

# Bus pass fate left to students



Caitlin Howlett

Referendum question set to probe students' feelings about a mandatory \$40 bus pass

**BLAIR FORSYTH-STARK**  
Staff Writer

Students will decide in February's elections if they wish to support the pilot project of UPASS, which would provide unlimited access to Grand River Transit (GRT) bus systems to Laurier students.

The plan would call for a \$39.50 fee to be included in tuition costs per semester and would grant students access to GRT buses in Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge each term. The fee is significantly lower than the usual cost of \$130 per term for a student bus pass, however students who do not wish to purchase the pass would not be able to opt out.

On February 3, 2005 students will not only vote for student representatives, but will vote on various referenda questions. The WLUSU Board of Directors recently passed a question concerning the UPASS project. While some students may be quite supportive of the project, others may not wish to spend the \$40 dollars per term for a service they feel they would not use.

"This will be a close election" said Anthony Piscitelli, WLUSU's vice-president: University Affairs. Piscitelli, who is a supporter of the project, feels that "students will be quite happy with it," but feels that by allowing students to vote, "all students can make an informed decision."

Steve Welker, WLUSU's president and CEO, voted against this referendum question, noting he believes a mandatory bus fee is, "not in the best interest of students." He could not be reached for additional comment.

Graham Vincent, the Director of Transportation Planning for GRT and the region of Waterloo, indicated that there would be plans for "added frequency of service midday and evening on route seven," which runs up and down King Street. He also said there will be "later night service," should the project be supported by students.

**The plan would call for a \$39.50 fee to be included in tuition costs per semester and would grant access to GRT buses in Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge each term.**

"We want to ensure that we provide an appropriate level of service for ridership," continued Vincent, referring to the planned service improvements that were outlined in a presentation to the BOD.

Vincent also indicated that "[housing] rental costs for students can be reduced," if they are able to live further away from

campus and take the bus to school. "The closer you live to campus, the higher the rental rates tend to be."

"I don't think it will have a huge impact on people moving elsewhere," said Piscitelli, but, he explained, if one student moves further away, then one housing unit would become available closer to campus. "It doesn't take a lot of students to [...] affect a lot of students."

According to Vincent and Piscitelli, the UPASS project would also help with Laurier's parking shortage as well as helping to achieve "green" or environmentally friendly objectives.

Other universities such as Western, Queens, Guelph and McMaster have similar plans, and Piscitelli feels that a bus pass plan would be beneficial to Laurier's administration in terms of marketing initiatives towards incoming students.

Piscitelli indicated that while this project has "been talked about for a number of years," interest on the part of WLU administration and GRT, as well as several WLUSU directors who included the UPASS as an election promise, helped to commence the realization of this project.

Ultimately, the decision remains in the hands of the student body on February 3.

## Cord evaluates BOD performance

**Review aims to report the adequacy of WLUSU politicians**

**JENNIFER ASSELIN & APRIL CUNNINGHAM**  
WLUSU Correspondents

Since May of 2004, the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union's elected representatives have attempted to fulfill their duties for the student-run corporation and to provide a voice for the average Laurier student. As with any politicians, some members of the Board of Directors (BOD) have made substantial contributions, while others have been more disappointing.

The annual BOD Review is an attempt for the *Cord Weekly* to evaluate the effectiveness of the individuals chosen by the Laurier student body to represent them on the Students' Union. Reviews have been based on a combination of what *Cord* editors have witnessed from the galleries of Board Meetings and a series of one-on-one interviews based on each director's election platform. Input was also collected from fellow directors on how they believed their colleagues were performing thus far.

Directors still have a few months remaining in their term to take additional actions, so the *Cord's* review acts as a midterm report, which we hope will inspire improvement for the sake of students. It should also provide students with an update on how their elected representatives have weathered the storm. Have they pulled their weight, or are some directors better left beyond the board room?

**If representatives and appointed members can't communicate properly, how can students expect them to communicate properly with them?**

**Year in Review**

For many directors, the most significant issue has been the controversy over allowing underage students to access Turret bar nights. Most feel that they have acted in the best interest of students with the decision to keep the policy as-is, while others still believe the insurance risks for the corporation are too high.

- Please see **Review**, page 4

## EDITOR'S PICK...

Visit *The Cord's* Student Life section where staff writer John Meddick reveals how Laurier student Kathleen Ryan exposed students' lack of respect for women on campus ... Full Story Page 18

# Journalism in B-ford

**MIRANDA MACDONALD**  
Production Assistant

In an attempt to diversify the programs available at WLU, Laurier Brantford is launching a new Journalism program in September of 2005.

Leo Groarke, dean of Laurier Brantford, said there is a high student interest in pursuing a degree in Journalism, not only within WLU but within Ontario as a whole. When determining whether to launch the new program, they looked at the demands for other Journalism programs and found that there were six to seven applications for every space in Journalism programs in Ontario.

"There are a lot of students that want a journalism degree that simply can't get in," Groarke said. "These numbers convinced

us that there is a huge interest in this type of program."

Students in Laurier Brantford's new Journalism program can choose from four different streams: Print Journalism, Video-Radio Journalism/Documentary Production, Public Relations and Emerging Journalism, and New Media.

Both the Journalism and Public Relations are integrated with an intensive, one-year post-graduate certificate program from Mohawk College. Groarke said that Laurier Brantford does not have the facilities to run these specialized, technical courses and as a result, an agreement was made with Mohawk College to use their facilities.

The Laurier Brantford's Journalism program combines the theory of Journalism with

practical skills training. Although the course is made up of very specific journalism skills such as writing, reporting, layout and design, Groarke said that "it is our view that you need more than that."

Groarke emphasized the need to integrate the liberal arts and sciences in addition to hard journalism skills in order to provide students with the best training. "Students will come out of this program with the ability to identify a good story whether written or spoken," Groarke said.

Students waiting for the program to come to Laurier's Waterloo campus, shouldn't hold their breath. It will be offered exclusively in Brantford in an effort to develop the satellite campus and provide alternative courses that are not available in Waterloo.

Some students interested in the program have voiced a concern that because the program is new, graduates will have less credibility than Journalism students graduating from other schools. "It takes time to establish the reputation of any new program," said Groarke.

However, he is confident that the program will attract a lot of students and be quick to establish itself.

Groarke said that first year Communication Studies students will be able to switch into the Journalism program after this year but it will become increasingly difficult in the future based on competitive admission standards and limited spaces in the course. Laurier Brantford is only admitting 35-50 students per year.

Currently, Maija Saari is the only professor hired to teach the new program. When the program begins in September there will be three professors. "I would be surprised if in five years there aren't at least 10 professors for this program," Groarke said.

## CORD clippings

### NATIONAL

#### Big Wave means big wave of immigrants

The CTV.ca news department reports that Canada is the first nation to speed immigrants through the immigration process if they have been directly affected by the recent natural disasters in Asia. Relatives of people already in Canada are having their applications given top priority. While the decision affects all people that have been affected by the disaster, the applications are being treated on a case-by-case basis with primary consideration being given to children orphaned by the disaster and other people from regions that have been particularly hard-hit.

### PROVINCIAL

#### More money for minimum

Minimum wage is being raised to \$7.45, a \$0.30 increase, reports the *National Post*. The increase is part of an automatic-wage increase that should see Ontario's minimum wage increased to \$8.00 by 2007. Chris Bentley, the Labour Minister, noted that the gradual increase is in place to give businesses a chance to adjust to the change.

### LOCAL

#### Research bling for Waterloo

Globetechnology.com has reported that research and development spending in the Waterloo region increased by over 82% in 2002 since 1995, putting spending at nearly \$280 million per year, up from an already astonishing \$160 million. Globetechnology reports that the increase in spending is going to attract further investment from technology-based firms into the Waterloo Region.

compiled by Fraser King

# Election insanity

**APRIL CUNNINGHAM**  
News Editor

Voters will cast two ballots for student elections on February 3 this year. In an effort to increase the ever-low voter turn-out for student representatives on the Laurier Board of Governors as well as the Senate, elections have been moved to the same day as the WLUSU Board of Directors.

Heather Spence, logistics coordinator for the Elections Executive Committee says they are trying to increase awareness of the Senate and Board of Governors among students.

"Students don't really realize [those positions] exist," she says, referring to student seats. "They play a vital role in the school."

Last year, election polls had to be open for three days, just so the mandatory 10 percent quorum could be reached.

The elections were held in March 2004, nearly a month after those for the Board of Directors. Spence attributes the minuscule voter turnout for the later elec-

tions to voter fatigue as well as a general lack of awareness.

"They really should be voted in by a larger portion of the student population," says Spence.

The elections executive have also had concerns in the past that students have used the Senate and Board of Governors positions as a second-best option if their campaign as a WLUSU director prove unsuccessful. They hope that with both elections occurring on the same day, candidates as well as voters will take the roles more seriously.

Spence describes possible candidates for the Senate or Board of Governors as "people who want to be involved, take on an administrative role, and help shape the future of Laurier." She notes that these students have a hand in creating a lot of the policies at the university.

But there still seems to be a long road ahead in terms of having an informed electorate for the Senate and BOG elections.

- Please see **Elections**, page 3



www.laurierathletics.com

**Lettermen's Club President Andrew Agro (front left) presented a cheque for \$1000 to ROOF on Friday December 17, 2004. ROOF is a United Way affiliate that provides safety and support for homeless youth. Volunteer Manager for ROOF, Brian Kamm, (front right) accepted the donation on behalf of ROOF. Every year, the Lettermen Club donates to a charity of their choice. "I felt that the ROOF organization expressed the greatest need," said Agro, and believes the money will be put to use right away, especially during the cold weather. Last year, \$1000 was donated to Anselma House, and the Club continues to volunteer with the Big Brothers organization in the area.**

## News Bites

### RECYCLING MORE

Milk and juice cartons, along with drink boxes are now recyclable for residents of Waterloo Region. This will help "divert" roughly 500 tonnes from the Waterloo Landfill according to Susan White, manager of Waste Collection and Diversion.

Containers must be emptied and clean, as well as flattened prior to putting them in the blue box or recycling cart. Residents are advised that coffee cups are not included in Waterloo's recycling program. Visit: [www.region.waterloo.on.ca](http://www.region.waterloo.on.ca)

### IMPROVE WASTE PICK-UP

Waterloo Region's Waste Management is asking all residents who place their garbage and recycling outside to place it at the edge of the driveway or to dig a ledge in the snowbank for easier pick-up. Currently, crews are having trouble collecting waste and recycling from the top

of snowbanks or those containers or bags that are out of view.

### CHRISTIAN GROUP WANTS EXCLUSIVITY

A Christian Campus Club at the Arizona State University is trying to prevent gays and non-Christians from joining, reported the *Chicago Tribune* on December 28, 2004.

The group, a Chapter of the Christian Legal Society, was not initially recognized by the university; however, the society's headquarters is in the process of issuing a lawsuit that challenges the university's anti-discrimination policies.

Spokespeople for the Arizona State University noted that they had no intention of settling with the Christian Legal Society reported the *Tribune*. Despite the firm stance of the university, the Christian group has had past successes at other universities, including the Ohio State University where the group is allowed to form exclusive clubs.

Compiled by Fraser King and Caitlin Howlett

# Vocal Cord

What do you think of WLUSU proposing to offer dental insurance for no more than \$120 per year?



"I would be against it, because I'm already covered under a dental plan."

**JUSTIN MASON, 1ST YEAR ECONOMICS**



"I have no opinion because my parents have dental insurance."

**LITTLE HOUSE MEN IN THE DINING HALL**



"Isn't everyone covered under their parents?"

**RYAN BROOKS, 3RD YEAR POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY**



"I'm covered under my Dad's plan."

**JASON DEL GENIO, 1ST YEAR ECONOMICS**



"I guess it would be good for some people, for those who don't have coverage under their parents."

**COURTNEY MESSENGER, 2ND YEAR PSYCHOLOGY**



"I think it's a good idea because some people aren't covered under their parents."

**ANTONIETA HENRIQUEZ, 2ND YEAR SOCIOLOGY**

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**THE CORD WEEKLY'S...  
5 DAY ACTION NEWS  
WEATHER FORECAST**



Today	
<b>Morning:</b> Ice pellets -10°C 100% POP	<b>Afternoon:</b> Light snow -5°C 80% POP

Friday
Isolated flurries High 0°C Low -8°C 30% POP

Saturday
Variable cloudiness High 3°C Low -6°C 30% POP

Sunday
Rain or snow High 4°C Low -1°C 40% POP

Monday
Light Rain High 8°C Low -1°C 90% POP

**Cord Action News Hotline?!  
884 0710  
x3564**



Waterloo Regional Police

The Waterloo Regional Police have issued an arrest warrant for Derek John Woolley, 23 of Oakville for charges of robbery, assault with a weapon, aggravated assault and breach of probation after police responded to an emergency call on Weber St. on December 27. Anyone with information is asked to call Division 1 Detectives, 653-7700 ext. 4433, or Crime Stoppers 1 800 222 TIPS.

- from **Elections**, page 2

The elections executive are hoping to hold an information session but they are mainly relying on voters to inform themselves of the options.

The Senate is a body that

manages all academic issues. Seven undergraduate representatives sit on it. The Board of Governors is an all-encompassing group that governs the finances of the university and includes two undergrad student representatives.

# Bag o' crime

**CAUSE DISTURBANCE**  
2:44am Thursday December 2

Officers attended Willison Hall in response to a report from residence staff that there had been a fight. Investigation revealed that two residents had carried on an altercation that had started earlier off campus and some punches were exchanged. The matter will be sent to the Judicial Affairs Council.

**CAUSE DISTURBANCE**  
3:14am Friday December 3

Officers responded to the front of the King St Residence after receiving a report of people throwing things at windows. On arrival they found a non WLU group of males involved in a verbal altercation with a resident over some comments made about his girlfriend. The parties were separated and sent on their way.

**COUNTERFEIT**  
11:13pm Saturday December 4

Turret staff reported receiving a counterfeit twenty dollar bill.

**MISCHIEF**  
3:19am Sunday December 5

A UoW student was observed throwing himself against the

windows at the WLU greenhouse at the rear of St Michael's Campus damaging them. Investigation continues.

**SUSPICIOUS PERSON**  
3:47am Sunday December 5

A resident at the King St Residence reported that an unidentified male opened her unlocked door, walked in and then apologized indicating he was in the wrong room and left. He was last seen leaving the floor with another male. A check of the bldg was made with negative results.

**CRIME OF THE WEEK**  
*'cause I got high'*

**INTOXICATED IN PUBLIC**  
2:05 Sunday December 12

A non WLU male visiting a resident student was taken to the Detox Centre due to his intoxicated condition.

**MEDICAL ASSIST**  
3:45pm Sunday December 5

An ambulance was called for a WLU student who reportedly took some sleeping pills after a night of drinking. He was transported to hospital.

**BREAK, ENTER & THEFT**  
December 7 - 8

ITS staff reported that person(s) unknown broke into an office in the Arts C Wing and stole 3 computers and some DVD burners. Regional Police Forensic Identification Unit was called to gather physical evidence.

**ATTEMPT BREAK & ENTER**  
December 6 - 7

Person(s) unknown attempted to break into an office in the Science Building. It appears that entry was not gained and nothing is missing.

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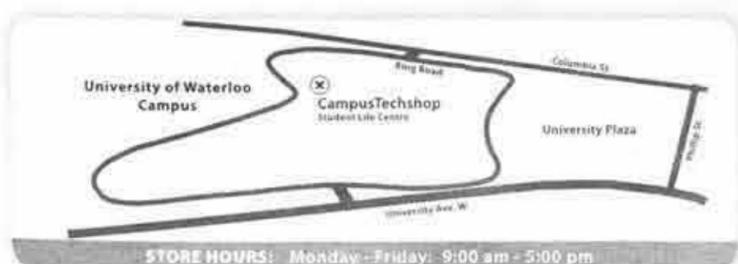
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1GB

# WLUSU Board of Directors report card

## Jennifer Asselin and April Cunningham evaluate the performance of the Students' Union's elected representatives

- REVIEW, from cover

The other important issue faced by the BOD has been the internal issue of the drinking incident during the annual Dean's Trip. Many directors feel as though this has created an awkward divide amongst the Management Committee, thus affecting communication between the MC and the BOD. Communication is key in dealing with student issues and if the representatives and appointed members can't communicate properly in the first place, how can students expect them to communicate properly with them?

As a young board, it seems that a lot of knowledge was to be gained at the beginning of their term and now that that's under their belts, directors are able to accomplish a bit more however it could be too little, too late.

Ten of the 17 people interviewed recognized Fraser McCracken as one of the best directors on the BOD



**STEVEN WELKER**  
WLUSU PRESIDENT

Welker was voted in as a candidate who students believed would be capable and efficient as a leader of a corporation. His background as Vice President: Finance and Administration prepared him with the experience that has made him effective at significant projects such as the OPA negotiations with university administration. He treats WLUSU as a corporation first, and as a representative body second, so students often get lost in his ideals.

As it seems, Welker is and always will be the VP: Finance in his views and actions.



**ANTHONY PISCITELLI**  
VP: UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

The role of VP: University Affairs is really what you make of it and Piscitelli has done a fantastic job at exposing student concerns to the outside community.

Piscitelli puts in more hours than expected and has been able to find middle ground between the Management Committee and the Board of Directors despite being excluded from the 'team' meetings held by his colleagues.

He's done excessive work in trying to implement a bus pass

In meetings with the BOD, Welker often belittles directors' propositions and pushes most questions and criticisms away from group discussion, encouraging directors to see him in his office. He is professional but conniving and most directors – not to mention students – have lost trust in his ethics. This began when he first enforced a 'procedure' that disallowed underage students from attending Turret bar nights then escalated when it was revealed that he drank from a Texas Mickey in a gondola while on the Dean's Trip last summer. He has not been able to hold his

Management Committee together, and holds 'team meetings' to which the VP: UA is not invited. Despite his lack of credibility, Welker has done a lot of work in planning the construction of a Student Centre at Laurier Brantford, which will undoubtedly become a landmark and precursor to a developing student-friendly atmosphere at the satellite campus.

Most of Welker's work has been started by President's past, however; he is doing a good job on completing said projects.

He has the benefit of being a director last year to help him in understanding policies and issues.

On the down side some might feel that the way in which Piscitelli dealt with Welker's drinking episode was inappropriate and juvenile.

Overall, Piscitelli does a good job representing student needs and wants and puts action behind his words.



**LYNDSLEY JONES**  
CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Jones has the BOD world resting on her shoulders. She tends to be a perfectionist and instead of delegating odd jobs or research, she will do everything herself. In short, she's burning the candle at both ends.

This could be partly because of the role she had to take on as vice-chair of last year's board when the chair was not fulfilling his duties.

The most experienced director, Jones looks out for students

and their academics the most having instituted academic sessions during Orientation Week.

As Chair of the BOD, Jones is expected to be neutral; however many feel as though she is biased towards the MC and Welker in trying to sway the BOD in their decision making.

Jones started as Chair not always seeming confident in her rulings however she seems to have taken more of an assertive role as time has passed.

She has also made a lot of effort in keeping the Brantford Campus Council involved and up to date on issues and topics faced by the BOD.

Jones is also a director who tends to wear her heart on her sleeve which hinders her ability to be objective at times. She pours her heart and soul into her work on the BOD and it shows.



**JEN MITCHELL**

As Chair of the Constitutional and Operational Development Committee (COD), Mitchell has put a lot of work into the different policies used by WLUSU. She is also the Chair of the Third Floor Renovations Committee although other than the new comfy couches and Leadership Development Centre, there doesn't seem to be a lot of tangibles going on there.

Mitchell has also been doing a lot of behind the scenes work on professor and course evaluations which she also worked on last year.

Mitchell doesn't talk a lot during board meetings unless there is a COD issue at hand, so the majority of her work is seen outside of the board room as many of the other directors pointed out. She has also spent a significant amount of time looking at Brantford issues and making trips to the satellite campus, keeping in close connection with the Brantford Campus Council.



**TIFFANY STROBEL**

Strobel is concerned with keeping the dual corporate and representative roles of a WLUSU director balanced and attempts to keep both in consideration. She has done some work as the OUSA representative and has worked a little with Piscitelli on a petition for lowering the provincial drinking age.

With regards to her platform, Strobel had intentions of working on things dealing with the Dining Hall and the meal plan, however met a road block when she found out that such things fall under the University's Operating Procedures Agreement and has nothing to do with the BOD.

However, overall Strobel has failed to make a substantial impact on the board. A death in the family has limited her commitment and lowered her attendance at meetings, but when she does attend, she has a tendency to pass notes and contribute minimally to discussions. Strobel has seemed to become disenchanted as a director and not much effort is to be expected from her for the remainder of her term.



**NICK MURPHY**

Murphy is vocal and quite easily the most impassioned director who sits on the board. This was evident in one meeting where he announced he would not be standing for the national anthem for political reasons. He seems absent-minded and has missed a large number of meetings. His temper has flared more than once – particularly during discussions regarding risk management and disallowing underage students to come to the Turret.

Murphy was elected as a representative of the Brantford campus but early last fall, he moved to Waterloo, promising to continue his representation with frequent visits and by keeping his finger on the pulse of the satellite campus. Murphy has done so by making about seven trips thus far to Brantford and making himself available to students there.

Attendance has also been an issue with Murphy, reflecting a lack of interest in BOD meetings.

Murphy is a valuable director as a student advocate and his activist sense adds colour to the campus, but he is quickly running out of time for taking tangible actions at Laurier.



**FRASER MCCRACKEN**

McCracken continuously goes above and beyond the duty of a director and stands out among this year's board as an individual who follows through on his commitments. McCracken immediately fought to reduce Orientation Week volunteer fees which resulted in reimbursements for all volunteers. He was integral in the decision to allow underage students into the Turret despite opposition by the President and Management. He is currently working with Piscitelli to reduce the number of exams in a 24 hour period as well as reducing midterm workload for students.

Despite his relatively young age, most directors look up to McCracken and give him a great deal of respect. He is there to represent students and is always on top of the current hot issues. His idea to form a committee on Visibility and Communications was a good one, but red tape has slowed the process of effecting anything other than updating the website, holding ineffective open forums and buying board clothing.

This is one director we hope to see run again.



**ALYSIA WYVILLE**

Wyville was elected because she believed she could bring a different perspective to the board. In an atmosphere where complicated budgets and organizational motions are brought forth, Wyville is not afraid to ask 'why' and in doing so, acts as an adequate representative for the average Laurier student. In her roles on the Finance and Building Committee as well as the Elections and Referenda Committee, Wyville does not let any details slip past that she does not believe will benefit students. She brings a sense of honesty and a feminist viewpoint to discussions.

However, Wyville is one of several directors who has lost enthusiasm since her election. She believes that any difference could have been made outside of WLUSU and her activism seems to carry little weight within the corporate binds of the Union. Her frustration is evident although she has been trying to make her mark with events such as the People's Potato, an offering of free lunch for broke students, as well as the poorly attended democratic rally, held in November.



**TUDOR COSTACHE**

One of the most vocal directors this year, Costache has done an excellent job on micro-managing within the BOD. He is not afraid to speak his mind and to let the other directors as well as the MC know what he is thinking. He often questions Welker directly on decisions he has made such as those concerning size and cost of food portions found with the Terrace.

Although outspoken, this can also be seen as counterproductive when trying to discuss serious topics during board meetings that are already running late. Costache will often ask ludicrous questions along with those that are actually pertinent to the topic.

At the beginning of the year Costache did a lot of work specifically dealing with hiring practices within WLUSU and the STARR interviewing process. He has also been active in researching the cuts to the scholarship grid. Costache is also a part of a few committees including the Grant Fund Committee who decides where the WLUSU grants should go.

Overall, Costache has been very good at representation and communication which was his goal according to his platform, even making himself available to students in the Concourse. However, one director pointed out that if there is no drama occurring in the board room, he finds himself bored and tries to create his own.



**TREVOR CRESSWELL**

Cresswell is efficient and does not like time to be wasted in meetings. He has taken on numerous roles in sub-committees, the most substantial being Chair of WLUSU's Strategic Plan Committee. However, committee meetings have deliberately been scheduled at a time when two directors can not attend, which has caused some contention. For the most part, Cresswell remains neutral in debates and does not come in to meetings with any bias. He is willing to compromise and attempts not to make things seem worse than they are. This was evident in the fall when he and Laura Gray formed a committee that found Steve Welker not guilty of violating the Risk Management policy when he drank alcohol at an off-campus event.

Cresswell also seems to do a good job at balancing his time between his role as director and Residence Life Don.

Cresswell's voice of reason is a welcomed one in many heated debates. He has carried his weight and represents both students and the corporation well especially considering his vague platform.



**DAN ALLISON**

Overall, Allison has done a great job at sticking to his platform which focuses and is solely based around accessibility. Allison has made sure that all new projects that have been worked on this year including the Wilf's project and the Third Floor Renovations, have been accessible for those who need it.

However, having a one-dimensional platform needs to be backed up by work in other areas since being a director means representing the needs of all students, not one select group. Allison has done very little other than working on accessibility. Allison recognizes that he needs to do work in other areas and has plans to start looking at an ethical purchasing policy for WLUSU along with VP: UA Anthony Piscitelli.

Committee-wise, Allison is a member of many, most of which focus on accessibility. He also sits on the Constitutional and Operational Development Committee (COD), however he has missed a number of meetings.

He has also mentioned that he is more likely to talk to directors one-on-one to ask questions about motions or the like instead of bringing up issues in BOD meetings.

Allison is quick to note that the BOD isn't what he expected which is probably why he's focused so much on what interests himself rather than the entire student body in which he represents, which is understandable.



**JODI DAM**

Dam essentially ran on a platform centred around her knowledge of Brantford and the fact that she attended Brantford campus, however, since being elected, Dam has moved to the Waterloo campus and no longer has everyday contact with the satellite campus. Dam has however made a total of eight or nine trips to Brantford Campus and says that she constantly makes herself available to those students by letting them know in advance when she will be making a trip.

She has done a good job of always bringing up the campus that often gets shunned. For example when something was mentioned about putting snow tires on the Foot van's at the Waterloo campus she was quick to make sure Brantford's Foot van was getting the same attention.

A focus on Brantford campus is important, however Jodi doesn't seem to have the same passion for the students on the Waterloo campus.

Often times Dam does not seem to know all of the details of what she is talking about during meetings before she begins discussing a topic making her look unprepared. Dam admitted to a lack of knowledge at the beginning of the year, however, she feels as though she knows a whole lot more now but as members of the gallery, it doesn't necessarily show.



**SANJAY OJJO**

One of the more promising and enthusiastic directors during the election last year, Ojjo has not lived up to certain expectations. Ojjo has not brought forth any original motions or ideas to the BOD and instead takes most of his time in meetings to congratulate the MC on a job well done.

With a very vague platform, Ojjo focused on representation and being available to students. Ojjo says he has been active in approaching students and talking to them about their concerns however, he often focuses on those students that he knows such as those he was an Icebreaker for, rather than getting general student opinions.

When voting on motions, Ojjo has obtained a number of times, his reasoning being that he hasn't always been informed. The question raised would be why isn't he getting informed?

Specifically, Ojjo is the Chair of the Health Plan Committee and has done a very good job in keeping people up to date and bringing forth student concerns in their meetings.



**MATT GOUETT  
VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD**

As vice-chair of the board, it is Gouett's responsibility to be the voice of the entire board during Management Committee meetings as well as to act as a liaison between both the BOD and the MC. It is often seen throughout meetings, however, that Gouett is likely to side along with the MC without challenging their viewpoints going so far as to mock other directors alongside WLUSU President Steve Welker.

Gouett also has a responsibility in his Residence Life Don position which takes up a large part of his time, impeding on the time he can spend on BOD issues. In his defense however, he has started his own Student Safety Committee - a large part of what his platform was based upon.

Also to his credit, this is the first year Gouett has been a part of student politics and to have made the leap to vice-chair is impressive. He needs to focus more on communication and actually accomplishing those things he discussed in his platform rather than just talking about them.

It is also Gouett's responsibility to organize Laurier Student Caucus meetings which bring together members of the BOD, Senate and Board of Governors to discuss issues. So far there have been no meetings held. Gouett's response is that since so many of the students participating in these groups are the same people, he does not feel the need for said meetings.



**KEVIN SPAHICH**

Spahich's platform was very one-dimensional, focusing on finance and fiscal responsibility. In order to complete what he said he would do in his proposal, Spahich had it pretty easy by being elected as Chair of the Finance and Building Committee.

Although focused on finance, Spahich has done a good job at balancing his interests. He has represented students well by constantly bringing forth students' concerns within the weekly BOD meetings. During Orientation Week he did a lot of work with regards to student line-ups for lab sign-ups within the business department.

Spahich is one of the more vocal directors who asks questions not for the sake of hearing his voice like other directors but rather relevant questions that need to be asked.



**DAVID ALEXANDER**

Alexander almost always has a question to ask and aims to hold the Management Committee accountable for their decisions. He is not giving up on such projects as finding cheap meal alternatives for students and reducing waste with the use of trays in the Terrace despite hesitation from the President and Management Committee. His work as Chair of the Elections and Referenda committee has been quite significant as 2004 marked the Brantford campus' first "Bouncil" elections.

Alexander has also been a strong advocate for the Part Time Faculty negotiations and has pointed out how their working conditions do affect students' education. However, some may see this as a more personal cause for Alexander.

One of Alexander's first endeavors was to move for WLUSU's Human Resources to take a critical look at the infamous STARR hiring procedures. He is very committed despite his cross-section of roles.

Alexander's thoroughness and heavy involvement may be his very downfall as a director. He seems drained and lacking the time to do the projects he wants to finish before his term is up. Although he asks good questions, his long-windedness adds to the length of meetings and he is not always well-researched in his claims.

## In our opinion...

Same old, same old seems to be the attitude taken with this year's Board of Directors. The same promises are made every year, these same things don't get accomplished and finally directors get lazy in their roles come second semester as a new election quickly approaches.

It was evident in interviewing all of the elected members, that not a single director is as passionate or enthusiastic about their role as they were on the posters that got them a seat in the board room. As time goes by, directors become disenchanted with their roles as they sit and wait for someone new to come in and take over - and this year's BOD is no different.

Often times directors seem to have earth shattering ideas they include in their platform and after being elected by a largely uninformed student body who doesn't know better, they realize half the things they intended on doing aren't within the BOD's jurisdiction.

With a new election on the horizon it will be interesting to see if those obtainable promises will be fulfilled such as a promise for a 10% fee reduction from your very own President or whether the old board will just be 'sit-ins' until the new board walks in with their own empty promises. Voter beware.

All photos contributed by WLUSU

# THE CORD WEEKLY

A proud member of the Canadian University Press

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## Quote Of The Week

"I never thought I'd be the diamond girl type"  
- April Cunningham, on her engagement ring

Next Issue: January 12

# A new wave of support

It's everywhere you look. Well, almost everywhere. The Laurier community has been a little on the slow side when it comes to coordinating charitable activities for the Boxing Day Tsunami. Unlike many of Laurier's past charitable causes but typical of natural disasters, the tsunami was unexpected. No whoopee cushion benefits could have been planned for this one.

We did great things for The Kidney Foundation Of Canada and The Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. It seems odd that so little is being done on campus given our strong commitment to charities.

The Government of Canada has agreed to match, dollar for dollar, any donations made before the 11th of January. Student Publications has already pledged \$1000 to the relief effort with another \$500 on the way. Certain student groups are up to their own charitable fundraisers but it's clear that the word is not getting out to the students.

WLUSU, the biggest student organization on campus, has yet to even discuss the topic in any serious way in board meetings and should work with the WLU administration to make sure they get a sizeable amount of money into the International Red Cross before Canada's 'dollar-for-dollar' pledge expires.

One of the major criticisms of universities is our lack of connection with the world around us. We're often seen as living in the intellectual 'Ivory Tower,' lost in books and theories. As students we're doubly targeted since we're also part of a more apathetic age cohort - the 18-25ers.

Well if people are saying we don't care and we don't do anything but read let's prove them

## Give the GRT pass a chance

The vote is on. This spring students will see a referendum question on their election ballot that asks them if full privileges on the Grand River Transit system is worth \$79 dollars a year. The catch is, you wouldn't be able to opt out of the yearly fee, no matter how close you live to campus or how little you use it.

At first glance the no-opt-out clause seems to be ridiculous. Why should a student on Bricker Ave. be forced to pay for a bus? But when you look at it, Laurier students see so little of the K-W region. We all live in a very, very



The Editors' View

wrong and donate money while we buy our books. The WLU administration should reconfigure the OneCard and debit systems to allow students the option of tacking on a donation as they buy their books. It's as simple as having the cashier ask, "Would you like to make a donation to the relief effort?"

Benefit concerts and Concourse fundraising booths are also possibilities in this fundraising cause. And if the Turret and Wilf's helped head up an empty beer bottle drive, Laurier's failed-liver drinking community could do more than a little to help - even if it is from the comfort of our living rooms and campus bar stools.

The major item in need isn't canned goods or strong backs - it's open wallets. It may sound callous and detached of us to simply give money but it will have the biggest impact in the lives of those in Indonesia, Sumatra, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand. It's not simply disaster relief - it's reconstruction as well. That takes dollars and rupiah not Mr. Noodle and Spam.

The Federal Government's January 11th deadline is coming quickly and to make the money go further, make donations early. As cliché as it sounds, every little bit helps. For those that are interested, WLUSP will have a drop box in its offices in the basement of Mac House Residence and all donations will go to the Red Cross.

tight bubble around the school (although local residents would disagree) and it would benefit a large number of us if we could ride the bus.

Suddenly the long, cold walks to the bar or theatre would be gone. The number of cultural events that students could attend would go up in both Kitchener and Waterloo and the late night service would bring so many other options to the students that rarely go further than Phil's.

The cost is definitely steep at first glance but the benefits of mobility can't be understated.



Bryn Boyce

From The Comfort Of Your Living Room

# Film grant is the first step

Stefan Sereda



Arts Editor

Toronto's film and TV industry is getting money for nothing and will soon pump out flicks for free. Well, not quite free, as \$48 million doesn't really foot the bill for feature film production these days. War movie *Pearl Harbor*, which boasts the highest movie budget ever, cost a whopping \$135 million.

Still, I'm not going to look a gift horse in the mouth, for fear that the Ontario Government will cut its head off and I'll wake up screaming when I find it in my bed. The Province's \$48 million boost to Toronto's film and TV industry is the biggest gift to Canadian culture in recent memory, even if it does encourage more foreign production in the province.

Canadian moviemaking took a big hit last year. There we were basking in the glory of American interest, when our dollar soared and intimidated little Ronnie Howard and the other filmmakers who had just come to Toronto. The problem with economic prosperity is that you grow out of the "exploited by the United States" phase.

But the flip side to globalization and the 11-18% tax credit to foreign productions is the increase in Canadian employ-



ment in this field. Filmmakers who weren't getting by before will now be able to barely get by. And since Hollywood script writers have been considering a strike, Canadian scripts are looking more and more appealing.

The possibility for more Canadian stories is important, as this will be a tremendous asset to the promotion of Canadian culture. Canadian films have always been searching for an identity of their own, and soon this identity may begin to come together. Last year, *The Barbarian Invasions*, a film dealing with the shortcomings of the Canadian health care system, won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film. The 2004 Sundance Film Festival saw the most Canadian entries in the festival's history. In contrast, the Toronto Film Festival is now the biggest in the world.

While *The Barbarian Invasions* seems to call for more funding to other important interests in Canada, such as public health care, \$48 million does not begin to rival American spending on its movie industry. Hollywood releases appalling bad film after appalling bad film, with inflated budgets that leave the intelligent film audience asking, "couldn't they have spent that money on

the poor, or at least on a movie that wasn't about a talking zebra that wants to be a race horse?" Even if the production values are less spectacular, at least the scripts selected to be produced will have to have some value, as \$48 million won't go a long way. The script about the talking beaver that wants to build dams for humans to live in might get pushed aside for something more like *Exotica*.

If only the Federal and Provincial Governments had more money to give to the arts. Then maybe the phrase "it's Canadian" wouldn't be an insult attached to every movie made on this side of the border with a distinctive film stock. Maybe our artists wouldn't head South to avoid the Canadian economic winter the way our doctors do. Maybe the DAWB would have heat after 4 o'clock and Arts students wouldn't have to attend classes in a primary school. And there might even be the glimmer of hope that I'll be able to get a job when I graduate.

Thanks to the Province, the Hollywood aspirations of Canada's upcoming generation of movie brats seems a lot more attainable, if colder and a lot closer to home.

# SEND LETTERS TO THE CORD!

cord@wlusp.com



# The key to Canada's future

Stephen Harper



Special to CUP

If Canada is to be competitive in the global economy of the 21st century we must have the best post-secondary education system possible. Perhaps more importantly, we also need widespread access to quality post-secondary education to ensure that we have better informed citizens, a richer culture and more fulfilling lives.

From a public policy perspective, our investment in post-secondary education is advantageous to the economy and society as a whole because university and college graduates make a higher than average contribution to the tax revenues upon which the rest of our social services depend. The 15 percent of adult Canadians who have university degrees contribute 35 percent of the taxes collected in this country. Thus, the future of our social safety net is inextricably linked to building and maintaining a quality system of post-secondary education.

Education is an area of provincial responsibility in our federation, but since the Second World War, the federal government has played an important role — in co-operation with the provinces — in supporting post-secondary education through the funding of university-based research and direct support for students and their families through loans and grants.

I believe that the federal and provincial governments, working in partnership, both have a responsibility to ensure that no student who has the desire and ability to learn is denied a post-secondary education due to lack of financial means. The biggest barrier to post-secondary education today is the rising cost of tuition fees. To address this challenge, governments will have to reassess the existing student loan system and deal with the issue of increasing student debt loads.

During the mid 1990s, the federal Liberal government balanced the budget primarily by reducing transfers to the



provinces — including transfers for post-secondary education. More recently, even as increased federal dollars have been found for health and other areas (including advertising contracts and wasteful firearms registries), the Canada Social Transfer, which helps the provinces fund post-secondary education, has been sharply reduced. The result of this Liberal neglect has been a 135 percent tuition increase over 10 years, higher student debt loads, larger classes, shrinking numbers of faculty, and crumbling facilities. While tuition fees increased dramatically, the grant portions of student loans have not kept pace. This has meant that the average debt burden on a graduating student ranges between \$22,000 and \$25,000 per student.

The Conservative party has proposed several measures to deal with these challenges in our policy statement and our platform in the last election, including:

- Working with the provinces to help overcome barriers to access to the current Canada Student Loans program;
- Increase family income thresholds for loan eligibility or even eliminating the inclusion of parental income in assessing student loan applications altogether;
- Introducing income contingent loan repayment to give graduates more flexibility in repaying their loans;
- Redirecting funds from the narrow Millennium Scholarship program to the broader Canada Student Loans program;
- New measures to encourage parents to save for their children's education;
- A Registered Lifetime Savings Program that would allow people to withdraw savings tax-free to pay for major expenses such as post-secondary or continuing education for themselves or their children.

One measure the federal government could easily undertake to help post-secondary students would be the removal of the tax-

able status of scholarships, bursaries and grants over \$3,000. Students who earn this financial help through their own accomplishments should not be punished by having to pay higher taxes.

In addition to addressing the needs of students and their families, we also have to address the needs of colleges and universities as institutions. The Conservative party believes that the best support the federal government can provide to the work of our post-secondary institutions is through independent, merit-based research granting agencies such as the Medical Research Council, National Research Council, National Science and Engineering Research Council, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. A Conservative government will ensure that these bodies have sufficient resources to do their important work without political interference.

These measures we have proposed to help students and their families with the costs of post-secondary education and to assist post-secondary institutions directly (especially by supporting research) are by no means a panacea. It will take years of rebuilding to overcome a decade of Liberal inattention to post-secondary education and we recognize that the new Conservative party still has to refine its ideas in this area. Our proposals on post-secondary education — like the rest of our policies — will be discussed and debated at our upcoming policy convention in March in Montreal. It is our hope that students and faculty from across Canada will consult, observe and participate in this policy development process so that the next Conservative government is one that gives post-secondary education the attention that it truly needs and deserves.

Stephen Harper is leader of the Conservative Party of Canada.

# How to live through a boring course

Krista Shackelford



Unshackled

I have 17 hours to develop a good attitude about opera.

On Tuesday morning, my opera history class will begin. At 10 am. The only thing worse than learning about opera is learning about opera at 10 in the morning.

Don't get me wrong: opera has some good qualities. Melodrama. Sex. Gaudy costumes. Sex! These are elements of opera that I can appreciate. But watching giggling large ladies in obscenely loud clothing is easier than taking an opera history class.

Opera history involves memorization. Opera history involves dead Italians that I don't have a hope of remembering for the exam. Opera history involves listening to sopranos sing loudly about dying. Why do all opera characters have to die loudly? If I ever write an opera, all of the characters will come to quiet ends, like suffocation.

I spent a lot of time over the holidays complaining about my upcoming opera history class. Most people have been sympathetic. But not my mother.

Maybe expecting sympathy from my mom was a little naive. First of all, my mom actively enjoys opera. She has season tickets, meaning that she actually pays to see singing ladies with heaving bosoms sing every month.

Secondly, my mother has a better attitude than I do. She is able to enjoy the melodrama of opera without taking it too seriously. While I roll my eyes at loud death scenes, my mom thinks that they are amusing.

So my mother spent five excruciating minutes trying to convince me that opera is a tremendously exciting area of study. She failed. I was about to excuse myself and go hide in the attic when she hit me with a ques-

tion. "Why exactly," she asked, "are you under the impression that you should enjoy all of your courses? Get over yourself! You're hardly the first student ever to take a boring course."

My mom hauled me down to the basement and shoved a musty cardboard box into my hands. This box was filled with horrible things. University essays from the 1960's with titles like: "A Comparison of the Accumulation and Ablation Rates of Warm and Cold Glaciers." "The Effect of railway transportation on the economic geography of the prairies." Titles that would make your eyes glaze over.

So, it turns out that opera history is fascinating stuff compared to the accumulation and ablation rates of glaciers. Also, while it's important to take courses that interest you, there is something to be said for my mom's point of view. She grew up in small town Manitoba and was the only girl in her class to go to university. Nevermind the course content, she was excited just to be at university. As a second-generation university student, I tend to be jaded about the university experience. But for my mom, the novelty of university was enough to make even the most treacherous class tolerable.

University involves boring classes. But it also involves learning, romance, partying, late night coffee runs and new ideas. Instead of complaining about boring courses, we should appreciate how lucky we are to be in such a stimulating environment. Our university careers deserve more than the seasoned nonchalance with which we treat them.

Of course, none of this makes opera history any more exciting. But it's helpful to put this course into perspective with the other aspects of Laurier that I find enjoyable. To all of you who are experiencing your own "opera history" this semester, good luck. Only 12 weeks to go... let the semester begin!

# Letters to the Editor

cord@wlusp.com



## Drop the rose-coloured glasses, Mr. Togman

Re: (Adore thy southern neighbour, International, Dec. 1)

While I myself (more than occasionally) fall into the category of American basher, it is for good reason. Mr. Togman, throughout his piece, bashes the UN for allegedly failing to intervene (militarily, perhaps?) in global conflicts. He then goes on to say that, "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." Bullshit!

The United States is not referred to as "America the Aggressor" around the world because of its "altruistic" stance on liberty and justice for all. Instead, many of the conflicts and wars in which it involves itself in are a direct result of their ignorant and porous foreign policy. The Taliban? A now-curdled relationship originally intended to fend off the Soviets in the

1980s. Saddam? A former ally to the US in the 1980s, who unfortunately misread America's signals of how much he was "allowed" to take of Kuwait and who unrepentantly reduced Iraqi oil exports. Osama and Al Qaeda? Former (possibly current) business associates of the US, who, due to their witnessing of America's unqualified and unjust support of Israeli hegemony in the Middle East, decided to punch the bully back. China? Do you, Mr. Togman, honestly believe that when two tyrants consort, a dove is created? China, contrary to popular assumptions, has no plans to democratize, instead, they plan to roll back any inking of democracy that might have "snuck in" since the 1920s and 30s and are pressing hard to de-democratize Hong Kong.

As for your feeble comparison of Canadian hypocrisy with respect to ignoring the UN: I would hardly compare the illegal occupation of Iraq by the US as on par with Ontario's public support of Catholic education. Granted, both are injustices, but Catholic education in Ontario has not resulted in more than 100,000 civilian

deaths in Iraq!

Lastly, here is a progression on your challenge: While it is true that the US has remained consistent in its convictions to eradicate "terrorism," is killing innocent women and children abroad, supporting state-sponsored terrorism (Israel), incentivizing proliferation of nuclear arms, ignoring domestic concerns, or allowing record deficits consistent with the status of "world superpower?" I think not.

Here's my challenge to you: I challenge you to get off America's dick, take off your rose-coloured glasses and see America's political institutions for what they really are: Manipulators, Liars, Thieves, Bigots, and Fear-mongers.

Jason DeSouza

## The WLUSU bureaucracy misses the value of the Ryan Duncans

I'm writing in response to the article about Ryan Duncan at the Laurier Brantford Campus. I am currently a

fourth year student at the Waterloo Campus and I attended Brantford for my first and second year at Laurier. I was heavily involved in the campus: co-ordinating frosh week, foot patrol, residence councils etc...

The Brantford campus was an awesome experience. The problem with Brantford now is that all these individuals want to impose WLUSU standards and conducts on the campus to make it the same as Waterloo. Having been able to attend both campuses and seeing the vested interests of WLUSU that go on, Brantford does not need WLUSU there. Things ran smoothly without the presence of WLUSU when I attended the small campus. So what if Duncan had a sack of weed in his pocket and told some people they could drink in the Foot office? I don't know if this is true but that's besides the point.

Shall I start exposing the vested interests of WLUSU to the rest of the campus from what I've seen here in Waterloo? Maybe I should. I went to school with this guy for two years and trust me, he's a good kid. So he likes to smoke some pot once in a while, who doesn't? The guy got shit done,

and was a responsible volunteer. You don't fire him and make him look like the bad guy. But I guess this is coming from a Students Union who has first and second year representatives who also tell individuals who are managing our campus bars (Wilf's & Turret), who have years of experience in the bar business, how to manage a bar.

These WLUSU people at Brantford talk about all the problems and concerns the campus has, but all they ever do is use their Students' Union power in showing the negative aspects. Bring back the old Holstein Rez days and, WLUSU, let Brantford do their own thing!

Michael Dzus

## Let's keep it sophisticated.

This letter is in response to the usage of the back cover of the December 1 edition of the Cord Weekly. Is there no better use for a page of the student paper than to "report" on excrement and sexual favours? I am fully aware

# Lord of the revelations

Chad McCordic



Extended Sequence

I was at my computer late in the morning before school began this semester. I was skimming online newspapers for coverage of the Tsunami in Southeast Asia. As usual, the tones of these online pieces were becoming crass and political. Has Canada pledged enough? Will U.S. Pledge more? Will the Western countries actually pay up? What face does America want to present with this disaster?

I was fed up. I wanted to know about those who survived and the stories of those who didn't. I want to know what's happening there, not what we're doing here. But, I suppose this is the way information is delivered in 2005.

I moved away from the media shout-fest and popped in my final activity of the holidays: *The Special Extended Edition DVD of The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King*. It was four hours and ten minutes and my eyes hurt afterward, but here are a few thoughts recollected during the experience.

@45 minutes: People are paying lots of money for this DVD. This money could go to Tsunami victims. Wait a minute. I paid lots of money for this DVD.

@71 minutes: I wish Gandalf were real. Imagine if Gandalf

could advise government leaders around the world in these woeful days of disasters. Gandalf obviously has no political affiliation, so all his advice would be pure and unmotivated. And he's wise. Gandalf would even have words of comfort for those in Southeast Asia. He also knows how to take down a Cave Troll in seconds. Which is awesome.

## What lessons can The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King Extended Edition teach us about the South Asian Tsunami?

@73 minutes: Remind myself of the interview with Archbishop Desmond Tutu in the current edition of newsweek.com. Tutu is a South-African Anglican Bishop who won the Nobel Prize for his Anti-Apartheid work. The interview was his thoughts on the war in Iraq ("How I wish that politicians could have the courage and the humility to admit that they have made mistakes") and the disaster relief ("One just hopes that the world will continue to respond with what is usually remarkable generosity and com-

passion.") But he didn't have the bitterness of the pundits or the sour snobbiness of the "experts" interviewed elsewhere. He sounded wise. Hm...Gandalf = Bishop Desmond Tutu?

@75 minutes: Holy Crap! Maybe we do have Wizards and Sages sharing their pure wisdom with the modern world. Maybe Desmond Tutu is a model for how religious leaders should interact with politics! As outsiders! As advisors! As comfort in dark times. The Bishop Tutu said it best himself: "I keep having to remind people that religion in and of itself is morally neutral." The true religious leader doesn't affiliate himself with a political party (unlike the moral majority in America); he or she stands outside our culture and observes in order to advise.

@79 minutes: So, for all the potential religious leaders, this means you can have a vantage point that most of us don't have. Share it with us, give us a view of the bigger picture of things. Because let's face it, obviously we don't have a good idea what's truly going on all the time.

@80 minutes: Extended Action Sequence. Lose train of thought.

@227 minutes: What was I thinking about again?

# Cellphones: from tweenagers to business people

## New cellphones and the never ending push toward connectivity

Chris Clemens



Last Year's Entertainment

I don't have a cell phone. I realize this is a grave admission, forever severing me from the twentysomething hipster archetype that I so adore. I know that this denies me permission to the illegal Taiwanese massage parlour of coolness (with a happy ending). I'm aware.

It wouldn't be so bad if I even had one of those old-school Will Smith phones, the kind so big that the bottom half actually reaches to your mouth while the receiver rests on your ear. You know, the kind with the jiggly rubber antennas. But alas, I have nothing – no full-colour screen, no Tupac ringtones, no OMFG LOL text messaging.

On a regular basis, all my friends stand around comparing their tiny gods, proudly displaying must-have features and rapidly increasing miniaturization: "Look! Look! When I have new voice mail, this strobe light flashes so brightly that nearby street children have seizures and fall down in the gutter! And then a robotic arm comes out and sweeps all the blood into the sewer grate. And the whole thing's so small that it fits in my nostril, see?" Then they all notice me weeping in the corner, sorrowfully excluded, and laugh as they take pictures – with their cell phones.

Yes, cellular telephone devices provide everything these days, from procrastination gaming to heavily vibrating trips to Pleasure Island. The benefits are staggering: you can talk to people whenever you want! A friendly voice is just a few neon buttons away, anytime, anywhere (especially during lectures and orgies, it seems). You're never alone, even when you're alone.

And maybe this is my personal hang-up, the source of my stubbornness to not buy into a very-berry personalized package-plan and join the rest of my generation. Behind all the gadgets and sparkle, a cell phone exists

for a single core purpose – to keep you connected. Always. "But Monsignor Clemens!" you might cry. "I can turn off my phone whenever I want to! See? This little blue button, right here! Watch me press it!"

Well, yes, you can press that button. This is true. But because cell phones have become so prolific, carrying contact info, schedules, pictures of your three-legged cat and so forth, they are near-omnipresent. Even if you aren't using it, the phone is still in your purse, in a pocket, down your pants. It's there.

And to me this poses a threat. We've all seen MSN's devilish ways at work: you should be writing an essay but somehow your

## What's so terrible about your immediate surroundings that you so desperately need to be somewhere else?

contact list opens up (somehow!) and hours slip by as you debate the merits of various kinds of pickles. Similarly, the phone's very presence seems to demand attention, to require fiddling with simply because it's there.

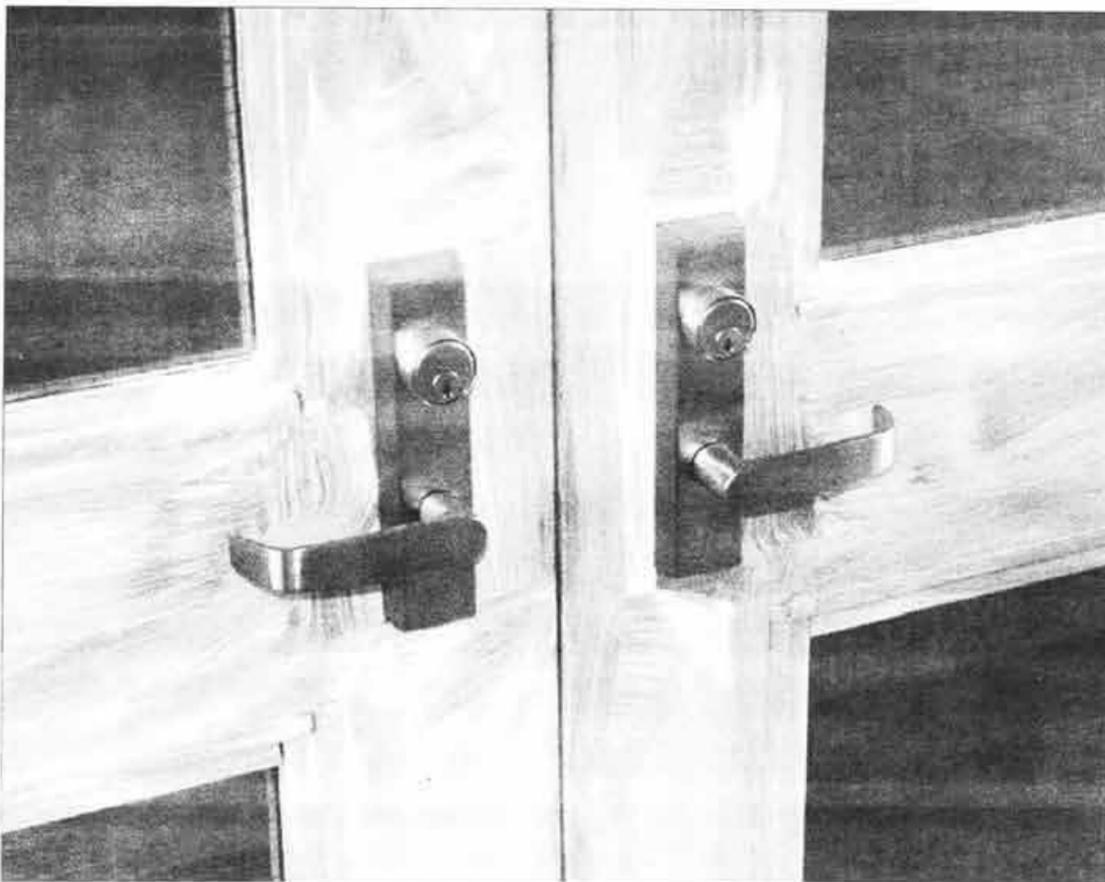
Connectivity is addictive and when you carry its ultimate implement everywhere you go, you're liable to be drawn irrevocably into the network. At least we can leave the computer behind from time to time.

From tweenagers at the mall to the business-class idly wasting time at dinner while their date is in the bathroom, it's visibly apparent that we can't put these things down. I'm not advocating we throw down technology and take up the torch, but I think we all need to stop, even for a second, to ask the necessary questions: What's so terrible about your immediate surroundings that you so desperately need to be somewhere else? Why are we in the same room and yet not? What's changed that we can't be alone with ourselves anymore?

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@wlusp.com](mailto:letters@wlusp.com), and must adhere to the letters policy of *The Cord Weekly*.



Photograph by Bryn Boyce

**The New Doors:** After years upon years of students rushedly colliding with the doors connecting the Arts Wing, the Solarium and the Paul Martin Centre, the WLU administration has finally introduced the redux. Instead of cryptic "push or pull?" handles, the University has gone with the standard and sensical versions. The paint, however, will have to wait until tuition is raised in another year or two. Budget cuts, ya know?

# DRAW

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# WLUSU looking after teeth

Caitlin Howlett



Editor-in-Chief

**I** like my teeth. I want to keep all of them, but with no dental coverage, I might have to consider losing some of them.

During the upcoming student elections, you (student voters) will be asked if you would approve the introduction of a dental plan fee for part-time and full-time undergraduate students. The proposed amount would be a maximum of \$120 per year and students would be able to opt-out with proof of alternative coverage.

The information made available by WLUSU about the dental coverage is limited. In fact, there's no information about the percentage of coverage the dental plan will cover and what areas of dental health it will include e.g. will you be covered in a dental emergency? — they don't know.

WLUSU's Board of Directors had mixed reactions during Tuesday night's discussion about the proposed plan brought to the table by WLUSU President Steven Welker and VP: Human Resources, Mark Walhout. Director Fraser McCracken felt there was not enough information, the proposal was brought too quickly to the Board, and he believes any plans to implement a dental plan should be delayed for at least one year. This would allow time for proper market research and to ensure the best

price and the best coverage for students. I have to admit, I agree.

However, recently it cost me the price of an ipod to have cavities repaired and a new one filled (damn chocolate). Another \$200 to have my teeth cleaned, and before that, it cost me a case of Coors Light to have a possible dental emergency looked at — that was just to look at my mouth, not to fix anything. This was all in the month of December, and if I've done my math correctly, we're talking about more than \$700 worth of uncovered dental procedures. In my particular case, student dental coverage couldn't come any sooner.

**With no dental coverage, it recently cost me the price of an ipod to have cavities repaired.**

Maybe I should shop around for a cheaper dentist, but more likely I should find some insurance. A buck twenty for the year sounds like a lot up front, but to cover an annual cleaning or a filling, it sounds pretty sweet to me and a price I'd be willing to pay. I don't know how many students need this, I don't know how many students want this, but I know I could have used it the last two years when I was suddenly dropped from my parents coverage.

You see, I didn't go to the dentist because I didn't have the

money. Two and half years later, I'm the patient they talk about — "she hadn't had her teeth cleaned in two years — you should have seen the mess in there!" Dental health and maintenance of your mouth is very important. According to the Ontario Dental Association, Periodontal disease (bacterial infection of the gums and surrounding area) is the leading cause of tooth loss in adults. With an annual check-up and routine dental hygiene practices, this can be prevented. The question is, can you afford it?

I'm trying to floss more, I'm trying to avoid rotting my teeth by reducing my intake of Junior Mints, but if I have to go another two years without dental coverage, I know I'll be sitting in a chair with a rubber dam stretching my mouth too far so a miniature jackhammer can violently remove tooth decay. And after that I'll be working three jobs to pay off my uninsured dental ass.

WLUSU has only a skeleton outline of their plans, but if directors like McCracken look out for students' financial well being and others like Walhout look out for students' dental well being, many students will benefit from this addition and those already with coverage will get their money back as long as they show the proper documentation. That's easier than brushing your teeth.

If you're like me, sans dental coverage, you might want to read this particular referendum question carefully — it could save you a lot more than just your teeth.



## Letters, from page 7

of the warning that was provided at the bottom of the page: "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." I think it's actually pretty disgusting.

Some might argue that this material is less offensive than what was displayed on the back cover in previous editions: an advertisement for an adult entertainment complex that featured two naked female porn stars. In no way do I support the degradation of women in this sort of manner, but at least it was providing advertising revenue to help support and sustain the printing of the *Cord Weekly* and not some filler material featuring low-brow humour.

A female friend of mine told me that she was part of a petition to prevent the advertisement of the naked women to appear on further issues of *The Cord*. I am not sure what, if anything, ever came of this petition but if it was successful, the articles about the spreading of excrement and the others were certainly not any better.

The back cover of the December 1 edition was a complete waste of newspaper space that could have better served the WLU community by displaying news regarding school or student affairs, sports results, editorials, art pictorials or other types of advertisements.

Unless this was just a one-time thing, let's try to keep maintain at least a certain level of sophistication and not stoop to including this kind of

low-brow material in *The Cord* in the future.

David Jenkins

## Santa Claus is real

I was heartbroken to see in this past week's *Cord* the poll "How did you find out that Santa Claus?" and not just because of the ghastly sentence fragment (which, I have to say though, was well done. I hope that no one on the editorial staff is an English major).

How has it come to pass that no one believes in Santa Claus anymore? Of course, there is no jolly red-coated man that slides down the chimney every Christmas Eve to put presents under the tree — the very idea is as ludicrous as it is physically impossible. However, this does not mean that there is no Santa Claus — those who do not believe (and I take the liberty of paraphrasing at length Francis P. Church's editorial, "Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus" from the *New York Sun*, 1897) "have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds."

No Santa Claus! Why, he is all around us at this time of year! The volunteers on the page preceding the poll in this very newspaper are Santa Claus, as are the Salvation Army volunteers who collect donations, as are those who give their time at food banks or toy drives or soup kitchens for they have given of themselves for no purpose but to bring some measure

of joy to the less fortunate this Christmas. Anyone who donates to these charities is Santa Claus for they too have given of themselves for the benefit of others. Our parents have been Santa Claus for years because they let us believe in magic and the miracle of Christmas and, oh yes, even let us believe in a man who visits once a year to give toys to all the good children of the world. We too will likely one day become Santa Claus, because we will pass the mystery, the magic and the joy on to our own children.

Santa Claus is everywhere, if you care to see him and what benefit does it do anyone not to believe in the magic, in the miracle? Are we any better off now knowing that our parents put the presents under the tree or that the man sitting in Santa's chair in malls and department stores isn't the "real Santa"? I know that I certainly am not. Knowing the "truth" has done little more for me than to wipe away part of the mystery of the season and I hope that my own children will never lose that gleam of anticipation in their eyes at Christmas, knowing that Santa is on his way.

"Yes, [Laurier], there is a Santa Claus.

"He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no [Laurier]. There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in

sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished."

Benjamin Jewiss

## Helpful Radio Laurier DJs

In Brittany Lavery's letter from the Dec. 1 issue of *The Cord*, Radio Laurier was criticized for its failure to turn down the music in the concourse upon request at events such as the Women's Studies Activism Fair and Buy Nothing Day. As coordinator of Buy Nothing Day, I was present in the concourse for the entire event and I did not experience any problems with Radio Laurier. In fact, they were very helpful when I asked them to turn down the music and they even gave our event a shout out or two. Kat Lourenco, the Radio Laurier Coordinator, was extremely cooperative and supportive of our event when we approached her weeks in advance, talking to her volunteers ahead of time in order to make sure our professor speakers would be audible over the music.

I realize that Brittany's letter was also in regards to the Women's Studies Activism Fair and, as I wasn't there to witness the interactions between Radio Laurier's DJs and those involved in the Fair, I am taking her word on their behaviour that day. I agree that the behaviour of the Radio Laurier DJs, as described in Brittany's letter, was rude and disrespectful. However, I am making sure that Kat Lourenco and the Radio Laurier DJs who played on Fri. Nov. 26 get the appropriate recognition for their

cooperation and support on Buy Nothing Day. Thank you!

Nicole Barker  
Buy Nothing Day Coordinator, 2004

## Grammatical monstrosity

I realize that this is probably hideously petty, but I could not let it go by. Last week I wrote a letter to the editor about how inconsiderate a few Radio Laurier DJs have been in the recent past. Being a stickler for correct grammar, I was horrified to see a misplaced apostrophe in the article—one that I had not written. I, like most people, want to be taken seriously when writing to a newspaper about any issue, and such grammatical errors make this impossible. My letter, as submitted, did not include this incorrect use of apostrophe and since it is my name that appears at the end of the article, I would very much appreciate it if *The Cord* acknowledged that this grammatical monstrosity was the fault of the editor, not myself.

Brittany Lavery

## 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@wlu.com](mailto:cord@wlu.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.

# Volunteers Wanted

## Tsunami Relief Effort at WLU

If you are interested in helping to raise funds for those affected by the Tsunami, or have fund raising ideas, please contact Matt Woodall or Leah McMillan:

[kwtsunamirelief@gmail.com](mailto:kwtsunamirelief@gmail.com)

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# Taipei building towers over all others

*Forever changing the skyline of Taipei, Taiwan, the world's largest building includes numerous new innovations and advanced safety features to ensure that the structure remains standing*

**TONY FERGUSON**  
Staff Writer

With the official opening of the Taipei 101 building on New Year's Eve, Taiwan has become the new home of the world's tallest building.

The Taipei 101, named after the Taipei Financial Corporation that financed the building and the 101 floors in the structure, was declared the world's tallest building upon its official opening. The building is 56 metres larger than the world's next largest building, the Petronas Towers in Malaysia, and is just 44 metres shorter than the CN Tower. The buildings total height is 509 metres and it took more than six years to complete.

Opening day was presided over by President Chen Shui-bian who described the structure as a new symbol of national unity and one of the most successful examples of construction the island had ever seen. The President added that the glory and success of the building belongs to "all of the citizens."

The building sets another record for having the world's fastest elevator system. With a top speed of 60 km/h, it ascends to the 89th floor observation deck in just 39 seconds. A sophisticated damper system reduces the

pressure of the ascent in an effort to ensure that passengers don't leave their stomachs behind.

Critics have pointed out that the structure has been built in one of the world's most earthquake prone areas, but designers are confident that the building can withstand all of the earth's natural forces. Concrete support pillars are sunk more than 80 metres into the earth and the building can withstand earthquakes of more than magnitude seven on the Richter Scale.

Building sway is reduced by

**The buildings elevator has a top speed of 60 km/h and travels to the 89th floor in just 39 seconds.**

nearly 40 percent with the help of a 606 metric ton ball that hangs from the 92nd to the 87th floor. The ball moves back and forth to compensate for building movement that might be caused by strong winds.

"It's the safest building in Taipei," said Cathy Yang, vice-president of the Taipei Financial Center Corporation, the group

who financed the project.

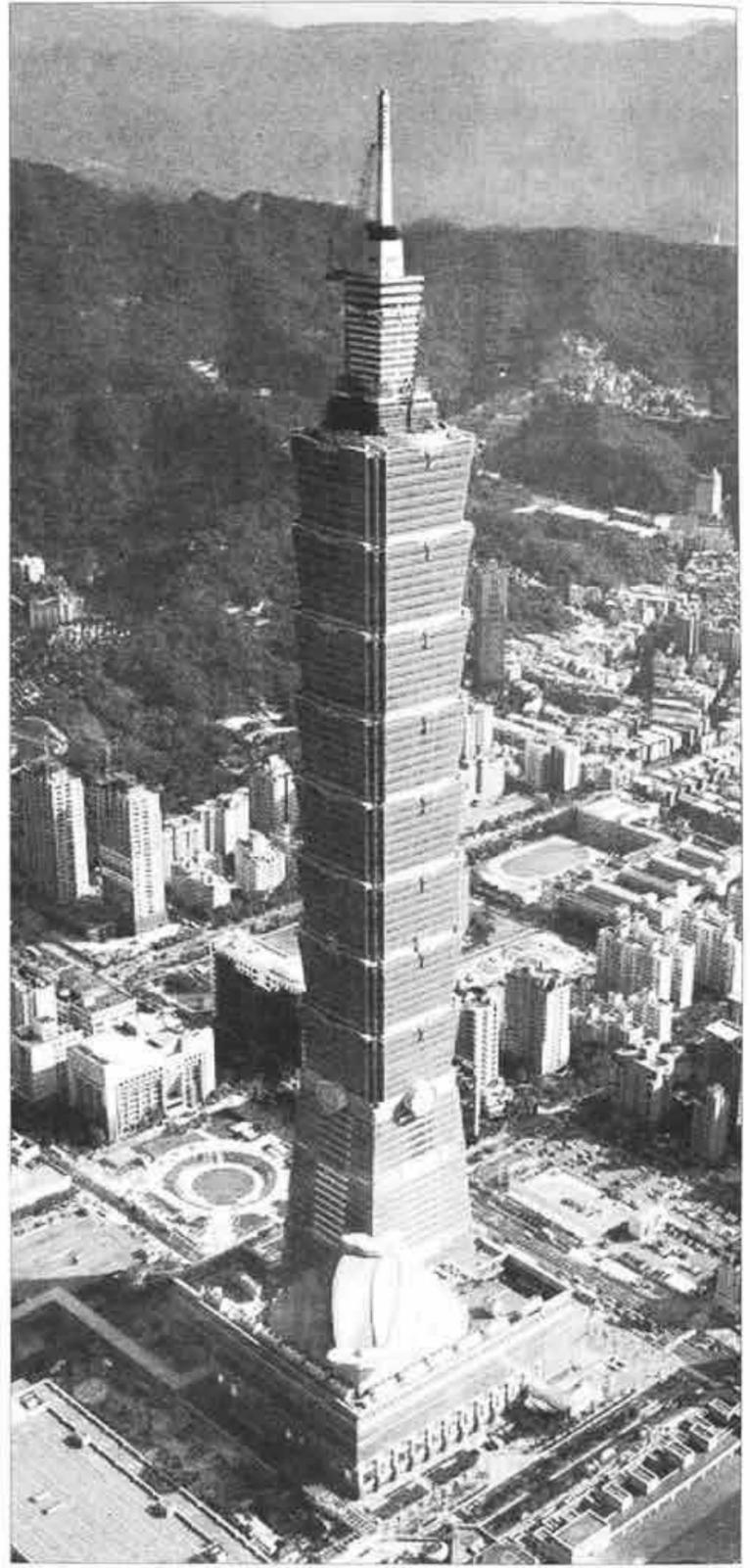
Taipei 101 also houses a posh five-story shopping mall which has been open for several months, as well as almost 200,000 square metres of office space, 33 percent of which has already been bought.

The building was intended to look like a stick of bamboo, but many contend that it resembles a stack of green Chinese take-out food cartons. Bamboo is an important icon in Chinese philosophy.

"Bamboo is hollow inside. Chinese philosophy teaches us that the hollow bamboo reminds us to be modest and humble inside," said Cathy Yang.

With a price tag of \$1.8 billion (US), the building itself is neither modest nor humble. Apart from the record-setting height, the sophisticated technology and the towering presence over the city of Taipei has made the building well known in the corporate world.

"It's simply the most prestigious corporate address in the country," said Calvin Wang. "If someone in New York needs to send you a letter, all that he has to do is write down 'Taipei 101, Taiwan' on the envelope and the letter will find you."



Contributed Photo

Standing at 509 metres tall, the Taipei 101 is the tallest building in the world.

## Amidst anarchy, Somalia rocked by tsunami

**KYLE BOULDEN**  
Staff Writer

In the wake of a massive aid effort for Southeast Asia, UN agencies appealed to the international community to act rapidly in providing assistance to areas of Somalia affected by last week's devastating tsunami.

UN officials estimate that over 200 Somalis were killed and another 50,000 displaced by the December 26 disaster, caused by an earthquake off the coast of Indonesia.

The situation in Somalia has been overshadowed by the devastation in Southeast Asia, where more than 150,000 have been killed. However, the disaster in Somalia has only compounded the existing humanitarian crisis in Somalia, where civil war and famine have essentially reduced the country to a state of near-anarchy.

Somalian officials have been critical of the international community for not acting quickly

enough to provide food, water, shelter and medical care. Somali Presidential Spokesman, Yusuf Mohamed Ismail, told the Associated Press that, "We are very happy that relief supplies have arrived in Asia, which was hit the hardest by the tragedy, but Somalia - which has been ravaged from a 13-year civil war, drought and political neglect - also needs emergency help to deal with the latest calamity."

**UN assessment teams have not been able to assess the damage by air because of anti-aircraft fire.**

Ismail noted that while 24 countries have pledged to send relief supplies, nothing has arrived on the ground yet.

- Please see **Somalia**, page 14

## Rebels storm town in Peru

**KRIS COTE**  
International Editor

With the world's attention focused on Asia, former army Maj. Antauro Humala and a group of more than 200 former soldiers and police officers grabbed international headlines after they took control of the Peruvian town of Andahuaylas early on New Year's morning.

After the rebels seized the police station and town of Andahuaylas on Saturday morning, the government declared a state of emergency in the Andean region and established a 6 am to 6 pm curfew. On Sunday, four policemen and one rebel were killed when security forces tried to recapture a bridge leading into the town.

Initially, Humala declared that the rebels would not concede until Toledo stepped down from power, and that his men would fight "to the last bullet." But after intense negotiations on Sunday, Humala agreed to disarm his men.

The negotiation broke down on Monday after the rebels failed to meet the noon deadline for disarmament. Humala and the rebels claim that army snipers had been firing on them, killing one man, and that the government broke its agreement not to mobilize troops in the area.

The rebellion took another turn on Monday night after authorities arrested Humala during negotiations. But despite Humala's absence, the rebels continued to hold out against



Contributed Photo

**Inhabitants of the Peruvian town, Andahuaylas, carried the rebel leader Antauro Humala through the streets on Sunday morning.**

government pressure. An unidentified rebel told reporters that there were "armed people prepared to die here."

**The rebels were calling for an end to national corruption and for President Alejandro Toledo to resign his post.**

The standoff finally ended Tuesday morning, when the remaining rebels surrendered and Humala was flown to the nation's capital, Lima, where he will stand trial.

The rebels, who wish to create

a national indigenous movement based on the ancient Inca Empire, are demanding an end to national corruption and for President Alejandro Toledo to resign his post. Nationally, Toledo is an unpopular leader and his approval rating stands at nine percent. He has been implicated, along with family members, in numerous corruption scandals since he assumed power in 2000.

Humala believes that Toledo has sold the Peruvian people out to Chilean business interests, and wants to nationalize key industries and legalize coca cultivation and production.

- Please see **Peru**, page 14

# Disaster gives civil-war ravaged areas a second chance

Richard Togman



Staff Writer

The small province of Aceh, which is located in Sumatra, Indonesia, was one of the hardest hit areas by the recent tsunami. The massive earthquake that initiated the great tidal waves occurred just miles off its coast and it is estimated that one in every four Acehnese has died as a result of the flooding.

The repercussions of the disaster have far reaching implications not only for the victims and their relatives, but also for the ongoing civil war that has been raging in Aceh for nearly 30 years.

The Free Aceh Movement (locally known as GAM) was created in 1976 as an opposition force to the central government in Jakarta. The Free Aceh Movement claims that the Jakartan government has been exploiting Aceh since independence, and that the Acehnese people are suffering from imperial rule from the Javanese-majority. The rebels have launched numerous attacks on government targets and often used terror tactics such as random bombings to bring attention to their cause.

Indonesia is made up of hundreds of ethnically and culturally distinct peoples with many different languages. The country has been held together by authoritarian strongmen in the past, most



recently by the deposed General Suharto. During Suharto's reign, 1967 to 1998, the country was unified through his dictatorial powers.

Consequently, the Free Aceh Movement was violently suppressed and ongoing combat between the rebels and the government forces caused considerable damage to Aceh. However, Suharto's rule was also accompanied by substantial economic growth which led to rising living standards and the elevation of millions out of poverty.

## Government aid offers the chance for people to develop respect for the Indonesian central government.

Since the fall of Suharto in 1998 and the Asian financial crisis, the region has suffered instability and economic malaise. The democratic governments that have followed have found it difficult to maintain control in Aceh and have failed to address the provinces grievances.

The Acehnese often feel abandoned by the central government

and turn to the Free Aceh Movement for local needs. As well, many Islamic groups vie for control in the area such as the "Party of Justice and Prosperity," which often causes tension as Indonesia is also fending off advances being made by radical Islamic groups such as Jemaah Islamiyah, which is linked to Al-Qaeda.

After the tsunami, the dynamic of the region may change. The same government forces which were laying waste to Aceh in search of the rebels last week are distributing aid and food to the people this week. As the death toll mounts the rebels may be forced to come to terms with the government, as its manpower and resources have been severely hurt.

Moreover, the people of Aceh are now forging new bonds with their estranged central government as aid and money flow in to the devastated region. If the people begin to regard the central government with greater respect and authority as it begins to reestablish control, support for the kind of radical and violent practices that the rebels preach may wane.

# Debt and poverty were the real killers

Kris Cote



International Editor

As the death toll in Southeast Asia climbs to nearly 150,000 dead, and predictions range as high as 300,000 total dead, it is very hard to comprehend the damage and destruction that the deadly tsunami has caused.

A picture of bodies mixed about and strewn within debris or amateur video capturing surging waves hardly put the damage into perspective. Globally, church leaders are trying to explain how God could allow something like this to happen.

With all the attention on the force of nature and the nature of God, people are forgetting that much of the destruction was preventable. The real killer was not the tsunami, but debt and poverty, and most people want to avoid this subject because it implicates the entire world in the disaster.

The richer nations of the Pacific Rim, including the U.S. and Canada, established a tsunami warning system following the deadly tsunami of 1946 which killed hundreds of people in Hawaii. Numerous attempts in the South Pacific to establish a warning system were attempted, but the cost of the project was too great. It's sad that because of their financial situation, the people in Southeast Asia and Africa are not allowed to be as safe as us.

**"It's frustrating for us to learn about destructive waves from a wire report, as opposed to a tide gauge."**

- Stuart Weinstein, geophysicist

A geophysicist at the monitoring station in Hawaii, Stuart Weinstein, sums up the situation the best. "It's frustrating for us to learn about destructive waves from a wire report, as opposed to a tide gauge."

Even now, while the affected nations discuss plans to install a warning system, they are struggling to find ways to afford it.

Further links between high levels of indebtedness and the scale of destruction exist. Those areas worst affected by the tsunami, such as the Aceh region in Indonesia where entire villages were literally washed away, are also the poorest areas. Look at pictures of any third world shanty town and it's not hard to imagine why entire villages were washed away.

While billions of aid dollars have been committed to the tsunami-hit regions, the money being pledged does not even come close to the amounts these countries still owe western creditors. Indonesia alone owes \$130.8 billion, India owes \$82.9 billion and Thailand \$58.2 billion.

Recent UN reports also indicate that much of the money pledged by world governments in aid is actually being redirected to debt-repayment. Therefore, the aid money will actually never reach the ground and help tsunami victims. Critics also warn that historically, governments renege on promised aid once the situation disappears from the headlines.

In our economic driven society, it is often hard to convince people that third world debts should be dropped. But a few points need to be mentioned. From the start, the legacy of colonialism left third world countries with a standing debt in the hundreds of billions.

- Please see **Debt**, page 14

## Windows to the World



### Berlusconi burned

A 28-year-old Italian bricklayer has reportedly gained a cult following among Italians for his New Year's Eve attack on unpopular Italian Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi.

Berlusconi left a party he was attending on New Year's Eve to mingle with the people in Rome's Piazza Navona square. Roberto dal Bosco argues that he did not plan to attack Berlusconi, but couldn't help but throw his camera tripod at the prime minister

when he saw him in the streets. "I did it because I hate him," dal Bosco told authorities.

Berlusconi received bruises on the back of his head, but is otherwise okay.

But in Italy, websites have sprung up in support of dal Bosco. Emails are being spread by Italians that read "This is the year of the Tripod," and "More Tripods for all." The sale of tripods has already shot up, and small plastic replica tripods are being sold by vendors in Italy's streets.



### Barker's worst nightmare

Having lost her cat Little Nicky last year, Julie, who has refused to give her last name for fear of retribution, became the first person last week to buy a commercially produced, genetically cloned cat.

At a cost of \$50,000 (US), the new Little Nicky is being greeted by a storm of controversy. Animal rights activists argue that it is pointless to clone cats when hundreds of thousands are destroyed every year.

Bonnie Beaver, an animal behaviour expert from Texas

argues that cloned animals do not behave in the same way as the original. People "want Fluffy, but it's not Fluffy," Beaver contends.

Despite the criticism, Julie argues that the cloned cat behaves similarly to the old one. The cats share an affinity for water, and Julie contends that "I even saw two spots inside his mouth, just like Nicky had."

Genetic Savings and Clone performed the cloning process, and they hope to become involved in the more lucrative business of cloning dogs by the end of the year.



### Disaster brings out the worst

The Hong Kong branch of Oxfam, a charity and fair trade organization, has issued a warning that fake fundraising emails have been sent out using the organizations name. Through the emails, donors are directed to deposit money into a Cyprus bank account and to fax their receipt to an office in Spain.

A British man has been arrested by the London

Metropolitan Police after it was discovered that he was sending fake emails telling people that their relatives in Asia were confirmed dead.

The man used the bulletin board on Sky News' website to find his victims, and he pretended to be a British official from the Foreign Office Bureau in Thailand. He sent emails from the address ukgovofficeaol.com reportedly confirming that relatives and loved ones were dead.

ROCK THE NEW YEAR 2005

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EMAIL kristophiercote@yahoo.com

# Natural Disaster

## Elephants: Asia's good luck charms

It's no wonder that in many Asian cultures, elephants are a symbol of good luck.

With the death toll resulting from the catastrophic Asian tsunami nearing 150,000, it is inspiring to hear many of the miraculous survival stories which have been emerging in the past few days. Among these are feats of animal instinct at their finest, stories of birth among great suffering and the goodness of human nature.

As reports of the giant tsunami reach all corners of the world, there are also stories of the reaction of many animals in the region: In the Yala National Park of Sri Lanka, there have astoundingly been no reports of animal death to this date.

Geological information system expert Dr. Ranjith Premalal De Silva credits this to the fact that animals may have felt the danger of the tsunami coming up to three or four days ahead of the disaster.

Yala, an area renowned for elephants, reported on Wednesday that not one of its elephants were killed. De Silva goes on to observe that "if domestic animals can sense earthquakes days in advance, forest animals should be able to do that even better. Animals' natural characteristics and capacities are much more evident in forest animals than in the domesticated ones."

This 'sixth-sense' can be explained by the two sets of shock waves sent out by the earthquake which caused the tsunami. Primary waves (a.k.a. P waves) travel 2 to 4 kms per second faster than Secondary waves (S waves).

This reaction proved to be life-saving for some lucky residents and tourists of the region, including Wang, a hotel owner based in Sri Lanka. She realized something was wrong when she was 'alerted' by her elephant, Ranmenike. "She had a feeling

something was going on," said Wang. They both managed to escape to higher ground.

Another report tells the tale of an elephant who escaped from its trainer, saving both the tourists on its back and the trainer who desperately chased it to a safe elevation.

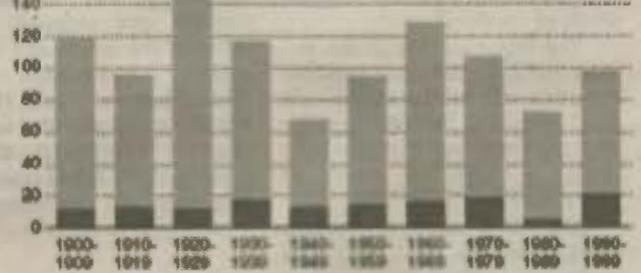
Elephants are now reported to be helping clear debris from the land hit by the tsunami.



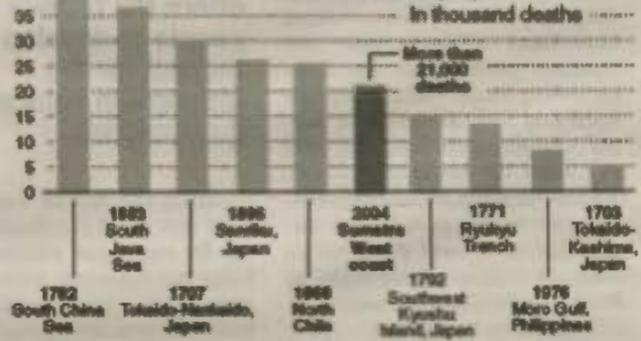
### The deadly ways of harbor waves

Tsunamis are a series of waves generated by any rapid, large-scale disturbance of the sea. They are usually caused by earthquakes, but can occur as a result of landslides, volcanic eruptions, explosions, and even meteorites.

Number of tsunamis per decade



### Most damaging tsunamis



SOURCE: National Geophysical Data Center, NOAA

AP

## Earth-shattering disasters in history

An earthquake causes tsunamis that hit Sri Lanka, Indonesia, India, Thailand and other South Asian nations. The death toll is more than 120,000.

2003 - Iran

An earthquake triggers a landslide, causing from 40,000 to 50,000 deaths in western Iran on June 20, 1990.

1988 - Armenia

Bangladesh loses more than 300,000 people in November 1970 from cyclone-induced flooding.

1950

2004 - South Asia

A 6.3 quake devastated the Iranian city of Bam, killing more than 50,000 people.

1990 - Iran

In 1988, an earthquake measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale devastates Armenia, killing over 100,000 people perished.

1970 - Bangladesh

In July floods least 2



The worst and deadliest volcano eruption known to man occurred in 1815.

When the Tamborra erupted it was the most violent eruption recorded in history; 40,000 to 90,000 people were killed in addition to several hundred thousand who died in the months that followed, mostly of starvation and disease.

# asters

Written and  
Compiled by  
**MARY ERSKINE**  
Staff Writer



## Women's intuition

The Roy family of India were just sitting down to tea when they felt the earth shake under them. Namita Roy, who was due to give birth on January 15th, ran out of the house with her husband and their six year old son, Saurabh. They instinctively fled uphill and, minutes later, witnessed the flattening of their house by the giant tsunami. Hours later, in the high forest of India, Namita went into

labour and gave birth to a second son with the help of a nurse who had also fled the killer wave. Later, once in a make shift hospital, a doctor named the baby Tsunami, and the parents agreed it to be fitting. Lakshmi Roy, the newborn's father, later said: "I am sure he will fight with me when he grows up, though, for giving him a feminine name."

date  
**Jan 12 - 14**

place  
**Concourse**

hours  
**9 - 8**

last day  
**9 - 5**

► FINE ART

FANTASY ◀

WILDLIFE ◀

► GIANT SIZED POSTERS

► MUSIC

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► FILM

► PHOTOGRAPHY

► 1000s OF POSTERS

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1959 - China

Floods kill 1 million  
people in a two-year  
period in China.

1887 - China

A quake hits the  
Chinese province of  
Shansi on February  
2, 1556. It kills  
830,000 people.

1201 - Mediterranean

gladesh

In July 1959, massive  
floods in China kill at  
least 2 million people.

1938 and 1939 - China

In 1887, about 900,000 peo-  
ple died when the country's  
Yellow River burst its banks  
in the worst-ever recorded  
flooding.

1556 - China

The deadliest  
earthquake in history  
kills approximately 1.1  
million people in Egypt  
and Syria.

st and deadliest  
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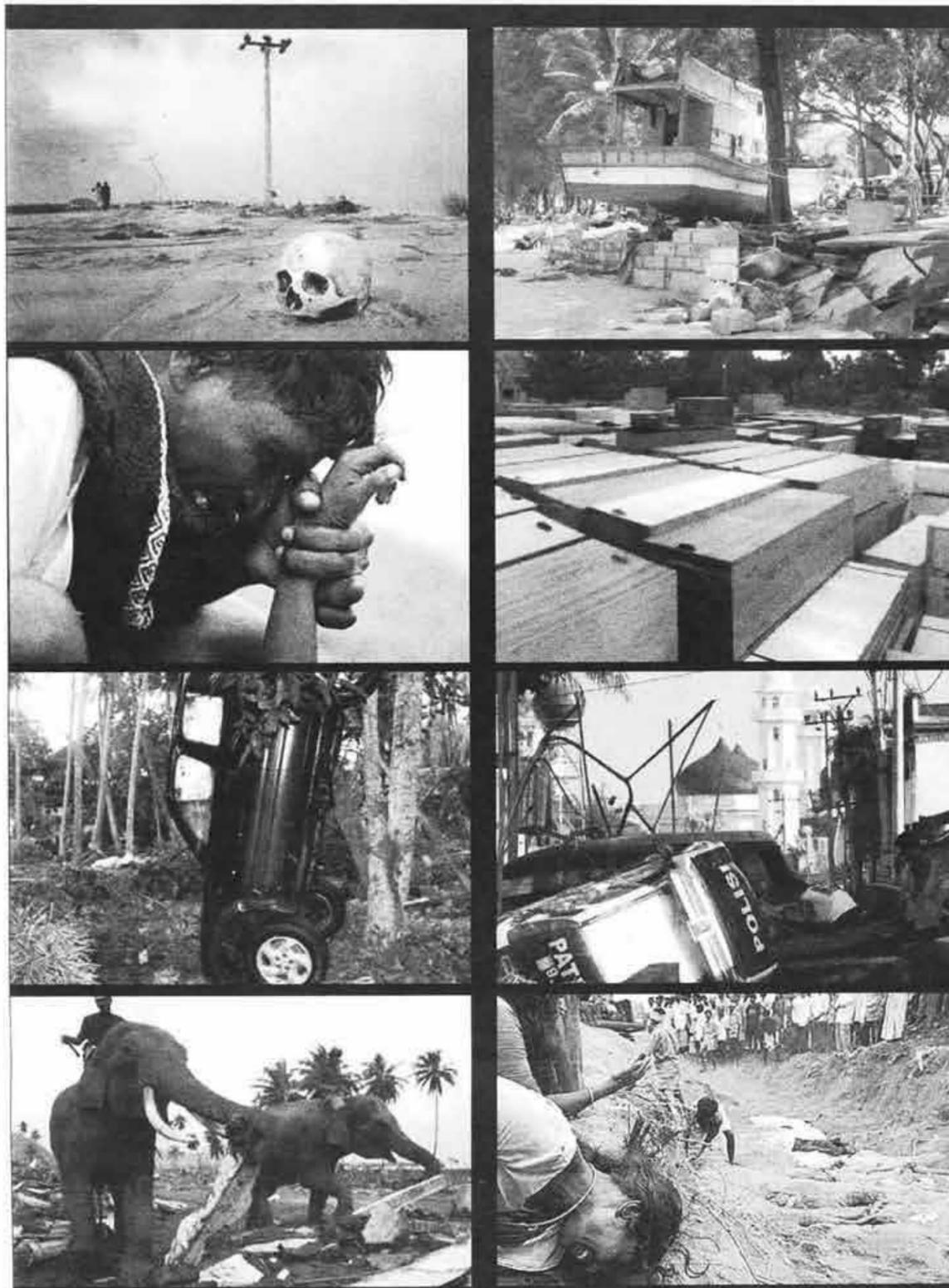
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story; 40,000 to  
0) people were  
addition to sev-  
dred thousand  
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owed, mostly of  
vation and  
disease.



The worst  
avalanche in history  
occured when a  
severe earthquake  
rocked the valley of  
Yungay, Peru on  
May 31st, 1970.

20,000 people were  
killed instantly by  
the avalanche itself,  
crushed beyond  
recognition by rock  
and ice.

# “Outright devastation,” Tsunami ‘04



**- Somalia**, from page 10

In the meantime, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has begun to bring in some food supplies, although the supplies are merely being diverted from other needy areas of Somalia.

Areas along the northeastern coast of Somalia were worse hit, where fishing season had brought many migrant fishermen close to the shoreline. Thousands of people have lost their homes and possessions, and there is significant damage to the local economy. Fishing has been suspended along the coast since the disaster occurred.

The damage has yet to be fully assessed, as many of the affected areas are remote and inaccessible. El-Balla Hagona, the UN Development Programme's director for Somalia, said that unlike other countries affected by the

tsunamis, Somalia lacks the “indigenous capacity to assess the damage.”

UN assessment teams flying over tsunami-ravaged areas have also been hampered by the anti-aircraft guns of local warlords, which have yet to be dismantled and are preventing UN teams from assessing the damage.

The Somali government is currently based in neighbouring Kenya, following a two year peace process aimed at disarming militias and re-establishing a government. The absence of the government has only compounded the disaster situation.

The 13-year civil war has reduced the country to a collection of fiefdoms ruled by individual warlords. Having been appointed several months ago, the new Somali leaders have been so far unwilling to return to the capital, Mogadishu, believing that the country is still much too dangerous.

**- Debt**, from page 11

It has been widely documented by scholars that the west mis-managed loans throughout the 1960's and early 1970's, giving too much money with little or no restrictions and often giving loans to dictators who then used the money to suppress people's movements.

Between 1982 and 1990, more than \$412 billion of borrowed funds were returned to creditor countries through

embezzlement and theft.

While aid will help the reconstruction efforts in Southeast Asia and Africa, in the end this will only be a band-aid solution. Western nations have suspended debt repayments following the disaster, but they did not cancel them. The indebtedness of many nations ensures that the cycle of poverty will continue, and the situation that this creates will ensure that the next time a natural disaster occurs, deaths will again be disproportionately high.

**- Peru**, from page 10

Peru's unemployment rate has continued to grow from 16.1 percent in 2002, and nearly 20 percent of the country lives on less than one dollar (US) a day.

Humala told reporters that “the people are with us.” Throughout the siege, the rebels walked freely among the people and streets of Andahuaylas and vice versa. Large demonstrations showed support for the rebels, and Humala was carried to cathedral by the people as they chanted “We want Peace” and “Toledo is

a shit” on Sunday morning.

Augusto Alvarez, editor of the newspaper *Peru 21*, conceded that while “people may disagree with some of Humala's methods, the criticism against the frivolous, corrupt political class is there.”

In 2000, Humala joined his brother Ollanta Humala in a rebellion against former President Alberto Fujimori over similar charges of corruption. The rebellion failed, but Fujimori was fired from his post. Both brothers went to prison but were quickly pardoned.

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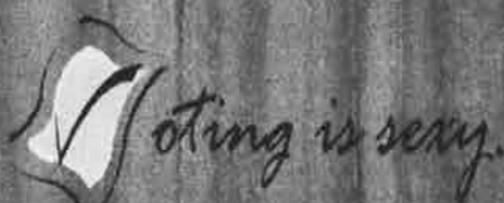
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# The Fall Report: the good, bad and ugly

## MEN'S FOOTBALL

**A**

Under the leadership of OUA Coach of the Year, Gary Jeffries, the men's football team ran away with their first Yates Cup in 13 years, and their first 8 - 0 record ever. Quarterback Ryan Pyear orchestrated the best receiving core in Canada, while linebacker Jesse Alexander and defensive back Ian Logan established a defence that was impenetrable against even the league's best. With comeback wins against Western in Week Three, and McMaster on Homecoming and again in the Yates Cup in front of the largest crowd ever assembled at University Stadium, the Hawks made school spirit fashionable again. Despite the Cinderella-esque run, the Hawks encountered a superior Laval squad in the UTECK Bowl to fall one game short of Vanier glory.

### MVP

Ryan Pyear, quarterback. While his statistics are impressive, it was his durability that made the difference.

### 2005 PROJECTION

Key losses of Lee Maggiamo, Ryan Jeffrey, Steven Frake and Brian Sloot will hurt the leadership dynamic more than the on-field talent, as the likes of Anthony Maggiamo, and Wayne Brock should help to fill the void. With Dante Lucani ready to fill the shoes of Pyear after next season, the Hawks could be very good for a very long time.

BRYAN SHINN

## WOMEN'S LACROSSE

**A-**

2004, much like 2003, saw the team defend their OUA title while putting up a spectacular record of 11 wins and only 1 loss. Coach Lynn Orth's squad was dominant, and kept the distinction of being the first WLU team to win an OUA championship in the current academic year. The only blemish of the season was a devastating loss suffered on their home pitch to Brock, losing home-field for the playoffs.

### MVP

Erica Howard, attack wing. Howard, who was named the league MVP at the lacrosse banquet before the final weekend, was the leading scorer on the team with 21 goals and 9 assists. Her tenacious play led the Hawks all season.

### 2005 PROJECTION

While many of the players return, the team has a few major losses



Andrew Zimcik

The biggest story in Laurier varsity sports last fall were two football victories over the McMaster Marauders on Homecoming Weekend, and here, for the Yates Cup.

to cope with. By losing defender Bohdanka Hontar, midfielder Ainslee Howard, and both starting goalie Tamara Watt and backup Cassandra Horyn, the team needs an influx of talent in order to maintain their high standard of success. While the players on the field will be able to step it up, the team has to be a little nervous about finding two replacements in goal.

DAN HOCKING

## MEN'S SOCCER

**B+**

Stumbling out of the gate with only one victory in four games, and looking mediocre at best, the Hawks pulled it together just before the midway point of the season by going undefeated in their last six games (5 - 0 - 1). The late season run put Laurier into a tie for third place in the OUA with 19 points and into the playoffs. The good times kept rolling in the Round of 16 with a domination of RMC, which was highlighted by a Knox hat-trick. The quarter-finals, though, brought along the sixth-ranked Carleton Ravens and the demise of the Hawks, as they were clipped by a 2 - 1 score. While inconsistency was a concerning factor, credit must be given to the Golden Hawks for turning around a season in which there didn't

appear much to be impressed about early on in 2004.

### MVP

Jason Lyall, defence. Named team MVP, a CIS First Team all-Canadian and OUA First Team all-star all in this past year, Lyall has simply been the glue that holds the team together.

### 2005 PROJECTION

It may be an interesting year for the Golden Hawks. While losing two of its three main offensive threats from this past year (Jovanovic and Abwunza), Knox and rookie OUA all-star Daniele Toto will be quite capable of shouldering much of the team's scoring. Including the possibility of Lyall suiting up for a fifth year, Laurier finds itself with many returning players - which may cause the team to find themselves playing deep into the 2005 post-season.

DAN POLISCHUK

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

**B**

Coming within a victory of getting to the gold medal game in 2003, this year's squad, while not matching the result, showed a lot of the same determination and hard work in etching out a .500 season with a 3 - 3 - 5 record. Having lost its top offensive threat in Tammy Scurr to graduation, the team focused on its defensive game to produce results. The tenacity paid off as the Hawks gave up just 14 goals in 12 games (including playoffs), which translates into only about a goal a game. Much like the men's soccer team, Laurier was not able to beat a nationally ranked opponent, specifically Ottawa, who came into the game in the eighth spot.

### MVPs

Kristy Elinsky & Jenn Kitching - Defence. While it may be unusual to give two defenders a share of being the Most Valuable Player, without the experience of Elinsky and Kitching on the back

however, is the return of many capable starters for their second and third seasons. The pitching trio of Phil Cervoni, John Jurgaitis, and Robbie Thompson will have to step up if Laurier is to finally break through to become an upper echelon team in the OUA.

MIKE BROWN

## MEN'S RUGBY

**C**

Laurier's men's rugby team went through some growing pains in 2004. Though they managed to win three of their last four games to salvage a 3 - 4 record, it was insufficient to enter the playoff picture. The youth-infested squad's inexperience hindered them in two-point losses at Waterloo and Guelph. Nonetheless, graduating seniors Jason Doble and Nate Pike helped Coach Josh Windsor bring up a young core of players that will hopefully form the strong nucleus for a couple years at WLU.

### MVP

Jason Doble, Fly half/Full back. In his final season with the Hawks, Doble was selected as one of Laurier's three all-stars; he scored five tries in six games to pace the team's offensive attack.

### 2005 PROJECTION

With only three graduating players, Laurier still has a host of talented young players to fill the holes. Jacob McNamara was named an OUA all star in his first season, and his older brother Adam will be looked to as a leader, assuming he can avoid the back injuries which have plagued him in the last two seasons. Whether or not the rugby squad is ready to move to the next level remains to be seen, but the team's potential has coaches excited for '05.

MIKE BROWN

line of a team that saw a decline in the goals-for column this year, the results on the pitch may have been a lot more disastrous.

### 2005 PROJECTION

While the Hawks will fly, they definitely will not soar next year, especially with the departure of the aforementioned defender Kitching and possibly even Elinsky. While a bright spot to watch out for is the continuing leadership of Katie West as well as a speedy rookie from this past year named Catherine Ciarallo possibly creating a one-two offensive punch, it is hard to see whether this duo will provide the balance the team needs to gain success next season.

DAN POLISCHUK

## MEN'S BASEBALL

**B-**

The men's baseball team fell just short of the playoffs for the second consecutive year, missing the fourth and final playoff spot by virtue of a tiebreaker rule in Toronto's favour. The young team was plagued by inconsistency en route to an 8 - 10 record, losing badly in two crucial games in Toronto one day, and handing two losses to Brock - the eventual champions - the following afternoon. Anthony Iafate, Pat Kropf, and David Onyett-Jeffries led the offense, but the Hawks were unable to awaken the bats in some heart-breaking and-season-ending-losses.

### MVP

Pat Kropf, Shortstop. In only his second year at Laurier, Kropf put up tremendous numbers, leading the team offensively and ranking among the OUA elite with a .340 batting average.

### 2005 PROJECTION

The Golden Hawks must say goodbye to first baseman Kevin Albrecht, DH Anthony Iafate, and their captain and number one starter, Derek Rapini. Softening the blow from these key losses,

## WOMEN'S RUGBY

**D**

To say that the women's rugby team had a disappointing season would be a fair assessment. They finished the season with as many wins as they started with - zero. The highlight of the season was a hard-fought tie with the Brock Badgers, which ended up being the lone blemish of Brock's regular season. The team finished the season with a record of 0 - 5 - 1 and finished last in their division.

### MVP

Missy Paterak. Once of the few bright spots of the season was the play of fly half, Missy Paterak. She finished the season with 20 points, placing her in a tie for eighth in OUA scoring.

### 2005 PROJECTION

There is obviously an immense amount of room for improvement. Look for the team to improve on their winless 2004 campaign. The team will continue to build around their two all-stars, the aforementioned Paterak, as well as Russell Division rookie of the year, Lindsay Woods.

MARK HOPKINS

## The Varsity Rundown

Men's Baseball  
8 - 10  
Did not make playoffs

Women's Rugby  
0 - 5 - 1  
Did not make playoffs

Men's Rugby  
3 - 4  
Did not make playoffs

Women's Soccer  
3 - 3 - 5

Tied for ninth

Men's Soccer  
6 - 3  
Tied for fifth

Women's Lacrosse  
9 - 1  
OUA Champions

Men's Football  
8 - 0  
OUA Champions

# Wingspan

## LADIES BYPASS TURKEY FOR TOURNEY

While the rest of the student population was basking in the glory of eggnog and fruitcake, the women's basketball team hit the road for a holiday tourney in Montreal, the site of the Concordia-Reebok Invitational. The first game had the Hawks up against the sixth ranked Victoria Vikes where the strong efforts from Meaghan McGrath, Laura Taylor and Kerri Jilesen weren't enough in the 63 - 60 loss. The following day, the Hawks once again dropped a close match, this time against Queen's, a team the Hawks had already beaten once this season. Looking to avoid an o'fer weekend, the Hawks came out a-blazin' against the UQAM Citadins eventually beating the francophones 69 - 51. McGrath once again led the way with 18 points.



while Dee Channer chipped in with a double-double of 12 points and 10 boards.

## THERE MUST BE SOME HAWKS IN THE ATMOSPHERE

After cheering their way through the Fall term, the all-girls and co-ed Cheerleading squads finally had their day in the sun in early December at the Nationals. The All Girls event was by all accounts a two-horse race in the eight team field. However, it was McMaster that eventually scored higher than the 22 Hawks. The Co-eds team, compiled of 11 females and 7 males, team finished fourth at day's end behind rivals Western, Queen's and Waterloo.

## GRENNIER HOPES TO PUT SHRIMP ON BARBIE

Matthew Grennier, a second-year economics student and centre with the 6 - 5 Golden Hawks hockey team, was named to the training camp roster of Canada's Winter Universiade squad set to represent his country in Austria in mid-January. Canada's team is appointed on a rotational

basis, every two years between the three divisions in CIS Men's hockey. Grennier, who was a member of the Memorial Cup winning Kitchener Rangers last season, was recognized as the Hawks' rookie of the year in 2003 - 2004. Grennier currently leads the Hawks with 5 goals and sits second with 4 assists.

## HAWKIES LEND A HAND

It is to no one's surprise that the women's hockey team continues to hold Laurier's best chance of OUA glory. At the half point, the ladies sit first place in the Ontario East, three points ahead of Guelph with one game in hand. More impressively, the Hawks are ranked second in the CIS, behind only Alberta. If there was any proof that the successes of these Hawks have yet to go their head, enter Lindsay Arbeau, Ashley Stephenson, Candice Djukic and Lauren Meschino. Each athlete ventured to the Wellesley/St. Clements area last weekend to practise with the Twin Centre Atom LL Hurricanes.



## DON'T BE A TOOL, SCHOOL IS COOL

Matt Leinart, 2004 Heisman Trophy winner, and quarterback of the Orange Bowl Champion USC Trojans is good. Tuesday night, Leinart threw a record five touchdown passes, as his domes roughed up the second ranked Oklahoma Sooners for the National Championship. He's a lock for the NFL, and would probably number one overall. But instead of signing a multimillion dollar contract to play with the big boys, Leinart is seriously considering staying at SoCal for more, uh, school. In short, the quarterback is either unaware that a serious injury could cost him millions, or getting so much tail it doesn't much matter.



## LOS ANGELES ANGELS OF YOUR MAMA

When the NHL approved of a Southern California franchise some 15 years ago, many scoffed at their name, The Mighty Ducks of Anaheim. It was both an usual order (name before city), and a blatant form of riding the coattails of a Disney flick. Less than one week ago, Anaheim's baseball team made what seemed like another brain-dead move by renaming the team the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. The Angels, formally the California Angels, do not play in LA, have not moved stadiums, nor are the Dodgers going anywhere. So why the move? Peanuts and crackerjacks, obviously.



## ROW THAT INELIGIBLE BOAT

Sure, if you can walk and talk you can go to Brock, but apparently basic reading skills are not a prerequisite for employment in their athletics department. Four days before Christmas time, the OUA announced that one of Brock's rowers, Clifford Scott, had dropped a class earlier in the term, thus making him ineligible to qualify as a Student-Athlete. As a result, both of the races Scott raced in have been forfeited by the Badgers, stripping the entire team of its third straight Canadian championship. Apparently, his records were not kept track of by administration as they were too busy watching Brock uber-grad Rick "The Temp" Campanelli on Much On Demand



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# Study shows disrespect on campus

*Students add obscene jokes and comments to posters purposely placed by Wilf's and the Turret, confirming student's suspicion of a lack of respect*

**JOHN MEDDICK**  
Staff Writer

"Yeah, I'd bang her" and "I'd do this one" were phrases overheard en route to Wilf's and the Turret one Tuesday night last semester.

For a third year Communications Studies project, Kathleen Ryan placed, as she described, "a series of life-sized posters that showcase a typical Laurier girl out for a bar night," just outside of Wilf's and the Turret.

Her goal was to find out the Laurier student body's attitudes towards women through the ways in which they interacted with the posters. The posters initially displayed the picture of the girl in order to get honest reactions out of the students. Captions were later added questioning "What if this was your roommate?" as well as "How would you want your sister treated?" These questions were meant to provoke thought as to just what is appropriate behav-

our.

"The reactions tended to prove my point that there is an environment of disrespect for women that is prominent at Laurier," says Ryan.

**"The positive result was that I think the project got people talking or it at least got them to stop and think for a moment."**

- Kathleen Ryan, Communications Studies

Ryan hopes that these posters were able to shed light on the issue as well as encourage some people to think twice before making comments.

While there are many people out there that frequently engage in meaningless obscene jokes, women do not seem to find them as funny. This makes sense considering that studies show that

more than half of all Canadian women have had at least one experience of unwanted violence, either physical or sexual according to information found at Laurier's Women's Centre. Also, women under the age of 25 statistically have the largest chance of being assaulted in one form or another.

There was some good which came from the posters however, in that it seemed to get the message across to some as well as create and spread awareness.

"The positive result was that I think the project got people talking or it at least got them to stop and think for a moment, either amongst their friends or by speaking to me," Ryan says.

The assaults and attacks of the stalker that occurred last year around campus should serve as a constant reminder into the severity of the subject. Ryan's project also ran in conjunction with the remembrance of and a memorial to the Montreal Massacre of 1989.



Jennifer Asselin

Above is the picture that Communications Studies major Kathleen Ryan used in order to study disrespect for women on campus.

## Food for Thought

### Musselini's



4 out of a possible 5 fudgies

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Waterloo, ON  
Tel. 519.886.1130

**Laurie Sadowski**  
Food Critic

At first sight, Musselini's still resembles ye ol' Paddy Flaherty's Irish Pub - where Thursday nights had the longest lines, the pints of beer were horribly overpriced and where everyone spent way too much money when Phil's was right down the street.

Musselini's is a great addition to the tasty array of restaurants constantly blooming in the K-W area. Owner Jerry, a WLU alumni, explained to us that after many travels to similar restaurants in the Toronto area, he decided Waterloo needed an inviting and cozy restaurant where food is made fresh and has a friendly, intimate atmosphere.

### Appetizers

**Baked Brie in Filo Pastry - \$7.29**  
There were four huge cubes of brie wrapped in filo pastry and adorned with raspberries. Served in a tangy and sweet raspberry Thai sauce, this is the best baked brie my dinner companion and I have ever tried. At a modest price, it is definitely worth every penny.

### Baked Scallops - \$8.99

Ping pong ball sized scallops smothered in garlic butter and wrapped with crisp bacon, they were sizzling in their juices and were very hot and tasty.

### Shrimp Rolls - \$6.99

Four huge spring roll-esque pas-



Erin Moore

tries, stuffed full of shrimp and served with raspberry Thai sauce. Since they are only available Thursday through Saturday, they are definitely worth the wait to visit on one of those days.

### Caesar Salad - with entrée

Basic Caesar salad, although a little too rich for my taste. My guest likes it dripping with the juices and thoroughly enjoyed the crisp bacon and homemade croutons.

### Garden Salad - with entrée

An excellent concoction of various veggies with a delicious house dressing all on mixed greens. Includes those homemade croutons and is much better than most basic garden salads.

### Entrees

#### Black Pasta - \$12.99

Black noodles tossed with mushrooms, tomatoes and onions sautéed in garlic butter and tossed in Alfredo sauce. It's also baked with mozzarella cheese. Topped with pasta basics of fresh parmesan cheese and ground pepper, it's a great pasta meal guaranteed to put you into relaxation mode for hours afterwards.

#### Grilled Tuna - \$11.99 (special)

Includes a large, thick piece of grilled tuna marinated in lemon juice and spices and grilled to

perfection. Comes with a large serving of fresh vegetables and white rice. The tuna was moist, with the perfect balance of tangy and spicy flavours.

### Desserts

#### Crème Brûlée - \$4.99

Bailey's custard caramelized with sugar and topped with a buttered rum sauce. Ornamented with a huge helping of blueberries, this brûlée was definitely made for the sweet tooth. My guest, who considers himself the brûlée master, says it is the best he's had.

#### Mocha Swirl Cheesecake - \$4.99

Said to be: "Cheesecake infused with coffee and chocolate swirls and generously covered in rich fudge, topped with toasted hazelnut and dark chocolate curls," this cheesecake did not have too much of a coffee taste but was delicious, regardless.

The restaurant also offers happy hour every day from 3 - 6pm which includes cheap appetizers and drinks.

Although great for dinner with friends, family or the like, I would recommend Musselini's as a great date restaurant because of the moderate prices, small intimate atmosphere and excellent staff and service.

## Horoscopes

### Happy Birthday Capricorn!

Don't feel pressured by everything that has gone on recently. Now is your time to unwind and relax. Treat yourself to a few fun things on your birthday. Don't rely on other people right now, everyone is burned out from the holidays.

### Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

During the next little while you're going to be able to find your way out of a lot of sticky situations. Don't test fate though, be thankful you're not getting caught doing anything crazy. Your luck will run out eventually.  
**Luckiest day: January 11**

### Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Even though you may not be able to see the results of all of your efforts yet, keep in mind that you are working towards a great reward. Use that as motivation if you get stuck or start to feel a little bit down.  
**Luckiest day: January 8**

### Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Take the time to enjoy the little pleasures in your life. During this slow time of the year try and do things that you really want to do, regardless of how little they may seem to others. Try not to splurge on anything though.  
**Luckiest day: January 8**

### Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You're going to be doing something new in the next little while. Don't let people tell you how you should be going about your business either. Do what you think is best, but try to incorporate any good advice your given from others.  
**Luckiest day: January 9**

### Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Make sure you stay on top of your work load; it's only going to get worse over the next while. Don't be too hard on yourself though, there are a lot of good things coming for you, but you must complete any unfinished business first.  
**Luckiest day: January 8**

### Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

Make sure everything is locked up or secured; someone could try and steal something from you. You don't want to start the New Year's off with theft. Also, don't combine your problems, they will only get worse if you do.  
**Luckiest day: January 9**

### Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)

Don't turn your back on your financial situation right now. You must budget everything down to the last cent. An unexpected cost could surprise you out of no where and you'll need the extra cash to get through that situation.  
**Luckiest day: January 9**

### Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)

If you're wondering if you're on the correct path to reach your goals, take the time to sit down and focus on what you really want. You must make a list of where you want to be in the near future and things will start to make more sense.  
**Luckiest day: January 7**

### Gemini (May 21-June 21)

You are going to have lots of decisions to make around your job or school. Something which is requiring a lot of your energy is going to take off on its own, with little effort from you. Stay focused and stay on top of your work load.  
**Luckiest day: January 7**

### Cancer (June 22-July 22)

After a long battle with work or school things are going to start going your way. Don't lose your focus though there is still much work ahead of you. Make sure you prioritize everything in the next while, don't waste your time.  
**Luckiest day: January 10**

### Leo (July 23-August 22)

Someone is going to be helping you out with an unfortunate situation. This person wants to see you do well and is going to be a good friend. Don't let your pride block their willingness to help you out, especially when you need assistance.  
**Luckiest day: January 8**

### Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Someone younger is going to be offering you something you're not expecting. Whether it is in the form of advice or a material gift, don't be hesitant to accept any gifts over the next while. Try to focus on the positive things going on right now.  
**Luckiest day: January 11**

# Vocal Cord

What's your New Year's Resolution for 2005?



ERIK SHARPE  
THIRD YEAR  
HISTORY

"Quit smoking."

"To have total acceptance, discipline, dedication and action in everything that I do. And to make the most out of the next 365 days. To better myself and the world around me."



AURAVELIC COBMER  
SECOND YEAR  
BUSINESS



ALEYA SHIRAZEE  
FIRST YEAR  
FILM AND ENGLISH

"Lose some weight, make some money and go to Australia and Zurich this summer."

"Go to class more."



BECCA GRANT  
THIRD YEAR  
COMM. BUSINESS OPTION



LYNDSAY BUCKHOLDER  
FOURTH YEAR  
KINESIOLOGY

"To stick to a workout program."

"No more \$5 walk in specials from Twice the deal pizza."



CHRIS VANVLIET  
FOURTH YEAR  
COMM. STUDIES



DIANA OLDFIELD  
FOURTH YEAR  
KINESIOLOGY

"Party hard and enjoy my last 4 months of school."

"Oink."



MR. PIG  
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PSYCHOLOGY

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# Music and movie-makers help out

The entertainment community gives its time, talent and most importantly, money, to help with relief efforts in South Asia



Contributed Photo

Linkin Park have spearheaded tsunami relief fundraising amongst musicians.

**CARLY BEATH**  
Entertainment Editor

As tsunami relief efforts continue, the entertainment world is pitching in to do its part. Linkin Park launched the Music for Relief fund with a

\$100,000 donation of their own and calls for others to add to that. The money raised will go to the American Red Cross for use in its relief work in South Asia.

Scores of benefit concerts are in the works as well. While many of the details have yet to be final-

ized, concert organizers in Cardiff Wales are hoping to secure the likes of U2 and Coldplay for a show on January 22; a show on January 15 has Tim McGraw, Sheryl Crow and Christina Aguilera set to take the stage on NBC. Willie Nelson is

hosting a concert in Austin, Texas on January 9, which will feature Nelson and other country performers.

NBC is also hosting a special, with proceeds going to UNICEF. Other broadcasters are also using their media outlets to raise money. Infinity Radio Los Angeles is dedicating January 11 to fundraising on its TV and radio stations. CHUM radio and TV stations held a similar Disaster Relief Day on January 5.

Many entertainers are making personal donations. Actress Sandra Bullock donated \$1 million to the Red Cross, and director Steven Spielberg donated \$1.5 million to various relief organizations.

Efforts are popping up on a smaller scale as well. Thorp Records, an independent label, had announced on its website that it is donating a percentage of its profits for the month of January to relief groups. A posting on the Free Republic urges visual artists

to use their talent to create posters and other materials to remind people of the importance of donating money. Independent Ottawa band Donkey Punch is donating all of the money from their CD and t-shirt sales to the Red Cross. "If you weren't drowning this Christmas season" you have a responsibility to help out, said Donkey Punch singer/guitarist Ted Carty.



Contributed Photo

Actress Sandra Bullock has given \$1 million to the Red Cross.

## Painfully close to reality

**Closer**



4.5 out of a possible 5 broken hearts

**Actors:** Julia Roberts, Natalie Portman, Jude Law, Clive Owen

**Synopsis:** Reality in the form of dysfunctional relationships.

**CHRIS CLEMENS**  
Staff Writer

The truth may set you free, but not necessarily in a good way. As far as perceivable lessons in cinema go, this was about as much as I could glean from the pessimistic ashes of *Closer's* intricately woven anti-romance. But it was more than enough.

Jude Law, Julia Roberts, Clive Owen and Natalie Portman anchor each corner of the fated love-square with equitable strength. Each carries a particular archetype in 21st century romance: Law is a writer - far too idealistic and theatrical to ever be satisfied with what he's got, while Owen is a shrewd doctor who desperately wants a deeper love that he knows exists but can't feel. Roberts is willing to gamble the safety and comforts of marriage for an outside chance at these depths and Portman's character is doggedly loyal and dependant, still too young to assess her own brilliance and self-sufficiency. It's all very familiar, both in life and in fiction, but the film's sheer brutality makes it hard to look away.

An ensemble performance, every character in *Closer* is given equal chance to muse and rant, to crumble and break others in turn - to hurt, in general. As the film's timeline skips around gleefully, we see the defining moments in these relationships: from the picture-perfect, fairy tale beginnings, to the tragic minutes where



Contributed Photo

Jude Law and Julia Roberts in the pessimistic relationship drama *Closer*.

everything falls apart.

Much of *Closer's* strength lies in its critical scrutiny of modern-day romance, from the gender trickery of online dating to the ethical murkiness involved in suggesting that Absolute Truth is not always the best policy. A point of particular interest is the male preoccupation with ex's and their sex lives - the hang-ups on who happens to be sleeping with one's former girl (not that I wanted her back in the first place).

**The sheer passion in this film is nigh-overwhelming.**

These obsessions are a source of escalated conflict between Law and Owen, and sex effectively becomes a heart-wrenching weapon. It's an intriguing exposé on a culture where gender equality is widely proclaimed and yet women somehow become 'property' to be jealously coveted and guarded from other men under all circumstances.

The dialogue carries the film, and those who require exploding vehicles and/or exploding build-

ings to keep their attention may not enjoy *Closer*. There are, however, strippers in abundant quantities and a number of vicious exchanges between characters that read like a particularly tense tennis-match. The barbs fly, and when an especially devastating bomb is dropped, chances are you'll care. Sure, the shaky coincidences add up and the occasional cheesy line is delivered, but if you give yourself to the drama, the sheer passion in this film is nigh-overwhelming.

*Closer* is, without a doubt, a pessimistic perspective on love - the antithesis to the Hollywood romance with a happy ending. Its quadrilateral structure becomes claustrophobic at times and you'll wonder why none of the characters have the will to leave the nightmare, to start fresh. But as with any relationship, clarity is only for those on the outside, looking in. The film's sour honesty and extraordinarily well-written dialogue binds everything together in helplessness, a train wreck that one is compelled to witness yet powerless to act against. It's a beautiful and painful thing, this dark reflection of ourselves.

## Phantom a delight on screen

**Phantom of the Opera**



4 out of a possible 5 masks

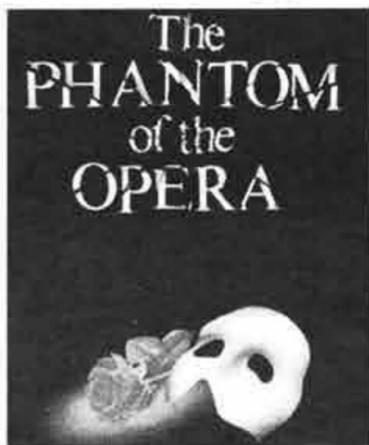
**Actors:** Emmy Rossum, Minnie Driver

**Synopsis:** A stage classic comes to movie theatres

**CHRISTIE WILHELM**  
Staff Writer

Under the direction of Joel Schumacher, Andrew Lloyd Webber's beloved musical, *The Phantom of the Opera*, is stunningly transformed to a work of cinematic art. *The Phantom* is arguably one of the greatest musicals of all time. It has been on stage on Broadway without break for over sixteen years and enjoyed a successful ten year run at Toronto's own Pantages Theatre from 1989 to 1999. Given this reputation, bringing this show to the big screen was not a task to be taken lightly.

The actors in this film did a fantastic job of recreating the excitement of the stage produc-



Contributed Photo

Joel Schumacher has successfully taken *Phantom* from stage to screen.

tion. Emmy Rossum was impressive in her lead role as Christine Daae, a chorus girl turned star, thanks to the attention of the Phantom. Rossum's skill as a vocalist was refreshing in this role and contributed strongly to the overall appeal of the movie. Rossum's performance was somewhat hindered by strong vocal pop influences that are perhaps better suited to a *Paris Idol* competition than a 19th century opera house. However, she was able to pull off a convincing performance through a strong and confident demeanour.

Rossum's lead was complemented by a fantastic cast of colourful characters. The role of the conductor, Reyer, played by Murray Melvin, was stunning. This character brought comic relief to a serious plot and provided a behind-the-scenes perspective to the show. Minnie Driver's take on her character, Carlotta, the prima donna of the opera house, was remarkable. In the stage production, this character is typically portrayed as cold, rude, and unlovable. Bringing humour to Carlotta's demanding persona and making light of her ridiculous actions, Driver created an unforgettable and warm character that is sure to be a favourite with audiences.

The excitement and elegance of the 19th century opera house is beautifully captured in this movie through the use of decadent costumes and elaborate sets. The opening scene brings to life the backstage of the opera house and sets the mood for the entire film. The scene whizzes audiences through the labyrinth of sets and props backstage, allowing us to catch intimate glimpses of the visual splendour and plethora of opera performers that fill the

- Please see **Phantom**, page 21

# I-Ninja cute and colourful fun



fun and is very much at home in the colourful surroundings. The scenery is on a small tropical island, where the water and sunset are immersing.

**Controls:** Controls are basic in the *I-Ninja* game but do include most of the controls available. The control pad is used for the special moves, R for the chain, A for jump and B for sword attack. Variations occur throughout the game, but all are easy, with in-game tutorials to teach the new move.

**Game Play:** With around 64 missions to accomplish, the concepts of each mission are surprisingly unique and creative. The steps required in the mission are each easily planned, and the execution may be the hardest part. Some involve rolling a giant robot's eye back, competing in a boxing match (inside the robot, making it much like Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots), to shooting the approaching ships from the cliffs. The variety keeps the game interesting, even if some think it is simple.

**Overall:** I love this game and find it fun to play. Even if I can only play for 15 minutes, this game is good because of the save feature after each mission. The humour injected by Sensei makes me laugh, and the enemies are funny as well. The variety is good and keeps the game fresh, and the controls are easy to learn. I enjoy this game, and highly recommend it to anyone looking for an inexpensive game and one to play during short breaks, or even to play straight through.

**I-Ninja**

4.5 out of a possible 5 ninjas

**System:** Nintendo Gamecube  
**Release Date:** Sept. 2, 2003

**JILLIAN PANCOTT**  
Copy Editor

When *I-Ninja* was originally released on Gamecube in 2003, I somehow missed it on the shelf. However, this break I found it for \$20 in Staples, and couldn't resist buying it. Am I ever glad I did. This game is fun and addictive with the cutest little ninja I've ever seen. But don't let his looks fool you - this is one mean ninja. The last of his kind, he sets out to defend his country from Master O-Dor and his army of Ranx. After beheading his Sensei (accidentally) he is sent on his missions with some guidance from the ghost Sensei on the side.

**Graphics:** The graphics are smooth, despite the cartoon-like feel of the game. The landscapes are well done, and intriguing. The caricature-like main character is

## A work of cinematic art

- from **Phantom**, page 20

area. The brilliant cinematography employed throughout this movie develops the setting of the story in more detail than could possibly be done on stage, allowing audiences to develop a more personal connection with the characters and the story.

Overall, this movie is a delight for the eyes and ears. Andrew Lloyd Webber's stunning music is magnificently por-

trayed throughout and is amazing to hear in surround sound. The costumes and sets are deliciously rich, bringing excitement and vigour to the setting. The characters provided twists to the traditional stage production, which created a fresh outlook for a classic show. *The Phantom of the Opera* has captured theatre audiences for years and will stun them again in this vivid and emotional film.



## Ear Candy



**Low**

4 out of a possible 5 destroyers

**Title:** The Great Destroyer  
**Label:** Sub Pop  
**Release Date:** January 25, 2005

It seems as though Low has finally realized the limitations of their genre. For years, they have been the pioneers of the slow-core genre, producing album after album of lingering, lurching melodies, sparse vocals and dank atmospherics. With 2001's *Things We Lost In The Fire*, Low demonstrated, for the first time, a willingness to branch out beyond the trappings of slow-core. But now, with the impending January release of *The Great Destroyer*, Low seem poised to dispel all expectations concerning their music. Moving from stark soundscapes to layered, distorted pop ballads, Low have taken an entirely different tack in this new album. *The Great Destroyer* shifts constantly between apocalyptic dirges like "Monkey", "Everybody's Song", and "Pissing" to more upbeat, pop-sounding explorations like "Cue The Strings", "California", and "Death of a Salesman". Low have even come out to categorize this new sound as "aggressive," "guitar-based" and even "pop."

So how does it all work out? This new venture, while intriguing, fails to come together as a whole. The album has its moments but lacks the overall cohesiveness that came to define many of Low's previous offerings. Don't get me wrong, I love the Sonic Youth feel that many of the tracks have, and Parker and Sparhawk's vocals spiral to new heights, but there's just

something missing. The innovativeness seems forced at times, like on "California", the album's first single. When they're not plumbing the depths of desolation and angst, they're spinning out bland pop-tunes like "California" and "Just Stand Back". I have no problem with bands reinventing themselves, and it's particularly welcome in this case, but Low seem to have lost some of the edginess that made them so appealing.

-Rob Whitfield



**And You Will Know...**

2 out of a possible 5 worlds

**Title:** Worlds Apart  
**Label:** Interscope Records  
**Release Date:** January 25, 2005

Talk about big shoes to fill. After 2002's masterpiece, *Source Tags and Codes*, everyone was expecting more of the same from Texas-based And You Will Know Us By The Trail of Dead, but they've proven adept at defying expectations. Replacing bassist Neil Busch with Rise's Danny Wood and their customary crashing waves of distortion and noise with a cheerfully bitter pop experimentation, the band seems to have turned its back on previous successes. Gone are the obtusely poetic and personal lyrics, only to be replaced with lamentations of the current state of MTV and bland ballads of lost love. I have a problem with this.

*Source Tags and Codes* represented a stunning achievement in music fusion, mixing the characteristic distorted, layered sound of bands like Mogwai and My Bloody Valentine with the more accessible sound of mainstream indie-rockers like Franz Ferdinand and Modest Mouse. *Worlds Apart*, on the other hand, takes a giant step backwards. Only three tracks out of twelve are recognizable as Trail of Dead, whereas the others sound like an awful mix of Jimmy Eat World and Dashboard Confessional. All of the heart and soul that made *Source Tags and Codes* such an achievement are noticeably lacking, traded in shamelessly for playability on MTV and high radio rotation.

-Rob Whitfield

**Weekly Lyrics...** I like pleasure spiked with pain  
It's a crack, I'm high, yeah standing out on the  
**Weekly Lyrics**  
I started out clean but I'm just phoning  
**The strangest of the strange ...Weekly Lyrics**

*if you stay too long inside my memory  
i ll trap you in a song tied to a melody  
and keep you there so you can't bother me*

Do you recognize these lyrics? If so, e-mail the song title and artist to [wluentertainment@yahoo.ca](mailto:wluentertainment@yahoo.ca) and you could win a fabulous prize. Of course, I'll have no way of knowing if you Google it, but you'll have to live with the guilty conscience of a dirty cheater.

**Cheap Date.**  
Thursday January 6th

**WIN your tuition**

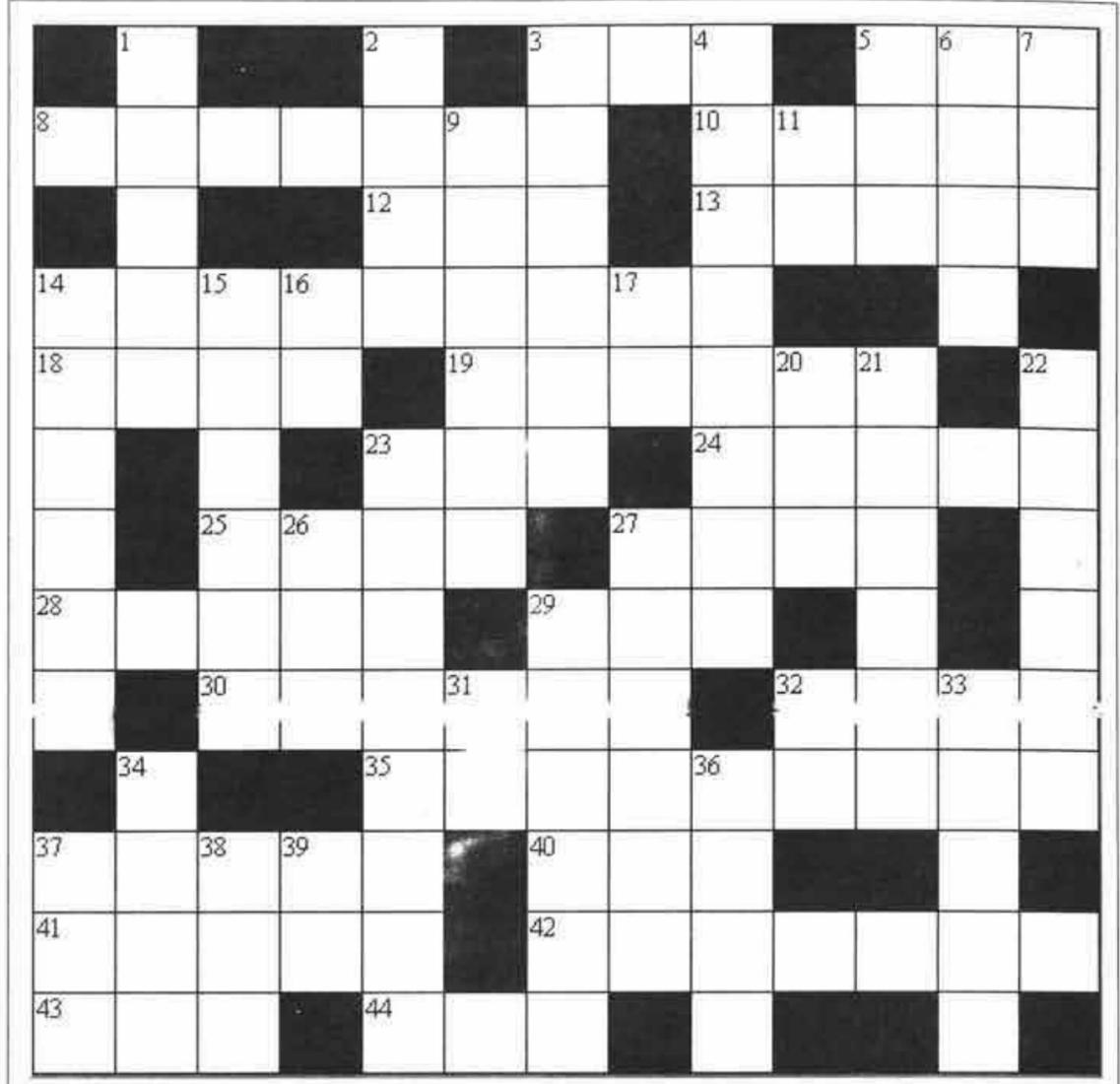


# Crossword

BY FRASER KING

- Across:
- 3. Like Mom's apple \_\_\_\_
  - 5. To and \_\_\_\_
  - 8. Hot sauce
  - 10. Red-breasted bird
  - 12. Piece of a tree
  - 13. Banishment
  - 14. Message delivered by Sun's rays
  - 18. Mined metals
  - 19. Note longform
  - 23. Camera shortform
  - 24. A sloping mass of rock debris at the base of a cliff.
  - 25. Baby powder
  - 27. Seek and you shall \_\_\_\_
  - 28. What Bryn wants you to do
  - 29. Like a curve
  - 30. As a lyre
  - 32. What donkey's vocalise
  - 35. What you are interested in
  - 37. For the specific purpose
  - 40. Israeli SMG
  - 41. Nigerian dollars
  - 42. Worn on the neck, like Avril
  - 43. LE minor Devil
  - 44. Buddy \_\_\_\_ Jeans

- Down:
- 1. One who pays
  - 2. Capital of Norway
  - 3. Instance of ethnic cleansing
  - 4. Religious recluse
  - 5. Federal Bureau of Investigation
  - 6. Down to feathers
  - 7. Neo is the \_\_\_\_
  - 9. Courvoisier
  - 11. Single oxen
  - 14. To associate familiarly
  - 15. Used in soups
  - 16. Hell \_\_ here
  - 17. Austria shortform
  - 20. What soup comes in
  - 21. Old people
  - 22. Articles with theses
  - 23. Office sorting tasks
  - 26. \_\_ body listening?
  - 27. Water does this at zero degrees
  - 29. To become accustomed
  - 31. Anime North
  - 32. To \_\_\_\_ or not to \_\_\_\_
  - 33. Just below the roof
  - 34. Liked Eve
  - 36. Grain
  - 37. American bird
  - 38. \_\_-Hop
  - 39. Gold, en francais



**SCRAMBLOR.** Lord of all Jumbles: Welcome back!  
Unscramble the five scrambled words and use the circled letters to answer the question to the right.

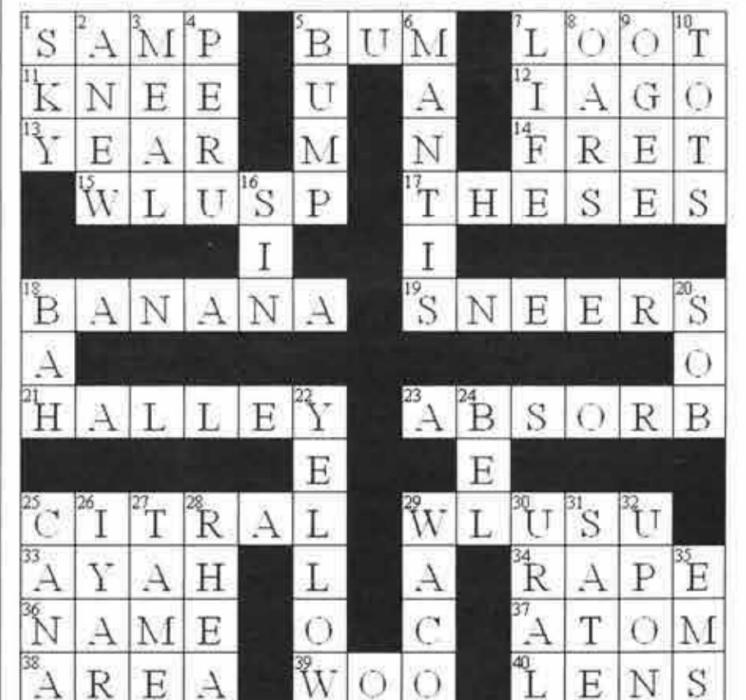
**K U N C R**

**R S A V O**

**K G M A**

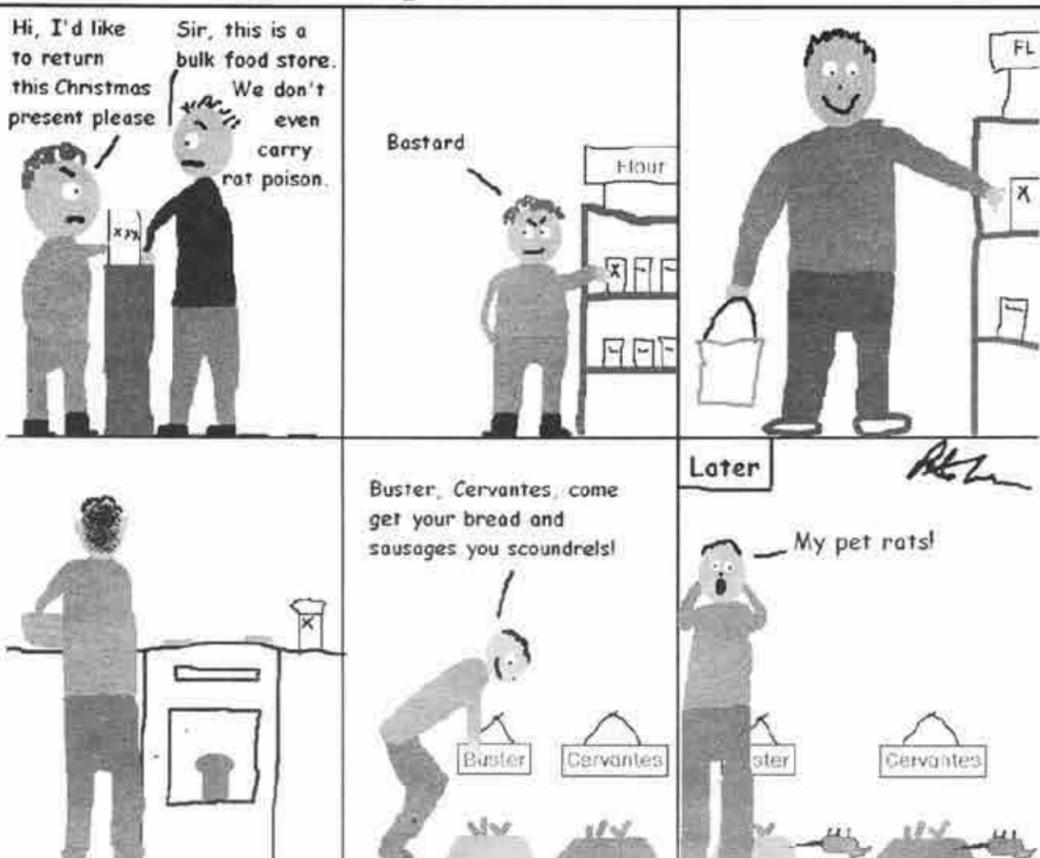
**A K G E**

What did I do when I saw my first term marks?



## Weekly Bad Drawing

By Pete Cram

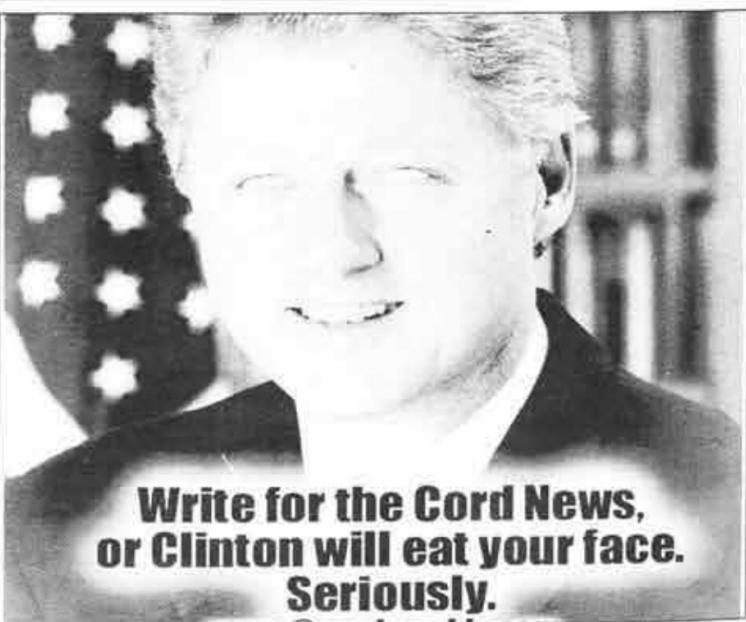


## Last Week's Answers

S	T	R	E	S	S
S	L	E	E	P	
S	T	U	D	Y	
R	E	A	D		

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

P	A	R	T	Y
---	---	---	---	---



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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Congratulations!**  
To Ms. April Cunningham and Mr. Jake Robinson, on their engagement and upcoming nuptials next summer. The Cord Weekly wishes the young couple well.

**PERSONALS**

Production thanks; everyone who made this potentially disastrous issue relatively painless. Ananthan for putting in solid time yet again, Sydney for thrice appearing in the office, Miranda for doing more important Cord work than menial production, Pinchy for whipping up a good layout hastily and the hook-up, Bryan for ignoring my production recommendations as much in 2005 as in 2004, Jenn for having familiar connections, 'Pril for the big news and her fiance Jake for liking Jay-Z, 'Roldie and Kumar, Andreas for being my Scandinavian brova, the sultry Long Island wiener women and the budding soccer stars for a much awaited practice. Finally, thanks to Bryn for not having me do a single production thing for him this year - have a great time being cosmopolitan while we toil in the basement, your inflammatory comments and controversy-cow nature will be sorely missed.

Notes from the Chief: Happy New Year, April and Jenn for a spectacular two pages of hard work, Brandon for speedy production, Pinchy for a rather impressive last-minute feature, Stefan's hilarity, Kris for being first yet again, Carly for being fast too (i still owe you), Colin where the hell are you (kidding), Congrats April (yeah!), Fraser I hope you feel better and thank you as always, Angela, everyone else for their help (amy feel better). **PLEASE donate what \$ you have to the Red Cross or an organization you trust.** - CH  
*Bryn you are the reason I have an ulcer. You make me laugh, you make me think and your work has made me cry both tears of joy and tears of pain. Your name is music to my ears on Mondays and a curse word on Wednesday mornings. Your devotion to this newspaper is unmatched. I will miss your presence in the office but surely enjoy your pestering voice from overseas. Good luck and thank you (merci) for committing yourself for three more months. Safe travels... au revoir.* - Cait

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it's coming...  
*eventually!*

# Love and Laughs for *The Life Aquatic*

The wait is over: the new Wes Anderson directorial effort is visually stunning, and it brings up the question of whether Murray will ever get an Oscar

## The Life Aquatic



**Actors:** Bill Murray, Owen Wilson, Willem Dafoe  
**Nutshell:** A man seeks revenge on a shark. No, it's not *Jaws*.

Stefan Sereda



Arts Editor

Steve Zissou: washed-up oceanographer and documentarian, womanizer, adulterer, homophobe and absent father. We learn most of these character traits in the first ten minutes of *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*, and yet even as Wes Anderson's latest directorial effort reveals the captain's less appealing side, the film convinces us to love him for the prick he describes himself to be.

In the tradition of Jacques Cousteau, *The Life Aquatic* explores the depths of the ocean and its characters in a quirky way that only Anderson, of *Rushmore* and *Royal Tenenbaums*

acclaim, could pull off. The first collaboration between Anderson and Noah Baumbach, the movie's serious tones provide touching accents in an otherwise laugh-out-loud film. Of course, you might be the only one on the joke at some points, but who really cares if you're the only one laughing at Willem Dafoe's red cap during the opening scenes. If you're not in on the joke, sorry, *The Life Aquatic* might not be for you. But I'm sure *Racing Stripes* will be a really great flick.

Giving a more emotional and humorous performance than in *Lost in Translation*, Bill Murray plays Zissou, captain of the *Belafonte*, whose best friend was eaten by a jaguar shark in the making of a documentary. Seeking vengeance, Zissou sets out to destroy the shark, with his supposed son (Owen Wilson), a pregnant journalist with a vendetta of her own (Cate Blanchett), his right hand man (Willem Dafoe), his crew, seven interns, a "bond company stooge" and a load of dynamite in tow. Only his estranged wife Eleanor (Anjelica Huston) and his nemesis, Alistair Hennessey (Jeff Goldblum) aren't exactly in for the ride. On their journey, the crew struggles

with economic complications, pirate attacks and mutiny, while Zissou, Ned (Wilson) and Jane (Blanchett) explore notions of fatherhood.

The performances in *The Life Aquatic* are top-notch, for the actors who get significant roles. The advertisements that call Murray and Wilson a great comic duo are misleading, however, as Wilson's character is the focus of drama rather than humour. If not for Murray's fantastic job, Dafoe would have stolen the show as Klaus, the *Belafonte's* neglected middle-child, who looks up to Zissou as a father-figure.

The film's look is also intriguing, with Anderson inserting techniques he previously employed in *Rushmore* and *The Royal Tenenbaums*. A plethora of stop-motion animation marine life enhances the visual feel of the film. Because the filmmakers weren't attempting to make the film look like *The Incredibles*, some viewers may quibble that the specimens look artificial. Indeed, that seems to be the point: the animated portions look sweetly surreal against Anderson's already visually astonishing but detailed real-life scenes. Think *Yellow*



Contributed Photo

Bill to Owen: "Sure, I look like a geezer. You make a movie with Lucy Liu and see what you look like by the end of it."

*Submarine* with stop-motion animation and without phony Beatle voices.

The real surprise of the film is its soundtrack, comprised mostly of David Bowie songs, sung with acoustic guitar accompaniment in another language by one of the characters at intervals during the movie. The music suits the theme of exploration perfectly, and matches the mood of each scene, while adding humour by being played repeatedly in another language, but also exoticism and beauty. The concurrence of "Rock and Roll Suicide" with Zissou's wife abandoning him

made for one of the best scenes in the film.

Unfortunately, this film is being panned by some for being incomprehensible or "about nothing." These critics are missing something, and the movie demands more than one viewing to be taken in. Having seen the film twice, I can say that a second screening is rewarding, and I'm sure I could pick up more every time I watch it, as with previous Anderson efforts. *The Life Aquatic* might not be Anderson's best film, but it's a definite contender for movie of the year.

## Cliffnotes: Arts Events from the edge... of K-W

**A New Year, a new display**  
Marshall Ward's acrylic on canvas exhibit, *Satiety*, will be on display in the Robert Langen Gallery from January 5 to February 5. The artist will attend a reception on January 12 from 4-5pm.

### Roleplaying

Now that I have all of the Dungeons & Dragons fans' attention, *Bhumika (The Role)* will be screened at the next Women's Studies Film Night on January 10 at 7pm in the Peters Building, Room 1025/27. The film follows the unconventional life of Indian

stage and screen actress, Hansa Wadkar.

### Tsunami Relief Concert

Kitchener's Centre in the Square will host a concert by the 135-voice Kitchener-Waterloo Philharmonic Choir and the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony to raise funds for the Mennonite Central Committee, a charitable relief development and peace organization contributing to tsunami relief. The concert, which will feature Mozart's Requiem, aims to raise \$100,000. Donations will be accepted, but tickets are free.

## Small press to hold big event

### Photocopiers certainly aren't obsolete: zine culture on the rise

KEVIN GILLICH  
The Link (Concordia University)

MONTREAL (CUP) -- What do superheroes, underground music, social commentary and intellectual debate have in common? All will be on display at Expозine.

Montréal's third annual small press, comic and zine fair offers a chance to see publications and meet writers and artists from a diverse array of vibrant communities, which rarely come together.

Expозine organizer Louis Rastelli said while there is a lot of small press and zine activity in the city, there wasn't a fair or any other event in which people involved with zines all got together. So, he and his friends decided to create such an event. "We always wondered why we had to drive to Toronto (for a zine fair) when we could just have one right here," said Rastelli. "It took us about five to six years of complaining about that before we finally did something about it."

Only three years old, Expозine has already been quite successful. This year's festival will include 145 participants. Unfortunately, only 30 of these participants are French publications, a shortcoming Rastelli hopes will change as the word spreads. Publications from Québec City and Sherbrooke will be participating, so it has been

working thus far. When Rastelli asked fellow participants to pass along the information to francophone zines, however, he got a possible answer as to why the number of French publications was so low.

"Some people replied saying zine culture is more entrenched in anglo culture than in francophone... especially in non-literary content," said Rastelli. He went on to say the number of French zines participating has increased and "the level of bilingualism at this fair is unique."

### The ideas and topics the mainstream chooses to ignore are proudly put on display by underground publications.

One thing people can be sure to expect at this year's fair will be variety. Expозine will feature zines that focus on any and every topic imaginable. Not only does this provide the small press an opportunity to show off their zines, but it also gives them a chance to discover topics with which they share a common focus.

Of course, this diversity benefits the small press community in Montréal. Those who read zines

that focus on one of their interests might discover other interests of theirs are covered as well.

"It opens their eyes a bit to the range of other things going on," said Rastelli. "On the other hand, it lets people zero in on what is similar to their interests and trade."

Zines mainly exist as an inexpensive way to allow anyone to get their ideas and opinions out to the public. With the Internet around, many online zines have appeared, and one might think the days of going to a copy centre and photocopying a stack of zines is over. That has yet to be the case, though.

"I think that the Internet has given a huge boost to zine culture," said Rastelli. "It is a tool to help the small press tell each other what is going on."

Those looking to start a zine might think they will be stuck spending their time in obscurity standing in front of a copy machine. Rastelli publishes *Fish Piss*, a zine that now has over 200 contributors from all across North America as well as countries overseas, from Italy to New Zealand. That's a lot of time in front of a copy machine.

The best thing Expозine has to offer is a chance to read something different. The ideas and topics the mainstream chooses to ignore are proudly put on display by underground publications.

"You'll find a lot more unique or weird things in the small press than you will looking around Chapters."

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**Ray**

Congratulations on the nuptials, April and Jake!!!

This might not be the most appropriate place to ask, but will you be serving goat cheese pizza at the reception?