

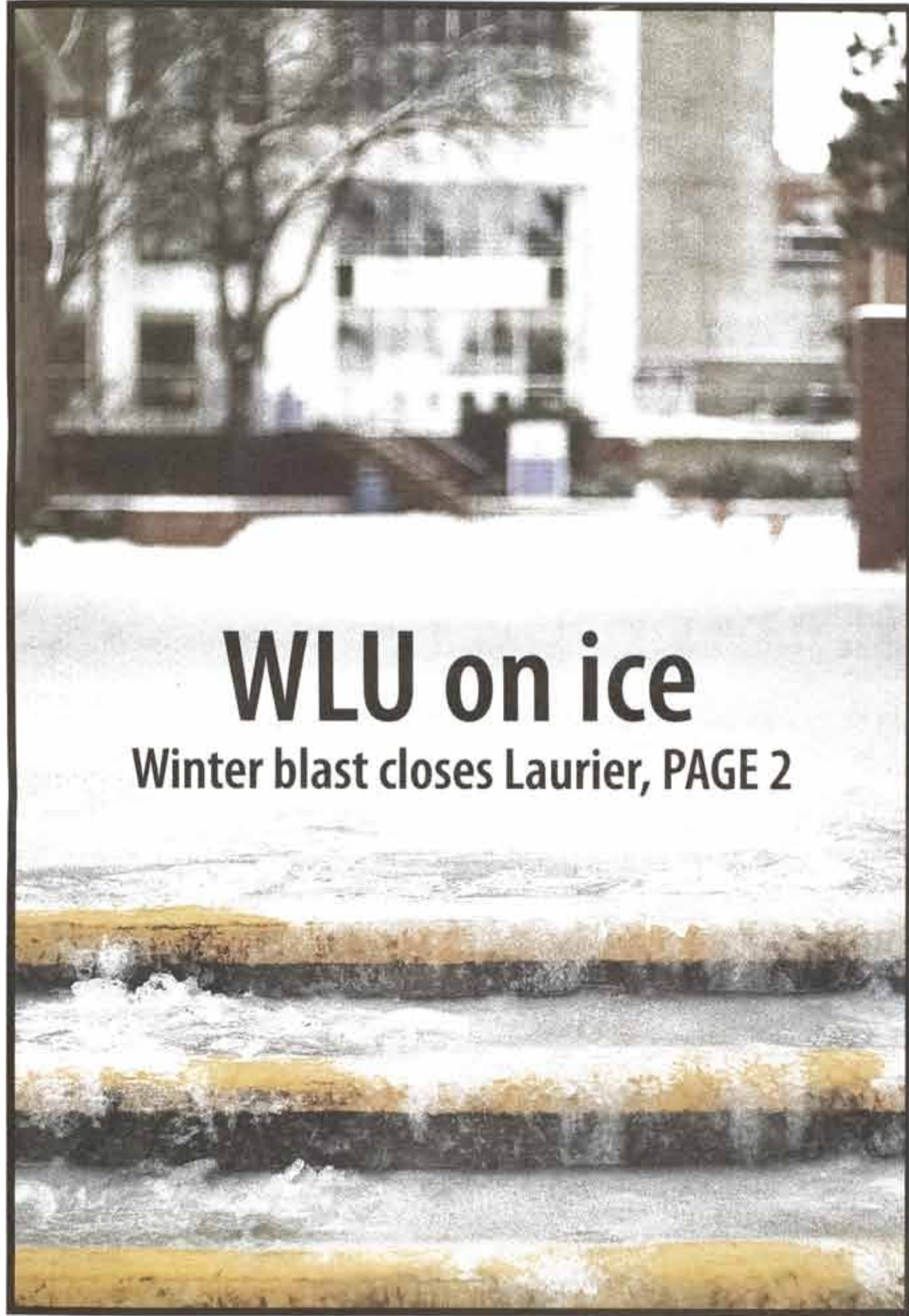


ENTRANCING JAM

Africa and its Diaspora brings soulful vibe and AIDS awareness ... **PAGE 6**

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

Find out what to expect this year in the world of entertainment ... **PAGE 12-13**



WLU on ice

Winter blast closes Laurier, **PAGE 2**

Laurier gets bad Hedley

Manic BC group opens the Winter Carnival with their bland emo offerings

JOE TURCOTTE
A&E EDITOR

If there has ever been a concert at Laurier that has clearly demonstrated the school's heavily one-sided female-to-male student ratio, Monday night's performance by Hedley must be it. Walking up to the Turret, one couldn't help but notice that the females in attendance outweighed their male counterparts by a heavy margin.

And, once inside, it was apparent that the gender lines had been drawn. The ladies who had braved the snow day weather were dolled up in their best concert-going outfits, many completing their ensembles with a pair of Ugg-style boots. Meanwhile, the gentlemen who made the trek out to witness the concert launch of the annual Winter Carnival coiffed their favourite emo-inspired faux hawks and moved towards the front of the

stage. Judging by the high-pitched shrieks elicited at every mention of the headlining act's name, the students making up the crowd were clearly fans of the BC-based pop-punk rockers. This fact was cemented when the guys from Hedley took to the stage, as a wall of MuchOnDemand-like screams accompanied lead singer Jacob Hoggard as

- SEE **HEDLEY**, PAGE 16

Acclaimed to fame

With only 12 nominations for 15 director spots, there'll be no election for next year's BOD

MIKE BROWN
NEWS EDITOR

The WLUSU election season officially got underway with the closing of nomination packages last Wednesday and it seems that student politics at Laurier has lost its allure.

After last year's election saw 27 candidates vying for the 15 Board of Directors (BOD) spots - a number unparalleled in recent memory - this year's election has swung to the other side of the spectrum, resulting in the first acclaimed - and shorthanded - board in about a decade.

But all is not doom and gloom on the election front, as the Union's two highest-profile positions, vice-president: university affairs and president & CEO, will both see races barring an unlikely turn of events, though nothing is official until candidates accept their nominations by attending the All Candidates Meeting at 5:30 today in BA111.

The presidential race pits current VP: Marketing Dan Hocking, a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity whose WLUSU resumé also includes vice-chair of last year's board, against Dan Allison, a Pike with one year of board experience under his belt.

After JD Muir was acclaimed as VP:UA last year, the position has become more sought-after, with three current board members - two-time director Yusuf Faqiri, current director and senator Colin Lefevre and current vice-chair Lauren McNiven - battling it out to be the school's resident lobbying authority.

Only 13 people submitted nomination packages for the 15-

person BOD and 12 of them are set to be acclaimed. Asif Bacchus, current chair of the Constitutional and Operational Development committee, which inscribes WLUSU policy, was unlucky number 13.

Owing to confusion at the Registrar's office over his three different WLU student numbers, said Bacchus, he submitted his nomination package minutes after Wednesday's noon deadline and his appeal to the Elections and Referenda Committee (ERC) was turned down, killing his quest for re-election in its infancy.

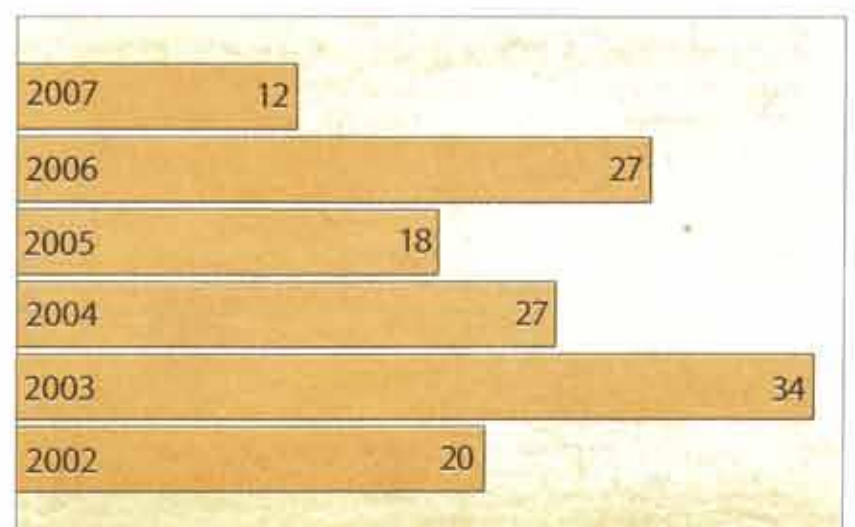
The situation is certainly less than ideal, says Bacchus, but he doesn't intend to take his appeal directly to the board, citing that the ERC handled the issue appropriately.

And that's not the only situation described as less than ideal as the election gets off the ground. Last Thursday, the current board assembled on the third floor of the FNCC for a late-night discussion that included a half-hour discussion on the impending acclamation of the board. The only consensus to be gleaned from that nuanced debate was that the lack of interest in the board positions was unfortunate.

In the end, directors voted 8-3 in favour of indefinitely ending discussions on the re-opening of nominations. But it was not an easy decision. Mike Tsuchiya and Jon Champagne, two of the three dissenting voices, were outspoken about their desire to see nominations re-opened.

"I don't believe that everyone who wanted to run was aware of

- SEE **BOD**, PAGE 3



Number of WLUSU board of director candidates, 2003-07

THE CORD WEEKLY

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WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17, 2007

VOLUME 47 ISSUE 18

Next Issue: January 24

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I get the good copy editors because you've anal and I like anal."

-Blair Forsyth-Stark referring to her favourite copy editors

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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 CanWeb Printing Inc.

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The Cord is created using Macintosh computers running OS X.3 using Adobe Creative Suite 2 (InDesign, Photoshop, Acrobat, Illustrator and Illustrator) and Quark Xpress 6.1. Canon Rebel XT 8.0 megapixel digital cameras are used for principal photography.

The Cord Weekly is a proud member of the Ontario Press Council since 2006. Any unsatisfied complaints can be sent to the Council at info@ontariopress.com



The Cord's circulation for a normal Wednesday issue is 7,000 copies and enjoys a readership of over 10,000.

Cord subscription rates are \$20.00 per term for addresses within Canada.

The Cord Weekly is a proud member of the Canadian University Press (CUP) since 2004.



Campus Plus is The Cord's national advertising agency.

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 eye 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 newspapers.

BOD passes labour motion

Moves to maintain same number of student jobs

STEVE NILES
STAFF WRITER

The WLUSU Board of Directors recently passed a motion designed to maintain the current student labour situation at the university. The motion, passed unanimously on January 11, seeks to maintain status quo regarding student labour and condemns any changes that may take place.

The language of the motion speaks of Wilfrid Laurier Staff Association (WLUSA) and the university "working towards an agreement that will maintain the number of jobs traditionally held by students on campus." The motion continues to say that WLUSU disapproves of "...any changes that will negatively affect the availability of jobs traditionally held by students and/or services offered to students."

This comes just a month after WLUSU President Allan Cayenne met with Staff Association officials and university administration to express his opinion regarding any change to the current labour landscape at the school. The meeting also included representatives from the Faculty Association and the Graduate Students Association.

Cayenne was pleased that the meeting was successful and is optimistic for the future.

"Coming out of that meeting, the most productive thing was that WLUSA and university administration are sitting down at the table," said Cayenne. "The fact that they're still meeting is a good sign."

"I'm feeling pretty confident about things right now in terms of university administration and WLUSA working things out," he added.

Cayenne also said that he will be kept in the loop regarding the timeline of negotiations, but will not be directly privy to details of any potential negotiations. However, he said that he has not recently spoken to either WLUSA President Keith Goulet or Assistant Vice President Human Resources Allison Roberts for updates.

Both WLUSA and the university have expressed a desire to ensure privacy. However both parties previously stressed that student input is still paramount and any significant developments will be made known to students.

"I anticipate that at some point I'll be able to give my feedback on what they're but about," he said. "Until they have something to come to me with ... they're closed meetings."

Despite the continued activity from all parties involved, many student employees that will potentially be affected by unionization still feel left out.

"I still feel completely left in the dark," said Greg Walsh, a fourth-year student supervisor at the Bookstore. "I could be for this, I could be against this. I still have no idea."

"Whoever is trying to make [unionization] happen should be the ones to come forward," Walsh says. "If it's their initiative, it's their responsibility to come to the students. We still haven't heard anything from the Staff Association or management or the university."

Walsh also expressed frustration with the motion passed by the board.

"It just seems like the board's motion is more symbolic than anything," he said. "It's like they're saying 'Yeah we're against it' but there's no weight behind it."

"I like my job the way it is. I don't see why it should be changed. But if they can come to me with a good reason why unionization is a benefit then it's completely different."

Ice, Ice Laurier: first snow day



Sydney Helland

IT FINALLY FALLS - After a long stretch of unusually warm days, winter came with a vengeance on Monday, forcing WLU to close its doors.

DAVID GOLDBERG
CORD INTERN

Things in Waterloo Region were at a standstill on Monday as freezing rain blanketed the city.

Environment Canada had issued a warning of freezing rain for southern Ontario the night before and had predicted five to ten centimetres of snow. This warning

was in effect by 6:00 am Monday morning.

With many of the roads too treacherous to handle, Laurier and the University of Waterloo shut down activities for the day. But even with two major universities and all public schools in the area closed, Conestoga College left their doors open.

Not all university students were

saddened by the cancellation of classes though.

"I was more concerned about the fact that my ice and ball hockey games were cancelled," said Nathan McBride, a fourth-year environmental studies student at UW.

Effects of the snow day carried on to Tuesday when Laurier student Trish Jasiewicz, who stayed in on Monday because of the weath-

er, had to spend half an hour chipping ice off of her car, making her miss a class.

On the snow day, the Waterloo Regional Police had reported to CKCO News that there had been over 20 car accidents by the noon hour due to poor driving conditions.

News Tip? Juicy Lead? Pillow Chat?
519-581-1769

> VOCAL CORD

What do you think about WLUSU Board Members being acclaimed?



"I think we should have a representative but I'd rather just have someone make the decisions for me."

- Emma Foster
2nd Year, Global Studies



"It's unfortunate but if that's the way it is, then that's the way it goes."

- Adam Dowling
4th Year, Political Science



"I wouldn't vote anyways, I don't usually vote on school issues."

- Evan Jarvis
3rd Year, Economics



"It's hard to get out voting with so many demands on students already but I also think it's good experience."

- Serina Patterson
4th Year, English



"It's depressing for students who are not involved but then again I'm not either so..."

- Blake Lennox
3rd Year, Communication Studies

Compiled by David Goldberg and
Laura Purchase

Biz ideas claim \$1K prize

Three entrepreneurs were awarded \$1000 after presenting their business proposals

LAURA CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

After months of hard work, a variety of workshops, and an intense elimination process, nine finalists were given the chance to pitch their business ideas to a panel of ten judges on Friday, January 12 at the iGNITION \$1K Pitch Competition.

The top three contestants: Jennifer Yorke, Greg Overholt and Christine Robinson each went home with \$1000 for their efforts.

Greg Overholt, a fourth-year at Laurier enrolled in the business and computer science double degree program, was one of the winners of the competition. Under the company name Hybrid Projections, he proposed combining a laptop computer and projector into a single lightweight device. As a business TA, Overholt often dealt with the hassle of having to use two different devices when putting on presentations and from there the idea was born.

"To me it just seems like an obvious solution. In the current global business market this type of product just makes sense," he says.

As Overholt still has a year and half left in his program at Laurier, he's planning on putting this project on hold for the time being. "I'm putting it [Hybrid Projections] on the back burner for now. The time is just not right now, but when the



I'M IN THE MONEY - Greg Overholt, with his father and friends, shows off his hot, hot cheque.

time is right, if there's a place in the industry, I'll persevere."

James Nadeau, lead competition organizer for Wilfrid Laurier University, feels that the competition is a great way for business students to get involved in the corporate world. "It gives them a taste of what they are going to be facing, and allows them to be capable of realizing their full potential."

Christine Robinson, competition winner and Laurier graduate, echoes Nadeau's thoughts. "I wasn't sure of what to expect having never done it myself. It's daunting when you don't know. But I re-

ally encourage anyone to give it a shot because it provides so many opportunities." Robinson plans to further advance in the competition and she hopes that by the fall of 2007, her one-stop parenting store, The Nesting Place, will open its doors to the public.

Jennifer Yorke, a fourth-year University of Waterloo student also took home \$1000 for her creation of simplystyle.com, a website where clients submit photos of themselves and clothing preferences to stylists who then search for clothing at stores in the client's area.

This is the third year for the iGNITION \$1K competition and it is open to students from Wilfrid Laurier, University of Waterloo, University of Guelph, Conestoga College and other community members. Friday's competition serves as a stepping stone to the LaunchPad \$50K Venture Creation Program finals in May. Friday's winners are all eligible to further advance in the competition where they will be given the opportunity to compete for \$50,000.

Election integrity in question

- FROM BOD, COVER

the nomination packages," explains Champagne, who believed more could have been done to advertise that nominations were open. Concurrent with tradition, the marketing was done through posters around campus.

Tsuchiya worries that the smaller board will handcuff directors' efficacy, with demanding committee workloads spread amongst too small of a group.

"From what I've seen over the past two years, even with 15 directors, it's tough filling every single chair position for all the different committees," said Tsuchiya. "When you start with less people, it could make it even harder."

In the end, though, matters of the current board's legal footing and the feasibility of election timelines trumped the concerns of select directors.

President Allan Cayenne read aloud a letter from the Union's legal counsel that advised "allowing the election to run its course" and leaving the issue to the new

Board. Bacchus agrees with the lawyers.

"If we only have interest from 12 students coming forward, then that's the interest we have. It's not really our place to say, '12 is enough, 12 is not enough' because according to our bylaw, 12 would be enough."

Cayenne, as well as Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Josh Periard, spoke also of the importance of maintaining the integrity of the election itself, which is set to occur on Thursday, February 1, with polls open from 8 am until 7:30 pm. WLUSU policy mandates that the election is to take place on the first Thursday in February, a timeline designed to allow for the trickle-down hiring of VPs, coordinators, executive positions and finally general volunteers before the winter term ends in April.

To re-open nominations without compromising this time frame would have been exceedingly difficult, explained Periard.

"There just wasn't any time," he said. "I was really hoping for a

lot more people and it would've been great to be the CRO where we're actually going to have a full-fledged election. It does sadden me a little, but at the same time I understand that there is a lack of interest."

Periard, last year's ERC chair, attributes the disinterest to a lack of major controversy at the board level this year, nearly non-existent board promotion, and the fact that his position was vacant until a little over a month ago.

With the re-opening of elections now essentially ruled out, the only recourse for filling out the 2007-08 BOD would be a Special General Meeting (SGM). The Board legally requires 12 members to function, meaning it needs 10 directors, the VP:UA, and the President.

Last year's Annual General Meeting cost \$7,309.89, with over \$3000 used to reimburse candidates. That number will undoubtedly shrink this year with far fewer candidates to reimburse. An SGM would, depending on how many people ran, incur similar costs, with balloting and advertising

costs remaining constant.

"I personally don't think SGMs are ever a waste of money," says Bacchus. "I think if the board feels it needs more of a diverse input, then it should be thrown out to students."

It remains to be seen what they'll decide, but Tsuchiya, for one, remains unconvinced that the new board, with Champagne and current chair Matt Park as the only returning directors, will truly understand the issue his board is passing off to them.

"Being new board members and not having any experience, I don't think they would have the right knowledge to know whether or not they need those extra three directors," said Tsuchiya, who has served on the BOD for nearly two years.

"I feel that we're in a better position to decide for them whether or not they can adequately do the work with 12 members."

"Even if you only get two directors, I feel like 14 is a lot better than 12," he added.

New voting system

LENA TITIZIAN
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, January 10, the Ontario Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform met for a Waterloo Regional Public Consultation. In attendance were a number of Laurier students all interested in having their input included in the process.

The Ontario Citizens' Assembly was created by Elections Ontario in April 2006 for the purpose of assessing the current electoral system in Ontario, in order to evaluate the possibility of electoral change. They will consider eight key principles, including legitimacy, fairness of representation, stronger voter participation, and accountability.

The Assembly, which is a non-partisan organization working independently of the government, is comprised entirely of regular Ontario citizens selected randomly from the Ontario voters list. The Assembly will be in their deliberation phase from February to April and will make their recommendation in May 2007. Their findings will be set to a referendum in the upcoming October election.

They will continue to accept public suggestions and input online until January 31, 2007. Students wishing to learn more about this process should visit www.citizenassembly.gov.on.ca.

With files from Keren Gottfried.

A contest for all

TONY FERGUSON
NEWS EDITOR

For those students who have been thinking about quitting or cutting down on smoking, Leave the Pack Behind, a Laurier-run group that encourages a smoke-free campus is providing an incentive to do just that.

For the rest of the week, students will have the opportunity to put their willpower to the test by rising to the challenge that the new contest, called Let's Make a Deal, put on by Leave the Pack Behind

proposes.

Let's Make a Deal, encourages students to quit smoking, cut down or not start through cash and prizes that can be won if students can stay smoke-free for eight weeks.

The contest doesn't only pick on smokers. One category caters to non-smokers and encourages them to maintain their smoke-free lifestyle.

"It's a contest for everyone," says Mandy Grimes, a volunteer with Leave the Pack Behind. "A lot of people walk by the booth and don't think they can sign up but they can."

The contest will remain open until Friday and students can sign up at the Leave the Pack Behind booth in the concourse.

> BAG O' CRIME

Property Damage

Reported: January 8, 2007 Time: 0915 hrs

A Special Constable responded to the Science building first floor after receiving a report that a clock located outside the Dean's office had been damaged. Upon arrival the officer determined that an unknown culprit tried to unsuccessfully remove the clock from the ceiling. During this attempt theft the culprit damaged the clock by smashing both faces and leaving the clock hanging askew from the ceiling.

Fraud

Reported: January 8, 2007 Time: 1636 hrs

Special Constables are investigating the fraudulent use of a One Card to purchase pizza.

Assist Other P.F.

Reported: January 10, 2007 Time: 2100 hrs

Special Constables observed a student who is on conditions not to consume alcohol by way of a court order sitting in Wilf's consuming a beer. Waterloo Regional Police attended and arrested the student for the breach of conditions, he was held for court the next day.

Injured/Sick Person

Reported: January 10, 2007 Time: 2255 hrs

Special Constables and Ambulance personnel responded to Wilf's Pub in regards to a female student who was passed out drunk in the washroom of the establishment. The student was transported to hospital by ambulance for further observation.

Theft Under \$5000

Reported: January 11, 2007 Time: 2133 hrs

Special Constables responded to

King Street Residence to investigate the theft of a Nintendo Wii video game console from a lounge within the residence. It is believed that the culprit also stole a coat to conceal the video game system.

Property Damage

Reported: January 12, 2007 Time: 0248 hrs

A Special Constable responded to the link of Little House regarding an unknown person throwing a can of Coke through the upper pane of glass. Residence personnel cleaned up the mess.

Suspicious Vehicle

Reported: January 12, 2007 Time: 0255 hrs

Special Constables observed a vehicle being driven in an erratic manner in Lot #3. The vehicle stopped near the AC and the officers approached the vehicle that was occupied by three individuals. Further investigation revealed that the driver of the vehicle was unlicensed, had no insurance and that the vehicle was stolen. Waterloo Regional Police were called and arrested all three occupants of the vehicle.

Property Damage

Location: MacDonald House
Reported: January 13, 2007 Time: 0103 hrs

Special Constables responded to the 2nd floor of Mac House as a pane of glass in the fire door had been smashed by an unknown culprit. PP&P notified and requested to repair the door and clean up the glass. Investigation continuing.

Assist Other P.F.

Reported: January 13, 2007 Time: 0125 hrs

Waterloo Regional Police requested Special Constables investigate a 911 hang-up call originating from a university residence. Special

Constables and residence life staff responded to the residence where a student and two friends were found in the residence. None of the occupants required assistance and the student was very uncooperative during the investigation thinking that this was all a waste of time. The student is being sent in front of the JAC.

Intoxicated Person

Reported: January 13, 2007 Time: 1647 hrs

Special Constables detained an extremely intoxicated male that had vomited outside a computer lab in the concourse area. Waterloo Regional Police were dispatched and upon arrival arrested the male and transported him to Division #1 to sober up.

Break, Enter & Theft

Reported: January 13, 2007 Time: 1752 hrs

Special Constables discovered that unknown culprit had smashed a hole in the window of room 2E8 and then entered the room and stole a computer monitor. WRPS identification unit were called and attended. Investigation continuing.

Assistance Medical

Reported: January 14, 2007 Time: 0131 hrs

Special Constables and Ambulance personnel responded to a residence where a student believed they were suffering from alcohol poisoning. The student was transported to hospital for further observation.

If you have any information regarding these or any other incidents please call Community Safety & Security at 519-885-3333 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. You can also report a crime electronically through the Campus Safety &

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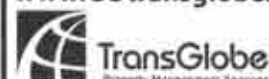
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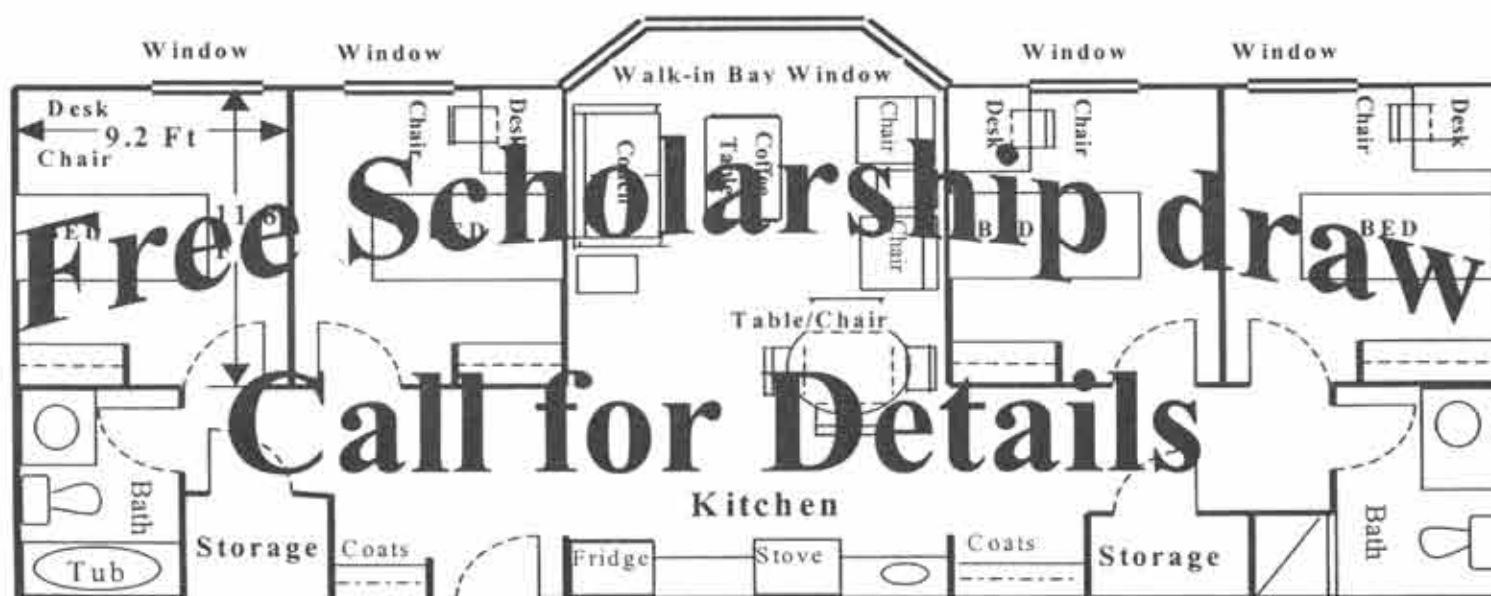
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LSPIRG AGM

and Election of Board of Directors

Both will take place on

January 25th 2007 at 7:00pm

in the Paul Martin Centre
Wilfrid Laurier University



JUST LOVIN' THE JAM - Percussion trio Gerima Harifletcher, Jason Cove and Nii were one of the highlights of ABS's African culture show.

Sydney Helland

Into the African groove

Laurier's first culture show spotlights diversity and upcoming talent, while drawing attention to AIDS

ARLA LATTO-HALL
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

Laurier welcomed the first culture show of our time, Africa and its Diaspora, to Maureen Forrester Recital Hall on Saturday night, filling the auditorium with something lost in our post-New Year hangover: soul.

Put on by the Association of Black Students (ABS), the show was intended to spread awareness of the present medical plight of the African continent, HIV/AIDS. It began with a solemn

slide show, contrasting smiling children with their afflicted comrades hooked up to respirators, and set to slow-moving "Serious Time" by reggae artist Gyptian. But messages of hope and survival in hardship pervaded each of the 20-plus performances of the night. By the show's end, the crowd was laughing and cheering for the group.

Some lesser-known talent made the stage, with Laurier Idol runner-up Jamaal Bowery as the opening act. Drummer Gerima Harifletcher, who appeared in last

year's Culture Shock, was joined by Jason Cove and African-native Nii, and let the crowd fall into an entrancing jam session. Hip hop talent to be aired on Toronto-based radio station Flow 93.5 also made a brief appearance, with JD Era and Johnny Roxx filling the air before the final few acts.

Apart from music and poetry, the show included Egyptian-styled and hip hop dancing as well as a fashion show.

Although the ABS had titled their performance "Breaking the Silence," the show had a different

effect on its unfortunately small audience. By expressing the richness of African culture through well-written poetry, in particular, it emphasized the individuality of each person's struggle with HIV/AIDS in a global culture quick to dismiss widespread medical phenomena with statistics. In a school with a popular Global Studies program, however, the on-campus "silence" is questionable.

Proceeds from the event were donated to Oxfam Canada.

Don't let Russia get away with it

Label of democracy is no excuse for rights abuse



YUSUF FAQIRI
CORD INTERNATIONAL

Lets not kid ourselves; the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 was a watershed event on the world stage. But the end of Soviet dictatorship isn't under contention — the aim here is to discuss the manner in which Vladimir Putin and his colleagues have managed to build a Russian Empire which has thinly veiled itself as a legitimate democracy. Well, guess what ladies and gentlemen? The Russian Empire is alive and well.

Putin's reign over Russian politics can be described as

anything but smooth as the nation makes its presence felt now that the European Union has weakened. Although some former Soviet Republic and puppet states have joined the European Union, many of these states have failed to accomplish much without Moscow's allowance, since it controls important energy sources. Russia supplies a quarter of Europe's gas and remains one of the world's largest oil exporters. With this economic bargaining chip, Russia has managed to keep some of its smaller neighbours at its mercy.

Although Russia might never again boast the military strength it had as the Soviet Union, post-communist Russia is certainly acting tough. Without concern

for the possible repercussions, Putin has alienated the Kremlin from much of the West while retaining the admiration and support of the Russian people. This isolation, however, is cause for concern. In fact, many are watching as the Kremlin commits human rights abuses before their very eyes.

In June 2006, legislation passed banning demonstrations in several public places, including government buildings. According to Amnesty International, demonstrations were violently dispersed by law enforcement agencies. Unfortunately, such abuses of democratic rights — technically recognized by Russia — have become so prevalent that many are now used to such actions. Both Amnesty International and the UN have blasted the Russian and Chechen authorities for failing "to conduct prompt, independent and thorough investigations into allegations of human rights violations" against their populations.

In an October 2006 report

to Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the UN Commission on Human Rights condemned the human rights situation in Chechnya as "catastrophic." Abuses stretch beyond the borders of Chechnya; all the way to the streets of Moscow. The European Court of Human Rights reports that human rights defenders have been killed by Russian federal authorities. One such victim, Anzor Pokaev, was detained, shot and killed by Russian federal troops. The list continues, with an increasing number of human rights activists harassed and killed by Russian authorities.

Not only is Russia ignoring freedoms; it fails to actively protect its citizens — surprising for a state that exerts so much power over its territorial neighbours. It has failed to address violence against women, rampant in recent years and the cause of thousands of deaths. The Russian federation has no specific laws addressing domestic violence, and its sex trade is one of the most lucrative of its kind in Europe.

Makin' it from Greece to Ohio

Who says you have to go far to travel?

JACKIE MARTINZ
CORD STAFF

Among the many international opportunities available at university, Greek organizations are sometimes overlooked. Fraternities and sororities are known for many things on campus, but they also provide the chance to have experiences abroad. Laurier is home to three fraternities, Sigma Chi, Pi Kappa Alpha and Phi Delta Theta, and three sororities, Delta Gamma, Alpha Phi and Alpha Omega.

The head offices of Greek organizations provide scholarships and loans for academically qualified members to explore their interests in different locations. Fraternities and sororities also have thousands of members worldwide. Following initiation, a new brother or sister is able to travel to, and stay, in chapter houses all over the United States and Canada.

They meet students from other universities and develop friendships and contacts that are useful for starting a job and getting acquainted in a new city.

Recently, members of Delta Gamma traveled to their executive offices in Columbus, Ohio and met with other members from all over the United States. They plan to attend another event in Dallas, Texas to strengthen ties with other chapters. The event was "an enriching experience," said Victoria Begin, who travelled to Ohio. "Members from every chapter in the United States were there. I'd never been with so many people from so many different places."

Similar events are held annually, with new locales each year. They are also fully paid for by the Greek organizations for members that hold specific positions within their chapters. "It's a great way to connect with other Greeks," says Begin.

Opportunities continue after university. Upon graduation, Greeks are able to join Alumni groups based in North America and Europe. These groups help Alumni members adjust to working life by providing a way for them to meet people in a new place.

Mexico's election results may threaten US oil source

MARY ERSKINE
CORD STAFF

"Socialism or death, I swear it!" With words reminiscent of Fidel Castro, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was reinstated into the Presidential position last Wednesday.

With his right hand raised, he continued: "I swear by Christ the greatest socialist in history." Chavez's inaugural speech outlined plans to "build Venezuelan socialism" for the 21st century. Although he states that his plans do not include invoking a Cuban socialist model, critics are wary of the potential for the abuse of power, and point to Castro's historically dictatorial approach.

The December election in Venezuela brought forward the strongest support Chavez has ever received, with a 63 percent majority. Much of his support comes from the rural poor of Venezuela. He first took power in 1999.

The inauguration of this third term took place this past Wednesday, the same day Bush announced plans to send more than 20,000 additional American troops to Iraq. Chavez will now remain in power until 2013, longer

if his plans to amend the rules of re-election are realized, allowing him to run again in the future. He stated that a commission is being formed to review various constitutional reforms and may make use of a referendum to address the issue of indefinite re-election in Venezuela.

In addition, Chavez announced plans to nationalize the country's natural gas and electricity sectors, the telecommunications industry and four of the largest domestic oil projects, to be set in motion immediately. Private companies will have the option of staying on as minority partners, with majority control in the hands of the state.

"We have decided to nationalize the whole Venezuelan energy and electricity sector, all of it, absolutely all." Venezuela is the fourth-largest crude exporter to the United States, and the US is the largest buyer of the Venezuelan oil.

Hours after the official start to his third term, Chavez joined his ally Daniel Ortega in Managua, Nicaragua. Ortega was sworn in as President of Nicaragua on the same day as Chavez, after 16 years as leader of the opposition.

He had been leader of the Marxist Sandinista movement in Nicaragua in the 1980s, and battled the US-funded Contra rebels until his political defeat in 1990.

Ortega regained power in the November 2006 election after failed attempts in both 1996 and 2001. Today, the Ortega government is said to be taking a more moderate socialist stance, one without the use of explicit Marxist doctrine or militarism.

"Our goal is to continue ... all the positive elements that have been taken on over the years and return to some programs from our government in the '80s, particularly in social areas," Ortega said.

Ecuador's Rafael Correa and Bolivia's Evo Morales also joined the inaugural celebrations in Managua last Wednesday, with high-level members of the Cuban government bringing regards on behalf of acting Cuban leader Raul Castro. These leaders represent the growing leftist sentiment in



TWO OF A KIND - Recently re-elected Chavez (L) supported Nicaraguan Ortega's presidential campaign in summer 2006 as an ideological ally.

many South and Central American countries.

Venezuela's other controversial ties include a close relationship with Iranian leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Saturday, during Ahmadinejad's Latin American tour, he signed 11 agreements addressing various topics, including energy concerns and the creation of a two-billion-dollar

social investment fund.

Both anti-American and oil-rich, Venezuela and Iran have recently worked together to ensure growing ties between them. "We must be comrades in the construction of both our countries," Ahmadinejad stated. "We have the potential of being among the most advanced countries in the world."



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Classic pub crawl & party themes



Mallory O'Brien

Student Life compiles the most popular and innovative pub crawl and party ideas to keep you well entertained this winter term



STEVE NILES
STAFF WRITER

Bored of doing the same old thing on the weekends? House parties just not cutting it anymore?

Then check out these exciting new variations on pub-crawls and parties that are sure to make your

responsible consumption of adult beverages much sweeter.

Sometimes nothing beats staying in for the night and having a few pals over. It saves money, and you can avoid long lines and cold temperatures. Unfortunately, all of this can get boring, so here are some ways to spice it up.

Everyone has heard of Pimp and Hoe parties, but have you ever tried Golf Pro's and Tennis Hoes, or Cor-

porate Hoes and CEOs? Gives you a chance to dress business casual and slutty at the same time, which is a rare opportunity these days.

An old-fashioned toga party never hurt, nor does an Underwear Ball. Finally, Anything But Clothes parties give you a chance to find unique uses for toilet paper and duct tape.

Don't feel like objectifying yourself? There are funny Wig and Hat parties (what you do with clothing is up to you), or a '70s Disco party. Go classy with a Wine and Cheese party to impress, or go cliché and have yourself a good Festivus celebration. Just make sure you get the aluminum pole and two volunteers

for the feats of strength.

If you want to take your celebration to the streets for an entire day of celebration, a pub-crawl is what you need. These can also be spiced up with a good theme, so here's some of the best.

It's your birthday, what better way to celebrate than by hitting the streets. Turning 19? Find 19 different locations for a drink. By the time you get to your senior years, you'll have the tolerance needed for all 22 or 23 bars.

You can take your turn and play the UN Pub Crawl by attempting to get a drink in nationally-themed bars. England and Ireland are easy, but what about other countries?

Hit up the Spur; that's kind of like Tex-Mex, so that's two countries right there. Or do the complete opposite and pick a single nationality and enjoy their bars. Just don't get lazy and stick to Canadian bars only.

Perhaps the most outlandish pub-crawl possible should be saved for the big city. It's called the sub-crawl. Find the closest bar to every subway station, get a day pass, and have fun.

If all else fails, dress up ridiculously and hit as many locations as possible. You could try Superheroes, Norse Gods, or Ninjas; the world is yours. Just stay safe, have fun, and invite everyone possible.

A Day in the Life...of a WLU Figure Skater

Returning varsity figure skater, Erin Csumrik, discusses the challenges of being a student athlete

ASHLEY JANG
STAFF WRITER

Erin Csumrik, a third-year psychology student and member of Laurier's varsity figure skating team, is proof that the life of a figure skater at WLU is by no means an easy task.

With early morning practices and stiff competitions, Laurier's team works hard to stay on top of their game.

With approximately 16 years of skating experience, Csumrik is able to balance her schoolwork and skating without much difficulty. "We practice three or four times a week but it's in the early morning so it doesn't interfere too much," she said.

Csumrik cites her many years of skating as preparation for the early practices. "It is a bit tough because you have to go to bed so much earlier to get up early but I did it all

through high school so I'm kind of used to it."

The team typically has three practices during the week, two 1.5-hour practices in the morning, and one two-hour practice on Friday afternoons.

"This year we called extra practices because we felt it wasn't enough so we have an extra practice on Friday morning or Sunday afternoon for a couple of hours," said Csumrik.

For Csumrik, practices vary depending on the day. "The way it has been running is one day a week we all do synchro practices for an hour and a half and then on Thursdays it would be your individual, and on Fridays sometimes it'll be half synchro, half individual."

The skaters not only need to attend practices regularly, but they are also expected to stay in shape by going to the gym.

"The goal is to go to the gym three or four times a week and we have set things that we're supposed to do that our trainers put in the gym for us," said Csumrik.

Eating healthy is also important when it comes to skating. It is recommended by the coach that all skaters eat healthy and regularly, especially before a competition, to ensure that they don't get sick.

The varsity skating team attends three competitions each year, one in November, one that took place this past weekend, and the OUA competition that takes place during reading week in February.

In the season opener competition in November at Queen's, Laurier finished in seventh place overall.

"It was really a learning competition because about half the team is new this year, so it's difficult with such a turnover to be ready by November," said Csumrik.

Skating has become more of a hobby for Csumrik. "I've skated all my life and I don't know what I would do if I didn't, so I decided to keep skating here because it's not as serious as it would be to skate professionally," she said.

As for pursuing professional skating, she has decided that school is more important to her.

"There was a point when I wanted to [skate professionally], but I decided to pursue school instead," said Csumrik.

Coaching may be in the works for Csumrik in the near future. "I'm not sure about skating next year because of the workload, but I've got half my coaching so far so I'm looking to get more into that."



Sydney Heiland

TAKING A BREAK - Csumrik takes a minute in her hectic schedule.

Coke contract raises ethical concerns at U of Alberta

Students' union looks to renew Coke contract until 2015

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
THE GATEWAY (UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA)

EDMONTON (CUP) -- With the University of Alberta Students' Union getting ready to vote on a plebiscite question regarding the renewal of the single-source beverage agreement with the Coca-Cola Company, debate is far from flat.

The University of Alberta originally signed an exclusivity agreement with Coke on June 10, 1998, that was set to expire May 31, 2008.

Under the terms of the new 10-year agreement, which would be retroactively implemented June 1, 2005, the beverage giant would continue its monopoly on campus until May 31, 2015.

"From a financial perspective it's really black and white — this is what we should do," said Chris Cunningham, a vice-president of the students' union.

According to Cunningham, a provision in the original contract stated that if the university didn't meet its vending targets during the first 10 years, the agreement would be extended for two subsequent years without any additional funding benefits for students.

"Right now, if we didn't extend the contract we're stuck in a period where we'll be getting no funding for the next two years," Cunningham said, noting that there was no chance of the university meeting the vending quotas.

Cunningham explained that Coke gives the U of A about \$500,000 per year towards scholarships and bursaries, as well as roughly \$50,000 for student union-run services.

But, despite the monetary gains, not everyone is pleased with the thought of considering a new contract.

"We believe that council has a responsibility to not renew the contract because of the ethical concerns," said Aaron Chubb, a member of the club, Students Against Killer Coke.

Chubb, along with other anti-Coke lobbyists, made a presentation at a Jan. 9 students' council meeting urging councillors against the renegotiated agreement.

"Coca-Cola's human rights and environmental abuses are widespread and they are well recorded," Chubb said, stating that by choosing to continue to do business with Coke, the student union was going against its own ethical business partners policy.

Prior to the presentation, Cunningham voiced his disapproval about it to council, stating it served little purpose since the Dec. 5 meeting featured representatives Coke had flown in from Colombia and Atlanta for a panel discussion aimed at addressing council's concerns. Cunningham's motion against the presentation was unsuccessful.

Pablo Largacha, director of public affairs and communications at in the Coca-Cola Company's headquarters in Atlanta, defended the allegations that the corporation had engaged in unethical labour and work-place practices in Colombia, or that it benefited from environmental abuses in India.

Largacha acknowledged that there is evidence being presented on both sides of the debate, but he urged students pursue their own research into the issues.

"I think it all goes to the objectivity which students need to resort to

in order to judge what [are] baseless accusations... [and what] are decisions and verdicts by legitimate authorities," Largacha said.

Exclusive single-source beverage contracts have become common on North American campuses; however, the trend is being discontinued in some instances.

The University of British Columbia was the first campus in Canada to sign an exclusivity contract with the Coca-Cola Company back in 1995... the UBC student government, passed a motion last fall against pursuing another exclusive agreement.

The University of British Columbia was the first campus in Canada to sign an exclusivity contract with the Coca-Cola Company back in 1995, but the Alma Mater Society (AMS), the UBC student government, passed a motion last fall against pursuing another exclusive agreement.

Like the U of A, UBC's contract included a provision that a two-year no-funding penalty would occur if the university didn't meet sales targets.

Ian Pattillo, AMS vice-president, explained that UBC is currently in

its last year of that penalty period, but that the financial repercussions weren't enough to deter their decision.

"Our budget has had to seriously adjust to not having those reoccurring revenues," Pattillo said.

AMS had heard many of the allegations groups such as Students

Against Killer Coke presented, but Pattillo said monopolizing business practices was their main concern.

"We recognize that there are two sides to the debate [but] our student representatives have voted that exclusivity isn't appropriate for public institutions to be considering,"

Pattillo explained.

However, the decision to renegotiate with Coke lies with UBC's board of governors, and unlike at U of A, students were never part of the negotiation process.

U of A student union president Sam Power credited the greater degree of openness at the U of A campus as part of what makes the situation here unique.

"There was a lot of pressure on [Coke] to share a lot of the details that weren't public at other universities," Power said, stating that the public disclosure of the contracts terms makes it easier for students to make an informed decision.

At the Dec. 5 meeting, Coke announced that the old contract is now publicly viewable to anyone with a valid student ID.

"It's important that students know exactly what they're getting into," Power said, adding students should vocalize their thoughts on this issue.

David Bruch, executive director of Ancillary Services and chair of the joint beverage committee — the tri-partite group that assesses the agreement between the students' union, the university and Coke — agreed that the U of A is unique when compared to other universities with exclusivity contracts.

"We don't know of any other agreement like this that's been structured to have student involvement at such a high degree to in fact be a party to the agreement," he said.

Bruch also stressed that despite concerns of unethical business practices, the U of A thoroughly research their potential business partners.

"We have looked into those [allegations] and we have a number of reasons for feeling that we don't see any ground to them," Bruch explained.

However, Chubb said during Tuesday's council meeting that if the new exclusivity contract is put to a plebiscite question, he along with his colleagues would willingly defend the no-side and set out to prove that life with Coke doesn't necessarily taste good.

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Waterloo nightlife needs a revamp

Demers thinks we need a plan to stop going to the bar at 8 pm



DJ DEMERS
STAFF WRITER

The city of Waterloo is a great place to be as a young student. However, one area that needs definite improvement is the nightlife.

One of the most disappointing characteristics of the Waterloo bar scene is the bars themselves.

All of the bars do well financially simply because of the huge number of students in this region. If you examine the main bars we attend,

though, you start to realize that they...umm, well ... they're terrible.

Look at Phil's as an example. Phil's is a dank basement. From the moment you arrive, you can see that it's filthier than a low-budget porn-film.

The smell of urine, beer, and vomit punches you in the face the second you begin your descent downstairs. The bathrooms are to be used only in a life-or-death situation, and even then, death doesn't sound so bad.

As another example, Philthy McNasty's is also just a basement, but with less dankness. Although it can boast that it does not smell like vomit, the dance floor seems to be some sort of sociological experiment in which an absurd amount of people are crammed into a space so tight they cannot move and just have alcohol spilt all over them for an entire night.

Somewhere, the people conducting this experiment are laughing.

These two bars I have just described, along with all of Waterloo's other bars, have huge line-ups at 9 pm on their feature nights. At 9 pm!

It is absolutely ridiculous that you have to arrive at a bar by 8:30 in order to avoid a long line. At 8:30 pm, you should be starting your pre-drink ritual and deciding what bar you want to hit up.

Instead, I have to start thinking about the night ahead at 4 pm so that I have time to eat, watch an episode of *Yo Momma*, pre-drink and arrive before the line is too long.

And make no mistake, there is no way you can drop the pre-drink from the agenda.

As a struggling student (a nice euphemism for cheap bastard), I need a solid pre-drink. I know I am not alone in this thinking. One

strategy that is often employed to combat this problem is arriving later at around midnight. However, if a lot of people have this idea, you run the risk of waiting in the "late arrivers" line anyway.

The problem of bars filling up too early is the most pressing concern in Waterloo right now, and something needs to be done to solve this problem.

There are really only two options: opening more bars or killing the people who go to the bars. One of these options is obviously not possible, as there is limited real estate to open a new bar.

In all seriousness though, the problems plaguing the Waterloo bar scene are not likely to go away any time soon.

There are no new bars popping up, with the exception of the re-opening of what used to be the Voodoo Lounge, and the student

population is certainly not diminishing (unless we implement the aforementioned plan).

I would like to implement some sort of system in which all people with last names starting with A-Cre arrive for the bar between 8:30 and 9, Cri-Fra arrive between 9 and 9:30, and so forth.

This system has so many flaws that it would never work, but it sure did take up some room in this article.

So open your first beer at 5 pm, put on a crappy shirt (it's going to get beer spilt on it anyway), and check in with your homeboy Wilmer Valderrama.

The Waterloo bar scene may have its flaws but if life teaches us anything, it's that nothing is without flaws.

And like life teaches us, drinking a sufficient amount can make these flaws go away.

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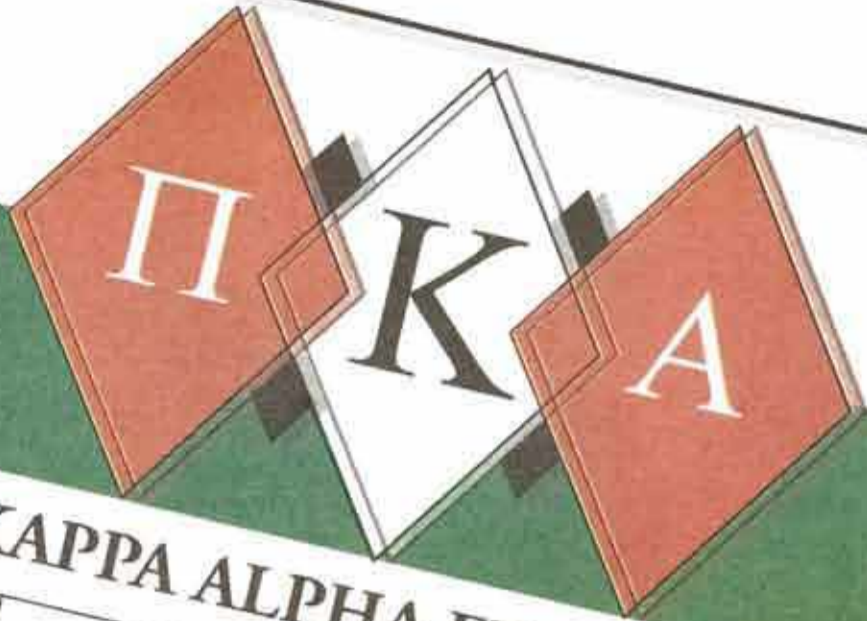
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Arts & Ent

2007 looks to be a fulfilling year for the world of A&E. The **Cord** introduces you to the top film, video game

ALEX HAYTER
FEATURES EDITOR

January

Starting off the year, you might have missed Canadian writer Guy Gavriel Kay's book *Ysabel*, which was released on January 9. A fantasy set in contemporary France, it follows a teenager's interaction with ancient, mythical characters from the dead.

On January 23 comes The Shins' *Wincing the Night Away*. Their much awaited third album promises to be a livelier affair than their previous sets. But their rockier edge means that The Shins might lose a fan in Zack Braff, the king of lazy film soundtracks.

Smokin Aces, in theatres on January 16, stars Alicia Keys, Jeremy Piven, and Ryan Reynolds. A rush of adrenaline promises to heat up winter with the release of this non-stop action popcorn flick. Aside from Keys, the rest of the cast are some of the more entertaining names in Hollywood at the moment.

February

The must-have sports title of 2007, *Winning Eleven 2007* (all platforms) released on February 6. The new soccer sim promises revamped controls, improved physics, as well as full licensing from the football associations from across the globe.

Bloc Party release *A Weekend in the City* also on February 6. *Silent Alarm* was this London-based rock band's first attempt, and what an amazing tempt it was.

Taking a cue from the Arctic Monkeys, *Weekend* will focus on everyday British life.

Ghost Rider starring Nicholas Cage is out on February 16, hoping to please the masses of already spoiled comic book fans.

Then from the same creative mind behind *Grand Theft Auto*, *Crackdown* (360) garners interest due to its bled *Halo 3 Multiplayer Beta*. Get it on February 20.

Next up on February 27 comes *Drivestorm* for PS3. This was the driving title available as a downloadable demo for PS3 in November, it has already proven a hit for the six people who own the console. It looks great, and plays better, so get it if you're lucky.



Entertainment in '07

er for the world of A&E, with big names from *Halo 3* to *Harry Potter 7* appeasing our greedy imaginations. Top film, video game, music and book releases of the the coming year

February

must-have sports title of 2007 is *Being Eleven 2007* (all platforms), based on February 6. The new soccer sim promises revamped controls, improved physics, as well as full licensing from the football associations across the globe.

Rock Party release *A Weekend in the* also on February 6. *Silent Alarm* this London-based rock band's attempt, and what an amazing attempt it was.

Taking a cue from the Arctic Monkeys, *Weekend* will focus on everyday life.

Host Rider starring Nicholas Cage out on February 16, hoping to please masses of already spoiled comic book fans.

men from the same creative mind and *Grand Theft Auto*, *Crackdown*) garners interest due to its bundle. *Halo 3 Multiplayer Beta*. Get that February 20.

Next up on February 27 comes *Motorm* for PS3. This was the driving title available as a downloadable demo for the PS3 in November, and it has already proved a hit for the six people who own the console. It looks great, and it plays better, so grab it if you're lucky

enough to own the system.

On that same day comes novel *Shopaholic & Baby* by Sophie Kinsella. Girls of the world celebrate! This time, our shopaholic heroine is forced to sell her baby in order to feed her shopping addiction. I jest.

March

On March 4, TV on the Radio perform at Kool Haus in Toronto. New York's avant-garde indie-rockers might have silly names like Tunde and Kyp, but their music demands that they're taken seriously.

Next up in March's avant-garde groove comes *Neon Bible* by The Arcade Fire, on March 5.

Canada's hippest gang of indie-popstars are setting out to release their second album this year, completely self-produced and bound to sound fabulous. Best of all, it features the hurdy gurdy, the best instrument ever made.

Chinese Democracy by Guns and Roses is out that day too. This will either be the worst album of all time, or ... the best album of all time? No, its going to be entertainingly bad, mainly because Axl Rose is nothing without Slash and the other original members of G'n'R.

Epic movie *300* comes on March 9. Filmed in the graphic-novel style of *Sin City*, Frank Miller's production is set in ancient Greece and follows the King of Sparta's battle against the Persians. Filmed entirely in front of blue and green screens, it's hard not to be impressed by the ambition of this one. There's life in your old PlayStation 2 yet, as *God of War 2* will prove on March 13. This will probably be the last big title for the system, but at least it will go out with a bang.

April

On April 1, *Schindler's List 2* will be released in theatres. April Fools!

Seriously though, *Super Mario Galaxy* (Wii) will be released on April 1. Finally, Nintendo come up with the spiritual successor to *Super Mario 64*, and it looks to be a worthy sequel. But players will have to get used to using the "Wii-mote" to control the Italian plumber.

Assassin's Creed (PS3/360/PC) comes on April 2. Developed by Ubisoft in Montreal, this stealth-action game is a high-budget affair which looks

to combine free-roaming Parkour with an open city environment ... all set during the Third Crusade.

Also out is *Mass Effect* (360). Made by Bioware in Edmonton, a company famous for its groundbreaking Xbox RPGs, it promises stunning visuals and a powerful storyline for, ahem, mass effect. Look out for *Army of Two* (PS3/360) and *Too Human*, out on the April 2 also.

On the April 6, the double-featured *Grind House* bundles two tongue-in-cheek horror movies: slasher *Death Proof* and zombie-flick titled *Planet Terror*, directed by Tarantino and Rodriguez respectively.

Hot Fuzz comes on the April 13, a British cop-satire from the makers and stars of comedy-horror *Shaun of the Dead*. Hopefully this will have as big an impact in North America as the latter film, as its guaranteed to be one of the funniest films of the year.

May

On May 1 comes *John Woo's Stranglehold* (PS3/ 360/PC), the video-game sequel to the classic flick *Hard Boiled*, featuring Chow Yun-Fat reprising his copper role. In other words, it's a next-gen Max Payne, with added Asians.

Spiderman 3 is released in theatres on May 4. The web-slinger's third outing looks to finally deliver what the fans wanted: the alien symbiote storyline!

Get ready for the black spider-suit, Sandman, more Green Goblin, and the greatest villain of them all... Venom.

Originally slated as a launch title for the PS3, *Lair* (PS3) will take full advantage of motion-sensitive gameplay as you control a massive dragon across medieval landscapes. It's out on May 8.

Finally on the May 25, watch *Pirates of the Caribbean 3: At World's End*. The second *Pirates* might have had its downsides, but hopefully the next chapter of the series will resolve those flaws and give a swashbuckling adventure worthy of its blockbuster audience numbers.

June

The iPhone by Apple will be released at some point this month, purporting to "revolutionize" the mobile phone market with a handheld sporting iPod and PDA functionalities. Also released in June will be Interpol's third album, *Moderation*.

A slew of great games come on June 1, starting with *Bioshock* (PS3/360/PC). Straight from the makers of the classic *System Shock*, this is a thinking-man's shooter, set in a post-apocalypse Atlantis. *Unreal Tournament* (PS3/PC), *Metroid Prime 3: Corruption* (Wii) and *Super Smash Bros: Brawl* (Wii) are also released on June 1.

Also out today is *The Legend of Zelda: Phantom Hourglass* (DS). *Zelda* for the Wii proved to be the series' fin-

est hour, and the same could be true for this handheld version.

In true DS fashion, all gameplay is controlled by touch-screen, promising a revolutionary turn for your adventures as young Link.

Come June 4, prepare for some '80s nostalgia as *Transformers* comes out in theatres. Directed by Micheal Bay and produced by Steven Spielberg, it looks to be an exciting summer blockbuster.

July

Killzone 2 (PS3) comes out on July 1, looking to become the platform's crowning shooter.

Then the best racing sim ever made goes miniature with the release of *Gran Turismo* for PSP on July 2.

It's a busy movie month as *Live Free or Die Hard* comes out on July 4, followed by *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* on July 13.

Finally on July 27 comes *The Simpsons Movie*. Is it going to be any good? No one can tell at this stage, but since it's the franchise's only release in cinema during its 18 season run, it's a must-see.

August-December

JK Rowling's new novel *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows* is out at some point during the year, most likely during the summer months. No plot details have been hinted at yet, but expect it to be on the minds of every magic-obsessed Potter-head across the globe.

Also speculated for release in 2007 is *The Da Vinci Code* writer Dan Brown's new conspiracy thriller *The Solomon Key*, which will probably be set in America (for a change) and will follow the secret society of Freemasons.

Ushering in the next-next-generation of graphics, *Crysis*, from the creators of *Far Cry*, will likely require an expensive PC to run. From early previews, it certainly looks worth purchasing this visual action-fest on September 4.

Coldplay's fourth album will be released in October.

On October 1, *Spore* (PC) should make a huge impact on the gaming world, as it is *The Sims* creator Will Wright's most ambitious project to date.

Grand Theft Auto 4 (PS3/360) comes out October 16, and it's rumoured that this urban-mayhem romper will be set in London, England as opposed to the familiar American backdrop.

November 1 sees the release of the insanely popular *Halo 3* (360), which brings the gaming trilogy to a close. Then look for the epic *Beowulf* in theatres on November 21.

Finally, in time for the holiday season, *Fred Claus* stars Vince Vaughn as Santa's less successful sibling, which aims to be December's big hit.





Shane Porter

CREASE CRASHERS - Morgan Wielgosz (#1) makes a great save on a Toronto breakaway keeping her shut out intact. The hawks won 3-0 against Toronto this past Sunday.

Hawk flies above the rest

Laurier's Lauren Barch finds herself leading the league in scoring in only her second season in the OUA

DAN POLISCHUK
SPORTS EDITOR

Women's hockey Head Coach Rick Osbourne has plenty of reasons to smile as of late.

With victories coming in Guelph on Saturday and at home against Toronto the very next day, the Golden Hawks have given themselves some breathing room in the surprisingly tight OUA standings.

Aside from their now 13-2 record and their top seeding in the province, Osbourne can take pleasure in the fact that some of his players are purely dominating.

No better example of the season's success so far could be found

outside of Lauren Barch.

Only in her second year, the talented forward out of Burlington is proving why she was brought onto the squad in the first place — and that is to score goals.

Barch has been doing that, and then some.

Other than the fact that she now has surpassed last season's point total of 18 (9G, 10A, 19PTS), she also finds herself atop all scorers in the league.

It is the fact that this kind of play was expected of her which really impresses her coach.

"There was never any question she was going to be ... an offensive player," said Osbourne, adding,

"She was going to be a number one or number two centre right from the get-go."

Part of her offensive explosion this year, in comparison to last, has a large deal to do with her fitness level too, admitted the coach.

"She was in great shape last year, but she's in really good shape this year," he said.

In her own words though, Barch believes it's the increased level of comfort she has found on the ice that has really been the biggest contributor to her success thus far.

"I think it's more of you coming to a team and you're a rookie player; you're more intimidated," explained Barch, when breaking

down her freshman year.

"As a second-year player, I have more confidence to do things. Overall, the second-year players have picked it up from last year."

Which is exactly the words Osbourne wants to hear being spoken, for it is with this group that he really wants to hit an elite status.

"I really want to make sure that a scoring champion falls out of our process. Our process is to be an exceptional team, the best team in the OUA and the best team in Canada."

With the help of a new youthful sniper, there doesn't appear to be anything stopping them.

Laurier curlers represent Ontario

Team made up of Golden Hawks moves on to Canadian Junior National tourney in St. Catherine's

DAVID GOLDBERG
CORD INTERN

Three stone-tossers from Laurier are set to represent Ontario in Canada's National Junior Curling tournament.

The team features Hollie Nicol and Laura Hickey who are two members of the Golden Hawks women's curling team, in addition to Hilary McDermott who is a student here at WLU.

The other member is Karen Sagle — a student at Carleton University.

Looking back at their run to glory, Nicol — the team's skip — commented they "played pretty well."

The tournament consisted of

eight teams battling it out for the provincial title. And Nicol's team had an impressive 6-0 record heading into the final game of the round robin but dropped the match.

Nicol believed that a loss so near the end of the opening round helped them push their way past the rink of Ottawa's Rachel Homan in the semi-finals.

"When you lose like that, it puts things into perspective," Nicol said.

On January 7 at the Brockville Country Club, the team managed to overcome any remaining jitters and ended up cleaning house both literally and figuratively in the finals against Britanni O'Neil, and her crew from the Glendale Golf

and Curling Club, in an extra end.

"[O'Neil] was our toughest opponent," said Hickey, who plays vice. "They're just really good all around."

But Nicol believes it was their team dynamics that contributed to their successes on the ice in the end.

"We don't get down on each other ... and we're really upbeat and positive," commented Hickey.

"We knew it was going to be tough," said McDermott about heading into the contest.

"But we all practiced a lot, we get along great ... we get a good sleep at night."

The ladies are all very excited

for the nationals, which are to take place from February 3 to 11 at the St. Catherine's Golf and Country Club. If their winning ways continue, they will have an opportunity to represent Canada at the World Juniors.

"[To win] we just have to keep on improving and keep the momentum from provincials," offered Hickey.

The team admits that their opponents have been a pretty tough challenge.

But up until this point, a team that has its fair share of Golden Hawk blood has proven to be much tougher.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
January 17 - 22, 2007

RECENT SCORES

01.10.07
M Basketball 54 - Guelph 66
W Basketball 59 - Guelph 78

01.11.07
M Hockey 4 - Brock 5

01.12.07
M Volleyball 1 - Queen's 3
W Volleyball 0 - Queen's 3

01.13.07
M Hockey 7 - Brock 3
W Hockey 3 - Guelph 1
W Basketball 56 - Brock 68
M Basketball 74 - Brock 71
M Volleyball 3 - RMC 1
W Volleyball 3 - RMC 0

01.14.07
W Hockey 3 - Toronto 0

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

01.18.07
M Hockey vs York
Waterloo Recreation Complex, 7:30pm

01.20.07
W Hockey vs Western
Waterloo Recreation Complex, 2:00pm
W Volleyball vs Brock
WLU Athletic Complex, 2:00pm
M Hockey vs Guelph
Waterloo Recreation Complex, 7:30pm
Curling - East Sectional
Rink in the Park

01.16.07 - 01.19.07
RECREATION REGISTRATION
Golden Hawk Lounge, 3:00pm-7:00pm

LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Chris Di Ubaldo
Men's Hockey
Andrea Bevan
Women's Hockey

www.laurierathletics.com

Beckham in the US for sport or show?

> THANKS FOR TRYING



VIVEK SARMA
CORD SPORTS

David Beckham won't be making much of a difference anytime soon.

He, his celebrity wife and a whopping \$250 million contract cannot change soccer from a fringe sport here in North America to the beloved and cherished game that is revered in all countries besides Canada and the United States.

The LA Galaxy sure hope I'm wrong. In fact the entire MLS league needs Beckham's star power to reign supreme and bring the historically struggling sport to the forefront. Not since the days of Pelé has a boni fide soccer star graced North American soccer fields.

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but even Beckham can't popularize a sport or league that consistently competes with the titans of the NFL, MLB and NBA.

This is not to say I don't appreciate the game for its amazing grace, finesse and competitive nature. Yet, for one reason or another, in spite of MLS, the World Cup and the emerging success of USA soccer, the sport has not captured the imaginations of Americans — or

Canadians for that matter.

Los Angeles already has its Dodgers and Beckham will begin play in the heart of baseball season. Football fans in LA can also get their fix watching the beloved Trojans, and will be glued to their TV sets as USC kicks off next year ranked number one.

Beckham has what it takes to be a hit in America. He has talent, media savvy and a celebrity lifestyle that compares to Hollywood's elite.

Yet he has all the odds stacked against him. LA is a city that is so

captivated by its MLB team and a college football program. A sports-obsessed nation that would much rather tune into NASCAR than the most popular sport in the world will not be paying attention.

Beckham certainly has his work cut out for him. Maybe the sporting powers that be in Los Angeles would have been much wiser to have spent the \$250 million in helping to bring an NFL team back. At least that would have captured the attention of all those football fans, no pun intended of course.



Contributed Photo

A WAVE GOODBYE - David Beckham salutes the crowd in what will turn out to be his last season suiting up for a European pro team.

> PLENTY OF POSITIVES



MARK D. HOPKINS
CORD SPORTS

While the signing of soccer icon David Beckham has caused some to question and quickly criticize, let's be serious here — the Los Angeles Galaxy have made a great move.

So what does this mean for the MLS? I am as optimistic as the next person. While the acquisition of Beckham's ability to create on offense will evidently greatly improve the on-field product, let's not kid ourselves that this is a marketing move — and a smart move at that.

Soccer is arguably the most popular sport across the globe, depending on what one chooses to measure with. However, at least professionally in North America, the game has constantly lagged behind top-tier sports such as baseball, football, and basketball. The kids are playing it, but the professional calibre of the game is far from thriving.

Enter an international icon along with his "Posh" wife, numerous endorsement deals and celebrity status. The move is already paying dividends for the league as a whole. It's got people talking.

Soccer fanatics, including locals with the expansion Toronto FC,

have been purchasing season ticket packages before the schedule has even been released. Additionally, more casual fans that perhaps did not know much about the MLS, or even about its existence for that matter, now know the league.

Some are even predicting that this might start a trend of attracting other high profile European soccer players to the MLS in the future.

Evidently, there is a chance that this deal will not work out. However, I ask you to consider the aforementioned realities that have already started to create positive publicity for the league and the game in general.

Many will complain about the value of the contract. Many ignorant fans do not know the specifics of the deal. The \$50M a year deal is structured so roughly 20 percent, or \$10M, will be his soccer salary. The remainder will come from proceeds from merchandise sales, the possibility of profit sharing, and so forth.

Some fans need to drop their negative attitudes and look at this move as the positive, progressive acquisition that it is for North American sports.

It is the Los Angeles Galaxy's owner that is writing the pay cheque, not you. In the meantime, enjoy the fact that one of the world's premiere footballers will be putting his spikes on North American pitches starting this summer.

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No place to hide the talent

Pop-punkers perform for fans and Carnival goers

- FROM **BAD HEDLEY**, PAGE 1

he began to sing "Gunnin".

The song, from the band's 2005 self-titled debut album, is a melodic track and a dramatic departure from the group's trademark whiney emoish sound. "Gunnin" proved to be a good choice to open the show, as it helped to bring the Hedley faithful to the forefront by engaging them in the set's opening track.

Never accused of being the most innovative of Canadian rock acts, the rest of the night featured Hedley doing what Hedley does best: regurgitating bland, tired, pop-punk and attempting to pass it off as the real thing.

Ever the consummate showman, Hoggard stormed the Turret's stage in manic fashion, bounding from left to right, up and down and sprinkling in the necessary amount of pseudo-punk elements. Perhaps the night's defining moment came when Hoggard drop-kicked bassist Tommy Mac.

The former Canadian Idol contestants kick sent Mac flying into his gear, thus postponing the concert for nearly 10 minutes. Once the road-crew had fixed the problems with Mac's equipment, Hedley was once again free to disseminate their not-so-unique brand of music.

While Hedley's song selections from their debut album were predictable, considering the ample amount of radio play they have received, Hoggard and his bandmates included a sampling of new

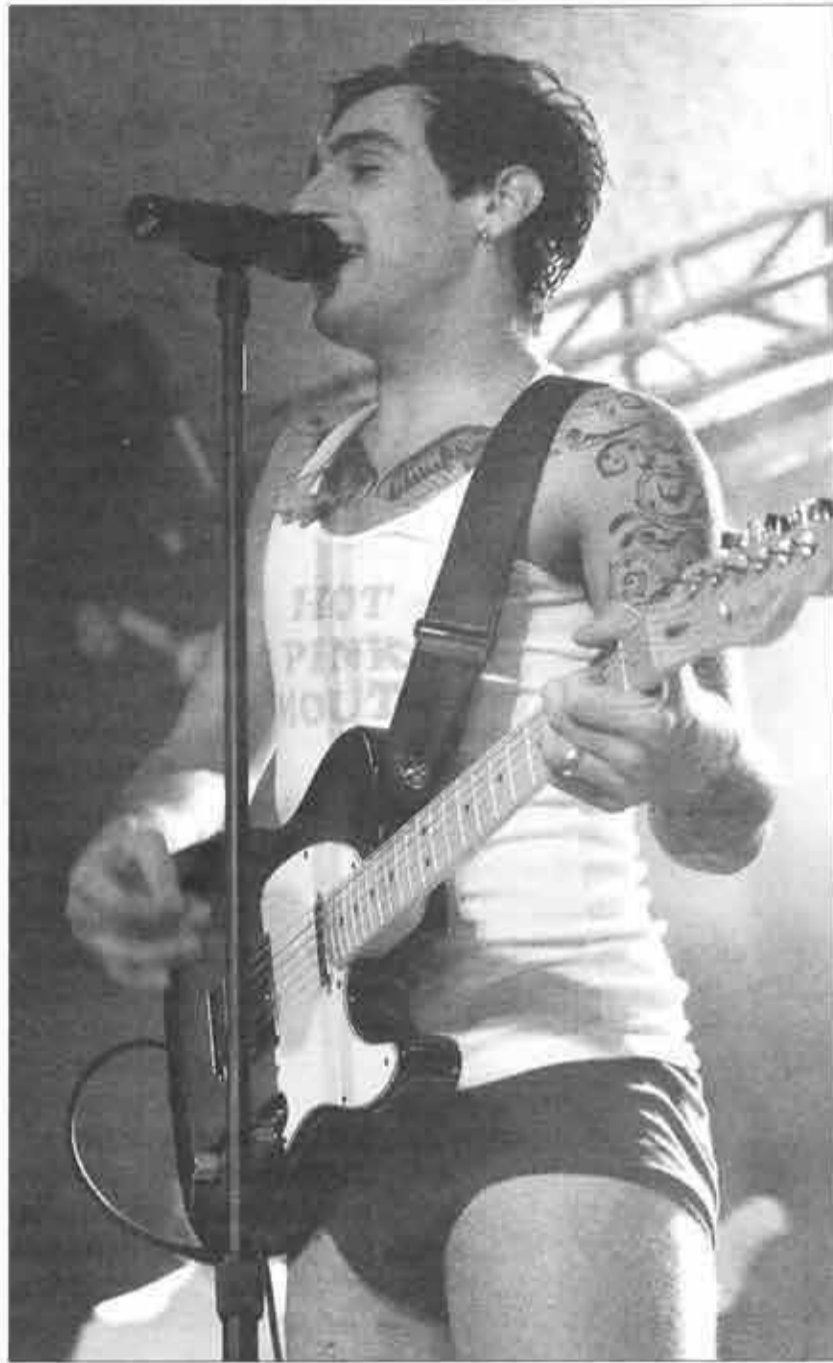
songs that will be released on the band's sophomore album. For the most part, these songs were refreshingly devoid of the nasally punk-pretence whine that has become the band's staple. In fact, some of these songs demonstrated a genuine musical progression.

Yet, while at times it seemed that the band might be beginning to move away from the sounds found on songs like "On My Own" and "Johnny Falls", every time the band looked as though they were turning a corner the emoish whine of Hoggard's voice reappeared, dashing the hopes of many and reaffirming the expectations of others.

On this night, setting the stage for Hedley was Waterloo's own Prize Fighter and Toronto's Die Mannequin. Much like Hedley, Prize Fighter excels at churning out pop-punk songs. On the other hand, Die Mannequin seemed oddly out of place on this night.

Die Mannequin's aggressive blend of rock, punk, and hardcore stood in stark contrast to the sounds of both Hedley and Prize Fighter. Considering that the majority of fans in attendance were expecting the sound of Hedley, Die Mannequin must have come as quite the surprise.

What's more, the band's lead singer, "Care Failure", used her cordless guitar to roam the confines of the Turret and play on-top of the venue's main bar. All the while, the Laurier students in attendance seem unaccustomed to Failure's hard-rocking ways,



PACKING FOR THE ROAD - Hedley frontman Jacob Hoggard gives the ladies what they came for, Monday at the Turret.

and, aside from a few brave souls, stepped away from the raucous front-woman.

When juxtaposed against Die Mannequin, Hedley comes across as the band that they are-- an amped up Simple Plan. Whereas Mannequin provides real energy and points in the direction of their punk rock predecessors, Hedley pumps out formulaic music that is nearly indistinguishable from the litany of other bands in the same scene. As Monday night demon-

strates, a lot of people enjoy this music, however, how long they will continue to listen is another matter.

As with all trends, there is a shelf-life for the kind of music offered by these natives of British Columbia. Although Hedley is not the worst music to come out of Canada-- far from it in fact-- they are a group that produces entirely disposable music that will undoubtedly disappear as soon as the current trend in pseudo-punk fades away.

Lunch time with The Zikovic Connection

Laurier alumnus and current Faculty of Music instructor demonstrates skills at Music at Noon

ESTHER WHEATON
CORD A&E

Remember when someone said Laurier's New Music Concerts were its best-kept secret? Check that. They've just been bumped into second place by last week's Music at Noon.

This past Tuesday's concert called "The Zikovic Connection", featured music written by or inspired by Nebojsa Jovan Zikovic. It was performed by Evan Mitchell, a Laurier grad who now instructs in the Faculty of Music.

One of the best things about percussion concerts is all the toys they use -- and there was a veritable herd of them onstage, ranging from wind chimes to a rainstick to a vibraphone to tympani, not to mention the forest of stands

The concert began with a piece called "To the Gods of Rhythm", which mixed styles from two rhythmic supercultures: the Balkans and Africa, combining the rhythm and chant of the former with the intense energy of the latter. Mitchell's djembe work was quite impressive to begin with, and the "vocal drumming," which progressed into a tribal chant, elevated the exhibition of skill and energy.

The second was "In Erinnerung Schwebend," one of Zikovic's earliest works. Mitchell described it as the process of a dream -- the clearest rendition of what could be considered the "theme" at the beginning, then fading and morphing into something all together, only to be silenced by a whipcrack and continued in a different vein.

Some of the most unusual features of "Schwebend" involved the use of a bow in combination with the vibraphone and a cymbal.

Following this was "Ghanaia" a piece inspired by Zikovic and written by Matthias Schmitt. Mitchell was joined halfway into the piece by Richard Burrows, San-

ja Brankovic, and Christa Mercey, who accented the marimba with shakers, cowbells, and a djembe.

Mitchell took the opportunity of the next number to show off his classically-oriented percussion training. John Beck's "Cadenza for Timpani", while no less impressive, was a bit of a change from the African groove of "Ghanaia".

It was fairly clear, too, where Beck's composition turned into Zikovic's extension. It seems extraordinary to consider all the different sounds that can come out of a simple kettledrum or two (or five).

The "Trio per Uno" was touted by Mitchell as his favourite piece in the concert. Played somewhat out of order, the techniques employed in the three movements ranged from a semicircular African drumline punctuated by tribal yells and calls, to bowed crotales and minimalist patterns, to the three performers circling around a single bass drum.

The piece itself was extraordinary, but what was even more impressive was the apparent ease with which they played.

The final piece, "Srpska Igra", involved almost all of the performers from the show: three flautists (Lauren Boyle, Faeron Pileggi and Sarah Wilson), two percussionists additional to Mitchell (Richard Burrows and Christa Mercey), and also the cellist Peter Stuart.

It, too, was excellently rendered (and possibly an intelligent program ending since it tied together most of the other pieces with guest musicians), but it felt a bit of a let down after the incredible and high energy "Trio per Uno".

On the whole, a fantastic concert illustrating Zikovic's genius as well as providing an excellent and entertaining exhibition of skill on the part of Evan Mitchell. Mitchell received his Bachelor of Music here at Laurier and now directs the flute and percussion ensembles at the school. Critics call Mitchell's performances "breathtaking" and "awe-inspiring."

He has also conducted many KW ensembles including NUMUS concerts, the Open Ears festival, the KW Youth Symphony and a number of operas put on by the school's Opera Company.

Coming undone

Laurier's annual student drama festival set for this weekend

CARRIE MCNABB
STAFF WRITER

Theatregoers looking for an inexpensive night out should check out Laurier's annual Fringe Festival this weekend. There will be four performances: Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:00 pm and a 2:00 pm matinee on Saturday.

Thursday/Saturday night:

Prince or Playa, written and directed by Kaitlyn Patience, tells the story of "bad boy" Prince Charming. Patience uses a series of tableaux set to music and narration to re-tell all the familiar fairy tales.

Doppelganger is a suspenseful murder mystery written and directed by Dave Rogers.

The Dream Blood Gallows of Retribution, written and directed by Fringe-veteran Phil Wolters, is a comedy that follows a cast of eleven playing with the existential ideas of "What is good?"

The Fifteen Minute Hamlet is not written by student artists, but by playwright Tom Stoppard. Director Alexandra Apolloni brings together past and present Fringe participants, the "Fringe Festival All-Stars."

Friday evening/Saturday afternoon:

I, Dispossessed is written and directed by Fringe veteran Brittany Lavery. Taking place in a morgue, Lavery's play is one of the darker comedies in the festival.

Now Hiring, written and directed by both Kyle Wood and Meredith Brydon, follows seven people just starting out their lives. Some are where they wanted to be, some are not--a story any university student can identify with.

Jesus F#\$%ing Christ: A Love Story Written and directed by Andrew Kannegiesser is an absurdist comedy that is not nearly as offensive as it sounds.

Dr. Dr. Ultramagnus vs. The Great Wizard is written and directed by Nadim Kurji. Kurji spoofs Dungeons and Dragons and the fantasy genre in general, and, with the most original title of the festival, it's sure to be enjoyable.

Mortimer is an opera-musical directed and adapted by Meghan Bunce. Based on the book of the same name by Robert Munsch, *Mortimer* is one of the most anticipated plays of the festival this year as it already has a fan in Munsch, himself.

In addition to these nine plays, the festival will also be showcasing several short films.

Tickets will be sold at the door for \$8 or in advance in the Concourse for \$6.

> Media Matters: A monthly column on media, culture and technology

Little Mosque, *big ambitions*



Contributed Photo

BETTER THAN HUMMUS? - Featuring an eclectic and racially diverse cast, *Little Mosque on the Prairie* has garnered massive attention not normally given to Canadian TV.

CBC Television hopes to have a reversal of fortunes with a hit show about Muslims on the Prairie



JOE TURCOTTE
A&E EDITOR

Any time that two million Canadians sit down to watch the same TV program, it's big news. Those types of ratings are usually reserved for games that decide who will be taking a sip from a cup, be it the CFL's Grey Cup or the NHL's Stanley Cup.

So, it was more than a little bit shocking when the Canadian produced comedy *Little Mosque on the Prairie* scored a whopping 2.1 million viewers, for its debut episode on January 11.

But the massive number of viewers who tuned in to catch the series' premier shouldn't be too surprising, considering the enormous amount of hype and publicity that accompanied the show's launch.

Media outlets from around the world, including the *New York Times*, the BBC and the *Jerusalem Post*, caught wind of *Little Mosque* and fuelled the flames that power the television hype machine.

With this pervasive coverage it was hard for many Canadians to

not be aware about the little show that was hoping to make a big splash, and as such the TV faring public turned out in droves. However, what remains surprising is that the biggest Canadian show of the young 2007-year is a CBC production.

While the CBC remains Canada's longest-running broadcaster, recent times have been hard for the nation's public broadcaster. In particular, CBC television had been nearing a crisis situation long before the lockout of 2005.

Aside from the various investigative journalism programs and a slate of political satire shows, CBC-TV has not offered much that the general Canadian public is interested in.

And with CBC Sports, the broadcaster's number one source of ad revenue, losing the broadcast rights to both the Grey Cup and the 2010 Olympics, it has seemed that the CBC's television interests are at a crossroads.

So it must be great news for the CBC brass and the broadcaster's supporters that *Little Mosque* has been such a massive hit. But alas, it is never a good idea to judge a person, let alone an entire television

series, on a single night's performance; the character of a program cannot be determined by how one episode unfolds.

Just because *Little Mosque* drew big numbers in its opening week doesn't ensure that the CBC has found its saviour. The only thing that will determine whether or not *Little Mosque* can help keep CBC Television relevant is if the program is entertaining to the Canadian public.

And that might be easier said than done.

Although the show contains a healthy dose of humour and satirical wit, *Little Mosque* seems to be a slave to conventions. Upon first examination, it looks as though the characters found on the program all fill their particular stereotypical niche.

But alas, it is never a good idea to judge a person, let alone an entire television series on a single night's performance; the character of a program cannot be determined by how one episode unfolds.

We've got the fundamentalist Islamic elders, the young, idealistic Muslim that wishes to project Islam in a hip new way, and, of course, we

also have the extreme right-wing conservative radio-host. Though this combination of characters is new and intriguing, the show's writing fails to deliver the knock-out punch of a good comedy.

Instead, the writing on *Little Mosque* is subtle and charming; the show is more like *Seinfeld* than it is like *The War at Home*. When mixed all together, the ingredients that make up *Little Mosque* fail to make a dish that grabs and demands the viewer's attention.

The characters and writing found on the show offer a whole lot of promise but the pay-off never seems to come. However, the potential is certainly there for the CBC to sustain a massive hit.

Little Mosque offers sharp, smart and witty dialogue and by addressing the changing face of the Canadian nation, and doing so in a light-hearted and humorous way, the show looks as if it could capture the imagination of the Canadian public.

And, if nothing else, the show offers a new way for Muslims to be seen on television, because not everyone that practices Islam is the kind of person that should fear a visit from Jack Bauer.



↑ Top 10 RealTrax™ ring tones

Week of January 8

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2. Fergalicious - Fergie
3. I Luv It - Young Jeezy
4. I Wanna Love You - Akon
5. Irreplaceable - Beyonce
6. Lips of an Angel - Hinder
7. Money In The Bank - Lil' Scrappy
8. Promise - Ciara
9. Shortie Like Mine - Bow Wow
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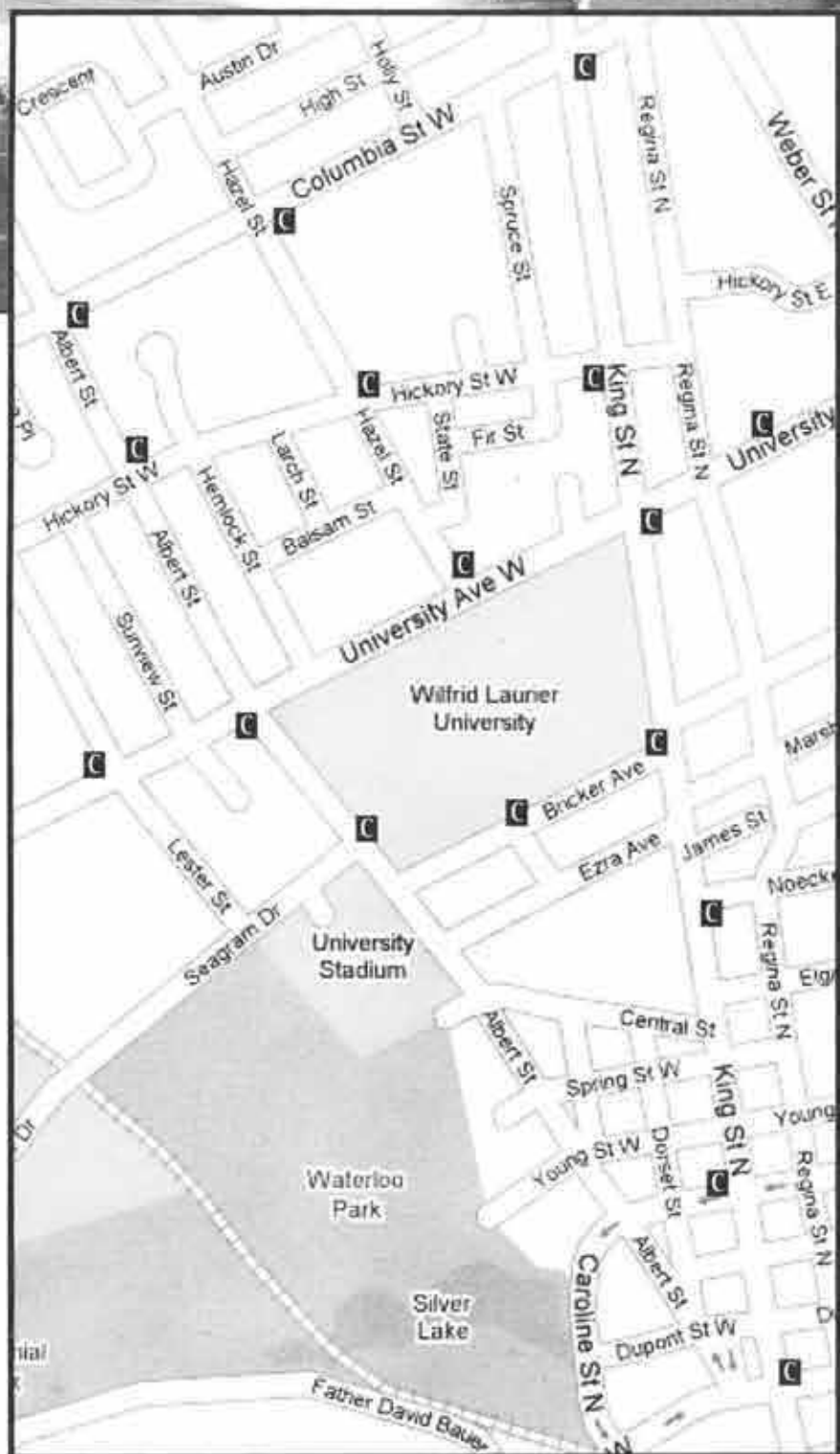
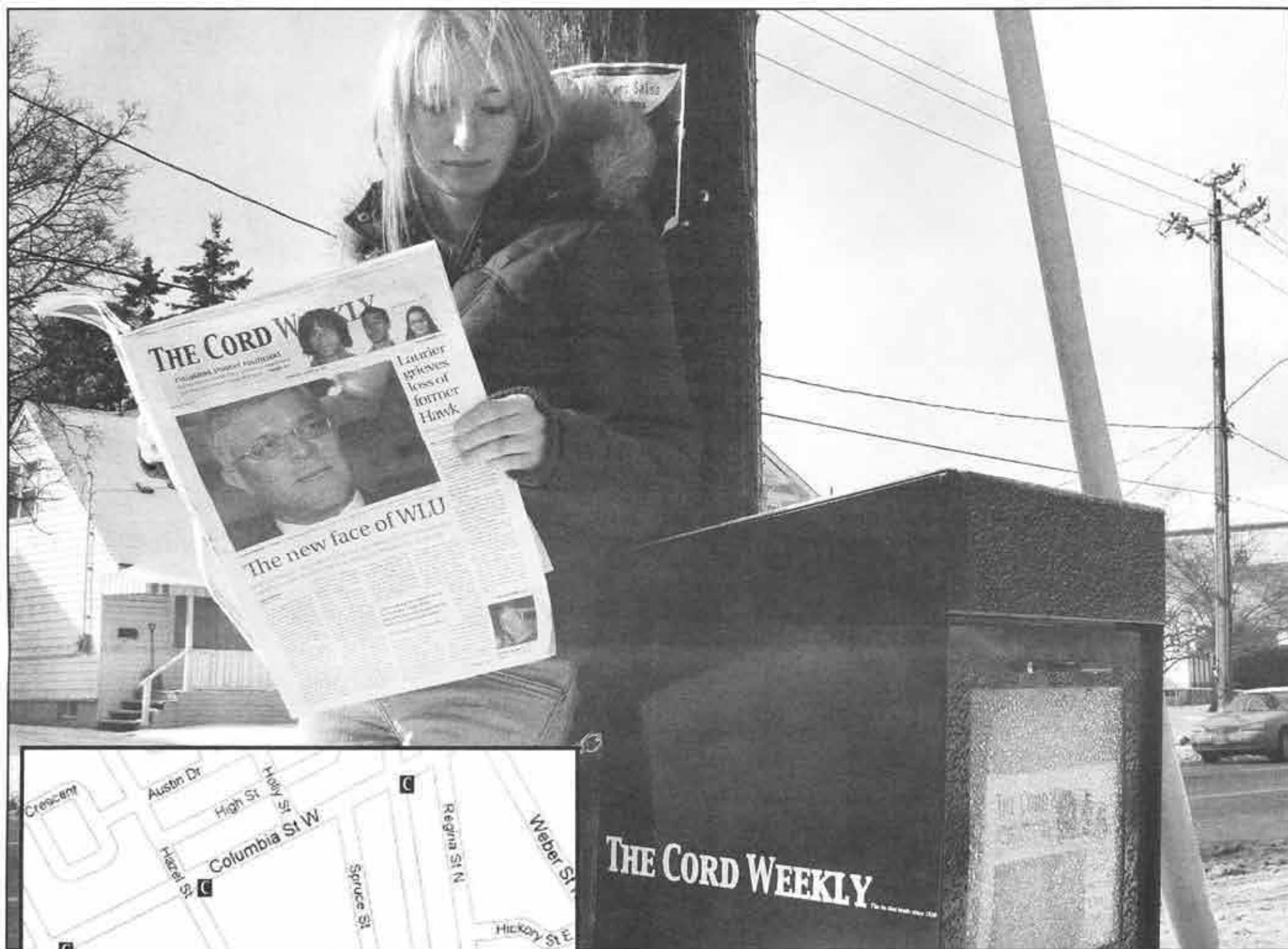
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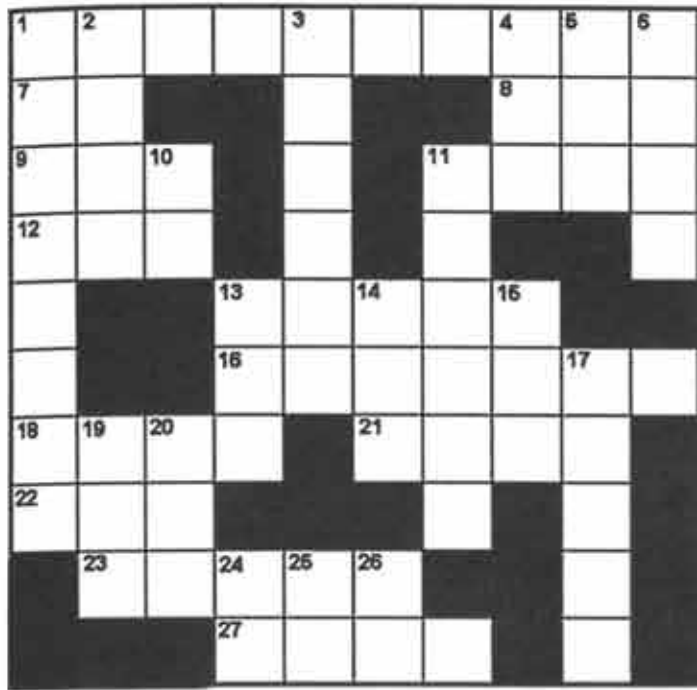
THE CORD WEEKLY

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CROSSWORD by Adam Faber



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THE CORD WEEKLY

Blueprint

The WLU'er

The Sputnik

The Orbiter

THE KEYSTONE

THE CORD WEEKLY

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Students need to care about their directors

Apparently caring is overrated. Or so one could assume based on the meagre number of applicants for next year's Board of Directors. Or based on the fact that WLUSU isn't even bothering to reopen the nominations, instead choosing to simply acclaim those who submitted their applications. Or because the general student population, which the BOD represents, isn't doing anything to change this sad turn of events. It seems caring has become about as cool as tear-aways and pogs.

With only 12 people successfully submitting applications for 15 BOD positions, the number of interested parties has dropped significantly compared to the 28 students who vied for the positions last year. But who's to blame for the sudden lack of interest? Hundreds of students compete for positions on Foot Patrol, BACCHUS and ERT, but only 12 care about how those organizations are run? Perhaps politics are simply too boring for students as BOD members don't have flashy outfits or motivating cheers.

The decreased numbers can't be entirely blamed on apathetic students, although students' diminishing interest in all things political is surely a contributing factor.

As the role of BOD members has shifted from one that saw them involved in tangible political projects to their current, more bureaucratic role, BOD members' representation on campus has suffered. Students are unaware of who their directors are and what they're doing for them. As such, WLUSU should have increased their advertising efforts to promote the upcoming nominations and ensure that students were aware of the roles of directors and the positions available.

Josh Periard, the Chief Returning Officer, blames the abysmal interest in the positions to a lack of board promotion and to his late hiring. The late hiring of the CRO was caused by, shockingly, a lack of interest in the position, with no one stepping up to the plate until Periard. The CRO is responsible for coordinating and running the elections, and for the first part of second semester, the volunteer job requires full-time attention. It's no wonder that students with busy schedules aren't flocking to sign up for a hard and thankless position. WLUSU should address this problem by paying the CRO - they certainly have the means to do so.

But perhaps WLUSU isn't really concerned about decreased interest in BOD positions. As it seems they may be shifting towards more of a policy governance model, wherein the power of BOD members would be further decreased, WLUSU would stand to benefit if students stopped caring about their BOD members. If student apathy prevails, WLUSU could make the policy shift easily and quietly, without students even realizing that their voices are being muted while WLUSU continues to make decisions on their behalf. If WLUSU management and WLU administration begin collaborating on decisions and pooling funds to back those decisions, without a strong, student-elected BOD keeping a watchful eye, there will be no one left to speak for the students. Undergraduates' opinions will cease to matter and only their money will have any say.

This situation could easily become a reality and students should be incredibly concerned. With no one elected by the student population to speak for them, it will be easy for the higher-ups to manipulate and control decision-making, without so much as a second thought to students. If you care about how your university fees, a large part of which go directly to WLUSU, are being spent, then start caring about the lack of attention given to BOD nominations and their roles. Care about them, so that when push comes to shove, you know that there is someone in the boardroom who cares about you, the student.

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



Mallory O'Brien

Not a desperate housewife



APRIL ROBINSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This past summer, fresh out of university, I did something that women thirty years ago were more likely to do: I married my high school sweetheart.

Blame it on my country roots, but marriage was something I knew I was ready for, even at the tender age of 23.

And since he slipped that pretty white rock on my finger two years ago, I've had a lot of time to think about what it means to be a young married woman, hoping to enter a professional, white collar life.

The truth is, it's quite rare to find people like me: married, with a university education, in her early twenties and with no hope of children in the near future.

What has struck me the most during my first few months of marriage is that there is a serious stigma against wifedom.

When we think of the word "wife," we tend to think of homemakers, mothers and nurturers. Although these are noble and vital roles in society, I don't think I fit the bill. I'm ready for marriage, but I'm not ready for all of those things.

For some reason, once the word "married" gets thrown around, it's automatically assumed that I'm set. I'm done. I've reached my full potential and I'm ready to settle down.

But why does marriage have to equate "settling down?" The problem is that for women, settling

down has negative connotations - especially in university and for young professionals in fields like journalism.

But for men, it's the complete opposite. According to Anne Kingston in her book, *The Meaning of Wife*, women play down their marital status in job interviews, while men play it up. She says that "in an echo of coverture" marriage indicates that men are "capable of leadership." For men, marriage also signifies security and maturity, while for women, it seems to indicate weakness and dependence. It means kids are on the way, making women admittedly less attractive to employers who want all of their time and energy.

It's just not fair.

I've experienced a little of this with profs that seemed to look at me differently when I mentioned "my fiancé" in passing. I've seen the disapproving looks from friends and colleagues when I chose to change my last name.

It's no secret that marriage has a bad reputation all-around. Since 1981, the number of Canadian common law relationships has doubled, according to CBC, while divorce rates are continuously on the rise, currently hovering around 38 percent for the first 30 years of marriage. Divorce rates are highest in the first few years of marriage.

Since many people our age grew up in broken homes, a lot of youth are scared off by marriage and even long-term relationships.

Depending on your traditional and religious beliefs, perhaps there's no reason to be married

at all. Although, girls, you would miss out on the hopelessly fun, artificial, white and fluffy wedding engine that pumps billions into the global economy annually.

Despite all of this, I can't help but think: it must be possible to have a life and a marriage at the same time. It must be possible love your husband, but also love yourself; to believe in balance, dreams and success.

Of course, to "have it all" has a cost - especially for women who eventually want to have children. According to CBC, 16 percent of women put in an extra 60 hours of childcare and housework each week on top of their full-time jobs. Down the road, when I do have children, I'll also have to deal with opinions from both of my grandmothers who believe that kids who don't have stay-at-home moms have inferior upbringings. There's a lot of guilt tied to wifedom.

But for now, I don't want to feel awkward, traditional or out of place when my wedding ring catches people's eyes during job interviews.

Getting married isn't the end of my independent life - it's just the beginning.

And I couldn't be happier. Like Sean Blumberg said on *Felicity*, marriage is "like having a slumber party every night." I have someone to lean on when the going gets tough.

I've got my spouse, my dreams and my education. Marriage means different things to different people. But to me, marriage means power. It means happiness. And, I hope, it will mean success.

Letters to the Editor

LETTER OF THE WEEK:

WLUSU: RE-OPEN NOMINATIONS

At the most recent meeting of the WLUSU Board of Directors, the fact that there are currently only twelve candidates for election to the fifteen seats on the 2007/08 Board was raised. The Board declined to vote on a motion which could have re-opened nominations, instead delaying discussion on the issue indefinitely and effectively ignoring the problem. This action ensures next year's Board will take power in May with 20 percent of its seats vacant.

As a member of the union, I find this decision to be shortsighted, inappropriate, and frankly irresponsible, particularly coming from a Board which has seen two of its members resign in this past year.

BOD Reviews biased

I am extremely disappointed with the recent "Director Reviews" section of the *Cord*. While I was anticipating balanced, articulate and well-researched pieces on each of the student politicians, it appears as though the section was used to print personal opinion. Furthermore, the article did not state who conducted the interviews and gathered the information about each candidate, nor did it state who wrote it, other than "The Cord." Did the information in the articles come from reviews by students, other directors, or the *Cord* staff? The methodology is questionable considering how little information was actually provided, which leaves the article without integrity or credibility.

I also have to question the review of Yusuf Faqiri. For the second straight year, the *Cord* has printed a review that appears to be a forum for personal grievances.

Last year, the *Cord* was all over Faqiri for his personal attendance record – why, then, does this year's review omit the fact that his attendance has been impeccable? Moreover, the statement "Faqiri is not a great communicator" could not be farther from the truth.

No other director has ever approached me anywhere on campus to ask for my opinion on important issues for students at Laurier, but Faqiri does this every day to hundreds of students, solely because he cares about students and this school. He works tirelessly and consistently to communicate with a diverse spectrum of students on campus at Laurier.

Faqiri also has spent time drafting surveys for special needs students in order to find out what changes they would like to see on campus as part of his Accessible Learning promise. Although this project has not been completed thus far, the statement "he has made no progress" in reference to Accessible Learning is false.

What is most unfortunate is that for many students, the *Cord* is the sole source of information about

Furthermore, I feel that the almost complete lack of electoral advertisement, together with the fact that nomination packages were due barely a week after this school term began, raises serious questions as to the legitimacy of the outcome of this year's electoral process.

I believe that a governing body which purports to hold democratic representation as a guiding ideology should be willing to put effort into supporting and fostering that ideal. I believe that the only answer to the atmosphere of cynicism and disengagement which shrouds the political culture of our campus is to actively and passionately fight to forward the ideals we claim to hold.

WLUSU and political life at Laurier. The *Cord* must be more diligent with future reviews and either print well-researched (as opposed to incredibly biased) articles, or reveal the methodology and authors of the reviews.

Kelly Aitchison

Editor's note: The BOD reviews were written and conducted by the Cord's News Editors, Tony Ferguson and Mike Brown as well as the Cord Editor-in-Chief, April Robinson. They were written subjectively based on a series of interviews with the elected members as well as general observations during board meetings (of which the Cord attends regularly).

New Year athletes set to fail

Year round, gym rats, the health conscious and elite athletes frequent the gym to improve their health, appearance and performance. For these regulars there is an attitude of respect and courtesy for each other and for the gym. This is demonstrated by returning weights to where they belong, spotting anyone who asks and allowing others to cycle in when they need to.

Every year however this harmony is shattered as the New Year brings resolution athletes to the gym. These once-a-year heroes decide that this is the year they are going to get serious about exercise. These individuals almost always start out their new fitness regimen excited for the incredible physique they will soon possess and have no doubt unloaded large sums of money at the local supplement store in order to give them a head start. What these blossoming Arnolds don't know, however, is that they have set themselves up to fail. I'm sure of this pending failure because I have seen it time and time again. The more days that pass after New Years, the less these people will remember why they started going to the gym. With the motivation of the New Year diminishing, the

Should two or more candidates withdraw from the election by refusing to attend the mandatory All Candidates Meeting, WLUSU will be policy-bound to open a new round of nominations, giving students disappointed with the lack of information or early deadline a chance to become involved. I ask any candidate or student who shares these views and would like to see a legitimately elected 2007/08 Board to stand with me in boycotting the All Candidates' Meeting (ACM) tonight at 5:30, immediately outside of BA111.

Mark Ciesluk
Student Senator, Candidate for 2007/08 Board of Directors

resolution athlete will then begin to make excuses. These excuses will start small, "I'm too sore to go today" but they will quickly progress into a much wider denouncement of their new hobby, "I am way too busy with school and everything else to work out."

When the resolution athlete reclaims his or her title as "couch potato" (generally occurs between early to mid February), they will have effectively accomplished nothing other than leaving weights strewn across the weight room, failing to wipe down their equipment, and being a general pain in the wonderfully chiseled asses of the gym regulars.

I am not saying that those who do not currently go to the gym have no business being there, as everyone has to start somewhere, I would rather attest that the beginning of the a new year is not an appropriate time to begin if you are truly serious, as it sets you up to fail. If you really want to start a serious exercise regiment, I would suggest starting in March, when the crowds will have died down and you can find your own source of motivation other than the simple fact that it is a new year. As for those resolution athletes who will not be heeding my advice, you'll continue be a pain in mine and my fellow gym goers' wonderfully chiseled asses for the next couple weeks, and then I guess I'll catch you next year starting the cycle all over again.

Jeremy Carnegie

Letters Policy:

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

Too much political correctness

Blunt is best with issues of multiculturalism



KATHRYN FLYNN
GOOD GIRL REVOLUTION

I remember reading somewhere that ignoring race is the privilege afforded to white people. I've always filtered out differences, as I grew up in a city where recent immigrants made up less than two percent of the population. Race was ignored because there were few community members who seemed different — homogeneity abounds in my hometown.

That is not, however, how Canadian demographics are progressing and I believe we are witnessing an increase in racist and xenophobic beliefs due to an absence of any real address to multiculturalism's impact on Canadian society.

More than 40 percent of Toronto's population is comprised of immigrants and whether it does anything else, perhaps *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, a new CBC program, signals that small town Canada is soon to diversify. Canada has been held aloft as the birthplace of successful multiculturalism, as the *British Guardian* heralded recently, which was determined an official policy in 1971.

Canada is a country founded by immigrants and Toronto was named the most ethnically diverse city in the world by the United Nations, but that does not make a perfect multiculturalism story. There is a significant difference, as the Ethnic Diversity Survey demonstrates, between the experience of white immigrants and immigrants of visible minorities. (One columnist referred to this discrepancy as European and visible minority immigrants, demonstrating the linguistic association of European or Canadian heritage with whiteness.)

There is a belief, however, that this may make Toronto immune to the racial tensions that led to Paris' riots in November of 2005. Could Canada be heading for similar difficulties? A reassessment of multiculturalism and what it means in Canada is pertinent to the question either way.

Canada's multiculturalism has often been contrasted against America's melting pot, but a preference for a communal mosaic is not what the recent discussion of inter-ethnic relations yields. Examine any form of media and you will see desire in the writing

of those who see themselves as Canadians, predominantly those who are white, for the homogenization of immigrants to a vague ideal of Canadian-ness.

We are, however, currently occupied with the idea of political correctness. In light of recently perceived fears that the Muslim community is fostering jihadist inclinations, there is ample evidence suggesting that we are, in fact, quite comfortable placing a certain onus on immigrants to adapt.

Barbara Moss recently mused, in the *Globe and Mail* careers section, that pointed emphasis on diversity in the workplace leads to a hypersensitivity regarding race and cultural difference, which risks tainting every promotion or corporate decision. This results in increased silence around inter-racial relationships, people only being comfortable discussing differences with those of the same racial or cultural background as them, continuing to foster prejudice.

Ignoring race seems the polite thing to do, considering that water cooler questions aren't typically, "So ... you're a Canadian citizen who's a Muslim of Indian heritage from Kenya. How's that going for you?"

Professor Jeffrey Reitz of the University of Toronto told *The Globe and Mail* that "multiculturalism doesn't have specific goals and objectives. The majority of the population thinks too much is being done already."

It is not too much to acknowledge the increased fear of diversity, nor is all help a handout. Engaging immigrants, particularly those of visible minorities, is a matter of policy, but it is not simply the provision of opportunities to prevent disillusionment that could result in violence. Solid efforts will create dialogue between perceived communities, but also encourage immigrants to fulfill roles of citizenship such as demonstrating their civic rights through participation in the political process and community service.

The benefits to multiculturalism are available in Canada to continue our pioneering of the multicultural society if the conflicts are acknowledged as such, and if contained through the real attention of critical persons from both society and government.

letters@cordweekly.com



Contributed Photo

DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY. Another 21,500 troops are heading out to Iraq to continue to fight for democracy, even if the US didn't decide to do it democratically.

US pledges more troops to Iraq

Although most Americans - including many Republicans - are opposed, Bush sends another 21,500 soldiers to the Middle East



DAVID SHORE
NO RELATION TO PAULY

On January 10, George W. Bush announced his latest soon-to-be blunder in his Iraq war that has gone wrong at every turn. The United States will send another 21,500 troops into Iraq, most of them heading to Baghdad to help secure the dire situation there. Most of Bush's speech over the national airwaves was not focused towards the troop increase; it stated clearly that the Iraq government is expected to supply more troops to the defence of its country and to comply wholeheartedly with the American will.

The President is virtually alone in this decision. The Iraq War, which has cost the States more than \$300 billion and the lives of over 3000 soldiers without succeeding in establishing any sort of peace, has made the President and his Republicans very unpopular. If the Democrats winning the congress wasn't enough indication of this, and if the negative fallout of Saddam's dramatic execution doesn't show it, the overwhelming lack of support

for Bush's announcement certainly does.

What's worse is that for a country claiming to be the protectors of democracy all over the world, they can barely retain the ideals of democracy in their own back yard. President Bush's policy on the advancement of the Iraq war bears almost no resemblance to democratic decision making.

Not only does the opposing Democratic party show strong resistance to this policy, many Republicans do as well. Americans are tired of the war effort, and nobody believes that increasing the troops in Iraq by a mere 15 percent will have any significant effect.

According to the *Toronto Star*, polls have shown that six out of 10 Americans no longer support the war. Most people do not want to see the lives of any more soldiers risked for a cause that is already beyond reach.

Bush's staff also recognize that this move is a grave mistake. General John Abizaid, head of US Central Command, refused months ago the idea of a troop surge. He believed it would only temporarily affect security, but would do nothing to help the Americans achieve their goals for Iraq.

But the President refuses to listen to his own staff as much as he refuses to listen to his people. Abizaid was dismissed from service, and Bush continued along with his plan to send in more troops.

It is hard to conceive of any nation that would want to be given democracy by such a man. Having lost the legitimacy of the people and the control of the congress, Bush is abusing the constitutional power of the Presidency by sending more troops.

If people are angered by his disregard for the people's interests, they are equally angered by his poor choice of strategy. Already, many politicians and historians are drawing parallels to America's involvement in Vietnam.

Much of Bush's war plan relies on the feeble and questionable Iraqi government. "American patience is limited, and obviously if the Iraqis fail to maintain their commitments, we'll have to revisit our strategy," said Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.

The Americans, however, are not new to dealing with the Iraqi government, which has failed to follow through on most of its promises in the past. There is no reason to believe that the Iraqi government can

now do what the Americans ask of it.

More than anything, these demands seem like a well-placed exit strategy. Should Iraq continue to fall deeper into civil war, the Americans can leave under the pretext that the Iraqi government is to blame, escaping much criticism.

At least Bush was right about one

thing: with the escalating violence in Iraq and his decreasing popularity at home, some action needed to be taken. Unfortunately, the action he chose could not have been farther off from the right one.

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Meet Sanjay.

To get the practical knowledge and real world experience to help him go global, Sanjay earned his Postgraduate Certificate from Humber in International Marketing in only 2 semesters. He now works as Director of Marketing for a major Multinational Food Services Management company. We think he's going places.

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Wii may help fat kids get fit

New game console gets children moving



ANDREA BATTISTA
DON'T GET ME STARTED

Obesity is a growing problem in today's society, particularly in the Western world. The prevalence of obesity among seven to 13-year-olds rose from five percent in 1981 to 17 percent in 1996 for boys and 15 percent for girls. Canadian children are considerably more likely to be overweight than their English, Scottish, and Spanish peers, says *Health Care in Canada 2000*.

While the causes for such a rise in chubby children are plentiful, there is no denying that one of the contributing factors is technology because it inevitably leads to a decrease in physical activity. With so many fun games and time-wasters available to the youth of today via the Internet or video game systems, children are less active and, as a result, more likely to have extra poundage. However, there is hope that these statistics will decrease in the future thanks to new technological advances that allow children to put in more physical effort

with regards to video games.

It is easy to understand how childhood obesity is on the rise. Society as a whole has become lazier, because technology and money have allowed for a faster-paced society that spends more time thinking and less time actively participating. Instead of getting together with friends to hit up the local tennis courts and play a game or two, kids are able to sit at home and snack while playing fun games using nothing but their fingers to control them.

But with the latest developments from the video game industry, particularly with the Nintendo Wii, kids can have fun with their friends playing familiar video mind and sports games, but they will actually be off of the couch and moving while they do it.

The Nintendo Wii is a new video game system that uses a unique controller. It has the familiarity of previous remote controls, but it incorporates the sophistication of motion-sensing technology to make it a completely new experience for video game lovers. Players must use their entire upper body to succeed at most games for the Wii, adding new physical demands to

the familiar mental demands many youth are used to.

Not only can the youth of today enjoy this system, but older people and very young children are able to enjoy the Nintendo Wii as well, regardless of whether or not they have played video games before.

Over the holiday, my grandmother (a young 80-year-old), tested the Wii by taking part in a rousing game of bowling. As a family, we all took turns aiming and tossing our bowling balls down the virtual alley on screen. Direction, force, speed and even spin were all sensed by this new technology and made our game at home just as fun as it would have been had we ventured out to the local Brunswick Bowling Alley. Not only did my grandmother score over 200, but she also exclaimed afterwards that it was the most fun she'd had in years. Essentially, it is the closest thing we can experience to virtual reality in our own homes.

Not only is childhood obesity on the rise, but adults are experiencing the repercussions of a lazier world as well. Estimates for adults determined by the 2000/01 Canadian Community Health Survey, released in the *Stats Canada Daily* on May 8, 2002, showed that 33 percent of adults (20-64, excluding pregnant women) were obese.

I would predict that this new technology will not only provide hours of fun and physical activity for young and old video game lovers, but it may also come up with products that appeal to a whole new audience, particularly with regards to fitness.

Instructional games on how to play sports, or even how to practice yoga or meditation could be easily created. People who may not have time for the gym, or may feel embarrassed learning something new - like, for example, ballroom dancing - could take joy in the fact that they can physically do all these



Contributed Photo

COUCH PATATER- Kids are spending too much time inside with their video games, and not enough being active.

things, without ever leaving the comforts of their own living room.

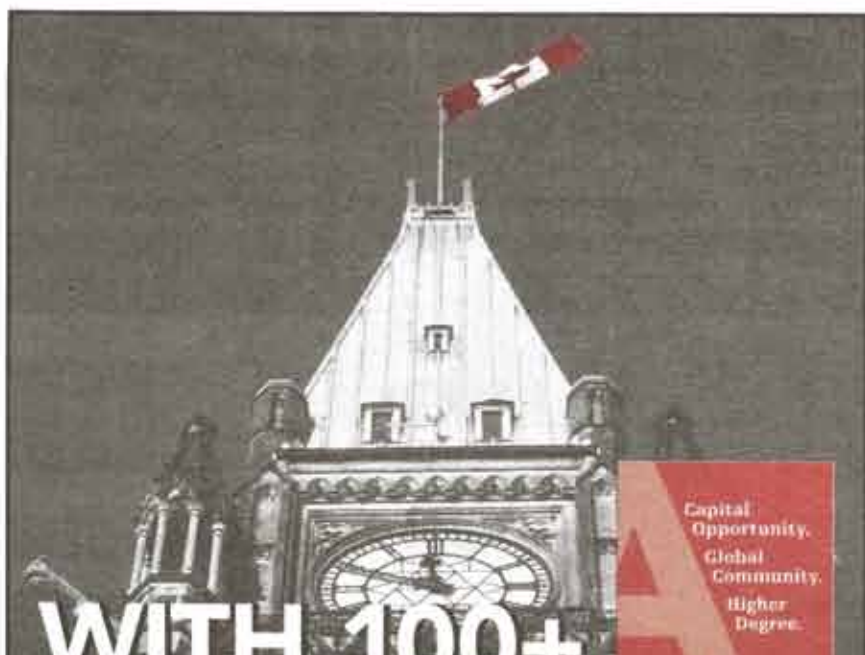
Rates of childhood obesity in Canada have almost tripled over the past 20 years, says a report on health services in 2001 from the Canadian Institute for Health Information. While a proper diet and exercise are most important with regards to staying fit and healthy, more physically demanding video games can certainly help as well.

The Nintendo Wii in particular is a great system for children of any age to enjoy. One can play the technological games they have become accustomed to and now also en-

compass physical activity that they may have been lacking before due to one-touch controllers. Furthermore, if today's youth enjoy playing tennis or boxing in virtual land, they will likely test their talents out in reality as well. With more emphasis on physical fun, there will be an increase in health amongst today's youth as well as today's adults.

Who knows, maybe even my grandmother will take her newfound bowling skills to the streets.

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