



## GLOBAL GIRL POWER

Angela Merkel is among the world's female powerhouses... **PAGE 8**

## STUDENTS TAKE PARKINSON'S

Groundbreaking research and rehabilitation is happening just up the street ... **PAGE 16-17**

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www.cordweekly.com

# Second time's a charm

Students grill WLUSU director hopefuls at second open forum yesterday; board and election awareness reigns as hot topic



Photos by Sydney Holland

**VOTE FOR ME** - Above, 5 of the now 12 SGM candidates tackle student questions. L to R: Colin LeFevre, Heather Blair, Justin Veenstra, Sheena Carson, Asif Bacchus.

### STEVE NILES STAFF WRITER

The final stage of the second 2007 WLUSU election campaign took place Tuesday with a sparsely attended board of directors open forum.

Nine of the original 13 candidates spoke, beginning at 9:00 am, to a Concourse that was relatively empty, with the exception of a few

friends, supporters and current directors.

Director candidates will compete for five empty board spots that were reopened after lacklustre interest in WLUSU's annual election forced the students' union to hold a Special General Meeting, to be held Thursday, March 8.

Samantha Henderson, a tenth candidate, arrived over half an hour late, citing traffic problems

due to her commute from Hamilton. Henderson is seeking a spot on the Waterloo board despite being a commuter student attending Brantford campus.

She explained that being located at the Brantford campus will not hinder her ability to attend meetings at the Waterloo campus.

The directors began the forum with opening statements outlining their positions, and most reiterated

the ideas stated in their platforms.

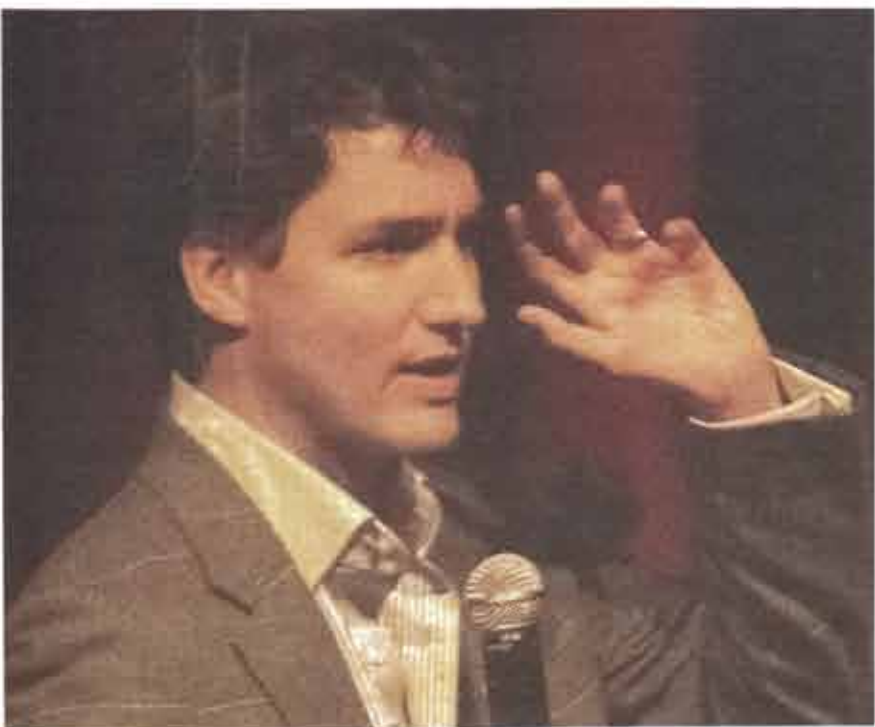
When the floor was opened, current director Jonathan Champagne asked candidates why they had not run in the previous election, one that resulted in an acclaimed board. The most common answer was a lack of awareness that elections were taking place.

Only three candidates provided more complex reasons for their absence. Colin LeFevre was originally

running for vice president: university affairs until he was forced to withdraw due to pneumonia, Asif Bacchus made an admitted paperwork error that stalled his application, and Justin Veenstra was serving as campaign manager for Yusuf Faqiri in his pursuit of the VP: UA portfolio.

Veenstra continually relied on

- SEE SGM, PAGE 3



Mohammad Jangda - Imprint

**ENVIRONMENT ADVODATE** - Justin Trudeau spoke at UW Mon. night.

# Trudeaumania at UW

'We all have power' says Trudeau; refuses comment on political motives

### LENNA TITIZIAN STAFF WRITER

When Justin Trudeau spoke at the University of Waterloo's Humanities Theatre on Monday evening, his message was loud and clear: Canadian society is ready for change, and it is up to us, the students and youth, to push for those changes.

Justin Trudeau, 35, is the eldest son of the late Pierre Elliott Trudeau, one of the most influential prime ministers that Canada has ever had. He established the

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and, during his terms in office, from 1968 to 1979 and from 1980 to 1984, he succeeded in maintaining Canadian unity in tumultuous times.

Some expect his son to follow in his footsteps; Justin Trudeau has recently received media attention for his decision to run for the Liberal Party leadership in Montreal's Papineau region.

Trudeau is a teacher by training and has taught at both the elementary and high school levels.

He is also actively involved with the youth volunteer service program Katimavik.

During Trudeau's appearance, his overarching message was one of support and inspiration for any student in the audience hoping to make a change in the world.

"Right now ... we desperately need to get the young people involved," Trudeau emphasizes. "What we do with our youth is exceedingly important because the

- SEE TRUDEAU, PAGE 2

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**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"So we're staging quote of the week now?"

- A slightly awkward Cord editor - you know, 'cause that really narrows it down (It was Joe)

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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.



Mohammad Jangda - Imprint

**YOUTH OF THE NATION** - Trudeau spent much of his lecture on Monday appealing to students to get actively involved in Canada's future.

# Changes needed: Trudeau

- FROM TRUDEAU, COVER

need to question our basic assumptions on how we run society, and how we make for a successful world."

When pressed on the trend of low youth voter turnout and lack of political involvement, Trudeau agreed that changes are needed within the federal system. "It's a bit of a catch-22. Youth don't vote, so politicians don't reach out to them, so youth don't feel reached out to, and they don't vote, so we get stuck in this cycle."

"I think we need one of the parties to break that," he added.

"We need to show people that

politics can make a difference by making a difference, [and to do this] we need to draw in more world changers, more young people with vision and integrity into politics."

Does Trudeau see himself as one of those young faces? It was certainly implicit in his approach, but along with his name comes certain expectations. "I'm getting slammed ... for not having done enough before getting into politics and I'd agree if I were 60 and I had the resume that I have, but I've been involved in travelling across the country and engaging with really big issues."

One issue Trudeau is passionate about is the environment. Cur-

rently working on a Master's degree in Environmental Geography at McGill University, Trudeau is involved with numerous environmental organizations. He wants to see Canada's youth hold the government accountable for environmental issues.

"Canadians are realizing more and more that we are coasting on an image of Canada that we tend to take for granted, that isn't the reality out there. Our ice caps are melting, our boreal forest is getting used up, our north permafrost is melting, our mines and forestry is endangering this vision of a natural, wild Canada, and it's linked to our demand for constant consumer products," says Trudeau.

"There needs to be a shift both by consumers, and by businesses, and by government. The fact is, there is so much money to be made in a green economy, in being smarter, in being cutting-edge, and not sitting back on the fact that we've got the second largest oil reserves outside of Saudi Arabia on the planet," he says.

"Don't give up. Get involved, no matter how small it seems right now. Pick a small task that you can achieve and fix it. We all have power; it's just a question of using that power, within the way that each of us can."

# Lobbyists seek an end to tuition

A recently drafted proposal seeks to divert tuition costs from students, still in early stages

**LAURA CARLSON**  
STAFF WRITER

The Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) has recently drafted a proposal for a new tuition policy. If passed, this policy will advocate the long-term goal of completely eliminating upfront post-secondary education costs.

Wilfrid Laurier University is one of the seven member universities that belongs to OUSA. The organization is dedicated to improving the accessibility, accountability and high quality of undergraduate education in Ontario.

The proposed tuition policy is still in its earliest stages and is subject to much further scrutiny within the organization. Although the details of the proposal still need to be worked out, the overall

aim of the policy is likely to remain fairly consistent. And that aim is to "spark debate."

Paris Meilleur, OUSA president and VP: Education at the University of Western Ontario feels that something significant needs to change in the current education system, and OUSA exists to make sure that happens.

"It's about creating a beginning step where we can create dialogue. That way we can actually start talking in an academic way about an academic topic and a public policy that suits our economy."

Jeff Henry, VP: Education at University of Waterloo, co-wrote the proposal with Meilleur and echoes her thoughts. "When we say 'tuition' we've already made a number of assumptions about what that system looks like. We've

made the assumption that it's upfront. We've made the assumption that the costs are borne entirely by the students. It's really a larger debate."

Currently the proposal aims to eliminate the upfront cost of tuition and have graduates pay their university fees back through a progressive tax system once they enter the working world.

Recent studies have shown that approximately 70 percent of the new jobs being created in Canada will require a post-secondary education. Meilleur feels that the government needs to be accountable for this if Canada wants to continue to be a leader in the global economy.

"Once participation rates [in the university system] get that high, then we get into the situation that we were in in the 1800s when high school became free. People needed a high school degree to be participating in the economy and now it looks that way for university."

ID Muir, steering committee member of OUSA and vice-president of university affairs at Laurier, is optimistic about what this type of system could do for students.

"What it does is it doesn't put any [student] into debt. Yes, they're going to be taxed for a big chunk of their life for it, but there's no interest on it and you're not burdened with it right at the beginning."

This policy will be discussed by the Steering Committee this Friday and will then be taken to the General Assembly at the end of March. Muir anticipates that if the policy is passed it will likely become a lobbying document for OUSA.

"So we [would] put 'no upfront tuition costs through a progressive tax system' on the backburner. That would be in our books, our goals, it's always on our minds and every new policy would be working towards it."

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story

> VOCAL CORD

What could be done to improve the status of women at Laurier?



"More events promoting gender equality."

- Alex Cutean  
Fourth-year Political Science



"I think status-wise at Laurier they're equal, but it's just out in the job world their status needs to be improved."

- Tejpal Gill  
First-year Business



"I think that the status of women at Laurier is already equal."

- Lindsay Thompson  
Second-year Communications



"Gender education at all academic levels. In high school and university."

- Ayiko Solomon  
Third-year Global Studies



"Advertising the Women's Centre more. I see posters but I want more information."

- Carol Chen  
First-year Economics

Compiled by Kelly Moore, photos by Riley Taylor

# The year's final vote

Directors ask students to head to the polls in their support for one last election of the year

- FROM SGM, COVER

allusions and analogies to make his points. When asked to describe policy governance, he used an analogy of the university as a ship, explaining the board's role in charting its course. In his closing statement, he referenced Simba from *The Lion King*, advising the BOD to "remember who you are."

Rafiq Andani, who had the most vocal crowd support of any candidate, was forced to respond to a statement he made in which he referred to BOD meetings as "boring." He responded that he felt the meetings were boring due to a lack of productive discussion and that the length of the meetings made them uninteresting. He also promised that he would attend every meeting if elected and would seek to increase the efficiency of meeting procedures.

Candidates were asked candidate-specific questions to clarify certain aspects of their platforms. When asked why he seeks to reinstate the Hawk logo on the floor in the Hall of Fame, Craig Stover responded that it was part of Laurier tradition. He also added that as a growing institution, it is important for Laurier to find its identity and that the Hawk was part of this.

The candidates were also asked to explain policy governance, which has recently been adopted by WLUSU. All candidates were able to give satisfactory results, with Jocelyn Butler and Veenstra showing they possessed the most knowledge.

LeFevre and Bacchus were not asked this question, nor many others, as they are currently sitting as directors. Both have been instrumental in authoring the new policies as members of the standing committee on Constitutional Operation and Development, thus making their answers unnecessary.

The day finished with Allan

Cayenne, the current president, outlining a referendum question that will be found on the ballot. The question relates to removing the voting power of the President and VP: UA under the new policy governance model, though they would still be required to attend board meetings and participate in discussions.

Kenneth Matheson withdrew from the election following his hiring as co-coordinator for Radio Laurier. He was required to withdraw as WLUSU policy states that it is a conflict of interest for a director to hold a managerial position.

Greg Sacks, who admitted he would have been late because he overslept, told the *Cord* he suffered an asthma attack as he ran to campus.

"I'm disappointed that I wasn't able to show the students my

personality," he said Tuesday evening.

"It's ironic in a way. If I walk, I'm 20 minutes late, but because I ran, I never made it," he added.

Kyle Walker also did not attend and no explanation was given.

The vote takes place tomorrow. Arts students vote in the solarium, science students in the science atrium, business students in the Schlegel building and music students on the third floor of the Aird building.



VACANT SEATS - Empty chairs prevailed at yesterday's open forum, in the crowd and among candidates.

Sydney Heiland

# Severe weather shuts down school

Ice and snow descended upon both Waterloo and Brantford campuses last Thursday and Friday

TONY FERGUSON  
NEWS EDITOR

Laurier's Waterloo and Brantford campuses were both closed all day last Friday and part of last Thursday due to severe weather.

The Brantford campus closed at 1:00 pm on Thursday and Laurier shortly followed at 2:30 pm after a sudden heavy and persistent snowfall.

"The decision [to close] was pretty easy," said Dr. Bob Rosehart,

president of Wilfrid Laurier University. "In Brantford, Grand Erie School Board decided to close at 1:00 ... it took the guesswork out of it."

Three years ago, a lot of guesswork was involved in cases such as these. Prior to 2005, Laurier's severe weather policy did not include a specific method for determining whether or not to close the school. Now the decision is made based on whether or not the public school board is closing.

Under the previous severe weather policy, the decision to keep the school open wasn't always the best.

"There were a couple of situations that we stayed open when we should have closed," said Rosehart, speaking of the ambiguity of the previous severe weather closure policy.

Although two snow days in a row is rare, there is nothing unusual about the weather for this time of year according to the Weather Network.

"March is really the transition month before we move towards the spring-like conditions of April and May," said Paul Adams, a me-

teorologist with the Weather Network. The transitional temperatures explain the heavy snowfall, which was followed by freezing rain.

Rosehart said that there were no major disruptions caused by the weather, other than an inundation of e-mails and phone calls inquiring about the status of the school.

"The website is our primary vehicle of communication," he said, advising those who are unsure about school closures in the future to consult the website.

"It's a wild month," said Adams. "It came in like a lion so hopefully it goes out like a lamb."

# Trends show enrolment decline

Men are less likely to apply to post-secondary and graduate schools

ASHLEY JANG  
STAFF WRITER

Looking at universities across Canada, it is evident that female enrolment in both undergraduate and graduate programs is on the rise. Ken Coates, Dean of Arts at the University of Waterloo, and Clive Keen, director of lifelong learning and enrolment management at the University of PEI, recently published an article in *The Walrus Magazine* in response to this pattern.

The article outlined why men are falling behind in universities while women are achieving more than ever. "Both of us have been strongly interested in trends in post-secondary education and women's accomplishments in the last few years and gradually noticed that there was a piece missing," said Coates.

The missing piece that Coates referred to is that of male accomplishments. According to the article, men are falling behind for various reasons, including teaching styles that don't adhere to their styles of learning, the belief that a university education is not essential and a lack of motivation.

The shift in male-to-female ratios in university can be seen clearly across the country. According to Statistics Canada, men now represent only 42 percent of total Canadian university enrolments. These trends are seen primarily in arts programs across Canada.

According to Coates, changes within societal structure have contributed to male underperfor-

mance. "Their world has changed, women are succeeding and it's not that clear what the broader role of men in society is because women are taking more roles that men traditionally played."

Women's desires to succeed are also a contributing factor. "A higher proportion of females have the necessary study skills and the desire to succeed, so as the number of enrolment in university increases, it becomes inevitable that more females are enrolled," said Keen.

**Men are falling behind for various reasons including teaching styles and the belief that a university education is not essential.**

Here at Laurier, the number of women enrolling is one of the highest in the country. According to *Maclean's Magazine*, in 2006, there was a male to female ratio of 39:61; a significant increase from 2000's 45:55.

"Our programming and the strength of arts and the fact that the natural sciences aren't so highly represented at Laurier makes us even stronger than the national trend," said Sue Horton, VP: Academic.

This trend can also be seen in the number of female faculty members. "There's a study in the current issue of *Academic Matters* and we have the third highest proportion of women faculty of all the univer-

sities in Ontario," said Horton.

The dominance of the arts at Laurier seems to be a contributing factor to the increasing number of female faculty members. Currently five of eight deans at Laurier are female, while at UW, a university known for its male-dominated programs such as engineering, only one of nine deans is female.

Coates believes that women's dominance within universities will ultimately have an impact on the workforce. "There are lots of situations where women are getting more positions that weren't available to them in the past."

As the numbers of males enrolling in post-secondary education continues to drop, it is evident that there is a problem that needs to be addressed. "The issue here should not be on women's accomplishment but the question should be about underperformance," said Coates. "Why don't men think they should engage academically?"

This could have a significant impact on society in general. "Social implications are extraordinary and many universities will be producing two female graduates for one male graduate," said Keen.

Keen and Coates hope their article will shed a light on an important issue. "We hope that we can get families, communities, and the system to focus on the issues at hand," said Coates.



Sydney Helland

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RAISING AWARENESS - Irene Solistice spoke as part of International Women's Week.

Riley Taylor

## Activist discusses sex trade

International sex trade a modern-day slave trade, says Irene Solistice

ASHLEY JANG  
STAFF WRITER

As part of International Women's Week (IWW), Laurier hosted a speech last night sponsored by the WLU Women's Centre entitled "The Natashas Campaign: Uncovering the Sex Trade."

The speech was just one part of a campaign that has been organized following the release of *The Natashas: Inside the New Global Sex Trade*, a book written by Victor Malarek.

The sex trade is an industry that is based on the act of human trafficking. This involves force, fraud, coercion or violence for the purposes of sexual exploitation and slavery.

The release of *The Natashas* was a big step in raising awareness about the realities of the global sex trade and its impact in areas all over the world.

While Malarek was unable to speak as initially planned, Irene Solistice, co-chair of the Stop the Trafficking Coalition and coordinator for Help Us Help the Children, an anti-trafficking initiative, was present to speak about the issue.

According to Solistice, human trafficking is something that affects thousands of women and children in Canada alone and is, according to the UN, the third most profitable industry in the world, producing \$12 billion annually.

In addition, Solistice expressed her concern that the sex trade is a modern-day slave trade that has reached epic proportions as hundreds of thousands of women and children are traded everyday.

Through her work with numerous organizations, Solistice hopes that she can make a difference.

"We're able to raise awareness and prevention by stopping it from happening in the first place," she said.

Natalie Falcomer, a political science and history student at Laurier and the primary organizer of the event, was present at the speech to discuss why she is concerned. "It is absolutely a shocking issue and I cannot sit here and think that it is happening to people in our country, in our homes," she said.



Both Solistice and Falcomer made it clear that the sex trade is a prominent issue that needs to be brought to the attention of people who can help put an end to it. They recommend letter-writing to MPs, giving presentations within your community, and keeping your eyes open for trafficking.

The speech was just one part of a week of events organized and sponsored by the Women's Centre. IWW is a time for women to celebrate the progress they have made over the years and assess the challenges that still remain.

Tomorrow, on International Women's Day, there will be a number of events taking place around campus. They include an art show in the Concourse from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and a documentary marathon in the Grad Pub from 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm.



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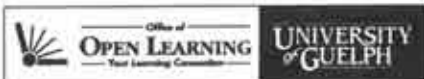
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## Shirts pulled from shelves

Chain appeases Canadian Federation of Students

TRISTAN LAPOINTE  
THE MCGILL DAILY

MONTREAL (CUP) -- The Canadian Federation of Students has charged a major clothing company with copyright infringement by incorporating its design into what it sees as an offensive and dangerous T-shirt slogan.

Last month, Bluenotes, one of Canada's largest retail chains, began selling a T-shirt reading "NO MEANS have aNOther drink" -- a play on the "No Means No" slogan of a CFS campaign against dating violence and date rape.

The CFS, which has an open trademark on the image design, contacted Bluenotes with both ethical and legal complaints about the way that the clothing company was using their trademarked image. The garment was pulled from all 116 Bluenotes stores last week.

Brent Farrington, deputy chairman and vice-president of CFS and the current leader of the No Means No campaign, said that the attitude expressed by the shirt is partially responsible for perpetuating dating violence.

"Initially when I asked why they made this shirt, I got the response that people think it's funny. [But]

even in irony it's not particularly amusing," he said.

In a letter to the CFS, Bluenotes president Michael Roden apologized for the offensive shirt and asserted that his company was "committed to reflecting the values of its customers." Roden also offered his design services to the CFS.

This new partnership will create an edgier look for No Means No and will probably do much to raise the profile of the campaign, Farrington said.

"They've offered to completely redesign our logos and to sell our shirts in their stores, which will give a portion of their proceeds to women's charities. We applaud them for righting this wrong," Farrington said.

The No Means No campaign has been active since 1994, after a study by the World March of Women in 1990 concluded that one in four women will be sexually assaulted or attacked at some point.

"Date rape and sexual assault are not going away. In fact, they're becoming a bigger problem than ever as we'll likely see in a new study on the issue coming out this year," Farrington said.

A spokesperson for Bluenotes was not available for comment.



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## NEWS IN BRIEF

ASAP donates \$30 K  
to DAWB renovations

The Arts Student Advancement Program (ASAP) made a donation of \$30,000 to furnish six lounges in the Dr. Alvin Woods Building.

Aamir Taiyeb, chair of the council, explains that they chose to make the donation because "it just all came together." There was a surplus of over \$10,000 remaining from last year's fund and Taiyeb hopes that this project will increase ASAP's presence on campus. "The project was designed to establish a stronger reputation for ASAP that will serve many decades into the future."

ASAP is in its second year of operation and receives its funds from a \$15.33 per term levy paid by Laurier arts students.

## FSW Film Festival

This week is National Social Work Week and the Laurier Faculty of Social Work and the Renison College School of Social Work are putting on the Expressions of Social Justice Film Festival, which seeks to explore the true struggles and strengths of the K-W community.

The showcased films deal with themes such as drug addiction and homelessness, and many are accompanied by a guest speaker. Three film screenings remain this week: *Prom Fight: The Marc Hall Story*, *Sherry Baby*, and *Murderball*. For more information, visit [www.kwfilmfest.ca](http://www.kwfilmfest.ca).

Entrance to the event is by donation and all proceeds from the event are going to Reaching Our Outdoor Friends (R.O.O.F.), a drop-in centre for youth in the K-W community.

WLUSU Management  
Committee hired

With the hiring of Constance Smelsky as VP: Student Services last Thursday, next year's WLUSU management committee is now complete.

The Student Services position had been reopened after no suitable candidates were found during the initial round of hiring. The other vice-presidents were hired on February 12. Sanjay Ojjo heads the Finance & Administration department, Neemish Parekh will be leading Human Resources, Ross Fraser is in charge of Marketing and Brian Punambolam takes the reins of Student Activities.

They are joined by elected VP: University Affairs Lauren McNiven, interim Chair of the Board Matt Park and President Dan Allison in comprising the top leadership brass of the 2007-08 students' union.

Compiled by Laura Carlson and  
Mike Brown

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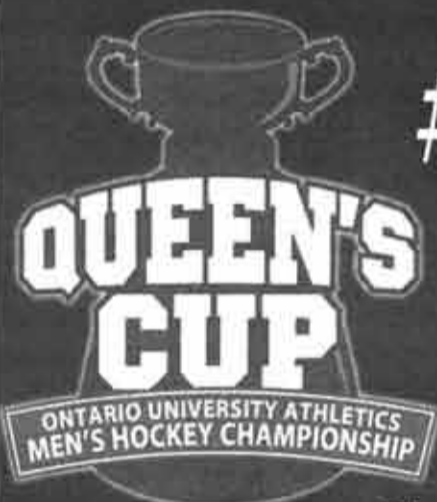
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**RIGHT ON TARGET** - Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, president of South Africa, hopes more women will follow in her footsteps.

Contributed Photo

## A very brief her-story of International Women's Day

**SARAH GRANKE**  
THE MANITOBA (UNIVERSITY  
OF MANITOBA)

WINNIPEG (CUP) -- International Women's Day is celebrated worldwide annually on March 8, in recognition of women and their art, accomplishments, perspectives, and a womyn-centered culture.

It is also a time to reflect on ways to challenge and end sexism, violence, racism, classism, able-ism, homophobia and other issues that many women face on a daily basis. This day of celebration is a result of the efforts of the working class women who fought for improved working conditions.

Today, International Women's Day (IWD) is considered an official holiday in various countries around the world, including most



of the former Soviet Union and Vietnam. However, IWD is usually not noted on calendars in Canada, and many people do not know the day exists, let alone how it came into being.

### A very brief her-story of IWD

According to the National Women's History Project, in New York City on March 8, 1857, female garment workers protested against their poor working conditions and demanded better wages, shorter hours, equal rights and improved working conditions. Many years

later, in 1909, American socialists decided to dub the last Sunday of February as National Women's Day.

In 1910, at a conference held in Copenhagen by the Socialist International, Luise Zietz and Clara Zetkin proposed that the American Women's Day be internationalized, but no exact date was selected.

In Russia, there had been many workers' strikes, and on March 8, 1917 (inspired by International Women's Day), women left their homes and factories to protest the terrible shortages of food, the high prices, the world war and the increased suffering they had bitterly endured. This protest that these women began launched one of the first stages of the Russian Revolution of 1917.

## Aussie pride glitters in streets

**JACKIE MARTINZ**  
STAFF WRITER

The sight of 250 men dressed as singer Kylie Minoque was just one of the spectacles at the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade held last week in Sydney, Australia, which involved almost 800 participants and was watched by nearly half a million people.

The parade held Aussie ac-

tor Rupert Everett as its chief of parade, chosen "because he is a high-profile member of the gay and lesbian community and can promote the values of Mardi Gras," said Mardi Gras Chairman Marcus Bourget.

"I think we need to ask ourselves what it means in 2007 to say that you are proud to be gay. I think it's time for us to give back, to care about each other, and to fight for

others - gay and straight - who just like us before them don't seem to matter and don't have a voice just when they most need to be heard. If these voices are heard that to me would be something to be proud of for Mardi Gras 2007," said Everett.

The event's organizer, Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Ltd, hoped the colourful floats would

- SEE PRIDE, PAGE 11

# Post-conflict countries meet critical mass of women in political office

Quebec only Canadian province to meet target

**MARY ERSKINE**  
STAFF WRITER

Through the years, International Women's Day has evolved along with the issues it has highlighted on a global scale. First observed on March 8, 96 years ago, it came into existence in order to acknowledge the struggles, progress and work yet to do by the women's rights movement. In 1977 it was officially endorsed by the United Nations and this week we celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of this recognition.



agreed-upon target of 30 percent, known as the "critical mass target" which governments are to meet as the next step towards better representation of women. In Canada, Quebec is the only province to have matched this target to date.

By the beginning of last year, only 18 countries had achieved the

30 percent critical mass target. Of these 18, a quarter of the countries are Nordic, including progressive leaders such as Sweden and Norway.

Another quarter of these "critical mass" countries include those

International Women's Day ... spells out our responsibility to work for enduring change in values and attitudes.

- Ban Ki-moon, UN secretary-general

Advances towards equality as well as a celebration of women's accomplishments to date represent a long and difficult global process. The progress over the last century has been evident, as today suffrage and running for political office is nearly universal. Over the last twenty years, the percentage of girls in school has risen in developing countries as much as forty percent according to the UN. Awareness regarding violence against women has sparked programs and campaigns that have benefited women across the globe.

However, one needs to look no further than our own country to find areas in need of improvement in terms of representation of women. Since Agnes McPhail was elected the first woman in the House of Commons in 1921, the number of women in Parliament has steadily increased but remains stagnant at about 20 percent. In 1984, 9.6 percent of the 282 seats in the House were held by women; by 1997 the figure was up to 20.6 percent of 301 seats. As of last year, a full ten years later, Canada still has only 20.8 percent of the now 308 seats filled by female representatives.

In addition, women who are Aboriginal or of a visible minority are hardly represented at all in Parliament. Since Confederation in 1867, only three Aboriginal women have been elected to the House of Commons.

Overall, there is a universally

that have undergone an intensive shift in conceptualizing the electoral process so as to recognize gender equality in parliament. This list includes so-called "post-conflict" countries such as South Africa, Rwanda, Burundi and Mozambique, among others. In 2005, Rwanda led the way with 39 of 80 seats in Parliament filled by women.

Women in Africa are not only celebrating cases of increasing representation in Parliament. A few women are also forging the way as some of the continent's first elected female presidents.

Liberia's Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf became the first woman elected head of state in Africa in November 2005 at the age of 67. She hoped her victory would be shared with other African women, and "raise the participation of women not just in Liberia but also in Africa."

An official message by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon regarding this year's International Women's Day speaks to the universal benefits of empowering women, and the lengths we still have to go to meet our goals of curbing violence and raising the status of women around the world. "That is why International Women's Day is so important. It spells out our responsibility to work for enduring change in values and attitudes. It calls on us to work in partnership—governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector."



# Estonia holds first parliamentary e-lection in world

Estonia one of top 5 most efficient governments

ASHLEY DOODNAUTH  
STAFF WRITER

Estonia made history recently for being the first country to embrace e-voting for a national parliamentary election within the European Union. From February 26 to 28, online polls were poised and ready for 900,000 Estonians to use the online voting system. Some 30,000 Estonians chose to vote online prior to election day, the BBC reports, possible because Estonians older than 15 years of age are required to carry an electronic identification card at all times.

E-voting systems have been tried on smaller scales in the UK and Ireland for local elections. Estonia has seen a smaller e-voting scenario in October 2005, when 10,000 people voted. Estonia expected to have 20,000 to 40,000 people vote via Internet ahead of the March 4 traditional voting.

In North America, online voting was tried in Arizona in 2000, however a series of Y2K glitches interfered with its success.

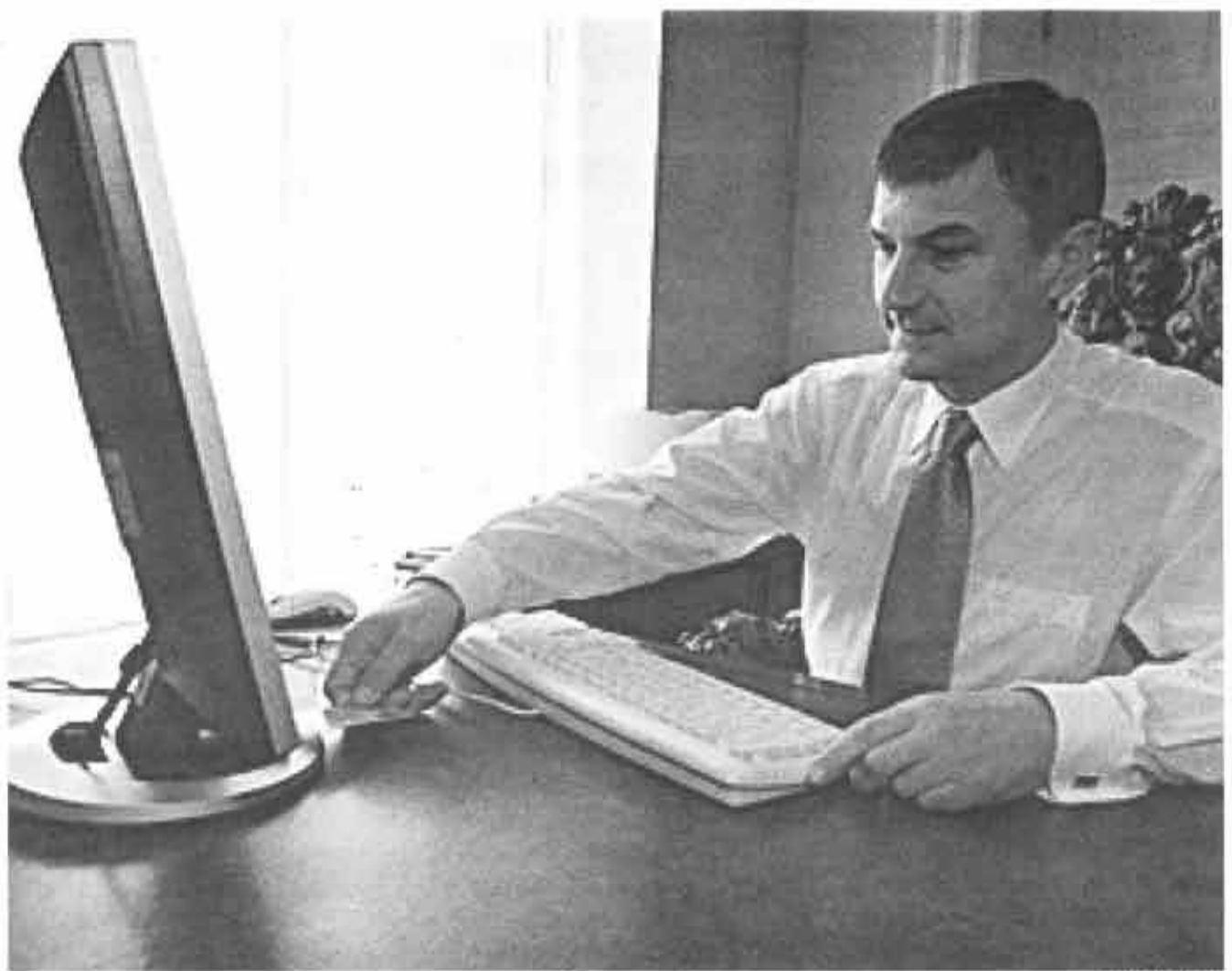
Despite worries about security breaches, the Estonian government assures that because people already have their own ID cards and corresponding PIN numbers, there is less of a chance of tampering with votes. The issue was forced voting, since election protocol made it possible to cast multiple votes and each subsequent vote cancels out the previous one.

It was also possible for individuals to go to the actual polling stations on March 4 and enter in a traditional ballot, which cancelled their online vote.

Since Estonia's separation from

the Soviet Union in 1991, it has become one of the leaders in e-government. Harvard University has named it among the top five most efficient governments.

BBC News reports that the massive publicity campaign for this most recent election promoted e-voting as a quicker and cheaper way of collecting and counting ballots. As a result of falling turnout to election polls, the Estonian government is opening their mind to a partially paperless election in hopes that more citizens will exercise their democratic right through modern technology.



**E-DEMOCRACY** - Estonia's PM validates his card before voting online in the world's first parliamentary e-lection. Contributed Photo



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# UN withdrawal opposed



**IN TRANSITION** - The UN Mission in Kosovo proposed its controlled withdrawal from the Serbian province early February - a move opposed by Serbia and hard-liners alike.

**ARLA LATTO-HALL**  
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

Iraq isn't the only region that's tough to pull out from. Proposals for withdrawal of the international community from the Serbian province of Kosovo - coupled with a measure of autonomy from Serbia - have been "diametrically opposed" by both Serbia and Kosovo, reports Martti Ahtisaari, UN leader of the negotiations.

Kosovo, an Eastern European Serbian province, has been under the administration of the United Nations mission (UNMIK) since the end of a NATO bombing to stop Serbian violence against Kosovar Albanians, who had also taken up arms, in 1999. It is also a site of several prominent Serbian mosques.

The proposal would give Kosovo its own constitution, flag, and national anthem, as well as the right to apply for membership to international organizations. Still legally

a part of Serbia, it would remain under close international supervision. A decision on the proposal is expected by the end of March, although its prospects look grim. If agreed upon by both parties, it would then be brought before the UN Security Council, at which point analysts expect Russia to block the progress of Kosovo's autonomy.

Kosovo was the site of protests in mid-February after the UN's proposal was revealed early February, with Serbians refusing to recognize Kosovo's autonomy out of fear that the minority Serbs in the province - outnumbered by Kosovars nine to one - will be marginalized. Some Kosovars reject the proposal because it fails to grant full independence to the province, previously held under Serbian dictator Milosevic's thumb.

Following the protests, described as Kosovo's "worst violence since March 2004," leaving two dead and 80 injured, both the UN police

commissioner for Kosovo and its Minister of the Interior resigned.

The anniversary of Milosevic's death will occur this Sunday, March 11. He died while on trial for war crimes at The Hague, and consequently was not convicted. Once dubbed "the butcher in the Balkans" by Western media, his death was mourned by Serbian loyalists and Albanians who received no closure for their losses, numbering in the thousands.

Kosovo's ex-PM went on trial at The Hague on Monday for 37 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the 1998-1999 war between Serbia and Kosovo. He was a regional leader of a guerilla force, the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), and is the highest-ranking Kosovo Albanian to be accused of war crimes, which he denies, reports the BBC. He was Kosovo's PM for three months, until his indictment was made public.

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- FROM PRIDE, PAGE 8

spread the serious message. Following the parade's theme of "Objects of Love," float motifs included the Vicki Pollards, Dreamgirls, the Boys George (honouring singer Boy George), and Priscilla, Queen of the Parade.

A variety of political groups were also featured in the parade such as Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Gay Straight Alliance, Free David Hicks (whose advocates released presumed Taliban combatant and Australian David Hicks) and Same Sex Families. Their message was easily spread: unlike previous years, right-wing and Christian fundamentalist groups were not in attendance at the festival.

The parade's after party featured a performance by Boy George and many guests left claiming that this year's Mardi Gras was the best yet.



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Chelsea Gasko

**THE GUINNESS MADE ME DO IT** - This could be you celebrating in front of an Irish pub. Work vacations make Europe a viable travel option.

# Europe this summer?

Travelling and working in Europe is a dream shared by many university students; **Chelsea Gasko** shares her experiences and the experts' advice to help get you to Dublin, London, Paris, Prague and Athens after exams

**CHELSEA GASKO**  
STAFF WRITER

People are always talking about the best days of their lives. If I had to pick such days, they would be the ones I spent in Ireland in the summer of 2005.

It was four months of living large, literally getting large off of too much Guinness and too many orders of chips.

Following through on a pact made some months earlier in a pub on King Street, two of my dearest friends and I took off across the pond.

We arranged to get work visas through a program called SWAP (Student Work Abroad Program) and soon wound up in Galway, Ireland.

"The great thing about SWAP is that you not only get your work visa but that it's hassle-free too," says Pauline Cormier, travel consultant. "They also help you with things like filing taxes that you wouldn't know how to do on your own."

We spent a few weeks in a youth hostel, busily meeting people from all over the world and exploring the town (read: pubs) with them. After making countless calls and visits, we found a flat (cool word for house) and moved in with a Kiwi we'd met at the hostel. There weren't enough beds so he slept on the couch under the stairs like a troll.

Despite finding some work serving at banquets and washing dishes with all the other immigrants, the most ironic title I could possibly give my summer would be "working holiday."

We worked less than 20 percent of our days in Ireland, and lived in squalor, but we somehow managed to survive. I'd buy a pint of Guinness instead of dinner any day, and eat potatoes for breakfast and lunch.

I'd suggest impoverished living for anyone and everyone. Living without the Internet or television was quite liberating. We played a lot of cards, drank a lot of Guinness,

enjoyed great live music and spent the days on the beach or enjoying the bustle of the streets.

Galway's bohemian vibe was intoxicating and I truly think I gained a new perspective on being alive while I was away.

By the end of the summer, we had biked through Killarney, taken a road trip to the Dingle Peninsula, had a weekend in Belfast, a week in

**A working holiday is a perfect way to see the world while also making some money with which to see it. Plus, working and living in a place gives you a deeper appreciation for it than just a visit can ever lend.**

Amsterdam and Brussels and had competed in the Irish National Tag Rugby Championships.

I kid you not. It was random. I don't even play tag rugby, but we were drunk so what the heck.

But by far the best part about my

summer was the people I spent it with. We formed an international posse of about 15 other hippies whom I will never forget. Travelers are a special breed of people who seem to share the secret of living well.

"By travelling, you become a much more socially responsible global citizen," says Laura Berry, promotions manager for Travel Cuts. "In North America, we have become a very insular society and through a work abroad experience, you get a more realistic perspective of the world today. Unlike formal education, travel is a lesson on real life."

If I could give one piece of advice to anyone it would be to travel. A working holiday is a perfect way to see the world while also making some money with which to see it.

Plus, working and living in a

different place gives you a deeper appreciation for it than just a visit can ever lend.

From a totally biased perspective, I would recommend going to Galway, but there are many other places you can easily get a visa for, including Australia, the United Kingdom, France, Austria, Germany, Japan and South Africa.

Go wherever strikes your fancy and be open to whatever the country throws at you.

"I'm always telling students to do it now," says Travel Cuts Promotions Manager Katherine MacLeod. "This is the only time in your life that you'll have this amount of freedom. Also, I would say to pack light!"

So if you find yourself itching for an adventure this summer, it's not too late to grab a visa and a passport and hit up the world. It is, after all, your so-called oyster.

Just do it, and by the end of August you'll find yourself weeping "so-ooo long sweet summer" with so much conviction, it'll hurt.

# Steak and a BJ

This March 14, show you care with meat and head

DJ DEMERS  
STAFF WRITER

It is getting close to the middle of March and that can only mean one thing. That's right, Steak and a Blowjob Day is fast approaching!

The holiday, which is celebrated on March 14, was created by an individual named Tom Birdsey so that women could have a day to show their men that they love them.

Birdsey on the official website, [steakandajobday.com](http://steakandajobday.com), comments that it requires, "no cards, no flowers, no special nights on the town; the name of the holiday explains it all, just a steak and a BJ."

While the name and the reasoning behind the holiday may seem crass and even sexist, I respect its honesty. If we were always this honest with each other, we would admit that February 14 could very well be called Flowers and Cunnilingus Day.

You may wonder what my intentions are in promoting this holiday, but I assure you I do not have ulterior motives. I am not trying to sway the woman in my life to celebrate this holiday with me under the guise of journalism.

I do not have a girlfriend, so I speak from a neutral point of view. When your best pick-up line is "You have pretty eyes, like my mother," you tend to spend these sorts of days alone.

No, my reason for promoting this

holiday is simple. When it comes to the whole relationship thing, women have a huge advantage over us guys.

You have elephant-like memories, you win every argument and you're a lot better to look at (seriously, what's up with penises? They really are an eyesore.)

You ladies hold the power and we know it. So if we can just have one day where we forget that you hold the power and let you pamper us, I will do everything in my power to aid the proliferation of this holiday.

In all honesty, I don't even like both things that are supposed to be given as part of the holiday. Don't get me wrong, I am a sucker for sprinkling some Montreal steak spice on it and having some sour cream to dip it in, but this article isn't about how I like my fellatio.

The holiday itself is perfect for its simplicity. There is little to no planning involved, unless you want to do some Internet research on different techniques, because there are obviously many techniques a person can use cooking a steak.

Another key aspect is the inexpensiveness of the holiday. All you have to pay for is the steak. You don't even have to get a card! (Seriously, we don't read them anyway.)

What are the general opinions people hold regarding Steak and a Blowjob Day?

Corey Mastrangelo, third-year business student, had this to say



## Is whipped cream safe?



ALI SCOTT  
CAMPUS KISS

Dear Ali,

My girlfriend and I really like to incorporate fun food items like whipped cream in our love-making. However someone told us that this is not safe.

Can you tell us some items that are safe and why some things are not?

- Experimental

Dear Experimental,

Whoever told you that some food items are not safe to use during sex was absolutely right! You do not want to put anything with sugar into the vagina.

when asked about the pros and cons of the holiday: "There are no cons." Thanks Corey. What about a female perspective?

"I think it is a neat idea if you are with someone you care about," says third-year communications major Danielle Reno. "There's re-

This means whipped cream, syrups, ice cream or any other food items that contain sugar or sugar substitutes. This also includes lubricants because many contain aspartame or sucralose or another kind of sugar substitute.

Sugar can cause rashes and other irritations in the vagina, including yeast infections and bacterial vaginosis. Then she will have to get on antibiotics to get rid of the infection, which weakens the effects of birth control pills. So, it is not worth it to use food items on the genitals.

It is safe, however, to use sugar-free flavoured lubricants, which are really good for oral sex. Two really good lubricants are "O'My" flavoured lubes and "System Jo" flavoured lubes.

These are tasty lubricants with no sugar at all. They are not runny but are water-based, so they are safe to use with toys as well. If you want to use food items during sex,

you can put things like whipped cream and chocolate syrup on all other areas (nipples, stomach, etc.) and lick it off as long as the sugar from your mouth does not get on the genitals afterwards.

You should also make sure to use condoms on phallic objects like cucumbers or bananas. As long as it is not mushy and it is wrapped in a condom, it is safe to use. Also, make sure the items are well-lubricated.

However, it is not recommended to use these kinds of food items, because there is no guarantee they will not go mushy on you. In the end, it is best to use a sex toy.

I urge you to check out your local sex store to see what kinds of fun food items and toys you can find that are safe to use during sex.

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

ally no harm in it." Based on this one female perspective, I think it is safe to say that all women support the holiday.

Steak and a Blowjob Day is not an exclusive holiday either. Everyone can celebrate it. Gay males? You both win! Gay females? Improvise

as you see fit. Meat and fellatio haters? Enjoy your tofu and a hardcore makeout day.

Let's remove the stigma from this wonderful holiday and bring it to the mainstream.



Melanie Mehes is pursuing a PhD in Biomolecular Sciences.

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Physics (MSc)  
Social Work (MSW)  
Sociology (MA)

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Biomolecular Sciences (PhD)  
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# Adjusting to living at home

Moving back home means parents, jobs, no late-night snack buddies or your best friend in the next room over



**LAURA CARLSON**  
STAFF WRITER

As first year draws to a close, you will be faced with the task of saying goodbye to your new home to return to your old one.

I can remember looking at my empty dorm on move out day and wondering how I would ever adjust to moving back home when over the past eight months in residence had given me my first real taste of independence.

It may be a relief that classes are ending. Being constantly behind in readings and pulling all-nighters to finish papers and study for

exams is, without a doubt, very stressful. However, moving home for your first summer back will inevitably bring on a whole new set of stressors.

The first being that in order to save for next year's tuition/rent/groceries (yes it will be tough to say goodbye to swiping your OneCard for every on-campus purchase) and of course the new drinking habits you've developed, you will need to get a job.

Changing your sleeping patterns to wake up at 6:00 am instead of going to sleep at that hour can be difficult at first. And working eight-hour days with no guarantee of weekends off isn't quite like the leisurely student lifestyle.

For me, the biggest change was spending a lot of time alone. In resi-

dence, I was constantly surrounded by people no matter what time of day it was.

However, when you're at home your best friend doesn't just happen to live down the hall, there's nobody to visit upstairs and it's a bit more difficult to find someone to make grilled cheese with at 3am.

Adjusting to living with your parents again can also be somewhat stressful. You have just spent the last eight months of your life free from authoritative control and now you suddenly have someone telling you to clean your room, drink your milk, wear a jacket and not make too much noise when you come home.

Although you still have your friends (who are there for you when you just need to escape from your

house), friendships are likely to change.

Your friends from home weren't there for you when you failed your first university paper, they didn't sleep in the same room as you every night, and they can't appreciate your Oktoberfest and St. Patrick's Day stories.

And though you may resent them for this, they may be just as resentful that you have not been sharing in their new lives.

Also, if you have friends who didn't go away to university, you may feel that it's even harder to relate to them. How can you explain to your best friend who stayed home that your first year of university has been the most fun you've ever had?

The things that mattered so

much to you a year ago suddenly aren't so important anymore, and for those who have never left your old world, that's almost impossible to understand.

While it took a couple of weeks, I eventually did stop wandering around my house aimlessly and became somewhat adjusted to my old lifestyle.

However, I was a different person than when I left for school, and the biggest challenge I faced was getting everyone from home to accept that.

So appreciate the free meals and laundry, quiet when you are trying to sleep, your parents' caring attitude and the history that you have with your best friends. Because it won't be long before you're out on your own all over again.

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Emilie Joslin

## So long sweet residence...

First-year students are attempting to prepare themselves for the move back home and the changes in lifestyle and friends



NICOLE WRAY  
STAFF WRITER

First-year students at Laurier, myself included, have been in university for over two hundred days. For many, that's two hundred nights away from home for the first time.

During that time, I was lucky enough to have lived in Mac House and to have met many people who are the kind of friends I didn't expect to have so soon.

I was also lucky enough to go to Cuba for Reading Week, where I ended up thinking much about my university days so far.

When I came to Laurier, the actual school part of university was not on my mind. Living away from home for the first time and living with a bunch of new people were what I thought about.

Now that all of those things have happened, I know the school part is definitely not what first year was about for me. Although I knew moving away to university would bring inevitable changes, it's still somehow unexpected when they happen.

Before coming to university, I had not had an experience where I got a chance to really miss home, but while I was at one of my favourite places in the world, the sunny beach, I found myself thinking I

could be on the cold sand in my hometown and that would be just as good. Airports often end up being a place for thinking.

I realized that I thought about home many times in Cuba, but I was surprised to realize that I wasn't always thinking about the place I had always called home.

Although another few nights in the heat would have been wonderful, I wanted so badly to go home and I was so happy to think that there was now more than one place that I could say was home for me.

In my first year, I've definitely changed, but I think I've more so learned how quickly change can happen, how much people can change, and most importantly, how what you've always known can become something you aren't so sure of anymore.

Nelson Mandela, a former president of South Africa, said, "There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered."

As sad as I am to be leaving my new home away from home, the place where I can yell down the hall for whomever I need, have bathroom parties and wander the halls when I'm bored, I'm so excited to move back home and see how the ways that I've changed during my first year at Laurier bring change at home and in all parts of my life.

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**PARKINSON'S PILATES?** - Actually, it's an exercise program designed by Dr. Almeida specifically for patients with movement disorders. Mike Sage leads two groups every Monday, Wednesday



Friday in this community-based program that combines research with rehabilitation. Photos by Sydney Helland



# Parkinson's research opens doors for patients and WLU students

MICHELLE PINCHEV  
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

In the very same school that some of their children attended, members of our community who live with Parkinson's disease are receiving rehabilitation from award-winning professor Dr. Quincy Almeida.

If you aren't a kinesiology student and don't follow the news around campus, you may have read about his work in the *Record*, the *Globe and Mail*, in *Maclean's* magazine or a variety of other media that have recently taken an interest in his work.

Inside the Movement Disorder Research and Rehabilitation Centre, better known to most students as Northdale Campus, a team of students is also receiving the opportunity of a lifetime. While many of us have the notion that undergraduate or post-graduate research involves administering surveys and spending hours buried in paper-work, the students working with Almeida are actually working with patients, building relationships and making a

difference.

One of these students, Laurie King, knew about Parkinson's disease long before she studied it at Laurier.

"My grandma has Parkinson's. She lives in Toronto and we spend a lot of summers there and a lot of time with her. She's had it for as long as I can remember."

For King, getting into medical research has always been a no-brainer. A fourth-year biology and psychology major, King is doing her undergraduate thesis in biology with Almeida.

She first e-mailed him about his research because of her personal interest on the topic, and ended up volunteering at the centre years ago when it had just started up.

"It's a field that is kind of close to my heart," says King of medical research. "And this is a really unique opportunity compared to other undergraduate thesis work because you actually get to work one-on-one with patients. I've met really good people through the exercise program and through my own research."

Parkinson's disease is a progressive disorder that affects movement.

The symptoms often involve uncontrollable shaking, stiffness, sensory and motor problems and sometimes an inability to move at all.

King's research deals with the effectiveness of vibrations on motor symptoms in Parkinson's disease. She uses a reclining chair that delivers sound waves at various frequencies.

Like the other students involved at the centre, King hopes her work with Almeida will open doors for her. Students like Josh Vlasic are already benefiting from the experience - he was just accepted into graduate school here at Laurier and will continue to work with Almeida.

"The fact that I'm doing an undergrad thesis here is the main reason that I will be working with Quincy for the next couple of years," says Vlasic, who also credits his success to an early start.

A fourth-year kinesiology student, Vlasic began mapping out his future at Laurier as early as second year.

Walking around the kinesiology department, speaking with different professors, Vlasic figured out almost immediately that he wanted to work with Almeida, whom he and the other students sometimes refer to as "Q."

"Dr. Almeida is doing some of the best work here," says Vlasic. "Research is going somewhere with Parkinson's."

But it's not just the research that the students are excited about.

"They are learning a lot from each other as well as from a world leader in movement disorders. Despite his knowledge and success, the students say that Almeida has given them a lot of autonomy around the centre, calling the general atmosphere "collaborative."

"He's so open to our ideas," says Rachel van Oostveen, a fourth-year undergraduate thesis student also working with Almeida. "He always asks what we think and is interested in our ideas. It's academic, but it's comfortable," adding that the opportunity to help patients is "so

amazing."

Why have these lucky students been getting so much attention lately?

Perhaps it is because the fight against Parkinson's disease found a voice in public figures Michael J. Fox.

However, Wilfrid Laurier University has been in the spotlight in particular because it has the first movement disorders centre in this part of Canada. Almeida is not only searching exercises to help patients who live with Parkinson's, he is providing a rehabilitation facility them and it is the only such facility that we have seen.

"For Laurier, it's something that has a direct impact on Waterloo region. This is an area that is touched for movement disorder populations and Laurier has stepped up," says Almeida, adding that this is one of the reasons chose to come here.

"Our grants are provided to us that we can provide our recommendations to the government and

the Parkinson's Society of Canada. We're basically the people that will approve the exercise recommendation for all Canadians."

The exercise research program, which patients attend at Northdale campus three times each week, will hopefully be available to patients all over Canada. The program is also running in three YMCAs in Oakville, Cambridge and Kitchener.

The recommendations based on this study, complete with the exercises and information, will appear in a manual that goes out to the Parkinson's society.

"We should be able to expand the program once we have all of our results processed," says Almeida, who also credits the program's popularity to its community-based model.

"Unlike other departments, we've chosen to have all our research facilities off-campus. One of the greatest things we can do is to put a research centre in the middle of the community, where some of the patients' children had once gone to school, and now they can actually come

here to be involved in research experiments or receive rehabilitation."

Mike Sage, who already completed his degree in kinesiology at Laurier, was hired by Almeida to lead the exercise program three days a week.

Sage sees the effort put in by patients first-hand, as well as the results. And while it's still early to see how much the exercises are helping, Sage says that even by the fourth week, the improvements are obvious.

"You see them getting stronger and more capable of the exercises we're asking them to do," says Sage. Sage admits that he was originally expecting to spend a lot of energy motivating the participants. What he was surprised to find was how motivated the patients already were.

"We're really challenging them and their resolve and determination to improve is amazing."

Outside of Toronto, there isn't much to offer those with Parkinson's disease in terms of this sort of program. According to Chad Leebold, one of the graduate students on Al-

meida's team, the program is attracting more than 300 people with the disease.

"There are people from as far as Vancouver who are moving here to be involved in this," says Leebold. "Most people are anxious to try to improve their overall quality of life."

Leebold's research is testing equipment that may improve patients' abilities to walk and move. Many patients require visual cues to take steps and Leebold hopes to test and improve such devices.

There are many other students who work with Almeida and the Parkinson's patients at Northdale campus. Many are volunteers, and others, like Rosie Johnston and Mike Ravenek, are also doing research there. All agree that the most rewarding part of the experience, aside from the countless opportunities it may present them with, is working with the patients.

"It's tough to see people get worse," says Laurie King, but adds, "most of the people I have seen and worked with are getting better."



**RESEARCH IN MOTION DISORDERS** - Laurier graduate Mike Sage (above) leads patients in exercise while grad student Chad Leebold (below) tests a new device. This device projects a thin line that Leebold hopes will provide a visual cue that some patients need to walk.



# 17 years in the making

The men's hockey team poised to win first OUA gold medal since 1990 season; will appear in Nationals for second straight year

**DAN POLISCHUK**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Much like a fine wine, it's the long wait that might just make things a little sweeter for the men's hockey team as they ready themselves for a shot at OUA gold.

That opportunity came well deserved after an emotional semi-final victory against the Waterloo Warriors this past week.

After disposing of the Lakehead Thunderwolves in two straight games, the Hawks were able to duplicate the result only after two very close games.

The opener at home saw Laurier nearly implode - blowing a 3-1 lead late in the third. With the Warriors eventually tying the affair, it took a goal from Rob Dmytruk, with just over five minutes left, to come out

with the victory.

Having narrowly escaped the disaster, the Hawks travelled down Columbia to the IceFields - the deep freezer that is the Warriors home rink.

While the fans very well may have been trying to keep warm, both teams came out red hot, scoring a combined 9 goals in the opening frame. Laurier would enter the break with a 5-4 lead.

After some more seesawing, the two sides would find themselves tied at six - forcing an overtime period.

Lo and behold, it was the heroics of Dmytruk, once again, that clinched it for the Hawks. He scored with the Warriors a man down after forward Bryan Fitzgerald was called for holding and assessed a ten minute misconduct to go along

with the minor penalty.

With the victory, and another series sweep, the Hawks move on to Saturday's single-game gold medal match against UQTR (the team they beat out for OUA bronze last year) at the Rec Complex. Game time is 7:30 pm.

To go along with the victory is the fact that it will mark the first time since 1992 that the team has had a shot at OUA gold. It has also been 17 years since their last victory, when the Hawks went back-to-back in 1989 and 1990.

And according to Head Coach Kelly Nobes, the team is definitely "excited" to be back in the big game.

"I think the guys have earned the opportunity to play in it. We're certainly on a roll," said Nobes.

Looking back on the series

against Waterloo, Nobes noted that one of the keys to their success was the discipline of his players throughout the majority of both games.

"We just really talked about staying composed and making sacrifices that were going to be necessary to win," he commented, adding that he didn't think they "played with a lot of composure the first two periods [on Saturday]."

"We got involved with some bad penalties that we probably should have avoided," he said of the 70 minutes worth his team amassed in Game Two alone.

But with that all in the past now, the team is already preparing for their match-up against the eighth-ranked Patriotes from Trois-Rivières, Quebec.

It is the head coach's belief that this year's team, while possess-

ing many holdovers who faced off against the same team in last season's bronze medal game, has "a little bit more depth."

Attributing to that assessment is the fact that Nobes regularly rolls four lines and five to six defence-men in big games.

"I can't speak too much to that, but that's where we are," said Nobes, adding, "There are some key pieces in place; some real special players we've got on the team."

Which is something that holds back the bench boss from being surprised with the team's ability to possibly end the gold medal drought.

"There's some quality guys in the [dressing] room and we've really come together as a group."



Mike Whitehouse - Laurier Athletics

**DOG PILE** - The men's hockey team celebrates Rob Dmytruk's overtime winner on Friday night. The 7-6 victory clinched the series for the Hawks.

## Hawk named Player of the Year

**DAN POLISCHUK**  
SPORTS EDITOR

With five all-star selections to go along with three individual awards for another dominant performance throughout the recently concluded regular season, one has to wonder if the women's hockey team's status will continue to rise for a long time.

Apparently so, if the words of Head Coach Rick Osborne are taken at face value.

"Our team is basically [set] for next year," commented the proud coach, who has even more reason to be delighted having just been chosen, by his peers throughout the league, as OUA Head Coach of the Year for the third consecutive season.



"It's really a nice award but clearly secondary to the big award, which is the championship this weekend," said Osborne, pointing out the start of the OUA Final Four in London with Saturday's semifinal against Guelph.

Aside from their coach's award, defenceman Andrea Bevan and left-winger Fiona Aiston took home some hardware as well.

Bevan, a third-year sociology student from Collingwood, rebounded from an injury-plagued season last year, having broken her collarbone

at the start of 2005. Appearing in only 10 games last year, Bevan came back with a vengeance, taking second spot behind teammate Lauren Barch in the OUA goal-scoring race.

Evaluating her comeback performance, Bevan conveyed being "pretty happy" with the recognition. "I have to give [credit] to the [team] and also my coaching staff," said Bevan humbly.

The aforementioned Aiston took home honours as the Marion Hilliard Award recipient for outstanding achievement in athletics, academics and community leadership.

Rounding out the recognized athletes were first-team all-stars Bevan, captain Laurissa Kenworthy, and Lauren Meschino.

Breaking onto the second-team were sophomore players Barch and Andrea Ironside.

It is exactly this type of success that has been built in a relatively short time - 11 years to be exact, which has Osborne blown away with the growth in quality with the women's game.

"It is amazing. Definitely phenomenal growth," he said, adding that competition has gotten so fierce that schools start looking at potential recruits in grades 10 and 11.

"It makes me feel good. We've set a bar and we don't compromise that...."

"It's also a lot of fun. Without thinking a whole lot, the way [women's hockey] has developed has been just so much fun."

### GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of  
March 7-13, 2007

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

#### RECENT SCORES

02.28.07  
Men's Hockey  
OUA Semi-Final 1  
Laurier 5 - Waterloo 3

03.02.07  
Men's Hockey  
OUA Semi-Final 2  
Laurier 7 - Waterloo 6 OT

#### UPCOMING PLAYOFF GAMES

03.10.07  
Women's Hockey  
OUA Semi-Final  
Laurier vs Guelph  
Thompson Arena, London, 12:30pm

03.10.07  
Men's Hockey  
OUA Final - Queen's Cup  
Laurier vs UQTR  
Waterloo Rec Complex, 7:30pm  
Ticket Prices: Adults - \$11  
Senior/Students - \$9  
WLU/Children u12 - \$6

03.10.07  
Women's Hockey  
OUA Final Four  
Laurier vs TBA  
Thompson Arena, London

#### LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Mark Voakes  
Men's Hockey

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

### Correction

The sixth member of the women's curling team, Erica Butler, was omitted in the article "Finding the silver lining" in the Feb. 28 edition of the Cord. We apologize for the omission.

# Gays making sports headlines

> Time to ease off



MARK ADAMSON  
STAFF WRITER

Former NBA centre John Amaechi's public announcement of his homosexuality was a major story in the world of sports. One can only imagine how big the story would be if Amaechi were still an active player, and not retired.

A person's sexual orientation shouldn't affect their line of work, but judging by some of the reactions from the basketball community, a gay player could face a lot of discrimination. The hateful homophobic tirade of ex-NBAer Tim Hardaway, in the wake of Amaechi's announcement, illustrated that some players would simply not be comfortable playing alongside a gay teammate.

It's not realistic to assume that there are not any gay athletes playing team sports. A gay player would likely know that coming out could

adversely affect their standing with their team and fellow players.

Though Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban has suggested that a gay NBA player could reap millions in endorsements, it's more likely that a newly outed player could experience costly losses. Their professional life could be ruined by uncomfortable teammates and GMs that fear that a gay player would disrupt team chemistry.

It's unfortunate, but it's a genuine concern. Prejudices are difficult to police.

There really isn't much the NBA, or any other sports league, can do to make their game more accepting of gay players. Those who speak out against gays will be reprimanded, as Hardaway has been, and there can be sensitivity training and other efforts to make the sporting world more gay-friendly.

Though some may criticize the league for not taking enough action, and for being fairly silent on the issue of gay players, the league has taken the right stance so far.

## WLU's own 'secret' agent

Soccer coach representing some big-time talent

LAUREN MILLET  
STAFF WRITER

What do Newcastle United and Kitchener, Ontario have in common? A 19-year-old footballer named David Edgar.

Born in Kitchener, Edgar now plays soccer for one of the most famous clubs in the English Premier League. In his first match experience for Newcastle, he scored a critical goal against the high and mighty Manchester United and forced a draw between the two sides.

Bringing the connection of the shining young star even closer to home, his agent is Laurier's own Barry MacLean.

"I've known Edgar since he was a little boy. I used to play [soccer] with his father," said MacLean.

The prospect of signing a huge international contract brought Edgar's parents to their longtime friend MacLean to involve him in the process. Having been an agent for many years, and being especially involved in soccer, MacLean seemed like an exceptional choice.

"I've been his agent for about three years. When he went over to Newcastle, he was doing very well, to the point where he needed an agent. His parents then came to talk to me," furthered MacLean.

Edgar can provide a living example and urge other young soccer prospects to work towards their dream of playing with the game's elite.

"It's great that a kid from Kitch-

ener has become so successful in such a short time. Scoring against Manchester United was a huge thing. He has done very well and has the potential to play at the highest level."

When asked if Edgar's story will have a growing effect on soccer in Canada, MacLean replied, "Soccer is just growing in a massive way in Canada right now. It's good that we have a local player that has done so well. Hopefully there will be others that will follow."

MacLean is involved in another massive venture, representing some of the players for the newest major league soccer club, Toronto Football Club (FC). He manages five or six players for the team as well as many other Canadian players.

"He's always been very, very kind in terms of him giving up his time to help me bring players in," said Toronto FC coach Mo Johnston.

"When we mapped this whole thing out together, he would run certain things by me. He was very helpful."

When asked why he chose MacLean specifically to help him, Johnston replied, "He's been an agent for a long time. He actually contacted me a couple of years ago about the possibility of coming down here to Toronto and coaching a team."

"I've always gotten on well with Barry. It was time to move on from my other agent and get involved with Barry."

> Keep the pressure on



VIVEK SARMA  
STAFF WRITER

The recent remarks by former NBA all-star Tim Hardaway confirms that great disrespect and hate towards homosexuals is still prevalent in professional sports.

Hardaway made the comments on a Florida radio show about a week prior to this year's NBA all-star event and was quoted as saying that he "doesn't like gay people and doesn't like to be around gay people."

He went further in stating that he doesn't believe "gay players should share a locker room with

heterosexual players."

All of his opinions were expressed in response to former-NBA player John Amaechi's recent revelation of his homosexuality. Amaechi became the first male basketball player to publicly 'come out.'

It has been athletes, and men in general, like Tim Hardaway that have prevented the outright societal acceptance of members of the gay community. In the male-dominated world of pro sports, the topic of homosexuality is often avoided or chastised.

For any of us who have played competitive sports growing up, I am sure we have all heard vulgar words being thrown out in reference to homosexuals in a locker room setting, often where male

egos and pride get the best of good hearted individuals.

It is up to the NBA and all other major professional leagues to institute some measures to aid homosexual athletes in dealing with the stigmatization and degradation that ensues. Hopefully, by way of such measures, we will finally see the complete acceptance of all athletes regardless of sexual orientation, and can judge these men solely on their athletic prowess and gifts.

It took nearly 50 years to break the colour barrier and institute complete acceptance of African-American players in all professional leagues. I hope the acceptance of homosexual athletes doesn't take nearly as long.

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# It's Barber time

Matthew Barber's intimate performance salvages Live for Life benefit show



Sydney Heiland

**SING FOR SOMETHING** - Singer-songwriter goes unplugged for Stephen Lewis' cause against HIV/AIDS.

**JOE TURCOTTE**  
A&E EDITOR

With only a little over 24 hours until the first-ever Live for Life benefit concert was set to take place at the Turret, drastic changes to the show's line-up became necessary. For two very different reasons both of the event's top headlining acts were forced to bow out, and have their names removed from the marquee.

First to fall off of the bill was Montreal's Mobile. Due to slow ticket sales, the students' union and the band's management decided that it would not be feasible for the band to perform, said Phil Champagne, programming and promotions manager for WLUSU. This unfortunate turn of events robbed Laurier students of a chance to see the quintet perform their version of elaborate, anthem rock.

Having had Mobile drop out, it was now up to the up-and-coming, reggae-infused rock group The Junction to shoulder the load. Unfortunately due to problems with lead-singer Brent Jackson's voice, which stem back to a recent bout of laryngitis that threatened to delay the recording of the group's recently released debut album, the band from Brampton was forced to withdraw. Justifiably, a Thursday date during Canadian Music Week was deemed too important to risk on the scaled-down show at WLU.

Having the benefit show's top two acts become missing-in-ac-

tion left the A-Team and the Archaeology Student's Association (ASA) scrambling to salvage the night. Fortunately, Toronto's Matthew Barber was more than willing to step up to the plate and headline an impromptu and intimate unplugged session.

"I was just happy to get back up on stage and perform again," Barber told the *Cord*, after admitting that he hasn't played a show in a little over two and a half months.

Ever the polished professional, Barber was undeterred when a group of loud and drunk students arrived at the Turret, after the Wilf's line-up became too long to wait in.

"I've played to some chatty crowds before, so it wasn't really that big of a deal," Barber said, "it's just one of those things you have to deal with."

Judging by his performance, the murmurs from the back of the Turret were of little consequence to the talented singer-songwriter. Soliciting requests for songs from the small, interactive and impassioned crowd, Barber ripped through a set that spanned his three album career. Mixing new songs with those that were familiar to his fans, Barber took command of the stripped-down stage.

His melodic folk-rock style fit perfectly with the laid-back atmosphere offered by the venue's confines. Songs such as "Like Lightning," "Awful Dream" and "Cinnamon Hearts" seemed at

home in the Turret, which looked as though it had been turned into a coffee house, complete with white-dressed, candlelit tables and sofas strategically placed in front of the stage.

But before Matthew Barber could take command of the stage, the evening was kicked off by two other acts. Toronto's Crash Parallel stripped down their usually amplified sound, and performed an unplugged set. Lead singer Tim Edwards' melancholy voice held strong as the band played a sombre and depressing set of songs, which was highlighted by the themes of: lost love, suicide, global warming and mental illness.

Leading off this Live for Life event was the duo of Rosa and Lorna. Mixing delicate keyboard playing with the sound of a growling cello, the pair performed a set that contained both original and cover material.

Although the show did not end up going ahead as planned, the event's coordinators still deemed it a success. "It was a good community and dialogue-building event," said ASA president Melissa Atkinson-Graham. "We're happy that we were able to create some awareness about Live for Life and Stephen Lewis' cause against HIV/AIDS."

And with Stephen Lewis set to come to Laurier and speak at LSPiRG's Global Citizenship Conference this Friday, awareness for Lewis is greatly welcome.



Sydney Holland

## WLU showcases its artistic talent

Robert Langen Gallery hosts an exhibition featuring the work of Laurier students and faculty

**LAURA CARLSON**  
STAFF WRITER

This year marks the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Laurier Art Exhibition. Running from February 28 to March 10, the exhibit showcases the talent of Laurier's staff, faculty and students by allowing them to display their artwork at the Robert Langen Art Gallery. This year's show features a total of 50 mixed media pieces by 31 different artists.

Suzanne Luke, curator and art gallery co-ordinator, feels that the show efficiently "build[s] the Laurier community and spirit in regards to the arts," adding, "it's nice for people to see what their colleagues or peers are doing."

The exhibition is both open call and non-juried, meaning that anyone from Laurier is able to submit up to two pieces. Luke believes that this criterion provides a great opportunity for individuals who aren't enrolled in fine arts to get exposure.

"For people who aren't in fine arts but who love the arts, just to encourage them to show their work, it's fun in that way." Luke feels that this inclusion contributes to the vast amount of variety that the show features.

"I am particularly surprised at all the diverse talents we have from all the faculty members as well as staff members and students who aren't necessarily in the fine arts program."

Sandra Howard is one of those artists. As a fourth-year communications major, Howard has only recently started getting back into art. Although she currently works as a professional photographer, the

Laurier exhibition allowed her the chance to display two pieces that she created in OAC (Grade 13).

Howard's pieces are for sale (an option that was given to all the artists who submitted their work) and although she laughs about wanting the money to pay off her schooling, the fact that people are out there seeing her work is also very important to her. "I'm always looking for exposure and [the art show] is working well for that."

Marshall Ward, a fine arts faculty member, also feels that the exhibition is a great way for artists to get exposure. "Over the years I've gotten a lot of feedback and it's always great when art exhibitions create dialogue."

Ward has been participating in the show since 1994 when he was a student at Laurier. "It's been a really nice continuum going from a student to actually teaching and of course I want to be a part of the show because my students are a part of it."

This exhibition is one of the highest in attendance for the Robert Langen Art Gallery. Howard attributes the vast number of people who attend the exhibit to the personal relationships that students and faculty have with the artists. "I think having a faculty/student show is a lot more exciting. To go and see your peers and their work is a different experience than going to see a local artist."

The gallery, which is located in the John Aird Centre, is open Wednesday to Saturday from 12-5 pm and admission is free. A closing reception will be held on Thursday from 4-5 to celebrate the work of Laurier's artists.



Check back next week as the *Cord* recaps Canadian Music Week 2007



(pictured, left- The Stills; right- The Junction)

# Get to know Canada better



Contributed Photo

**THIS GROUP IS MADE FOR RIDING** - If you're in need of a quick pick-me-up, Toronto indie group The Bicycles serves up simple and attractive pop-rock.

The *Cord* offers a guide to the Top Ten Canuck bands you've never heard of

**COURTNEY HORNER**  
CORD A&E

Why is it that despite the massive amount of Canadian talent, your iPod is predominantly filled with imported bands? I thought you were proud to be Canadian. Here are 10 of the best Canadian bands you've never heard of.

**Band: Land of Talk**  
**Sounds Like: "Anti-Folk Basement Rock."**

Elizabeth Powell's bright, clear voice pierces through the deep and fuzzy buzz of her band's bass and drums. The catchy hooks make for unforgettable songs, again and again.

**Songs To Check Out:**  
"Summer Special" & "All My Friends"

**Band: Holy Fuck**  
**Sounds Like: motion.**

The carefree, unrehearsed, electric sound of the band that has come to be known as "Toronto's evil super group" will leave your body wanting to move in so many simultaneous directions, you just might explode.

**Songs To Check Out:**  
"Safari" & "Tone Bank Jungle"

**Band: The Bicycles**  
**Sounds Like: nostalgia.**

Could I say bubblegum pop and still hold your interest? The songs are light and fun, with plenty of clapping. If you hate rainbows, you'll hate The Bicycles too.

**Songs To Check Out:**  
"BBBicycles" & "Australia"

**Band: Young Galaxy**  
**Sounds Like: the Stars, but better.**

The harmonies created by this boyfriend/girlfriend duo are sweetly romantic, yet dark and hypnotic.

**Songs To Check Out:**  
"Swing Your Heartache" & "The Golden Coin"

**Band: Shout Out Out Out Out**  
**Sounds like: 4 bass, 2 drums, and a whole lot of synth.**

In SO4, you'll find the best synthesized dance-rock since Orgy's *Blue Monday*. The textured sound and vocoder vocals help this volatile dance music keep your body moving.

**Songs To Check Out:**  
"Dude, You Feel Electrical" & "Do I Stutter?"

**Band: Ohbijou**  
**Sounds Like: twinkling lights in a snowstorm.**

The ethereal beauty of Casey Mecija's soft voice and tender lyrics are perfectly accompanied by the singing strings and soft background beats of her band.

**Songs To Check Out:**  
"Misty Eyes" & "St. Francis"

**Band: Destroyer**  
**Sounds Like: a latter-day Bowie.**

Though the comparison would make singer Dan Bejar cringe, the similarity in theatrical delivery is undeniable. But his highly developed and often cryptic lyrics provide the perfect point of contention.

**Songs To Check Out:**  
"An Actor's Revenge" & "Priest's Knees"

**Band: More or Les**  
**Sounds Like: the prefect alternative to "thug rap."**

"Rap's not about busting caps / or slapping bitches / it's about fluency / with rhyme and ingenuity." More or Les has a refreshing sense of humour, coupled with a social consciousness.

**Songs To Check Out:**  
"Eat Your Food" & "You and You"

**Band: Henri Fabergé and the Adorables**  
**Sounds Like: the best live show you've ever experienced.**

The upbeat tempo and hilariously obscene lyrics of The Adorables' unique indie-pop will instantly win you over. That is until you recognize the underlying genius: then it's true love.

**Songs To Check Out:**  
"Ventriloquist Love" & "Crawl Back"

**Band: The Acorn**  
**Sounds Like: spring, and then summer.**

Each soft and thoughtful song builds on the last, leaving its listeners in contemplative peace. These friendly folk songs float through your speakers, waiting to be savored. Enjoy.

**Songs To Check Out:**  
"Brokered Heart" & "Blankets"

For more information on these, and many other great Canadian bands, check out: <http://radio3.cbc.ca>. Or head to Toronto between March 7 & 10 for the Canadian Music Week Festival.

> Pop-Culture Corner: Warning -- May contain traces of sarcasm

## A nation in tune

Since the beginnings of modern rock, Canada has been a musical hot bed



**JOSIAH YOUNG**  
CORD A&E

When it comes to music, Canada is rich in history. Past and present artists have made us proud on both national and international stages. From groundbreaking pioneers such as Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen to the current chart-topping K-OS, Canadians have always seemed to find a niche as creative and artistic leaders.

It is my belief that Neil Young alone makes up for any accidental garbage we may allow to leak (see Hedley for proof). In honour of Canadian Music Week, I have decided to dedicate my column to Canadian music and the artists that have left an indelible mark on me personally, and the musical landscape in general.

First and foremost I must swoon over the genius that is Neil Young.

Here is a man who has marched to the beat of his own drum from day one. He may be one of the few artists who has been sued by his own label for straying too far from his "signature" sound during his experimental days in the eighties (but I mean come on, the eighties were essentially a write-off musically).

Young is typically associated with two distinct sounds, and many argue that you are a fan of one or the other; but in my case, I live in both worlds. From his acoustic folk-country songs like "Heart of Gold" and "Only Love Can Break Your Heart", to his straight up kick-your-ass rock songs like "Rockin' In The Free World" and "Southern Man," Young always seems to hit the right chords. Hell, even ballads like the quintessentially Canadian "Helpless", seem to avoid being cheesy and are the perfect mood-setters.

Now this next heap of praise is for his sheer ingenuity. With *Living with War*, he has used the technology of our day, the Internet, to perfection. First he released the entire

album via an Internet stream, and then more traditionally in LP form a few months later. For Young, it was about getting his message across as opposed to record sales.

For an artist who has been around as long as Young has to figure out the importance of the Internet to today's music, it makes you wonder just what the hell the rest of the music industry is thinking by lagging behind.

Okay, by now you are probably noticing the fact that I have not listed any other artists, as promised in my opening paragraph. And I apologize for my intense man-love for Neil Young, so quickly here it goes: The Band, The Guess Who, Leonard Cohen and Gordon Lightfoot are all parts of Canadian music's golden era. There is also the modern era of the Barenaked Ladies, The Tragically Hip, Joel Plaskett and The Arcade Fire, who continue to keep the tremendous legacy alive today.

Canadian Music Week should be about finding home-grown talent, embracing it and thanking whom-



SARAH BRADFIELD

**NORTHERN ROCKERS** - With a strong history of musical talent, Canada should now be known for more than just beavers, beer and hockey.

ever it is you want to thank that we have immense talent pouring out of this country and, even luckier, that so much of that talent stays within our borders.

Get out, go to a show and sup-

port Canadian music. Not because Canadian music is better than any other country's or because it is your obligation as a Canadian citizen to do so, but because quite simply, it is great music.

# Long live the King of NY

A decade after he was gunned down, the *Cord* remembers the Notorious B.I.G.

**JOE TURCOTTE**  
A&E EDITOR

In tragic fashion it took the firing of bullets to do what no other MC in hip-hop could do: dethrone the Notorious B.I.G.

In the prime of his career, with only one studio album released and his second set to hit store shelves, the man born Christopher Wallace was brutally murdered.

On the night of March 9, 1997, the rapper was gunned down while riding in the passenger seat of a GMC Suburban. So now, a decade later, the *Cord* looks back and celebrates the two remarkable albums that B.I.G. was able to record before his untimely death.

\*\*\*

*Ready to Die* (1994), Bad Boy Records

As a debut album, *Ready to Die* stands up with all of the other great introductions. The album is on par with Nas's *Illmatic*, Jimi Hendrix's *Are You Experienced?* and even the Beatles' *Please Please Me*.

Produced primarily by Easy Mo Bee and Sean "Puffy" Combs, *Ready to Die* is a sonic exploration of inner-city New York's urban decay.

For his part, Combs, the consummate salesman, creates the melodic tracks that would bring B.I.G. commercial success. The album's singles, "Juicy" and "Big Poppa", are finely crafted rap tracks, which rely upon inviting R&B style harmonies.

Lyrical, *Ready to Die* is as diverse as the album's music. The way in which B.I.G. is able to jump from the grimy Easy Mo Bee tracks to the radio friendly and Combs songs is remarkable.

On the track "The What", which features *Ready to Die*'s only collaboration with the Wu Tang Clan's Method Man, B.I.G. demonstrates his lyrical wit and dexterity. By rhyming "Farrakhan" with "phenom-



Contributed Photo

**WE'LL ALWAYS LOVE BIG POPPA** - The Notorious B.I.G. (May 21, 1972 - March 9, 1997) shows his soft side with a kiss for his daughter T-yanna.

enon" B.I.G. separates himself from the pack, and raises the bar for all of the other MCs that will follow him.

\*\*\*

*Life After Death* (1997), Bad Boy Records

Released only 16 days after his death in Los Angeles, *Life After Death* is an example of everything that B.I.G. was: an uncanny balance of contradictions.

Bloated yet stripped down, the album is equal parts excess and moderation. Spanning two discs, *Life After Death* finds B.I.G. rapping over different musical arrangements and with a vast array of guest MCs.

On the Bone Thugs-N-Harmony collaboration "Notorious Thugs", B.I.G. adopts the manic cadence of the Bone Thugs crew. By stepping out of his trademarked flow and challenging himself with a new delivery, B.I.G. demonstrates his desire to continuously strive for new lev-

els of creativity.

As he had done on *Ready to Die*, B.I.G. continues to deal with the theme of death and danger; ironically, the album's final track is entitled "You're Nobody ('Til Somebody Kills You)".

However, while his debut album seemed obsessed with despair and uncertainty, his sophomore release is decidedly more upbeat and celebratory.

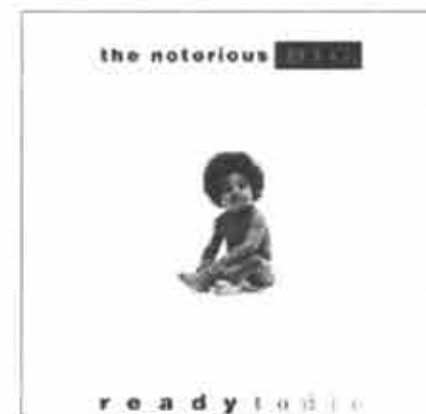
On the track "The Sky's the Limit", B.I.G. is unequivocally optimistic about life, as he raps over a lively yet laid back track produced by Clark Kent. Much like "Juicy," "The Sky's the Limit" finds B.I.G. recalling the struggles of his childhood and reveling in the success of his rap career.

\*\*\*

Unfortunately, the bullets that were fired on the night of March 9, 1997 ended the life and art of the Notorious B.I.G. However, while his creative voice may have been si-

lenced, B.I.G.'s legacy lives on today. *Ready to Die* and *Life After Death* continue to serve as pillars in the canon of hip-hop and popular mu-

sic in general. While the reign of the King of New York may have been violently ended, his influence still haunts the throne.



*Ready to Die*  
Original Release Date:  
September 13, 1994  
Rating: 8.5 / 10  
Label: Bad Boy Records  
Recommendation:  
**BUY IT**



*Life After Death*  
Original Release Date:  
March 25, 1997  
Rating: 9.2 / 10  
Label: Bad Boy Records  
Recommendation:  
**BUY IT**

## Local bands battle

ARC Clothing presents Battle of the Bands for Kitchener-Waterloo acts

**MATTHEW GIVEN**  
STAFF WRITER

Waterloo and Kitchener certainly aren't beacons of alternative counterculture, but local fashion designers ARC Clothing have once again organized their yearly Battle of the Bands.

A local word-of-mouth phenomenon, the battle attracts mosh-metal designer kids, patched-out leath-

er jacket punks, *MySpace* teens with bangs and tight denims and every other straight person who likes a heavy sound on a Friday night.

This year's particular Battle of the Bands is organized at the Schwaben Club, just a few streets past Ottawa Street. The culture of the shows is reminiscent of large outdoor high school parties.

You have a lot of similar people divided by way of who knows who.

As you spend your night at the hall it's impossible not to take notice of the people watching the movements of other cliques.

Most of the young girls dress the same and stick close together, interacting with boys presumably from their own circle or school.

The guys are highly excited every night with some nights being more clownish than others, depending if the local band has been able to

round up their large circle of high school mates to come and support them.

Musically, so far ARC has put together multiple nights of a few excellent bands that will blow you away. It is expected that if you go to a Battle of the Bands night there will be some bands with less experience and talent than others - and that's the whole point.

Since ARC filters out the generic and immature, they have sent on the fantastic bands to the semi-final positions, where the hope of making it to the finals and winning is still alive.

The winning rock band gets 20

hours of recording at Kitchener's CyberAudio Studios and Video Production and a live-to-air spot on Waterloo's CKMS 100.3. As for the second- and third-placed acts, they receive 10 and 5 hours respectively of recorded time at CyberAudio.

ARC Clothing started as a means for three local KW friends to create discount clothing for themselves and provide discount KW scene wear for the, well, KW scene.

The brand has expanded in the past three years and plans to open a store March 31. The new store, Civilian Printing, will be taking control of 8 Duke Street East in Kitchener.



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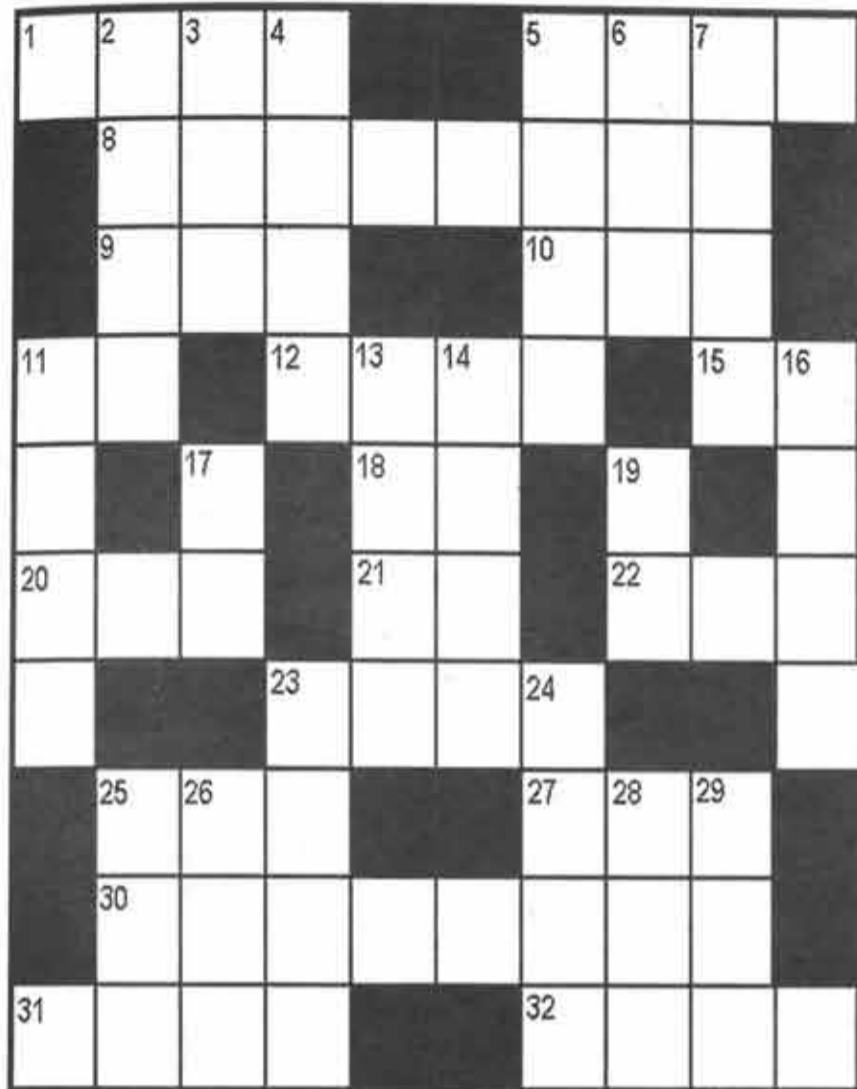
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 5. Hopefully a good one is on your shoulders  
 6. Waterloo street  
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 11. Abbv. of land in water  
 13. Equal, in French  
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 16. Nocturnal birds  
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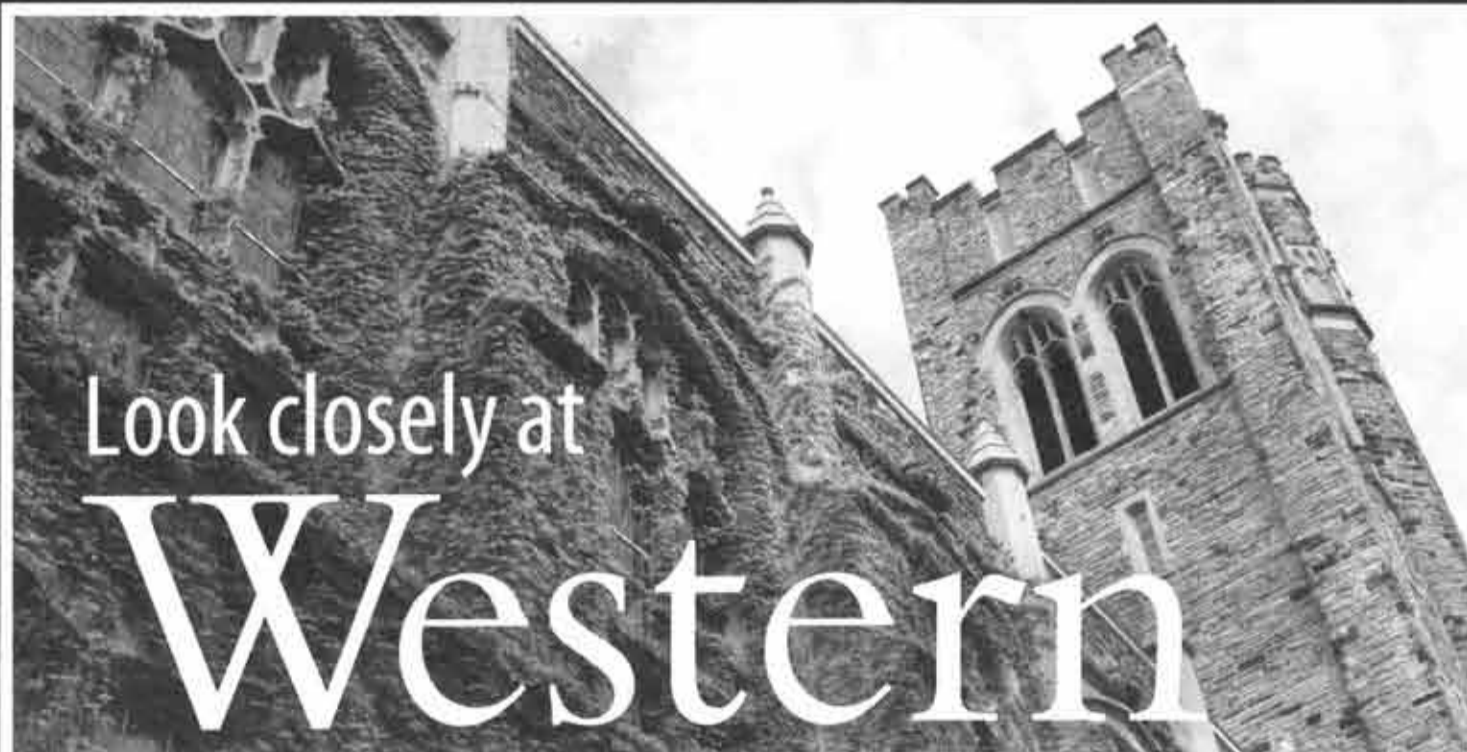


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## THE CORD WEEKLY

Editorial Board 2006-07

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# Free tuition is first offer

The Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) wants you to go to university for free. Well, sort of. The lobbying group recently drafted a proposal that, if passed, would advocate for the elimination of upfront post-secondary education costs in favour of a progressive tax system.

The move is designed to spark some interest; as Paris Meilleur, the president of OUSA, puts it, "it's about creating a beginning step where we can create dialogue."

Well, at least OUSA's realistic about its unrealistic goals. Let's face the facts: Canadian tuition won't be free, now or ever. People have become accustomed to paying for schooling, and they take for granted that they shouldn't necessarily have to. Institutions make a pretty penny off their pupils' payments and won't likely be handing those funds over without a fight.

However, OUSA's right in that this tactic is a good starting offer in the ever-ongoing tuition debates. It's like shopping for a car: your initial offer is always much lower than what you realistically expect to pay. In this case, OUSA is low-balling by asking for no tuition costs, expecting a return offer from those they lobby of slightly less than the current cost of tuition. And on it would go, until eventually a compromise is reached and students end up with a lower rate of tuition. At least that's how it would play out in an ideal world. In the real world, OUSA's efforts may not even make an iota of difference, but that's another issue entirely.

What matters is that they're trying and thinking in extremes, which is pretty smart. Aside from just getting attention from the media and the government, advocating for the elimination of upfront tuition will grab the attention of students and make some want to get on board with the cause. "No tuition" is certainly easier to explain than "lower fees by 10 percent over the next 13.7 years" and students like what's easy.

With recent studies indicating that approximately 70 percent of new jobs in Canada will require a post-secondary education, it is becoming the new standard to get an undergraduate degree. As such, tuition should definitely be more affordable, so hopefully OUSA's lowball offer won't strike out.

## Arts fee too much

Once renovated, the Dr. Alvin Woods Building (DAWB) will feature some spiffy new study rooms for arts students, compliments of their Arts Student Advancement Program (ASAP) fees. But was the \$30,000 given by ASAP to the university really done in the best interest of arts students? Or was it merely a way of putting a dent in the very large sum of money they've collected from arts students in the past two years?

The initiative, which is one of the largest of ASAP's expenditures to date, was done in hopes of establishing a strong reputation for ASAP for years to come, explains Aamir Taiyeb, chair of the ASAP council. However, with ample study space on campus that isn't faculty specific, the move seems as though it's to

spend money for the sake of, well, spending money. And to say that something's actually being done with the \$15.33 arts students pay per semester to ASAP.

If the program has enough resources that it can just cut cheques to causes that vaguely fit its mandate, then perhaps it should consider cutting its fees to really benefit students. After all, arts students will likely be poor for the rest of their lives, so the extra \$31 a year could go towards starting their measly RRSPs. If ASAP thinks the fees are reasonable and don't need to be lowered, they need to ensure that their expenditures are really in the best interest of students, and not simply something to say they've done.

*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.*



Mallory O'Brien

# Cabbies' stories are entertaining

Instead of ignoring your taxi chauffeur's tales, listen as they may be funny

DAN POLISCHUK  
SPORTS EDITORS

Who honestly needs a good book when one can just turn to their run-of-the-mill cab driver for some of the best stories ever?

As my cab-riding habit has steadily increased over the past month, forced to handle late nights with school, work and volunteering, I've become somewhat of a cab connoisseur, one might say: somebody who just sits back and enjoys the mandatory life-sharing story-telling that comes before the requisite drop-off location.

No ride home has been quite as entertaining as those I've had in the last two weeks.

Take ride number one for instance. Freezing my ass off under the Aird underpass, freezing to the bone, I was finally saved by the arriving cabbie.

Unfortunately for me though, it was the driver who took the "saving" aspect to a whole new level as he proceeded to recite the teachings of the Bible.

While faced with similar situations in the past, in my sleep-deprived haze I actually had the audacity to ask why he was pushing the issue on me so much.

This, in turn, stoked a story of cultish following that just made me thankful for the small "stand-up, sit-down, kneel" workout

the Catholic Church asks of its faithful.

Ride number two, three nights later.

After a somewhat long evening at one of Waterloo's drinking and dancing establishments, I was more than enthralled by a story of street racing.

It seemed for every inch of road that we covered back to my home in Kitchener that the driver had an experience from his "younger" days as a "stupid" kid who was grabbed by the need for speed so much after getting his licence that, immediately after turning 16, he started to spend a lot of time in a souped-up BMW.

Flying down a particularly barren stretch, which the cabbie admitted to flying through at 160 km/h at one time in his past life, I couldn't help but fall for at least a little of his story of rebellion.

And speaking of falling, when it was revealed to me that an SUV had dropped from the Conestoga Parkway onto King Street that's directly below, it was my driver that admitted she had just passed the very spot it landed about a minute earlier; having heard a loud noise coming from whence she came.

Understandably shaken from what was later confirmed to her via radio, the ride home was not an enlightening one. It definitely was a very philosophical conversation though, regarding the "luck of the draw" that is life.

I could go on about some of

the other experiences in the last couple of weeks, but it was the fact that I found pleasure, above all else, with these rides home. This, in turn, makes me more sympathetic to the fact of the seemingly increasing trend of violence and assault against drivers.

While we may definitely curse the amount of time it may take for one to arrive at times, is there honestly any other that we feel more joy (possibly only Christmas) to see one arriving to whisk you off to the desired location?

It's time that we really start recognizing what cabbies have to offer. They keep the drunks off the street, they lead cops to wanted criminals (accomplished, as Monday night's ride home explained, through news broadcast to each cab) and, as has been made clearly evident, they have just as many stories to tell as "Grandpa Joe." And seriously, as many good stories as Gramps may have, how many times can they remain bearable to sit through before they start to wear out?

So the next time you feel a groan coming on as you start hearing about the graphic experiences in the jungles of Vietnam, or some other obscure tale, just stop. Stop and smile, because most of the time, what'll be in store will probably make your night a memorable one.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Is it old news?

I direct my response to the editors of the *Cord Weekly* and the anonymous author of "Globe article old news" (which concerned the despicable actions of the WaterBuffaloes during Winter Carnival).

To me "old news" sees an issue or event resolved when all participating actors feel satisfied with the determined result. Considering that Winter Carnival is an activity happening within a public space, the Laurier student body count as worthy participants in this debate. The central argument in this editorial ignorantly shifted a serious problem into a question of media representation. That it decidedly labeled a serious controversy as "old news" is disturbing, but also disappointing that it reveals, for me, a broader sense of student apathy.

Despite this general lack of concern, let it be pointed out that during the same week this editorial was published two other letters to the editor were also published. These letters demonstrated that there are still lingering, unresolved feelings about the act that took place during Winter Carnival and criticisms still regarding the university's response to this issue.

Gary Thompson, quoted in the *Globe and Mail* article, demanded that all members involved in the incident be expelled. Looking deeper, this reaction might bring a larger focus to the issue that still remains unresolved. That it is has been overlooked and seen as "old news," as this editorial suggests, implies for me that the full significance of this issue, was never fully understood nor the seriousness appreciated. I'm disappointed in the editors of the *Cord* that they would focus on an issue of "sensationalism" when the more important issues concern discrimination, discipline and responsibility at the university level.

As a white student at Laurier, I'm embarrassed that few students expressed concern over these actions. What message are Laurier students emulating here?

\*-Breanne Drennan

### Letters Policy:

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

# Second Life isolating

Internet game that simulates real life is a time-consuming and money-wasting form of escapism



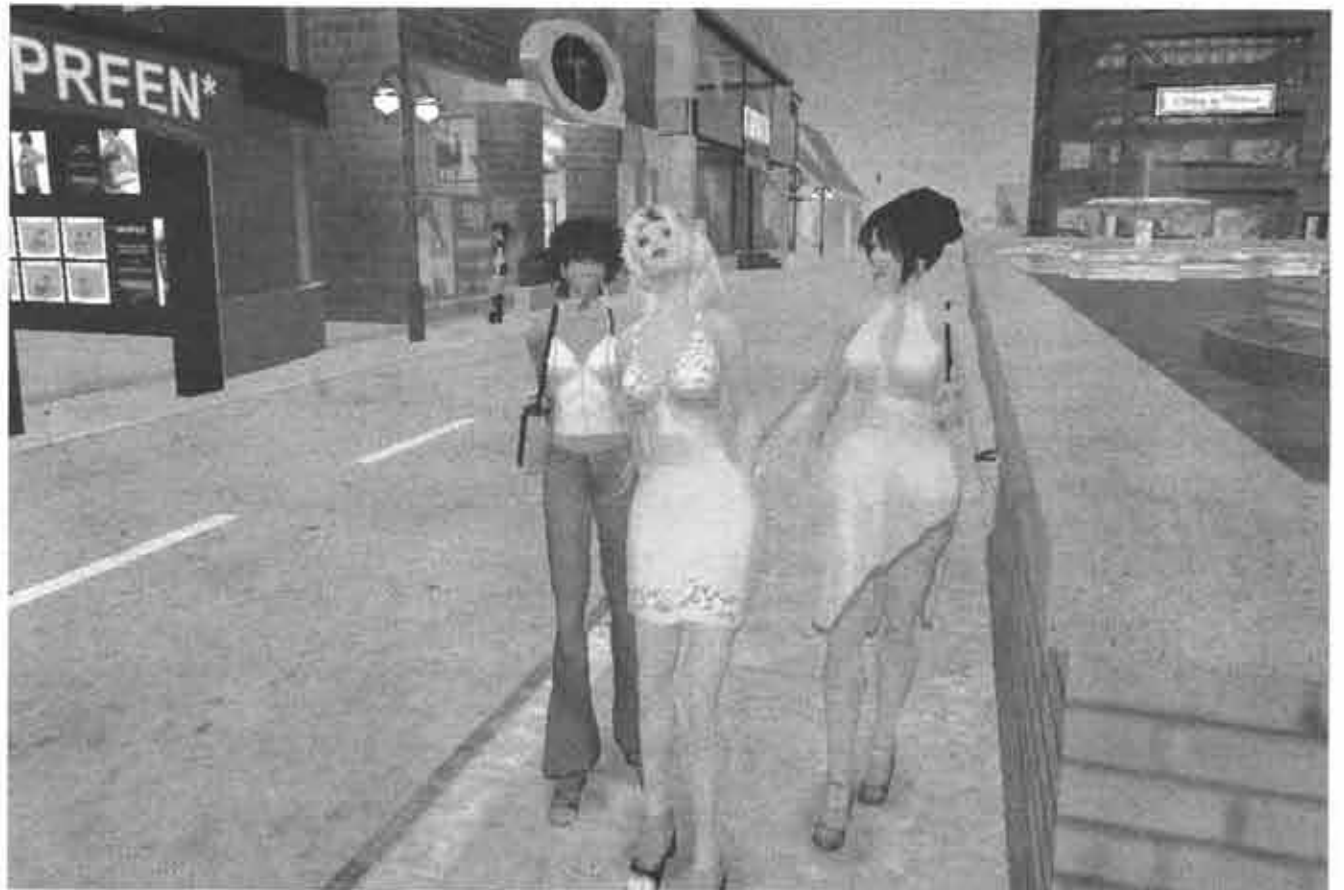
DAVID SHORE  
NO RELATION TO PAULY

Okay, now it's official. The Internet has really gotten out of hand. Forget that you stay up to three in the morning talking on MSN to the person one floor above you in residence. Forget that your entire romantic life revolves around one word on Facebook. Some sites, particularly one called "Second Life," are taking frivolity much too far, and are making a killing while doing it.

If, like me up until a few weeks ago, you've never heard of Second Life, let me give you a quick breakdown. Simply put, it's a simulation of everyday life, much like the Sims, only far more complicated and with a full online community. One creates a Second Life avatar, purchases land for them, and then can buy and sell digital items ranging anywhere from dream cars to weapons to pets. Everything must be purchased with an in-game currency that can only be bought with real money.

If this is starting to sound ridiculous, the statistics should leave no doubt in your mind. Over four million people from around the world have avatars on Second Life. Within the last 24 hours, US \$1,531,230 has been spent on the site. Yeah, you read that correctly: over \$1.5 million! It is estimated that 97 users have game businesses selling virtual products that earn revenues of over US \$5,000 a month. One of the things you can buy in the game is a personal island - they are priced at \$1,675, plus \$295/month for maintenance fees. Currently 4417 islands are owned.

Shocked yet? I was certainly surprised to see how much people are spending, and how much people



Contributed Photo

**VIRTUAL LOVIN'** - If you have too much pride to pay for sex in the real world, your equally lame online identity can also pay for whores, guaranteed STD and DNA free.

are gaining on a computer game that tries to simulate reality. By the amount of money being spent daily on this site, Second Life certainly seems to be an entertaining game. But at the same time, people are spending real money purchasing simulations of products that they might otherwise be able to buy in real life. Evidently the line between entertainment and triviality is not an easy one to draw.

For people that liked games like the Sims, Second Life offers a similar, yet much more sophisticated, experience. For some, it could be the ultimate in video game entertainment. However, sites and games like Second Life are encouraging a variety of negative behaviors.

For one thing, these games provide a much more time-consuming and expensive form of escapism than has been seen before. People are increasingly spending large chunks of time online amassing

virtual items, only talking to people through online chat. And, they are spending lots of money doing so. Second Life is not the only culprit; games like World of Warcraft are having the same effect. If our generation was bad for staying in the house and watching TV, the isolationism of the next generation of youth will be much worse.

As well, Second Life is causing people to perform functions online that should be done in the real world. For example, Second Life offers a discount on the price of islands, as mentioned above, to universities and non-profit organizations that are supporting their official work through the game. The very notion that these organizations may one day rely on internet-based games to carry out functions of their work is ludicrous.

Of course, there are the people earning over five grand a month from this game. While some inge-

nious entrepreneurship must be required to con people out of \$5000 monthly, most of these online business owners are absent from the workforce where their skills would be used far more effectively. And, although I'm making an assumption here, I'd doubt that being a Second Life business owner is a rewarding career choice.

Games like Second Life make us wonder when the Internet stops being useful and entertaining, and starts becoming detrimental to society. It is very difficult to argue that we have not at least begun to cross this line. I believe that by playing games such as Second Life, people have gone far past crossing it. And the worst part is, we can't simply tell these people to get a life. They've already got two.

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## Very important graduates

Fourth-year students have earned the right to receive special treatment in their last year at Laurier



JILL HARRINGTON  
NO SEX IN THE LOO

Fourth year is coming to an end faster than I would like to think. Looking at the year that has so quickly passed me by, there is one change I think would benefit future graduates of the 'loo. This is the implementation of VIG. We are all well aware of the term VIP—VIG is similar, except it stands for Very Important Graduates.

All graduating students, like VIPs, would get special treatment. Graduates would have separate lines to get into on-campus events and bars. This VIG status would be

a reward granted for those who, after three years of hard work and achievement, would like to spend this final year making sure they do everything they can to complete the memory book of WLU. Sure, the younger students would complain until they got their VIG status in fourth year, but then they too would appreciate the change we have implemented.

VIGs would have head-of-the-line access to clubs; they would get primary access to events held within the Laurier community. Events would be specially organized for these VIGs and would be enthusiastically pumped up because of their exclusive attendance. Since under-year students have the luxuries of attending frosh events or simply going to any nightclub in Waterloo,

ultimately being surrounded by peers in their respective age group, VIG events would allow graduates social activities with their own peers, thus giving graduates an opportunity to dance, party, chat and have a grandiose final year. Although I will not knock the fact that Retro Rewind at the Turret tends to give grads this opportunity—even if unintentionally—specific events would be a nice change.

A VIG would be a title of status looked up to and upon for under-year students. VIG status would become a goal for up-and-coming students, the reward of achievement, a benefit for all the hard work and money you have put into the school experience in the previous years. By implementing VIG status, a sense of assurance is given to

graduating students. The assurance that graduates would be able to create fourth-year memories with the people with whom they have spent the last four years creating life-long friendships, in the places that they associate with the school they love.

Graduates spend four years supporting the activities provided at Laurier, including the line-ups and early bar attendance. By fourth year, I think there should be a little recognition of success granted, an opportunity to aid the students in full enjoyment of their final year. Let's be real here, everyone else still has one to three years to do these things. Let's celebrate our graduating status to its full extent: congratulating VIGs!

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# Christ documentary won't shake faithful

Tombs may not contain Jesus, but the investigation should be encouraged



KATHRYN FLYNN  
GOOD GIRL REVOLUTION

When I was 11, I went to church with my Mormon friend and stuck around for a year because they kept giving me things like lace-covered hangers. In 2004, I was visited by a Jehovah's Witness, Wendy, every week until she suggested my sister's near-death experience in a terrorist explosion in Jordan was a sign of the coming apocalypse. Last year I tried Orthodox Christianity on for a boyfriend and told my parents *The Da Vinci Code* was blasphemous. I ought to be careful that my current persuasion isn't just the trendiness of atheism spurred on by *The Daily Show*.

So it is with some amusement and fatigue that I look at the reaction to the "rediscovery" of what is called Jesus' tomb by Canadian documentary filmmaker Simcha

Jacobovici. The tomb was actually excavated in Talpiyot, Israel in 1980, containing six 2,000 year-old ossuaries (boxes for bones) and was originally discounted because of the commonality of the names found there: Jesus, son of Joseph, Maria, Mathew, Yose [the Gospel of Mark refers to him as Jesus' brother], Judah, son of Jesus, and Mariamne. The last was recently determined by a Harvard academic to be Mary Magdalene's real name.

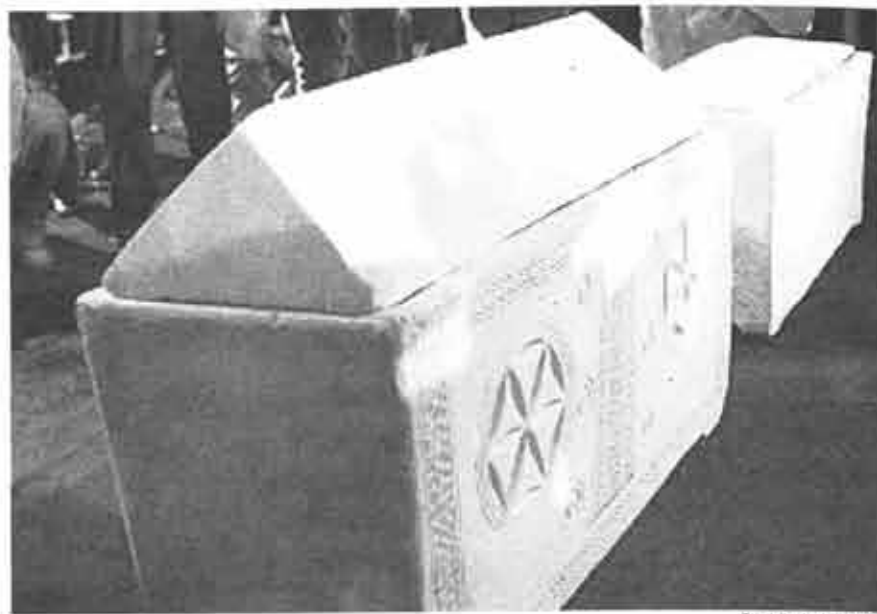
The film is to centre on the merits of Jacobovici and producer James Cameron's approach. They argue that previous archaeologists had not asked statisticians what the likelihood of these names appearing together would be. Apparently, it's highly unlikely despite their popularity. This, of course, is trouble for anyone who believes the Bible to be a literal transcription of the life, death and eventual religion of Jesus Christ.

One would think that offended Christians, after having run the gamut of provocation with crit-

ics' responses to *The Passion of the Christ* and more recently *The Da Vinci Code*, would be less inclined to respond. Particularly in light of all the attempts to discount this faith, what makes anyone sure that evidence Jesus did not, in fact, physically rise from the dead is going to make hordes of followers stop their devotional donations? I feel it's safe to say that no one's re-scheduling their Sundays just yet.

I suppose it is difficult to believe in a man who was human in all ways, not just bodily. It doesn't mean he had to be a sinner, per se, unless of course you think sex is a sin, in which case there goes your deity. No one wants to worship someone as unwholesome as themselves, and one needs to look no further than how we impose greatness on our political leaders.

The representative for the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece said that "profiteering and irreverence" were used to "strike at [...] what constitutes our faith." I don't wish to speculate on the legitimacy of



Contributed Photo

**HOMEBOYS' NEW DIGGS**— These 2000-year-old ossuaries may contain the remains of Jesus.

anyone's religious beliefs, but this sort of response is exactly what the media adores. Why are Christian leaders not saying, "We respect the right of the documentarians to do their work, but feel their discoveries are not, in fact, the tomb of Jesus Christ and therefore draw no conclusions pertinent to Christianity"? After all, even though Christians accept Christ as their messiah, questioning their faith ought to be their employment, and the gainful pastime of anyone who wishes it to be. Their clerics' condemnation educates the millions they influence that exploring the validity of religious claims ought not to be allowed when it is offensive to some.

The need for deliberative investi-

gation is exemplified by the ruckus after the response to Danish cartoons criticizing Islam. Lacking a climate that allows for opposing viewpoints to be voiced for fear of anger from the devout, the debate over the media's freedom of speech was polarizing, offensive and often provided outlets for overly prejudiced opinions. As William Thorsell, CEO and Director of the Royal Ontario Museum, so poignantly said, "We are not modern at all when it comes to faith [...] in the sense of being curious. [...] We defer to men of faith and keepers of 'truth' and ignore the event."

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## Is the Nation of Islam Islamic?



AMARNATH  
AMARASINGAM  
COMMUNITY EDITORIAL BOARD

The easy answer is no. The more complicated answer is: maybe. Wallace D. Fard founded the Nation of Islam movement in Detroit in 1930.

After the First World War, the Great Migration of southern Blacks to cities like New York, Chicago and Detroit produced a hope for a better future of equality between Blacks and Whites in America.

When this hope fell through, anger and frustration were all that was left. It was in this climate of desperation, as Black Nationalism became more attractive, that the Nation of Islam (NOI) arose.

Fard began preaching his message of Black separatism, using the Bible as a springboard and later delving into the Qur'an.

For Fard, White people were devils and Christianity perpetuated the maltreatment of Blacks. The notion of turning the other cheek and praying for those who treat you badly was, according to Fard, a tool by which Blacks were programmed to accept their subjugation.

Fard's most passionate follower was a man by the name of Elijah Muhammad. He was the Paul to Fard's Jesus.

No one was more pivotal in solidifying and spreading the message of the NOI than Elijah Muhammad, who remained the head of the organization until his death in 1975. Afterwards, the NOI was taken over by his son, Wallace Mu-

hammad, who began initiating dramatic reform efforts. Many in the NOI were unhappy with Wallace and a schism occurred with the dissenting group being led by Louis Farrakhan. His followers saw Farrakhan as restoring the true legacy of Elijah Muhammad.

Even with the minor themes covered in this short history, some stark contrasts can be seen with mainstream, orthodox Islam.

One of the fundamental points at which the NOI deviates from traditional Islam is in reference to the equality of all races. The NOI preaches that the Black man was the first man and the White race was created by an evil scientist named Yakub about six thousand years ago.

**For traditional Muslims, Allah (God) is incomprehensible, above all visions and beyond all flesh. He cannot and never has been a Black (or White or Brown) man.**

Because of Yakub's actions, the White race would rule the world for some time until the Black race could rightfully take over. This bizarre teaching, of course, goes against the Qur'anic notion of equality between the races (see in the Qur'an, 5:43-48; 49:13; 11: 118-119, etc). Farrakhan has also come under intense criticism for several anti-Semitic remarks.

Yet another point of contrast resides in the NOI's tenets regarding prophecy. For traditional Muslims, the Prophet Muhammad (570-630 CE) is the sealer and healer of

prophethood. In other words, he is the last prophet, sealing all of the previous revelations that God had sent to various peoples of the earth. The message of Muhammad also heals all of the mistakes that were made by the faithful as they interpreted these previous revelations (for example, Muslims believe that Christians made a mistake in thinking that Jesus was God; he was only another prophet).

For the NOI, the Prophet Muhammad cannot be the last prophet because they believe Elijah Muhammad to have been a messenger as well.

The question follows: who sent Elijah Muhammad? The NOI's answer to this question is enough to give traditional Muslims an aneurysm.

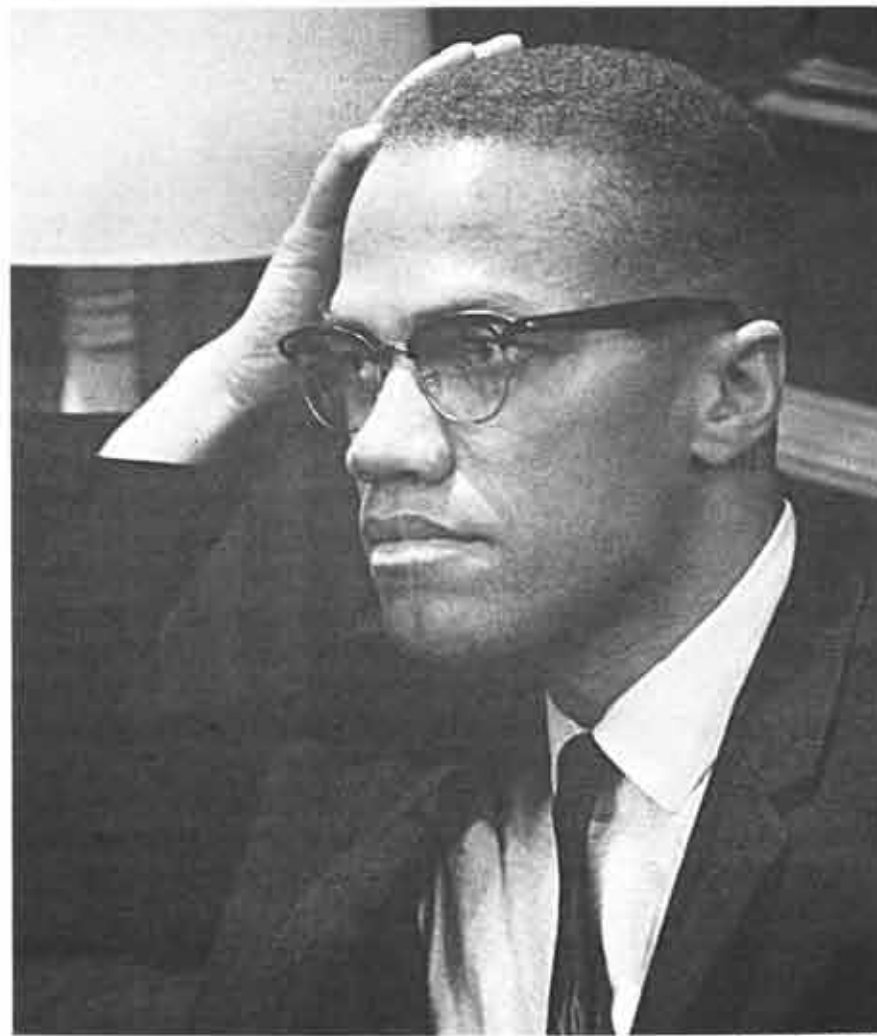
They answer that Wallace D. Fard, the founder of the Nation of Islam, was actually God incarnate. Fard was the long-awaited Messiah of the Christians and Muslims.

This declaration was, to be fair, not made by Fard himself but by Elijah Muhammad. For traditional Muslims, Allah (God) is incomprehensible, above all visions and beyond all flesh.

He cannot and never has been a Black (or White or Brown) man.

Does the NOI have anything in common with traditional Islam? In fact, it does.

Members pray five times a day facing Mecca, they are monotheistic, they read the Qur'an and believe it to be the Word of God, they



Contributed Photo

**THE X FACTOR**— Malcolm X was a former member of the Nation of Islam.

believe in a final Judgement, and women are expected to maintain modesty. Apart from these and other minor parallels, there are not many commonalities. The belief that God became flesh would be considered heresy for traditional Muslims.

Also, the notion of a mad scientist named Yakub and the often racist proclamations from the NOI leadership are largely irreconcilable with mainstream Islam.

On February 25, 2000, Louis Farrakhan met with Elijah Muhammad's son, Wallace Muhammad, from whom he had split back in 1978.

To the shock of many, Farrakhan declared that there was no prophet after Muhammad and that the Qur'an is the last revelation sent by God. It remains to be seen whether similar theological changes will occur regarding the nature of God and race.

So, is the Nation of Islam Islamic? The easy answer is: no. The more complicated answer is: maybe one day.

Amarnath Amarasingam is a graduate student in the department of Religion and Culture.

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# Day timers fail to plan extras

As individuals schedule every minute of their days, no time is left for life's little surprises like silly time with a spouse or death



DON MORGENSON  
ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

I am surrounded by super-busy people, frantic colleagues, overwhelmed students. . . virtually every one of them scribbling their activities/appointments in their "day timers." These little books consist of entire annual calendars, with an entry space for each day, often as detailed as every 15-minute period! All of these entries anticipate an accomplished goal. Looking at the filled schedules, people complain, "I am so, so busy."

Such day timers are simultaneously the reason and the cause of what critics term "time poverty," a poverty which has reached epidemic proportions here in 2007 Canada. "Time poverty" refers to the time you and I are denied all the while being involved in the process of spending more time trying to gain time.

Our schedules are the result of people squeezing in more and more time who decide to organize their lives in order to be slightly more efficient, so they purchase a day timer with the money they have spent time earning.

Painstakingly they then spend the time to enter the busy times of their day, placing various tasks in the appropriate hours, or quarter hours, all of this dedicated to the vain hope that such a strategy will result in saving more and more time.

This strategy pours yeast on two of our expectations regarding time: clock time and task time. In technologically primitive cultures – those without any obvious time pieces at all – people tell time by the time required to pursue and complete various tasks.

They might agree, for example, to have a quiet tea with a friend after plowing "the south forty," or they might decide to meet with a small group of chess enthusiasts, but only after the cows have been milked or the pigs "swilled."

Here in our speed-obsessed world, with time consciousness, we artificially construct days of hours, minutes and seconds of arbitrary lengths. The day timer is a gadget designed to help us make task-time conform to clock-time.

Such is certainly not new. The existence of the "Franklin Planner" suggests the eighteenth century origins of this strategy thanks in some part to Benjamin Franklin, that quintessential person of the Enlightenment.

Certainly Ben was one who wanted to be in control of his own destiny, in control of his allotted time, dedicated to efficiency. Today we want to be in control of our time, of our destinies, of nature, of everything that might be vulnerable to our need for control as "control freaks."

Our day timers reveal our abso-

lute fetish for management, for control. I too, often make suggestions to my students about the holiness, the sacred nature of "time management." We even have so-called experts in "time management" who spend most of their and our time telling us in detailed ways how to spend our time filling out our day timers.

In his great work *Democracy in America*, Alexis de Tocqueville pointed out, among many other things, that this obsessive interest in the natural passing of time concealed a deep-seated fear of mortality. Tocqueville said: "The recollection of the shortness of life is a constant spur. Besides the good things they possess, every instant they fancy a thousand others that death will prevent them from trying if they do not try them very soon."

Among the many dimensions of death, one is that death often comes unexpectedly and notwithstanding our friendly morticians urging us to plan every detail of our funerals, generally speaking, we have a very difficult time planning for our deaths. There certainly is not an entry in our day timer, which simply says: "Time to die."

In fact, one of the central failings of the day timer is that there is absolutely no room for the unexpected, the surprising, the spontaneous and I am sure that in all our lives there is something unexpected that happens every day. There is no room, however, for such in our day timers.

How many of us pencil in something like "surprises" or "the unexpected" or "ambushed time" or "bushwhacked time" or something similar. No, such planners not only reflect our time poverty but they also force you and I to focus on particular tasks, usually related to our work and the many tasks our work involves.

Do unemployed persons utilize the "day timer"? Surely, employed persons would more likely use such strategies more often than those without work.

And what about family activities, do we pencil them in our day timers? Will we note the most recent family picnic or do we do most, by letting family activities slide down the list of priorities? Do we put in our day timers: "A meaningful dialogue with my son/daughter?" or pencil in: "Have some idle but delectable moments with my spouse?"

Or even at work do we pencil in those few idle moments at the water cooler, or pencil in our coffee breaks, which are becoming more and more important to the work relationships? In fact, what is truly missing and missing significantly are those unscheduled moments or what sociologists refer to as "social capital," those personal relationships of care and trust that make work, family life and life in general most meaningful, that make life worth living.

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April Robinson

**BUSY, BUSY, BUSY-** An organized student plans his life in his handy student agenda.

## Campus Pictorial



Sydney Helland

**WATCH OUT FOR FALLING SINCERITY** - Thanks for pointing out those icy harbingers of death that hang over our heads Laurier, they were pretty inconspicuous being huge and all. They're almost as obvious as this callous attempt to avoid lawsuits with a pre-emptive signage campaign.

# Undergrads don't value female efforts

Laurier ladies conveniently forget about the sacrifices that have been made for their freedoms



**BLAIR FORSYTH-STARK**  
OPINION EDITOR

Tomorrow is International Women's Day, a day designated to inspire women and celebrate their achievements. Recognized around the world from Australia to Tajikistan, IWD has been in existence since the early 1900s. But for the privileged women of North America, and for the more prosperous countries around the world, a day dedicated to the achievements of women is apt to go unnoticed. After all, we've accomplished everything the Women's Movement set out to do, right? So recognizing the rights of women across the world is seemingly frivolous, right?

Wrong. So very, very wrong.

It's precisely this type of thinking that is what's wrong with women today. That's right, women. It's not the evil "omnipressive" men, but the women who so easily forget the struggles endured for their freedoms and turn a blind eye to the injustices suffered by females worldwide.

Let's ignore for a moment that things aren't, in fact, all rosy on the home front and that to this day

there exist many inequalities between the sexes. It should be easy enough to do, as most of you do it every day. Let's focus instead on the many dire and often dangerous conditions that women face around the world.

Amnesty International states, "Thousands of girls and women have been raped and subjected to other forms of sexual violence in the Darfur region of Sudan." And violence against women is by no means reserved to war-torn countries, with murders of women on the rise in both Guatemala and Mexico.

According to Human Rights Watch, "combatants and their sympathizers in conflicts, such as those in Sierra Leone, Kosovo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, and Rwanda, have raped women as a weapon of war with near complete impunity." Additionally, HRW's website states that in countries like Pakistan, South Africa, Peru, Russia and Uzbekistan, men beat their women at home at alarming rates, while governments refuse to intervene. These examples don't even begin scratch the surface of the atrocities faced by females worldwide.

But perhaps even more alarming than the horrific treatment of



**GIRL POWER** - Liberian women make their voices heard by protesting the war.



women that exists today is the apathy with which it's met by the privileged (read: university students). Who has time to care about the fact that women are traded like currency in some parts of the world when you have a "Pros 'n' Hos" kegger to prepare for?

There was a time when people cared. People like my grandmother, who helped found the first sexual health clinic in my hometown of St. Catharines. Even when all the doctors in the city were opposed, my grandmother fought for it and eventually got people on board. She knew that a clinic that could provide birth control, information and advice for the women of the city was an invaluable resource

and something worth fighting for. My grandmother used her voice to implement needed change, yet while the voices of thousands are silenced every day, you, the privileged female undergrad, use your words on the cell phone planning the next night out or dissecting boy drama.

And while this Thursday is International Women's Day, it is also the election for the remaining WLUSU Board of Directors. Women in Canada have had the vote for less than 100 years, and yet how many among you champion this right and cast your vote every chance you get? Not many, I'm afraid.

The mantra of IWD is to "think globally, act locally," which means one would hardly have to exert oneself in order to recognize the day. While there are many easy things people can do to help those overseas - like writing letters through Amnesty International - simply

taking the time to recognize that the rights and freedoms you enjoy as a woman are ones our grandmothers had to fight and sacrifice for is taking a step in the right direction. Honour the women in your life who've made a difference and taken a stand by acting in a manner that would make them proud instead of just making you happy. However, I fear that even an act as simple as that would be too strenuous for the majority of the Ugg-wearing, iPod-listening Laurier ladies.

And while it may seem as though I've painted a bleak picture of the typical double x chromosome undergrad, I'm convinced I'm right, as much I wish I was wrong. In fact Laurier, I beg you to prove me wrong on Thursday by actually recognizing International Women's Day and the women who've helped make a celebration of women possible.

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# Canada not the mosaic it claims itself to be



**SVEN HEYDE**  
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LANGLEY, B.C. (CUP) -- Ever since John Murray Gibbon published his 1938 book, *Canadian Mosaic*, Canadians have been increasingly obsessed with the notion of Canada as a country where new immigrants are encouraged to retain their traditions, where we respect the uniqueness of minority groups and where pluralism and diversity are honoured.

Canada is contra the US, where immigrants are assimilated, forced to pledge allegiance to the American flag, and where their traditions must be secondary to the American way.

This myth, of the mosaic and the melting pot, is one that for a variety of reasons will not die.

The unofficial, and, at various times, official policy of the Canadian government, even prior to 1867, has been to assimilate French-Canadians into the rest of Canada: they were to give up their language,

religion and customs.

The institution of elected representation in Canada was initially delayed for several years while the British government waited for anglophones to outnumber francophones. Today far more francophones than anglophones are required to be bilingual for their work.

The treatment of Aboriginal people in this country is much worse. Residential schools are older than Canada, and have an ugly history.

In 1969, the federal government took control of residential schools from the churches. By the mid-'70s many residential schools had shut down, but the last one remained open until 1996.

Children at these schools were sometimes beaten, sexually molested, not allowed to speak their own language, told that their culture was evil and not worth preserving, and forced to try to be like their oppressors.

In the 1880s, 15,000 Chinese immigrated to Canada, of which 6,500 worked on the railroad. The familiar adage, "one dead Chinaman for every mile of railroad," stands as a reminder of the conditions they

worked under.

As soon as the railroad was finished, however, the Canadian government implemented a head tax to dissuade further Chinese immigration. By 1903 this head tax was \$500, the equivalent of two years' wages.

Those Chinese people who could afford to come here were then denied citizenship.

When the head tax did not deter enough Chinese from coming to Canada, the exclusion act was instituted in 1923. Until its repeal in 1947, Chinese immigration to Canada was limited to only a few annually.

Government policy is one thing, but the question remains, how do people actually live in Canada? In Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal, there is a very different perception of diversity than in the rest of the country, and for those living in one of those cities Canada probably seems pretty diverse.

But even in Vancouver, this may not be as true as we think. Our ideal of different people living together, each enriched by each other's cultures, has typically manifested itself as a series of minority ghettos.

The myth of the mosaic betrays the Janus face of Canadian diversity: we live in a country where women couldn't vote until 1918, where Japanese-Canadians were forcibly moved into camps during the Second World War, where Aboriginals on reserves were denied patron-

age until 1960, where homosexuality was outlawed until 1969, and where we've been bragging about our multicultural, tolerant mosaic since the late 1930s.

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