



FIRST-YEAR OVERFLOW

Laurier should learn how to count ... **PAGE 6**

MILITARY INTERVENTION

Former RMC coach to take the reins on Laurier men's hockey ... **PAGE 4**

Bursting at the seams

MIKE BROWN
NEWS EDITOR

Long walks to the oft-forgotten Northdale campus. Five students sharing two-bedroom apartments in Laurier Place residence. The hiring of more part-time faculty.

These are just a few of the re-

percussions springing from the surprising announcement that WLU's enrollment for fall 2006 is up by nearly 600 students from their initial target of 3,055, a figure settled on by Laurier administrators after considering a number of criteria over the past year.

The reason?

"What happened this year is

we were just wrong," Sue Horton, VP: Academic, bluntly explains. "We got much higher acceptance rates than we expected, and that's why we've got more students coming."

The enrollment process depends on the administration accurately predicting what percentage of students granted offers

of admission will accept. When all was said and done after the June 12 acceptance deadline, the school had clearly undershot, with 3,622 acceptances on their hands.

"It's a very inexact science," admits Mike Belanger, who has a vested interest in the accuracy of the process as director of residen-

tial services. "We send out 12,000 offers of admission hoping to get 3,000 kids to say yes."

Mission accomplished and then some.

Meanwhile, Horton is at a loss to explain the increase.

"We did raise the cut-offs this past year," notes Horton.

- SEE INFLUX, PAGE 2



Emilie Joslin

FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE - Lynda McKenzie, Donna Harris, and John Kuti, former Cord staff from the '60s, reminisce in the WLUSP office.

Giving up Star Wars for girls

Local play unravels tensions of adolescence

JOE TURCOTTE
A&E EDITOR

Judging by the less-than-stellar response to the floundering theatrical presentation of *The Lord of the Rings*, it seems that transferring a familiar and well-loved story from one medium to another is no small task.

Perhaps realizing this, Kitchener's own Theatre & Company decided not to try and faithfully recreate the *Star Wars* saga for its latest presentation. Instead, director Linda Bush's *The Boy's Own Jedi Handbook Part II: The Girls Strike Back* is an exploration of the transition that takes place during the move from childhood and into adolescence. This awkward period of one's life is only intensified by the fact that the story's protagonists are enthusiastic *Star Wars* fanatics.

As part of Theatre & Company's family series, *Jedi II* is intended to please both children and adults alike, and is the sequel to last winter's *The Boy's Own Jedi Handbook: Part One*. In this regard, the performance succeeds easily.

Blair Keyzer delivers an endearingly awkward performance as the story's unnamed protagonist. Keyzer's masterful portrayal of a preteenage boy trying to find himself while growing up in the real world can be summed up in one memorable scene. During this scene Keyzer's 'Kid' is reluctant to give up his obsession with *Star Wars* in order to pursue other avenues of exploration, namely: girls.

In a fit of frustration the Kid exclaims, "We didn't need the hand-

- SEE KID, BACK COVER

Old Cordies reunite: 80th

APRIL CUNNINGHAM
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The senate and board chambers rumbled with memories as former students gathered to celebrate the *Cord Weekly's* 80th anniversary with a gala dinner on July 8.

Alumni came from as far as England to reminisce with fellow colleagues and recall some of the glory days of Wilfrid Laurier's official student newspaper.

Clifford Coultres, who was a *Cord* writer from 1955 to 1959, represented the earliest era in attendance at the dinner. Several

alumni from the 60s all the way to present students joined the celebration.

Many realized that although through the decades the university scene has been presented with new challenges, hot issues of the campus newspaper reoccur over time.

"When looking back through the past issues of the *Cord* and comparing them to the current issues, it is remarkable how many of the topics are the same such as rising tuition and residence food," said Matthew Wells, a former *Cord* photographer.



Emilie Joslin

WE MEET AGAIN - Ron Berenbaum and Ron Clark remember holding a *Cord* contest to rename the former Laurier mascot: the mule.

THE CORD WEEKLY

- The tie that binds since 1926 -

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"It's too tight and I don't like it."

- Blair Forsyth-Stark

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COLOPHON

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Preamble to *The Cord* Constitution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Cord will always attempt to do what is right, with 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.

Coming in droves

Students are flocking to Guelph and Waterloo for their undergrad pursuits, much to the surprise of university administration at the three area schools

- from INFLUX, cover

"We were surprised that we still got this increase because literally, almost across the board except I think in arts, we had raised the cut-offs and, in some cases, not by modest amounts.

"We planned on actually decreasing first-year enrolment a bit," she says. Then, after a brief pause, she adds with an amused grin, "That didn't happen."

Laurier doesn't have to look far to find sympathetic peers, though, as this region was particularly hammered by an overall 4.9 percent increase in university enrolment throughout the province.

That equates to nearly 2,500 more students ready to begin an undergraduate degree come September. The universities of Guelph, Waterloo, and Wilfrid Laurier account for about 80 percent of that increase with 800, 630, and 500 more students than last year respectively.

Horton doesn't really understand that either, speculating that demographic growth in the area and traditionally strong showings in the annual *Maclean's* rankings could be factors. Whatever the reason, though, it was certainly not foreseen.

In a year that will see the complete overhaul of the Dr. Alvin Woods Building, timing is far from perfect, she readily admits.

"This was not the year we wanted to go over, and the government hasn't made a funding commitment for the growth of students," explains Horton. "So, no, we wouldn't have done this. But it's not science - it's very hard to predict. We had no idea that we would get this, and I'm sure neither did UW and Guelph."

That said, Horton remains supremely confident in the school's ability to weather the formidable frosh-storm. Unlike last year, Laurier is not accepting any additional students over the summer months and they expect to see the numbers decrease slight-

ly through cancellations. New faculty - mostly part-time - are also being hired to ensure class sizes don't balloon.

All in all, Horton assures the student body that this unexpected increase "will be a pale shadow of the double cohort."

Belanger agrees. Whereas the infamous double-cohort class left Laurier with 600 students promised beds that didn't exist, they only ended up 70 short this year, even after giving up Euler and Leopold residences as offices for staff moving out of the DAWB.

"Of all the beds we had left and set aside for first-year students, we could accommodate them all except 70," notes Belanger. "Seventy is a surmountable problem. That's something we can solve - and we've already solved it actually."

The solution required two main tactics. First, some of the

new building at 27 Bricker St. that will house 40 non-first year students to free up space in the other residences.

That leaves all the frosh that applied for residence by the deadline accounted for, but Belanger cautions that many students will not get the type of residence they desired.

"We always get more applications for particular types of residence," he explains. "Everybody wants a single room in an apartment-style residence.... We only have 1,000 [apartment-style] rooms and double-rooms and so we put kids in rooms that they're not going to be happy in."

Still, Belanger is pleased that they were able to find the spaces so quickly without looking off-campus.

"We think that being surrounded by your own students inside a residence environment is a better thing, even though

there might be one or two more people there than we'd originally planned for."

The theme of 'satisfactory, albeit unplanned' seems to be the message permeating all facets of campus

life in the wake of the unexpected influx, and class schedules are no exception.

"There'll be some extra tutorials in Northdale, which is by no means ideal," acknowledges Horton. "But I think we'll manage to avoid Sunday classes and Sunday exams and all of that kind of stuff as far as possible."

"I guess I just have to ask students to understand that this isn't our fault. We didn't predict this, and it will take a bit of patience on everyone's part."

"We only have 1,000 [apartment-style] rooms and double-rooms and so we put kids in rooms that they're not going to be happy in."

- Mike Belanger, director of residential services

apartments at Laurier Place residence will convert back to their double-cohort capacity, thereby adding 36 beds immediately.

The one-bedroom apartments will be home to four students each - two in the bedroom and two in the living room. The two-bedrooms will house five students, at least for the time being.

"We'll only keep those if we have to," says Belanger. "If we have enough cancellations, we might back out of those because five 'kids sharing a two-bedroom apartment is maybe on the limit of what we might find acceptable."

In addition, Laurier leased a

See PAGE 6 for editorial reaction to this story

NEWSINBRIEF

BOD forges onward

On June 25, the WLUSU Board of Directors (BOD) voted not to replace departed Director Josh Periard, who announced his resignation in early May, citing personal reasons.

In order to leave the position vacant and proceed as a 14-member board, the motion required two-thirds approval; it passed by a vote of 10-2, with only Mike Tsuchiya and Yusuf Faqiri opposed.

Matt Park, chair of the BOD, explained the reasoning thusly: "I'd say it revolved largely around concern for timeline, concern for appropriate use of student resources and concern for actually finding a candidate."

"We're very confident as a board," Park added. "I have the utmost faith that the board can continue at its current capacity."

Seminary sinking but not going under

Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, the oldest post-secondary institution in Waterloo, is facing tough times. Enrolment is down, one professor and two office staff have been laid off and salaries for those remaining will be frozen for the next four years.

Despite these warning signs, this isn't the school's apocalypse.

"To be blunt, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary is not closing its doors," said Rev. David Pfrimmer in an interview with *The Record*.

The school is also plagued by financial troubles, with a \$900,000 deficit projected for the year 2011.

Pfrimmer aims to balance the budget in 2007 and boost student enrolment by five or six students per year until the school gets back on its feet.

They're also approaching other schools to arrange cross-registration, giving students increased flexibility and access to a broader range of courses.



COZY QUARTERS - The above apartment in Laurier Place is one of the rooms that will be converted from a single to a double in September.

Tony Ferguson

Girls' schools under fire: Taliban

Locals skeptical of Afghan government's influence on violent Taliban forces in face of school burnings

THUY TRANG
STAFF WRITER

Unable to win on the battlefield, the Taliban are trying to discredit the Kabul government by blocking its efforts to raise Afghanistan out of its dark age. They want to undo one of the biggest changes of the past four years: education for young women.

Today, Afghanistan has 1,350 girls' schools and 2,900 other institutions that hold split sessions with girls-only classes in the afternoon. Co-education is still forbidden in the country.

More than a third of Afghanistan's five million schoolchildren are girls, compared to none in early 1992.

However, in the last six months, Taliban attacks and threats have disrupted or shut down more than 300 of those schools.

Late one night in February,

more than a dozen masked gunmen burst into the 10-room girls' school in Mandrawers, Afghanistan, beating up the night watchman, soaking the principle's office, filling the library with gasoline and setting it on fire.

The townspeople of Mandrawers fled the blaze before it could spread, later to find written messages from the gunmen promising to cut off the nose and ears of any teacher or student who dared return to the school.

"I'm not afraid of getting my nose and ears cut off," said a female student, who dreams of becoming a teacher herself. "I want to keep studying."

Hate mail kept coming, with threats to shave the teachers' heads as well as mutilate their faces after a few days of returning back to the site. Most of the school's 650 pupils were back to their studies. The threats did not

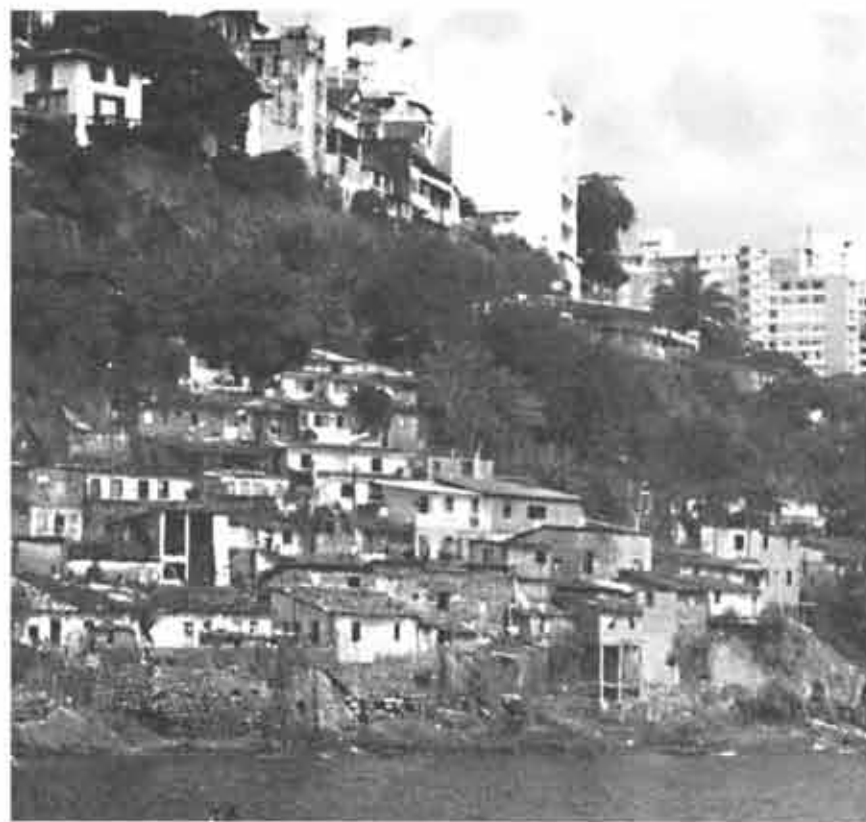
work.

Even one girls' school in the village of Haider Khani has suffered a sharp drop in attendance since January, when masked gunmen forced their way in and torched the place on fire. After quickly repairing the damage and reopening the school, only 40 percent of the village's preteen girls came back.

The Kabul government is losing a lot of support from people in their province because it seems they are unable to prevent such attacks.

"When we look at what President Karzai and the local government are doing for us, we are not optimistic about our future. In terms of education and security, I'd say we're making zero progress," said Principle Abdual Rauf.

So, in response to the recent surge of school burnings and Taliban attacks, US, Afghan forces and NATO have launched a major counter-offensive into the lawless high country of southern Afghanistan.



Contributed Photo

DOES THIS QUALIFY AS A GREENBELT? - City life beckons those who have to cope with homes washing away in the rainy season.

Brazilian favelas eye-opening

Slums in Rio de Janeiro, run by drug lords, are gaining more attention from local governments

KEREN GOTTFRIED
STAFF WRITER

A truck whizzes by. There's a man hanging onto the side of it, shrieking. I hear gunshots. Police officers with AK-47s throw something large into the back of their car. The locals are standing along the curb, watching. A woman is crying.

Our group gets into the van hurriedly, and we speed away. I ask our guide what just happened. "Police raid," responds Andres, our guide. "But don't worry, it's not in their interest for tourists to get hurt."

In my recent visit to Rio de Janeiro, I visited the infamous sights of Copacabana beach and Corcovado mountain. I also visited the shantytowns.

I was hesitant at first because it seemed voyeuristic, and of course dangerous, but I couldn't leave without experiencing the way 30 percent of the population of Rio lives.

Since the first favela was built by African slaves in the 1920s,

over 600 have popped up on the steep mountains known as *morros*. The colourful shacks have the best views in all of Rio.

Favelas are run by drug lords who deal cocaine and marijuana. They impose certain laws in order to stay out of the attention of the police, like anti-theft. Caught the first time, a robber chooses a limb to be shot. Caught the second time, it's a bullet to the head.

Until recently, the Brazilian government turned a blind eye to the poverty-stricken favelas. It was only 12 years ago that they acknowledged their existence on state maps and documents. Since then they have worked with the Inter-American Development Bank to invest \$550 million to provide favelas with basic infrastructure.

Despite the poverty, the people are far from miserable. Children play on the streets, and the markets thrive. In fact, the people I met in the favelas are far friendlier than the people I met in downtown Rio.

Mexicans divided

Calderón of the National Action Party (PAN) wins election by 0.58 percent



Contributed Photo

A HERO'S WELCOME - López Obrador of the PRD has filed a complaint to the IFE to recount the votes in Mexico's most recent election.

MARY ERSKINE
STAFF WRITER

For days after the hotly disputed Mexican election July 2, the messages from both front running parties mirrored each other in their respective claims to victory.

A recount of the ballots continued late into the night three days after the polls officially closed, and it wasn't until late in the recount that conservative candidate Felipe Calderón pulled ahead in the official tally.

Calderón was the candidate of the ruling party, the National Action Party (PAN), of which Vicente Fox has presided over for the past six years.

The runner-up was Andrés Manuel López Obrador of the Democratic Revolutionary Party

(PRD) and the populist former mayor of Mexico City.

Since the announcement of his rival beating him by a mere 0.58 percent, or about 244,000 votes out of 41 million, Obrador has supported protests which proclaim that the election was riddled with corruption, stating, "we cannot accept these results."

He has also filed a formal election challenge to the Electoral Federal Institute (IFE) who oversaw the election process.

López Obrador's loss flies in the face of the current trend towards populism seen in a number of Latin American countries, including the recent elections of left leaning governments in Chile, Bolivia and Venezuela.

Regardless, it is without a doubt that there was at least one clear

loser of this otherwise controversial election.

The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), who ruled over Mexico for 71 years until Fox's victory in 2000, received just over 20 percent of the popular vote.

Many liken this controversy to the 2000 American election, in which Republican George W. Bush came to power.

Today in Mexico, it is also the right-leaning conservative who has been deemed the winner.

The IFE have until September 6 to officially declare a winner and rule on Obrador's official complaint.

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Hawks get military aid

Laurier hands the coaching reigns of the men's hockey team over to Kelly Nobes to replace the departed Steve Martell

DAN POLISCHUK
SPORTS EDITOR

When Laurier's men's hockey team hits the ice this coming winter to defend its OUA Mid-West title from last season, as well as a return to the national championship stage, they will be doing so under the tutelage of a new coach.

Recently, it was decided that the man to lead them to achieving the above-mentioned goals would be Kelly Nobes - most recently the head coach of the Royal Military College men's program.

Nobes, who held the position at RMC for five years, was among 60 applicants who forwarded their resumes to Laurier athletic director Peter Baxter. The position was originally made vacant in May when Steve Martell stepped down to accept a teaching position in Nova Scotia.

According to Baxter, the evaluations for a new coach were very "rigorous."

"One of the things we were looking at was stability with our hockey program over the long term," explained Baxter, adding that Nobes fit the bill perfectly.

"He came in with a plan and a vision for the program; both short-term and long-term goals," he said.

"He knows his competition in the league. . . . We didn't want

somebody who had to restart and relearn the systems of Western, Lakehead and Brock and Waterloo. Kelly knows it."

Sharing similar views with Baxter, the 32-year-old Nobes explained that while he is "excited to take a new team," he aims on getting "the team back to the nationals next season" while continuing to improve the quality of the program.

"I'm a fair coach, but clearly there's going to be structure and there's going to be discipline."

- Kelly Nobes, new Laurier men's hockey coach

True to the points in the plan he presented to Baxter, Nobes will look to develop "a strong on-ice product and a high graduation rate of guys that are involved with the community and the school."

When asked why the job became so appealing to him, Nobes spoke of getting a fresh start at a "more mainstream university."

"At RMC, you're having to coach with a lot of limitations - primarily your recruiting pool. At the end of the five years, I just felt we were getting pretty close to our ceiling because we haven't been able to

attract the high-end guys.

"Laurier really impressed me with how seriously they took their athletics program," he said of his decision to ultimately become a Golden Hawk.

Aside from his accolades for the school, he was also quite willing to credit the job his predecessor did in the two short years he was here.

"Steve did a really great job with the program and getting the team to the national championships - and the road to the nationals last year wasn't an easy one."

And as he begins to ride the wave of recent success for the men's hockey program, the new head coach is set to make the team his own.

"There's always going to be a structured environment. I'm a fair coach, but clearly there's going to be structure and there's going to be discipline."

How the team will respond to the new voice of authority will only be seen once the puck drops in early October to start the season against Toronto.



Laurier Athletics

PLEASED TO MEET YA - Kelly Nobes is all smiles at being named the new head coach of the Laurier men's hockey team.

Tom reads 'Wright-ing' on the wall

With the resignation of yet another commissioner, the Canadian Football League continues its 'tradition' of declining legitimacy



It was a mid-July afternoon in Toronto in 2005 when commissioner Tom Wright announced his one-year contract extension and his intent to head the Canadian Football League into the future. A very short future at that.

Almost one year to the date, the well-spoken and professional commissioner declared his intention of stepping down after presenting the Grey Cup in Winnipeg later this year.

A true professional who left on his own terms, or rather an individual who was left with little choice? While many may interpret this as a self-initiated move, it clearly seems to be a case of 'are you going to leave, or do we have to push you out?'

For the first time since the CFL's "all-Canadian" policy in 1996, it seemed as though the league had finally found a place in the hearts of Canadians. With Wright at the helm, the CFL broke records for attendance, revenue



Contributed Photo

SHORT BUT SWEET? - During his short tenure as commissioner, Wright (above) was never fully appreciated.

and television programming. Today, the CFL is the second-most popular league in Canada behind only the NHL, and telecasts every regular season game on national television.

So where did Tom Wright go wrong? Simple. When he failed to understand the fact that being the commissioner of the CFL does not mean you get to call the shots. In reality, it is the board of governors, headed by the owners

of each team, that can choose to deny a contract extension if they please.

It was no secret that Wright wanted to impose a salary cap of some nature, in order to ensure a more balanced and level playing field. This did not necessarily bode well with some of the owners. They had made it more than evident that they did not want any part of this salary restriction and furthermore any part of

Wright as commissioner.

In 2005, when Wright was given his extension, it was also made public knowledge that a group of owners were not too pleased with the extension and its related implications.

Upon a 90-minute conference in July of 2005, which decided Wright's fate as commissioner, one owner came out saying that they could not fire him, or "we'd look bush." Then, it would seem

that extending Wright for an extra year was rather pointless, except for the fact that Wright now leaves with his dignity, and more importantly, the league saves face.

Although the humble dethroning of the Commissioner can be seen from many viewpoints, the fact remains the same; anytime things seem to be looking up for the league, dark clouds surely loom ahead.

Many come out of this situation feeling sorry for Tom Wright, as he was merely a victim to a board that wanted it their way. Though it is partially true, the real loser in this ordeal is the CFL, a league that for the last two and a half years has seen progression in almost every way imaginable.

What the CFL is now looking for is not a commissioner, but rather a 'yes-man' who makes sure he does not stray too far from the board's plan. So after the smoke has settled and all is said and done, Tom Wright will always be remembered as the guy who brought the league back to its feet and the CFL will be remembered as the league that failed to recognize that.

So long, sweet summer

Where to go and what to do for the last weeks of the season

JANET HAND
CORD STUDENT LIFE

As the summer slowly winds down, many students need to take a break before jumping back on the education bandwagon.

Not all of us have the same budget, taste in activities or available time, so a few options will suit every vacation desire.

Here are a few ideas on what to do and where to go for the remaining days of summer.

When strapped for cash and time, why not become a tourist in your own backyard?

A short bus or train ride will drop you right downtown Toronto where you can climb the CN Tower, take in Jays game or concert, check out one of the best restaurants in Canada.

With tons of activities to keep any budget happy, everyone can find some entertainment for a short amount of time in Canada's largest city.

If you are a little more adventurous and have a bit more time, why not set up your tent at one of Ontario's provincial parks?

Ontarioparks.com lists parks offering campsites as low as \$20 a night (if you are willing to skip the showers). With rock climbing, swimming, canoeing and tanning

to keep you busy, you will surely find something to entertain you by day and campfires, cold beers and s'mores by night.

If you need a bit more luxury, many sites come equipped with hot showers, running water nearby and electricity to charge your cell phone and play some tunes.

If the idea of sleeping under nylon isn't your thing but want to escape from the hectic city life, many parks now offer small cabins if you have a few extra pennies to spare.

Bugs and dirt not your thing? Why not take an extended weekend and visit our neighbors to the south? On an overnight bus, you can leave Toronto and wake up in New York City well-rested for a day of touring.

Millions of backpackers rate New York's hostels as some of the best in the world.

With many rooming options catering to different personalities and budgets, everyone can find accommodation in the "Big Apple." There are also Broadway musicals, the Empire state building, and Central Park.

If time and money are not a problem, grab your passport and get out of the region. Tons of vacation packages are available at cheap rates for the summer.



ELORA QUARRY - Spend the day basking in nature. This picturesque setting is only a short drive away.

If KW's current heat wave isn't enough for you, check into a Caribbean all-inclusive resort. With Cuba, Dominican Republic and Mexico only a short flight away, tons of young people opt to vacation in the sun now and avoid the spring break price hike.

However, frequent hurricane warnings may deter you from the beach, so the other alternative is to check out the deals at travelcuts.ca and hop on a plane to Europe for the same amount of money.

With Italian wine, English accents, and French beaches to tempt you, why not break free from North America and add a little culture to your sojourn abroad. A cheap flight, sometimes as low

Local attractions

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ELORA GORGE

Canoeing, tubing down rapids. It's what Huck Finn would have wanted.

LAKE HURON

A day at the beach epitomizes summer. Mix in a camp site for a weekend away. Some popular spots include Grand Bend and Sauble Beach.

AFRICAN LION SAFARI

Explore Africa in your own backyard, while a monkey rips the antenna off your friend's car. Fun for everyone!

as \$259 for London and \$289 for Paris, Europe isn't out of the question for a week-long break.

There are endless hostel op-

tions, and any budget traveler can entertain themselves for a few days.

Sun worshippers in vain

A look at the origins and dangers of our obsession with the sun

JENNIFER O'NEILL
STAFF WRITER

According to the Canadian Cancer Society, approximately 153,000 Canadians will develop cancer this year, 1500 of those being skin-related cancers.

Even with these startling figures, as soon as the summer sun hits, people long to bake for that perfect glow.

Our culture has not always been full of sun worshippers. In fact, it wasn't until the twentieth century that society began to accept bronzed skin.

Hundreds of years ago, skin became a symbol that differentiated the classes. Pale skin represented a life of leisure only given to the upper classes, while darker skin represented a life of outdoor labour.

In the 1920s, as fashion became less restricting, Coco Chanel gave to the fashion world the tan. While cruising from Paris to

Cannes, Chanel obtained a sun-tan and brought the look into her designs.

By the 1970s an entire generation had been baking in the sun, oblivious to any long-term effects. It wasn't until 1979, that sunscreen was said to help prevent skin cancer and the rating system of sunscreens on a SPF scale was introduced.

In 1988 the American Academy of Dermatology held a consensus conference on ultraviolet light exposure and damage. The conclusion they made: there is no safe

way to tan.

So nearly twenty years later, we are still lying in the sun, searching for that bronzed glow. Even with all the education in the media and in our schools about the dangers of sun damage, we continue to bake.

The reality is not this article, nor any other article will keep young adults out of the sun. To know the dangers of the sun you must be able to see that sun spot on your cheek, the leathery looking skin hanging loose or the wrinkles that are too deep to cover.



BRONZING BABES - There is no safe way to tan. Stick to lotions and sprays.

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Emilie Joslin

THE CORD WEEKLY

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The grass always seems greener

Summertime never lives up to the expectations of students who eagerly anticipate it, leaving Features Editor Alex Hayter searching for solutions

Mo' students, mo' problems

Although often touted as a small school with a strong sense of community, it seems Laurier is bursting at the seams as it transitions to the comprehensive school envisioned in its century plan.

WLU administration planned to decrease enrolment of first-year students this year, yet almost 600 more students enrolled than were expected. The unexpected influx of students was attributed to the "very inexact science" of predicting enrolment numbers. While administration assures that the lack of available residence rooms is a problem that can – and has – been solved, more issues are at stake.

Amidst the massive renovation of the Dr. Alvin Wood's Building (DAWB), which was already causing some concern for classroom availability, there will now be over 600 unplanned-for students that will need to be crammed somewhere. The additional need for classrooms affects current WLU students just as much as incoming frosh. The extra strain on the school's resources at a time when it was already undergoing severe growing pains lessens the quality of education available to all students, and Laurier's reputation, which is already suffering according to the latest *Maclean's* ratings, will undoubtedly take a further hit.

One of the main draws of Laurier for many incoming students is its supposed small class sizes and community feel, but if the unexpected enrolment increases continue, it won't be long before classes are burgeoning out of control and administration can't paste together a quick fix. The worst part is that this is not a new problem. In 2001, a two percent increase in applications resulted in 759 students who were squished three students to a two-person room.

The administration is asking "students to understand that this isn't [their] fault." Instead of shifting the blame to inefficient prediction processes, WLU admin needs to take progressive steps to ensure that this kind of gross underestimation doesn't occur in the future, providing a quality education with the small classes that they originally signed up for.

This unsigned editorial was 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 WLU SP.



ALEX HAYTER
FEATURES EDITOR

As far as clichés go, 'the grass is always greener on the other side' is the one that really seems to hit the mark in most circumstances of life. It's the tragically optimistic quality of human nature. We always see better in something we don't have. In the case which I will describe, we spend our lives in the future, looking forward to better, different and more inviting circumstances. We defer our existence.

Examine yourself right now: it's more than likely that you are looking forward to something. Whatever you've just done is no longer of much importance. It was ok. What you're doing right now is reading some article. It's slightly fun. Despite the world's best efforts to offer you a wealth of experiences to cherish for every moment, you choose to ignore them. Don't worry; you're the same as everyone else.

This is why summers suck so much: we spend months scraping through an intensely active and stressful school year, with a

glorious end in sight. The 'glorious' goal? A wonderful, relaxing, epic summer, spanning 123 days and 123 nights. The reality, as we all know, is far from this. All we do is work. In fact, we seem to have less free time on our 'break' than we do during our school year.

My real point here, if there is one, is that summers are made all the worse by the fact that we

which, try spending next summer without a job. Or do something different. Try traveling, volunteer in Venezuela, or start your own business.

I think that the most practical and universally pleasing solution to the "Shitty Student Summer" (Hayter, 2006) would be to trade summer with the winter term. That way we get to cozily work

inside all winter, and spend summer and fall basking in the glory of student life.

I've personally seen both sides of the spectrum this summer. My

first two months were a busy, hard-working period of long work days and little time off. Now I'm unemployed and struggling to find ways to entertain myself from day to day. Between the two, I'm finding it hard to wonder which was a better way to spend my time. In the midst of my philosophizing, I find myself completely dissatisfied with the whole situation. One thing I'm sure of: this summer sucked.

Oh well, maybe next summer will be better.

During the summer, all we do is work. In fact, we seem to have less free time on our 'break' than we do during our school year.

hold some ideal in our minds for that 'perfect summer.'

Summer gives us something to look forward to every year, yet, year by year, they reveal themselves to simply be another grass lawn that looked good from the other side of the fence. Worst of all, summers go by faster each year, giving us less time to try to appreciate them. This has all got to change... but how can we stop this endless cycle?

I'm unemployed right now, so I've had a lot of time on my hands to think of solutions to the suggested problems. Speaking of

Dream of being an opinion writer, but can't commit to a full year of writing?

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letters@cordweekly.com

Dumbing down the university

Professor Don Morgenson reminisces about when education was pursued for the joy of learning, not the utility of gaining a degree



DON MORGENSON
ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

It was a quiet evening celebration and the conversation was compelling until someone made the statement: "Frankly, I think this business about an education for its own sake . . . is really the bunk. This idea that you can actually learn about the world by sitting in your study, or the library, just does not seem right. . . . You need some firm relationship with the workplace."

Someone else chimed in: "I am not sure all this business about studying classics is such a good thing, either."

Interesting. In the 150 years

since Charles Dickens invented then criticized Mr. Gradgrind, with his "facts, facts, facts," perhaps such hard times are back for Ontario's universities. No more conjugating Latin irregular verbs, no such cultivating "elitist skills" including the study of the Iliad, the Odyssey, or the Aeneid in their original languages; no need to understand the nuances of Plato or Aristotle, or read the legal and political writings of the Roman Republic, i.e., Marcus Aurelius, et al. What a loss!

Matthew Arnold, poet and critic, published one of the great works of the 19th century, *Culture and Anarchy*, where he dealt with questions vexing our educational systems today, namely, how to get a largely uneducated population ready to play an expanding role in an expanding democracy.

In the introduction he wrote that the entire scope of the essay "is to recommend culture as the great help out of our present difficulties; culture being . . . the best which has been thought and said."

For Arnold, the essential quality that a more civilized and humane people needed was education. And even if perfection remains unattainable, it could be approached most effectively through a greater understanding of all that had happened in the world of other lands and civilization and ways of thought. Matthew Arnold railed against utilitarianism and extended John Ruskin's notion that before the electorate can properly use political power, it must be educated in the broadest sense.

Culture must be, according to

Arnold, "an engine of social and class distinction" but that is exactly why he wished to spread it out as far as he possibly could. He called the propagation of education the extension of "sweetness and light." And while such terms - "sweetness and light" - might sound silly, it does convey the warmth and brightness of true civilization.

For many of us, "sweetness and light," or learning for learning's sake, has a religious or spiritual purpose. It is "to make reason and the will of God prevail" or more precisely and secularly as Montesquieu put it, "to render an intelligent being yet more intelligent." In other words, the purpose of culture is to enable people to question their "stock notions and habits." Once this is done, "the moral, social and beneficent character of culture becomes manifest."

Like Dickens' Mr. Gradgrind, many feel that learning is all about utility. And even worse than

his blinkered emphasis, more and more people, once they have their basic education and the skills that allow them to survive in the world of leisure or work, they often have no further intellectual interests.

They are without curiosity, and more, the system in which they are brought up encourages them to remain militantly so.

It is not that they don't know about art, music, literature and history . . . it is that they expressly don't want to know. As a result, our age is darker than it need be; people of our day have been made vulnerable to cynical manipulation. They have been duped into thinking that the superficial extension of liberties is a substitute for the real power that comes with knowledge and understanding.

Only through greater knowledge and understanding can we be true to ourselves and to others, while Matthew Arnold's "ignorant armies clash on that darkling plain."

Letters to the Editor

Doctor not the voice of moderation

Let me start by saying how much I enjoyed the *Cord Weekly* reunion on July 8. I particularly appreciated the patience you demonstrated in listening to my ancient tales of former *Cord Weekly* glory days. My friends tired long ago of listening to me explain how I changed the name of the WLU teams from Mules to Hawks.

During the dinner I indicated to you it was my intention to make a modest donation to The WLU Student Publications Volunteer Bursary Fund. However, I began to have second thoughts after I returned home and read the article "No Simple Answer To Extreme Acts" in the 2006 Frosh Mailer.

I am Jewish and a supporter of Israel. I would welcome the existence of a democratic Palestinian State living in peace with the Jewish State of Israel.

Returning to the article, Peter Eglin's use of the phrase "Israeli occupation of Palestine" reveals an obvious anti-Israeli bias for reasons I am not going to go in this letter.

At the same time, the article quotes Dr. Mohammed Elmasry at considerable length and portrays him as a voice Muslim moderation and conciliation.

In fact Dr. Elmasry achieved considerable notoriety when he proclaimed on the Michael Coren TV show (note Wikipedia) that all adult Israeli citizens were justifiable targets for Palestinian attacks. The Canadian Jewish Congress and "several prominent Canadian Muslims" objected strongly to Dr. Elmasry's remarks. I believe the *Cord Weekly* was remiss in portraying Dr. Elmasry as a voice of moderation without indicating the controversial nature of his past remarks.

I believe in freedom of the press and I believe individuals have the right to criticize the policies of the government of Israel just as we have the right to criticize the policies of the Government of Canada. However, I also believe the media has a responsibility to report honestly and to provide perspective from both sides of an issue. I believe the *Cord* failed its responsibility in this article.

-Ron Berenbaum

Hiring practices miss true talent

Props to Sarah McDonald for her column on the STARR system. The STARR system is a completely useless and elitist method of hiring that bears no resemblance to real world hiring practices. McDonald describes how a mastery of the STARR system is the way to get a position in WLUSU, rather than any sort of merit. She then asks, "Does this mean that the most qualified person gets the job?"

The answer is a resounding no. My RadioLaurier interview consisted of two STARR questions, neither of

which provided any way to assess my aptitude for music, music technology or journalism. Instead of being discouraged when I didn't get hired, I walked down the street to CKMS at the University of Waterloo, where I produced a demo show in order to prove my skills. They determined I was more than capable of producing a radio show and I was given a slot. Upon graduating from Laurier, I was hired by the National Campus and Community Radio Association.

Is WLUSU so devoid of the critical thinking skills we're supposed to be

learning in university that it needs to use a rigid grading system to tell it who to hire? If WLUSU continues to use its ridiculous STARR system, it will continue to miss out on many talented, enthusiastic volunteers with relevant experience in favour of people who can memorize the STARR system. Laurier will miss out on ever having a real, licenced radio station, since the CRTC will never licence a station with such suspect hiring practices and a shoddy grasp on the inclusive ideals of community broadcasting.

- Carly Beath

Letters Policy:

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

The Cord reserves the right to not publish material that is deemed to be libelous or in contravention with the Cord's Code of Ethics or journalistic standards.

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Josiah Young

NEVER GROW UP - David Winning, Canadian television director for such programs as *Goosebumps* and *Breaker High*, poses with his bodyguards.

Growing up geeky

David Winning, Canadian director of children's television, makes an appearance at *Jedi II* opening; asserts importance of imagination

- from **KID**, cover

jive, we didn't need girls, all we needed was *Star Wars*." Here Kid, along with his best friend James (Matthew White), must come to terms with the pressures of adolescence, which seem to suffocate the magic and imagination of childhood.

Kid's youthful exuberance is ultimately threatened by the affections of his classmate Kerry (Brienne Tucker).

As the woman who opens Kid's eyes to the world, Tucker is wonderful.

Tucker provides a comfortable and charming performance as a young girl who longs only to find a "great boyfriend."

While Kid must deal with Kerry's playful courtship, the aforementioned James must also deal with his own hapless personality. James, too, is unsettled by the transition from childhood to adolescence.

In one memorable scene, this tension is manifested as James breaks his arm in a freak roller-derby accident, while trying to impress his grade eight girlfriend, Mandy (Sarah Henriques).

While *Jedi II* is full of allusions to 1970s dorkiness (including hardcore Atari playing, flashlight light-saber battles, roller disco, and the obligatory bad Yoda impersonation) the play is ultimately more about growing up and finding oneself than it is about

the obsessions that our childhood imaginations rely upon.

Helping to add to the science-fiction atmosphere of Sunday's performance was an appearance by members of the Fighting 501 Canadian Garrison.

Decked out in their Sunday best, which included both Storm Trooper and Darth Vader outfits, these two men braved the summer heat so that they could provide protection for the day's guest of honour: Canadian television director, David Winning.

A veteran of both children's TV ("*Are You Afraid of the Dark*," "*Goosebumps*," "*Breaker High*") and sci-fi ("*Andromeda*," "*Earth Final Conflict*"), Winning was a perfect fit for the day's event.

"I enjoy working with kids. They don't have the egos that some of the sci-fi actors do. Children are just much more natural actors," a half-joking Winning remarked.

While Winning offered insight into the pinnacle of the sci-fi industry, television, he also echoed the sentiments of the theatrical performance that preceded his presentation.

As he discussed the challenges that actors face who are in fields that rely upon the use of post-production special effects, the accomplished director reinforced *Jedi II*'s assertion of the power and importance of one's imagination.

"Some of the best actors work in sci-fi because a lot of the time you're not acting with anything but your imagination," said Winning.

Panic! time

Las Vegas dance rockers furiously storm Toronto

AMANDA BRANCH
CORD A&E

When I heard Panic! at the Disco was coming to The Docks in Toronto on Saturday, July 15, I got tickets immediately. Not too long after, I heard that the tickets were sold out, and Panic! would be moving to the Molson Amphitheatre. I was really impressed that such a new band was actually able to sell out this large venue.

The Dresden Dolls opened the show and I was fairly impressed with their performance. I had never really liked any of their songs before, but both singer/pianist Amanda Palmer and drummer Brian Viglione, had a ton of energy. Palmer could certainly belt out a song and the crowd seemed to really enjoy their set. Unfortunately, the Dresden Dolls performed as many covers as their own original songs, which took away from their set a little bit because not many people in the audience knew the songs they

were covering.

The highlight of their set was when Brendan Urie, singer of Panic! at the Disco, came on stage to perform Britney Spears' "Baby One More Time." They put a few twists on the original, coming

up with a very entertaining pop-punk version of the well-known song.

Panic! at the Disco came on earlier than scheduled, due to the missing Hush Sound. Even before the band stepped on stage, everyone surged forward and started jumping around. The crowd was one of the most energetic I have ever seen. Some fans were going crazy, throwing elbows and pushing people around, trying to start a huge mosh pit.



Amanda Branch

VAUDEVILLE STYLE - Panic! at the Disco brings Toronto back to the 1900s by transforming the Molson Amphitheatre.

Panic! caught the audience's attention immediately by having the stage set up as if the venue was a club in the early 1900s, with dancers dressed in Vaudevilian-type costumes and the band members themselves dressed as if they had just stepped out of that era.

Eventually it became obvious that the dancers were not that great. Basically they were just strutting around, occasionally wiggling their bottom. I think that the idea of having dancers dressed in costume was a great idea and it could have added a lot to Panic's performance, however, seeing as the dancers lacked any talent, I found it more distracting than entertaining.

Panic's front man, Urie, certainly knew how to put on a show, dancing around the stage and interacting with both the dancers and the other band members. Urie is a fabulous singer, adding harmonies and improvisations to the songs that go beyond the album version. I thought their set far surpassed anything I was expecting and I was extremely impressed at the calibre of their performance, despite the fact they are still a relatively new band.

Mario: the right way

"Nintendo, what took you so long?"

JILLIAN PANCOTT
CORD A&E

I had just purchased my brand spanking new Nintendo DS Lite, and was eager to play the first side scrolling Mario game in over 13 years, *New Super Mario Bros*. So, after strategically stealing it from my boyfriend, I proceeded to play, and play, and play. All I can say is, "Nintendo! What took you so long!?"

This is the game our generation has been waiting for. No longer will I roam aimlessly across a vast three-dimensional world, heading in the wrong direction for hours. Now I have a sense of direction, and it's to the right.

Where to begin? *New Super Mario Bros* came naturally to me after having grown up playing similar games on my NES. However, I did find some things felt awkward. It took a couple levels to get used to the jump range and wall jumps (having never owned a N64), and how much faster the new "mini" Mario moves.

There are also some things that make this game for DS different from the original NES versions: new goodies. With the addition of the mini-mushroom, mega-mushroom and blue shell, there is an added cleverness to the game. Often you need one of these special items to help you find the three star coins hidden in each level.

There are some other minor differences to this game. For one, it's Baby Bowser who kidnaps the Princess, not Bowser.

The 'reserve' ability is a great addition to the game. Basically, if you're already large Mario, and you come across another mushroom, the new mushroom is stored for later. Thus, this new feature allows you to 'boost up' if you become small Mario when encountering a boss.

The bosses at the end of the level aren't particularly difficult, and there are many opportunities for one-ups (including a throw-back to the 99 one-up secret from the NES version at the end of level 2-4 for *New Super Mario Bros*).

There are other parts to the game, including a "versus mode," where you can play wirelessly against another DS user and battle one another for star coins. The game also offers a variety of mini-games, none of which are overly exciting.

With this game Nintendo has finally created something that is unique and nostalgic at the same time.

