



SO, YOU SAY YOU WANT A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

After the most sinful night of the year, people tend to set their most ambitiously angelic lifestyle resolutions. Our Features Editor takes the top ten New Year's resolutions and gives her sage-like opinion on what must be done to see them to completion ... **FEATURES, PAGES 14-15**

Weinberg, McCracken seek WLUSP presidency

ADRIAN MA
News Editor

Zack Weinberg is currently working on *The Gentleman's Guide to Getting Elected At Laurier*.

Weinberg, author of the controversial *Cord* article "The Gentleman's Guide to Getting Laid at Laurier", is competing against Fraser McCracken to be the next President and CEO of Wilfrid Laurier Student Publications (WLUSP).

The election takes place on Monday, January 16 at 7:00 pm in the Senate and Board Chamber. Any student that pays WLUSP fees is eligible to vote.

"It's [student media] an area I have expertise in," said Weinberg, adding that he wants to "give back to Laurier."

"It's [Student media] an area I have expertise in," said Weinberg, adding that he wants to "give back to Laurier."

Weinberg and his article generated tremendous attention when it was published back on Sept. 21. The piece divided the student body, inciting disdain from many students who found the writing misogynistic, while others argued for Weinberg's right to free speech.

Despite all the negative media attention he's received this year, Weinberg said he harbours no ill-

will towards WLUSP, and believes there is a lot of potential in Laurier's student media.

"I realize that if *The Cord* would want to, they can get people to listen," said Weinberg. "They really do have a wide range of coverage, but I think we can represent the student population a little better."

If elected as WLUSP president, Weinberg aims to resurrect advertising relations with WLUSU. He wants to encourage readership, and feels that can be accomplished if a wide diversity of writers are pulled from Laurier's student body, which he described as "a huge, untapped resource."

Running against Weinberg is McCracken, who currently serves WLUSP as VP: Finance and the Students' Union as a director. He believes that the key to improving Student Pubs is to address the corporation's bookkeeping needs and to seek out experienced professionals to act as board members.

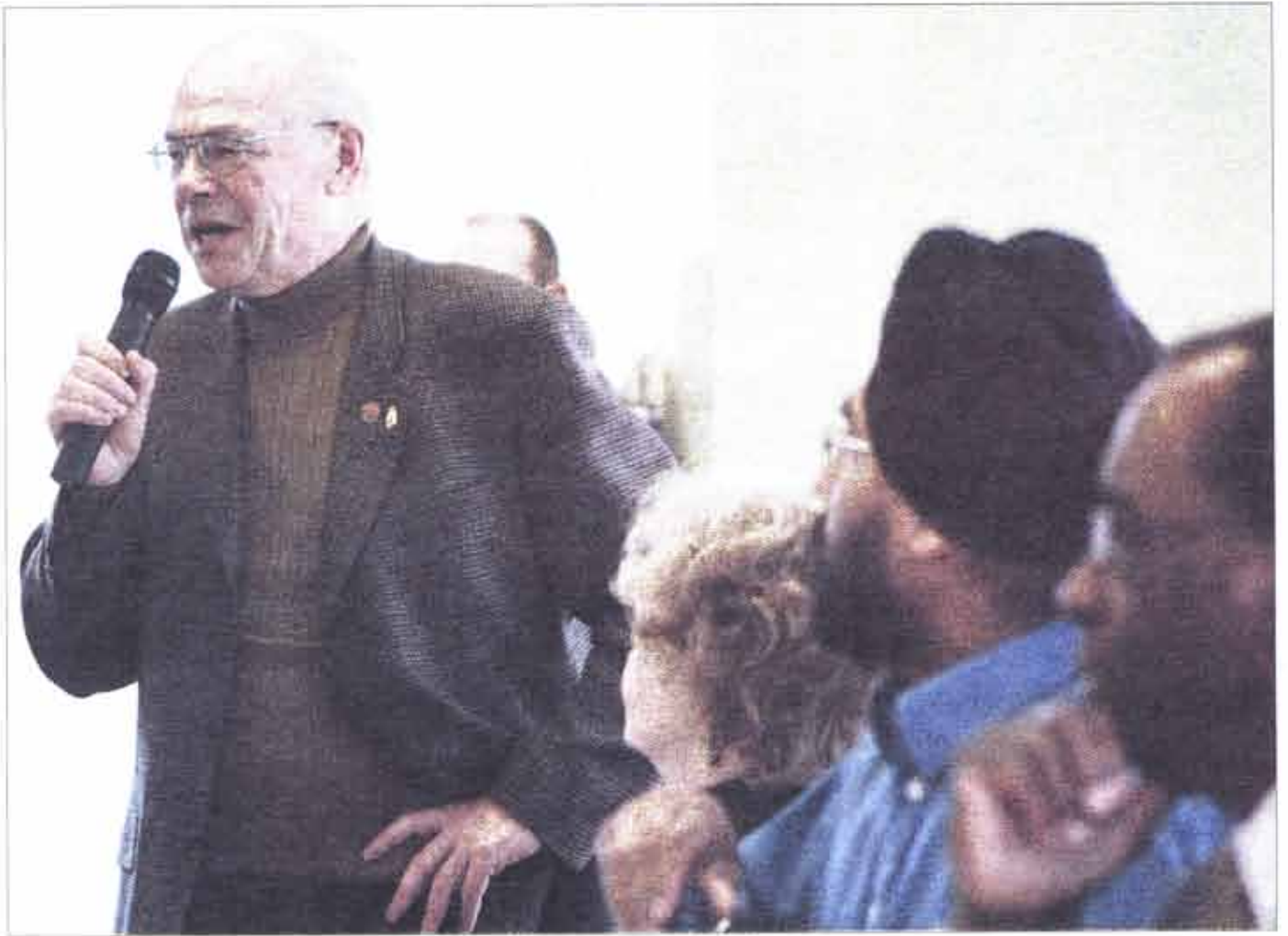
He also wants to maintain WLUSP's dedication to journalistic ethics by promising that editorial content will continue to be uninfluenced by Pubs admin.

- Please see **WLUSP**, page 4

> Editorial reaction to this story on **PAGE 6**
> Student reaction in **VOCAL CORD**, **PAGE 3**



THE RUNNING MEN - Zack Weinberg (left) and Fraser McCracken.



EYES ON THE PRIZE - Kitchener-Waterloo MP Andrew Telegdi makes his case for re-election as challengers (from left) Pauline Richards (Green Party), Amjmer Mandur (Conservative) and Edwin Laryea (NDP) look on.

MP hopefuls take aim at Telegdi

With the Liberals sagging in the polls, the four-time incumbent MP of Kitchener-Waterloo went on the offensive at Laurier's all-candidates debate

DAN POLISCHUK
News Editor

With the federal debates over and less than two weeks to go before Jan. 23, the Canadian election battleground moved to Laurier on Tuesday afternoon.

With the Grits floundering in recent polls, the pressure of a horse-race election has trickled down to the candidates of Kitchener-Waterloo, even more so on incumbent Andrew Telegdi.

Having served the region for four consecutive terms, Telegdi and the Liberal party came under fire often during the debate held for the benefit of Laurier students in the Senate and Board Chamber. From his opening remarks, Telegdi was immediately on the defensive reiterating that he has "never stopped fighting for the issues that affect students."

He continued to urge voters to look at his political past to see what he has accomplished during his time in parliament.

This did not phase the other four candidates as they continually questioned the rationale behind Liberal decision-making.

At one point, Conservative can-

didate Amjmer Mandur scoffed at Telegdi when the Liberal suggested Tory gun control policy would be as non-existent as America's.

Getting quite emotional, Telegdi further compared the policies Stephen Harper's Conservative Party with those of George W. Bush's Republican regime.

From his opening remarks, Telegdi was immediately on the defensive, reiterating that he has "never stopped fighting for issues that affect students."

"We are not the Americans," Telegdi stated emphatically.

Mandur defended the claim by stating that his party will simply focus more on stiffer sentences so that those who do use guns illegally cannot get to them in the future.

Another key topic that came under scrutiny was the health care system and the increasing length of wait times.

NDP candidate Edwin Laryea made the strongest statement when expounding his party's plat-

form. "When you take care of people, people will take care of prosperity," he explained.

However, the large crowd saved their loudest applause for Green Party candidate Pauline Richards' stance on same-sex marriage. She stated the words that seemed like what most students wanted to hear: "We celebrate diversity in all forms."

Aside from the national debt and issues surrounding foreign aid, the most frank (and humorous) comment of the afternoon came from

Marxist-Leninist candidate Julian Ichim to prove his connectedness to the community.

"Honestly, I'm thrown in jail for some of what I do," he said, gauging his passion for political change.

While declaring a clear 'winner' of the debate would be a futile endeavor, one fact remains blatantly true: it's going to be a fight to the finish.

Daily Planet host discovers Waterloo

ARLA LATTO-HALL
Copy Editing Manager

In the tradition of expressionism, renowned artist Van Gogh said, "One may have a blazing hearth in one's soul and yet no one ever comes to sit by it. Passersby see only a wisp of smoke rising from the chimney and continue on their way."

Yet just as others fail to recognize the true nature of one's soul, the conscious mind, too, is an outsider to the brain and not entirely aware of everything it holds, as one of Canada's best-known popular scientists came to Waterloo to explain.

Waterloo Collegiate Institute welcomed Jay Ingram into its auditorium last Wednesday, where he delivered a lecture titled "Are you Conscious?" This follows up the October 2005 publication of his latest book, *Theatre of the Mind: Raising the Curtain on Consciousness*.

The hardworking Ingram is also the host of the Discovery Channel's *Daily Planet*, a weekly contributor to the *Toronto Star*, the author of nine books and has

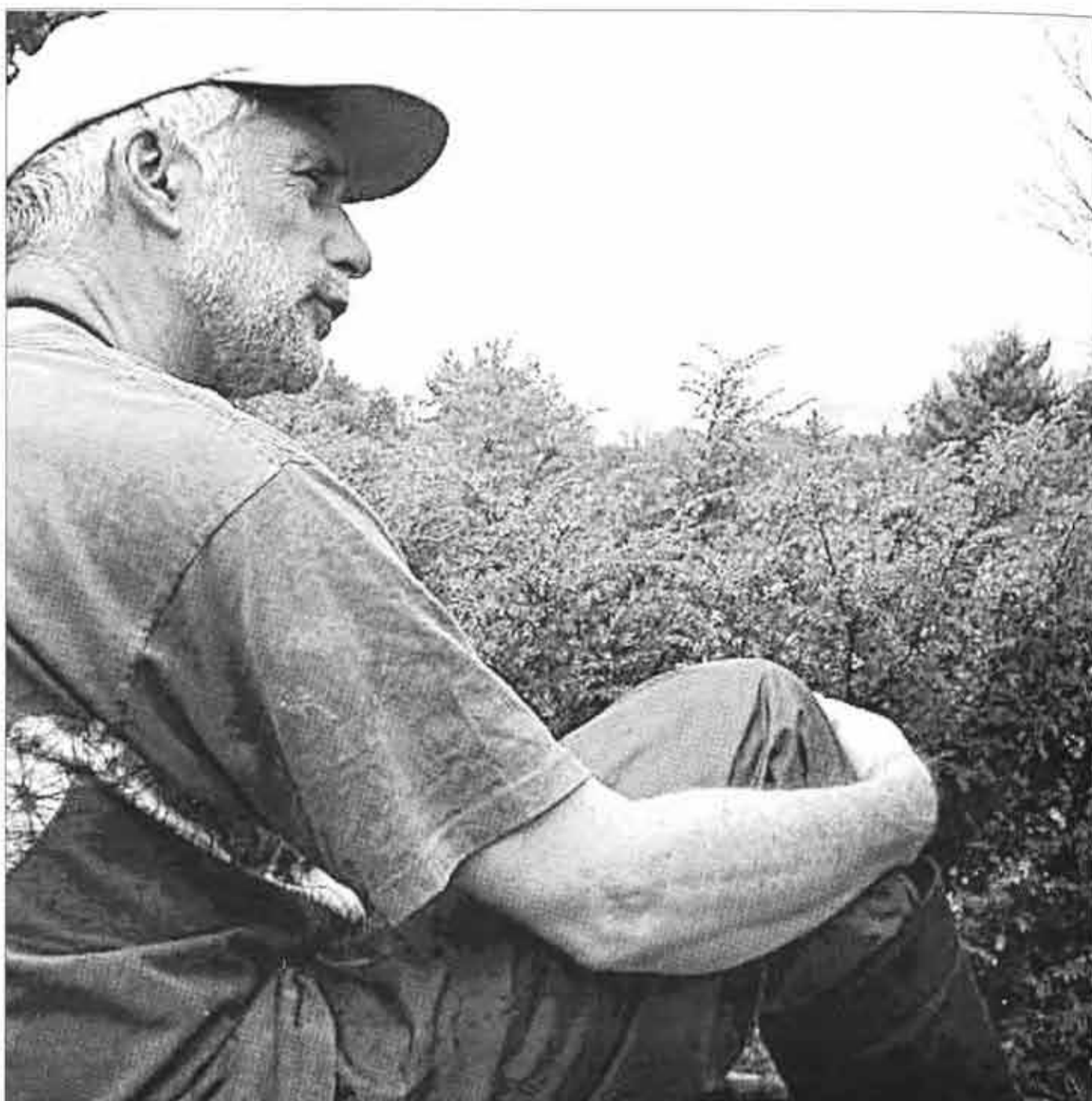
served a 13-year stint as host of CBC Radio's *Quirks and Quarks*.

A book falling between the genres of philosophy and psychology, *Theatre of the Mind* is an accessible read and one highly relevant in this age of information. The book offers no conclusions for its readers, but does relate scientific findings and conveys the mystery of consciousness.

It is common knowledge that our minds are never aware of everything our senses continually take in, yet no one has determined why we focus on what we do and why we're able to command information to emerge from our unconscious and into awareness.

Ingram's oft-repeated examples address the mundane: learning to play the piano, driving, remembering the artist of a song, even one's awareness of sitting on a chair.

Consciousness, Ingram proposes, is "all the stuff that goes on in your head that you're aware of." Scientists, however, have had trouble determining the relationship between brain activity and consciousness. Since technology has not sufficiently advanced to



Contributed Photo

PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS? - Jay Ingram, Discovery Channel personality and recent author, held an open lecture in conjunction with the Perimeter Institute about the ins and outs of human consciousness.

accurately trace the relationship between neurons transmitting information and having the subject conscious of it, the study of

consciousness remains subjective. As such, it has been primarily the domain of psychologists.

> For the complete interview with Jay Ingram, check out www.cordweekly.com

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Jordan Joubert

TONIGHT'S TOP STORY - CTV News correspondent Lisa LaFlamme makes a stop at Laurier's campus to gain perspective after the last English debate. WLU is located in the heart of a critical riding for this year's federal election.

Lights, camera, activism

CTV News' Lisa LaFlamme reports Monday's election debate from Laurier, the centre of a 'critical riding'

ADRIAN MA
News Editor

"This is where all the magic happens," says Kevin, a videotape editor for CTV. He's showing me a makeshift production studio - a collection of high-tech video monitors, microphone and digital editing machines - all set up in a tiny room beside the Students' Union office.

As part of this past Monday night's federal election debate coverage, CTV sent a crew down to film Laurier students during the televised affair to gather their reactions, which were then broadcast nationally as part of CTV News with Lloyd Robertson.

"The challenge of tonight is that we're live and we're editing," says Lisa LaFlamme, CTV's National Affairs correspondent. She's a former host of *Canada AM*, and earlier this year spent five weeks dispatched in the Middle East cover-

ing Iraq. She's also a native of Kitchener, and put forward the idea to report from Laurier.

"[Area code] 519 is a very critical riding," says LaFlamme. "Because it's a bellwether, it could decide the whole election."

A bellwether is a riding whose results are highly representative of the rest of the country. Since 1965, the winning party in Kitchener-Waterloo has been the winning party in Canada.

LaFlamme feels that this election has been particularly exciting to watch because "it's such a dead heat."

"From a journalistic point of view, Stephen Harper is running a policy campaign that is resonating with voters. Paul Martin ... let's face it, his campaign has been marred by investigation after investigation and you get a sense of that when you travel with him."

As a reporter she's happy to be at a university, where she feels

people are more attentive to politics.

"TV cameras usually go to a bar and people aren't even listening," says LaFlamme. "What I love about interviewing university students is that they are engaged. That's why it's so interesting - I could talk to people who vote Green now and years from now will vote Conservative."

She feels that Laurier is a very political school with an informed student body.

Chelsey Laird is a third-year political science and global studies student who was present during the debate.

"I think it's a really good idea," says Laird of the live debate coverage.

Her friend Diana Spadafora, a fourth-year political science major, feels that it's positive when a major media outlet gives the opportunity for people to participate in election discussion.

Laurier's Dean of Arts and political scientist David Docherty has appeared on CTV with LaFlamme in the past and was encouraged by what he saw in the 24-hour lounge.

"People who were supporting the different parties were there, they were clapping, they were cheering - I thought, what a great night you know?" remarked Docherty. "For someone who loves politics, for me to watch a whole bunch of young students get together and having a healthy, fun time in the sense of a healthy debate ... it was just a pretty cool experience."

Lisa LaFlamme agrees with Docherty, adding that a student's university years are an important time.

"It's all about values, and values start at this level," says LaFlamme.



Contributed Photo

Students to get cash back from Grits

Belinda Stronach talks to *The Cord* about the Liberal's student spending spree

ADRIAN MA
News Editor

Last Thursday, Paul Martin announced that the Liberal party plans to inject \$2.2 billion into post-secondary education through what he calls the "50-50" plan.

The proposed funding scheme, which Martin unveiled while speaking at the University of Waterloo, calls for the government to pay for half the tuition cost in a

student's first and fourth years of studying their first degree for up to \$3,000.

One of the most hotly debated topics in this year's federal election has been education, something that Liberal cabinet minister Belinda Stronach believes is a key issue that is stirring voters.

"Education is really an investment in the future prosperity of our nation - it's what gives young people an opportunity at the end of the day to acquire the skills they

need to make a good living, to get a good job," said Stronach.

"Education, I really believe, is what's going to give us a competitive advantage in this really fast-paced global economy. We're a nation that's blessed with great natural resources but education is what's going to really differentiate Canada ..."

IN THE NEWS - Liberal cabinet minister Belinda Stronach.

- Please see **PLATFORM**, page 4

VOCAL CORD

What do you think about Zack Weinberg's bid for the WLUSP Presidency?



"That makes me giggle. More power to him."

- **Josh Smyth**
Second-Year Poli Sci & Economics



"If he's president, I'd only assume he'd let more articles like that be printed."

- **Kalen Herrmann-Mowling**
First-Year Computer Science



"I don't think that it's a big deal. Let him move on."

- **Ian MacDonald**
Third-Year History and Political Science



"Maybe [his article] was part of his plan all along."

- **Jessica Hudspeth**
Fourth-Year Communication Studies



"He's going to have to have a strong campaign to bounce back from last semester."

- **Meghan Thompson**
Second-Year History & Geography

THE CORD WEEKLY

- The tie that binds since 1926 -

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Let's write them together!"

-News Editor Dan Polischuk, imploring his co-editor to write shout-outs collectively, in a magnanimous spirit of brotherhood

WORD OF THE WEEK

Prescient (adj.): perceiving the significance of events before they occur. *The political science student was prescient in predicting a Liberal minority government on Jan. 23rd.*

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COLOPHON

The Cord Weekly is the official student newspaper of the Wilfrid Laurier University community.

Started in 1926 as the *College Cord*, *The Cord Weekly* is an editorially independent newspaper published by Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications, Waterloo, a corporation without share capital. WLUSP is governed by its board of directors.



Opinions expressed within *The Cord* are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editorial Board, *The Cord*, WLUSP, WLU or MasterWeb Printing.

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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fed's plan 'incomplete': CFS

- from PLATFORM, page 3

Jen Mitchell, WLU Students' Union Vice-President of University Affairs, and has worked closely with the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance over contentious issues like tuition deregulation and the need for increased funding toward post-secondary education.

She appreciates the new plan believing that by focusing on grants instead of tax cuts, the Liberals are attending to "the real source of the problem of access."

Mitchell is encouraged that the issue of funding "finally resonated with politicians" but is somewhat dismayed that things "had [to get] so bad" first.

George Soule, National Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, is not as optimistic as Mitchell. Soule feels that Martin's plan will likely be an exercise in futility because it fails to address rising post-secondary tuition rates. Tuition fees have tripled since 1991.

"In the absence of a plan to regulate tuition, this plan is incomplete," said Soule. Soule pointed out that in provinces such as Nova Scotia, where the average tuition is \$6281 this year, even a grant of up to \$3000 will not be enough to cover half the cost.

Minister Stronach feels differently.

"Tuition is set by the provinces and the universities," said Stronach. "I do believe this will go

a long way to offset tuition ... along with the other improved debt measures we're talking about and the income tax measures that are available to us, I think it goes a long way to address those issues of access for students."

She noted that the Liberal government has promoted several policies in recent years to help alleviate the financial stress faced by students, including the Canada Access Grant, an increase in the ceiling of student loans and an increase in the income threshold used to determine eligibility for student loans.

"Look, we didn't want to waste a lot of time reviewing and spending. We wanted to make sure we put forward a program that addressed access, [something] that we've identified as a big issue," said Stronach.

Dr. David Docherty, Laurier's Dean of Arts, believes that whether or not Martin's plan will make a real impact, what remains truly important is that the issue of post-secondary education is being discussed.

"Anytime we can make it more affordable for students to get to university, or more kids to get to university and graduate with less debt, is something that all of us both in the education sector and outside should applaud," said Docherty.

*With files from Erika Meere
CUP Québec Bureau Chief*



Contributed Photo

HALF-FULL OR HALF-EMPTY? - Paul Martin introduces the "50-50" plan.

Two very different candidates in Pubs race

- From WLUSP, cover

McCracken admits that while he does not know what to expect on Monday night, he feels that he is the strongest candidate.

"I would say that this position is open for any student to run for," said McCracken. "I do believe that I'm the best candidate for the position ... what it boils down to is experience."

In terms of experience, McCracken has two years as a WLUSU director, one year on the Laurier Board of Governors, and a

18 months on the Laurier Senate.

Weinberg's experience in an executive capacity does not extend beyond his high school student council.

This has led some Laurier students to doubt the likelihood of Weinberg becoming the next WLUSP President.

"I don't know him other than [from] his article, so I can't really say if he'd be good or not," said Juliette Eleveld, a third-year communications student. But she feels that Weinberg's notoriety will work against him. "Seeing as the major-

ity of Laurier [students are] women I don't think his chances are that good."

Bryn Ossington, a second-year philosophy student, is surprised that Weinberg is running.

"It's a pretty bold way to come back into the public eye," said Ossington. "Maybe this is where he's planning to [make amends], but it doesn't seem that way."

Current WLUSP president Anthony Piscitelli would not comment as to whom he believes is the better candidate, but said that voting for the position is a "tremen-

dous responsibility" on the part of Laurier students.

"It's important to remember that WLUSP is a \$400,000 corporation and running the corporation takes a lot of administrative skill and political ability," said Piscitelli.

"It's a great responsibility that we have as a student body because ultimately, it's our decision that dictates the success or failure of WLUSP."

Former Arts Dean gets presidency

With a connection to small, tight-knit communities at Trent University and most recently Wilfrid Laurier, there is no doubt that Robert Campbell will be "a good fit" in his new position of President at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick.

Words of praise that come from a now ex-colleague: WLU President Bob Rosehart.

Rosehart believes that Campbell "will do quite well" and should be a good addition to the

school of just over 2,000 students.

"When he was here, he had a good relationship with the faculty and with the students," Rosehart said, adding, "I think it's a compliment to Laurier that one of our deans went on to become President."

Campbell, who could not be reached for comment, will begin his new five-year term on July 1, 2006, according to Mount Allison's website.

Smoking restrictions back on table

Talk has begun once again around the different ways of restricting smoking on Laurier's campus.

With Laurier's Vice-President of Finance and Administration leading a new group made up of campus representatives, various alternatives were starting to be discussed at their first official meeting on Tuesday.

The nagging issue remains to be one of compliance and enforcement.

Seventy-five percent of respondents to an online survey, that was sent out during the exam period of the Winter 2005 term, said they would support a smoke-free campus.

The group will be trying to get more input from outside sources before making a recommendation to Laurier President Bob Rosehart.

Compiled by Dan Polischuk

5 DAY ACTION NEWS WEATHER FORECAST



Today	
Morning: Mainly Cloudy -1°C 30% POP	Afternoon: Variable Cloudiness 3°C 20% POP

Friday
Light Rain High 5°C Low -1°C 80% POP

Saturday
Isolated Flurries High -4°C Low -4°C 40% POP

Sunday
Mainly sunny High 0°C Low -11°C 0% POP

Monday
Light Rain High 2°C Low -5°C 90% POP

WLUSP election platforms

Presidential Candidates



Fraser McCracken

If elected WLUSP President, I plan on implementing a number of initiatives to help support our publications and allow students access to a rich and diverse range of student-oriented media. I will work to ensure that Laurier's publications remain financially and editorially independent, but continue to allow students to express their opinions about the message that

these publications deliver.

A number of my initiatives will revolve around implementing the WLUSP strategic plan, which I have had the opportunity to participate in this year. I plan on continuing to make capital purchases to keep the technology available to staff and volunteers up to date. I also plan on developing a responsible investment plan that will help Student Publications address its office space needs in the future. This investment plan will see WLUSP manage its surplus in a financially responsible manner. I will also leverage the new "community professionals" that will sit on the WLUSP Board of Directors to engage in a discussion about how WLUSP operates administratively and how it delivers media to students.

I encourage everyone to attend the Student Publications Annual General Meeting on Monday, January 16th in the Senate & Board Chambers to hear more about how I plan on supporting and improving your campus media.



Zack Weinberg

No platform submitted.

Editor's note: All candidates platforms were printed verbatim from what they provided to The Cord, except in the case of those that exceeded the length limitations as set out in the WLUSP Nomination Package.

Board of Directors Candidates



Rafiq Andani

Student Publications rulz!



Keren Gottfried

I value the quality of WLU Student Publications. As an autonomous organization, its duty is to provide the students of Laurier with the opportunity to express their right to free speech. Given my proven dedication to the WLU student body, be assured that I will devote myself to ensuring the ongoing success of our Student Pubs. Vote for Keren Gottfried.



Daniel Komesch

If elected to the WLUSP Board of Directors, I plan to do the following; restore the relationship that WLUSU has with WLUSP, specifically regarding the Cord Weekly. In going along with that I would also like to use my position on the Board of Directors to change the image of the Cord on campus through more sensitive editing practices to avoid the kind of controversy that was present this year after certain articles were printed.



Derek Bartoschek

As a member of the WLUSP Board of Directors, I will strive to find ways to improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of WLUSP operations. I believe that every idea put forth to WLUSP deserves fair consideration and examination, and I would uphold this philosophy as a director. My door will always be open to anyone who wants to share ideas, and has suggestions and/or criticisms they would like to voice. WLUSP has the obligation of serving the best interests of the student body, and my main goal is to support this responsibility as a representative for the students.



No Photo Available

Arthur Wong

The past 2 years with the WLUSP as VP: Finance and BOD was a wonderful experience, giving me the opportunity to meet students and writers who want to be involved in the University, either through writing articles, editing, yearbook, administration etc. As a returning Board of Director and previous administrative staff, I will be providing experience as well as leadership to the Publication. Overall, my goal next year is to get more people recognize and understand the role of WLUSP, as well as getting involved in the Publication. Please feel free to email me with any questions at arthur1985@rogers.com



Roman Soler

Being an active cord reader for the past three years I have noted several changes I would like to see for the succession of the cord as a true independent student newspaper. As a board of director I would like to see:

- 1) Information of campus deadlines/events increase: Printing articles/ads of upcoming events such as registration for intramurals, academic dates, special seminars etc...
- 2) Announcements/Updates for students: such as results from intramurals, results of issues affecting students
- 3) Sponsorship: increase sponsorship from local businesses
- 4) Student Opinion/Polls: having polls conducted in various issues that students would



Penny Shearer

For the past two years I have been a volunteer for WLUSP and have gained a general knowledge of the operations of the organization. I am again running for the position of Director as I hope to further apply this knowledge in order to improve the overall structure of the organization. I would like to see the BOD become more integrated into the tasks of WLUSP through completing projects, in their office hours, that might better the organization. I also would like to ensure that several components of the proposed Strategy Plan for WLUSP are attempted.

WLUSP President and BOD reviews



Anthony Piscitelli

President Anthony Piscitelli

Coming into the job somewhat overqualified, Piscitelli has lived up to high expectations in his role as President and CEO of WLUSP.

The biggest question mark coming into his term was whether or not he could balance his position as a WLUSU director with his job at Student Pubs. Thankfully for WLUSP, he has always put his presidency ahead of the Union, even to the detriment of his effectiveness as a member of WLUSU's BOD.

As Pubs' president, Piscitelli has provided the leadership and strategic vision the organization has been lack-

ing for several years. As CEO, he hired a very competent VP: Finance to help him manage the corporation's finances effectively and put in place a budgeting system that allows the publications a greater voice in how much funding they receive.

When it comes to handling crises, which seem to be an annual occurrence with WLUSP, Piscitelli has staunchly defended the publications and their right to editorial independence, and put their welfare above any personal agenda.

With little exception, he's been able to keep himself at a safe political distance from the content of the publications, which was another question

mark coming into the year.

From writing a detailed, five-year strategic plan to changing WLUSP's electoral process and corporate structure, Piscitelli has boldly set a new, more professional direction for Student Pubs. Even though his new ideas need time to prove their worth and there are still OPA and office space issues still to resolve, he has begun to stabilize a historically unstable organization.

WLUSP Board of Directors

With a strong leader in place, this year's WLUSP BOD hasn't needed to provide as much organizational direc-

tion as previous boards. But because the role of a Student Pubs director is somewhat narrow, this shouldn't be entirely surprising.

As they don't actually represent students' in the same way as WLUSU directors do, it's their job to ensure that WLUSP's members' financial interests in the corporation are taken care of and that students are getting full value out of their membership fees.

Working with the VP: Finance, the board has maintained fiscal responsibility and has questioned the executive on a number of budgetary items, but hasn't seriously challenged the president on any of his initiatives.

THE CORD WEEKLY

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WLUSP presidency is no joke, Zack

No one would think of walking into RIM and requesting to be made CEO right out of high school. Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications (WLUSP) is no different. The president of Student Pubs oversees a corporation with an operating budget of approximately \$400,000 a year. While this, of course, doesn't come close to RIM proportions, it's still a sizeable chunk of money.

It also represents many publications - *The Cord*, *The Blueprint*, *The Keystone* and *The WLU'er* - which take a great deal of organizing and behind-the-scenes work to get on the shelves.

It's not a job to be taken lightly. It takes a lot of work.

So, considering the amount of effort the job requires, we have to wonder if Zack Weinberg, who can't even bother to submit a platform, will have the motivation to go through with the job, or more importantly, continue the encouraging trend of good WLUSP management. Screwing up this job means you're putting at risk the countless hours of work by countless volunteers. It also means potentially wasting the fees paid by students that go toward WLUSP's budget.

Anyone who truly cares about the quality of Laurier's student media should vote for Fraser McCracken on Monday.

Not only is he a proven leader and experienced legislator, but he's occupied the second-highest job in WLUSP's admin this year. He knows the ins and outs of how the corporation works, and much like this year's president, brings a strategic vision and excellent track record to the job.

Compare that to Weinberg, who's only contribution to WLUSP has been the dubious "Gentleman's Guide", and there's only one reasonable choice.

But if you want to come and take a complete gamble on Weinberg, then that's your democratic right.

WLUSP's General Meeting takes place on Monday, January 16 at 7pm in the Senate and Board Chambers. Take the opportunity to come vote and help shape your student media for the upcoming year.

Willison Field renovations should benefit all students

The potential overhaul of Willison Field would be long overdue and much-needed. It's a part of campus that gets a great deal of use by students, but has been neglected by the school.

It's good to know that, if the project is approved, our Student Life Levy will be going towards something that will have an immediate and tangible benefit for the students that are paying for it.

A large number of Laurier's students use the field, whether it's through intramurals or a self-organized game of soccer with friends. Bringing Willison Field out of its state of disrepair would make the experience much better for them.

There's one small caveat attached to our endorsement of this project, though.

With the increased quality comes increased use by varsity teams (soccer for now, and possibly lacrosse too). While we don't begrudge them this - not at all - we don't want to see Willison Field become over-regulated and inaccessible to the general student population.

Peter Baxter, Director of Athletics and Recreation, assures us that this isn't the case, and that the field will remain available for "casual recreation time."

If this truly ends up being the case, then the new field will be a welcome improvement to the Laurier campus, allowing for greater visibility for the varsity teams that move there, and a more appealing and useful space for everyone.

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



Emilie Joslin

Trickle-down politics

Politicians should start by doing what's best for the majority - the rest will follow

MICHELLE PINCHEV
Student Life Editor

It's hard to feel motivated to vote if you're not passionate about one of the parties or candidates.

Personally, I know there will probably never be a politician who shares all of my beliefs. In fact, my beliefs are so complex (and often, I admit, contradictory) that I doubt I will ever relate to a party on even most of the issues. Every person, unique "snowflakes" that we are, has an entirely different constellation of values, desires, perceptions and influences that interact in varying ways. One person's perfect world can be another's personal hell. It's hard, isn't it?

Not everyone has this problem. Some people identify very strongly with certain ideologies. They consider themselves conservative, socialist, liberal, green. I don't always consider myself conservative, but I am voting for them.

I'm pleased with the decision that homosexuals can marry, but in all honesty, this doesn't really affect me. I would love to see guns banned, and although I love Toronto and plan to work and live there after school is done, I don't really feel that whether they are banned, registered or otherwise controlled, I will deeply feel the repercussions. I know gun violence is much more complex than that.

I have aging parents, like all of you do, and I use the healthcare system a lot. In fact, I may one day work within or closely with the healthcare system. I care about education. I care about others and their childcare issues and about poverty and unemployment.

Does caring about these things equate to being leftist? No, and I'm tired of people making this fundamental mistake. What the NDP offers is just one approach, a bottom-up approach, to solving these kinds of social problems, in a socialist way. What the Liberals

offer on the other hand, is mostly bribes, budgets and a whole lot of nothing. We don't need a surplus. We need an active government. There are other ways.

Jack Layton has some interesting, though radical, ideas. Do I think he cares about these issues? Sure. Would I trust him to handle my money? Hell no.

If I gave Jack Layton a twenty dollar bill, he would probably give it to the first homeless person on the street with a Styrofoam cup. Actually, he would scold the bum for having a Styrofoam cup, give him an environmentally friendly cup, and then give him my twenty dollar bill.

If I gave Jack Layton twenty dollars, he would probably give it to the first homeless person he saw on the street.

Stephen Harper has a Masters degree in Economics and was raised in a family of accountants. Stephen Harper would take my twenty dollar bill and turn it into fifty bucks. He would then give it to someone who could hire five homeless people who were originally shafted, but now have jobs and long-term solutions to their problems. In the meantime, Jack Layton's recipient is still waiting for his next handout.

I understand the problem of homelessness is more complex than this, but I believe that is just a small chunk of the problem. For the most part, I think politics are about realizing that you can't please everyone and instead making choices that benefit the majority, who are hard-working, taxpaying, law-abiding citizens.

This sounds a bit harsh. Let me offer some background here. My parents came to Canada before I was born, having fled communist Russia where life was crap. My dad was educated, but it didn't mean jack here. He drove cabs for a

while. My mother was pregnant.

Like a lot of students here, I didn't have luxuries or much at all growing up and my sister and I worked hard to put ourselves through school.

The government didn't do much for us. They didn't put food on the table or pay the rent. They didn't teach my parents English or send over nannies while my parents constantly worked. My parents did everything they could and by now, they've both done well for themselves and I'm proud.

However, the times when I've been sick (and many of us have been there), the government gave me free health care. Thank you, government, but no thanks.

I think it's great that we have a public health care system, but wouldn't the majority of Canadians, not the wealthy but the regular, working class, be willing to pay for

something better? We all strive to have the best, but when it comes to health care, there is a ceiling, a very low limit, on the level of service we can get.

Obviously I recognize the problems with a two-tiered system. It's not that I don't care about those less fortunate. I just don't believe in unfairness for the sake of being fair. We all deserve to live to the best of our abilities. We don't eat less because some are hungry. We don't sleep outside because some are homeless.

Society is the way it is for a reason. We are all striving for something better and every single one of us has the same opportunity to rise above our personal challenges and better things for ourselves. I don't believe any government will ever make the world the way we want it to be, nor should we expect them to. Start at the top. Start with the majority. The effects will multiply and trickle down.

letters@cordweekly.com

The least of election evils

If enough people spoil their ballots, it sends the message that politicians needs to shape up, says **Guest Columnist Tyler Feltmate**



TYLER FELTMATE
Guest Columnist

By now, most of you have seen the election ads aired by the Conservative party. You know, the ones with people sitting around in a 'Timmies-esque' coffee shop, looking frustrated and exhausted by the Liberal cons shown on television.

Well, a good number of the people I've been talking with recently have told me they feel exactly the way those real people (played by actors) look, and not just in regard to the current ruling party.

Complaining about our political leaders is always a popular a Canadian past-time, but since this election began, it seems that I've encountered an even greater-than-usual amount of irritation (or worse, apathy) among friends and associates, toward all four major political parties.

For each of these complainants, a solution is needed: don't want to be forced to try and pick the least of all evils? Fine, spoil your vote, but as a form of dissent!

Before I explain further, let me give you an idea of what kind of factors might lead the average Canuck to lose faith in every major political power we've got, starting at the top:

The Libs: One word, starts with 'S', rhymes with 'candle,' and anyone who's lived in Canada and been within spitting distance of a TV or radio for the past half-year is probably finding this term as irritating as I am by now. Personally, I don't think Pauly's done such a bad job as PM, but that doesn't erase the fact that his party is facing more criminal charges than your average NBA team roster.

The Tories: Leaving aside the fact that their leader has all the personal flare of sawdust, for me, the biggest problem with the Conservatives this time around is their campaign platform ... or lack thereof. The vast majority of what I hear from them is Liberal-bashing, with little actual substance. Ask a Conservative what they'll do if put in power, and you always seem to get, "We'll make the government accountable!" Okay, good, but what about actually, you know, running the country? "Well, we'll at least be honest while doing it!" Right.

NDP'ers: Of all the leaders, I've got to admit that Layton seems the most appealing as an individual (at least he appears to have backbone, even if his politics are wishy-washy). Also, I can sympathize with his situation. The phrases "I'm going to vote NDP" and "I'll be hibernating right through the 23rd" are synonymous for many

Canadians, leaving the NDP plagued by the paradox of having to get more votes, in order to get more votes.

De Bloc: A separatist party cannot, by definition, elect a Prime Minister. Duceppe's presence in the political debates is nothing more than the proverbial suppository taken by the rest of the nation in order to appease the colo-rectal infection that is Quebec separatism.

While hardly an exhaustive evaluation, the above should give some idea of how many Canadians have come to be equally frustrated with each leading candidate. The response from some of those malcontents I've spoken with has been to simply not cast a ballot at all, but this is really the worst of all voting alternatives. Voter apathy is a major problem for most western democracies, and essentially says to politicians, "We don't care, go nuts."

A dangerous statement that can cause the elected to gravitate toward certain practices like, oh, let's say stealing your hard-earned money.

Thus, there is a demand for an alternative. The spoiled vote is actually a ballot category tracked by Elections Canada along with those cast for actual candidates. This group includes all those votes which are made incorrectly (a



checkmark instead of an 'X' for example) but within this fraction of votes is one commonly occurring gesture. Among ballot counters, a voting card with an 'X' placed in not one but all available spaces is understood as the voter's statement that they are equally dissatisfied with the leaders of all competing factions and that they should start improving, fast.

Ever seen one of those *Three Stooges* episodes where Moe slaps Larry and Curly in one swing? Okay, imagine the four candidates and a big glove, elaborate.

Again, while not an official category, to spoil a vote in this way is already semi-officially taken as a statement of defiance, and the more people who use it as such, the more credible an alternative it becomes. In other words, thousands of people don't 'accidentally' mark each circle on their cards

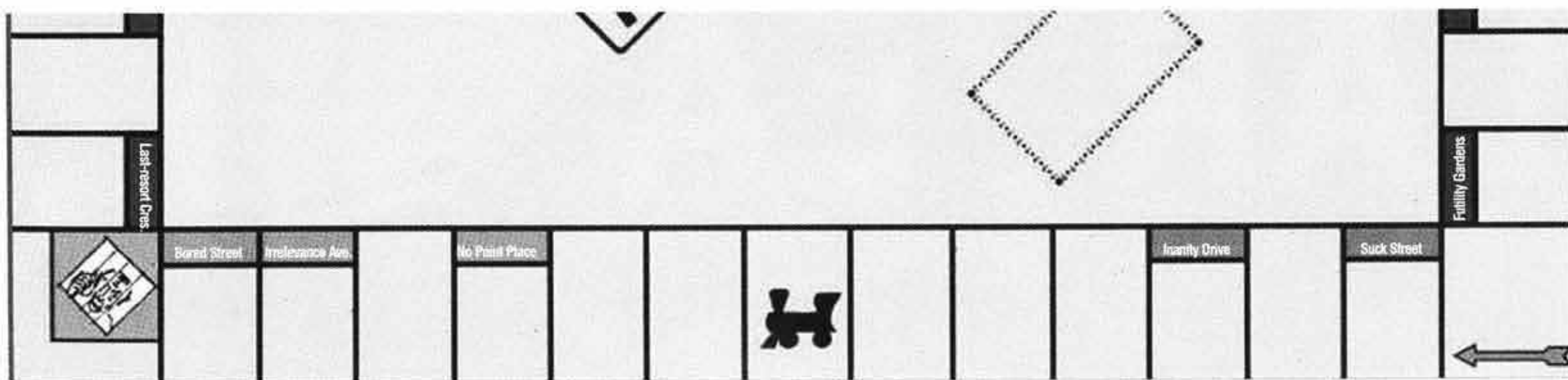
through mere coincidence. Despite popular opinion, most politicians aren't stupid, and are very good at picking up on trends.

As a final word, I am not urging anyone who's decided to support one specific candidate to change their mind and spoil. What I am trying to do is implore all those out there who are planning to stay home on January 23 out of frustration to instead express that opinion in a way that shows you are willing to vote, just not for any of the current candidates.

Like I said, the alternative is to remain silent, and to give politicians of all camps the near-literal green light on whatever \$100 million clusterfuck scheme they've got in mind for the new year.

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The perils of sunday night bored games



MARK CIESLUK
Thus Spake the Wiseman

As usual, the Sunday night scramble to find something to do other than the readings for Monday's classes ends with the boys assembled and raring to go.

Unfortunately, this is the start of a new year, complete with fresh resolutions to drink (to excess) less frequently, and thus we find ourselves desperately trying to recall what we used to do before we drank.

The answer, of course, is that we sat around as penniless and uninitiated under-agers wishing we were old/cool enough to go drink, but this is a fact that we swallow

hard and try to work around, to no avail.

Sooner or later that same old last-resort answer eventually comes about, as it sometimes does when we are utterly tired of the latest electronic distractions available from Sony and Co.: "Hey guys, let's play a board game!"

Hello, *Simpsons* Monopoly. Goodbye, productive or entertaining Sunday evening.

Now, it's not that I'm concerned that a perennial favourite of mine, *The Simpsons*, have sold their (previously) good name to an irrelevant and asinine product doomed to fail. In fact, as evidenced by the approximately 16 million varieties of Monopoly for sale (everything from pornographic rip-off versions to at least five separate and distinct *Star Wars* boards) there is an enormous mar-

ket for slight variations on the defined theme, with many people purchasing what amounts to several copies of the same game with a minor facelift.

The actual problem is twofold: firstly, no matter what kind of new paint you slap on the tired old workhorse, Monopoly is Monopoly; secondly, Monopoly just plain sucks, and always has.

It's not that I can imagine absolutely no enjoyment in moving a little metal car/donut/attack helicopter around a crappy cardboard square and mindlessly trading scraps of flimsy paper 'money' with arbitrary and board-specific imagery back and forth for three straight hours.

In fact, I imagine that if one were raised from birth in an environment completely devoid of tel-

evision, music, books, comics, drawing pictures, singing songs or playing make-believe out in the yard, perhaps Monopoly's bright colours and strangely exotic place names (where - and what - is Marvin Gardens, anyway?) could offer a real and powerful jolt to the senses.

No, the true heart of my frustration lays in a fact so simple as to be diabolical: there's no damn point in playing a game of Monopoly.

Much like engaging in a vigorous round of Tic-Tac-Toe or a contest of seeing who can kick whom up the crotch harder, the odds are roughly 900 percent in favour of whomever goes first (and makes a smart but profoundly simple and ubiquitously well-known move - how old were you when you realized the only way to win was to start in the middle square?) being

the ultimate winner.

After a mere half-hour, the utter inanity and total futility of the game gripped me so strongly as to convince me to quit in disgust and boredom. I found myself broken and defeated, studying developmental politics in a room full of friends while wondering where the night had gone so horribly wrong.

So congratulations, Monopoly; though we were the players, you've managed to win once more. In the words of the (eventual) victor: "I had fun. Because everyone else gave up. Neat. Let's never play again."

letters@cordweekly.com

The past and present of sexual assault

Sexual assault is grossly under-reported, mishandled and misunderstood, so **Kathryn Flynn** offers a history lesson



KATHRYN FLYNN
Good Girl Revolution

Despite excellent initiatives like Bacchus and Foot Patrol, sexual assault still exists on campus and throughout society, and I'm beginning to think everyone's a little in the dark on the facts about assault.

When it comes to the law, sexual assault and its prevention, what does the average university student know? Over my next two columns I'm going to share a brief history of sexual assault in Canada, and the importance of how it is dealt with on university campuses.

In the past, sexual assault cases victimized the victim, a sadistic kind of legal punishment for pursuing justice. Until the introduction of Bill C-127 in 1982, the defendant's lawyers were allowed to interrogate the victim based on sexual history. Just over twenty years ago the justice system allowed dangerous implications to be made about sexual promiscuity and rape: "She was asking for it" is the most repulsive defense of a

crime ever to be heard in a courtroom. The bill was introduced by then-justice minister Jean Chretien and made many revisions to the criminal code, including extending victim status to men, who previously could not be rape victims.

Amendments had to be made to the bill - as cases came up in the courts throughout the 1990s the defense lawyers often argued that it inhibited them from launching a proper defense against the plaintiff's accusations. This period of time saw a struggle between the privileging of male attackers' perspectives and an ideological battle over women's experiences.

On the one hand, women's past experiences were sometimes to be allowed in cases, but the current experience of rape could be contested if the defendant claimed to have an "honest, but mistaken belief" that the victim was actually consenting. The amendments that continued were a response to the clause about "honest, but mistaken beliefs" - a woman could have condoms in her purse and 'lead' a perpetrator to think that the assault was consensual.

This thinking was tantamount to blaming mugging victims for

carrying wallets.

Sexual assault should be of interest to every Canadian; in 2003 there were 23,425 sexual assaults reported to police and this is believed to represent ten percent of sexual assaults in the country. These crimes continue to go unreported because of prevailing myths about rape perpetuated by the media, the way cases are handled and the way society reacts to assault.

This December, Toronto police left existing peepholes open in single-stall bathrooms in a TTC subway station and videotaped the doors; the cameras were not monitored around the clock, providing opportunity for the criminal.

These myths are most evident in the Jane Doe case. It involved a woman who was raped at knife point in her own home, when police knew she was a likely victim

and did not warn her or the neighbourhood about the suspected presence of the Balcony Rapist in 1986. The crime was rehashed through the 90s as Jane Doe sued the Toronto police for negligence and set new standards for police methods in rape cases. If you want to run the gamut of myth propulsion in the media, take a look at the clippings from this case.

Most journalists were supportive of Jane Doe, but others like Christie Blatchford of the *Toronto Sun* wanted to "kick her in the pants" for playing both the "victim" and the "aggressor."

The history of sexual assault is hardly in the past; it is current, changing and continues to influence the way incidents are handled today. If you think that the Jane Doe case (20 years behind us now) is old hat then you may want to think again.

This December, Toronto police left existing peepholes open in single-stall bathrooms in a TTC

subway station and videotaped the doors to catch the perpetrator. The cameras were not monitored around the clock, providing opportunity for the criminal as well as increasing the risk of assault.

Revisions to the criminal code were also intended to increase victims' trust in the judicial system so that more incidents would be reported and those criminals brought to justice. The trust must not only be built with the judicial system, but within society and on university campuses.

Women and men alike must insist that prevention does not begin and end with warnings about dress codes, liquor consumption and walking alone at night. A louder voice must be given to the issue of sexual assault for if only ten percent of all cases are being reported, how many are coming to justice?

letters@cordweekly.com

Stayed tuned for Part 2 of this column in two weeks, which will look at sexual assault at Laurier

EDWIN LARYEA

for Kitchener-Waterloo



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Welcome to the week of broken promises



TANYA DOROSLOVAC
Working Stiff

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the week of broken promises.

Let's face it: as far as goal-setting and personal improvement goes, there's no better week for failure than this one. Why, already since the first of this month I've become a cubicle drone, ate my weight in chocolate, given the bumper of another car one of the Oldsmobile's famous love taps, laughed at entirely the wrong parts during *Namia* (causing the youngest in the audience to question their faith in talking beavers and whiny English children) and chased several local political candidates off my property - all of which I'm sure I swore off of at the end of 2005.

For a moment, let's stay on the topic of broken promises and political candidates. Is it just me,

or are you unable to believe a word that is coming out of any of these guys' mouths? If Stephen Harper finally admitted he was a vampire, showed up at Club Abstract this Saturday in leather and danced to System of a Down, my mind would be free of cognitive dissonance and I'd have a party to vote for.

There's no way a gang of the undead couldn't bring down gun violence in Ontario. But I digress. Not showing any more nipple at downtown Kitchener bars is my New Year's resolution, not Stephen Harper's. (Sorry, creepy long-haired crack dealers!)

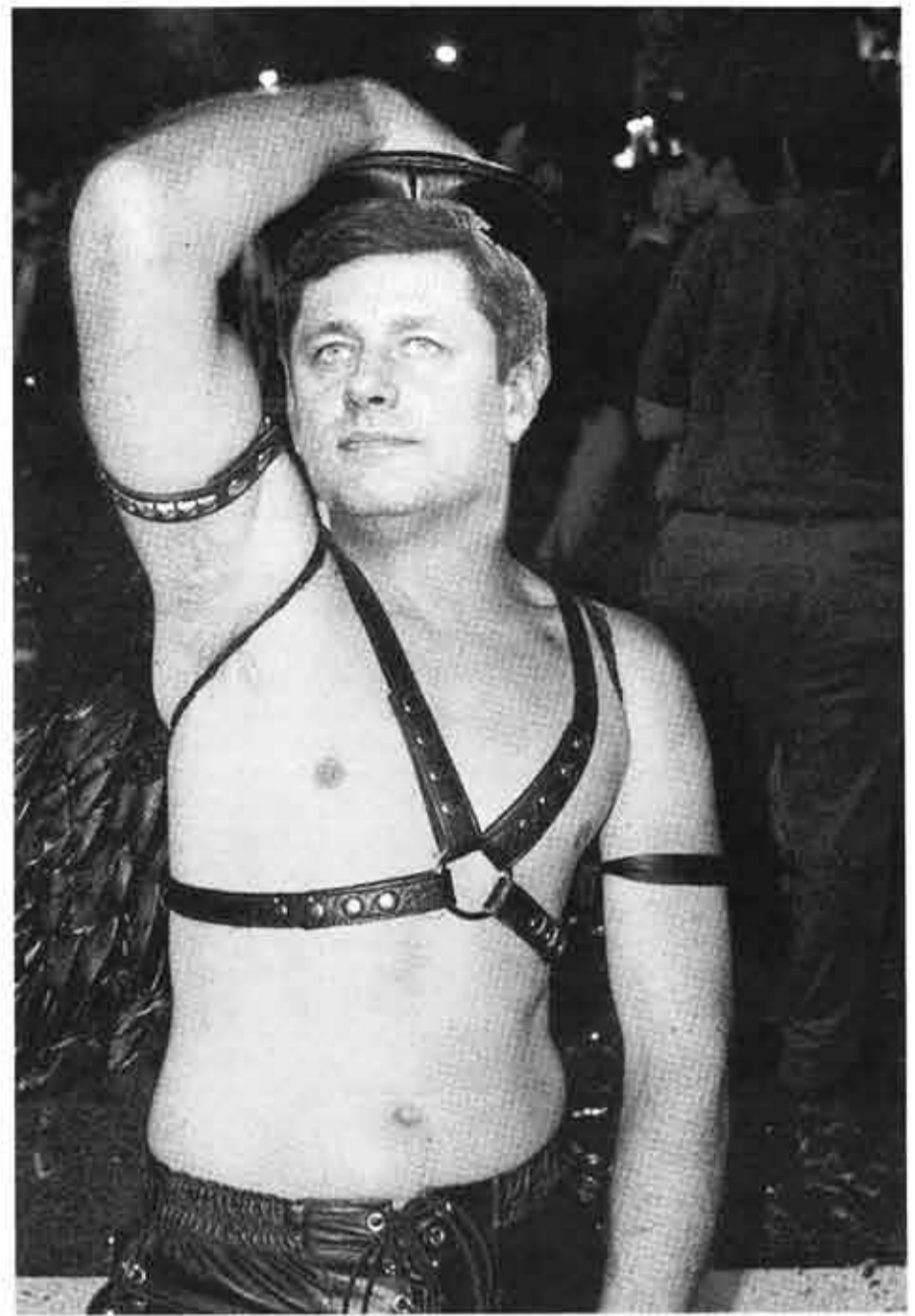
A friend of mine has an annual family ritual that involves writing down their resolutions for the year on scraps of paper and burning them in a box outside. If only there was some good old J. K. Rowling magic in that box to make our promises hold fast with a little more resolve. It's not that I think Hermione needs to lose ten pounds, it's just pretty obvious that she wouldn't have any trouble doing it if she wanted to.

My problem is that I never make resolutions about the right stuff.

Not too surprisingly, things are a lot easier to wish for in hindsight. If I had only known, my New Year's resolutions for 2005 would have been *study a lot for finance class* and *don't, under any circumstances, start crying when you meet Mark McKinney*. In some cases, it's actually for the best that some of my resolutions went the way of Brad and Jennifer - how could I have known, for instance, that I would actually enjoy my cubicle job? It turns out that it involves presenting live to large audiences, working with cool people and free ice cream on Fridays.

You may call me indecisive or irresolute, but I think the casting off of superficial and unreasonable goals is almost as important as accomplishing the ones closest to my heart. It could be that one day I'll crash my car into the right man and find the love of my life.

letters@cordweekly.com



Cord Graphic Alteration

PARTY TIME - This image of Stephen Harper would be much easier to buy, says Tanya Doroslovac.

Who Will You Be Voting For On January 23?

Cast your pre-vote at WWW.CORDWEEKLY.COM

- The Liberals - They're bloated with power, but still best represent Canadian values
- The Tories - They're not the Liberals, and it's time for a change
- NDP - Splitting the left is necessary to have a healthy balance of power
- Green Party - It's time to boost their funding and get on the national debates
- The Bloc - Your home riding is in Quebec
- Other - You're either a fascist or a Marxist-Leninist
- Nobody - Didn't I just vote 18 months ago?

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Selling out is selling yourself short

If you change who you are just to belong, you're robbing yourself of the opportunity to grow, says **Emma McFarlane**



EMMA MCFARLANE
On Loan From Stud. Life

is "in" and what is to be sought after. This manipulation of our very thought patterns leads us to become posers in our own lives.

I, myself, am guilty of altering aspects of my persona in order to become what I believe other people or groups want me to be. But why do we undertake this arduous and simply exhausting job of being someone other than ourselves? What is to be gained by wracking our brains and bodies to embrace aspects of life that do not reflect our own personal beliefs?

Nothing. Absolutely nothing. It might feel satisfying in the short term to 'belong' to a certain group, but in the long haul you're only going to alienate your true self from your life and end up hurt and con-

fused, struggling to reclaim the individuality and uniqueness that makes you *you*.

Why am I loading such a heavy argument onto you? I do so because there is no better environment than university to truly express yourself and start on an amazing journey to self-discovery.

This time, however, is also plagued with the incessant and often ridiculous need to impress others. Young men and women alike struggle to carve out and create what their 'grown up and adult' selves will be by joining, or including, different elements of the campus scene. Often scared, vulnerable, and perhaps just unknowledgeable of the possibilities, some latch on to anything that is cur-

rently generally desirable, and start shying away from things that aren't 'cool' or don't mesh with what is said to be popular.

Why deny yourselves opportunities to explore and grow just because someone or something says it isn't in vogue? There is such a plethora of activities to pursue here at Wilfrid Laurier, Waterloo and even abroad. The worst thing to experience is the feeling of regret: don't let university life and what you compromised to fit in be one of them.

Tomorrow morning, when you wake up, just think about your day ahead. Is it what you want to do? Make sure to do what you love, what makes you happy and what allows you to be yourself. This is a

great time, both academically and socially, to start with a fresh beginning.

This year, instead of scrawling down the usual resolutions to lose weight, exercise five times a week and spend next New Year's with a boyfriend who looks like an Abercrombie & Fitch model, I opted out.

Instead, I decided to be the best that I could and to not conform to other people's standards. I will never be the thinnest, most beautiful, most intelligent person but I'm okay with that. I want to be me.

Make this year count.

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presents

The Annual General Meeting

January 16th

7:00 PM

Senate & Board Chambers

Come one, come all, witness an epic event that will determine the future of Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications. All students are eligible to vote on matters pertinent to WLUSP. To proxy your vote, visit the WLUSP offices before noon this Thursday. An agenda for the meeting is also available from the WLUSP offices.

Presidential Election Matchup

Fraser

Zack

McCRACKEN

vs.

WEINBERG

Seven Person Director Match

Derek Bartoschek
Arthur Wong

Penny Shearer
Keren Gottfried
Roman Soler

Rafiq Andani
Daniel Komesch

Only the last four standing will serve as Directors



Graphic courtesy of Wilfrid Laurier's Office of University Advancement

EYESORE NO MORE - Come September, students could be greeted by a new and improved King Street entrance to campus. The Board of Governors will vote on the project later this month.

Willison Field to be gutted

With a renovation proposal bound for the Board of Governors by month's end, the field could see \$1.8 million in renovations this summer

MIKE BROWN
Sports Editor

When students return to campus in September, the eyesore that is Willison Field could be naught but a distant memory.

Hot on the heels of the massive overhauls made to the Athletic Complex in the summer of 2005, Laurier bigwigs are coming together to take on another much-needed renovation, replacing the perpetual mudslide beside Willison Hall with a FIFA-compliant all-weather field.

The proposed facility would replace the parking lot beside King Street, encircled by 2.1 metre berms with minimal built-in seating to give it a semi-amphitheatre feel. In addition, it would use artificial turf in hopes of negating the drainage nightmares that currently plague Willison Field.

Though unnatural, the turf is expected to 'green up' the view from the campus' barren King Street entrance, with parking relocated closer to the centre of campus, accessible by a small in-road off King. Vice-President of University Advancement, Arthur Stephen, is quick to assure students that only about ten parking spots will be lost during the process.

"It's all part of a bigger plan in

terms of landscaping and changing the look of the campus," explains Stephen, who began trying to 'soften' the look of campus three years ago, with vines covering residences and other campus buildings. "It changes the look of what is a very ugly area, aesthetically, but it's also a facility badly needed."

Of course, this is all assuming the project receives approval from WLU's Board of Governors, who will likely vote on the initiative towards the end of the month.

All told, the changes, which would also see the removal of the current tennis courts, will cost an estimated \$1.8 million. With \$500,000 pledged by WLUSU and significant contributions from alumni, close to \$1.5 million has already been raised.

When talk of the Willison Field renovation project began, WLUSU President Dan Robert was excited by the opportunity to contribute some of the allocated Student Life Levy funds.

"Seldom through that fund does a big project like this come up," Robert explained. "So, right away, my first inclination was like, 'This is really great because we're actually going to make a really, really big impact and a big change on campus.'"

He was quick to add that the ini-

tiative would be beneficial to a large percentage of the student population, with up to 80 percent of its use devoted to a rapidly expanding intramural program.

The field, tentatively to be renamed Alumni Field, will also service a few kinesiology classes, provide a practice facility for the men's and women's rugby teams and play host to the Hawks' men's and women's soccer games.

Laurier bigwigs have their sights set on another much-needed athletics renovation: replacing the perpetual mudslide beside Willison Hall with a FIFA compliant all-weather field.

"We'd be one of the few teams in the country that would have the type of facility that we're looking at," notes Barry MacLean, head coach of both soccer teams. "So, from a recruiting standpoint, it's definitely a carrot that I didn't have before."

The new field may also be home to Laurier's defending three-time OUA Champion women's lacrosse squad, though this remains a grey

area. Regardless, it would take a good deal of strain off University Stadium, raising the profile of some of WLU's oft-forgotten varsity squads in the process.

With the creation of the new field, Director of Athletics and Recreation Peter Baxter is quick to dismiss worries that spontaneous recreation activity will be supplanted.

"It's not necessarily just a structured activity that will happen on that field," he explains. "This is a place where students can come and take a piece of the field and have some casual recreation time too."

"These types of spaces build community," added Baxter. "It might be a place where people go to watch, to think, to read, to write poetry - we need more of those spaces. I know we're hooked up to the technological world and so forth, but there's something said about a serene, green space."

Laurier students will be stuck with the current abomination for at least a few months longer, though. If the remaining funds and approval from the Board of

Governors can be secured, construction would be slated to begin in late-May.

With this timeline, administrators are confident that the new and improved King Street corner of campus would be functional by August, unlike past building projects that have run into the fall term.

"This is a little bit different than bricks, mortar ... and whatnot," says Baxter, citing a near-identical timeline that worked for two similar fields at Trent last spring.

If all goes well, the new field could be running well into the late-autumn evenings, as the new field would be less subject to curfew issues recently encountered at the stadium.

"I think it'll be less problematic," notes WLU President Bob Rosehart. "The neighbours you're dealing with are the university students, so it would basically be whatever the residence students would put up with."

For now, the administration will continue with its fundraising blitz and hope for approval from the Board of Governors. They don't intend to get complacent, though. Next on Baxter's hit list is an update to a football stadium built a half-century ago.

> Editorial reaction to this story on PAGE 6

'Dogfight' awaits hockey Hawks

Laurier's men's hockey team continues to hover at .500 and look to emulate late-season push of '04-05

DAN POLISCHUK
News Editor

Ending 2005 with an even track record of 5-5-2-1, Laurier's men's hockey team looked to start separating themselves from the pack to begin the new year.

But after managing only a split of their weekend games against divisional foes York and Brock, they now find themselves in what Head Coach Steve Martell calls a "dogfight."

"It's a tight division right now," said Martell of the Mid West division, which sees York situated at the top with 17 points, WLU sec-

ond with 15 and Brock a point behind at 14. Guelph rounds out the group with 11 points.

"We think we're a good team ... but so is Brock, so is Guelph, so is York," he added.

Things didn't get off to a good start against York on Friday night, as the Hawks could only muster two goals on 36 shots against Lions' goalie Adam Druce in a 5-2 loss.

"We made several mistakes in the defensive zone that cost us," commented Martell, adding, "I like to think of it as a good time for a loss ... first game back and it kinda gets us refocused."

Things seemed to look a lot clearer on the ice as the team came back with four goals against Brock in Sunday's 4-2 victory.

"Tonight, all the bounces were just going for us ... so it felt good," said rookie forward Luke Girard, who netted two goals to celebrate his 20th birthday.

Looking at the chances of another strong finish similar to last season, in which the Hawks got wins in five of their last eight games, Martell believes that it is well within the team's grasp to do so again.

"Last year, the guys came together and played well ... con-

centrating on defence and ... selfless play," he said.

Girard also feels that the team has the ability to make big waves in the second half.

"We have the talent, we have the hard work ethic. So we definitely can do it," said the Mississauga native, commenting on winning the division and the possibilities of going further.

"We just have to stick to our identity, and that's to play hard every game and outwill every team."



Sydney Holland

TOP SHELF - Second-year forward Mark Voakes beats Brock goaltender Matthew Harwood to round out the scoring in Laurier's 4-2 Sunday afternoon win.

Players should pay for on-field mediocrity



ROD PERRY
Sports Writer

January often ends up being a nightmare month for NFL coaches and this year was no exception, as the unemployment flood gates opened up in the NFL over the past two weeks, with seven different coaches receiving extended unpaid vacations.

In lieu of all the recent firings, the question that begs consideration is: How much responsibility should actually fall on the coach's shoulders for his team's performance?

In pro sports, a team's main source of income is fan support, and thus, organizations who miss the playoffs sometimes feel it necessary to massage their public image by implementing changes.

In some cases, it provides them with a security blanket under which they can deflect criticism away from management.

Too often, though, coaches are placed under the gun from the start of the season, subject to situational factors completely beyond their control.

Take, for example, Jim Haslett of the New Orleans Saints. Unless you were in a coma this past year, you surely heard about Hurricane Katrina hitting the southern United States, including New Orleans, for billions of dollars in damage. It also robbed the Saints of their football stadium, forcing the team to split their home games between San Antonio, Texas and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Haslett, of course, did not wish this to happen, and consequently suffered through a season of stress and Tylenol. I wouldn't be surprised if he was more relieved than disappointed that he doesn't have to deal with this nonsense anymore.

A more typical situation is that of Mike Sherman of the Green Bay Packers. Though the Packers entered the 2005 NFL season with high expectations, all hopes were quickly deflated as their first game

saw the loss of Jevon Walker, their top wideout, for the entire season. Other key injuries followed suit, as former Pro Bowl running back Ahman Green and wide receiver Robert Ferguson joined Walker on the sidelines.

Having to rely on an aging Donald Driver and an unproven Simon Gado to carry their offence, the team just didn't stand a chance. So, how can Sherman take the heat for his team's failure? We're still awaiting an answer from Green Bay brass on that one.

Oh, but it gets worse. Just ask Mike Martz of the St. Louis Rams. In his case, a viral infection in his heart sidelined him for the end of the season and subsequently cost him his job. The unfortunate thing is that if a player were to get sick for the year (i.e. Tedi Bruschi of the New England Patriots, who suffered a mild stroke), the organization cannot just fire him. Why should coaches be treated any differently?

This is not simply an NFL phenomenon either. Does anyone remember Ted Nolan of the NHL's

Buffalo Sabres? If not, it's not surprising, seeing as he was their coach for all of two seasons. His accomplishments? Only leading his team deep into the playoffs and winning the Jack Adams award for top coach in the NHL. His reward? A scuffle with then-GM John Muckler and goaltender Dominik Hasek, resulting in Nolan and the Sabres parting ways.

Clearly, the decision to annihilate ties with a coach lies deeper than a team's on-field performance. In many cases, it is the result of a blend of factors well beyond the coach's control.

A coach can provide as much motivation as possible, but if the talent on the field is not there, or if they are subject to off-field turmoil, the coach's neck is in a noose from the get-go. Since the players are the ones sporting the astronomical salaries, perhaps it'd be nice to see them pay the price of on-field mediocrity.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Women's B-ball

Ladies take two in TO

The women's basketball team rang in the new year with a pair of road wins over the weekend, downing Toronto 89-84 and Ryerson 64-56 to move to 6-5 on the year. Veteran guard Meaghan McGrath led scorers in both contests, with 24 and 19 points respectively. Second-year guard Christine Gibson discovered her offensive touch as well, pitching in 19 and 11 in the wins.

Men's Basketball

Hawks snap abysmal seven-game skid

After opening the season with a pair of wins, the Hawks dropped seven straight, including a tough 78-63 loss to Toronto last Thursday. They managed to squeak past Ryerson 65-63 two nights later, however, riding the post presence of Bert Riviere and Rob Innes. The pair combined for 22 points and 14 boards in the much-needed win.

Men's Volleyball

WLU storms past UW in straight sets

For the second time this season, the Hawks defeated Waterloo in straight sets, winning 25-19, 25-23, 25-19. WLU moves to 4-7 with the win, giving them their highest win total since 2000 and leaving them just two points back of a playoff spot.

VARSITY STANDINGS

Men's Basketball

TEAM	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
EAST						
Carleton	10	9	1	787	590	18
Ottawa	10	9	1	723	587	18
Toronto	11	9	2	768	636	18
York	11	5	6	774	805	10
Laurentian	11	3	8	675	797	6
Queen's	10	3	7	581	644	6
Ryerson	10	2	9	724	770	4
RMC	10	0	10	424	792	0

WEST

Guelph	10	8	2	613	530	16
McMaster	10	8	2	800	714	16
Brock	10	7	3	674	620	14
Waterloo	11	6	5	826	826	12
Windsor	11	6	5	782	692	12
Lakehead	10	3	7	673	718	6
Laurier	10	3	7	659	715	6
Western	10	2	8	606	653	4

Women's Basketball

TEAM	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
EAST						
York	11	9	2	724	576	18
Queen's	11	7	4	604	552	14
Toronto	11	6	5	759	710	12
Laurentian	11	6	5	700	701	12
Carleton	10	3	7	533	566	6
Ryerson	11	3	8	581	653	6
Ottawa	10	2	8	500	565	4
RMC	11	0	11	460	918	0

WEST

McMaster	12	11	1	699	537	22
Brock	11	10	1	730	575	20
Western	12	8	4	774	652	16
Guelph	12	8	4	741	630	16
Laurier	11	6	5	709	642	12
Windsor	12	5	7	731	726	10
Lakehead	12	4	8	669	735	8
Waterloo	12	2	10	530	706	4

The Resolution Solution

S.M.A.R.T. steps to succeed in your 2006 goals

BLAIR FORSYTH-STARK
Features Editor

It happens every year.

You have the best intentions to improve your life by making resolutions, saying "This is the year!" but within weeks of returning to non-holiday life, the goals you set fall by the wayside as more pressing issues take precedence.

Well not this year, as *Cord* Features has made a resolution to help everyone else keep their resolutions. Whether you hope to shed holiday pounds or stay afloat in the sea of academia, here are 10 of the most common resolutions and helpful tips on how to keep them.

1) Hit the gym

By far the most popular of resolutions, the 'go to the gym' 'lose weight' 'run a marathon' intention is common amongst adults and students alike.

With a free membership to a newly renovated gym, it's hard to imagine that students can be excused from this resolution.

The biggest component in helping to keep this one is to be *specific*. Don't just say "I'm going to go to the gym everyday"; mark a specific time in your class schedule. By committing to a time and not booking other engagements, it becomes harder to squirm out of it.

Another helpful hint: don't plan to wake up early before class to workout if you're not a morning person. Those extra hours of sleep will win out over working out almost every time.

2) Eat healthier

Along the same lines as the generic 'getting fit', eating healthier is a popular resolution for those trying to lose weight or make lifestyle changes.

As students who are suddenly responsible for what they eat, this one can be tough to keep even for the most culinary savvy. First, when you go to the grocery store, buy healthy foods. And no, using extra lean ground beef with Hamburger Helper does not make it healthy.

By purchasing only healthy foods, you'll only have healthy foods to choose from when you're hungry. Simple, eh?

Also, to curb wanton after-bar cravings, don't take your debit card out with you. You'll be more likely to spend the money you brought on delicious booze, not junk food.

3) Go to class frequently/Stay on top of your readings

Who hasn't made one of these empty academic resolutions?

This scholarly ideal usually peaks and plummets twice a year, but even if you've failed at this one previously, you can still succeed this year.

First off, buy your books prior to the week before mid-terms.

Second, make *measurable* goals as to how much you expect to read and by when. By setting a goal of seven chapters a week, you'll be able to see how well you fared at the end of the week, and adjust your goal to make sure it's *attainable*.

As far as attending classes, take ones you'll actually be interested in and make a schedule that works best for you.

You may say "well the only time the class was offered was at 8:30am." Bollocks! If you know you're not a morning person, don't take morning classes, especially not at 8:30, because you're just setting yourself up for failure. If you're interested in classes that take place at a decent hour, actually going to all of them suddenly doesn't feel like a daunting task at all.

4) Be a better person

This is the catch-all category for those who want to be more honest, forgive more easily, act nicer, be more compassionate, etc.

Whatever the specific area you wish to improve, make sure your goal is *realistic*. You won't awake one day as Mother Theresa simply because you made a resolution to be the nicest person in the world. If your resolution is *attainable* and *realistic*, than it becomes much more achievable. For instance, if you want to be a nicer person, set a goal of saying five nice things to people

every day.

5) Try/Do something new

Whether it be learning the guitar or simply going to more concerts, people often resolve to do new things in an effort to bring an element of excitement to their lives.

The excitement actually makes achieving these goals easier because it's interesting and therefore more likely to warrant your free time.

To achieve these types of resolutions, *take immediate action*. If you want to learn guitar, buy a guitar or sign up for lessons; if you want to go to more concerts, ticketmaster.com has a service that will e-mail you about upcoming concerts.

By taking actions while your passion is still alive and well, you're setting into motion the steps to make your resolution happen.

6) Find Mr. or Ms. Right

For students nearing the end of their sojourn at Laurier, it seems many are planning for the future and hoping to settle down.

For those of you looking to get into a relationship this year, here's a tip: you won't find Mr./Ms. Right grinding up on you at Fubar.

While picking up at clubs doesn't only lead to one-night stands, the odds that you'll meet The One while doing shots of Liquid Cocaine and dancing to "Gold Digger" are slim.

Instead, start pursuing your interests and get involved in activities that you enjoy. By focusing on your interests, you'll inevitably become more appealing to the opposite sex because you'll be able to talk about more than school.

Also, by putting yourself out there in a non-club sense, you're exposing yourself to people with similar interests and goals, making the chance of a connection that much greater.

7) Have more (fun with) sex

Yes, this is actually some people's resolution. And a good one at that. Sex makes people happy and happy people treat others nicer, who in turn pay it forward and pretty soon, you have world peace all because of

a little fornication.

While finding someone to have sex with requires another Feature entirely, there are some easy tips to make sure this year is full to the brim of toe-curling endeavours.

Begin by taking care of some aesthetics (this applies to the men as well as the ladies). Get a wax, hair cut, nose hairs trimmed, etc. and buy some new lingerie/undergarments. If you feel sexier, you'll act sexier, and therefore, be much more willing to get naked.

Secondly, go to The Stag Shop or a similar store and have some serious fun. By adding toys or costumes to your sexual arsenal, you'll be dying to try them out and it'll shake off some of the monotony long-term relationships often face. This is easily the most fun resolution to keep, so there should be no excuses.

8) Spend more time with people

As the obligatory "spend time with family" element of the holidays has passed come new year, making time to see friends and family is often on the backburner, with individuals opting for the ease and convenience of impersonal means of communication.

One of the easiest ways to ensure that you keep this resolution is to make *timely* goals. Resolve that you will see your friend from first-year by the end of the month; as your deadline approaches, you'll be forced into action. Try throwing a dinner party or board game night with some of your old friends, which will allow you to catch up while having a good time.

9) Spend less money on smokes, dope, alcohol, eating out, etc.

While counting pennies hardly seems like a fun pastime to anyone, by cutting down on erroneous expenses, you're assuring that you won't be under the poverty line come April.

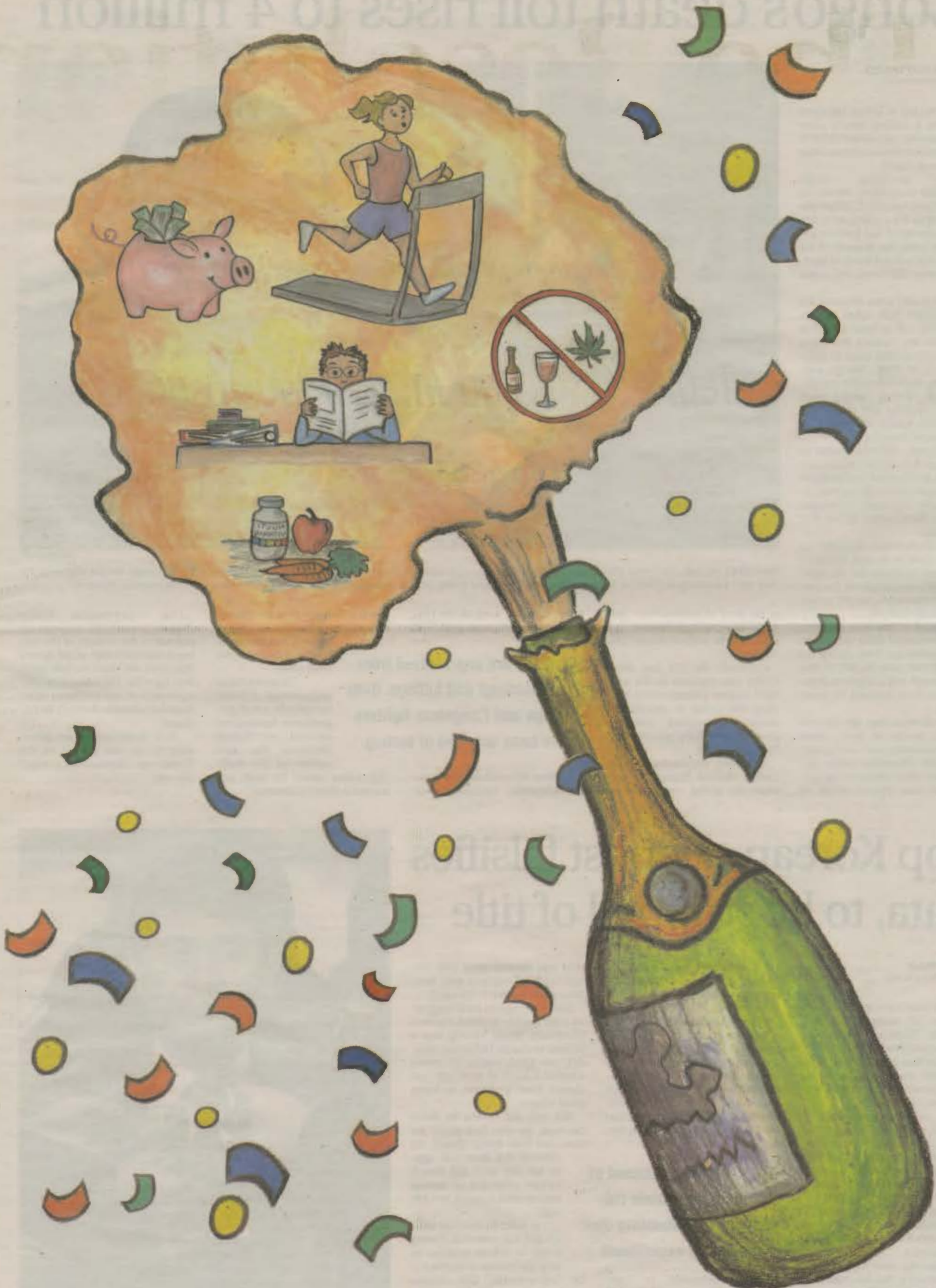
If you want to spend less money on cigarettes, quit smoking. It's a filthy habit that has no justification and the money could go to much better causes.

To cut down on drugs/alcohol, try cutting down on the nights you go out. This also applies to eating out: limit it to once a week or only on special occasions. If you're only looking to decrease how much you spend, and not how much you consume, try buying your alcohol/drugs in bulk. It ends up being cheaper and less time consuming in the long run.

10) Drink less

Surprisingly, some Laurier students feel they may drink too much. Shocking, yes, but it makes for a healthy and feasible resolution. Again, cutting down on the nights you go out limits how much alcohol you can actually consume. Another tip that's easy on the pocketbook and the liver: only bring a set amount of money to the bar, no debit, no Visa. If you don't have money to pay for alcohol, it becomes a lot harder to drink it. This tip also applies to pre-drinking: if you only bring a portion of your alcohol, you won't risk finishing a 26er before the bars even open.

While resolutions vary from person to person, if you make S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely) goals based on your resolutions, you'll find that they are *easily* achievable. By creating resolutions that you're excited about or interested in, you'll be more likely to keep them. As well, put your plan into action now, write it on paper to remind yourself, and reward yourself when you've stayed on track. If you follow these easy steps, your resolutions will practically keep themselves. If not, there's always next year.



Congo's death toll rises to 4 million

KEREN GOTTFRIED
Cord International

The death toll in Congo has risen to about 4 million people since 1998, causing one survey to call it the deadliest humanitarian crisis since World War II.

After surveying 19,500 Congolese households, the survey determined that over 1,200 people are dying in the country each day. Malnourishment and preventable diseases cause the majority of the deaths, the indirect result of fighting between the Hema and Lendu tribes.

There is also a war between the government and rebel forces, which is said to have started in 1998 but the country has been plagued by conflict since its independence in 1960. The five-year war, was one between the government of Congo (along with Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe) and rebel forces supported by Uganda and Rwanda.

The battle officially ended in 2003, with the creation of a power-sharing government and multiple peace agreements. These concessions have not been successful, and it is being called Africa's first world war.

The Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC's) limited resources are mostly to blame for the fighting as different groups vie for control over diamonds, copper, coffee, cobalt and crude oil.

Primarily in the east, civilians are unprotected from gang lootings and killings. Both during the war and now, after its official end, both foreign and Congolese fighters have been accused of heavy looting.

The situation has left citizens without access to food, clean water, education and health care, while the Congolese must also deal with interruptions to agriculture and trade. Poverty is high, as



INNOCENT VICTIM - Nine-year-old Ngudjolo Bulu of the Hema tribe recovers on January 24, 2001 at Matovu Hospital in Bunia, Congo. He was slashed in the face with a machete and had his left hand chopped off, caught in the violence between the Hema and Lendu tribes which has recently escalated.

is the level of malnutrition, with about 20 percent of children considered to be without proper food or water.

Currently the UN has about 17,000 peacekeepers in the area, their largest peacekeeping unit. They are trying to assemble a secure atmosphere for the planned June 2006 general elections.

A survey conducted by the Lancet Medical Journal strongly urges the global community to

respond to the need of the DRC. "National and international efforts

Civilians are unprotected from gang lootings and killings. Both foreign and Congolese fighters have been accused of looting.

to address the crisis remain grossly inadequate," claimed the sur-

vey. It maintains that peacekeeping troops need to be better trained, in larger numbers and more quickly deployable.

"International engagement remains completely out of proportion to humanitarian need," says Richard Brennan, the lead author of the study.

"Ignorance about its scale and impact is almost universal."

One commentator, Evelyn Depoortere, strongly supports the outrage of the authors of the survey. A representative of aid agency Epicentre, she observes that "every few months the mortality rate equivalent of two southeast Asian tsunamis ploughs through its territory."

"Rich donor nations are miserably failing the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo," she said.

Top Korean scientist falsifies data, to be stripped of title

THUY TRAN
Cord International

A top Korean scientist has been accused of malpractice after allegedly falsifying data in a recently published paper.

Hwang Woo-Suk, along with his colleagues, was accused of faking part of a study on tailored embryonic stem cells.

The scandal surrounds a research paper of Hwang's that was published in *Science*, a peer-reviewed journal that prides itself on subjecting research papers to scrutiny by other experts in relevant fields.

"Being too focused on scientific development, I may not have seen all the ethical issues," Hwang said in his defence.

He was the first to publish a paper showing that his team had cloned a human cell to provide a source of embryonic stem cells, master cells that can become any type of tissue or cell in the body.

Hwang's results created excitement in the medical community.

His supposed discovery of "patient-specific" cells would have meant a drastic reduction in the chances of a recipient's body rejecting a transplanted organ.

In addition to fabricating his research, Hwang is also accused of coercing female subordinates into donating their eggs for his experiments. He claimed in his research paper that "Patients voluntarily donated oocytes ... no financial reimbursement in any form was paid."

Hwang is also accused of coercing his female colleagues into donating their eggs for his experiment

Hwang admitted in late-November that many of the 248 eggs for the study had been purchased from women, an ethical offence.

Because remuneration was given in exchange for human eggs,

data was skewed since only certain types of subjects may have been participating in the study.

Stem cell experts have suggested a lab outside of Seoul National University, where Hwang was a science professor before the scandal, use DNA testing to reveal whether a batch of stem cells was cloned from a person or some other source.

Not only did Hwang lie about the eggs, he also lied about the stem cell lines being cloned. He claimed that from 248 eggs, he got one stem cell line. A former colleague of Hwang said he used as many as 1,100 eggs.

A government committee and will meet with Hwang today to debate whether to strip the Korean researcher of his "top scientist" title. *Science Magazine* is expected to retract Hwang's article after Seoul National University releases its final report on the incident early next week.



SHAMEFUL RESIGNATION - Hwang Woo-Suk speaks to reporters at Seoul National University on December 23, 2005, in Seoul, South Korea.

Honduran riot leaves 13 dead

KYLE BOULDEN
Cord International

Last week, violence erupted in Honduras' top federal prison leaving 13 inmates dead. The violence is thought to have erupted over a battle between two groups to control prison drug sales.

Many of the victims were attacked with what appeared to be homemade knives hidden inside the prison. Guns that had been smuggled in were also used in the violence, including a police-issue handgun. Ten of the dead were found to have execution-style gunshot wounds to the head.

Currently, Honduran officials are said to be trying to find out how the guns were smuggled into the prison.

Following Thursday's violence, Honduran National Penitentiary Director Lt. Marvin Rajo was suspended indefinitely by President Ricardo Maduro.

Forensic expert Arturo Alvarez, who is investigating the murders, warned on Friday that "The killers are still inside the National Penitentiary, and we have to be

prepared for new incidents."

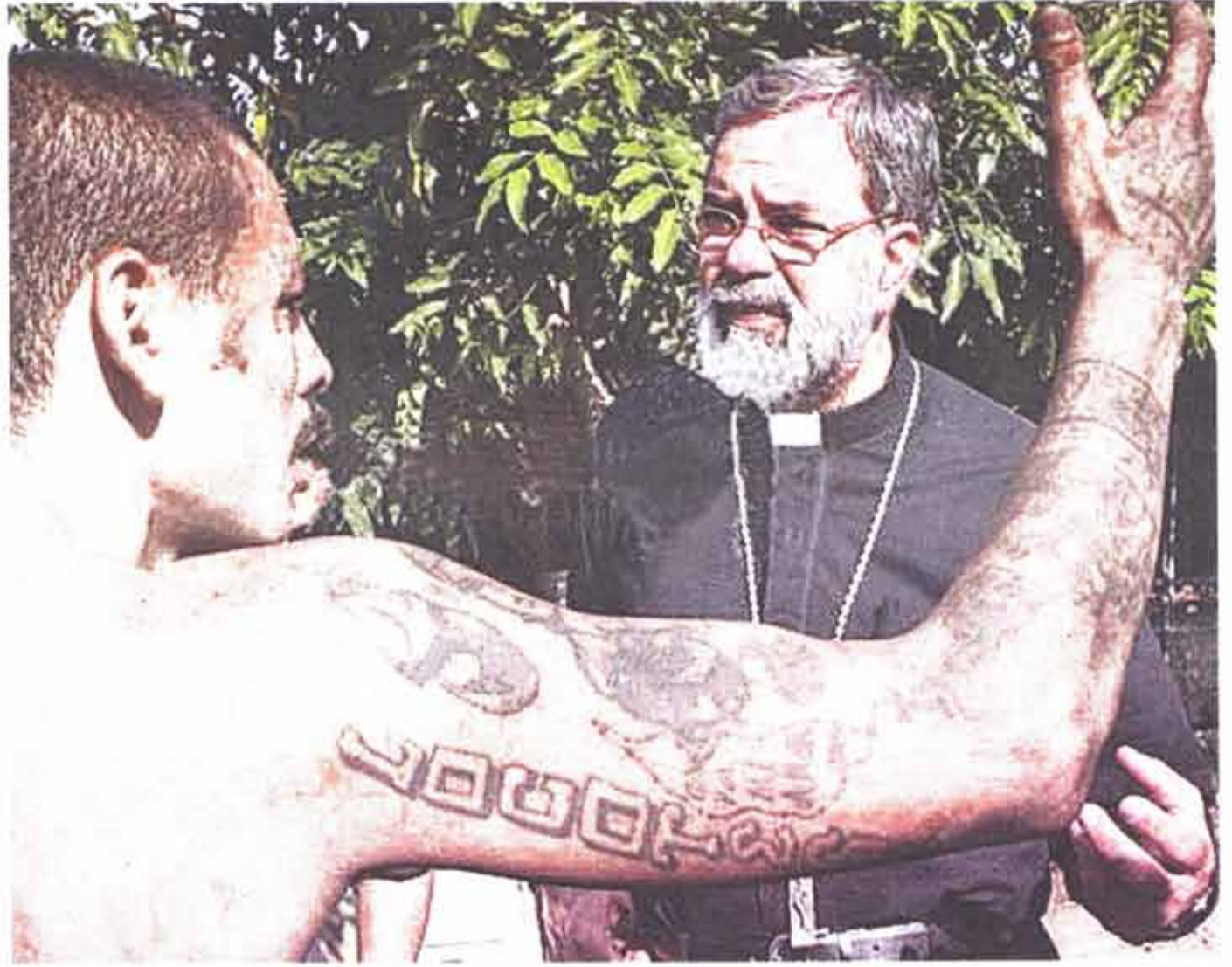
The two rival groups involved in the violence were housed in a special wing of the prison, designed to hold the country's most dangerous prisoners.

The 'White House', as it is known, is a two-level, 100 square-meter cellblock that houses 400 prisoners. Honduran prisons are infamously aged and overcrowded and the National Penitentiary is no different.

Designed to hold 1,500 inmates, the prison is said to currently house more than 3,000.

Unlike many recent outbreaks of prison violence in Honduras, this incident did not appear to be connected to the dangerous Mara street gangs that have recently gained prominence in the prison system. The majority of the nation's 13,000 inmates are thought to be members of these street gangs.

Honduras has become notorious over recent years for rising gang violence, which has spilled onto American streets. In the 1990s, the American government began a policy of deporting arrest-



FORGIVE ME FATHER - The Archbishop of San Pedro Sula speaks with a member of the Salvatrucha gang in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. The Salvatrucha is thought to be the most prominent and most dangerous gang in America.

ed gang members back to their Central American home countries.

Nations such as El Salvador and Honduras have struggled to deal with the influx, and as a result, the

gangs have flourished.

The FBI estimates that there are as many as 10,000 active members operating in the United States.

The most prominent of these

gangs is thought to be the Mara Salvatrucha, or 'MS-13' dubbed by Newsweek as "The most dangerous gang in America."

Listening to terrorists' demands a necessary step



RICHARD TOGMAN
Cord International

The global maxim for states confronted with unorthodox warfare has been "We do not negotiate with terrorists." Once applied, the label 'terrorist' acts as an efficient and provocative piece of public relations that approves nearly any response from the state while delegitimizing the actions of the 'terrorist' group.

The moniker has become so effective in constructing a set of pre-arranged emotional responses that the only defense against the charge seems to be counter-accusation. When Bush says Muslim fundamentalists are terrorists, Islamists return the label. Sharon proclaims Hamas is a terrorist group and they throw the term right back at him.

The word itself has never had much validity in that it describes an emotional state that exists due to the actions of a particular party. It describes the feeling of terror or intense fear, often as a result of an attack. Therefore a terrorist would be one who induces fear in others.

The label neither describes the type of attack nor does it allude to the motivations, goals or grievances of the attacker. It does not even hint at the nature of its victims.

The modern PR machine has warped the term to serve the political ends of the nation-state. They have linked the terms 'terrorist' and 'terror' to a group of individuals who commit acts of violence not sanctioned by a country. The only difference between a terrorist and a soldier is that one has the support of a nation behind him or her.

It is this flawed terminology that has led to so much blind hatred of those who would commit acts of unorthodox or asymmetrical warfare. This is because terror is a means and not an end. It is unconventional warfare to achieve political, economic or social goals, but our current understanding stops at the means they employ to secure their objectives.

If we actually examined the grievances and underlying basis of support among the terrorist's sympathizers, we would have a starting point for a real discussion.

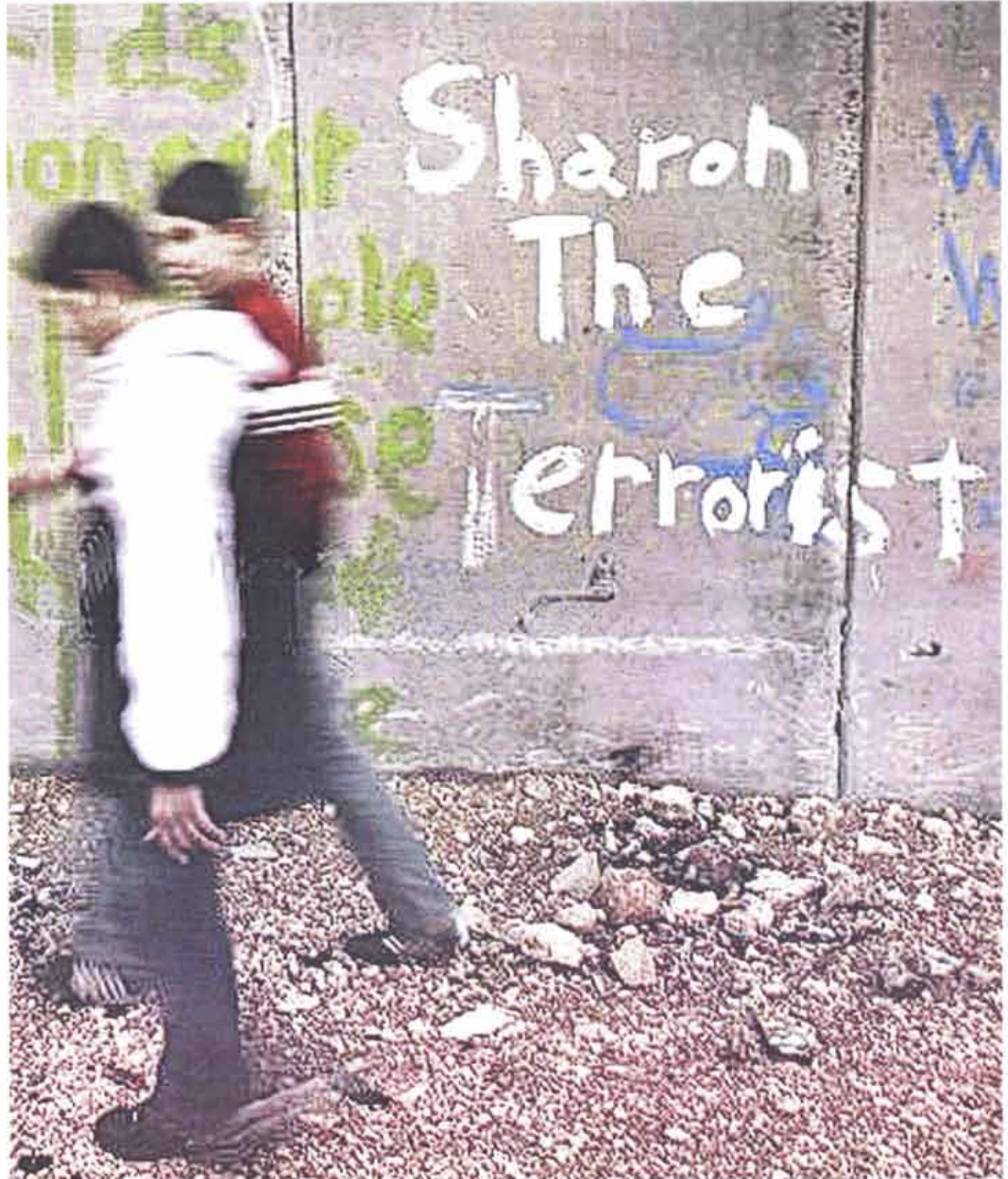
Take Al-Qaeda. It's not simply an insane group of fundamentalists who are intent on destroying the West. They are rational people who originated with specific objections to specific policies, such as the presence of American troops on holy land (Saudi Arabia) as well as US support for the Saudi regime.

It is these policies that drive many ordinary people to become sympathizers of such groups. Our goal is not to dissuade Bin Laden from launching an attack but to address the reasons that a network of sympathizers has sprung up around him. This is the heart of the so-called 'terrorist' problem.

Without an extensive network of passive supporters and sponsors, Al-Qaeda would be but a handful of disgruntled men in the desert.

This holds true for all the so-called 'terrorist' groups ranging from the IRA to Abu Sayaff to FARC. Engaging in negotiations and co-opting them into the political process is crucial to ending organized violence.

Only when the 'terrorists' have a legitimate forum for airing and resolving their grievances will there be an end to the tit-for-tat killings that plague the political discourse.



A COUNTER-ACCUSATION? - Boys run past graffiti calling Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon a 'terrorist' at the Al Aida refugee camp in Bethlehem, West Bank. Could this vandal be returning the insult?

Columbian soccer star gunned down

Elson Becerra, the Columbian footballer who played for his home country and United Arab Emirates, was shot and killed while dancing with friends in a nightclub

TONY FERGUSON
International Editor

Soccer star Elson Becerra was shot while dancing in a nightclub in his native Columbia on Monday.

He was pronounced dead at the Vargas Hospital in Cartagena.

Becerra was shot four times along with his friend, Alexander Rios, who was also hit. The two had an argument with an unknown gunmen who then came to the discotheque looking for them.

"The attackers were looking for a chance in the discotheque and in the middle of the music they committed the double crime,"

- Col. Mauricio Agudelo, Bolivar State Police Chief

"The attackers were looking for a chance in the discotheque and in the middle of the music they committed the double crime," said Col. Mauricio Agudelo, police chief of Bolivar state.

The suspects are still at large but Agudelo said the police know who

the shooters are and expect arrests to be made "at any moment."

Becerra played for United Arab Emirates club Al Jazeera as well as for his home country when it won the Copa America in 2001.

He is often remembered for helping Marc-Vivien Foe, the Cameroon player who collapsed on the field during a Confederations Cup game in 2003.

The footballer is the latest in a string of attacks on Columbian players.

In 2004, Albeiro Usuriaga was shot and killed when several gunmen opened fire in a popular nightclub district in Cali, Columbia.

Usuriaga helped Columbia qualify for the 1990 World Cup in Italy. He was 37 years old.

Andres Escobar, another Columbian

international, was shot dead outside a bar after the 1994 World Cup. This happened only days after Escobar accidentally put the ball in his team's net in a first-round match against the United States.



Contributed Photo

SAYING GOODBYE TO A SOCCER SUPERSTAR - Relatives of Columbian footballer Elson Becerra mourn during his funeral on Monday in Cartagena, Colombia. Police expect to make arrests very shortly.

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Cover me, I'm going in

There are hundreds of condom brands on the market, but how do you know which one will fit like a glove? Sexpert **Emma McFarlane** finds out



Rubbers, raincoats, wrappers, and jimmies. Yes, they all mean condoms.

With sex shops springing up all around and stocking every kind of penis protection under the sun, it can be hard to navigate through what works and what doesn't.

They can come textured, flavoured, coloured, lubricated, extra-strength, self warming, made out of latex or polyurethane and some that even come with an applicator (no need for any more banana lessons).

So I set off to investigate by polling people, scouring sex shops, pharmacies and Internet sites to see what condoms win top marks with women and men. This is what I found:

Condoms with texture amount to diddly-squat in the sensation category. Needless to say: the ribs are more of an aesthetic element.

Both men and women polled give top marks to Durex and Trojan. Not a big surprise; these two brands are by far the most advertised and most readily available in stores. If you're going to choose one of these brands, go for ultra-thin and lubricated, as having to buy additional lube may or may not reduce the condom's protective ability.

The average price of a Durex condom (such as the #1 rated Durex Super Lubricated Latex) is \$0.83, and a Trojan (like the #5 rated Trojan Extended Pleasure Climax Control Lubricated) is about the same price. Both companies' condoms are generally made out of latex and the above two are both rated among the thinnest on the market.

However, according to up and coming news in the condom world, polyurethane condoms have just been approved for the Canadian markets.

Polyurethane, prized for its even thinner quality than latex, is sure to entice those males who want an even more natural experience. They are also better at conducting body heat and since they contain absolutely no latex; they're great for those who are allergic to regular condoms.

They're a tad more expensive, though: a five-pack of Avanti by Durex polyurethane condoms will set you back around \$25 at the Stag Shop. However, another plus about this type: when hooding your fella while engaging in oral sex, the taste is much more bearable (no more rubber glove after-

taste).

Although some guys are willing to shell out the extra dough to ensure a better-protected sexual experience, a very large number of men tend to go with whatever is easiest to get a hold of.

According to most cashiers, convenience is what seems to make for the condom sale when men are buying. Because of this, men are more apt to pick up singles of different types while women tend to buy boxes with something that has worked in the past.

But while you're having fun perusing the aisles looking at different ribbed, studded, or otherwise textured condoms, I'd better let you in on something guys; according to almost every female I've talked to and every online product comment, condoms with texture amount to diddly-squat in the sensation category. Needless to say, the ribs are more of an aesthetic element than a pleasure conductor.

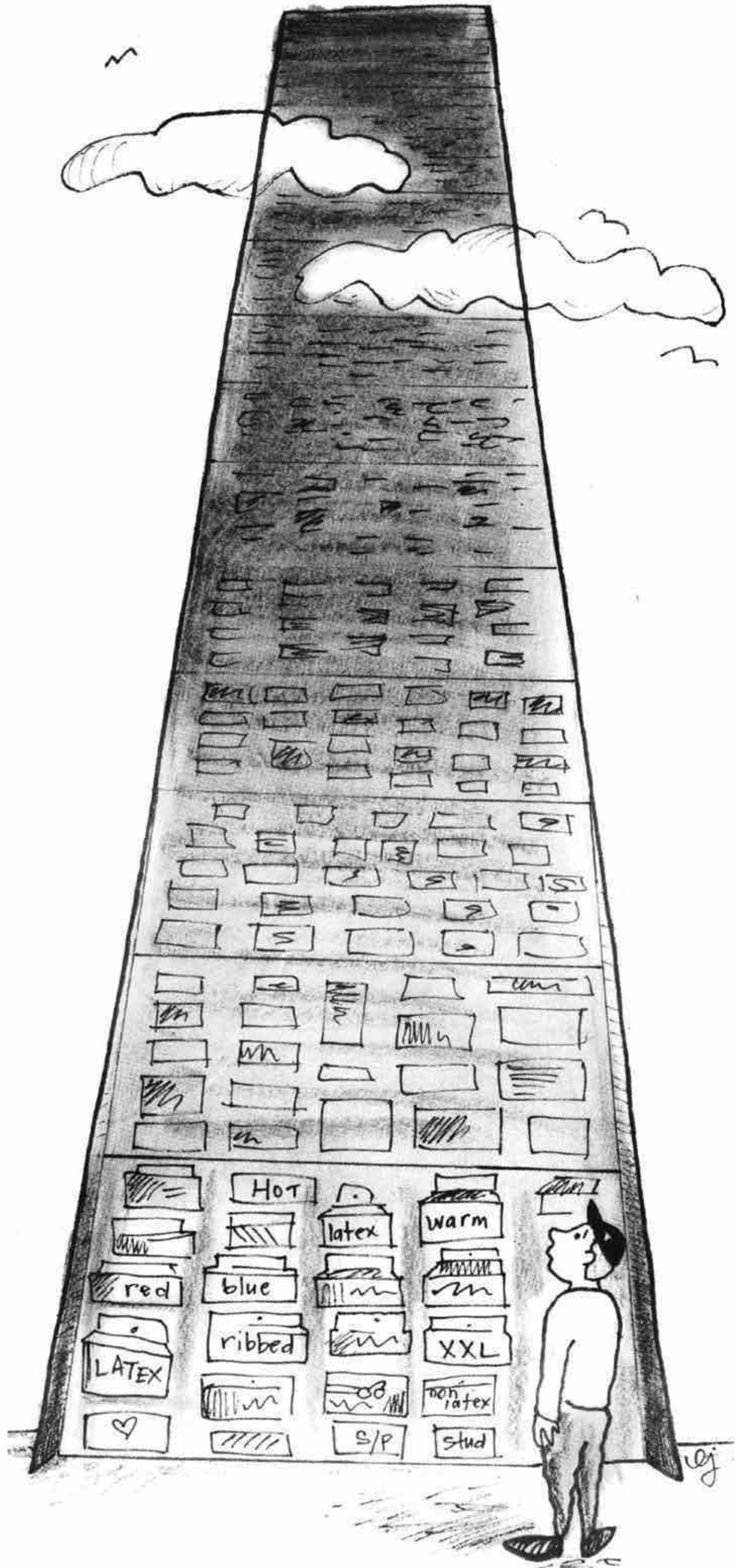
Other factors such as colour and flavour are really up to the discretion of those engaged in the sexual act. A little note on that, according to

ConsumerReports.org, no flavoured or colour condoms rated in the top 23 condoms of 2005. If you want to experiment and have fun, make sure you're getting your money's worth; "specialty" condoms by no-name companies can be made cheaply and rip far more easily than tried and true familiars.

Other than that, women on the whole tend to leave it up to the guy to choose what condoms he wants to wear. The majority of women also expect men to make sure they have condoms when the time comes.

"I would expect the guy to make sure he has condoms and purchases them," says one researcher. "I myself am responsible for paying for my birth control pills, plus I must make sure to take one a day. To me, it doesn't seem unreasonable that the guy would keep up his end of the bargain too, you know?"

As a cautionary note, even when using birth control and a condom, there is still a small chance that pregnancy could occur. Having a condom that contains spermicide (such as Trojan Ultra Pleasure with Spermicidal Lubricant) does not lessen the pleasure and can help decrease the likelihood of an accidental pregnancy. Remember: there is no lifeguard at the gene pool so make sure you and your partner are protected as much as possible.



Simple weight training

Health guru **Jennifer O'Neill** has an easy workout routine to kick-start your exercise regimen for the New Year

JENNIFER O'NEILL
Body Break

They smell like disinfectant and body odour; white and black, they look more like a torture device than exercise equipment. But fear the weight machines in the gym no longer! Adding these three simple machines to your exercise routine will help you add muscle, tone up and feel better.

Let me set straight a myth before I go any further. Weight training will not make you look like Arnold Schwarzenegger. Adding weight training to your routine will burn extra calories and help keep you and your bones stay strong.

Do this routine two to three days a week on alternating days. Make sure to warm-up with 10 minutes of light cardio before beginning. Complete two to three sets of 12-15 repetitions for each machine.

1. Leg Press

Sit upright on the seat. Set weight to desired amount. Weight should be heavy enough that it gets hard to push the platform out by the eighth or tenth repetition. Adjust the platform close to your chest. Place feet shoulder-width apart on the platform so that your knees are bent 90 degrees. Slowly push the platform away from your chest until your legs are straight (Note: do not lock your knees). Slowly return back to the starting position and repeat. Muscles worked: quadriceps, hamstrings, glutes.

2. Lat Row

Sit on the seat so that your chest is against the upright cushion and your back is straight. Again, adjust the weight to the desired amount following the same guidelines as above. Grip the top part of the handles. Arms should be fully extended. Slowly bring the han-



dles toward your chest, squeezing your elbows behind you. Slowly return to starting position and repeat. Muscles worked: Latissimus dorsi, rear deltoids, middle trapezius, rhomboids and biceps.

3. Chest Press

Sit on the seat. Again, set weight following the given guidelines. Arms are bent 90 degrees at a

comfortable distance away from your chest. Arms are at shoulder height. Slowly push handles away from the chest. Then, slowly return back to starting position. Muscles worked: pectoral muscles, deltoids, and triceps.

Finish with some cardio on your favourite machine, floor crunches and stretches and you have a complete routine that works all major muscle groups and is short and easy enough to do in less than an hour. The perfect routine for a new you in the new year.

Blending bliss

Make hummus, dips and much more with a miniature food processor, perfect for students on a budget

MICHELLE PINCHEV
Food for Thought

I finally got a food processor. Now it's hard to believe I ever got by without one.

A self-proclaimed disaster in the kitchen, I tend to avoid it as much as possible. I always manage to create a colossal mess with very little edible food to show for it.

My biggest problem with cooking is the time factor. Like many students, I don't really see the point in grating cheese when you can buy it pre-shredded in zip-locked bags. I can't be bothered with washing and chopping lettuce when I can buy the pre-washed salad mixes. Food should be fast, convenient and have as little clean-up as possible.

A can of chick peas can be bought for 87 cents and can make you enough hummus to fill at least four of those tiny tubs.

There is a glitch in this philosophy, however. Store-bought food is way too expensive. I realized that with some assistance, the kitchen might not be such a scary place. Since I typically eat alone and directly out of the fridge (or practically inside it), I got a small "Cusinart" with a three-cup capacity. It's small and easy to clean, so I knew I would use it more than once.

To pop my processor's cherry, I decided to make hummus. In case you don't know, it's a Middle Eastern spread made of chick peas. It's usually eaten with pita but I've seen people dip all kinds of things into it like baby carrots, crackers and even their fingers (not recommended).

According to my roommate, who loves hummus, a tiny tub of the stuff goes for around four bucks at most grocery stores. A few days ago, I thought this was a reasonable expenditure for a healthy snack. Now that I have my pre-

vious mini-prep plus processor, four dollars for hummus seems ridiculous.

A can of chick peas can be bought for 87 cents and can make you enough hummus to fill at least four of those tiny tubs. That's twenty dollars' worth of hummus. You could start a business.

Like many students, we had practically no food in the house when we came back. There was, however, a can of chick peas, a frozen red bell pepper and a half-empty jar of chopped garlic. With these basic ingredients and obscene amounts of salt and chili pepper, we managed to feed ourselves and get through the day without grocery shopping.

Every recipe for hummus varies slightly. Most recommend lemon

juice, but we didn't have any. All of the recipes vary in portions so it's pretty much up to you what you put in. We washed the peas carefully, put in about half the can and added a

bit of water to smooth the blend before we indiscriminately tossed in the peppers and whatever spices we could find. Aside from saving money, the simple joy of experimenting and creating should be motivation enough to make food.

This was just the beginning. Now we can't stop processing: bean spreads, egg or chicken salad for sandwiches, cheese and vegetable dips or salsa for nachos. We found countless sites online dedicated solely to the coveted art of blending.

At the risk of sounding like a bad infomercial, I truly feel that for any student, a food processor is a must-have, alongside your microwave and toaster. You can find a decent machine for around 30 bucks, and after three or four do-it-yourself projects, the thing might very well pay for itself.

HOROSCOPES

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)



Happy Birthday to Capricorns born this week!

Other Capricorns born this week:

Howard Stern
Rush Limbaugh
LL Cool J
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Kate Moss
Al Capone
Benjamin Franklin.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)



When the moon is in the Seventh House and Jupiter aligns with Mars then peace will guide the planets and love will steer the stars.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)



This week you will alphabetize your CD collection and pick out your outfits for the next two weeks. You will wash your hands nine times a day and read this horoscope nine times. You have obsessive compulsive disorder. Seek help.

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)



Your status as an Aries is currently under review. Please remain patient until further notice. Sorry for any inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)



You're ugly this week. But like the duckling, you'll grow up to be a self-confident mallard.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)



You will step in dog shit on the way to class today. Throughout the day, everyone will tell you that you smell like shit. Funny how that works.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)



You embarrass me.
You embarrass yourself.
I embrace you.

Leo (July 23-August 22)



You win second prize in a beauty contest. Collect 11 Canadian dollars, but so help me God if you pass go.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)



You will go to the bar this weekend and be terribly confused.

Nelly said to shake your tail feather, but now they're saying shake that Laffy Taffy. You just don't know what to shake anymore.

Go with Mystikal and just shake that ass. Watch yourself.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)



Don't say anything to anyone until your lawyer gets there. When he does, let your lawyer do the talking. When he's finished, tell him that you don't understand the word 'retainer.'

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



Sometimes, being responsible iz da bomb way ta gain mo' freedom an' independence. Being true ta yo' werd an' deed not only frees yo' soul but also nourishes da spritit o' those around ya. Ya' Dig?

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)



Pluto may not be a planet at all. Astronauts call it a "planetary odd-ball," much like you: tiny, tilted and ice cold.

Michelle Pinchev has been fabricating horoscopes since the mid-eighties. Her predictions are accurate to within 3.1 percent, 19 times out of 20. She's got skills you just can't teach, son.



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The Cord Weekly and The Sputnik will be extending special pricing to all WLUSU/WLUSP Election Candidates. All advertisements will be available at half price.

This pricing applies to the January 25th and February 1st Cord issues and the January 25th Sputnik issue. Ad deadlines are the previous Friday at noon. For more information, e-mail Angela Foster at angela@wlusp.com.

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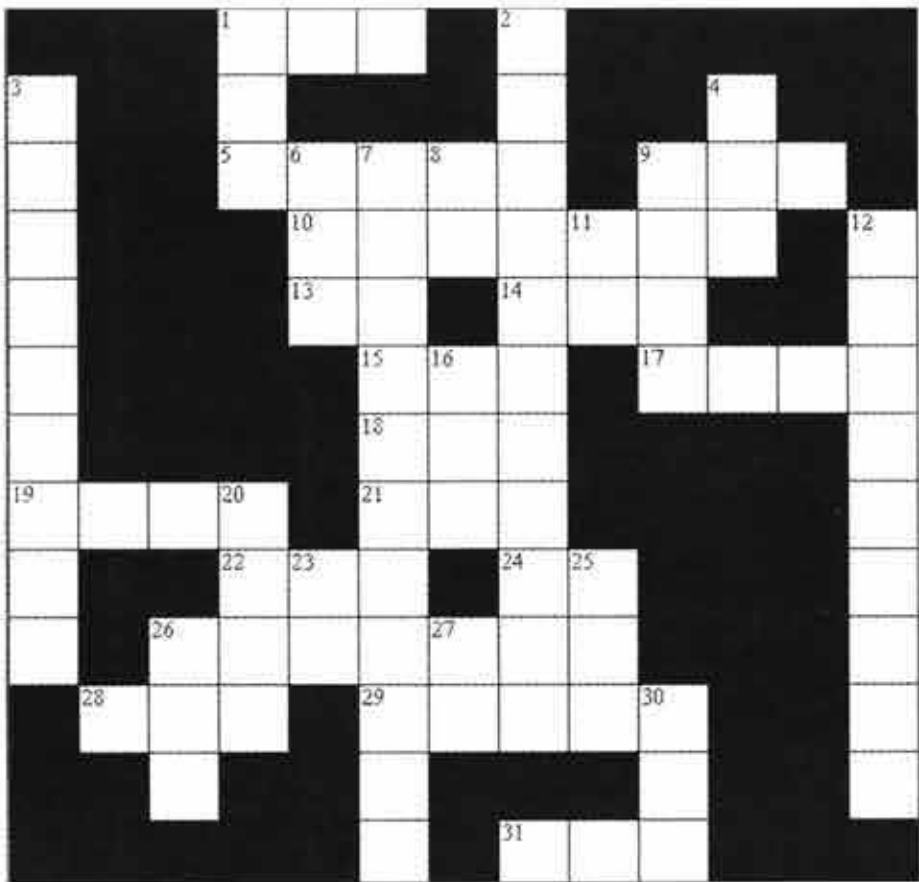

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This Week's Crossword



Across:

- 1. What is done on a horse race
- 5. The design of an interior
- 9. As opposed to none
- 10. Bark rich in tannin
- 13. @
- 14. Organ-____, Plagiar-____, Sch-____

- 15. Between Windows key and spacebar
- 17. Groups or collections
- 18. To, toward, of, facing, or in the south
- 19. Use it to open a door
- 21. NPC in Fallout 2
- 22. Plural possessive
- 24. Trans-____
- 26. Italian rice dish

- 28. ____-Pot, think Khmer Rouge
- 29. What David Alexander writes
- 31. Have your "____"

Vertical:

- 1. Slang for body
- 2. Type of drug heroin is
- 3. Person who makes films
- 4. Deer-like Canadian herbivore, like on the back of quarter
- 6. Estimated Time of Arrival
- 7. A great disaster
- 8. Not off
- 9. Guns or appendages
- 11. Come ____ you are
- 12. Lacking sensation or awareness; inanimate
- 16. Slang for outhouse, washroom
- 20. Water does this at 100 degrees
- 23. Uniform System (of lens aperture).
- 25. Call your mother this
- 26. Massage
- 27. Shortform of Toronto
- 30. Go outside, look up, what do you see?

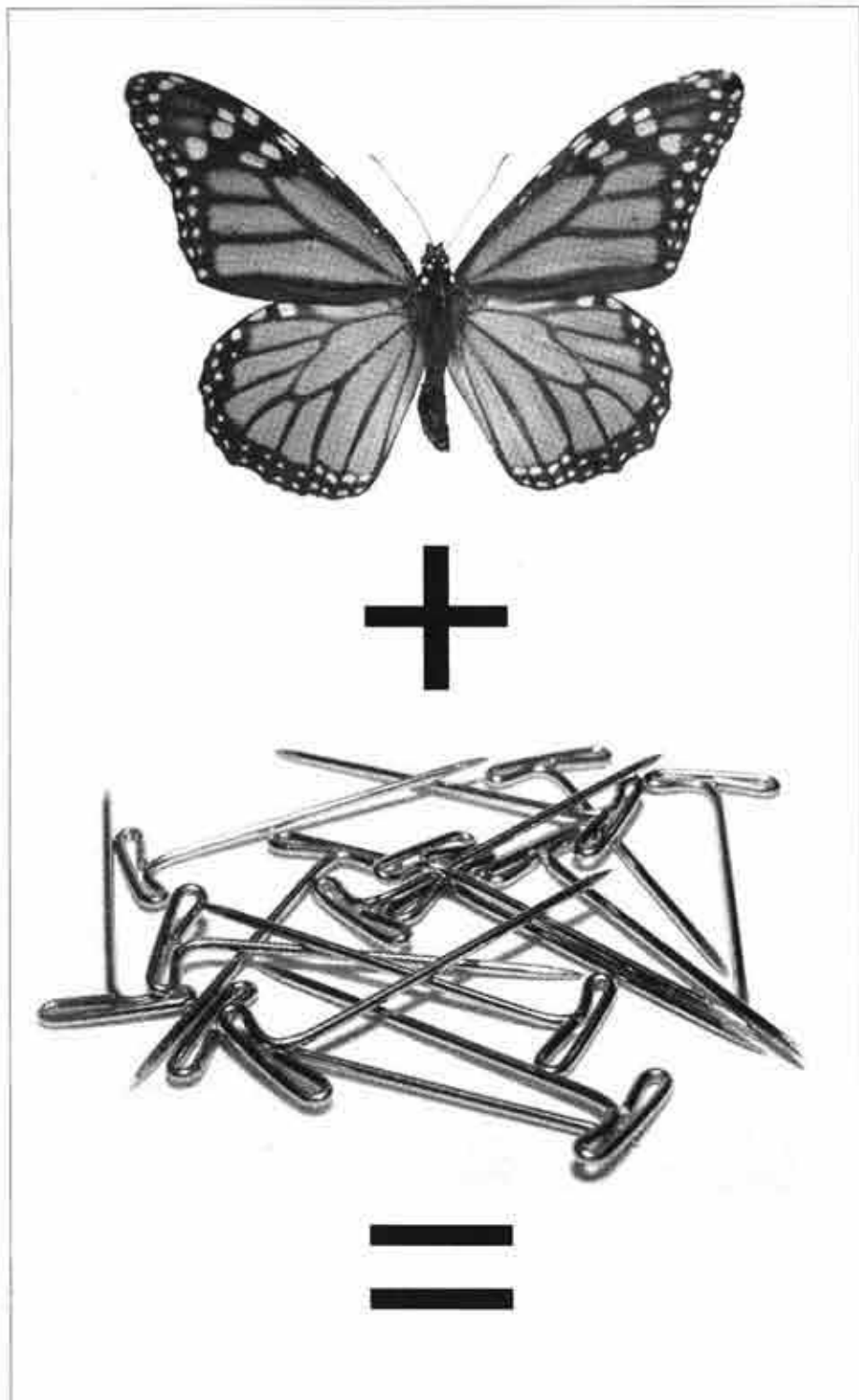
Sudoku

2			9		1			7
3	9	7		4		2	1	8
				3				
8				5				3
	5	9				8	4	
1				7				9
				1				
9	3	1		2		5	7	4
4			3		5			2

HOW TO PLAY: Fill in the blank squares so that each row/column and each block of nine includes the numbers 1-9.

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Win *The Cord's* Sudoku contest by successfully completing the puzzle and bringing it down to the WLUSP offices (basement of MacHouse) to claim a poster from "The New World" movie. It's free, unlike Imagninus.



Fucked Up Hobby

Write For The Cord Weekly - Cord@wlusp.com

Weekly Bad Drawing

By Pete Cram

Things not to say to your 4 year old son who has chicken Pox

By Pete Cram



SCRAMBLOR. Lord of Jumbles: Election? I thought you said Erection!



SCRAMBLOR demands that you unscramble the following words and figure out the hidden blank in the phrase below from the circled letters:

O V T E R E R A P H
 OVTE RERAPH
T A L B O L N I R A M T
 TALBOL NIRAMT

SCRAMBLOR doesn't _____, he doesn't care if you do or not.

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ejoslin@cordweekly.com



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PERSONALS

Dear Matt: Here is my shout out to you: a real guy who knows how to be "prepared" (eg. stuffs a futon into the back of a mini van and brings along a box of Jos. Louis). I'm jealous of the woman who gets you! Zach Weinburg ought to take lessons: to my Death Trap Sisters and Cousins: I'm glad for our reunion this weekend and a possible reenactment of Failte's last Saturday (Ro - we need to make some sig. moves); to the B&B: give me some more shit to do! I have future Cord cornerstone written all over me - that is if I'm not busy trying out ballet moves or thwarting the love b/w Pres and Oliver - when will they learn? Mike: I want to here the rest of the story and to Tony: we have to make up some more. See you all on the flip side

- Emma

Hoop Knuckles!

Mad props to quite possibly the best team to ever take the field at University Stadium in Laurier's co-rec softball league. 3 wins by a combined 3 runs, culminated in a thrilling extra inning, come-from-behind championship victory. Y'all got heart, team. Straight up heart. I'm talking Rudy shit here. Shout outs to Billster, Cook (Most Improved Player, anyone?), Crystal, Theresa, Hamlet, Rob, Show, Slater (my back pain has long since subsided and I promise you're not a cancer to the team), and our bearded leader, T-dizzle. Let's defend this shit in '06! Other props go out to Ripster for PY 223 excitement, the K-town crew for a stellar break, and Ashley for being UW's most loyal reader of the Cord (even if you chose the wrong school). No thanks to the admin for the brevity of the aforementioned kickass break, Waterloo's "finest" for the \$125 fine, and the drunken asshole that was found masturbating in my driveway on New Year's. That was ... scarily unnecessary. Peace out.

- Browner

One extra day!

Thanks to my sister for letting me crash for the weekend and for dancing on crutches. Wilbur for coming from Shawville to party in Ottawa (but not for helping my sister with her pants), the large Smiths Falls contingent that came out to Barrymore's, the people I dragged to the War Museum (I'm a

nerd, sorry), the upstairs neighbours for poker night, the bitch on the box at the Firestation for offering up her stupidity as entertainment, Adrian for risking his car on that horrendous stretch of the 416, Brad and Ted for the Donkey Punch-ing (it's a band friends, not a personal preference) and Ottawa for being awesome. And my dog for being so fucking cute. Happy birthday Hodge.

-The Matriarch

Ode to the fileserver,

Thank you, first and foremost, to the skitzophrenic Old Man Winter who can't even figure his own shit out. Winter isn't worth it if you can't play in it. Shape up before Sutton. Thank you to my roommates - Rankin for his humility and getting thrashed on the court. Frazer for his commitment to fun-boy fitness routines. Costa is coming. Bell's asking about that bill, pay me. Rizz for snaking food with such grace. Brown for covering a new sport that contains no evidence of uprights or huddles. Bafs for the hook ups and Pecan Bar and laying out her own section. Emma for being in for the long haul this week - even despite the long comp line ups. Janet for also enduring the scattered work loads and occupied computers. Cummie for mercifully delaying this issue and bringing out The Word of the week. That is all original, man - Prescient. Flumoxed News Team for handling their

own ish so well - no more pduction. Monarch butterflies. No thanks to application forms - stop sucking up my life. A wag of the finger to Hoegaarden - no that's no innuendo. And last, but not least, to the Fileservers which delayed this issue. The one year anniversary was divine. Angela for not making me build a single ad - thanks Ryan and Jocius. Thanks Syd for the gingerbread and jelly beans. To my parents who would leave to visit their daughter while she's away but certainly not their first born son. Just in case the pecking order wasn't already crystal clear... Enjoy the land of cheese and grenouilles. Wait, didn't Sean Avery get reprimanded for something similar? Or was that Shane Doan? Ok... I think I've filled the necessary amount of space.

- Bryn

Beleagured,

In a week full of surprises, the fileserver was the worst, but thanks to one Regan Walsh, we made it through. Thanks to readers, Angela and the Ed. Board for putting up with the vagrancies of Dell hardware products. Oh yeah, and our printers too. Let's go back to paper and rollers, team.

B'mo

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Back by popular demand...

The Cord Slumlord Contest



Knock-knock.

Who's there?

A fuckin' drunk asshole landlord who never fixed the taps in our fucking bathtub or the wooden steps out front and only shows up once a month uninvited to steal our shit.

Send stories about your awful landlord and pictures of your shitbox house to bcurrie@cordweekly.com

The contest is open until Jan 20th.

The top five finalists will be published in the Jan 25th issue of *The Cord*.

The first place story will win you two tickets to the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony. Runners-up will win whatever free shit we have lying around (cDs, movie passes, etc.)



STROKING IN THE BUSHES - Fab Moretti, centre, pictured with a cigarette moments before a massive forest fire.

Different Strokes

New Yorkers' third album proves difficult to digest, but eventually pleases the palate

First Impressions of Earth



4 out of a possible 5 juicynesses

Artist: The Strokes
Release Date: Jan. 3rd, 2006
Label: RCA

ALEX HAYTER
A&E Editor

My first impression of The Strokes' new album may not be as pleasing as one would hope. Does it sound the same as all of their other stuff? Or completely different? To be honest, it's hard to tell.

But like many great albums, a little bit of extra effort on the listener's part translates into the reward of a truly lovable album. Once the alluring hooks and infective melodies catch you, you'll remember why The Strokes are one of the best bands out there.

The band's 2001 debut, *Is This It?*, was immediately endearing,

with an array of solid tunes that introduced the world to the hip New Yorkers. Their 2003 follow-up, *Room on Fire*, began to expose a more intelligent ensemble, revealing a contradictory dual-natured album that sounds similar to their first but at the same time strikingly different.

The band's love of Television and the Velvet Underground is pronounced in *First Impressions*, meaning that experimentation is at the forefront of the latest efforts.

Guitarists Valensi and Hammond simulate Television duo Tom Verlaine and Richard Lloyd's guitar battles throughout the album, fantastically so on tracks like opener "You Only Live Once" and "Heart in a Cage".

"Jukebox," the album's first single, comes across like a Tim Burton movie theme song, with crunching bass and a space-journey of a guitar solo.

"Ask me Nothing" is a Lou Reed-esque ballad laden with organ and strings; a step in a different direc-

tion for the band. It takes a lot of getting used to.

"Electricityscape" is the most effective experiment on the album, starting with a Metallica-inspired guitar riff that blends into the more familiar territory of frontman Julian Casablancas's growling croon. "Ize of the World" is a bassy romp in which Casablancas laments "You're sad but you smile" while the rest of the group jam along contentedly.

Impressions is not The Strokes' best album, and may become a disappointment to some. However, it does showcase a maturation taking place within the band and challenges those who would accuse them of being a one-trick pony.

It may take some getting used to but *First Impressions* will stick in your head until you forget everything else. If you buy this album and you'll eventually like it, whether you want to or not.

Reading makes me horny



TORONTO (CUP) - What comes to mind when you hear the word "pornography?"

For me, it conjures up images of busty girls doing dirty deeds; of adolescent boys blushing when their mothers peek under their beds; of priests and women with high collars warning that pornography will corrupt our nation; and of Jenna Jameson's proclamation that she is a feminist.

Among the list of things that do not come to mind are books.

When people think of porn, it's visuals that come to mind. As we are immersed more and more in a visual culture, it only makes sense. Does anyone read anymore? More to the point, who reads when they want to get off? So how is it that you find this article in the midst of a literary spread?

Pornography in Western culture dates back to the 16th century and, of course, lacking today's technology, it was found in written form. Early pornography, however, was not used for the purposes of sexual arousal that it is today. Instead it was used as a political tool. What better way to draw attention to a corrupt church official than to show him in an erect state, about to have sex with a nun? Stories of Marie-Antoinette in the midst of orgies were a commentary on aristocratic excess. Tales of dirty politicians having their way with prostitutes were used to undermine authority.

The real juicy stuff began with the Marquis de Sade - with the term "sadism" being his namesake, this is not surprising. Living in 18th century France, de Sade was imprisoned more than once for his lewd lifestyle, which included abusing prostitutes and his house staff, having an affair with

his wife's sister and poisoning women with a drug that he thought was an aphrodisiac.

It was while in prison that he penned most of his work. His most famous works include *The 120 Days of Sodom*, *Justine*, its companion novel *Juliette*, and *Philosophy in the Bedroom*. Living a life of scandal and squalor, de Sade was capable of the kind of writing that simultaneously shocked, disgusted and titillated readers.

His books are not the same brand of "pornography" we are used to. Rather than trite storylines used only as a device for getting to the sex, his works entangle sex and ideology. They also show an intense pre-occupation with violence. Interspersed with scenes of rape and oral sex are conversations about atheism. Mixed with descriptions of sodomy and orgies are attacks on moral norms and compulsory heterosexuality.

Storylines permeated with philosophy make some hesitant about labeling de Sade's works pornography. Others still are reluctant to use the term because many of the acts described in de Sade's work are nothing short of disgusting (for example, characters repeatedly vomiting in each other's mouths as a form of foreplay).

But some facts are undeniable. First, de Sade thoroughly introduced us to the mantra that most pornography adheres to: if it feels good, do it. He was obsessed with hedonism and, in both his writings and his own life, showed no regard for the people who were hurt in the pursuit of pleasure.

Secondly, his works pushed boundaries. In a time when sodomy and homosexuality could be persecuted by death, he brought a huge range of sexual pleasures to the forefront. He paved the way for all the pornographers to come. Even if you think his works are dirty or despicable, someone gets off on them.



SADISTIC - Geoffrey Rush played De Sade in the film *Quills*, with Winslet.

The Dark Hours: low on budget, high on horror

The Dark Hours



4.5 out of a possible 5 Shaved Sarahs

Director: Paul Fox
Release Date: October 2005
Starring: Kate Greenhouse

DRU JEFFRIES
Film Critic

The opening shots of *The Dark Hours*, an unnerving Canadian horror film, comprise what is perhaps the only completely 'honest' scene in the film. Truth, as we learn, is subjective; through the eyes of protagonist Dr. Samantha Goodman (played with finesse by Kate Greenhouse), we see what she experiences, which is not always the same as what literally occurs.

Sam has an inoperable brain tumour and is being killed (in equal parts) by it and her personal sense of guilt.

Under the opening credits, the camera lingers and looms over ambiguous splotches of black and white: a Rorschach test, perhaps. We pan out; and it's a CAT-scan of a brain. Though we zoom out away from the brain, what we're in for in this film is entirely a product of this brain. The brain sets the rules and we are at its mercy. The original title for the film was *Head Games*, and though it may be more appropriate than the generic *The Dark Hours*, it is also too obvious, and this film never opts for the easy explanation.

Sam has an inoperable brain tumour and is being killed (in equal parts) by it and her personal sense of guilt. She has been testing an experimental drug, known to disintegrate brain cells in mice, on a paedophile with the same condi-

tion as her. It may save her life, and he's going to die anyway. She has about a year to live in her present state. What has she got to lose?

But she can't help thinking. Does he deserve this treatment? Is he less than human? Which does society value more: mice or rapists? Criminals or animals? And what exactly is the difference?

Sam's husband, David, and her sister, Melody, don't know about the severity of her condition. Sam also suspects them of infidelity, but the film doesn't hit you over the head with it. There's a subtle glance here, a minor insinuation there. Mel is beautiful in a young way, which Sam envies. She sees the way that David notices Mel, and the way that he no longer notices her. The film deals with the consequences of infidelity as many other horror films have, but that isn't the main focus.

Greenhouse, who resembles but is more beautiful than Sarah Jessica Parker, has a particularly challenging role, which she handles with subtlety. It's a complex performance that reminds me a little of Cécile De France's in the recently released *Haute Tension*.

And if you were wondering (that is, if this is what will make you go see this film), things get pretty violent and it is fairly bloody. The budget of the film was a measly \$500,000 (that's Canadian dollars!), and the quality of the effects challenges that number. In fact, they need not be so good: the film is psychologically realistic, but because of the authenticity of the drama, it also plays as a straight-ahead horror flick—with a twist.

The Dark Hours played last weekend at the Princess Cinema. If you missed it, the DVD streets on February 8th: I recommend that you seek it out.

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See the world your way

In praise of *Father Ted*

ALEX HAYTER
A&E Editor

A small community of people, stranded on an island unknown to the rest of mankind, survive through the vicious elements and use guile and cunning to win the day.

In the aftermath of Christmas, there has been a certain box set dominating my DVD player; one that has been impossible to tear away from.

No, I'm not talking about *Lost*. Don't worry, I never liked it. I'm talking about *Father Ted*, for feck's sake!

Instead of an island full of romantic heroes and suave hunters, Craggy Island, where *Father Ted* is set, is full of eccentrically odd priests and weirdoes.

The Irish sitcom ran from 1995-1998 on British TV, and was an immediate success story. The show is a simple series of self-contained episodes, concerned little with plot; its charm comes from bizarre, surreal and utterly hilarious characters.

Father Ted is centered on the every day life of a middle-aged

priest (Ted), living in a priest's home and struggling to control his fellow men of the cloth, Father Dougal and Father Jack.

Ted appears to be the voice of reason amidst the chaos of day-to-day life, struggling to set things right and solve problems, but most of the time submitting to subterfuge and extortion. Dougal, the newbie, is an incredibly dense and infinitely oblivious young man who continually becomes the target of Ted's angry cursing. Jack, who almost constantly occupies the ancient armchair in the living room corner, is probably the most violently dangerous pastor one could find. He endlessly consumes gallons of liquor (and various household cleaners) while offering dialogue such as "feck!", "arse!" and "gobshite!".

The housekeeper, Mrs. Doyle, offers the unnerving habit of obsession with her duties; when offering tea, she simply repeats the torrent "go on, go on, go on ... [ad infinitum]" until the receiver submits.

Though listing examples of episodes hardly does the show justice, there are some scenarios that



UNHOLY TRINITY - Father Ted, centre back, flanked by Dougal (left) and Jack (right), with Mrs. Doyle centre.

are too funny not to be shared. Ted and a host of priests get lost in the "biggest lingerie section in Ireland" of a department store, and are forced to use militia tactics to escape. Ted, Dougal and Jack enter a priest's look-alike competition, all performing as Elvis. For Lent, Dougal gives up rollerblading (which he never does anyway), but fails miserably.

The show came to a tragic and abrupt end in May 1998, when Dermot Morgan, in the title role, died suddenly the day after filming for the third series was complete.

Father Ted is scheduled to be remade into an American version sometime in the next year. British to American translations have had a mixed history of quality: *The*

Office, though mediocre compared to the original, has been well received, while *Red Dwarf*, among others, bombed. Hardcore fans like me will probably wish that they kept the remake on the cutting-room floor, but with *Seinfeld* writer Spike Feresten behind the script, there's a little promise yet.

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Air guitar players finally have a game

Guitar Hero



5 out of a possible 5 *Headline* Heads

Platform : PlayStation 2
Release Date : Nov. 9, 2005
Developer : Harmonix

JAY GUITARD
Cord A&E

For the uninitiated, *Guitar Hero* is a rhythm-based game where a player inputs button patterns on demand in time with music. A unique guitar-shaped controller is included with the game, with five 'fret' buttons and whammy bars which function as they normally would on a guitar.

A good deal of thought was put into the learning curve of this game, and it shows. After playing it with others from a wide variety of skill levels, it's apparent that most can pick it up in under an hour. As the player moves from one skill level to the next, more of the controller's buttons are used (the easiest skill level only requires three buttons). Similarly, more notes are required at each level, and the speed they come at the player increases as well. More guitar-savvy players will be pleased to know they can execute hammer-ons and pull-offs with the controller as well.

An important component of *Guitar Hero's* playability is that, unlike some other rhythm-based titles (*Dance Dance Revolution* comes to mind), the player can actually hear the end result of their input. The tracks are mixed such that they sound like the guitar-based equivalent of karaoke; instead of the vocals being removed the lead guitar part is absent unless the user plays the right notes. Similarly, if a user's timing is wrong on the notes, they will sound a little off. Not only is this an efficient way of getting a user to play the notes in time, but it makes it makes the full, distorted sound of a successful riff that much more rewarding.

The track selection of *Guitar Hero* is what completes the experience but also contains one of the game's few flaws: it would be impossible to pick a complete list of tracks that everyone will agree on and licensing these songs would be a nightmare.

Harmonix works around both of these issues, first by picking a pretty well-rounded selection of material (the heaviest emphasis is on classic-rock; but punk, metal, alternative rock and hard rock songs are included). Second, in order to be able to use the highest profile tracks (without paying the highest profile royalties), the songs are reproduced by the development team. The end result is spot-on covers with the only noticeable difference being sub-par vocal performances.

A&E needs more pc/console game reviewers... email Alex Hayter at wluentertainment@yahoo.ca with a sample article.



NERD GUITAR - *Guitar Hero's* controls revolve around your own personal axe; with a whammy bar and 5 different notes, it's almost like owning a real one!

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Feb. 1, 2006 wage rate	\$7.75/hour	\$7.25/hour	\$6.75/hour	\$38.75	\$77.50	110% of the minimum wage

On February 1, 2006, the general minimum wage will increase to \$7.75 per hour from the current rate of \$7.45 per hour. Another increase will follow bringing the general minimum wage to \$8.00 per hour on February 1, 2007.

To find out more about how the new minimum wage guidelines affect employers and employees, call or visit the Ministry of Labour web site.

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Member of Parliament for Kitchener-Waterloo

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A Conservative/Bloc alliance would strip the federal government of its power to manage the Canadian economy for the benefit of all Canadians. Which province would suffer most? Not Alberta. Not Quebec. Most likely: Ontario.

On March 20, 2003, the United States invaded Iraq, commencing a war that is still going on. Which of the views expressed in the House of Commons at that time do you agree with?

March 25, 2003

Mr. Stephen Harper (Leader of the Opposition): When will the government do the right thing and back our American friends and allies because, frankly sir, you are embarrassing us.

Rt. Hon. Jean Chretien (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will never be embarrassed when, as Prime Minister of this land, I will show Canadians and the people of the world that Canada is an independent country, and Canadians know that.

April 2, 2003

Mr. Andrew Telegdi (Kitchener-Waterloo, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, at its meeting on February 26, the Regional Municipality of Waterloo passed the following resolution:

Whereas the threat of war in the current international situation is a concern for the residents of the region of Waterloo and for all Canadians;

Therefore be it resolved that the Regional Municipality of Waterloo urge the Government of Canada to make all possible efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution to this situation;

And be it further resolved that if the Government of Canada decided to take military action against Iraq that such action would only occur under the auspices of the United Nations and according to United Nations resolutions.

The Government of Canada worked hard for a resolution that would have bridged the two solitudes on the UN Security Council and would have averted war. Unfortunately we were not successful.

We must continue our efforts to seek an alternative to the present war and redouble our efforts to strengthen the cause of multilateralism and the United Nations.

No MP from any party has done more to try and correct the injustice of the Deportation and Denaturalization policy than Andrew Telegdi (Kitchener-Waterloo). As Chair of the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration, Telegdi has led his group in coming up with a series of recommendations that will end D and D once and for all by making the citizenship revocation process judiciously fair. These recommendations must be enacted if the Charter rights of 6 million naturalized Canadians are to be protected. That is something that will be dealt with by the new parliament. That makes it essential that Telegdi be returned.

Ukrainian News, December 14-27, 2005

The hero of this case, if that isn't too strong a word, is Liberal MP Andrew Telegdi (Kitchener-Waterloo).

Columnist Peter Worthington, Toronto Sun, June 2, 2004

Andrew Telegdi managed to preserve a thread of dignity and purpose in Parliament, a lonely Liberal voice standing up for what he believes is right.

Columnist Greg Weston, Ottawa Sun, December 2, 2001

Telegdi has made it clear he is prepared to make sacrifices for his convictions about democracy and rule of the law.

Columnist Graham Fraser, Toronto Star, December 2, 2001

Andrew places the Charter of Rights and Freedoms before all else. For him, it is a sacred covenant. Andrew has had the courage to challenge even his own party leadership in defense of the civil liberties of all Canadians.

As Chair of the All Party Commons Committee on Citizenship and Immigration, twice elected by unanimous vote, Andrew has prepared legislation to protect naturalized citizens from deportation without right of appeal. Andrew voted against the draconian provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Bill. Andrew builds bridges and is respected across party lines.

For our MP, education is the single most important social program, the cornerstone of social policy, because it is our guarantee of the future prosperity required to support all other social programs. Our MP knows higher education in Waterloo.

- ★ Graduated from the University of Waterloo;
- ★ Began his political career as President of the UW Federation of Students;
- ★ Was maintenance manager of the Waterloo Co-op, helped expand the residence to Philip St.;
- ★ Helped save Clemmer Daycare;
- ★ Secured the foundational funding for WPIRG;
- ★ Has been a member of the UW Senate and the WLU Board of Governors;
- ★ Chaired a Community Advisory Board for Conestoga College;
- ★ Was elected to Waterloo City and Regional Councils;
- ★ as Councillor, facilitated new initiatives for affordable student housing;
- ★ Founded Youth in Conflict with the Law;
- ★ Co-founded the region's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Council;
- ★ Co-founded Communitech;
- ★ Co-founded (with former MP, Professor John English) the Postsecondary Education Caucus in Parliament;
- ★ Worked to set in place loan programs to assist Canadian high-tech employers like RIM.

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Free-market economist Stephen Harper, leader of the opposition Conservative Party, is pro-free trade, pro-Iraq war, anti-Kyoto, and socially conservative. Move over Tony Blair: if elected, Mr. Harper will quickly become Mr. Bush's new best friend internationally and the poster boy for his ideal foreign leader.

Patrick Basham, Washington Times, December 2, 2005

Canadians should take a look at what [Alliance Conservative Stephen Harper] proposes - the pulling back of government, pulling it back from the environment, pulling it back from the defence of equality, pulling it back from the defence of Aboriginals, pulling it back from the defence of women. Internationally, what he proposes is by and large a policy that would very closely follow the hard line of the Bush White House. [Canadians] should know that that's what they would get with Stephen Harper. No question about that I do think it would be dangerous for Canada to have a leader with the kind of mentality that Mr. Harper has.

Former Conservative Prime Minister Joe Clark

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