

## A SOCIAL BEAST

Something every closeted musician or fan should experience ... **PAGE 14**

## DAY OF INACTION

Students across the nation protest tuition hikes today - but not here ... **PAGE 3**

## WATCH OUT, TURNITIN

Climbing costs to use the anti-plagiarism site may not be worth it ... **PAGE 21**

Volume 47 Issue 21

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2007

www.cordweekly.com



**MAN OF THE PEOPLE** - Dan Allison celebrates his presidential triumph at Wilf's last Thursday. Inset: Dan Hocking visibly upset with results.

## Shades of grey

**Cord Features'** roundtable discussion reveals racism at WLU isn't black and white

**TONY FERGUSON**  
NEWS EDITOR  
& **ALEX HAYTER**  
FEATURES EDITOR

Most first year students' concerns over arriving at a new school involve nothing more than making new friends, adjusting to life away from home and preparing for the heavier workload.

For those who happen to be visibly different, adjusting to life at university can be a lot more challenging.

When Kareem Larcher first arrived at Laurier, as a black from St. Lucia in the Caribbean, he felt as though he really stood out. "When I first came, I felt really out of place because of my colour."

This feeling of racial self-consciousness soon disappeared as Larcher got to know his floor-mates. "But then everyone [was] so friendly, I had a good floor and I felt welcome."

Lauren Ching, a Jamaican whose father is Chinese, noticed that Canadians base their assumptions about others more on race than on class as they do in Jamaica. "So when I came here, I'm like ... I guess I'm Chinese?" she joked. "I'm Jamaican, right? And that's how I define myself."

Kenisha Bynob, whose parents come from St. Vincent, considers herself Canadian but can't help but share with Larcher the same feelings of being singled out. "I feel like I'm automatically marked by my race," she said. "People will see me, but based on what I look like; on my exterior."

For some minorities like Dorothy Attakora-Gyan, who is Ghanaian, finding similar-looking people is not that simple.

"When we [see each other], it's like, 'Do I say hi to them?' and it's very awkward."

Attakora-Gyan explains that people aren't just divided into a few easy to identify categories, there are many more groups within groups that people don't realize exist. "It's not just white on black, but even black on black. There are a lot of grey shades within."

# Allison victorious

McNiven wins VP:UA in landslide after losing all confidence in campaign; Hocking torn by loss

**MIKE BROWN**  
NEWS EDITOR

WLUSU elections ended with the shedding of tears last Thursday night, as the four candidates for next year's WLU students' union president and vice-president of university affairs gathered at Wilf's among their many supporters to await the results of two weeks of hard campaigning. In the end, Dan Allison and Lauren McNiven walked away beaming, while Dan Hocking and Yusuf Faqiri limped from the bar with their loyal supporters.

As the elections committee tallied ballots, sequestered in the WLUSU board room, Allison and Hocking arrived to the on-campus pub early, circulating and thanking everyone for their support during an amicable presidential campaign.

Shortly after 10 pm, Yusuf Faqiri made his appearance to a smattering of applause, leaving his counterpart in a hotly-contested, often adversarial VP:UA race, McNiven conspicuously absent from the bar.

"I did not want to come here tonight," she later explained. "I felt

so sick about it."

But McNiven did eventually appear, and the packed crowd at Wilf's began to grow anxious to hear the results - the four candidates themselves seized by a combination of exhaustion from a strenuous campaign period, relief regarding its end and nerves over the impending announcement.

Shortly after midnight, the drama reached its fevered pitch with the appearance of Chief Returning Officer Josh Periard, who took the stage to announce the results. The campaign teams of Hocking, Allison and Faqiri crowded the stage, while McNiven and her squad lingered passively near the back of the bar.

Periard theatrically delivered result after result, from the obliga-

tory passing of the financial statements to Zach Mealia's defeat of Jenn Diniz in the Brantford campus commissioner race.

And then came the results for which the bar held its collective breath. In what was almost universally expected to be the closest election in recent WLUSU memory, Periard delivered the surprisingly one-sided results.

McNiven beat Faqiri in the VP:UA race by nearly 1000 votes, 1610-688, shocking even McNiven herself and reducing Faqiri to an emotional mess.

"I hate crushing people's dreams," said Periard, who took 20 minutes just to gather himself emotionally before announcing the results. "I really felt like I was just squashing people."

In the presidential race, Allison won the battle of the Dans 1552-778, leaving Hocking noticeably broken. Allison's supporters and fraternity brethren surged forward in elation, nearly toppling some of the stage equipment and giving rise to a palpable clamor that largely drowned out the large margin of victory.

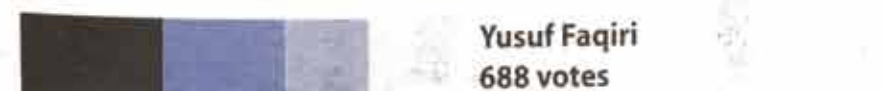
"I didn't even hear what the margin was," said Allison minutes later. "Dan Hocking's a great candidate. He ran an awesome campaign. I'm surprised if the margin was big; I actually didn't hear it."

## WLUSU Election Results

President & CEO



Vice-President: University Affairs



■ Arts ■ Science/Music  
■ SBE ■ Brantford

- SEE ELECTION, PAGE 2

- SEE RACE, PAGE 12-13



**THE CORD WEEKLY**

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**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"Ahhhh! I'm jizzing all over myself!"

- Graphics Editor Emilie Joslin, regarding the saucy debate that inevitably ensues when eating a pizza

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Allison, McNiven win big

- FROM ELECTION, COVER

The night was highlighted by a rift of emotion. The losers, Faqiri and Hocking, made abrupt, tear-streaked exits from the bar, consoled by their supporters, while the new president was left shedding tears of a markedly different kind.

"I have never cried out of joy before," explained an exuberant Allison. "I actually mean never. And I did tonight."

He bubbled with excitement, constantly thanking the Laurier voters, his campaign team, and singling out his campaign manager, Laura Gray.

"I'm trying to reach out to more students, beyond just the typical WLUSU crowd and it meant so much for them to vote me in," he added.

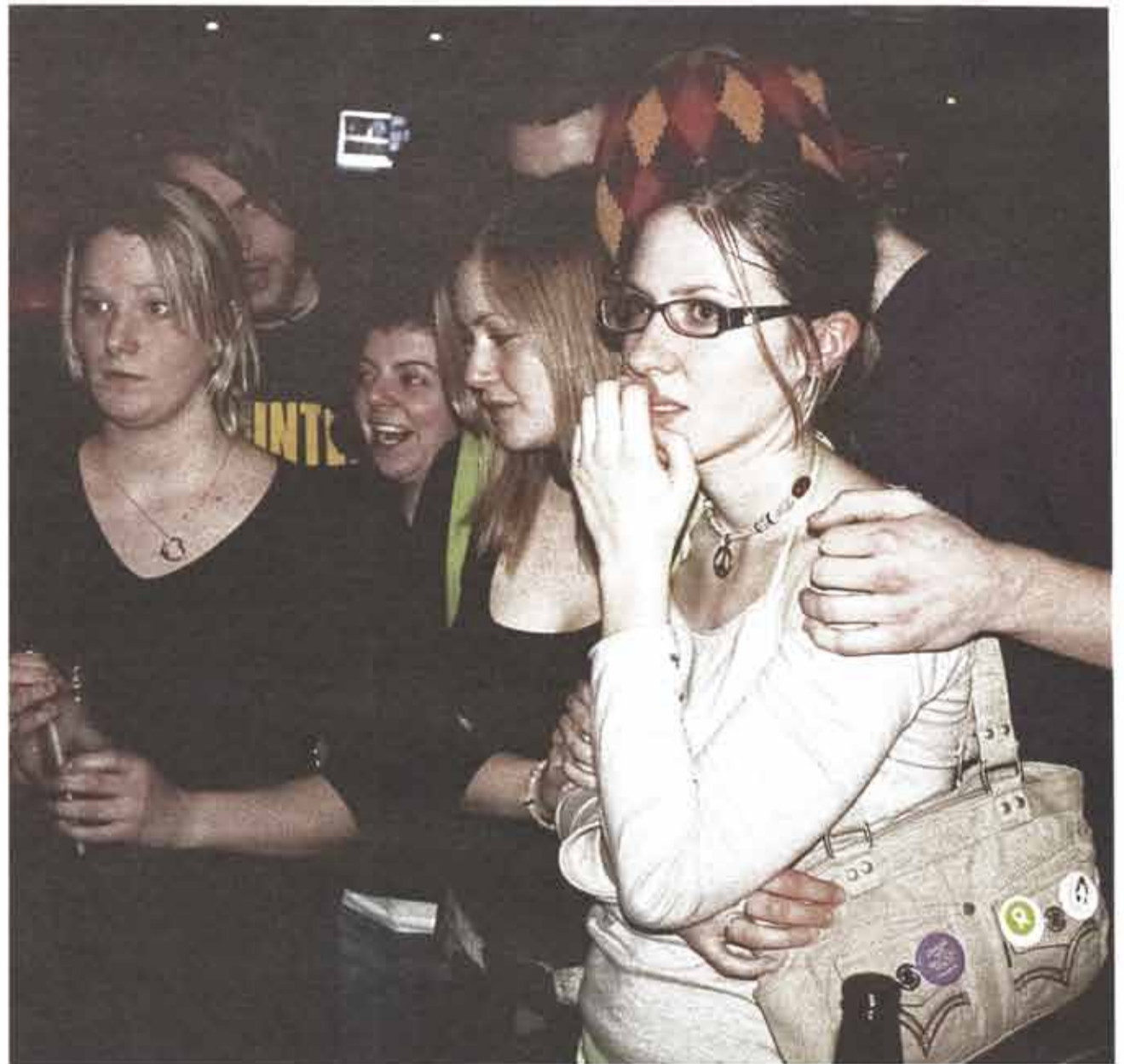
For her part, McNiven was characterized largely by relief, the result having an obvious restorative power in her faith in the Laurier student body.

"I think the students are a lot smarter than I was worried that they might be," she said. "I think students paid attention. They did. They read the *Cord* and they came out and they talked to people and they listened to my campaign."

But the result, despite the 922-vote chasm that separated her from Faqiri, legitimately shocked McNiven, who had to be talked into even showing up by her close friends. Battling a viral lung infection for much of the campaign, she shut down her campaign efforts an hour before the polls closed at 7 pm. Her voice cracked and broken, minutes after learning of her win, McNiven had difficulty wrapping her head around the favourable result.

"I can't believe that I won by so much.... I thought it was going to be dead close and that Yusuf was going to beat me. I truly, truly thought that I was done."

But hearing her name was enough to make her forget about her physical ailments.



Alex Hundert

**NERVOUS TENSION** - Lauren McNiven awaits the results for VP:UA. She defeated Yusuf Faqiri 1610-688.

"I feel happy," grinned McNiven. "All the throw-up in my belly has turned into joy."

Her opponent did not share her jubilee. "It was a tough pill to swallow," said Faqiri. "Unfortunately, I got very emotional, but I had a team that rallied around me. It would take a couple hours for me to even stop crying."

Ultimately, though, Faqiri is taking the high road about his loss and readying himself to move beyond the intimate halls of WLU.

"I have aspirations of entering the world of professional politics one day. It taught me a lot about myself," explained Faqiri, noting his plans to enter law school at either Western or Queen's.

Hocking, on the other hand, will

be back next year. He's spent the last couple days taking stock of his academic future and the potential of continued involvement within WLUSU. Some have suggested a second run at President or another term on the board.

"I really just need to try and figure out what's best for me," says Hocking.

He thinks he'll probably concentrate on his academics and take on more of a leadership role within the Sigma Chi fraternity, at least given his current feelings. He's trying very hard to move beyond the result, but it still hurts.

"It's going to be tough for the rest of the year. The hardest part for me is knowing that for the last two years of my life, pretty much from

that day, I've given pretty much all I had to the students' union. It was my first priority, my marks have suffered, everything else has suffered, and it almost feels like people see that as being meaningless," he says.

And so, one very emotional election is in the books. But Periard's work is far from done. Nomination packages are already available for the March 8 Special General Meeting to fill the Board of Directors' five vacancies.

"It's right back on the bandwagon," says Periard. "I seriously do think that we're going to have a lot more candidates running than anybody was expecting."

# Bus service challenged

WLUSU faces legal difficulties in implementing their inter-city bus service for students

**MARK ADAMSON**  
STAFF WRITER

The WLU students' union has hit a roadblock in their attempts to establish an inter-city bus service. They've met with legal opposition from Greyhound Bus Lines in their bid to apply for a licence to run their own scheduled bus service from campus.

Preliminary plans were in place for WLUSU to organize a service with Student Transportation of Canada (STC), an independent school bus company that would

potentially carry students from Laurier to Hamilton, London and several stops near Highway 401 in the GTA.

STC applied to obtain a licence from the Ontario Highway Transport Board on behalf of WLUSU to run a scheduled carrier service, and were met with opposition from Greyhound, just days before WLUSU's licence application was to be approved. Greyhound, as a current licence holder in the province, has the right to challenge any licence that they think will have an impact on their business.

WLUSU is faced with the option of either challenging Greyhound in court to obtain their licence, or of negotiating to alter Greyhound's routes.

If WLUSU elects to challenge Greyhound in court and make a push for their own licence, the STC will foot the bill for all legal costs in the case, a figure that WLUSU director Mike Tsuchiya suggests could be upwards of \$10,000.

"It wouldn't cost the students' union anything," said Tsuchiya, who is spearheading the campaign to bring the bus service to Laurier. "It would just require time on our part to help them prepare for the case."

WLUSU needs to present STC with student support and testi-

monials to support their case to obtain their own licence. Tsuchiya feels that many Laurier students find Greyhound's current service to downtown Toronto inconvenient, expensive, and time-consuming, and that the union can come up with a better solution for students travelling to the GTA, and other major cities close by.

The opportunity to operate a bus service at Laurier stands as a prominent business venture for STC. They recently took control of the University of Waterloo's Fed Bus service, which is what WLUSU's proposed service would resemble. Ted Wilson, STC's VP of



## &gt; VOCAL CORD

Would you take a bus to Queen's Park to protest rising tuition?



"I probably wouldn't but I'm not aware enough of the issue."

- Sam Archbell  
Second-year English



"Yeah. I paid for school on my own ... I think that I'd be willing to go"

- Sarah Kahn  
Second-year History



"I'd go for sure."

- Jake Zelsma  
Fourth-year History



"Yes. I would definitely consider it. It's something we should look into. I feel the freeze affects all Laurier students."

- Heidi Newton  
Second-year Psych and Sociology



"I'd protest rising tuition fees provided it's convenient for me because I'm a lazy student. If there was a bus going, I'd go for sure."

- Rafiq Andani  
Fourth-year Biology

Compiled by Tony Ferguson, photos by Sydney Helland

# DAWB renos lagging

Profs worry about who will "pay the price" for construction delays; admin remains confident

Laura Carlson  
STAFF WRITER

As faculty members breathe a sigh of relief knowing that they will soon return to the Dr. Alvin Woods Building (DAWB), last week's announcement at the Board of Governors' meeting may cause them to hold their breath a little longer. For the first time, it was brought to faculty's attention that construction on the Woods building is behind schedule.

Michel Desjardins, the department chair of religion and culture, has spent his last year in the Euler residence and is the first to admit that not just faculty, but "everyone pays the price for the long-term health of the university." Although the decisions to do renovations on the DAWB were necessary ones, Desjardins still feels that the university needs to be accountable to students and faculty.

"The main issue is that once that decision is made and students are disadvantaged and faculty from those departments are disadvantaged, then surely to God the university has the responsibility to ensure the project is finished on time."

Ron Dupuis, VP: Physical Resources admits that as of last week construction was approximately eight weeks behind. Dupuis states that this is the result of an "unanticipated problem."

"Coming up with the proper solution and doing that extra work to fix it has taken extra time." Dupuis explained that once construc-

tion got underway the original drawings didn't exactly match the building. Most significantly, the outside bricks and windows were not constructed to meet current standards.

While the university is confident that the DAWB can be complete by September - the original completion date was scheduled to be August 1 - they have not developed an action plan if the lost time is not made up. Dupuis stresses that, "There is no option. We've told the contractor he has to make up the time. The bottom line is there is no extra time."

However, Frank Vinski, the site superintendent, is not yet concerned by the notion that construction may be behind. The crew has not started working longer days and additional help has not been hired. "There is a possibility of that but it probably won't happen for another month or so," commented Vinski.

Jim Butler, VP: Finance explains that the contract is a fixed price, and thus any increase in labour costs, such as overtime or holiday pay, will fall on the contractor and not the university.

However, if the time is not made up, it seems that faculty will be left to suffer more than anyone. The beds in the Euler/Leupold residences are going to be available in the fall, and thus faculty must be out before Labour Day weekend.

Mike Belanger, director of residential services, notes, "Students are the primary tenants. As a result of that, if anyone is going to be

inconvenienced, in all probability [it] needs to be those who are tenants now, whose lease expires at the end of July."

Belanger toys with the idea of what would happen if the DAWB was not completed on time. "If we're close on the time period, then it's more likely than not that the faculty things and all the offices will be packed up and put in trailers for a week or two."

Another motion proposed by Dupuis was thrusting the faculty back into their offices in September although construction may not be fully complete. "That would be the first part of our plan and then of course we would deal with the classroom space and all the rest of it."

Despite these two suggestions, Philippa Gates, an English and

film studies professor, hopes that they won't have to resort to either of those options. "I like to think that somewhere in someone's mind there was a third possibility to avoid being put in temporary improper space like trailers or being in a construction zone."

As a member of the User Group, a committee of different faculty that worked with the architects to decide how the building would be constructed, Gates has been heavily involved in the construction process of the DAWB. She admits that there has always been a fear that the job might not be complete in such a short amount of time.

Regarding the possibility that the job isn't done by September, Gates admits, "I'd be disappointed, but perhaps not surprised."



Sydney Helland

DAWBLE TROUBLE? - Construction two months behind schedule.

## Laurier's day of inaction

As the Canadian Federation of Students stages a National Day of Action, WLU takes another route

April Robinson  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Post-secondary students across Canada will protest tuition hikes today in the Student Day of Action organized by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) - but not Laurier.

Buses are running from several universities including Guelph, Trent and McMaster to protest at Queen's Park in Toronto with other Toronto schools. Protests will also take place at Parliament Hill in Ottawa, at MP offices in Northern Ontario and elsewhere across Canada.

"We've had years where students held rallies," says VP: University Affairs, JD Muir for Laurier's Students' Union. "But it hasn't been successful."

"It may look irresponsible to

some people ... it may look bad," he says. "But right now I've chosen that we won't [participate]."

He says the reasoning is partly due to the fact that Laurier is not a member of the CFS. The WLUSU does, however, have membership with the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA), a provincial lobby group. Muir sits on OUSA's steering committee.

"I think it's a great campaign," he says. "I'm not necessarily against the CFS - I just don't see them working on our campus."

Muir also says OUSA is working on very different campaign ideas.

But it comes down to how much Laurier students care about the issue of tuition increases.

"It really does go back to the whole culture thing," he says. "We realize what works and what doesn't."

"You have to get students interested. You have to get them rallied. I just haven't seen it work on our campus," says Muir.

The Laurier Graduate Students' Association (GSA), which does have membership with the CFS, won't participate today either.

"I think it's nice but I think it's too little too late," says Culum Canally, president of the GSA, regarding the protests.

"It's also very hard to get graduate students to act together as a collective due to their heavy course loads," says Canally.

Graduate students have not been pleased with their CFS membership, according to Canally. "I feel personally that the CFS does very little for students. They use our money for lobbying purposes and they should be holding a lot more of these collective action events instead of using it for paying lobbyists," he says, adding that the organization is part of a broader movement towards the neoliberal model of corporatization and

special interests. Laurier grad students pay an annual CFS fee of \$13 and have been members since the early '90s.

Canally assures that graduate students are concerned with tuition increases.

"I'm ten years in this thing and I'll shudder to see the first student loan bill," says Canally.

The McGuinty Liberal government lifted a two-year tuition freeze this past summer, causing a 4.5 percent increase for all undergraduate students except for those in business, who saw an eight percent increase. Graduate programs also had the option of increasing up to eight percent.

Under the current tuition structure, universities have the option of increasing tuition up to five percent per year for most undergraduate programs.

Today's protest will address tuition fees as well as increased fed-

- SEE PROTEST, PAGE 5



# Reading week dream comes true



Sydney Hellard

**FLYING SOUTH** - With friends by her side, Lindsay Beuermann accepts her tickets at the local RBC branch.

## RBC awards students a free trip to Mexico

**LAUREN MILLET**  
STAFF WRITER

Good friends, sunny beaches and a free vacation to Mexico. This is what first-year political science student Lindsay Beuermann will be enjoying during her reading week in February.

Courtesy of the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), Beuermann won a trip for four to The Oasis Cancun Resort in Mexico. Along with fellow Laurier student Stephanie Eagle and University of Waterloo friends Laura Renwick and Elizabeth Boettger, she will leave for Mexico on February 17.

"This is the first time that the Royal Bank has held the fall campus promotion at 16 selected universities throughout Canada," explained RBC Waterloo branch manager Grace Pires. "We're quite excited, especially having the winner right here in Waterloo. It's great for the community."

"This is something that has been in the works for quite some time. We found there was a need to do something to promote student

banking across Canada and make a statement to students that we are here to help them," continued Pires.

The draw was not restricted to RBC account holders. As long as you were a student attending a Canadian university, you were eligible to win.

The presentation took place on Friday at noon in the Royal Bank on the corner of King Street and University Avenue. The constant squeals of excitement and giggles of the girls showed Pires that this was something that students would definitely enjoy and, therefore, it will most likely become an annual event.

"I'm extremely excited. I was jumping up and down when I heard the news," exclaimed Beuermann, about winning the competition.

Beuermann discovered the contest during the chaos of her first week at Laurier when RBC had a booth set up for campus clubs day. "It was during O-week and RBC had a booth set up, and I filled out a ballot. Honestly, I really didn't think this was going to happen."

"It's really exciting. This is a wonderful opportunity. It's amazing to have such good friends to travel with," added Renwick.

# Bus to run by Sept.

- FROM **BUS**, PAGE 2

Operations, is hopeful that WLUSU and STC can obtain the licence and get the service up and running.

"Right now, it's in its infant stages, but UW was that way 20 years ago," said Wilson. "They started out with just a few buses, but now we run anywhere from 30 to 60 buses on a weekend.

"It's a nice business to have.... The fact that we use school buses and we can offer the service cheaper, it's a benefit for the students as well," said Wilson.

When STC took over UW's ser-

vice, they had to apply for a new licence, which Greyhound also opposed. STC won that case in court, so Tsuchiya feels that WLUSU would likely be successful as well. "STC feels that a precedent has been set, and if we choose to fight this in court, we will win," said Tsuchiya.

WLUSU hoped to have the service up and running this school year, but the recent developments have pushed back the launch date indefinitely. "Where we're at now, I think it would be very difficult to get it up and running by the end of the school year," says WLUSU President Allan Cayenne. He feels that if

a solution is not in place by reading week, WLUSU should aim to be fully prepared to get the service up and running by September.

WLUSU will first ask Greyhound to alter their routes and make them more student-friendly, or ask them to send a special bus to Laurier's campus.

"I feel that we've shown that we're serious about this, and Greyhound should take us seriously, and hopefully we can work something out with them," said Tsuchiya. Should those negotiations fail, WLUSU will follow through with STC to obtain the licence in court.

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**Assist Medical**

*Reported: 1726 hrs Jan 29/07*  
A Special Constable responded to a classroom after receiving reports that a student had passed out. Upon arrival the student was conscious and was walked home by another student.

**Assist Medical**

*Reported: 1806 hrs Jan 29/07*  
Special Constables responded to a residence after a student received a small laceration to the top of their head. The student had struck their head on an overhanging bookshelf.

**Alarm**

*Reported: 2302 hrs Jan 29/07*  
Special Constables responded to an alarm at the Bricker Academic Building. The area was checked and found to be secure.

**Property Damage**

*Reported: 0030 hrs Jan 31/07*  
A report was received regarding a broken window on the second floor of the FNCC. PP&P was notified to attend and make repairs. No suspects.

**Hit and Run**

*Reported: 2345 hrs Jan 31/07*  
A male student attended the office and reported that he was struck in the upper arm by the mirror of a small grey vehicle between the

hours of 9 pm and 10pm, in the area of Midcampus Drive and Lot #20. The male identified the vehicle as a Pontiac Sunfire. Special Constables searched the parking lot area for the suspect vehicle but it could not be located.

**Alarm**

*Reported: 2352 hrs Jan 31/07*  
Special Constables responded to the St. Michael's Campus in response to an alarm. A male was stopped and identified as a student as he was leaving the rear door. Special Constables searched the building and secured the front doors.

**Attempt Break and Enter**

*Reported: 1120 hrs Feb 01/07*  
Special Constables are investigating a number of attempt break-ins to offices in the Arts Building. Anyone with information is asked to please contact Campus Safety and Security either by phone, e-mail or through the website.

**Property Damage**

*Reported: 1210 hrs Feb 01/07*  
The geography Department reported that a number of posters had been either damaged or ripped off the wall. Also, a swastika was found carved into one of the display boards in the area.

> Muir prefers OUSA's 'professional' lobbying approach for tuition change

- FROM PROTEST, PAGE 3

eral transfers to post-secondary education. The Queen's Park rally will feature guest speakers and a free concert by Kardinal Offishall.

Muir prefers OUSA's way of getting politicians' attention. "I like how OUSA is able to get access to various politicians," he says. "I re-

ally don't want to brand the UA department or my OUSA team as protestors. I really like the professional approach."

He says OUSA is working on re-writing their tuition policy, which he says will be a huge lobbying factor in the years to come. He says there is also a debate getting organized to take place before the end

of this school year, along with various meetings with MPPs.

Muir isn't afraid Laurier's lack of participation in the protest will look bad. "Whether it's successful or not, we'll see," he says.

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story

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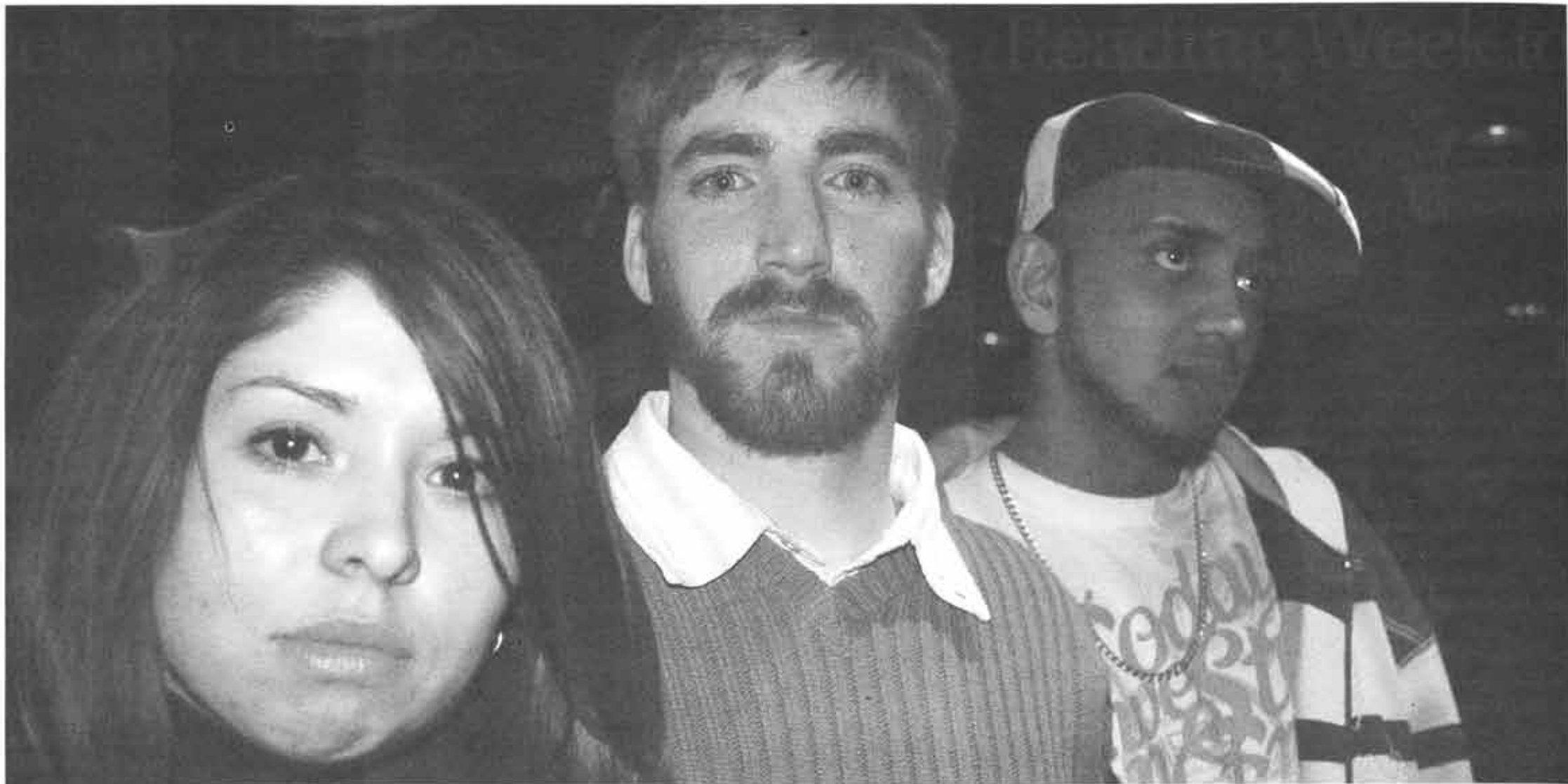
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Ashley MacArthur

**PEACE NOT WAR** - Philip McDowell (centre), a war resister and former US soldier, spoke at Wilf's on Friday to advocate the War Resisters Support Campaign. Hip hop artist MC Mohammad Ali (right) also performed at the event. McDowell and his wife (left) arrived in Canada last Monday.

# Resisters come to WLU

LENNA TITIZAN  
STAFF WRITER

Controversy over the war in Iraq isn't limited to the political sphere - even soldiers working on the ground question their involvement. Speaking out against the war while a part of the US military results in voices being silenced by a swift court martial and zero media coverage. For these soldiers, their only hope to have a voice for speaking out against the war is to seek refuge in Canada.

Laurier welcomed three such war resisters last Friday, who have come to Canada for the chance to speak out and start a new life.

Resisters of the Iraq war and their supporters gathered at Wilf's to hear veteran and resister Phillip McDowell speak about his experience in Iraq, and to listen to the acoustic tunes of Sara Marlowe and the beats of activist hip-hop artist

MC Mohammad Ali. The event was organized by a group of students on campus who sympathize with the War Resisters Support Campaign, and are working towards the creation of an LSPIRG working group.

The War Resisters Support Campaign began in 2004 with the arrival of US soldier Jeremy Hinzman. The Immigration and Refugee Board refused Hinzman's status claim in March 2005, and the Federal Court will hear his appeal on February 7.

The second Iraq war resister to arrive, Brandon Hughey, had refugee status refused to him in June 2005, and is also awaiting a Federal Court appeal.

The War Resisters Support Campaign is a coalition organized to help support resisting US soldiers who are seeking Canadian asylum because they refuse to fight in the illegal war in Iraq. The campaign hopes to push the federal government to make a provision to grant

automatic asylum and refugee status to resisters seeking refuge in Canada, as Trudeau did during the years of Vietnam. Currently, the entire NDP party is in support of the campaign, and Stéphane Dion is also on record as being in support.

Phillip McDowell was in his senior year of college when the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center took place. "I saw 9/11 as a call to our generation .... I thought, this is something good I can do to help my country," he recalls. He had planned to do his four years of service, and then get out. Like many citizens, he feels deceived by his government.

"I did believe the United States government when they said there are weapons of mass destruction, that there were ties to Al Qaeda in Iraq," McDowell said. "I didn't think my government would make up lies that huge, that could affect not just the US and Iraq, but the

whole world. It didn't even cross my mind. I didn't think that it was possible."

McDowell, a 26-year-old from Rhode Island, arrived in Canada in mid-October. He was a sergeant in the army, trained as a communications specialist. While deployed in Iraq between 2004 and 2005, McDowell started to search for a reason for the US military's presence in Iraq.

"I wanted to know why we were fighting for something that no one could tell me what it was. When I asked my commanders, 'Why are we here?' their answer was that we were there to help the Iraqi people. We weren't helping - they didn't even want us there. We were just making things worse.

"Halfway through, I thought, this is wrong, I don't want any part of this anymore. I want out."

During their time serving the US army, McDowell and the other

resisters were witness to a complete disregard for Geneva conventions. "Those guys who took people from their houses? I was one of those," explained TC. "It was just a job at first. I got to go to college. I went to Iraq and came home with post-traumatic stress disorder, and instead of discharging me, they promoted me and said I was going back. Monday morning, I came up [to Canada]."

"This war is internationally illegal," argued resister John Spivey, who has only been in Canada for a few weeks. "There is no proven justification for the war. We have the right to leave." According to the UN refugee handbook, the illegal nature of the Iraq war gives the resisters the option to flee their country and claim refugee status in another UN country, yet Canada continues to deny these resisters legal refugee status.

# Shapiro wins top award

Summer travel experience turned into a lifetime passion for Laurier prof

ARLA LATTO-HALL  
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

It's the seemingly unimportant and banal aspects of life that are interesting to the rest of the world, as Dr. Faydra Shapiro's experience shows.

Shapiro, a religion and culture prof here at Laurier, was recently awarded a prestigious National Jewish Book Award for her recent publication, *Building Jewish Roots: The Israel Experience*. The book explores the impact of Livnot, a popular summer program in Israel for North American Jews who want to learn more about their religious heritage.

The roots of Shapiro's book took hold during her own travels before she went to graduate school. After growing up in an orthodox Jewish household, which Shapiro rejected, Livnot wasn't something that she was remotely interested in. "Reminding myself that I was free to leave anytime, I decided to give the program a try, and hauled my bags up north" to Tzfat, a holy town in Israel known as a cultural centre of Judaism, she writes in her book.

Although the program had a deep impact on her beliefs, turning her rejection of the religion into "meaningful Judaism," Shapiro had no intention of using Livnot as

her thesis. Her experience seemed "unexceptional," she said in a telephone interview from Israel, where she's on sabbatical until late this summer.

Livnot started Shapiro off on a path that looked at cultural heritage, "planting the seed" that left her hungry for more.

This book stemmed from her doctoral dissertation, completed in 2000, although Shapiro says that it was modified extensively to make it clear and accessible. "I wanted my mother to be able to read it," she says. It took her until October 2006 to complete the book, which barely made the October submis-

sion deadline.

Shapiro found it fascinating to participate in Livnot three times, first as a participant, and subsequently as a researcher. "It's like watching a movie ... and then watching it with a film degree," she said.

Her book is timely: with a growing debate on the role of religion in an individualistic, modern society, religious pilgrimages and traditions weigh heavily on some young people, who Shapiro says "can't make choices."

It is through no fault of their own, she continues, but due to a lack of cultural literacy, experienced and transmitted through the two most recent generations. Its absence is compounded with each successive generation and as a consequence, young Jews lack the agency and power required to make active de-

isions about their religious beliefs. "They're uncomfortable with religion," Shapiro says.

The Jewish community as a case study is instructive, as a "good example of a cultural community in panic," Shapiro says. It is also very well-organized and actively trying to protect its continuity. Organizers of the Livnot programs Shapiro participated in as a researcher provide a case in point, questioning the influence her marriage to a non-Jew would have on participants. Shapiro questioned this, saying that her experience with Livnot is similar to that of any person's development.

"Don't believe everything they told you ... university is about a critical, emerging adult eye," she said from her home. "This is possible within your own traditions and childhood understandings ... grow beyond what they told you."



# Nobel winner may face former dictator for prez

MARY ERSKINE  
STAFF WRITER

Rigoberta Menchú, prominent Indigenous Guatemalan figure in Guatemala, and winner of the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize, announced last Wednesday that she is considering a bid to run for the presidency of the Central American country. She stated that she has received invitations from several political parties who are interested in having her run as their candidate.

"There are some Guatemalans who would be very scared to see Rigoberta Menchu as president because they are racists," stated Menchú.

At a ceremony marking the 27th anniversary of the government raid on the Spanish Embassy in Guatemala City, Menchú told press: "We are seriously considering the proposals." The January 31 raid brought about the deaths of over 30 activists, including Menchú's father.

General Otto Perez Molina has already stated his intentions to run for president under the Patriotic Party. Molina was an army commander in the Quiché region where Menchú was born and which suffered massive losses at the hands of the army and paramilitary during the war.

In addition, former dictator Efraín Ríos Montt, who ruled Guatemala from 1982-82, said Wednesday that he plans to run for Congress in the same election as Menchú. Menchú, among others, has accused Montt of committing various violations of human rights during that time, which include alleged torture, illegal detention and acts of genocide. These charges are still in the consideration of the courts, but will be harder to press if Montt is active in government.

Menchú is a renowned champion of human rights, especially those of the indigenous victims of the civil war in Guatemala which

lasted from 1960 until 1996. Born in 1959, Menchú has felt the effects of the war for her entire life. In addition to her father, she has also lost her mother, two brothers, a sister-in-law and three nieces and nephews to Guatemalan security forces over the years.

"Among the nations which have suffered the most widespread human rights abuses, unpunished atrocities, murders, terror and fear, is Guatemala," says Menchú. "Atrocities still go unpunished, and many governments have helped to cover up the problem. I think it's important to say this, because the Guatemalan people know it, and we feel offended again and again when we realize that our country has been silenced."

The United Nations has sponsored studies showing that over 80 percent of the over 200,000 victims of the Guatemalan civil war were Indigenous Mayans. The killings were conducted by US-backed



**MAYAN MIGHT** - Menchu may change the Guatemalan political environment from the inside.

Guatemalan armed forces which targeted rural communities in an attempt to suppress the leftist guerrilla forces in the country. These "counterinsurgency" operations killed more than 100,000, displaced over one million indigenous Gua-

temalans, and destroyed over 400 Mayan villages.

If elected, Menchú would be the second indigenous leader in Latin America, after Bolivia's Evo Morales. The elections are scheduled for September 9 of this year.

## YouTourist with a conscience

Help ease poverty while tanning on a beach in Cape Town, South Africa

TYLER WILLIAMS  
CORD INTERNATIONAL

YouTourist may just be the answer for travellers with a conscience.

In a breaking new development for the global tourism industry, the United Nations World Tourism Organization has announced a new Internet network that aims to promote sustainable development through tourism and aid poor communities around the world.

YouTourist will serve as a platform for tourists around the world to share stories, pictures and video memories with each other. Through that they hope to advance knowl-

edge and exposure of different tourism destinations which may not be as well known as some other tourism places.

The anticipation is that several of these lesser known tourism areas, Africa in particular, may benefit from increased tourism dollars, which can then aid in sustainable development. Africa's tourism industry currently accounts for only four percent of international travel.

"The explosion of social networks fits perfectly with the spirit of the responsible and sustainable tourism that we are seeking to encourage [with the Global Code of Ethics]," commented Geoffrey Lip-

man, United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) assistant secretary-general.

The UNWTO sets out key principles for governments, destinations, tour operators, travel agents and travellers and monitors tourism statistics around the world. It has been doing this since the organization was founded in 1967. Its Global Code of Ethics represents a guide to ensure the resources that tourism depends upon are equably distributed and shared in the spirit of the Millennium Development Goals. These goals seek to end a series of social inequalities such as extreme hunger or poverty, infant and maternal mortality and lack of access to education and health care by the year 2015.

World tourism made the record books in 2006, with 842 million arrivals, reports the UNWTO, growing 4.5 percent from 2005 levels. It has grown over 20 percent since 2003, which the organization describes as the beginning of a "historically new phase of growth." Africa's tourism growth rate increased 8.1 per-

cent from 2005, outpacing all other regions. Asia and the Pacific grew by 7.6 percent, while Europe's performed as expected, at 4 percent, and arrivals in the Middle East are estimated to have risen by 4 per-

cent. Canada and Mexico have experienced weak development, dragging down the growth rate in the Americas to 2 percent. International tourist arrivals are projected to grow by 4 percent in 2007.

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# Last spike at the ball

Resigning coach created 'tradition of excellence'

**DAN POLISCHUK**  
SPORTS EDITOR

With the crowd standing and showing their gratitude with hearty applause, it was obvious Lisa Wallace had truly spoken for the masses.

It was just a few seconds earlier that the women's volleyball alum had acknowledged outgoing Head Coach Dave McIntyre as "the greatest source of legacy and tradition the program has ever seen."

And, in reality, who could argue with a statement like that?

Having decided this past week to walk away from his position at the conclusion of the season, McIntyre will depart with a seven-year head coaching record, which included being named CIS Coach of the Year in the 2001-2002 campaign after an 18-0 regular season.

Aside from coaching numerous players to all-star – and even all-Canadian – status, McIntyre devoted a total of 10 years to the program, beginning as an assistant to Russ Woloshyn.



**HEAD COACH DAVE MCINTYRE**

That aside, McIntyre has yet to lead a team to a championship victory. With his team having qualified for the post-season this past weekend though, he'll have one last chance to do so.

With a quarterfinal match-up likely against the very same team they lost to in their final home game of the year – the Western Mustangs – the team will wrap up their schedule Friday at Waterloo looking to finish at 10-9.

Despite the tight loss, which did not start all that impressively for the Hawks who had lost the first two games before coming back and forcing a tiebreaker, McIntyre was all smiles.

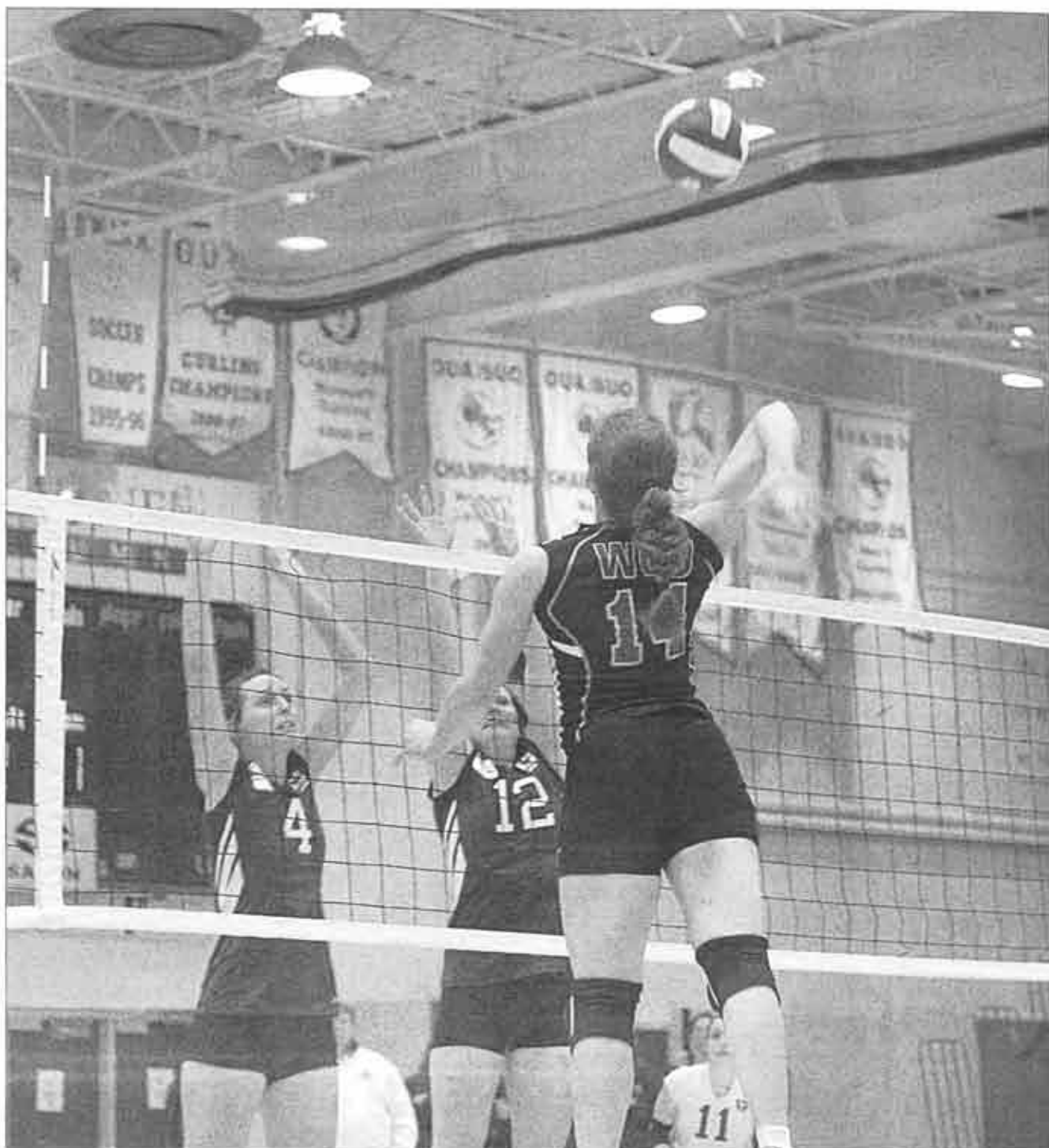
"You got to enjoy it ... I tried some loud emotional stuff and then it was just cheerleader Dave – and I found that was working for them," explained the coach.

Despite having as much fun as he appears to be having on the court, the decision to resign was an easy one.

"My kids and my wife are the most important thing and with two jobs I'm just not seeing them enough," he said. "That's not to say I'm really not going to miss [coaching]. I'm going to miss it and the school ... I love the players and everybody surrounding both programs."

That sentiment came full circle with senior libero Melissa St. Amant.

"It's pretty emotional considering I've played for him for four years ... He's really emotional on the sidelines and he gets you pumped up; always cheering us on," she commented.



**SKY HIGH** - Left side hitter, Kaitlin Sauder, looks to connect with the ball as two Mustangs look to block.

"It's good to have someone that ... knows the tactical part of the game but still pushes you that hard."

In terms of naming a successor, all signs seem to be pointing at as-

stant coach Luke Snider – who seems to have the support of the players and Athletic Director Peter Baxter-

"[Luke] comes with a lot of

strengths," acknowledged Baxter. "He's going to get heavy consideration."

# Better late than never for Hawks

Team breaks into the top five in Canada

**JAMIE NEUGEBAUER**  
STAFF WRITER

The second version of the season's Battle of Waterloo definitely lived up to its billing, as the Hawks took the game 4-3 in overtime last Saturday at the Waterloo Recreational Complex.

Laurier came out flying right from the get-go, tallying their first goal a mere twenty-seven seconds into the game, thanks to the effort of Tyler Grover who scored on a screened wrist shot that beat Warrior net-minder Curtis Darling on his glove side.

Additionally, Laurier set the early physical tone, using their superior skating to fore-check very well.

About twenty seconds after taking the lead, another theme, which would recur throughout the night, began as WLU was charged with a questionable interference penalty.

Although this particular one did

not affect the score, the referee continued to make call after head-scratching call, resulting in no less than ten penalty minutes against the Hawks in the first ten minutes of play.

Despite an admirable first period by Hawk goalie Jeff MacDougald in the face of adversity in the form of one Waterloo power play after another, the Warriors, courtesy of Sean Roche, went up 2-1 by the end of the period.

Despite clamping defensively for the majority of the second, the Hawks' Chad Kennedy evened up the game by deflecting in an excellent pass from former Buffalo Sabre draft pick Ryan Courtney

Nine minutes into the third period, Hawk defenceman Riley Moher made a costly mistake by losing the puck at his own blue line to UW's Kevin Hurley, who broke in alone and snapped a quick shot high glove-side putting the Warriors up 3-2.

With 19 seconds left and goaltender MacDougald on the bench for the extra attacker, the Hawks

found the equalizer courtesy of Tillsonburg, Ontario's Nathan Peacock – who deflected a shot from Nick Vergeer past Darling.

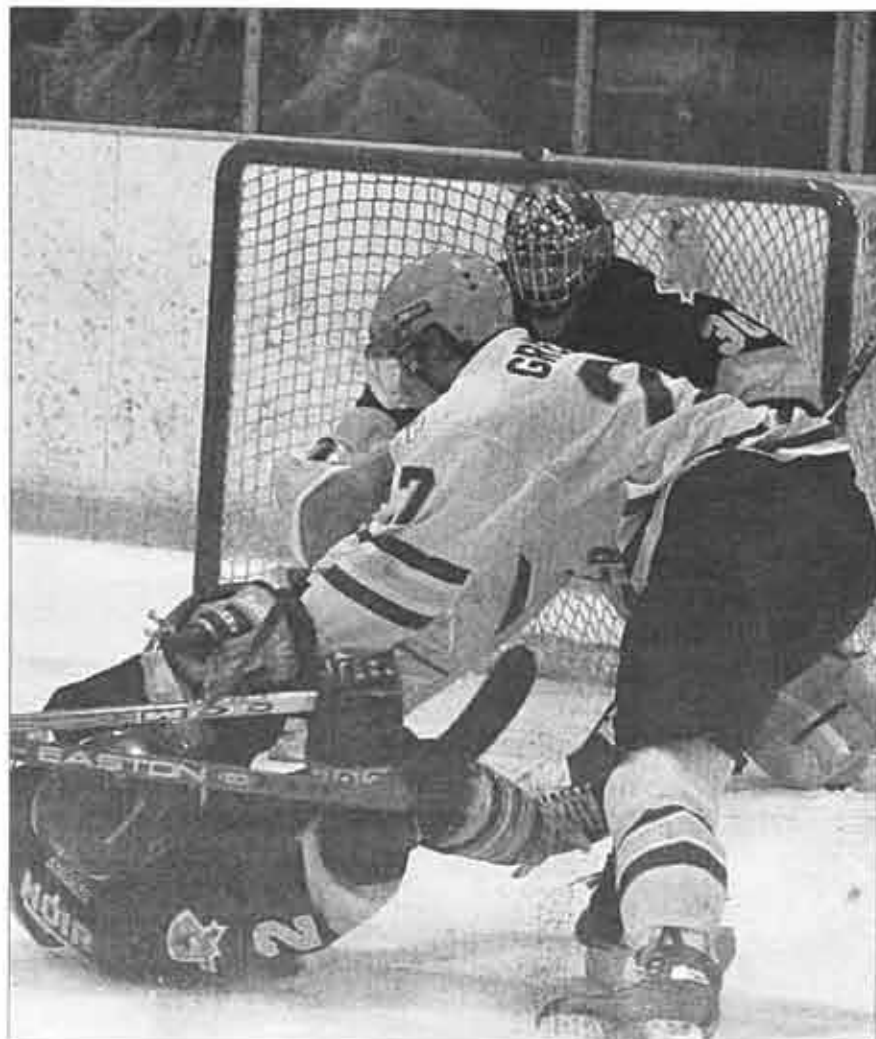
Peacock further enhanced his heroics, firing a snap shot over Darling's glove at 3:09 of the extra frame to steal the victory out of Waterloo's clutches.

"I like the chance to take the honour to make a game-winning goal in a game like this," said an elated Peacock after the game.

In fact, it's not the first time he has come through in the clutch as this was his sixth game-winner of the season.

"It went down to the wire ... I thought we stuck with our game, and showed a lot of resilience coming from behind like that," added Laurier Head Coach Kelly Nobes.

With this victory, the Hawks not only scored their twentieth victory of the season (already eight more than last year), but also temporary bragging rights in the city of Waterloo as the fourth ranked team in the country.



**AND STAY DOWN!** - Laurier captain Matt Grennier plays tough defence.



## SPORTS BRIEFS

Lady Hawks  
sitting prettyDAN POLISCHUK  
SPORTS EDITOR

With three games left on the schedule, Laurier's women's hockey team can afford to breathe a little easier — for the time being at least.

\* With a 3-1 in Toronto against York and a 3-0 win the next day back home against Brock, the Hawks clinched first place in the OUA.

Leading the team offensively this past weekend was fourth year player Fiona Aiston.

The left winger netted two goals in the victory over the Lions on Friday and followed it up by picking up two assists on home ice against the Badgers on Super Bowl Sunday.

Along with the top seeding Laurier qualifies for the Final Four playoff series slated to begin March 10 in London. Western will be hosting the event.

The now second-ranked Hawks (17-2-2) will be looking to win their fourth consecutive league title and their fifth in six years.

Ridin' the rails in  
heart of K-town

Skiers and snowboarders come out for third annual event at Chicopee

RICHARD HILLIER  
STAFF WRITER

Thursday evening marked the 2007 kick-off of Chicopee's ever-popular Chill Freestyle Series as snowboarders and skiers braved the cold to showcase their freestyle talents.

As an exclusive event to Chicopee, the Chill Series embodies a more personal approach to the traditional freestyle competition attracting local riders and skiers primarily from Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge and Guelph.

In only its third year, co-ordina-

tors Shawn Turner and Dwayne Orth continue to offer riders and skiers of all abilities the opportunity to compete in various events.

The series consists of two Rail Jams where competitors slide on top of long, street-like hand rails or wide, box-shaped objects; two Big Air events focused on aerial tricks performed off man-made jumps; and two slope style events, which combine the Rail and Big Air events.

Thursday evening's rail jam, the first event of the series, saw a total of 37 competitors turn out with ages ranging from 8 to 47 — a testament to the event's accep-

ance of anyone willing to push themselves.

Riders and skiers were given the choice to hit two different park features: one straight flat box and one c-shaped box, both of which allowed competitors to get really creative with a variety of different tricks.

"Nothing's better than sessioning a rail and chilling with your friends," says Mike Lewis, one of the night's top riders. "That's all that matters," he says.

Lewis comes back into the Chill Series as one of last year's finalists (and crowd favourite) who brought home a brand new Venue

snowboard after pleasing both the judges and spectators with smooth style and impressive technique.

Sporting jeans, a bright blue parka and a level of riding equally as noticeable, Lewis delivered. He took second place in the rail jam to Kyle Messier's winning performance, followed by Daniel Gilberta who took third.

The judges, representing a few of the event's big name sponsors such as Ski and Cycle Hut, Head, Bonfire, Full Throttle, McMaster Sports and Meltdown, score contestants on elements of style, completion and technical difficulty.

This week's event at Chicopee acted as a precursor to the real competition, with the finals occurring on March 10 for the top finalists of each preliminary event.

"It's not just a competition," explains Turner.

"It's about coming together and working on a great park, riding and pushing each other. But most of all it's about having fun."

GOLDEN HAWK  
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## RECENT SCORES

01.31.07

W Basketball 85 - Western 94 OTL  
M Basketball 80 - Western 90 OTL

02.01.07

M Hockey 4 - Western 2

02.02.07

W Volleyball 3 - Windsor 0  
M Volleyball 3 - Windsor 1

02.03.07

M Basketball 66 - Windsor 62  
W Hockey 3 - York 1  
W Basketball 74 - Windsor 77  
W Volleyball 2 - Western 3  
M Hockey 4 - Waterloo 3  
M Volleyball 3 - Western 2

02.04.07

W Hockey 3 - Brock 0

UPCOMING HOME  
GAMES

02.09.07

W Basketball vs McMaster  
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**Vice President Brantford**

Applications are available in the WLUSP office, located on the bottom floor of MacDonald House Residence for students at the Waterloo campus. Brantford students can pick up application forms from the campus manager's office.

Applications for *Cord*, *Blueprint* and *Keystone* EIC will be due on **Friday, February 9 at Noon.**

Applications for VP: Brantford and *Sputnik* EIC will be due on **Wednesday, February 14 at noon.**

Any questions should be directed to Keren Gottfried at [keren.gottfried@wlusp.com](mailto:keren.gottfried@wlusp.com)



# Raps' pressure increasing



MARK D. HOPKINS  
STAFF WRITER

The Toronto Raptors are headed in the right direction. While that statement exemplifies the concept of pointing out the obvious, it is also legitimate and even somewhat surprising given their recent past.

With the last couple of Raptors seasons being marked by constant coaching changes, players demanding out of town and most importantly a plethora of losses, good news has finally arrived.

For the first time since the NBA introduced their monthly awards, a team swept all three acclamations. Chris Bosh, Andrea Bargnani, and Sam Mitchell were named Eastern Conference player, rookie and coach of the month respectively.

While these awards are meaningless to some, the impact that they will yield is twofold in nature.

First off, fans and media south of the border will begin to take notice. With no nationally televised Raptors games on the likes of ESPN and TNT this season, the climb to recognition and ultimately respect has not been easy.

Secondly, this increased recognition will either make or break the Raptors' 2007 season. Some would argue that playing "under the ra-

dar" up until now was a leading factor for the recent success of the young squad. Pressure and expectations have most definitely been raised in the last few weeks.

However, with veterans such as swingman Morris Peterson and reserve point guard Darrick Martin solidifying the squad from a leadership standpoint, the playoff push is underway. So how have the Raptors placed themselves back into NBA respectability?

It most definitely starts at the

top with Bryan Colangelo. It is safe to say that he has already proved Bargnani critics wrong.

Additionally, his signings of Jorge Garbajosa and Anthony Parker have provided the "glue" that has held the team together. Arguably the best two defenders on the current roster, these veterans, in age but not in NBA tenure, have led the team through injuries to stars Chris Bosh and T.J. Ford.

If there is one certainty around this team it is that they are play-

ing just like one. In modern day basketball where fans crave Kobe's outbursts, LeBron's triple-doubles and Dwight Howard's dunks, the concept of solid team basketball is often unrecognized. Maybe this shows why the likes of Tim Duncan and the Spurs are overlooked virtually every season.

Surely, any team looking to go deep in the playoffs requires a bona fide star and focal point and usually a sidekick. When healthy, Bosh and Ford have provided Raptors fans

with a glimpse of their potential in those roles.

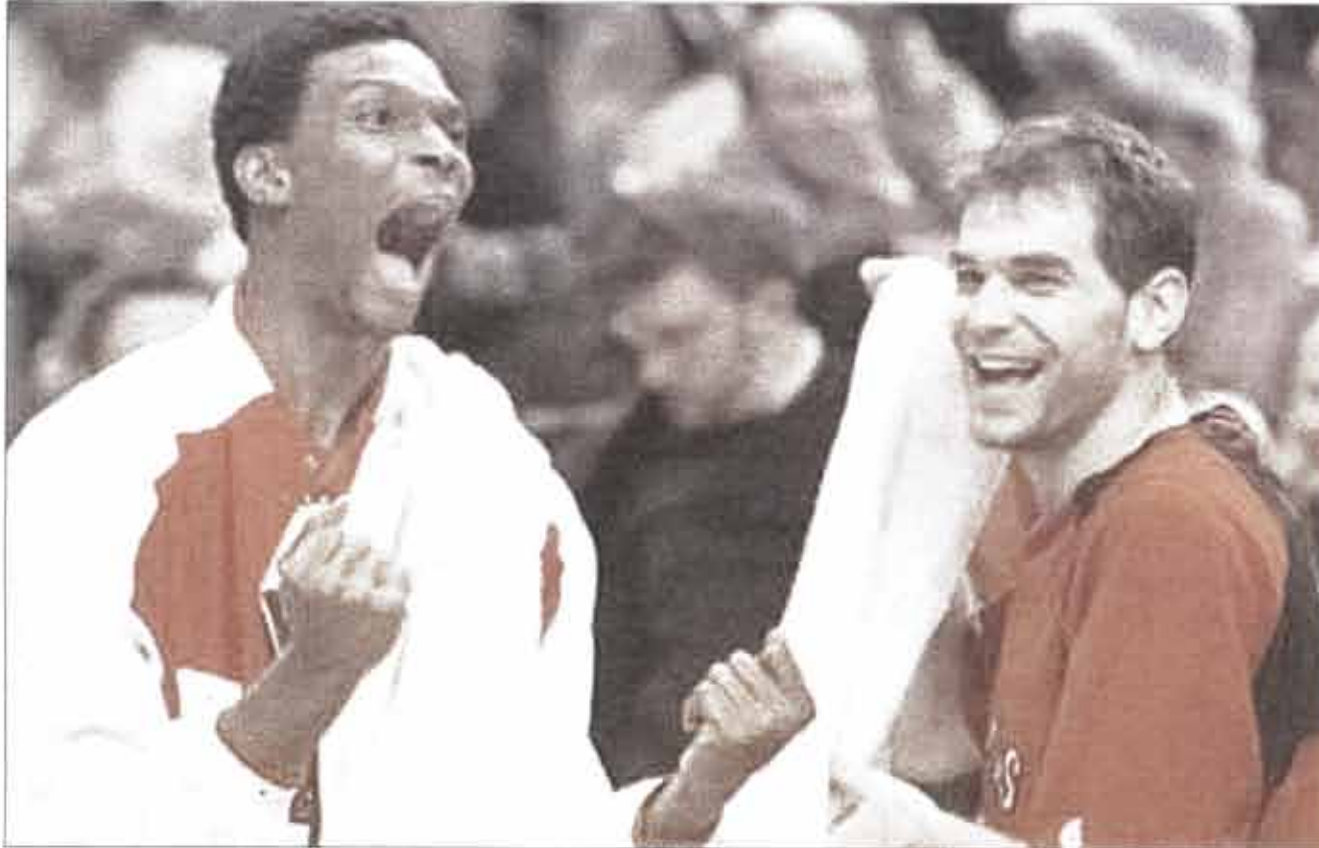
Bosh led the Raptors in scoring in 13 games in January while averaging over 25 points en route to his Eastern Conference monthly award. A model of consistency is what this young star is becoming.

Also impressive are the selfless acts that exemplify team chemistry and the attitude that bench boss Sam Mitchell has imprinted onto his roster. Examples include T.J. Ford urging Mitchell to use Jose Calderon as the starting point guard even when Ford was fit to play after returning from injury.

Acts like this show not only that is the team winning a lot more, but that they seem to be enjoying their court time together. While it appears that these concepts should go hand-in-hand, Kobe and Shaw were winning but not happy. The reality of professional sports is that winning does not always equal happy players.

While team chemistry can be overrated at times, it cannot be denied with this Raptors squad. Does chemistry breed winning or does winning develop chemistry?

Whichever school of thought one comes from, something is certain. The Raptors are moving in the right direction. The expectations and pressure are rising for Toronto. As they push towards the playoffs, this team will prove how worthy they are of this increased attention.



Contributed Photo

CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES - Chris Bosh and Jose Calderon are all smiles over the team's winning ways.

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# Roundtable discussion

- FROM RACE, COVER

## Classroom Racism

Now that they're settled in and have started to make some friends, life at Laurier has gotten a bit easier. Not completely though. There are still some bumps in the road and tension over race still abounds.

Bynob feels this sometimes when she's in class. "In sociology we'd talk about race, and I feel like I'm a token, and that I have to speak on behalf of [my race]."

Attakora-Gyan feels the same way. She has felt anxious in some of her classes when the lesson topic flows into a discussion about Africa and the professor's lecture isn't quite accurate. "Do I speak up?" she wonders. The answer is usually no. "If you're a minority in that class, and you feel alienated and isolated ... and everyone in the class is just nodding their heads... you aren't going to speak up. You're silenced."

Attakora-Gyan has even been put in a situation where she was offended by a comment made in her class, but felt helpless to confront it. In one of her communications classes, there was a photo of a white male who had AIDS on the projection screen. Attakora-Gyan heard someone snickering behind her saying "[The prof] should have used an African."

"It's hard to say anything," she said. She was even concerned that a complaint to the professor would affect her academic performance.

## Ignorance

Stereotyping comments made about race can grind people's gears when heard every day, according to Bynob. "People ask 'why are you being so sensitive?' But you hear that day in, day out, your whole life: 'where are you from?'"

Bynob warned that these types of ignorant questions and comments are bound to eventually instigate anger, regardless of the intent.

The country that Larcher is from, Saint Lucia, is smaller than the Region of Waterloo in size. "People are like 'that's a country?' and I'm like 'yeah' I get the feeling that they feel good about learning. Knowing that in their world small is in my world very big."

Ching felt that being a minority has enabled her to be less judgmental of people upon instant face value. It's these ignorant questions that fuel her ability to see the world through more educated, thoughtful eyes.

"I've gotten so many 'so are you from China' and I'm like 'No, I'm not Chinese, just because I look Chinese doesn't mean I'm from China.' It's like going up to [a black person] and saying 'Are you from Africa?' Just because I'm this colour, doesn't mean I'm from this place. It really helps you to break down your own ignorance."

Jackie Munafo expressed her frustration at being asked ignorant questions about her ethnicity; specifically

concerning geography. "When people find out I'm Hispanic they say 'Are you from Mexico or Spain?'"

In contrast, Aman Bhalla, an Indian, felt sympathetic towards people who were uneducated about the geography and separate nationalities of his ethnicity. "There's going to be stuff that people don't understand. People lump Indians into one big category. There are Muslims who are Indian, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, right? When people ask me really general questions, I feel better for educating them about that."

## Generalizations

For Ching, the way people go about conducting clueless dialogue about her ethnicity can have different impacts upon her reaction to them; ignorant questions provoke angered responses.

Bhalla found that ignorant racial generalizations can often be more a source of humour and healing than tears and pain. "Depending on how they say it, I actually find it funny. I like to laugh at generalizations. Sometimes I think that laughing at myself or laughing at my own culture really helps to break stereotypes or helps unite people."

At the same time, he agreed with other students that light-hearted racism can often result in misunderstandings and misguided tensions.

Still, many of the students agreed that light-hearted, "joke" racism can also be a source of genuine humour and good-feeling, specifically referencing the stand-up routines of Indian-Canadian comic Russell Peters.

"It's refreshing from a white person's perspective to hear the jokes made within a minority," said Dana Poder-O'Born, whose background is white Estonian. "It just helps and makes you think it's really not that big a deal ... once there's comedy about the subject."

However, some of the other members felt that it was more appropriate for people of minority to laugh at themselves, rather than have the people of majority laugh at them.

"I think it's shitty for a lot of white people to sit there and listen to me make a joke about being late," said Attakora-Gyan.

## The 'N'-word

Last year, Larcher was on campus and was surprised to hear an unusually worded friendly greeting that came from another black student. "I was shocked because no one has ever called me nigger," he said, pointing out that for people to refer to one another in such a way in St. Lucia would be unheard of.

In North America this is quite common with the 'N'-word being peppered throughout comedy routines and hip-hop music. After people hear it enough, they get used to it and then it becomes okay.

"I think [the media] definitely enables it," said Bynob. "I find that it

just enables and perpetuates stereotypes to no end and then they walk around and start using it and they don't think it's something bad because it's so normal for them."

While some throw it around casually, others receive it like a bullet in the chest. Attakora-Gyan will always remember when it was first directed at her. "I can tell you the exact day I was called the N-word for the first time in my life. It's like asking people: do you remember where you were when the World Trade Center went down? It's the same thing. I don't think people realize how deep these things go."

Larcher fails to see why the word is still used so casually given its blemished history. "I don't see the point of the word ... wasn't it used in a bad context for our ancestors? So why should we use it to call our friends? Just eradicate the word altogether."

## Racist roadblocks

For many young minorities, racism stands as a force which crushes aspirations and stands in the way of important life-events. One of the roundtable participants had a shocking story to tell of how racial ignorance has had a profound impact on her life.

In Grade 10, Bynob was told by her guidance counsellor that because of her skin colour, she could never go to university; she wasn't smart enough. She was told that, as a black person, she could pursue a career in music, or go to college. How did she feel?

"For me it was a huge blow, and I just went home and cried. I was young, and that really did affect me." Despite the lack of encouragement from school, Bynob's mother instilled the importance of education into her. "So they can tell me whatever they want to but I know I'm better than that."

Many of the students expressed how the disadvantages of being a minority could be looked at as advantages, in terms of character building.

"With my situation it's compelled me to do so much with my marker as race," said Bynob. "I think it's helped me to become stronger."

As much of an impact situations like this have had, whether negative or positive, the minority students felt that it's important not to let them dig into you.

"I refuse to dwell on those experiences" stated Attakora-Gyan. "I'm not going to sit there and think 'oh my god, so and so called me the 'N'-word in grade 4' and if I did that I'd be living in a very lonely world".

## What we can do

So what can be done? Is humankind ever going to see an end to racism? Ching thinks that it is an evil that will never go away. "To be honest, it's always going to be here because we're always going to be different." Attakora-Gyan agrees. "I think as long as we're classifying people and categorizing them, the issue of race is always going to be there."

Ching sees any change of attitude as occurring on an individual level. "The only thing we can do is educate our children and be open-minded." Attakora-Gyan called for the implementation of more public forums. "I think if we have different forums like anti-racist education ... [they] would really inform people and I think we need to start informing people and addressing it."

Bynob suggested some sort of racial sensitivity training to be implemented with dons at Laurier. "They should be trained on how to deal with [racism] and how to help students through that process. It can be damaging, especially to a first-year."

There was a general consensus that the university needs to become more accessible to its diverse student population. Many students at the roundtable agreed that it is a "burden on the school" to implement a more culturally-friendly campus.

"We

need things that cater to everybody, not even a few but the majority. It's very hard to find things to fix if you don't see it as a problem," said Attakora-Gyan. "What if you're a Muslim, and you cannot swim with other males [in the AC]? These are things that people don't really think about."

"I feel like capitalism is just an excuse ... to not implement different ways of dealing with these oppressions," said Bynob. "I know the DAWB is being renovated but are they going to be inclusive of things like that?"

## What Laurier can do

Dean of Students David McMurry responded to concerns about racism on campus with a firm statement: "As an educational institution, we need to take a leadership role."

Racist incidents, such as the Winter





# on: Racism at WLU

Graphic by Emilie Joslin

Carnival costumes which parodied Jamaicans, must be discouraged in a "proactive way."

In terms of campus efforts, McMurray stated that a diversity-related speaker series is in the works, and that residence life dons must be encouraged to make their floors more racially sensitive. The dean of students felt pleased with progress at WLU in terms of racism-awareness, especially in campus clubs such as the Association of Black Students and East Meets West.

The new diversity coordinator Adam Lawrence is adamant that the only way progress will be made at the Diversity Centre is if students voluntarily

speak to him. "I'm in my office every day," said Lawrence. "People can pop in."

However, as Bynob expressed at the roundtable, a "privileged white male" for some is not the best representative for diversity on campus.

Lawrence is helping put together a student diversity committee to allow students to represent their own ethnicities. "Hopefully we will have representatives from clubs on campus."

VP: Academic Sue Horton echoed the diversity coordinator's sentiments when she expressed how students ought to bring intolerable incidents and issues to the administra-

tion's attention. "If it's an expressed need, we would do our best to accommodate it." Horton felt that racial ignorance must also be addressed in classrooms and residences through processes as mandatory as possible.

## Open minds

The constant barrage of ignorant comments and questions, of voices being appropriated, and of fighting for your

ethnicity, would have an exhausting impact on even the strongest person. The students at the roundtable felt that while being a minority might make life more difficult, it's important not to let it have a negative impact on their lives.

"At the end of the day, I'm still black, I have to deal with that," said Bynob. "I am who I am and I love who I am. At the same time I still have to fight these battles. But you're constantly doing this over and

over, and it can be very distressing."

While being a minority has its disadvantages and advantages, the students feel that different ethnicities are simply a part of the world and everyone, including majorities, simply has to deal with that and learn to be more open-minded.

"My skin is never going to change," said Attakora-Gyan. "That's just life so you just have to use it to your advantage."

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story





# WLU opens its mics

Weekly amateur showcase offers a friendly setting

**JOE TURCOTTE**  
A&E EDITOR

At its core, music is a social beast. While musicians may be inspired and write their songs for personal indulgence and exploration, it is not until the songs are heard by others that they become fused with a deeper meaning. This sense, that music, is something to connect with is the spirit that drives artistic exploration. And in a society where marketing has begun to trump art, any chance to celebrate creativity is much appreciated.

With this in mind, Wilf's weekly Monday night Open Mic Jam Session has become a chance for the diverse WLU musical community to come together and share songs, good times and more than a few drinks.

"Basically, the night gives people who might not have the chance to play on a stage with good sound an opportunity to do so," says Open Mic founder, WLU alum and local musician Mark Imola.

And while Wilf's is a campus staple, that many students enjoy on a regular basis, there's something about a Monday night that's different.

As Imola points out, "There's always been a niche crowd. Ever since we've started, there's always been a group of people who come

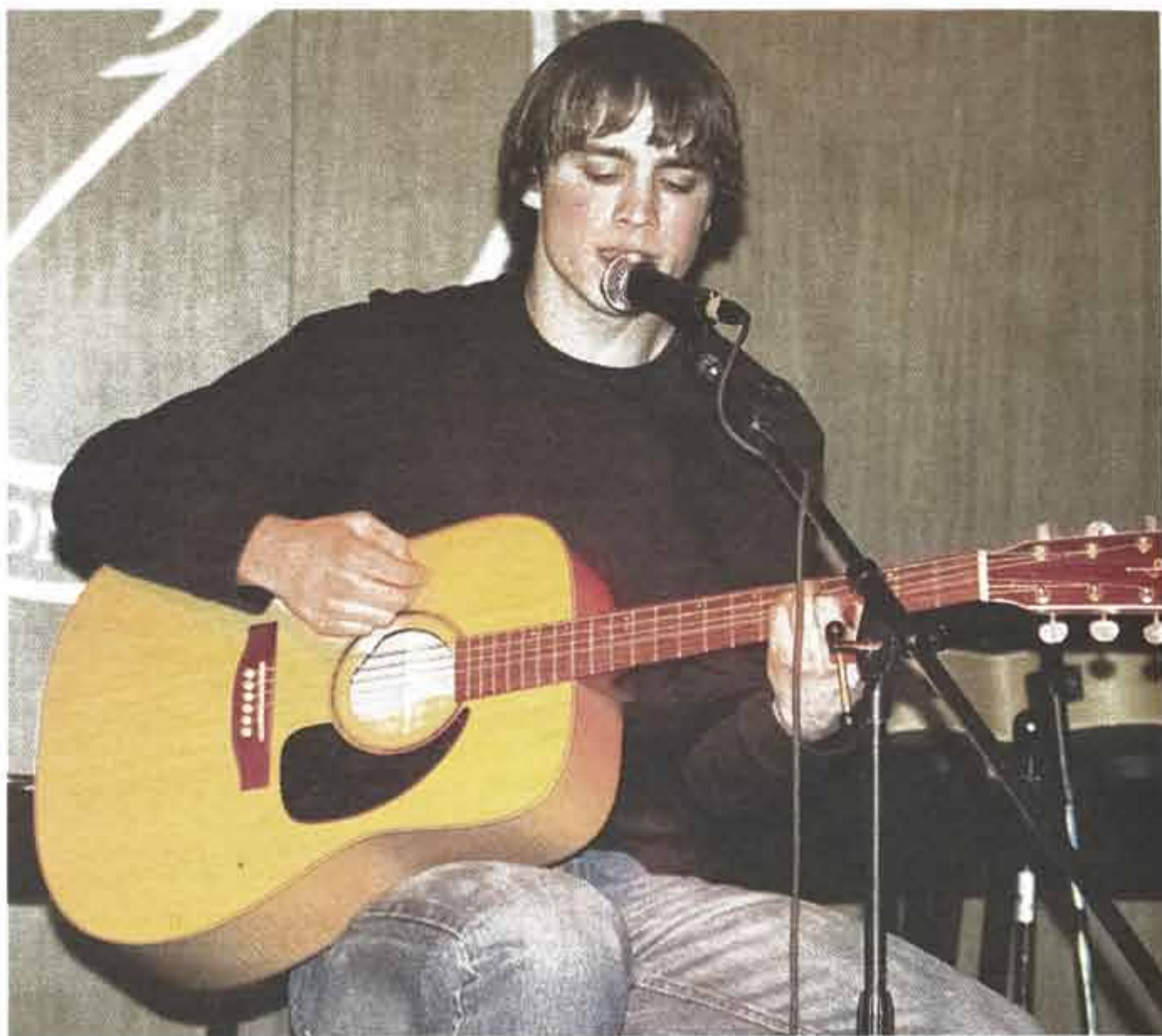
every single week. A lot of the musicians bring their friends, or certain groups of people come who want to hear different songs by different artists. It's a pretty laid-back crowd. It's not very rowdy like on a Tuesday or anything. It's a lot different. I think that's part of the appeal to the students that come here - it's a different vibe."

The atmosphere on a Monday night at Wilf's is part of the evening's charm. When compared to the rambunctious aura that one usually gets on Tuesday at the bar, Open Mic Night comes off as a relaxing way to spend the first night of a new week.

This generally chilled vibe goes hand-in-hand with the collegial and intimate atmosphere that is created when musicians come together to hone their skills and have a good time.

"You get a really nice, kind of homey, supportive feel. Once you get to know the people that come every week, it's nice to get that welcoming kind of feel," says Miriam Fine, an Honours Psychology student who regularly performs with her friend and musical partner Emily McCulloch.

It is within this supportive cocoon that students are able to test themselves and work towards bettering their artistic talents. As Fine points out, "I think that Laurier has



Paul Alvir

**SONG NIGHT** - David Eikelboom is but one of the many regulars attracted to Wilf's on Monday nights.

a lack of creative outlets sometimes, but the ones that we do have are fine. I think that people really want that and that people need that; it's a nice kind of workshop in front of a crowd."

"When we first started, we had never really played in front of people before, so we came out for jokes because we wanted to try it," says Jim Steele, a third-year English major, who shares the Monday night stage with third-year political science student Warren Ridgely. With the practice offered by Open Mic Night and the chance to become

comfortable performing on stage, Steele and Ridgely have now gone on to perform at other Waterloo bars, a testament to the potential the night offers.

Like Steele and Ridgely, third-year kinesiology student David Eikelboom sees the Jam Sessions as a way to get more comfortable with performing in front of others. "It's the experience of performing. I know at home that I don't have any amps or monitors, so here you can get used to performing like that with the technical sound," says Eikelboom.

While the musical talent that is displayed varies from week to week, with new singers joining the cast of regulars, Open Mic Night is something that every closeted musician or music fan at Laurier should experience. The chance to hear your friends and peers performing the songs of Neil Young, the Tragically Hip, Nirvana and the Frey is fun and entertaining.

And who knows, maybe one of the people who appear on stage will continue on and make a name for themselves.

## Reaching for the prize

Local pop-punk band releases debut disc

**NICK HINSPERGER**  
CORD A&E

I drank too much. But hell, it was Friday, and I was stationed at a bar which was showcasing \$7 pitchers and a pop-punk band. That band was Prize Fighter, a new outfit comprised of seasoned musicians from Kitchener-Waterloo.

Taking place at The Bomber at the University of Waterloo, the boys were celebrating the release of their debut EP "Come Hell or High Water" and enlisted the help of KW's InTransit and Toronto's DJ Intelligensia to keep the party moving.

With The Bomber at capacity by 10 pm, DJ Intelligensia proved his worth as he spun record after record of dance and funk, pumping up the crowd while ignoring drunken requests shouted out by yours truly.

Then, after some minor difficulties, two out of the five members of InTransit appeared onstage, and gave a less than memorable performance. With nagging technical problems, it became clear that the members of InTransit were not

having the best show of their lives; save that for Prize Fighter.

After another interlude and an unfortunate introduction, the crowd was finally met with "the best band of your generation" and as guitarist/lead singer Zubin Thakker whined a few bars of The Ronettes "Be My Baby," one concert-goer was heard muttering "I feel like I'm in high school."

And yes, while the genre this band so acutely adores may be viewed as tired, overdone or even childish, these boys are certainly not strangers to the phrase, "If you're going to do something, you might as well do it right."

With chugging guitars and the tightest rhythm section one has ever seen from a K-W band, it was clear that Prize Fighter was fighting for the, erm, prize.

Blistering through songs like "Union Station," "So Runaway" and "Hold on Tight," the band remained focused and determined to prove themselves as more than another pop punk band.

This was the band's grand introduction, a performance that proved that university doesn't have to suffocate other creative ambitions. Zubin Thakker commented on the conflicting priorities, saying "That's public enemy number one for us,

but we all take school as priority number one. It's got to be the case. It's too important to mess up ... but there is always time to be made for the band by simply not sleeping."

Thakker also commented on how things have changed since he started out with Glory Fades: "When we started, we weren't really 'in the scene' fully. We did some shows, but we weren't really regulars."

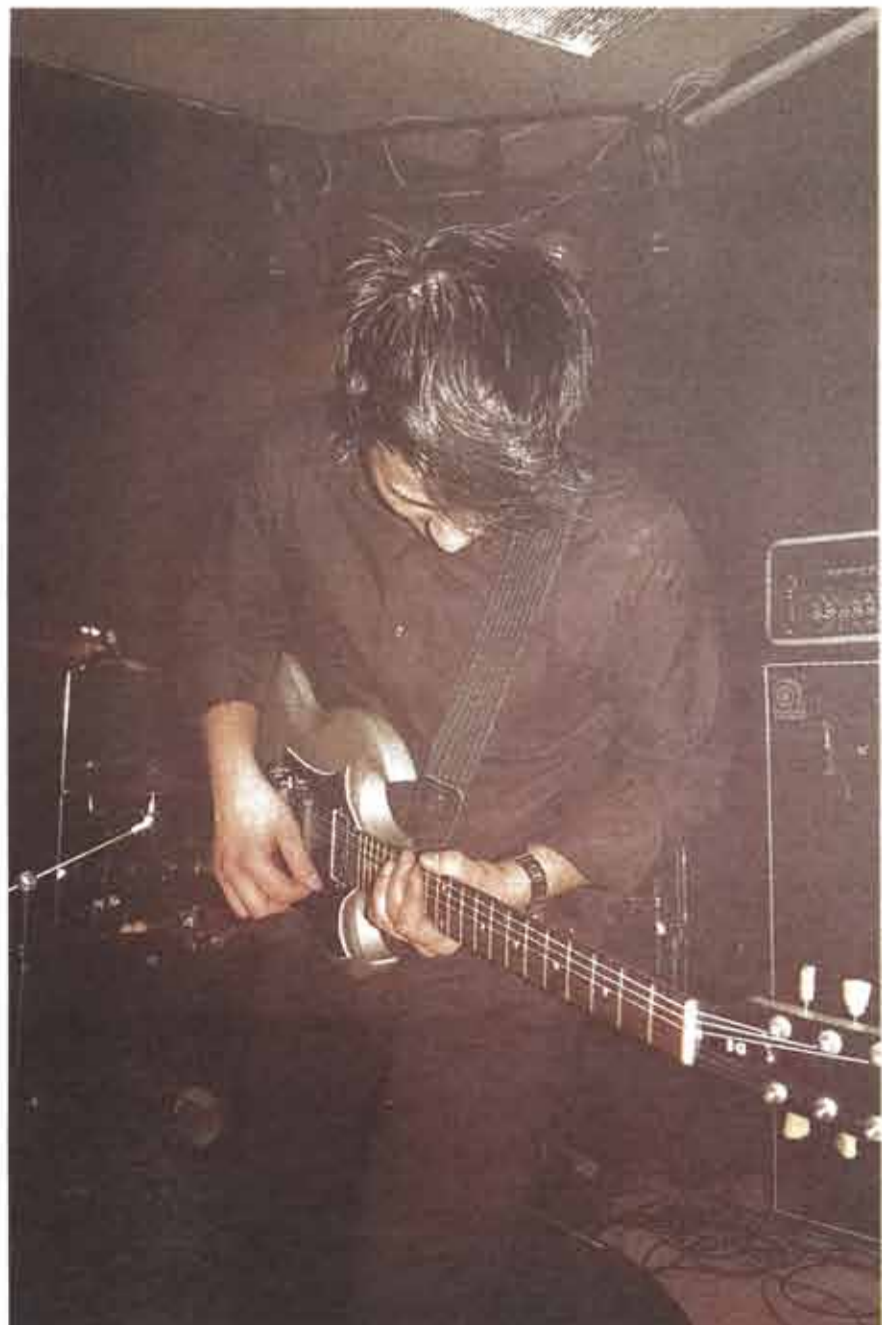
With so much being different from when they started out, the band felt that it was time for a name change, from "Glory Fades" to "Prize Fighter."

"Glory Fades just didn't fit the vibe of the band; it didn't really describe us, and for us the words 'Glory Fades' just isn't what music is supposed to be about," said Thakker.

And when asked about George Carothers, the new guitarist/vocalist in the group, Thakker simply said, "George is a prize fighter."

Ultimately, while pop-punk may get a bad rap, there is no denying the talent of five musicians that pour their heart and soul into every note they play.

On paper they may look like it, on record they may sound like it, but if their show on Friday proved anything, it's that no - this band ain't anything like high school.



Jon Kot

**FIGHTERS DON'T FADE** - Prize Fighter's George Carothers gives it his all on his trusty axe.



> *The Cord* celebrates Black History Month

## Music's power

Music's history is full of Black artists who used their talents to fuel social and political change

PAUL ALVIZ  
CORD A&E

When Americans and Europeans were gathering slaves to perform menial, degrading labour, they had no idea that they had completely miscalculated some of the most talented, strong and beautiful people in the world.

In honour of Black History Month this February, the *Cord* takes a look at the music scene that was partly responsible for some of the defining social developments of our culture.

Whether you know it or not, Black artists have been responsible for almost all of the fundamental developments in music over the past century, essentially building what we have as the music industry today from the ground up.

There is, however, one particular era of music that stands out as we look back on the advancements of the Black community in North America: Jazz, and its resurgence in the 1960s, which led to later formations of soul, funk and modern rap.

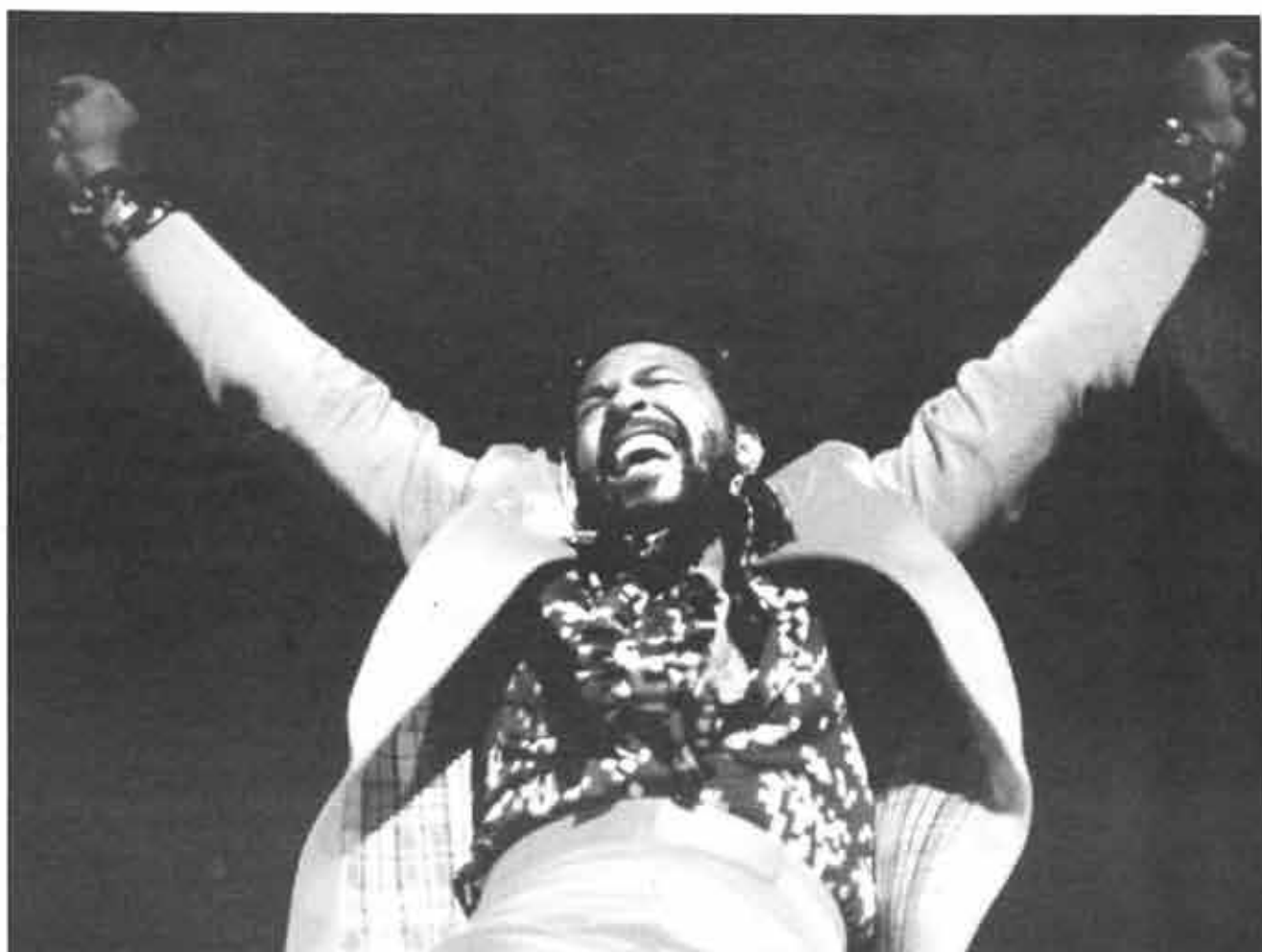
Unlike many of the lily-livered

musicians today, who make music videos with the general and pathetically vague themes of "war is bad," artists like James Brown, also known as "Soul Brotha no.1," were making tunes to make a difference first, with popularity being an upshot, not the other way around.

Musicians saw their value as more than just entertainers, and united to harness their revolutionary power to bring about change. Sometimes the unions were literal, as in the case of Leroi Jones recruiting various big funk names like Kool and the Gang and Parliament to record the track "You Was Dancin' Need To Be Marchin' So You Can Dance Later On".

Other times artists used song to speak out against social injustice and inequality, like Marvin Gaye and "What's Going On?"

Through the vision of Jesse Jackson, funk musicians were instrumental in the successful election of the first Black mayor in Cleveland, giving voters faith and direction, with bands actually touring on election day and informing people to go and vote. James Brown and



Contributed Photo

**SOUL BROTHER** - Black musicians like Marvin Gaye used the genius of their music to spur social changes.

Stevie Wonder later backed similar efforts.

Their success in gaining governmental power was articulated by George Clinton, who said "There's a lot of chocolate cities around," a victorious statement in follow-up to his earlier claim that "You don't need the bullet when you got the ballot."

Moving on to the '80s and '90s, countless victories for the Black community and individual rights in

general led to a more radical scene of performer/activists, who recognized the importance of keeping the vision of equality alive, and of applying these ideals to modern social issues.

With the technological developments in sampling, rap artists and DJs were able to revive popular sounds, some including clips from famous speeches such as the famous Martin Luther King Jr. "I have a dream," to others who sardonically

sample devious politicians.

Today, this spirit of musical activism is not entirely dead, as many musicians continue to critique the social landscape of society (albeit somewhat hidden behind a mountain of pop-culture apathy). Often these artists encompass a global perspective, with artists like New York City's Nas and Toronto's K'naan at the forefront of this awareness scene. With artists like this, maybe the spirit isn't gone.

## No words, but a *Rough House* full of laughs

Theatre & Company hosts the critically acclaimed work of Andy Massingham

CARRIE MCNABB  
CORD A&E

Opening with a minimalist stage consisting of only a chair, a bowl and a suspended light bulb, Andy Massingham breathes life into every one of his props, using creativity and unstoppable energy, while not uttering a single word. With fierce lighting and strategically placed music, *Rough House* is an hour of slapstick comedy reminiscent of the silent film era.

For a limited time, Kitchener's Theatre & Company hosted Nightswimming's production of *Rough House* created by and starring the Stratford Festival actor Andy Massingham. The critically acclaimed *Rough House* finished this leg of its tour in Kitchener from February 1-4, with earlier performances in Toronto and Ottawa.

A one-man show is never easy to do. Performing in front of an audience all alone is enough to make even the most confident public speaker nervous. Add to that the absence of speech, extravagant costumes and set, and one starts to understand the pressures on Massingham.

All the theatrical effects that actors rely on to capture the audi-

ence's attention are stripped away, leaving Massingham to be 100 per cent committed all the time.

Most plays in this situation would be setting themselves up for failure. Not *Rough House*; Massingham uses these shortcomings as advantages. Though Massingham does not speak during the entire production, he uses his body to communicate an inner monologue.

This effort was not lost on the audience: each time an object changed from, for example, a bowl to a catcher's mitt, the audience suspended their belief and went along with Massingham because he believed completely that what he was holding was a catcher's mitt.

The art of mime is not so much about making your audience believe, because that will come the moment that the actor commits to the scene.

In *Rough House*, Massingham truly is the victim of a "rough house." Inanimate objects (light bulb, bowl, and chair) all separately take turns beating Massingham into frustration. In this play, nothing seems to work out for the protagonist—something the audience finds delightfully comical. Because who has not at one time or another been the victim of malfunctioning objects?

Maybe it was a jar that just will not open, until someone else

comes along and tries it; or a light bulb that will not stop flickering, until you get close enough to fix it. At every failure, Massingham wins sympathy and laughter from the audience.

The only downside to this show was that there was no clear beginning, middle or ending. The show is more of a series of comedy sketches than a play that tells a story, and without a story, there was no attempt at character development. However, the transitions between each sketch were clear and each sketch never lasted longer than the joke was funny.

Nightswimming's original performance of *Rough House* ran January 4-16, 2005 at Toronto's Theatre Centre. That year it was nominated for four Dora Awards, including Outstanding New Play and Production and Direction, eventually winning for Outstanding Performance and Lighting Design.

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&gt; Pop-Culture Corner: Warning -- May contain traces of sarcasm

# The mix tape of emotions



JOSIAH YOUNG  
CORD A&E

That's right folks, it's getting to be that time of the year again. It's time to shell out hard-earned cash for chocolate and diamonds to prove how much you love your significant other.

It is the time to throw your money at every cliché possible, all in an attempt to catch the eye of that special someone, and hope to Eros and Aphrodite that they feel the same way.

It's the time to prove how popular you are by showing off how many Valentine cards you have, and of course it is the time for all of us bitter and lonely people to rue the day Saint Valentine became a martyr for love.

Valentine's Day is the perfect time to take a date out to the latest romantic comedy starring two people who would never mesh in real life. The radio stations will be pumping out the love songs, and that annoying couple in the Concourse with their constant display of public affection will be singing along to Michael Bolton's version of "When a Man Loves a Woman."

But for the rest of us who don't have that type of sordid connection to Bolton, we will be left in search of the perfect mix for our anti-Valentine's Day feelings.

Now this mix can take us in many different directions. There is the incredibly bitter and slightly homicidal route one can take with songs such as the Misfits' "Die, Die My Darling", or one can go the

lonely and broken hearted route with the ever-popular Dashboard Confessional choice of "Again I Go Unnoticed."

One must choose the overall tone as well. Will the mix be a reminiscing tone or will it be an "I am so over you and I am moving on" tone?

However one chooses to go about putting one's mix together, one should always remember to never, ever let anyone else listen to said mix. Trust me on this one folks, people do not want to know what is going on in your bitter little head, and if you are planning on winning the one who got away back with this mix, forget it.

If the heartfelt lyrics from "Smack That" in your MSN name didn't work, you're just not going to make any headway on this one.

My friends, this exercise is solely for self-healing and getting the bitter out of your system.

With the public service announcement part out of the way, we can now move on to song selection and things to avoid. Even though this mix is for you and only you, that does not mean that proper care and sequencing is not required.

The number one rule when making a mix is that there is a one song per artist limit. It doesn't matter how kick-ass and face-melting Dragonforce is.

That brings me to rule number two: you should probably avoid face-melting action on this mix, unless having your face melted is exactly what you need to heal.

Finally rule number three is: try to avoid cliché songs because this mix is about attacking the clichéd notion that we need one day a year



Contributed Photo

**LOVE DISCS, OR NOT?** - This Valentine's Day make a special love mix, no matter what mood you're in.

to prove how much we love someone, by spending the most money possible on flowers that will die and chocolates that will go straight to our hips.

That's right; I am putting the kibbosh on any songs that directly reference bunny rabbits and butterflies (sorry Crazytown). I must apologize about the rules, but you would not believe how often I have gotten mixes that had three to four songs by the same band, and the number of times I have gotten a mix that actually had Nickelback on it (did I forget the rule "absolutely no Nickelback"?).

With the rules out of the way, you are now free to sort through your album collection (who are we kidding? Your mP3s, you pirating thief!), and construct the perfect mix. Just go with your gut and you'll discover that the songs you pick will start the process of purging.

Label your mix but don't write out a track listing (track listings are only for mixes that you plan to give to someone else). Go back to it in a few months and play it all the way

through. You'll laugh at your song selection and how bitter and angry you were.

The spirit of Valentine's Day can affect you in a plethora of ways but

the tried and tested way of dealing with it all is music, because as the great Bob Marley once sang, "The great thing about music is that when it hits you, you feel no pain."

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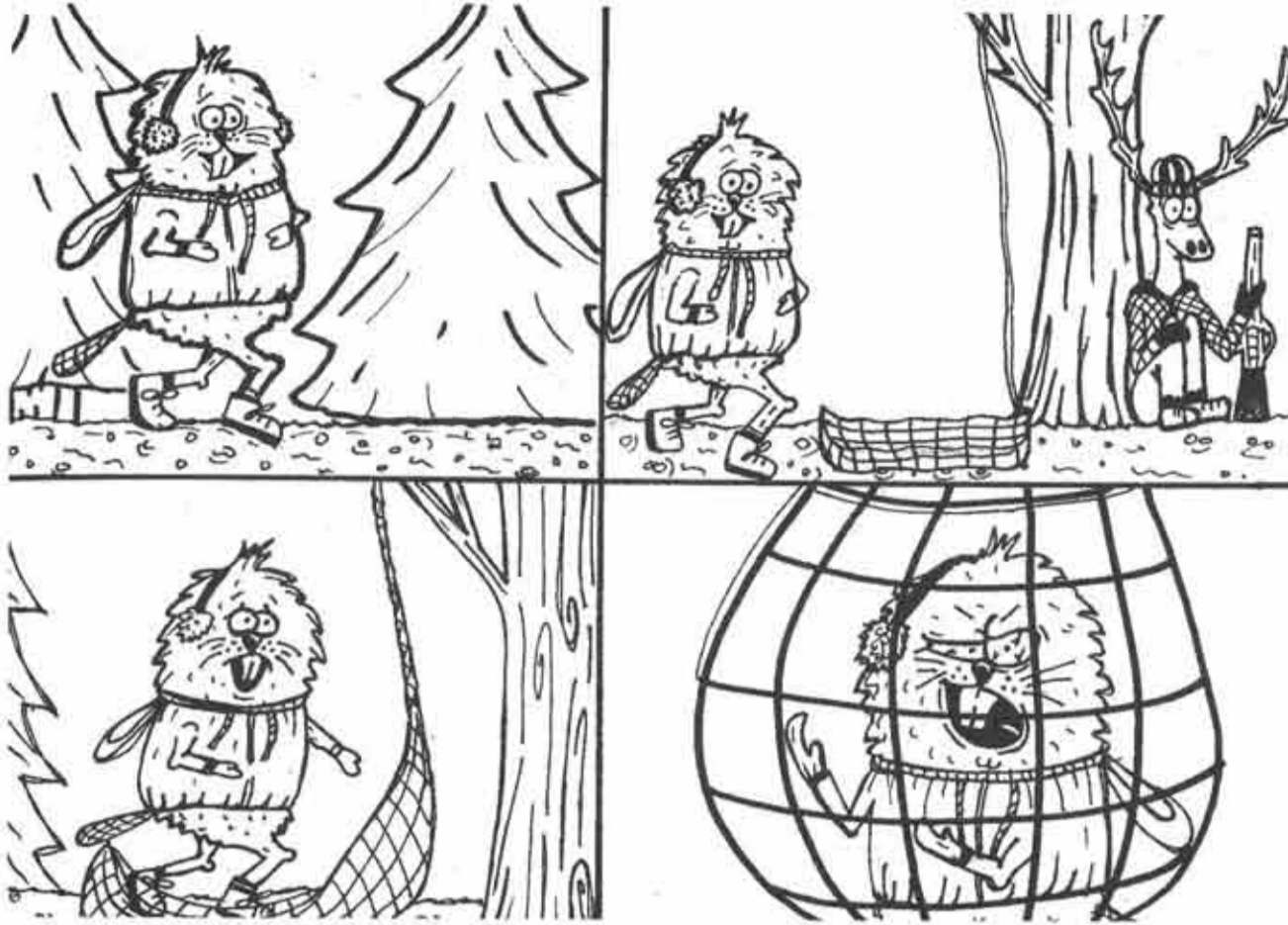
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**CROSSWORD** by Adam Faber

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- Across**
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  - \_\_\_-Mo
  - Accomplish
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  - Removes calcium, lime and rust!
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  - Laugh noise
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  - Butt Pirate, Mad TV actor, Comedian
  - Suis en anglais*
  - Abraham's birthplace, as per Genesis
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  - Before the present
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  - Fat
  - 10c piece
  - TV freq. abv.
  - Copper
  - Fish species
  - Half of Barney Rubble's offspring
  - Non-Truth
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# The Culture Shock experience



DEMONSTRATING DIVERSITY - Performing a traditional dance.

Sydney Heiland

'Shades of Grey' aims to increase diversity awareness on campus

NICOLE WRAY  
STAFF WRITER

Laurier's Equality Awareness Committee held its sixth annual Culture Shock last Friday in the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall.

This year's show, entitled "Shades of Grey," was put on to help show students that "everyone is equal in that grey area," said the Co-ordinator of the Equality Awareness Committee Dana Kuderian.

The event was a great reminder that outside of the Laurier community, and among Laurier students, there is a diverse range of people with different interests that we might not always be aware of.

Culture Shock was hosted by the current WLUSU VP of University Affairs, JD Muir, who opened up the show singing O Canada along with Melissa Jones in both English and French, expressing Canada's bilingualism.

The show starts off in Los Angeles with a man who realizes he is in love with his best friend, who is traveling the world as a model.

He travels to Europe and East Asia looking for her until he reaches India where he finds his love. In each of these destinations, Laurier students modeled some beautiful clothing from these countries.

Although the "female illusionist"

(or drag queen) fell ill and was unable to perform, there were some awesome acts to more than make up for the shortfall.

The duo of African drummers doing improvisation was an authentic taste of African culture. A group of girls performing Bhangra dancing and Kathryn Assaff, who performed belly dancing were dressed in traditional clothing and represented their cultural regions.

The show had a good range of performances from the Hawk Guriz showing off their hip hop moves to a slideshow with pictures of Martin Luther King and Ghandi set to John Lennon's "Imagine." Each of the acts was done well and was worth the price of admission, which went to charity.

Although Culture Shock was very well-organized and certainly worth seeing, attendance to the event was not shocking. The recital hall was about half full, but with more advertising, the show could have been enjoyed by many more students.

As JD Muir said, "In culture and diversity, there's always a constant and that's love."

If there is one constant between university students, it is that struggle with finding love not only in other people, but in our own culture and identities.

Laurier's Equality Awareness Committee gave students a great opportunity to show off a piece of their culture because as Kuderian said, "Beyond tolerating [different cultures], we're valuing [them]."

# Valentine's Day: what does it mean?

With "Love Day" only a week away, a panel of Student Life writers reflect on the holiday that is quintessentially Hallmark

LAURA CARLSON  
STAFF WRITER

I remember a simpler kind of Valentine's Day. I remember the days of elementary school when a class list, pink construction paper, a box of Hershey's Kisses and Care Bear cards were the essentials when February 14 rolled around.

However, as relationships have become more involved the holiday has changed as well.

Whereas Valentine's Day used to be about showing everyone that you care (yes, you even gave a card to the stinky boy who sat in the back of the class) this is no longer the case.

The day now seems to be an exclusionary celebration reserved only for those who happen to be in a relationship at the current time.

I have problems grasping the notion as to why this one random day from the calendar year should be reserved for people to celebrate their love.

In the process of people being reminded how spectacular they are, let us not forget all the single people out there, left in a bitter mood

and forced to ask themselves what it is that makes them so unlovable.

Being single is always hard, but being bombarded with images of happy couples, walking past chocolate and teddy bear sales, and witnessing big romantic gestures can just be downright devastating when there is an entire day dedicated to nothing but these things.

So, while wining and dining the one you love, don't forget that there are people out there that may not enjoy the holiday as much as you. People are excluded and made to feel as though there is something wrong with them because they are not involved in a relationship.

Let us try not to take the more juvenile approach to this day and make an effort to show everyone that somebody cares about them. Buy a female friend a flower, pass chocolates around your tutorial or bake cupcakes for your roommate.

Just remember that the single people out there are in need of some lovin' too, and a little gesture may stop someone from slamm'n' back a bottle of wine and listening to Celine Dion to make the night less painful.

NICOLE WRAY  
STAFF WRITER

While many people cringe at the thought of another Valentine's Day when they don't have a significant other, I'm looking forward to the day even though I've never had a boyfriend - never mind a boyfriend on Valentine's Day.

Although it is a commercial holiday, why complain about a day where you have an excuse to give something fun to friends and family.

Since I was a kid and got gifts from my mommy (not that the gifts from mom have stopped), I look forward to the day. I'm happy to show others I love having them as a friend on Valentine's Day.

Last year, I had one of the most memorable days with my best friends, boys included, when we planned a dinner, went to the beach and gave silly gifts to each other.

I once read that we accept the love we think we deserve, and I think Valentine's Day is the perfect time to remind your friends and family of what they deserve.

DJ DEMERS  
STAFF WRITER

When people complain about why they don't like Valentine's Day, a very common reason is that it is just a commercial holiday - essentially a way for businesses to get more money from consumers.

I have no problem with it being a commercial holiday.

If people are willing to give away their money in the name of a "Hallmark holiday," then businesses deserve it.

(Remember when retailers invented "Love Day" on *The Simpsons* and consumers adopted the holiday without question? That was awesome.)

My main concern is that the wrong sectors are getting the money. An inordinate amount of money goes to teddy bears, chocolates, and flowers, which are totally useless gifts.

Chocolates and flowers are gone within a couple weeks, and teddy bears are just dumb. There is no other way to describe them.

"To show my love for you, I present to you a gift that you may have

enjoyed when your father bought one for you when you were five years old. Luhhh you."

Unless you're in a long-term relationship, you're a sucker if you even have a boyfriend or girlfriend on Valentine's Day.

The smartest of us do some dumping approximately one and a half weeks before the date approaches and try to rekindle it about one week after.

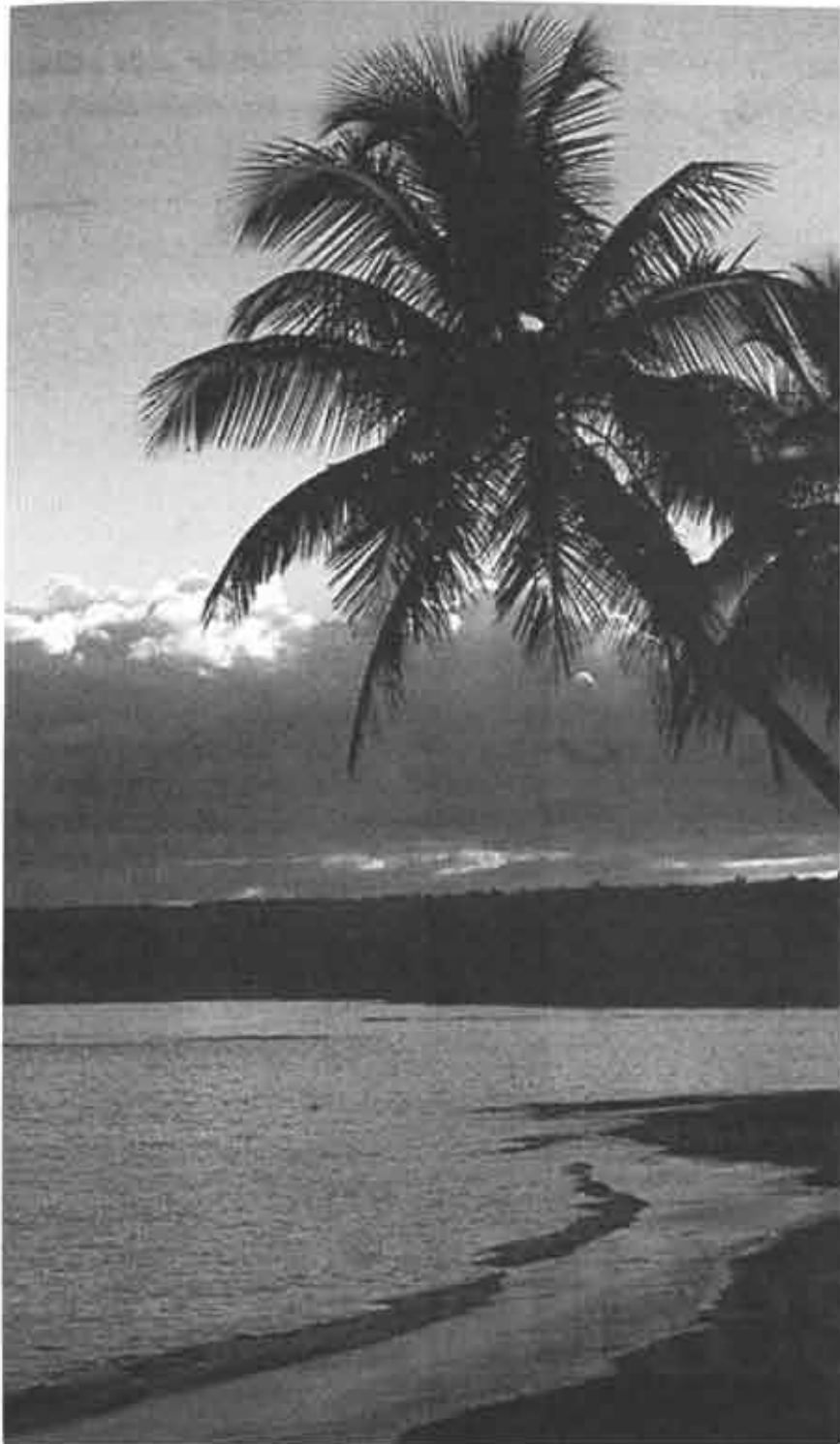
It's like the old maxim: "If you love something, set it free. If it comes back to you, it's yours. If it doesn't, she's probably having dinner with someone better-looking than you."

With all of that said, if I actually had a girlfriend, I would definitely get her something on this upcoming Valentine's Day.

Women expect it, and in my experience, an angry woman is very scary. Somewhere between a three-storey free-fall and a one-on-one encounter with a mountain lion.

letters@cordweekly.com





Sharon Porter

**TROPICAL DREAMS** - For many, this is not how spring break will look.

## Reading Week for cheapos

Spring break can't always be fun in the sun. Here are some activities for the credit, debit and sunshine-challenged student

**VERONICA HUGHES**  
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

The current winter weather is enough to make anyone max out their credit card and head down south on a tropical vacation.

Unfortunately for many of us, that is not an option (we already maxed out our cards at Christmas!).

With a break from school only a week away, here are some ideas for how to spend your week off without breaking the bank.

### Volunteer at a local charity

The YMCA and the food bank are just two examples of organizations that are always looking for volunteers.

You could also volunteer to shovel an elderly neighbour's driveway or help a relative paint a room.

A week giving back to the community could be the most rewarding thing you do this year (including passing Statistics, of course).

### Visit grandparents in Florida

If you are fortunate enough to have snowbirds for grandparents, a visit to Florida is surprisingly affordable. Flights out of Toronto can be as cheap as \$450 (with taxes), and flights out of Buffalo go from approximately \$400 (US).

There'll be free home-cooked food and shuffleboard, and who can turn down a good game of shuffleboard?

Note that entry requirements to the US have changed and a passport is now mandatory for all Canadians entering by air. For more information, see the link below.  
<http://www.pptc.gc.ca/>

### Learn to ski or snowboard

Hitting the slopes during the weekdays is cheaper and less crowded. All area hills are operational, thanks to the cold, snowy weather.

Full day lift ticket at Chicopee Ski Hill in Kitchener is \$34, and full day rentals are \$30.

### Beat your hardest video game

Super Mario and Zelda are popular games available at any rental store. A game with levels is key, as it will take you about a week to beat one.

And don't pretend that you're too good for this option. This was how many a student spent March break in high school.

### Start spring-cleaning early

Christmas and winter seem to cause an accumulation of junk. Instead of waiting until after exams, tackle your room and get rid of overdue library books, old clothes and empty beer bottles.

### Catch up on reading

Doing schoolwork is the most unpopular, but least expensive option. Even though it is a break, we all know that some work accomplished over the week off will help with the time crunch in March.

### Check out K-W attractions

Try the St. Jacobs Farmer's Market, local museums and artisans.  
<http://www.kwtourism.ca>



## High sex drive or sexual addiction?



**ALI SCOTT**  
CAMPUS KISS

Dear Ali,  
Is there such a thing as too much sexual pleasure?

My boyfriend likes to pleasure himself at least once a day, sometimes several times a day.

I was wondering if that is normal or not? I am wondering if he should get some help because he seems to be obsessed with sex. Can you help me?

Sincerely,  
Worried

Dear Worried,  
Every person has a different sex drive, so what is normal for you may not be for another person.

On average, males tend to have higher sex drives and it is very common for them to pleasure themselves once or several times a day.

However, there is such a thing as

sexual addiction, and it has been reported that over 15 million women and men suffer from this problem in the US, with a higher incidence in men. (Please note that there are no Canadian statistics because it is under-researched.)

A sexual addiction can include any compulsive sexual behaviour with other people, the Internet or phone services, and this may include masturbation, sex with prostitutes, anonymous sex, affairs, exhibitionism, voyeurism and the list goes on.

A person has a sexual addiction when they feel they cannot control the need to repeat sexual behaviours ritualistically and it affects their everyday life.

For more information and a "do it yourself" online test, visit <http://www.sexaddictionhelp.com/>.

If you suspect your boyfriend has a sexual addiction, he can go to his family doctor or a local sexual health clinic for help. The best thing you can do is to be supportive and understanding.

He may not have a sexual addic-

tion after all, but a high sex drive. Voicing your concern shows you care and may help him get help if he does have a sexual addiction.

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

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## CFS has right idea

Protestors we're not, but is it for the right reasons? While many schools chose to participate in a tuition protest today, as organized by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), Laurier opted out. JD Muir, VP: University Affairs, said he made the decision because student protests haven't always been successful in the past at Laurier and because we're not members of CFS.

Laurier students' lacklustre performance in protests and demonstrations is evidenced by merely looking at the last few attempts: when the beloved Golden Hawk was removed from the FNCC, angry students tried, and failed, to assemble en masse and voice their frustrations; last year, a Rally for Respect was held in the Quad, and, again, failed to draw any large crowds. Muir's assertion that protests don't really work in Laurier's community is seemingly valid, but how then are WLU students expected to engage in the tuition debate?

While the effectiveness of the CFS protest is questionable, it would have provided Laurier students with the opportunity to meet with students from across the country and display a united front against rising tuition. When many small lobby groups organize protests they can be easily overlooked, but if students from every university in Canada were to gather and take a stand, people would take notice.

Perhaps it's because many Laurier students have their educational costs paid for by mommy and daddy, and as such, they simply don't care if their costs rise. Or perhaps it's because tuition rises gradually, and over the course of a typical four-year degree, the monetary effects may not be significant enough to care about.

Whatever the case, Laurier students missed out on an opportunity to show the nation where they stand on the issue of rising tuition, even if it was for valid reasons. While protests may not be the "Laurier way," CFS's approach of uniting Canadian students on an issue could be incredibly effective. Lest Laurier be known as the "small school whose students are so into their own lives they don't care about others," the next time Laurier has an opportunity to show the nation where they stand, they should take it. Because you never know when mommy and daddy might cut you off.

## WLU not racism-free

Snow isn't the only thing that's white-washing our campus. It seems Laurier students tend to identify our campus as a predominantly Caucasian one, especially compared to our notoriously diverse neighbours up the street. However, this is not completely accurate. In fact, 14 percent of Laurier students identify themselves as a visible minority.

While visible minorities may not account for a large percent of the WLU population, they're still very much a part of the community and should feel included, but racism prevents them from doing just that. Some may think that at a university, a centre for higher learning, that individuals would be educated and progressive enough not to make racist remarks or insinuations, but when the *Cord* sat down with a culturally-diverse group, this was simply not the case. Students had

been exposed to all levels of racial ignorance, some more offensive than others. And recently, some students were offended by what they deemed racist portrayals of Jamaicans during Winter Carnival.

As Black History Month unfolds, and various cultural activities take place on campus, it's an excellent time to raise awareness of the many cultures that exist within Laurier that aren't of the homogenous pale-skinned variety. Instead of being ignorant to cultural issues, ask questions; looking uninformed is better than looking like a jerk. Keep in mind that just because a statement doesn't offend you or your circle of friends, doesn't mean that it won't offend others. Above all, remember that, while we may all go to Laurier, we're all coming from different places and students should take steps to make campus a welcoming environment for everyone.

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



Mallory O'Brien

## Sport reflects life

Social trends tend to be reflected on the field, as seen in Super Bowl XLI

JOE TURCOTTE  
A&E EDITOR

This past Sunday there was a celebration, a celebration that rivals no other. For those misinformed, uneducated, arrogant or ignorant, it was Super Bowl Sunday.

For the cynics in the world the Super Bowl is a dream come true, when nearly 100 million North American TV viewers come together to celebrate the excesses of North American consumerism, the absurdity of the things that our society privileges becomes blatantly obvious. Sure, that's what happens on the day when the NFL whores itself out to a consumer culture that is dying for a way to sell a product - any product. But in taking this cynical position the skeptics are missing out on something far more important than the power of North American consumer culture.

While it's true and undeniable that consumerism has perverted the realm of sport in a way that distracts from the games themselves, in spite of this there remains an inherent goodness about our beloved games.

This goodness is found in the fact that sport is an avenue for human expression. As such, the games contain elements of human nature, which allow for the hidden social and political climate of society to bubble to the surface. In particular, when one looks back at the history of the NFL's biggest game this is especially clear.

During the 1960s and '70s

America was divided by an unpopular war, which pitted the left versus the right (much in the same way that the Iraq blunder has split the nation today). During this time the fields of play were one place that could be looked to as a demonstration of the United States' social conflict. "Good ol' fashioned" athletes like Johnny Unitas, quarterback of the Baltimore Colts, stood in direct contrast to "flashy" players like the loud and brazen New York Jets quarterback, Joe Namath. These two men clearly demonstrated that a social shift was beginning to take place, as more and more people were be-

Dungy's simple gesture was a triumphant moment for all of North America. As, for the first time, a Black man was the winning coach of the Super Bowl.

ginning to cast-off the constraints of tradition and become more like Namath.

So when the two iconic figures of the National Football League took to the field against one another in Super Bowl III the game was more than just a football game. It was, in fact, a defining moment in North American culture.

And so, now, almost 40 years later one can look back upon that game and recognize something very important.

Read through a lens that sees that match-up as a contest between the old and new, it's apparent that sport is more than just a game played with a ball - or puck.

Sport is a measure by which we can judge society's state.

With that in mind, this year's Super Bowl (Super Bowl XLI) was yet another example of how our world is progressing. This year's "big game" featured, for the first time, two Black head coaches. In fact, this year's Super Bowl was the first time even one Black head coach had reached the defining game of the sport. So when Indianapolis' coach Tony Dungy lifted the championship trophy above his head, it was not just a triumphant moment for himself or his players on the Colts.

Dungy's simple gesture was a triumphant moment for all of North America, as, for the first time, a Black man was the winning coach of the Super Bowl.

Like Jesse Owens, who demonstrated that Hitler's ideas about race and superiority were completely false by winning gold at the Berlin Olympics, Dungy serves as a reminder that outdated and ridiculous stereotypes need to be adjusted. Whereas there once might have been the prevailing feeling that a Black man would not be able to outsmart a white coach and bring his team to glory, this is no longer the case.

As Tony Dungy and the success of the Indianapolis Colts demonstrate, anyone can be successful - as long as they're given the chance.

letters@cordweekly.com



# Letters to the Editor

LETTER OF THE WEEK:

## COW KILLING INHUMANE

I'm sure that I wasn't the only person offended by last week's editorial by David Shore, "Vegetarianism not only option for animal-lovers". To Shore, facts are clearly as meaningless as the unimaginable suffering of countless billions of non-human animals.

First of all, studies have routinely shown that vegetarians and vegans achieve the proper dietary equilibrium without consuming animal products. The facts are pretty clear: if your caloric intake is sufficient, your protein intake will almost inevitably be sufficient as well (unless your diet consists only of candy).

Secondly, you can't eat meat and be in favour of animal rights. I'm sure that some people think that they can, but they can't. They're like slave-owning abolitionists, or misogynist-feminists: they're contributing to (and/or benefiting from) the very problem that they claim to be against.

While Shore is right to prefer free-range meat to factory-farmed meat, what he doesn't mention is how free-range animals are killed. Free-range animals are typically shipped off to the very same slaughterhouses that butcher the factory-farmed cows, and they are killed in the exact same manner. Ideally, this process is as painless as death can be (which is not to say that it wouldn't be extremely traumatic), but the sheer volume of animals that pass through these facilities guarantee

that mistakes are made. These mistakes mean suffering of a practically unimaginable magnitude for free-range and factory-farmed animals alike—they also mean that when you eat an animal, you're consuming its fecal matter (among other things) along with its flesh. And animals slaughtered for kosher meat get special treatment: they are hung upside-down, their throats are slit, and they slowly bleed to death, all without anaesthetic. Free-range doesn't mean cruelty-free.

In a democratic-capitalist society, every product you purchase is like a vote for that product. So whether you vote for a hamburger composed of free-range cows or one composed of factory-farmed cows, you're voting for slaughter. You're voting for death. By purchasing alternatives to animal products, you're not opting out of the system, as Shore thinks: you're voting against it.

I can't speak for every vegetarian and vegan out there, but I don't consider vegetarianism an end in itself. As a vegan, I'm not trying to merely "make a point"; I'm trying to abolish mankind's unjust tyranny over non-humans. A true vegetarian will never see fit to eat meat, because there is not and never will be a moral justification for it.

-Dru Jeffries

## Penis Envy

Idly reading the *Cord*, I received an "unpleasant shock."

Mike Brown, was telling people not to vote if they don't have a "fucking clue", as he elegantly put it. I am hardly worried about what Brown tells me to do. The remark that I seriously object to is "it seems the only more effective means of securing votes than straight up popularity is having a vagina." In the context of his article, Brown insinuates that females have it easier when it comes to winning elections.

His proof? Last year, six women ran in an election and all of them won. The other nine spots went to males. But Brown feels that because no woman got turned down, it proves that Laurier, and the world in general, favours women. Could it be, Brown, that the women who were elected were deemed qualified by the masses, rather than for their organs? I hardly think the males went home after and regretted their lack of vaginas.

Popularity plays a larger role in elections, and in Brown's haste to explain away women's talent he is overlooking the obvious: There were no women in the running for the WLUU presidency. The day no man can win any position will be the day I begin to worry about male under-representation.

I resent Brown's attempt to instigate a backlash against female

progress, to the point where he equates women = vaginas, instead of men and women = people. His is the crudest reasoning, including his airy-fairy idea that "women vote for women." So what?

Brown's comment that "we are allowed to be sexist as long as it is in favour of females" is extremely facile. It is likely that Lauren McNiven was a good candidate regardless, and Brown should apologize for implying that she needed her 'vagina power' to pull her through. In a pinch? Just rely on your vagina!

What can I say? Retract your sexist statements Mike Brown. I don't like to lose my voting freedom and my personal freedom all in one day.

-Emily Zeran

### Letters Policy:

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



Sydney Holland

TO BUY OR NOT TO BUY - As cost for the service increases, Turnitin not be the best option for WLU.

# Turnitin.com may not be worth cost

Prof's can catch plagiarism without software, students shouldn't pay for it



STEVE NILES  
DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

With the rapid growth of the Internet and the expansion of essay-purchasing websites, it is no surprise a website such as Turnitin.com has made a significant impact in academia. The website, founded over ten years ago, is now used in over 85 countries at both high school and post-secondary levels. It also offers plagiarism detection services for publishers, and has begun launching grading and peer reviewing services.

(This information can be found at their website and from Wikipedia; I completely stole it and rewrote it, so hopefully I don't get caught).

The university has to pay a fee to Turnitin annually for their services. During my tenure here at the university, that cost has nearly tripled. During this same time, tuition costs have also increased. While I'm not saying the increased cost of the university has led to an increase in tuition costs, any business student can tell you that an increase in operational expenses is meted with an increase in the price of services. That being said, an examination of how Turnitin has changed the landscape here at Laurier is warranted, given that it is our money that is being spent.

Turnitin operates by collecting a database of student papers and cross-checking them against each other. Over ten years, the Turnitin database has grown to comprise millions of student essays from across the globe. The website has also acquired licences for major academic journals, newspapers and books, as well as a continually archived copy of the publicly available Internet. That's right, they have an archived copy of the Internet, so good luck cheaters.

During my four years here at Wilfrid Laurier University as a history student, I have submitted perhaps a dozen essays to the

discerning eye of Turnitin. These essays were not limited to just history, but also communication studies, religion and culture, and sociology. Being the good student I am, I was never once suspected of plagiarism, and have been able to ride my original ideas to a solid B average. I'm not showing off, I'm not falling behind; I'm right in the meaty part of that bell curve. While I have been safe, I'm sure at least a few students have been picked off during the last few years.

Turnitin also lauds itself as a deterrent to potential plagiarisers. This, however, should be insulting to undergrads as it carries with it an assumption of guilt.

Just over a year ago, the *Cord* challenged three professors to a plagiarism detection battle. The professors were pitted against two genuine student written essays, as well as an essay bought from a website. The results clearly showed that the professors were able to identify the plagiarised work within the first few pages. The paper was vague in relation to course content, had very few resources, and sub-par grammar.

So if the profs are able to easily identify which papers are plagiarized and which are not, is Turnitin really necessary? Proponents will argue that the professors cannot possibly cross-check a submitted paper against a previously submitted paper, and I largely agree. In reality, a paper submitted four years ago will not remain in the mind of the professor. A student can find an old paper, change the name on the front, and hand it in as their own. Turnitin describes this deterrent as a way to protect the originality of ideas.

Sadly, as an undergraduate student of history, I don't get too many original ideas of my own. A sample history thesis for example: "Hitler was a jackass." Unfortunately for me, this thesis was probably originally published a few times over

the last couple of decades, notably starting around 1939. While this is clearly not a thesis I would write, the vast majority of all my essays I have written up to this point contain research done by other individuals, such as a professional historian. Only an idiot would copy this professional research word for word anyways. The logic behind protecting the originality of ideas is limited by the finite amount of historical explanations and their constant reuse by lowly undergraduates such as myself.

Turnitin also lauds itself as a deterrent to potential plagiarisers. This, however, should be insulting to undergrads as it carries with it an assumption of guilt. As I said before, I'm sure students here at Laurier have been caught before, but the vast majority never have issues at all. Frankly, a student should be reprimanded if they're too lazy to do the work and rely on a web-based paper.

Turnitin is a valuable tool to many professors that has made their lives easier in regards to how they mark. They can quickly and easily cross-reference student papers to see who did their own work and who didn't. However, as the price tag of this service continues to climb, we as students must ask if it is worth the cost. Students at McGill have challenged the use of the website and won rulings saying they cannot be forced to submit their work. Similarly, students at Princeton successfully lobbied to prevent the school from using the website to check their work.

If the cost continues to climb the way it is, maybe it is time that the professors find alternate solutions. Rather than giving the money to a corporation, hire grad students as markers. The onus should fall on two parties; to the students, don't plagiarize, and to the professors, just start marking again.

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# Green politics

Climate change affects Canada's political climate with party co-operation



**KATHRYN FLYNN**  
GOOD GIRL REVOLUTION

A minority government makes politics a lot more interesting, especially when the opposition digs up such great quotes from the current Prime Minister to the effect of calling climate change a "socialist scheme to suck money out of wealth-producing nations." Harper's government technically fears the threat of a snap election. It could be to their advantage at the polls, however, if the electorate resents the opposition's reasons for calling it and feels their needs are being met.

It is best for a minority government to paint itself as bending with the winds of change, and so we are witnessing the diffusion of "the environment issue" across the political spectrum, no matter what Stephen Harper's old correspondence reveals.

The adoption of certain policies out of a pragmatic response to the electorate's desires isn't new at all levels of politics. Queen's Park characterized one-party dominance before the 1980s because of a willingness to govern through compromises on party platform

and social concerns. If only we still saw the same stability!

Universal health care was pioneered by Tommy Douglas when he was premier of Saskatchewan, and he was seen as a private-sector threatening socialist. Though a royal commission recommended the same policy to the federal Progressive Conservative government under John Diefenbaker in 1958, it wasn't until Tommy Douglas moved to federal politics in 1961 and introduced it to legislature himself that the other parties came on board.

Current federal NDP leader Jack Layton was asked on CBC's *The Hour* by George Strombolopolous if he was upset that the whole political spectrum was taking an issue that typically characterized NDP platforms. How was he to answer this? If he's to demonstrate his party's integrity, he surely can't accuse the other parties of stealing their policy-baby. Tommy Douglas knew that the federal NDP would have to get used to being the policy harbingers of the spectrum - ideas are introduced by the far left and then through political osmosis make their way over to the other side.

Is the interest in green politics genuine? A better question - does it

need to be genuine? Depending on how desperate they are for votes, and the environment is a hot issue in the swing ridings of Quebec, the Conservatives will prove how far they're willing to stray into political territory they're unfamiliar with. They're already collaborating with the NDP to improve the Clean Air Act, but this is demonstrative of co-operative governing, and while it's less entertaining than Question Period is lately, it's more productive.

The environment's current popularity with the media also lost a certain federal minister her job. The dalliance with green politics has made the environmental portfolio the most high-profile ministerial position, which poor Rona Ambrose couldn't handle. A position that she could have quietly educated herself in over time required too steep a learning curve and now her replacement, John Baird, is at the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change defending Canada's eschewing of the Kyoto Accord.

We're also witnessing a change in the way elections will be fought. Despite receiving over four percent of the popular vote, the Green Party is still denied participation in elec-



**an inconvenient truth**  
A GLOBAL WARNING

Contributed Photo

**IT'S GETTING HOT IN HERE** - Al Gore brought Global Warming to the forefront with his popular documentary.

tion debates - an issue they have started petitioning on their website. Stéphane Dion voiced his support of the move, but Layton has remained quiet considering his party has the most votes to lose to the Greens. Dion either doesn't perceive the Green Party as a threat, or the man is passionate about the environment, democracy, or ideally, both.

stone in our popular culture, thank you Al Gore, but I'm excited to see what it does to our political culture. It is revitalizing politics at all levels, and as scary as the whole global warming bit is, the circus antics in Question Period are at least distracting me from the imminent doom.

Green awareness is now a touch-

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## Different Strokes

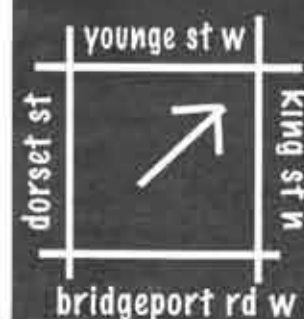
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# Banned books are important texts

Controversial novels reveal important aspects of human history, even if they may be negative or controversial



**JEREMY TREMBLAY**  
ON THE VERGE

context. As this garners attention, people assume that the objector is quoting the author properly.

Often, the reasons cited for banning a book are completely contradictory to the true themes the book portrays. For example, Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* has been challenged and banned for encouraging racism. While the novel portrays instances of racism, it tells the story of a child discovering what is wrong with racism.

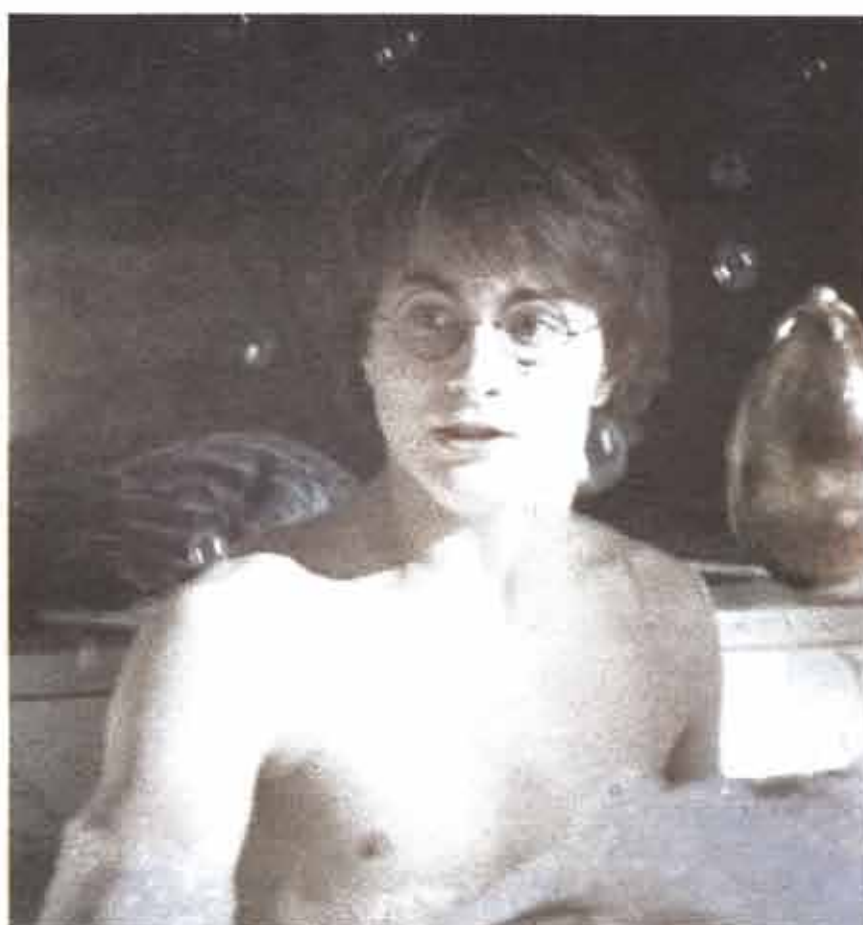
By removing material depicting negative aspects of humanity and its past, we are denying that such injustices have ever taken place. To do so is wrong and counterproductive.

If we choose to ignore what has gone wrong in our past, we are only going to end up violating the rights of others in the future.

We as Canadians must spend more effort on ensuring that small community interest groups and individuals are not successful in removing insightful literature from our schools and public libraries.

The ideas that these books portray are powerful and important to our society; we need to make sure that they remain accessible to everyone throughout the future.

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Contributed Photo

**SEXY SORCERER** - Harry Potter's undeniable hotness, as portrayed by Dan Radcliffe in the films based on the popular books, could likely have caused their ban from certain schools. Or it could have been the blasphemous witchcraft in the novels. Whatever.

*The Wars, Lord of the Flies, The Diviners, To Kill a Mockingbird, The Giver, The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz, Harry Potter, Catcher in the Rye, Of Mice and Men*: one might assume, glancing at these titles, that they were perhaps pulled from a high school reading list.

For many of us, one or two of these titles bring back memories of reading them in class. They were the books nearly everyone proclaimed to hate, at least until the year's work by Shakespeare was assigned.

However, these books all have another link. Each title listed above, along with dozens more, has been challenged within the past two decades in Canada.

Community groups and individuals have pushed, sometimes successfully, to have these titles removed from classrooms, public libraries and school libraries in communities across the nation.

Last week, in fact, Peel Region's Catholic school board removed *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson from its libraries.

The 1995 novel won the PEN/Faulkner award and the American Booksellers Association award for novel of the year and was turned into a Hollywood movie in 1999.

The story takes place on a fictional island in the United States and follows the events occurring after the mysterious drowning of a fishery worker shortly after the end of the Second World War. It deals with a variety of subjects, including lingering racism as a result of the war.

A parent complained about the novel, which is described by the *Toronto Star* as "[containing] a few explicit passages," in December. The reason for the complaint has not been announced.

While board officials have stated that the book has not been banned and will be reviewed by a board committee before a decision is made, removing the book from the school in the meantime has the same effect as a ban.

According to a document published by Canada's Book and Periodical Council, the people who push for a ban have not read the work in question and quote it out of



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