

THE CORD WEEKLY

The tie that binds since 1926

MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE?

Whether on- or off-campus, the Judicial Affairs Council has the authority to punish students behind closed doors. Find out about it in... **SPECIAL PROJECTS, 14-15**

IT'S INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY...

Women unequal in the academic environment?... **NEWS, 4**
 Perspectives on equality and abortion legislation... **OPINION, 7**
 Plus, the struggles that women face outside Canada... **INT'L, 16**

THE FRINGES OF LAURIER

Over the weekend, WLU's aspiring playwrights, auteurs, actors and drama queens took the stage. The eclectic results are in... **A&E, 28-27**

Volume 46 Issue 25

WEDNESDAY MARCH 8, 2006

www.cordweekly.com



Matt Symes

Women three-peat in OUA

After a grueling weekend battling the OUA's best, Laurier's women's hockey team brought home the school's fourth provincial banner of the year

MIKE BROWN
Sports Editor

ST. CATHARINE'S - With OUA supremacy on the line, Brock University hosted the women's hockey final four this past weekend, and the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks did what they've

done all season - they gutted it out. It wasn't particularly pretty and it certainly wasn't dominant, but in the end, it was just enough to secure the Hawks' third consecutive provincial banner and earn them the top seed for this weekend's national championships in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

The ladies opened the weekend with a Saturday night semi-final against the nation's tenth-ranked Guelph Gryphons in what turned out to be an absolute dogfight. The Gryphons used their physicality to hinder the speed-oriented WLU squad and, for a while, it worked. Seconds after third-year workhorse Nicole Gooding found herself in the sin bin, Guelph found the back of the net, as Elysia Desmier's shot careened off a defender's stick and over the shoulder of second-year goalie Morgan Wielgosz. The Hawks managed to get the

equalizer, however, with just under two minutes left in the period, as fifth-year veteran Candice Djukic beat Guelph goalie Aleisha Lusk on a broken play. The second period was a different story. Led by the defensive triumvirate of captain Ashley Stephenson, second-team all-star Lauren Meschino and sophomore Andrea Bevan, WLU took over. With just 42 seconds remaining, a Bevan point shot bounced out to Meschino, who composed herself along the sideboard and let loose with a sharp angle shot to beat Lusk on the short side. The Hawks

would ride that goal and strong work between the pipes by Wielgosz to a tight 2-1 win. Despite the loss, Guelph bench boss Chuck Wight was proud of his squad. "Our team played the game they needed to play," he explained. "We didn't get the bounce - Laurier got that bounce. That's the way it goes sometimes." Laurier coach Rick Osborne was just relieved to get the win, which guaranteed them a spot at nationals regardless of the outcome in Sunday afternoon's final.

- See **WOMEN**, page 10

The fight's far from over



CARLY BEATH
Opinion Editor



It's International Women's Day, and when I reflect on the status of women and gender equality, my head swims. There are some who claim that women are now equal to men. Mission accomplished. In a recent *Maclean's* book review, Mark Steyn sarcastically belittled the gulf that still exists between the sexes in the West. He argued that pretty much the only disparity left is the nearly non-existent number of women who are plumbers and pipefitters. Then there was the opinion col-

umn by a guy named David Berry, in The University of Alberta's *The Gateway*, that heralded the end of the fight for gender equity, saying, "we can pretty much call this a battle won." Thanks, boys, I'm sure glad everything's peachy for us women now, and I'm *really* glad we've got you to inform us of that. Hey, since you know so much about what it's like to be a woman, maybe you could come coach me through my next pap smear?

- See **FIGHT**, page 7



LE PARKOUR - Most people would walk around this wall, but Patrick De Piero (right) and Laurier's own Ken Robinson simply "saut de chat" (French kong vault) right over it. **FULL STORY IN STUDENT LIFE, PAGE 20**

THE CORD WEEKLY

The tie that binds since 1926 - phone: (519) 884-1970 ext. 3564 fax: (519) 883-0173 email: cord@wlusp.com

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2006 VOLUME 46 ISSUE 25

Next Issue: March 15

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'Guiltful. She no longer has a big blob of jizz in her hair' - Brandon Currie, EIC, in reference to a photo of an editor in which she had a large white anomaly in her hair

WORD OF THE WEEK

Debonair (adj.): having a sophisticated charm, 2. having a cheerful, lively and self-confident air. 'The guy's a fuckin' debonaire, alright. He's just oozing fucking confidence. How's that for charm and sophistication?'

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COLOPHON

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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

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

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

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

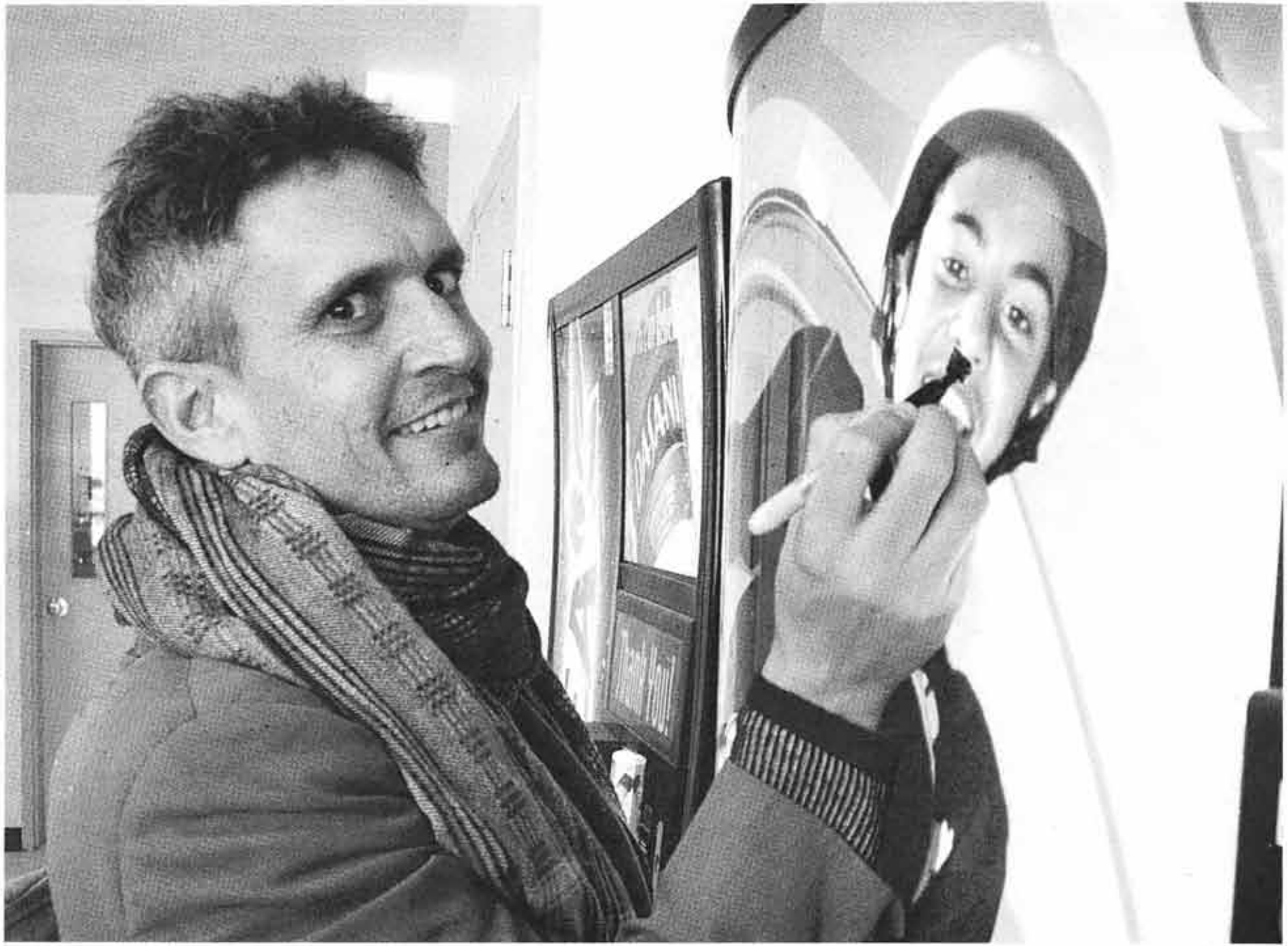
When statements are made that are critical of an individual, or an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity to reply at the earliest time possible.

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

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

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

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



Sydney Holland

LEAVING HIS MARK - Andy Bichlbaum, internationally renowned prankster and a member of The Yes Men, made an appearance at Laurier on Monday.

Bichlbaum bites back

Documented in the film The Yes Men, Andy Bichlbaum brought his antics to WLU last Monday afternoon

ADRIAN MA News Editor

Imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery, but Andy Bichlbaum knows that it can also be an effective form of weaponry.

Bichlbaum, 42, is a member of international pranksters The Yes Men, an activist group notorious for developing mock websites of organizations like Dow Chemical and the World Trade Organization.

The satirical websites, which skewer the policies of the multinationals, are so accurate in appearance that Bichlbaum and his partner-in-crime Mike Bonanno have been invited to several business conferences to speak on behalf of Dow and the WTO.

Showing up in ill-fitting ten dollar suits purchased from a thrift store, Bichlbaum and Bonanno assume false identities and deliver absurd speeches, claiming how the WTO believes that corporations should literally buy votes directly from citizens, or that the US Civil War was an unnecessary waste of time and money because Third World countries now supply a steady supply of equivalent slaves. Their antics were documented in the 1993 film, The Yes Men.

Bichlbaum stated that he is

often surprised during the pranks, not because his remarks are met with outrage or disbelief, but because he finds much of his audience unalarmed by his intentionally ridiculous statements.

"It surprises me that people don't pay attention," said Bichlbaum. "I mean, it doesn't surprise me that people go along

"I'd always had a feeling of wanting to fight and wanting to be an activist in various ways,"

- Andy Bichlbaum, international prankster

with it and believe that it's a person from the WTO saying that sort of thing because we all have this wonderful capacity to suspend our disbelief ... but then there's no moment where it clicks and they go 'Wait, this person is horrible and saying horrible things' ... and there's no moment where people examine what they're hearing."

Bichlbaum, dressed in a jacket and green striped shirt, is a laid-back, easygoing sort - rather unexpected for a man who once cost the Dow corporation a multi-billion dollar dip in the stock market

after an interview aired on the BBC in which Bichlbaum posed as a Dow executive and accepted responsibility for the Bhopal chemical disaster in India.

Sitting in the Terrace and having a quick sandwich before he was due to speak at the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall, Bichlbaum revealed how he went from being a self-described angry young man living in suburban America to being one of the WTO's biggest headaches.

"I'd always had a feeling of wanting to fight and wanting to be an activist in various ways," said Bichlbaum. "My father is a holocaust survivor, he hid out during the war on [a] farm ... some of his family died in camp. I was always aware of that history and it made me realize that bad things can happen, simple as that. Everybody has that knowledge of course, it's just what people choose to do with it."

Bichlbaum became involved in various causes as he grew up, but it wasn't until later that he stumbled upon a more appealing vehicle for him to "express his political consciousness." It started with a

prank he pulled while working as a designer on the video game Simcopter. Bichlbaum, who was growing increasingly depressed at his work, caused a controversy by programming male characters to make out with each other in the background.

"I didn't actually think it through," said Bichlbaum of the stunt. "I did it because it was frustrating to work there, I was tired of working there, my boyfriend had just dumped me so I was real ly upset ... and they wouldn't give me any time off for that ... and so instead of just quitting or whatever, I just got fired and did it in a spectacular way."

The story got picked up in the Associated Press, and suddenly Bichlbaum saw potential effects of his pranks.

"When it became a big story, it was like, what [would have] happened if I [had] thought it through better, knowing that it was going to be a big story," he said. "You do a little thing like that and suddenly you get a huge voice."

He lives in Paris now, in a country he enjoys being a part of ("Over there, politics is a sport" he mentions gleefully), and devotes all his time to The Yes Men.

- See YES MEN, page 4

5 DAY ACTION NEWS WEATHER FORECAST

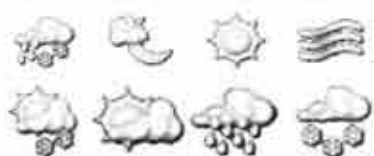


Table with 5 columns: Today, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Each column contains weather icons and text: Morning/Afternoon, Rain, Scattered Showers, High/Low temperatures, and POP.

VOCAL CORD

With International Women's Day approaching, do you feel women are treated equally in Canada?



"No, no they're not. There are still glass ceilings in place."

- Dan Allison
Third Year Global Studies and Political Science



"Yeah, I think so."

- Amanda Webster
Fourth Year Communication Studies



"If you want the vote, you have to pay for half the date."

- Jeff Scott
Second Year Business



"Hah! Sorry... no."

- Stephanie Butcher
Fourth Year English and Religion



"No, because women still make 70 cents to every dollar a man makes."

- Ofer Zak
Fifth Year Political Science

Compiled by Blair Forsyth-Stark,
photos by Sydney Helland

Knifing on King Street

Bouncer at Phil's nightclub suffers minor wounds; local resident charged

DAN POLISCHUK
News Editor

Just as closing time drew near, Waterloo Regional Police were called to the scene of a stabbing outside Phil's nightclub last Thursday night.

According to Olaf Heinzl, Public Affairs Coordinator with the police force, the incident occurred shortly after 2am and involved a 43-year-old bouncer who received a "puncture wound to his chest area."

"We arrested two people ... in that area later on in the evening," commented Heinzl.

One of the two individuals who was put into police custody "within a few hours" of the stabbing has been identified as Gary Smith - a 28-year-old Kitchener resident. He has been charged with assault with a weapon.

When asked to explain what provoked the incident, Heinzl stated that police "have not released that yet."

"It may not be something we would release because it may be part of the evidence package. So the circumstances under which this occurred, we have not released yet," he said.

Heinzl did state, however, that the victim was treated and released from hospital the same day.



FIGHT AT PHIL'S - An employee was stabbed while manning the entrance.

Student a self-made success

Laurier business student shaping his own future with entrepreneurial skills

ADRIAN MA
News Editor

Fourth-year Laurier business student Mike Bodkin has to balance a lot more than just his accounting homework. Bodkin, 22, is the owner and manager of Synergy Smart Homes, a newly-established company that sells and installs security systems and home automation.

"I've always liked adventure, I've always liked a challenge," said Bodkin about his motivations behind beginning this venture. "Starting your own business is a huge challenge but very rewarding."

The BBA student is on the cusp of graduating, and after having spent his time at Laurier specializing in entrepreneurship, Bodkin is more than ready to put his business abilities to the test. He aims to expand what Synergy Smart Homes currently offers.

"I'm looking into doing some development ... we're looking to develop a much more high end system targeted towards cottages because they need remote access," he said.

Cottages outfitted by his company may soon allow owners to keep an eye on their property from virtually anywhere. Animals and intruders will be detected easily thanks to motion sensors, and can be dealt with through security mechanisms that emit high-pitched whistles or police alerts. Bodkin even anticipates that these automated homes will be able to detect problems like



SECURING HIS FUTURE - Soon-to-be-grad is his own boss.

leaks, and help prevent further damage by automatically closing the main water valve.

Another potential market will be rural houses, where Bodkin says security may be an issue because of the lengthy distances police have to travel in order to respond to an intruder.

Bodkin has always been an enterprising individual at heart, recalling a time in the third grade when he sold rocks that he polished from a toy rock tumbler.

"I was making foolish little things ... trying to sell them," smiled Bodkin as he described his initial business activities. "It never worked but I was trying to pull something off."

His entrepreneurial instincts blossomed while attending Laurier - Bodkin credits the school's competitive academic environment for pushing him to hone his skills. As a teaching assistant for first-year business courses, Bodkin finds himself constantly examining the business proposals of other students, which he says keeps him on his toes.

"As soon as you first get into business, you're really thrown into thinking like an entrepreneur," said Bodkin. "We have a fair number of professors that have also run companies ... a lot of schools may not have had that."



Director Yusuf Faqiri

Faqiri refuses to resign

BOD tries to oust truant director with censure motion

ADRIAN MA
News Editor

Tensions erupted in the WLUSU boardroom last night as the Union's board of directors requested the resignation of director Yusuf Faqiri.

"I will not," said Faqiri, after BOD chair Laura Gray, following a secret ballot, officially asked him to step down.

Dan Hocking, vice-chair of the BOD, brought forth a censure motion against Faqiri due to the director's dismal attendance record at board meetings. Faqiri has also missed scheduled meetings with the BOD chair and was warned at least three times this past year about his constant truancy.

According to the WLUSU Governance Manual, all directors must attend at least 70 percent of the board meetings. While no specific number of absences was released, Faqiri has missed more than 60 percent of the board meetings and was subject to the most severe penalty under current regulations.

When asked to defend himself, Faqiri stated that he was "going through some personal stuff at the moment." Faqiri himself asked that the motion be voted on through a secret ballot, drumming his fingers nervously on the table as he awaited the result.

The motion carried. Following the request for resignation and subsequent rejection of that request, comments from the other directors came swiftly.

"I sincerely hope you do improve your performance in upcoming weeks," said fellow director Josh Periard to Faqiri.

Another director asked Faqiri, who was recently re-elected to the WLUSU BOD for 2006-2007, what he planned to do next year. Before Faqiri could answer, questions were shelved so the meeting could progress.

It is unclear what Faqiri's fate will be as a director, as the BOD cannot forcefully remove him.

Examining women's academic voices

Female activist gives speech at Mount Allison regarding the academic status of women

WILLIAM WOLFE-WYLIE
CUP Atlantic Bureau Chief

SACKVILLE, N.B. (CUP) — When publishing academic articles, women publish an average of half an article per year less than men, but their work is cited more often and is often viewed as a more important contribution to the field, according to Cecilia Moloney.

"Women spoke less often, but when they did speak, they had something interesting to say," said Moloney at her lecture on March 3.

Moloney's speech centered around the lack of women in engineering and computer science programs at universities in Canada and the United States. Currently holding the NSERC/Petro-Canada Chair for women in Science and Engineering in the Atlantic region, her job is to try and promote women becoming involved in these fields. Moloney is also a professor of electrical and computer engineering at Memorial University in Newfoundland.

With her background in science and engineering, Moloney decided to take her experiences in that field and turn them to the conference which focuses more generally on the personal experiences, challenges, victories and disappointments of women in the academic world.

"Voice is a metaphor for expression," said Moloney. Through her experience in communications,



Moloney argues that through voice, women not only express themselves but also ensure that what they have to say is being heard.

Moloney cited research by Virginia Valian out of New York who spoke extensively about gender schemas. Valian argued that communication between men and women is often dependent on gender and that men and women often evaluate each other and each other's ideas based on gender.

An awareness of these issues has gone a long way to promoting change in the US, said Moloney. She said that a summer school hosted for high school teachers at

Carnegie Mellon University promoted awareness of gender schemas and examined the reasons why fewer women went into computer sciences.

"There are many women who excel at university," she said, "they're just not choosing to apply these skills [in the] sciences."

Much of the disparity, she said, could be attributed to the different ways in which "boy nerds" are viewed and treated in comparison to "girl nerds". Whereas boys are often praised for spending time on the computer and their interest in the sciences, girls are often viewed as abnormal for having the same interests.

"Taking awareness out to the high school teachers is important," said Moloney.

But even in the current academic environment, women are having trouble making headway toward equal treatment in universities.

Women in universities across Canada earn an average of \$11,575 less than their male counterparts, reported Statistics Canada in 2005, and men are more likely to be promoted or considered for tenure than are women.

"One of the chief issues for women in university is children," said Moloney, arguing that one of the primary areas that needed addressing was the structure of home and family life in regard to professional interests.

Whereas women generally take time off work to take care of children and are traditionally responsible for domestic tasks, this leaves men with more time to pursue their professional and academic interests and leaves them more available to promotion and tenure.

Governments are the real villains: activist/comedian

- From **YES MEN**, page 2

He was at Laurier to speak about his experiences as part of the prankster group, which is something he is more than happy to do - to the well-travelled Bichlbaum, "there's activism to do everywhere ... things to fight about everywhere."

Later in the afternoon, he elicits laughter out of the Laurier crowd, showing excerpts from *The Yes Men* film and answering questions with an almost-charming, self-deprecating wit. He doesn't put anything past students - he thinks they're far more perceptive and discerning than the PhD educated businessmen he dupes on a regular basis.

Someone in the crowd asks him if he ever gets nervous before any of his pranks. He does.

"But it's very fun, it's a very fun nervousness, like when you're going to jump off a bungee cord."

Fun is the operative word for Bichlbaum.

"I wouldn't do this if it weren't fun - I'm not disciplined enough," he adds laughing.

It hasn't all been fun for him though. He admits how one of his pranks backfired, how even he thought his team went too far with the content.

"We were invited to a give a talk and we just really misjudged things, we took our audience to be stupid," says Bichlbaum. "This was a little group in Florida, they invited us [thinking we were] the Bush campaign ... we had all these funny props like a baby we put in a bag, used a vacuum cleaner to suck out the air in the bag, and threw it in a pot of water that was labelled pornography ... all these really really stupid things."

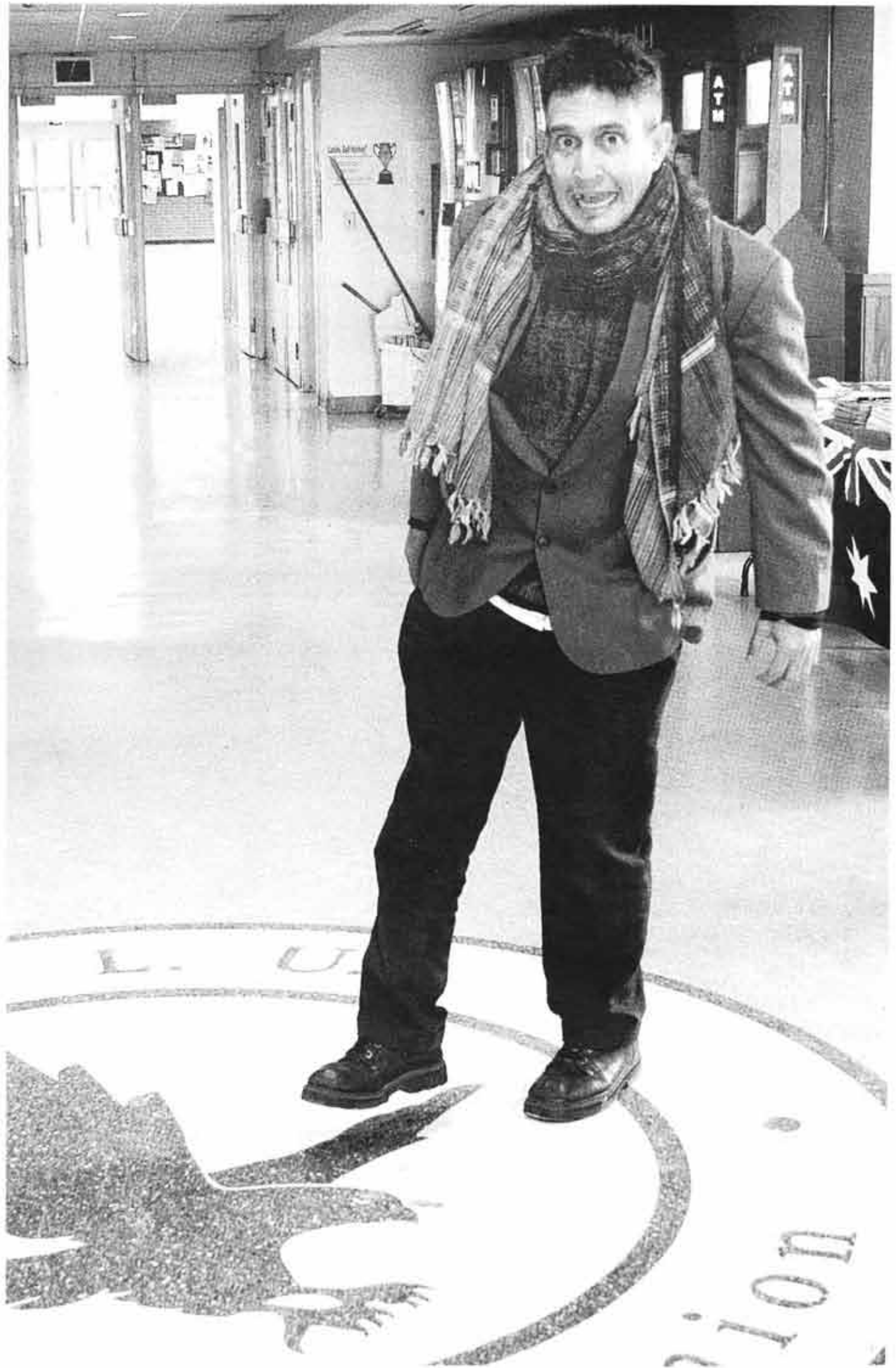
The audience called them on it, and Bichlbaum's ruse backfired on him. But still, the energetic

activist remains confident he can continue his hellraising ways for some time. As long as he feels that big business and organizations like the WTO act unfairly in pursuit of the bottom line, Bichlbaum will see them as opponents to torment with his humorous methods. He hopes that by targeting symbols like the WTO, eventually the real economic powers in the world - and citizens in general - will listen.

"The real villains aren't the WTO ... it's basically governments who have the responsibility to make sure that things don't happen this way. The WTO is just basically governments that compose it, so it's governments that are ultimately responsible ... [and] even if the ultimate onus isn't on the WTO to reform itself, it's up to us to reform it."

With every stunt, Bichlbaum seeks to reveal something about his opponents - perhaps a hypocrisy in their position, or an absurdity in their logic. It both impresses and frightens Bichlbaum how his speeches - which feature fabricated business ideas that range from insensitive to inhumane - can still be unquestioned by some of the leading minds behind big business. Until more people raise a hand during his presentations, Bichlbaum feels inspired to keep up his various facades, and to even take them further.

"We're preparing a couple of talks now," says Bichlbaum with a wry smile. "We're going to basically demonstrate a kind of managerial slime mold. We're going to demonstrate a technology to allow any small group of managers to become a slime mold and have all the powers of a slime mold."



WATCH YOUR STEP - Actions speak louder than words as Bichlbaum shows what he thinks of WLU's unwritten rule.

Sydney Helland

WLUSP IS HIRING FOR MAY 2006

Hiring Is Now Open For:

All Cord Editorial Board Staff (honourarium)

All Blueprint Editors and Senior Staff

All Keystone Editors and Senior Staff

VP Finance and Administration

Application Deadline Extended until Wednesday, March 22
for the following positions:

Information Technology Manager

Human Resources Manager

Copy Editing Manager

Corporate Secretary



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

Applications are due
Wednesday March 22, 2006 at 4:30pm.

Waterloo - drop off applications at WLUSP Office

Brantford - drop off applications at Campus Manager's Office

Interviews will be held March 24-26

For more information contact
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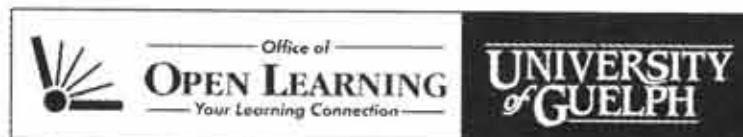
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Students should be equal under the law, not the JAC

Throughout adolescence, we hear that university will be the training ground for our eventual lives as productive, law-abiding citizens. Along the way, we may not always obey the law or be all that productive, but the ideal persists: this is our trial run for the real world.

And while academia does suspend some of the unspoken rules that apply to adult society, altering the rule of law under which students live from the day they're born is an unnecessary and dangerous endeavour.

As you probably don't know, Laurier's Judicial Affairs Council (JAC) is a student-run committee that can punish you for any "inappropriate" activities you engage in, whether on- or off-campus.

Now, for minor on-campus incidents, having a body like the JAC is a good idea. There should be a representative body to deal with student offences that don't necessarily break the law, but breach university guidelines. After all, that makes sense: while on campus we should have to obey campus rules, and be academically responsible for our actions.

But as we've seen since the 1995 Ezra Street Riot/Party, WLU is so concerned with how the school is perceived in our "public neighbourhood" that it decided to tell us what we can and can't do off-campus as well. And while we recognize the challenges that student and permanent residents living in close proximity represents, the university has overstepped its bounds in trying to be a mediator between the two.

Students are, by and large, considered adults under the law when they arrive at university. Though Dean McMurray may be entirely correct in saying that going through the JAC is more discrete and less painful than dealing with the police, if students break the law, they should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law, just as any other adult should. Being caught and charged by the real police should be painful and a bit embarrassing, hence the incentive not to do it again.

The JAC not only lacks the transparency and due process of the legal system, but it's clear that academic slaps on the wrist aren't much of a deterrent for student criminals. Spending a night in Waterloo Regional Police's drunk tank will probably do a lot more to prevent drunken idiocy in the future than will a reflective essay about why you tipped over those garbage cans.

And though the JAC insists that it deals with mostly petty crime, things become even murkier when the alleged violations are serious. In 2003, three WLU football players were suspended "indefinitely" for being accused of violent crimes well before they were judged in a court of law. While their case didn't go through the JAC, they were banned from campus in an even more summary fashion by senior administration.

While this system gives WLU more flexibility to react to their students' misadventures off-campus, the burden of proof should always lie with the prosecution, in a proper court.

Just like Shari'a and other faith-based tribunals that have recently been banned in Ontario, our own paralegal system could be perceived to be in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states in Article 7: "All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law." Don't believe us? Read it for yourself in the Concourse.

As a Union, WLUSU should be embarrassed that they ever allowed the JAC to be thrust upon their membership. Imagine trying to tell any trade union that its members are subject to company rules after work and on weekends, and that their co-workers can sanction them if they so much as jaywalk after leaving work. You'd have a labour dispute on your hands.

As much as we try to learn in the classrooms, most of the lessons learned in university come from the transformative experience of living away from home for the first time, which includes learning from one's own mistakes. Unfortunately for Laurier and its JAC, those are the lessons it should not and cannot teach.

This unsigned editorial was agreed upon by at least two-thirds of the The Cord's Editorial Board and does not necessarily reflect the views of The Cord's volunteers, staff or WLUSU.



Emilie Joslin

The decline of print media

The Internet does it better, says **Photo Manager Jordan Jocius**



Over 450 years ago, Johann Gutenberg developed and mass-produced the printing press that introduced information to the mainstream, vastly improved quality of life around the world and relieved many industrious monks from the monotony of transcribing text by hand.

Today, we are realizing the same type of intellectual revolution across the globe with the decimation of newsprint and the dominance of online connectivity. Change is inevitable.

The indications for the apocalypse of print are present throughout the industry and, although beneficial for us Internet savvy students, its obsolescence is looking like the end of a dynasty for some businesses.

The paper producers, according to Natural Resources Canada, have been watching newsprint consumption decline for five years in a row and the subsequent closure of production mills across North America has slashed and burned thousands of jobs.

A brief glance through Fortune 500's biggest money losers confirms that many publishing companies are experiencing shrinking profits as well.

For example, shareholders with the USA's fourth-largest newspaper company, Knight Ridder, frustrated with bleak outlook of their future profitability, have demanded a sale of the public company in attempts to cut any further losses. The income streams of newspa-

pers are running right off the pages like ink. The ability to specifically direct advertising towards the Internet means businesses are pulling ads, classifieds, real estate, car listings and even the beloved escort numbers in favour of the inexpensiveness of the Internet.

At one time the newspaper industry made investors into multi-millionaires and was a businessman's route to power and influence. Canadian print moguls like Conrad Black and Kenneth Thomson have accumulated billions through newspapers, but with shrinking margins had to decide between selling their investments or holding onto a dated media product that faces stagnant readership.

A newspaper must now compete with more information choices than ever - Internet radio, high-definition television and comprehensive Internet websites.

The sombre reality is that in a world of flashy gimmicks, the newspaper doesn't have the technological appeal to attract younger demographics and its popularity is fading away like an old newspaper left out in the sun.

Besides, our generation of techno-wizards has already accepted that physically searching for information on paper is simply not practical, compared to the instantaneous 'local search' capabilities of the Internet. Why would you search for a needle in a haystack by sifting through every piece of straw, when you could use a magnet to locate the pin?

When time is money, you need it now. Gone are the days of flipping through the phone book for the cheapest pizza delivery company, when the Internet allows an immediate solution for your

munchies.

With the 2006 Yellow Pages being delivered this week, what happens if they printed the phone number for Mom & Pop's Pizza wrong? Would they retract the thousands delivered in that area? Misprinting information is easy with the over 370,000 advertisers that the Yellowpages must list yearly, and the printing method doesn't correct these problems for a year. Meanwhile, print's competition can fix errors instantaneously.

Wikipedia.com, an online encyclopaedia started only five years ago, allows anyone to contribute to their word definitions and is already more in-depth than *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, which has been around for over 200 years.

Google is already compiling the "Book Search," an online library, where Internet users can search world libraries. Working with institutions like Harvard, Michigan, Oxford and The New York Public Library, you will be a portal to the world's best literary resources, accessible right from home.

By no means am I suggesting that we should cleanse ourselves from "printed" thoughts by hosting a burning of all newspapers and books and then embracing the Internet. The web is tangled in problems of its own including a lack of credibility and accessibility - values that the print industry still upholds.

Make no mistake, the print industry will always be around, but the money is moving online. As Karen Kaiser Clark, a lecturer on changing markets, says, "Life is change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely."

letters@cordweekly.com

Don't be fooled - the fight's not over

The very existence of International Women's Day proves that we still have work to do in gender equality, despite some men that think everything is hunky-dory

- from **FIGHT**, cover

Sadly, it's not just men who are sounding the death knell of sexism. I've heard female friends of mine proclaim that equality has been achieved, or worse, that they're certainly not feminists.

Women are afraid of calling themselves feminists because they don't want to be seen as the scary, militant, man-hating, possibly lesbian, feminist archetype that the mainstream has created.

Nevermind the logic flaws in that thinking — as Gloria Steinem said on *The L Word*: "It's really bananas, because in my experience, it's the women who live with men who hate men. The lesbians can kind of take it or leave it alone; they're friends with men, right?" — the real problem is that when you buy into that line of thinking you're playing right into their hands. You're doing exactly what they want you to do; if women are afraid to be feminists then progress will grind to a halt. If people like Mark Steyn continue to call modern feminists "kooky," then people will try to avoid being labelled as such by giving up.

And that's exactly what we can't afford to do, because make no mistake, gender equality is a long way off.

Berry argued in his column that women are breaking into careers as doctors in increasing numbers. That's great, but as of 2003 70 percent of women still worked in fields that are traditionally female — nursing, teaching, clerical, service and sales. Only 31 percent of men were employed in these areas. So yes, some women are becoming doctors, but many are stuck in low-paying, "pink-collar jobs," while men climb over them on the corporate ladder.

Politics has similar problems. Only 20 percent of our MPs are women. And the fact that there was even a poll asking people if they are "ready" for a female US president tells us something is wrong. Sure, the majority said yes, but this doesn't mean much. What'll mean something is when women are elected president or prime minister with the same frequency as men.

Maybe you don't think it's a big deal if women are slotted into certain jobs. So how about when subordination starts to endanger them?

One-quarter of women in Canada will be sexually assaulted at some point in their lives. The number increases astronomically in British Columbia, where 47 percent of women in British

Columbia have been victims of sexual assault. Expand the criteria to include non-sexual physical violence and in all of Canada the same amount—half—have been victims.

So I'd thank Mark Steyn and David Berry to hold their pronouncements until they've been terrified to walk alone at night, until they've lived with the odds of violence looming at 50 percent, until their role models in the highest-up jobs are the other gender, until they've been subjected to a double standard that tells them they shouldn't want sex.

The question is: when will we have equality? How will we know? Won't there always be some distinguishing differences between men and women? Unless we evolve to the point where there's no sex distinction (which might not be so crazy - we were once apes, after all), there will be differences.

So when we'll know gender inequality has been vanquished is when it seems natural, as opposed to an accomplishment, when women do what men have always done — whether it's not having to assume you'll be assaulted if you walk alone at night or being Prime Minister.

letters@cordweekly.com



Carly Beath Photo Illustration

WE FOUGHT THE WAR - But just like George W. Bush's war in Iraq, any "mission accomplished" claims are premature.

Things looking bleak for abortion rights

Threats to abortion laws in the US should have women in Canada preparing to fight for their rights, says **The Link's Editorial Board**



MONTREAL (CUP) - Last week, the US Supreme Court announced that the debate surrounding abortion is being reopened. A bill banning "partial-birth" abortions was passed in the US in 2003 with the support of George W. Bush, but did not go into effect due to legal challenges.

The fact that the debate is being reopened is cause for alarm.

It's hard to believe that abortion could become illegal in a country where so many people support the freedom of choice. In 2004, over one million people gathered in Washington, DC for the March for Women's Lives, a pro-choice rally.

The number included about 500 pro-choice Republicans from 12 different states. With so many people in favour of legal abortion, is it possible for the US Supreme Court to overturn it? Absolutely.

In 2000, the Supreme Court ruled that all abortion laws must protect women's health; this is

why the 2003 ban was a failure.

The swing vote in the ruling was Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who has since been replaced by Samuel Alito. The announcement to review the issue was made on his first day on the bench. Gee, wonder how he's going to vote? Pro-choice activists in the U.S. have every reason to be very scared.

Last Wednesday, after the Supreme Court announced the issue's reopening, lawmakers in South Dakota outlawed all abortions, the only exception being when the woman's life is in danger. However, there are no exceptions for rape, incest or the woman's general health.

South Dakota's anti-abortion bill contravenes the 2000 Supreme Court ruling, as it endangers women's health. And although there will be people to fight it, it's shaping up to be a losing battle. Last Saturday, South Dakota governor Mike Rounds said he "will seriously consider signing the bill."

A bill banning abortion—even for victims of rape and incest, and women who are at risk to suffer damaged health from going into labour—is a direct assault on the

women of South Dakota, and on women everywhere. A bill denying protection for a group of citizens is a low and cowardly blow.

The bill could go through. It could happen all over the United States.

It could even happen here in Canada.

Canadians generally assume we live in a progressive country. Where we get such a notion is unknown—abortion has been legal in the US for 33 years, but it's only been legal here for 18. And now we have Stephen Harper to contend with.

Abortion has been legal in the US for 33 years while it's only been legal here for 18.

He has said that he will not touch the issue of abortion, but how can we trust him when he's already going against the wishes of 62 per cent of Canadians by sending more troops to Afghanistan? He has claimed that his view on abortion is "somewhere in the middle."

In 2004, before Canadians somehow elected him as prime minister, Harper said that he would allow a free vote on the issue if a private member's vote was brought forward by an MP.

So he'll just wait for someone else to bring it up so he doesn't seem like the bad guy.

Don't think that reproduction rights are safe. Canadians are still fighting to make abortion and the morning after pill more accessible. The morning after pill is only available without a prescription in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Quebec, even though it must

be taken within 72 hours of having sex.

Health Canada proposed an amendment in 2004 that would make it available without prescription in all provinces and territories, but it hasn't been passed yet. And that was before Stephen Harper took office. In most provinces and territories, pharmacists are legally allowed to refuse sale of the morning after pill for "moral" reasons.

If emergency contraception is

supposedly such a contentious legal and moral issue, you can bet that abortion is the next issue on the chopping block.

Although abortion is legal here in all circumstances, only some provincial health plans pay for abortions in clinics if the wait in hospitals is too long.

The Supreme Court of Canada recently refused to hear the complaint of two women in Manitoba who were forced to pay for abortions in private clinics because the hospital's waiting list was eight weeks long. Eight weeks would have been too late.

The Quebec government gives minimal coverage for women who have to have abortions at private clinics because of long hospital waits. A woman who pays between \$200 and \$600 can expect a reimbursement of under \$30.

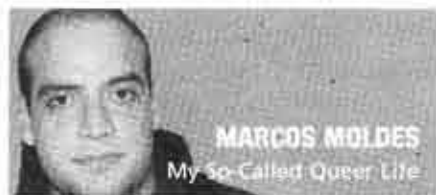
So what happens to women who can't afford to go to a private clinic?

With such scary strides being made against women in South Dakota, the precedent has been set for passing similar bills in other states. Are Canadian women next?

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Ave Maria: Check your sin at the door

The founder of Domino's Pizza wants to create a town to fit his Catholic ideology and **Marcos Moldes** thinks it only makes sense



Tom Monaghan, the founder of the Domino's Pizza chain, has unveiled his vision for a planned community that will be based on traditional Catholic values.

The town will be centred around the first Catholic university to be



Contributed Photo

PIZZA MAN - Domino's Pizza and Ave Maria founder Tom Monaghan.

opened in the US in 40 years, and will also boast a crucifix that measures almost 65 feet.

According to its website, the town, which has been named 'Ave Maria', will "be a true community, where neighbors care about neighbors, friendships span generations and a sense of pride is felt by every resident, student and worker."

This news has been highlighted recently in the mainstream press and has raised eyebrows among American civil libertarians and civil rights groups.

I don't understand why people are so alarmed that this is happening, considering the tide of religious conservatism that has engulfed the United States recently. I think it was just a matter of time until this sort of foolishness was going to emerge.

I can't help but wonder how they will respond to gay residents. Will they have public stoning events similar to those of the Taliban? In some ways the two groups are similar - they both attempt to create communities and societies that are shut off to the outside world and guided by religious doctrines.

CNN reported that Monaghan, in a speech given in Boston, said that in Ave Maria "stores will not sell pornographic magazines, pharmacies will not carry condoms or birth control pills and cable television will have no X-rated channels."

Because Monaghan and his business partners will control all the commercial space in the town, they will be able to restrict or control the sale of certain items by favouring pharmacies and private clinics that adhere to their restrictions on birth control.

But Monaghan has refuted these claims in the media, stating in a recent press release that "the town will have about 11,000 residences and will be open to all faiths and people of diverse ideologies, but will emphasize family values." The project leaders claim that the restriction of contraceptives is limited to Ave Maria University students because church doctrine prohibits the use of birth control.

Ave Maria has concerned various civil rights groups in the United States, including the American Civil Liberties Union, who are continuing to track its



Contributed Photo

OUR TOWN - The Ave Maria construction site in Florida.

development. The separation of church and state is particularly blurry in this instance and the ACLU wants to ensure that no resident is being denied his or her rights.

Personally, I think it makes perfect sense for fundamentalist conservative Catholics and Christians to create their own gated communities.

At least this way we can drain

our cities of Laura Ashley-clad bigots into large ghettos.

Much in the same way most major urban centers have a gay community, now Catholics can have their own sub-cultural enclave, although I highly doubt it will have the same colour and panache.

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Beware the craptacularity of March

The month of March means something different each year of your university career, but the bad usually outweighs the good, says **Veronica Hughes**



March is always a bittersweet time for university students.

The year is beginning to wind down, with lots of papers, tests and applications for summer jobs. The thoughts of summer sun and working for actual money instead of grades are just enough to get us through exams. However, for some, it also means leaving Waterloo, roommates, friends and significant others.

In first year it means leaving residence, never to return. Our floor, don and residence all become memories locked in digital pictures and floor wear.

Each year, March brings new joys and challenges.

In first year, the end of March generally means leaving residence, never to return.

Our floor, don and residence all become memories locked in digi-

tal pictures and floor wear. For the most part it also means returning home, seeing friends that have been only talked to over MSN, and most importantly, leaving new friends.

It means going back to a place that will most likely be the same as when we left it, while we are in no way the same people.

In second year we are more comfortable with our surroundings, with our own places off-campus, some activities under our belt and a year with more work than first year (all though let's be honest, we did more work in Grade Five than in first year).

Some will stay in Waterloo for the summer, while some will go home to work. There's a higher level of security in our place at Laurier, with an equal sense of dread for the amount of work we will need to do in third year.

By third year exhaustion and frustration set in. We see the light at the end of the tunnel, but are tired and broke from three years at Laurier. We love the school, but become detached just to keep our sanity.

Fourth year means the end of a



Contributed Photo

ST. PATRICK'S DAY - It's really the only good thing about March.

long road. The degree is only a month and a half away.

Leaving Laurier and the life we have lived for the past four years is a frightening and daunting thought. For as long as most of us can remember, we have been students of some sort.

For some of us, this means entering the workforce for the first time in our lives. For others, it means travel, grad school or college. Whatever the case, fourth year is leaving the people and the place that have made our university career.

March is arguably the hardest month in the school year. Given all we go through this month, it really should be no surprise that St. Patrick's Day is such a huge party.

Here's hoping we all get some great March memories to take to summer with us.

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Letter to the Editor

Parking missing compassion

I would like to voice a complaint about the amount of parking tickets that are issued on a regular basis here in Waterloo. So far this year I have received several. Other people I know have had similar complaints.

The last one I was issued was due to a lack of both free *and* paid parking around the Grand River Hospital area, where I had to go to an appointment. I think this is ridiculous as I didn't exactly have a choice other than to park in a no parking zone or miss my appointment. Other examples of tickets have been issued to me for leaving my car just minutes after a meter ran out (which I can see as a little more acceptable reason for getting a ticket but still harsh - and for parking around the area in which I live while trying to move my stuff in to my house on Labour Day. I do have a paid parking spot, but excuse me if my roommate in charge of that spot had flown out West for a bit so I was left in the blue. It seems these days, that you have to pay for being human.

There is the option of pleading

your excuse in court, which I have done. But even so, if the reason for the ticket is deemed not your fault, you still have to pay, only a smaller amount. I see this as unnecessary. It's simply a nuisance, a petty issue that I'd rather not waste my time on. I think the cops could be doing better things with their time as well.

Might I add I come from a small town where parking is always free, and there seems to be a sense of community and understanding. Where has all the compassion gone?

Katrina Lowe

Letter Policy:

All letters to the editor must be signed and submitted with the author's name, student identification number, and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12pm Tuesday on disk, or via e-mail at letters@cordweekly.com with the subject heading of "Cord letter." Letters must be typed or easily legible and may not exceed 350 words. The Cord reserves the right to edit any letter for brevity and clarity. Spelling and grammar will be corrected. The Cord reserves the right to reject any letter, in whole or in part.

The Cord reserves the right not to publish material that is deemed to be libelous or in contravention with the Cord's Code of Ethics or journalistic standards.

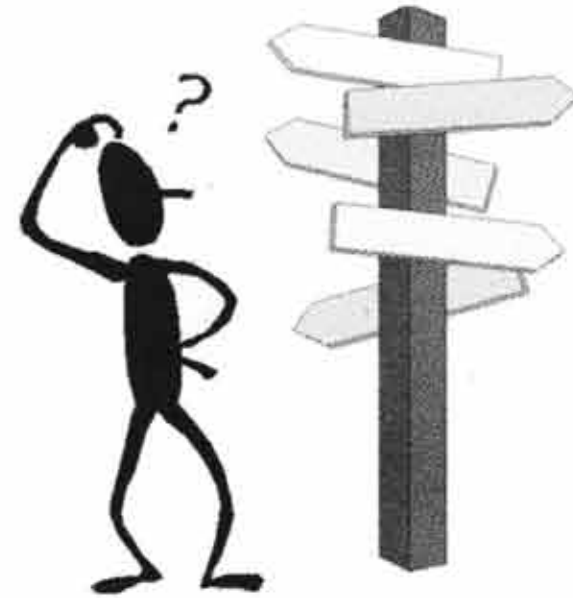
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Matt Symes

NICK OF TIME - Assistant captain Laurissa Kenworthy dekes to her backhand and slides one by U of T goalie Lisa Robertson to break a scoreless tie with 0.2 seconds remaining in the first period.

Hawks set sights on national repeat

- From **WOMEN**, cover

"The top four seeds advanced into the final four here, so we gotta be honest - any team was capable of beating any team this weekend," he explained. "There could have been an upset."

In fact there was, as sixth-ranked Toronto downed fifth-ranked Queen's in the other semifinal to ensure the OUA crown would find itself in familiar hands; Toronto and Laurier have combined to take the last eight provincial banners dating back to 1998.

On Sunday, Guelph downed Queen's 3-2 for the bronze medal. Then, after a tedious hour-long delay owing to missing equipment stolen from the Toronto dressing room overnight, the perennial powerhouses were set to do battle. Mirroring Laurier's finesse and speed, the Varsity Blues presented a very different challenge than the punishing Gryphons, but a formidable one all the same.

The opening period was characterized by open-ice skating and saw Wielgosz tested early with a couple of 3-on-1 and 2-on-0 rushes. With 10.1 seconds left and a face-off in Laurier territory, the period looked poised to end scoreless. But WLU leading scorer

Laurissa Kenworthy had other ideas.

After Toronto won the draw back to the point, Kenworthy blocked a pass and set her sights on Toronto keeper Lisa Robertson.

Showcasing impressive speed and puck control, the third-year assistant captain patiently deked to her right and slid a backhand across the goal line as the buzzer sounded, leaving the Varsity Blues in stunned silence and a small but distinctly pro-Laurier crowd in elation.

The game retained its high-tempo pace throughout the second period and Toronto tied it up when rookie forward Annie Delguidice took a pass from veteran centre Sue McCutcheon and outwaited Wielgosz for the equalizer.

From there, Toronto stole the momentum. Aside from a frustrating disallowed goal with just over three minutes left in the second period - owing to a premature whistle emblematic of the game's inconsistent officiating - the Hawks were outplayed to end the second period, much to the consternation of coach Osborne.

"I talked to three players in a separate room in between the second and third," he explained after the game. "And talking is kind of a

mild term."

Still, the Hawks couldn't regain the momentum and often seemed caught on their heels as the third period wore on and overtime began. Even the ever-dependable Stephenson, no doubt hurting from her heightened minutes, coughed up the puck. Lucky for the diminutive leader, Bevan sped back to make one of her two sprawling, game-saving stops before Wielgosz even had to make a save.

"Stephenson didn't leave the ice much.... She's been here for five years and she is so good that I want to get my money's worth out of her before she graduates."

- OUA Coach of the Year Rick Osborne

"Stephenson didn't leave the ice much," acknowledged Osborne. "She's been here for five years and she is so good that I want to get my money's worth out of her before she graduates ... This is the time of the season this team knows they empty the tank every day and then we fill it up again the next day and we get ready to go," he added.

And empty the tank they did. At times they looked dog tired but energy rushed back into everyone's legs when second-year defender Jessica Judges, a surprising hero, netted the game-winner at the 4:18 mark of the extra frame - her first goal of the season.

While the Hawks erupted into jubilation, Toronto left disgusted after a trying weekend. "You know, if they call icing on that play, they don't score a goal and it was clearly icing," noted Toronto coach

Karen Hughes after the tough loss. "I thought poor officiating was a factor in the game tonight, which is unfortunate."

Still, despite just four goals on the weekend - including only two from their forwards - the defensive-minded Hawks eeked out the school's

amazing fourth OUA title of 2005-

06, and the nation's most stalwart keeper had a lot to do with that. "It's nice to know that we have decent goaltending," Wielgosz grinned. "It's not just all offence and defence - that Kirsten and I are back there for a reason."

Even with the nationals' berth secured, Osborne felt the gold

medal win was really important. "It's a real tough league - a lot of parity in the [OUA] this year - so I feel it's a real accomplishment and it should help us with the seeding process at the nationals," he explained after the win.

Indeed, the seeding committee took notice, giving the defending champs from Laurier the top seed over the Canada West Champion Alberta Pandas, who have just one loss since being dethroned by Laurier in last year's final.

Still, WLU knows they need to bring their play to a whole new level as they prepare to meet Dalhousie and McGill in their round robin games. To emerge victorious, the explosive rookie duo of Andrea Ironside and Lauren Barch will need to regain their offensive touch.

"We'll have to try and focus a little more on putting the puck in the net," admits Kenworthy.

For now, the atmosphere around the team remains one of unbridled enthusiasm as the ladies head East. "It comes down to three games," explains Stephenson. "These are the last three games I'll ever play in this Laurier uniform, so if I need to play 60 minutes, that's what I'm going to do."

Mac drops Hawks in OUA semi-final

PARRY SOHI
Sports Writer

Coming off the first round win against Guelph, the men's basketball team was looking to carry their momentum into last Wednesday's contest against the OUA West second-seed Brock Badgers.

The opening minutes were plagued by nerves, possibly stemming from an energized capacity crowd. Fortunately, fourth-year big man Rob Innes and counterpart Bert Riviere were dominant on the boards early, allowing Laurier to open up its transition game. The duo also provided a great defensive combination to slow OUA MVP Kevin Steinstra.

Ex-Golden Hawk Chris Keith stepped up, penetrating the Laurier defence early for a quick seven. However, poor shooting and defensive breakdowns by both teams were the story for much of the half. Second-team all-star Wade Currie was limited in his scoring chances due to exceptional defence from OUA Rookie of the Year Mike Kemp and, without their little big man, Laurier trailed the Badgers 31-24 at the half.

A more relaxed WLU team took the floor for the second half and exploited the absence of Brock's injured point guard and OUA leading scorer Brad Rootes through key adjustments on defence, causing 16 Badger turnovers.

Down the stretch, veteran Todd Cooney and rookie guard Jesse MacDonald were particularly effective, drawing key charges and causing multiple turnovers.

With Brock clinging to a 47-46 advantage with two minutes to play, Laurier found its offensive spark in guard Brandon Gorman, who had warmed the bench for much of the first half. Gorman was able to capitalize off of two steals and assists from unselfish point guard Omar Miles to score a quick five points, putting the Hawks up 49-47.

He followed with a sensational shot and clutch free throws by MacDonald sealed the win, 54-49. For the Badgers, Steinstra put up 17 points and 15 boards, while Riviere led the Hawks with 10

points, 11 rebounds and 2 blocked shots.

Post-game, an ecstatic Gorman commented on his last-minute heroics: "It's all about remaining confident. I'm a shooter and I was getting good looks ... and was able to hit a few shots."

The win sealed a spot in the CIS national championships for Laurier and a berth in the OUA semi-finals against the nationally-ranked McMaster Marauders. According to Cooney, the team was looking to bring their "hard working blue-collar style of play" to Mac come Monday.

Once again, as the underdog, the Hawks faced a hostile capacity crowd. In the opening minutes, Laurier matched McMaster's intensity, but couldn't find their rhythm; they missed on countless open looks to spark an unforgiving Marauders transition game.

Despite Laurier's poor offensive performance, they found themselves trailing by only seven at the half, 36-29. In the second half, fifth-year shooter Andrew MacKay found his stroke hitting back-to-back threes to make it a two-possession game.

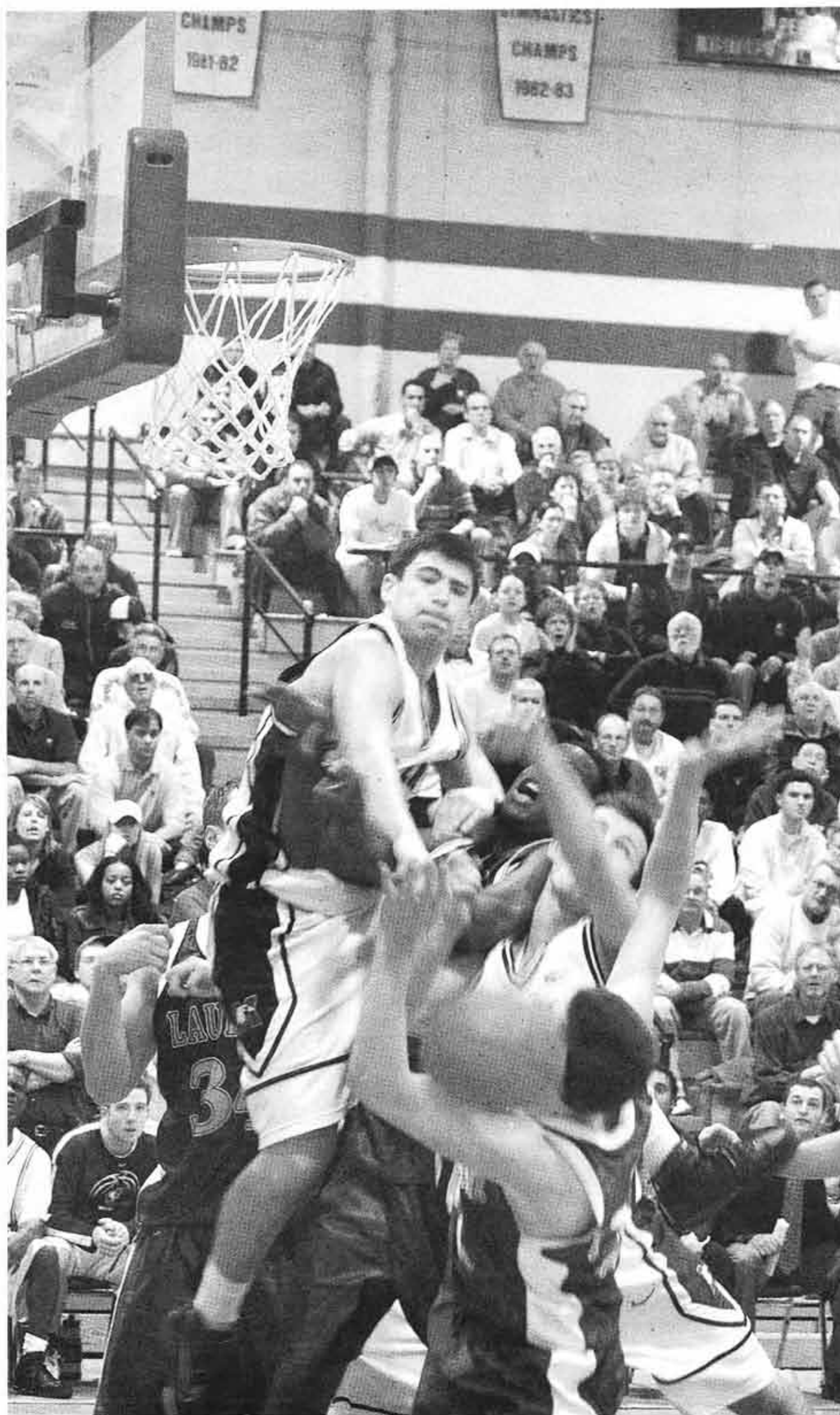
Sadly, this was the closest the Hawks would get. The Marauders simply overpowered them and exploited their 19 turnovers to run away with a 75-57 win.

Innes was able to post 11 points and six rebounds in the losing effort, while Riviere had eight and ten respectively. On the other end, Adam Steiner and Tom Lokmanis were the difference down the stretch for the Marauders, scoring 11 and 15 points respectively.

Most concerning is the ability of the team to regroup for nationals over the upcoming weeks. Coach Campbell, however, is optimistic about getting the team ready for the big tournament.

"We're going to take a couple of days off to bring them in fresh for Halifax," he explained. "It's just a matter of regrouping and getting their confidence back."

The Hawks will likely garner the lowest seed in the ten-team field for nationals, which will be held in Halifax from March 16-19.



Greg Galoska

GET OUT OF MY HOUSE - Guard Wade Currie swallows some Spalding in WLU's tough 75-57 loss at McMaster.

Autism and sport are not mutually exclusive



VIVEK SARMA
Sports Writer

We rarely hear about fantasies anymore: the really impossible, breathtaking and motivational ones. The ones that turn out to be real.

On February 15, we were given a glimpse into one such rare fantasy, and for one young student, his dream really did come true. On that day, Jason McElwain, a senior at Greece Athena High School outside of Rochester, New York, got to play his very first varsity basketball game - and he didn't waste his opportunity.

Diagnosed with autism at the

age of two, McElwain had served as team manager, helping coaches fill water bottles and run practices, not to mention becoming the most vocal cheerleader the school had ever seen.

He had tried out unsuccessfully for the team a few years back, so he decided to make do with managing. That is, until coach Jim Johnson decided to give him a chance to play the last four minutes of the team's final game of the season, in McElwain's final year of high school.

What he did from there is a story fit for a fairy tale. He repeatedly stormed down the court, dropping three-pointers and eventually racking up a game-high 20 points - in just four minutes! The student section of the crowd, who had all

heard rumors that McElwain would finally get a chance to play, was filled to capacity and screaming with joy as he sunk basket after basket. The footage provided by ESPN is truly inspirational, and has the unique ability to touch millions of viewers.

Working with autistic children since I was young, I know the social and physical consequences it can have. Time after time, autistic children are cut from sports teams, shunned in the playground and miss out on the immense benefits sports can provide.

For four minutes in one basketball game, McElwain showered these children with hope and provided caring parents, teachers and coaches with a message too touching to miss.

His story is a beacon for all of us who have seen autistic children grow up in a very confusing and demeaning world, an indication that there exists an avenue for these children to not only enjoy sports, but excel in them.

Hopefully, this amazing story will give way to more programs that allow autistic children a chance to play a variety of sports and to the organization of "non-tryout" teams in schools across the continent.

Many children have countless memories of participating in sports and playing on playgrounds with friends. It is socially unjust for those children afflicted with autism to be robbed of that chance and the memories that sport can provide.

Hopefully, McElwain's amazing performance, which made its way onto *Good Morning America* and *CNN*, can open closed doors. Sports have the ability to grip a nation with tension, fill it with joy or sorrow (as the recently-completed Olympics so aptly prove) and, in McElwain's case, to steal the national spotlight. Now, we need that spotlight to be shone on the autistic community, allowing these children to have their own McElwain moments.

We live in a North American culture obsessed with stats, payrolls and playoffs. Why not live in one that focuses on sports' positive social consequences? Hopefully, Jason McElwain's stunning performance made that fantasy a little more attainable.

Wolves howling after win over WLU

Hawks forced to take long road to Edmonton via bronze medal match at Trois Rivieres, QC

DAN POLISCHUK
News Editor

With the tune "Rock You Like a Hurricane" introducing Laurier's men's hockey team back onto the ice for the final period in the OUA West final, fans couldn't help but hope for an offensive storm to save their team's gold medal chances.

In the end though, it was the ability of the Lakehead Thunderwolves to 'ride out' the Laurier attack that consequently got them past the Hawks and into next Saturday's OUA Final.

Sunday night's 4-2 game three loss capped off a hard-fought series for WLU. Having lost 4-1 in the opener up in Thunder Bay, the team travelled back home, where they were 12-2 up to that point, for the final two games. Consequently, they won the second contest by a 4-2 score to force the deciding game.

Disappointed Laurier head coach Steve Martell easily gave credit to the victors for their strong effort against his squad, who were denied a chance at an OUA Championship for the 16th-straight season.

"They earned it," said Martell. "We gave up a couple of soft ones in the second ... They capitalized, and in the playoffs, you can't have that."

"We generated a lot of offence and didn't capitalize on our chances. That's hockey, right? They capitalized and we didn't."

The sombre mood weighing down the Laurier dressing room was obviously not marring the evening for the visiting T'Wolves though, with Coach Pete Belliveau singing his team's praises for the team's ability to not get "rattled".

"We've been a character team all year. We never take things easy,"



Sydney Helland

WELL, DAMN - The Hawks gave it their all, but eventually bowed out in game three of the OUA semi-finals.

explained Belliveau. "We've played well on the road this year ... There's over 50 years of CIS experience among the coaches and players and it showed tonight."

"We wish we would've won on Friday night ... I thought we came here and we worked hard, and we stuck together and we stuck to the game plan. We didn't get rattled at all with the penalties; we knew we were gonna get 'em," he added.

Lakehead's victory overshadowed a strong outing by WLU rookie forward Luke Girard. While he got a chance to celebrate two goals on the ice during the game, his plans to do so after the game

were all for naught.

"There's no way to describe it," said Girard, explaining how demoralizing the defeat was.

"We're just devastated. We have another road to get to Nationals - it's just more winding. It's a harder road but we're going to get there."

The road that Girard speaks of leads up to Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, where the Hawks must win a bronze medal match with University of Quebec at Trois Rivieres on Saturday. The victory would allow the team to move on to Edmonton as the third and final representative of the OUA.

"Fortunately we're facing a team

that is similar to us. They lost their series to McGill, so we'll have to go down there ... and get back to the drawing board," commented Martell.

Coach Belliveau had more reason to be excited for his upcoming match against the second-ranked team from McGill.

"It feels great [to qualify for nationals]... but obviously now we want to win that Queen's Cup.

"We'll have our work cut out for us [against McGill], no doubt about it," he said.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
March 9 - March 15, 2006

03/05/06

W Hockey 2, Toronto 1
OUA Championship

M Hockey 2, Lakehead 4
OUA Semi-Final (Game 3 of 3)

03/04/06

W Hockey 2, Guelph 1
OUA Semi-Final

03/03/06

M Hockey 4, Lakehead 2
OUA Semi-Final (Game 2 of 3)

03/01/06

M Basketball 54, Brock 49
OUA Quarter-Final

M Hockey 1, Lakehead 4
OUA Semi-Final (Game 1 of 3)

UPCOMING GAMES

March 9-11, 2006

Women's Hockey
CIS Championships
Antigonish, Nova Scotia

March 11, 2006

M Hockey vs UQTR
OUA Bronze Medal

March 16-18, 2006

Men's Basketball
CIS Championships
Halifax, Nova Scotia

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Men's Basketball

Jessica Judges
Women's Hockey

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M9948LL/A, M8852LL/B

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M9969LL/A, M8853LL/B

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AppleCare Protection Plan

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M9592LL/A, M8850LL/B

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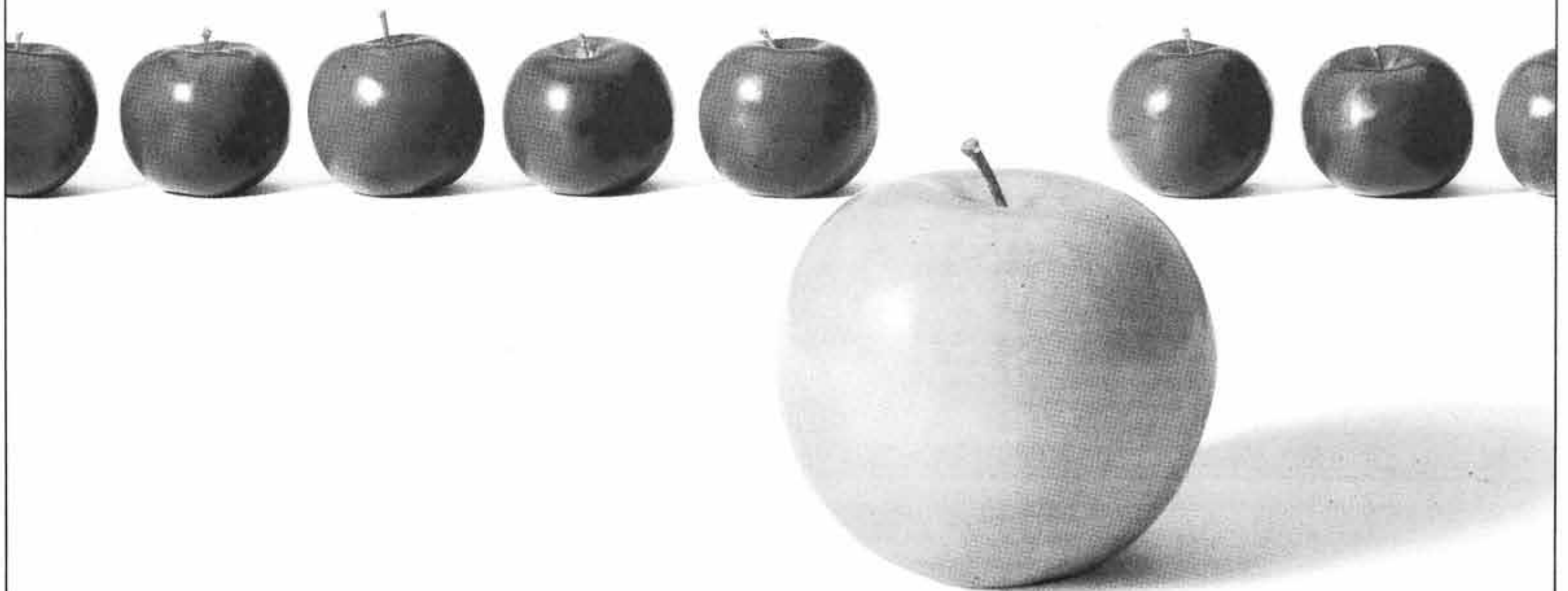
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IT'S NOT ABOUT BEING DIFFERENT... IT'S ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT INNOVATION LEADERSHIP ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



Innocent until proved



The Judicial Affairs Council is a student body at WLU that can punish any student for misdeeds both on and off-campus – from sign-stealing to urinating in public. But it's disputable whether the JAC should have jurisdiction over the private lives of students whether our rights are truly protected under the current Student Code of Conduct

APRIL CUNNINGHAM
Special Projects Editor

Somewhere in a deep, dark corner of the Dean of Students' office lies the mysterious headquarters of the Judicial Affairs Council (JAC).

For many, this is a place of power and dread, but more often than not it is a mythic tale of the unknown.

The JAC is typically only mentioned as a passing threat by Waterloo by-law officers and regional police to the hordes of drunk and disorderly Laurier students walking home from the bar late at night. But it is a mechanism that serves to deal with students' inappropriate conduct both on and off-campus.

When police or by-law officers think an expensive ticket or a night in the drunk-tank is just not appropriate, they'll take down students' names and pass them on to Laurier security, who then send cases to the JAC for review.

"If I was a student, I'd rather have something dealt with internally than be arrested by the police and thrown in jail," says David McMurray, Dean of Students, who plays an advisory role on the JAC.

But McMurray says the "overwhelming majority" of cases that the council sees are considered extremely minor, such as underage drinking or minor altercations in the Turret or Wilf's that have been passed on through internal security channels.

Nonetheless, the JAC, made up completely of students, can determine the punishment of students' non-academic wrongdoings.

This can range from "no further action," to disciplinary probation, where, for instance, if a student was caught drinking underage, they would need to wait one year after their nineteenth birthday before they could return to an on-campus bar. Other possible actions by the JAC include reflective essays, community service, restitution of costs or letters of apology.

In some cases, the JAC receives the offense notice from police with a recommended fine of anywhere from \$50 to \$300, and the council will consider adjusting the fine after hearing from the alleged offender.

According to the code of conduct, students who disagree with the JAC's decision may appeal to Dr. Rosehart, President of WLU, whose decision is final.

McMurray says that what defines the JAC is that "information in these hearings is extremely confidential."

"That's why I think it's a better program than the campuses who handle them through their academic faculties," he adds. "Unless the situation is serious enough to warrant suspension or expulsion, the information never leaves this office."

The situation at Laurier is fairly unique. York University and Western

also have student bodies that handle student misconducts but schools handle such problems through administrative channels.

At the University of Waterloo, if a student is caught drinking and is involved in some form of misconduct, the bar manager will cite the student for that offence.

Then the member of the student body, who is currently the Food Services, will send the student a letter indicating the penalty.

"To me it's not appropriate to write a code of conduct that acknowledges right and wrong something simple and overdue."

- Matt

The student can appeal the decision to a committee that includes student representatives.

"We do a lot of things through our partnership with students and administration. It fits with how we do most things," says Bud Walcott, director of business operations at UWaterloo.

Without intrusion of the student body, admin, Caitlin Dobie, the chair of Laurier's JAC, believes that the current board is more beneficial to

Overn 'inappropriate'

...ish any student for
...g in public. But it's
...te lives of students and
...Code of Conduct

...also have student bodies that review
...student misconducts but most other
...schools handle such problems through
...administrative channels.

At the University of Waterloo, if a
...student is caught drinking underage or
...is involved in some form of violence,
...the bar manager will cite the student
...for that offence.

Then the member of the bar direc-
...torate, who is currently the Director of
...Food Services, will send that student a
...letter indicating the penalty.

**"To me it's not appropriate to
write a code of conduct without
acknowledging rights ... It's
something simple that I think is
overdue."**

- Matt Park, WLUSU director

The student can appeal the process,
...in which case the issue is passed to a
...committee that includes students.

"We do a lot of things that way ... in
...partnership with students and admin-
...istration. It fits with how we handle
...most things," says Bud Walker, director
...of business operations at UW.

Without intrusion of university
...admin, Caitlin Dobbie, the current chair
...of Laurier's JAC, believes the advisory
...board is more beneficial to students.

"In my opinion, the JAC is incredi-
...bly reasonable," she says. "The most
...important thing about the JAC is we're
...all peers ... we can relate."

But despite the council's efforts to
...remain fair in elements of "natural jus-
...tice," which include the right to a fair
...hearing and access to information,
...some concerned students have
...stepped up to improve students rights.

Matt Park, currently a director on
...the WLUSU board, ran on a platform of
...student rights specifically aimed at the
...Student Code of Conduct.

He is working with VP: University
...Affairs, Jen Mitchell, to revamp the
...code. It hasn't been touched since
...McMurray took over as Dean of
...Students from Fred Nichols in 1997.

"To me it's not appropriate to write
...a code of conduct without acknowl-
...edging rights," he says. "It's something
...simple that I think is overdue."

The two also want to ensure that
...the requirements the code places on a
...non-academic stance are fair, and that it
...actually pertains to the university
...and the student's involvement
...of the university.

This is where the line gets
...blurry.

McMurray believes that the
...people who built the code of
...conduct felt that "since we
...have such a high population of
...students in public neighbour-
...hoods, we have a responsibility to be
...good citizens."

After all, the Ezra Street Riots of
...1995 proved that Laurier students can
...be a rowdy bunch.

On April 22, 1995, an annual year-
...end neighbourhood bash, turned ugly
...when 1,500 students gathered on the
...street to drink and party.

Police, the City of Waterloo and the
...university were preparing themselves
...for the bash since the year before near-

ly 600 students gathered and caused
...quite a ruckus.

But when police proactively tossed
...any student who set foot on the street
...with a drink in their hand in waiting
...paddy wagons, things got ugly.

Students began throwing beer bot-
...tles at officers from rooftops, injuring
...ten. By the end of the night 42 arrests
...were made, nine criminal charges were
...laid, and two life-threatening injuries
...occurred: WLU student Stephen
...Mitchell was hit by a car and WLU
...student Linda Silva was struck in the
...face by a broken piece of concrete, reported
...*The Cord*.

It was a night that is reminiscent of
...Queen's homecoming riots this past
...September.

It also solidified Laurier's hard, no-
...tolerance stance on hurting the public
...image of the university off-campus.

After that point, the JAC was
...restructured, Waterloo by-laws were
...tightened up, and the annual "Year-
...End Party" was born (a highly con-
...trolled on-campus bash held in Wilf's,
...the Turret, and The Quad to stop peo-
...ple from starting unrestrained street
...parties).

Still, Dobbie says that in her four
...years on the council, she has not seen
...too many cases dealing with off-cam-
...pus matters.

"The JAC isn't really about off-cam-
...pus issues," she says.

But the question remains over what
...can happen if the intruding arms of the
...university reach into private, off-cam-
...pus life when parties or violence get
...out of hand.

McMurray says that to be expelled,
...the situation would have to be

"extraordinarily serious."

"If you were arrested and jailed, the
...university could, and has temporarily
...suspended students based on the out-
...comes of the criminal charges," he
...says.

"I'd be concerned of a severe penal-
...ty if I brought a weapon, and I was
...endangering the safety of other peo-
...ple," adds Dobbie.

**After the Ezra Street Riots, the
JAC was restructured, Waterloo
by-laws were tightened up, and
the annual WLUSU Year-End
Party was born.**

But she assures that these sorts of
...penalties almost never arise. In her
...four years, "there was only one in-
...cidence where we came very close," she
...says.

Dobbie also explained that McMurray
...takes care of "emergency situations."

This was the case with Laurier's all-
...star varsity football running back,
...Derek Medler, who was charged in
...relation to a shooting and who failed a
...cocaine drug test by the Canadian
...Interuniversity Sport (CIS) in
...November of 2003. He was suspended
...from Laurier "indefinitely" before
...appearing in court for a verdict.

Just days earlier, Jeff Melis and Ryan
...McGuffin, also football players, were
...suspended as a result of their involve-
...ment in the beating of a UW man and

an ensuing charge of aggravated
...assault. They appeared in court on
...November 28, 2003, and were released
...on \$10,000 bail -- after which point
...they were suspended, before a verdict
...was reached.

Neither case reached the JAC but
...were immediately forwarded to the
...Dean of Students and the President of
...WLU, Dr. Robert Rosehart, who ulti-
...mately has the final veto in
...student expulsions.

"The university has an
...obligation to respond in a
...responsible manner,"
...McMurray told *The Cord* in
...December of 2003. He
...claimed the suspension of the
...three athletes was in the inter-
...est of safety for Laurier stu-
...dents.

So whether it's keg parties
...or chucking snowballs at cop
...cruisers, the JAC isn't really about big
...time crime.

But it remains to be seen whether
...the power in this little body of student
...councillors will make fair changes to
...the code of conduct that clearly define
...the lines between university punish-
...ment and the fair treatment of adults
...living on their own.

"There's no question in my mind
...that [in] a campus where the commu-
...nity and student community is so
...strong that a peer judicial process is
...the most ideal," says McMurray. "As
...long as it's taken seriously."

> Editorial reaction to this story on PAGE 6





Contributed Photo

CRUEL AND UNUSUAL - Death by stoning is still practiced in countries such as Iran. Women are buried up to their breasts and slowly bludgeoned to death for a variety of 'crimes'.

Women still denied justice

Cultural traditions, economic systems and ineffective criminal justice systems continue to suppress women's rights around the world

TONY FERGUSON
International Editor

Although International Women's Day is intended to be celebrated worldwide, many countries still lag behind in their recognition of women's rights.

"In some countries, women still can't go to school, women don't have access to certain basic things," says Edna Aryee, a graduate student at Laurier and outreach assistant for World Wide Opportunities for Women (WWOW) in Kitchener.

This, in addition to women being denied basic rights in other regions, such as the right to attend school, have a salary or even drive a car, is still happening.

Aryee blames residual cultural customs that put women's rights on the back burner.

"We still have more work to be done because we have places where traditional values ... dominate so much that people don't

really respect what international law is saying," she says.

Cheryl Hotchkiss, Women's Rights Campaigner for Amnesty International in Ottawa, told *The Cord* that this was a matter of open dialogue.

The more people are able to discuss these issues among themselves, the easier it becomes to address them.

"What you find increasingly is that people are engaged in a conversation dialogue examining these traditions ... and whether they really are central to ensuring that people live according to their beliefs, and do they need them?" she asked.

Part of the problem also lies in the criminal justice system. Developed countries such as Canada are fortunate to have well developed criminal justice systems to which mistreated women can turn.

For less developed countries, this is a different story.

The judiciary in some countries cannot effectively address women's issues and the systems in others are nearly non-existent. This gives little protection to women who are denied employment on the basis of their sex, battered by their spouses or raped.

But, the problems that women face in developing countries are not as black and white as they might seem.

"We still have more work to be done because we have places where traditional values dominate so much"

- Edna Aryee, Outreach Assistant, WWOW

Imposing a ban on traditions like female genital mutilation (FGM), practiced in many parts of Africa, might not be as effective as attacking the problem from another angle.

Hotchkiss explained that in a region where women have little access to jobs, the only way to survive is to marry a man who does have access to these things. In

order to get married, however, girls must go through the procedure of FGM which involves the removal of the clitoris and sewing shut of the labia. This ensures that they will remain virgins until marriage; a status that plays a huge part in who a man will choose to marry.

"If you examine that whole cycle and work your way backwards, there are ways to stop the practice by dealing with some of the other issues surrounding it," said Hotchkiss.

She says giving women access to capital would be more effective than a ban on FGM. If women are able to provide for themselves, they would not need marriage to survive.

This is currently happening in some developing countries, such as Ghana.

This African nation is well on its way to achieving equality for women. Men's and women's jobs are paid the same and men even have the option of going on maternity leave with their wives to help care for them.

INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S
DAY

"I think Ghana is a country where women are very active when it comes to fighting for the rights of women," says Aryee, a native of Ghana.

But although we seem to have a relatively equal society in Canada, Aryee says the battle is still not over.

"I think that we still have to fight," said Aryee. "In developed countries such as Canada, you look around and you think everything is fine - but everything is not fine, women are still being battered and discriminated against."

"People shouldn't think it's a day where women are fighting men. Men are not our enemies, they are our allies," says Aryee, "but what we are saying is that it's a time where women tell the world to hear our voice, to listen to us ... and give us the opportunity for us to develop to our fullest potential."

Activist slams Canada's role in Haiti

STACEY IVITS
Cord International

Last Wednesday, Haitian doctor, professor, politician and activist Patrick Elie came to speak at Laurier on behalf of Canada Haiti Action Network (CHAN), an organization working to assert Haitian sovereignty.

Along his 18-city tour across the country, his message to Canadians is simple: stop interfering in Haitian democracy.

"Haiti is at a juncture now that is just about as important as it was 200 years ago," Elie explained. "Back then the fight was against slavery ... now it is [for] democracy. And I mean real democracy, not a mock democracy."

According to Elie, when the US, Canada and France led a UN-intervention in Haiti two years ago, "it was only the last episode in a long series of attempts to crush that struggle [for democracy]."

He went on to explain that in 2004, Aristide's democratically-elected government was ousted on behalf of Haiti's elite, and that the interim government has been roundly criticized by numerous human rights organizations, with over 1,500 people killed during

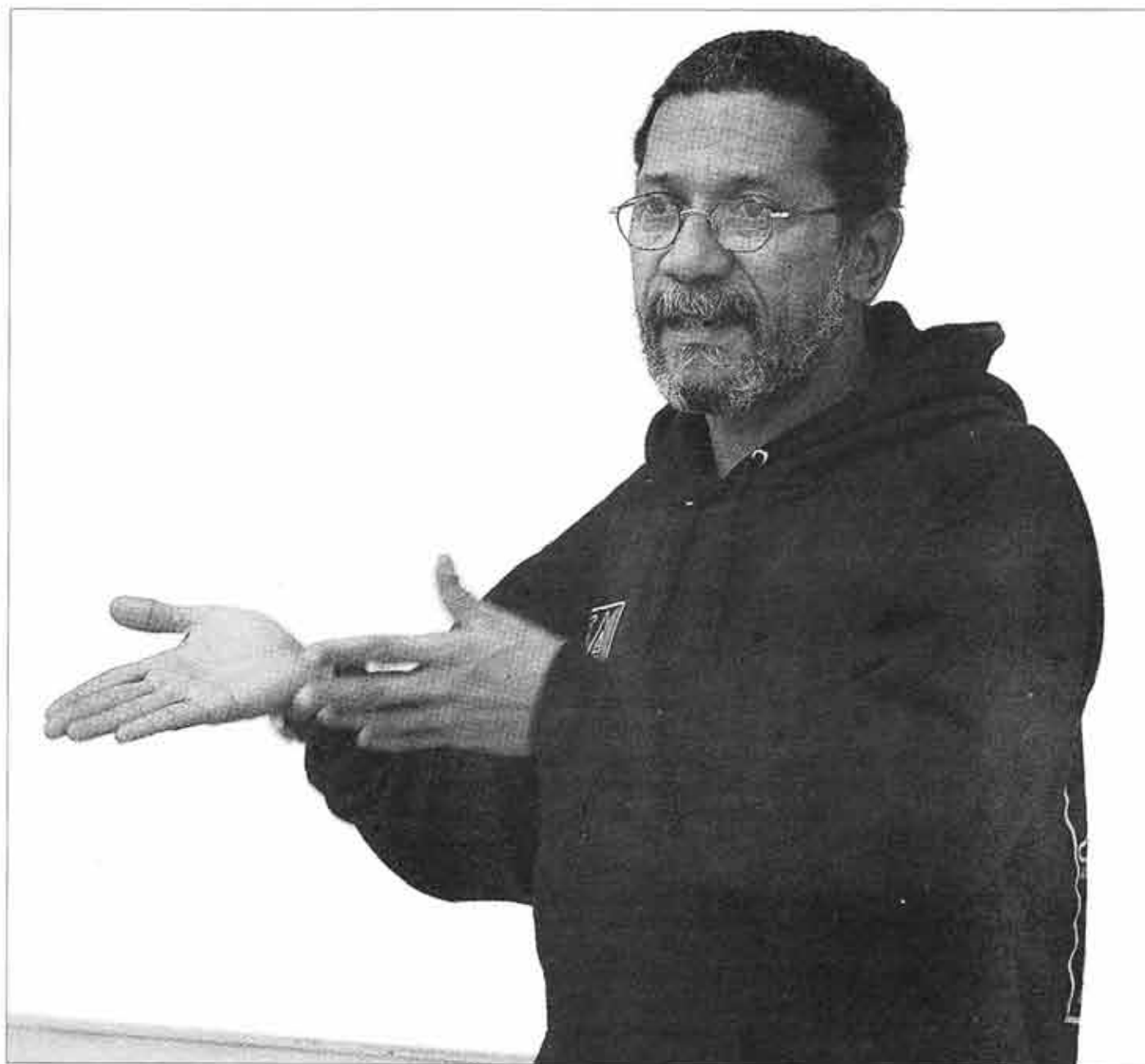
this period. This is the second time since 1991 that Aristide has been overthrown by a foreign state. Both times, he was elected on a platform of instituting social justice for the Haiti's masses.

While North American media outlets have cited reasons for the intervention, including human rights abuses, poverty and a corrupt election, Elie maintains the legitimacy of these claims has never been examined. Instead, he claims that because Haiti is not as useful as a rich source of oil, minerals, or natural resources, Aristide was removed because the country is a symbol of freedom from colonial oppression.

"The coup occurred exactly in the year of the bicentennial of our independence, and I don't think it was any coincidence that France was a key player in that coup. It was done on purpose. It was done to send a message to the oppressed people of the world," he accused.

Haiti was the first-ever colonial settlement to rebel and gain independence, becoming the first and only place where slavery was abolished by the slaves themselves.

Today, Haiti is a major garment manufacturing centre. While one



Sydney Helland

THE INSIDE SCOOP - Patrick Elie, a Haitian activist, tells students his version of what's been happening in Haiti.

of Aristide's initiatives was to double minimum wage, which was one of the first provisions overturned by the interim government, Elie speculates that the First World saw Aristide's government as threatening the ability of the elite and outsiders to exploit the Haitian workforce. "Haiti is a society that is as lopsided, is as unjust,

as South Africa was before 1994. In Haiti, five percent of the population control 60 percent of the wealth and the top 1 percent controls 50 percent," he stated.

In reference to the country's controversial election this past February, Elie stated that despite the poverty, illiteracy, closed voting stations, random shootings

and "recounts", Haitians again stood up for their right to vote and be a sovereign nation. In their demonstrations after the elections, they urged fairness as their government steadily becomes more democratic.

As Elie explained, "There is no stopping the people once their time arrives."

Troubled times for Epoch Times staff

Reporters of acclaimed newspaper victims of intimidation by Chinese Communist Party

KEREN GOTTFRIED
Cord International

The Epoch Times, a global independent newspaper and a leading critic of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), has accused the CCP of using terrorist attacks to censor its content.

Cindy Gu, publisher of the Canadian version of the newspaper, believes that the CCP is using terrorist attacks to silence the independent paper. In an intelligence report that was intercepted in Australia, *The Epoch Times* was identified as a key target of the CCP.

"Now they are using terror to scare staff and writers like us, who have been outspoken," Gu told *The Cord*. "But we will not back down ... we will continue to champion free press."

The Times has offices all over the world and has even been distributed at WLU from time to time. Since publishing its award-winning editorial series on human rights violations of the CCP in December 2004, *Epoch* staff around the world have been tar-

gets of beatings and muggings.

In early February, a gang of Asian men aged 20 to 30 broke into the Atlanta home of *Times* chief technical officer Yuan Li. Li was left severely beaten, requiring 15 stitches on his face. The gang also made off with two of his computers containing files from work.

Around the same time, the home of the Paris manager of *The Epoch Times* was ransacked. The ticket receipts for a Chinese New Year Gala, which he had been supporting, were stolen but nothing else was taken.

The Epoch Times has been instrumental in promoting breakthrough technologies to get into Internet search engines like Google and Yahoo, blocked by the CCP. They post information on their website to help people in China get access to uncensored, independent media free of charge.

Gu worries that the Canadian office is next in line for attacks. She has urged the Canadian Government to publicly condemn the acts of the CCP and provide protection for her and her staff.

For Gu, this is a turning point in



Contributed Photo

ONE MILLION SERVED - Ms. Jun Guo, Editor-in-Chief of the *Epoch Times Daily* speaks at a rally to celebrate the resignation of the one millionth member of the Chinese Communist Party.

Chinese history. After the publication of the commentaries over a year ago, 8.5 million Chinese people, mostly from mainland China, have renounced any ties to the CCP. As Gu sees it, the future of the CCP is bleak.

"I expect the regime could fall within a few years," she predicted.

Political unrest in China has been symbolized by an exponential increase of mass riots in mainland China, rising from 8,400 in 1993 to 74,000 in 2004,

Recent demonstrations have centered around the CCP placing over 100,000 Chinese people in concentration camps for being associated with Falun Gong, a type of meditation that promotes peace and character building.

Gu believes the CCP thinks "the Falun Gong movement was too big," so they developed a propaganda campaign to persuade followers to renounce it. When that tactic failed, they resorted to torture, involving burning flesh with

hot rods, using electric shocks on faces and beating naked prisoners.

Chinese human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng has also been a leader in attacking the CCP's human rights record. He has been sending open letters to government officials and disappearing for lengths at a time to avoid assassination attempts. He is calling for a China-wide hunger strike, coupled by a global strike which was to happen this past Monday.

Second Crown Heights attack since '91

TONY FERGUSON
International Editor

New York City's Crown Heights neighbourhood was shaken on Tuesday, February 28 after Ephraim Klein, an ultra-orthodox Jewish man, was shot to death in his car.

Klein, 43-years-old and a father of three, was looking for a parking space on Carroll Street, one of the neighbourhood's residential blocks. At 1:30am a single shot was fired, the bullet hit Klein in the arm and entered his chest cavity, causing him to lose control of his car and hit several parked cars before coming to a stop.

It is not yet clear whether the incident was motivated by anti-Semitism. A US\$10,000 dollar reward has been offered by the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council for any information leading to the arrest of those who committed the murder.

A local community leader, Hananyah Sperlin, described Klein as a faithful Jew who was always smiling and willing to help others. Sperlin was concerned about the crime, which has shaken the quiet community.

"We are very angry and worried," he said. "This is a quiet and crime-free area."

Chanina Sperlin, the executive vice president of the council, said the community was in an "uproar" over the murder. She was unwilling to speculate whether the crime was racially motivated.

"It could have been a car-jacking, maybe they thought he was somebody else," she said. "You don't want to jump to conclusions until you get the whole story."

No motive has yet been determined, according to Captain Daniel Sosnowik, executive officer of the 71st precinct. He said that detectives are investigating whether or not the crime was anti-Semitic, among other possibilities.

New York Police Department representatives met with the board of the Jewish Community Council immediately following the incident. The board raised the issue of safety on the streets, expressing the need for more protection. Crown Heights is patrolled nightly by police officers from the precinct as well as Shmira, a local neighbourhood watch group.

Sosnowik insisted that the presence of the Shmira patrol has no effect on the number of New York City police who patrol Crown Heights at night.

The neighbourhood is a mixed Jewish-Black area of Brooklyn where a Hassidic man was stabbed in 1991. The area has since been relatively problem-free and even described as a model of co-existence.

Klein has two daughters living in New York and one in Israel, where he was to travel last Sunday to attend the wedding of one of his sons.



Contributed Photo

HATE CRIME - The coffin of Aaron Halberstam, one of four Hasidic Jews shot in an attack in New York, is carried through the street in front of the Lubavitcher World Headquarters in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn March 6, 1995.



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What accounting should be

Nuclear venture a power-grabbing ploy

Richard Togman uncovers what lies at the core of the hypocritical nuclear anti-proliferation initiative, and why George Bush wants to make friends with India



RICHARD TOGMAN
Cord International

This past week, the United States embarked on a nuclear deal with India that marks a historic thaw in relations between the two powerful nations.

Memories of India's disregard for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and subsequent sanctions imposed by the US have been erased with a new nuclear venture that will see American uranium fueling Indian nuclear reactors.

If the goal is to truly create a de-nuclearized world, then all states should be forced to disarm and only peaceful nuclear programs should be allowed.

But India's defiance of the NPT has proved troublesome for those trying to uphold a responsible nuclear foreign policy. The subcontinent's nuclear program started

during the 1950s as the US donated civilian nuclear technology as part of its Atoms for Peace program. However, India later refused to sign the NPT and conducted its first atomic test in 1974. This led to decades of American sanctions, coinciding with feelings of betrayal as its civilian technology was co-opted into military uses.

The case of India has brought an uncomfortable tension into the whole proliferation debate as the very notion of holding 'rights' to nuclear technology comes into question.

First of all, the entire idea behind the non-proliferation treaty is a flawed one. While its basic design was to prevent nations from acquiring nuclear weapons, it still allows states that already possess nuclear weapons to maintain their advantage. This leads to a double standard in power which lets some states possess the most awesome military weapons ever invented, while denying others the same rights in the name of world peace.

Although the treaty has a clause which mandates that nuclear

states must eventually disarm, it is never enforced. The only sections which are applied regularly are the ones pertaining to the prevention of acquiring nuclear technology.

Moreover, the whole scheme is tainted with power politics, as states friendly to the mighty are allowed to have such technology (such as Israel, India and Pakistan) while states considered to be threats to the powerful are not (Iraq, Iran and North Korea).

If the goal is to create a de-nuclearized world, then all states should be forced to disarm and only peaceful nuclear programs should be allowed. The double standard of 'allowing' some

nuclear states while 'disallowing' others is preposterous. It is nothing but a way of maintaining the military superiority of past powerful states over their new nuclear rivals. Further de-legitimizing the treaty is the fact that participants can leave anytime, and the agreement has no jurisdiction over countries that refuse to sign it.

Thus, states seeking nuclear weapons are not constrained by the treaty (as Israel, India, Pakistan, South Africa and North Korea have shown) and those not seeking nuclear weapons do not need a treaty to force them to do so.

The truth behind the NPT is that

it is a façade designed to hide the aggression of the state in protecting its superiority over others. The current nuclear powers have a decided edge over non-nuclear powers and will seek to maintain this through any cost-effective means. This interest-defending behaviour includes pressuring nations such as India and sanctioning or invading countries like Iraq.

Once we rid ourselves of the euphemisms we use to mask our true intentions, we can soberly decide the pros and cons of allowing some states weapons of mass destruction or simply limiting them to smaller weapons.

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Parkour *puts a spin on life*

All the way from France, "Parkour" is quickly becoming the next big thing. But as two local students explain, there's more to it than stunts and tricks; Parkour is a different way of seeing things. Parkour is a way of life

MICHELLE PINCHEV
Student Life Editor

It's hard to explain exactly what "Le Parkour" is to someone who has never heard of it, especially since the concept is entirely new to me. While most sources describe it as a physical discipline, to some it is simply a way of life.

Parkour is about free-flowing movement, uninhibited by the obstacles of one's surroundings. In fact, objects that we perceive as boundaries are seen as opportunities by *traceurs*, a French term for those who practice Parkour.

If Parkour sounds familiar, you may have seen it on the new Rogers' commercials for iTunes. Parkour has also been featured on *CSI* and on a program called *Jump London* on TLC.

Working principally with an urban landscape, Parkour, frequently known as "Freerunning," is a street-based discipline that, unlike many sports, requires no special equipment or clothing. The more physical barriers, the better. To a *traceur*, the city is a giant playground.

David Belle pioneered Parkour when he was only 15 years old, drawing inspiration from martial arts movies and his Vietnam veteran father. With a background in gymnastics and over 16 years of experience, Belle is an icon for many young *traceurs* around the world. Parkour videos can be found online on PKTO.ca, Wikipedia and leparkour.ca; the best ones feature David Belle in Evry, France.

Originating from France, Parkour soon exploded in Britain and is finally making its way across the Atlantic. In fact, Toronto has the fastest growing Parkour scene in all of North America.

Ken Robinson, a fellow Laurier student, and Patrick De Perio of UW are two local *traceurs* that practice in the area. Ken has been training for about a year and Patrick for half a year, and already they can climb the large brick wall that encloses the Quad almost effortlessly.

"How to sum it up? Le Parkour is about utilizing efficient movements to find your own path, and these movements can most easily be defined by movements useful in an escape situation," says Robinson.

De Perio offered another definition, describing Parkour as "a way of moving from one point to another in the environment you're in the fastest but safest way possible."

Patrick De Perio discovered Parkour when he saw a program about it on television. He had heard the term "Freerunning" before and when he looked it up online, he discovered PKTO.ca.

PKTO.ca (the Toronto Parkour Network) is an online community based in Toronto. This is a common starting point for people who have either seen, heard or read

something that sparked their interest for this unusual physical discipline. Getting in touch with others who practice this on one of PKTO's many forums is how many *traceurs* jump-start their training.

De Perio discovered PKTO had a Waterloo community forum and quickly got in touch with other local *traceurs*.

Grounded in urban settings, escapist mentality and the rejection of boundaries, it's easy to see why this sport appeals to male youths. By some classifications, Le Parkour fits into the category of an extreme sport. It has also been likened to martial arts, mainly because of its similarities to Jackie Chan's techniques in his films which often involve him being chased in big cities, running up walls and jumping from building rooftops.

"It's supposed to be about fluidity and efficiency, rather than gymnastics or flair or style"

- Ken Robinson, *traceur*

But Ken and Patrick are frustrated with the image of Parkour that the media is portraying.

"Everything has a purpose," Robinson explained after landing a turn vault with a spin. "The media up to this point in North America has completely misrepresented this because of the exposure from Britain. It's supposed to be about fluidity and efficiency, rather than gymnastics or flair or style."

What he means is that the movements of Parkour are not "tricks" or "stunts" as they are mistakenly referred to. If they spin their bodies or land a certain way, they're not doing it to look cool; that movement has a tactical function.

Robinson also points out that while the sport has appeal to younger people, they train with *traceurs* ages 22, 27 and 31. Parkour is not only physically challenging, it's largely mental and requires a level of maturity and personal restraint.

"What you see on TV and in the videos ... it's all very extreme, but when you train, it's all at ground-level," said De Perio. "Usually what you see in videos is people doing it on rooftops of buildings...that's not what Parkour is about."

Properly trained *traceurs* don't simply run around jumping off buildings and vaulting over rails. As Ken points out, "you have to evaluate your risk."

When asked about the potential risk involved in the sport, the boys offered a seemingly endless roster of ways to mess up your body doing Parkour. Some that stood out are tendinitis, shin splints, cuts and bruises, sprained ankles and turf-toe. But really, anything can happen, even head injuries.

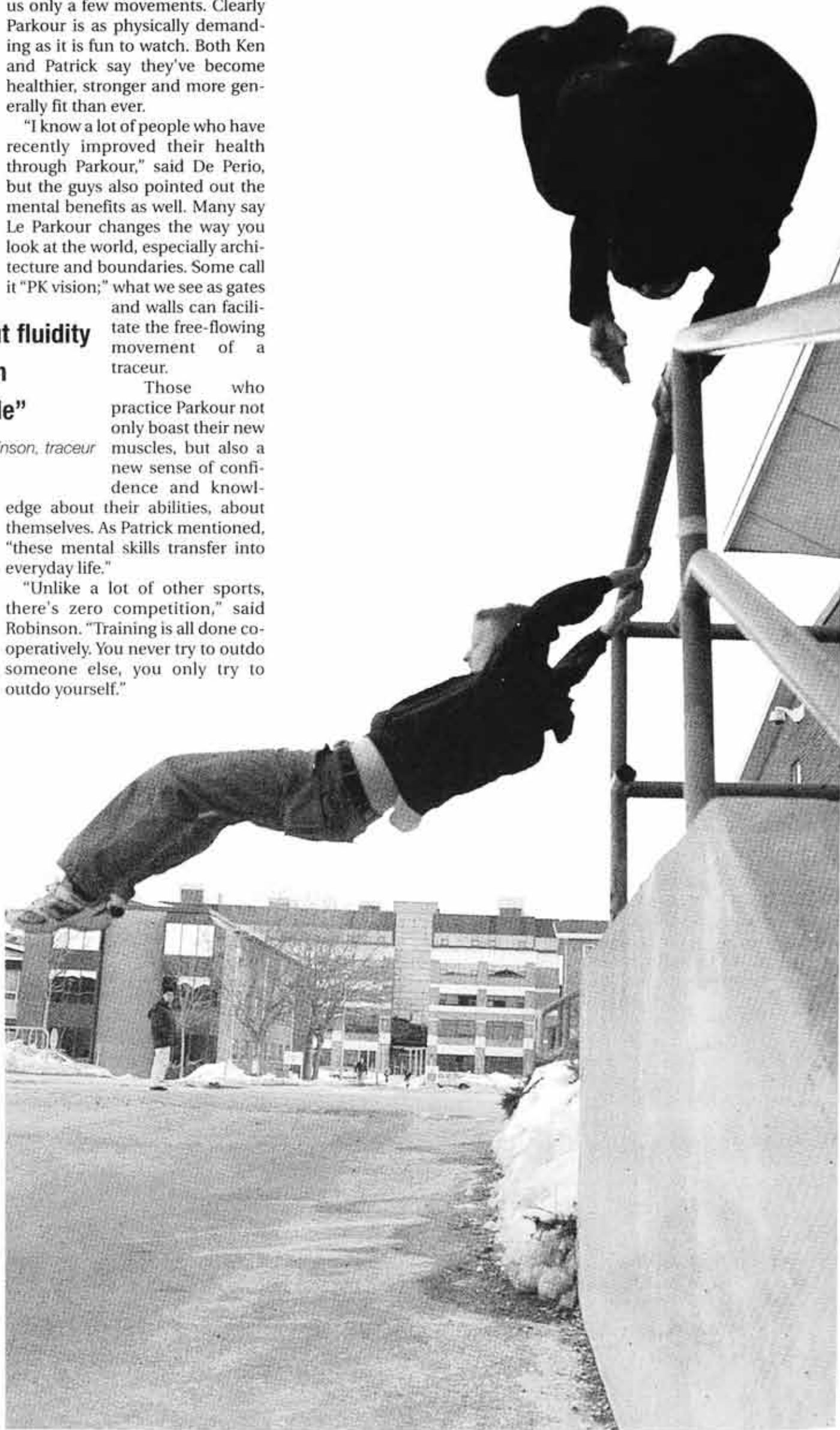
Most injuries are a result of improper form or simply not knowing one's abilities and limitations. It's no wonder these boys stress safety so heavily.

Patrick (who kindly went on to demonstrate vaults for us anyway) had a leg injury and Ken wound up with bleeding hands after showing us only a few movements. Clearly Parkour is as physically demanding as it is fun to watch. Both Ken and Patrick say they've become healthier, stronger and more generally fit than ever.

"I know a lot of people who have recently improved their health through Parkour," said De Perio, but the guys also pointed out the mental benefits as well. Many say Le Parkour changes the way you look at the world, especially architecture and boundaries. Some call it "PK vision;" what we see as gates and walls can facilitate the free-flowing movement of a *traceur*.

Those who practice Parkour not only boast their new muscles, but also a new sense of confidence and knowledge about their abilities, about themselves. As Patrick mentioned, "these mental skills transfer into everyday life."

"Unlike a lot of other sports, there's zero competition," said Robinson. "Training is all done cooperatively. You never try to outdo someone else, you only try to outdo yourself."



TRACEURS - Ken Robinson (left) performs a "Laché" (underbar) while Patrick De Perio (right) turn vaults over the rail outside of the Aird Underpass. The two *traceurs* practice Parkour in Waterloo.

Jordan Jocius

Dim Sum is my heart's desire, literally

Food critic **Josh Boros** tells us everything you need to know about this delightful Chinese style of eating and why everyone should try sum!

JOSH BOROS
Food for thought

Those who follow my articles will recall I've mentioned dim sum on several occasions.

Many people have asked me what exactly dim sum is, so with that in mind I've decided to dedicate this article to one of my favourite ways to eat.

Dim sum, Cantonese for "heart's desire," originated along the fabled Silk Road in tea houses, taking advantage of the profitable trade route.

Originally only tea was served, but after the discovery that tea aids digestion the tea shop owners began serving small dishes and the style of eating caught on.

Today, dim sum is seen much as brunch is in North American culture: a family meal usually enjoyed on Saturdays, in the early afternoon, when the kids are off school and mom and dad are home from work (unless, of course, they cook for a living).

But what exactly is dim sum? Basically, it's the Chinese version of a style of eating seen across the globe in nearly every culture.

The Spanish call it tapas, the Italians call it anti pasto, but the idea is still the same. Small dishes, usually two to three bites, are enjoyed en masse so that the diner can try many different things.

Going to a dim sum restaurant can be a little intimidating your

first time if you don't know what you're doing, but have no fear; with a few pointers, anyone can get the hang of it.

The meal will start with your server bringing you a card on which he or she will tally what you've eaten. Food isn't ordered in a traditional sense; the kitchen doesn't make a dish especially for you. Rather, trolleys stacked high with steamer baskets and assorted little dishes are rolled through the dining room.

Diners only have to flag down a trolley and peruse the selections. This way people can eat as much or little as they want and get to try a great variety of tastes and textures. At the end of the meal the server tallies your card and you pay for what you've eaten.

The different types of dishes and their various preparations are far too numerous for me to do anything but to just lightly brush the surface. However some might seem familiar to everyone. Dumplings of all shapes and sizes; steamed sauteed or fried spring rolls; steamed buns; pot stickers; pastries; or my favourite, BBQ duck, can all be had, among countless others.

For me, the best way to enjoy dim sum is with a group of friends. Dishes are placed in the centre of the table so that everyone has to reach in to grab a bite. It's a way of eating that inspires conversation and sharing amongst the group.



THE SPICE OF LIFE - As you can see, the variety Dim Sum offers is staggering. Be decisive.

Chopsticks are of course, optional but do yourself a favour and at least try to learn to use them. If nothing else, it's a great way to impress a date.

Variety, as the old adage goes, is the spice of life.

Well, if that's the case, dim sum is a celebration of variety. Sure, a 12oz porterhouse steak with mashed potatoes and gravy can be damn good. But take that same steak, cut it into twelve little pieces, and do something com-

pletely different with each piece.

It's still a great piece of meat, but now it's also something more, something exotic, something special. And that, in a nutshell, is dim sum.

THE CORD WEEKLY

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How to train for a summer race

JENNIFER O'NEILL
Body Break

If you are looking for a fun and competitive challenge this summer, outdoor racing could be your answer. There is something for everyone; from triathlons to adventure racing, multi-sport races are a great workout.

When choosing what type of race you want to complete, consider your own skills. If you are a strong swimmer, a triathlon might be the best place to start. If you love to run, try a marathon or duathlon. Or, if outdoor sports are your passion, adventure racing offers everything from canoeing to mud runs.

If you want to race but are intimidated by the length of the course, look for "sprint-length" races. They are usually only half the distance.

Consider your fitness level when signing up for a race. If you are unsure of what you can do, go with the shorter distance; you don't want to burn yourself out. You can always register for a longer race later in the season.

Once you have picked your race and distance, you need to start training. Ideally, you should start training at least ten weeks before your race. If you are looking at a race that is in June, you want to start training now.

When training, your ultimate goal is to be able to complete just over the distance of the race. For example, if you are training for a 10 kilometre run, you should include at least two 12 kilometre runs during your ten-week program.

During the first three weeks of training, you want to take it easy, training four days per week.

Include two weight-training sessions per week, and don't forget leg work. Although you are working your legs when you run or bike, weight-training will make them stronger for racing. Keep the distance you train for these first weeks rather short. Aim for runs, bikes, or swims that are about a quarter of the total race length.

Weeks four to eight, are going to be your hardest training period. If you are training for a multiple sport race, you will need to start doing "block training" one day a week.

Block training is a cycling session followed immediately by a run. The run should be a quick three to five kilometre route completed at race pace. This will train you for the bike to run transition come race day.

During week nine, you will want to run, bike or swim your race distance. If you can, try running the actual race path. By knowing the route, you will be able to pace yourself better during the race.

The last week of training, start cutting back. You want to rest your body before the race. Reduce your training to three days, stopping completely two days before the race. A well-rested body will perform better.

Lastly, you will need to prepare mentally. If this is your first race, aim to complete the race rather than win. Register with a friend or family member. Not only will this partner keep you motivated during training, but he or she will be a great support during the race.

Anyone can be a triathlete. All it takes is training, hard work and passion. Get moving this summer. Check out races in your area by visiting <http://www.multiposport-canada.com/>.

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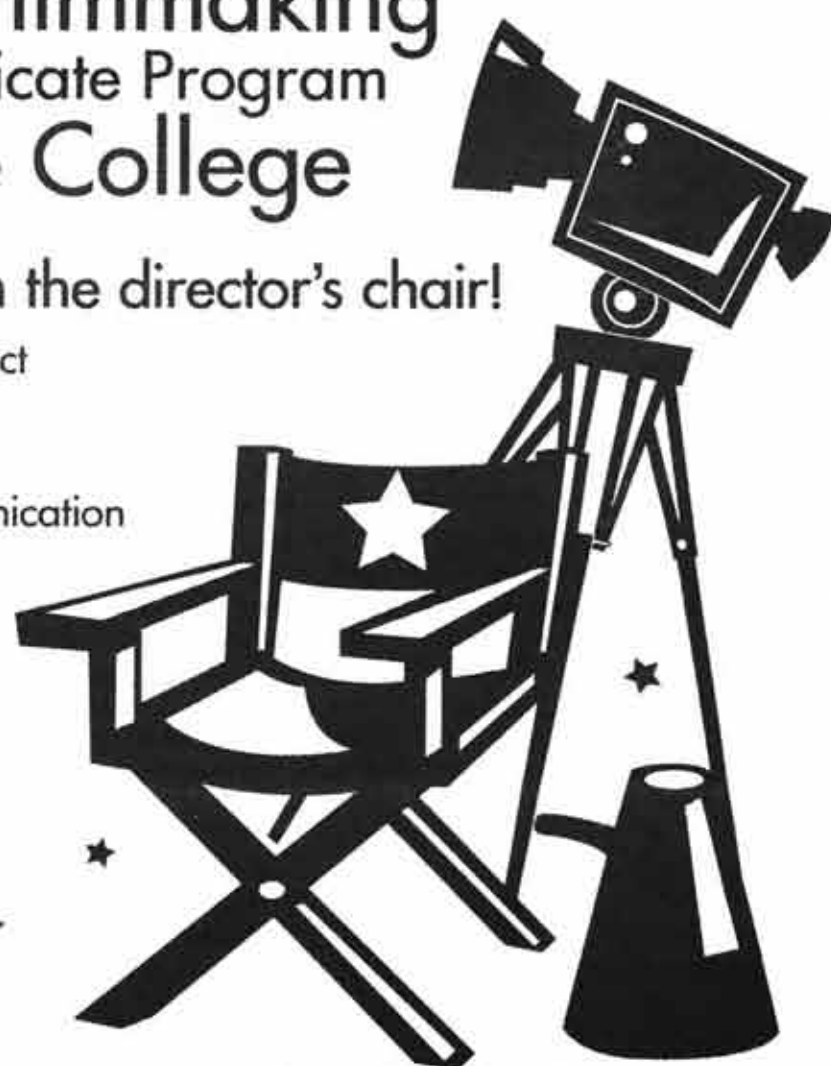
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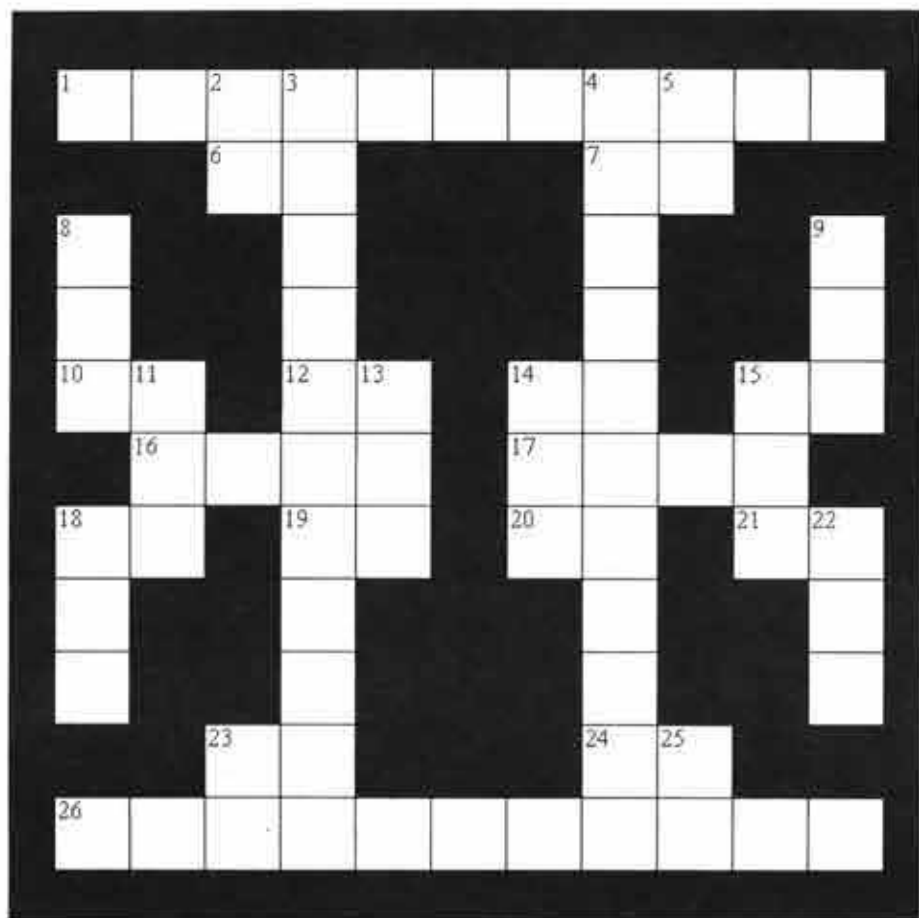
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Xword

by Fraser King



Across:

- 1. Something biz kids hate (2 words)
- 2. 1/2 of an Egyptian Goddess' name
- 7. Anime North
- 10. Pan __ Games
- 12. Toronto shortform
- 14. Til death __ us part
- 15. Like 'me' but plural
- 16. Hawaiian island
- 17. Something that is thought of
- 18. Not 'yes'
- 19. @
- 20. Like 'we' but singular
- 21. __ dog __
- 23. 2-letter greeting
- 24. Anti-social
- 26. The science of spectrum analysis in any or all of its relations and applications

Down:

- 2. 3.14
- 3. a change that occurs without a change in enthalpy
- 4. Articulated with the lower lip and upper teeth
- 5. Game __
- 8. Drugstore chain
- 9. Street, en Francais
- 11. Cow noise
- 13. Not 'in'
- 14. Low lighting
- 15. What dogs' tails do
- 18. Ancient form of 'no'
- 22. Sphere
- 23. Not 'she'
- 25. __ - __

Sydoku

			9				7	
			6					
			3		8	6		1
8	6	1						
			9			4	1	
		7			9		5	2
2				1	7	8		4
		8	4		7	6		

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

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Successfully complete the Sydoku and bring it down to Angela at the WLUSP offices (basement of Mac House).

Be the one of the first to complete the Sydoku puzzle and win 1 of 2 packages of 2 tickets to "KWS Pops: Stars of the Orchestra" at Centre in the Square, Friday, March 10th at 8pm.



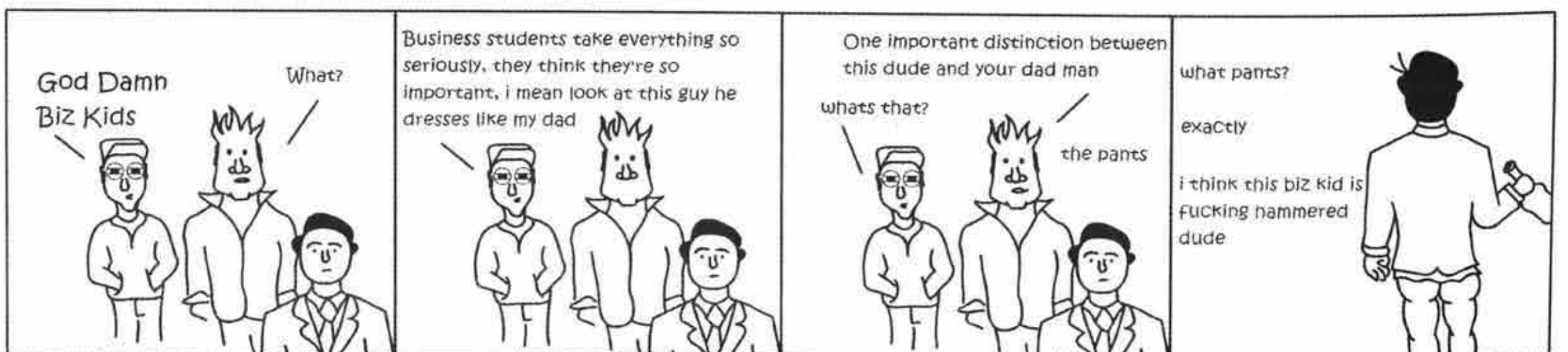
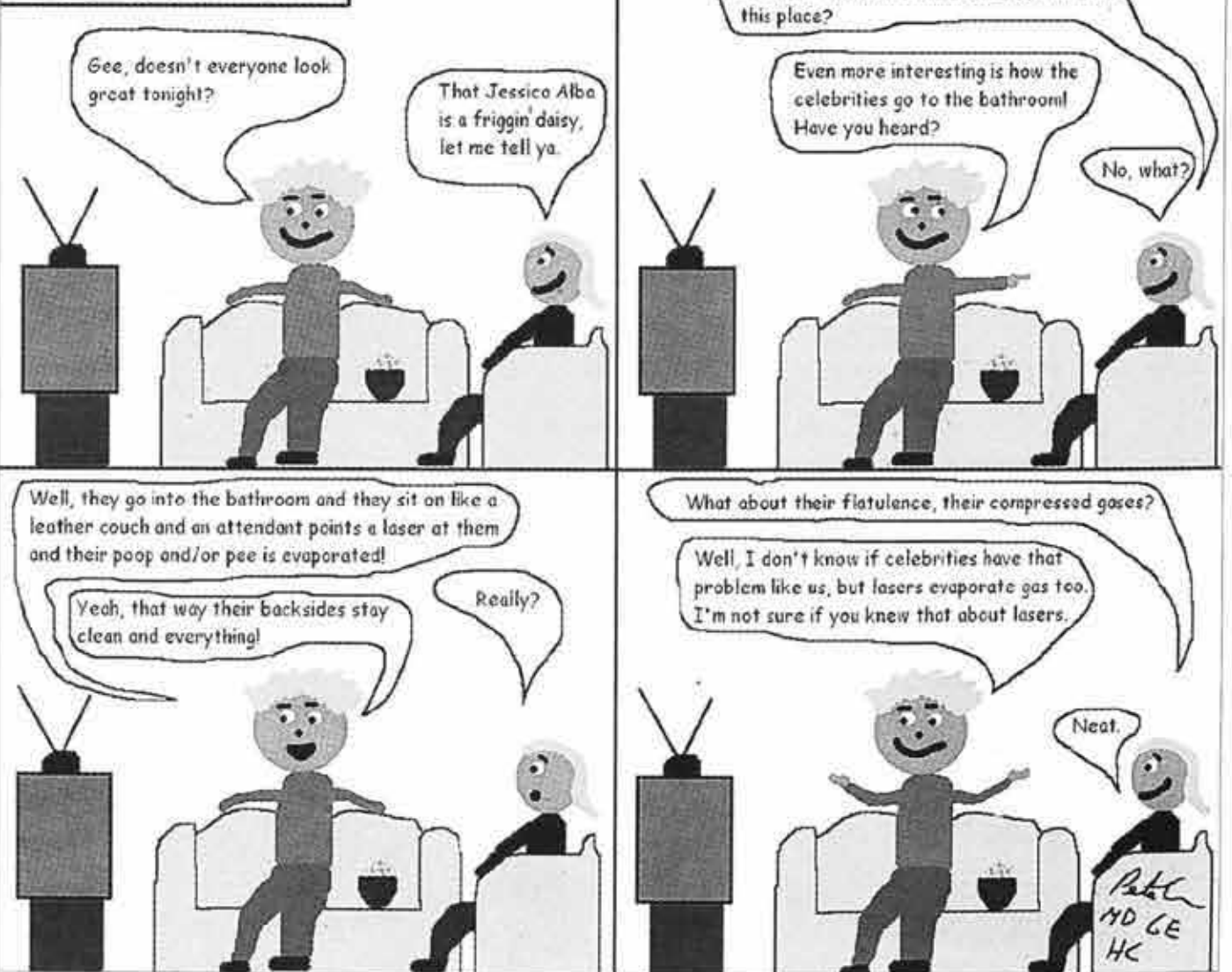
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Weekly Bad Drawing

By Pete Cram

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PERSONALS

Mellon Collie

Now that this one's in the bag, only three more. Forever. Oh god. Anyway, yay for chicken fingers, Trent Reznor's giant guns (mmmmmm), Bronwyn coming to visit, and highly pressing questions such as, "Would you suck your own cock if you could?" and "Do you masturbate?" I am small, I'm needy, warm me up and breathe me.

The Matriarch

The Champ is here ...

Once again, I gotta give huge props to my main brotha-dawg Adrian for being in my corner. You're the only man I'd trust to write 1 500 words in a day ... to the fam, for keeping me sane ... HUBLETS for stayin' to cool for school ... Winning Eleven 9 for being my new favourite time-waster ... Keep the lane boys cuz I'll be crashing the boards again this Friday! Only three issues left. Enjoy the remaining sexiness.

Poli

I hate writing titles for things

Thanks Adam Blakemore for telling me about Parkour and getting me in touch with your fellow Traceurs. Thanks Leanne and Krista for putting up with my silliness, I love you girls. Pat, I don't know what I would do without you! Thanks for putting up with my bullshit and making my smile every single day of the week. ISorry Brandon for finishing my section a whole 24 hours late...you only have to put up with my (re)tardyness for 3 more weeks...thanks Bryn for making my section pretty. Hi Mike, you're sitting beside me. :) Emma, I miss you already!! I hope wherever you are you are doing well and still reading The Cord!!!

Mishy/Pinchy

And the birthday barrage begins ... Belated birthday big ups to S.Dubb and Arla: Happy impending birthdays to Brian, my fellow dark-skinned friend, to the nicest man alive (Paterson) - thanks for walking my drunken ass home even though you didn't know me. To Ashley and the Wiseman, my fellow nighthawk. Finally, to Stef, Laurie and Dru. I'll try to party with as many of you as possible, but even if I don't, I'm still crazy about you all. Pour out a little liquor ... even though no one died. Yeah.

Brown

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Music battlefield 2006: Wilf's

Music Explosion's finale brought the battle of the bands series to an anti-climatic close

ALEX HAYTER
A&E Editor

An evening full of live classic rock, reggae and mellow-pop songs seemed like the ideal way to spend a dreary Thursday evening.

Battles of the Bands always seem to offer a huge variety of musical talent, from the shitty to the great, and this year's Music Explosion series certainly stuck to this time-honored tradition.

Thankfully this year's final three contenders mostly fit into the latter category, and proved that a diverse presentation of quality music is always an irrefutable offer for the satiable tenants of Wilf's pub.

Mississauga's The Steady Rollers lived up to the name, opening Music Explosion's finale with a storming set of classic rock sensibility.

A quick sound check grabbed the audience's attention, while the band steadily rolled into opener "Sunday Afternoon". Guitar riffs reminiscent of Cream filled Wilf's with a retro-rock atmosphere; singer Mike Appleton's voice is equal parts Clapton and Morrison, which added to the nostalgic quality of The Steady Rollers' music.

The band's set was full of lustrous wah-guitar solos courtesy of Hendrix-protégé Rob Seixas, enjoyed thoroughly by the audience as the band continued with "The Subway" and "The Cage". A tribute to Stevie Ray Vaughn's "Pride and Joy" followed shortly after as the band hit the peak of their performance, cementing their place as masters of the art of classic guitar-rock.

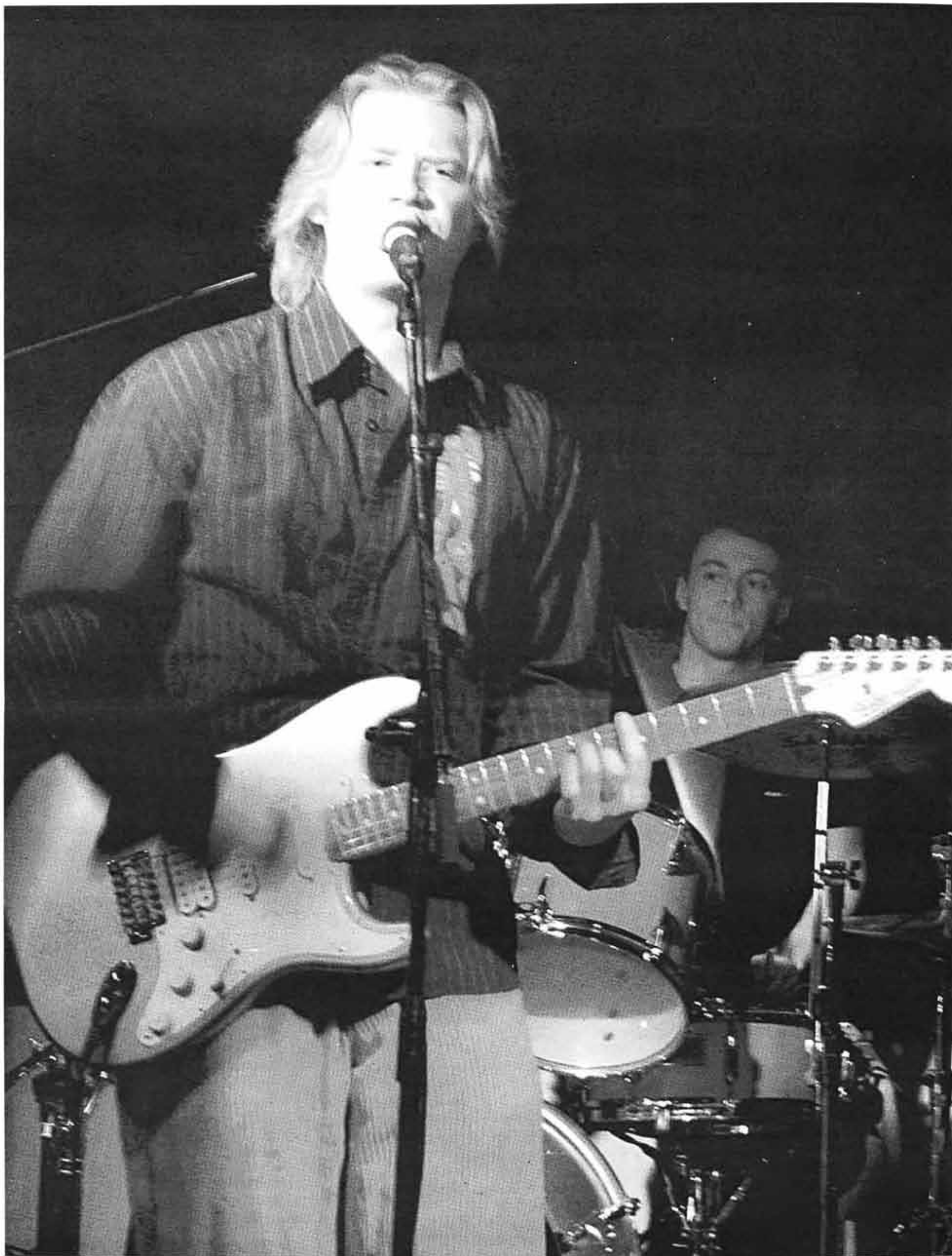
Reggae outfit Sure Shot took the stage next, complete with token flat-caps and a quirky punk appearance. The band was technically tight as a tiger, with an astonishingly professional sound despite being only a three-piece.

Though easily accused of being a Bedouin Soundclash ripoff, Sure Shot proved their mettle with an original take on reggae music. The band showcased a variety of reggae influences from rock steady to ragga, ska to skater, offering an educated insight into varied styles, but also keeping things original with hard riff-rock meanderings.

"Feelin' Alright" showcased the singer's ability to lead the band with a unique voice, as well as admirable control over his guitar. Bass was muddy for the first part of the set, but this was fixed upon request from the singer.

Next came more soulful music, atmospherically enhanced with the singer/guitarist's Boss effects pedal and percussion-like wizardry on his axe. Despite the band's talent, their music seemed to descend into filler territory, with good but similar sounding songs. Finishing in style, a cover of Sublime's "Santeria" proved a cherry on the band's bittersweet cake, coaxing the crowd into approving beer-induced sways.

Singer Mike Christie's head may



Sydney Helland

RONAN KEATING, IS THAT YOU? - Music Explosion runners-up, The Steady Rollers, played the opening set at the Music Explosion final.

still have been in the clouds as Waterloo's Intransit attempted to bring their celestial mellow-pop down to earth as the night's closing act.

Loyal crowds gathered in front of the band as Intransit opened their set. Dual-harmonized singing set the band apart from their opponents in this particular performance, but indistinct vocals marred the overall performance. A cover of Springsteen's "Secret Garden" showcased the band's originality and talent for epic musicianship.

"Goodbye Missouri", one of Intransit's standout tracks, was

eclipsed by other songs that sounded extremely similar to it. Corey Flatt's keyboards textured and matured the music, but were too often drowned out by distorted guitars from Christie and lead guitarist Joel Mieske.

Like Sure Shot, the band's performance gradually spiraled downhill due a lack of variation in their songs. Instrument swapping brought some diversity to the band's presentation, as the barefooted singer toyed between guitars and keyboards; the gentle "Contrails" brought a refreshing hush to the bustling ambience of Wilf's.

Despite being a five-piece, Intransit kept their chord-play simple to the point of repetitiveness, often using almost identical chord progressions for the choruses of different songs. A percussion-crazy finale reminiscent of Doves brought Intransit's set to a climatic close, which it was in dire need.

Despite their downfalls, Intransit seemed to be enjoyed thoroughly by both audience and judges, and were speedily pronounced victors of 2006's Music Explosion.

In my honest opinion, The Steady Rollers steamrolled their opponents in tonight's finale, even

if the other bands possessed considerable amounts of talent. Their short but sweet set was a stark contrast to both Sure Shot's and Intransit's dragged out sets and identical-sounding song choices.

It's also a genuine pity that bands from the three previous Music Explosions didn't get a chance at facing off against different sparring partners, as the results of the final could have been very different.

While this year's Explosion certainly had its weaker moments, Thursday's finale proved that it's been a trial worth sitting through.

FRINGE

fest review

-From **FRINGE**, page 28

Returning some levity to the crowd was Jessica Peter's *Play-giarism*. An amusing mix of pop culture references, all dialogue and situations were sampled from other movies, books, or plays. Ultimately, however, direction was lacking and this performance turned into a sort of intriguing novelty act.

Finishing of the matinee was *The Jeff Goldblum Experience*. Playwright Jeremy Woodcock brought life to the *Jurassic Park* star, in the form of a guardian angel who helps a hapless university student find love. Along the way the story comically demonstrated the "origins" of many dating nightmares, myths, and situations. This experiment mixed all of the appropriate elements and served as a fitting end to the afternoon's proceedings.

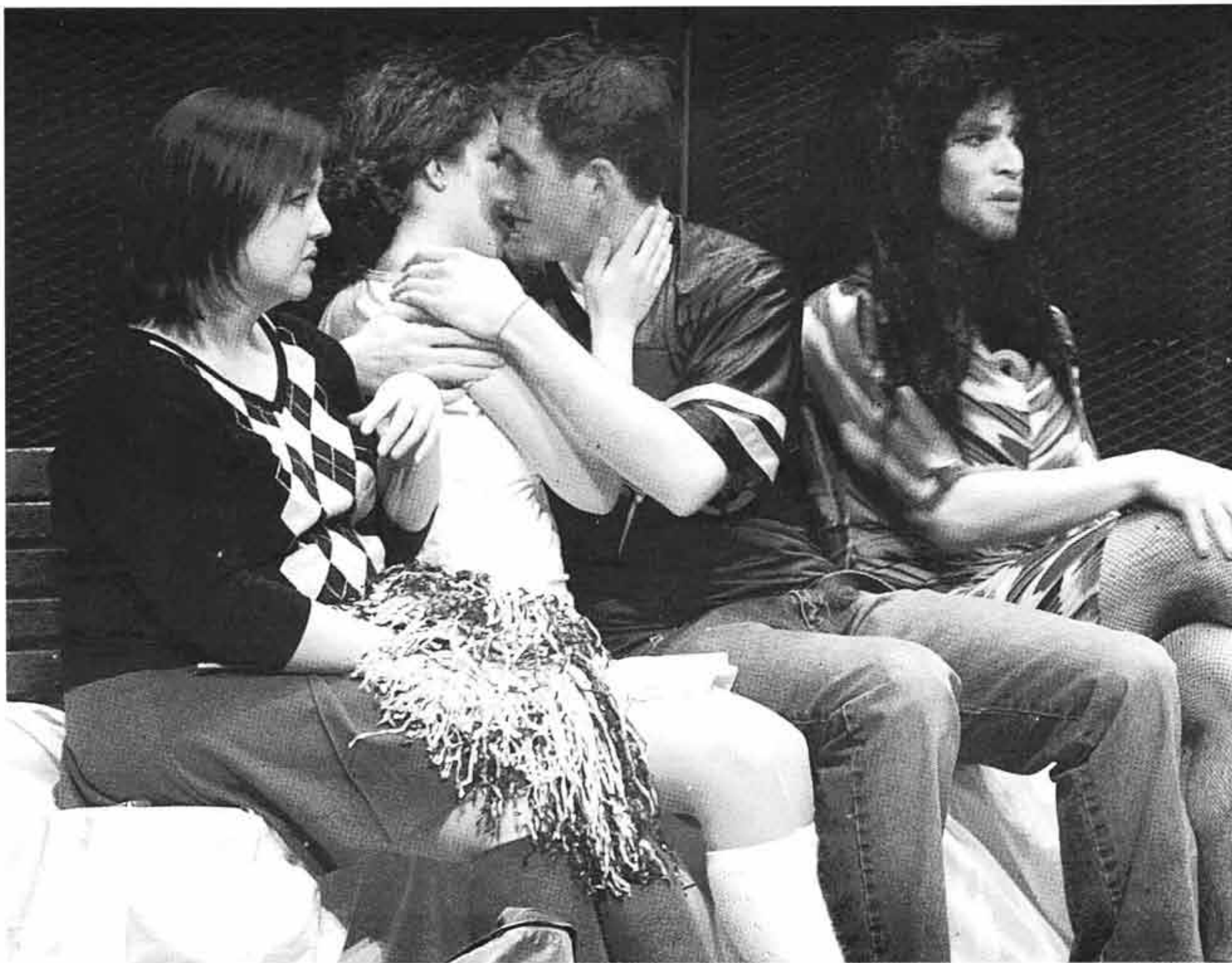
With six strong and promising plays, Saturday's Show Two reminded the Laurier community that we shouldn't be too hesitant to explore the stringy ends of our cultural playground.

> Evening Shows

ASHLEY LEWIS
Cord A&E

Thursday night's opening Fringe Festival Show was a diverse combination of comedy, dance and strange. After watching six plays written, directed and performed by students, I was left feeling very proud of WLU's artistic talent.

The Oaf was my personal favourite, the story of a musical artist forced to have the lead



Sydney Helland

TRAIN NOT IN VAIN - *Eastbound Train* was one of several plays performed at Show Two during Laurier's annual FRINGE Festival.

singer from Nickelback, Chad Kroeger, direct his album.

This play was absolutely hilarious, with the stereotypically arrogant Chad Kroeger wasting the band's money on hookers and an AstroVan. The demonstration of Chad lip-synching to a clip of "How You Remind me" also upped the play's hilarity and artistic value. The clashing personalities

of the frustrated artist Ian Thornley and the Chad-meister made for quite the amusing on-stage relationship.

Giant Robots are Key was a low-budget film of a guy wearing aviators and a helmet, talking about how he will use robots to take over the world. Repetition of certain phrases, such as "Giant robots are key" made this film confusingly

funny.

Identity Modernity was a dance act that portrayed the progression of history through a perfectly choreographed dance, synchronized to music that seemed to have been created through the dance. It had segments that showed different stages in cultural history, ending abruptly with a business woman walking loudly with her heels, forc-


ing the dancers to cover their ears to the sound of the 21st century.

The whole evening was very professional, and a cultural experience that left me wondering about the futures of these talented directors, actors and performers. I anticipate that their experiences and opportunities will eventually expand past the walls of the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall.

Forget Tiffany's, go to *Pluto*

Is Neil Jordan's latest gender-bending drama a meal worth digesting?

Breakfast On Pluto



3.5 out of a possible 5 Pluto Nashes

Director: Neil Jordan
Release Date: Nov. 16, 2005
Starring: Cillian Murphy

DRU JEFFRIES
Film Critic

How can one possibly eat breakfast on Pluto? The concept is drenched in delight and fantasy, though its realization would actually be cold, lonely and ultimately impossible.

But to analyze the idea with logic, like this, is to deny yourself the whimsy of imagination and to limit yourself to the realm of the possible. It's also to completely miss the point of Neil Jordan's latest film, *Breakfast on Pluto*.

Patrick "Kitten" Braden (Cillian Murphy) is a character without a story for much of the film. She (out of respect and affection for the character, I will use the pronoun 'she' to refer to Kitten in this review) is abandoned by her birth mother and rejected by her foster

family. She's kicked out of her Catholic school and her home, all because of her sheer, charming honesty. Kitten hides nothing; she unapologetically wears her femininity on her sleeve. Words like heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual and metrosexual fail to adequately describe her. Kitten is polysexual.

A philosophical motorcycle gang member tells her, "The only border that matters is the one between where you're going and what you've left behind." Kitten hasn't left anything behind, sexually speaking: she alludes briefly to a sex-change operation, but never pursues it.

She's staunchly masculine in her facial features, yet consistently more attractive than the women in the film. Much of the time, she's downright beautiful: anyone who can't recognize and appreciate beauty in a man is going to be made very, very uncomfortable by this film.

Director Neil Jordan's other gender-bending film, *The Crying Game*, might be something of a litmus test for *Pluto*. If you were one of the people that cringed at the moment when Dil's penis is revealed, don't bother with

Breakfast on Pluto. (Or maybe give it a shot: could be that you've grown up since 1992.)

About halfway through the film, Kitten finds her story in a familiar quest for her birth mother, whom she curiously refers to as "the Phantom Lady."

She's serious about her quest, though many have a problem taking her seriously. The film itself jumps between moments of seriousness (terrorist bombings by the IRA) and whimsy (birds that speak to each other in subtitles), covering these fissures with sudden and drastic shifts in plot.

At this level, the film is often confusing. You always understand what's happening, but it's sometimes difficult to discern why or how it happened. *Breakfast on Pluto*, like its protagonist, moves at its own pace and makes no apologies for being the way that it is.

Kitten is a character who will appeal most to those who identify with old Victorian dandies like Oscar Wilde.

In fact, one of Wilde's famous epigrams closes the film: "I love talking about nothing. It's the only thing I know anything about." It's not really apt to sum up the film, but the spirit is there.



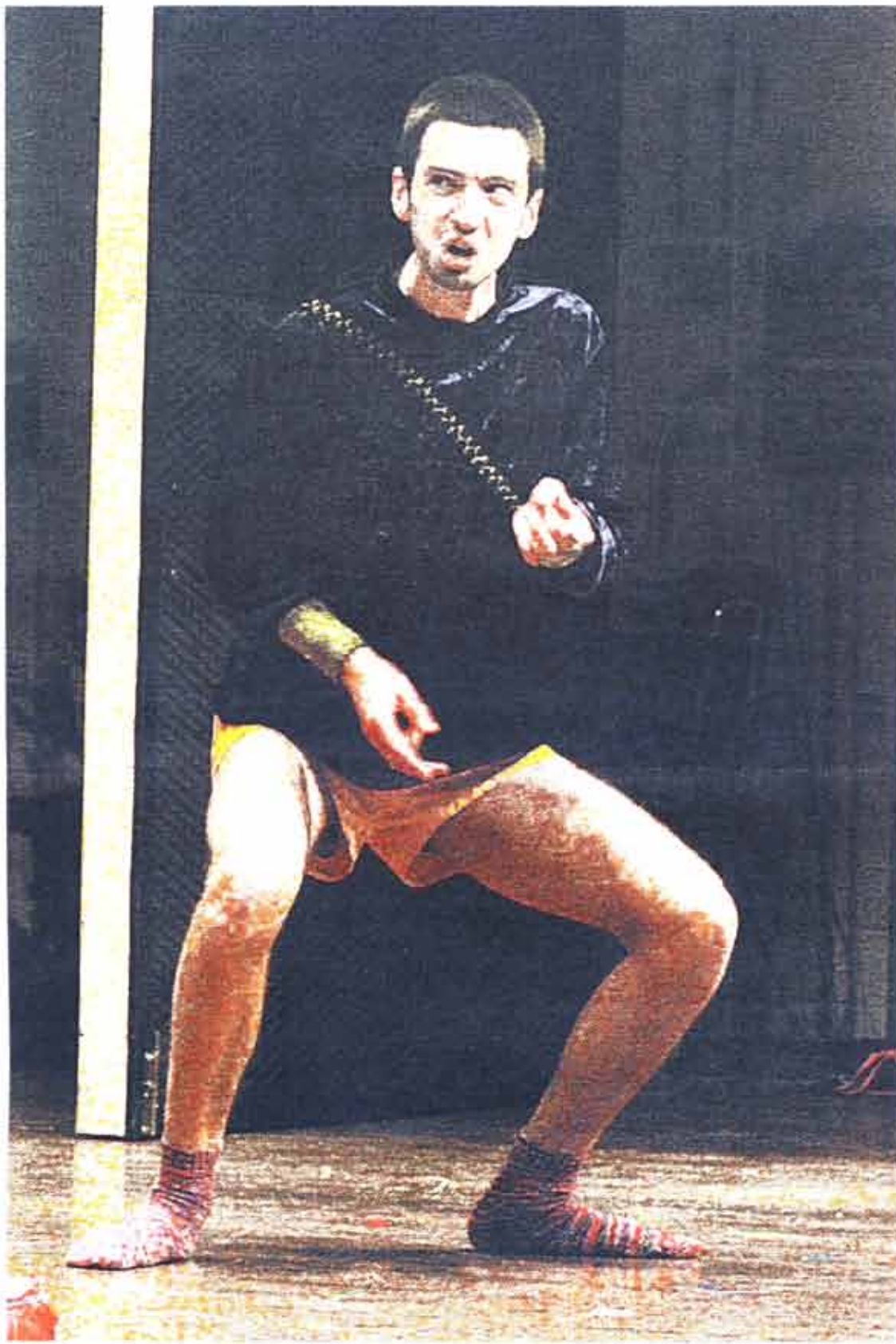
Sydney Helland

HAIRCROW - Kitten (Cillian Murphy) with faithful friend Charlie (Ruth Negga). Murphy plays a gendre-mixed Irish woman in search of him/herself.

Touching WLU's Fr!nge

This year's festival was a hit for the annual thespian fun-fest.

Joe Turcotte and Ashley Lewis report from last week's shows



Sydney Holland

ENTER SANDMAN - Ryan Ferland welcomes us to his *House of Fun* in the bizarrely comic play.

> Matinee Shows

JOE TURCOTTE
Cord A&E

For those who attended last Saturday's matinee performance, Laurier's fringes were loose and laugh inducing.

Leading off the day was Emily Browning's *Eastbound Train*. Set on a broken down subway car, this play demonstrated the intersecting diversity of that makes up Canadian urban life. With a stereotypical set of characters - which included not one, but two homeless men - this play exploited familiarity for comedic ends.

Living up to its title, *Mr. Sandman's House of Fun* kept the ball of humour rolling. In the role of the confused protagonist, Mike (Poly Polydorou) helped carry this Paul Wolters production. Meanwhile, Ryan Ferland's Mr. Sandman kept the audience in stitches with his rhyming couplets and outlandish behaviour. A set of strong performances by a solid cast ensured that this Sandman wouldn't put anyone to sleep.

For the opener of *Children of the Slots: Mi Amor es Murder*, WLU's Drama Club provided a murderous rendition of Michael Jackson's "Thriller". With a few more pop culture references thrown in, including a nod to both *CSI: Miami* and Lil' John, this play kept the audience's laughter rolling. While the story's plot twists may have fallen flat, a well-rounded cast was more than able to make up for a purposefully corny story line.

Following a brief intermission, the plays returned but (momentarily) the humour did not. Shane Fallowfield's *Cutters* was a dramatic departure from the playfulness of the day's first half. His story about angst, life, legacy and death brought a masochistic tone to the proceedings.

"It was definitely the odd-man out of the afternoon performances. But I think it went well", a relieved Fallowfield said afterwards.

Fortunately, the strong acting of Greg Allan and Meredith Brydon humanized such weighty topics and provided accessible and engaging characters.

-See **FRINGE**, page 27

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