

Volunteer fired after showing students weed in Foot Van

co-ordinator is "terminated"

APRIL CUNNINGHAM
News Editor

The recent termination of Brantford's Foot Patrol Co-ordinator has heightened concerns regarding student rights at Laurier's satellite campus.

Ryan Duncan was fired from the volunteer position on November 11 after a review by Sara Neziol, Brantford Campus Commissioner and Mark Walhout, VP: Human Resources of WLUSU.

Duncan says he was told allegations that led to his termination included telling students it was acceptable to drink in the Foot Patrol office or before their shift. On one particular occasion he had marijuana in his pocket while driving the Foot van and he showed the weed to students who were getting a ride home.

On another occasion, Duncan had told one of the Foot Patrollers that they could take a leftover case of water from Orientation Week. This, he was told, was theft.

"I don't agree with any of it," he says, referring to the allegations. "But it's not whether or not I did it, it's that they accused me and didn't give me a chance to defend myself."

The fact that WLUSU officials in Waterloo were dealing with a problem in Brantford added to the confusion.

Duncan says he was told that Lyndsey Jones, Chair of the WLUSU Board of Directors, would go to Brantford to hear his concerns, but she was unable to come due to a lack of transportation.

"I never got to say my side," he says. "I don't even know if I'm allowed to have the opportunity." He adds that Jones later sent him an email saying that Neziol and Walhout followed the rules "perfectly."

"My rights, as a student, were walked right over," he says. "That's kind of scary."

Jones, however, says that she has contacted Duncan and is waiting for him to get back to her. "I offered to follow up with him," she says. "I would be more than happy to meet with him."

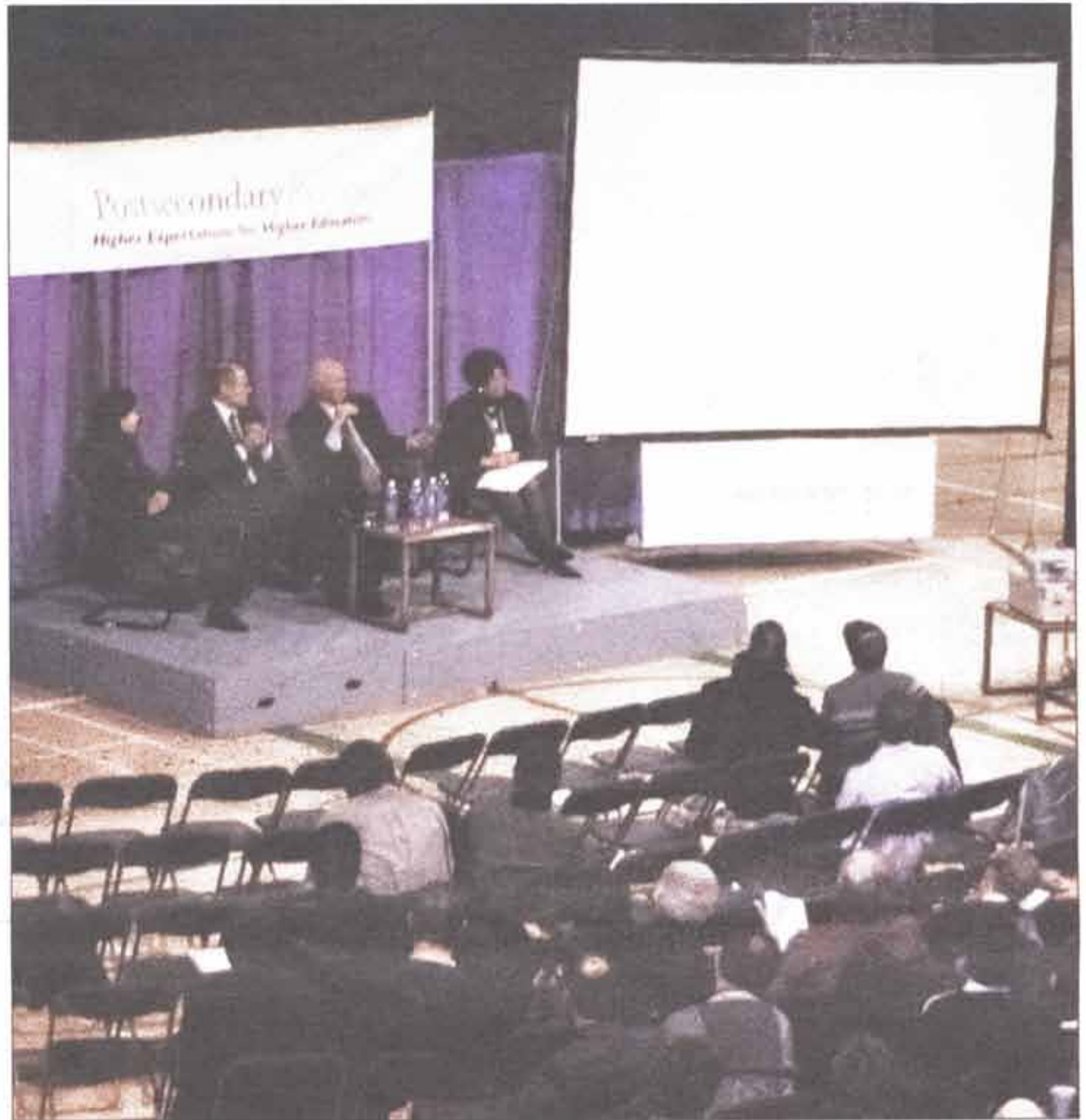
She also ensures that in making such decisions, WLUSU follows Ontario human rights codes as well as the provincial employment act. Co-ordinators undergo regular performance reviews. When problems with Duncan's performance arose, Neziol and Walhout met to discuss the situation.

- Please see **DUNCAN** page 4



File Photo

Ryan Duncan during the 2004 WLUSU Presidential debate. He was terminated as Brantford's Foot Patrol co-ordinator.



Bryn Boyce

The Conestoga College Town Hall venue didn't exactly bring in hordes of 'townies' eager to voice their opinions. In fact, not one single university undergraduate student spoke during the two-hour affair.

Education system check

Bryn Boyce



Opinion Editor

Chancellor Bob Rae's college and university review: perspectives and commentary... pages 9-10

Saskatchewan socialist Tommy Douglas was voted CBC's Greatest Canadian last week marking the end of CBC's home-grown 'make-news' campaign to drum up Canadian pride. Douglas' revolutionary views on health-care certainly resonated with CBC viewers who seemingly used their votes to send a message to Paul Martin - improve the system now.

While the eyes of most Ontarians are fixed on the doctor-deficient health care system, only the fewest of heads turn to look at the state of the colleges and universities - you know, where those medical personnel are trained.

At least one study is out to change this tunnel-vision syndrome by throwing a spotlight on the ailing health of Ontario's Post-Secondary Education (PSE) system. Wilfrid Laurier University Chancellor, Bob Rae, was given the immense task of reviewing the state of PSE in Ontario by focussing on five main areas - accessibility, quali-

ty, system design, funding and accountability.

In looking at these five, it's pretty clear that a hierarchy exists. Funding weighs in as the all-important aspect of the commission and, in order to affect any significant change in the other areas, it has to increase.

Free tuition is no answer. As Lesley Church, a panelist on the Rae Review team, pointed out, "if you take financial barriers out of the equation, it becomes an academic barrier" that restricts access. Moreover, Rae himself has pointed out that students enjoy private benefits from their education and should pay for at least some portion of it.

Instead of abolishing tuition, then, the topic shifts to how much should students have to pay for their education. Certainly Rae seems to think the current levels are competitive, but a 195 percent increase in just over a decade (since 1990) is more than a little excessive.

Tuition absolutely can't be allowed to increase but

McGuinty's current tuition freeze needs to be met with an increase from both the provincial and federal governments. Dr. Bob Rosehart, WLU President, pointed out that "it's not an issue of tuition fees, it's a combination of fees and grants. If the grants can't go up [then] the fees are going to have to."

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) points out that government investment in PSE "generate significantly more money for the provincial treasury than the initial investment" and that the "spin off benefits to society have been estimated at a net worth of nearly one billion dollars per year."

Despite these optimistic investment outlooks, Rae remarks that "the federal cash transfers for higher education and social programs has fallen almost a third in real terms since 1994-95" and that direct Federal grants have increased. The fund transfer is given in lump sum to the

- Please see **Rae**, page 9



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Review hears to funding woes

Laurier Chancellor and review namesake not in attendance

FRASER KING
 News Editor

Did you get your chance to rant about your post-secondary education? Nearly 200 students, university administrators, professors and other concerned people attended the town-hall Rae Review meeting on November 25 at Conestoga College.

particular meeting.

Unfortunately the very person who was to present the concerns raised at the meeting to the Government of Ontario, former Ontario Premier and Laurier Chancellor, Bob Rae; was not able to attend due to personal concerns.

Former Ontario Premier, Bill Davis, noted in his opening remarks, "I think it will be one of the most relevant reports commissioned by government," before turning the discussion over to those in attendance.

President and Vice-Chancellor of Laurier, Dr. Robert Rosehart, was in attendance and made a number of remarks surrounding funding from the government to both universities and university students.

"I hope there is something done to accelerate and to retain the public investment in the colleges and universities," said Rosehart. A recent \$6 million renovation project to the DAWB was postponed as the necessary funding could not be secured.

"If government grants don't go up, fees have to," noted

Rosehart. Before all of his concerns could be addressed Dr. Rosehart was stopped short due to time concerns.

While the majority of what

was discussed was in reference to funding, the wellbeing of students and the quality of education was also addressed.

"I conclude that the quality of education for these students, which again, in my opinion consists of a decent majority of them, has been decreasing in recent years," said Dr. Walsh-Bowers, a Laurier psychology professor.

The review, which has been

"I hope there is something done."

- Dr. Robert Rosehart



Contributed Photo

Pictured here is Laurier's Chancellor, Bob Rae. Unfortunately he was too busy chancelling to go to his own review at Conestoga College in Kitchener.

running since October in various regions of Ontario, is scheduled to end on December 8 and Bob Rae is set to relay the concerns brought up at the meetings to the provincial government in early 2005, just in time to affect the 2005 budget.

Anyone interested in finding out more information can go to raereview.on.ca

To see the reactions of various Laurier Personalities, see the Opinion Section

With files from Bryn Boyce and wlu.ca

"If government grants don't go up, fees have to."

- Dr. Robert Rosehart, Laurier President and Vice-Chancellor

While the two-hour event was well attended, the majority of people that spoke to the review board were university or college senior officials and administrators rather than actual post-secondary students.

While the review was aimed at both colleges and universities, there was more time focused on the concerns of colleges at this

Campbell talks to Fine Arts students

Arts meeting lets students express their concerns

APRIL CUNNINGHAM
 News Editor

Fine Arts may be picking up its canvases and abandoning the Laurier campus, but current students have been told not to worry. All required courses will continue to be offered until April of 2007.

"The department has a responsibility that courses [students] need and want will be available to them," says Ann Duffy, Administrative Secretary for Fine Arts. She notes that current students should fill out their unofficial selection form in order to ensure what they want will be offered.

However, she ensures that there will be the same number of courses offered as every other year. This includes studio courses in sculpture, drawing, painting, print-making and 'progressive studio' for advanced students, as well as history.

A crowd of anxious students gathered at a general meeting on November 22 to hear the fate of their program. Where, Dr. Robert Campbell, dean of the Faculty of Arts, addressed questions and heard students' concerns regarding the recent decision to put an

end to the program.

He also told students that Fine Arts courses would eventually be melded into another program as part of the university's Century Plan.

"It's the studio that's going to be gone," says Duffy.

She believes that he defended the decision well, "but it doesn't change the fact that there is a lot of disappointment," she adds.

Both Campbell and Duffy stressed that it is just a fact of business when budgets are cut.

"You have to look at programs and ways of saving money," says Duffy.

But Laurier is not concerned that incoming students will be upset with the loss of a practical, studio art component.

"We're not really letting down the high school students because there are still programs in the area," says Duffy. Both the University of Waterloo and the University of Guelph offer Fine Arts.



Miranda MacDonald

An empty fine arts studio classroom. Don't expect it to be full anytime soon, as the studio courses that are offered are being eliminated by April 2007, good thing no new Fine Arts students are coming.

CORD
 clippings

NATIONAL

Pierre Berton dies

The popular Canadian historical novelist, Pierre Berton, died at the age of 84 yesterday, of what was thought to be heart failure. Among some 50 novels, Berton was known for such books as Klondike and more recently, Prisoners of the North. His familiar bow-tied self was frequently seen on CBC as he hosted The Pierre Berton Show for ten years, and appeared as a permanent panelist on Front Page Challenge.

According to CTV.ca, Berton was not afraid to admit his fondness for marijuana. Just one month ago, he appeared on Rick Mercer's Monday Night Report to provide tips on how to correctly roll a joint.

PROVINCIAL

Still no witnesses in Toronto bus shooting

Toronto police are frustrated, says CBC News, as only one witness out of 40 passengers has come forward since the shooting in a TTC bus this past weekend.

When a gunman intended to shoot someone else, a stray bullet hit 11-year-old Tamara Carter just above the eye and passed through her face. Doctors say she may suffer from brain and eye damage. A shot also hit a 24-year-old man, who is currently hospitalized with wounds to the head, stomach, and leg.

LOCAL

Descartes cut losses

A Waterloo software logistics company, Descartes Systems Group, has decreased its losses from one year ago, reports The Canadian Press. The company's third quarter loss was \$2.7 million compared to \$4.2 million a year earlier.

Art Mesher, CEO of Descartes says that the company's improved results indicate a move towards stabilization.

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Bag O' CRIME

SUSPICIOUS PERSON
 5:30pm Tuesday November 23

Officers responded to the third floor of the Nichols Centre regarding a male who was going from office to office handing out pamphlets. The individual was located and it was learned that the pamphlets he was handing out were about some imagined conspiracy by government and police officials to involve students in some type of pyramid scheme. The individual was escorted off campus and issued with a written trespass warning.

CRIME OF THE WEEK:
Am I okay?!

MEDICAL ASSIST
 3:16am Tuesday November 23

Officers responded to 209 Regina after receiving a call from a resident that he may have drugged himself. Ambulance Services were also dispatched. On arrival, officers spoke to the male who called and he advised that he had consumed a small quantity of mouth wash and that he had been drinking earlier in the evening as well as having smoked some marijuana. He was concerned for his well being. Ambulance attendants checked him and transported the individual to hospital to be checked at his request.

This week at UBC...

Unofficial files kept on campus residents

JONATHAN WOODWARD
CUP British Columbia Bureau Chief

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Students living in campus housing at universities aren't being told their residences keep unofficial files on them in online, searchable databases.

Hundreds of student advisors can access the files, but the students themselves are not allowed to see them for reasons ranging from residence policy to provincial privacy law.

"It's creepy," said Brian Richard, a resident of Place Vanier at UBC. "You should be able to see what's in the file."

Anyone who's lived in residence knows how residence discipline works: if you breach the contract you signed at the beginning of the year, you'll get written up with a formal report. Usually, repeat offenders see their report and face further punishment, like eviction.

But what they aren't told about are comments in the system drawn up by advisors about the student themselves — even if a formal incident hasn't happened. Comments could range from, "This person has never been a good member of the floor," to, "Unfortunately I have to talk to this guy every other day about noise," said Fred Fotis, director of UBC's housing department.

Files also include records of disputes between residents not formally recorded. The UBC system, called eRez Admin, is online and lists students by name, floor and picture.

"Every office needs to compile information to be able to deal with students on an individual basis," said Fotis, adding students "should expect" this information to be there.

"We've always done that in paper form. The difference is that it's in electronic form now."

Over 100 advisors can write and access comments at the University of Alberta, said Darlene Lipinski, assistant director of residence administration.

The comments aren't just used for discipline, but also to help the student, she said.

With them, advisors can privately record and share the ways they help residents through sensitive issues like disabilities and mental health. Having more people see these records means only information important to the advisor's job is written, Lipinski said.

"The information is important to what we do," she said. "We have staff we have to trust know whatever's in the system is strictly for their benefit and nobody else's."

It's not illegal for a university to collect information about its students without their knowledge, said Morag Wilmut of B.C.'s Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

The law doesn't change when the files are transferred from paper to electronic copy, but the potential for abuse grows, she said.

With information accessible at any Internet terminal by any of over 100 advisors per university, and with students living with

their advisors, "it's easier for the electronic copy to wander around," she said. "It's a ticking time bomb that could lead to breaches of privacy law."

When a student requests their information, they might find opinions and comments are private information of the person who wrote them — meaning the university could black out the information to protect the advisor.

"To say to a student that he's consistently noisy doesn't provide them with the information they would need to improve."

— Lisa Gibson, Residence Life Co-ordinator

Residences at the University of Victoria have a computer database, but advisors can't access it, said residence life co-ordinator Lisa Gibson. When an incident is filed, the advisor fills out a report and passes it to senior staff, who upload it to a database.

While an advisor has a log-book, no comments are uploaded either as a companion to incident reports or on the students themselves.

"We deal with documented

behaviour," she said. "Consistently noisy isn't helpful, and to say to a student that he's consistently noisy doesn't provide them with the information they would need to improve."

About 200 universities worldwide and 20 universities in North America, including Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., and St. Mary's University in Halifax, use an Australian-made computer database called StarRez.

The ability to make comments about everything from buildings to residents is built into the system, said StarRez vice-president David Meale. Who can access the data changes from university to university.

Alicia Wight, assistant director of residence at the University of Calgary, said only high-level staff can access the files, but their residences are moving away from using the comment system.

"You'll expect to find it less and less," she said.

After Canadian University Press's inquiries, Wight said the residence handbook would be amended to tell students comments could be made.

"We're changing our system," she said. "It will be in the handbook next year."

Season's greetings - from the flu

Classroom environment could help spread influenza, British Columbia professor says

LINDA MEI
The Ubysey (University of British Columbia)

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Most students may not be at high risk of complications from influenza, but there are reasons to immunize them against the virus, as classroom populations may facilitate the spread of the flu, according to a professor at the University of British Columbia.

"A university, for example, could be a major pool that could disseminate the virus into the general population."

— Grant Stiver, UBC professor

"There is a chance students with influenza in a university, for example, could be a major pool that could disseminate the virus into the general population, the same as daycares and grade schools are," said Grant Stiver, a professor in the faculty of medicine who works in the infectious diseases division at UBC. "So from that point of view, yes (students getting flu

shots) would be good."

Each year, around 20 percent of Canadians get influenza, and more than 1400 people in B.C. die from the flu or pneumonia-related illnesses. As the number one cause of vaccine-preventable deaths, the flu can be avoided with a yearly vaccination and adequate hand washing.

The flu shot is an injection of dead or inactivated flu viruses, which can help build immunity against influenza. The vaccination is 70 percent to 90 percent effective in preventing infection in healthy adults, according to the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.

A common misperception is a flu shot can give a person the virus. While side effects of the flu shot can include a mild fever, fatigue and aching muscles, they generally disappear in one or two days and complications are extremely rare.

"About 10 percent of people who get a flu shot feel a little bit ill maybe," said Stiver.

"Some people say that they get sicker than they've ever been after a flu shot; I think that's an exaggeration and is not based in fact."

The flu virus itself is highly contagious and affects students

Another Brantford flaw exposed, says Jones

— **DUNCAN**, from cover

Jones says that it would be ideal to eventually have a coordinator of human resources on the Brantford campus to help localize the process. "That's a flaw with the Brantford system," she says.

But the process that occurred was completely acceptable, she says. "In looking at the process that took place... process definition was taken care of."

She does think, however, that the situation has emphasized the lack of structure at WLUSU Brantford.

"We need to outline cases for future scenarios," she says. "As for the development of the Brantford campus, this is another

area we should be looking at."

Duncan agrees. "The big thing now is, we need a set of rules," he says. "We need to clearly define everybody's jobs, students' rights and how they can be defended.... If something goes wrong, who are we supposed to talk to?"

The whole drama has made him lose interest in volunteering. "Even if they overturned their decision, I wouldn't want to work as Foot Patrol Co-ordinator because I don't trust them," he says.

But WLUSU doesn't seem willing to bend. "It's final," says Jones.

From files of *The Cord*

NOVEMBER 27, 1980
Get your crunk on

The newest club to form on the Laurier Campus in late November of 1980 was the Honours Drinking Club, while not officially recognized by WLUSU, was quickly expanding. The club was started by six business students and held meetings at the Turret. The "H-Dee" club said the club was dedicated to relieving stress and improving "peer-to-beer" relationships. With the intriguing events the club promises, who knows why

it was not made an official club?

NOVEMBER 24, 1971
Poet woos students

Acclaimed Montreal poet Irving Layton came to Laurier in one part of a Canadian Poets' Speaker series. Layton read some of his poems as well as talking about his personal history and experiences, explaining with clever anecdotes the inspiration for each poem. While clad in black and shielded by thick-horned rimmed glasses, Layton was described as being warm and friendly.

a lot more than most people would believe, according to Jane Ngai, a UBC student and a volunteer at the Minoru Residence for Seniors in Richmond.

"I think a lot of people don't

"I think a lot of people don't realize how vulnerable they are to the flu and how dangerous it can be sometimes."

— Jane Ngai, UBC student

realize how vulnerable they are to the flu and how dangerous it can be sometimes," Ngai said.

This year, UBC is promoting immunization to both faculty and students.

Flu can lead to serious complications and death for seniors and especially for people with certain health conditions, and while students may not fall into those groups, many of them have contact with those people. According to Lori King, a nurse with the UBC health promotion program, students "spend a lot of time indoors, very close to many other people, so they are at particular high risk for getting the flu."

High-risk individuals include persons with a chronic condition such as a cardiac or pulmonary disorder, diabetes or a metabolic disorder, immune deficiency such as AIDS and

HIV, renal disease, anemia, alcoholism, seniors over 65 years of age, health care workers and volunteers, caregivers and children aged six-to 23-months.

These people are vaccinated free in B.C., though UBC health clinics offer students the vaccine for \$15 if they don't meet any of these criteria. Some departments require students to be immunized against influenza, such as health sciences.

Flu shots have received a lot of attention recently with the shortage in the United States driving people to come to Canada to be immunized.

The focus in Canada has been on high-risk individuals, since there are not enough supplies to immunize all Canadians against the flu, said Stiver.

"It's a real problem if we have a pandemic virus develop, as we are concerned about this happening in the next few years," he said.

"Even with the advanced techniques in vaccine manufacturing, which allow us to produce a vaccine in six or eight weeks, as opposed to six months by the older techniques, still it would be a question of could you produce enough. Right now we can't."

With files from Sarah Bourdon

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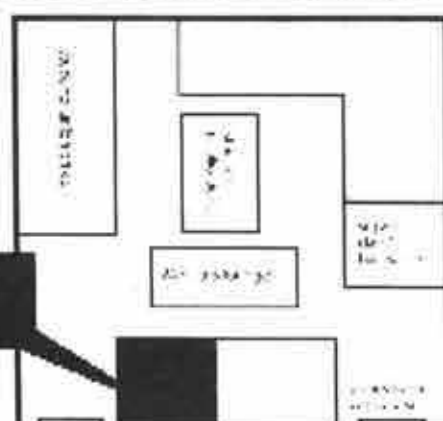


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Quote Of The Week

"You may ask if I am doing a Google search on handjobs. The answer would be yes."
- Byline, NC

First Issue of 2005: January 6

Be it ever so humble

We at *The Cord* are not experts on homelessness. You can read the statistics and do all your homework- you can even spend a night sleeping outside Queen's Park in the downtown Toronto core. Still, no politician, psychologist or average, altruistic University student can ever fully understand homelessness. It is a complex and tragic state unique to each individual. Only a person who is homeless knows why he or she sleeps on the street—if they are even aware of their circumstances at all.

Why is homelessness a problem in such a rich country? According to statistics from "raisetherooft.org," about a quarter of the houseless population fled their homes to escape domestic violence. Another estimate shows that a quarter of homeless people suffer mental illness. Bear in mind that this estimation does not include those with mood disorders such as depression or addiction disorders like alcoholism. While these latter conditions aren't lumped in with "mental illness," it is safe to say that one who is suicidal or dependent on heroin are severely self-destructive and are probably not mentally fit enough to make responsible, healthy life choices.

But not all people without homes need to be institutionalized. They are not all ill. In actuality, it's hard to generalize in this group as the only thing they all undoubtedly have in common is the fact that they all lack a home.



The Editors' View

There are, however, some trends. A large number of homeless people are visible minorities. In the U.S., almost half of all people who live in shelters or on the street actually have jobs. Still, many believe that these people could better their situations if they simply weren't so "lazy."

The bottom line is; does it matter why people are homeless? People who are homeless are in a constant state of physical danger and, as a group, statistically have a much lower level of health than the rest of us. The argument that people have "chosen" this life for themselves is deeply misguided. Consider how ill or troubled a person must be to consciously choose to live in the conditions that come along with homelessness.

In the end it really doesn't matter why a person is living on the street. Even those with the very worst judgment deserve food, shelter and safety. This issue should not be used as a political tool, raised and dismissed at convenience. It is an endemic problem that deserves meaningful Canadian - a world - attention, not token political gestures or worse - apathy.

Keep Bush at arms length

He's bombed Iraq and Afghanistan. He oversaw the most executions in the United States of any previous Governor. He's become (or perhaps has always been) the ultimate lightning rod for criticism and ridicule from leftist pundits and anti-war activists to radical Islamists and the French.

And despite his shining record of misdeeds, his own people (at least 51 percent of them) supported him through to his platform shift from "compassionate conservative" to "besieged wartime American president."

His recent sojourn to Canada this past week has brought out the most virulent of anti-American sentiment in Canada as upwards of 5,000 protesters converged on Parliament Hill.

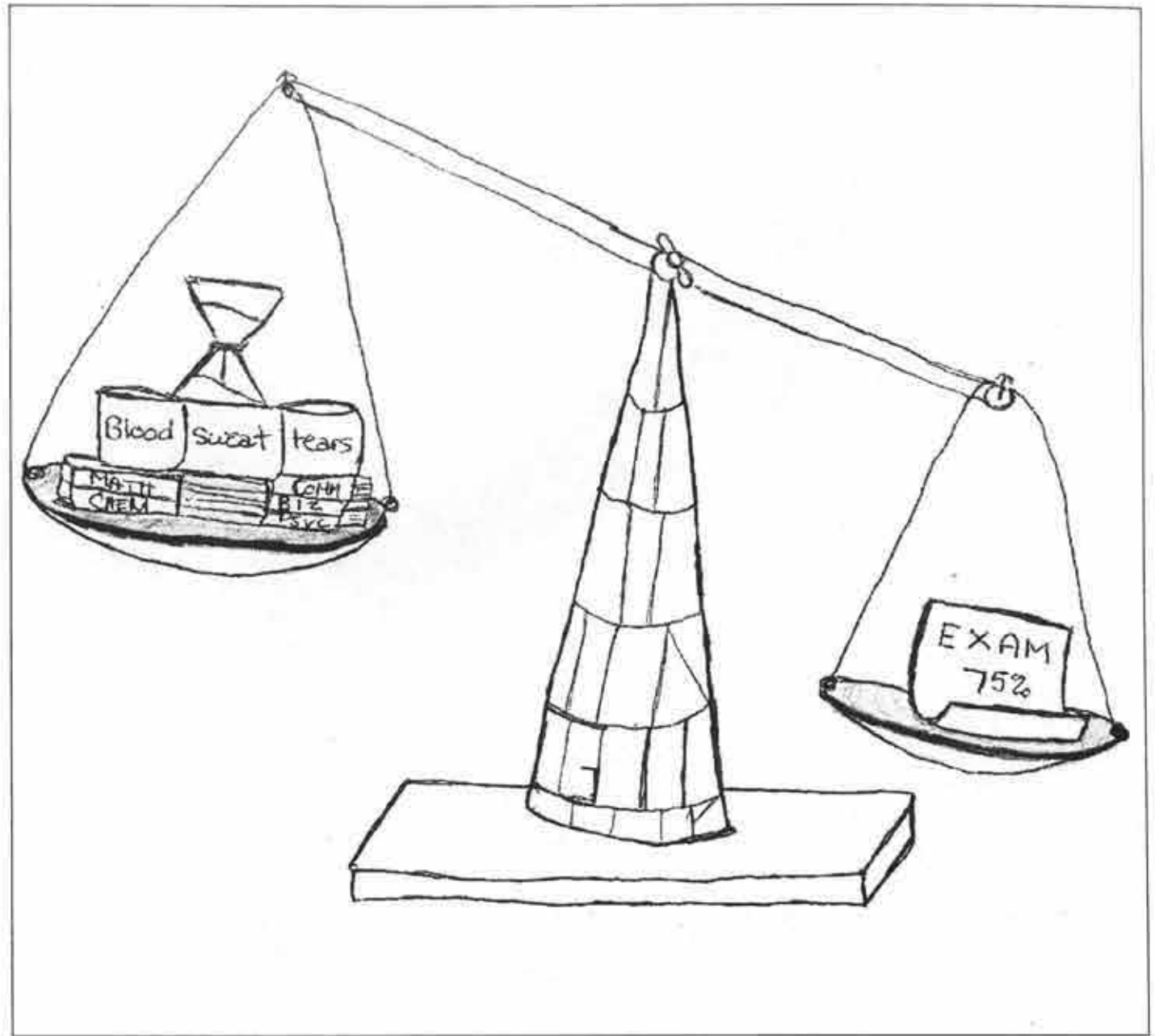
Canada even brought out the

riot police, which to Bush have become as common as crusty bureaucrats and handshakes on his travels.

The activist message was, unsurprisingly, "get out of Iraq now." But Paul Martin has been quick to ditch the likes of Carolyn Parrish in order to rekindle the Amero-Canadian spark.

Where does Martin stand in regard to Bush's America? Is he looking to stay out of the politics of war criticism the same way he's managed to stay out of Haiti and Darfur in recent weeks?

Canada and Martin need to avoid becoming the American lite. A differentiation in foreign policy must be pursued to ensure that Martin's pragmatic economic cooperation doesn't spiral into tacit acceptance of American adventurism.



Geoff McCallum

The Weight of Student Life

Forty people said nothing

Caitlin Howlett



Editor-in-Chief

An innocent girl is shot in the head, the unfortunate reality of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. No less than forty people witness it and only one witness stands up to the plate to say anything.

Forty people. Forty people on a bus, many who probably saw the altercation evolve from words to gun shots. And only one, one courageous person came forward to help authorities continue their investigation into what Toronto Police Chief Julian Fantino aptly referred to as a "heinous" double shooting. Thirty-nine people, maybe slightly less or slightly more, have closed their eyes and shut their mouths.

It worries me that people have this much to fear. It concerns me that this fear prevents people from making a difference. Even if under the safety of anonymity, would you not say, "yes, I was there. I didn't see everything, I didn't hear everything, but this is what I did see and this is what I did hear." To call these people selfish would be unfair. However, to question their motives for why they didn't want to assist the police in a crime that left one man with three gun shots and an 11-year old girl in critical condition, that is fair.

A 'heinous' shooting and only one witness comes forward

No one can for sure really say if they witnessed a crime that they would come forward, it's a spur of the moment kind of thing. You either do it or you don't. And as soon as you start to debate it, that's when really, it becomes more of a decision on how to come up with excuses for not coming forward rather than simply just saying what you saw. Maybe they were afraid, maybe they couldn't see anything on the crowded bus. Maybe they looked into the eyes of the gunman and thought, "what if I'm next." Most probably thought that if their name in any way becomes attached to this case, they too may suffer a similar fate.

I realize that while we have a right to protect ourselves, we also have a moral obligation to help prevent more Tamara incidents.

I feel guilty when I read a story like this. I wish I could have been there, because I feel I would have said something. I would have stayed around and talked to authorities. Sure, I might not let them have my name or even my

phone number, but I'd at least give them what I could while it was fresh in my mind. Forty people didn't do that.

We should be worried about this. Not the forty individuals, but the fear that doing something to assist an innocent bystander like Tamara Carter is too dangerous. We have grown cowardly and we are constantly running away from the fear - the same fear that forces us to triple check who walks behind us in the daylight, and who makes us change security codes daily. Paranoia has struck deep into our souls whether we've been affected by it directly or simply watched it on the news. Tamara is enough for me to realize that while we have a right to protect ourselves, we also have a moral obligation to help prevent more Tamara's. Stand up for your fellow citizens, because if you don't, it's clear no one else is going to.

A little girl's life hangs in the balance and forty people sit at home deciding whether or not to put their lives in that same balance. A mother wishes it were her eyesight that was in jeopardy and not her daughters. A 24 year old man wishes he hadn't boarded the 35C Jane bus at Wilson Avenue around 5:00pm on Sunday. Forty people wish the very same thing.

SEND LETTERS TO THE CORD!

cord@wusp.com



The homeless and abandoned

Fraser MacDonald



Unadmitted



Monday night I slept outside Queen's Park. I had my sleeping bag, two layers of clothing and a head filled with mild apprehension when I plunged off the Greyhound bus into the familiar downtown core. The first thing I noticed was that it wasn't too cold, at least not like some of Toronto's past winter nights.

As I readied myself for the night it became abundantly clear to me that I had no idea what to expect. Would there be angry throngs of protesters? How difficult would it be to find my sister and her friend? Between these intermittent periods of uncertainty, I imagined what it would be like to brave the damp, cloth-penetrating, wet cold that usually envelops the city.

The event I participated in was organized to raise public awareness and to learn something about the struggles endured by homeless people. Looking back, I can't think of a more valuable use of my time.

The forty or so people who left their beds behind to sleep in solidarity with the regular park inhabitants were all blessed with warm, conscientious and inspiring personalities. Given the grim reality of the situation – a very articulate and informed organizer offered his calculation that at minimum, 200,000 affordable housing units need to be created in Ontario alone – I expected demonstrators to be seething with a revolutionary passion for change. But this wasn't the case; in fact, the prevailing attitude was one of hope, not of no-holds-barred rebellion.

Every person involved in the event seemed willing to fight to be human in a world full of petty concerns.

In that instant when a pan-

handler extends their cup toward me, I always feel an incredibly strong urge to hand over my hard-earned money. After interacting in a social context with street people it becomes evident that this 'sense of guilt' is internally brewed and not necessarily a result of being pressured. Yes, they want financial help, but more importantly, they want to be acknowledged as worthy of a mutually respectful relationship.

The forty or so people who left their beds behind to sleep in solidarity with the park inhabitants were met with warmth.

The night rolled along without any problem until an overzealous grad student from UofT began interrogating an otherwise genial lady about her description of a beating that four cops gave her in an alleyway. He was curious to know why the police chose to assault her and break her nose – of course assuming there must have been a valid reason. Perhaps unconvinced by the statistic that 10 percent of street people are subjected to unprovoked beatings, his aim was to voice his own opinion on the issue. Quite insulted, the woman, with the help of a protestor, confronted the student and expressed deep discontent regarding his inability to empathize.

Initially, when the woman began yelling at the student, I wondered what good there was in being confrontational but as the situation unfolded it became clear that her reaction was warranted. Silently observing, I'm glad I reserved my judgment because sometimes an opinion

isn't needed. There is never any shame in being a good listener

And by listening, I learned a lot. One middle aged man with a recurring alcohol problem illuminated the intensity of his struggle. Living outside in consistently below freezing weather can seem to be quite a good reason to drink and numb the senses. The local shelters are generally dangerous places with occasionally hostile mixes of people.

Substance abuse is an accepted method of survival in street culture (just as morning, afternoon and late night coffee is deemed vital for completion of a University degree). Overall, this man displayed a keen sense of what he needed to do to improve his life but also pointed out the obstacles. This inadvertently spurred me to recall the many different resolutions I have made but never followed through with.

Clearly it is not the best choice to succumb to substance abuse problems, but ineffective willpower should not be grounds to condemn another person and their problems. In fact, it should be a reason to help them because we all share that same inability to live up to our ideals – that's part of what makes us human.

And yet only the NDP saw the value in inviting representatives from the homeless population into parliament to share their ideas. So why is it that the majority of parliamentary officials did not take this chance to listen? Could they not spare 20 minutes? Were they too full from their \$500-a-head dinners the night before?

In their defence, maybe they already understand the plight of their fellow man. Or maybe they are addicted to their illusions of Canadian good fortune. Does anybody else feel like kicking the habit? I know I do.

Sweet, sweet exams is done

Chris Clemens



Last Year's Entertainment

"I can't wait to be done already." The resounding resentment echoes across campus, magnified by every deadline and compounded each time we fall down the library stairs. We stress, we cry, we gorge, we drug ourselves to survive. Exams loom on the horizon, one final deathtrap placed in our paths before – what? Freedom? The end of dreaded level 4-1? Nondenominational holiday festivities?

It's an inexplicable goal, this dangling reward which keeps us running towards the semester finish line. Think about it. What are you rushing to finish school for?

The Joys of the Christmas Miracle

Premise: Jesus died for our sins, and now we get to look at candles and babies and stuff and our parents will probably make us watch The Passion of the Christ in addition to the usual bevy of Christmas propaganda.

Advantages: You're not going to hell, guy!

Drawbacks: The Passion is a snuff film, Christmas is mysteriously meaningless to non-Christians, Jesus is probably mad at you for looking at all that porn when you should've been studying.

The Joys of Christmas Presents

Premise: Santa Claus breaks into houses across the world and leaves us presents, defying conventional physics and providing lazy ad agencies with an easy holiday marketing angle.

Advantages: Christmas cash allows drinking to recommence.

Drawbacks: Supporting an evil consumerist society, finding time to buy presents when exams only end the day before Christmas

Eve, Santa is probably mad at you for making out with your cousin back in grade school. He's always watching.

The Joys of Family

Premise: You get to go home and saturate yourself with wholesome family love. Bonus game: Keep your childhood image and don't let the parents find out what a slut you've become!

Advantages: Home-cooked meals that cover all four food groups – none of which is Pizza Pizza, shockingly enough. Sometimes family can be nice.

Drawbacks: Sometimes family can be infuriating, massive constrictions on your personal privacy and freedom, your parents are probably mad at you for becoming a pothead and/or an alcoholic without consulting them first.

The Joys of Being Done

Premise: You're finished the semester!

Advantages: No more all-nighters, caffeine addiction or stress convulsions. You're done!

Drawbacks: Tragically failing at least one class, coming right back in two weeks to start again with automatic rigor, your professors are probably mad at you for being so stupid.

The Joys of Pessimism

Premise: Writing a Cord column about how badly everyone wants to be done school and then twisting it to cruelly expose the worst parts about everything they're looking forward to after exams.

Advantages: Sarcastically cool, it's easy to criticize the holidays, you fit in perfectly with today's MTV generation.

Drawbacks: Hating life is becoming a huge cliché, philosophical gang-beatings, everybody is probably mad at you for turning this column into a serious year-ending buzzkill.

But look deeper.

Letters to the Editor

cord@wlusp.com



Cheers to Brantford autonomy, King!

I am responding to Fraser King's excellent critique of the governing structure for Waterloo campus and Brantford campus at WLU. I went to Brantford during my first year and I must say I found that I identified with Brantford campus much more than with main campus. In fact, I initially thought Brantford was the only campus for WLU. I have since learned I was incorrect.

In Brantford, we were basically on our own and Waterloo was probably the farthest thing from anybody's mind. When elections were held for Student Union President back in 2003 and the candidates came to Brantford to speak with students, it made me laugh. From some of what these people were saying, they knew absolutely jack about the Brantford situation. And it just burns me to hear that WLUSU still calls all the shots for a subsidiary campus in another city, when the Brantford student reps don't have that much power.

King is right about giving Brantford a separate independent governing body. I'm a political science student, a politically active one at that and I can appreciate the analogy he used about a Waterloo MPP representing people in Edmonton. A better analogy would be the British

empire making one of her colonies an independent nation but giving them no means to defend themselves from outside intrusion. That's how Waterloo and Brantford campus are like now. If Brantford is to function as a university campus, it should have a separate governing body of students representing Brantford interests with only a minuscule contact with main campus. This joint governance of both campuses under WLUSU will eventually become unworkable, despite the fact that WLUSU has managed to cope with it.

I commend Fraser King for his column. I don't know if he is a former or current, Brantford student but he isn't the first one I've read in *The Cord* to address this issue.

Alan Kan

Brantford's not ready to go it on its own

In response to your editorial 'Brantford Autonomy' I would have to say I disagree. I would like to remind you that enrollment at Laurier Brantford this year is somewhere around 1000 full time students. We are eager to, how did you put it... "get our teeth back in" and govern our campus but we don't have the resources to form our own separate union.

General Manager Mike McMahon has been instrumental as the project manager in guiding its development through the university and City Council. His salary alone would be more than the entire WLUSU Brantford budget, leaving no money for services and events like the Seasonal Celebration, LSFL, Foot Patrol, or the Santa Claus Parade, let alone a new building. Would it be fair for the business, science and arts programs to bond together and leave music majors to fend for themselves? Of course not, that's not how you run a successful university.

Brantford is building and it's come a long way in the last few years. Independent student government is a goal for Brantford, but it can't be just given to us, it needs to be developed. If you are interested in coming down and seeing the campus for yourself, the Bouncil extends an invitation to you Mr. King. Hope to see you soon.

Brad Murray

Brantford independence is the ultimate goal

This letter is in response to Fraser King's editorial "Brantford Autonomy." It is important to know that in the long run, an independently run Brantford student government is the goal of WLUSU. The Campus

Council "Bouncil" is indeed a "stepping stone" in this process. However, currently WLUSU Brantford cannot realistically provide for the needs of its students without aid from the Union as a whole. WLUSU provides Brantford with invaluable leadership, experience, guidance and resources. The Brantford campus has a wonderful opportunity to take the successes of the Union and apply them to our own governance structure. Including Brantford students in the Union benefits both campuses – we are a stronger voice united than if we were apart. If you are interested in learning more about the Brantford campus, the Bouncil and the WLUSU Brantford team would like to extend an invitation to you for a visit.

Sara Neziel

Brantford Campus Commissioner
Asli Arif
Brantford Campus Life Coordinator

Don't erase our passions, Dean Campbell

I am a second year fine arts student and have never really questioned the amount of concern our school has for the Fine Arts until after the meeting with the Dean of Arts. The meeting was held in our studio on Lodge Street, a 1997 project that seems to be borderline satisfactory in terms of

maintenance.

Dean Campbell stood in front of the many concerned attendees in a building that has seen no meaningful upkeep, which really made me think where all our funding for the arts should be going. Obviously, money is the issue even though Campbell states that it is not.

During the meeting, the main questions were concerning course availability, faculty replacements, and our lack of visual culture. However, the Dean seemed pretty fixated on the idea that he would be leaving this upcoming year and could not say much about the future of the Fine Arts program. And considering two of our best fine arts professors, Micheal Manson and Elsa Freisen, will be retiring this year shouldn't Campbell have thought about the implications of their retirement earlier?

Issues within the Fine Arts program have been brewing since 2000, and Campbell decides that this year is a "good" time to let students know that there program is phasing out? What are students supposed to say and do now that Laurier's Fine Arts is on the way out—limiting student's opportunities to enroll in studio courses and elective courses of choice? This is disappointing because studio art education is a valuable tool that provides students with cre-

- Please see **Letters**, page 30

Union needs to treat employees with greater respect



Ken Braithwaite

Former Wilf's
Bartender



I couldn't help noticing the collage that made up the pages nine through ten of this week's *Cord*, which focused on the current state of Laurier's on campus pub/restaurant, Wilf's. As a former employee of Wilf's and one of the bartenders who resigned in the past few weeks, I feel some responsibility to explain a few of the problems currently facing the restaurant.

Working at Wilf's was very different this year as compared to years past and this became a serious problem for me. I used to walk into Wilf's at anytime, day or night, and find some of my friends hanging out. I was always there and so were they, because we liked being there. We had a relationship not only with each other but also with the bar itself which produced a great atmosphere that surely rubbed off on everyone who happened to drop by.

Changing policies handed down by senior WLUSU management of the Students' Union have, however, created a great deal of confusion amongst staff and management that has resulted in the poor treatment of employees and an uncomfortable working environment. Restrictions put in place by the Union meant management had little input and even less say in the decision making process. The truly unfortunate consequence of this is that control is apparently being taken out of the hands of people with actual experience running such an operation.

The surprising aspect of this whole ordeal is that the senior management seems content with the fact that Wilf's isn't nearly as busy as in years past. They appear to withdraw from any sort of serious promotional campaign, blaming the increased underage population at Laurier for the decline in bar patronage across the city. I go out occasionally and see the same line ups as always at Philthy's, Phil's, Louie's; even the Silver Spur experiences a constant flow of night life.

The senior WLUSU management needs to understand that there aren't fewer people out drinking, they just aren't drinking at the campus bars. Wilf's has been, and should be, a significant part of student life, but somewhere along the line the powers that be have disregarded the bar's obligation to contribute to the enhancement of student life at Laurier.

Surely a school with a total enrollment of over 10,000 students should be able to convince 285 of them to fill Wilf's on any given night.

A great deal of confusion amongst staff and management resulted in the poor treatment of Wilf's employees.

With respect to complaints concerning the inconsistency of Wilf's service and food quality, students must realize that Wilf's employs upwards of a hundred part-time students; any other restaurant in the city employs less than forty people whose first priority is work, not school. For this reason it is unlikely that Wilf's has the potential to be as consistent as other bar/restaurants in the area. Wilf's has always had these inconsistencies and likely always will, but in previous years they were overshadowed by the fact that it was busy and people had fun there.

I offer this advice to the Union: treat the student employees with the respect they deserve, provide a setting for them to develop a social attachment to their bar and, heck, even give them a few perks. Keep them happy and they will enjoy coming to work; they will choose to drink there rather than the bar down the street and they will bring their friends with them. This industry relies heavily on the ability to provide an enjoyable atmosphere. This atmosphere, in turn, relies heavily on the people who work there.

Editor's Note: Ken Braithwaite resigned as a Wilf's bartender on October 28, 2004.

"That is so gay"

Marcos Moldes



My So Called Queer Life

While standing in the hallway and waiting for my next class to empty out I overheard a few snippets of a conversation two girls were having as they passed me.

"He called me last night; I was so nervous that I stuttered the whole time," exclaimed one the girls in the really tacky Ugg boots (face it people, those things are hideous; go buy yourself some real shoes).

"You are so gay!" said the other girl, also sporting the aforementioned boots.

I could feel my blood start to boil as soon as she uttered that horrible expression. As someone who came out in high school, I got used to hearing homophobic remarks and expressions, so they usually don't even bother me anymore.

I think stupid remarks like, "that's so gay," are kind of like a back wax: painful and uncomfortable if only briefly. But you put up with a back wax just like you put up with homophobic remarks because they are both always going to be painful, so you might as well just learn to live with it.

In this case though, for unknown reasons, I could feel

Homophobic slang, in a negative or casual context, is still an insidious and biting language

myself getting angrier and angrier as the two girls walked by without realizing that they had insulted a perfect stranger with their comments. In the span of a few seconds these two girls, freshly minted out of the "Kimmy" factory of Laurier, managed to turn me from a mild mannered student to an angry, militant agenda of rage homo.

I could feel my blood boil as soon as she uttered that horrible expression. Like a back wax it was painful if only briefly.

They probably hadn't even realized that what they said could be perceived as hurtful or offensive; they probably thought of themselves as really open-minded, liberal people. I'm sure they didn't have a conscious agenda of homophobia and didn't think anything of using that expression. But sometimes hate manifests itself in very tacit and implicit ways.

Which brings me to my point: saying that you aren't homopho-

bic because you know gay people or you claim to have gay friends is exactly like saying you aren't racist because you know black people or claim to have black friends. Homophobia is a much more insidious and terrible frame of mind than simply hating or fearing queer people; homophobia separates us and makes gay people the suspicious and feared "other."

By saying an expression like "that's so gay," people are implying that gay identity is stupid or somehow just not right (I just wanted to point out that you never see a gay guy in Ugg boots, maybe people need to rethink that implication). When you come down to it, my queer lifestyle isn't exactly different from any other students': readings, essays, work and when I can scrape a few dollars together I splurge on a few pints at McMullans.

Instead of giving them a dirty look as they walked past me I should have taken the first step: approached them and told them that comments like "that's so gay" are still offensive, regardless of how much 'Will and Grace' implies that homophobia is over.

Bryn Boyce's

Campus Pictorial

Bryn Boyce's Campus Pictorial does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the *The Cord Weekly's* Editorial Board, its volunteers, or WLU Student Publications. Any readers who would like to comment on the Campus Pictorial may submit a letter to letters@wlu.com, and must adhere to the letters policy of *The Cord Weekly*.



Photograph by Bryn Boyce

Sustainable Paving: This parking spot in the Laurier Place enclave symbolizes the eternal confrontation between man and nature. The way in which the tree, so defiant in the face of modernity and progress, and asphalt meld together give rise to the age old question: "Where's my fucking swede saw, I'm late for my 'Evil And It's Symbols' class."

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Stop press, put safe on
before entering.



The Rae Review

On Postsecondary Education

- ♦ Quality
- ♦ Accessibility
- ♦ Funding
- ♦ System Design
- ♦ Accountability

Education at a crossroads

Dr. Bob Rosehart



WLU President

To me, the Rae Review is about one issue. Is there or is there not support for quality publicly funded post-secondary education in Ontario? This is the central question which often gets lost in the multitude of policy issues in front of the Rae Review.

It is clear that if additional public funding is not to be found, tuition fees will have to go up further and that reforms will be necessary on the student aid package to ensure every qualified student enters university regardless of their financial situation.

Although, studies point to the opposite, I believe that the "sticker shock" of higher fees does intimidate some able students, keeping them from pursuing the university option.

My preferred model would see tuition fees represent, on average, 30% of the total cost. This I feel is a reasonable balance between the individual cost and benefit versus the contribution of society at large. I also feel that regardless of financial abilities, merit based scholarships should continue.

A lot of the Rae Review input has focused on the college-university interface and the desire of some colleges to offer more degree-like programs. This is a mistake.

Ontario is well served by two distinct systems of post-secondary education and the colleges should continue to have primary focus on skilled trades, school to college programs and continuing education.

Institutions in each system should be allowed to continue to differentiate and evolve. Any new system for credit transfer should respect, from a quality perspective, the distinctively different post-secondary experience in each sector, as well as the academic independence of both colleges and universities. The role of government should be to provide financial encouragement and showcase the successful examples (i.e. Laurier Brantford and Mohawk College).

The Rae Review is about one issue. Is there or is there not support for quality publicly funded education in Ontario?

I strongly endorse the position put forward by the WLUSU submission which proposes a better way of funding the Accessible Learning Program on campus. Rather than institutional size, the WLUSU brief to the Rae Review quite rightly argues that the funding should be based on the number of accessible learning students being served. Almost too logical.

I am convinced much good will come from the Rae Review, not just in additional support from government but also the Rae Review has afforded an opportunity to acquaint the general public with the dire straits of the college and university systems. I suspect the Rae Review recommendations will focus not so much on the institutions but rather "on the students and what works for them."

Support for Arts needed

Rae, from Cover

province to disperse as they choose, while the Federal government retains control over the grant procedure.

This has turned the whole PSE situation into a bit of a power struggle between the federal and provincial governments over who is better suited to orchestrate innovation in the PSE system – although up until this review neither government has been too eager to diagnose the system's condition.

You can see the beginning of a blame game starting here. Canada reduces funding to provinces, provinces cut funding to universities, universities bump tuition and the student pays more. Students get angry, Canada and Ontario deflect the anger at each other pointing to their respective successes and then they squabble amongst themselves.

Colleges and universities had always been buffered from this political jockeying between the two levels of government by a fairly active and generous private sector. Their donations, in the 1950s and 60s especially, meant that universities could pursue funding options from other areas of society to supplement government contributions.

But the system is changing. The Faculty of Business can attest to this drop in corporate and private donation since the deregulation of the SBE program was, in part, because of a shortage of funds – both private and public. The days where program expansions and unfunded students could be supported through the generosity of corporate Canada are gone.

The new disturbing trend in the private sector and federal government funding is a selective funneling process where money flows to specific areas of education – namely business and engineering. Usually, there's hardly a dime (well, maybe just one) given to the social sciences and humanities.

In 2003, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives reported that 51 percent of Ontario's SuperBuild fund (meant to boost university infrastructure with projects like the Bricker Academic Building) and 62 percent of corporate donations (like those used to fund part of the Schlegel Center) were being directed toward business and engineering programs.

By contrast, the social sciences and humanities received three percent of SuperBuild funds and less than one percent of the

total corporate donations.

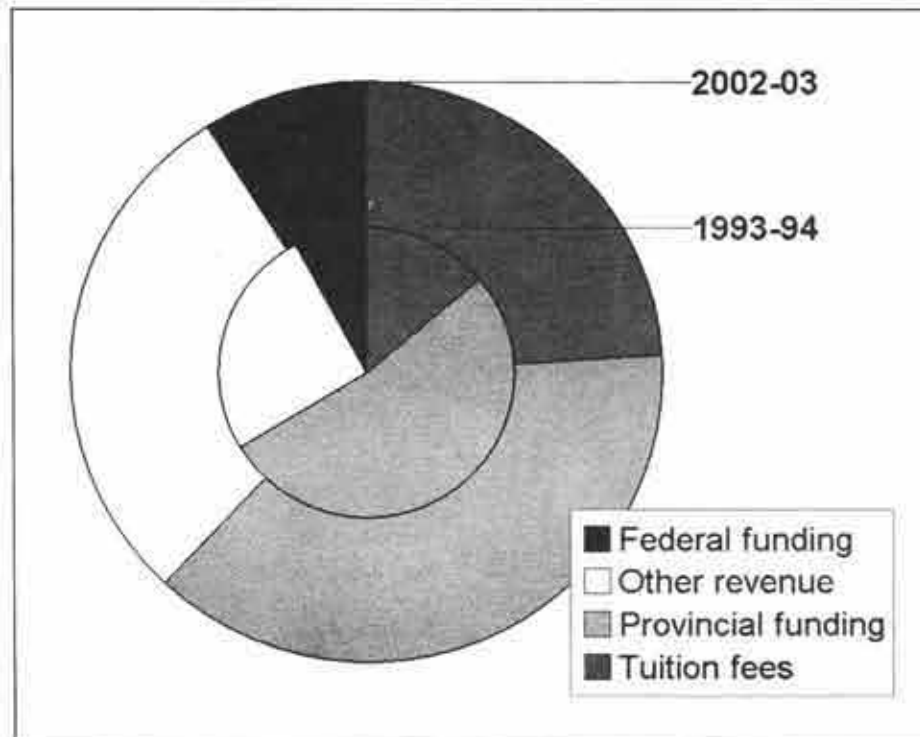
The federal government's Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) set their 2004-2005 budget at \$850 million while the malnourished Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) posted a budget of \$230 million.

This trend is spreading throughout all areas of PSE. More and more students are being encouraged to enter colleges and universities with their "eyes on the prize" – the six-figure-plus high-tech job. Many of these students overlook the importance of building the critical thinking skills offered in an Arts education and even more disturbing, they suppress their genuine academic interests in order to take choke down a 'bitter-pill' program that they 'at least' perceive to be profitable.

There's a lot to be done with regard to funding in Ontario but until both the federal and provincial government sit down together and agree to dispense with the territorial pissings of government jurisdiction, very little will be accomplished.

It remains to be seen whether Bob Rae's Review will make the waves that so many students, faculty and citizens are hoping for. At a recent Town Hall meeting, Former Ontario PC Premier Bill Davis stressed that the Rae Review's recommendations must take into account the budgetary realities of government. "I would say this on behalf of Mr. Rae, that he may not meet all your expectations in the report [since] there are differing points of view."

Will Rae's prescriptions be enough to garner him a nomination in the wildly anticipated 2015 CBC Greatest Canadian competition? Can he show us the cure for Ontario's post-secondary funding hangover? It's hard to say. But, as always, the students are just going to have to wait. And then see.



InfoGraphic By Greg Smith - Stats from Rae Review Discussion Paper

Rae consultations give illusion of democracy

Dr. Herbert Pimlott



Media Critic

are four other sections that provide information for getting involved. Such processes encompass either attending a 'town hall' meeting or 'roundtable dialogue', working through a 'workbook', either in print or online, and/or submitting your own document, questions or commentary. In addition, there is access to statistics and various selected reports from different countries and provinces.

If communication is to democracy, what arteries are to the body, then the Ontario Postsecondary Review, headed by the Honourable Bob Rae, seems to be a genuine attempt to ensure a healthy 'body politic'.

Unlike recent Ontario governments, Dalton McGuinty's Liberals at least appears to be interested in consulting the public over a very important issue: the future funding and design of Ontario's colleges and universities.

Public consultations are increasingly part of the communication processes of democracies, just as polling and focus groups are now an integral part of political campaigning.

Let's look at how the Rae Review is engaged in communicating with the public.

There is a 'web presence' which is meant to facilitate access to bureaucrats and politicians as part of a desire to make government more accountable to its citizens (Canada is actually a world leader in hardware innovations and information technology applications which enhance access to different levels of government for its citizens).

The website is user-friendly and easy to navigate. Besides Rae's message and an explanation of what the Review is, there

Submissions have been accepted via different modes of communication, since the announcement of the start of the Review on October 1st: online, mail, fax, e-mail, and even in person. As of November 24, the Rae Review had received 304 submissions from individuals, 102 from associations and 52 from institutions. A total of 855 workbooks had been completed. According to the Project Manager, Ruth MacKay, the Secretariat is small. It is composed of only 15 people, who are responsible for everything from scheduling and answering telephones to carrying out research and posting material to the website.

Indeed, one of the more encouraging signs in this process of consultation has been attempting to keep the website updated with representative and unique excerpts from transcripts of town hall meetings, various reports and submissions, and selected questions, commentaries and possible solutions.

Perhaps most interesting, from a communications perspective on democracy, is the 'town



Contributed Photo

hall' meeting. As of next week, 'town hall' meetings will have been held in 17 different communities across the province.

The 'town hall' meeting is a metaphor, like the 'roundtable dialogue', for the public events where members of the Advisory Panel meet with those self-selecting Ontarians that have chosen, for various reasons, to attend: professors, administrators, staff, students, parents. While not a 'town hall meeting' in the original or literal sense, the title harks back to a 'golden age' of local, participatory democracy.

This is the notion of democracy that is local and therefore accessible to everyone. And because it is local, it is usually

seen as having greater legitimacy than higher levels of government because of its (supposed) 'localness' which is meant to connote a greater sense of participation.

The 'town hall' last Thursday at Conestoga College was most illuminating. For most of the time I was there, I could not help but notice that some people were never chosen (I was not aware of any university students being chosen to speak from the microphone). More revealingly than any possible fluke, however, is that every time someone from the floor raised the issue about lowering tuition fees or increasing the provincial and federal governments' funding for postsecondary institutions (Ontario is

last out of 10 provinces!), it seemed that at least two of the panel members would take the microphone to offer counter-explanations or anecdotes that raised the spectre of wealthy and middle-class students being subsidized by ordinary citizens who've never been able to go to university.

The town hall meeting reminded me that communication can also be one-way rather than two-way, especially when those who get to shape the questions only hear (or accept) the answers they want to. Indeed, the way language is used in the Review's documents appears to imply that some answers are more likely to be accepted than others.

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Housing rights violation a world issue

The COHRE awards highlight global housing rights abuses and seek to reward countries and people fighting for housing rights

KRIS COTE
International Editor

A Geneva-based organization, the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), has bestowed Sudan, Russia and America with their 2004 Housing Rights Violator Awards, while honouring Brazil and an activist from India for their housing rights work.

The annual COHRE awards began in 2002 and seek to highlight "particularly egregious and pervasive housing rights violations in the preceding year." The COHRE program is steeped in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is guided to protect housing rights worldwide.

While Brazil has in the past been recognized for its housing rights abuses, COHRE has recognized the Bairro Legal (Legal Neighbourhood) program of Sao Paulo as an exemplarily initiative. The program assisted 45,000 families in obtaining legal title to their land, protecting their rights, and safeguarding them from eviction. The Bairro Legal program also improved the living condition for 210,000 people by upgrading community infrastructure.

COHRE's Executive Director, Scott Leckie, is proud of Sao Paulo's achievements, noting that their efforts are "testimony to the fact that the right to adequate housing can be made a reality if

the political will exists."

Sudan was named one of three housing rights violators because of the massive disturbance caused by fighting in Darfur. To date, 1.6 million Darfurians have fled the country, with most ending up in refugee camps in Chad. However, there are another two million internally displaced refugees inside Sudan, centred mainly on the capital, Khartoum, where 270,000 people live in four overcrowded camps.

COHRE condemns the treatment of Sudanese refugees, noting cases in which camps have been tear-gassed by Sudanese police and military forces. In another instance, a shanty town on the outskirts of Khartoum was bulldozed to make room for residential development, leaving 13,000 completely homeless. Continued attacks on refugees exacerbate the situation.

Russia's condemnation centres on the Chechen conflict. It has forced many to flee to the neighbouring territory of Ingushetia in 1999, and 106,000 people remained in the makeshift camps by November 2002. Despite promises of protection and compensation, the Russian government has harassed the refugees into returning to Chechnya without compensation or adequate housing, where many now live in substandard and dangerous conditions.

As well, Leckie points out



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The COHRE condemns the U.S. for its criminalization of homelessness. Despite being the wealthiest country in the world, nearly four million Americans are homeless and the rate is growing.

that "discrimination against minority groups such as the Roma" tarnishes Russian efforts to stem homelessness. Although official data is lacking, the report believes approximately four million Russian adults are homeless, as are another 2.8 million Russian children.

"It is a disgrace that literally millions of people are homeless in the wealthiest nation in the world."

- Scott Leckie, COHRE Executive Director

The report pins its most

scathing criticisms on the U.S., where Leckie laments that "it is a disgrace that literally millions of people live on city streets or in homeless shelters in the wealthiest nation in the world."

Since President George W. Bush has taken office, homelessness has risen, due in part to cuts to social services. Homelessness grew by 13 percent in 2002 and by 19 percent in 2003. While 3.5 million Americans live on the streets, 42 percent of the homeless population are employed but do not receive enough pay to provide for their shelter.

At the same time, homelessness has been criminalized in nearly 50 states. Leckie believes that this is "effectively punishing those who are already victims of

human rights violations." The report reveals that racial discrimination is entrenched in America. Fifty percent of the homeless are African American, while Native Americans and Latinos also suffer proportionally high levels of homelessness.

Citing the recent attacks on Fallujah in Iraq, the COHRE report condemns the U.S. for its abuse of the Geneva Conventions, which as a signatory power, bind the U.S. "not to destroy civilian housing or undertake collective punishment." Two hundred and fifty thousand residents fled Fallujah, while the 50,000 who remained behind had their water and electricity services cut.

Ugandan leaders push closer to peace

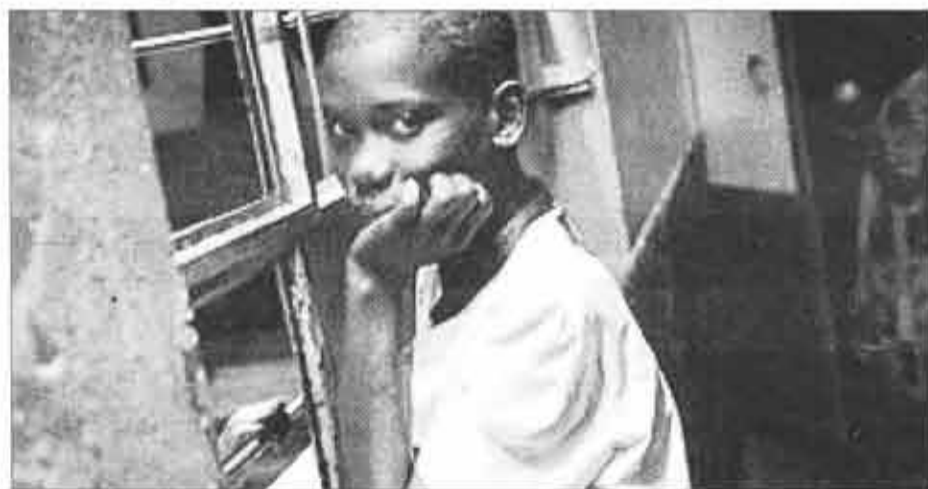
KYLE BOULDEN
Staff Writer

In a bold move towards peace last week, the Ugandan government and rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) voluntarily agreed to extend a temporary cease-fire aimed at facilitating peace talks. The Ugandan conflict has now lasted 18 years and has displaced upwards of 1.5 million people.

Both sides agreed to extend the previous cease-fire, which had expired last Tuesday, until December 3rd. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni had declared the original truce on November 14 in response to an offer by the LRA to revive peace talks. Previous attempts to negotiate peace, held 10 years ago, ended in failure over allegations of bad faith from both sides.

A senior LRA official met with government mediators last week, and negotiations are ongoing. Although suffering from a lack of trust, both sides have pledged themselves to the new peace process. Ugandan Information Minister James Nsaba Buturo stated that "the extension decision shows that the government is entirely committed to the peaceful resolution of the conflict." The government has asked rebel forces to come out of hiding and assemble in specific locations as an act of good faith.

Meanwhile, last Thursday also saw the arrival of a delega-



Contributed Photo

The Lord's Resistance Army impresses children into its ranks, forcing thousands to flee to larger cities for safety every night.

tion from the United Nations Security Council. The representatives met with President Museveni and urged him to settle the conflict in order to deal with the humanitarian crisis that has developed in war-ravaged Northern Uganda.

Non-governmental organizations working in Northern Uganda have repeatedly criticized the Security Council for failing to address the situation there, and criticism continued after the Thursday meeting. Stella Ayo Odongo, chairperson of the Civil Society Organizations for Peace in Northern Uganda (CSOPNU), complained that "here is another wasted opportunity to bring a just and lasting peace to the people of Uganda."

Over the course of the 18 year old conflict, both sides have been accused of human rights atroci-

ties; however the LRA is particularly infamous for its brutality. The rebels have often targeted civilians, cutting off ears and limbs. They have also kidnapped thousands of children to serve as soldiers, labourers and sex slaves.

The LRA is commanded by self-proclaimed prophet Joseph Kony, who claims to have spiritual powers and leads a rebel army almost entirely composed of abducted child soldiers. Considered to be dangerous and psychologically unstable, many of the child soldiers have been fighting for over 10 years and are in their 20s.

The Lord's Resistance Army also has the dubious distinction of being the first case to be investigated for possible crimes against humanity by the new International Criminal Court. The investigation is ongoing.

Paul Martin in Darfur and...

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TORONTO STAR
Martin saves Darfur

Mob hands out street justice in Mexico

MARY ERSKINE
Staff Writer

Amid growing frustrations over police corruption, three undercover police officers were attacked by a Mexico City mob last Tuesday, where they were lynched, beaten and burned. Wide spread broadcasting of the incident, which was caught on tape, provoked a massive response from federal police forces.

The footage, which was captured at the time of the incident and then broadcast on Mexico's major television networks, showed a young officer in civilian dress struggling to explain that he was an undercover federal officer. The man was then beaten, doused in gasoline, and set on fire. A second officer was then killed in the same manner; a third was critically wounded and later died in hospital.

The three officers were undercover in San Juan Ixtayopan, an outskirts of Mexico City of 35,000 people. Varying reports indicate that they were investigating a number of small drug operations which were operating in the area. More likely reports point to several recent kidnappings of several children from the local school.

The undercover officers were said to have been seen taking pictures outside of the school where the kidnappings had taken place. Onlookers, believing that the officers had been abducting the children, sparked the riot by setting off rooftop alarms, used as a security measure in some parts of Mexico City. Alarmed by the alarms, inhabitants flooded the streets, and it took riot police more than two hours to gain con-



Contributed Photo

Federal police swept into the town of San Juan Ixtayopan and arrested 33 men in retaliation for the killing of three officers.

trol of the scene. By this time, the two officers had been killed, and the third mortally wounded.

Federal officers from all over Mexico then swooped into the region, including over 600 Mexican FBI officers and 300 municipal officers, in an attempt to detain those responsible. To add to the confusion, political motivations have created a power struggle between the municipal and federal police.

Officers later responded to the attacks with a series of mass arrests. The televised event showed heavily armed police officers, adorning bulletproof vests, machine guns and protective shields, entering housing at night in 'Iraq-style' raids. Images of dazed men and boys, handcuffed and laying in the dirt, were broadcast throughout Mexico.

Of those taken into custody, officials have given few details except to say that "the presumed

inciters or provocateurs of these events" have been detained. The 33 men arrested range in age from 14 to 58.

The immense reaction by officials is said to be not only a response to the killing of the officers, but also a response to the growing distrust of the Mexican police forces. The general feeling among Mexicans is that police are either inept or corrupt.

The lynchings are also part of an increasing dissident trend in Mexico, which is in response to frustration with a corrupt government and police officials. Neighborhood groups have begun their own security measures in order to curb the soaring crime rates. Maria Eva Labana, a 15-year-old witness to the attacks, said she didn't regret what happened. "If the police aren't going to do anything, then the town has to take matters into their own hands."

War perpetuating health crisis in Iraq

KRIS COTE
International Editor

Following the release of the controversial Lancet report, a group of doctors from the organization Medact have stepped up criticism over the health situation in Iraq with the release of their report *Enduring Effects of War*.

The Medact report is based on surveys of international aid and health organizations such as UNICEF. The report reveals that the health sector of Iraq is in a state of "disrepair" and that the health sector is worse off today than under the regime of Saddam Hussein.

"The war is a continuing public health disaster that was predictable- and should have been preventable," Medact concludes, adding that "excess deaths and injuries and high levels of illness are the direct and indirect results of ongoing conflict."

The report looks at the broad-based effects of the war and their issues pertaining to health. Only half of Iraq's sewage treatment plants have been repaired, and 500,000 tonnes of raw sewage are pumped into rivers daily. Only half of rural Iraqis have access to potable water.

The report warns that malnourishment is spreading, with the percentage of underweight children rising by 17 percent since 2000, and the number of chronically malnourished rising by 32 percent.

The breakdown of the Iraqi economy has left many families without work, forcing many women to turn to prostitution. The report warns that this situation is leading to an increased spread of HIV/AIDS, as well as unsafe "back street" abortions.

Iraq's post-invasion instability has created a culture of insecurity, which the report warns is especially dangerous to the mental health of women in Iraq. The fear of rape and abduction prevents women from "fully participating in the crucial early phases of recovery and reconstruction," as well as "seeking health care for themselves and their children."

international law.

In fact, the state that has done the most to fulfill the promises and hopes of the UN is the U.S. Former President Woodrow Wilson established the foundations of the UN with his dream of the League of Nations. As well, it has been the Americans who led the fight in every UN authorized war. America is also the largest contributor to the UN.

In other cases, America has gotten involved in the many places that were too touchy for the UN. America led NATO into Yugoslavia to stop ethnic cleansing and felled the Taliban to bring democracy and freedom to the Afghan people. Additionally, it attempts to pressure China into respecting human rights and has forced Saudi Arabia to begin to



Contributed Photo

The Medact report believes that the health services of Iraq has deteriorated since the invasion.

Since April 2003, 400 women and girls as young as eight have reported being raped, and school attendance for girls has dropped by 50 percent.

Amongst its detailed recommendations, the underlying conclusion is that conflict and violence need to be curbed. The report also calls for coalition forces to monitor and record civilian casualties, and for the Geneva Convention to be upheld.

American forces have yet to comment on the report, but Iraq's interim government has lashed out at its findings.

Iraq's deputy prime minister, Barham Saleh, asserted that while the health situation in Iraq is "not good," it is improving. He also places the blame for the current situation on "the level of devastation that Saddam Hussein has left us with was unimaginable."

British authorities assert that the report focuses too much on negatives. UK foreign secretary Jack Straw stressed that 95 percent of Iraqi children have been immunized since the invasion. Straw also noted that 150 primary health care centres are planned, and that a number of hospitals in the south of the country have recently been renovated.

reform with municipal elections.

According to UN standards, Saddam Hussein should have been captured long ago for his prominent violations of human rights and the murder of his own people. If one wishes to adore and respect a body for its fight for human rights and pursuit of liberty and freedom, then divert your praise away from the UN and towards our neighbours to the South. They are not flawless, but they have shown the most consistent and forceful defence of the principles upon which the UN was established. I challenge anyone to name a country that has put more money, more resources and more lives on the line for the defense of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Adore thy southern neighbour

Richard Togman



Staff Writer

Canadians are known for loving two things; hockey and bashing Americans. Our most favoured outlet for this is the United Nations, where our love of everything UN is contrasted with the American disregard.

To Canadians, the UN is seen as a benevolent, caring and just organization that encompasses a truly global perspective. Canadians seem to regard every UN action as virtuous and pure, without bias or malice. But Canada views the UN with rose coloured glasses. When the true record of the UN over the past 59 years is examined, the institution's value is called into question.

In dealing with any sort of crisis, famine, disease or war, the UN has a horrendous record. In fact, the UN has almost no record at all. The UN has engaged itself in only two wars in its entire history, the Korean War and the first Gulf War. In both instances, the war was not fought by any sort of true international force as the overwhelming majority of money, equipment and troops came from the Americans.

Additionally, in the case of the Korean War, the UN was involved in an essentially illegal manner as the vote for war was taken in the absence of a major,



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Is the UN stuck in a rut and no longer relevant?

veto holding nation (the Soviet Union). In any case, the Gulf War would have occurred regardless of UN support as the Americans were prepared to engage Sadaam with or without the UN.

In no other conflict has the UN been utilized to fight on the side of liberty and justice. The UN has stood idly by as atrocities have been committed on a huge scale. Even ignoring the entire history of the Cold War, the UN has witnessed the genocide in Rwanda, ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia, the complete destruction of human rights in Afghanistan (especially towards women) and countless others.

The abuse of the UN Charter of Rights and Freedoms is astronomical, yet the UN remains motionless. Currently, the genocide in Sudan has received a resolution reprimanding the Sudanese government for its involvement. No sanctions, no boots on the ground fighting for justice and the inalienable rights we all cherish, just empty words. Why the UN is still regarded as

such a sacred institution is beyond me.

Moreover, Canadians hypocritically denounce America for its disregard of the UN. However, when Canadian affairs are underscored by the UN, Canadians act indifferent just like Americans.

Canadians view the UN with rose-coloured glasses, and then vent their frustrations against the U.S.

The UN has ruled that the funding of Catholic schools is in violation of international law since it discriminates against other groups. Also, the farming subsidies and supply side controls, such as wheat boards, which Canada employs to protect its farmers is in clear violation of international rules regarding trade and commerce. So far, Canada has taken no steps to remedy its blatant violations of

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We're not lying...or are we?

After a decade of serving as little more than mouthpieces of the government, several key Ukrainian news channels have switched their stance in the wake of the large protests which have essentially shut the country down.

During a broadcast on UT-1, sign language interpreter Natalia Dmitruk broke away from the

scripted broadcast and announced "the results announced by the Central Electoral Commission are rigged. Do not believe them."

During a broadcast the next night, the show's news anchor assured viewers that "we're not lying any more." Employees at the government regulated 1+1 network had been threatening to resign en masse, but an agreement which allows greater freedom has been reached.



And it continues...

The directors of Oxfam and Save the Children were ordered by Khartoum to leave Sudan because they had broken laws of non-intervention.

Save the Children had been providing food to nearly 300,000 people, while Oxfam has worked in Sudan for more than 20 years. The government believes that the groups were sending signals of support to the rebels, thereby

continuing the conflict.

However, international pressure was stepped up on Khartoum following reports by Save the Children that government planes had bombed a village close to one of their supply centres. Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin believed he had achieved the support of Khartoum last week after the government lifted sanctions against aid workers following his visit.



A dubious reality

Based on The Apprentice, The Ambassador is an Israeli reality TV program where prospective 'spin-doctors' fight for a job at an Israeli promotional agency.

Yoram Peri, a professor of politics and media at Tel Aviv University, believes that the program accurately reflects Israeli rationality. "The major concern in Israeli society is that we do not

explain ourselves well," and the show represents the demand for better publicity.

However, Peri does not believe the program is addressing the problem. He believes "the program reflects a major problem in Israeli society. We do not think we do anything wrong but we think we explain ourselves badly and that the international media is anti-semitic."

With Bush in Ottawa, the anti-war movement needs a new approach

Kris Cote



International Editor

When U.S. President George W. Bush arrives in Canada this week, he will be met by a welcoming committee of thousands of protesters. The most vocal protest groups so far to have grabbed the media's attention are those calling for Bush's indictment as a war criminal, and those still calling for a removal of troops from Iraq.

The anti-war movement was important in 2002, but today their message is no longer in check with reality. Their idea to indict and jail the leader of the most powerful military country of the world is ironically dangerous, since these actions would no doubt spark a war. As well, the media attention that these activists have received has overshadowed more probable movements, such as the proposal to indict Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe for crimes against humanity, a brief which actually has the potential of proceeding in the courts.

Protesting the situation in Iraq by denouncing U.S. actions and calling for a complete withdrawal is not a viable solution to the conflict. Of all the corporate corruption and inhumane abuse the current U.S.-Iraq war has produced, it has also brought the notion of the responsibility to protect to the forefront of policy discourse. Popularized by former Foreign Affairs Minister, Lloyd Axworthy, this bold policy gives governments the authority to intervene in the affairs of autonomous states when governments violate citizens and human rights.

While it is obvious that the U.S. did not invade Iraq for benevolent reasons, the U.S. invasion of Iraq provides Canada, and the world, the opportunity to protect the rights of the Iraqi civilians they ignored before the invasion. For the sake of the languishing Iraqi's, the world needs to move past the spat which

erupted over the invasion, and push for the protection of human rights in Iraq.

The Geneva Convention must be upheld, and citizens must be treated with respect. Unlawful arrests are still prevalent, and 'ghost detainees' have evaded the support structures which they are guaranteed. NGO workers and those inside Iraq allege that Abu Ghraib was not an anomaly, but rather it is the norm.

A coalition of world powers must push the U.S. to act in a lawful manner in Iraq. Despite the cries of protesters, American unilateralism can be dismantled by a coalition of support.

Through support, Canada can gain access to Iraqi policy and push the U.S. to protect the rights of all citizens.

One only need to look to Afghanistan to see what happens when coalition forces pull out of a destabilized country before democratic forces can gain control. Warlords have gained control of the majority of the country,

and human rights abuses remain prevalent.

The U.S. forces have not handled the occupation of Iraq very well, but if coalition forces were to withdraw from the country, the only ones who would benefit would be the religious fundamentalists and leaders. The world needs to listen to Iraqi's who are pleading for stability and security. Canada and the world have the opportunity, and the responsibility, to provide security and stability in Iraq, without pursuing the imperialist agenda of the Bush Administration.



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Funkified art auction for charity

'Innovative cutting edge bar experience' says creator of Funkification Project; Charity Art Auction at Vault Lounge this Friday

CAITLIN HOWLETT
Editor-in-Chief

Live painting, webcams, spinning and oil canvas unite on Friday December 3 at the Vault Lounge in what is not your average charity art auction.

Jeffrey Charles' Funkification Project continues into the holiday season as he tries to 'bridge the gap between the students and community through art.' Charles, an independent studies major at the University of Waterloo in his last year, has been working to promote the latest installment of his project.

"It's partying with a little bit of class and style, and at the end of the night we are going to give back to the community," explained Charles. Tickets are \$5.00 and the proceeds from the event will be donated to the Waterloo Regional Arts Council. Those in attendance will get to witness live painting by ParisHil Co-Lab, and live mixing of visual feeds with use of a webcam will be projected throughout the venue. Laurier's own DJs Shem and Teelo along with DJ Serious will provide what the project is calling the soundscape of the event.

"It's partying with a little bit of class and style and at the end of night we are going to give back to the community."

- Jeffrey Charles, *The Funkification Project*

Auctioned items will include some of the live art that is created during the evening, as well as photos, oil on canvas and other donations from local artists.

Seventy-five tickets of 200 have been sold, but Charles expects a solid turnout with a lot of last minute decisions to come to the event: "It's not necessarily easy to get the students out, but

it's not impossible."

Support from local artists contributing their talent and time has been "amazing" said Charles. He also found it ironic with the unrelated cancellation of the Fine Arts program at Laurier. "It's a coincidence that I'm trying to do something and the big institution shuts the lights out - it's just ironic." Certain faculty members of the Fine Arts program according to Charles have been very supportive of the project.

"It's not necessarily easy to get the students out, but it's not impossible."

- Jeffrey Charles, *The Funkification Project*

Geared toward the creation of small business, the Funkification Project is about creating a small business with focus on the idea of small event management. At the same time, Charles' hopes to address the issue of general discontent amongst students who are finding it difficult to find ways to spend their nights out. Finally, the project will assist Charles in fulfilling his academic requirements.

Charles won't deny the fact that his events are more simply defined as a giant party, "but people can come out and contribute to the community directly by purchasing things their peers and local artists have created."

Like many small business, Charles finds it difficult to reach the student population, but has found the support from media outlets to be quite helpful. "[Press] provides authenticity and students don't believe things until they read it," admitted Charles, who says the involvement of local media outlets has helped get the idea behind the project out into the community.

To learn more about The Funkification Project and the Charity Art Auction, please visit www.funkificationproject.com



Contributed Photo

Jeffrey Charles, the man behind the Funkification Project, is excited about his upcoming charity auction.

A DIRTY SHAME
A JOHN WATERS FILM
A Dirty Shame is rated 18A. Dec 8, 9 & 12

GHOST IN THE SHELL 2: INNOCENCE
"Anyone who wants to see animation pushed to its limits should go."
-CAPITAL TIMES
When machines learn to feel, who decides what is human...
Ghost in the Shell is rated 14A. Dec 3 - 7

BASED ON EVELYN WAUGH'S VILE BODIES
"Exults in its own giddy absurdity."
-WASHINGTON POST
BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS
Bright Young Things is rated 14A. Dec 9 - 14

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Write Cord Arts

So Dave Alexander can complain some more about the judging practices of poetry contests at Student Publications

Cord Arts Poetry Contest results

Runner-up Water Colors

When the sea swells, the night cracks,
Make the darkness light again.
You haven't been alone
Till you've seen through my eyes.
Blinded by sugar,
Sweetened with lemon,
Cut in half.
I hold the pieces in my hand, and
My heart breaks,
Cause its hard to fake
That you love me.
So you ignore me, and
Pretend I'm see though.
Pull through a heart
Tied with unsteady fingers.
Show me you love me,
Show me your best,
Smile and turn around.
You left a disturbed mind
To rot and fade from your life.
So fuck you, and
Leave me with something;
Splash it with color,
Take off the covers,
So I can breath

Lianne Macdowall

Third Place

Forced Emotions

Sitting in the cool embrace of a shady tree, I attempt to write.
The events of last night have left me in the mindset.
Ideas there and inspiration too, but I'm not a poet today.
Thursday, I was a poet.
But today's Saturday and the poetry's gone mute.
I fill an entire page with broken fragments of failed attempts
And pause momentarily to look at the drivel.
In that tranquil silence, nature itself rejects me.
The breeze picks up and turns the page,
not wanting to see my pathetic musings any longer.
It hurts a little -that the weather takes notice of my insignificant thoughts only to reject them entirely.
But I continue to write.

Still, nothing of weight will come out.
Perhaps I won't capture the emotions of last night.
Perhaps I need to accept that and just put the pen down.
Another pause.
I hope the wind picks up again, so I get another chance to do this right.

Mike Brown

Winner!

OH

How do we know what is Real, my dear?
And what is hollow, gone to fray?
That eats the dark and sour of me,
The longest hour, the nibbled day,
Oh how, oh how did we forget the
noisy highway
In my ear, the Crystal Clear, the
rounded good,
The cheap regret of things that should?

Oh, how did we trick the fairy Tail,
The rest of It, the great sperm whale?
Oh Yes, Hosanna Gloria, the
Hallelujah Labia,
Gone forever into sand, to sink a flag
upon my Land,
Written up as Quick and Dead, I fly
Around, inside my Head, and all I
want
To know is: What
The ghost of love is; What it's Not.

Alana Viner



Fifth Place When we let go

Emotions,
like pearls upon a
string that balance...
No voice or breath
wandering into the air,
Nothing to be said
is left.
Even in my head
the din is silent...
Both feeling nothing
but so thirsty for a kiss.
You wet your mouth
with mine and hush
good bye...
We go separate
ways even if our
wounds belong
a together...

Andrei Hocinug

Fourth Place Fatigue's End

Heavy eyes falling;
The natural state is at the bottom.
Unconscious acrobats tumble,
Through hoops of flame extinguished
By a slow and steady breath
But those reservoirs are spent.

Solders in the field;
Heavy artillery only sighs.
The bullets begin to waver
With the winds of change and doubt;
And though the trenches are rife with tar-
gets,
They're aiming only at themselves.

Every driver, captain, pilot,
In mid-air or voyage, sleeps.
The motors continue to rumble;
Warning shots and alarm clocks sound
But what once raised armies and the dead,
Is now the soundtrack to a dream.

Ben Shragge

STUDY TIPS

FROM THE CORD'S EDITORS

Study tips from Bryan Shinn:

"After exhausting all procrastination options for 48 hours, spend the last hour hopelessly skimming. Convince yourself that not studying is your noble way of evening the playing field, and that exams weren't meant to be studied for. Remember, it's about what you know not what you can remember."

Stressed? Bryan suggests...

"Boney M's Christmas Album, a gallon of eggnog, and three candy canes are sure-fire. Also, a full-blown elf costume is not only acceptable, it's downright hilarious."

Stefan Sereda's wisdom:

Study tip: Manage your time well and don't procrastinate.

Pre-exam: Get lots of sleep the night before your exam.

Post-exam: Burn a life-size bamboo effigy of your professor

Caitlin Howlett, on using "mind-maps:"

"Take your main idea or topic and write it in the middle of the page in large bold letters. Use lots of colours and shapes to draw out extensions of that idea. This is good if you need to remember broader concepts. Including some small details is helpful too!"

Jennifer Asselin is a visual learner...

"I like to write out highlighted textbook stuff, it allows me to grasp the material a lot better."

Before an exam, Jenn says... "Naps are always good!"

Post exam?

"Not even really partying but just doing absolutely nothing ("vegging out" so to speak). Alright, maybe a drink or two."

Colin Duffett's study regimen:

Studying tip: "I study with one of my favourite movies on in the background or with music."

Pre-exam stress-relief: "Stiff drink, preferably rye."

Post-exam celebration: "Something completely non school related...video games usually."

Before an exam, Kris Kote likes...

"Doing something strenuous, like mountain biking."

Post-exam he rewards himself with...

"Marathons of Gran Turismo and reading a good book."

Fraser King has a unique studying approach:

Study tip: "Don't study, studying is for suckers and old people."

A pre-exam stress reliever: "Bleed yourself with leeches for 15 minutes."

A post-exam reward: "Lick the back of a poisonous and tropical toad."

Carly Beath's advice is better than "ok!"

While studying: "Turn off MSN. Don't bother setting your status to Busy, it doesn't work- just turn it off completely"

Stress-relief: "Take lots of naps. Sleeping means you have fewer opportunities to think about how stressed out you are."

Post-exam party tip: "Make sure you're not OK by the end of the night. There shouldn't be a hint of sobriety in sight. You've earned it."

Wholesome advice from April Cunningham

Pre-exam: "Make a study plan, and reward yourself for meeting your goals with candy, TV breaks or naps."

Stress-relief: "Go for a long, brisk walk."

Post-exam: "Get together with all your friends and pour a tall glass of rum & eggnog. Go caroling!"

Five fabulous tips from Brandon Currie

1. Don't work at Student Publications
2. Don't log onto MSN, turn off cell phone/landline
3. Preferably work on a computer not connected to the internet
4. Isolate yourself: If there are people around, you will aimlessly distract yourself with them
5. Don't expect to study the day after your birthday

Michelle Pinchev motivates with Prada...

"When I get stressed out and need motivation to study, I go downtown Toronto, Bloor St. and go window-shopping. Looking at over-priced designer shoes and handbags is really inspiring; it reminds me of how broke I am and drives me to study hard so I can get my degree, get a real job, and go shopping!"

EXAM SURVIVAL TIPS

SURVIVAL TIPS

From Counselling Services:

Space out your learning over time to work with content on a regular basis. For example, a 15 minute review of each course per day, one hour review of each course per week, three-five hours of major review per course at the middle or end of the term.

Read with comprehension and understand what is relevant to your course of study; don't simply try to memorize everything.

Think critically in terms of question content and understand its limitations or exceptions.

Strengthen your knowledge base or clarify your understanding of "key concepts/themes" by utilizing the professor's office hours or seeking assistance through the designated TA for the course.

Important distractions will often interrupt your study concentration. Don't pretend that you can ignore them entirely. If they can wait, make a "date" to deal more fully with them at a good time later.

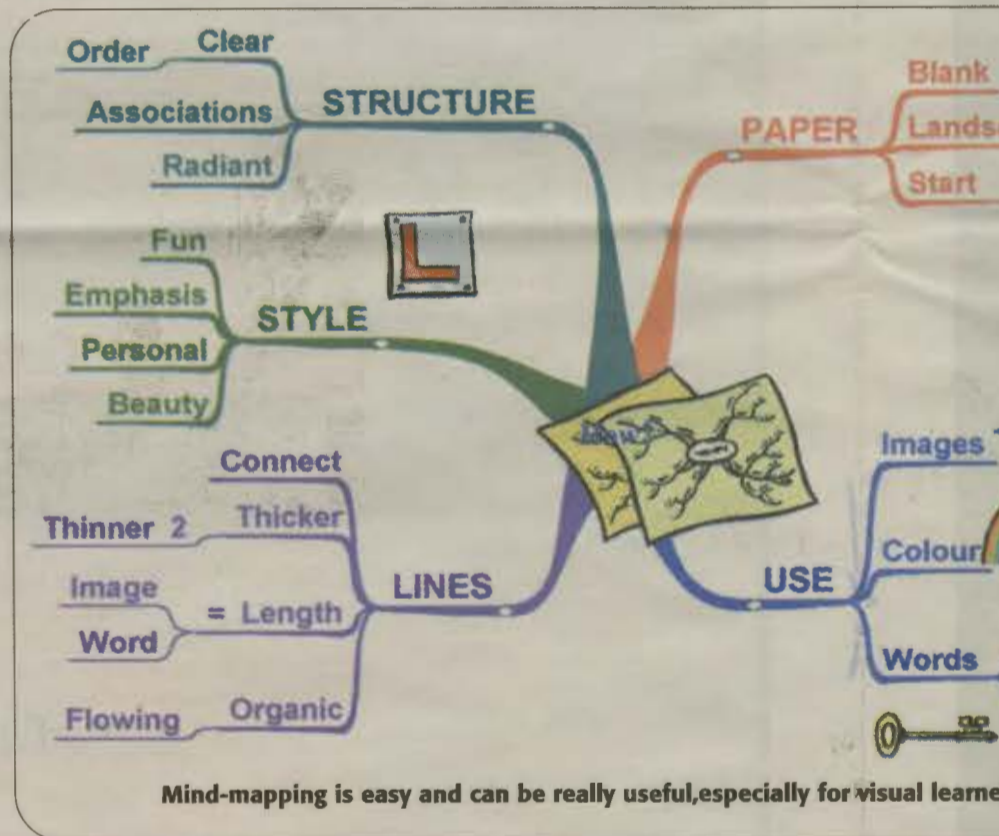
Distribute your preparation for several exams into rotating "chunks." Don't simply overdose on each subject in turn.

Break u joint or grou

Relax a

Upcoming V Managing St December 2, 5:30 p.m. - 6

The Study S WLU Couns Student Serv 884-0710, ex



Believe in yourself; it actually works

MICHELLE PINCHEV
Features Editor

Most people don't realize that believing in oneself is a proven way to succeed. Psychologists have a fancier term for it --self fulfilling prophecy, but really, it's as simple as mind over matter.

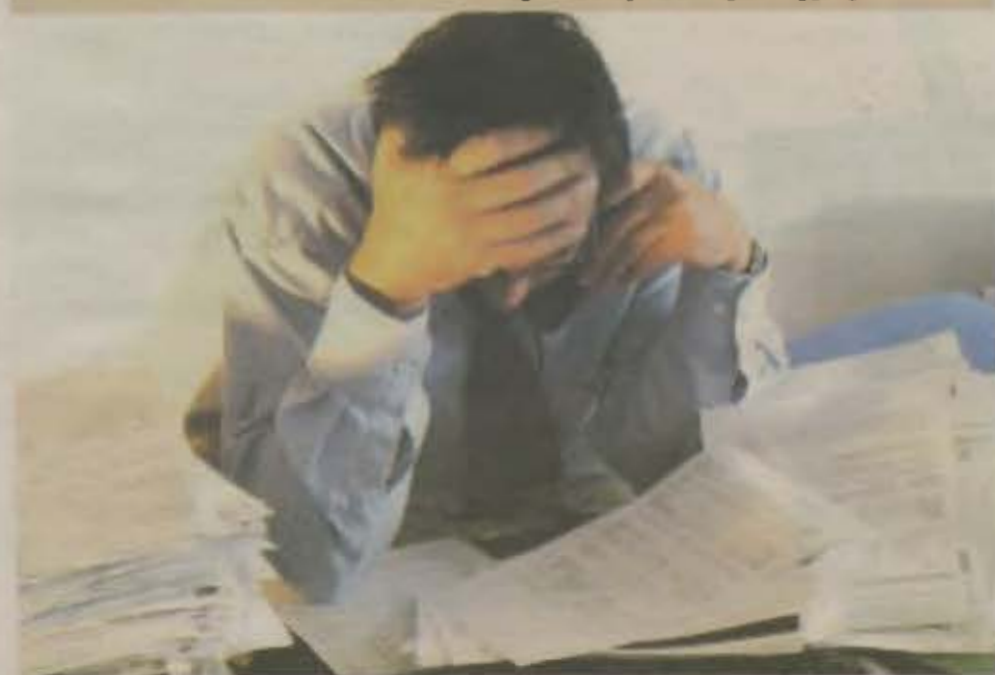
In a classic study, psychologists had teachers administer an intelligence test to a class of young children. After, they told the teachers that a selection of the students were "bloomers," meaning they were smarter than the rest and needed special treatment. The researchers were lying! The students were just average but accordingly, they received special treatment from the teachers who believed they were "special." Years later, guess which students were most successful...

It's a fact that people's expectations of us and the way we are treated affects how we perform in school, at work and in life. The same goes for how we view ourselves.

There's no magic to it; it's completely logical. If a person or group believes that certain outcomes will result from certain behaviours, then a combination of things could happen. They could interpret the outcome to suit their expectations. Also, without realizing it, they could modify their behaviours (consciously or unconsciously) to make it more likely that the anticipated outcome will occur. For example, if you are confident that you will understand the material for an exam, you'll most likely focus better and get more "into it," so to speak. On the other hand, if you're convinced you'll do badly, you may be more focused on that belief than on the material itself.

There are countless tests available that will tell you what your learning style is and which method of studying is best for you. A myriad of available resources can give you studying tips or advice on test-taking.

Still, many students never employ the best strategy, which is believing you will do well. It really works.



SURVIVAL 101

AL TIPS



- Break up your solitary studying with joint or group studying.
- Relax and think positive thoughts.

Upcoming Workshop:
Managing Stress and Preparing for Exams
December 2, 2004, Room SBE1210
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

The Study Skills Program
WLU Counselling Services
Student Services Centre, Upper Floor
884-0710, extension 2338

A typology of study methods

BRYN BOYCE
Opinion Editor

The Loose Change Library – The fourth floor is the niche study spot for the socially active students. Crammed with hundreds of last-minute studiers, the kiosks shake from the incessant laughter and some funboy's beat-box exposé. "I got soooo drunk last night! And now I'm flunking out to go live with my parents..." Much like Louies, students flirt with course content but instead of getting any, they shallowly grope the syllabus only to get up and go home unsatisfied.



The Creationist Method – It turns out that a term paper on the success of macroeconomic stabilization policies in Ghana can be the equivalent of the Bible's Genesis. This student will spend six restless, quasi-efficient days researching, writing and often plagiarizing, only to take the seventh as the day of rest. The result? For both God and the average Laurier undergrad, all that comes out of this process is a confused and incoherent medley of good, evil and just plain shit. This student just shakes their head at a thesis statement that has the grace and beauty of a heavily clubbed baby seal while God goes back to the drawing board, pops some Advil and initiates a new plague.

The Stress-Bag Method – This study tactic leans heavily on two theorems. First, the belief that loudly bemoaning the academic injustice of two term papers due on a single day will actually do a damn bit of good. Unlike Dr. Phil pop-psychology, an actual psych paper takes more than "coming to grips with your inner self" or "confronting your fears." The second tenet of this method is "The Hemingway." A student in this stream is actually so disillusioned that they believe a bottle of Jack Daniels and a cigarette in their pursed lips is in fact a placebo to real learning.

The Seat-of-Pants Method – These are the students that 95% of us love to hate. They roll out of bed 15 minutes before the exam, waltz into the AC in a vogue housecoat-boxer ensemble and then write an A+ exam. Days later this student gets offered a book deal and then tragically gets hit by lightning (for being so damn lucky). There's another stream in this category – the idiot who thinks they're smart. Similar process, but instead of actually excelling, this person draws a blank and hands in a letter of apology (complete with dried tears) to the professor instead of an actual essay.



The Spiritualist – This student relies on divine intervention (bell curves, ice storms) to survive. Little does this student realize that, unlike the urban myth, simply answering "why not" on a philosophy paper will get you booted out of school – not a Rhodes Scholarship. No matter how well the stars are aligned, how proficient you are in voodoo and the black arts or how devoutly you follow Britney Spears' "Kaballah," you won't turn that F into an A.



The Tragedy Method – There's one underlying principle to this tactic which spins off of The Stress-Bag Method. Get stressed, then defer. Repeat. Repeat again. And then petition the department to give you another chance. The key to any student trying this route is a) persistence and b) acting the part, that is – a suave, innocent and well-meaning student who, for reasons such as amnesia, repeated deaths in the family and a tragic case of foot and mouth disease, just can't write that final exam. It's dicey and there's no way to tell if they buy it but, hey, it beats actually working.



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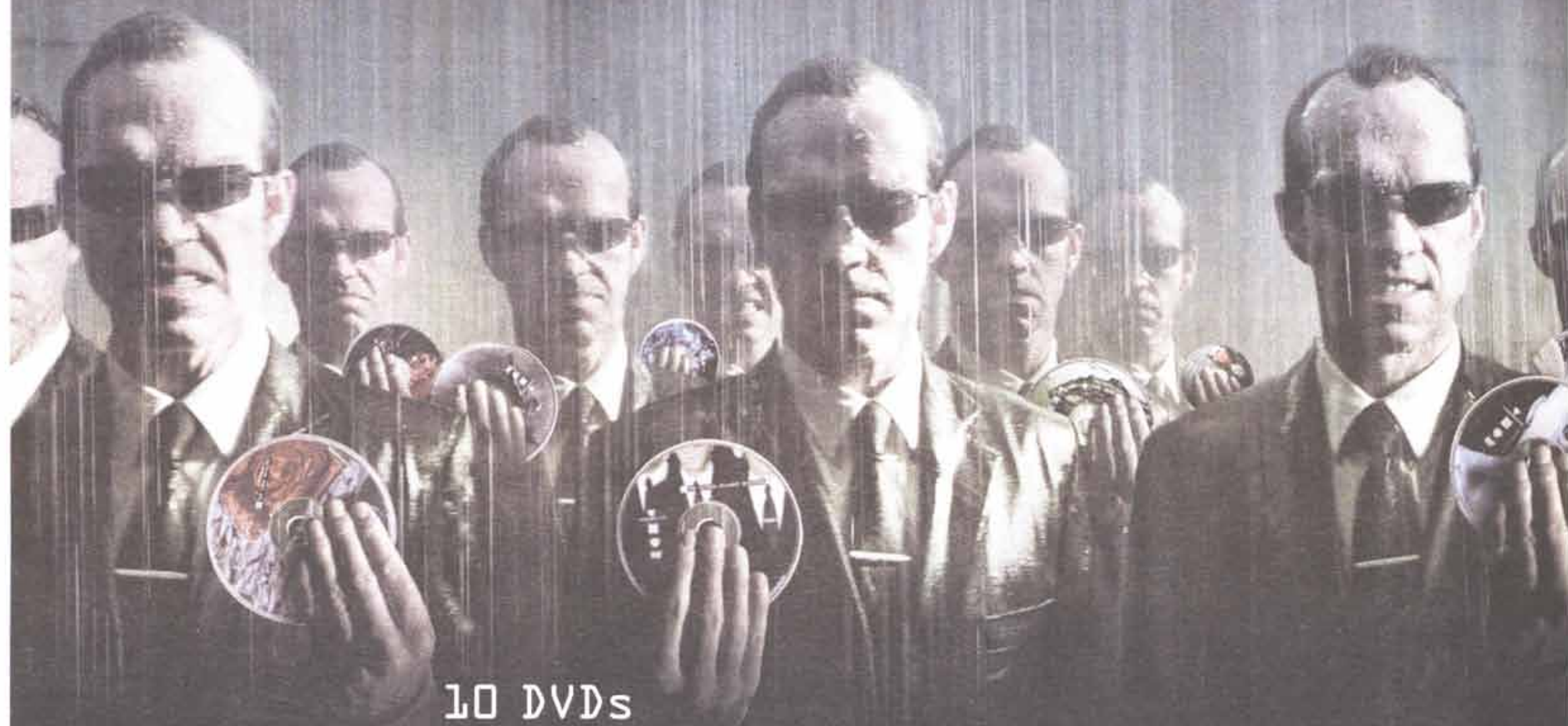
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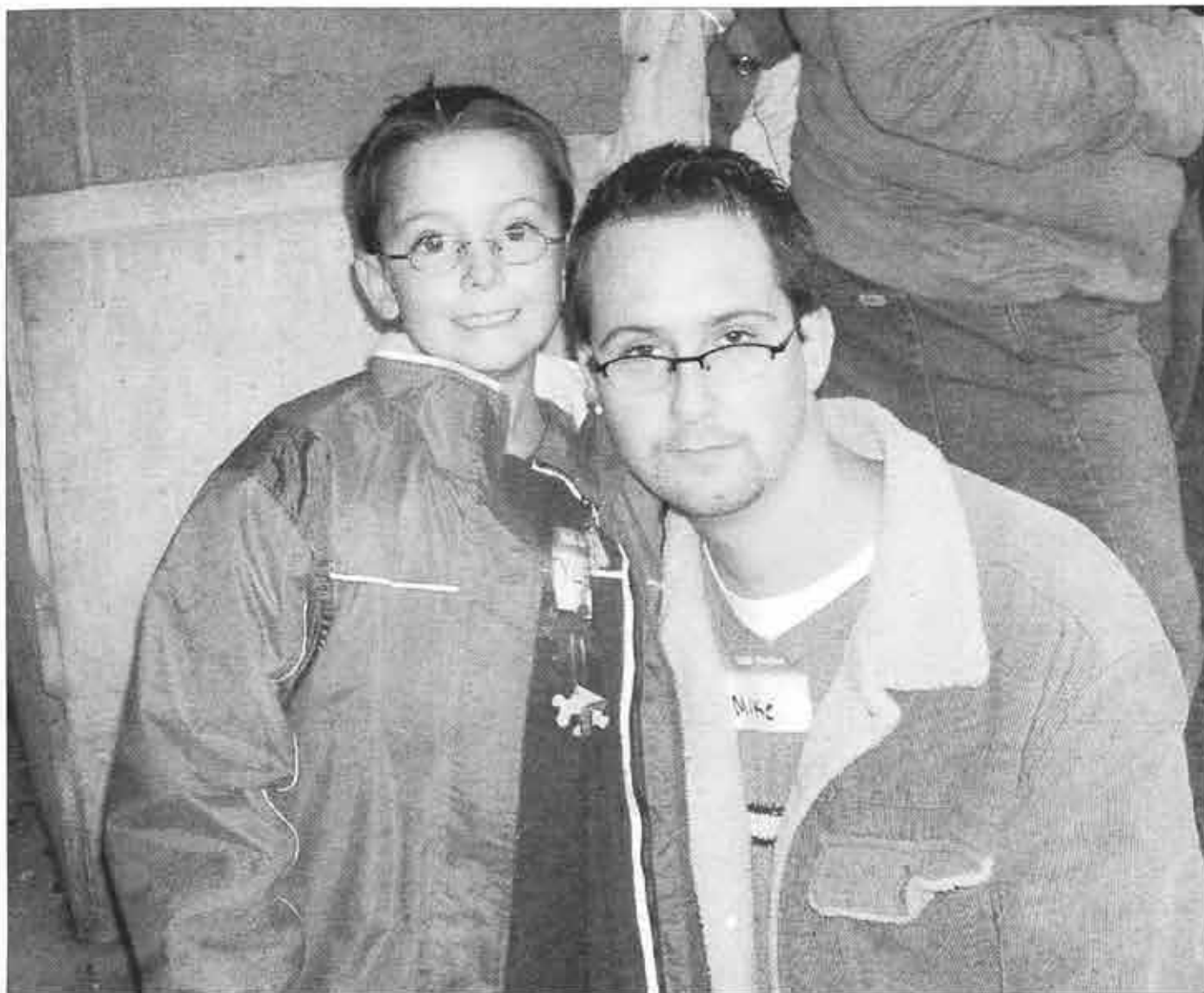


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Christmas volunteers met with wide eyes

Laurier students lend their time to help local public school children to celebrate the upcoming holidays



Chris Clemens

Mike DeRose, one of the Laurier volunteers, poses with one of the children who participated in the recent Not So Scroogy Christmas Party that took place in the Concourse and was organized by students.

CHRIS CLEMENS
Staff Writer

For those who happened to be on campus one dreary Saturday morning past, the parade of excited youngsters marching through the Concourse might have been misinterpreted.

Bring Your Illegitimate Children To School Day perhaps, or a recruiting drive to pull in tuition dollars from increasingly immature students. But for us in the know, these kids were clearly at Laurier for the Not So Scroogy Christmas Party.

Event organizers Ginny

Robinson and Tessa Heffernan had spent the preceding weeks traveling the wilds of Kitchener Waterloo's public school system, asking principals to recommend children who would benefit from this free program. The selected were generally from low-income families, which was the real point

of the event – to provide a Christmas experience with a little something extra for those in need. WLU students were lined up to act as 'buddies' who would be paired off with the children for the day's activities. Resources were thoughtfully donated from WLUSU, President Robert Rosehart and Deans Robert Campbell, David McMurray, Scott Carson and Arthur Szabo.

On the fateful morning, volunteers stood at the Aird Underpass, apprehensive, complaining about the ungodly hour, bitching about workloads – typical November student stuff. But as the busses pulled up and the kids poured out, their exuberance washed over us and their nervous anticipation crippled our self-centred agendas. They came with nothing, with little dresses and suit jackets, with notes begging us not to ply them with sugar. And suddenly it was all about them.

Walking through the Torque room, they couldn't understand why we were still in school just well, because we wanted to be. That changed, however, when we encountered the escalators at the DAWB. The mechanical stairs which ordinarily propelled us apathetically to our classes were suddenly the joyride of the future, a voyage worthy of attempting again and again... and again. I asked my buddy, J, why he liked the escalators so much and it turned out that he had never seen such a marvelous contraption before. And then he ran back down the stairs to ride them again while I held his jacket and tie.

We played vigorous games of duck-duck-goose (reindeer-reindeer-Santa). We caked gingerbread men – and the kids – with

massive amounts of icing and gumdrops. We constructed post-modern reindeer decorations with four googly-eyes which, as I explained to J, was an intensely subjective scrutiny of holiday stereotypes. He was proud of his inadvertent masterpiece and showed it off to others.

While the kids were bundled off to Swiss Chalet for lunch, the volunteers collectively related the escapades of their respective buddies. "This must be what a teacher's lounge is like," somebody succinctly noted. We were tired but exhilarated.

When the little people returned, Santa Claus paid an expected visit and handed out assorted toys donated by Treadway Tires. "That's not the real Santa," J observed. "Santa doesn't wear black socks." I had to buy him off with vague explanations as to why one of Santa's helpers would try to impersonate Santa himself. He is a bright kid but still full of innocent wonder.

As the children boarded the busses, gifts in tow, we all felt a little bit strange. As Robinson put it: "Everyone's affected – the older volunteers get something out of it and the younger kids too, so it's a beneficial event to everyone." This was certainly true – I saw a girl moved almost to tears by a simple blackboard scribble by her junior buddy: "I like Selena," wretched in hearts. As the busses pulled away, driving these children out of our lives and back to whence they came, we couldn't help but feel that our day of essays and assignments now seemed trivial and meaningless by comparison. And this is why we volunteer, to put life into perspective.

Ninth annual charity auction raises thousands

JOANNE SPANNINGA
Staff Writer

The Laurier University Charity Kouncil (LUCK) rolled out the red carpet on November 24, to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society. Laurier "celebrities", well known faces on campus, gathered in their cocktail dresses and suit jackets to show their support for the cause by auctioning off various packages under the theme "A Night at the Oscars."

The flashes of Shamrock shaped bidding paddles indicated the crowd's eagerness to bid on packages presented with laughter and lightheartedness. Kyle Johnston in particular, a 22 year old from London, was an enthusiastic participant, bidding on five of the twenty-one packages and winning four.

With a \$3,600 hole in his pocket Johnston left the auction, taking with him the contents of the Winter Wonderland, Raptor's, Via Rail and Daddy Mac packages.

Though not a Laurier student, Johnston heard of the LUCK event from a friend who was involved in organizing the evening. Though having spent thousands of dollars within a couple of hours Johnston has no regrets. "I knew that it was a charity auction and there were a

few a things that I thought that I might like. I figured that I might as well donate money instead of spending it on the same things anyway."

The evening progressed as the student representatives tempted the bidders by adding bonuses to many of the packages. By raising the value of gift certificates and including rounds of golf or hot tub parties for two, the "celebrities" enabled auctioneer Al Lockhart to drive up the bidding for the items.

Lockhart embraced the festive atmosphere, flirting shamelessly with the girls on stage, requesting massages and commenting frequently on the attractiveness of the ladies of Laurier.

"The trip was last minute, I've never been to New York before."

- Kyle Johnston

Lockhart's jokes about Viagra and attempts to dance with the student representatives, combined with the film production made by the executives and the lighthearted commentary by Bryan Shinn, Master of Ceremonies, all contributed to the fun atmosphere of the event.

The biggest package open to



Contributed Photo

The LUCK Executive were also auctioned off. The theme of "A Night at the Oscars" meant that each of the executives were dressed to the nines as they raised money for the Canadian Cancer Society.

bidding was the "Daddy Mac Donation." Every year Dean McMurray donates a trip to the cause, but the destination and nature of the excursion is left as a surprise until the end of the evening. After all of the other packages had been bought, McMurray took the stage. "This has always been one of my favorite nights," he began. He

then proceeded to describe his donation of a 24 hour trip to New York City for four which included a tour of Fifth Avenue, Tiffany's, Donald Trump Tower and the Empire State Building. Starting at \$1,000, the bidding ended at \$2750.

"The trip was last minute, I've never been to New York before," commented Johnston

who knew that he could count on some friends to join him with the Dean.

The evening was a success with the proceeds surpassing LUCK's goal of \$10,000, raising \$11,366. Fifty-one percent of the money will go to cancer research, with the remaining amount going toward various cancer support groups and organizations.

Food for Thought

Alessandro's



5 out of a possible 5 fudgicles

4 King Street North
Waterloo, ON
Tel. 519.746.3504

ANDREW BOLTER
Food Critic

Like many students at Laurier I am from the GTA and there are a lot of things that I miss about Toronto. I miss subway people-watching, I miss the street preachers and I miss the food. You can literally grab a bag of lychees in Chinatown, walk to the corner for some streetmeat and then pop across the street for some fine dining.

I've been in Waterloo for five years now. I don't know where to find lychees and I only know of one hot dog vendor, but with the arrival of Alessandro's to Uptown Waterloo, I have finally found fine dining.

Offering a large selection of Northern Italian food and Italian wines, Alessandro's has set a new quality standard for restaurants in Waterloo. As one member of my party remarked, it was like a Toronto hot-spot had been dropped onto King Street.

I am a firm believer that a restaurant is only as good as its bread. At Alessandro's not only is the bread great, but it is served with fresh olives and individual servings of olive oil and balsamic vinegar. This proved to be the start of one of the best meals I have had and together with three friends we feasted our way through the menu.

Appetizers and Salads

Insalata della Casa (House Salad) - \$8.50
Usually I don't eat salad unless there's bacon or tacos in it, but this mixture of greens, cucumbers and tomatoes tasted as if it was freshly picked from a backyard garden.

Insalata di Pomodoro Bocconcini - \$9.95

A tower of bocconcini and tomatoes, this dish resembles edible Jenga. Unlike those blocks of pine you used to chew on though, this eight story cheese and produce puzzle melts in your mouth. If you only get one appetizer, get this one.

Calamari all Griglia - \$14.95

Not breaded, those who appreciate calamari will love the taste and chewy texture. Marinated in oil and spices and then grilled, the large portion of naked squid is great for sharing.

Pastas

Linguine alla Spilamberto - \$18.90

While the gorgonzola cheese was too rich for my palate, this dish emanates quality. The bacon mixed into the sauce adds some needed grit to the soft noodles.

Spinach and Ricotta Ravioli - \$16

Served in a meat sauce, this could have been the best pasta I have ever had. The velvety homemade ravioli casings left me with the feeling that the snuggle bear was having a party in my mouth.

Entrees

Pollo Ripieno - \$17.90

A chicken breast stuffed with Italian sausage, spinach, tomatoes and asiago cheese. A tradi-

tional Italian dish, I found the sausage a bit overpowering but the accompanying roasted potatoes were delicious.

Carré di Agnello - \$26

An amazing herb-crusted rack of lamb served with garlic mashed potatoes. The meat slid off the bone and the potatoes were rich and creamy.

Ossobuco - \$21.90

Cooked for nine hours, the shank of veal was so tender it could have been eaten with a spoon. The accompanying polenta (cornmeal and parmesan) served as a base, completed the masterpiece perfectly.

Filetto di Manzo - \$24.60

Another entrée cooked to perfection. The Beef Tenderloin was smothered in a red wine sauce and accompanied with potatoes au gratin.

When the manager Troy explained that they make all their pasta in-house every morning and that the risotto cooks for eight hours I had a feeling that all my hard work as a food critic was finally going to pay off, but there was no way that I could have expected to have a meal like this.

The difference between Alessandro's and other first-class restaurants is that at Alessandro's, every dish stood out on its own. Because of this I am going to call Alessandro's the best restaurant in Waterloo.



Contributed Photo

One of the Food Critic's new favourite places to dine, Alessandro's gets five, six if possible, fudgicles out of five.

He Said / She Said

Dear He said/She said.

I need some help. The idiots I live with aren't exactly "scholars" to put it nicely. They don't care about essays or finals coming up. I, on the other hand, am concerned about doing well, and trying to stay on top of my work. I am paying for my own education and I don't know if that has something to do with it, as it's my money that's gone if I fail.

My roommates are constantly having parties and it's hard to get work done. Sometimes I'll go to the library, but I shouldn't have to, especially if I'm paying rent to live in a house. I need to keep my average up to stay in my program, what do you recommend?

Sincerely,
Bookworm

He Said...
DAN ROTH

First of all I think you should be

proud of the fact that you take your education so seriously. A lot of students don't really care. My recommendation to your roommates is to try talking with them again. I'm sure you've asked to have them "keep the noise down" but why not try enforcing a rule that there can be no visitors over during really busy times of the school year, such as mid-terms, and finals.

I agree that you shouldn't have to go to the library to get your work done, you pay rent and have the right to do your work at home. Personally, I think you learn more when you study in comfy pj's and fluffy slippers.

As much as I hate to say it, if they don't listen, get through the rest of the year the best you can and live somewhere else next year.

She Said...
LAURIE VANDENHOFF

In this case, my advice would be

to "deal with it."

A lot of students can be found studying after hours in the library. I find it to be the most productive place for getting homework and reading done. Unfortunately living on your own has some pitfalls and finding good roommates is probably your biggest challenge.

I've heard some horror stories about unbearable roommates and compared to them, you're getting off pretty easy. I'm sure you're roommates are not the non-stop party animals you're making them out to be or they wouldn't have lasted this long at university.

Eventually they're going to need some quiet time to study though. If that's the case you could choose to give them a taste of their own medicine or just wait out the semester and find new roommates once the school year finishes. You also have the option of replacing yourself in the house. Finding a place to live from January to April is usually not a problem.

Vocal Cord

How did you find out that Santa Claus?



CHANDRA
FIRST YEAR
ARCHEOLOGY

"I think I always knew."

"I don't know, one year I just started helping my parents put the presents under the tree."



KATIE
FIRST YEAR
ARCHEOLOGY



HALLIE
FIRST YEAR
ARCHEOLOGY

"All the kids in my class told me he wasn't real, I went home and asked my mommy and she confirmed the truth."

"I always figured he wasn't [real]. We never celebrated Christmas, because we're not Christian."



NAEEM
FOURTH YEAR
COMMUNICATIONS STUDIES



SEAN
FIRST YEAR
HISTORY

"When I was 10, I asked my mom and she told me."

"My older brother made a copy of the key to the storage room, we broke in and found our presents, on Christmas morning they were apparently from "Santa", I figured it out from there."



SUSIE
FIRST YEAR
PSYCHOLOGY

Horoscopes

Happy Birthday Sagittarius (Dec. 1-7)

Make sure you keep all your work up to date. If you don't have everything up to date any plans you had for your birthday might have to be put on hold, and nobody wants that to happen. Make sure you are clear when giving instructions to others.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You are going to have to watch your budget carefully over the next while. Make sure you are only purchasing the necessities. You will have more of a disposable income in the next little while, so just wait until then.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Someone who cares about you is going to be helping you out in the next little while. Even though it's not your nature to accept help from many people, this person may know you better than you know yourself, so listen to them.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You are going to be able to celebrate something in the next while. If all of your work is caught up before the festivities begin you will be able to have that much more fun when you are out. So complete any unfinished business.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

If you are looking for work or a part-time job, now is the best time to go out searching for one. Extra income will be helpful over the next while, so an additional job would be a good idea. Be sure to do something you enjoy.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Make sure you are monitoring your budget carefully. Don't overspend in the next while, an unexpected bill or expense could surprise you. Make sure you are purchasing only the necessities for the next while, until you're more stable financially.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

If it feels like the walls are closing in on you it is only temporary. Don't hesitate to talk with friends about whatever is bothering you they may have advice for you that you wouldn't have even considered. Don't dwell on the past.

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)

Someone may be offering you a gift. Whether it's a material gift or some kind of advice it is what you need at this point and is useful. Remember what this person did for you during this time as you may need to repay the favour someday.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)

Friends and family members will always be around to give you support if needed. Don't hesitate to ask for advice. Look towards the future and what you want to achieve, now is an excellent time to write goals for yourself.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

You are going to be starting something new in the next little while. A new creative outlet is exactly what you need right now. After a rough November a fresh start to December will raise your spirits for the holidays.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Someone with a unique outlook on life is going to try and convince you to do something differently or something you'd consider to be out of the norm. If you aren't comfortable with this person do your best to ignore them.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

If you are feeling trapped or alone, just remember that there are always people around to help you out. You just have to admit you need someone's advice. Now is not the time to be proud or strong, you must resolve past issues.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Abundance is coming your way. It could be in the form of emotional abundance or materialism. Either way, you are about to have a very good week. Keep focusing on the positive aspects of life and this trend will continue.

Daniel Roth is a Journalism graduate of Conestoga College and is currently a Communication Studies student at Wilfrid Laurier. He has studied Astrology and other topics of that genre for almost ten years.

The Cord's twelve days of stocking stuffers

Get ready to celebrate the holiday's Chrismukkah style as the Editorial Board picks their favourite stocking stuffers for the season



"Gifts that bring back good memories, or that are related to inside jokes are the most fun, especially if you're a sentimental bastard like me. One in-joke present I can remember getting was a bottle of whiskey - who's going to argue with that?"

- Carly Beath, Entertainment Editor



"Water resistant playing cards (found in the Bookstore). Perfect for camping in the rain or playing in a snow fort."

- April Cunningham, News Editor



"The entire Froot Loops January 1994 collection of Power Ranger figurines IN THEIR ORIGINAL WRAPPING. Cereal box toys have long interested me and the '94 collection is one of the most sought after, yet elusive collections in existence. From their immobile joints to the mismatched colourings, these little puppies are the cats ass."

- Bryn Boyce, Opinion Editor



"Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King: Extended Edition DVD. That's what I hope to get in my stocking at least."

- Brandon Currie, Production Manager



"For those who drink, mini liquor bottles, like bailey's or something different. For girls, samplers like mini perfumes, lotions, hair products or lip gloss."

- Michelle Pinchev, Features Editor



"A silver bullet, because werewolves may not exist, but if they do, your loved one will surely appreciate the silver cap they get to bust in their werewolf assailant's ass. If, on the other hand, lycanthropes are fictional, then your loved one can wear it on a necklace and refer to it as 'bling.'"

- Stefan Sereda, Arts Editor



"I'm going to have to go with World Peace. You really can't attach a price tag to it, so you don't have to worry about gift limits. It's also a very practical gift, its the gift that keeps on giving all year long, and whose life won't benefit from it? Best of all, if you ask for World Peace, then people will think that your a great person, and buy you even more gifts."

- Kris Cote, International Editor



"Hey dinosaur, while you're lugging around a 'CD booklet', I'm packing more tunes than the funny pages in my iPod. Granted, I'll only listen to about 50 songs and the others are just there to make me look trendy, but I hate buying music. I hate it so much I'll spend \$600 to hear the free shit."

- Bryan Shinn, Sports Editor



"A clementine stuffed at the very bottom of the stocking. It's a Howlett tradition, and gives the illusion of volume. Really though, a spatula. Everyone should have a high quality spatula."

- Caitlin Howlett, Editor-in-Chief



"A mickey of booze. It's only \$10-\$15 and everybody likes booze."

- Colin Duffett, Special Projects Editor



"My suggestion: Condoms. Everyone loves condoms, either for the intended sexual use or for makeshift freezing December water balloons, condoms are the perfect gift for anyone. Hopefully you won't feel too weird when you give these to mom and dad."

- Fraser King, News Editor



"The lifesaver story book. Who doesn't love candy? A staple in the Asselin household, you can be sure to get one of these in your stocking every year. If you really want to get extravagant you can add the new chocolate bar story book. Another good choice."

- Jennifer Asselin, Student Life Editor

One of the **BEST** Leadership Opportunities at WLU

Apply To Be A DON!!!

Are you looking to gain valuable leadership experience during your academic career?
Want to assist first year students in their transition into university and residence life?
Mark these important dates in your calendar for second semester!

The 2005-06 Residence Life Staff Selection Process

Information Sessions

Wednesday January 19, 2005

Location: T.B.A.

Tuesday January 25, 2005

Location : T.B.A.

Applications Available

Monday January 17, 2005 - Residential Services

1st Round Interview

Saturday, February 12, 2005 - Location: T.B.A.

Sunday, February 13, 2005 - Location: T.B.A.

2nd Round Interviews

The week of February 28 to March 6, 2005

Final Offers

2004: The year that was

The Cord's editorial staff arbitrarily picks what entertained them this year



BRANDON CURRIE
Production Manager

Album: *Peace Love Death Metal* by Eagles of Death Metal - Neither the Eagles nor death metal, this Josh Homme side-project's debut album is a rollicking garage-band adventure through the drug-addled depths of his musical genius, leaving fans with an acute case of musical blue balls for the new Queens of the Stone Age album early next year.

Movie: *Anchorman* - Will Farrell's rendition of Gonzo TV Journalism is a funnier, if less politically aware, Hunter S. Thompson than played by either Johnny Depp or Bill Murray.

Concert: K-Os at the Turret - The coolest MC that has ever grown up 40km from Cobourg

Song: "The Love Song" by K-Os - Ranked #1 in 'play count' on the computer I use to play music at the office.

Entertaining moment: Michael Moore getting booed by 20,000 angry Republicans at their National Convention while he was in attendance.

Travesty of the year: No actors from *Return of the King* being nominated for Oscars. Honourable mention: Greece winning the Euro Cup.

COLIN DUFFET
Special Projects Editor

Album: *Reise, Reise* by Rammstein - This album will make the windows in your house shake. Hard, fast, and full of energy. I can listen to it every day and it doesn't get old.

Movie: *The Punisher* - I know there are movies that are more deserving of such a title but when it boils down to what movie I want to desperately see again...it's *The Punisher*.

Concert: The Tragically Hip, November 26 @ the ACC - The entire concert was an 18,000 person sing along with Gord Downie.

Song: "Fall to Pieces" by Velvet Revolver. This song is everything that is good about a merger of STP and GNR. Weiland and Slash are a perfect match for each other. This song proves it.

Entertaining moment: "The Daily Show" - It isn't necessarily one funny moment or a funny line he has said, but his entire show. His "coverage" of the American Election was comedy at its best.

Travesty: Another year without a Motley Crue tour. They promised but they didn't deliver.

FRASER KING
News Editor

Album: *Never Good Enough For You* by Killwhitneydead <http://www.killwhitneydead.com/> - There is nothing as good as an album that features a sample of Michael Douglas screaming about how he wants people to die.

Movie: *Alien Vs. Predator* - I will be honest with everyone, I don't see a lot of movies in the cinema, so, ugh.

Best concert: The Pixies (November 25th, International Centre, Mississauga) - I think this is the only concert I have been to in about three years. That said, it was still a really good show, and it was also the first time I had heard the Pixies aside from one or two stray mp3s.

Song: Uhm, tough one. Let me go with... "Bastard Shit Bastard" by Zombie Apocalypse - It just sounds pretty.

Entertaining moment: I am drawing a blank here. Maybe something that Borat/Ali G said?

Travesty: none

APRIL CUNNINGHAM
News Editor

Album of the Year: *Horse of a Different Colour* by Big and Rich - I love this album because it is funny, energetic, and mixes rock with country to create an addictive blend of tunes.

Movie of the Year: *Garden State* - It was very romantic and just great for a new filmmaker.

Best Concert: will be on Dec 5 when I go to see Paul Brandt - Brandt sings songs about Canadian country roots, which really hit home for me.

Song of the Year: "Redneck Woman", by Gretchen Wilson - Song of the summer!

Entertaining Moment of the Year: in *Anchorman*, when he's talking to his dog - "What's that? You ate a whole wheel of cheese? I'm not even mad. I'm impressed!" - This line makes me crack up.

STEFAN SEREDA
Arts Editor

Album: *Musicology* by Prince - I've been waiting 11 years for Prince to put out a good album, and when it arrived, it arrived with funk and Maceo Parker.

Movie: *Garden State* - Funny, provocative and maybe insightful for a generation. *Garden State* had audiences in tears and Natalie Portman in a bikini.

Concert: Prince's Musicology Tour at the ACC - A cleaned-up sex romp through his hits and some of the best musicians I've ever seen live made this possibly the best concert I've attended, period.

Song: "Roses" by Outkast - The single of the year's piano intro, followed by Andre 3000 belting out "Caroline" hooks you into the funnest bout of soulful misogyny and defecation since the 1970s.

Entertainment moment: Prince's induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, because it gave me the opportunity to say "in your face" to the significant amount of friends I have who hate Prince.

Travesty: Ashlee Simpson lip-synching on "Saturday Night Live", because I had hoped she would lead planet Earth into a golden age of peace and artistic development, but now those hopes have been sadly, sadly dashed.



CDs! Movies! Concerts! and More!

Death to the Pixies? Thankfully not, for now



Contributed Photo

Alt-rock legends The Pixies have reunited for a tour this year.

CARLY BEATH
Entertainment Editor

By all accounts, it's the reunion that shouldn't be. Legend has it that the Pixies split up via fax. Some people claim this isn't true. But no matter whose exact version of events you believe, you can be sure the breakup wasn't a friendly one. The simple fact that a Pixies reunion is taking place at all is a small miracle.

The massive success of it is

an even bigger one.

The hype surrounding the band of late has reached epic proportions. While the band has always been cited as a major influence on alternative rock, their reputation was always bigger than their record and ticket sales. All of a sudden a band that broke up 11 years ago is selling out massive venues within minutes of tickets going on sale. Spin magazine called their very first

reunion date the indie-rock equivalent of the second coming of Christ.

Despite the lack of commercial success on their first go, the band had something even more important. They created that quiet-to-loud formula that countless alt-rock bands have since ridden to fame.

Much has been made of the Pixies' influence on Nirvana - Kurt Cobain himself never downplayed this. I once read an article defying readers to listen to the Pixies' "Gouge Away" and then Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit" and not hear the similarities. A staunch Nirvana fan at the time, I couldn't (or wouldn't let myself) recognize them. It wasn't until years later that I realized it wasn't the melody itself the writer had been talking about, but the whole underlying framework for the song.

Some might think that the frenzy is partly just nostalgia in overdrive. So is the hype justified?

In a word - yes.

I had ordered my tickets for the November 24 show at Arrow Hall in April. That's a lot of waiting time. It was so much waiting time, I have to admit, that by the time the concert finally rolled around my excitement had been somewhat diffused. That all changed the minute the band stepped on stage.

The first thing the audience heard was Kim Deal's voice ethereally, yet powerfully, ringing out "In Heaven (The Lady in the Radiator Song)". "In heaven, everything is fine," she sang. "You've got your good thing, and I've got mine."

How true those words were as the band segued into the calmer version of "Wave of Mutilation", followed by arguably their best known song, "Where Is My Mind?" - otherwise known as the song that made the end of Fight Club, its reverb-drenched guitar and angelic background vocals soaring as the buildings collapsed. If the song was good in the movie, that was nothing compared to hearing it live, with

Deal's impossibly gorgeous voice filling the room.

The band played with an intensity and tightness that made it very hard to believe that this was a band that hadn't played together in 11 years. Never have I heard songs that old sound so fresh, yet classic at the same time. The band barely spoke to the audience, but never came off as standoffish or distant. They barreled through song after song, captivating the audience the whole time. I'll be honest: I've always loved the band's songs, but thought that the production on their records was a little flat. This performance was the way these songs were meant to be heard.

Charles Thompson aka Frank Black sang, screeched and laughed like a madman through the set. No one can yell like this man. No one can sing like Kim Deal, for that matter. It's almost like her voice inhabits a whole new dimension live. Guitarist Joey Santiago pulled incredible

- Please see **Pixies**, page 22

KRIS COTE
International Editor

Album: *Siren Sounds of the Counter Culture* by Rise Against

Movie: *City of God*

Concert: none

Best Song: "Punk Rock Ruined our Lives" by Closet Monster and "These Colours Don't Run" by Protest the Hero

Entertaining moment: none

Travesty: George Bush's re-election



BRYAN SHINN
Sports Editor

Albums:
5 - *College Dropout* by Kanye West
4 - *Funeral* by The Arcade Fire
3 - *Antics* by Interpol
2 - *Joyful Rebellion* by K-Os
1 - *Set Yourself on Fire* by Stars

Concert: Cuff The Duke/Jim Bryson @ The Starlight

Movie: *Eternal Sunshine of a Spotless Mind*

Song: "2nd Gun" by Volcano, I'm Still Excited!!

Entertaining moment: Ashlee Simpson's lip-synching debacle on SNL

Travesty of the year: Bush's re-election

JENN ASSELIN
Student Life Editor

Album: *College Dropout* by Kanye West - So many singles came off this CD that it amazes me. I think it's an album that defines 2004.

Movie: *Man on Fire* - I'll start by saying that I have seen very few movies that came out this year so this is my pick from what I've seen. Intense. Drama. Denzel. What more do you need?

Concert: Usher feat. Kanye West and John Legend - Excited to go and see Usher perform, I was pleasantly surprised by the addition of John Legend to Kanye West's opening pieces. The concert allowed me to discover one of my favourite new artists, not to mention, that Usher can move.

Song: "Ordinary People" by John Legend - Man this guy can sing. Although a lot of people have yet to discover who this guy is, just wait until December 28th when his album comes out. It's gonna be hot.

Entertaining moment: Justin Timberlake/Janet Jackson fiasco - I say this because it allowed for a lot of discourse on the topic of male/female subjectification and such. Although it was discussed to death, the initial conversations were at least interesting and beneficial.

Travesty of the year: *Sleep Over* - Although I'm a huge fan of "girly, teeny-bopper" movies, this genre was taken too far this year. I can honestly say that I haven't seen this movie, however, from the previews and ads, it seems as though this was the pinnacle of the Lindsay Lohan/Hillary Duff-esque movie selection.

MICHELLE PINCHEV
Feature Editor

Album: *The Diary of Alicia Keys*

Movie: *Napoleon Dynamite* and *Garden State*...and *Motorcycle Diaries* (so hard to choose!)

Concert: Nelly Furtado is suprisingly a power-house on stage

Song: "Crabucket" by K-Os

Entertaining moment: Napoleon getting smacked in the face by a piece of meat and his dance at the end of the movie.

Travesty: Eminem's latest album. Maybe if I had never heard of him before I would have liked it, but knowing he's capable of so much more, it's a piece of crap and an insult to his fanbase.



BRYN BOYCE
Opinion Editor

Album: *White Light Rock and Roll Review* by Matthew Good

Movie: *Shaun of the Dead*

Concert: K-OS

Song: Nelly Furtado's "Powerless" (Yo guys, shut up.)

Entertaining moment: Martha Stewart's imprisonment

Travesty: Eminem's "Mosh"

CARLY BEATH
Entertainment Editor

Albums: *Kiss and Tell* by Sahara Hotnights - The most fun album of the year
Set Yourself on Fire by Stars - Pop perfection
Funeral by The Arcade Fire - Original and breath-taking

Unlikely Emergency by Serena Ryder - Gorgeous melodies and a spectacular voice
Uh Huh Her by PJ Harvey - Simply put, she's a goddess of rock

Movie: *Shaun of the Dead* - Surprisingly hilarious

Concerts: I saw a damn lot of good concerts this year - The Pixies, PJ Harvey (she owns the stage), Tegan and Sara - but Primus wins top honours for their amazing musicianship, catchy tunes, onstage antics and general rockiness.

Song: "Maps" by Yeah Yeah Yeahs - Not just a favourite song of the year, but one of my all-time favourite songs. With very little instrumentation and plaintive, high-pitched guitar, it's simplicity at its bittersweet best. Technically it was released in 2003, but Blender called it one of the best songs of 2004, and if Blender can do it, so can I.

Entertaining moment: Meeting Billy Corgan, hands down. The man is my musical idol, not to mention smoking hot. Best day of the year.

Travesty: The fact that I didn't get to see The Arcade Fire, after driving to Kingston and waiting in line for three hours, because Queen's University doesn't understand the concept of ticket-selling.

CAITLIN HOWLETT
Editor-in-Chief

Album: *Live Like You Were Dying* by Tim McGraw - the title track are words to live by, but the album itself isn't my favourite, however it's the only album I've listened to in its entirety this year.

Movie: *Shrek 2* - it's the only movie I've ever looked forward to for the DVD release (I bought it the first day it was released) - it's a reliable follow up to the original and the highlight is undoubtedly Antonio Banderas as the voice of Puss in Boots. Ole!

Concert: John Mayer at the Molson Amphitheater - the best way to enjoy a concert is to go without knowing the album - I spent the next three months listening to *Heavier Things*. The company was also a highlight and even the \$12.50 pints.

Song: "Accidentally in Love" - performed by a long-time favourite, the Counting Crows, this track is featured on the *Shrek 2* soundtrack, and doesn't everyone just fall in love accidentally?

Entertaining moment: The collaboration of Tim McGraw and Nelly - who knew tight jeans would pair themselves up with baggy ones.

Travesty: Ashlee Simpson - as if Jessica wasn't taxing enough on our guilty entertainment conscious, her ridiculous parents/managers/money swindlers had to go and produce this ghastly brunette replica of Jessica.



Hip Hop: a white dude learns the ropes

Mike Brown



Staff Writer

As a middle-class, white bread, sixth generation Canadian, I'm not exactly the prototypical target of hip hop culture. In fact, at a party recently, my utterance of a friend's request to utilize an illicit substance was termed, "the whitest possible way of asking for a bong."

Alternative rock has forever been my comfortable niche. Truth be told, I've pretty much always found hip hop abhorrent. The trivial lyrics that often find their way into mainstream culture (such as "It's getting' hot in here, so take off all your clothes" by

Muchmusic's favourite Band-Aid laden "gangsta") have never sat well with me.

Thus, when I moved into Willison Hall last September, I was a little concerned to note the 2Pac poster on my roommate's wall, a token which did little to assure me that the fine administrative folks at Laurier had found me a perfect match. When my roommate, Sean, dropped some "sick rhymes" - as the other hip hop aficionados eloquently termed them - during the O-week talent show, I again wondered how well suited we were to room together.

Luckily, Sean and I are both tolerant and respectful people, and we became very close roommates. After a short time, he mercifully removed my most hated

artist, Sean Paul, from his playlist, and I grew exceedingly tolerant of hip hop. Actually, 'tolerant' is not the word. I, Mike Brown, previously one of Kitchener's most staunch denouncers of all things rap, actually started to like it.

I, one of Kitchener's most staunch denouncers of all things rap, actually started to like it.

By April, I'd often arrive home to find Sean, my roommate, blasting my Hoobastank or Chili Peppers and, conversely, the sounds of Outkast and Nas emanated from our room despite

Sean's absence.

Unfortunately, monetary constraints have forced me back home to K-town this year as a commuter student, but Sean's music has left an indelible mark. I owe him and other Willison mates for building on my love of rap-influenced artists like Linkin Park and Rage Against the Machine and disposing of my bias against hip hop.

While I still dislike the trivial rap I commonly hear, I have actually started buying hip hop CDs, a move that would have been inconceivable a mere 18 months ago, but that is made possible by the growing popularity of conscious rappers, which, to me, is a breath of fresh air.

Even Eminem - an amazing lyricist who too often wastes his

time being controversial simply for the sake of being controversial - has taken on a meaningful topic with his recent single, "Mosh," albeit attacking Mr. Easy Target, George W. Bush.

I can't help but take interest when the likes of Talib Kweli start spouting the very criticism I've always leveled against hip hop culture: "The label want a song about a bubbly life/ I have trouble tryin' to write some shit/ to bang in the club tonight/ when people suffer tonight." Kweli and fellow prolific rappers new to the mainstream, like K-Os and Mos Def, are moving beyond superficial bullshit and actually saying something worthwhile.

Even if the trend towards the

- Please see **Hip hop**, page 22

Wilf's

PINK BELLY

PINK BELLY
DECEMBER 5

BLACKWATER TRIO
DECEMBER 22

Pizza & Pitcher
Wednesdays

Big Breakfast
Sundays

Ear Candy



Nirvana

★★★★★
5 out of a possible 5 stars

Title: With The Lights Out
Label: Geffen
Release Date: Nov. 23, 2004

The band Nirvana needs absolutely no introduction. Single-handedly capturing the essence of grunge and the Seattle scene, Nirvana is by far one of the pinnacle musical acts of the nineties era. After a slew of legal battles over its release, Nirvana's career spanning box set, *With The Lights Out*, has finally arrived. Although the legal situation surrounding the release is a topic of debate, it will not be the focus of this article. After all that has been said and done, the essence of Nirvana is their music, not the image and rumors that eventually led to their demise.

Simply put, this box set does the band a great justice. Even

though its release is long overdue, fans will be blown away by the depth of content. Combining unreleased demos, acoustic numbers and rehearsal tracks, *With The Lights Out* is the ultimate addition to any grunge fan's collection. Consisting of three CDs and a DVD of rare videos, the box set allows the rabid fan to peer into the creative genius of Nirvana. Present on the CD is a horribly recorded demo of the song "Smells Like Teen Spirit". Even though the audio quality is less than pleasurable, it is quite powerful to hear the band rehearse a song that would go on to have a distinct impact on the music scene. Of its 81 tracks, 68 of them have never seen the light of day. Littered amongst the track list are acoustic recordings of such Nirvana hits as "In Bloom" and "Heart Shaped Box". Hearing the stripped-down version of these songs allows any music enthusiast to truly understand the amazing talent behind Kurt Cobain's songwriting and painfully honest and morbid lyrics.

The DVD component of this set boasts rare live performances and studio footage of the band recording in numerous studios. The DVD represents Nirvana's high octane live performances as

well as their personal relationships in and out of the recording studio.

Regardless of how you feel about this band, it is undisputable that their impact was nothing short of pivotal. It's unfortunate that popular culture has smeared Kurt Cobain's name and morphed him into a kind of rock and roll martyr. Nirvana has ultimately become what they despised: popular and a main staple of popular culture. In many ways this box set re-affirms that the essence of Nirvana was the music, not the drugs and rumors surrounding Cobain's suicide. When talking about Nirvana, it is hard not to sound preachy and overdramatic about their legacy. Even so, this band's importance and impact should never be forgotten and underestimated. This box set affirms what is already known - Nirvana was one in a million.

With The Lights Out is a must-have for any music fan who grew up during the nineties. With flawless content and a sleek layout, this collection is perfect for music and Nirvana fans alike. With this release, one can only hope that the media and industry will lay the band to rest and let the music speak for itself.

-Dave Ricci

The Pixies rise again

- From **Pixies**, page 20

sounds from his guitar as drummer David Lovering's heavy drum beats held the whole thing together.

Songs like "Ed is Dead", "Bone Machine", "Monkey Gone to Heaven", and "Here Comes Your Man" read like a real-life textbook on alt-rock perfection, and benefited from Deal's background vocals which often snaked their way in and around Thompson's leads. "Nimrod's Son" rocked harder than anything I've ever heard, and when Thompson yelled out the song's trademark "You are the son of a motherfucker!" it drew my attention to the diversity of the audience - from the six-year olds with their parents, to the 20-something hipsters, to the middle-aged fans from the original days.

For me, the highlights came towards the end of the night. "Debaser" was positively joyful -

I've never yelled out a lyric as strange as "I am un chien andalusia!" with such abandon. But the absolute pinnacle was "Gigantic". Over 40 years old now, Deal still has a youthfulness in her voice that worked perfectly with the upbeat playfulness of the song.

The band sweetly said good-night, to each other and to the audience and then came back for a two song encore. On the last beat of the last song Thompson belted out "Thank you very much!" and they were gone.

With Nirvana ending with Kurt Cobain's death and The Smashing Pumpkins collapsing under the weight of Billy Corgan's pretension, both after relatively few albums, the Pixies are modern rock's biggest hope. If they can stick around long enough this time, they might just be able to make themselves our generation's Beatles or Led Zeppelin.

Hip hop illumination

- From **Hip Hop**, page 21

acknowledgement of insightful, political lyricists doesn't pan out. I at least know of the genre's potential, imbued in lesser-known artists like Jurassic 5 and Immortal Technique. While I still know nothing about music, I can certainly understand lyrics and I honestly believe hip hop has the potential to be the most poetic form of music when done right.

I'll probably never know much about music beyond what I like and what I don't. Still, I'm grateful that I got the chance to expand my tastes, and I challenge those who can relate to my old views on hip hop to listen to some of the artists I've alluded to without being impressed.

Metroid Prime 2 Echoes: I am Samus



Metroid Prime 2

★★★★☆
4 out of a possible 5 stars

System: Gamecube
Release Date: June 25, 2004

JILLIAN PANCOTT
Copy Editor

Wow. Metroid Prime is back for Gamecube and is it ever immersive. I sat down one night to start playing it, but I should have waited until the break. With over two hours logged, I only completed three percent? This game could ruin me for exams. Samus Aran, the main character, is back, and this time on a new planet, Aether, where she attempts to help the Luminoth fight off the evil Ing, the dark counterpart of the same planet split by some rift in space. All the while anomalies are floating around, respawning the dead - not to mention the Dark Samus character that runs around... it gets kind of confusing. The good news is, by scanning the dead bodies you can read their logs and figure out what has happened.

Graphics: The graphics are good, with detail and some creepy elements on the alien planet. The items growing off the wall, like cocoons, can be deceiving in the darker areas when you mistake them for enemies. The greatest feature is the colour code for the scan mode. All important items are red (so don't miss those or you'll wander around forever, trust me) and the less important are blue. Once something has been scanned it turns green, so don't waste your time. The first

person viewing system can become a bit overwhelming and frustrating when you know some alien-bug is attacking you but you can't see it.

Controls: Echoes uses almost all of the buttons, except the C-stick in regular game play. The most frustrating thing is the accidental firing of the missile when you mean to go into Morph Ball. The Charge Beam can be somewhat hard to fire when there are many creatures attacking, but is the most powerful original weapon. Later light and dark beams are added, which will come in useful.

Game Play: The enemies are few at the beginning, but a nuisance nonetheless. The wasps keep coming at you, and it's hard to find all of the nests to destroy them. Echoes can move slowly, between the constant scanning and searching for paths. This is not a game you can rush through; you need patience (or so says a friend). Luckily there is a map of the area you can find which is very useful, because it gets confusing as to where you have and haven't been.

The first person viewing system can be frustrating when you know some alien-bug is attacking you but you can't see it.

Overall: I haven't made it fully through the game (not even close), so it may be a bit premature to say, but this game is shaping up to be great. I will look forward to spending more time on it after my exams. Echoes also has a multiplayer feature for up to four players, which is okay. I'm not fond of it because I'm not good at first-person shooters, but it's entertaining for more than one person. The options are limited, and there are other better first person shooters out there. This game is bought for the single player mode. Maybe once exams are finished you should treat yourself to a well deserved break by buying Metroid Prime 2: Echoes.

T

Drop the Books...

EXAM BASHES

Dec 11 + 18

Despite setback, Hawks remain on top

In light of back-to-back losses, the women's volleyball team is head into the holidays ahead

MARK HOPKINS
Staff Writer

The Laurier women's volleyball team simply dominated their early season opponents as they commenced their 2004 - 2005 season with nine consecutive wins. To further impress, the ladies only dropped five sets in these nine games.

The Golden Hawks had their perfect record challenged last week, as the powerhouse York Lions invaded the Athletic Complex on Wednesday night. Laurier started out strong, as they took the first set by a score of 25 - 17. Unfortunately, the visitors managed to win the next three and subsequently dropped the Hawks' record to 9 - 1.

Laurier 1 - 3 Uoft

The ladies did not have time to dwell on their first setback, as the University of Toronto provided the Hawks with another tough opponent in a Saturday matinee affair. Emotions were high on both sides of the net, as the ladies battled back and forth throughout the match.

The Varsity Blues managed to squeak out the first set by a count of 25 - 23. The Golden Hawks promptly responded by winning the second by a score of 25 - 15. However, the Toronto attack was too strong for Laurier to handle on this day, as the visitors took both the third and fourth sets to

win the game.

The loss dropped Laurier's record to a very respectable 9 - 2, as they now break for the holidays prior to resuming the second half of their season. Despite the back-to-back losses, the Hawks still sit first in the OUA West division. Arch rival Western is right behind, just two points back.

"[The break] will allow us to go and fix what is broken so it doesn't have to be fixed again."

- Dave McIntyre, Head Coach

While he has been very pleased with the performance of the team thus far, Head Coach Dave McIntyre realizes that adjustments need to be made. "We have a young team, the confidence is fragile," says McIntyre, "[the break] will allow us to go and fix what is broken so it doesn't have to be fixed again." McIntyre is looking at the extended Christmas break as a chance for the team to reinforce, reconsider, and work towards progressing deep into the playoffs. "We want to be successful in Ontario," he says, stressing that his goal every year is to thrive in the OUA league.

Entering last week, the women were ranked as the eighth best team in the CIS. They are the highest ranked team in



Rowena Garcia

The ball fell just out of reach for the Hawks, who lost their second game of season on Saturday.

Ontario. The only other team from the province that is nationally ranked is rival Western at number 10.

Additionally, second-year player Danielle Walker sits at the top of the CIS statistical rankings. She has powered her way to an incredible 177 points, which makes her the highest scoring player in the country.

The modest Walker was quick

to shift praise to her teammates when questioned about the national recognition she is receiving. "It's a great feeling," she notes, "but it's disappointing [to lose] today because the other girls played great."

The Golden Hawks are now off until the calendar flips to 2005. Walker does feel that the break will work to the team's advantage. "[The losses] are hard

to take," continues Walker, "but the break might be good to re-focus." The ladies look forward to attempting to plow their way back in to the win column on January 12, as they visit the Western Mustangs in London.

Toronto taps ladies for first loss



MIKE BROWN
Staff Writer

One goal was all it took to end an undefeated streak against OUA opponents that dated back to February 7 of last season, as the University of Toronto shut out the Laurier women's hockey team on Sunday night in Waterloo. After a busy week that saw the women battle to a 1 - 1 tie against Western and pull off a very strong 5 - 3 win at Brock, the Hawks were unable to solve

Toronto goaltender Lisa Robertson in a tough 1 - 0 loss.

The game, which showcased the OUA divisional leaders, was

Laurier 0 - U of T 1

a hard fought battle to the very end. The first two periods mustered no offence, though, as both Robertson and Laurier's Cindy Eadie played well between the pipes. The lone goal of the game

at 6:03 in the third came when Toronto forward Laura Foster found a wide open cage for the eventual game-winner.

The loss deflated a team that had put forth an impressive effort just one night earlier in St. Catharines. "We played a very good road game," commented Coach Rick Osborne about the victory over Brock. "We were basically a step ahead of them all game long." Laurier's top line was able to put the team on its shoulders, as leading scorer

Laurissa Kenworthy notched two goals and three assists, while her line-mate, Fiona Aiston, added two goals and an assist. Veteran winger Lindsay Arbeau rounded out the Laurier scoring in the 5 - 3 win.

Unfortunately, the other two games of the week highlighted a

"When [opponents] shut down our big line, nobody picks up the slack."

- Rick Osborne, Head Coach

growing concern for the team. "When [opponents] shut down our big line, nobody picks up the slack," said Osborne matter-of-factly. It seems the competition is realizing this and keying in on Laurier's top line. Excluding the Brock game, Laurier has managed just two goals in their last three games.

Despite the concerns, though, the team remains upbeat, and boasts a 7 - 1 - 2 record to sit atop the OUA. "This loss doesn't concern me," said Osborne after the game. After all, Laurier dominated the game, out-shooting Toronto 40 - 23, but were mere-

- Please see **Toronto**, page 27

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of to November 29 -
December 3, 2004

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

11/23/04

W Hockey 1, Western 1

11/24/04

W Volleyball 1, York 3
M Volleyball 1, York 3

11/26/04

W Basketball 75, Lakehead 66
M Basketball 64, Lakehead 63
W Volleyball 1, Toronto 3
M Volleyball 1, Toronto 3

11/27/04

W Basketball 57, Lakehead 53
M Basketball 68, Lakehead 81
W Hockey 5, Brock 3
M Hockey 1, McGill 7

11/28/04

W Hockey 0, Toronto 1
M Hockey 3, Ottawa 2

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

12/02/04

W Hockey vs. Western
7:30 PM, Rec Complex

12/04/04

W Basketball vs. Waterloo
6:00 PM, Athletic Complex

M Basketball vs. Ottawa
8:00 PM, Athletic Complex

12/05/04

M Basketball vs. Carleton
7:00 PM, Athletic Complex

Rough times continue

DAN HOCKING
Staff Writer

For many, December means the end of classes and the beginning of finals, and a much needed vacation is in sight. This year, December means one thing to the men's volleyball team: a break from losing.

Last Friday, the men's team lost to the U of T Varsity Blues 3 - 1, dropping their record on the season to 1 - 9. Laurier trailed early in the first set 11 - 15, but fought valiantly and ended up winning the set 25 - 22. The second set remained close until Toronto managed to get back to back points to win two 6 - 24.



There's been very little to celebrate for the men's volleyball and their fans this season. The Hawks are now 1 - 9 on the season.

From here on out, the team couldn't do anything right. Service errors abounded in the next two sets, and even with some good defence in the final set, the Hawks dropped the next two sets 25 - 20 and 25 - 15, seeming to run out of gas at the end.

The same old problems seem to plague the team from week to week. They haven't won a match since beating Waterloo three sets to one in the first week of the season. Since then, they've dropped nine straight and have only won more than one set twice during this streak. While they have looked a little better over the last couple games, coming out strong

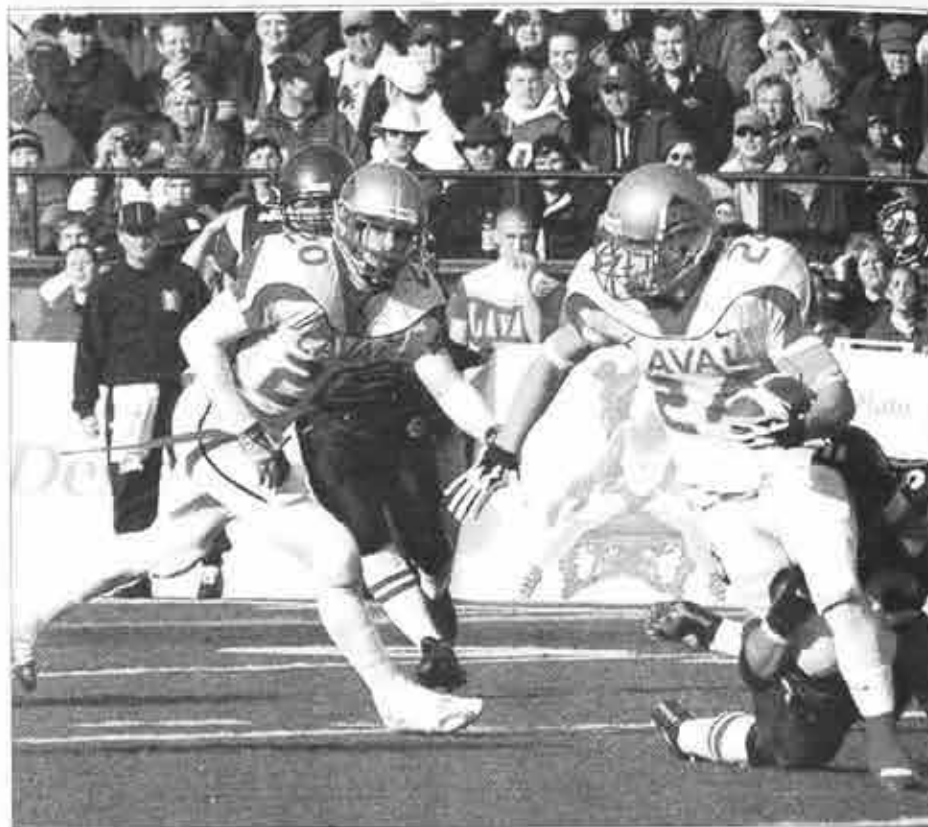
against Toronto and against York, the OUA leader, last Wednesday, the team cannot avoid committing serving errors, which makes it next to impossible to win.

Sadly, this is nothing new for the men's team. The team has only won three times since the 2001 - 2002 season, when they went 4 - 14. Since then, the team is 3 - 43 in regular season play. Even at 1 - 9, the team does have one positive going for them: they aren't last in the league. That dubious honour goes to cross-town rivals, Waterloo, who remain winless this year.

The season is now more than half over and there is no sign of improvement in the near future for the team. If the Hawks can't avoid the simple mistakes like serving errors, a trip to the basement is almost certainly forthcoming. The team recognizes that this is a problem; every week, team manager Heather Stewart mentions the fact that serving errors led to the team's demise.

If the team doesn't focus and play a complete match, they'll be wishing for April's finals to come to distract themselves from that losing feeling. The season definitely doesn't get any easier, as the team now plays the same eight teams from the first half of the season. One can only hope things can turn around, but given the history, it looks pretty doubtful.

Rouge et Or win another Vanier



Rob Terpstra

Laval's Huerta-Flores breaks a tackle last weekend in Hamilton. The Rouge et Or beat Saskatchewan 6 - 1 in the lowest scoring Vanier Cup ever.

ROB TERPSTRA
Sports Editor (Brock Press)

When your most valuable player turns out to be your backup placekicker, chances are you've won the game with a 65 yard field goal. Not so much.

On Saturday afternoon, Matthew Leblanc was the Laval Rouge et Or's hero, nailing the game-winning field goal ... in the third quarter. Up to that point, the Saskatchewan Huskies, the winners of the Hardy Cup last weekend, led 1 - 0 for most of the game.

Laval 7 - U of S 1

Behind Leblanc's field goal, and his team's two singles and a late safety, Laval repeated as the Vanier Cup's Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) football champions. The team was able to defeat the Huskies 7 - 1 in a frigid affair at Hamilton's Ivor Wynne Stadium in front of a crowd of more than 14,000.

Laval came into the game riding high, as they knocked off the number one team in the nation, the Montréal Carabins in the Dunsmore Cup, and then the undefeated Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks last weekend in the Uteck Bowl.

A non-factor during Saturday's Vanier Cup was last year's most valuable player, Jeronimo Huerta-Flores. Huerta-Flores, a graduating player, was held to only 41 yards on 18 carries throughout the game. A sea of linebackers could be witnessed every time the star running back touched the ball.

"I have to admit, they played very tough and it was very hard to run today," Huerta-Flores said. "Every time I had the ball in my hands, there were three guys in front of me."

Doing it on the defensive side, Laval picked off starting Saskatchewan quarterback Steve Bilan an incredible five times. On two of those occasions, an intended Huskies receiver could be found nowhere in sight. This was in part due to a lack of execution but more so to Laval's incredi-

ble collapsing defence.

"The defence played great today," Huerta-Flores said. "Offence wins games, but defence wins championships. The defence played great football all year long."

In a span of six possessions between both teams, a laughable five turnovers were committed, begging those in attendance whether they had come to a rugby game or were, in fact, at university football's grandest stage.

Both teams had chances to score majors. Just before the half, Bilan tossed towards the end zone, but an interception was the result, and the drive was halted. Bilan's five picks nearly equalled his total all season — uncharacteristic for the man who led the CIS in touchdowns and passing yards. The result seemed destined to happen, as

"At the end we have what we want, another Vanier Cup."

- Jeronimo Huerta-Flores

Laval came into the game ranked first in the nation in every major defensive category. "This is a completely different year," Huerta-Flores said. "Last year we had a great offence and a good defence. This year we had a great defence."

Causing seven turnovers and limiting Bilan's movement for most of the game was all the offence required to put what few points they needed on the board. Saturday's Vanier Cup also marked the first time no touchdowns were scored, secured the game's lowest ever scoring half and produced the lowest scoring final in the game's 40 year history.

Far from being the most exciting football contest witnessed, the tactical chess game brought together the best two teams in the nation, and when all was said and done, Laval was declared the winner.

"We progressed a lot during the year," Huerta-Flores said. "At the end we have what we want, another Vanier Cup."

Wingspan

MEN TAKE ONE

The men's hockey team got back to their winning ways on the Sunday, but not before getting trounced one night earlier. Facing a solid McGill on Saturday evening, the Hawks were roughed up to the tune of 7 - 1. Nick Gibson potted the only goal for visitors at 6:49 in the second period. On the following afternoon, the Hawks looked much sharper against the ninth ranked Ottawa Gee Gee's. With the score knotted at two with under a minute left, Richard Colwill found the back of the Gee's net for the lead and the win. Nick Vergeer and Nick Vukovic each scored for the Hawks, who find themselves in second place, three points back of York, at the conclusion of the fall term.

THE LADIES ARE ALRIGHT

Not to be outdone by hockey or volleyball, the women's basketball team added to their great start

with a weekend sweep at the expense of the Lakehead Thunderwolves. Two-guard Meaghan McGrath led the way with 22 and 14 points respectively, as the Hawks narrowly edge the T-Wolves 75 - 66 and 57 - 53. The Hawks improve to 5 - 1 on the season, and will play Guelph on Wednesday at 6:00pm at the Athletic Complex.

BASKETBALL NORTH

The men's trip to Thunder Bay was slightly less successful, as the team, now 2 - 3, split the weekend series. On Friday night, the Hawks rode the strong play of veteran guard Jermaine Pendley, who scored six points late in the game, to a 64 - 63 victory. One night later, the Hawks were outworked and outshot by the T-Wolves who cruised to an 81 - 68 win. Lakehead's second year guard Kiraan Posey put up 31 points on 12/17 from the field.

ALL-CANADIAN



www.laurierathletics.com

Ian Logan, defensive back

Last week, five Laurier football players were honoured nationally for their performances on the gridiron. Defensive back Ian Logan, who collected four interceptions, 20 solo tackles and 10 assisted tackles this season was the lone Hawk recognized as a first All-Canadian, while linebacker Jesse Alexander and defensive back Conor Healey were added to the defensive second team. On the other side of the ball, quarterback Ryan Pyear and lineman Ryan Jeffrey were both named to the offensive second team.

FIGURE SKATING

Laurier's figure skating team was in Kingston on Friday taking part in their first meet of the season. With strong showings from Missy Lloyd and Lindsey Maddick, who finished second in the senior silver similar dance, and Karl Herbert, who placed second in the men's open, the Hawks found themselves in fifth place at day's end. The Hawks' next competition will take place on January 28 and 29 at Columbia Ice Fields in Waterloo.



Brittany Wright

The varsity figure skaters, seen here, were in a celebrating mood after their fifth place finish in Kingston.



WICKED HARD

Leave it to Sports Illustrated to get all ambiguous when deciding the 2004 Sportsman of the Year. Past winners include Tiger Woods and Michael Jordan, but this year SI copped out and handed it to the Boston Red Sox, which isn't a person at all. Instead of recognizing the likes of Lance Armstrong, Ichiro Suzuki or Vijay Singh, they hand it to an entire team and their fans. I understand that Matt Damon and Ben Affleck are great cover girls, but the thought of a 350-pound New Englander calling himself the sportsman of the year while eating clam chowda on the wharf is practically nauseating.

FROM DOLPHIN TO COMMUNE

Ricky Williams is a former Heisman trophy winner, and a man the New Orleans Saints once traded much of their roster to acquire. Now he's chillin' in an Australian commune/campground on seven dollars a day. Williams, who failed to report to training camp and subsequently announced his retirement at the age of 27, has lost his signature dreads, 35-pounds, and apparently, any sense of reality. He's stoned, mal-nourished and slightly out of touch, or more specifically, a university student.

ROGERS LOOKS FOR FINANCIAL PROTECTION, BUYS DOME

The Skydome was built for a sum of \$580 million; 15 years later it was sold for considerably less than the first down payment. Earlier this week, Rogers Communications, who are majority owners of the Blue Jays, made the obvious, if three years belated, decision to purchase the stadium. Rogers paid the American-based Sportso \$25 million for the facility, which is \$6 million less than Renaissance paid for the Skydome hotel. Translation: people do not want to watch baseball in a cement wasteland, but are rather comfortable staying at a hotel overlooking the damn thing.

GREAT, FAVRE AND AWAY

On Monday night, Brett Favre played in his 200th consecutive game as quarterback for Green Bay Packers. In more appreciative terms, Favre has played the toughest position in sports without an absence for 12 straight years. Sure, Cal Ripkin Jr. played every day for 600 years, but his body wasn't a toy for hungry defensive linemen every game. His career includes three MVP awards (the most ever by an NFL player), one championship ring and more heart than a Michael Bolton album.

WHAT IS "MY LIFE IS OVER"?

Old women everywhere had to wait 74 episodes to bid farewell to mega-geek Ken Jennings, but when it happened the world teared up. Last night, Jennings, who had won \$2.5 million since his run started in the late 80s, took "Wendy" to Final Jeopardy only to guess FedEx instead of H'n'R Block. Jennings, who has legally changed his name to "that little guy from Jeopardy," will now be added to long list of game show contestants that people don't give a shit about any-



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Toronto squeezes out victory

- From **First Loss**, page 25

ly unable to solve Robertson. Kenworthy attributed the loss to "a couple defensive breakdowns," and added of the Toronto net-minder that, "we made her look good. We kept shooting at her chest."

Aiston, who has been playing with renewed confidence lately, says the team is excited about the level of competition in the league. "Teams are going to come ready to play," said Aiston. "We

just have to make sure that we come just as prepared." She continued, "It's exciting that teams are out to get us. We love the level of competition this year."

At this point, the team hopes to just put the loss behind them as they enter the second half of the season. "I have every confidence we'll go back to work and start a new streak in our next game," noted Osborne. With two very winnable contests against Western and Waterloo before the

break, the women hope to send a message that the loss to Toronto will remain an anomaly.

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Top 10 Sports Stories of 2004

10. US Basketball roughed up
9. Jennings owns Jeopardy
8. Vijay wins big; Tiger doesn't
7. Calgary goes deep to save franchise
6. Patriots win back-to-back after Janet's tit shocks Bush
5. Greece wins Euro
4. Lance wins sixth yellow jacket
3. Ron Artest and co. go mental
2. NHL: No Hockey League
1. Boston Red Sox end curse

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Crossword

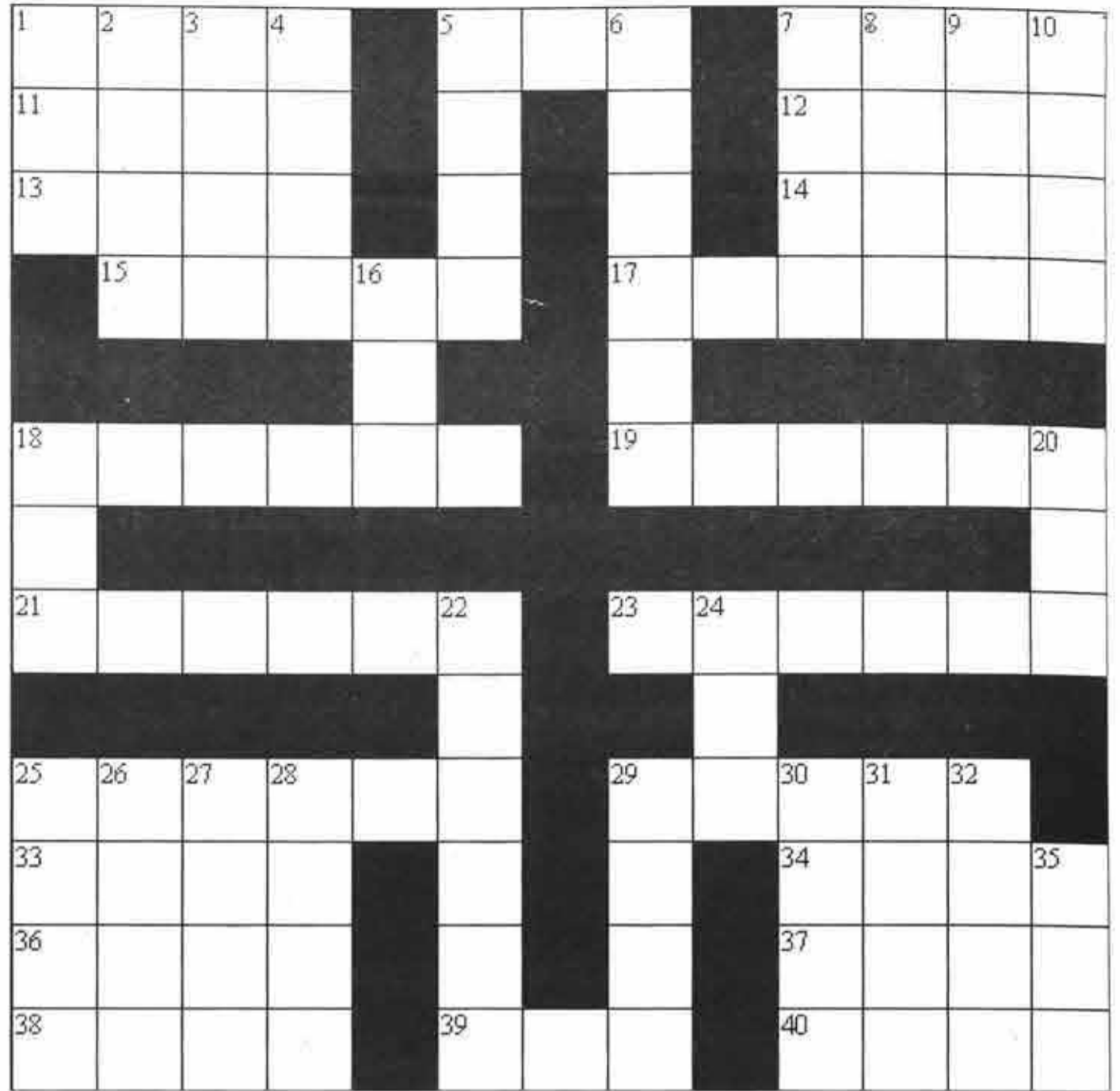
BY FRASER KING

Across:

1. Cornmeal mush
5. Hobo
7. To pilfer
11. Leg joint
12. Othello villain
13. 12 Months
14. 13 on a guitar
15. Responsible for *the Cord*
17. plural of thesis
18. The Great _____
19. Snide grin
21. Britcom funnyman, Nigel _____
23. Done with mitosis
25. C₉H₁₅COH
29. Ineffective union
33. an Indian nursemaid
34. forcing another person to submit to sex
36. What you call yourself by
37. What you split for nuclear power
38. _____-51
39. John _____ makes kung fu
40. Focuses light

Down:

1. Look up, its blue
2. To remake something
3. Breakfast or lunch
4. Andean country
5. Goes _____ in the night
6. Praying _____, bug
7. What murda gits ya
8. Used to row
9. Said the Beav to Wally [2 words]
10. Slang, for kids
16. What sinners do
18. _____ Humbug
20. Son of a Bitch
22. of yellow color
24. _____ Air
25. A village of northern Palestine
26. 8th month of the Jewish calendar
27. To make unwild
28. _____ Perlman, of Cheers
29. Texas standoff location
30. Mountains in Eastern Europe
31. To end hunger
32. Once _____ a time
35. Emergency Medical Services



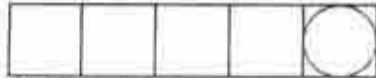
SCRAMBLOR. Lord of all Jumbles: Exam Time Baby!

Unscramble the five scrambled words and use the circled letters to answer the question to the right.

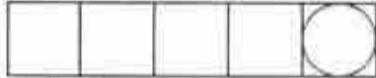
S S S R E T



P L E S E



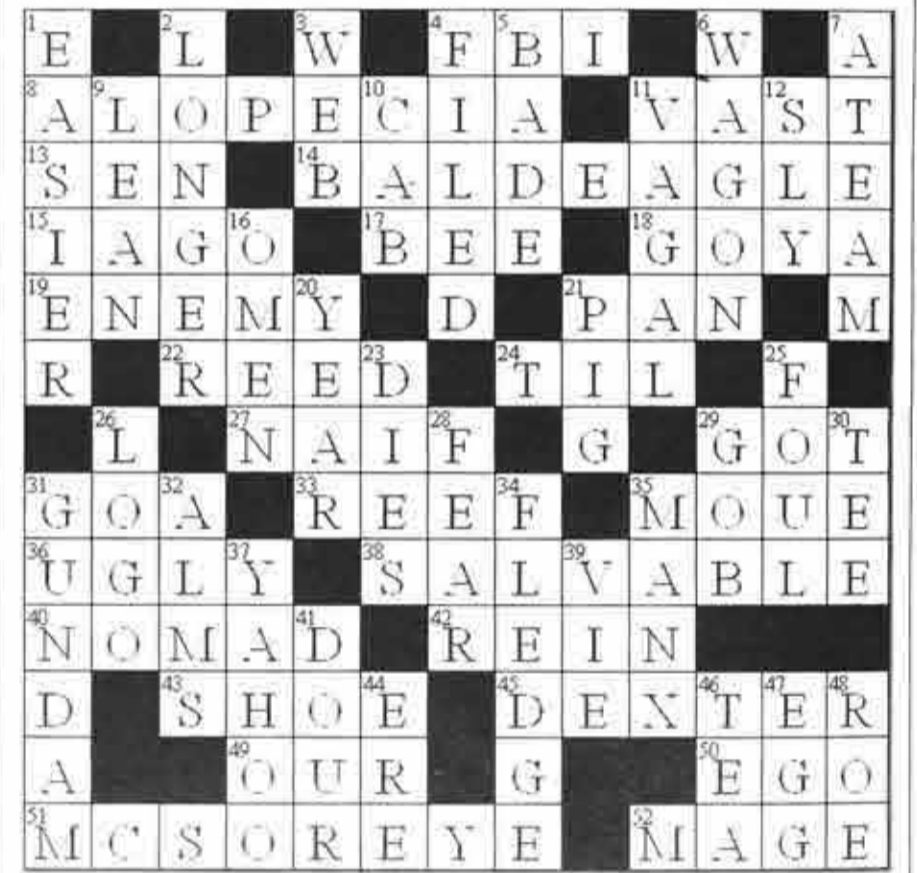
Y D U S T



D E A R



Now that it is exam period, what do you do?



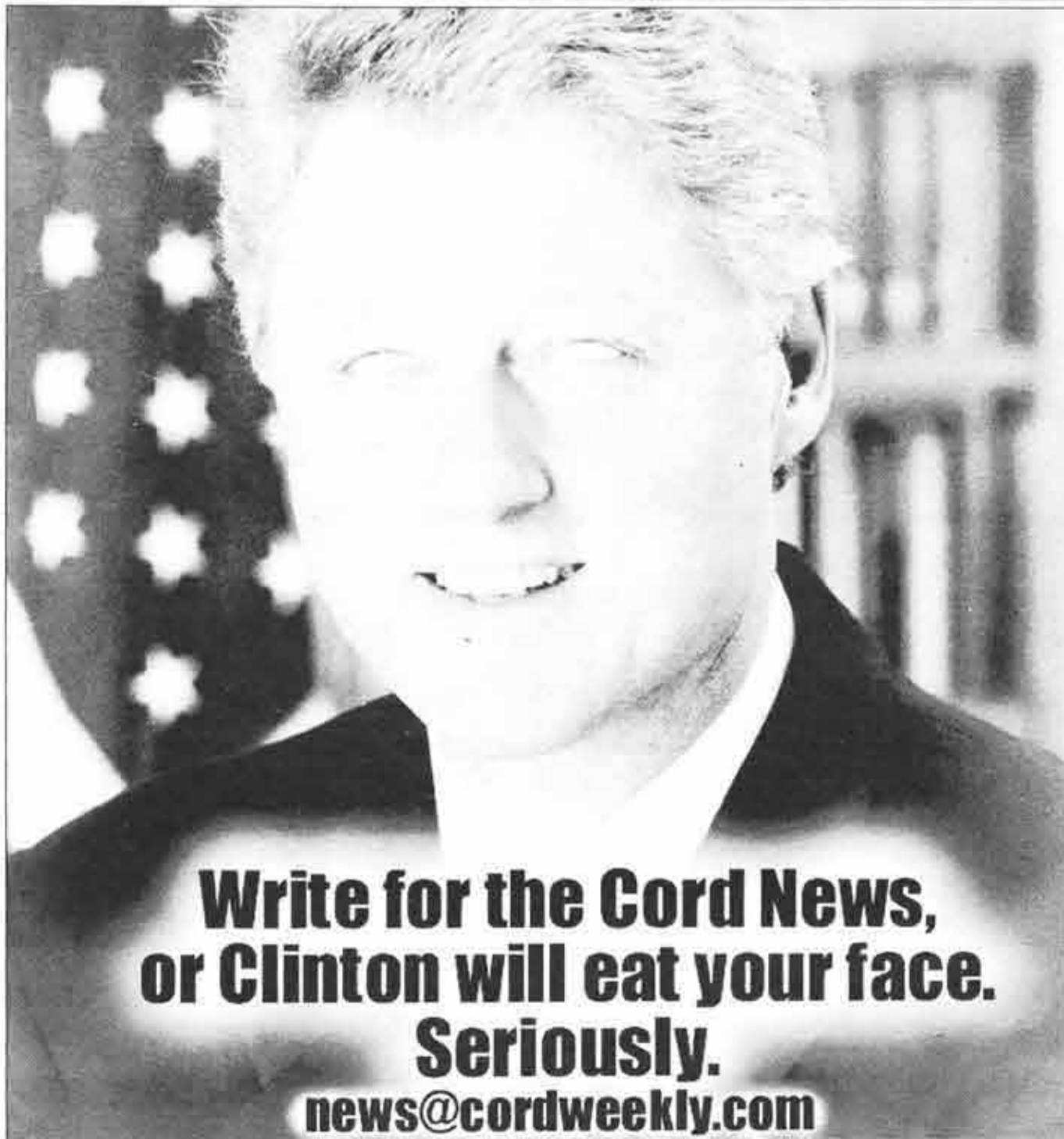
Last Week's Answers

PISTONS
TYSON
DOMI
ARTEST

Where are the most violent people?



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PERSONALS

Finance Thank You
I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone's hard work for getting the articles ready every week on the Cord, especially Caitlin, spending numerous hours at the paper every single week. I also would like to thank the EICs for spending hours to edit and get the publications ready and on time. I wish you all have a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

VP Finance: Arthur Wong

We made it through the first 15 issues without getting cancelled! Oh yeah, wait, we have media monopoly on this campus for eternity. I have to thank the usual suspects: my new PA's for learning fast and returning ones for doing info graphics, editors for doing a lion's share of production, you really don't know how much you make my job/life easier, Caitlin for her stability and calm amidst madness, everyone that helped out with the WRECKORD, Greg Smith for clutch IT, the admin for administrating, Angela for arranging the ads that pay the bills, Bryan for guy talk Mondays and the most improved section, Bryn for leaving earlier only on two occasions all semester and relishing my relentless criticisms, Pril for being my beef guru and the food last night, Fraser for never

refusing to do anything around the office other than eat pizza. Pinchy for being my pizza-getting partner and drunken WLUSP counterpart, Jenn for her proclivities and newfound sass, Kote for never asking for much production help and stubbornly stretching pictures, Carli! for always responding 'Cumii!' and weathering my flurry of memorable insults on Friday, speaking of which, thanks to all the people that shared the shit-show at Wilf's, and, moreover, to Wilbur for the production/life advice and helper deification, Leo for joining the WLUSP fold and driving me all over the damn place this semester, Josh for our friendly rivalry and prized Christmas cheese, and most of all, to my dedicated shout-out readers - you're what makes me spend 14+ hours here every Tuesday night... so thanks for reading, Happy Holidays, see all y'all next year, I'm Out!! BC

God Damn, this is the last one
In no particular order, the people that get the least credit for the most amount of work: BRANDON, APRIL, FRASER, BRYN, STEFAN, BRYAN, MICHELLE, JENNIFER, CARLY, KRIS AND COLIN - you guys all deserve caplocks after editing them out every week along with exclamation marks. Congratulations on 15 issues of hard work, late nights and flak. Thanks to ANGELA, CRAIG, ARTHUR, GREG AND TUNDE for all their help and listening to me complain. AMY and her lovely quiet crew of copy editors. Productionites - looking sharp! Thank you to Rob Terpstra for sending a Vanier article complete with pictures. Thank you to Peggy who made an exception and made me toast. CUP, Onecarders and Hublets, friends and foes around campus, die hard cordies, Kelly and Greg. Thank you Mahn, Myles and Bill for making 1810 one of my favourite places to be. Sarah and Cait - glad to have the trio back. The Howletts - I love you all very much. There is not enough space to say thank you. Merry Christmas and/or Happy Holidays! High Fives. CH

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K0599411

More Letters to the Editor



Letters, from page 7

problem-solving skills that can be applied to any discipline. Will we be discredited for the quality of education we receive here?

In terms of visual culture, we do not have one piece of art by fine arts students anywhere in the school and Campbell, aware of this, suggests we should begin a visual culture. How can Campbell say this if he mentioned earlier that that our fine arts students "have made no impact from the start."

How does Campbell intend on developing a visual culture when he himself has no words of encouragement? Instead he should be supportive and suggest murals and installation projects that could help introduce this so called vision of visual culture.

According to the Dean, no answer could be given to many of the questions asked by the meeting's attendees. It is my right, as well as for the many other fine arts students, to have been notified about these plans earlier. For this lack of concern and care to Laurier's fine arts students I am totally displeased and refuse to, in a sense, accommodate my future education to plans made by the Dean.

Visual culture dawns in the artists—we are the innovators, creators, communicators and aestheticians. We attract the school community and public eye to unthinkable things and so why are we being pushed to the bottom of list of things to do? Campbell really needs to reconsider, rationalize and prioritize his plans because I for one will not stand to see this program just dissipate from careless decisions.

Venessa Pica

Turn that shit down, Radio Laurier

I have to say I that lately I have been disgusted by the behaviour of certain Radio Laurier DJs. Members of this

organization have shown themselves to be thick-headed, ignorant Neanderthal's when it comes to issues of social consciousness.

During events such as the Women's Studies Activism Fair, and, more recently, Buy Nothing Day, DJs were politely asked if they could perhaps turn the music down in order that students might be able to effectively explain their projects to passers-by. The music was so loud that people standing two feet away from each other had to shout to be heard. However, when asked to adjust the radio volume, DJs not only refused to comply, but actually turned the music up even louder so that any communication between people in the Concourse was utterly impossible.

I don't know whether these DJs think they are being funny, or whether they really are just too stupid to know the difference between VOLUME UP and VOLUME DOWN. It is frightening to me that supposed adults at an institution of higher learning could possibly be so juvenile and obtuse.

This seems to be a case of extremely misplaced priorities. What's more important: raising awareness about women's issues and human rights or making sure that everyone within a 10-mile radius of the campus hears music by the Spice Girls? I suggest that these DJs grow the fuck up if Radio Laurier wants to retain any kind of a fan base.

Brittany Lavery

Part-time faculty motion was weak

The WLUSU Board of Directors passed a motion last Wednesday calling on the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association and the WLU administration to make teaching evaluations and class sizes a priority in their present negotiations. We passed another motion stating that students "support and appreciate the work

done by contract academic staff." Personally, I feel that we should have gone further in our support for part-time faculty and librarians and called upon the University to offer more institutional and financial support for these important individuals.

A part-time professor who is offered the Laurier maximum of three courses per term (including summer) will earn around \$45 000 a year, before tax. An unlucky prof will end up teaching fewer courses at \$5000 a pop and may have to teach additional courses at nearby universities. The average debt-load of a student with a four-year University degree is \$25 000. Most contract academic staff have more than four years of University education. The instability of employment by four-month contracts causes some professors to collect EI in the summer and put off their OSAP payments because they are not offered employment by the university.

Our learning experience is greatly affected by the work done by our contract academic staff. Part-time faculty have taught many of my favourite classes (they teach about 30% of classes at WLU) and if you've been in one of these classes, you will probably recall visiting offices shared with several other part-time profs. More office space is needed.

Part-time faculty and librarians do a lot of work and do not earn a lot of money. They have little job security and little office space. If I were a psychology student (which I am), I would guess that these are stressful, even "challenging", working conditions that have a significant effect on students' lives. We can relate; we all know what it's like to be stressed-out and cash-strapped because of university.

Show your support for these individuals by telling part-time profs and librarians that you think they are wonderful. If you are really ambitious, write a letter to Laurier President Bob Rosehart or the WLUSA expressing

your support for the work done by part-timers.

David Alexander
WLUSU Director

Cord full of conspiracy, deceit, fascist undertones

The Cord is splendid – I don't care what all the other kids in the torque room say.

Are you not convinced? Case in point: volume 45, issue 14. International section, page 13: neo-fascist Gianfranco Fini appointed Italian Foreign Minister. Opinion section, page 8: fascist-themed oyster joint takes over quaint Irish pub on King Street.

Coincidence? I think not. Presumably considerable pressure was brought to bear upon the

Editorial Board (damn those jack-booted seafood chefs!) and so, under duress, the dots were strategically left unconnected.

The Cord Weekly: fueling implausible conspiracy theories since 1926.

Greg Smith

Letter 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 12pm Tuesday on disk, or via e-mail at cord@wlusp.com with the subject heading of "Cord letter." Letters must be typed or easily legible and may 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 not to publish material that is deemed to be libelous or in contravention with the Cord's Code of Ethics or journalistic standards.

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WLUSP to move again

Cord editorial board behaviour in question

AH, JESUS
Foreign Correspondent

They moved down the stairs across the Quad and down some more stairs. The space was cramped, awkward and allowed someone to steal 1000 copies of their newspaper.

Now, Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications is officeless again. Only this time it's students forcing them out. MacHouse Residence residents have had enough.

"I'm sick and tired of sharing space with them," said David Frontman. "They're up all hours making loud typing noises, they're clearly smoking dope and to be honest, they smell pretty bad." A recent door close [device used to close the door] has contributed to the concentrated smell emanating from the office space. Investigations by CUP (Crap University Press) found an unprecedented number of squirrel carcasses in a recycling box labeled "cans." The matter is

under investigation by the JAC and the Humane Society is also conducting their own investigation.

A petition signed by 95 per cent of the MacHouse residents was approved by Residence Life and consequently the lease for the office space was revoked. Residence Life Services refused to comment. A formal letter was addressed to WLUSP President Craig Radcliffe outlining the termination of the lease due to extenuating circumstances.

"I'm disappointed that no one told us we smelled," said a clearly shaken Radcliffe. "I wish someone would have said something, I could have asked Arthur Wong, VP of Finance, to purchase some Febreze or Glade Plug-ins."

WLUSP has no plans of actually vacating the space on time. In fact, Stefan Sereda, Arts editor, has already set-up shop and plans to live in the basement in protest until forcibly removed. "I hate

those fucking students," he screamed and then curled up in the fetal position singing Little Red Corvette.

The Cord Weekly, along with the three other publications, has no plans to stop producing content, but expects harassment from the other tenants. One freshly made Pita Shack pita was placed maliciously by the front door. "That's just sick," said Dave Alexander, editor-in-chief of the Blowprint Magazine. "I mean, a poorly made pita is one thing, but a Pita Shack Pita, that's just plain disgusting."

Security Services has also reported unorthodox behaviour on campus at unruly hours by certain Cord Weekly Editorial Board members. Entertainment Editor, Carly Beath, was sighted smoking inside the doors to the entrance of the Fred Nichols Campus Centre on Friday November 26. Attempts to apprehend her were unsuccessful, but what Security is calling a "poorly



The Cord Ed. Board's inextricable links to the marijuana trade have finally resulted in their untimely eviction from their Mac House office.

knitted mitten" was dropped at the scene and has been sent to the lab for forensic identification. Acrylic paint was also found at the scene but has not been linked to any other sort of foul play.

On the same night, Production Manager, Brandon Currie, was found with several lighters not belonging to him and some stolen marijuana. Alcohol, actually a lot of alcohol, seems to have been involved. The investigation continues.

Investigation into whether or not the behaviour of WLUSP volunteers has affected their lease agreement is still under investiga-

tion. The word investigation is also under investigation.

Earlier in the term, anonymous reports of Editor-in-Chief Caitlin Howlett along with Opinion Editor Bryan Boyle and Opinion columnist Chris Clemens said to have in their possession abnormally large bags of marijuana. When questioned about the drugs, all three replied in unison, "it was stage marijuana." No charges have been laid because it was in fact stage marijuana being used for legitimate purposes.

With 50 dead and 75 injured, Afghani-Open hailed as a success

JOHN SMITH
Afghani Nations Bureau Chief

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN - Last weekend, the freedom loving people of Afghanistan won another important battle against those who hate freedom. Brandishing their clubs and Kalashnikovs, Afghani's took to the greens, or rather brown oily sand, pock-marked by bombs and laden with mines, in a demonstration of their commitment to freedom.

Open for the first time in thirty years, the Kabul Golf Club was formally a "nine hole paradise where foreign diplomats came to unwind and 'make deals' with local drug dealers," the clubs brochure points out.

Local warlord Mohammad Abdul was the first to tee off in the morning. Prided for his long drives, Abdul was disappointed when his opening shot hooked left into an opium field and he was forced to take a penalty stroke.

"What can I say," joked Abdul at the end of the day, "I shot a plus four." Abdul later admitted, "Really, I won because I shot the four other guys."

Hoping for a ceremonial public execution, crowds gathered

"I shot a plus four... but really I shot four other guys."

-Abdul

early in the morning, but had cleared out within a few hours after realizing what golf was. "That game is so boring I fell asleep," admitted six year old Ali, adding that "no wonder the Taliban banned it, it mocks the pretense of Afghan civilization." The nine-hole tournament ran into a snag around 11 am, when U.S. warplanes, mistaking the crowds gathered to watch for a wedding party, bombed hole seven, killing a total of 28.

The day was truly a historic moment for war-torn

Afghanistan, who had been deprived of golf for the past thirty years. Club pro, Mohammad Popal, known to the locals as 'the man who walks with a pickle in his ass,' told reporters that "as a young boy, I used to carry the clubs of all the infidels. Then the Soviets came and threw me in prison with a rough trick named Ali. Boy, were those the years..."

At the end of the day, with close to 50 killed and another 75 injured, event organizers concluded that the day was a "success."

Commenting on the day, White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan told reporters that "the War on Terror is not just being won in the streets of America, or the sand dunes of Iraq, but also on the greens, or oily sands, of Afghanistan." When asked if President Bush would consider playing a round in Kabul, McClellan laughed and replied, "No fucking way, does he look like an idiot?"

PINCHY
I tried to help you...

The mystery of the newspapers that had gone missing back in October has been solved. An enraged group of squirrels were at the center of an elaborate hate-crime aimed at Cord volunteers whose comments in an unsigned editorial had literally driven the creatures "nuts."

Approximately 1,000 copies of the late October issue were discovered over the weekend by a student who noticed a "funky smell" emanating from the Student Publications office early Sunday morning. When campus security unlocked the office, the long-lost issues were found spread throughout student publications, torn and covered in feces.

Officials believe that the squirrels, who frequent the area outside between the FNCC and student publications, were infuriated by an early October editorial calling these creatures "disdain-

ful rodents," suggesting that The Terrace's Union Market be replaced with a "quick-on-the-go Squirrel Wok."

In a planned attack, the squirrels somehow infiltrated the locked office sometime late Saturday night and spread the papers throughout the office. Waterloo police informed The Cord that DNA testing confirmed the fecal matter was that of multiple squirrels, confirming this was the doing of a well organized activist group. Police added "not only is this an act of theft and vandalism, it is an act of terrorism, and will not be treated lightly."

Opinion's editor Bryn Boyce who was largely responsible for the highly controversial editorial warns that "the squirrel-monks will not have the last word."

The squirrels had no discernible comment, but did make annoying chatter and jiggle their nuts menacingly.

WARNING: This is a joke page. This is fake content and is intended to be offensive and entertaining. If you don't like it, tough, but honestly, have a laugh - it's pretty darn funny. Funny ha ha.

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THE WRECKORD



Page 31...Rodents Unite!
WLU's squirrels on deliberately defecating on students, stealing the Cord, and yes, where they store their massive nuts



Laurier's top brass smoke top grass in part of new project to understand changing needs of first year students



A Brandon Cume Production

Poop spreaders caught "brown-handed"

Cord editorial staff disturbs shit on campus; spreads it as well - Laurier's infamous fecal perpetrators to be summarily expelled by JAC

FRASER KING LOUIS XIV
Poop Spreading Task Force

A joint effort between Laurier Security Services and the Waterloo Regional Police has resulted in the capture of notorious "Shit Crimez Crew," the pseudonym that the editorial board for the Cord Weekly has been using.

Using high-tech surveillance equipment the Waterloo police co-ordinated a sting operation with Laurier's rent-a-cops, catching the editorial board spreading fecal matter inside the women's washroom on the fourth floor of the library.

"I can't believe the smell! There was so much shit," said Bill Hopkins, the head of

Laurier's Security Service.

It was reported that inappropriate phrases were being written on the walls with the feces about Dean of Students, Dave MacMurray. While the reports are unconfirmed it seems likely related to MacMurray's car, a Mercedes Sports car, which has recently been keyed and strewn with fecal matter.

"What the Hell is wrong with kids today?"

- Staff Sergeant Micheal Flatly

"What the Hell is wrong with kids today?" asked Staff Sergeant Micheal Flatly of the Waterloo



Erin Moore, Poopographer

Police. "Seriously, who plays these kind of poop games?"

MacMurray could not be reached for comment, but sounds of sobbing and whispers of "my kompressor, my beautiful kompressor," could be heard outside of his private executive wash-

room.

In addition to the formal charges of "fecal obscenity" being laid by the Region of Waterloo, the Judicial Affairs Committee has already ruled unanimously to expel the perpetrators of what is being called a

"heinous insulting crime."

"This is such shit!" yelled an irate Caitlin Howlett, Cord Editor-in-Chief as she was dragged in handcuffs into a waiting police cruiser.



we didn't get permission

Roseheart appoints new head of security to enforce 10-metre smoking rule

"Yo, if that big black bastard come near me I'm gonna light my dart off dat fiery sword of his" says indignant student

B REAL
Special to The Wreckord

Dr. Bob Roseheart, citing frequent student delinquency in breaching the inane 10 metre smoking rule, has named the Witchking, Lord of the Nazgul and star of *Lord of the Rings: Return of the King*, to the top position within the organization.

"I mean, this guy while make students shit their pants, and as we all know, it's pretty difficult to

smoke less than ten metres away from a building if you have shitty drawers.

"Just look at him, seven feet tall, fiery sword and all, students will be scared right out of their pink panties!" exclaimed a visibly jubilant Roseheart.

However, students don't seem to be intimidated. Josh Boros, a committed smoker stated "hey, he got killed by a chick in the movie anyway. I'll schhmooke closer than 10m forever."

THE WRECKORD and You Top 10 places for handjob on campus

BYLINE MC
Shit Disturber

It is an issue that has been grappled with since the first days that students occupied the buildings at King and University. Is there a place on campus where the handjob can be appreciated at a level above all others? The Cord Weekly thinks so. Here is our unapologetic Top 10.

FOOT PATROL VAN

They've been serving the community for 12 years, why not get served yourself. Whether parked or in action, this HJ is characterized by its unrivaled coordination. Just like a walk, you pick the speed, tempo and midjob conversation.

BRANTFORD CAMPUS

Nothing says second-base like Waterloo's bastard brother. With its beautiful scenery and legitimate physical danger, Browntown is the perfect locale for the thrill-seeker or the more realistic conservative. Helpful reminder: the locals are not your friends.

LITTLE HOUSE SHOWER STALL

Quick cleanup and instant lubrication have made the shower a great place for an HJ since the beginning of time. Going big in Little is ideal whether you're soliciting a volunteer(s), or utilizing its proximity.

RADIO LAURIER BOOTH

DJs may have a face for radio, but chance are their hands will be

music to your genitals. If you can can sit you'll be pressing repeat in no time.

WLUSU BOARDROOM

If the past is the best way of predicting the future, the WLUSU Boardroom may be your best job.

PAUL MARTIN CENTRE

Some call it the executive special, others just call it "getting liberal." Bring that special someone into the PMC and celebrate Canadiana in all its climatic bliss. During Senate meetings use a blanket.

LIBRARY

For Schegel-dwellers the solace of backissues of Canadian Business and a change of scenery will help set the mood; for Arts students getting jiggy in the company of Dostoevski and Tolstoy is sure to get the blood rushing. The Library is quite simply the mecca

for the post-secondary handjob.

CENTRE OF FEMALES

With the written approval of all of its members, the Centre is a great place for two adults to share in the joys of a mutual HJ. While some will find the feminist rhetoric engaging, others will not.

TURRET BALCONY

Why take the fun home when a handjob can be done in the comfort of your own campus club? Not only will the brisk winds nicely juxtapose the common pants-sweat, but the exhibitionist flavour will have you inside in no time.

(Editors' Note: After extensive research, The Cord office proved to be awful place for a handjob. Its lack of space and general mood of hatred makes it difficult to even get excited)



Stolen Photo

Who is getting a handjob in this picture? We say both.

WARNING: This is a joke page. This is fake content and is intended to be offensive and entertaining. If you don't like it, tough, but honestly, have a laugh - it's pretty darn funny. Funny ha ha.