



**HURRICANE HUGO**  
 Venezuelan president threatens to cut oil exports to US ... **PAGE 10**

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 Ultimate tunes to drown out fresh cheers ... **PAGE 16**

## Alumni Field too small for lacrosse

Upgrades to green space carry mixed reviews

**DAN POLISCHUK**  
 SPORTS EDITOR

As the now-renamed Alumni Field reopens this month, bringing more life to the heart of campus, it will leave a couple of Laurier varsity teams on the outside looking in.

The men's and women's soccer teams will be the only teams reaping the benefits of the new playing grounds. Women's lacrosse and both men's and women's rugby, usually drawing only a handful of fans per game, had hoped for a renovated field big enough for their varsity games, but had no such luck.

Lynn Orth, head coach for the lacrosse team, admitted that while she hasn't gotten onto the field yet, she is "disappointed" by the fact that the team will not be able to use it for scheduled home games.

"I didn't know until they put the lines on that we wouldn't be able to use it," she commented.

"When they started building the field, I sent them my specs; they talked about it being tight [for space], said Orth. "But I always said, 'Wait until it's built. I understand the constraints of the parking ... but when it's built, if we can fit a regulation field on it - that would be great,' because [Athletics] were saying 110 metres, which is what I need."

Orth expressed further concern with the fact that "we built a single use facility."

"If we get on board and immediately do the upgrades to the stadium next summer ... that's a different story. It's a one year thing," she said.

"What they're saying now is it's a soccer field and green space."

In the mean time, she explains, the team will take advantage of the increase in usage time at University Stadium.

Josh Windsor, coach of the men's rugby team, admitted that while he was not able to move his

- SEE FIELD, PAGE 8



April Robinson

**BACK TO THE BOOKS** - Dad helps daughter find course materials for a year of serious study at the Laurier Bookstore last Friday.

# Stadium cuts city deal

Programming and protocol at University Stadium is tweaked to make it less of a burden

**TONY FERGUSON**  
 NEWS EDITOR

After months of negotiating, Wilfrid Laurier University has come to an agreement with city residents living near University Stadium on Seagram Drive. Many residents living nearby were bothered by the amount of light and noise emanating from the facility during sports games and concerts.

"There were concerns about light and especially about lights being on longer and into the wee hours of the morning," says Kaye Crawford, manager of community relations for the City of Waterloo.

The lack of facilities for intramural sports was causing players to remain at the stadium as late as 1:00 am, making it difficult for some residents to sleep with the glare of the stadium lights shining through their windows.

The format of the programs was also changed, with the traditional announcer being replaced with a new one who was aptly nicknamed "the screamer." This

annoyed a lot of residents within earshot of the stadium.

"It was a major departure from what we'd experienced in years past where a football game would start and the announcer would just announce the plays," says Peter Mansell, who lives on Albert Street and chaired the committee of concerned residents.

Carmeta "Betsy" Abbot has lived on Young Street since 1968. She misses the days when the sounds off a football game were welcome in the neighbourhood.

"Regular football games were part of an ambience, we looked forward to having it," she says recalling the occasional cheers from fans that would float through Waterloo Park to her home.

In the past couple of years, the stadium had an increase in use, which prompted residents to take action. It was only when representatives from the city, the university and the neighborhood came together that it was discovered there were improvements that could be made for both residents and the university.

"We recognized when we re-

ally looked at it significantly that there were improvements that could be made for everyone," says David McMurray, dean of students at Laurier, who acted as chair of the task force.

When the lights were examined, it became obvious that they had actually been knocked out of aim after years of exposure to high winds. Some were pointing more in the direction of houses than on the playing field. The lights were re-aimed and visors were installed which reduce light spillage into the night sky and in-

crease brightness of the lights on the field.

The construction of Alumni field, formerly known as Willison field, has helped offset the stadium usage. This means that intramural sports will finish much earlier at the stadium with a lights-off time of 11:00 pm. Less use of the stadium also means less wear on the turf, which is beginning to degrade and will be expensive to replace.

The sound levels were also as-

- SEE STADIUM, PAGE 3



Tony Ferguson

**GLARING BACK** - Young Street resident Carmeta Abbot looks at the stadium lights not far from her front yard.

**COMING NEXT WEEK:**

CORD INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATES THE UW TERRORISM SCARE AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR LAURIER



## THE CORD WEEKLY

- The tie that binds since 1926 -

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Yank it out like you're starting a motor"

- Tony Ferguson to a bemused Alex Hayter, regarding the force necessary to remove a memory card from its reader

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

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

The staff of *The Cord* shall uphold all commonly held ethical  
conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or  
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.

## Ed faculty to open in '07

Waterloo's knowledge-based economy helped Laurier win the bid against four other schools

MIKE BROWN  
NEWS EDITOR

At long last, there's a local option for students whose hearts are set on molding the minds of the future.

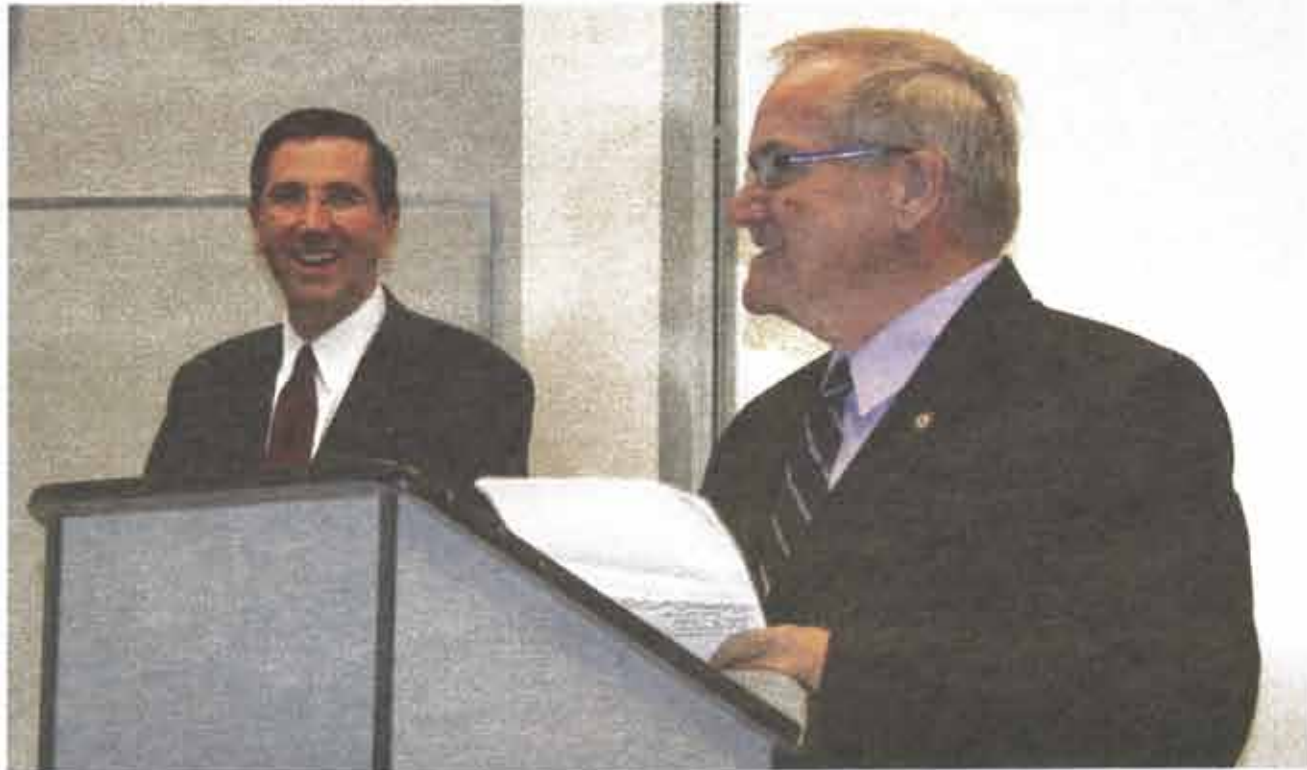
On July 25, Dr. Bob Rosehart, president of WLU, and Kitchener Centre MPP John Milloy announced the establishment of a Faculty of Education at Wilfrid Laurier University, set to open its doors to approximately 90 students in the fall of 2007. Previously, the closest options for students in the area – which accepted a whopping 50,000 undergrads between WLU, Waterloo, and Guelph – were Western, Brock, and various schools in the GTA.

"There are currently 12 public education programs in the province, but there's not one within easy distance of this community," noted Rosehart. "Geography probably helped us a lot in the final analysis."

Indeed, with four other schools vying for the faculty, the community of Waterloo appears to have been a major factor in the success of Laurier's bid. With a well-known knowledge-based economy and support from world-class facilities like the Perimeter Institute, Laurier is well-situated to provide for teaching needs in traditionally short-changed subject areas, such as math, science and special education, says Rosehart.

"Those are all areas where there's a shortage and those are considerations that the government takes into [account]," explained Tanya Blazina, a communications representative with the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Between broad smiles, Rosehart was also quick to acknowl-



Mike Brown

ALL SMILES - MPP John Milloy and Dr. Rosehart announce the opening of the new faculty of education.

edge the cooperative role played by the two neighbouring universities in the bid. The initial proposal was made jointly with the St. Jerome's campus of Waterloo, and they will handle the Catholic school board side of teacher training.

As for the details of the bid itself, Milloy bestowed high praise. "This [will] not just be an ordinary facility, but one that [will] be cutting edge, incorporating some of the most current research in terms of teacher training with a special emphasis on hands-on education."

According to Laurier's VP: Academic, Sue Horton, the proposal focuses heavily on getting student-teachers into local classrooms – at least once a week throughout the year-long graduate program. Moreover, in order to combat the high rates of attrition amongst Ontario teaching grads, the WLU program will

involve a mentorship component that continues after graduates leave.

"It's designed to give them a stronger attachment to schools so they know what to expect when they start out in the profession and then also to bring them back in their first year of teaching to support them," says Horton.

Despite all the accolades the administration expects this announcement to bring, there is one major outstanding issue: a location.

The faculty is temporarily working out of the Education Centre in Kitchener, just off of Highway 8.

For now, Rosehart isn't speaking definitively about where it will settle, beyond promising that it will remain in the tri-city area.

"We'll have to define our needs and figure out where it's going to be," he explains. "We've got a year to do that."

"You don't really need a lot of classroom space," added the Laurier president, citing Northdale and St. Michael's campuses as potential options to begin with.

Ultimately, Rosehart is just ecstatic to have the process underway.

"Laurier has grown to be an institution with 12,000 students, but we still have a very narrow range of professional schools. We only really have three professional programs and there hasn't been a new program in over 30 years."

Before the Faculty of Education takes root alongside business, music and social work as Laurier's fourth professional program, it needs to be accredited, a process administration is hoping to complete by the end of 2006. Applications will be made available in late September through the website for the Ontario Universities' Application Centre.

## Academic addition to O-Week

Academics no longer take a back seat to orientation

LAURA CARLSON  
CORD NEWS

The planners of this year's orientation week have made the usual provisions for fun and games, but the 2006 O-Week will have one main difference than those of years past: mandatory academic sessions.

Students will learn a little more about how the university operates academically, which is what Lindsay Fleming, the vice president of student activities, thinks should be the main goal of O-Week.

"Yes, Laurier is fun, but when you go into university, academics is the number one focus and O-Week should reflect that," she

says.

Fleming recognizes that despite having one of the best orientation programs in Canada, the week has never focused on academics.

Orientation Week coordinator April Detzler echoes Fleming's thoughts on the importance of school work at post-secondary institutions. "Because Laurier has such a strong focus on activities, this often overpowers the academic aspects of university."

By making the sessions mandatory for all first year students and volunteers, high turnout and participation is the goal. The sessions are scheduled to run on the morning of Wednesday September 6, at various times and locations.

The sessions will cover an introduction to the faculty, information specific to each department and a session on academic

integrity. Detzler feels that the academic integrity information is especially crucial to first-year students, since some previous first-years have been punished in the past for academic dishonesty due to a lack of awareness.

"This session is a real eye-opener and makes students aware of specific guidelines. Many students are faced with punishment, and they don't even know they are not showing academic integrity. This way there will be no grey area."

As for those refusing to participate in the sessions, attendance will be taken and it will be up to the faculty to decide what action to take against no-shows.

Fleming encourages all first-years to "come out to as many of the events as possible, give it your all and push barriers." Fleming stresses that over 500 passionate volunteers have been working

hard to make Frosh feel welcome as they arrive at Laurier, and it's up to them to take advantage of what the school has to offer. She feels that although university can be challenging, first years must "seize the opportunity."

As in past years, first year students will be divided into four different colour teams where they will rotate through the many activities that the O-Week committee has planned.

This year the theme for O-Week has been coined "Your World to Conquer." Fleming explains that the theme represents both orientation and the university experience of the individual student.

The week will include various activities such as Ragada Games, The Price Is Right, Shinerama, outdoor movie night on Willison Field, and a quad party featuring the emo-punk bands Moneen and Silverstein.



VOCAL CORD

# Being neighbourly

What are your plans for O-Week this year?



"Not really sure, I'm on the basketball team so I can't afford to get too drunk."

- Luke Sunterland  
Third Year Kinesiology



"I'm going to work and drink."

- Mallory Holmes  
Third Year Political Science



"As of now I'm a freshman on the football team so I don't know."

- Tom Atkinson-Graham  
First Year History



"All of the activities I hope, depending on how tired and hungover I am."

- April Vandebek,  
First Year Psychology



"Basically just catching up with everyone and having a good time."

- Josh Hissa, Second Year  
Political Science

Compiled by Tony Ferguson, photos by Alex Hayter

The City of Waterloo started the welcome bag committee after hearing complaints from students who felt alienated in their communities

TONY FERGUSON  
NEWS EDITOR

Once again, off-campus students will get a warm city welcome as they go back to school.

Now in its third year of operation, the City of Waterloo's welcome bag committee has worked feverishly to assemble some 1,500 cloth bags packed full of freebies and information about the city.

"I was hearing from the students that they often didn't feel welcome in the community or their neighborhood," says the woman behind the campaign, Kaye Crawford, manager of community relations for the city.

Student neighbourhoods are unique creatures. On the one hand, there is a group of students - young, energetic and living on their own for the first time - who live amongst another group: parents, retirees and senior citizens.

The idea behind the welcome bags is to serve as an ice-breaker - an excuse for students and permanent residents to interact. Members of the community stroll down their street, knock on the doors of their new neighbours and offer them the bag of goodies along with a friendly welcome. The hope is that students and permanent residents will get to know each other and will find it easier to talk to one another if there are any problems or concerns.

"We've gotten to know [the students] but the more important thing is that students have gotten welcomed, not shunned," says Benton Leong, who has lived in the Lakeshore East community for 20 years. Leong and his wife have participated in the welcome bag program since it started and have been shown gratitude from the students to whom they've handed



Tony Ferguson

**WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD** - Benton Leong of Lakeshore East community holds out one of the welcome bags he and other community members plan on handing out to off-campus students this fall. The bags contain information on what to do in the city and samples from some local businesses.

the bags.

"We've been pleasantly surprised from the reception we've gotten from the students," he said.

The bags are not only intended to serve as symbols of neighbourliness, but also information packages. The bags provide a direct way for the city to inform its new residents about by-laws, garbage collection dates and other important information.

"The other complaint was that [the students] didn't have the information about living in Water-

loo," says Crawford, who recalls hearing about some students who didn't make it to Uptown Waterloo until their third year of living in the city. "This bag contains information about some of the arts, culture and entertainment that's available for the off-campus as well."

The program is gaining steady momentum and has been very popular among permanent residents, landlords and anyone else who participates.

"My understanding is obviously the permanent residents like it

because my 1,500 bags are gone each year ... and the permanent residents come back for more because the students have been so welcoming," says Crawford.

Leong considers students to be stakeholders in the community and are just as important as everyone else. He feels that everyone, young and old, looks for the same thing in a neighbourhood.

"Really what permanent residents and students want is the same thing: a comfortable place to live in," he says.

## Lights: University finally listens

- FROM STADIUM, COVER

The sound levels were also assessed and specific volume levels for spoken announcements and amplified music have been determined. This was done through a series of sound tests throughout the neighborhood, which the residents had an opportunity to participate in.

"[The residents] came out and they were great and the sound people were terrific. I didn't real-

ize how much of a science there is to noise," said McMurray.

Specific volume levels have been included in a document that is provided for whoever is operating the stadium to ensure that they adhere to the new guidelines.

"The operation of the stadium has pretty much gone back to whatever was being done a couple of years ago," says Kaye Crawford.

This was much to the satisfaction of the residents who had been putting up with the changes

to the stadium in the past couple of years, said McMurray.

"Everybody was delighted," he said. A document specifies what the agreements are with lights and sound and a checkpoint report will be submitted to the city on an annual basis.

The residents are also provided with an opportunity to speak to city council if they feel that the new agreement is not upheld.

For McMurray, the biggest advantage of this new agreement

has been good relations with the neighborhood.

Peter Mansell is just happy that the university is finally listening to him and the other residents. He feels that the university should always consider how their policy will affect the neighborhood.

"As long as that question is included in their plans, I think most of the neighbors will be happy."

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story



# New plans for SBE

An international and student focus is Dean Dybenko's main plan for the SBE

**TONY FERGUSON**  
NEWS EDITOR

Laurier's School of Business and Economics (SBE) has named their new dean.

Ginny Dybenko, a former senior corporate executive who has been selected for her business accomplishments and her focus on international connections, will take over from Dr. Scott Carson, who recently ended his second five-year term.

"I'm absolutely thrilled," she says when asked about her new position.

She is also excited to be working at Laurier. "It's such a great school ... I have had a lot of experience with a lot of universities in the Ontario area and I have never had such a collegial, cooperative organization ever."

Dr. Sue Horton, vice president of academic at Laurier, points to the weakest leg that Laurier's SBE is standing on, which happens to be Dybenko's focus.

The school has three parts to

their strategic plan: the first is developing more graduate programs, the second is developing more research centers and the third and least developed is the international aspect. That's where Dybenko comes in.

"It's really important that the international aspect be focused on," says Dybenko, who points to the fact that few business schools really understand this topic. "A billion dollars flow over the Canada/US border every day and no one school reports to be an expert in Canada/US relations."

It is Dybenko's intention to make students more internationally-oriented in their business thinking.

"What [an international focus] will do for the student is placement once they graduate ... the fact is the best you can place your student, the best of students want to come to the school," says Horton, explaining that the European business schools are light-years ahead of Canadian schools in terms of internationalization. She

believes it is time to catch up.

In this sense, "international" is somewhat a broad term. It could mean a number of things, from studying offshore markets to sending students to study abroad, to actually setting up partner institutions in other countries, Explains Dybenko.

Before Dybenko makes any major changes to the SBE, she first plans on collaborating with staff and students to gather in what direction the school should go.

"Before everything starts I think we have to determine what it is exactly we want to be," she says.

The new direction of the SBE will be determined through meetings with staff as well as one-on-one sessions with students. Dybenko also plans on building a lecture series that will cater to students' interests. "The students would obviously have a great deal of input as to what they'd like to hear," she says.

Ultimately, Dybenko just wants students to leave the school with the ability and confidence they need to find a job.

"I think the school should have a responsibility at some level or other to assist the students in preparing for that big day," she says.

Dybenko will fulfill this re-



Contributed Photo

**ROLE MODEL** - Ginny Dybenko is the first female dean of Laurier SBE.

sponsibility by scouring industry in search of companies that are interested in hiring graduate students as well as those who would be good candidates for co-op positions.

## OneCard wins national productivity award

WLU student card takes home national award for its innovation, wide range of uses and its attractiveness to local businesses

**TONY FERGUSON**  
NEWS EDITOR

The debit card, ID card, library card and key that Laurier staff and students take for granted has been recognized for its high versatility.

The OneCard recently won the Quality and Productivity award from the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO), an organization that promotes innovations in the management of higher education

institutions.

"I actually didn't know about [the award] myself until we were nominated for it," says Nick Tomljenovic, manager of the OneCard system.

The award he wasn't familiar with is in fact a very important recognition in the industry.

"It's very high. I can't convey to those outside the industry but it's very prestigious," says Jim Bulter, vice-president of finance and administration at Laurier.

"They were really impressed by the fact that we've used it so extensively and that also we've got a number of businesses off-campus that recognize the card," he said.

It all started back in the nineties when people were running to the grocery and hardware stores to stock up on canned peas and batteries in case the techno-prophets were right in predicting the end of the world as the year 2000 rolled around.

As the new millennium approached, student services became more and more nervous about the outdated technology that was being used for the meal card and decided to change format.

Then only a laminated card with a bar code that was used to purchase meals in the dining hall, the Laurier student card has come a long way.

The OneCard system was purchased by student services in 1999 and came into use after being set up by Tomljenovic in time to take staff and students through the technologically tumultuous time. Since then it's been a success, gaining more and more features each year.

The card, which not only acts as identification but lets students into buildings, sign out books, pay for food, buy things on-campus, off-campus, and online is going to get even better.

"What I like to think is that we're doing it the best ... we're very in-

novative," says Tomljenovic.

This year, the card is getting jam-packed with even more bells and whistles.

"We're doing a lot of new things this year," says Tomljenovic, explaining that students will be able to purchase monthly meal plans over the web.

Previously, meal plans could only be purchased per term, a costly endeavour that isn't financially viable for everyone.

A rewards program will also be available for frequent convenience account users.

Students will also be able to put money on their convenience accounts by sending a text message from their cell phones for those late nights at the photocopier when no OneCard staff is available.

In addition to the new features, three new off-campus retailers will also accept the OneCard this year: Williams Coffee Pub near University Place, The Noodle Hut and Benny's Restaurant.

For Tomljenovic, students would lead a hard-knock life on campus without the OneCard.

"Things wouldn't be as simple, as easy or as convenient," he says. "You'd have keys everywhere, you'd be paying a lot of cash for your meals, you wouldn't be able to swipe in and out of your residences, security would be a lot tighter in labs, they wouldn't be able to be open as long."



Carlin Howlett

**PLAYING THEIR CARDS RIGHT** - Left to right: Mike Belanger, Director of Residential Services, Jim Butler, VP Finance & Administration, Nick Tomljenovic, Laurier OneCard System Manager, David McMurray, Dean of Students each played a role in developing the highly successful OneCard.



# Eleven schools lost

*Maclean's* magazine has had 11 universities drop out of its popular rankings

**WILLIAM WOLFE-WYLIE**  
CUP ATLANTIC BUREAU CHIEF

SACKVILLE, N.B. (CUP) — Tony Keller, managing editor of special projects at *Maclean's* magazine, first heard that 11 universities were pulling out of the annual feature when an *Edmonton Journal* reporter called his office asking for a comment. But that was only the beginning.

Keller received a letter which was signed by 11 university presidents.

The letter expressed disagreement with the methodology used to compile a large number of statistics into a single ranking and that the magazine was comparing "apples and oranges."

"Consider how such an approach might pervert one's understanding of a general hospital that is ranked #1 in obstetrics and #10 in cancer care. Averaging these rankings would result in this hospital being ranked #5 overall," argued the letter. "For the patient seeking care in one of these areas, such a measure would be useless at best and misleading at worst."

The University of Northern British Columbia, for example, was rated eighth overall in 2002 when it had achieved top marks in library acquisitions while falling to the bottom of the pile in scholar-

ships and bursaries.

But Keller disagrees. He points out that overall averages are exactly how universities grade their students. What *Maclean's* is doing is little different, he argues, but it does turn the tables.

"The universities are saying that you can't combine a bunch of grades together into a grade point average. Right," said Keller in a phone interview. "It's the equivalent of a student submitting their transcript," he added.

For Keller, the rankings are about providing potential consumers with as much information as they care to consume before making a major purchase. Rather than the health-care analogy, Keller uses the analogy of buying a car.

"If I want to buy a car, I have almost unlimited information," he said. "I know far less about a university.

"We're [*Maclean's*] one of the only public and objective sources of information on the subject," he said.

But according to University of Toronto president David Naylor, it would be hypocritical of an institution that prides itself in quality research and analysis to take part in a study that uses poor methodology.

"As academics we devote our

careers to ensuring that people make important decisions on the basis of good data, analyzed with discipline. But Canadian universities have been complicit, en masse, in supporting a ranking system that has little scientific merit because it reduces everything to a meaningless, average score," wrote Naylor in a letter to *The Ottawa Citizen* on April 23, 2006.

The magazine has made some changes to this year's rankings as a result of some of the complaints. This year, instead of simply printing the rankings, the magazine will also include the final scores that led to those rankings, allowing readers to see the spread between different institutions and see where they are comparable.

A new online feature will also allow readers to weight the different scores as they see fit and form their own rankings, allowing users to see how the universities compare according to what is most important to them.

Since the announcement of the changes was only made three days after the letter was received at *Maclean's*, the signatory universities have not yet had a chance to respond to the changes and it is yet unclear whether any of them will change their minds as a result.

# Bag O' Crime

Theft From Vehicle – August 21

PP&P personnel reported that sometime August 28 unknown suspects entered a van parked at 81 Lodge Street and stole a tool belt. Investigation continuing.

Break and Enter – August 21

WLUSU personnel reported that sometime over the weekend unknown person stole a television from the food court area. Investigation continuing.

Break and Enter – August 21

Sometime between August 19 and 20 an unknown person entered several offices on the third floor of the Schlegel Building. The suspects took computers from the offices. Case has been forwarded to the Waterloo Regional Police Break and Enter Enforcement Team for investigation.

Trespass – August 23

While on patrol Special Constables stopped two students who were observed walking inside the construction area at Willison Field. They were issued a warning to stay off the field.

Intoxicated Person – August 24

Custodial staff reported seeing a male behind 232 King Street

in an intoxicated state. Special Constables spoke to the male who was identified as a former student. The male was cooperative and was taken home.

Fire Alarm – August 25

Special Constables responded to a fire alarm at 44 Bricker Street. The alarm was caused by a construction worker repairing tiles in the ceiling. The building was cleared and the residents were allowed to return.

Theft – August 25

A student reported that \$20.00 was taken from his wallet in the changeroom at the AC.

Theft – August 25

A retired professor reported that someone had entered his locker in the changeroom of the AC and taken \$36.

Suspicious Male – August 27

Residence Life staff reported a seeing a male on Mid-Campus Drive driving a 1975 Firebird. The male exited his vehicle and retrieved something from his trunk, all the while with a sheathed knife in his mouth. Both the Waterloo Regional Police and University of Waterloo Police were advised.

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# Coming off the bench

After four years as Ryan Pyear's understudy, quarterback Jamie Partington finally gets his time as Laurier football's leading man

**DAN POLISCHUK**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The day has finally come for Jamie Partington. It's been four years coming, but he is finally at the position he knows he belongs: starting quarterback of the Laurier Golden Hawks.

Ask him if he's nervous and he shrugs it off automatically.

"I've played competitive sports all my life so I know what it takes ... If you're nervous, you're not ready to play."

Confidence is clearly not something Partington lacks as he awaits the start of the season.

"I couldn't be more pumped. For four years as the backup, I was waiting for the day," he said, adding that he only got the word that the job was his until spring camp.

Had he been forced to wait longer, it may have very well been another player taking the opening snaps against Guelph. Partington admitted that he wasn't even planning on coming back this fall, but when the opportunity arose, "it was an easy 'yes' for sure."

At six feet, three inches and 200 pounds, Partington has the support of his coaches and teammates – according to Head Coach Gary Jeffries.

"He's had a good camp. It's still his first starting action ... it's going to take a while to get comfortable," said Jeffries, adding, "Although he's had game experience, it's always been in a relief role, so there's just a little difference there."

"We're giving him every opportunity [to succeed] ... the things we can't have are mental breakdowns."

And that is something that may be easier to avoid with the help of close friend, and his superior the last handful of years, Ryan Pyear.

Having Pyear calling the plays as the new offensive coordinator makes things "real easy," according to Partington.



Alex Hayter

**CALLING THE SHOTS** - QB Jamie Partington is eager to help Laurier repeat as national football champions.



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## Mac transfer part of 2006 recruiting class

Only a handful of the 46 players picked for the program will see the field as the team looks to defend as Vanier champions

**DAN POLISCHUK**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Unlike the handful of first-year recruits who will get the opportunity to dress in their first year at Laurier, one player in particular will be calm as ever when he takes to field in today's season opener.

Kyle Sanderson, a transfer from McMaster University, will take his usual spot on the offensive line like he has for four years now – albeit dressed in different colours.

Sanderson, who comes over with two years of eligibility left, feels an atmosphere never experienced before.

"I've never been to a training camp, or football program for that matter, where players and coaches have a two-way respect for each other," commented Sanderson.

"Here, there's a little more respect for the opponents. At Mac, it just seems everyone was better with you if you made a mistake; if someone made a good play, it was a fluke," he said. "Everyone is a lot more 'together' [here at WLU]; more of a common bond."

Asked if there is any added pressure coming over to a Vanier Cup-winning team, Sanderson was completely unfazed.

"No, not at all. I'm confident.

These guys have been there, so they're gonna take us there again. I don't feel the pressure. I just feel, more or less, honoured, just being here," he said.

Aside from the 290 pound lineman, some other fresh faces will be seen on either side of the ball. Offensively, Andrew Zadorsky and Jim Martiniuk will get a chance to contribute. Taurean Allen and Giancarlo Rapanaro will look to shine as stoppers on defence.

Jeffries says this recruiting class is "as good as any, and maybe, in terms of potential, one of the best ones we've had."

"But only time will tell."



Alex Hayter

**A FRESH START** - Sanderson (above) arrives via rival McMaster.



# Hawk pulls off double-duty

Multi-sport athlete trades in stick for a glove this past summer to represent Canada at the Women's Baseball World Cup

**MARK ADAMSON**  
CORD SPORTS

This past summer, Laurier student Kate Psota was an integral part of Team Canada's women's baseball team that brought home the bronze medal at the World Cup, hosted by Chinese Taipei.

Canada, one of seven nations competing in the round robin tournament for international baseball supremacy, posted a 4-2 record to bring home bronze. The team's effort was bolstered by Psota's strong play on the mound and at the plate.

Having posted a .357 batting average, with five RBIs and one stolen base, while splitting time between left field, right field, short-stop and pitcher, she proved to be a force to be reckoned with. On the mound, Psota finished with a 1-0 win-loss record and an ERA of 2.86.

Psota, a kinesiology major entering her second year at Laurier, has been a member of the Canadian women's national baseball team since 2002 when she competed at the age of 16. Since participating in both the 2004 and 2006 World Cups, Psota has become a veteran of international competition at the age of 20.

"You walk out on the field and you have the Maple Leaf on your chest, and you look up and your flag's hanging in the outfield, and you're so proud to be there," said Psota.

"It's really exciting to be representing your country."

In addition to playing baseball at the highest level of international competition, Psota is also a member of Laurier's varsity women's hockey team. The defender tallied four goals and four assists in her first year with the team in 2005-2006, a year that saw the club claim the OUA title for the third consecutive season. She admits that balancing the two sports requires a lot of work.

"Whenever I'm in hockey season, hockey is my focus. I don't do a lot of baseball training in the winter," said Psota. "I like it because you don't get run down playing one sport. Baseball is a

nice break from hockey, and vice versa."

In the end, the powerhouse Americans won the gold medal at this year's tournament, but their only defeat came at the hands of Canada, which was led by Psota's three scoreless innings on the mound to close out the game, as well as two runs batted in at the dish, including the game-winner.

"I get so stoked every time we play the US, because it's such a great rivalry," she commented.

Her performance in that game remains to be one of many highlights she'll remember from this year's tournament.

"I would say our biggest accomplishment was beating Japan, because we'd never done that before," she said, adding, "They probably have the premier baseball program in the world for women. They treat baseball like we treat our hockey."

Psota was the starting pitcher in Canada's 6-3 defeat of Japan, and added a base hit and an RBI for the Canadians.

"Beating a team like Japan says a lot about our growth as a country in baseball," she added.

Though the team defeated baseball superpowers in the US and Japan, with the latter winning silver, Canada settled for the bronze having been defeated by Taipei and Australia in the latter half of the round robin.

Psota acknowledges that the tournament was a success for Canada, but admits that there remains room for improvement, and a higher medal standing is within reach.

"We don't feel quite satisfied with our performance, and we're obviously looking to better that next time out."

It is her belief that there is great potential for growth in women's baseball in Canada, and has considered sticking with the sport after university.

"I'd like to stay involved in baseball. They don't have many female coaches in baseball, so I'd like to change that."



Contributed Photo

**MOWING 'EM DOWN** - Laurier's Kate Psota was lights out on the mound for Canada at the World Cup.

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# Sports and the 'real world' just don't mix



MARK D. HOPKINS  
CORD SPORTS

Various wars, natural disasters and deadly diseases can make the world that we all live in a scary one.

Obviously, certain areas are more dangerous, but everyone has or will be touched by at least one of the preceding events. With that said, when society looks for an "out" from these harsh realities, where does it turn? One major source is the entertainment industry. Let's look at sports in general.

Sports represent a venue where individuals can partake in, or be a spectator to, a competitive event in an environment that is unique from the average day. Sports allow us to get away from the everyday mold that many of us fall into: wake up, eat breakfast, go to work or school, check the news to see who the latest victims of this scary world are, do something for the evening, go to bed, repeat.

It would be naive to think that sports and the aforementioned situations are not linked in any way at all. Evidently, things like physical ailments and the harsh effects of hurricanes and terrorist plots do affect the sporting world.

However, the competitive bubble that forms once the puck is dropped, ball is kicked or gas pedal is depressed is one of a kind. Anyone that has ever played any competitive sport has experienced this. No matter what ceremony occurs beforehand, when the game is on, it is your only focus.

This escape from the real world is most definitely unique and, dare I say, required (for myself anyway). With all of the issues on our collective tables, it would make sense for issues outside of the sports realm to be just that - outside of the sports world. However, some athletes inexplicably want to bring controversial, historical opinions into their respective sports.

As we have enough real problems to deal with in today's world, and are provided a temporary escape via athletics, why would anyone want to bring anything of this magnitude into the sports landscape? W

hile prejudice and racism are still evident throughout society, it doesn't take a doctorate in history to show that it is not what it once was.

Don't get me wrong. Please don't get me wrong. I am not an anti-NHL fighting, winning-isn't-

everything tree-hugger. I love the trash talk on the court, gloves being dropped on the ice and coaches getting booted for voicing their opinion to referees. However, sports are sports. The outside world is the outside world.

Want to talk about confused athletes? Sean Avery of the Los Angeles Kings is a prime example. Avery made prejudiced comments about French Canadians after he and then-Phoenix defenseman Denis Gauthier had an incident on the ice. Come on, Sean. Don't play that card. Not only is that attitude outdated, but it has no room within the game. Sure, some French Canadians wear visors and don't drop the gloves, but so do numerous players from other backgrounds.

On the other hand, look at someone like Georges Laraque - one of the toughest players in the NHL. From Montreal at that! Go figure. Making generalizations like this is not only a ludicrous, but fairly unintelligent if you ask me.

At this point, I'm going to drop three names here. Dan Cloutier, Mathieu Garon and Luc Robitaille. Yes, all three have been or are going to be Sean Avery's teammates. The first two will likely split time between the pipes for the Kings this season and the third just retired as the highest scoring left-winger in NHL history with 1,394 points. The kicker? Their hometowns - in order - are Mont-Laurier, Chandler and Montreal. All in Quebec. Way to get the respect of your teammates.

In a similar incident, Champ Car mouthpiece and native of Toronto Paul Tracy made a few similar remarks about French driver Sebastien Bourdais after an altercation during a recent race. Might this have been said more out of frustration for being in fifth place in the Champ Car standings, well behind the leading Bourdais? I understand the frustration, but I do not understand the choice of personal attacks. Talk trash, insult the way he races, complain about him as a driver, but why drop this card?

Although prejudice and racism are still a smaller part of everyday life, with this nonsense now occurring more in the public eye amongst "professional" athletes, how will it be totally extinguished?

I just wish that these guys would step back and realize how lucky we are to have a competitive environment that is entertaining for all involved, and where we can temporarily break away from what has become a very harsh world.

Simply put - use your head and not your mouth.

## Total cost: \$1.9 million

- FROM FIELD, COVER team closer to the school, they did transfer their home field to a location at Columbia and Fischer-Hallman.

"I knew last year we wouldn't be able to use Alumni Field ... it's unfortunate," said Windsor.

"It's a toss up. The new turf systems - we're allowed to play rugby on them but there's really been no research or data as to how safe they are. So, as nice as it would be to play on campus, there may be injury risks.

"There's a few artificial turf surfaces now in the OUA that we'll be playing on. I guess once it's started to be used more often for rugby, the data will come as to whether it's a safe surface for us to be playing on," he said.

While there will no doubt

be some disappointed players from the respective squads, Athletics Director Peter Baxter assured that there was communication among the teams involved throughout the planning process.

"We talked with lacrosse, and unfortunately lacrosse requires seven metres in the end-zone behind the touch lines for them to play on a regulation basis," said Baxter.

"Obviously on rugby, you require end-zones. In terms of the constraints geographically, we couldn't accommodate those end-zones that would allow it to be [used by lacrosse and rugby]," he added.

Aside from those issues, the director remains pleased with the fact that the \$1.9 million field

will be "a big benefit for the recreational users for both intramurals as well as casual recreation."

"The attention of the field, and the project itself, was a beautification program for the university. And I think we've achieved that goal," he said of the field, which uses similar turf to that found in M&T Stadium, home of the NFL's Baltimore Ravens, as well as the home field of St. Mary's University.

Taking on the cost were the Students' Union and Alumni, who each gave \$500,000 towards the project, with the difference being balanced out through fundraising efforts. The official ribbon-cutting ceremony is to take place September 19.

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story



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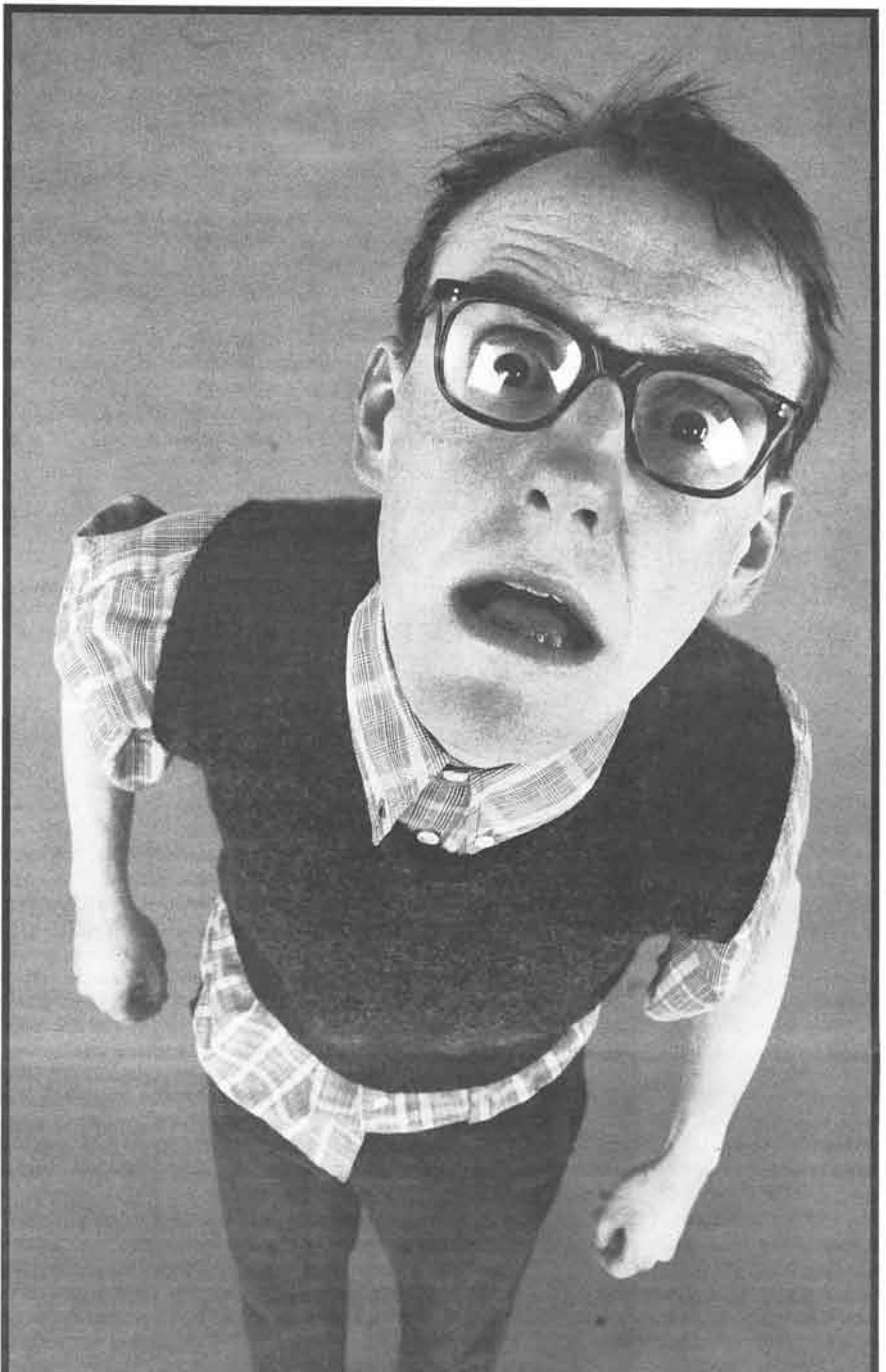
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# Chavez snubs America over chicken



**FOGHORN** - The ever-belligose Hugo Chavez never passes up an opportunity to bash the US. Or to visit Fidel Castro in the hospital.

Venezuela moves away from a dependency on the US market and turns towards China, Iran and its own latin community

**ARLA LATTO-HALL**  
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

Although the United States smuggling 176 pounds of chicken into Venezuela may be less harmful than smuggled goods from its continental neighbour, Columbia, it is the latest point of conflict between the Chavez and Bush governments.

Venezuela has accused the US embassy in its capital, Caracas, of importing chicken meat illegally. The allegations were followed by claims from the American administration that Venezuela violated diplomatic procedures in failing to let the diplomatic baggage through.

#### Tension within forced company

This is only the most recent event, a blip on the radar, in rocky American-Venezuelan relations, but comes alongside Chavez's threat to cut oil exports to the United States. Venezuelan oil exports account for nearly 15 percent of the larger country's oil consumption.

Although Venezuela's attack against the US for bringing chicken within its borders may seem petty, the move is consistent with previous relations between the countries. Despite an obligation to supply oil to the United States at above-market prices as part of a 20-year deal, Chavez has not held

back on criticisms of the Bush administration.

In response, the American government has left the country under surveillance for concerns of national security.

Since his election in 1999, Chavez has promoted the oil industry, consolidating several independent oil companies under the state-run PDVSA in anticipation of the deal's end.

As well, he has joined other Latin American countries with the goal of economic integration to strengthen their economic sway in the global market and move away from a dependency on the US oil market.

Chavez's moves seem calculated to gain him votes at home, where unemployment is high, medical services are scarce and unity among the poor against the rich is a prominent theme.

#### Trade in Kind

"We have set up a system of shipping cheap oil to other Latin American countries, in return for agricultural and industrial products or even medical services," said Rafael Ramirez, Venezuela's Oil Minister, to the BBC in a recent interview.

In return for about 100 000 barrels of oil per day, Cuba, another member of the Latin American trade bloc, has sent 200 000 of

its medics to Venezuela's shanty towns.

Chavez also offered millions to the US to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina, claiming the Bush administration neglects poor Americans. Such a move is nearly guaranteed to maintain support for his government, which faces an election early this December.

#### Security: Political or Economic?

A move not only away, but against dependency on its largest oil customer, which accounts for 80 percent of Venezuela's exports, may be a move towards economic and political uncertainty. Chavez, however, has already begun courting replacements.

Efforts to entice China to buy Venezuelan oil have been in the works since late last year, and meetings have taken place as recently as late August. Chavez has been speaking with Iranian authorities as well – and has gone so far as to take Iran's side on less major political issues. Such a move has simultaneously placed Chavez in conflict with US authorities, who have long been against Iran's uranium enrichment programs.

The upcoming election will prove whether Chavez's move away from US dependency was wise one – for both the Venezuelan economy and the Venezuelan people.

# Happiness related to environmental health

A new foundation created a formula to measure happiness – so why are the the most wealthy countries in the world incensed?

**JAQUELINE MARTINZ**  
STAFF WRITER

The question of whether or not money can buy happiness has consumed societies for centuries, raising much debate, and causing countless arguments.

Even the very definition of happiness has been elusive and seemingly unmeasurable. Until the advent of a happiness index, that is.

The recently-launched New Economics Foundation (NEF) has published The Happy Planet Index (HPI), an interesting new index that examines how countries provide "happiness" for citizens while maintaining environmental efficiency.

According to the index individuals can obtain happiness without harming the environment through excessive use of technology and resources.

Differing greatly from the western concept of happiness – a synonym for wealth, to many – this index has sparked some controversy. Countries considered part of the "developed world" such

as Great Britain and the United States of America have ranked poorly on the index, despite their top-ranking GDP.

The HPI uses the amount of natural resources used by a country and measures it with the length and happiness of its citizens' lives. The United Kingdom was ranked at number 108, while the United States fared even worse at number 150. Canada came in 111.

Central America scored highest in the index, attributed to the fifteen years of peace the country has enjoyed following decades of political conflict (equating to human happiness) and the use of natural resources below its globally equitable share (measurement of environmental impact). According to the study, this post-conflict peace has resulted in "high levels of community engagement" which has increased feelings of belonging and happiness.

Some experts, however, have differing opinions about the index. Research by Dr. Glenn Firebaugh of Pennsylvania State University and Swedish academic

Johan Norberg show that when asked what makes them happy, people tend to list things such as love, good health, and a sense of purpose.

Although none of these appear to have anything to do with wealth, the experts claim, they are inextricably linked to how much money you have. For this reason, the "developed nations" tend to have "happier" people than developing nations.

Most of the countries ranked within the top 50 of the NEF index were listed as "medium human development" by the United Nations.

Although wholeheartedly pursuing its goal of promoting innovative solutions for the social problems it targets, the NEF recognizes that its results are not likely to be taken seriously by the world's governments. Using the slogan "economics as if people mattered" and calling for a new way of thinking when it comes to happiness, the NEF's "global manifesto" will be just that – a call to action.





## India hits fast forward

Justice accelerated in India's most lawless state, Bihar, has seen nearly 650 sentenced since January. It now logs an average of three sentences per day, in a country known for crowded prisons and trials that proceed at a crawl – taking as long as a decade to reach a verdict. The change seems to be a result of the embarrassingly high crime rate in the state, which sees a murder every two hours and a bank heist daily.

## Direct democracy?

The 800 residents of "Free-town" Christiania, a peaceful Danish hippie town on the outskirts of the capital, Copenhagen, may no longer vote by consensus for changes to their town. A coalition headed by the Danish Conservative Party looks to assimilate the community into its larger society – thereby taking away its semi-legal status as self-governing. Danish authorities cite an increase in violent crime in Copenhagen for the change. Christiania's residents and the government are expected to continue talks.

## Get your tickets now!

Toronto is preparing itself to host the Toronto International Film Festival, an annual event that brings celebrities and up-and-comers of the film industry to Canada. Presenting 352 films from 61 countries, the festival is a platform for established actors and rookie directors alike. Film screenings will take place throughout the city from September 7 to 16.

Compiled by Arla Latto-Hall

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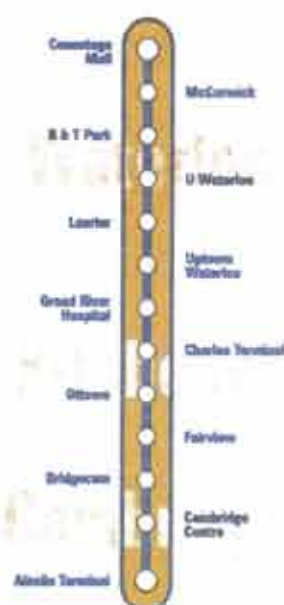
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# Chillin' out during O-Week



It's big, it's bold, and this year it's just as crazy as ever. O-Week might be a famed university tradition but believe it or not, many students are overwhelmed by Orientation Week; so it's only human to want to settle down and try to get into the groove of real life at university. Features Editor **Alex Hayter** has the tips and tricks for coping with the rollercoaster ride that is Frosh Week

**ALEX HAYTER**  
FEATURES EDITOR

Orientation Week will be an action-packed, high adrenaline "fun-fest" that spans six long days and six long nights. 144 hours of non-stop cheering, dancing, sing-a-long-ing, screaming, colour-coded madness. 8,640 minutes of stomping, rushing, pony-smacking, circle-sitting, car-washing lunacy. 518 400 seconds of... well, you get the point.

For some, and dare I say many, this all gets a bit too much. Studies show that 95 percent of frosh students get over-exposed to ultra-octane-excitement during O-Week. Heck, seven people died last year from the pure stress of cheering. Indeed, I might have made these statistics up, but the truth still stands: frosh students need to start chilling out, and they need to start now.

If you think O-Week might make you cry in your sleep, here's your head start: some healthy advice for when you feel like seeing red, blue, green and gold one more time will make you produce projectile multi-coloured vomit.

## Start your studies early

This advice might be more useful than it seems. Laurier Psychology Professor Dr. Anne Wilson, who has researched self-appraisal in the context of university academics, had this cautionary advice: "Nearly 90 percent of first year students report a decline in grades since their last year of high school. For some the drop in grades is minor and for others it is dramatic."

So now is the time to get on top of things while you still have a chance.

Try browsing through your more interesting textbooks (if there are any), read outside, and chat with your dorm-mates about your courses to find a common ground.

## Get drunk and be merry

You'd think I'm kidding, but I'm deadly serious. I'm drunk right now. Studies show that beer is a great stress reducer and can really improve your quality of sleep.

Beer, like red wine, is also beneficial to your heart (especially if it's been broken by the hot chick/guy from gold team). But, like any medicine, it only works in moder-

ation, so try to keep things sane, folks.

## Have sex... by yourself if necessary

As graphic as this sounds, the orgasm is pretty much the crème de la crème (excuse the pun) of stress relievers. Sex puts us back into the carefree, primal mindset, allowing us to avoid "thinking," de-stress and enter a world of relaxation.

BACCHUS gives out free condoms throughout O-Week (hence the nickname "c\*ckblockus"), so make sure to take advantage of those crazy bastards.

## Play sports

Exercise is a fantastic way to avoid stress, but the key is not to bring too much competitiveness to your game.

You'll soon find that the most popular sports outside of residence life are ultimate frisbee, soccer, football and dodgeball. But don't forget that the vacant halls of your rez can soon become your playing field too: just make sure your dons don't catch you playing hall-hockey or lounge-WWE.

Jamie Carlson, Athletic Therapist at the Laurier Athletic Complex, says that it's always a better idea to get up and get active instead of wasting on the couch watching soap operas with a bag of Fritos. "A good sweat helps to increase circulation. It frees your mind and fills you with endorphins to get you feeling better about the world around you."

## Go to the park

The peaceful surroundings of Waterloo Park offer a sanctuary for those students looking for greener pastures, and the chance to carelessly taunt/stroke the various friendly animals at the mini-zoo. Look out for Crush, the bunny-munching tortoise, with tragic irony placed in the rabbit pen.

Getting some healthy sunshine while tossing a frisbee or gallivanting in the sprinkler park is also a great idea; serotonin, the "sunshine chemical", helps us to feel happy and more relaxed.

## Dorm design

The one thing that separates

residence life from prison is that we are allowed to reorganize our rooms in whatever way we see fit. Becoming the first person on your floor to turn your entire room into a play-fort equals instant cool-cred. Or just rearrange your bed and desk setup, meanwhile pasting your walls with the plethora of posters moved from your room at home.

Feng Shui practitioner and co-author of *Dorm Room Feng Shui*, Margaret Donahue, had this advice: "Dorm rooms are so small and students have so much packed in. Having a little less allows more room for opportunities to come your way and for your creativity to open up. Clutter slows you down and blocks your energy."

## Spend quality time with people

The people you meet in residence are likely to become the backbone of the rest of your university life, so take the time to get to know them as well as you can in this first week of school.

Take a new friend or two on a walk downtown; explore the region fully. This is your home for the next four years. This is also a better way to get to know fellow students; after all, who has time to talk when you're screaming your lungs out to a bus-ride sing-a-long?

The social experts over at Laurier Counseling Services recommend developing mutually supportive friendships and relationships as a great way to prepare for the stresses and problems that typically occur throughout university.

## Sleep

Sleep is a bare essential of our lives; as vital as water, air and beer. People our age need at least nine hours of sleep per 24 hour cycle. Try to avoid napping a lot to make up for lost sleep; your biological clock has a direct effect on your body's health, and your body needs the sunlight.

## Have a movie marathon

Nothing brings together a rez-floor like a good ol' fashioned movie or five. Crack out the comedy gems (which will form the foundation for all floor-jokes for the rest of the year), such as *Old School*, *Super Troopers*, and *An-*

*chorman*. Laughs will follow.

The movie-mad staff at Generation X (10 Regina St.) had these recommendations to offer as the ultimate student movies: *Brick*, *Donnie Darko*, *Napoleon Dynamite*, *Dazed and Confused*, *Persuasion*, *Strangers with Candy*, *Kicking and Screaming* (made in 1995, not the Will Ferrell disaster), *Animal House* and *Office Space*.

The 24-Hour Lounge on the third floor of the Fred Nichol's building, central campus, has a big projector screen and is another great place for organised movie-nights and general slothery.

## Hit the gym

If there's one thing this school does right, it's that it has a badass, brand-spanking new gym. Now is definitely the time to go, as the gym tends to get busier as the year goes on; and no one likes lining up to use a sweaty thigh-master.

## Road Trip

Why not? The movie was funny enough.

## Music therapy

You'll be sick of guitars by the end of first year, but for the first few months they will be the ultimate fad item. For the talented: prepare yourself for open-mic night at Wilf's Pub by practicing in front of adoring floor-fans. For the groupies: sit back, relax and soak up the melody. Listening to music (live or recorded) is proven to be great therapy for reducing stress.

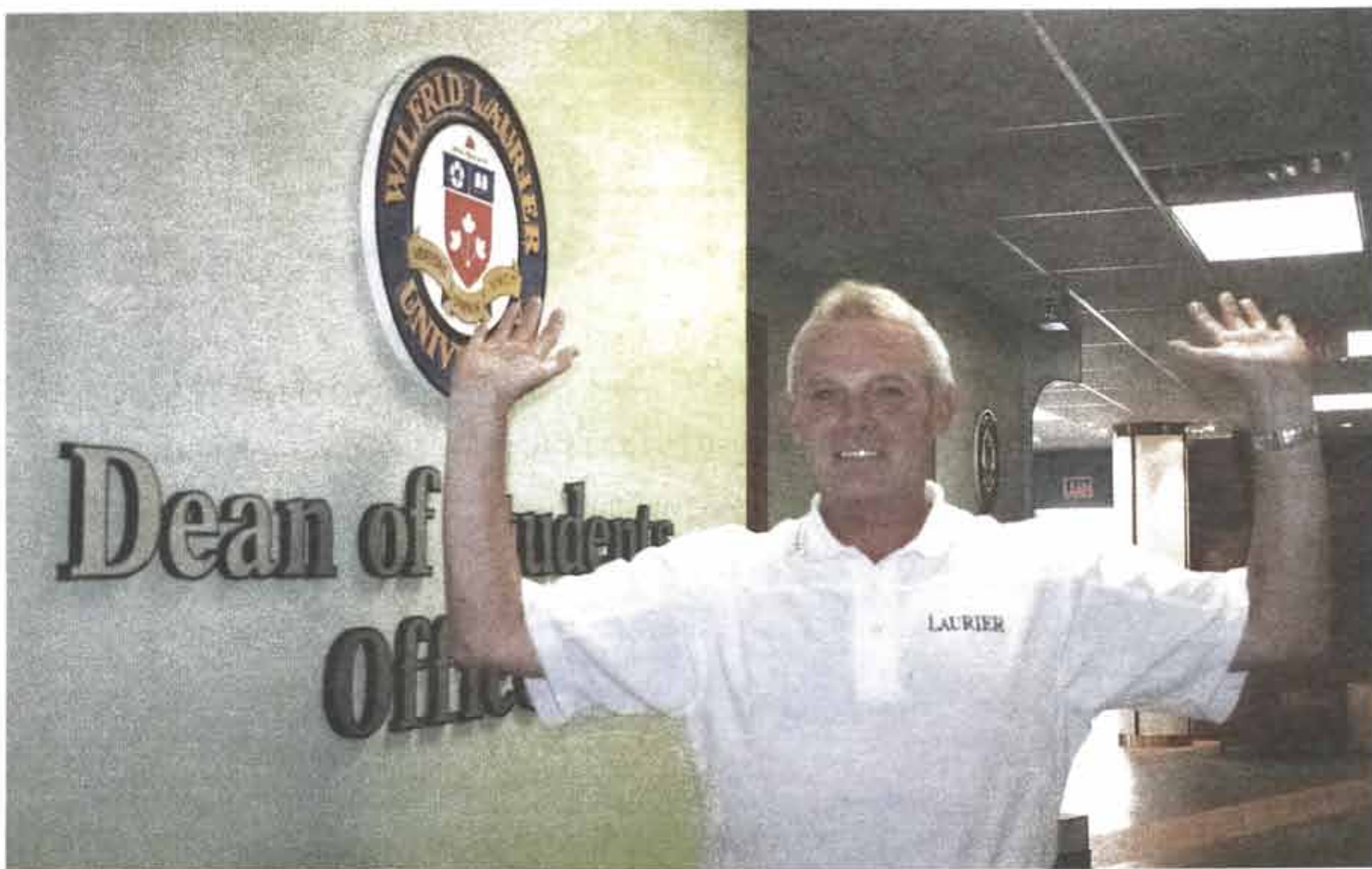
## Remember this:

You might enjoy O-Week, or you might not; at the end of the day it's a perfectly harmless, well-meaning creation aimed at adjusting students to university.

But a key thing to remember is that after O-Week, its manic, over-the-top ways will never be repeated again through university (unless you decide to become an icebreaker, and then may God have mercy on your soul).

O-Week is nothing like real life at university, which you'll quickly realize once you come back down to earth at the end of next week-end. Enjoy it if you can; if you don't, don't feel discouraged. University is about to get a whole lot better.





Veronica Hughes

GET 'EM HIGH - Daddy Mac proves he can raise the roof for incoming and returning students.

# A day in the life of Daddy Mac

Veronica Hughes sits down with Daddy Mac and proves he bleeds purple and gold

VERONICA HUGHES  
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

At Laurier there is no administrator more well-known than Daddy Mac. Dean of Students for almost a decade, David McMurray was nicknamed Daddy Mac three days after his arrival and the name has stuck. He has worked hard to give Laurier students the best student life available. His days can be long (working nights and weekends), the administration tedious, but he would not give it up for anything. "I love Laurier, I never viewed it as a job (but) a lifestyle," he says.

Completing his undergraduate and graduate degrees at University of Windsor in Kinesiology, Dean McMurray's thesis studied the "connection between higher education, sports administration and student leadership." His thesis has since become his profes-

sional career, with his previous work at the University of Windsor and tenure with the Dean of Students office. He is a firm believer in the student leadership model and is actively involved in student life.

McMurray is highly involved, energetic and bleeds purple and gold. "I can't wait to get here in the morning," he says.

His early years were challeng-

**"I love Laurier. I never view it as a job (but) a lifestyle."**

- Dean McMurray on his job as Dean of Students

ing, as his goal was to build Laurier's existing portfolio. "When I first arrived we needed people ... new facilities. We needed to renovate and upgrade ... communi-

cate our services, and market and promote very significantly," says McMurray.

His primary roles are to create and support services, as well as to advocate these services to the Laurier community. He also markets the Laurier experience to other professionals and post-secondary institutions at the national level to raise Laurier's profile.

Some of the projects he has worked on are expanding Accessible Learning, the creation of the Student Leadership Centre, and this year's new service Supplemental Instruction, which offers group tutoring to first year students.

But his great success is his relationship with students. This is easy to see, as on any given day

he will stop and chat to several students on his way to the dining hall, or a meeting for WLUSU.

McMurray is also a strong believer in a whole package education. "I advocate for highest quality of student life that Laurier can provide and deliver on it."

He also advertises to students that he is available for advice. "I make it a priority to be accessible students." Others in his field don't have the same philosophy often because they're busy administering. The most common visit to Daddy Mac's office is usually to inquire what options are available in difficult situations.

His second five year term ends in April. When asked if we can expect him to return next fall, he replied, "Absolutely, if they'll have me."

## Make rez like home

ASHLEY ROSE  
CORD STUDENT LIFE

It was with with anticipation and trepidation that you packed up your belongings and left the comfort of home.

But residence will become your home, and as such you need to make it comfortable.

There are things that every student remembers to bring, like change for the laundry, spare sheets and towels, shower shoes, and clothes for going out on Thursday nights, but sometimes it is the things that you don't think about right away that become the most useful during your stay at Laurier.

After your parents leave and you're standing alone in your room, possibly exchanging the first and most awkward conversation with your roommate, you may want to call your best friend from home. They may be down the street at Waterloo, but if not you may want to buy a long distance calling card.

While the school does provide a long distance plan you may find that you save a lot of money by just using a card. You also will want to bring a phone. Your roommate may have done the same but it is better to have two phones than none.

Sleep is soon going to take over your life. You will not be getting much of it, but you will look forward to those limited hours with anticipation. Residence mattresses are not the most comfortable but a foam mattress pad can save you from hours of uncomfortable sleep. A fan might also help (in un-air conditioned residences) you to sleep in the first month or so, at the start and end of the year.

Probably the most important thing you could do upon arriving in residence is to make your room a place that you want to be, not a place that you have to be. You can bring posters of your favourite bands and movie stars, and pictures of your friends from home.

Simple frames can make the room look homey, but a little creativity could go a long way. You could attach some photos to a piece of colourful ribbon and hang it on your wall or put them into a fridge magnet.

A good way to bond with a roommate, or, if you're in a single, with the rest of your floor, is by pulling out some window markers and making your room your own. While you're at it, decorate the bathroom mirror with tropical fish or palm trees.

In the long run, the most important thing that you can bring to first year is an open mind. You won't get along with everyone and things won't always be perfect, but as long as you smile and go with the flow, first year will be a blast.

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## Keeping off the Freshman 15

JENNIFER O'NEILL  
STAFF WRITER

Just because another school season has begun there is no reason that your activity level should suffer. Staying active at school will decrease stress, keep you healthy and is an opportunity to meet new people. At Laurier, there are plenty of clubs, activities and intramurals that you can join to keep your mind and body healthy.

The key to sticking with physical activity is to pick something you enjoy doing. Choose a club or sport that you not only enjoy, but that will fit your lifestyle and your schedule. Here are a few suggestions of fun physical activities offered at Laurier.

The boxing club is great for anyone who is interested in boxing or wants to learn more about the sport. Working with other students and professional trainers, this club will give you an amazing workout and teach you the basics of the sport. This club is geared around having fun and learning more about boxing, and is catered

to tailor to everyone's level from beginner to advanced. Commitment: two nights per week. Contact: [wiboxing@hotmail.com](mailto:wiboxing@hotmail.com)

The triathlon club at Laurier is for the race enthusiasts. If you are interested in completing a triathlon or are looking to add something new to your workouts, this club gives you the structure and discipline to achieve your goals. Working with a coach, students will train and have the option to compete in various races. Commitment: four days a week. To get more information: <http://www.wlutri.com>

If you are a sports enthusiast, intramurals might be the option for you. With everything from dodgeball to basketball, there is a sport that will interest you. Sign up as a team or as a free agent. This is a great way to stay active and meet people with similar interests. Commitment: nights vary depending on sport, but games are usually later at night. To get more information: [www.laurier-athletics.com](http://www.laurier-athletics.com)

If you don't mind the gym, there

are a wide selection of classes and programs available to you at the new Laurier Athletics Complex. Group fitness classes from aerobics and cyclefit to pilates and yoga give you a structured class with a fitness professional. There are over 50 different classes a week to choose from so there is always something that will fit your schedule. Commitment: you choose when you go, classes are available seven days a week. Get more information: [www.laurier-athletics.com](http://www.laurier-athletics.com)

Dancing is a great low-impact exercise. Fashion 'n Motion is a dance club that choreographs, directs and performs a dance show at the end of the year for Laurier students. Although you will have to audition to become a part of the team, you don't need to be a professionally trained dancer to become a part of this event. Commitment: Sunday evenings. To get more information: <http://www.wlusu.com/fnm/>

## First-year survival guide

LAURA CARLSON  
CORD STUDENT LIFE

As the fall semester gets underway, Laurier will once again become populated by students other than die-hard volunteers and those enrolled in summer classes. It is a time to adjust to campus life and all the hustle and bustle that accompanies the semester. So here's some advice to help you get through a new school year at Laurier.

### Show up to class early during the first week back

After a month you may have your choice of nearly any seat in the lecture hall. However, coming ten minutes early those first couple of weeks will allow you to avoid impossible left handed desks, sitting front row center, or crouching on the stairs.

### Purchase your textbooks used

You've slaved away all summer, and the last thing you want to do with your cash is drop it on brand new books. Visit the library website for the online book exchange, keep your eyes open for flyers and attend the student run book sale. This way you'll be able to take your hard earned money and deposit it right into your beer fund.

### Attend tutorials

Yes, many tutorials are located

in the far away land of St. Mike's campus, and you do have to participate to receive marks. However, the hints given by TA's and the relief that accompanies full tutorial grades are worth it when you're cramming the night before the final.

### If you're starving, or in a rush avoid Wilf's at all costs

Although that Spinach Dip may be worth waiting for, the lineup to be seated and the service takes time. So if you're feeling the need to grab a quick bite, opt for the dining hall instead.

### Be quiet in the solarium, or on any upper library floor

Unless you want to receive death glares from everybody in the room, or have the girl at the table next to you beat you with her biology textbook, do not speak. In fact, don't even flip your pages too loudly, turn the music on your iPod up, or breathe heavily.

### If you need OSAP be prepared to wait

With tuition prices constantly increasing, more students need to rely on OSAP money. So pack a lunch, take a seat in line, and crack open that history textbook you've been dreading reading. Just don't be shocked if you wait for five hours, the office closes and you have to go back and do it all again.



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As any good university student knows, music is the soundtrack of life. The first week of the school year needs the perfect set of tunes to get you out of your summer malaise and into a mindset to tear things up at university. *Cord* A&E offers you some suggestions.

**JEREMY FISHER**  
"HIGHSCHOOL"

This catchy pop-rock ballad is the perfect starter for the university experience. Fisher's lyrics help you to reminisce about your high school days, while at the same time remind you that those days are over and that it's now time to move on, grow up, and find yourself. -*Joe Turcotte*

**COBRA STARSHIP**  
"SNAKES ON A PLANE"

Hilarious movie, fabulous song; both are worth checking out. As the featured song from one of the summer's most talked about movies, "Snakes on a Plane" will serve as the perfect icebreaker. Plus, it's damn catchy. -*Amanda Branch*

**MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE**  
"HELENA"

Featuring strong instrumentals and the fabulous voice of Gerard Way, this song is a must-have for any occasion. Also, it doesn't hurt that Way's emotional vocals serve to provide the perfect backdrop for O-Week mingling. -*Amanda Branch*

**JIMMY BUFFET**  
"MARGARITAVILLE"

This classic rock staple is the prototypical summer song. Whether sober or not "Margaritaville" helps to remind you that your summer isn't quite over yet. But, enjoy this feeling while it lasts—which will probably be until the reality of midterms sets in around October. -*Carrie McNabb*

**CHUCK BERRY**  
"SCHOOL DAY"

This great song reminds us about the monotony that school can, and will, become. AC/DC also has



Sick of cheering? Make these songs the soundtrack to your utter misery

a cover, but the Chuck Berry version is the one to look for. -*Carrie McNabb*

**VAN HALEN**  
"HOT FOR TEACHER"

If nothing else, this song helps to remind us that not everything about going back to school is bad. -*Carrie McNabb*

**TEENAGE BOTTLEROCKET**  
"SO COOL"

For many unlucky souls this song is what O-Week is all about. In the vein of The Ramones and Screaming Weasel, this pop-punk song tells the story of a girl who's "So Cool" that it doesn't even matter how stuck in the friend zone you may be, because for you, nothing beats making her boyfriend back home worry. -*Josiah Young*

**DRAGONFORCE**  
"FURY OF THE STORM"

With the early morning wake-up calls and all night benders, O-Week is a battle. Therefore, like any good battle, O-Week needs a fight song to motivate the troops. Dragonforce brings power metal down on you in a way that is so fast your head will be spinning. Battle axes, swords, and dragons, need you any other reason to have a good time? -*Josiah Young*

**BUCKCHERRY**  
"CRAZY BITCH"

This raunchy track should definitely be pumped during frosh week. Although relatively new, this song is already a Buckcherry classic. And just like the rest of their songs and it gets you in the mood to party hard. "Crazy Bitch" is an ode to all those ladies out there who like to get wild and crazy — which is what frosh week is all about. -*Nick Boyd*

**SAIGON HOOKERS**  
"ROCK 'N' ROLL BAND"

This is one sweet-'n'-sleazy tune from Kitchener's own hard-rock hellions. With a debut CD coming out near the end of September, and a tour that includes the KW area, these Hookers are poised to become a fall smash. If you love to pound back the brews and rock out you will not be disappointed. -*Nick Boyd*

**THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
"PEACHES"

This nonsensical ballad about the love of peaches is sure to make all of your new friends think you're a big weirdo, but in a good way. If your frosh mates can remember this mid-'90s oddball rock group, you're sure to make a deep kindred spirit type of connection. -*Paul Alviz*

**QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE**  
"FEEL GOOD HIT OF THE SUMMER"

Nicotine, valium, vicodin, marijuana, ecstasy and alcohol, ooooooh... this song contains only 9 words, 7 of them being drugs. Sure to be well-liked by your slightly more hardcore friends, it can also be used as an audible to-do list on your mp3 player in between cheer-offs and rallies during frosh week. -*Paul Alviz*

**WE ARE SCIENTISTS**  
"WORTH THE WAIT"

As excitement builds for school to start this song will be a reminder that your future at Wilfrid Laurier will be worth the wait. This hip-shaking number from We Are Scientists' first full-length album is sure to enhance all those night time frosh gatherings. -*Dave Ricci*

**FAITH NO MORE**  
"EPIC"

Like this song, your first week romping around the Laurier campus will be nothing short of epic. This groovy number will give you the energy you need for those early morning starts. -*Dave Ricci*

**THE SOURKEYS**  
"CANON CHORUS"

Having never been to a single O-Day, let alone Week, I think that this song pretty much sums up the experience I would expect to have. Singing in a huge group, so drunk that I don't know what's "up right left or centre. Oh, oh, oh, oh." -*Dru Jeffries*

**THE BEATLES**  
"SHE'S LEAVING HOME"

With all the fun you'll be having during O-Week, take a moment to think about your parents. They're probably sitting around, drinking themselves to death from the depression that comes from realizing that you've moved on with your life... Who am I kidding? They're probably thrilled. They can have sex whenever they want now. -*Dru Jeffries*

# Meet your new friends

O-week is a time for meeting and mingling. Why not expand your musical horizons at the same time?

**JOSIAH YOUNG**  
CORD A&E

Crush Luther will soon become your new favourite band. I kid you not, my friends.

You may have caught wind of these Toronto, Ontario boys back in March of 2005. Back then, Crush Luther brought their unique blend of soulful pop rock, with a tinge of Sublime and a dash of Jack Johnson, through Wilf's, where they proceeded to warm the crowd instantly on that cold winter night.

If you were not in attendance the night in question, fret not. While nothing can replace the empty months you have lived so sadly without Crush Luther in

your life, you still have time to make amends.

With an official release date of September 28, 2006, Crush Luther's self-titled debut album is set

**The album delivers rock to blues to soulful pop and it does so in a way that is never tiresome and never sounds out of place.**

to push the band to new heights. Already gathering a strong following with steady touring, a 10-song demo, and appearances on multiple Warped Tour dates as well as a

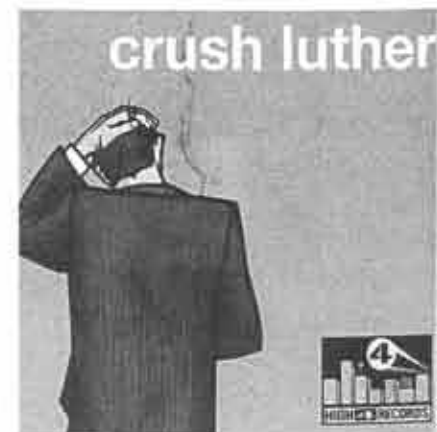
Wakestock appearance, Crush Luther has already laid the groundwork for great things.

The album contains 12 tracks, seven of which are brand new songs, while the five that remain are rerecorded songs from the band's demo.

Opening with the Sublime-inspired "When We Were Golden", the album sets up its listener with a poppy hook and a danceable beat. What sets the band apart from many others is the engaging and addictive voice of lead singer, Luther Mallory.

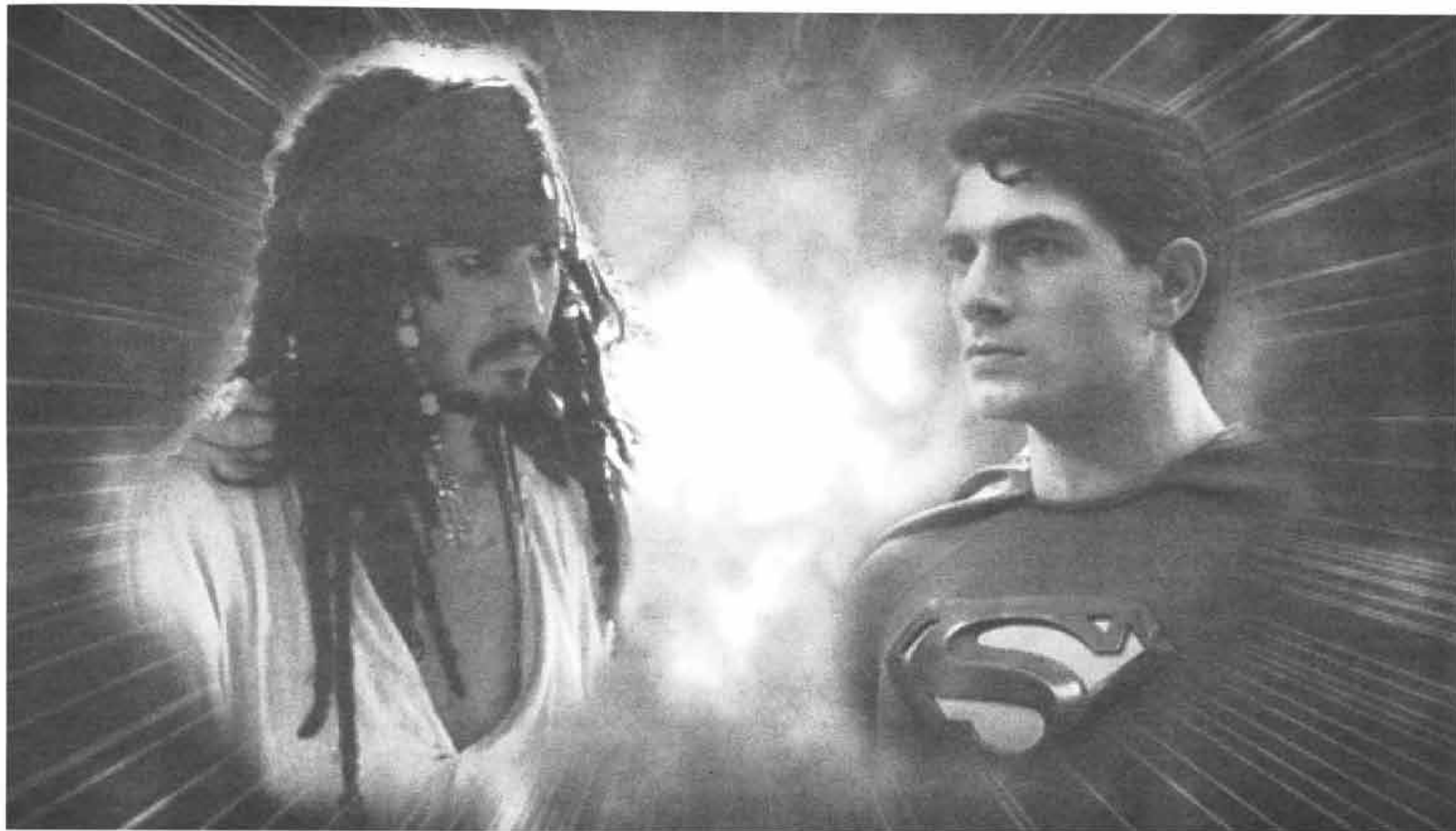
Standout tracks include the single "City Girl", which some may have heard on 102.1FM *The Edge*, "Don't Fight About It", a song which sees the band take a slightly more rocking sound, and "Spidersong", which takes on an older blues sound.

From start to finish the album delivers rock to blues to soulful pop and it does so in a way that is never tiresome and never sounds out of place. While they may be unknown for now, this solid debut album should make Crush Luther a household name just in time for Halloween.



Crush Luther  
*Crush Luther*  
Rating: 8.4 / 10  
Scheduled Release Date:  
September 26, 2006  
Genre: Rock  
Label: High 4 Records





Emilie Joslin Graphic

# Blockbuster showdown

Johnny Depp's Captain Jack Sparrow takes on an unexpectedly humbled, and seemingly forgotten Man of Steel

**DRU JEFFRIES**  
STAFF WRITER

This is the first time in the long and storied history of Superman, one of the most beloved and enduring fictional characters ever imagined, that he needs *our* help.

His latest film adventure, *Superman Returns*, was widely considered a box office failure and there is some doubt as to whether a sequel will be considered financially worthwhile.

Considering the fact that Superman is about as popular worldwide as Jesus Christ (a comparison that the film makes), it seems completely disturbing to me that Captain Jack Sparrow, an entirely disposable flash-in-the-pan pop

culture phenomenon, would be the one to dethrone the Man of Tomorrow of his deserved box-office glory.

Considering also that *Superman Returns* is a far better film than even its 1978 predecessor, *Superman: The Movie*, I cannot understand what audiences see in Jack Sparrow that they don't in Superman, other than the fact that Johnny Depp is a hot commodity right now.

I haven't seen *Pirates 2* yet—frankly, the first one was forgettable and didn't warrant a sequel, let alone two—but I can't imagine it being better than *Superman*.

Sitting in the theatre, I simply couldn't fathom the film crew standing just outside the filmed

image, or that Brandon Routh was actually hanging on wires and not defying gravity of his own will.

Director Bryan Singer has created a near-perfect piece of cinema in *Superman Returns*, though it'd be terrible to give him all of the credit: I almost hate Brandon Routh for making me like him more than Christopher Reeve, but he's simply a better Superman.

The main complaint that some audiences have with *Superman Returns* is that Lex Luthor's plot to create a new continent out of Kryptonian crystals seems outlandish and somewhat hackneyed.

As the bald man himself would say, "WRONG!" but I'll elaborate.

In the film Luthor (first played

by Gene Hackman and now by Kevin Spacey) has always been obsessed with real estate.

The Luthor sub-plot created by screenwriters Dan Harris and Mike Dougherty merely extends this aspect of his character to show how he takes pleasure in violating the Man of Steel, and as good as this part of the film is, it's not the main thrust of the film's narrative by a long shot.

This is a film about being alone in the world, about having everything you love taken away from you.

Not exactly summer popcorn fare. Audiences seem to want a one-dimensional "good" character fighting a one-dimensional "bad" character, and they know

where to fulfill this desire (hint: not in *Superman Returns*).

Forgive Bryan Singer for making a film with layers and emotional resonance.

If you've ignored *Superman Returns* this long, hopefully my enthusiasm will have rubbed off on you and you'll go see it now.

If not, please consider that superhero movies might be capable of more than just mindless action.

Growing up, I always loved comics in which Batman fought Superman and the masked underdog won.

I never would have believed it if a cowardly, one-note pirate had defeated him.

**ARIEL KROON**  
CORD A&E

*Pirates of the Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest* was easily one of the best movies to hit the cinemas this summer.

Raking in a whopping \$55.5 million on its opening night, *Dead Man's Chest* went on to become the first film in history to break the \$100 million mark in its first two days of release.

So what, you may ask, is all the fuss about? This is, of course, not a well-known movie/comic book franchise. In fact, the first *Pirates* movie was an unexpected sleeper hit, rising quickly to an almost-cult status, which helped to spawn a generation of teens who

don't understand that the word "savvy" is only cool when it's used by Captain Jack Sparrow.

However, this is not very surprising since it is the lure of the ever-engaging Captain Jack that has made *Dead Man's Chest* so popular. In the role of Sparrow, Johnny Depp has endeared himself to members of different generations. That Depp has finally found mainstream success in the role of a character that acts — and I quote — "like a drunken transvestite," is quite the shock.

Yet, this shock shouldn't be too surprising considering that Jack Sparrow is both the anti-hero's anti-hero and, at the same time, one of the most original characters to be seen on-screen in quite

a long time.

While Depp's allure is strong, his iconic status begs the question: is this sequel up to snuff? To which the response is a resounding yes.

The story picks up on the day of Will (Orlando Bloom) and Elizabeth's (Keira Knightley) wedding, a wedding which is doomed and is never finished — let alone consummated.

Unfortunately for poor Will and 'Liz, factors like a demonized East India Trading Company and an entirely pointless cannibal sequence keep coming between the happy couple.

While circumstance comes to be the foil of Will and Elizabeth, it is the mythical Davy Jones that is Jack Sparrow's nemesis.

Davy Jones is the awe-inspiring bad guy of this movie. Jones is after Jack's immortal soul as he attempts to settle a bargain that was made thirteen years ago. Meanwhile, in between battling Jones and attempting to woo the innocent Elizabeth, Depp's Sparrow also has time to search for an elusive and magnificent treasure.

Yet for all the questing and searching, one can't help but note that this movie never really goes anywhere.

While Jack and his mates make excursions to the pirate haven Tortuga, for an exhilarating bar fight, and to a mysterious island, which ends up as the site of the final battle, for the most part *Pirates 2* takes place aboard Jack's

Black Pearl or Davy Jones' hellishly computer generated ship The Flying Dutchman.

While in lesser movies the lack of diversity in location may become tiresome, this is not the case for *Pirates 2*.

*Dead Man's Chest* is a good blend of plot, action and further character development, especially that of Jack Sparrow. *Dead Man's Chest* is neither better nor worse than the original *Pirates*.

Instead, it is a sequel of equal merits, which continues a story that is both innovative and captivating.

**THE VERDICT:** When coupled with the odd eccentricity and genius of Johnny Depp, the runaway success of *Pirates of the Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest* demonstrates that, at least in the summer of 2006, Superman is dead.



# Big budget busts

After another summer of tired and mindless summer movies, Mike Brown asks "Where has all the intelligent cinema gone?"

**MIKE BROWN**  
NEWS EDITOR

I had high hopes for the movie industry this summer. I truly thought that Hollywood was coming around – naively so, it seems.

Last year, for the first time in – well, ever – the Academy and I agreed on the best film of the year, as Canadian writer-director Paul Haggis' under-the-radar masterpiece, *Crash*, got the nod for both the Best Picture and Best Original Screenplay. To me, the success of this poignant and complex look at racism in America was a shimmer of hope in a notably underwhelming film landscape.

And so I thought – admittedly perhaps hoping that my belief would be enough to will it so – that the industry was going to turn from its masturbatory special effects over-indulgence and re-invest in the lost arts of plot, character, and dialogue.

Well, if you were even mildly cognizant of the goings on in North American cinemas over the past four months, you're probably laughing at me right now.

The blockbuster clearly still reigns supreme as king of the summer. And as much as I champion the insightful films of the pre-Oscar blitz, it seems that summer's cinematic mind candy will continue to be served up alongside liberally-battered popcorn and bottomless Cokes for a long time to come. Frankly, I'm saddened by

it. Originality is all but dead in the mainstream movie market, and one need look no further than the 2006 crop of summer's so-called best to realize it. We're inundated with unnecessary trilogies and uncalled-for TV adaptations. We're even subjected to remakes of movies that weren't that good to begin with, such as *Poseidon*.

Though it was generally considered a deserved flop, the remake of the 1972 *The Poseidon Adventure* still raked in over \$22 million in its opening weekend. By comparison, director Richard Linklater's latest gem and arguably my favourite film of the summer, *A Scanner Darkly*, took home \$391,672 in its opening weekend – less than two percent of the monetary gain.

Then we have the top three quick starters at the box office this summer: *The DaVinci Code*, *X-men: The Last Stand* and *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*. Or, alternately stated, a film that rides the coattails of one of the most puzzling maelstroms of critical backlash in modern literature; a comic book adaptation in which director Brett Ratner killed many major characters, robbed others of their powers and still strangely left the door wide open for a fourth film; and lastly, the sequel to a movie based on an amusement park ride. Wow. With such boldly original thought, it's no wonder these films rank fourth, third and first respectively in 2006 box office

earnings, all well over \$200 million earned by mid-August.

Imagine my shock to learn that none of my favourite films of the summer even crack the top 50.

How about *An Inconvenient Truth*, a bold, albeit over-politicized look at the global warming crisis, in which those who saw it also learned that, contrary to popular belief, Al Gore does have a pulse? Finished twenty-second at the box office the same weekend *X3* eclipsed the \$100 million mark in just three days. Hm.

Now, I realize a lot of people

turn to movies as a chance to relax, not to be challenged in their views and perceptions. But relaxation doesn't have to equate to a complete shutdown of anything vaguely resembling a neurological function. Can't we let just a few stray, stubborn synapses continue to fire?

All I ask is that you give fair consideration to the independent cinema that relies on something beyond the chests and thighs of Hollywood's biggest stars, and beyond the special effects extravaganza – something of (cue

the startled intake of breath) substance.

And yes, the movie industry is an industry. Granted. That's why it's up to us, as consumers, to stop being taken in by aggressive marketers and start putting pennies in the pockets of those in the industry that still give a damn about telling a worthwhile story.

Until we start taking advantage of the alternative options, Hollywood will continue producing cookie-cutter crap. Crap has a market. Crap sells. Well – that's crap.

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### PERSONALS

**Je m'appelle Robinson** - What a great start. Team, you worked so hard this week. I love yas! Tones and Alex you pushed to your limit. RIP Hayter kitty.

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## Willison woes

Even with inflation, two million dollars can still buy a lot. In fact, it can pay for the complete reconstruction of Willison Field – now Alumni Field – making it larger and replacing the grass with turf.

Alumni and the Students' Union footed the project's 1.9 million dollar bill, which was supposed to make the field more usable, but with construction complete, it seems the only teams that will benefit from the renovation are the male and female varsity soccer teams and certain intramural sports. After shelling out such a large amount, you'd think the Union and Alumni would want to get the most bang for their buck. However, due to space constraints and issues with the new turf, women's lacrosse and men and women's rugby are unable to call the new field home.

Lynn Orth, the women's lacrosse coach, recently found out that her team wouldn't be able to use the field when "they put the lines on." Teams should have known well in advance whether they'd be able to use the field and planners should have ensured from the beginning that as many people as possible could benefit from the project.

After all, varsity teams tend to bring in a lot of alumni donations, and alumni would certainly want to see as many of our Golden Hawks benefiting from their generosity as possible.

Athletic Director Peter Baxter described the project as a "beautification program" designed to add green space. While a campus as compact as Laurier's could benefit from some greenery, there isn't an environmentalist alive who would consider astro-turf "green space." It is sad to see that even our athletics director seems to prioritize aesthetics over giving more exposure and providing an on-campus facility to more varsity teams.

If the new field only caters to some students, and replaces natural grass with the plastic kind, how are Laurier students benefiting from it? The next time the university plans a \$2 million dollar project, let's hope it's useful to all students, not a select few.

## Response to stadium concerns too delayed

It's about time.

After months of complaints and concerns from Laurier's neighbouring citizens, the university has finally done something about the noise and glaring lights coming from University Stadium.

In a joint effort with the City of Waterloo, David McMurray, dean of students, chaired a task force to get to the bottom of the noise and lights problem bothering so many local residents.

After months of negotiations, Laurier has agreed to oust the announcer known as "the screamer." An examination also revealed that lights had drifted away from their targets on the field due to high winds. Some lights were so off-target they lit up areas out of the stadium more so than in the stadium.

But we wonder, what took so long? Back in January of 2006, several area residents raised concerns with the sound levels ema-

nating from the stadium during the day-long Polar Jam concert. Other varsity sports games have also upset citizens.

Changes as simple as repositioning lights and telling the announcer to quiet down could have been implemented months ago.

Our university owes it to the community we inhabit to respect our neighbours and their concerns. If Laurier Athletics and the administration do not take city residents seriously, they may lose a lot of respect. Residents put up with a lot living in a student community, and if we expect a bit of tolerance during university events, we must listen to their suggestions intently and act promptly.

Next time our neighbours have problems sleeping due to noise and bright lights, let's not take months to solve the them, Laurier.



## Church should avoid the blame game

Catholic Church takes offence to some things but glosses over own foibles



DAN POLISCHUK  
SPORTS EDITOR

I'm part of a "team" if you will; one that gathers every week for a little song, a little prayer and, inevitably, a little controversy. We're known as The Catholics. But some, like me, think we're getting to be known more as The Bad News Bears. You've seen that movie, haven't you? Where the team just can't seem to get anything right, even when they try their hardest?

Well, hard as it may try, the Catholic Church seems to continuously tarnish its image by taking offence to certain things it deems "immoral" while conveniently glossing over its own foibles.

Take, for example, the actions of Bishop Gerard Bergie from the Diocese of Hamilton.

When it was announced that Bill Clinton, the forty-second President of the United States, would be making a speech in Kitchener this coming November, Bishop Bergie began efforts to shut the whole thing down. The reason: in his presidential hey-day, Clinton voted (twice!) against a ban on partial birth abortion.

The Catholic Church has far more important things to do than worry about defaming another celebrity that goes against their beliefs. Honestly, I don't love Clinton – but I don't hate him either. To try to dictate who

is or is not worthy of speaking to the public is just plain wrong. In fact, according to section two of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, freedom of expression is a right guaranteed to all citizens.

Besides, there are just too many occurrences within the church that are more important to hash out in this shaky period for all things religious. The Church has barely scratched the surface in facing its horrific past of abused children – including altar boys.

According to a Catholic review board, there were over 10,000 cases of sexual assault on minors from 1950 to 2002 in the United States' Catholic Church alone. With such a weight on its shoulders, how can the Church even lift its arm to point the finger of blame?

There also remains the fact that the Church is no longer the rock of society. While society progressed, the Church decided to stay back in the early 1900s. Where at one time you could not find an empty seat, many of the pews today remain empty because people feel the Church is out of date and not relevant to their lifestyles. As CTV news reported after Pope Jean Paul II's passing, "In a culture focused on commercialism and wealth, the Catholic teachings of humility and sacrifice are struggling to find a place."

Another issue surrounding the Church is the diminishing number of young men entering the priesthood. This lack of interest has put such a strain on the church that it has been forced to

put parishes up for sale, creating another obstacle for those wishing to practice the religion.

Clearly, the Church has a lot of work to do. But how can it even think of progressing when it allows its "leaders" to continuously put the proverbial foot in their mouths with actions like shutting down well-publicized speeches? It's one thing to get out in the public eye, but it's another to be embarrassed while doing it.

And really, how much more embarrassment can the church afford to handle?

With just over one billion Catholics around the world and with the number of Catholics growing in the continents of Africa and South America, it would seem the religion is gaining popularity, but to be truly a religion of the people, the faith must be spread evenly around the whole world.

Which brings me to my point: the Church needs to take a twentieth-century approach to things. It cannot go shoving ideals and beliefs down people's throats and continue to blemish itself with outlandish "denouncements."

It's time that the Church take a page out of its own book – the Good Book – which preaches, essentially, not to judge others. Because, like has been proven, the Church has its own problems to deal with.

And if continuing blemishes remain a constant in Canada and throughout North America, it would be a huge blow to a religion that, really, is a lot better than it seems.



# Tougher laws for needed for pedos

Child predators need longer sentences to avoid the risk of reoffending



BLAIR FORSYTH-STARK  
OPINION EDITOR

A nine-year-old boy sits with his mother at their local Swiss Chalet, leisurely enjoying his delicious chicken feast. After finishing the meal, he excuses himself to go to the bathroom, only to encounter a situation that will change his life forever.

Inside the stalls of the wholesome family restaurant lurks a predator, a man with morals so corrupt he is deemed a monster by most of society.

Inside the bathroom there's a pedophile who sexually assaults the young boy, robbing him of his sense of security and sending him running for his mother. Not only was the boy violated in unimaginable ways, but what's worse, the perpetrator got away.

Sadly, this true story is not uncommon.

Over 8,800 cases of sexual assault against minors were reported in 2002, and that figure

represents only the children who were brave enough to come forward and speak out against their attackers.

Peter Whitmore is the 35-year-old man who has recently been in the media spotlight, having been captured by police, after an intense two-day standoff, for the kidnapping and sexual assault of two boys, a 10-year-old and a 14-year-old. Aside from his most recent crimes, Whitmore's infamy stems from his previous track record.

Having been arrested in Canada on five separate occasions for crimes ranging from abduction, sexual offences and breaching probation, in addition to being extradited from Mexico for his crimes against children, Whitmore has been in and out of prison for the past 13 years.

According to the *Vancouver Sun*, "Experts had warned as recently as 2004 [that] there was a 100 percent certainty [that Whitmore] would strike again." Additionally, Whitmore refused certain aspects of counseling while in jail "over fear he would no longer fantasize about boys." With such a

history and expert testimony, Canadians everywhere are left wondering, "Why was this man let out of jail?"

Simply put, Canada's judicial system is far too lenient.

According to section 151 of Canada's Criminal Code, "Every person, who for a sexual purpose, touches, directly or indirectly, with a part of the body or with an

**"We shouldn't be waiting until three kids get assaulted before we scratch our heads and say maybe there is a pattern here."**

- David Butt, spokesman for Beyond Borders

object, any part of the body of a person under the age of fourteen years ... is guilty of an indictable offense and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years and to a minimum punishment of imprisonment for a term of forty-five days."

A minimum of forty-five days? It's unlikely that many mothers, fathers, older brothers and sisters,

would find a prison term of forty-five days an acceptable punishment for the violation and traumatization of their young loved ones.

In reaction to the outcry that ensued when the public learned of Whitmore's past, Federal Justice Minister Vic Toews promised to take action. His solution? Revisiting his party's platform promise of raising the age of consent from 14 to 16 and clearly defining what constitutes a dangerous offender.

In the overly-sexualized culture of North America, it's inevitable that youth will be experimenting with sex earlier, and raising the age of consent does little more than criminalize their acts, not dissuade them. And it certainly would do little to combat the problem with pedophile predators as many of them target younger children.

Clearly defining a dangerous offender could certainly have helped in Whitmore's case, since the dangerous offender provisions in the Criminal Code are used to sentence "serious offenders who

pose a high risk of committing further violent offences."

Whitmore seemingly met that criteria with his previous offences, so it may not be a matter of clarifying what constitutes a Dangerous Offender but rather ensuring that these provisions are used when applicable.

Toews proposes that after three sexual attacks an individual is automatically declared a dangerous offender but as David Butt, a lawyer and spokesman for the child advocacy group Beyond Borders points out, "We shouldn't be waiting until three kids get assaulted before we scratch our heads and say 'Maybe there is a pattern here.'"

It's an unfortunate reality that there are a lot of disturbed and dangerous people in the world. While it may be hard to predict or prevent tragic events from occurring, our government should do what it can to protect its citizens by ensuring that the individuals who commit crimes, especially ones as despicable as sexual assaults on children, are imprisoned for a long time, keeping them off the streets and away from more potential victims.

letters@cordweekly.com

# Whatever happened to student activism?

We need a new group of students who are committed to social justice and the common good



DON MORGENSON  
ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

A former student stopped by my office this past spring. Classes were grinding to a halt, final examinations were just about to begin.

I remembered Heather; every teacher has a small collection of memorable students. Students perhaps recalled warmly during times when university teaching has been thoroughly routinized, cluttered with "administrivia," even bled dry of intellectual excitement. It has been my luck to have had many such students over the 45-plus years spent in the university classroom.

Heather came to Laurier, the product of a white, upper-middle class home and it was obvious to me Heather was reluctantly tearing away at these roots.

"My parents, though thoughtful, are and always were politically and socially conservative." Heather now deplored the lack of response to the public mood of disenchantment with politicians and current federal and/or provincial government policies; she also deplored the excesses of her classmates.

She acknowledged increasing individual poverty while corpora-

tions enjoyed "corporate welfare" and worried about the desecration of the environment.

With a variety of petitions in hand, Heather worked her way through the dormitories. "It was awful," she said. "There appeared to be no interest among students in social problems, in what was going on in the 'real world.' They made it quite clear they did not want to listen to me. I could not believe such apathy exists."

Heather acknowledged the small pockets of activists - socially concerned students who worried about the "two-tier education system and deteriorating health services," but such concern with social justice did not represent a groundswell.

While Heather's analysis seemed somewhat sweeping, I did say that some survey data supports some of her observations. When asked to agree/disagree with the statement, "There is a real concern among students for social justice, for trying to make the world a better place," only 27 percent of students agreed.

And when asked to agree/disagree to, "There is more intellectual activity on campus than in a good high school," 40 percent agreed.

Some years ago, Karen Bird (then editor of the *Cord*) wrote, "There is a noted absence of any spirited quest for knowledge. Critical academic discussion and de-



Contributed Photo

**FIGHTIN' FOR THE RIGHT** - Protestors like this engaged female are few and far between on campuses.

bate among students is difficult to find outside the many obligations of classroom assignments. Essentially, what seems to be missing is the genuine excitement and concern that a university education should inspire."

As Heather thought about her own future, she said, "When I talk to students and try to stimulate them to think about political corruption, abuses of power, the painful lack of social justice, they respond with, 'That's the way it's always been, so why get upset?' They are single-mindedly pursuing their GPAs, and seem concerned about good jobs, benefits, and retirement plans. Whatever happened to student activism?"

Heather left my office with the question, "Whatever happened to student activism?" And while thinking about her question,

memories began to form.

I recalled the turbulent 1960s when widespread student rebellions left many bewildered.

The Vietnam War had galvanized student opinion and in the corridors students chanted, "We want parity - we want parity" (having a student on all university governing bodies in equal ratio to university faculty/administrators).

A chorus of students who demanded greater relevance in the classroom would drown out lecturers' presentations.

"So-called" academic issues gave way to more urgent topics reflecting student needs and wishes. Avoiding the draft, American youngsters came to Canada and the seismic shocks of Lt. Calley, the My Lai massacre and the killing of a peace demonstrator by National Guardsmen at Kent State

University thoroughly sobered us all.

I thought about those student revolutionaries, "rational anarchists," student activists of the past who, at that time, seemed to want responsive adults who might listen and struggle to understand, and a responsive and responsible government.

It would seem today too, such goals are worth fighting for. Perhaps Heather represented the seeds of a growing critical mass, a new and idealistic group of students who would again feel the excitement of a commitment to social justice and serving the common good.

My colleagues and I have witnessed such concerns in the past ... why not again?

letters@cordweekly.com



# Scientology: aliens predict happiness

The infamous and controversial religion always gets a bad rap, but is it really so different?



ANDREA BATTISTA  
DON'T GET ME STARTED

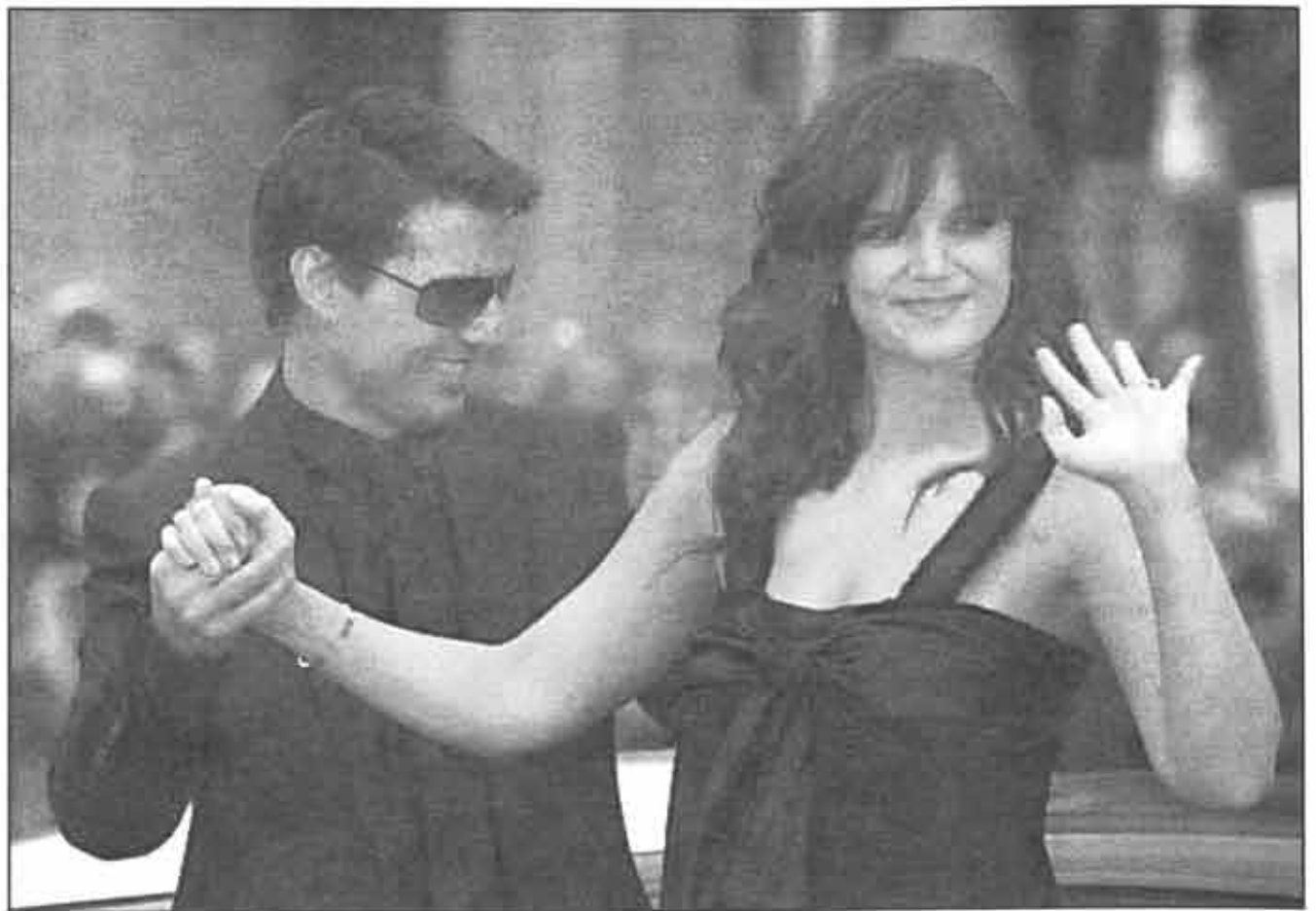
In times of trouble and despair, it's common for people to look for alternatives to help them through life and give them hope.

Scientology has become a recent trend for both celebrities and desperate people everywhere. Promising to lead one to a happier life and offering clear explanations for all "unnatural" feelings of sadness, grief and despair, Scientology stems from the writings of science fiction novelist L. Ron Hubbard. That's right, a fiction writer. While some may find it odd to follow the religious teachings of a fiction writer, millions of Christians flock to church every week to study a book whose authorship is debatable. Regardless of the origins of the religion, with so many people turning to it for answers, one wonders whether there is any validity to it at all.

Inspired to learn more about this "religion," I visited its official website. Aside from background information and an explanation of what Scientology is (based on its Greek and Latin meanings), it offered a free personality test to evaluate how screwed up I am.

After realizing the test consisted of hundreds of questions, I decided to simply choose the option "neither agree nor disagree" for every single question. According to the test, I am way below normal in all but two aspects of my personality. Without even providing any real information on any of the questions, somehow this test had enough information to evaluate me as abnormal, showing that the baseline for this "study" is completely inadequate.

Furthermore, the test did not tell me any details about my personality, it just informed me that I was screwed up. To get more details, you have to visit your local church of Scientology. Further investigation on my behalf showed that there were no references to the validity of the test and, in fact,



Contributed Photo

**TOMKAT** - Tom and the newly-christened Kate await enlightenment, as soon as their cheques clear.

no references related to science whatsoever throughout the entire website.

Not shockingly, given its name, the entire religion is based on science fiction. It offers reasons for feelings of depression, anger and anxiety. The reasons for these "abnormal" emotions? Why, aliens of course.

Yes, it's true. It's nobody's fault that they're not happy. It's the fault of alien spirits inhabiting human bodies. But don't fret, there's hope for us all because we can learn to control these feelings and make them disappear, thanks to Scientology. It claims to offer all the answers one could need, but sadly it does not provide them on the website. In order to be enlightened, you must pay money to join the church and get the answers to

find happiness.

Famous advocates of Scientology include John Travolta, Isaac Hayes and, my personal favourite, the most controversial Scientologist Tom Cruise.

Cruise made it clear that his new bride-to-be, Katie Holmes, must convert to Scientology and their child must be raised within the religion. When Katie gave birth to her child, she had to be completely silent. I'm not sure exactly what the purpose of this tradition is, but I do believe there is a reason women scream and cry when giving birth; it hurts like hell, I would love to see Cruise squeeze something out of (or put something in) one of his orifices and not make a sound.

One must wonder how so many people have been brainwashed

into believing in something with absolutely no basis for truth. The entire religion is based on the hilarious writings of L. Ron Hubbard, (summary of one of his books: "the epic tale of Jonnie Goodboy Tyler's struggle to free mankind from alien Psychlos and to restore world peace"). Apparently, Jonnie Goodboy is the new Jesus, except this time, sins are aliens. The staunch belief of individuals in a religion like Scientology leaves me questioning the merits of other religions. Is the belief that aliens are responsible for our unhappiness, and putting faith into the teachings of a science fiction writer, really any less credible than putting faith into a dude in the sky and his bearded son?

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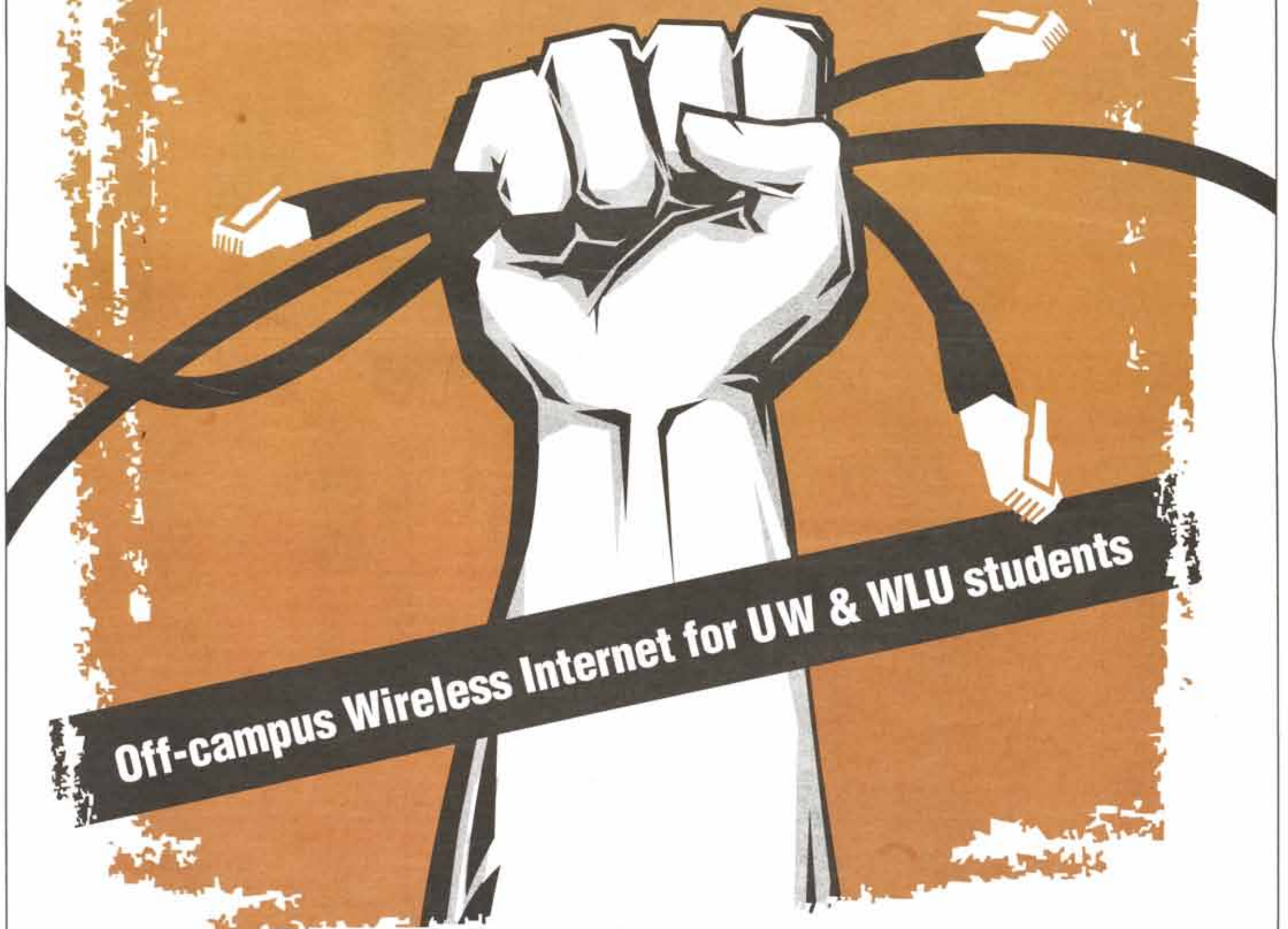
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