



THE DOCTOR IS IN
Dr. Max Blouw discusses his first few days at WLU ... **PAGES 20-21**

KANYE VS. 50
An amusing analysis of the two disparate rap icons ... **PAGE 34**

O-WEEK: WE LINE UP
But The Cord outlines your best bets to avoid the lines ... **PAGE 24**

Volume 48 Issue 4

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www.cordweekly.com

Former president dies at 76

Dr. John Weir, Laurier president from 1982-92, passes away in his PEI summer home

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

To describe John Weir as "a relatively quiet, pragmatic man" was only one of many ways for long-time friend and outgoing VP: University Advancement, Arthur Stephen to speak of the former Laurier president.

Reflecting on their time together as colleagues since the mid-'70s, Stephen will fondly remember the man "who had an unbelievable passion for this school."

"John never left the campus, in a way," he added about the time following Weir's term as school president from 1982-1992.

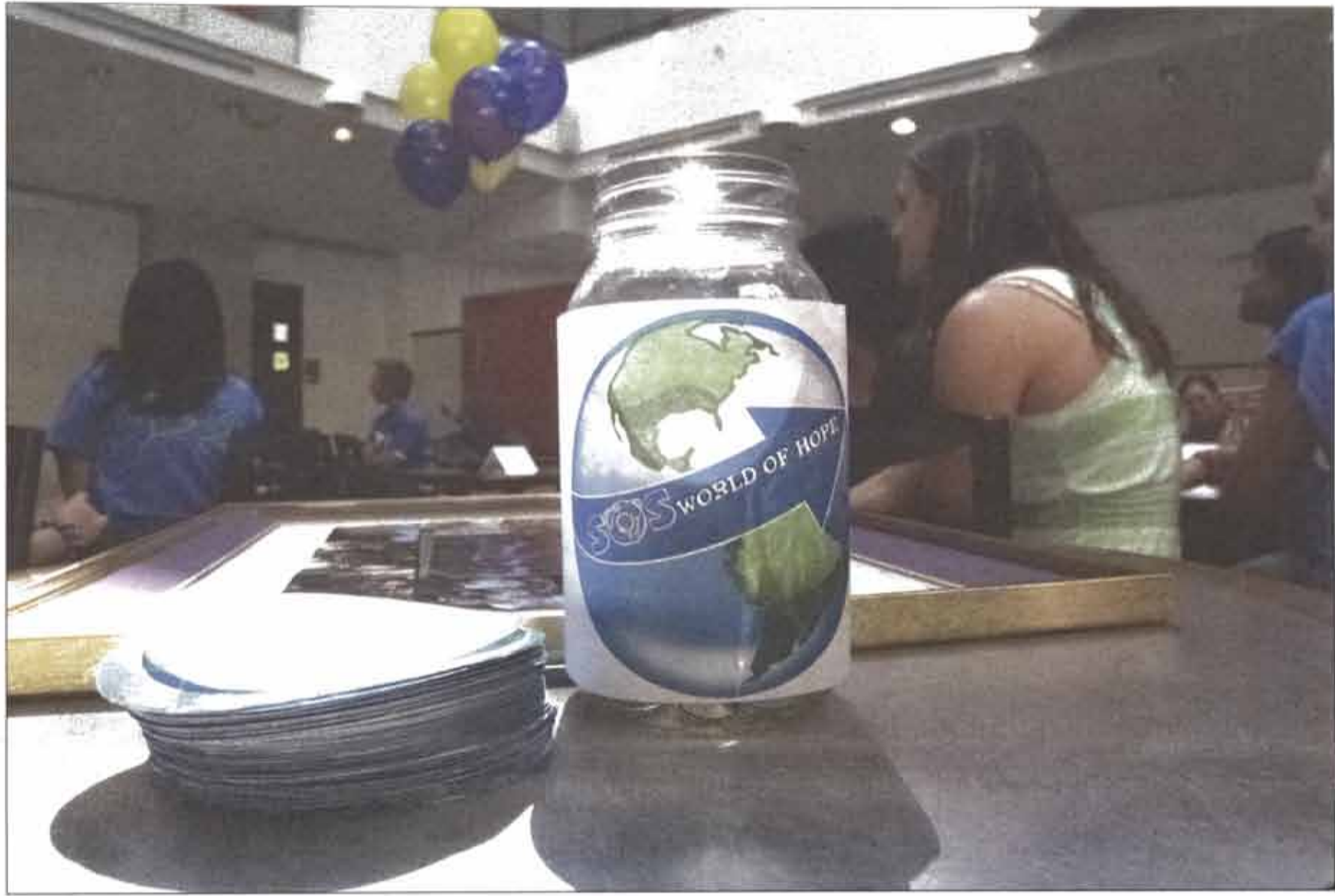
Factoring in his initial arrival at Laurier in 1965 to join the school of business and economics, Weir

- SEE **WEIR**, PAGE 3



Courtesy of Public Affairs

Students evade hurricane



Greg McKenzie

HOPING FOR FUNDS - The School of Business & Economics kicked off 'SOS Month' last Thursday with a fundraiser for the Belize volunteers.

With Hurricane Dean bearing down upon the coast of Belize, a group of 20 Laurier students from SOS were forced to leave their humanitarian work and catch the last plane out of the country

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

The fear of Hurricane Dean resulted in the drastic end to a trip for 20 Laurier students who were in Belize with WLU's School of Business and Economics (SBE) club, Students Offering Support (SOS).

Over the past year, the group had fundraised over \$65,000 so they could travel to San Ignacio, Belize where they were renovating a local schoolhouse. The students depart-

ed on August 10 and were planning on staying for 14 days, but with the news of the approaching storm they made a last-minute decision to flee the country four days early.

After chaotic preparations, they were able to secure seats for all participants on an emergency flight to Miami, just hours before the hurricane was expected to hit.

"To get there and then leave, it was ridiculous - it was so frustrating," said Greg Overholt, founder and executive director of SOS.

Though they had been hearing whispers of a natural disaster for a couple days prior to leaving the country, the group had no concept of the possible severity of the hurricane until they were forced to close down the site they were working at just hours before they caught their flight.

Despite the fact that the group decided as a whole to leave Belize, they were quite split on what they would do when presented with the option to leave.

"Knowing that I definitely disagree with this decision but knowing it was the right decision for the group was really tough because I would have stayed," said Overholt.

Though personal safety was a fear for some of the participants, for others the efforts that went into the trip and the people they were leaving behind made the decision to leave very difficult.

- SEE **DEAN**, PAGE 4

Hawk soars once more

BOD approves the purchase of \$10,700 logo to replace the icon that was removed last summer

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

The controversy surrounding Laurier's Golden Hawk logo, which formerly dwelled on the floor of the 'Hall of Fame,' looks poised to be-

come the campus buzz once again, as approval from the Wilfrid Laurier University Student's Union's (WLU-SU) Board of Directors (BOD) was granted to bring back the Hawk.

With an eleven to two vote at their August 11 budget meeting, the BOD passed WLU-SU president Dan Allison's recommendation to purchase a marble replica of the Golden Hawk, which comes with a bill of \$10,700.

Last September when students returned to school, there was a campus-wide outcry when the Hawk was tiled over and students

were no longer able to carry on the long-standing tradition of avoiding stepping on the logo.

Allison is hoping that the new Hawk will be installed sometime in December, most likely over the Christmas break, to avoid disrupting traffic problems in the already congested Hawk hallway.

Though he admits that this is an expensive purchase, Allison feels that the new Hawk will "definitely" be worth the financial cost.

- SEE **HAWK**, PAGE 4



File Photo

LONG GONE - By January a new Hawk will take the place of the original.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I'd love to say I was rockin' out to Public Enemy in the '80s but I think in '89 my diaper may have been a little too wet. Wait, would I have been wearing a diaper when I was five?"
 - Perplexed Special Features Editor Joe Turcotte

WORD OF THE WEEK

Hulabaloo - A loud noise or disturbance; uproar.

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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 matter of controversy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

While you were out ...

For these highlighted stories and others you've missed over the summer visit CordWeekly.com

MAY 2007



World's smartest city
 Think-tank recognizes Waterloo as the most intelligent city

Football stars drafted to CFL
 Two former students make the pros

WLU continues expansion
 Laurier builds new Career Development and Co-op building

Laurier to offer unique MBA
 WLU offers nation's first entrepreneurial masters degree

Vlasov's body found
 Missing Laurier discovered in Grand River

2009 troop return unlikely
 Laurier hosts conference addressing issues in Afghanistan

Plaskett packs punch
 Joel Plaskett performs at Starlight

Masters in integrative biology
 New science degree offered

JUNE 2007



Sports scholarships to help with recruitment
 OUA passes vote which allows universities to offer money to athletes

Frosh numbers above targets
 WLU over-enrolls for second year in a row

Park's paid position
 Chair of BOD to receive \$19,000 honourarium

Stadium renovations trudges on
 Labour strike threatens to delay completion

Mold in Leupold concerns profs
 Residences serving as temporary offices for faculty show there wear

Smart city just got brighter
 RIM co-CEO Jim Balsillie to open International School of Governance in Waterloo

DAWB about done
 \$12 million building on schedule for September completion

Senate approves two new research centres
 Research expansion in the faculty of science

JULY 2007



LORIS leaves students frustrated
 Registration website crashes incessantly

Recent Laurier grads die in car crash
 High school sweethearts tragically pass away

WLU goes wireless
 60 new spots are set up on campus

Student gets his 'wish'
 WLU student wins CBC Facebook contest

WLU student wins international essay contest
 Joel Fleming wins \$1,000 prize for his essay on world peace.

Newly appointed administration at Laurier

PRESIDENT OF WLU

VP: UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

VP: PHYSICAL RESOURCES

REGISTRAR

**Outgoing: Dr. Bob Rosehart
 Incoming: Dr. Max Blouw**

**Outgoing: Arthur Stephen
 Incoming: Scott Hayter**

**Outgoing: Ron Dupuis
 Incoming: Gary Nower**

**Outgoing: Glennice Snyder
 Incoming: Ray Darling**

> VOCAL CORD

What do you think about WLUSU spending \$10,700 on bringing "The Hawk" back?



"I'm for it. For such a young school we don't have many traditions."

- Josiah Young
Fifth-year Communications/
Women's Studies



"It's completely worth it."

- Emily Schacht
Faculty of Education



"That's a joke."

- James Humphreys
Second-year History



"It's a lot of money, but I really miss the Hawk and want it back. The school didn't feel the same without it."

- Caileigh Harvey
Fourth-year Kinesiology



"If it was up to me I'd spend \$25,000 to bring it back."

- Ryan Carmichael
Fourth-year Global Studies

Compiled by Joe Turcotte,
photos by Riley Taylor

WLU mourns

- FROM WEIR, COVER

was "very much part of the history and the fabric of [WLU]," stated outgoing President Bob Rosehart.

With the sudden passing of Weir due to a brain aneurysm at his summer home in PEI on August 24 at the age of 76, Laurier has lost "a lot of our institutional memory ... and a true elder statesman," lamented Rosehart.

"John's greatest conversations with me were about the institutional history; the importance of certain people and the alumni from the past. He would share his perspective on those," said Rosehart, adding, "He used to read the obituaries and then draw to my attention somebody from the past [Laurier community], so it does seem strange that I'm going to be reading the obituary about him."

During his tenure as WLU president, Weir oversaw the creation of the Bricker and Bouckaert residences as well as the construction of the Aird building and the purchase of University Stadium.

When it came down to it though, as involved as he was with various committees and community projects, Weir only really had two true passions in his life: "his wife [of 48 years] Anne and his four boys - and the university," according to Stephen, who just recently ended his tenure as vice-president of university advancement.

"They were absolutely huge," explained Stephen of those two aspects to Weir's life.

Weir still lived in Waterloo for much of the year and his funeral was held in the city last Friday at St. Louis Roman Catholic Church.



Sydney Helland

CONDOLENCES - Flags fly at half mast for former president John Weir.

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BOD hopes to re-instill tradition

- FROM HAWK, COVER

"It's something that the students really wanted, just from my own personal campaign and talking with the general student population, and I don't know if the price is really much of an issue," said Allison.

Despite the almost unanimous vote to pass the expenditure in the budget, not all directors were in agreement about the new purchase.

Colin LeFevre, a director on the BOD, proposed to have the item removed from the central budget because he didn't feel that the purchase of an "\$11,000 decoration" was a responsible way to spend student fees.

"[The decision] is something that I'm legitimately disappointed in the board about," said LeFevre. "Student fees are meant to enhance student experience and I see no reason that this will enhance student experience," he added.

Though it may come at a steep cost, most other directors are not apprehensive about the monetary impacts that the board's decision will have.

Director Fabio Enriquez notes that, in his opinion, the costs associated with replacing the Hawk are worth the money the Students Union is dishing out – as he feels "you can't put a price on tradition."

In Enriquez's eyes, last year's decision to remove the Hawk was something which should never have been done in the first place.

"I think it was just a really big mistake, and it was a big mistake that [the BOD] had the chance to rectify and we did," he said.

Matthew Park, the chair of the BOD, was impressed by how thoroughly this issue was discussed at the budget meeting, which he hopes will alleviate concerns regarding the high cost of the Hawk.

"The board did a good examina-

tion of both sides. They examined a lot of the concerns and the rationale of why the decision [to remove the Hawk] was made initially," said Park.

One of the individuals most impressed with the BOD's decision is fifth-year communications student Rob McIntosh, who has been a passionate advocate for the return of the Hawk for the past year.

Last September, when the Hawk was first removed, McIntosh created the Facebook group 'I STILL won't walk on the hawk (no not even the masking tape one)', which still has over 1,300 members. He also started an 'i-petition' to bring back the Hawk, which accumulated over 1,000 signatures.

"[The Hawk] is very important and necessary, and it's fantastic that it did come back and it is certainly worth the money," said McIntosh.

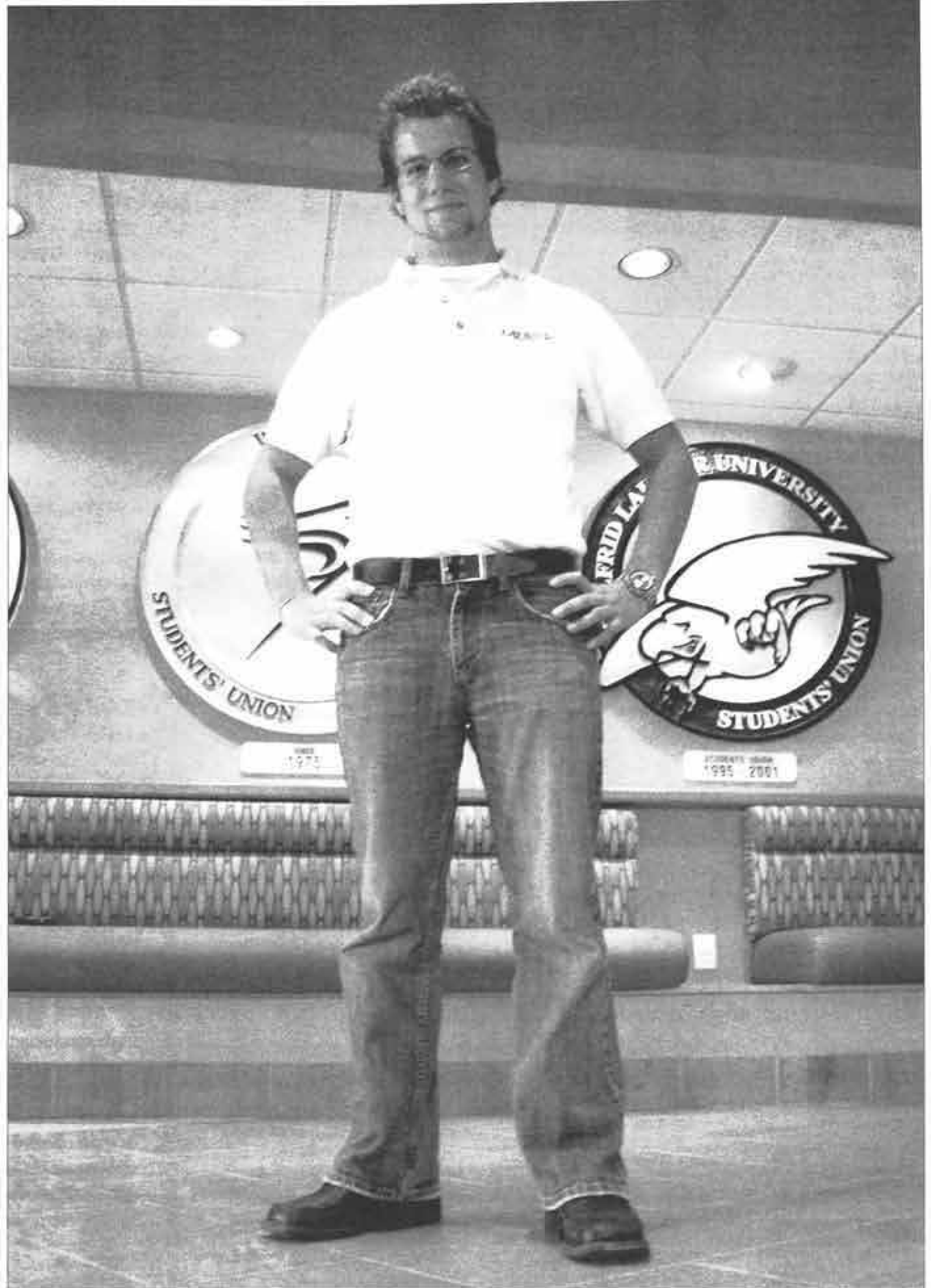
With essentially half of WLU's '07-'08 student body having no previous exposure to the traditions associated with the mascot on the floor, McIntosh feels that, this year, it's really up to the senior students to ensure that the same respect will be shown to the new Hawk.

"If [the tradition] is not instilled early on it could die a little bit, but I have almost absolute confidence that it will [carry on] because so many people did care about it," said McIntosh.

However, Matthew Ichim, one of two directors on the BOD who voted against the purchase of the new Hawk, is not quite as optimistic as McIntosh.

"We can never bring back the exact same Hawk. If [the new one] actually gathers school spirit and if students take pride in the school because of it, than yeah, it's worth the money, but I'm doubtful of that."

See PAGE 28 for editorial reaction to this story



Sydney Helland

WELCOME BACK HAWK - WLUSU President Dan Allison stands where the Golden Hawk will return.

WLU faculty of education starts first year

2,700 applications received for initial registration; more expansion is already planned within the next three years



Courtesy Faculty of Education

LYNNE HANNAY, INTERIM DEAN - FACULTY OF EDUCATION

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

Sitting comfortably in her office on the freshly-painted third floor of the Bricker Academic Building this past Monday, Interim Dean of Education, Lynne Hannay, is a model of confidence on a very significant day in Laurier's school history.

It has only been a couple of hours since classrooms filled for the Faculty of Education's opening day and Hannay smells success in the air already.

With 2,700 applications received for 71 available spots since the recruitment process started just under a year ago, she already has her eyes already set on expansion – "very soon" she says, adding, "as soon as we get bigger."

The sky appears to be the limit for

the new department as the wheels are expected to be in motion soon enough to expand its Junior Kindergarten to Grade Six Bachelor of Education degree to encompass senior grades and even high school.

While Hannay sees that happening in about two to three years, the current program will be the most crucial to the program's ultimate success.

With the overwhelming support of both the public and private school boards in Kitchener-Waterloo and Guelph, the dean believes it already holds an edge over more established schools of education, like Western, because "we're definitely doing more in terms of being in schools."

"Right from day one we went to the school boards and asked 'what do we need to do to develop a fac-

ulty of education?"

With the information they gathered in mind, a "very intense" one-year program has been created in which students will attend classes as well as immerse themselves in regional elementary schools in four practicums.

These immersions within the classroom start off slowly, with simple observations, but will eventually have students give actual lessons to pupils similar to the ones they may, one day, teach themselves.

Having already fielded four calls recently regarding registration in September 2008, Hannay admits that it is "a very exciting day for her" – even with experience in the teaching field for over 30 years.

"It was very easy to get up in the morning," she concluded with a smile.

Campus construction winding down

AC and new Career Development and Co-op Building last on the list to be completed

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

By all accounts, Laurier's campus should be relatively void of any major visible construction by the third week of September, with the completion of the Career Development and Co-op building,

"THINGS MOVED A LITTLE QUICKER THAN WE ANTICIPATED, WHICH IS ALWAYS GOOD."

- Shane Danis, Interim Manager: Facilities, Design and Construction

Located on the corner of King and Lodge Street, the three-storey building will be "complete 100 percent by September 14," according to Shane Danis, Interim Manager: Facilities, Design and Construction.

With staff having moved in last Thursday to unpack their boxes, Danis explained that the first two floors of office space are "occupiable." The basement interview space, however, will be the last thing to be finished.

"This was part of the agreement, a few months back, that that would be going on for a couple more additional weeks," he said.

Renovations, which have been underway for over a year regarding the Dr. Alvin Woods Building (DAWB), Danis conveyed his

pleasure about how smoothly the move-in process has gone.

"Things moved a little quicker than we had anticipated - which is always good," he explained of the endeavour, which saw the building essentially gutted from the inside for new classrooms and offices.

"[Construction] is complete and well on its way to being ready for students' arrival," he added.

Also ready for the arriving wave of first-year students are both Leupold and Euler residences, which garnered some serious attention due to mold problems this summer.

Mike Belanger, Director of Residential Services, commented that "remedial work" has been conducted over the last couple of weeks, including air quality testing - which found that levels are currently at appropriate standards.

Stalling the flow of progress for on-campus construction, however, is the correctional action being taken at the Athletic Complex (AC). Flooding during the winter thaw, caused by faulty drainage pipes surrounding the dance and circuit rooms at the AC, have made the area inaccessible for the past few months.

While the work on the outside of the building will be complete for the start of O-Week, the problem won't be completely solved until the start of the winter term, according to Roly Webster, Coordinator of Facilities/Events/Sponsorship.

Affected classes will be moved to appropriate alternate locations, including the refurbished University Stadium.



MAN AT WORK - Work along the exterior of the AC to improve water drainage will be completed this week.

Greg McKenzie

Honourarium for chair approved in budget

Board of Directors agree to compensate their chair with \$19,000; responsibilities of the position will increase accordingly

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

The Board of Directors (BOD) has approved a \$19,000 honourarium for the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) chair of the BOD after discussions between the chair, Matthew Park, and board members.

Earlier in the summer, a couple of directors expressed concern when Park began receiving his compensation - while the BOD was left in the dark regarding the bud-

get change.

"The overriding opinion was that there was not enough discussion about the amount [of the honourarium]," said Park.

"A lot of directors were very clear that it was not a personal issue and all [their concerns are] something that I agree [with] wholly because it is something that needs to be discussed," he added.

The board approved the original amount and structure of the payments, meaning Park will receive his \$19,000 in four increments over

the course of the school year.

In the discussions between Park and the directors it was also determined that the work of the chair will increase in order to reflect the amount of money the position now pays.

"The board has asked for alteration in my reporting to them, so I'll be filing more paper and memo-based reports in addition to verbal reports, which I think will really resolve the issue," said Park.

Park feels that the breakdown of communication within WLUSU

regarding this situation can be attributed to the policy governance model, which the BOD switched to last year.

"As you move into policy governance there is going to be growth pains. [The role of the chair] was altered when policy governance was introduced ... and I think the honourarium was in response to that," said Park.

In his second year as chair of the board, Park has noticed that the role, and the accompanying workload, has indeed changed this past

summer.

He hopes to take the opportunity to accomplish some of his goals for the year, which include developing a strategic plan for WLUSU and increasing the tools and education being offered to the board.

"The board made some good decisions and I think what we'll see is a bit more stability in terms of the role," said Park.

"I think that now the board can say that it is reasonable to have very high expectations of the chair of the board."



Contributed Photo

WORKING HARD - SOS volunteers and a local worker build a new bathroom for a school in Belize.

Students 'guilty' about leaving

- FROM BELIZE, COVER

"I was heartbroken about the fact that we had to leave, so it didn't really kick in that we were in any sort of danger," said fourth-year business student Vivek Sarma.

Katie Edmonds, a fifth-year psychology student, expressed that though she was torn between staying and leaving, once the decision was made she felt "horribly guilty."

"All the people we made connections with didn't have that opportunity [to leave] and they were making huge efforts to make sure we were safe before they made sure they were safe," said Edmonds.

The expense for the group to take the emergency flight cost the students between \$600 and \$700, in addition to the \$1400 they had each paid to originally participate in the trip.

In order to help recuperate these costs Laurier SBE has named September "SOS month" in which the faculty is planning several fundraising activities. "We're very much in the beginning stages of planning the month out," explained Meghan Harris, Marketing Communications Manager for SBE.

Some of the proposed activities include "Toonie Tuesdays" where SBE staff and professors can pay two dollars to dress casual for the day, as well as placing donation boxes in various areas of the school.

The kickoff to the month began this past Thursday with a fundraiser and welcome home reception for the students who were in Belize.

At this time, Overholt shared the group's story with members from the community. He also made the announcement that he would be flying back to Belize the follow-

ing morning to help finish the site, which, fortunately, was still in tact.

The area where the group was staying did not end up being affected or damaged by the storm as much as the southern areas of Belize.

"Where we were staying was mostly just rain and winds ... so if I was given the decision again I probably would have stayed," explained Linda Ly, third-year BBA student.

Though construction on the school did stop for a couple of days due to the weather, the seven Belizean workers, which Overholt had hired at the beginning of the project, have been working on the site since the group left.

"Luckily the site is still going, [The seven workers] are going to finish it and that's the bottom line," said Overholt. "They're going to finish the project we started."



Greg Overholt

PAY DAY - Ken Whyte of Quarry Integrated Communications gives Greg Overholt a cheque for \$1500.

NEWSIN

Ontario makes student voting easier

There is now one less excuse for students not to vote, as a result of changes to the provincial elections identification policy.

According to new regulations by Elections Ontario, students can now use their student card as a piece of photo identification. The new regulations also alter what students can use as their proof of residence. This means that those living on campus can use documents from Laurier displaying their residence address as verification that they are local tenants.

Students can also use other government-issued documents, including student loan agreements, as identification when registering to vote.

The provincial election is set to take place on October 10 and Elections Ontario will provide information for students about how to vote, where to vote and the platforms of the candidates. This information will be distributed on campuses across the province as the election date draws closer.

McGuinty surplus

When the 2006-2007 fiscal year came to an end, the McGuinty government found itself with a \$2.3 billion surplus. The main causes of the surplus were increased transfer payments from the federal government, a one-time sale of a company and taxation revenues.

The surplus has allowed the Ontario government to increase its program funding expenditures in areas such as education, healthcare, social services and public transit. The money is also being put towards paying off the provincial debt.

There will also be more money projected for use in the next budget and post-secondary students are doing what they can to get on that agenda.

\$1M to Brantford from WLUSU

September 2009 will see the opening of Laurier Brantford's first campus cafeteria. This new space will fulfill student's nutritional needs, along with providing them with a place to bond and to work.

The Brantford campus will also see the opening of a William's Coffee Pub in the Market Square Mall, which will help to make the campus a major player in the downtown food industry.

It is estimated that the two facilities will employ about 22 full-time staff and up to 90 part-time staff. These university-run businesses will cater to students but will also be open to the public.

The cafeteria is set to offer healthy, reasonably-priced breakfasts, lunches and dinners. These projects are seen as an essential part to the growth of the Laurier Brantford campus.

Compiled by Cassandra McKenna

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9.3





Sydney Holland

SPROUTING UP EVERYWHERE - This summer saw the very rapid building of two new apartments on Ezra. This picture depicts the street in late June.

The changing face of Ezra Ave

Waterloo's 'student ghetto' is experiencing a significant makeover after landlord takes over the infamous party street

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

Since its infamous street party in 1994, which snowballed into an all-out riot, Ezra Ave has since been tagged as Laurier's student 'ghetto' by many of its own residents.

Yet what continues to make this locale one of the most popular around campus is the fact that it offers a unique social experience; interaction with fellow students relaxing on the porches of the older style homes which makes for a more community feel.

Over the last two years, however, a shift has taken place with the aforementioned homes coming down and cookie-cutter type apartment complexes going up.

The man behind the change is Sean French, proprietor of Student-houses.ca and, in his own words, owner of a "number of properties" on the street - if not all.

Involved with property on Ezra Ave since 1999, French has orchestrated the demolition of worn out homes and replaced them with four replica apartment buildings - two having been built just this past summer.

With rent ranging anywhere between \$410 and \$475 a month, French explains how the units have been "very well received" by not only the student population but also the surrounding community. While he wouldn't divulge how many tenants a single building holds, an on-site construction worker explained that with about 18 apartments on

five storeys, each has five bedrooms - amounting to approximately 90 tenants per building.

"We've worked very closely with the current neighbours [when planning the construction]," said French.

"We have worked out something that works out for all of us," he added.

Some, like nearby resident Dwight Schmidt, beg to differ. Living permanently in a home on Albert St. facing Ezra, Schmidt holds the belief that cramming more students onto one street only fuels a potential problem.

"Over the last two years that I've been here, the noise and quantity of drinking [on the street] has only increased," said Schmidt, explaining how he and nearby residents have had to deal with petty vandalism from Ezra lodgers.

French defends the construction by saying that it in fact helps preserve a historical neighbourhood, such as the one surrounding Laurier.

"If you permit that style of building, you're promoting the preservation of more houses from being torn down," said French.

Schmidt doesn't buy the argument though and sees it more as condensing income rather than simply condensing the student population.

More importantly, though, he hopes to see some more security on the street.

"Whether it's the city or the university working together, there

needs to be more security," he explained.

He also added that many of the homes on the street could be preserved a lot longer if there was a little more hands-on involvement from the landlords responsible - thereby eliminating the need for more construction.

However, it seems as though some students have gotten used to changes and aren't minding them.

Meghan Buckham, a fourth-year political science student, will be living in one of the original complexes for the second year in a row. Paying \$465 non-inclusive for a top floor apartment, Buckham really doesn't mind her setting.

"The only real thing is that if there's a problem, it takes longer than it should to fix something that should be done sooner," said Buckham.

"[The apartments] are pretty nice. You don't have porches anymore but it's still pretty loud [on the street]," she said.

Also offering glowing reviews was second-year economics and accounting student Jessica Easter.

As she unpacked boxes in her new kitchen, just months after leaving residence, Easter conveyed that her initial reaction was one of satisfaction.

"It looks like an amazing place," she offered, adding that being used to living so close to amenities on campus made the decision to live in the Ezra apartment that much more appealing.

And that's the very basis French

has used to guide his decision-making in his construction endeavours. hood but we're also trying to fulfil a need."

"People understand we're pretty responsible landlords ... we're conscious that it is a neighbour-



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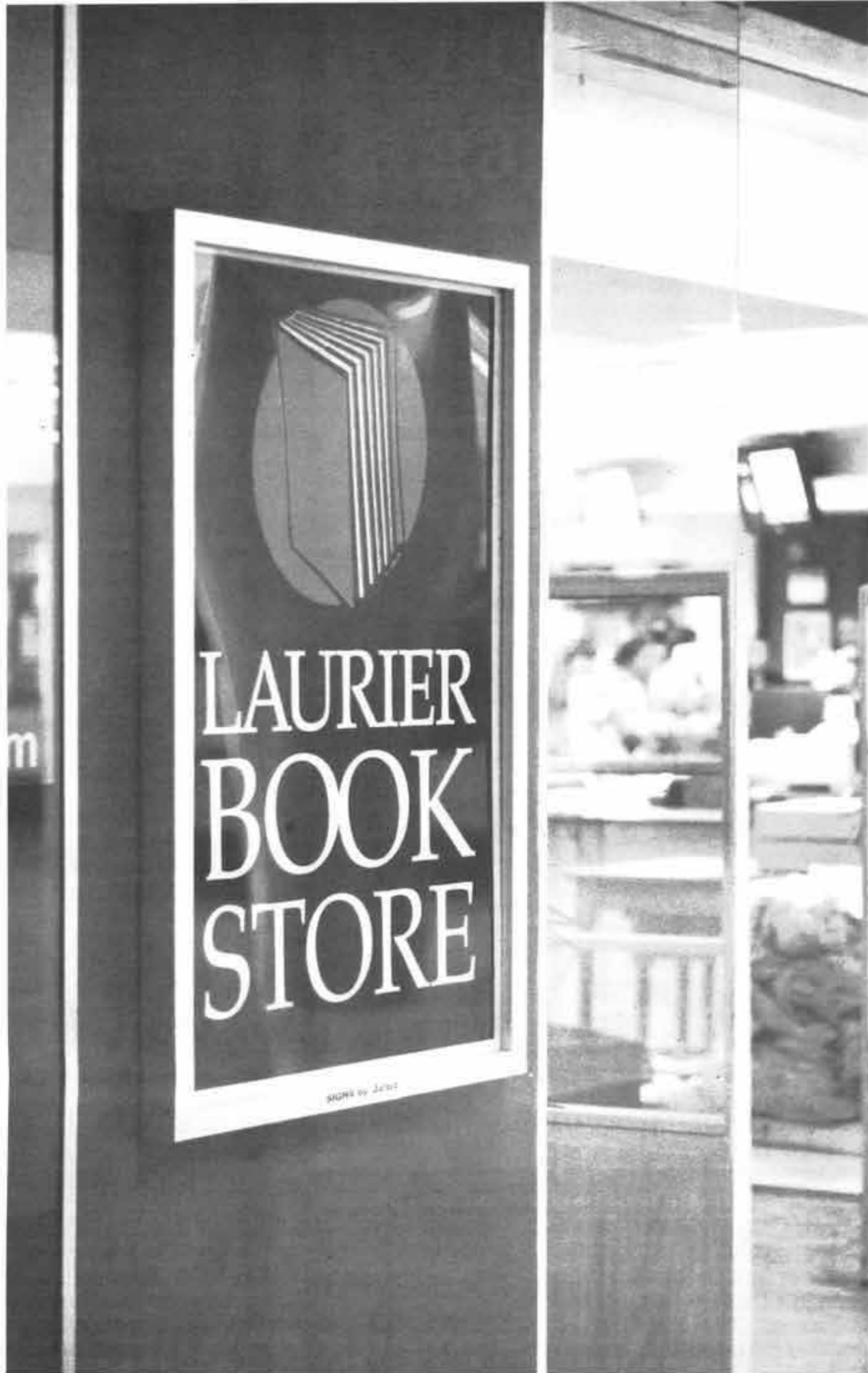
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BACK TO THE BOOKS - Management changes in the Bookstore leave student employees wondering how they will cope with September's busy season.

Sydney Helland

CANADA IN BRIEF

Canada opens first private university

Squamish, BC

Classes begin this September at the BC-based Quest University Canada, the country's first non-profit private university. The self-described liberal arts college is taking a unique approach to post-secondary education by placing their focus on undergraduate teaching as opposed to the more typical research-based faculties, which are found at most Canadian universities.

The objective behind this educational approach is to create a more learning-oriented environment. For instance, professors will be referred to as tutors and the school has been designed to feature a 10:1 student to faculty ratio.

Former UBC president David Strangway founded the university in efforts to produce an undergraduate experience comparable to the internationally renowned private schools found in the U.S. and Europe.

Campus-wide renovations create inclusive environment at UBC

Vancouver, BC

The University of British Columbia (UBC) is preparing to renovate 391 single-stall washrooms across campus to better meet the needs of the school's diverse student body.

The university is responding to requests made by UBC's Pride Association, who has raised concerns that transgendered students are faced with embarrass-

ment and discomfort when forced to use gender-specific washrooms.

UBC is developing new wash-room signs, which feature the silhouette of a toilet, in hopes to identify the purpose of the facility rather than a restricted gendered user.

The university is also considering refurbishing washrooms at the campus' Brock Hall, where practicing Muslim students gather up to five times daily for prayer.

In order to conduct prayer, individuals must thoroughly bathe their hands, feet and faces, which, in the current washrooms, can be difficult. Proposed renovations would include adding custom-built ablution facilities tailored specifically to the needs of the Muslim bathing ritual.

Mumps outbreak recommendations

Nova Scotia and New Brunswick

Canada's Chief Medical Officer has recently advised that all students returning to university in the Maritimes should not only be vaccinated for mumps, but that they should be receiving a two-dose vaccination recommended. This comes after the largest mumps breakout in decades took place in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in mid-August.

Nearly 600 cases have been reported, most being secondary and post-secondary students. Of the 284 cases for which immunization status is known, 75 percent had received one dose of the vaccine.

In efforts to contain the outbreak, provincial governments in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are now offering the two-dose vaccines to all Grade 12 and post-secondary students, but out-of-province students returning to the Maritimes this September are not being covered.

Compiled by Melissa Dranfield

Bookstore manager resigns

Student employees are left without answers when their employer departed just weeks before September rush begins

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

The Laurier Bookstore is now without their manager after eight-year employee Ron Billing suddenly resigned from his full-time position on August 14.

This resignation came as a complete shock to student employees, as they had no indication that there would be any management changes until their boss gathered them and told them he was leaving on the morning of his departure.

"It caught us all off guard. Nobody really knows why or what happened, so we have to all just deal with what was thrown at us," said Ericka Little, a third-year so-

ciology student who has worked at the Bookstore for the past year.

Though the news came unexpectedly to student employees, Jim Butler, VP: Finance and Billing's boss, was not so taken aback.

"[Ron] and I have been working together for a while and I wasn't totally surprised, no," said Butler.

"In was an amicable departure," said Butler. "We had an external [Bookstore] review this year... there was a lot of stress on Ron throughout that whole process," he added.

Though the Bookstore also found itself without a manager last year at this time, as Billing was absent on a leave, Butler expressed that the back to school season is a far from optimal time of year for such

a departure.

"This is the worst time of year for us to not have a manger," said Butler.

Administration and current Bookstore management would not pinpoint the reasoning behind the resignation, and Billing himself was hesitant to give any indication as to why he left his job so suddenly.

"I just think for the best interest of the Bookstore and Laurier I just have to say no comment," Billing told *The Cord* when contacted.

Though Butler has begun putting together a committee to find a replacement for Billing, he expressed that the process may take up to eight weeks due to the intensive process involved in the search.

In the meantime, Debohra Da Costa, the manager of the business office, has been appointed as the Interim manager to help cope with the September rush.

Da Costa has found that she has been able to quickly adjust to her new role, though she feels that at times it can be challenging to process such a vast amount of new information in such a short amount of time.

"I'm overwhelmed at how quickly we have to put it all together," she said.

Da Costa cites the current staff as the reasoning behind her smooth transition, and she has also been contacting Billing to help her finish off work he did not have a chance to

wrap up before his departure.

Though Da Costa is confident that this year's September rush should be no different from past years, recently graduated WLU student, Greg Walsh, is not so sure it will go as smoothly.

"The rush period is the time where [the bookstore] needs everyone on the same page... because when you're moving 10,000 [students] out the doors it's a logistical nightmare," said Walsh.

"That experience alone - having someone that's done it so many times - with that gone, it has the potential for chaos."

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Darfur's unwanted

The Sudanese government expels the third in a row of diplomats and officials working in the war-torn Western region of Darfur

WALEED HAFEEZ
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

In a move of extreme defiance, the Sudanese government has expelled the country director of American aid group CARE from the war-torn country.

A government official has confirmed that Paul Barker, country director for CARE, was given 72 hours to leave Sudan. According to Sudanese government officials, Barker was involved in non-humanitarian work that threatened state security. As a result, his work visa was cancelled and he was expelled.

This new expulsion is the third in less than a month, a statistic that may be alarming given the number of aid agencies currently helping Sudan and especially the Darfur region from escalating disaster. Although Barker was asked to leave, Sudan has asked that CARE stay and continue the work they are doing for the country.

Barker, on the other hand, feels that the Sudanese government has taken information and misrepresented it to make him seem like a traitor and a threat. "This has come as a huge surprise to us. I am very disappointed with the government's decision, which I believe was based on information that was taken out of context," Barker said.

Barker said the only explanation he could think of was that the government was unhappy with an internal email which he had written to CARE staff in October and which was leaked to the Sudanese press earlier this year.

"It was a totally appropriate email for a country director to write. But the government saw it as political analysis that was inappropriate for an aid organization to make," he added.

Barker said CARE had spent more than \$US184 million on aid projects in Sudan since it arrived

in the country in 1979. It has spent more than \$US60 million in the past three years, he added, mostly in the troubled Darfur region.

Earlier, Sudan told diplomats from Canada and the European Union to leave although it later allowed the EU ambassador to stay on. Both Canada and the EU have always been exceptionally involved in the relief process in the country, especially in the Western region of Darfur.

Canadian charge d'affaires Nuala Lawlor and her European counterpart, Kent Degerfelt, were both expelled from the country and classified as 'persona non grata.' This move has angered Canada, who has gone on to condemn the act.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry had declared them persona non grata "for involving themselves in activities that constitute interference in the internal affairs of the country," Sudan radio reported, according to BBC monitoring.

"I have been in Sudan for five years and I have always worked for the good of Sudan and its people and that is why I believe that maybe there is some sort of misunderstanding somewhere," responds

"I HAVE BEEN IN SUDAN FOR FIVE YEARS AND I HAVE ALWAYS WORKED FOR THE GOOD OF SUDAN AND ITS PEOPLE AND THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE THAT MAYBE THERE IS SOME SORT OF MISUNDERSTANDING SOMEWHERE."

- Ken Degerfelt, UN Envoy to Sudan

Degerfelt to his removal.

When asked about Lawlor's dismissal, the Foreign Affairs Department in Ottawa said that "Ms. Lawlor, in the finest traditions of Canadian diplomacy, was stand-



Contributed Photos

DARFUR'S DEATHS - As the tragedy in the Sudan continues help still remains difficult to come by.

ing up for our values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Sudan. We have asked the Sudanese authorities why they have expelled her."

Sudan claims that all of the people asked to leave the country had "meddled in Sudan's affairs" although they all claim to have

just been doing their jobs. John Thompson, president of the Mackenzie Institute that studies political instability and terrorism has said that both diplomats were doing

their job very well.

In a bizarre positive spin, Thompson goes on to say that being expelled from a country like Sudan means that Lawlor and her fellow diplomats were in fact doing some-

thing right. Expelling the particular diplomat means that they were "becoming effective, getting close to things and looking at things (the government) don't want people to pay attention to", explains Thompson. He goes on to joke that for both Lawlor and her European counterpart, this was a great honour!

More than 200,000 people have died in Sudan's war-torn Darfur region since rebels took up arms against the Arab-dominated central government in 2003, accusing it of discrimination.

As of the end of July, there were 31 Canadian Forces members serving in Sudan as per a UN mission. In addition to military support, Canada spends \$59 million a year in aid to Western Africa making it the third largest recipient of Canadian international aid.

Although Canadian officials haven't made any official retaliation, Thompson says that Canada's response could include a "tit-for-tat where the Sudanese ambassador is thrown out of Canada." Although

this seems the fair thing to do, Thompson also says that this would be an unfortunate retaliation as it would hinder aid to Sudan as well as relations between Sudan and the EU and Canada.

An African Union force in Darfur has failed to stem the violence despite a 2006 peace deal. International experts estimate some 200,000 people have died and 2.5 million have been driven from their homes since mostly non-Arab rebels took up arms in early 2003.

Sudan has a history of difficult relations with Western diplomats, whom it sometimes accuses of meddling with the country's internal affairs. Last year, it expelled Jan Pronk, the head of the U.N. mission in Sudan.

All in all, although the removals were supposedly made to benefit Sudan, these expulsions may turn around and be the worst thing Sudan could do to make sure any peaceful resolution is ever reached.



Living 'the dream' illegally

A closer look at the States' growing population and the increased attention to illegal immigration



ALEXANDRA HOWARD
CORD INTERNATIONAL

therefore there is no crime. To this one may reply, why are remunerations being offered to those who are not entitled? Simply put, the initial perpetration should be reason enough to call a spade, a spade.

A highly convoluted matter, it is above all else one of politics, perhaps yet another case of political repudiation being put ahead of a nation's future. In reality, both Republicans and Democrats have failed to appease the concerned minds of the American populous. In fact, what makes such people attracted to the U.S. are a series of benefits proposed by liberal politicians: free health-care, voting rights, welfare benefits, amnesty and eventual citizenship. With the Democrats constructing their political platforms with these rights in mind, it is no wonder that illegal aliens have begun to openly voice their demands.

Yet the hypocrisy involved in the demand to open their borders hails from both ends of the political spectrum: for Democrats, it's a ploy to garner votes (legal or not), while for Republicans, it ties to the

A multi-faceted issue that engages the very essence of the term free country, illegal immigration continues to make headlines as politicians exchange blows in the fight for the preservation of sovereignty in America. Indeed, while the United States is a country founded on the immigration policies of its forefathers, the estimated 11 million illegal aliens currently residing in the country have compounded an issue that both threatens and takes advantage of what constitutes America itself: a land that guarantees life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The logic behind a recent court ruling on illegal immigration is as follows: while unauthorized entry into the United States is illegal, being in the country after having entered illegally is not illegal, so



Contributed Photo

IRONIC IMMIGRATION - As a nation founded by immigrants, many Americans seek to close the borders.

business community as well as the prospect of cheap labour apparently trump all concerns of legality. In truth, non-Americans living in

the country illegally are being catered to instead of being managed in accordance with the laws of the country. The futile bipartisan support of the recently proposed immigration bill that grants virtual amnesty is indeed no surprise.

Despite efforts to gain support of the legislation, a plan which would ultimately provide a trajectory for legal status in the U.S. for an estimated 12-20 million illegal aliens, the American Senate proposition is favored by only 22% of the American population. The provisional visa that the bill guarantees, along with more Border Patrol agents, more cameras and other technologies, is not enough to satisfy citizens who are concerned with the toll that illegal immigration is taking on their native country, and for good reason.

In effect, illegal immigration profoundly affects the U.S. on both an economic and social level. Notably, since Mexican immigrants have much less education than the average U.S. worker, they increase the supply of less-skilled labor, driving down the wages of the worst paid Americans. Due to their nature of being undocu-

mented, however, the government and private industries struggle to compose solid numbers; nonetheless, illegal aliens negatively impact the standard of living in areas such as health care, employment rates, GDP, and education.

Moreover, not only do these non-Americans destabilize an already meager healthcare system at the expense of taxpayers, but are also the culprits of what has been termed an "Illegal Alien Crime Wave". The statistics on violent crimes, the drug trade, auto theft, and identity theft, are a testament to this reality; for instance, in Los Angeles, 95% of all outstanding warrants for homicide and two-thirds of all fugitive felony warrants target illegal aliens.

Ultimately, while the border war does encompass a series of trivialities, the policy should not be to reward illegal behavior especially where it threatens to undermine the American identity. To maintain national security and social affluence, it is of utmost importance for the United States to establish a systematic screening program, implement deportation measures, and strengthen border defenses.

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Is the Cold War returning?

Nearly two decades after the end of the Cold War, the strengthening of ties between former Eastern Bloc countries sounds alarms in Washington



YUSUF FAQIRI
CORD INTERNATIONAL

The tit for tat games between Moscow and Washington are finally taking their toll. The tumultuous relationship between the Bush administration and Russian President Vladimir Putin has been exasperated over the question of Eastern Europe. Former Eastern bloc states such as Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic have established a fairly healthy relationship with the Kremlin without being too dependent on Russia.

But if one looks more closely at the situation in the East, Russia is quickly getting agitated with Washington sticking their nose in areas where Russian influence has existed for centuries. Yes, the Cold War ended almost two decades ago, and indeed the suggestion of another Cold War may be far-fetched, but look no further than to the situation

in Eastern Europe, and one sees a very strong rivalry developing between Washington and Moscow over the Eastern bloc states.

To Russia's annoyance, Washington is playing a role where it feels it is being threatened. At the same time one feels disturbed with the way things have been handled by Washington, the role of empire is no longer disguised by the United

THE TUMULTUOUS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION AND RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN HAS BEEN EXASPERATED OVER THE QUESTION OF EASTERN EUROPE.

States. The Russia that exists today is not the Russia of the Soviet Union. But folks, make no mistake. Moscow still remains a big player on the world stage, which can still bargain with its own chips.

Although the Eastern bloc states

have indeed achieved their own independence, they still remain very much at the whim of the Kremlin economically. The leaders in Moscow want the West to stop meddling in Russian affairs.

The United States plan to build a missile defence system in former Eastern bloc states such as the Czech Republic and Poland. Russia sees this missile defence system as a threat. Putin's response to the missile defence system was suspending Russian participation in the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty (CFE), signed in 1990. The CFE treaty was one of the most important arms control agreements of the Cold War years.

The worsening political tension between Moscow and the West has not been this bad in years. There was a chance for a potentially healthy relationship between Russia and the West during the begin-

ning of the war on terror, but all of that now seems a very remote possibility. At times, Russia might find itself isolated by the West and it counters this by building a very strong relationship with China.

The Kremlin have also done their best to frustrate the American interests in the Middle East by helping Iran in regards to the nuclear issue. The Russians on several occasions have threatened to block US-proposed UN resolutions over the Iranian nuclear issue. Not to mention that the Russians are at the forefront in the Kosovo Independence issue. The Russians have sided with the Serbian nationalists and ineffectively have managed to sabotage American interests there.

One could go on all day and list the current problems between Rus-

sia and the West (led by the United States). But the question should be how and why the Russian-Western relationship became so strained again? After all, many people after the Cold War on both sides looked for reconciliation. But things have changed dramatically during the Putin-Bush era for the worse. One would argue that the root of the problem would lead us once again to the former Eastern Bloc states.

In 2004, the Northern Atlantic Treaty Organization expanded membership to seven Eastern bloc states. This was a big insult to Russia, because on several occasions they warned the West not to expand in Eastern Europe.







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New Latin America

After years of excruciating poverty, Latin America is finally pulling itself into a period of relative prosperity and sees a new middle class developing

LUKE REIMER
CORD INTERNATIONAL

Over the past several years, Latin America has experienced increased economic stability, infrastructure growth, and financial strength. What was once a poverty-stricken cluster of countries home to vastly unequal wealth distribution is now developing a strong and sustainable middle class.

Consumption is at an all-time high as the thousands of marketplaces spread throughout the countries are rapidly expanding. Housing materials have moved from wood to brick and mortar, and countless villages now have running water and electricity, that was once only dreamed of.

THE CURRENT SUCCESS IS INSTEAD ATTRIBUTED TO INTERNAL ECONOMIC REFORM, INNOVATIVE SOCIAL NETWORKS, LOWER BIRTH RATES, AND BOOMING EXPORTS. SUCH DIVERSE AND INDEPENDENT FOUNDATIONS BASED UPON THE MARKET'S RATHER THAN THE GOVERNMENT IS THE SOURCE FOR PROJECTIONS OF EVEN FURTHER GROWTH IN THE FUTURE.

Furthermore, international trade, road construction, and educational enrollment have all begun to increase at a swift rate.

Economically, steady growth is seen in the form of high commodity prices, low inflation, slowed population growth, and the strengthening of job markets. Appropriate fiscal policies and focus on social incentives are also major contributors.

Chile currently leads the growth in relative quantitative numbers. However, the changes are the most dramatic in Brazil and Mexico, which account for half of Latin America's 560 million people. Peru

and Colombia follow close behind, as well as other Latin American countries in the region.

A similar boost of growth occurred once before between the 1940's and 1970's, but proved to be unsustainable in the long run due to a too-close connection with the government's financial status.

The current success is instead attributed to internal economic reform, innovative social networks, lower birth rates, and booming exports. Such diverse and independent foundations based upon the markets rather than the government is the source for projections of even further growth in the future.

As a result of the recent success, the distribution of income and wealth is changing. This in turn has caused the previous class system to change and evolve as many of the poor rise in financial stature to become the emerging middle class.

"Middle class", however, is a North American term that must be viewed subjectively. In Latin America, the middle class are those involved with servants, private schools, luxury cars, and large houses. What a North American would see as the middle class is in fact referred to as the lower-middle-class.

The citizens of Latin America are not the only ones to see prosperity on the back of economic and social reform. Foreign investors in the financial markets are also seeing rewarding profits that are expected to entice further investment and spur on the financial growth at an even faster rate.

These shifts in Latin American lifestyle and economy are continuing to pick up speed as members of the internal and external environment contribute to the success.

In order to continue the positive trends, steps are being taken to ensure that the next generation of Latin Americans has greater access to not only the sustainable basic human needs, but to higher education and consistent job markets.

Of note regarding the emergence of a Latin American middle class is the regression of the North American middle class. As Latin America sees a redistribution of income from what used to be only rich and poor to a middle ground, North America is experiencing an opposite shift.

Despite the recent economic success and foundations of sustainable growth, poverty and inequality remain the largest issues facing Latin America today with nearly 25% of the population living on less than \$2 USD a day.

Canada continues to support those in need both through aid and in political relationship, along with the United States and several other European countries.



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BOOMING BUILDINGS - An economic upswing finds many Latin American countries in a desirable position.



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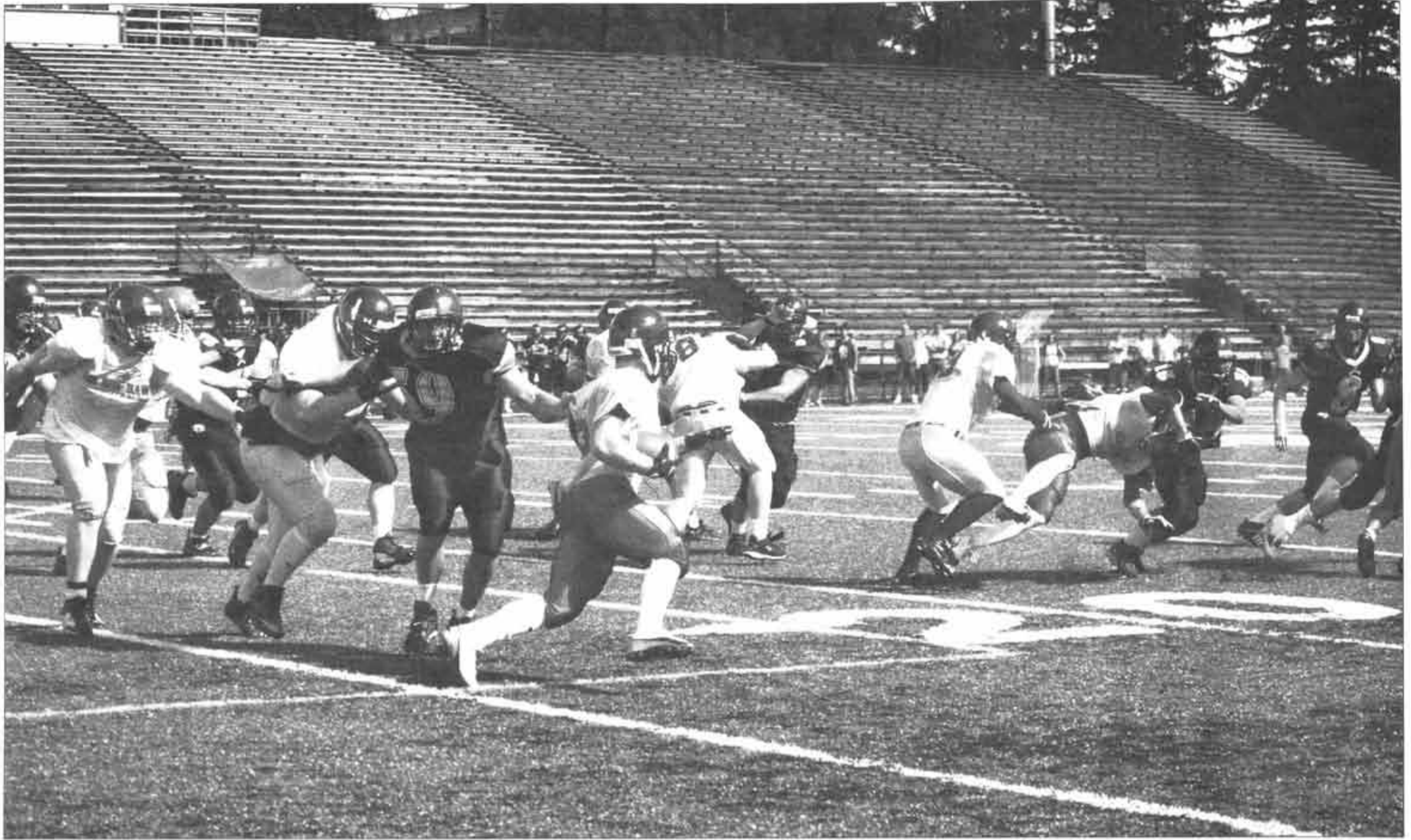
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Sydney Holland

Hawks' football preview

The Cord takes a look at what to expect from the nation's eight-ranked squad

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

With football season looming over our heads and the workers busy getting the stadium ready for the opening kickoff, the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks are focused on finessing and fine-tuning players and preparing them for what promises to be a tough yet exciting season.

Welcoming 41 new players this year, the Hawk staff and veteran players have been working hard to integrate the rookies into the team and get them accustomed to the pace of the game.

"The new players are meshing with the returning veterans very well. They are all very enthusiastic athletes that have done a great job adapting to our 'one team' attitude," commented fourth-year receiver Dante Luciani.

"The veterans have also done a tremendous job helping along the rookies with everything and making the transition to university foot-

ball, and university life in general, a smooth one," he added.

Veteran running back Ryan Lynch also had props for the new gridiron gang. "We have a really good bunch of rookies this year who are eager to learn, and it's showing on the field."

Head Coach Gary Jeffries was very pleased with the new crop of players, saying that he is very excited and that many of the new guys will be pushed to play right from the start.

With the departure of last year's starting quarterback Jamie Partington, it was clear that the starting pivot was one of the biggest question marks entering the year. It seems as though that slot will be filled by West Vancouver product Ian Noble who, while not new to the team, will be new to regular rotation as he enters his third season in purple and gold.

"The offence is definitely starting to get on the same page as the younger guys," noted Noble. "The biggest challenge for new guys on

offense is learning the playbook and adjusting to the speed of the game at the higher level."

"As a rookie, it's tough to come in at the university level and play right away," agreed Lynch. "Any rookie that will be playing in the game against Mac will have the help of a lot of vets and that will make their job that much easier."

"WE ARE A YOUNG TEAM AND I THINK WE WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AS THE SEASON PROGRESSES. I THINK WE WILL BE VERY COMPETITIVE."

- Gary Jeffries, Hawks' head coach

The team will be put to the test immediately as they open at home against the McMaster Marauders on Monday, September 3. "We are certainly concerned about playing a good football team like McMaster, but we are also very confident we will have success against them,"

Jeffries predicted. "It will be a great game."

Taking an overall glance at what is to come for the Hawks, the toughest challenge this year should come from the Ottawa Gee-Gees, who the Hawks welcome to Waterloo in week seven. "They are still relatively intact from last year's Yates Cup team, and we really struggled

against them last year," said Noble.

Luciani had similar predictions regarding opposition. "The conference has improved a great deal in recent years and the level of play is among the very

best in the country."

"If I had to narrow it down, though, to a couple teams, I would definitely say Ottawa and Windsor," he continued. "We will definitely be looking to revenge our losses to them from last season."

The Waterloo Warriors were

mentioned by Jeffries as a possible team to watch out for. With a whole new coaching staff, the team is looking to improve greatly and be more competitive with the top schools.

But Lynch brought the thinking back down to reality stating that, "for right now, all we are thinking about is Mac."

"We are a young team and I think we will continue to grow as the season progresses," concluded Jeffries. "I think we will be very competitive."

Laurier is one of four OUA teams that made the top ten when Canadian Interuniversity Sport announced its preseason rankings on August 28. The Hawks took the eighth spot, behind Ottawa in third and Western in seventh. McMaster also made the top 10, sliding into the ninth slot.

CIS National Preseason Top 10:

1. Laval Rouge et Or
2. Saskatchewan Huskies
3. Ottawa Gee-Gees
4. Manitoba Bisons
5. Montreal Carabins
6. Concordia Stingers
7. Western Ontario Mustangs
- 8. Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks**
9. McMaster Marauders
10. Saint Mary's Huskies

Source: Canadian Interuniversity Sports website

Golden Hawks' 2007 Men's Football Season Schedule:

9/3/2007	vs. McMaster	2:00:00 PM
9/8/2007	vs. Windsor	6:30:00 PM
9/14/2007	@ Toronto	7:00:00 PM
9/22/2007	vs. Waterloo (Homecoming)	1:00:00 PM
9/29/2007	@ Queen's	1:25:00 PM
10/6/2007	@ Guelph (TV: The Score)	1:00:00 PM
10/13/2007	vs. Ottawa (TV: The Score)	1:00:00 PM
10/20/2007	@ York	1:00:00 PM

Source: www.laurierathletics.com

>> Check out page 18 for Player Profiles of:

- Ian Noble (QB)
- Dante Luciani (WR)
- Ryan Lynch (RB)
- Andy Baechler (WR)

Stadium to be ready for kick-off

After many delays, Knight-Newbrough Field makes its debut in today's home opener

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

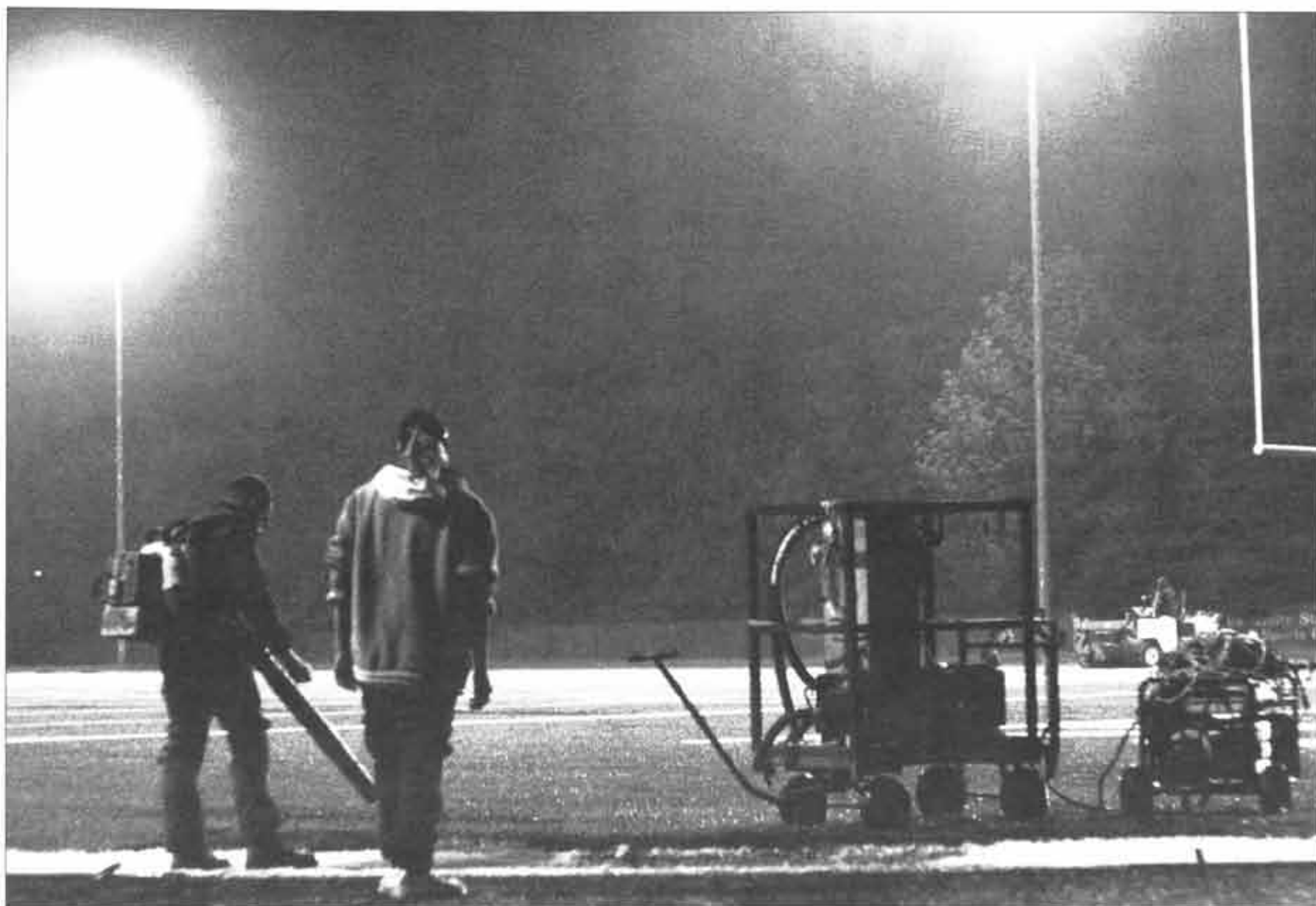
As the football season draws closer, one question remains in the back of everyone's mind: Will the stadium, which has undergone a \$5 million facelift over the summer and encountered hiccups in the form of a labour strike, be ready for Laurier's opening game on September 3?

According to Peter Baxter, director of athletics and recreation at Laurier, there is no such question. "It will be ready.

"The field and capping of the seats has been completed, and the team rooms were finished this week," explained Baxter last week. "The new gym floor has been installed and the lines have just been put on."

Baxter mentioned that the painting was still in the process of being finished, but should have no problem being completed in time. "The lockers were painted the wrong colour. So that will have to be redone, but it is only a very minor setback," he commented.

"It's a massive change inside. There is a completely new change room for women that was never



Sydney Helland

AT ALL COSTS - After a brief labour strike, workers at University Stadium began working through the night to complete the \$5 million renovation.

there before," Baxter continued.

The turf workers have been working quite late into the night in order to get the majority of the field ready for the teams to practice on.

Because it is used by football, rugby and lacrosse, it was a necessity to have this part done as soon as possible.

According to Baxter, the football

team was able to get on to the field to practice late Monday, August 20 and then again the following day. Enough of the field was completed to allow the players and coaches a

safe space to practice.

"We were never worried it wouldn't be ready," football Head

- SEE STADIUM, PAGE 18

LAURIER VS McMASTER

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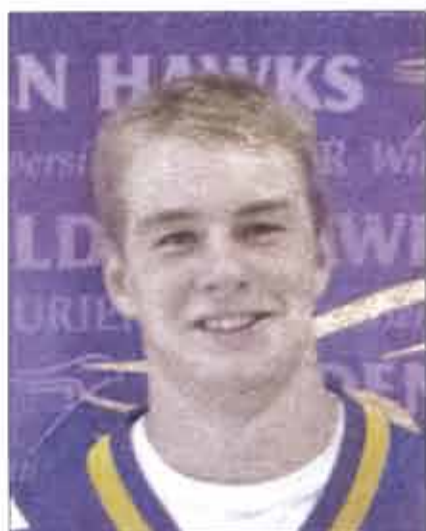
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Key players' profiles

Ian Noble



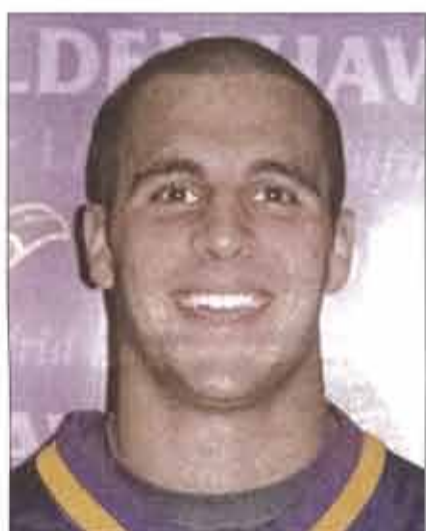
Position - Quarterback
Year - 3
Program - History
Background - Started playing football in grade eight because it was a big sport at his school.
Interesting Fact - Brother is a rookie at McMaster, competing for the backup quarterback spot behind Adam Archibald.

Ryan Lynch



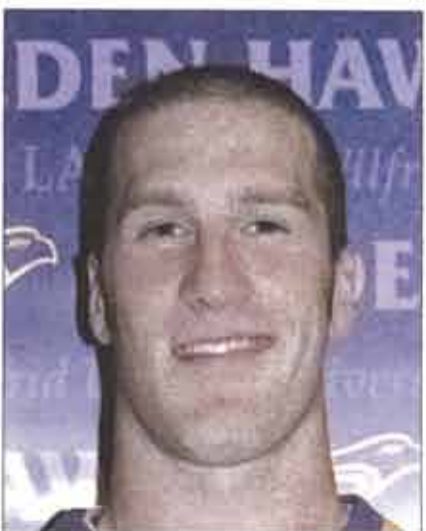
Position - Running back
Year - 4
Program - Economics
Background - Has always wanted to play football, but soccer took up most of his summers as a kid; began playing football in grade nine, and then switched focus primarily to football.

Dante Luciani



Position - Receiver
Year - 4
Program - Psychology
Background - Cousins David and Andrew Agro are both former football stars at WLU; mother played in a touch football league, grandmother watches and critiques every game.
Interesting Fact - Made the key catch in the Hawks' winning drive at the Vanier Cup in 2005, a third and 16 first-down.

Andy Baechler



Position - Receiver
Year - 5
Program - English
Background - Entering his fifth year with the Hawks, the Ayr native is one of the few veterans on this year's young roster; Baechler enters the season just 8 yards shy of 2000 for his WLU career; last year, he earned first team All-Canadian honours.

Renovations complete

The stadium is ready, but the dance studios at the AC will be out of commission until winter

- FROM STADIUM, PAGE 17

Coach Gary Jeffries said. "We adjusted and practiced on Alumni Field over the summer. It has merely been a small challenge that has been well worth any inconvenience."

"We never had any contingency plans in place. It wasn't even considered," stated Baxter. The thought arose briefly during the strike, but there was really no need for it."

After working overtime for a few weekends, the setbacks caused by the strike were quickly overcome, and therefore posed little problem to finishing the stadium in time for opening day.

On Sunday, August 26, the Hawks took to the new field to engage in

a friendly scrimmage with cross-town rivals the Waterloo Warriors. "Everything was great. We loved our new home," exclaimed Jeffries. "The kids did really well on it."

While renovations with the stadium have been proceeding successfully, less can be said for the A.C. "The real disappointment has been with the dance studios and multi-purpose rooms in the A.C.," Baxter said.

The water problem underneath these rooms is proving to be more difficult than originally expected. The engineer has been trying to

configure a way to pump the water out using a sump pump system. "It won't be completed until December," said Baxter.

The classes most affected will be the dance programs, martial arts and yoga. These classes will be moved to the new rooms at the stadium, and into the two classrooms upstairs in the A.C.

"The downfall is we now won't be able to expand these programs in the fall, as we had originally planned to do," stated Baxter.

The Hawks open their football season on Monday, September 3 on the new Knight-Newbrough Field against the rival McMaster Marauders. Kickoff is scheduled for 2:00 pm.

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Introducing Dr. Ma



The *Cord* sits down with Laurier's incoming president to find out his vision for the future of our school.

JOE TURCOTTE
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

As the Laurier community begins to welcome another crop of fresh-faced frosh to campus, there is another new face that is just beginning to become accustomed to life at the school: incoming President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Max Blouw.

On December 14, 2006, the WLU Board of Governors announced that Dr. Blouw would become the eighth president in the history of Wilfrid Laurier University, including the two presidents who presided over the school's previous incarnation as Waterloo Lutheran University.

This means that for the first time in nearly ten years, Laurier's pres-

ident's office will not be the home of the venerable Dr. Bob Roseheart. Instead, as of September 1, it will be up to Dr. Blouw to help usher the school through another period of change, and possibly growth.

In a recent 30-minute, wide-ranging, sit-down interview with *The Cord*, it became obvious why the WLU Senate and Board of Governors unanimously chose Blouw, from a field of six interviewed candidates, to help ease the school into a transition period, which follows the unprecedented growth at the school in recent years.

Sitting in his temporary office at 202 Regina Street, the 55-year-old Blouw casts a compelling figure. Carrying himself with a quiet confidence, which could only have

served to endear himself to the Board and the Senate, Blouw ably addresses his past experiences, his personal philosophies and his thoughts regarding the future of our school.

READY FOR CHANGE

Although he will most certainly miss his family and friends in British Columbia, Dr. Blouw has no regrets about making the switch to Laurier. Having just recently found a home in the Waterloo area, Blouw, his wife and his dogs are excited to begin another phase of life in Central Canada.

"I've enjoyed everywhere I've lived and I don't expect that to be any different here," says Blouw,

"but I do expect to be very busy for the first little while."

In fact, Blouw recognizes that the simple task of getting to know Laurier as a community will be a challenge in and of itself. "I'm in listening mode right now," says Blouw, demonstrating his tendency to solicit and accept the input of others when making important decisions. "I'm the new guy, so I've come in and had the opportunity to take a look at what the facts about Laurier are. What I don't yet know is the culture of the institution or the mode by which it makes decisions."

As the highest-profile new addition to the Laurier community, Blouw realizes that there will be a "steep learning curve" associated with his new position. However,

after having helped to triple the research funds at his previous school, the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), he is ready to use his personal and professional experiences to help Laurier grow and mature.

"My mandate at my former institution was to be an advocate for and to grow the research intensity of the school," says Blouw. "I was very successful at that, of course not by myself.

"Here I hope to create environments where people can excel - its faculty members, students and staff members. Because if you can create an environment where the greatest human potential can be realized, then you're really serving society well," he continues.

Max Blouw

BLOUW'S BACKGROUND

Born in Holland in 1951, Blouw and his family moved to Canada in 1957 and settled in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It was there that he began to cultivate a love for the outdoors that would become a life-long passion. His interest in nature led Dr. Blouw towards pursuing both bachelor's and master's degrees in zoology, at the University of Manitoba. He later acquired a PhD in biology at the University of New Brunswick. Dr. Blouw's Master's research gave him a considerable amount of experience for his PhD work, as it took him to the Arctic regions of Canada, where he spent a considerable amount of time alone or working in small research teams consisting of only a few members.

His time in the Canadian North helped Dr. Blouw to develop a "certain level of self-confidence and self-awareness," he says. "I spent quite a bit of time alone so I had to become accustomed to and comfortable with myself."

This self-confidence helps allow Dr. Blouw to utilize a leadership style that draws upon the skills and tools of others. "One of the things that I'm going to be doing is seeking a great deal of input from a lot of people about where the school is going to go," says Blouw, describing his plans for a consultative process through which the future of the school will begin to emerge. "I'm not going to impose a view from the top. I'm going to be asking students and others about what the right size

for Laurier is and how many campuses we should have."

This openness to listening and learning is something that Dr. Blouw hopes to impart upon the students of the school. "I'm going to lead by example; I'm going to be doing a lot of listening," he says. "I don't have any preconceived notions or answers. I hope by doing a lot of discussion and a lot of listening we can develop a consensus surrounding many of [the school's] key questions."

By engaging the entire Laurier community in a discussion about how the school as an institution will be shaped in the future, Blouw hopes to strike a perfect balance between a comprehensive university and providing the intimate learning experience that students have come to expect.

"One of the wonderful things about Laurier is that the students have such an intimate, family-like experience here. Laurier, in the minds of many people here, is still a small institution," says Dr. Blouw, commenting on the reputation that the school has sought to cultivate and preserve. "Well, in fact, Laurier is not a small institution any longer. So the big challenge for Laurier is 'how do you stay small while growing big?'"

While Blouw is eager to gather input from the school's community, he has a few thoughts regarding how to maintain the small-campus feel that so many Laurier students and professors treasure. "One way has already started, and that is, 'if the main campus of Laurier is get-



Photos by Greg McKenzie

TIME FOR THOUGHT - Dr. Blouw's first move as WLU President will be to learn the culture of the school.

ting too big, then start other campuses.' We have one in Kitchener now, and one in Brantford, so that's one way of maintaining small campus sizes while the overall institution itself grows larger."

GROWTH WAS NECESSARY

Although he is only just beginning to become accustomed to the school itself, Dr. Blouw understands the concerns of many students and faculty who feel that the expansion of the school has begun to threaten the level and type of education that Laurier offers. "As you grow large, some people will argue that the quality of education suffers," acknowledges Blouw. "So how can we prevent that from happening? How can we make Laurier even better as an experience for the students than it has been in the past? That will be my agenda."

The unprecedented growth that occurred in the past decade has been controversial at times; however, according to Dr. Blouw, this growth was necessary in order for the school to remain competitive on the national post-secondary scene.

"I know that students have been concerned with this growth, and rightly so - it's disrupted the environment that they have been accustomed to," he says. "However, if Laurier had not grown it would be a very tiny university amongst a very rapidly growing sea of other universities. I'm not sure that anyone wanted that to happen; it's a very difficult position to be in. To be competitive as a university, scale is important, so growth was important."

LAURIER INTERNATIONALIZED

One aspect of the school that Dr. Blouw is already certain that he

would like to see grow is Laurier's involvement with international opportunities. As an avid traveler himself, Blouw believes that traveling offers numerous opportunities for personal growth. "I believe that universities are particularly well positioned to bring the world into a particular community, and then to get those ideas and cultures," says Blouw.

"I DON'T HAVE ANY PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS OR ANSWERS. I HOPE BY DOING A LOT OF DISCUSSION AND A LOT OF LISTENING WE CAN DEVELOP A CONSENSUS SURROUNDING MANY OF [THE SCHOOL'S] KEY ISSUES."

- WLU President Dr. Max Blouw

"Universities are very cosmopolitan. You're almost a conduit or a pipeline to the world. I'd love to see Laurier reach out more and get connected with the world in a variety of ways," he continues.

"[We could] bring more international students in and send more of the students from this region out for international experiences. In my experiences, it is one of the most wonderful and one of the most enriching ways to learn about the world and about the issues of the world," he says.

GLOBAL FOCUS

One pressing world issue that hits particularly close to home for Dr. Blouw is the current state of our environment. As a passionate outdoorsman, Blouw is conscious of how human actions affect nature, and looks forward to having a chance to look into innovations that will help make Laurier 'greener.'

"I think all of society has to get

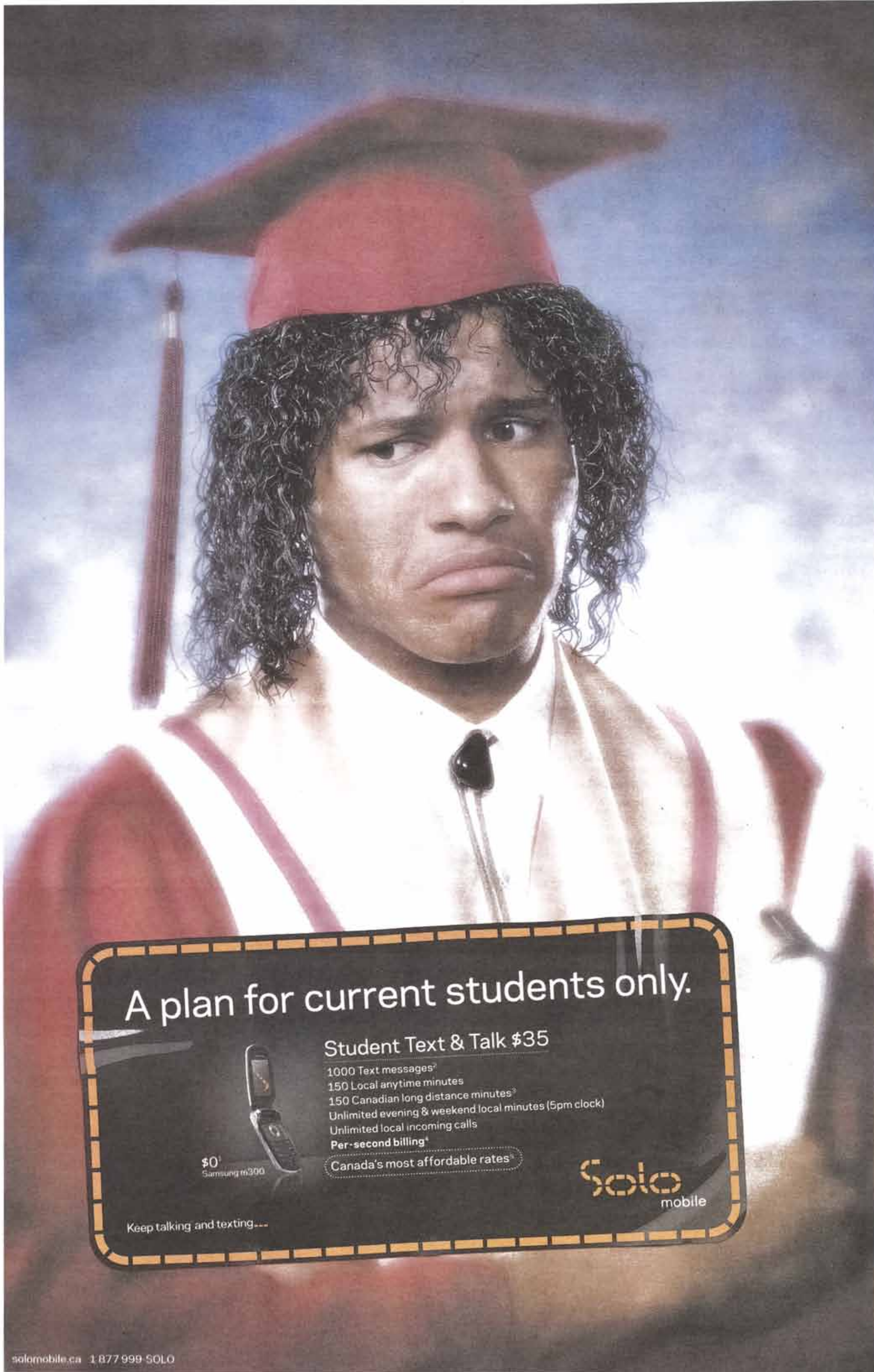
greener, including me personally. I don't know what the opportunities are quite yet to make Laurier greener. If there are opportunities, then of course I'll look into them," he says. "I think it's essential that universities have a position of leadership in this regard. The more we can do to showcase new technologies and new ways of approaching things the better off we'll all be."

"Society sometimes requires someone to show that something can be done in order to then pick up on it," he continues, before cautioning that this priority may take time to develop as he becomes accustomed to his role and responsibilities as

president. "Over the course of a five-year term it will reach a high priority, but for the first year to 18 months, I will have a great deal to do with the visioning exercises."

With his willingness to listen to others it seems that the Board of Governors has made a wise choice for the school's next president. With the very fabric of Laurier culture at an uncertain stage, it is necessary that before important decisions are made, all of the members of the school's community are consulted so that the school can grow and adapt at a rate that is consistent with its heritage and reputation. Although it is still extremely early in his tenure as the President of Wilfrid Laurier University, Dr. Max Blouw has the qualities necessary to successfully pull this tall order off. And if all goes well hopefully he will get his wish and help make Laurier "become one of the most well-rounded and outstanding universities in Canada."





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Avoiding lines - a first year's guide

Your friends at *The Cord* offer some useful tips to help you get through O-Week without spending too many hours in our school's infamous lines

ASHLEY JANG
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

With all of the hustle and bustle that O-Week brings, it's difficult to find time to get things done. Laurier is known for its long lines (Students commonly joke that WLU stands for "We Line Up"), so here are a few tips to help you avoid waiting forever to do a five-minute task.

For those students who are moving into residence on Move-In Day, it won't be quite as simple as unloading the car and going straight to your room.

Upon arriving you'll need to first go to either the Athletic Complex or Seagram Stadium to collect your room key and O-Week package. With the number of students moving in, this probably won't be a quick task so prepare for a wait time.

"THERE IS NO NEED FOR STUDENTS TO COLLECT THEIR STUDENT LOAN DURING THE ORIENTATION WEEK OR EVEN DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES. WE ARE CONTINUOUSLY RELEASING STUDENT LOANS THROUGHOUT THE TERM."

- Pauline Wong, Director of records and awards

Most students get their OneCard right away since you'll need it a lot during O-Week, especially for those living in residences with a OneCard swipe entrance. With only a little office in the concourse to facilitate the masses, there is almost always a long line for this.

"During the day it's very, very busy so I would suggest if you can wait until the evening or dinner-time; that would be the best time," said Nick Tomljenovic, OneCard system manager.

The OneCard office is also open on the weekend so Tomljenovic recommends going in then, when it's not nearly as busy.

You will need to take a piece of photo ID and your class schedule so they can confirm that you're a registered student.

Tomljenovic also recommends that you look your best when taking your photo. "Any picture you take is with you for the next four years so make sure you're dressed how you want to see yourself."

Another task for students that is met with long lines is collecting OSAP money from the Student Awards office at 202 Regina. With so many students depending on student loans to pay off their school expenses, it can get pretty hectic during O-Week.

"We have implemented a bit of a change that we're going to try this

year to see if we could help reduce the length of time that students are standing in line," said Pauline Wong, director of records and awards. This change is a schedule based on the students' last name to come in on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday.

According to Wong, though, there's no need to panic if you miss your time slot. "If it doesn't work for you we're never going to turn you away because you showed up on a different date."

Wong recommends that before you head to the office you confirm that your funding is available on your LORIS account, make sure you have the right documentation by checking on the student awards website, and have your photo ID as well as your social insurance number.

If you can't make it to the student awards office during those three days you don't need to worry. "There is no need for students to collect their student loan during the orientation week or even during the first week of classes. We are continuously releasing student loans throughout the term," said Wong.

For those students who don't need the money right away, it's best to wait until after the first week of school when there are no lines, as you can collect your student loan until the last day of classes.

With every student needing books to start off the school year, the Laurier bookstore is one of the busiest places on campus during O-Week.

"Definitely the easiest process for students is to do their ordering online. As long as they have their student ID and their LORIS password, that's what we work off of," said Mike Zybala, manager of academic materials at the Laurier bookstore. This way you can pay online and make arrangements to pick up your books or have them shipped.

While the lines move fairly quickly, it gets pretty crazy in the bookstore with everyone running around and trying to find their books. "Probably the best scenario for students is to check their booklist from home or come into the store," said Zybala.

"We [also] have the option at the front so they can look up their list and print it off," he added.

"If you're looking for a particular slower time it would be first thing in the morning," said Zybala. "In most cases, during the dinner hour seems to be the slowest; usu-



LONG WAITS - Students can expect lines everywhere during O-Week, it's another Laurier rite of passage.

ally at 5 to around 6 or 6:30."

If you can, wait until after the first week of classes to get your books when it not quite as busy, or try and find used books so you can, for the most part, avoid the line up.

With the craziness at Laurier during O-Week it's difficult to avoid all lines, even with these insider tips. If you find yourself caught in a line make sure you have a book handy or strike up a chat with the person next to you in line to help you pass the time.

O-Week Hours:

OneCard Office -
Mon - Fri : 9am - 9pm
Sat - Sun : 10am - 2pm

WLU Bookstore -
Mon - Thurs : 8am - 8pm
Fri : 8am - 5pm
Sat : 11am - 4pm

Student Awards Office

Wed(last names A-I):
9am - 4pm
Thurs(last names J-R):
9am - 4pm
Fri(last names S-Z):
9am - 4pm

Underage at Wilfrid Laurier

Not quite 19 yet? You can still have a great time without going out to a bar; *The Cord* shows how



University life is often associated with bar life. Unfortunately, most first-years starting university are underage and have not been blessed with the looks of a 25-year-old or the I.D. of an older sibling.

Entering my second year, still being underage and often feeling like my birthday would never arrive, I still had the best first year I could have had without going to a bar.

To help ensure that you enjoy your introductory eight months at WLU, here are a few tips on how to live it up before you hit the big 19.

The Turret

The Turret is Laurier's on-campus club located in in the Fred Nichol's Campus Centre. It allows in 80 underage students per night.

Saturdays at the Turret involve lots of dancing to whatever music is popular at the time. They are busy, meaning you need to line up quite early to make sure you get in if you are underage.

Fridays at the Turret are Retro Rewind. It's generally not busy until later, so getting in underage is not as much of an issue. It is less busy, but dressing up in '80s clothes and rocking out to your favourite songs from years ago is something not to be missed.

Elements, in Kitchener, is another club that has some underage

A day in the life of ... an Icebreaker

The Cord sit down with **Matt Fowler** to find out what it is that Icebreakers do behind the scenes

HEATHER HAMILTON
CORD STUDENT LIFE

Orientation Week is one of the most memorable times of first year, and for the Icebreakers, it's a moment they get to relive from a different perspective.

Matt Fowler, a Breaker for the Red Centaurs, has always been interested in leadership positions and getting involved.

After being involved with O-Week his first year he knew that being a Breaker was in his future. "Having great Breakers made me want to be a Breaker. The experience is so exceptional," said Fowler.

He loved being able to have fun while making a difference through events such as Shine Day, and that's an experience he wishes to pass on to his group of frosh.

Before entering the O-Week arena, Breakers communicate over the summer to discuss their goals and to get to know one another, Fowler explains. Newsletters and Facebook discussion boards allow the Breakers to share past experiences and prepare for what lies ahead.

"When we come to Boot Camp at the end of the summer we've already established our roles and responsibilities," said Fowler. "This is where we come together as a team."

After a weekend of Boot Camp, the Breakers are ready for their

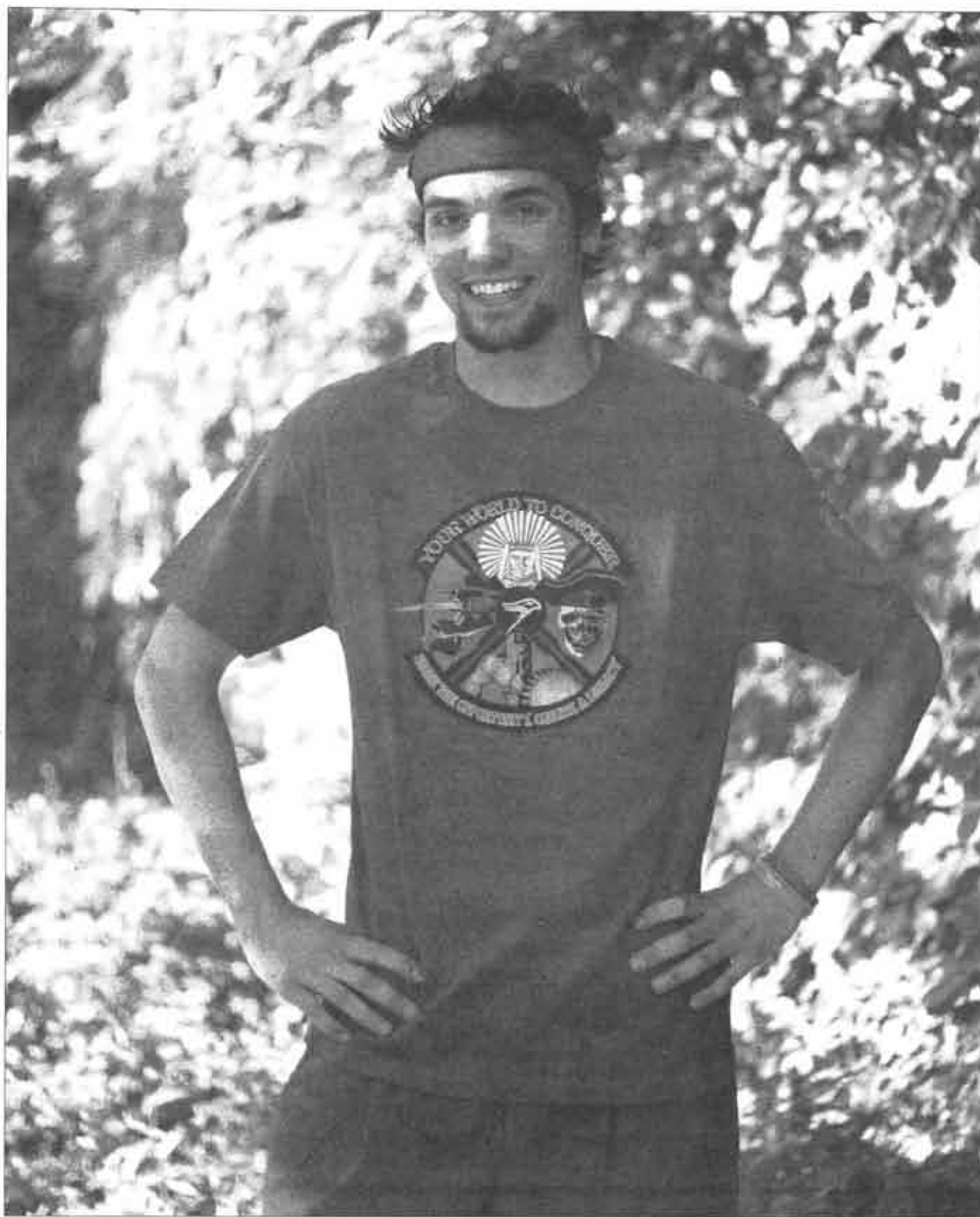
frosh. "Last year, we had a group meeting at 6:30 before waking the frosh at 7, which means waking up after about three to four hours of sleep," Fowler said. With so little sleep, the secret to keeping up their energy doesn't lie in coffee and Red Bull, he assured *The Cord*.

"It's all adrenaline for me," says Fowler. "Seeing the first-years motivated helps keep me going." Having a partner also helps keep up the energy because you always have someone there to push you and to take care of you.

Between the fun and games a lot of Breakers end up losing their voices. "It depends on how hardcore you are," Fowler explains. "There are some breakers that can perfect their shouting technique, but you just have to pace yourself. When you notice you're starting to lose it, you have to pull back."

One of the tasks of being an Icebreaker is keeping the frosh interested. Fowler describes that the key is not to force them to join in, but to encourage them. "Lead by example and show them that you're not afraid to step out of your comfort zone."

And for the uninterested frosh, Fowler's philosophy is not to pressure anyone to participate but not to give up on them either. By telling them the schedule for the day and finding out what they want to do the Breakers are able to help find



Sydney Heiland

ALL GEARED UP - Red Centaur Breaker Matt Fowler gets ready for the Move in Day in his O-Week gear.

them something more geared towards their interests.

So what do the Breakers do when they're not with their frosh? "Well, it's a lot like what we do when we are with our frosh - just less structured and more crazy!"

According to Fowler, the Breakers get together in one big group

and have fun by sharing stories and playing around. This helps to keep the team strong.

He hopes that the first-years will be able to feel comfortable at Laurier, and one of his techniques to help them feel at home is what he calls "Forced Friendships".

"This doesn't mean that you

force people to become friends," Fowler elaborated. "Most people come into university not knowing anyone, so my theory is 'let's not know anyone together.'"

Fowler's advice to the incoming frosh is to go out and try one new thing: it will help you get a taste of what Laurier has to offer.



Sydney Heiland

GET YOUR DANCE ON - The Turret, unlike off-campus clubs, welcomes 80 underagers per night.

- FROM **NIGHTLIFE**, PAGE 24

theme nights throughout the year. Look out for flyers and posters to find out about these exciting events.

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE UNDERAGE PEOPLE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO, AND THESE THINGS OFTEN END UP BEING RIDICULOUS BUT THE THINGS YOU WON'T FORGET ABOUT LIVING IN RES.

Movies

Try something new by going to The Princess Theatre in Uptown Waterloo, which plays lesser known, independent movies.

Very close to this is the Princess Twin, which plays mainstream movies. This theatre has one of many nice cafés that can be found in the Uptown Waterloo area.

If mainstream films are more your thing, then catch a bus and head to the Galaxy Cinemas on King Street North. Located in the Congestoga Mall Plaza, Galaxy of-

fers to latest that Hollywood has to offer.

Residence Randomness

There is never a lack of things to do in residence. There will always be underage people looking for something to do, and these things often end up being ridiculous but the things that you won't forget about living in res.

Throw a theme party, organize a late-night soccer game on Alumni Field, play

hide-and-seek, hang out with your don, watch endless episodes of TV shows or have a scary movie night with lots of people in the lounge.

You'll get to know the people in your building while having a great time. You'll be surprised with the things that end up being the most fun and memorable. While you may often feel like you are never going to turn 19, if you are a student at Laurier, all you have to do is be creative and you will find there are endless ways to have a very fun year without going to a bar.

Facebook group helps with transition

Incoming student uses Facebook to connect with fellow first-years



Courtesy of Facebook

ANY QUESTIONS? - Facebook group gets questions answered for incoming WLU students.

ASHLEY JANG
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

With O-Week and the beginning of classes coming up, many incoming first-year students are getting prepared and it seems this year's first-years will have a slight social advantage over previous years thanks to a Facebook group.

Aubrey Singleton, an incoming arts student, has started a group on Facebook called "I'm going to Wilfrid Laurier University in September!!" that has allowed new students to interact before school even starts.

"I got accepted to Wilfrid Laurier and I thought Facebook is a really good way to connect with people, so I searched for a site and there wasn't one for the incoming class, so I thought I'd start one," explained Singleton.

Singleton will not be living on campus but still wanted a way to get to know her fellow classmates. "I'm not a first-year student; I'm transferring from another university because I did it online, so this is my first time at an actual university and I'm not taking part in Frosh Week, but I wanted to meet these people beforehand anyways," she said.

With the help of this group, a

number of students have managed to find people in their building, people living on their floor and even their roommates.

The group has allowed these students to discuss everything and those who have questions simply start discussion topics. "A lot of the discussion topics right now are about what residence they got into because they just found out probably last week or the week before. There's over 150 discussion topics right now," said Singleton.

"A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE EITHER POSTED ON THE SITE OR MESSAGED ME SAYING THAT THE SITE HAS BEEN SO HELPFUL AND THAT THEY WOULD HAVE MISSED ALL THE DEADLINES IF IT WASN'T FOR [IT] ..."

- Aubrey Singleton, incoming student

Another thing that students find very helpful is that the group has a list of important dates and deadlines for students. "A lot of people have either posted on the site or messaged me saying that the site has been so helpful and that they would have missed all the deadlines if it wasn't for the site because

I've got all the important dates," said Singleton.

The group has been joined by a number of older students who are generously offering their advice and recommendations to first-year students who are in need of guidance.

One of them, second-year history and English student Curtis Tindale, thought the group was a great idea. "Hearing it from a student at the school makes it so much better because you get the real opinion," he said.

Tindale believes that a group like this would help been a great help to him when he was transitioning into university. "I had all these questions and nobody answered them, so when I saw this I thought it was really cool."

While it is possible that meeting online can cause misperceptions of others, Singleton doesn't think that this will be a problem. "I think for the most part people are having a pretty positive experience with meeting the people beforehand."

Nicole Wolff, an incoming com-

CORD-O-SCOPES

<p>Virgo Aug. 23 - Sept. 22</p>  <p>Happy birthday Virgo! Try not to be so practical and modest this month. Celebrate your birthday in style and if things don't do perfectly don't worry: it's not the end of the world. Use your intelligence and sass to fix any problems that may arise.</p>	<p>Pisces Feb. 19 - Mar. 20</p>  <p>Leave your traditional shyness behind and meet some new people this month. Don't be afraid to strike up a conversation with the person next to you in line or someone in your class. You might meet some great new people!</p>
<p>Libra Sept. 23 - Oct. 22</p>  <p>This will be a very hectic month for you, dear Libra. Try not to stress so much over the little things and take advantage of the remaining good weather. You'll have plenty of time to stress when midterms start.</p>	<p>Aries Mar. 21 - Apr. 19</p>  <p>You claim you're allergic to nuts, but have you ever tried? Come on, live a little! Don't blame the fates if you die. You are naturally adventurous so do something new and exciting with friends this month, it will be a great bonding experience.</p>
<p>Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21</p>  <p>As Scorpios you are extremely sexual beings. This month you'll be feeling especially passionate towards a friend or lover. Throw your inhibitions to the wind and release your magnetic intensity.</p>	<p>Taurus Apr. 20 - May 20</p>  <p>You will receive some news this month that may be a bit alarming. Though it may seem things aren't going your way, they are. You just won't know it for a few months.</p>
<p>Sagittarius Nov. 22 - Dec. 21</p>  <p>Use your great ability to be honest to solve a problem between you and a friend that has been causing some tension this month. He or she will appreciate your honesty and it will lighten your emotional load quite a bit.</p>	<p>Gemini May 21 - June 20</p>  <p>You will be going through some major changes this month, so use your versatility to adapt to whatever situation you find yourself in. Change isn't always a bad thing, so keep an open mind.</p>
<p>Capricorn Dec. 23 - Jan. 19</p>  <p>You are ambitious, modest, and responsible, dear Capricorn. This month try not to be so cautious and live a little! Go out, party, and live it up while you still can.</p>	<p>Cancer June 21 - July 22</p>  <p>You're feeling particularly romantic and imaginative this month, so plan a fun surprise for someone you love. If you build it, they will come.</p>
<p>Aquarius Jan. 20 - Feb. 18</p>  <p>Has anyone told you you're sexy lately? Well, you are! You'll be fighting them off with a stick this month, so watch out. Your tendency for rebellion may cause a problem with a Leo you know well, so use your quirkiness to fix it.</p>	<p>Leo July 23 - Aug. 22</p>  <p>Your birthday just ended but you're still pretty badass. You'll roar your way through September and make sure everyone hears you. Try not to get authoritative, or else you may piss off a lot of people.</p>

munications student, joined the group because Facebook is a great way to connect. "For the past year, Facebook has kind of become a very big thing and it's a good way to meet people and get a lot of information," she said.

For Wolff, the group helped her get her questions answered. "Ever since the beginning, the group has proven to be really helpful with dates and information and even older students coming and answering questions," she said. "It's easier to sort of communicate behind computer screens initially and then go out and talk to them."

Incoming economics student Natasha Neumann found the group very helpful as well. "There were different things that other people thought of that I wouldn't have thought of; they were all talking

about it on that Facebook [group]. It was good, I got a lot from it."

As of last Tuesday there were 3531 students registered full-time for year one at Laurier at both the Waterloo and Brantford campuses. On the same day, the group had 1579 members, almost half of the incoming class. There were 3659 wall posts, 155 discussion topics, and 134 uploaded photos.

Singleton's ultimate goal through creating this group was to bring the first-year class together. "My main goal was to get to know some of the people that I'm going to be going to school with for the next four years," she said.

Secure in the fact that it was a success, she finished: "it's more to connect with people, talk things over and help the transition to university life a little easier."

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O-Week food for thought

"Orientation Week is dedicated to welcoming all first-year students to the Laurier community," reads the WLUSU website. In their materials, you've probably read all about how O-Week is an opportunity to meet new people while participating in inclusive, fun and safe activities.

So now that you're actually here and are on the cusp of beginning your O-week adventure, you must be excited to meet new people, and find out all about how "your destiny awaits," right?

But hold on a second. You're not going to find your destiny in a week, regardless of whether you're participating excitedly in O-Week activities, ignoring them completely or perpetually meditating in a sensory deprivation tank; destiny is kind of complex like that. And who you meet and what you do during your first week at Laurier isn't going to define who you are as a Laurier student - at least we hope not.

University is about growing, about finding out who you are as a person and becoming comfortable with yourself. It's not about doing what everyone else does, just to be cool - that sounds a lot like what you're supposed to leave behind when coming to university.

WLUSU's hype, or anyone else's for that matter, shouldn't convince you that spending a week doing something you don't want to is going to make you a better, happier or more successful person - which isn't to say you won't want to participate. Many people love O-Week and it does provide an opportunity to meet people, but it's only one opportunity - one of many opportunities which will present themselves to you over the coming weeks, months and years.

Despite how it seems when you arrive on campus - when the campus is overflowing with hundreds of colour-coded volunteers - not everyone loves O-Week. If settling in to your new home and discovering what there is to do around town sounds more like what you want to do, go for it. You'll probably even find someone else who wants to do the same.

One of the biggest and most important parts of university is discovering your independence. So, if you don't fit into a particular student mold and the official O-Week events aren't your thing, don't be afraid to sit out. However, if you enjoy cheering and letting yourself act a little crazy for a week, don't be shy. It's your O-Week, make it whatever you want it to be.

Hawk saga continues

Last year, *Cord* headlines were filled with the news of the Hawk's removal and the uproar it caused. A year later and the Hawk is on its way back to its home on the floor of the Fred Nichols Campus Centre, no doubt to the delight of many upper-level students.

By January, assuming the new Hawk will be installed over the Christmas break, Laurier students won't have anything to keep them from smiling as they walk down Hawk's Hallway - except that pesky \$10,700 bill for the marble replica of the Hawk that students will then be dodging.

Obviously, we now know that removing the Hawk was a grave mistake. Dwelling on that fact would be

counter-productive. The 'solution' to this nearly \$11,000 mistake no doubt finds the heart of the Board in the right place; they're spending student money on something that obviously meant a lot to a large contingent of students.

But this must be looked at as an opportunity to learn a lesson. In the future, whenever a decision is being made that could potentially incite students, they must be consulted *first* - before hundreds or thousands of student dollars have been squandered needlessly.

For now, let's hope the first- and second-years catch onto the tradition of not stepping on the Hawk, so this needless fiasco isn't repeated in two years.

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

THE CORD WEEKLY

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Julie Marion

Take the time to relax

The student lifestyle - be it academic, extra-curricular or intoxicant driven - can be very conducive to excess, so don't forget to take some down time



With school now just a week away, and for many of you, the uncertainty of the academic expectations of university no doubt causing at least a little anxiety, it is very easy to become overwhelmed. The hustle and bustle is about to take us all on, full force. Jam-packed course loads, part-time jobs necessitated by the increasingly ludicrous cost of higher education, and easily the most active social lives we will ever even attempt to balance make burnout a very real threat.

With all these demands incumbent upon us, it is really easy to forget how much choice and power we have. Granted, we can't (usually) decide when we write exams or convince our professors that it's really not cool to schedule all our term papers for the final day of classes. We can't kindly ask the business office to do us a solid and rip up our tuition invoice 'cause we're not really keen on picking up a part-time job - well, we can, but it's not likely to be overly effective.

But beyond that, there's a lot we, as students, can do to keep our sanity and I find that 'nothing' oughta top the list. Realistically, even those of us who have long since given up our dreams of academic perfection are spending

a good portion of our lives going way too hard.

Let's look at your average week in the academic crunch period. Who among us can say we've never pulled an all-nighter to finish an important term paper and then deprived body and mind of the appropriate rest to study hard for exams? And, then, upon finally reaching the light at the end of the tunnel, do we ever do the reasonable thing and allow our bodies to recuperate?

Rarely. The more common undergrad response is to continue running on fumes, steaming ahead full boar in another direction, the most popular of which is heavy drinking and partying. Why else would the longest lines on bar nights so often follow the biggest exams?

I recently realized that this excessive, never-stop attitude can even infiltrate our supposed time off. On back-to-back weekends, I took two getaways after a very work-oriented first couple months of summer.

The first weekend was a road trip to New York City, complete with nine hours of driving both ways, back-to-back nights taking advantage of The Big Apple's late night bar scene, and a 10-hour marathon hip hop concert (Rock The Bells) headlined by Rage Against The Machine. The trip was a phenomenal time, to be sure, but it left me at least as drained as I had been when I left, struggling to get to work on time the next day.

The next weekend, I took a significantly different vacation. I drove to Algonquin Park with a few close friends, turned my cell phone off, and left anything technologically advanced enough to tell time in my rental car. I then paddled out across a couple of placid lakes and portaged myself into a part of nature, that is easy to forget can be found in Ontario, Canada's bustling work-aholism capital.

My daily itinerary consisted of mornings spent sleeping in, afternoons lying on a beach listening to one of my best friends strum a fittingly chill soundtrack to our day, and nights of peacefully admiring the Milky Way instead of getting hammered. In a year that has seen me take vacations to California, Vancouver and Cuba, I'd be lying to say it was the best, but it was by far the most relaxing.

Of course, we can't always escape Waterloo on a weekly basis, but we can certainly take nights off from whatever it is that dominates our thoughts on a daily basis. And when things get a little too intense, I suggest finding the most majestic, remote location you can to go do nothing, with unbridled enthusiasm. It has a way of making the daily grind seem a lot less insurmountable when you return. Besides, life lived at a breakneck pace will always be there waiting for you, should you be foolhardy enough to seek it out again.

letters@cordweekly.com

That hand sanitizer won't save you now



ALLIE MAXTED
RESIDENT CYNIC

We're all going to die of a pandemic in the near future.

The fact that such a statement does not appear out of the ordinary is both sad and disturbing. But that is not the worst part. The worst part is the misconception that, if it is true, there might actually be something we could do to stop it.

This common and dangerous belief is perpetuated by the media, governments and especially the makers of antimicrobial products. Disinfectant sprays and hand sanitizers are heralded as the key to keeping your family protected from everything from the common cold to Avian Flu.

An Internet search on Avian Flu preparedness might bring you to the "Lysol Germ Protection Center," a site claiming to be dedicated to making you prepared rather than panicked. However, one can't help but feel panicked when confronted with the two diagrams displayed on the home page: one a map of all the countries which have experienced the Avian Flu, and the other a map of all the migratory birds in North America (effectively covering the whole continent).

All that panic makes you feel a bit silly when you realize that the virus is not capable of transferring through human-to-human contact in its current state and quite possi-

Try as you might, if a pandemic occurs not much you do now will save you or your loved ones

bly never will be. Nonetheless, the panic is there and Reckitt-Benckiser, the makers of Lysol, are ready to profit from it.

Moving past the home page, visitors to the site are given tips on keeping their family safe from Avian Flu and preparing in case a pandemic does hit. Prevention techniques focus on washing often and always disinfecting surfaces.

On the list of items to have in the event that a pandemic does hit are disinfectant sprays and wipes. Among these tips, the site even features a colouring activity book for young children. The book teaches proper hand washing techniques, presented within a context that suggests it would protect your child from a worldwide pandemic.

With suggestions like these, in a world where influenza, tuberculosis, SARS and the West Nile virus have become commonplace in the news, the results of a Gallup poll conducted in 2004 come as no surprise. The poll revealed that 75 percent of Americans at that time used antimicrobial products in their homes and it's likely that the number has only increased since then.

Aside from these poll results, I recently had a first-hand experience with the excessive fear of germs when I discovered new hand sanitizer dispensers at the foot of every escalator in my local shopping mall.

Not only is this excessive cleanli-

ness an annoyance, it is actually dangerous. The problem is simple and has been stated repeatedly, though mainly ignored by the general public. Antimicrobial products do not kill 100% of germs and those germs that they do not kill are the strongest. Thus, super germs that are resistant to most of our technologies are created.

In addition, there is the "hygiene theory", which could explain the enormous rise in food allergies in recent years. The theory states that the immune system has two sides that must keep a balance. One side fights bacteria and the other fights parasites. When there are no bacteria, the side fighting the parasites can become overactive, causing allergic reactions to things that normally cause no harm, such as peanuts.

So, while antimicrobial products have their place, most doctors agree that they cause more damage than good in an every day setting. The problem of the fear of germs is truly paradoxical.

We hear about bad germs on a regular basis - from the possibility of a pandemic, to tainted carrots and spinach, to the common cold. Naturally, we wonder what we can do to protect ourselves and our loved ones, and opt for the most hygienic methods possible. But in our effort to protect our children from the dangers of the world, we have made them more hypersensitive



Greg McKenzie

SOAP SAVER - Are these products really the answer they claim to be?

and fragile than ever before. So you ask yourselves, if all this hygiene isn't the answer to my safety concerns, what is? Honestly, there probably isn't one. If a pandemic occurs, no disinfectant wipe that kills 99.6% of the weakest bacteria is going to save you (or your loved ones). Nor is any amount of hand washing.

In actuality, the use of antimi-

crobial products will only increase the likelihood of a pandemic occurring. The only hope you have at this point is to get dirty, be around other people and to not be afraid of getting sick sometimes. It probably won't save you from a pandemic, but at least you might enjoy your life.

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Mexican rights violated in free trade's name



ALEX HUNDERT
JOURNALISTS FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS

In mid-August, I spent several days in a small vacation town called Montebello, located between Ottawa and Montreal. In this town on the historic Ottawa River is a resort complex owned by a prominent hotel chain.

The heads of state from Canada, the United States and Mexico were there meeting on August 21 and 22 with an array of the most powerful businessmen and industrialists from North America.

In the town of Montebello itself, along with me and several other Laurier students, were almost 1500 protesters opposed to the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) meetings that were happening on the grounds.

None of us ever got to see the great Canadian landmark that is the Chateau Montebello. Standing between us and the meetings were

hundreds of police in full riot gear and three-meter fences, with hundreds more police inside, along with Canadian and American military security and (allegedly) a small contingent of American private security forces.

I could talk about how the police fired tear gas and pepper spray, used tazers on protesters, fired rubber bullets into the crowd or how they had provocateurs planted in the crowd. I could talk about how the SPP signals, to me, the American dream of Manifest Destiny coming to fruition and poses a serious threat to Canadian sovereignty.

I could also talk about how the SPP process is inherently undemocratic, having zero public consultation from civil society, such as unions, indigenous groups, academia and provincial governments, and will never even be debated in the House of Commons.

I could talk about bulk water exports, militarization of the border, the planned fivefold increase in tar sands production, integration into the American wars on drugs and terror and integration of regulatory

policies on issues ranging from the environment to healthcare.

But I don't want to talk about any of those things. All of the above are Canadian issues that have been addressed by national press. It is everyone's responsibility to be informed and push to be heard and represented in the Federal government regarding those issues.

What I do want to talk about is how the SPP is going to drastically affect already egregious human rights violations faced by the peoples of Mexico, and how those rights are being trampled upon for the economic benefit of a small group of elite corporate and political interests.

The SPP is the deep integration of continental security and free trade. But, as a banner at the protest in Montebello asserted, "security is not [the same thing as] justice", especially when free trade - not fair trade - is being held up as a virtue.

In southern Mexico, on the day NAFTA was kicked into gear, the indigenous Zapatista army rose up against neo-liberal economic expansion into their territory.

The Mexican constitution was undone by NAFTA, privatizing lands guaranteed to the indigenous Mayan peoples. More than 10 years later, as the Zapatista insurgency continues, the SPP is about to privatize the Mexican National Oil Company.

We can be assured that the security component will mean an increase in the violation of the human rights of the indigenous peoples of Southern Mexico.

The plight of the peoples of Northern Mexico is no less serious. Their rights are about to become even more marginalized by economic interests.

In fact, it is Canada's utterly broken migrant worker program that is, incredibly, being used as a model for the new increased Mexican migrant worker programs. In brief, they are designed to import highly exploitable Mexican labour and the system is prone to extremely high rates of human rights violations. They have many mechanisms built in that prevent reporting of those incidents; for example, a worker can be deported for filing a com-

plaint against his employer.

Furthermore, the workers themselves are often the very same people who have been displaced from their own lands and jobs by the conditions of free trade agreements. The SPP plans to drastically increase migrant worker programs instead of paying Canadian citizens decent living wages to do those same jobs.

These are just two of the many ways the SPP will affect the human rights of Mexicans. In Canada, it will also contribute to the ongoing human rights violations being perpetuated against Canada's First Nations, to increased marginalization of the rights of all workers and to increased violations against Muslims as Canada becomes integrated with the American war on terror.

It will also result in the drastic curtailment of the civil liberties and rights of all Canadians, as American-style security will become a major feature of Canadian life after the deep integration called for by the SPP occurs.

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Western nations don't truly respect democracy



JEREMY CARNEGIE
RAGIN' RED-HEAD

In 2006, Hamas won a majority of the seats in the Palestinian Legislative Council. After this victory, many Western countries – including Canada, the USA and the countries of the EU – and Israel cut off aid and relations with the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority because they would not have diplomatic relations with a government they considered to be run by terrorists.

This disregard for the democratic process in Palestine highlights the hypocrisy of Western democracies, as they continue to campaign for democracy's spread across the world but, when it does not suit them, quickly refuse to accept the choice of the people.

ALTHOUGH THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORY IS NOT A STATE IN ITSELF, SHOULD THE WEST REALLY CHOOSE SIDES IN THIS CONFLICT?

Of course, it is completely understandable that Western nations do not want to support a terrorist organization and the violence that

it may commit. However, since Hamas was democratically elected by the people, does this not suggest that their concerns should be seriously considered and may perhaps have merit?

Hamas has grown from its terrorist beginnings and has become an effective political entity in the Palestinian territory. Arguably, it has provided better public services and security in some areas than the Palestinian Authority and is supported by many Palestinians (as shown by its recent election results).

The democratic political system was created to give the populace a say in their rule. Just like the early Americans, who went from being terrorists and revolutionaries to politicians, Hamas should be given the same opportunity to grow as an organization and embrace the democratic ideal.

Instead of denouncing the elected Hamas, shouldn't the West embrace it for taking a step away from its terrorist past by participating in the political process?

A few months after the majority election of Hamas, tensions came to a head and fighting broke out between Hamas and Fatah, resulting



Contributed photo

TRUE DEMOCRACY - Activists in Toronto show support for Palestine's government, unlike most of the West.

in Fatah taking control of the West Bank and Hamas taking control of the Gaza Strip.

Following this crisis, countries that had halted much of their regular relations with the Palestinian Authority when Hamas took power resumed these with the Palestinian Legislative Council of the West Bank (controlled by Fatah).

Although the Palestinian territory is not a state itself, should the West really choose sides in this conflict? Given the history the West has had with negative outcomes from its support of foreign governments, especially those not supported by

a majority of the electorate (such as the Shah, Saddam Hussein and Battista), should Western countries really throw support behind Fatah while showing blatant disapproval of Hamas? Is this not getting involved in an internal conflict?

The election of a Hamas-led government should have been a wake-up call for Israel and the West, signaling that the concerns of the Palestinian people – especially that of granting them a sovereign state of their own – need to be addressed and met.

By fighting and subverting the Hamas-led government, a rare op-

portunity was lost to work with this group on a level ground and hopefully move towards a peaceful solution.

By cutting off ties and funding to the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority and subsequently supporting Fatah after it took the West Bank by force, the West has further shown its lack of concern and respect for the will of the Palestinian people and its lack of respect for the democratic process.

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Dusting off the right hemisphere of the brain

With the economic climate beginning to shift It's time to reconsider what personality traits are



DON MORGENSON
ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

Some years ago, management guru and consultant Peter Drucker suggested that there would be a burgeoning growth of what he referred to as "knowledge workers" – people who are paid for their analytical and theoretical knowledge rather than for their manual skills, personality traits or physical strength.

And the path to such an accumulation was a relatively easy one, open to any enterprising person who went to school, valued their education/training and became "credentialed".

This relatively easy path led to a very large group of "techies" or "technocrats", burgeoning numbers of professionals (whose knowledge was circumscribed by a license) and of course, the omnipresent inflated population of "specialists".

According to some, all of these people consistently drew upon the left hemisphere of the brain – linear, deductive, rational, logical ...

you know ... all those popular traits popularized by the mass media and emphasized in standardized IQ tests.

"The times ... they are a changin'" as the song goes and those foundations of Western society, business, commerce, mercantilism, dependent on logical and analytical skills (in other words, "the information age"), are giving way to a "conceptual age".

This radical shift, outlined by business observer Daniel Pink ("A Whole New Mind: Moving from the Information Age to the Conceptual Age") is "characterized by a new concern with context, patterns and emotion." And all of this is occurring in the human brain.

Neuroscientists have always found some interesting differences in the two hemispheres of the human brain – left and right. And according to Pink, such gives us some clues about the direction Western societies are taking – from the relentless study of the small parts and details to studying the larger whole (holistic), from the exclusive use of cold logic to engaged empathy, and even from, heaven forbid, a masculine approach to a more feminine

approach.

To support his theory, Pink suggests we look at the following phenomena:

1. In the past few decades, so-called "knowledge workers" saw their careers threatened, careers given over largely to overseas markets. Many of these positions are already being transferred to Asia and specific African countries. While this creates some panic among professionals, it does provide for more creative careers. Pink writes: "As left-brain work migrates to de-

MANY 'LEFT BRAIN' POSITIONS ARE ALREADY BEING TRANSFERRED TO ASIA AND SPECIFIC COUNTRIES. WHILE SUCH CREATES SOME PANIC AMONG PROFESSIONALS, IT DOES PROVIDE FOR MORE CREATIVE CAREERS.

veloping countries, workers in the West will now find their jobs demand more emotional intelligence, emotional stability, personal skills, and other "right brain traits".

2. In the last 100 years, machines did those jobs requiring muscle power and now we will see new technologies taking over the tasks of the left brain. This means that

in many professions, people can distinguish themselves with talents and abilities that require stretching further than what the Internet can provide.

3. Many in the West are living with unprecedented wealth and, as such, large numbers of them are opting for more than the traditional material accumulation and they will want products which are designer specialties, hand-made, "made from scratch" products, customized – while even more of us will be interested in acquiring "ex-

periences" rather than massing a fortune.

While the left brain might find that frustrating, people will want more meaning in their lives. For example, think how yoga and meditation have moved from the fringes of

our spiritual lives to mainstream. Such offers more evidence of the primacy of the right brain.

Pink writes, "The new age requires the ability to create artistic and emotional beauty, to detect patterns and opportunities. It involves the capacity to empathize, to understand the subtleties of human interaction, to find joy in oneself,

and to stretch beyond the quotidian in pursuit of purpose and meaning." In other words, concentrating, perhaps for the first time, on cultivating a personal aesthetic.

Fancy and quite beguiling words – mere rhetoric? But consider for a moment that our ancient ancestors did not spend their days inserting digits onto spreadsheets or spend hours cracking a code or crunching numbers.

They shared narratives and created myths, they interpreted the tribal meanings of the their dreams, they illustrated their activities on cave walls, embroidered their earthenware pots with potent symbols, composed music and then played it on crude bone flutes and demonstrated traditional ways and means through their dance.

They connected to each other and in almost exclusively right-brained ways. They solved complex problems involving the tribal context (no necessary global context for them). They solved problems merely to survive.

Such right brain talents and abilities have been with us for millennia. According to Pink, we should simply boost the right hemisphere abilities, dust them off, give them a bit of a polish and put them to work.

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> Letters to the Editor

Dr. Blouw welcomes you

I love September. Clear skies and crisp mornings fill everyday experiences with a sense of promise and excitement. This is particularly true on a university campus. Moving in, meeting new friends, finding classrooms ... it feels special.

Like many of you, I am new to Laurier. My name is Dr. Max Blouw. I have recently arrived from British Columbia with my wife Lynn to take up the position of president and vice-chancellor. I am a biologist who loved teaching and doing research in genetics and evolutionary ecology. More important, I am the father of two wonderful sons who are in their early 20s. I love the outdoors, sports, music and the arts.

Before arriving here, I had heard of Laurier's reputation for excellence in teaching, scholarship and research. Over the past few months, I have also learned to my delight about Laurier's passionate school spirit and unique sense of community.

These latter two characteristics are closely linked to your qualities as students. Your vitality, curiosity, intelligence and creativity are the lifeblood of this university, which strives in every way to be a truly student-centred community.

One of my early priorities is to establish a process to develop a vision for Laurier that will guide the university through to its 100th anniversary in 2011 and beyond. To accomplish this, I plan to consult with a wide variety of people inside and outside the university. This consultation will definitely include students. I

want to hear about your ideas, experiences and aspirations, and I will make opportunities available for communication through focus groups, written input, regular meetings with student leaders, and other means. I also hope that you will feel free to stop me for a chat when you see me on campus.

Your university years are truly among the most exciting that you will experience in your life. You will learn a great deal, and not only in the classroom. You will make lifelong friends. You may fall in love, and perhaps more than once. You will grow in ways that will surprise you. And your growth will be very gratifying to those of us who have the privilege of working at Laurier. After all, you are the primary reason we are here. I hope you enjoy your stay at Laurier as much as I plan to enjoy mine.

Dr. Max Blouw
President and Vice-Chancellor
Wilfrid Laurier University

letters@cordweekly.com

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All letters to the editor must be signed and submitted with the author's name, student identification number, and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00 pm (noon) Monday via email to letters@cordweekly.com or through our website at www.cordweekly.com. Letters must not exceed 350 words.

The Cord reserves the right to edit any letter for brevity and clarity. The Cord reserves the right to reject any letter, in whole or in part. The Cord reserves the right to not publish material that is deemed to be libelous or in contravention with the Cord's Code of Ethics or journalistic standards.

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The Cord lends an ear to the best Arts & Entertainment spectacles of the summer, and peeks into the near future with an enthusiastic eye



SUMMER IN REVIEW

"I got to see Jeff Healey play at the Kitchener Blues Festival. He is totally badass. Or even bluesass. I'm looking forward to Sandro Perri's new album *Tiny Mirrors*, which comes out this fall, and the amazing selection of concerts between September and November at the Starlight (Stars! Chad VanGalen! Shout Out Out Out! Malajube!), and going to see *The Golden Compass* in theatres so I can laugh at how poorly it compares to the book."

ESTHER WHEATON
STAFF WRITER

"*Superbad* came up big at the end of the summer to be such a big source of happy belly laughs that I have to put it at the top of my summer experiences, and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* is also right up there, at the opposite end of the emotional spectrum. I've only recently heard a bit about *American Gangster*, a movie starring Russell Crowe as a 70s detective tracking down Denzel Washington, directed by Ridley Scott and co-starring Ted Levine and Norman Reedus. It has a really exciting amount of potential if even a couple of them are at the top of their games."

JEREMY WOODCOCK
CORD A&E

"All the way back in May, I saw the Arctic Monkeys play at the Kool Haus and it was a brilliant performance, better than I could have imagined. I can't wait for the symphony's show in Waterloo Park September 9th and the film adaptation of Philip Pullman's *The Golden Compass* in December."

WENDY NIND
STAFF WRITER

"My highlight? Seeing Rufus Wainwright dressed up in drag as Judy Garland singing "Hallelujah Come On Get Happy" at the Danforth Music Hall in Toronto. That shit's hilarious! This year's Christmas blockbuster, *The Golden Compass*, is going to be the best fantasy film ever made, if it's faithful to Philip Pullman's original text. Can't wait to see that, and the sequels."

ALEX HAYTER
PRINT PRODUCTION MANAGER

"A few good hits included the hilarious *Shrek 3*, the lovely *Hairspray*, and the surprisingly heart-warming *Knocked Up*. But my favourite movie of the summer was the humble Irish-made *Once*, a unique indie movie-musical. This fall I am looking forward to the Toronto International Film Festival, including the Coen Brothers' entry *No Country for Old Men*."

CARRIE MCNABB
STAFF WRITER

"This summer was definitely framed around the release of the seventh and last Harry Potter book; I waited in line for an hour to be able to pick it up from the Chapters at midnight. It was the end of an era. I'm looking forward to the release of *The Golden Compass* film in December, as I'm a fan of the book and I have a softness for steampunk."

ARIEL KROON
STAFF WRITER

"My favourite part of this summer was attending Rock the Mill in Cambridge where I watched (from the stage) Attack in Black headline and rock their amazing newly-released album *Marriage*. For the upcoming school year I'll definitely be in line for Rob Zombie's remake of *Halloween*, and I'm headed down to Detroit in October to have Brand New, Thrice and mewwithoutYou rock my socks."

RILEY TAYLOR
CORD A&E

"My favourite A&E experience this summer was Vans Warped Tour. With my passion for ska in my heart and my dancing shoes on my feet, I was pleasantly surprised by the array of ska bands (and artists in general) at this year's Warped Tour and hope it's just as good next year! As for this fall, I am dying to see Bedouin Soundclash for the zillionth time; they just keep getting better and increasingly good-looking with time."

KARI PRITCHARD
STAFF WRITER

"The best thing I saw this summer was Daft Punk rock out live, totally decked out in their robot suits, spinning beats like it's what they were programmed to do. This year, I'm looking forward to some new material from Weezer; word on the Internet is they're working on a new album."

PAUL ALVIZ
A&E EDITOR

Bedouin's *Gospel* garners praise

WLU favourites Bedouin Soundclash return with their signature reggae sound for an album of *Street Gospels*



File Photo - Shane Porter

THE NIGHT FEELS HIS SONG - Lead singer Jay Malinowski performs at Polar Jam 2006.

ESTHER WHEATON
STAFF WRITER

Boasting 15 tracks of reggae-structured pop, soulful vocals and melodies so catchy they stick in your head before the song is done, Bedouin Soundclash's latest album, *Street Gospels*, is bound for great things.

Opening track "Until We Burn In the Sun", with its dance and punk groove, hints that there is more to the Kingston band than just reggae. In fact, the rest of the album goes on to prove that Bedouin Soundclash is adept in dub (notably in "Jealous and the Get Free" and "Midnight Rockers"), punk (in "Walls Fall Down" and "Gunships") and even a cappella gospel ("Hush").

Street Gospels will likely enjoy a good deal of publicity, as it features the much-adored "Grey's song" (a song played on Grey's Anatomy during a particularly emotional or significant scene) "12:59 Lullaby". The song is, despite the hype, a lovely pop ballad with heartfelt lyrics, given enough reggae tinges by lead singer Jay Malinowski's distinctive voice to sound original. The song has already spent a number of weeks on CBC Radio 3's top 30.

Even though "12:59 Lullaby" is already famous, "Walls Fall Down" is being billed as the "it" single. It is a solid and memorable tune, utterly characteristic of the band's sound, featuring jangly guitars and the natural harmonies that crop up all over the other tracks.

Other excellent moments include "Nico on the Night Train", if only for its most excellent title (dude), and "Hush", which brings together street du-wop, gospel and something else entirely in two minutes of bluesy harmonies different than anything else on the release.

Bedouin Soundclash certainly hasn't tried

anything out-of-character in *Street Gospels*, but considering the wide spectrum of styles and effects already represented in their sound, they have no need to. There is nothing surprising on the release, but there is just about everything that makes an album worthwhile: great hooks, talent, and tones of soul.

It would come as no surprise to see *Street Gospels* among the final ten nominated for next year's Polaris Prize.



Bedouin Soundclash

Street Gospels

Release Date: 08/21/07

Rating: 8.8/10

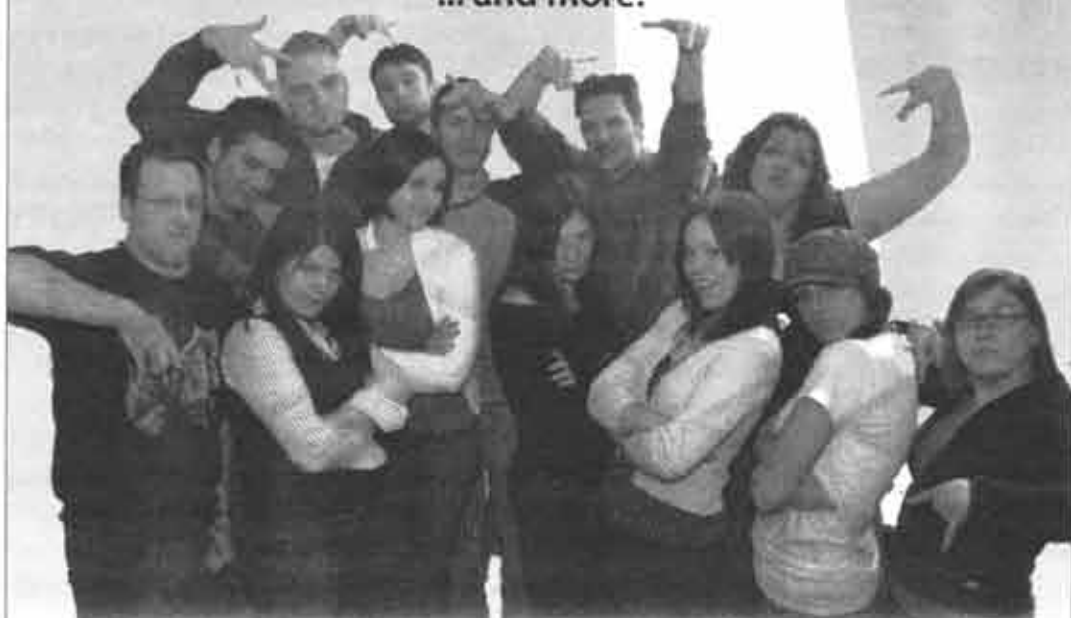
Check out: "12:59 Lullaby", "Walls Fall Down", "Jealous and the Get Free"

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O-Week concert preview

PAUL ALVIZ
A&E EDITOR

The frosh of Laurier can get set to sing along with Moneen once again, as they return for their second year in a row of headlining Laurier's O-Week concert tomorrow night at the Turret Nightclub.

With the band still riding high off the success of their biggest album to date, *The Red Tree*, seeing them perform live will be a treat for those

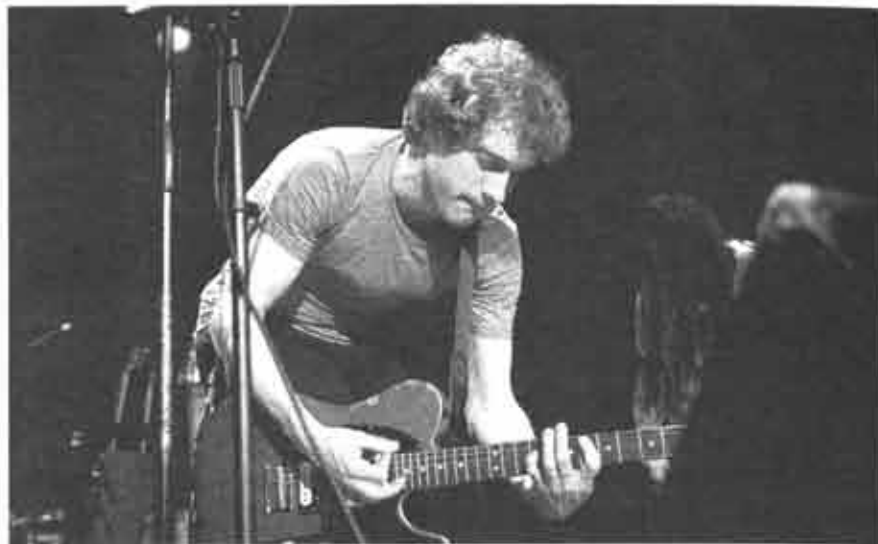
yearning for the lustrous live sound, which can be hard to capture on a recording.

Accompanying them will be Attack in Black, dubbed The Next Big Thing by Toronto radio station 102.1 The Edge, whose thoughtful lyrics and clean sound are sure to be warmly received by young and curious frosh looking for sensitive hooks that pull on your heartstrings.

But wait, there's more! Be sure to arrive in time to catch the dancing

rhythm of the Saint Alvia Cartel, throbbing with bass and crafty guitars that'll have you jumping up and down in no time.

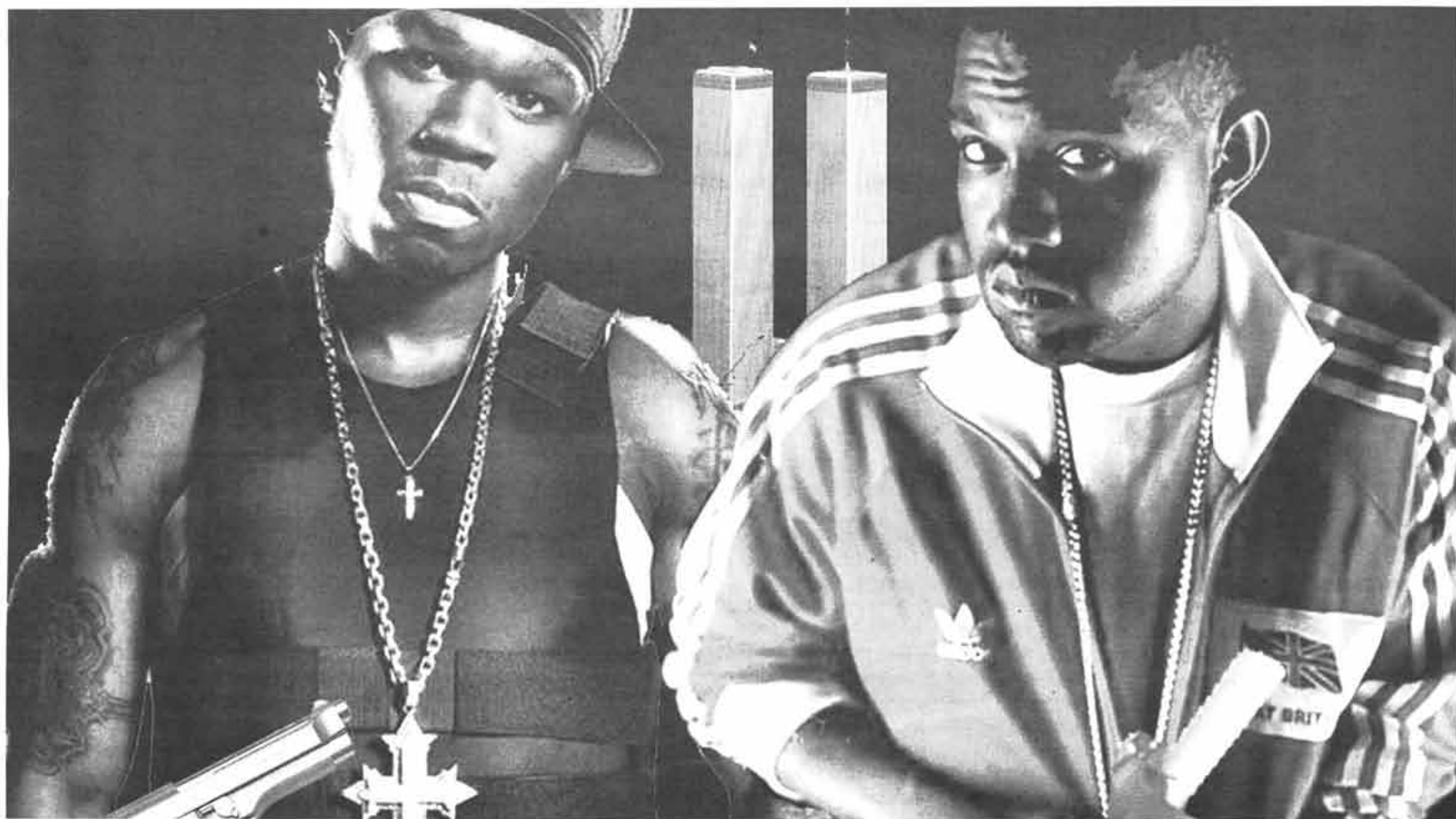
Last but certainly not least, rounding out this quartet of performers are Casey Baker and The Buffalo Sinners, hailing from St. Catharines. With a polished alt-rock sound surely influenced by people like Hayden and Dallas Green, they are perfectly capable of holding their own on stage.



DON'T BREAK YOUR G STRING - Moneen's Kenny Bridges and his axe. Contributed Photo

50 and Kanye share a date

Two contrasting hip-hop heavyweights prepare to duke it out at record stores when both of their albums drop next Tuesday



Graphic by Paul Alviz



PAUL ALVIZ
A&E EDITOR

They're both young, Black, rich, over the top and sometimes larger than life. They both suffered life-threatening injuries at the beginnings of their musical career, only to bounce back stronger than ever and rise to a height of fame few rappers are ever privileged enough to experience.

Most recently, both Jesus-complex sufferer Kanye West and man-in-a-gorilla-suit-that's-actually-his-body Mr. "Cent" are scheduled to release their latest albums, *Graduation* and *Curtis* (50 Cent's real name, Curtis Jackson) respectively, on September 11. I think there's something else important about that date, but with all the hype I just can't remember.

There, for the most part, are where the similarities end. The super-cocky West enjoyed what some might consider a slightly more

"normal" upbringing, considering his mother was a teacher and father a journalist, compared to Jackson, who was born to a 15-year-old crack addict with an absent father. West actually had the opportunity to pursue post-secondary education whereas Jackson, dealing drugs by the age of 12, had to earn his GED from the luxurious confines of a jail cell.

Clearly, Jackson wins the bout when it comes to street cred, being practically raised on it, with West most likely learning about gang violence in a first-year sociology class.

But has this cred helped Jackson's career? I doubt getting shot nine times at close range (apparently by someone who graduated from the Stevie Wonder Shooting Academy) made him any better of a rapper. Marking his territory like a dog that pisses on every fire hydrant on a walk around the neighborhood, Jackson has sparked feuds with a handful of rappers.

Most public was his incessant harassment of Ja Rule, labeling him

a "wanksta" for pretending to be a "gangsta" (which, according to my rap dictionary, is preferable), but also disowning his own protégé The Game for refusing to take part in the childish verbal battles.

WITH THEIR MATCHING RELEASE DATES, JACKSON OFFERED UP THAT IF HE'S OUTSOLD BY WEST, HE'D STOP PRODUCING SOLO RECORDS.

West's verbal battles have usually targeted public figures of whom a little social criticism is never a bad idea, most notably George "Dubya" Bush. West's proclamation that "George Bush does not care about Black people," broadcast live on national television, was simultaneously accompanied by cheers from Black families across the nation and a painfully awkward silence from Mike Myers.

From an artistic point of view, let's take a look at some sample lyrics from West in the song "Heard 'Em Say": "The devil is alive I feel

him breathin' / Claimin' money is the key so keep on dreamin' / And put them lottery tickets just to tease us."

And a sample from Jackson: "I got the sickest vendetta when it come to the chedda / And if you play wit my paper, you gonna meet my berretta / ...We riding 'round with guns the size of Lil Bow Wow."

Here we have the two artists' take on a common concept, wealth, which they both have in excess. West is criticizing the excessive importance people place on the dollar, and Jackson perfectly illustrates this by primarily rapping about getting rich and removing anyone who stands in his way.

When it comes to lyrical content, quality and rhythm, there's no doubt that West is the victor, offering more complex ideas and criticisms whose longevity is far greater than the old standby of money, guns and hoes. West has

also publicly supported the rights of gays, while 50 is stuck 50 years in the past with his derogatory raps towards women in a sad projection of machismo.

With their matching album release dates, Jackson offered up the bet that if he's outsold by West, he'd stop producing solo records, which sounds more like a ploy to enter into early retirement rather than a bet. Personally, I'd rather see him eat his hat.

However, the supposed feud has since been downplayed. West claimed that "When my album drops and 50's album drops, you're gonna get a lot of good music at the same time." Now that was a real sweetheart thing to say.

But my tolerance for raps about chedda and berrettas has just about run out, so I'm hoping to see West wipe the floor with the remains of the self-proclaimed "P.I.M.P.". And those periods should really be replaced with dashes, unless he's trying to make some kind of acronym. Perhaps, "Painfully Illiterate Mesopotamian Primate?"

Mr. Bean returns after a ten year hiatus

The fumbling baffoon aims for big screen laughs, but misses



Contributed Photo

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT - Bean's befuddled mug is best viewed on smaller screens.

JEREMY WOODCOCK
CORD A&E

Watching *Mr. Bean's Holiday*, I found myself thinking more about the place of Rowan Atkinson and his Mr. Bean character in the entertainment world in general than of this movie in particular.

Perhaps that's because the movie is, to be honest, filled with things you may expect going in. Like the first movie, 1997's *Bean*, it's bright where the TV series was dark (I mean this in terms of both the colours and images on-screen and the portrayal of the Bean character, who in the original series was much more unpleasant and even mean-spirited than you may remember).

The gags are funny, but you also see them coming miles away. This is actually a standard part of Mr. Bean scenes throughout the character's history, with the suspense building as you wait for the inevitable to happen. However, if that suspense isn't manipulated skillfully by the director, which it isn't always in this film, you'll have some time for your mind to wander.

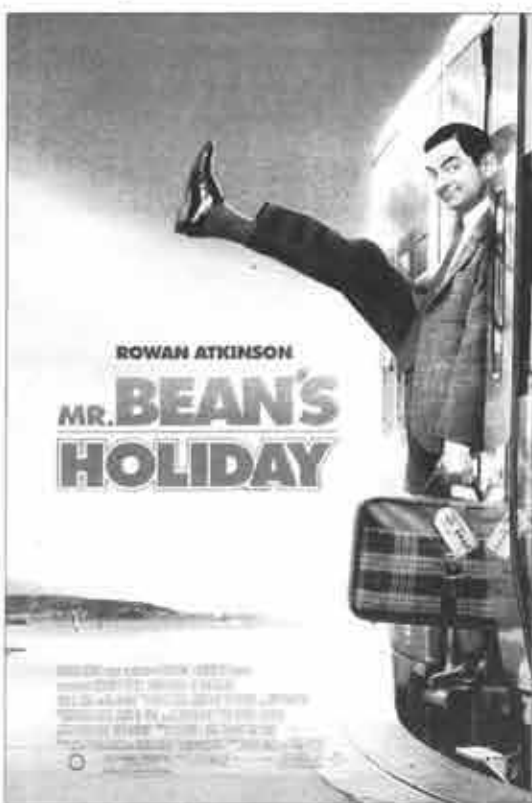
Director Steve Bendelack, who has experience portraying numerous parts of the United Kingdom as director of "Little Britain", did bring more of a European, subdued feel to this movie than was apparent in the first, which helps. Bean, after all, has as many elements of a silent character like Jacques Tati's Mr. Hulot - the film's title and general concept are in fact paying homage to *Mr. Hulot's Holiday* (1953) - as he does of American silent film stars like Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton. Bean does end up triumphing in the end in some way, but like Hulot much of his time is also spent wandering throughout the world as an often bewildered and shocked observer.

Still, as he wanders and mingles among film stars at the Cannes Film Festival (including Willem Dafoe in a good performance), we can see a major flaw of the film. In a continuance of many of the ideas and situations of the previous film, this movie believes that a great deal of humour is wrought from putting Mr. Bean into situations with extreme characters and situations, where he is a fish-out-of-water.

What seems apparent to me is that Mr. Bean is so odd that this needn't be forced: he is a fish-out-of-water at his local grocery store, parking garage or even in his own kitchen,

and the subtlety (yes, I said subtlety!) of Mr. Bean's humour is far more effective in those situations. It is only when forced to compete with these extreme situations that the Bean character - which has earned a reputation for mugging for this very reason - is forced to abandon subtlety.

As long as I can remember, there has been talk, accompanying each new Bean project, of people becoming "tired" of the character. Particularly, Rowan Atkinson has been known mainly for this role in North America, with far fewer people, if any, watching his classic series, such as *Blackadder*, *Not the Nine O'Clock News* and his one-man performances. Track down those works, in which Atkinson plays dozens of characters vastly different from his simple, silent character, and then return to the character and watch this film with fresh eyes. You may appreciate them all the more.



Mr. Bean's Holiday
Director: Steve Bendelack
Starring: Rowan Atkinson, Willem Dafoe, Emma de Caunes
Release Date: 08/24/07
Recommendation:

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PROVOCATEUR - The West Bank is one of Banksy's artistic platforms.

Graffiti with a conscience

New wave activist sends social message with art

KARI PRITCHARD
STAFF WRITER

Rebellion, innovation and mystery are what best describe the new wave artist known as "Banksy". Starting off his career in the United Kingdom, Banksy has taken the world by storm, creating memorable graffiti pieces everywhere he goes.

Very little is known about Banksy himself, but his larger-than-life messages are what catch most peoples' attention. Banksy has created various works of art, both new pieces and innovative recreations of famous pieces, and is considered both an artist and a vandal because of his famous graffiti work.

The man of mystery creates impressive sketches and paintings focusing on social equality and justice, pointing out flaws in society and social structures with no holds barred.

Not only does Banksy's work itself send a message, but the places he chooses to leave his mark are of equal importance. An example of this would be his graffiti work on the Palestinian side of the Israel West Bank Barrier. On this notable divide and enclosure, he has painted various optical illusions focusing on children innocently achieving freedom from the wall.

Banksy's work on the wall was impressively completed without being busted, and successfully draws attention to the entrapment

and control of such innocent lives.

Banksy's work is so controversial that it is applauded and enjoyed by many, even while being proclaimed vandalism and painted over by others to stunt his striking opinions of the world. The most recent controversy surrounding Banksy concerns some of his work being put on exhibit in London, England, alongside that of famed artist Andy Warhol.

Some of Banksy's works are inspired by Warhol (check out his

painting of Kate Moss) and rumors are surfacing of Banksy being a Warhol copycat.

Although both artists have similar taste and style and create works that turn heads, one must focus on the bigger picture that Banksy is creating. Banksy is not risking arrest by putting his graffiti art in public places to be called a copycat; he's doing it to make a point about our world.

With all the mixed media attention, it is safe to say at this point that if Banksy's goal was to illustrate such strong and important messages, any attention is good attention.

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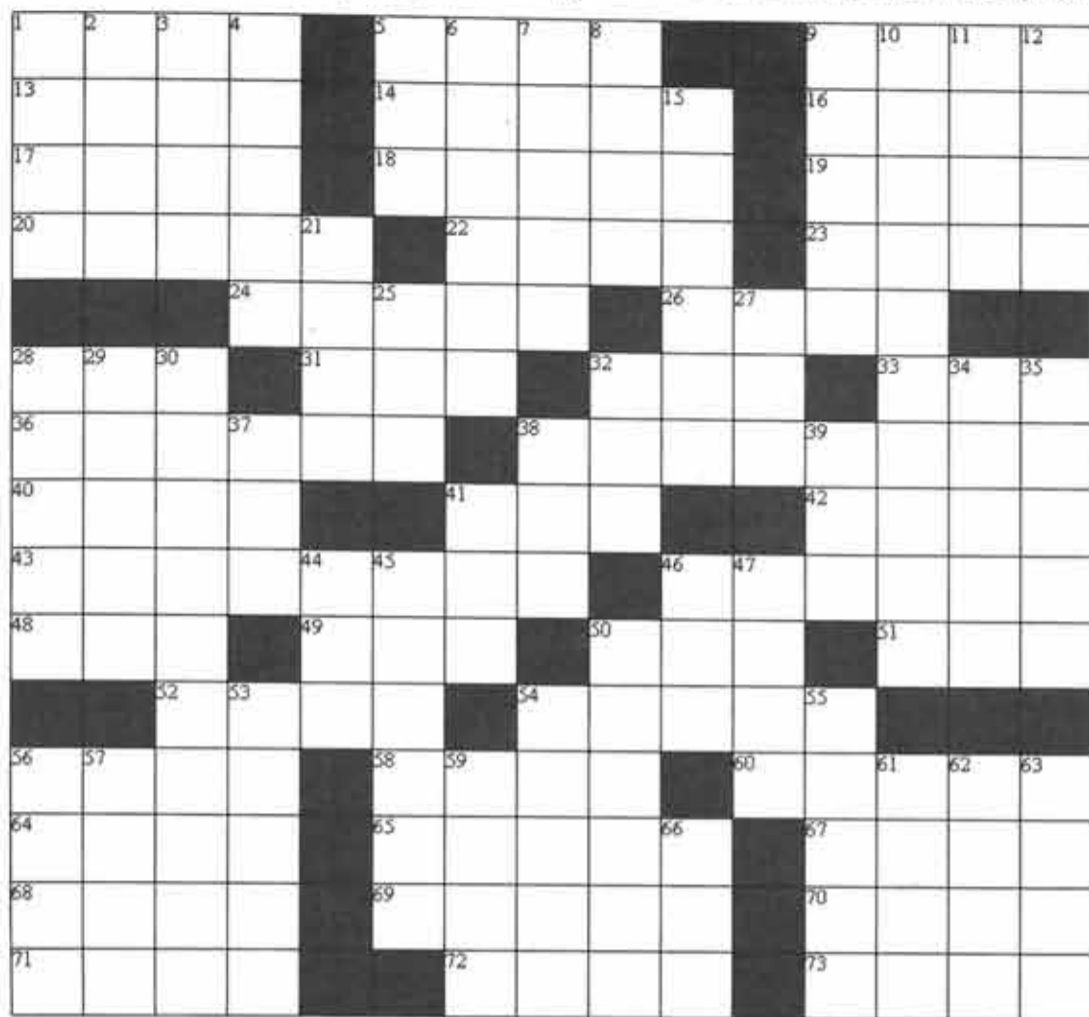
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Across

1. Author Ayn
5. Support (with for)
9. Surrounded by
13. Ron Howard role
14. Band
16. Claudius I successor
17. Thaw
18. Degrade
19. Unappetizing food
20. Clean, as a bird
22. Summer drinks
23. Like a certain ranger
24. Yucatan feature
26. Bound
28. Likely
31. Everyman John
32. Darling one
33. N.I.M.H. animal
36. Prison official
38. Red Baron's transport
40. J'ai
41. Wooden stake
42. Middle East ruler
43. Protect from loss, again
46. Recalcitrant youth
48. Sea bird
49. U2 single
50. Use a spade
51. Understand
52. Polkaroo door features
54. Yearned
56. Plant part
58. Qualified
60. Marsh plant
64. Pandora's redemption
65. Enraged
67. Stallion's mate
68. Soon
69. Went steady
70. Russian mountains
71. Subway series team
72. Vishnu and Shiva
73. Cincinnati team

Down

1. Have a gay old time
2. Mime
3. Longest river
4. Discourage
5. Teacher's org.
6. Suave
7. Laundry units
8. Place last
9. Geometry measure
10. Soaps, for ex.
11. Press
12. Drugs, to some
15. Little brother verb
21. Like a naturalist
25. Chemist's particle
27. Puck or Pan
28. Cognizant
29. More pallid
30. Railway station (2 wds.)
32. Choke
34. Liquorice plant
35. Concise
37. Racket
38. Itsy-bitsy
39. Shepherded
41. Before (pr.)
44. Drunkard
45. Tacit
46. Storage box
47. Grays
50. Ate selectively
53. Signs
54. The Academy founder
55. Object to
56. Hoax
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59. Act conceited
61. Schoolyard challenge
62. Alumnus: (abbr.)
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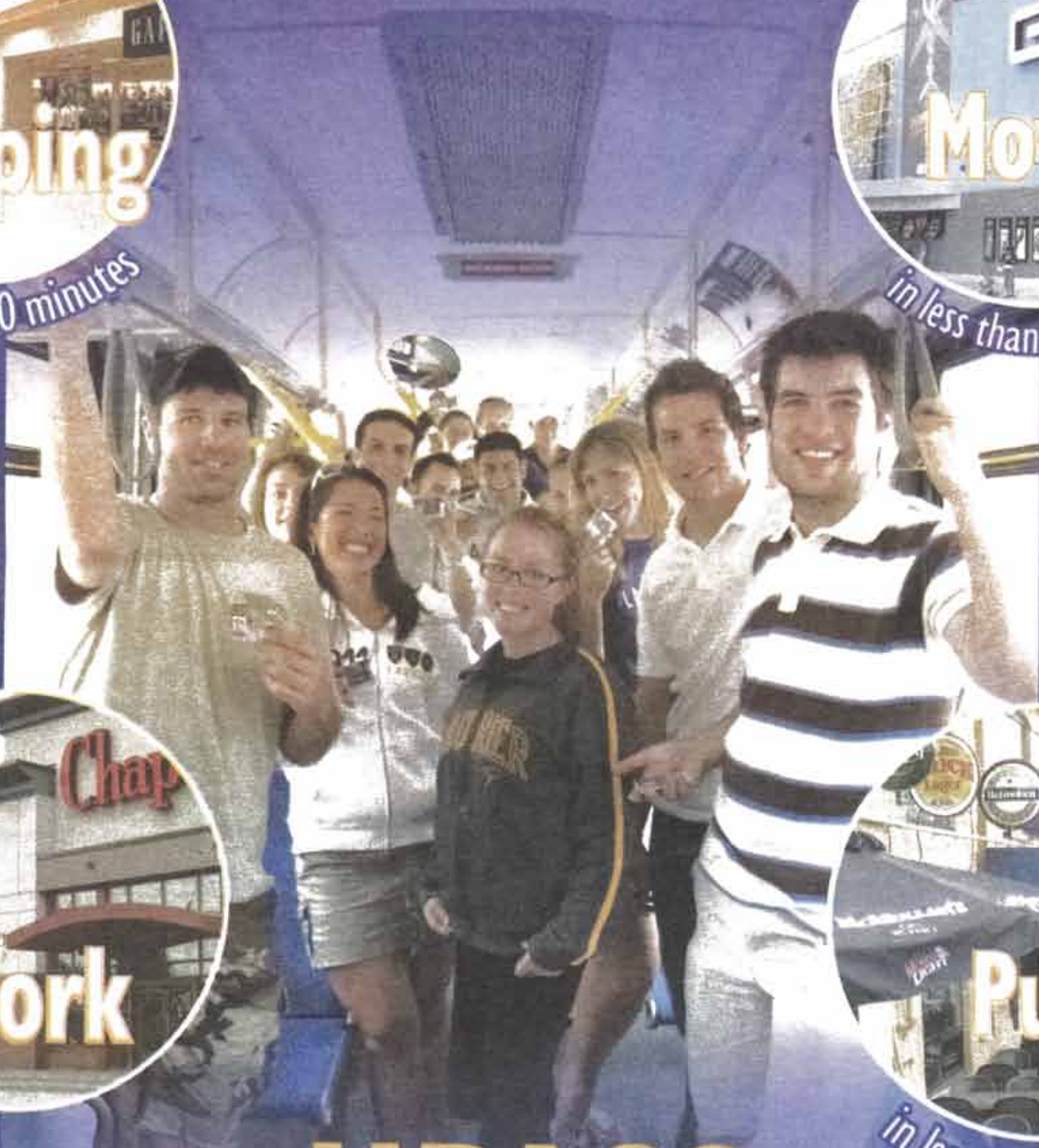
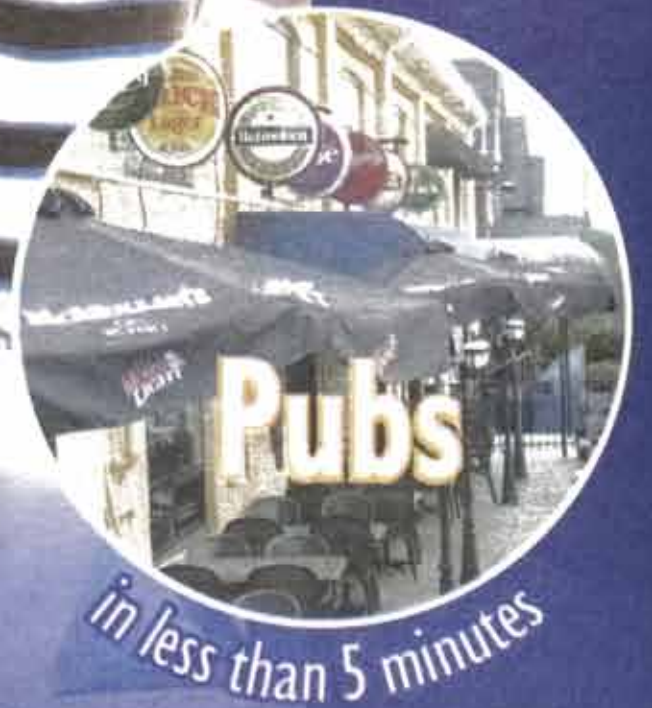
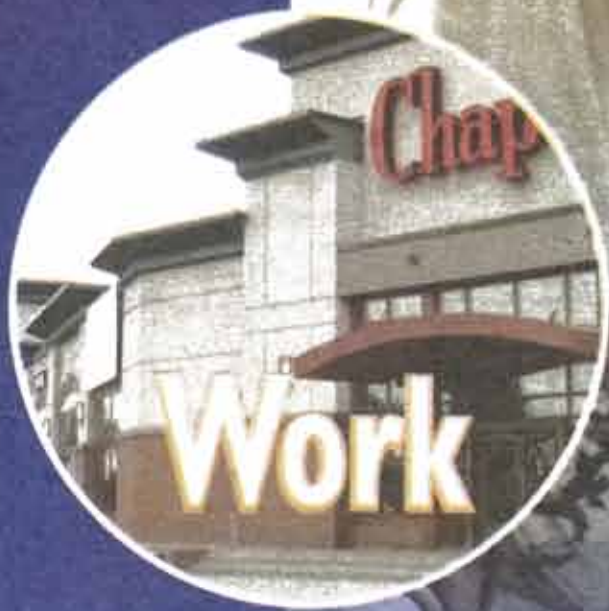
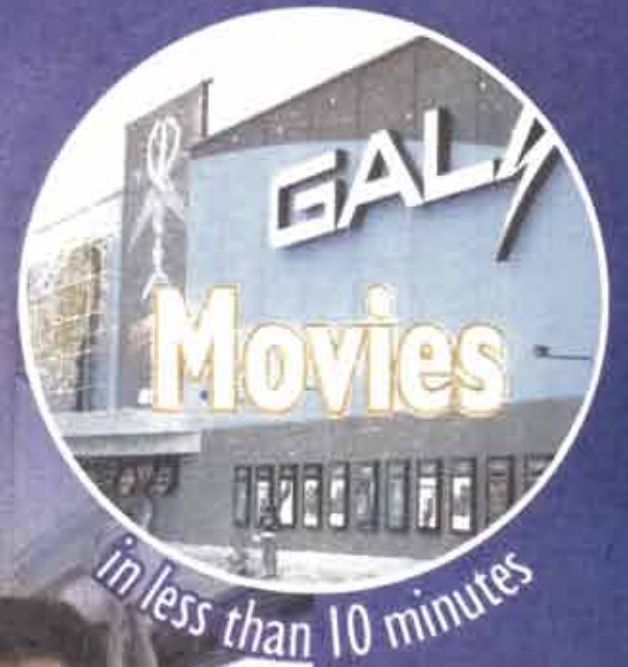
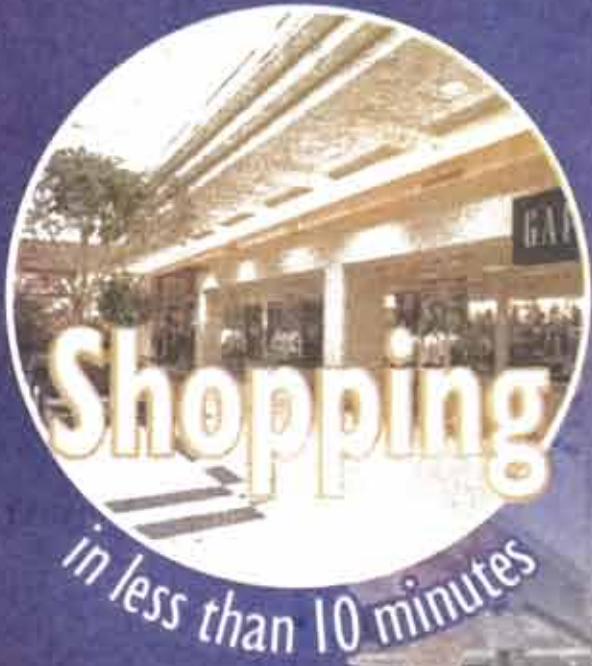
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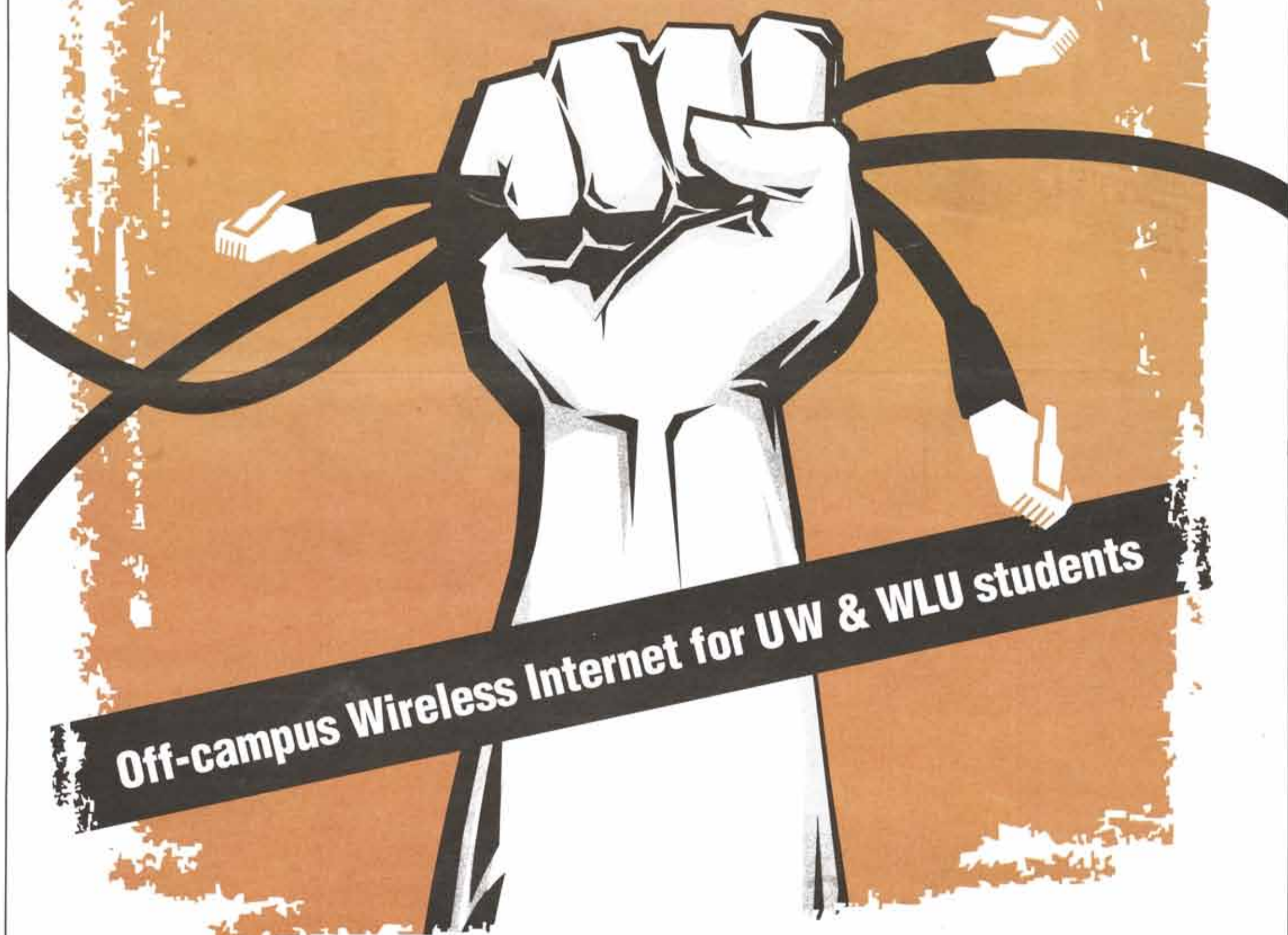
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