proposals for the possible campus, including suggestions from the faculties of science, arts, social work, as well as a piece outlining the transition towards a multi-campus model.

At this time it is unknown whether the projected campus will go through at all.

"There's always the possibility

that the government will have other priorities. It's also the case that the university, the internal community hasn't determined whether they want to go forward with the project so it's not as though it's just a straight-forward discussion," said Blouw.

The capital proposal given to the government outlined the three sectors available for monetary contribution: the Waterloo campus, the Brantford campus and the proposed Milton campus.

"They will be making choices as to where they spend money if they spend any money over the next little while ... so we've given them an opportunity to invest in Laurier in a number of different ways hoping that something will be attractive to them," explained Blouw.

He added that the university has received a report back stating that the proposal is currently being reviewed by the Ministry of En-

ergy and Infrastructure, stating "we don't know where any of that is going right now."

Blouw told *The Cord* that the campus would have an applied-sciences orientation.

"IN MILTON IT IS THOUGHT THAT APPLIED SCIENCES, PARTICULARLY HAVING TO DO WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES, WOULD BE THE FOCUS."

- Max Blouw, WLU president

"In Milton it is thought that applied sciences, particularly having to do with sustainability and clean technologies, would be the focus."

The report outlined the goal of creating distinctive programs at

each campus in order to "evolve competitive, unique and distinguished educational and research programs at undergraduate and graduate levels."

Blouw stated that he met with a business group last week in order to "meet some of the main business-people in the community," who have expressed great support for a WLU Milton campus.

An article from *The Milton Canadian Champion* noted that the area around the proposed campus has gained attention.

It reports that there has been increased development around the 150-acre piece of land on Tremaine Road between Britannia and Derry Road where the proposed Milton campus would be located.

The article noted that 250 additional Mattamy homes have been approved in the area, as well as a "zoning amendment" allowing for the construction of 254 detached homes on Tremaine Road.

Meetings have also taken place between the university and the municipality to discuss an arts and entertainment centre, sports and recreation infrastructure, as well as a central library.

However, Blouw has stated that he is reluctant to express too much excitement about the proposal.

"I'm not sure that I have explicit hopes but what I really hope is that we have a good discussion soon about whether we really are committed to a multi-campus model. How does Laurier continue to grow while it stays true to its intimate setting? ... Milton and Brantford have given us opportunity to look at these issues," said Blouw.

T-shirt featuring Stalin causes controversy

Student Diversity Office to hold open meeting tomorrow in response to complaints; group defends material in question, says it is 'satire'

MORGAN ALAN
NEWS WRITER

This week, the History Students' Association (HSA) temporarily pulled the sale of one of several t-shirts amid controversy over its message.

The shirt depicted Josef Stalin, the former leader of the Soviet Union, with the text "Got Purge?"

The HSA's t-shirt intended to satirize the "Got Milk?" series of advertisements, as well as reference the Great Purge that occurred in the Soviet Union in the late 1930s.

Sale of the t-shirts led to complaints directed towards the HSA, as well as the Office for Student Diversity, who has since intervened to mediate the controversy.

The HSA has been selling t-shirts since 2005 as means to offset club costs and pay for events.

Though shirts with similar messages have been sold in the past, only this year have they faced serious backlash.

The HSA argues that the shirts are not intended to offend, but are meant as a form of humorous satire.

"We're not trying to be offensive," says Stephen Arnold, the vice-president of HSA administration. "We don't support Stalin, we're ridiculing him."

"It's something humorous of a historical event. It's not to dehumanize the event, or to say we sup-

port it."

Brian Bork, Laurier's and UW's University Chaplain, has questioned the HSA's defence.

"The satire is a little out of place, especially coming from very comfortable, Western young people who are 50 years removed from what happened then," said Bork.

"It concerns me that they are making light of ... one of the darkest moments in human history," he added.

"THE SATIRE IS A LITTLE OUT OF PLACE, ESPECIALLY COMING FROM VERY COMFORTABLE, WESTERN YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE 50 YEARS REMOVED FROM WHAT HAPPENED THEN."

- Brian Bork, WLU chaplain

This Thursday at 5 p.m. in the MacDonald House boardroom, the Office for Student Diversity will hold an open meeting to attempt to resolve the matter.

Members of the Laurier community who wish to voice their opinions about the shirts in question are invited to attend.

Until this meeting, the HSA has voluntarily agreed to remove the shirt in question from public viewing.

Regardless of their stances on the issue, many agree that to simply censor the HSA is not a viable solution.

The Office for Student Diversity "is not big on censorship, but we're big on creating an inclusive environment," said Student Diversity Coordinator Adam Lawrence.

The open meeting "can be a learning experience so that people can really express why they don't feel the shirts should be there, and

the History Students' Association can explain why they have created these shirts," said Lawrence.

Arnold agreed with Lawrence's sentiments, stating that "a hopeful resolution is one where we're not being censored, but we're not offending people."

Bork also agrees that the meeting is a good solution to the issue.

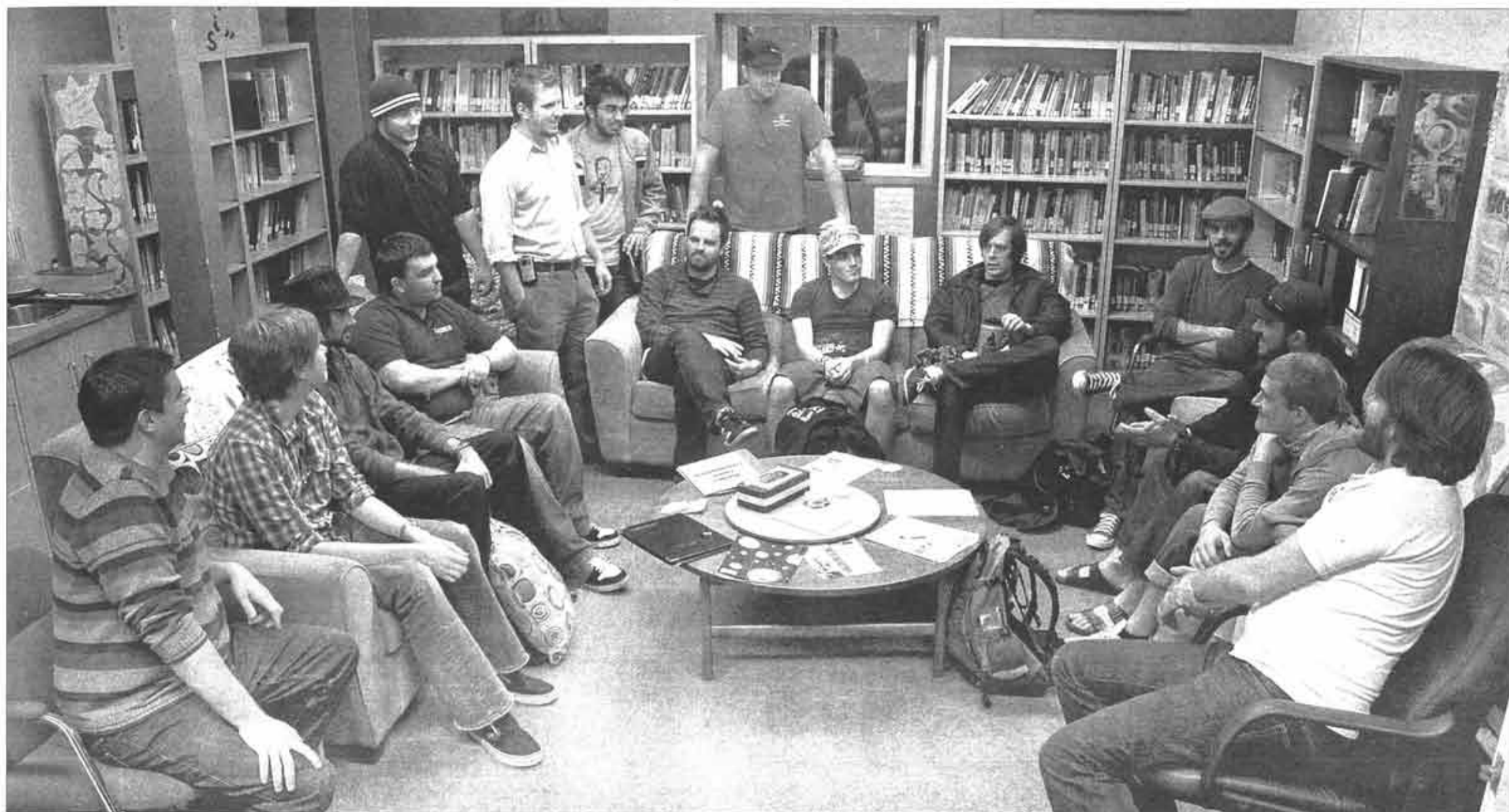
"Instead of shutting [the HSA] down, have a discussion about how we talk about history, how we do historical inquiry, how we speak of the horrors of the past in a proper way. I think that's a really constructive way of going about it."

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story



ELIJAH GARLIN

SHIRT SAGA - Designs that didn't receive complaints are still on sale.



SYDNEY HELLAND

ROUNDTABLE - Men were invited to participate in a discussion about tackling gendered violence on campus at a meeting last Thursday. Organizers hope a group will meet weekly.

Gender discussion group forms

TARYN ORWEN-PARRISH
CORD NEWS

Laurier Men Advocating Change (LMAC) hosted a discussion forum last Thursday night which focused on issues of gendered violence.

The two-hour gathering began at 6 p.m. at the Women's Centre. It was organized by Student Diversity Coordinator Adam Lawrence and co-organizer Bryn Ossington. Nearly two dozen people attended.

In order to engage a strong male perspective, the first hour was devoted to a discussion between men only. According to Ossington, the purpose of this was "to create a space where men can feel at liberty to say whatever they need to say.... Often men want to speak up but they aren't confident of the language to use."

Discussion within the second

hour welcomed female students to participate.

Throughout the event, LMAC stressed the importance of forming a strong bond between men's and women's groups, as sexual violence concerns both genders.

Third-year global studies and political science student Adam Lewis felt that the purpose of the discussion group was "to start an actual male response to sexual violence on campus."

"Because women have that outlet with the Women's Centre, it's good for men to have an outlet to engage with those issues, and this group allows for that," he continued.

However, Lewis explained that he does not discount the importance of female involvement, expressing that sexual violence is a problem that can only be solved through the combined efforts of men and

women.

"It's very much a concerted effort between both groups because you're dealing with 50 percent of the population on both sides."

"BECAUSE WOMEN HAVE THAT OUTLET WITH THE WOMEN'S CENTRE, IT'S GOOD FOR MEN TO HAVE AN OUTLET TO ENGAGE WITH THOSE ISSUES, AND THIS GROUP ALLOWS FOR THAT."

- Adam Lewis, third-year global studies

The discussion was lively as students shared their own stories in combating gendered violence, including challenging gender ideologies, stereotypes and cases of oppression.

A prominent topic at the forum was the normalization of sexist comments and the lack of awareness regarding their hurtful nature.

Women's Centre Arts Co-ordinator Kate Klein commented that "the fact of the matter is that things like that, down the line, contribute to sexual assault and gendered violence."

As a staggering number of sexual assaults are committed by males, the event outlined the importance of men actively engaging in feminist issues.

"Feminism needs to occur on both sides of the spectrum ... you need to have pro-feminist allied men just the same as [you need]

feminist women," said Lewis.

LMAC is hoping for the discussion group to continue to be held weekly.

For Ossington, the ultimate goal is to "end violence against women and change the perception of what it is to be a man on the Laurier campus."

Members will further discuss promoting awareness by bringing the White Ribbon Campaign to Laurier's campus in the future, which is a global movement to end violence against women.

According to the White Ribbon Campaign official website, to wear the ribbon is "to declare a future with no violence against women."

The International Violence Against Women Awareness Week will be held on campus during the last week of November.

WLU fares well in *Maclean's* ranking

Laurier's overall ranking has remained unchanged; in reputation rankings, the university placed fourth out of 21 in its category

JEREMY TREMBLAY
NEWS EDITOR

On Monday, the 2008 *Maclean's* Guide to Canadian Universities was released. In it, Laurier held its overall place as sixth among primarily undergraduate universities.

"It's good to see that we're one of the top-ranked Ontario universities," commented WLU President Max Blouw.

"We're certainly very high up in terms of the undergraduate universities so that's good."

Also in the primarily undergraduate category, Laurier placed fourth in *Maclean's* reputational survey, which measures a university's reputation "in the community at large."

In other rankings, WLU placed 16th for its student-faculty ratio, eighth for awards per full-time faculty, third for the number of medical and science grants and sixth for the number of social sciences and humanities grants.

"There's always room for improvement," added Blouw.

"A bigger question for me is should we be driven by rankings or should we be making our decisions based on criteria that we value greatly inside Laurier...? I tend to give more weight in terms of what we view internally."

"We were happy with how we did this year," explained Glenice Snyder, manager of student recruitment.

Laurier's recruitment office uses ranks from *Maclean's* as well as data from other comparative tools like *The Globe and Mail* in pres-

entations and promotions to help provide prospective students with an image of Laurier.

"We sort of summarize the information for students. We encourage students to review not just the *Maclean's* [rankings] but also *The Globe and Mail* and they need to do other research as well. It's not the deciding factor on where you go," added Snyder.

She explained that Laurier's overall rank and reputational rank are the two most important figures for recruitment, but other figures

aren't dismissed.

She says other data is summarized, and students are encouraged to look over everything in the rankings as well as do their own research.

"Everybody has an individual way that they look at ... what's important to you? The number of PhDs at the school? How many acquisitions there are in the library? It's personal. Everybody needs to look at it from what they're interested in."

CANADA IN

York University part-timers' strike continues

TORONTO - Nearly 50,000 students at York University in Toronto have had to put their education on hold, as the university has been on strike for almost a week.

York officials decided to cancel all classes, since Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) branch 3903 members teach 50 percent of classes.

The strike of members in CUPE 3903 involves more than 3,400 part-time faculty, including counting teaching assistants, graduate researchers and part-time contract employees.

The union's primary argument is that they want improved job security for members.

The union also seeks a two-year contract with a seven percent raise in the first year, and a four percent raise in the second year.

"It's clear that the university administration is pushing us to go out on strike," Christina Rousseau, union chairwoman told CBC news.

"Over the last three years, our members have had to work harder with less job security and fewer resources."

The university offered the union a 9.25 percent increase over the next three years, protection from tuition increases, an increase in benefits, as well as an increase in wage supplementary funds.

The union's bargaining team made a unanimous decision to reject this offer.

At this point in time, it is hard to determine how long the strike will last.

York University, however, says it will try to make up for the missed classes by possibly extending the term into December vacation.

Students standing up against increasing tuition fees

TORONTO - Last Wednesday, thousands of students marched to Queen's Park, stopping at the Ministry of Training, Colleges and

Universities to protest the rising student fees in Ontario.

According to Statistics Canada, Ontario has the second highest tuition fees in the country after Nova Scotia - BA students pay on average more than \$5,643 a year in tuition.

The crowd, estimated to be made up of 3,000 to 5,000 students, blamed premier Dalton McGuinty for the rising tuition fees because McGuinty abandoned a tuition freeze in 2006, an action that led to the rise of student fees by 8 percent each year.

Shelley Melanson, chairwoman of the Canadian Federation of Students (Ontario) noted her discontent with the premier in an interview with *The Globe and Mail*, saying "Dalton McGuinty has betrayed us time and time again."

Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities John Milloy does not see any problem with the current tuition fees.

"We have a framework in place, a very thoughtful framework that came about after two years of discussion," he told *The Globe*, adding that Ontario has "a very generous student assistance program."

The students were supported by New Democrat MPs Jack Layton and his wife Olivia Chow.

-Compiled by Devon Butler and Genevieve Rushton-Givens

> BAG O' CRIME

HIT AND RUN MVA

Date: Nov. 3, 5:08 p.m.

Location: St. Michael's campus parking lot

A Special Constable investigated a hit and run accident which occurred at the St. Michael's parking lot. No description of the offending vehicle was released. Injuries consisted of scrapes and scratches.

ASSISTED CITIZEN

Date: Nov. 3, 4:21 p.m.

Location: N/A

A Special Constable assisted a pregnant woman who had gone into labour. She was assisted to the care of her husband and then to hospital.

DRUGS

Date: Nov. 4, 9:38 p.m.

Location: Residence

A student was investigated by a Special Constable for using marijuana and drug paraphernalia in a residence. The matter is being dealt with by Residence Life.

ALARM

Date: Nov. 6, 2:30 a.m.

Location: Marketing Office, Students Union

Special Constables responded to the marketing office at the Students Union. The area was checked and the room was secure.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON

Date: Nov. 6, 7:10 p.m.

Location: Library

Special Constables attended the Library as a female student had reported that she had seen a male going through her purse. A de-

scription was obtained but the female did not wait for Special Constables to arrive. The area was checked by the officers but no one matching the description was in the Library.

TRESPASSING

Date: Nov. 6, 10:00 p.m.

Location: Residence

A male student was charged with trespassing by Special Constables. He was found in a residence after being evicted by Residence Life.

CRIME O' THE WEEK

THEFT OVER \$5000

Date: Nov. 7, 12:28 a.m.

Location: Wilf's

Special Constables responded to a theft of property at Wilf's. An expensive coat, valued at \$5,500, and backpack had been stolen. Upon investigation, a student was subsequently spoken to and the property returned. The victim requested no action, but the accused student is being sent to the JAC.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Date: Nov. 7, 3:00 a.m.

Location: Residence

A Special Constable attended a residence in response to a broken window. Students reported that 3 males had kicked the window and ran off. No descriptions and no suspects are available at this time.

STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLE

Date: Nov. 7, 2:13 p.m.

Location: Parking lot

A student reported that his vehicle

had been stolen from a residence parking lot. Upon investigation it was discovered parked at the Science building. There was no sign of damage associated with a theft.

THEFT UNDER \$5000

Date: Nov. 7, 3:50 p.m.

Location: Residence

Special Constables responded to a residence as a vending machine had been broken into. Money had been removed from the coin box and the machine had damage to the door. No suspects matter is being investigated.

ARREST

Date: Nov. 9, 3:12 a.m.

Location: Residence

A student was arrested and charged by a Special Constable with damaging a window in a residence. He is due in court at a later date.

ASSAULT

Date: Nov. 9, 2:12 a.m.

Location: Terrace

A Special Constable received a report from a male student that he had been assaulted in the Food court by another male. The suspect had fled the area, and the matter is being investigated.

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

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Any questions should be directed to:
 WLUSP President Greg Sacks at greg.sacks@wlusp.com

Conflict in the Congo

A deadly conflict rages on in the heart of Africa

ALANNA WALLACE
STAFF WRITER

Fighting in the eastern region of Africa's Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has erupted once again in a wave of violence that is affecting the nation. The continuing conflict, mostly attributed to the influx of refugees from Rwanda's 1994 genocide, has led to what the UN has called the deadliest conflict since the Second World War, claiming upwards of 3 million lives.

Approximately 250,000 people have fled the ongoing conflict, joining the one million refugees that are already in the area.

It is unclear at the moment as to why fighting has once again broken out in the eastern region of the DRC. Rebel leader General Nkunda says his soldiers of the National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP) are protecting the Tutsi community from the Hutus who participated in the genocide that fled to the region at the end of the Rwandan civil war and genocide in 1994.

The nation's government accuses Rwanda of funding the troops, who have halted outside of Goma. Last Friday, ongoing clashes between rebel and government troops began there after a ceasefire agreement was broken.

The Democratic Republic of Congo's government refuses to negotiate with General Nkunda. Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon criticized the rebel leader and his forces, calling for an end to the cycle of violence in Africa's Congo Basin.

Along with the fear of civil conflict comes the looming humanitarian crisis in the region. Relief agencies are overwhelmed as hungry, displaced people have been rushing the gates and scaling the walls of feeding centres.

The United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said that a camp outside of Goma has been raided, looted and emptied, presumably by Gen. Nkunda's troops.

Rumours are swirling that countless civilians have been caught in the crossfire between the two troops.

Even the 17,000 UN peacekeeping troops in the DRC (the largest force in the world) are not adequately prepared for a crisis of such magnitude. Also, the UN only has a couple of hundred soldiers in the area around Goma; the rest are spread around the vast African nation.

Recently, the force, called MONUC (Mission des Nations Unies en République Démocrat-



ON THE MOVE - Internally displaced people flee the violence in Goma, a city in the eastern DRC.

ique du Congo), has deployed helicopters in an attempt to subdue the violence. The DRC government blames the UN troops for inadequately protecting civilians from being killed by the rebels.

Eyewitness accounts state that Angolan troops entered the area on November 3, and have been seen clashing with the CNDP. Some analysts are referring to the violence as Africa's First World War, stating that many Sub-Saharan nations will become involved in the conflict in order to pillage the diverse resources of the region.

Displaced people have disappeared and, with the magnitude of the crisis, aid workers have not been following a standard procedure of registering individuals. Even though rebels say they have secured safe paths for people to return to their villages, most of those displaced remain unconvinced.

The gravity and intensity of the situation has left aid agencies with no other choice but to evacuate all employees who do not have to be there. They lack the manpower and resources to adequately address the situation.

In a conflict where both rebel and government troops have been known to pillage at will and remain unchecked, the current rise in conflict has been rapid.

The international community has yet to act in any monumental way, leaving inadequate aid agencies and overpowered UN troops to quell the violence until decisions can be made.

Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of civilians are caught in the limbo of the most destructive conflict Africa has seen.

WORLDIN BRIEF

Obama town celebrates in Japan

On Wednesday, November 5, the Japanese town of Obama, located in Fukui Prefecture, celebrated the results of the US presidential election. President-elect Barack Obama's win led a group of 300 attendees to shout his name at an event hosted by the Obama Koho o Katte ni Oen Suru Kai (Group Supporting Candidate Obama on Its Own). One member of the group used ribbons to mark the 28 states Obama won on the night of the American election. A 74-year-old farmer from the town told the *Boston Herald*, "I believed in Mr. Obama's victory. I hope he'll come to Obama some day."

Marriage as a patriarchal practice

In Saudi Arabia, The Shoura Council is in the process of implementing a new law by the end of the year that would prevent marriages between girls under the age of 14 and older Saudi men. According to the Ministry of Justice, if this law is passed, it would address problems such as divorces, the responsibility of fathers to protect their children, hearing young girls' opinions on the issue and preventing health-related and psychological damage.

In Saudi Arabia, a young girl of 13 told authorities, "I was forced into the marriage and I had to leave school." However, two marriage officials downplayed the situation by suggesting to the *Saudi Gazette* that "Allah legislated marriage for sublime wisdom," and that "it is not clear that such marriages are harmful."

No gay blood donors allowed

The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service reported an 86 percent increase of all new HIV infections to be found in gay men and have told BBC News that they are also recognizing "behavioural risks." This has led to the rejection of an appeal to donate by a group of gay blood donors in Scotland. The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service says that its policy to provide safe blood products is "not discriminating" against this group since "the figures showed that some gay men were continuing to give blood despite being asked not to do so." Nonetheless, a petition of gay and lesbian groups argues that it is long overdue to revise this ban due to a precedent set in France, Italy and Spain, where the ban is lifted.

A collapsing tragedy in Haiti

At least 88 children have died under a mass of stones and bricks in a Haitian school on Saturday after it collapsed, while 150 people were left injured. The school - named College La Promesse - located in Pétionville, Haiti, taught more than 500 children. Local authorities, the United States and France joined forces to save the students trapped under the wreckage. Bare hands were used to remove the bodies under the pile of rubble, while parents waited and watched the tragedy unfolding before their eyes. As reported by the Associated Press, Haitian President Rene Preval said, "poor construction, including a lack of steel reinforcement, was to blame."

The invisible Islamic headscarf

After a period of six years, Egyptian television presenter Ghada El Tawil of Alexandria's Channel 5 won a difficult battle to wear her hijab, an Islamic headscarf, during the program. The state channel had prevented Tawil, as well as other colleagues, from wearing the headscarf. Tawil told BBC News that her employer had failed to give a "proper reason" for why she was not allowed to wear her hijab in order to express her Islamic faith freely. Tawil said "When I covered my hair, I didn't lose my ability to read the news." Now, she is fighting to regain her previous job, which was to read the "English-language news bulletins."

Compiled by Henji Milius



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Four scholars reflect on the results of the American election and provide suggestions for the future of a Democratic government

PAULA MILLAR
STAFF WRITER

There is no doubt that history was made on Tuesday November 4, 2008. With the election of America's first African-American president, significant barriers may have fallen, but the election result itself was hardly unexpected.

This was the general consensus of a panel of leading political science professors who gathered at Wilfrid Laurier University on November 6 to discuss the 2008 American election results.

Dr. Barry Kay, a WLU political science professor, said the election result is merely a reflection of the "cyclical nature of [American] politics." It is highly unusual that a po-

litical party, after serving two consecutive terms, will be re-elected for a third.

The panel believed that, unfortunately for McCain, history was not the only card stacked against him. The panel unanimously agreed that - due to the economic situation, and the blame many bestow on President George W. Bush for the crisis - any Democrat who ran was destined to win this year's election.

The media circus honed in on race as a burden for Obama, largely discounting the fact that race could perhaps enhance a candidate's success at the polls.

Ultimately, Kay said that race ended up being a factor "more positive than not" for Obama.

Kay, citing a *Newsweek* study

completed during the primary season, explained that of all the discrimination faced by candidates, age was perceived more negatively than either gender or race.

Nonetheless, "Republicans have to go back to the drawing board," said Kay. The panel agreed that the Republican coalition needs to be rethought and rebuilt to become more reflective of today's America. Kay said the Republicans "will not win with the Christian right only."

Dr. George Breckenridge, a McMaster University professor, said simply, "Republicans have to recover their reputation for competence which has been lost."

Obama's message of "change" was so well-received by Americans because "[change] is whatever they

want it to be," said Kay. Obama capitalized on political language "elliptical and vague enough," to eventually "allow him to do as he likes," according to Dr. Loren King, WLU professor of political science. All panelists agreed that many of Obama's policies may be derailed by the current economic crisis.

Despite a Democratic win, a guaranteed successful 2012 election for the party is debatable. Some argue that with the current economic crisis, George W. Bush's blunders and an aging Republican candidate, the Democrats should have done much better at the polls.

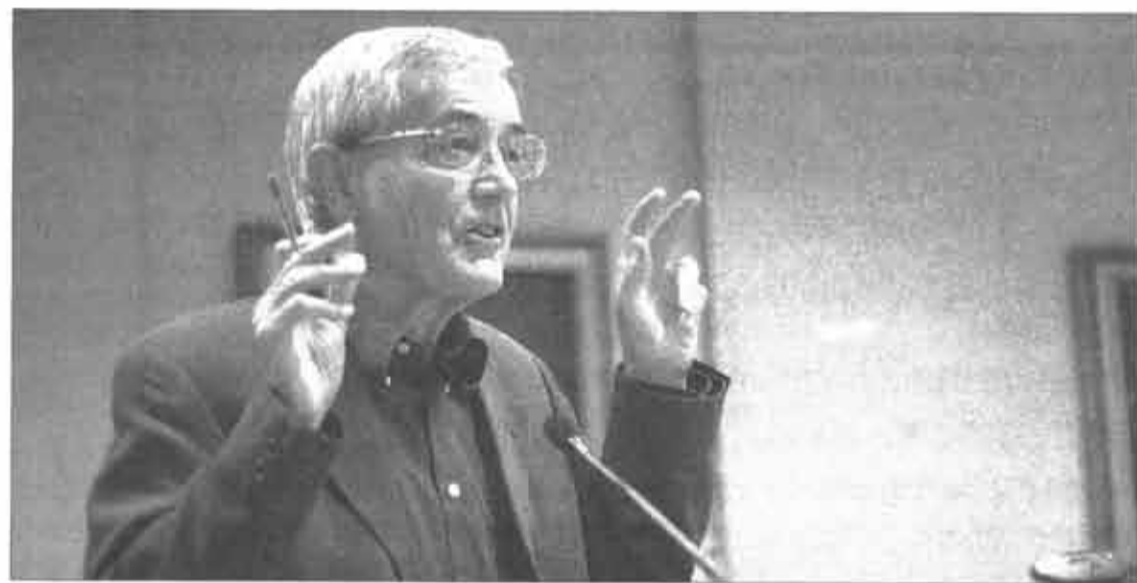
Breckenridge suggested that Americans may still have "some hesitation to backing Democratic candidates." However, all panelists

agreed that the Republican Party will have to redefine itself in ways like never before in order for the tide to turn.

While all panelists agreed that the election was not game-changing by any means, they spoke positively on both candidates' success in mobilizing more youth and minority voters than ever before.

The panelists discussed that what will be truly groundbreaking is the day that race is no longer an election issue.

In 1960, electing a Roman Catholic president was an earth-shattering event; perhaps the election of future African-Americans will prove to be no more out of the ordinary than electing a Catholic today.



SAME OLD - (Clockwise from top left) Gerard Boychuck, Barry Kay, Loren King and George Breckenridge agreed that Republicans need to change their strategy in the next election.

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NOVEMBER 26, 2008

Critical Incident Simulation

Wilfrid Laurier University will be staging a critical incident simulation exercise on the Waterloo campus between 8 a.m. and 12 noon on Wednesday, November 26 so that officials and emergency personnel can rehearse Laurier's emergency lockdown procedures.

The simulation will involve an armed intruder coming to Laurier's Waterloo campus and taking hostages inside Willison Hall. There will be a strong police and emergency services presence for this exercise and teams of tactical officers will be on campus with emergency vehicles and full gear. Please stay clear of the Willison Hall area from 8 a.m. until 12 noon to ensure that the exercise can run as smoothly as possible.

A lockdown simulation will be initiated for the rest of the Waterloo campus community on the same day, starting at 8:30 a.m. All staff, faculty and students on campus at this time are asked to participate by taking a few moments to review and discuss the university's lockdown procedures, and to consider what the nearest safe room might be for you and your colleagues to gather in if there was a critical incident taking place at that time.

The basic lockdown steps are:

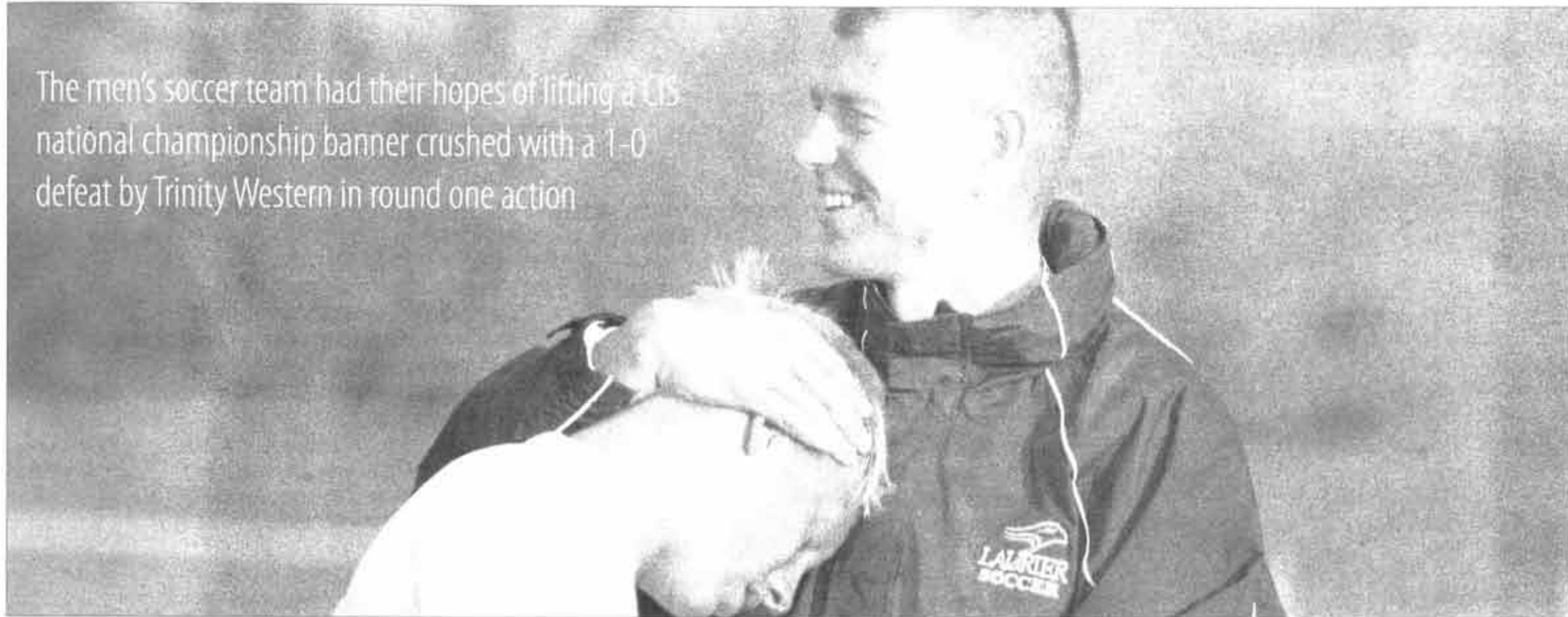
- 1 | Immediately move to the nearest room you feel is safe with as many people as possible
- 2 | Lock and barricade the door
- 3 | Turn off the lights or maintain minimal lighting
- 4 | Close all windows and blinds
- 5 | Lie flat on the floor or take adequate cover out of sight
- 6 | Turn off cell phones unless you need to report injured people
- 7 | Remain calm and quiet, and do not attempt to leave the room until police arrive

Laurier's Special Constable Service will be in the Concourse on the Waterloo campus over noon hour on November 19th and 24th, and in the lounge of the Odeon Building on the Brantford campus on November 20th, to provide information and answer questions about Laurier's lockdown procedures.

For more information about Laurier's lockdown procedures and emergency plan, visit the website at www.wlu.ca/emergency

Dream season halted at nationals

The men's soccer team had their hopes of lifting a CIS national championship banner crushed with a 1-0 defeat by Trinity Western in round one action



LAURA TOMKINS

MISERY AND DEFEAT - Coach Mario Halapir comforts James Glavac after the Hawks were eliminated from CIS competition. According to Halapir, they had nothing to cry about.

LUKE DOTTO
STAFF WRITER

The feeling was a mixed one: utter disappointment was shaded by redemptive hope, and the Wilfrid Laurier men's soccer team was able to walk off the field with their heads held high, knowing so few had never given so much.

Their magical season came to an end on Thursday, when a 1-0 defeat by a relatively unknown Trinity Western Spartans team snuffed out their dreams of hoisting the CIS Championship.

The Spartans would later go on to fall 1-0 to the York Lions in the gold-medal game.

An adventurous try from midfield was tipped up and over veteran goalkeeper Yousef El-Abbar for the game's only marker.

The team's 2008/09 season run was beyond compare for OUA Coach of the Year Mario Halapir.

"These guys have achieved the maximum level they could ... these guys overcame obstacle after obstacle," he said.

"I'm as happy as I've ever been," grinned Halapir.

The Hawks played what might have been their most inspired half of soccer all year in the opening 45 minutes.

A tiresome work ethic meant the Hawks were always on the attack, but few lanes opened up in the box for a prime scoring opportunity.

The second half saw the Hawks visibly worn down; the physical and mental toll became too much.

"Today it was just tough, it is really tough, with all those expectations on you, it weighed on a couple guys," said third-year forward Ben Clifford.

In the 75th minute a low, rolling shot was deflected up into the air by the foot of Spartan Adrian Kecec.

El-Abbar had come off his line to play the ball but was unable to get back into position and, after a lucky bounce for the Spartans, he just got his fingertips on the ball but it still fell into the back of the net.

The Hawks controlled the remainder of the game, but the Spartans dropped back and suffocated the Laurier attack, clogging the box and closing any shooting lanes.

The loss meant Laurier was relegated to play in the consolation round, for a fifth-place finish.

Playing for pride and playing on fumes, the Hawks dropped the contest 2-1 to hosts Carleton Ravens and their season was over.

The devastating blow of going out in the first game seemed to match the euphoric high of winning OUA gold last week. "It was an emotional battle ... that's the beauty ... and the downfall of soccer," said second-year striker Spencer Cawker.

Halapir knew that it would be a struggle to put last week behind them. "I do think they did not recover from it. Winning the OUA

gold was an achievement that I can't even describe, it was still in everybody's minds and dealing with that was a little tough for us."

The program will potentially graduate four players next year, including OUA and CIS Community Service award winner Imran Ahmed, defender Scott Carson and goalkeepers Yousef El-Abbar and Ben Goes.

Midfielder Ariaan Ruerink will also depart back to his native Netherlands.

However, some of the graduating players may still return for a fifth academic year, or a Master's program, which could lengthen their eligibility.

El-Abbar has no regrets after his three years of wearing the purple and gold. "Win or lose, I'm part of the team and I'm proud of playing for them."

Halapir is optimistic that this run can only benefit the program. "This gives us a very good experience, gives us a view," he said. "Here's the gauge, and here's the bar I have to measure by."

Having seen the top programs in the country, Halapir knows that for the Hawks program to remain among the best, the recruiting needs to improve, but he is hesitant at the same time.

"All these coaches want to do is bring [recruits] in and benefit the program. To me, if they're in university soccer, the value of educa-



LAURA TOMKINS

HIGH FLYER - Alex Doma leaps for the ball in their loss to Carleton.

tion still has to have something to do with it."

"I have a difficult time as a coach and a person to beg someone to come to school."

The phones and inboxes of the coaching staff have been overflowing with inquiries from potential

recruits who want to play for Laurier after witnessing what the team achieved this season.

But the staff will always hold this collection of young talent in special regard.

"These guys make me proud," concluded Halapir.

Hockey Hawks slide into first place

JAMIE NEUGEBAUER
STAFF WRITER

The Golden Hawks men's hockey team thoroughly demonstrated the divide in talent between the two divisions in the OUA's Western Conference as they tidily dispatched the top two teams in the mid-west by a combined score of 10-1 this weekend.

Last Thursday, a confident Laurier squad crushed the University of Guelph 5-0 while outshooting them 34-28.

Last year's top scorer and second-year forward Craig Voakes returned from injury in fine style to register three points on the night while 2006/07 CIS National Championship all-star goaltender Jeff MacDougald earned his first shutout of the season.

The purple and gold exhibited their depth and balance in overcoming the Gryphons as five different men found the twine behind two Guelph net-minders, and ten Hawks in total got at least a single point.

"I thought our offence was good in the first

period; we executed well on the power-play and penalty kill," commented Head Coach Kelly Nobes. "Jeff MacDougald made some key saves and got the shutout."

On Friday, the defending OUA Champions and tenth nationally ranked Brock Badgers were expected to provide a much stiffer test for the eighth-ranked Hawks.

In the end, however, Laurier's high speed and fast tempo fore-checking system pounded their St. Catharines-based visitors by a score of 5-1.

Hawks leading scorer and the third best sniper in the OUA, second-year Jean-Michel Rizk, returned from his one-game suspension and punished the Badgers with two goals and one assist.

It would have been a hat trick for the Quebec native, but the scoring of one of his goals was rightfully changed and veteran forward Luke Girard was given credit.

- SEE HOCKEY, PAGE 12

WLU remain undefeated

With dominating wins over UOIT and Queen's last weekend, the women's hockey team move to 10-0

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier women's hockey team is living up to their hype.

The Golden Hawks, who are ranked second in the nation, cemented their status as the dominant team in the OUA, with a 6-0 thrashing of the UOIT Ridgebacks on Saturday night and a 5-1 defeat of the Queen's Gaels on Sunday afternoon.

Continuing their undefeated season, they improved to 10-0 in OUA competition.

Coming into Saturday's game against the Ridgebacks, the Hawks were expected to completely dominate the game, as they had won the previous meeting in Oshawa 9-0.

Laurier came out and did just that, out-shooting UOIT 47-16. The Hawks cruised to a 6-0 victory with goals from Daniela Di Felice, Lauren Barch, Kate Psota and Vanessa Bennet to go along with a two-goal performance from second-year Kaley Powers.

Facing stiffer competition against the Gaels on Sunday, the Hawks once again answered the call with a very convincing 5-1 victory.

"Today's game was played on less than 24 hours' rest from the game last night, but that's something that's not really an issue for this team," said Head Coach Rick Osborne.

"We're extremely well-conditioned, [athletic therapist] Jamie Carlson does a great job with the physical preparation, so I wasn't

too concerned with that."

The Hawks never showed any signs of fatigue, controlling the play right from the opening face-off.

Fourth-year centre Barch opened the scoring early in the first period, following a scramble in front of the Queen's net, after a Laurier penalty kill.

The Hawks would continue to take the game to the Gaels, adding a goal from Barch's line-mate, first-year Vanessa Schabkar.

"I thought the Barch line, who has started slowly this year, in the past three or four games has been totally dominant and that all turned around when we put Vanessa on that line. She's a rookie who can just fly, that line's got good chemistry," commented Osborne.

The Hawks continued to dominate the game throughout, maintaining solid penalty-killing and finding their stride on the power play.

Barch added her second goal of the game and, after a Queen's goal, made it 3-1. Fifth-year captain Andrea Bevan then rifled in a power-play goal from the point.

Terrific puck movement and possession from the Hawks' power-play led to fourth-year forward Andrea Ironside rounding out the scoring near the end of the second period, giving Laurier a 5-1 lead they would not relinquish.

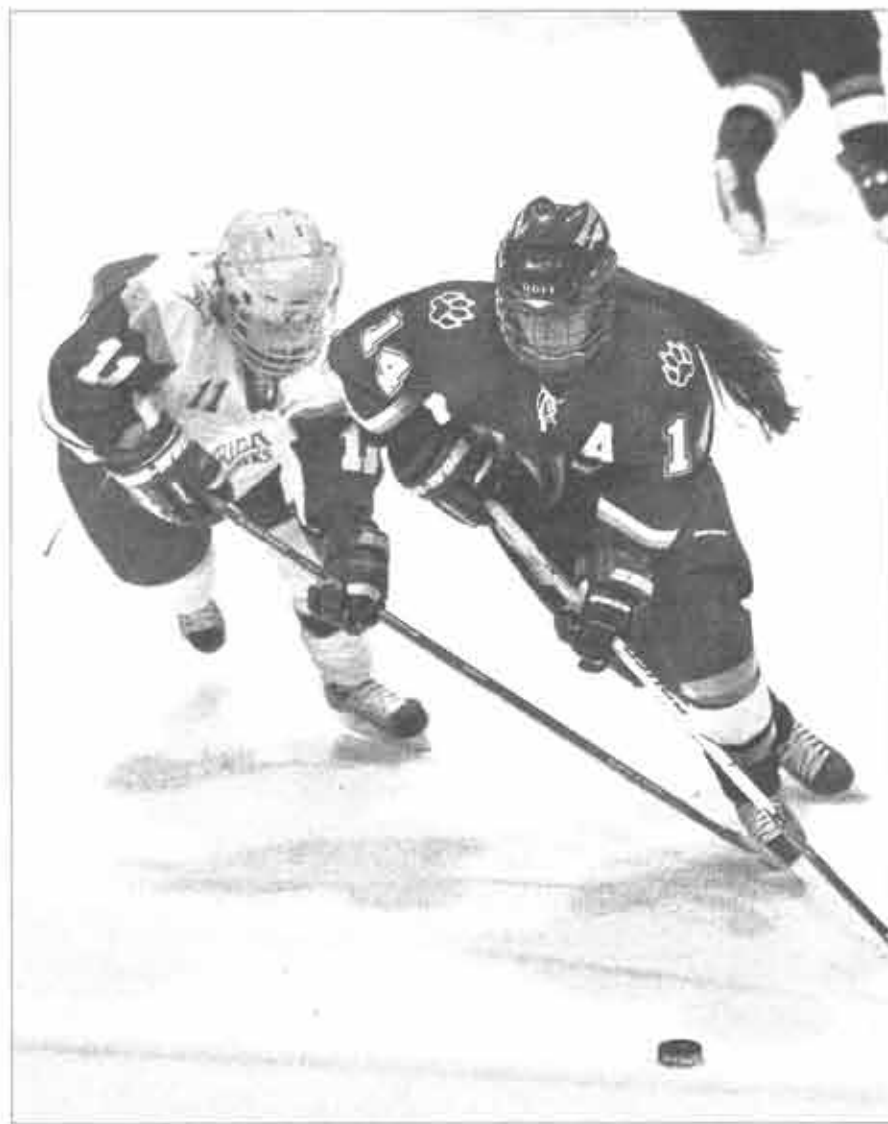
The refs were calling this game very tightly with nine calls going against the Hawks, including three in a row, leading to two separate five-on-threes early in the third. But

thanks to the tremendous play of the penalty-killing units, Osborne wasn't too concerned.

"We've been traditionally good on the penalty kill," he commented, "we tend to get creative at times, we have quick, speedy players and players that read and react very well. But I didn't like taking the penalties in the third period."

The Hawks have a long layoff before their next game Monday, November 17 at home against Guelph.

With the Gryphons sitting right behind Laurier, this will be a tough test for the undefeated Hawks and a good chance to further stamp their dominance in the OUA.



SMOOTH SKATING - Abby Rainsberry clears the puck from UOIT.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
November 11 - 17, 2008

RECENT SCORES

11.06.08
M Hockey 5 - Guelph 0
M Soccer 0 - Trinity Western 1
W Soccer 0 - Trinity Western 3

11.07.08
M Basketball 100 - RMC 35
W Basketball 72 - RMC 52
M Hockey 5 - Brock 1
M Soccer 1 - Carleton 2
W Soccer 2 - Dalhousie 1

11.08.08
M Basketball 97 - Queen's 84
W Basketball 69 - Queen's 89
W Volleyball 3 - Windsor 0
M Volleyball 3 - Windsor 0
W Hockey 6 - UOIT 0
W Soccer 1 - Ottawa 0

11.09.08
W Volleyball 1 - Western 3
M Volleyball 0 - Western 3
W Hockey 5 - Queen's 1

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

11.14.08
W Volleyball vs Toronto
Athletic Complex, 6:00 p.m.
M Volleyball vs Toronto
Athletic Complex, 8:00 p.m.

11.15.08
W Volleyball vs Ryerson
Athletic Complex, 6:00 p.m.
M Volleyball vs Ryerson
Athletic Complex, 8:00 p.m.

11.17.08
W Hockey vs Guelph
Sunlife Financial Centre, 7 p.m.

WE SUPPORT THE HAWKS!

LAURIER BOOKSTORE
ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Kate Harrison
Men's Basketball
Sadie Anderson
Women's Soccer

www.laurierathletics.com

Men down Guelph, Brock

- FROM HOCKEY, PAGE 11

"Not at all!" Rizk responded cheerfully upon being asked if he was upset about losing credit for his hat trick.

"Luke Girard tapped that in and I knew it from the start. He does feel bad though."

Voakes started off the scoring with 1:05 left in the first period on a Hawks power-play and they would never look back.

The second goal of the game came a minute into the second period after a great rush and slap-shot by Rizk rebounded off the post, off Badgers net-minder Kurt Jory's leg and was subsequently jammed home by Girard.

Former OHL forward Derek Brochu got the Badgers on the board with a tipped point shot on the power-play at the 7:30 mark in the second, but Rizk responded just over a minute later.

The sniper scored again at the

15:33 mark of the same period, picking up a perfect breakaway pass from veteran centre Mark Voakes and calmly slotting the puck home low glove-side.

Hawks rookie defenceman-turned-forward Jordan Bonneville tallied his first goal playing for the purple and gold in the final period to round out the scoring.

"I thought we had a real thorough game from our end all the way through to the offensive zone," said Nobes. "We're quite pleased with our defensive effort and scoring five goals - you should win those games."

At present the Hawks sit atop the OUA's Far-West division with a record of 8-1-1 in 10 games.

The Hawks are ranked sixth in the CIS national rankings and look to continue their current four-game winning streak when they travel to Guelph on Thursday.

DO YOU WANT TO BE IN THE YEARBOOK?

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Contact keystone@wlusp.com or Check out WLUSP.com or

Join the **Keystone: Lauriers Yearbook** Facebook Group to submit photos!



RYAN STEWART

WATERLOGGED - Jennifer Fewster-Yan battles a Spartan opponent.



RYAN STEWART

SLOPPY SAVES - Hawks Goalie Mal Woeller battles the mud and the Tigers while stretching for the ball.

Hawks claim fifth place at nationals

The women's soccer team went 2-1 throughout the tournament, finally defeating Ottawa in the consolation final for fifth place

ANDREA MILLET
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women's soccer team travelled to Langley, British Columbia this past weekend to take part in the CIS national championships.

They faced hosts the Trinity Western Spartans in their first match on Thursday and fell 3-0 before coming back to win their next two games against the Dalhousie Tigers and the Ottawa Gee Gees 2-1 and 1-0, respectively. The Hawks ended their run at nationals with a fifth-place finish overall.

Walking out onto the field hand-in-hand for each match, the Hawks displayed the

strength of their team unity, which they demonstrated both on and off the field.

"That's who we are. This is the closest knit group of players that I've ever dealt with and from number one to twenty-six on the roster they're great," commented Head Coach Barry MacLean.

The Hawks stepped onto the field during a torrential downpour for their first game of national competition on Thursday, facing an intimidating challenge.

The host Spartans, who later beat out Brock University for the gold medal and national title, had an army of fans on the sidelines and within twenty minutes of play they had scored two goals and went into the second

half with a 2-0 lead.

Returning for the second half, the rain had let up, but the Spartans did not. While the Hawks battled back and kept their defence tight, their opponents managed to net one last ball in the 62nd minute. The Hawks were down 3-0 when the final whistle blew.

"We got ourselves a little bit better organized, but realistically [Trinity Western] has a lot of very good players and two or three that are exceptional," said MacLean. "It shows us that we have a little bit more work to do."

Friday brought more rain and a consolation semi-final against Dalhousie. The Hawks struggled in the first half, battling with the Tigers but failing to create any dangerous chances on net. Near the 40th minute the Tigers capitalized off a corner and went into the half-time break with the lead.

"THIS IS OUR FIRST TIME HERE, SO FROM MY PERSPECTIVE IT GIVES THEM A GOOD BAROMETER OF WHAT THEY NEED TO DO. I THINK NEXT TIME THEY COME IN THEY'LL HAVE A BETTER IDEA BEFORE THEY START. I'M VERY PROUD OF THEM."

- Barry MacLean, head coach

"Nothing tactical," explained MacLean about how the Hawks used the half-time to change their game. "Just questioning their character. They came out and proved that I was wrong."

The Hawks returned to the pitch with new determination, immediately taking control of the play. In the 49th minute, striker Ali McKee passed the ball to fellow striker Jennifer Fewster-Yan who fired it past the Tigers keeper, tying the game 1-1.

Again in the 79th minute McKee turned the ball over to Fewster-Yan who beat both the Tigers keeper and a defender before guiding the ball into the back of the net, giving the Hawks a 2-1 lead which held until the final

"Thanks to Ali, she set me up for both of them," commented Fewster-Yan. "She worked hard all game and I just happened to get the glory."

The Hawks advanced to the consolation final match where they faced the Ottawa Gee Gees in a rematch of the previous week's OUA final from which the Hawks emerged victorious.

"I think that there's some motivation to play Ottawa again, and there's going to be on their side as well," said MacLean.

The Hawks had learned from the last time they faced the Gee Gees, and adjusted their formation to better match their opponents, pushing defender Tania Pedron up to play centre midfield, and moving Sadie Anderson into sweeper position.

Both teams duelled evenly throughout the first half, unable to break through the other's defensive lines. The second half proved in favour of the Hawks, who controlled the ball and put pressure on the Gee Gees net.

In the 56th minute, defensive player Erica Horner saw an opening on a corner kick, running in to drill a header past the Gee Gees keeper, which would win them the game 1-0.

"The first half was a bit of a war for both teams and I think it kind of went back and forth, but the second half I think we clearly took the game to them," stated MacLean.

"[We played] much better than we've been the past couple of days, it's a good way to end the season," said Captain Sara Hopper. "We only wish to build up from here. This is definitely a stepping stone."

This experience in national competition will no doubt serve as a valuable learning experience for the Hawks, bringing them closer as a team and building them stronger for next season.

"This is our first time here, so from my perspective it gives them a good barometer of what they need to do," said MacLean. "I think the next time they come in they'll have a better idea before they start. I'm very proud of them."



RYAN STEWART

BREAKTHROUGH - Striker Ali McKee dribbles past two Ottawa Gee Gees opponents.

Techno-teaching: The future of the classroom

As the use of technology becomes more prominent at Laurier, *The Cord* looks at whether it is an asset or a problem for learning in a university environment

KARI PRITCHARD
FEATURES EDITOR

The changing classroom

In a world of ever-increasing scientific advancements, it can no longer be denied that we are a generation embracing technology. As students, we often observe uses of technology in class that our professors don't see: creeping on Facebook, playing Sudoku and taking notes on your laptop all at the same time; texting our friends about what is going on over the weekend; listening to an iPod instead of the lecture. As much as students might love hi-tech gizmos, how much are these technological gadgets helping or hindering our learning and what role will they play in our future at Laurier?

Communications Studies Professor Darren Wershler reminisces about his experience in university when he "was still lugging around a portable typewriter."

"I didn't get my first computer until I started my Master's degree in 1988," said Wershler, highlighting the fact that we as students may take our technological advancements for granted.

Professor of Communication Studies Matthew Tiessen emphasized this point by drawing on his experiences in '94 with the ever-popular laptop at the University of Waterloo: "the odd time you'd see a really dorky guy with a laptop at the front of the class or something, like a big clunky laptop, but not often. And people sort of shunned them like a weirdo."

Compared to the past five years, technology has never been as prominent at Laurier as it is today. Andrew Harris of Information Technology Services (ITS) remembers that when he attended Laurier



five years ago, if you were into technology you were the go-to person to hook up routers and other gadgets. "Five years ago we wouldn't have thought everyone was going to have iPod Touches connecting to our wireless network," added Harris. Co-worker Melanie More-Duckworth agreed with Harris' point: "It's amazing, the increase [of technology on campus] is tremendous and the students seem to be more technologically savvy." More-Duckworth is also the training and

education coordinator for ITS and thus notices that it's not just students increasing their use of technology as features like Power Point and video capture are used more frequently by faculty.

And of course there are learning tools such as distance education. Sandy Hughes, director of teaching support services, notes that online learning is constantly growing, on average about twelve or fifteen percent a year in enrolment.

"Twenty years ago when I started here, about ninety percent of part-time students took distance ed. courses and about ten percent of them were full-time students, and now we're almost eighty percent full-time students and the rest of the students would be part-time," added Hughes.

Disadvantages of advanced technology

Technology is here and there is no denying the use of it. But what are some of the disadvantages for students and teachers alike when faced by the ever-increasing popularization of technology?

In regards to online learning, Lisa Fanjoy, the manager of online learning and continuing education, thinks that when it comes to technologically focused institutions like distance education "you have to be a motivated learner."

"You don't want to be too inclined to procrastinate," added Fanjoy, "If you can't motivate yourself without that structured classroom setting, you might struggle a little bit."

Harris pointed out that in terms of technology, "people rely on it a bit too much sometimes. People might get a bit lazy download their lectures online, don't go to class ... you lose this sense of community when a lot of the stuff is online."

Similarly, English and Film Studies Professor Andrea Aust brings up the downside of using visual materials like Powerpoint in class settings, saying that it encourages "lazy note taking." "[It] is degrading students' aural skills, and they're not learning how to listen and process data aurally."

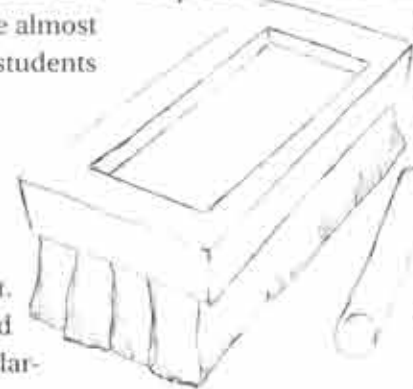
From a different angle, More-Duckworth said that "because [technology] is so accessible, you sometimes lose the challenge of getting into the library and finding the book that you need it's all online."

"One of the problems is the effect that technology has on research culture because it's very easy to sit down and open Google and whack your essay topic into it and expect that to provide you definitively with all the answers," said Wershler, adding to the concerns highlighted by More-Duckworth.

Something that professors do notice is the level of student awareness in class. "I made the joke when I started the term if really I should be teaching from the back of the room in order to keep tabs on all the screens and stuff that the students are using," said Tiessen.

"Just since wireless came into the classroom, I've seen a big difference in quantity of the work I get and I think that it's not everybody, but there's a proportion of students who are not really taking notes," said Austin, adding that she has had students admit to playing *World of Warcraft* during class before.

In a more comical light, Tiessen suggested that, "The laptops strike me as this new version of hiding your dirty magazine behind your textbook ... as a teacher at the front, the kids are typing like crazy and you know you're not as interesting as how much they're typing; it's obvious they're on Facebook." As Tiessen is also a tutorial lead sitting in the audience for some classes, he has been witness these "dirty acts" firsthand.



Helpful hi-tech

Although technology can sometimes be a distraction from learning or proper researching, it also can be helpful for students and professors who use it in the right ways.

Distance education is able to expand learning off-campus. "A lot of the courses that we develop are courses where they fill up in classrooms and students can't get the courses," said Hughes of online learning.

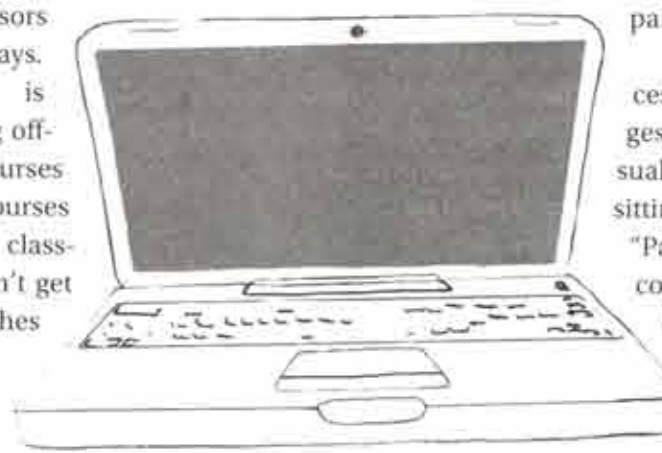
"Students on co-op term over in Europe or wherever can pick up an elective or two over the summer or any student can pick up an elective or two that they need over the summer, so it just frees up their schedule a bit for the fall and winter," said Fanjoy of summer courses, when fifty percent of registration for online learning takes place.

On campus, Austin pointed out that "I think because we can teach large courses with technology, we now have them. Whereas a course of four hundred students in first year at a university the size of Laurier wouldn't have been doable twenty years ago."

"I think that that does change the first-year experience for students quite a bit when they're in these huge classes instead of smaller classes and it's because the technology has made those classes possible."

Technology in the classroom has given Wershler higher expectations for his students. "If I have a room full of students with live Internet connections on their iPhones and their Blackberries and their laptops, nobody gets to say 'I don't know.' Go and look it up, you have an entire world of information at your disposal, get off your ass and do some research."

Tiessen takes advantage of new technological possibilities when teaching: his entire course is online. Students download



all of their readings - there is no textbook.

Expanding on Tiessen's notion that technology helps create accessibility, Harris expressed that technology helps people at Laurier with disabilities. "We have the accessible learning lab where people with hearing impairments or visual impairments [use] technology [to] help that."

Technology also creates the possibility of accessibility to different learning styles, as Fanjoy suggests, "some students who like to learn by reading visually, they find [online courses] better suit them than sitting in a classroom and listening."

"Part of its great appeal, of course, is you can sit at your computer at two o'clock in the morning and get caught up on your course notes and maybe post some chat topics, work on your paper," said Fanjoy of another benefit of online learning for those with different working schedules.

The way ahead

It has been demonstrated that technological advancements have their fair share of ups and downs, but technology is not going to fade away now and it is time to consider its use in the future of schooling.

"In the next five, ten years it will be a balance between technology in the classroom and whether or not the learning is going to go from traditional-style learning to podcasts," says Harris, "trying to either keep people in classes or move towards more of a virtual classroom."

Through the introduction of new technologies like Wimba, virtual web-cam-like applications being used in distance education courses already, Harris may not be too far off with his predictions.

"We're trying to encourage the developers to use more

synchronized technologies, so we've got a web casting option that's available to them now," said Hughes.

"[Technology] has proven to be very beneficial in language courses. German uses the Wimba sessions so the instructors can hear the students' pronunciation," added Fanjoy.

Wershler is also looking to get a media lab built at Laurier. "The idea would be to create a room where everyone has a constant, instantaneous, high-speed network access ... what I want is a space that allows for the best kinds of things that can come out of collaborative uses of computing."

What is also evident is that in our use of technology, as Austin suggested, "we just have to approach it with a critical lens."

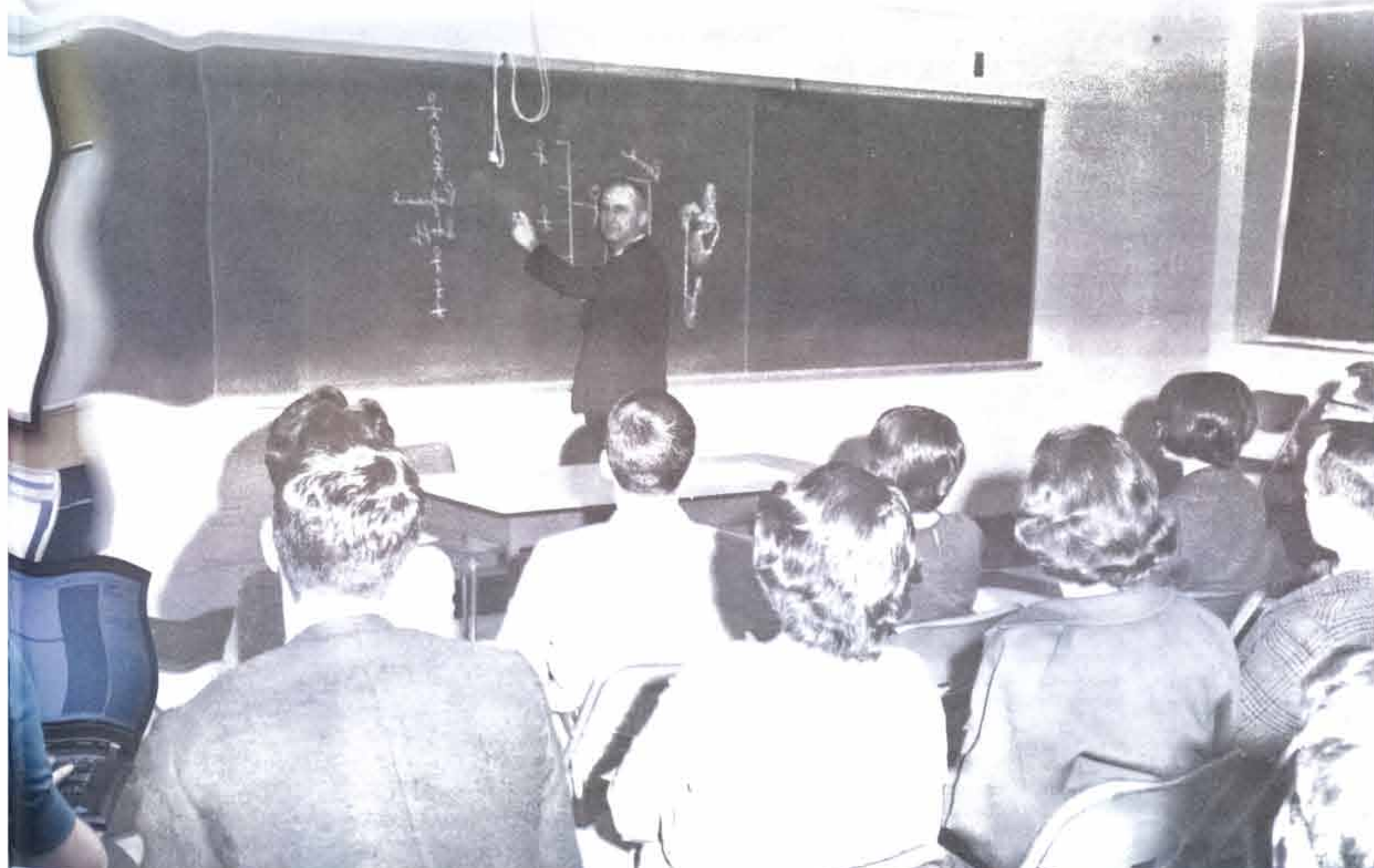
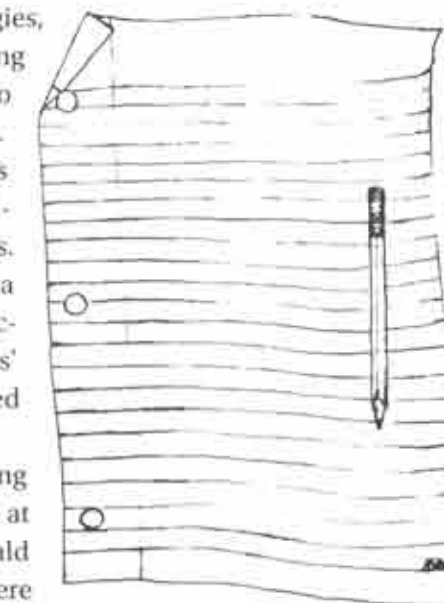
"I think it needs to be used judiciously, carefully. Is it really advancing things?" asked Tiessen.

"Technology has no 'off switch,' once it's there you can't get rid of it and pretending to do so would be a waste of everybody's time," added Wershler.

"What the university has to figure out is what it wants those practices to be and how it's going to make the best use of the technology that's available because the technology itself is not going to go away."

If we as students embrace and support the use of technology as a teaching aid, rather than as a teaching hindrance, we need to be aware that we are the people who potentially control its future use at Laurier.

"If [students] want cutting-edge technology in the classrooms," said Wershler, "they have to make it clear that that's their priority."



PHOTOS BY/FROM LAURA TOMKINS AND WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS. GRAPHICS BY ALEX FULICE. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SYDNEY HELLAND

Indian-style desserts delectable

Koh-i-Noor restaurant offers a different flavour from the typical, and adds a delicious ending

FOODREVIEW

Koh-i-Noor: B-

MICHELLE CALDARONI
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

Venturing out from the few blocks of fast-food mediocrity that surround the WLU campus, *The Cord* took a chance on a restaurant virtually unheard of by anyone in our circles, Koh-i-Noor. The Indian restaurant is tucked away at 465 Philip St., just off of Albert St. North (across from the Beer Store plaza), and offers take-out at a 10 percent discount.

Due to the appearance of the restaurant from the outside, we were not expecting a sit-down venue. However, we were immediately seated by an older gentleman who was quick to bring out a cracker-like flatbread to our table for us to nibble at while we read over the detailed menu. Lists of curry, tandoori and rice dishes made up the majority of the menu, while a section for suggested combinations and a lunch menu were also present.

Koh-i-Noor proved the ideal place for an Indian food virgin to start, as suggested menu combinations help one to choose the ideal meal.

We started with a vegetable pakora, an appetizer that combines sliced vegetables and batter. They are rolled into balls, deep-fried and then served with a dipping sauce. The pakora themselves were tasty and moist, although somewhat bland. Far from appetizing was the accompanying dipping sauce, which tasted like a mix between mint, cucumber, and the smell of a dentist's office. But for \$2.75, the appetizer is a good bargain as long as the dipping sauce is thoroughly avoided.

As we waited anxiously for the entrées to be brought to the table, the sound of a doorbell could be heard every few minutes. This noise – which alerted the wait staff when a meal was ready – would prove to be very distracting and interruptive to the meal. And, of course, the waiter ranting to a take-out customer about a bad experience with another customer did not help. But at least that occurred only once,

much unlike the doorbell.

Our meals were promptly brought on a cart by the waiter, and were placed in their shallow dishes on our table. The meals come in a few different dishes – not on a plate – which makes it easy to share dinner with your guest. This way, everyone at the table can have a taste of each dish. The lamb pasanda (\$12.95) was served in a red tandoori sauce, with coconut and almond garnishes. Plain white basmati rice was featured as a side dish for mixing in with the lamb and sauce on your plate. The lamb was tender and the sauce only mildly spicy; overall, the lamb pasanda was quite delicious.

For those who don't like spicy foods, the menu was great due to the fact that each meal is rated for how spicy it is, and that rating is placed beside the name of the dish. Also, you can request a mild or hot dish when ordering. In addition, make sure you have a full glass of water at the table before you dig in! If your meal is too hot and there's no water in sight, you'll be sorry. At Koh-i-Noor, you'll have to get the waiter's attention for a glass of water, as they weren't very apt to do so without prompting.

The second meal was a very typical Indian dish – butter chicken. Served with naan, this bright orange food had a creamy, mild flavour. Although I'm not a fan of spice, this meal could have used a pinch of it. The chicken in the sauce was of high quality, and there was lots of it. Priced at \$12.95, the meal tasted good but should have had more kick to it.

The best part of the meal was the dessert. The two desserts we ordered were kulfi (\$3.50), and borfi (\$2.25). Kulfi is essentially ice-cream made with milk, almonds, pistachio and mango flavours. It was delicious! Cut into a flower-like shape, the dessert was mouth-watering and so unlike any other ice-cream flavour. Borfi is a small cake made with coconut and cheese, although it was impossible to detect any cheese taste. This dessert was like a white macaroon, shaped into two small rectangular bars. The desserts – in size and taste – were a perfect complement to the Indian cuisine.

Next time you feel like escaping the shackles of submarine sandwiches and pizza, venture up Albert Street to Koh-i-Noor, even if it's just for dessert.



PHOTOS BY RYAN STEWART

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Campus Club Profile #2:

Laurier Ski and Snowboard Club



SHANE PORTER - FILE PHOTO

SNOW MUCH FUN - In 2006, some members of the Laurier Ski and Snowboard Club participated in Snow Jam, a winter event held at the Laurier athletic stadium on Seagram Drive.

The Laurier Ski and Snowboard Club's main concerns are going on week-long trips, carving through powdered snow and looking totally rad... sweet

NICOLE WRAY
STAFF WRITER

Laurier's Ski and Snowboard Club (LSSC) offers students an opportunity to meet fellow students who love to ride and ski. "Most importantly, we try to offer students an opportunity to get to know other students that ski and snowboard," said Richard Hillier, passionate snowboarder and president of Laurier's Ski and Snowboard Club.

members, but the club also aims to offer opportunities to ski and snowboard locally.

"The best part [of the club] are the trips we offer. This year we are definitely trying to offer transportation to places like Chicopee (in Kitchener) and other resorts in Ontario like Mount St. Louis Moonstone and Blue Mountain, so if you can't afford to go on the bigger trips you can still ride in closer areas," explained Hillier.

MOST CLUB MEMBERS ARE EXPERIENCED SKIERS AND SNOWBOARDERS, BUT IF YOU WANT TO LEARN ... THIS CLUB COULD BE AN EXCELLENT PLACE FOR YOU TO START.

Most club members are experienced skiers and snowboarders, but if you want to learn how to ski or snowboard, this club could be an excellent place for you to start.

"Since we are offering trips to

The club hosts events during the fall and winter that are aimed towards providing an outlet for snow sport-minded students to get to know each other.

"We try to provide a social community for people to get to know each other, to find people to ski and ride with and to have some friends that snowboard and ski," said Hillier.

An exciting element of the Ski and Snowboard Club are the trips offered. The club plans to go to Le Massif in Quebec, Jay Peak in Vermont and to Banff, Alberta over Reading Week. Long-distance trips offer discounted rates and generate a lot of excitement among club

Chicopee and smaller places, there are lots of members that are instructors as well, so we are going to team up with them and offer some days where if you haven't skied or snowboarded you can come out and learn," said Hillier.

During the non-winter season, Laurier's Ski and Snowboard Club remains active with social events like movie and industry nights at Wilf's.

The Ski and Snowboard Club is a WLUSU Campus club that has over 100 official members. For information about how you can hit the slopes with fellow Laurier students, e-mail laurierskiboard@gmail.com.

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LAURA TOMKINS
LOONIES FOR LAURIER - Alumni donate millions to WLU each year.

Wilfrid Laurier University is endowed with millions of dollars annually, donated by the alumni that used to call this Waterloo campus their own

LINDA GIVETASH
 STAFF WRITER

Every year, hundreds of individuals and organizations donate to WLU for the betterment of the school and community. Last year, WLU received over \$35 million, which funded scholarships, special initiatives and facilities on campus. This Saturday, November 15, these contributors and many others who give back to their communities will be acknowledged on National Philanthropy Day.

The most prominent and enthusiastic individuals who give back to WLU are alumni. Director of University Development Wendy Zufelt-Baxter says, "You have no idea how many alum want to help you guys." A prime example of this is the reunion fund "25 for 25" held by the class of '82, raising \$25,000 for their 25th anniversary, which was presented to the university in October 2007.

Robert and Myrna Schlegel, class of '72 and '98, also wanted to contribute to the place they once called home by donating the astounding \$2 million that made the Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurship possible. After leading successful pro-

fessional lives, alumni often want to come back and thank the school that meant so much to them.

Fred Nichols, dean of students emeritus, personally contacts many alumni, including the Schlegels, whose contribution he helped organize. Having been dean of students from 1962 to 1997, Nichols frequently plays a role in contacting older alumni. "It's so fun to remember people you haven't seen for forty years," said Nichols.

The university, through the student-staffed call centre, also contacts new alumni during their first, second and third years after graduating. "We're a community and it doesn't stop when you leave," explained Zufelt-Baxter.

These philanthropists have all made it their cause to ensure WLU is meeting its full potential. Donors have the option of choosing specifically what their contribution funds, whether it is a faculty, a program or the school's Highest Priority Need.

The Highest Priority Need is determined by the university president and is often divided between scholarships, special initiative funding and special projects. Currently, this includes the new Career and Co-op Centre.

The Parents' Fund made a great contribution to the new building. "We always use parent funds to support the here and now," said Zufelt-Baxter. This fund focuses on current students across the university, funding facilities - such as the Career and Co-op Centre and library - that the majority of students access.

Raising funds and contacting donors is not the only priority of the University Development Office. "We're not about fundraising, we're about philanthropy," said Zufelt-Baxter. This includes developing a philanthropic community among WLU students.

"You're already a very philanthropic group of citizens," Zufelt-Baxter continued. Students all over campus volunteer their time and talents to support the school and local community. It is this devotion to helping one another that National Philanthropy Day supports.

For the future of WLU's development, Nichols believes "the sky's the limit." This is true for the past, current and future students as well. "You're the ones we raise money for," said Zufelt-Baxter. "You're the reason donors give. They don't give to buildings; [they] give to people."

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Gold Medal
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Sudoku

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

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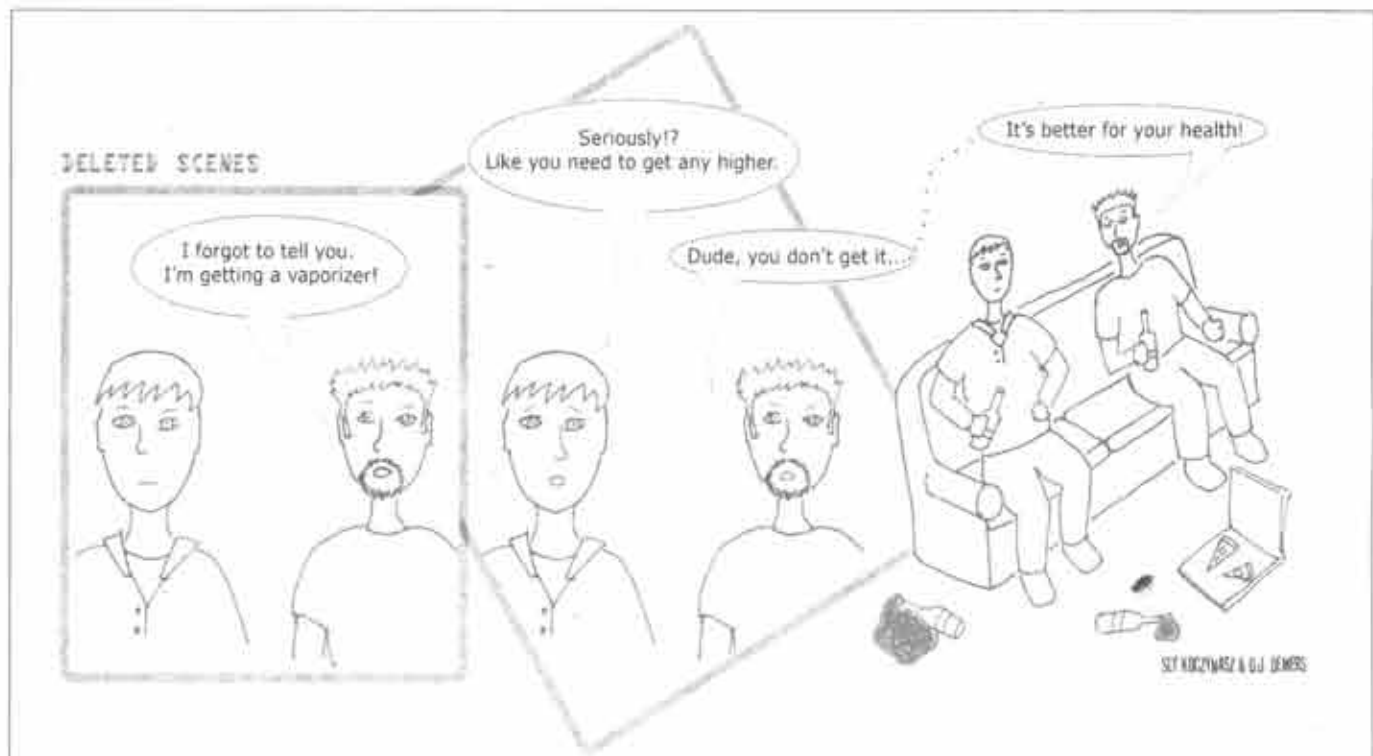
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Last December, 10 members of the *Cord* Editorial Board participated in the Master Cleanse Diet challenge.

What will they do this year?

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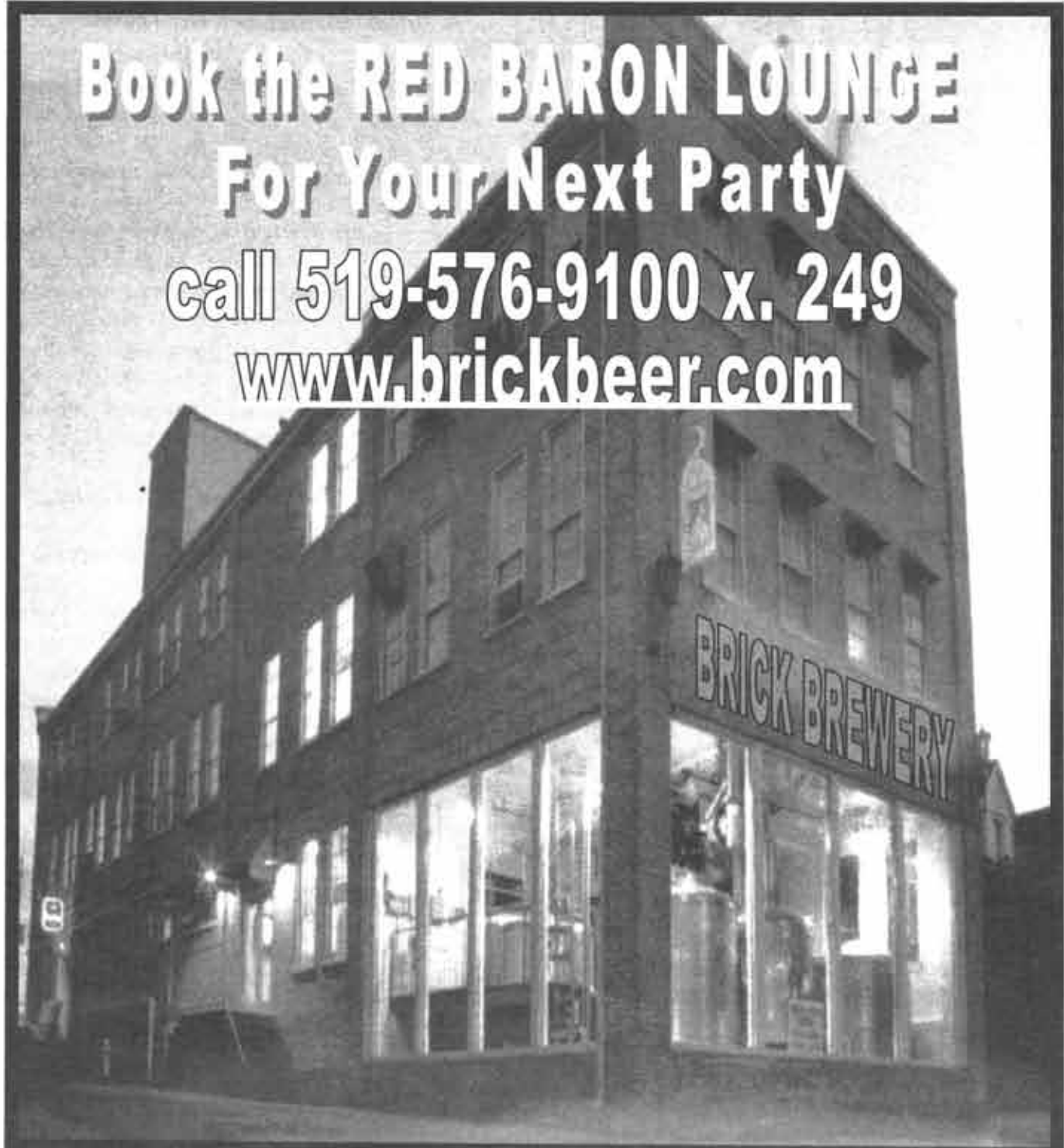
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WebCT failure lessons

The recent WebCT crash shows us just how technologically dependent WLU is. The 10 days that WebCT wasn't working caused significant problems for a number of classes and created confusion for many students and instructors.

As always, this sort of situation should teach us a number of lessons. First of all, it shows us that if we are so dependent on technology, we need to have the proper back-ups in place for when it fails.

While Information Technology Services (ITS) is already exploring ways to back up WebCT for the future, such options should have been explored long before the problem occurred.

It has also become apparent that dependence on technologies like WebCT – an inevitable trend in the future of education – is a dangerous thing. When students can't write papers or study for midterms without WebCT as a source, it shows WebCT's potential to be used as a teaching and learning crutch.

WLU as a whole needs to learn to adapt better when there is a lack of electronic resources.

Perhaps most importantly though, this WebCT failure shows us that WLU administration should be far more prepared to deal with

circumstances such as this.

Students and teachers alike were barely kept informed during the entire ordeal. Should something like this occur again, greater communication from ITS and from administration is necessary.

This can take place in the form of posts on Laurier's website and frequent e-mails to students and faculty.

Administration should have policies in place for technological failures. Things like midterms and papers were all dealt with on a case-by-case basis during the WebCT failure, mostly because administration failed to make all-encompassing policies on the issue.

The idea of making policies on this issue was brought up in Monday's Senate meeting, but President Blouw deemed it too specific an issue to worry about.

With all the confusion this tech failure caused, it is clear that the Senate should take these policy ideas more seriously.

Dealing with technological failure should be something that Laurier talks about. These issues need to be addressed so that our dependency on technology does not become a detriment to our education.



GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION

Self-harm is not a joke

Even though it may be awkward, self-injury needs to be discussed openly



SYDNEY HELLAND
PRINT PRODUCTION
MANAGER

I was very inspired a couple months back while listening to one of my favourite radio shows: Q on CBC Radio 1.

Q Host Jian Ghomeshi was interviewing Sabrina Chapadjev, the editor of the book *Live Through This: On Creativity and Self-Destruction*, which explores, through various written submissions, the connection between artistic women and physical and psychological self-harm.

What was so motivating about the interview with Chapadjev was that she has finally shed light on a topic that I feel is too often dismissed for fear of awkward discussion.

Self-injury is still intensely associated with conversational discomfort and no, it is definitely not talked about solemnly enough.

In fact, the few times I've ever overheard self-harm mentioned, it was actually in a joking manner. I'll hear smart-ass remarks about "emo" kids who spend their evenings dyeing their hair black, blogging about how sad they are while listening to My Chemical Romance and topping it off with a lovely little session of slashing their forearms open.

The mere suggestion that self-mutilation or attempted suicide is some kind of joke, or that only disturbed individuals (emo or not) cut themselves is not only horribly inaccurate, it's offensive to anyone who has struggled with or been affected by such behaviour.

Self-inflicted injuries are not always evident, and the self-injurers themselves are not always noticeably despondent or unhinged. They are normal people. In fact, you probably know one. You probably won't realize it though, because only people who have encountered self-harm understand or care to look for the symptoms, even if they are in plain sight.

The uniform or mysteriously situated scars, facial picking, vigorous scratching and drug abuse are often noticeable, but are either not acknowledged as symptoms because of ignorance or, worse, are ignored for fear that mentioning their presence may cause discomfort.

And herein lies the problem. Because there is little public knowledge about self-injury, it is seldom recognized as the behavioural affliction it is. But, like any other illness, it needs treatment. Desperately.

With every eluded conversation, someone suffering from self-mutilation will likely never become aware of the resources and support systems available to them, or even know that their friends care about them.

Few people can appreciate what it feels like to have to go see a doctor for stitches before work or class and then have to put on a happy face for the rest of the day as if everything is fine, smiling through the indefinable pain, confusion and guilt.

What's worse is when trying to hide bandages fails, and someone asks what happened. Fabricating an elaborate story that justifies the injury is almost more painful than the wound itself, because not only is the cutter lying to their friends,

they are also lying to themselves. Lying to rationalize self-destructive behaviour feels like the wound has reopened, despite the surrounding skin being sutured together.

It is important to understand that many self-mutilating individuals concoct these lies because of the stigmatic emotion associated with cutting. They are often embarrassed, anxious or downright terrified to tell anyone about it, even the people they love and trust the most.

Thankfully, there is now a glimmer of hope for increasing the support and optimistic awareness of self-mutilation. Movements such as To Write Love On Her Arms (TWLOHA) are faintly but steadily gleaming through the veil of ignorance that shrouds the need for cognizance.

Coincidentally, TWLOHA is celebrating tomorrow, November 13, as the second annual "To Write Love On Her Arms Day" through a Facebook event founded in Ottawa. This event encourages participants to write the word "love" on their arms to show their support for friends and the greater self-injuring community.

With this in mind, I passionately encourage members of the Laurier community to grab a Sharpie and write "love" on their arms. By visibly indicating support, I only hope that self-injurers will feel less ashamed of their self-destruction, feel less inclined to lie about it and to potentially seek help, whether it is professional, or simply confiding in a friend.

So please, write "love" on your arms tomorrow. I know I will be.

letters@cordweekly.com

Debate over HSA t-shirts is best dealt with by open forum

T-shirts depicting Joseph Stalin alongside the phrase "Got Purge?" sold by the History Students' Association (HSA) in order to raise funds, have been the topic of complaints that ultimately involved the Office for Student Diversity.

The HSA insists that their t-shirts were not meant to insult anyone; they were meant to be satirical.

While some have taken offence to the shirts, the HSA makes a valid point. There should be a place for satire on campus. The HSA, more so than any other group on campus, understands the gravity and severity of events such as Stalin's purges. Satire is an effective way to bring about discussion.

Luckily, the Office for Student Diversity understands this as well. Rather than censoring the t-shirts, everyone has agreed to meet in an open forum discussion to resolve the issues.

This is a remarkably reasonable way to deal with the issue. For one thing, it will indicate to what extent people find these shirts offensive.

A discussion of this nature is the best way this issue could have been dealt with. So far, all sides have remained calm and collected. Let's hope that the issue surrounding these shirts can be resolved with the same degree of rationality and maturity.

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

THE CORD WEEKLY

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Why I don't like to wear the poppy

It is important to mourn our soldiers, but Remembrance Day should be pro-peace



JOSH SMYTH
THE EXAMINED LIFE

Today is November 12, the first day of the month when we can walk down the street without seeing the ubiquitous Remembrance Day poppies pinned to the chests of passers-by.

The visual and aural symbols of Remembrance Day – blood-red flowers, bagpipes, and all – are deeply familiar to all of us. That doesn't make what they represent any less offensive.

On Remembrance Day, what exactly are we remembering? The answer that rises out of the popular consciousness is simple enough: that we remember the sacrifices our troops have made, that we thank them for their service and that we mourn our fallen.

There is also a specific moral climate that gains strength around this time of year.

It's a climate in which dissent about war somehow becomes an insult to the memories of our soldiers.

It is one where World War II is continually invoked as a just and

justifiable conflict, one that somehow provided a moral grounding for every future one. It is one where the memories of tragedy are used to justify its continuation.

We should certainly remember our soldiers on Remembrance Day, but we should mourn them, not thank them.

We mourn those who had to die because their country told them to, and we mourn those who survived having given up the right to choose who to kill, and who to protect, to the authority of the state.

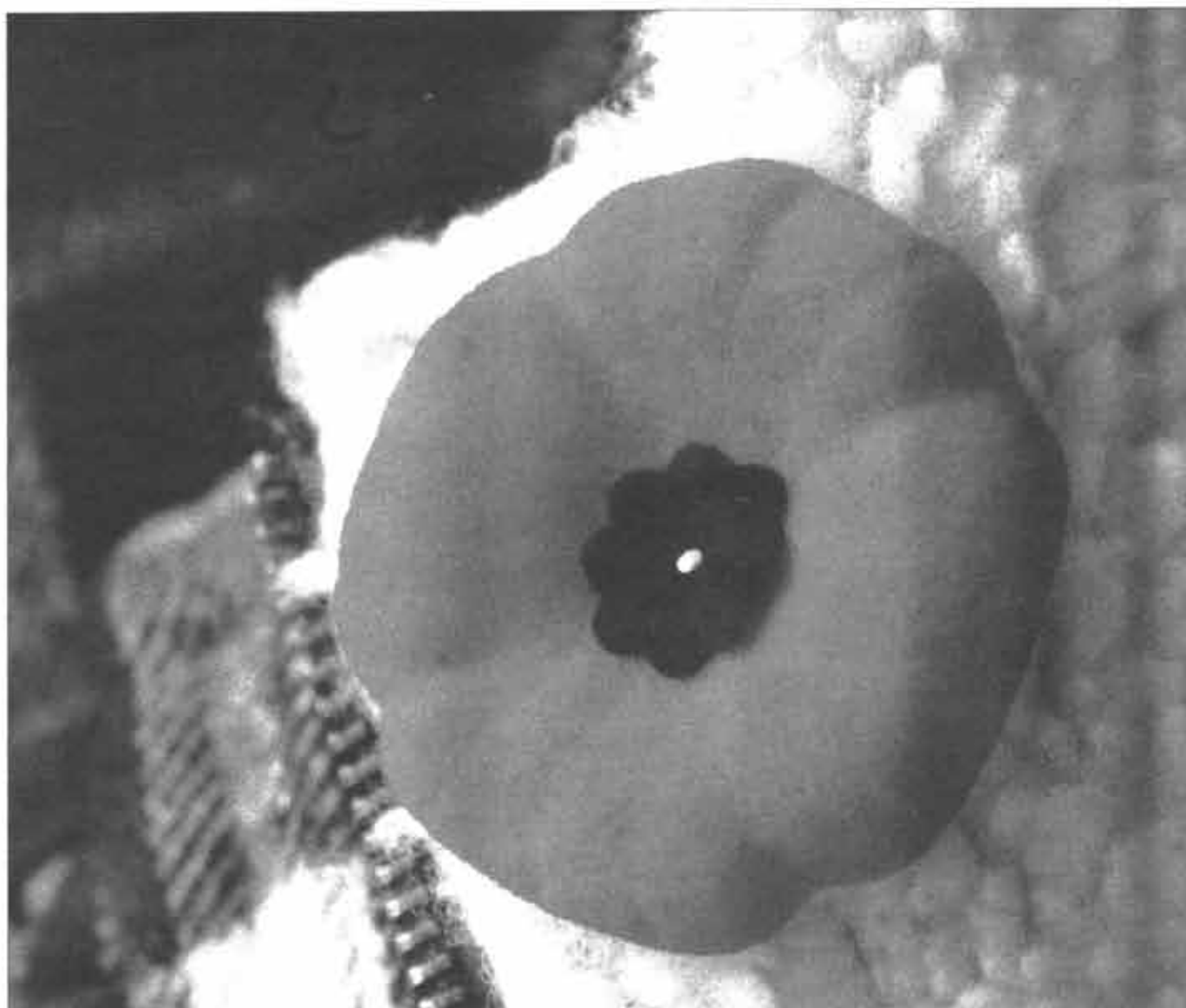
Most importantly, we should mourn those innocent people caught in the middle of it all.

It's altogether too easy on Remembrance Day to forget the one simple truth about war: that it is evil.

That those who fight it, regardless of whether the cause is just, are doing evil things.

That's the real tragedy of war: that all those involved in conflict, whether they live or die, are sacrificing themselves. If believing that insults our troops, then insult them I will.

I cannot get around my feeling that putting a bullet into someone's brain is just as wrong in the Afghan desert (or in Northern France) as it is in my own backyard.



LAURA TOMKINS

FLANDERS FLOWER - Wearing poppies like this one shows respect for our veterans for Remembrance Day.

I cannot in good conscience thank someone for doing that, even if it was somehow necessary.

I cannot believe that the acceptance of killing to achieve a political goal is anything but corrosive to the people who condone it.

The obvious counter-argument to this moral absolutism, of course, is that we fight wars because we must, because to not fight would lead to even greater suffering. Bullshit.

If we are to use this sort of utilitarian calculus, it tells us something very simple: that if we spent even half the money we use to kill people on other ways of improving human welfare, we could save many more lives, help many more people live in freedom. War isn't just evil – it's also inefficient.

In the end, war is the ultimate act of moral cowardice. We pass over

chance after chance to change the world for the better until finally we decide to change it violently. Every war is a failure the moment it starts, and a tragedy by the time it ends.

I can't see anything to memorialize in that.

Let's not paint with too broad a brush, though. I don't mean to say that all our Remembrance Day rituals are jingoistic or violent.

I've had a hand in organizing enough of them to have seen the hatred for war that is quite often expressed, especially by veterans. I think we have moved beyond the days when it was acceptable to portray war as simply glorious.

The more modern remembrance of war as something nasty but necessary, though, is also deeply problematic.

As long as we continue to sup-

port it in private understanding and public ritual, we perpetuate the idea that there is no better alternative. I have seen too many Remembrance Days that are anti-war, but have yet to see one that is pro-peace.

Perhaps the most grating aspect of the Remembrance ritual, though, is that it is still largely taboo to talk about the victims.

In the story of war, which one is more tragic: a young Canadian who volunteers to fight for his country and is killed doing so, or a young Afghan blown up for being in the wrong place at the wrong time?

All of this is why I don't like pinning a poppy to my chest. There is nothing in war that deserves our respect.

letters@cordweekly.com

Male circumcision should be frowned upon



JONATHAN RIVARD
FROM THE SOAPBOX

I have foreskin. Roughly 1 in 5 men at Laurier do. Only two decades ago, 80 percent of baby boys in Canada were circumcized for cultural, medical or cosmetic reasons. Now, in 2008, babies are circumcized less than 14 percent of the time.

14 percent seems a little steep for genital mutilation.

Foreskin, like the clitoral hood, is a double-layered sheath of skin that protects the head of the penis and retracts as the penis becomes erect. Circumcision is the removal of this skin.

Circumcision, though common among males in Canada, is considered a massive human rights violation when done to women. So why are male and female circumcision gauged so differently?

The term "female circumcision" is synonymous with female genital mutilation, and acts as a blanket term for a variety of disfiguring surgical alterations. The World Health

Organization firmly opposes female circumcision and considers the removal of the clitoral hood to be a prevailing form of genital mutilation.

Male circumcision, however, is a term applied only to a single, familiar cultural practice, and is not considered mutilation.

Male foreskin and the clitoral hood are biologically homologous and so mutilation of these body parts should be treated with similar concern.

The acceptance of male genital mutilation is an outdated social construct that needs to be looked at from a less dichotomous perspective. It's almost the same thing, so why treat it differently?

Yes, there are certainly medical conditions that warrant the removal of the foreskin. Like any other surgical procedure, removal of the foreskin is acceptable when it causes discomfort or threatens an individual's health, but unnecessary circumcision often leads to excessive scarring, infection, ulcerations in half of the surgeries, and even a penectomy or death in extreme cases.

Parents are rarely well-informed when choosing circumcision for their child. The most common misconception is that the foreskin is unhygienic and an infection wait-

ing to happen.

Circumcision is not necessary to maintain good personal hygiene. Like any other folds of skin, foreskin can trap exfoliated skin particles, natural oils, dirt and moisture. The combination of these things is called smegma, and can accumulate on both male and female genitals if not cleaned properly.

However, simple education and a basic level of personal hygiene is enough to prevent any need to circumcize for hygienic reasons. No one would lop off an arm instead of washing an armpit, so why should we remove the foreskin instead of simply showering properly?

Foreskin isn't all hard work, though. There are a number of physical benefits to keeping your hoodie.

Considering the prominence of sex in our culture, it's hard to imagine that sex could feel any better for men than it does already. You'll all to have to trust me here – it could. Although the glans of the penis is remarkably sensitive, the foreskin contains a large cluster of nerves that provide additional stimulation. I couldn't imagine being without it!

And to just quickly graze the classic male concerns, premature ejaculation and erectile dysfunction are statistically less frequent in

uncircumcized males.

The foreskin's nerves provide tactical stimulation and aid in achieving an erection, while the extra skin protects the most sensitive part of the penis from over-stimulation during intercourse, preventing premature ejaculation.

In addition to surgical complications and loss of function, circumcision comes down to a violation of the child's human rights.

According to the Criminal Code of Canada, no consent to the mutilation of genitalia is valid unless the individual is 18 years of age or older, or is undergoing a procedure to correct sexual dysfunction or to benefit one's physical health.

From my perspective, genital mutilation, whether male or female, is unnecessary and inexcusable.

Most new parents have an overwhelming urge to protect their child from harm, yet many subject them to painful and unnecessary cosmetic surgery in the first few days of their life. Children should be protected from something that, by its very definition, is aggravated assault.

letters@cordweekly.com

Activism is only one means of change



ALLIE MAXTED
RESIDENT CYNIC

Like many university students, I am beginning to feel the symptoms of an activism overdose. I flip through the newspaper or walk onto campus and it seems there is always someone fighting for something - everything from human rights violations to the reintroduction of the Hawk.

Instead of listening to their messages, I find myself thinking "They're at it again." But they continue despite the fact that no one is paying them attention.

People begin to get so fed up with the constant barrage of activism that a kind of hostile relationship forms between the protestors

and everyone else.

I suddenly feel the urge to throw my recyclables in the garbage and leave all my lights on when I go to class. I don't do it, though, because I realize I actually support nearly every cause they fight for.

My point is that activism has a saturation point, and one can only experience so much before the message gets lost.

What exacerbates the problem is that it seems the same group of people appears repeatedly, no matter what the cause. This makes people wonder, how can someone possibly feel that passionate about such a wide variety of causes? It is due to this question that I realize the causes can't possibly be the central motivating factor.

The problem is that activism becomes not about causes, but about a lifestyle. It is a way for people to identify themselves as removed

from the guilt associated with feeling as if they are part of the problem.

By appearing a certain way and having a certain set of interests, one is able to distinguish oneself from the pack. When this happens, one participates in activism as a source of identity and the results of the act matter less and less.

What is created is an "us and them" scenario, where those considered activists elevate themselves above the rest. Especially in these times, life is much more complex than the binary of bad and good.

In fact, there are many ways one could go about bettering the world; that they don't consist of the same lifestyle does not necessarily make them any worse.

When a person is out protesting all the time, they neglect their family and friends, their schoolwork and other responsibilities. This

is not inherently a bad thing, but should be seen as simply one of several ways of prioritizing life.

Activism can be very public. It is easy to see how one is helping if one can be spotted working at a soup kitchen or out protesting. But that stay-at-home father or mother, or those grad students in the library are also doing their part, their way, to better society.

Rather than separating themselves from "the rest," activists would better their causes by gaining an understanding of these other ways of prioritization and being respectful of them rather than antagonistic.

It is true that those who are concretely affected by something would feel the most passion to fix it. If a person's sole identity is as an activist, they can only be a spokesperson for a cause they'll never truly understand in its complexities.

This is what leads to the image of activists as irrelevant, making them easy to ignore.

I do not mean to underplay the severity of the causes here, or to question the motivation of the activists. I know many of these people personally, and consider some my friends. I simply fear that, in wanting so badly to help, many of these people have lost touch with the world they are trying to fix.

These activists should be praised for having the gumption to stand up and do something about the world's problems. Indeed, it is something we should all do a little more often.

But it has to be recognized that different people have different priorities in life. Judging one way of living against another only gets us further from the kind of world we all want.

letters@cordweekly.com

Letters to the Editor

Where's our WebCT?

I am absolutely shocked at the level of service that this university has to offer. I can't believe the problems that are encountered every semester by a number of students. Just this semester I was overcharged, told that I can't be in a class after a professor already gave me an override because she thought I was someone else and, of course, there is LORIS. Now, the current problem is WebCT and how it's been down for a week and counting. I am fully aware that technological problems are difficult to fix and sometimes require a lengthy investigation but this is absolutely ridiculous; with the amount of money that is paid to this school every semester by students you'd figure that the problem could be fixed a little quicker. Money doesn't solve everything but it does buy competent technicians-- or at least a working system. With all of the problems that occur on a regular basis at this school it is a wonder that there are as many recruits each year as there are.

- Sara Vahey

Male students need a collective voice

I am writing in regard to Keren Gottfried's Nov. 5 article "Are men underrepresented at university?" As a male in the Faculty of Arts, I witness inequality all the time. I am in classes surrounded by female students, sometimes overwhelmingly so. At a university where 60 percent of the population is female, I have heard my share of discriminating comments. During discussions in lectures and tutorials, I am subject to female students making broad, negative generalizations about the male gender. I never argue or state my offense to these comments due to fear of being called wrong, misinformed, or stupid. At our uni-

versity, there are many resources for female students, such as the Women's Centre, a place to celebrate the female sex and identity. We also have the Rainbow Centre, an environment which (among many other things) celebrates and welcomes transsexual and intersex individuals to the Laurier Community. These assets are wonderful since Wilfrid Laurier University boasts in its mission statement that it "strives to be a diverse, personal and supportive community." However, I have yet to see support and celebration of the male sex, gender, and identity on campus. I have also learned in experience that even a polite, civilized suggestion of celebrating the male sex or identity at the university brings with it the negative connotations of "misogynist" or "supremacist." The truth is this: male students need a voice at the university. We are now a minority in the Laurier community and we need to be treated with the same rights and dignities of any other gender.

- John Galloway

Barack's win important for all humanity

What is all this talk about the first black president? Barack Obama is as much "black" as he is "white" is he not? I am not sure if he has made any comments in reply to this type of inaccurate and misleading language being used in light of his win but I will take it upon myself to do so once and for all. I was disappointed to see yet another inaccurate headline on this weeks Cord cover. The idea of change as the centerpiece for Barack's presidential hopes is to move forward into a greater global consciousness; After this victorious moment in history it's almost insulting and disappointing to see headlines (especially in the Cord) which regurgitate this type of divi-

sive language so often used in mass media. If anything, what is far more inspirational to note about Obama in a headline is that his racial, cultural and ethnical background, like the majority of Americans, and Canadians for that matter, comes from a collective experience as citizens of modern globalization, whose identity is influenced by our diverse cultural and ethnical backgrounds! I would like to think the person who wrote the sub headline on the front page of the cord stating "First black president elected in the United States of America..." just wasn't thinking, and then again it was overlooked as it went by the editor without any revision. Understanding and empathizing the great significance of Barack's win for people of African decent, especially African Americans, is one thing, but what about the great significance of his win for the rest of humanity? Let's not move backwards after this profound moment in history by falling into old habits of racial categorization and move forward into thinking of a united global race.

- Helen Reid

WLU has long way to go for equality

I am writing in regards to the events taking place at Last Band Standing in Wilf's. For those who do not know, the first band The Sound Foundation made some quite derogatory comments with regards to womyn. From song titles like "Bitches Be Runnin' Wild" to addressing the crowd as "mother fuckers" to asking anyone with a "vagina" in the crowd to come up to the front, this misogynistic language is absolutely intolerable. This venue is absolutely no place for such gendered and sexist comments. Whether or not the band members meant what they said

is irrelevant. Such comments are still offensive to some people and ought to be offensive to all. Why is it that homophobic comments (such as those made last year by Casey Baker) garnered vast outcry, when those attacking 50% of the population do not? Perhaps this is an indication of how far Laurier still has to come. Sexism is just as intolerable and ought to be treated as such. As someone who publicly spoke out against such comments before our set, it is disturbing that such oppressive language will be tolerated. If by speaking out against such comments we do not do ourselves "any favours", then it is clear that the general attitude towards such gendered oppression has to change. The fact that neither the A-Team, nor Wilf's, the Cord, or the audience majority condemned this behaviour is perhaps telling as well. Such attitudes should not be tolerated, especially at a public event. We all must work together to make a positive world safe for all people, and womyn must be included. Peace, love and respect are what must be upheld. We must acknowledge that words hold an oppressive weight and that it must be removed. Womyn are our equals and I for one am not going to stand idly by while acts of oppression take place. Whether it makes a difference in a competition is irrelevant, taking a stand for positive change is more important. We are all humyn, it's time to prove it!

- Adam Lewis
Another Day Rises

Not all WLU lessons are constructive

Bitches ain't shit but hoes and tricks? I came to WLU to receive an education. Although I have learned many things in my four years here, there are many lessons I am neither proud nor fond of. Listening to the

Sound Academy [sic] afforded me another unwelcome learning experience. I was assaulted with sexist attitudes when all 'the vaginas' were called to the stage and songs lyrics like 'bitches be runin' wild' accompanied what I have to admit were some pretty sweet grooves. What was more discomforting was that once these ignorant messages were expressed nothing was done to rectify the situation. The organizers of the event preferred to be complacent in the oppression of women rather than address blatant sexism in a campus space. Adam Lewis, drummer of Another Day Rises, started his band's set by condemning sexism and asking that Wilf's and the campus of WLU reject discrimination in all its forms. Lewis's speech filled me with a hope and optimism that I feel is slowly being squashed by my time at WLU. When I envisioned my university experience the amount of gender based discrimination and harrasment I have both witnessed and experienced was not what I expected. Instead of mentioning the groans of the audience, maybe the Cord article should have discussed what it says about the state of gender equality and awareness at Laurier if women can be called bitches and continue to dance with a smile. Bitches aint shit...? It's time to stop dancing and challenge this dangerous WLU cultural lesson.

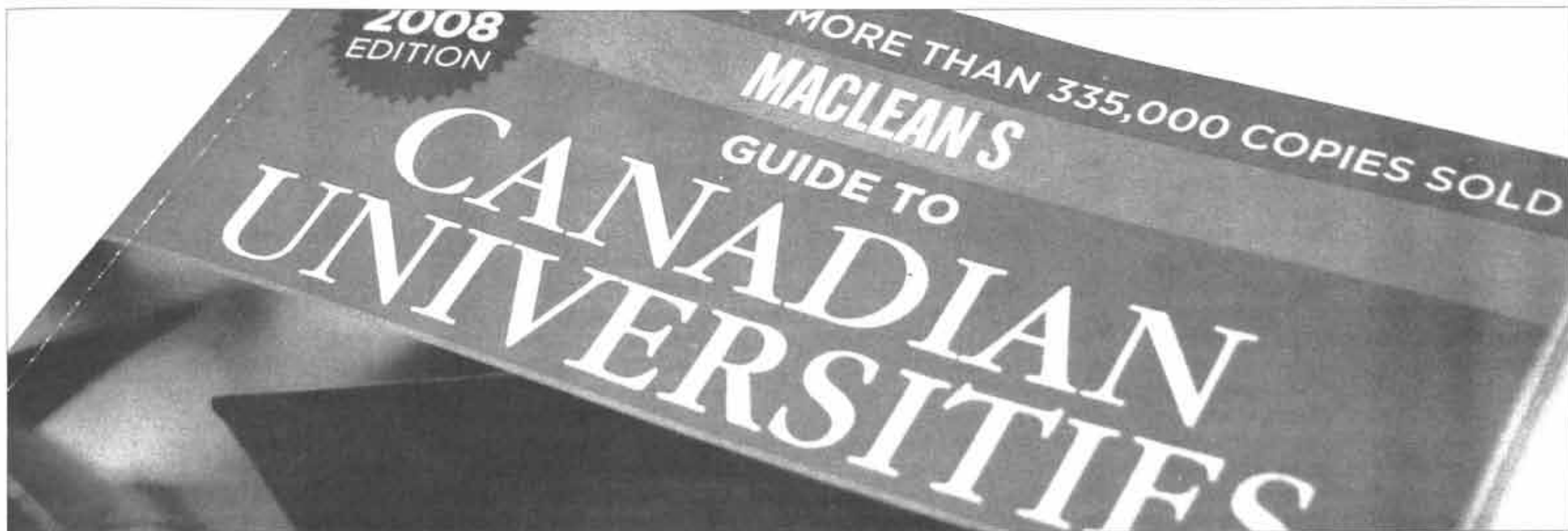
- Nicole Pariser

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

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LAURA TOMKINS

SCHOOL TOOL - Ranking guides like MacLean's annual university rankings try to tell high school students which post-secondary institutions will best suit their needs.

University rankings need better measures

Ranking guides compare whole schools, but students would be far better off knowing how particular departments stack up



GREG WHITFIELD
RUFFLING FEATHERS

It's that time of year again - that special time each fall when newspapers and magazines gather 'round and rate all the different universities on items like student satisfaction, reputation and overall quality.

In Canada, the major rankings come from *MacLean's* and *The Globe and Mail*, but similar rankings exist in the UK and US as well.

Every year, eager high school seniors and their hovering parents snap up an incredible number of the *MacLean's* university issue and *The Globe and Mail's* Canadian University Report, and then they factor these numbers into their calculation of where best to spend the next four years.

University administrators also revel in these rankings, trumpeting their successes as both a matter of pride and as a marketing tactic.

But what exactly is being measured in these ratings? *The Globe and Mail* ranks universities according to a variety of different categories.

Among them are student residences, sports and recreational facilities, campus atmosphere and extracurricular activities.

These seem fine to me, though I don't imagine they feature prominently in the decisions of prospective students, at least not the truly serious ones.

More important from this perspective are the rankings of satisfaction with educational experience, overall quality of education and faculty members' knowledge of their subjects - all of which *The Globe and Mail* asks in its annual survey.

One problem with these rankings (and there are several) is that comparing whole universities in terms of educational experience and quality is impossible.

Students go to a single university, they send their cheques to that school and their degrees have its

name at the top.

But they weren't in any real sense educated by that institution as a whole. At the end of a four-year degree, students will have been predominantly educated by one or two departments within a single faculty.

Only very rarely will any student have contact with more than one faculty.

This means that over a complete education, most students only ever encounter a very small proportion of the university.

So instead of trying to show that Laurier is better or worse than, say, Guelph, we should be considering whether Laurier's English department is better or worse than Guelph's.

In order to make an informed decision about which university they want to attend, prospective students need to know how the department they are applying to study in comparison to competing departments elsewhere.

Whether, on some measure, Laurier as a whole is better than some other university tells prospective students nothing about the comparative merits of the actual programs at these schools and thus nothing about the quality of education they might receive.

I'm particularly puzzled by the practice of comparing universities by faculty members' knowledge of their subjects.

Of course it's possible to measure this, usually through tabulating publishing counts weighted by impact scores and journal/publisher rankings.

But this is a difficult and time-consuming practice, requiring the subjective assessments of other experts in individual fields.

The newspaper and magazine rankings instead ask the students whether or not they think their instructors are knowledgeable in their fields.

This is laughable. Students, by definition, do not have the knowledge and expertise required to accurately assess their professors' knowledge of their subjects.

Such assessment, when seriously

pursued, is conducted by groups of a professor's peers in tenure or promotion committees.

That is, it takes a person with a comparably high level of knowledge and expertise about a discipline to assess another's knowledge of that discipline.

Instead of attempting these complex assessments, *The Globe and Mail* and others are happy to defer to what "D-plus" Doug and Sally "C-minus" think of their professors.

So most of these quick, easy and cheap measures of university quality should be discarded with no hesitation - those publications are out to make a buck and, in a pretty competitive marketplace, they're willing to feed students garbage in order to do so.

Serious students that are truly interested in assessing educational quality before making their choice should investigate things like the ratio of full-time to part-time fac-

ulty, the proportion of graduates that go on to upper-tier graduate and professional programs, and the size or diversity of course offerings, all compared across departments, not universities.

These are harder-to-find values, but they'll tell the interested student volumes more about the education they're signing up for.

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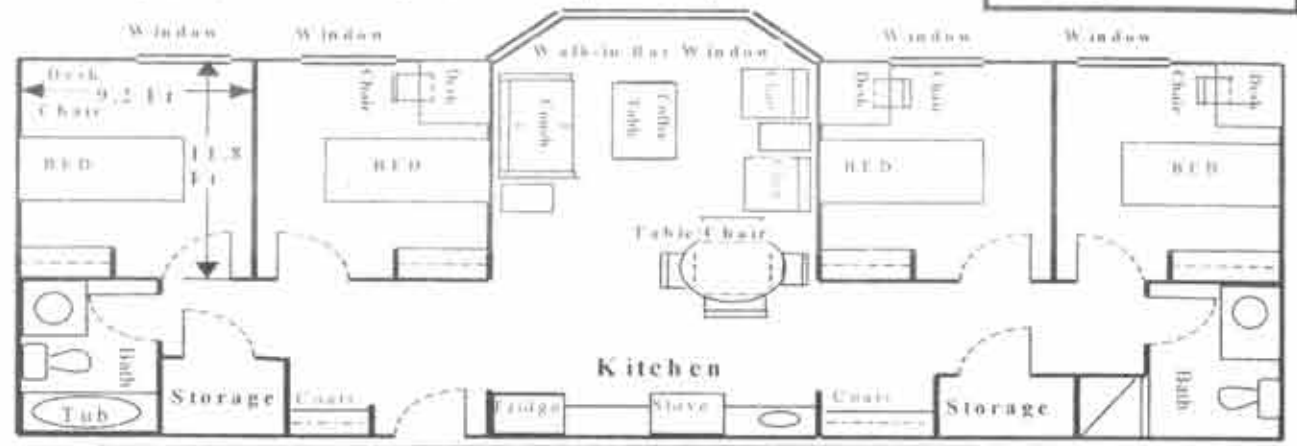
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Stills and Roberts find love in KW

Post-punk darlings The Stills and Sam Roberts come to Kitchener's Centre in the Square, but find the setting somewhat constraining for rock and roll

GEETHA THURAIRAJAH
CORD A&E

Sam Roberts visited Kitchener's Centre in the Square with friends and fellow Montrealers The Stills last Thursday night. While the crowd showed their enthusiasm during the Sam Roberts Band set, The Stills received a less-than-mediocre response for a solid set of new songs from their recently released album, *Oceans Will Rise*. The two bands have been on tour together since the end of October and just recently announced an extension to their Canadian tour.

The Stills opened the night with a set of songs mostly from their new album "Being Here," "Snake charming the Masses" and "Rooibos/Palm Wine Drunkard" to name a few, as well as recognizable hits like "Lola Stars and Stripes" and "Still In Love Song" from their debut.

Since the release of their first album, *Logic Will Break Your Heart* in 2004, The Stills have built themselves up as Canadian rock royalty, opening for bands like the Kings of Leon, and receiving positive reviews from hard-to-impress sites like Pitchfork and the BBC.

The Stills are a band worth following, as their style has never really adhered to a certain predictable sound. Their second album *Without Feathers* was an experimental retreat from their first groundbreaking release *Logic will Break Your Heart*. Their most recent album has been recognized as sampling sounds from their past while leading the band down new paths of musical experimentation.

"The new record falls between our first and second record. We are always trying to do things in a new way. We're working on new music now that is just more experimental and weird," expressed Tim Fletcher, lead vocalist and guitarist for the band.

This highlights the criticism often made about The Stills: their lack of musical direction. But, this "lack of direction" is exactly what makes them such an interesting act, individualizing themselves through unexpectedness amongst a sea of musicians striving for exactly that: individualism.

While the band has often been compared to Interpol or Joy Division, Fletcher was quick to dispel their influences on the band. "We never listened to Joy Division.... They were cool but we listened to bands like The Clash and The Specials." And while the comparisons are made far too often, he's happy that people are at least paying attention to the band.

When asked about playing on the road with the Sam Roberts Band, Fletcher spoke fondly of them but expressed his frustrations of playing as an opening act: "It's pretty boring really, you get drunk every night and do a lot of waiting around.... All we really want to do is play... opening is only forty minutes."

Their forty-minute set Thursday night was barely recognized by the Sam Roberts crowd who remained seated throughout the high-energy act. To make things worse, the majority of the crowd only began spilling in during the intermission. The message was clear; this crowd couldn't care less about taking in the new unfamiliar sounds of a progressive indie-rock band. They were there to rock out to the overplayed MuchMusic singles of the Sam Roberts Band like "Don't Walk Away Eileen" and "Them Kids".

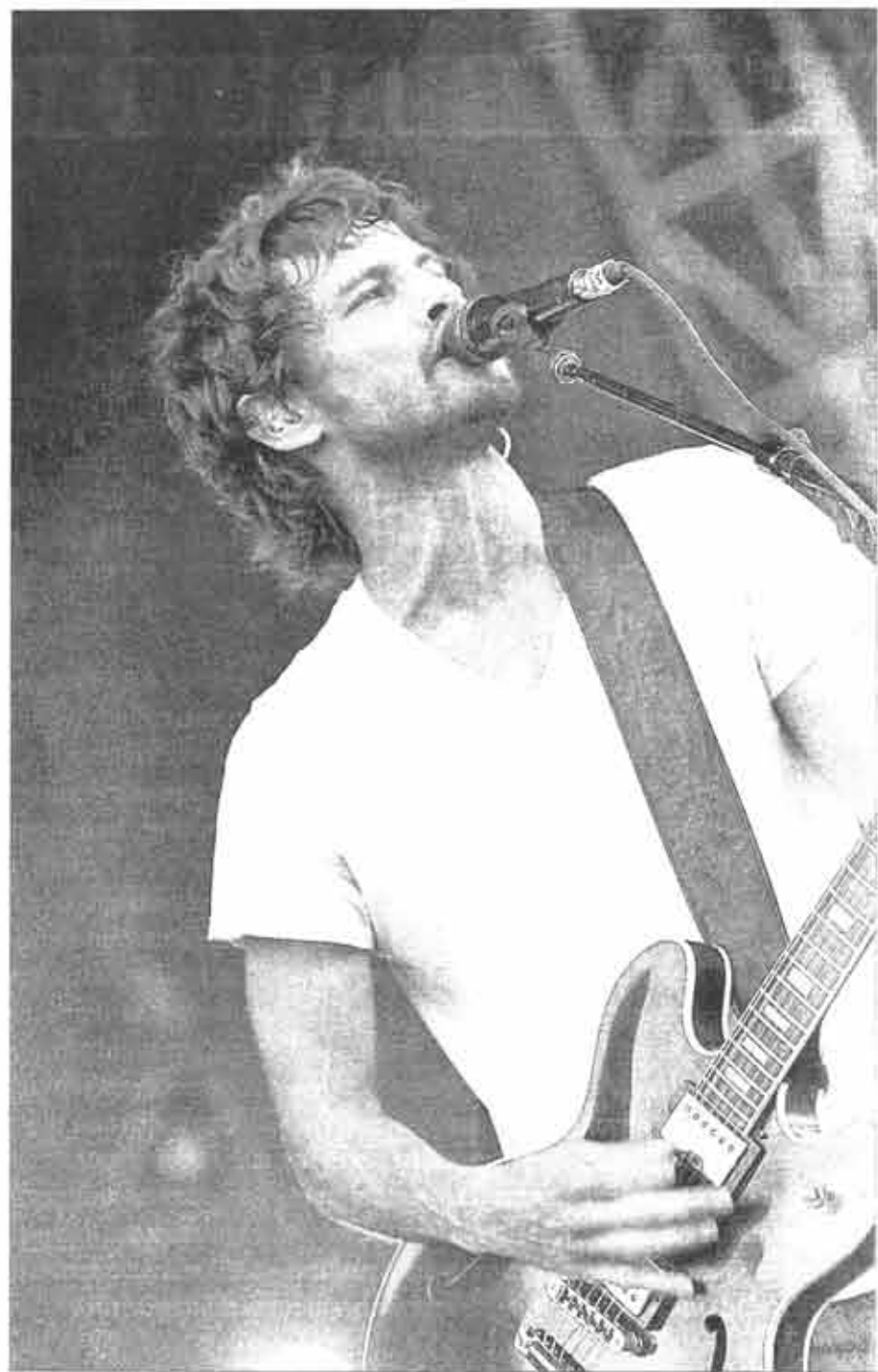
The show was good, but the venue was a terrible choice. The Centre in the Square did not provide a comfortable environment for these two high-energy bands. The seating prompted awkwardness within the crowd, as no one wanted to be centred out by standing. They remained seated through The Stills' set and were prepared to do the same until Sam Roberts demanded otherwise: "This isn't the kind of rock show that you stay seated for!" It's safe to say that this is probably

the reason why The Stills received such a subdued response from the audience.

The Sam Roberts Band was great; they blew my expectations out of the water with their high-energy act. While I wish the crowd had been a bit more open to The Stills' performance, Sam Roberts fans must not be the crowd The Stills cater to.

Both bands have recently released their new albums which are worth checking out and if you have a chance to see The Stills in the coming new year when they headline their own tour, make sure you do.

Next up on their tour are four nights at the Danforth Music Hall in Toronto this week, including a performance tonight.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MR. ROBERTS - Sam Roberts at a previous concert, doing his thang.



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'Tis the season

Alex Hayter tells you what games to ask for this holiday season.



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You might Cry

A&E Editor **Daniel Joseph** finds *Far Cry 2* is disappointing, considering its great potential

DANIEL JOSEPH
 A&E EDITOR

Far Cry 2 has a lot going for it; it's riding on the wave of warm memories of the first *Far Cry* and the competence of next-gen technology has allowed Ubisoft Montreal to really push boundaries as far as environmental design is concerned. But does this mean anything? I've always been of the mind that a game no longer just wins on graphics or their exciting new physics and environmental degradation system. After playing it for three weeks I'm still debating what exactly the game did right, and more importantly: what did it do wrong?

Far Cry 2 succeeds in terms of placing the player in a specific context, and goes at great length to create a sense of "immersion" in the world. This is the same studio, if you remember, that brought you the dazzling yet ultimately disappointing *Assassin's Creed*. While at the beginning of that game there was a screen that told the player that the game was made by a multicultural and multiracial team, here there is none. Is Africa not as touchy a subject as the holy land of medieval Palestine and Lebanon? Questions like this abound as I trudged my way through the main storyline. Yes, I trudged. Not in the good way.

I've heard the game described by one video game critic as being *Grand Theft Auto: Mogadishu* and this, from a gameplay standpoint, might be somewhat accurate. More accurately it should be described as the video game equivalent of *Heart of Darkness* and Ridley Scott's surprisingly racist *Black Hawk Down*. But *Grand Theft Auto*? Sure. Sort of. You drive a lot, and it's an open world. But there are massive problems here that didn't plague *GTA*...

At one point my roommate walked into my room and asked, "Do you do anything other than drive trucks and shoot people?" I tried to say that "no, there are boats too! But..." Well yeah. Boats. Trucks. They are basically the same weak prop that gets you from point A to point B, with obstacle C in the way. Rinse and repeat for the rest of the game, and you have the pacing figured out 95 percent of the time. You travel to destinations, blow something up or kill something, and then go somewhere else to do it again. In *GTA*, half the fun was getting there, but here it's a chore.

Mechanics-wise, I have a number of complaints with *Far Cry 2*, but not the kind of things that make or break for a blockbuster game like this. The failures are modest, AI being my biggest complaint. But AI is one aspect of first-person shooters that is sketchy even at the best of times. Should we expect better, especially in the days of such overpowered technology? Yes. Do we get what we want? Oftentimes not.

Technology aside, I found myself

most interested in and concerned with subject and story. It's surprisingly relevant, especially in context with the violence that has recently erupted in the DR Congo. The player is a foreign mercenary sent to kill a weapons smuggler in a war-torn African country, seemingly modelled on the collective Western iconography of third-world Africa. Think the election riots in Kenya, combined with the intermittent anarchy of Somalia, Rwanda and Sudan. In addition, there are a number of multi-racial main characters to choose from - skillfully allowing Ubisoft to avoid some of last year's *Resident Evil 5* "white guy goes around shooting black people" PR nightmares.

It seems that the video game industry has only recently turned to Africa and the Middle East as locations for storylines in an attempt to colonize the third world of our minds. We think we "know" what Africa is like from watching the news. *Far Cry 2*'s Africa doesn't have any paved roads - pushing the player to think about what else is missing from this so-called immersive environment. Civilian populations? Not here, at least, not as something you can interact with. Strangely enough, you can go around and torch an entire town, but a strange morality is enforced by the developers when things might get too extreme.

Video games seem to have travelled to every other location imaginable, real or otherwise. When they intend to depict the real world, they are rarely the reflections of reality we so strongly want them to be. *Far Cry 2* seems to only reinforce what the contemporary discourse of Africa remains to be: backward, violent and self-destructive. Video games might be purely a form of escapism for some. Personally though, I consume them as art that can not only transport me somewhere, but serve as something that I want to think about.

Far Cry stirs these thoughts, and functions as a somewhat decent shooter to boot. But in the end it's not something that you will find yourself going back to in a year, except maybe as a curiosity.



Far Cry 2
 Developer: Ubisoft Montreal
 Release Date: 21/10/2008
 Rating: C

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GIANT ROBOTS - The post-modern intellectual romp *Rebuild of Evangelion: 1.0* is seeing its North American premiere at the Waterloo Festival for Animated Cinema this weekend.

DANIEL JOSEPH
A&E EDITOR

If you are in the majority of moviegoers, chances are you watched some Disney films as a child, watched some Pixar movies when you were a bit older and then stopped caring about animated film. Joseph Chen, the founder of the Waterloo Festival for Animated Cinema (WFAC), which has been enlivening Waterloo's vibrant cultural scene for eight years, thinks you should reconsider.

"Animation is a medium, not a genre," says Chen. He argues that everything that the majority of people love about regular cinema is found in animation - it just tends to be considered avante-garde or childish. This type of thinking is what leads people away from such a vibrant and beautiful medium.

WFAC will be taking place from

November 14-16 at The Gig in downtown Kitchener, and is showing a number of animated films from many genres. While there are some definite anime blockbusters like the post-modern *Rebuild of Evangelion: 1.0 You Are (Not) Alone* and critically acclaimed *Hotaru no Haka*, there are others like the Spanish feature film *Nocturna*, and *Die Abenteuer des Prinzen Achmed*, the earliest surviving animated film in the world. There is something for everyone.

Chen founded the WFAC back in 2001 when he was still attending the University of Waterloo. He was involved with the university's anime club, when they began to think of ways to spread the love of film that they experienced in the club itself, without being limited to just one genre.

Chen and other members of the festival decided to do something

about their shared passion. "We said: let's do something extraordinary." So they began the process of looking into what creative outlets already existed, seeing if there were any other similar festivals.

They discovered, however, much to their surprise, that what they were proposing was going to be the first of its kind. "We are still the only public festival dedicated to the animated feature film, and that we are able to do it in sleepy little Waterloo is amazing," said Chen.

An integral feature for the festival was that they were going to use original 35 mm film for all the screenings. "There was no way to enjoy these movies the way Japanese audiences were. To be able to see this in a theatre, to be able to see this the way it's supposed to be was very important to us."

While many die-hard fans of certain genres, often anime, will cer-

tainly have seen the films before, seeing them on 35 mm is something special. "A lot is lost in translation from the big screen to the little [TV] screen," said Chen.

Chen notes that throughout the history of film, animation has had a stigma attached to it, one that WFAC can hopefully dispel. "A lot of people don't take animation seriously. Back in the 1920s when Lotte Reiniger was looking for people to back her film *Die Abenteuer des Prinzen Achmed*, they [the studios] didn't want to talk to her. They thought animation was too difficult a medium. That continues to this day. People think that it's too hoity-toity, or that it's for kids."

Coming from an engineering background, Chen has a special place in his heart for the technical side of creating these films, and a special part of the WFAC has been dedicated to showcasing those

animators that strive to create a feature film entirely on their own. This, for Chen, is the "Holy Grail" of animation.

"Any illustrator that has done a drawing can tell you that one drawing is hard enough. Making a five-minute animation is real hard. To do an entire movie is just out of this world," he added.

When asked what a newcomer to the festival might experience, Chen says to "expect something a little bit more structured than a night on the town. Everybody here comes to have some fun, but at the same time we aren't going to let anybody throw popcorn at the screen."

More than anything else, Chen really wants you to know that if you go to WFAC, you should "expect to see some fantastic cinema."



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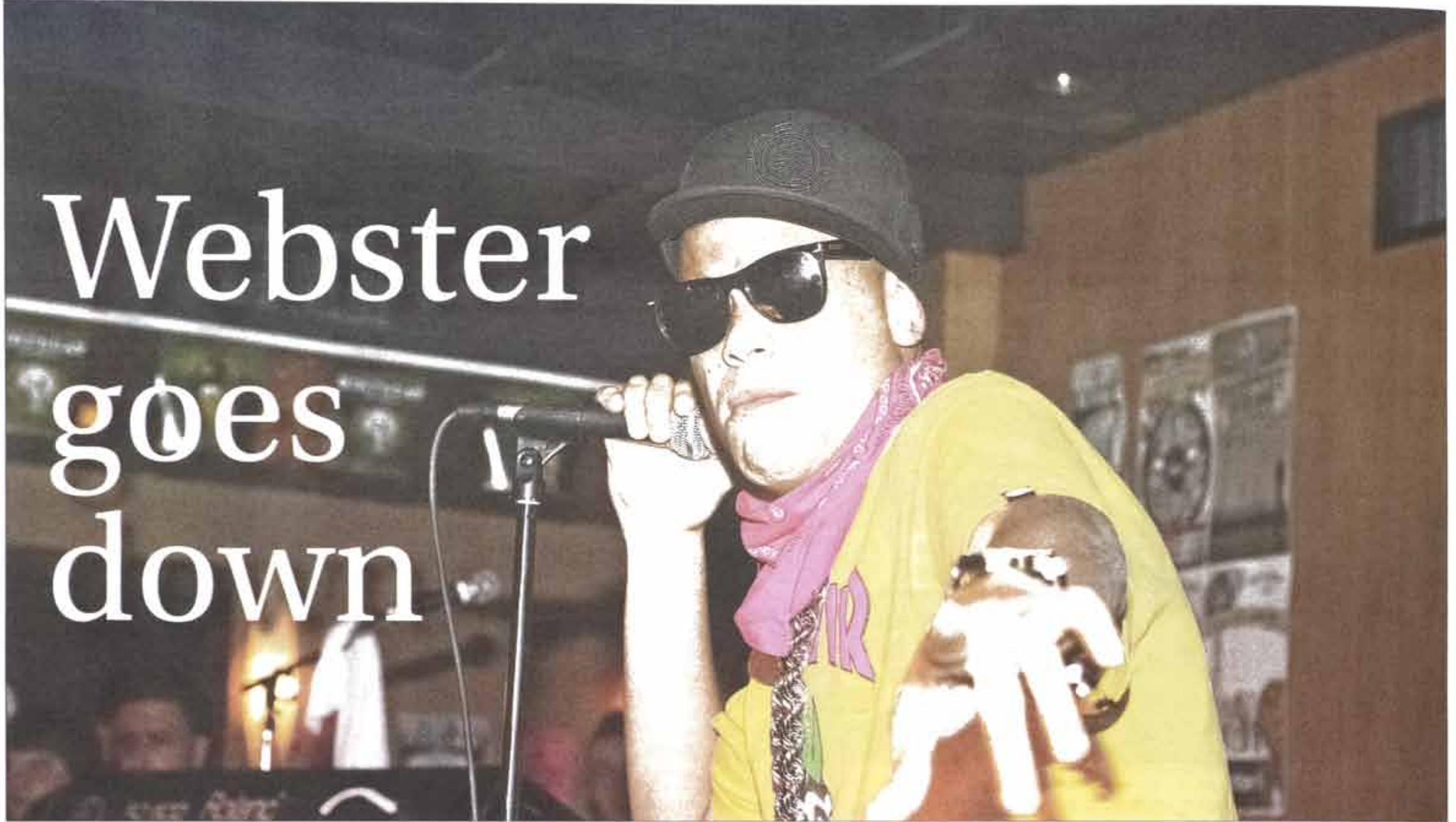
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Webster goes down



CALLING YOU OUT - Down With Webster frontman Bucky helps to bring the rap element to the diverse band's musical palette – as indicated by his gold chain, bandana and ball cap.

Laurier's new favourite hip-hop group Down With Webster were at Wilf's last Thursday for another free night of party madness

KIMBERLY ELWORTHY
CORD A&E

Toronto-based hip-hop group Down With Webster jammed at Wilf's last Thursday night well into the early hours of the morning.

Made up of seven urban scenesters that all bring different musical skills and abilities to the table, DWW brought back the same energy they offered to first-year students during this year's O-Week party.

Creating a unique vibe that appeals to a huge demographic, especially the hip, young, "party like a rock star" kind of student, the band are known for their unique stage presence and a varied palette of musical influences.

Offering a sound similar to that of Gym Class Heroes and members with personalities reminiscent of the stars of Jackass, the night was a riot of music and fun.

The band took the stage late at 11:30 p.m. to a crowd of antsy, bored and surprisingly sober students; nevertheless, they were able to revive the audience.

Hordes of fans scrambled to the front of the stage, eager to "throw their hands up" and chant lyrics at the request of frontmen Bucky, Rif and Cam.

The audience was a diverse and interesting spectacle themselves, from the Ugg-wearing, Laurier bookstore wear adorned girls to the visually hip. Down With Webster undoubtedly has something for everyone.

The three lead singers are outgoing, comical fellows who create a light, easygoing atmosphere and become the most memorable part of the evening.

Bucky brings a hip-hop edge with his rap skills, while Rif brings a "John Mayer" style with his vocals and guitar that softens the group

and lets the ladies swoon.

Finally, Cam offers a good mix of lyrical styles, capable of both rhyming and singing melodies. Together they riff off each other to keep each song interesting and genuinely original.

They are also sure to incorporate the audience into their shows as much as possible; by connecting with fans on an individual level, DWW definitely have an apprecia-

tion for the support they garner at each gig.

The rest of the band members - Kap, the koala backpack-sporting hype man; Marty, the campy drummer; Tyler, who rocks the bass and keys; and Diggy, the DJ - all add variety to the troupe, assuring us that this is not an average boy band.

The band also mashed up some covers with their own material, allowing those who experienced

DWW for the first time to participate in sing-alongs; however, it was easy to pick up the band's own catchy tunes like "Miracle Mile" and "Grind".

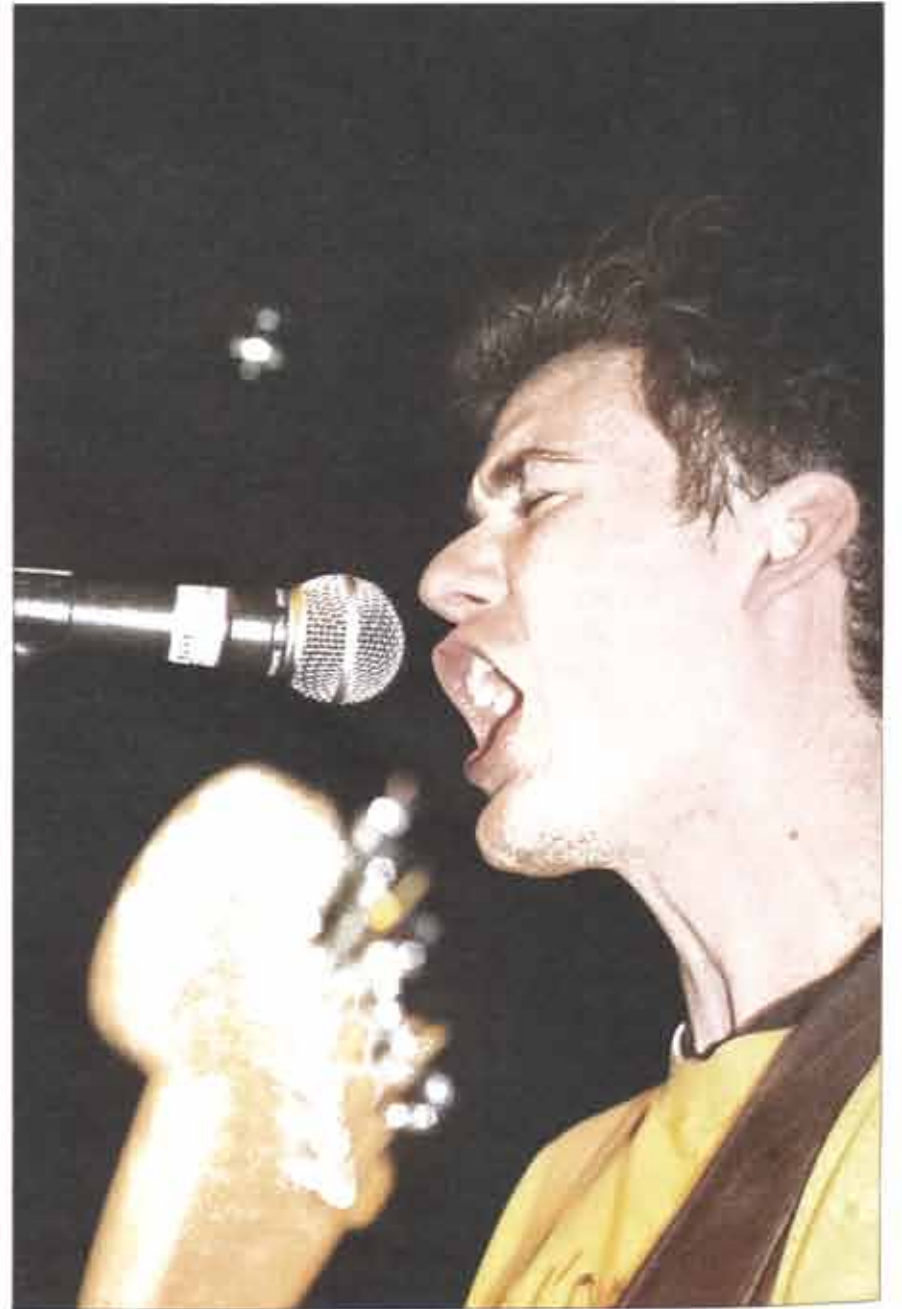
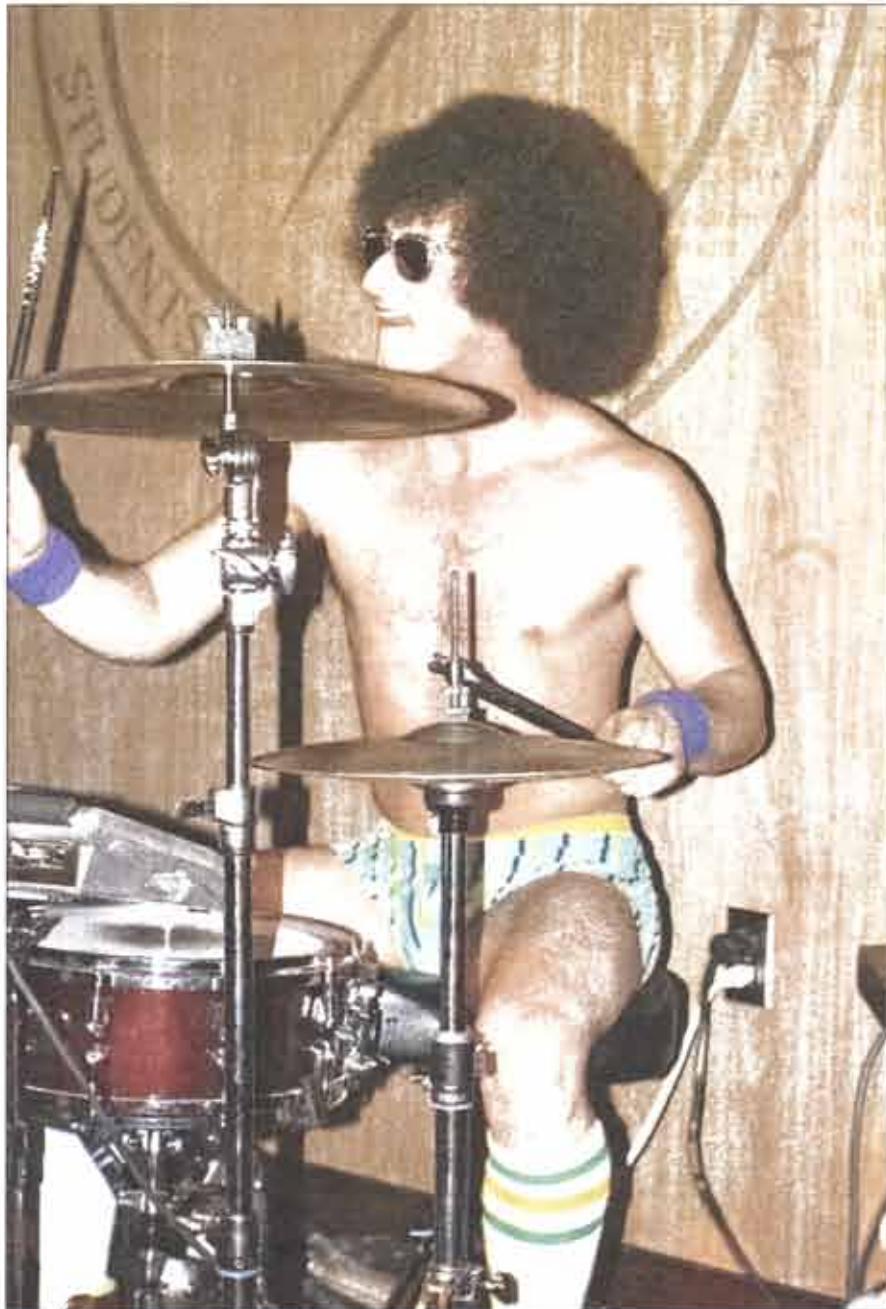
When the show finished with an encore, the band had clearly exceeded the audience's expectations and left them wanting more.

The only unfortunate part of the show was Wilf's compact nature, making it awkward to dance and

move with the crowd - with intimacy comes the curse of being squished.

Down With Webster proved once again that they are a group with solid musical talent and immense stage presence.

Their music is fun, funky and fast-paced... and what more could you want on a weeknight when you're forgetting about that long week of school?



ALL PHOTOS BY MICHELLE ATTARO

ECLECTIC MIX - Afros, banana hammocks, tube socks and Ray Bans are all part of Down With Webster's funky, and quite strange, aesthetic.