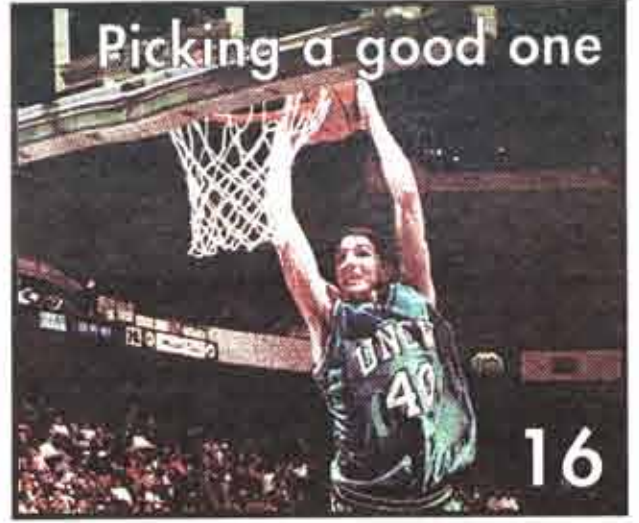
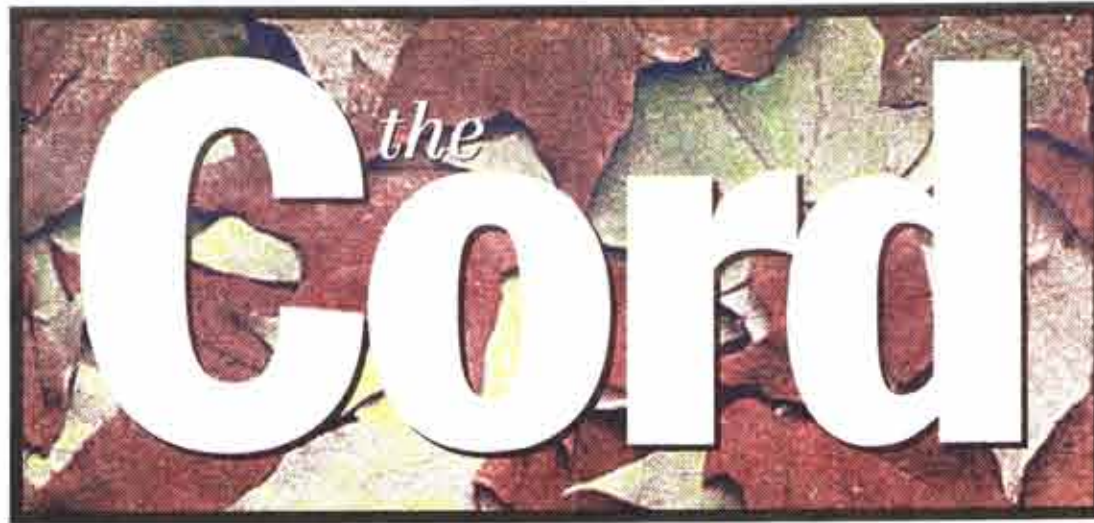


Reviewing reality

14



Picking a good one

16

3 NEWS 6 OPINION 8 INTERNATIONAL 10 FEATURE 12 STUDENTLIFE 14 ENTERTAINMENT 16 SPORTS 18 ARTS 19 CLASSIFIEDS

Making all work count



Dr. Marilyn Waring jokes with the crowd in the Paul Martin Centre on Tuesday morning.

CHRISTINE CHERRY

KRISTINA SPENCE

She's a feminist, economist, farmer, politician, an activist for female human rights and one fascinating speaker.

Dr. Marilyn Waring discussed some of her recent experiences with a large, attentive crowd at the Paul Martin Centre on Tuesday, March 14 at 11:30 a.m.

At the age of 22, Waring became an influential politician in the New

Zealand government and since then has worked as a development consultant in more than a dozen countries.

Currently an Associate Professor in Social Policy and Social Work at Massey University in Auckland, New Zealand, Waring continues to research and publish her work.

Communications Studies student, Paul Baines, introduced Waring saying "she's been so effective in deconstructing economics," and "she has seriously and rigorously challenged

"business as usual," mentality.

Waring took the podium and polled the audience by asking students in which programs they were enrolled. She has been on the road since March 1 and wanted to tailor the talk to the students on hand.

"I'm getting to the stage where I could bore myself to tears," Waring said.

Waring asked if students had seen the National Film Board's documentary, "Who's Counting?," which illustrated some of the work Waring

has done. She then discussed what has changed since the making of the film.

Waring said national accounts were revised in 1993 so now subsistence production is counted in various economic calculations.

Some countries are now including numbers on subsistence work such as agriculture, forestry, craftwork, the collection of fuel (wood) and the carriage of water.

Using an example from her experiences in Pakistan, Waring said she was told 6 per cent of the female population were active in agriculture. She added if they had their way, the elite wouldn't want to imply that women work at all.

"The majority of women in the world live in rural areas of Third World Countries," Waring said.

Waring also discussed water usage by women and how they recycle water in their everyday lives. She said various types of work are only considered "work" if they are used for the right type of production and women's work is generally not considered true work.

Waring did say, however, the pressure to count women's work has led to institutional construction of separate accounts.

"If they want to count women's work, then they'll have two separate balloons outside the main accounts. The one will be for women's work and the other for environmental values," Waring said.

Unfortunately, in the environ-

mental account, the cubic volume of a forest will be valued by the worth of its lumber as opposed to its actual value to the water tables, species survival and oxygen production.

Waring joked that natural resources have a problem in that they like to swim and fly places and, "pollution doesn't understand it's not supposed to travel."

"Nature is interfering which is fortunate for use all at this time," she said.

Waring discussed growth and why no one ever asks what is driving growth. After using the United States as an example of the cost of growth, Waring moved onto areas for improvement within the world.

In Canada, the province of Nova Scotia is working towards genuine progress indicator (GPI) to better measure its entire economic environment.

Waring also discussed the growing problem of intangibles such as information technology and the importance of countries pushing for the use of GPIs.

Finally, Waring talked about the importance of ensuring human rights are considered when financial aid is offered to various countries and projects. She said Canada and other countries could separate their funds from other accounts so individual rights are considered when projects and programs are put in place.

"We're not powerless and our governments are shareholders."

WLU loses two more coaches

FRANCESCA RICCI

The search has begun for two new volleyball coaches to take over the helm following the recent resignations of Paul Pavan and Russ Woloshyn. Both coaches made it official last week they would step down and devote more time to their families.

Coach Pavan led the men's squad for two seasons and managed to recruit and coach a solid core of players. This season Rob Chambers and Ryan de Boekhurst led the CIAU in blocks. During his tenure as coach, he led the men with an 11-14 record and the OUA West championships in which they defeated Western 6-1 and had an 11-14 record.

Pavan's decision to quit was largely due to his involvement with club teams and travelling with his thirteen-year-old daughter who is a national athlete.

Although Pavan is leaving, he will still be involved with the recruitment of players for next season's team, as well as the hiring of a new head coach.

Coach Woloshyn will be leaving a strong women's team, which he coached for three seasons.

Under Woloshyn the team had a record of 25-21 in league play and 56-45 overall. They also made the playoffs in each of his three years. In tournament play, the women won a gold, silver and two bronze.

The team is only losing two of its members and will definitely have a strong nucleus of talent. In particular, Karen Galloway and Paula Watson were amongst the top in the CIAU in kills and first year Karen Hinds was a leader in blocks. As well, Stacey McCoy was selected as 1st team all-star in the OUA West and Paula Watson was selected as a 2nd team all-star.

Woloshyn is also a high school teacher and coach at WCI. He found it especially difficult to coach both high school and university levels due to the intensity of the schedules.

Baxter stated: "Both coaches have created a solid foundation as far as respect in the CIAU." He also expressed that the loss of the coaches is unfortunate, but feels it must be taken into perspective and their decision should be respected.

Postings for the position have been circulated to the OVA (Ontario Volleyball Association) and the CIAU. Baxter hopes to have a coach hired by the end of April.



Paul Pavan



Russ Woloshyn

Pictured above are volleyball coaches Paul Pavan and Russ Woloshyn. Both men have resigned their respective positions as head coach of the men's and women's Golden Hawk volleyball squads. Both also have cited family commitments as their reasons for departure. They will both be missed, but they will also both be embarrassed by these photos. Sorry guys.

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EDITOR

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News Bites

Soldiers wanted

The Department of National Defence is on a mission to recruit 60 Native Canadians at an estimated acquisition cost of \$1.5 million.

The new program, named the Canadian Forces Aboriginal Entry Program hopes to increase the number of Natives in the forces from 1,275 to 3,000.

It is expected only 60 of the 120 Native trainees will join the forces, which amounts to \$25,000 for each new recruit.

Pets go public

Petopia.com Inc. of San Francisco is seeking to have an initial public offering (IPO) for both its online site and 500 pet supplies stores across the United States.

Andrea Reisman, daughter of Heather Reisman (chief executive of Indigo Books and Music Inc.) and stepdaughter of Gerald Schwartz (chief executive of Onex Corp.), has brought in nearly \$150 million in private investments in the past year even though it lost \$40 million last year.

Pets.com, also based in San Francisco, opened trading at \$11 a share, and is currently listed at \$7.

Pre-Oscar predictions

The Wall Street Journal is putting its efforts towards releasing the winners of the Oscars some 10 days prior to the actual ceremonies.

The primarily political and finance-oriented newspaper is moving towards an entertainment and lifestyle focus to appeal to a larger audience.

Wall Street Journal employees have been contacting the more than 5,000 members of the Academy to poll the votes and compile them before the ceremonies.

American sky

The Canadian federal government has been approached by AMR Corp., parent company of American Airlines, in a bid for the regional arm of Canadian Airlines Corp.

The government turned down a request to increase the foreign ownership limit from 25 per cent to 49 per cent but said if Americans could find Canadian partners they could own 75 per cent of Regional. The sale of Canadian Regional is expected to take months as a price must be agreed upon, the entity put on the market for 45 days and then the highest bidder at or above the price will be the buyer.

Celebrating women



The Women's Centre share their celebration with Laurier students in the Concourse.

KRISTINA SPENCE

The Concourse was decorated with artistic creations and filled with feminine energy on Wednesday, March 8, for International Women's Day.

The Laurier Women's Centre presented a variety of artistic and informative stations in celebration of women as part of their week-long festivities.

Gill Yealand, Events and Issues Co-ordinator, said the focus of the week is a celebration of women and a celebration of being a woman.

Numerous booths full of information and creativity framed the perimeters of the Concourse.

One of the booths in the Concourse was a table giving out free chocolate and vanilla cake.

Another booth conducted a quiz asking "Are you a feminist?" in order to help break down barriers against the term of "feminist" itself.

Hanging above the Concourse was the artwork created by students

in the Women's Studies 201, Women and Identity class. A variety of media and creations were used to express how the students felt about the female identity.

Another booth contained a variety of books written by Sark based on the concept of a Succulent Wild Woman. The Women's Centre has even created a "Succulence Group" based on the content of the books.

As well as a general information booth, a display of black and white photographs by Alex was the focal point of the Concourse.

The collection of photographs was titled "Femography" and showcased various photos of Laurier

women as they wanted to be photographed.

Yealand said the art work is different from the regular approach to photography because it works to deconstruct the male gaze which usually frames most photographs.

Participants enjoyed painting, drumming and lots of information.

At another booth, jewellery by Laurier and Women's Centre Alumnus, Michelle Scott, was made available for purchase.

The last display contained information about menstrual health which had been discussed at a seminar on Monday.

The wall painting seen in the photo above was a collaborative effort and will be hung in the Centre.

The newsletter of the Women's

Centre, titled "Errata," was also available and listed some upcoming events, artwork and inspirational poetry and prose.

The Women's Centre describes themselves as follows:

"The Women's Centre at Laurier was organized in recognition of the fact that the gender inequality on campus serves to perpetuate sexist attitudes and stereotypes.

All women of the Laurier community are welcome to join the Women's Centre collective. Committees include: the December 6 Memorial, International Women's Week, fundraising, Clothesline project, library, newsletter, web site, Succulence Group, Wiccan Group and others.

The Women's Centre operates as a resource and reference service as opposed to a counseling service. Resources include books, magazines, periodicals, journals, vertical files and government documents on a vast array of women's issues."

Playing smart, playing safe

KRISTINA SPENCE

In lieu of recent intrusions and attacks on women in the Kitchener-Waterloo and Guelph areas, local police are asking citizens and students to keep themselves safe.

Early last Thursday morning, a woman in Guelph thought she saw a man's image in her bathroom mirror. She was in the bath and called out to the man, thinking it was her brother. Once out of the bathroom, she looked for her brother and children in the house, all of whom were still asleep.

It is unknown whether this incident is connected to the break-ins and assaults on women in Guelph.

In recent weeks, a series of home break-ins have occurred and a teenager and a university student have come into contact with a male intruder believed to be the rapist who attacked a woman on Paisley Street in February.

Staff Sgt. Rick Lehman is head of Task Force Lock Up, the group of officers searching for three men who have been preying on women in Kitchener, Guelph and Woodstock.

Sgt. Lehman said students should secure their windows and doors even during periods of ideal springtime weather.

"I know that's not one of their big concerns but you have to be conscious of your surroundings," Sgt. Lehman said.

Sgt. Lehman also said students allow security to be one of their least worries but they should be

Lehman said.

Sgt. Lehman said if you see strangers around the house to report them to local police as soon as possible.

Task Force Lock Up has been working on the cases since September and currently possesses only vague descriptions of the suspects.

The man suspected in two sexual assaults in Kitchener and Woodstock is described as a white man, 45- to 55-years-old, gray hair, salt-and-pepper full beard, about six-foot tall and no accent. The other two suspects are white males in the early to late twenties, five-foot-nine to six-foot tall without accents.

At this point, \$400,000 has been spent on salaries and equipment for the team, which is made up of seven officers from Guelph and seven from Waterloo. To offset their costs, the provincial government has also contributed an undisclosed sum to help them out.

Sgt. Lehman said students should watch out for people prowling around their premises and if anyone has any information or experienced an incident a few weeks ago, they should contact Waterloo Regional Police at 650-8500.

Keep your windows and doors shut or locked and walk home in groups.

concerned about strange people on their premises.

In cases where several young women live together, they should try to keep each other informed of their male friends and boyfriends who could stop by or be visiting the house.

Any strange persons around the house should be identified by other residents or reported to police.

"It's not normal to have window peepers," Sgt.

WLUSP and Duke of Funk

JIM DONNELLY

The WLUSP Board of Directors met once again for their weekly board meeting, despite the fact the President, VP: Finance, Anthony Del Col, and most Board members were not in attendance.

It was decided, after weeks of deliberation, the Student Publications Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held at the Grad Pub March 31.

Held at Weaver's Arms last year, the Board decided to hold it at the Laurier-based Grad Pub this year for a change of scenery and 'cheap drinks'.

It was also decided the WLUSP 'Duke of Funk' bowlerama will take place on March 16.

A considerable amount of trash-talking has already occurred within the WLUSP office, especially from the hated "KillAnthonies" who are obviously overconfident and will be crushed by the tournament favourites who have chosen to remain nameless.

Last year's champions, Advertising, are looking for back-to-back titles and are happily expecting the "Gutter Girls" to give them no challenge at all.

The tournament will begin at 9:00 p.m. at the Waterloo Lanes and the five pins will be a fallin'.

Keystone sales were reported as quite slow for the week.

Only about 15 were sold, despite WLUSP's efforts to peddle them to the student population.

More funding, more need

JIM DONNELLY

The illustrious WLU Senate enjoyed another general meeting last week in the Paul Martin Centre, with University President Dr. Bob Rosehart opening the festivities with several remarks concerning the Ontario Government's always controversial SuperBuild Program.

"We got the go-ahead for our highest-priority project, the north-west campus project," he said.

"We're still working on getting money for our other prospective building projects in the future."

Plans for the northeast end of campus are to include the building of the Schlegel Entrepreneurial Centre between the Peters Building and the library, as well as a complete renovation of the existing library.

Rosehart was ambiguous concerning his opinions on the government's university infrastructure program.

"SuperBuild has been very good for some schools, and bad for others - in our case it has been fairly good, but not excellent. At least we weren't shut out altogether. Some schools such as Conestoga, Brock, Trent and Nipissing were."

There are 42 institutions eligible for funding from the SuperBuild Program. Seventeen of

those institutions received nothing from the government, despite their desperate pleas for help.

"The Government seems to be pulling inward on funding. Their recent meeting with university representatives was not good."

Rosehart also discussed the prospect of school expansion into existing buildings in the Waterloo area, such as Waterloo Public Library and the soon-to-be-closing St. Michael's Elementary School.

"We've had our eyes on St.

need to grow by about 2,000 students to retain a 3.5 per cent share of the Ontario University System," he said.

"Funds are distributed proportionately, and if our total share decreases then so does our funding."

"The system is hell-bent on growing so, therefore, we must be as well."

The VP's comments sparked a lively round of debate on preregistration at Laurier.

classes on the preregistration lists that, currently, there is no funding for," said Smith.

"We have to gamble and hope the money is going to be there," Rosehart agreed.

"It's collective risk-taking. We all have to share the responsibility."

Several new courses were announced in the report of the Divisional Council of the Faculty of Arts. CT200, 210, 330 and 333 were all introduced to the Contemporary Studies program, and AN457 to the Anthropology Department.

Some program requirements for Development and International Studies were also changed.

The Graduate Faculty Council announced several course additions and changes as well. BU621 was added to the permanent elective offerings of the MBA program, titled "Managing Competitive Intelligence."

Also added was BU628. However, BU654, 664 and 674 were deleted from the program.

The Philosophy and Political Science Grad Programs were also touched up. PY780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789 and 799 were all approved as new courses for next year, as well as PO642 and 643.

"It's collective risk-taking. We all have to share the responsibility."

Michael's for quite some time, and now the Board of Education has just announced its imminent closure by 2001. We're attempting to buy the property, but we're not the only prospective buyer."

Dr. Rowland Smith, WLU VP:Academic, also had some interesting things to say in his opening report.

WLU needs to grow, according to Smith, not out of preference but out of necessity.

"We should assume that we

Several Senate members complained that many classes listed on 2000/2001 preregistration sheets are currently without funding.

If the university receives no more funding from the government this year, students taking these classes will be out of luck.

"We're assuming that we're going to get funding for these classes, but there's a definite possibility that we won't," said Doug Lorimer, Chair of the History Department.

"I think its reasonable to have



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Cream of crime soup

Mischief
0110 Hrs
Wed Mar 08/00
Two WLU students were apprehended when they were observed pulling a "Yield" sign out of the ground at the corner of Clayfield and Bricker Avenue. The matter will be forwarded to the DAC.

Cause Disturbance
0315 Hrs
Wed Mar 08/00
Officers responded to a report of noisy individuals outside Little House. One individual was observed consuming alcohol and was issued a provincial offence notice.

Noise Complaint
0010 Hrs
Thu Mar 09/00
Officers responded to the Grad House after receiving a complaint the music was too loud. Staff complied in turning the music down.

Mischief
1500-1730 Hrs
Wed Mar 08/00
A WLU student reported some minor damage to his vehicle while it was parked at Laurier Place.

Mischief
2145 Hrs
Thu Mar 09/00
Person(s) unknown broke one of the gate arms at lot 20.

Non reportable MVA
2110 Hrs
Thu Mar 09/00
A minor collision occurred when a vehicle lightly struck another vehicle from behind. There were no injuries.

Trespass
0145 Hrs
Fri Mar 10/00
A male party was escorted from the Nichols Centre when he refused to leave after being told several times the bar was closed and he would not be allowed entry.

Theft under \$5000
1500 Hrs
Tue Mar 07/00
A WLU student reported the theft of some CDs and a portable CD player when he left his knapsack unattended in the area of the Career Services interview rooms at 232 King Street.

Domestic Dispute
0300 Hrs
Sun Mar 12/00
Officers responded to a report of a potential problem between a WLU student and her boyfriend. The individual was issued a written Trespass Notice.

Mischief
0205 Hrs
Sun Mar 12/00
Person(s) unknown broke both gate arms at lot 20.

Medical Assist
1530 Hrs
Sun Mar 12/00
An ambulance was called for an individual experiencing seizures at the Athletic Complex.

Cause Disturbance
2305 Hrs
Sat Mar 11/00
A male individual was escorted from the Nichols Centre when he became very agitated after being evicted from the Turret.

During this time period, two provincial offence notices were issued for Liquor Act violations.

Systems go for election

KRISTINA SPENCE

The wheels were set in motion for the upcoming by-election through the late-night decision making of the 2000-2001 Board of Directors.

The meeting began around 10:45 p.m. and Chair of the Board, Eric Davis, requested to meet individually with each of the members.

President-elect, Jeffrey Kroeker, spoke under the Emergency Business section to clarify and continue discussions on the salary issue.

Starting with a motion to repeal the motion from the previous week's meeting, Kroeker moved into an information talk about the work that went into the analysis of the Union salaries.

"By repealing the motion, we maintain the current increase therefore the hourly rate is decreased though the salary figure is maintained," Kroeker said.

The motion was passed.

Kristi Edwards, Elections and Referenda Committee Chair, reported to the Board she had her first meeting with Jason Quehl, the by-election's Chief Returning Officer

and they had a couple motions to present to the Board.

The first motion was to approve, in principle, the creation of a database for a computer polling station.

The motion, which passed unanimously, approved the creation and operations of a committee to investigate the possibility of e-voting.

The second motion was to approve, in principle, for co-operative education students to vote via e-mail: this motion passed as well.

The last motion was to move voting day from Friday, March 31 to Thursday, March 30. Since 60 per cent of students do not have class on Fridays and the booking of the Union's 25th Anniversary celebration was made for the same day, the new Board decided to not risk quorum and change the date to Thursday. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board then set Wednesday nights at 10:00 p.m. for meetings.

Lastly, the Board approved a motion to provide VP: Student Services with a Human Resources title of "Executive Director: Human Resources" until April 30, 2000.

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"Why did the chicken cross the playground?"

To get to the other slide."

The Old Farmer's Almanac 2000, pg. 130

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Amy Johnson, Diana Sheppard, Devan Hambrook, Julius Jones, Blair Miller, Alex Pfeifer, Miriam Berger, Chris Shafer, Michael Bery, Julio McAllister, The people in the 24 hour lounge watching The Matrix at volumes set way too high, the pizza delivery guy who gladly accepted our cheap-ass excuse for a tip, the surviving fish for not dying on us just yet, and Asad for leaving early, forcing Maneesh to do this damn list for him! Don't worry, I enjoyed it... a little bit...

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Corporate Schools

University is this wonderful mythical place where everyone is a mature responsible person who wants to learn, grow and develop. It is a world where all of the instructors are there to help students on the never-ending road of learning and personal fulfillment. It exists in a society that does not ask students to work themselves into debt to receive an education. This place is there to educate and facilitate the lives of their students. It employs people who want to be helpful and considerate all of the time. Then I woke up.

I have been here for almost two years and in those months I have come to realize many things I really did not want to admit. I came to terms with many things that make me contemplate my years at this school and why I am really here.

The majority of people attending this institution are here for no other reason than to get a job. They couldn't care less if they open their minds to learning or if they better themselves as human beings. They are here to finish a three or four-year program in a certain area of expertise that will get them stable employment. Whether one actually enjoys what they end up doing or gets a job that pays them properly is a whole different topic. However, a degree and a few years in university are the means to an end: a job.

A significant portion of the faculty is not teaching because they enjoy it. They have their own interests in mind, and that means

furthering their own careers. This is not to imply that every faculty member is here for their own interest. However one finds several instructors that do fit this description.

The federal and provincial governments are making the likelihood of students graduating debt-free less and less realistic every year. This leads to a significant portion of the student population living with the stress and pressure of an economically unsure life. Some are not sure if their loan will see

A present day university is set up like any other corporation.

them through until the end of the academic year. They also face the realization that in the first decade or so of their professional career they will be paying off their student loans.

A present-day university is organized like any other corporation: it provides a service for a fee. That service is education and that fee is rising every year. The administration is built upon a bureaucratic model. This leads to misunderstanding, frustration and slow moving procedures.

Now that all of these things have been realized, what do I do about it? Do I just accept it as reality and passively accept it? Perhaps I should just say there is no point to it all and drop out. However, neither route of action would reach the conclusion of this complex issue.

One must first realize that the trends in the way post-secondary education has been developing are a reflection of how society is developing. As society puts a larger emphasis on job skills in place of well-rounded individuals, the need for the use of post-secondary as purely theoretical learning may be over. Students must know what they are spending these years of their life on. Are they here to learn skills that will get them a job or are they here to learn something more about themselves and the world as a whole? What is it they value more in this time in their life, potential employment or personal fulfillment?

Although both can be achieved at the same time, unfortunately it does not happen very often. So what are you here to do? Is a university degree the answer to your question or are you one of those people who is still unsure of what the question is?

YVONNE FARAH
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

The opinions expressed in this editorial are those of the author, and do not reflect those of The Cord Staff, the editorial board, or WLU SP.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

QUESTIONING THE ELECTION

Dear Editor,

A few weeks ago, a friend of mine handed me a pamphlet promoting Jeffrey Kroeker for president of the Student Union. I was dismayed by its contents. Specifically, I was dumbfounded by a picture of the candidate drinking a beer with a friend while a 60oz bottle of vodka sat on the coffee table. It appeared that Kroeker and his friend were in a fairly serious discussion and the alcohol was completely inadvertent.

Or was it? Obviously, No, it was some cheap ploy by the candidate to portray himself as 'one of the boys'. Besides the inane cover photo of Kroeker and a cardboard cut-out Doug Flutie, there were three photographs inside the pamphlet. In one, Kroeker talked with a woman, in another he spoke with a visible minority and the infamous vodka shot. In each of the pictures Kroeker wore the same sweatshirt. Coincidence? I think not. It's clear that the vodka shot was staged, but was the choice to use a woman and a minority intentional?

These questions can be attributed to my finely tuned paranoia and my cynicism of politics on any level. I have come to despise the way demagoguery is so frequently used, even in student politics. The purpose of being in political office isn't 'to be in political office' - it should be to push an agenda which the voters have mandated.

Over the weeks following the election other issues involving the manipulation of the voters came to my attention; they can't be sufficiently substantiated so I won't repeat them.

Dharm Makwana, whom I have no political or social connection with, ran a campaign on the issues. I frequently witnessed him stopping students in the hallway and soliciting their opinions. His letter (Still Aware - March 2) articulates the reasons why students should be effectively represented in student government and proves that the right candidate wasn't elected in this case.

I'm reminded of an old Saved by the Bell episode where Zack runs for class president so he can get a free trip to Washington. Zack runs a Kroeker-style campaign and beats out Jessie, his friend who really does want to be the student president. In the fantasy world called the thirty-minute Saturday morning sitcom, Zack eventually did the right thing. If only we lived in that magical box in our living rooms.

As a passive observer and an outsider to student politics, I have no hidden agenda or ulterior motive. My sole purpose in writing this letter is to question the established framework of student politics of Wilfrid Laurier University.

Sami Khan

RELIGIOUS RELEVANCE (I)

Dear Editor,

This is a letter concerning W.A. Ferris' article "Religion's Role in the World" which I find to be a sad attempt to encourage the denouncement of religion within the world of politics. I have to admit that I agree with Mr. Ferris in the perspective that politics and religions lend themselves to very separate agendas, but to suggest that "religion should not play any role in society as a

whole' is to suggest that Mr. Ferris himself is fairly ignorant and uninformed. For an unquestionably large percentage of the population, religiosity is something practiced and adhered to from the time of birth. Religion, whether it is Christianity or Paganism, is a system and collection of ideals and moral events that promote an appreciation and celebration of the spirituality that is present within and around us.

Mr. Ferris states that religion is not welcome in our education system either, and this seems appropriate because no one should be unduly influenced by anything they are not comfortable with or supportive of. But regard the astonishing amount of religion-oriented hate crimes occurring on this continent. Are these attacks bred of extensive knowledge? No! These attacks are a result of ignorance, a result of misunderstanding and misinterpretation.

Perhaps if religion were to become a priority in the education system, children could be conditioned to appreciate and respect the vast religious differences that exist in this country today.

Canada is a cultural mosaic that prides itself on its ability to incorporate all manners of customs and religious creeds. It seems to me that Mr. Ferris has denigrated all that his country prides itself upon in one poorly written attempt to capitalize on the notion of political correctness. To suggest religion have no part in a political system that is designed to govern those very people that endorse religious activity is absurd.

It just seems to me that the next time Mr. Ferris considers the notion that religion should play no part in society as a whole he should recall that his forum is the Cord as endorsed by WLU - formerly Waterloo Lutheran University.

Joshua Curl

MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(II)

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to last week's article by W.A. Ferris. He has some valid points, and I too believe those far-right types like Jerry Falwell have too much influence in the Republican Party, and that no individual has the right to impose his or her religious beliefs on another person. But he takes his argument too far by stating that religion should not play any role in society as a whole. I would like to know what his definition of religion is, because his all-inclusive reasoning seems religious in itself.

If you define religion as a set of rituals, then perhaps these need to remain private. But as for moral beliefs, how can a person switch these off and on? Doesn't every person have a certain code of conduct that they live daily, a "religion" or "faith", if you will? If a person despises domestic abuse or refuses to cheat on a history paper, he or she feels this way both inside and outside of their homes. If a husband and wife chose for that relationship to stay within their private home, it would be quite an empty marriage. Likewise if your spiritual relationship stays within your private home or place of worship and nowhere else, what is the point of believing?

If I call myself a Christian by going to church on Sunday, but act like God doesn't exist the other six days, this proves how hollow my so-called faith really is. I do choose to call myself a Christian, which has a huge impact on my political beliefs, friendships and conduct. I therefore think we should be seeking to reduce poverty, looking after our environment, and realizing that people are more important than profits. I also love my friends very deeply, would do anything for them, yet I refuse to gossip behind their backs or engage in any other harmful activity. If it was not for Jesus' teachings I would not feel as strongly about these matters.

So please do not switch your faith on and off, but live what you

believe with gentleness and respect.

Marianne Lee

YO' MAMA'S
NOT YO' MAID
NO MO'

Dear Editor,

I am disgusted by the behaviour of WLU students! I arrived in the 24-hour lounge late one night to work on a paper and found the quiet comfortable atmosphere pleasant to work in. However, when I got there, I found it a challenge to find a semi-clean place to sit. The entire lounge was littered with paper (several copies of the Cord on the floor and chairs), empty pop cans, juice bottles and ripped-up Tim Horton's cups all over. Are people incapable of walking five feet (if that) to a garbage? And to make matters worse, I watched an ERT member send a paper airplane across the room, watch it land on the floor and keep walking. Do we really feel it necessary to live up to the snobbish reputation WLU students have? Do we need to insist others pick up after us?

Wake up - YOUR MOTHER DOESN'T LIVE HERE!

Michel Winterburn

THE REALITY
IS UNITY

Dear Editor

Thank you to all of the people and organizations involved with the student film "The Nature of Reality". I attended the premiere on Thursday, March 9 and looking around at the audience - I was struck with the diversity of those in attendance. It wasn't compromised of all film students or those that typically participate in student activities.

In my four years attending Laurier, there has not been one single event that has united the

Laurier community as this project has. Everyone was involved: Student Publications, the Students' Union, University Administration, faculty and staff, the Faculty of Music and students from every area in the school.

On behalf of Laurier students I would like to thank the creators of the film - Chris Baker, Anthony Del Col and James Muir - for letting Laurier be a part of their project.

Jill Osborne

CHARITIES
ARE GOOD

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Clarke for his letter last week in the Cord (re: The Intent Behind "Charity") reminding everyone of the excellent charities that the Laurier community takes part in. In fact, I was quite astonished at the great number of charities that occur at WLU when I thought about it. Mr. Clarke hit two of them right on the nose: The Charity Ball that took place over the weekend raising money for Multiple Sclerosis, and Shine-O-Rama, an event started by WLU students in 1961 and now run by universities across Canada, raising an impressive \$62,500 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of K-W this year. As well, LUCK organizes an annual Charity Auction generating over \$4,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society this year alone, the Health and Fitness Committee runs Jump Rope for Heart with donations going to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, BACCHUS has an annual Christmas Toy Drive, Winter Carnival holds a charity event, which this year raised over \$2,000 plus canned food for the John Howard Society and Anselma House, and proceeds of this year's Fashion 'N Motion will go directly to Family and Children's Services to name a few. There are tons of other organizations outside of WLUSU that also raise money for charities including the Greek Life and Little House Residence that hosted a bar-

The Right Perspective

Misguided Gun Control

CHRIS SCHAFER

Recently, the string of high school gun incidents (two dozen in total for the month of February) in Toronto has garnered full media coverage, and understandably has shocked local citizens considerably. These were the same sorts of incidents that gun control legislation like Bill C-68 was designed to prevent.

What is often ignored in the gun control debate is that Canadians have been required to register handguns with the police since the 1930s. However, this has not prevented handguns from becoming the weapon of choice for criminals. Guns are often smuggled into Canada from the United States, or stolen from gun

shops or legitimate owners. Thus, it is apparent that those who are willing to commit crimes involving guns are all too often willing to ignore the law requiring them to register their

The gun registry is illogical and intrusive.

handgun with the police.

This is exactly the reason why the gun registry set up by the Liberal administration in Ottawa is doomed to fail. It is based on the backwards logic which assumes that criminals will abide by the law and register their handguns. This very premise

was even evident in internal documents from the Justice Minister's own office, such as a March 4, 1994, briefing note warning, "There are real questions about the extent to which these proposals would improve public safety and whether the high costs could be justified." Hence, the gun registry is illogical, unnecessarily intrusive, and wasteful of taxpayers resources.

In the end, the courts of this land have in the past (see R. v. Felawka) and will undoubtedly in the future, find gun control laws to be demonstrably justifiable in a free and democratic society. Hence, the best means of defeating this expensive, ineffective, and intrusive piece of legislation appears to involve electing a government at the federal level committed to increasing freedom through less government, and to enacting legislation designed not to penalize law-abiding citizens.

The Fears of an Artsy

MICHAEL BERRY

We all know the story. It's a classic kind of science fiction. We, the generally naïve and ignorant humans, design some kind of advanced technology which, before the running time of two hours is up, kills most of us in a gruesome manner. My personal favourite of the genre is Terminator 2 (oh the countless OAC Finite classes I skipped to watch that!)

Now call me a technophobe, but this kind of thing actually scares me. What with all the recent cloning advancements, the possibilities are quite frightening (imagine two Gilles Duceppe's!). And to add to my fears, I recently discovered that I'm not alone in my reservations. A top technology geek from Silicon Valley, Sun Microsystems' head scientist Bill Joy, recently published an article warning of the evil we create.

Now I'm an arts student and couldn't even make my grade 10 science experiments work, so most of my fears are based in pure ignorance. But when a specialist in the field starts setting off alarms, I'm troubled. Joy warned of the advancements in genetics, nanotechnology and robotics. Lovely. I see a future of cloned human slaves

working for giant, smart robots ever bothered by the itch of those damn little nanites.

Bill Joy states that the difference between this evil and say, the atomic bomb, is their ability to recreate themselves. Creating some kind of cascade effect that would sweep through the world faster than you can say "I robot". I've got a pretty decent imagination for doom and gloom, but Joy tops me in one statement: "We're on the cusp of the further perfection of extreme evil." Like I said - lovely.

So here's my pitch. Why don't we

"We're on the cusp of the further perfection of extreme evil."

just slow the whole damn train down for a minute? Shouldn't we think about the things we produce, the repercussions, before they're conveniently inside their over-packaging? I'm not saying we should deny ourselves of the good that science has to offer. I wouldn't think of denying people of, say a spare organ or two, if the need arose. I just believe that we should think about things a little more carefully first.

Terminator 2 was a pretty cool movie, but really, I'm not quite in the mood for my one taste of worldwide holocaust. Have we not learned anything from the years of watching science fiction movies? Never give complete control of national defence systems to a computer, never create a disease that can kill us all in a day and never leave a jar full of mean nanites unguarded.

You get the point.

My apologies to Michael Berry, whose column two weeks ago was mis-named "Fast Food." It is in fact, "...But I Digress." Our sincerest regrets to Mr. Berry for any inconvenience or discomfort such an error may have caused him.

becue last week for Big Brothers.

I applaud all of these groups for their hard work in organizing and successfully running these well received functions and I apologize to the many groups I have failed to mention. The great part about the whole deal is that everyone comes out a winner. Students have the opportunity to organize and run worthy events and the recipients continuously send their thanks and

appreciation for the outpouring of much needed financial support. I participate in these events for three reasons: to support my fellow peers' efforts, to have fun, and most importantly, help those in need.

These charities on campus are perfect examples of why we should be proud to be a part of Laurier.

James Wheeler

WLUSU Board of Directors

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Speakers at this year's "Festival": (from left to right) Hafsat Abiola, Roger Clark, Francisco Rico-Martinez, Alex Neve, Martha Kumsa, Hilary Holmes and Stephen Lewis.

DEVAN HAMBROCK

DEVAN HAMBROCK & DIANA SHEPARD

"You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist."

-Indira Gandhi

Indira Gandhi's words seem to echo the atmosphere of community which permeated the third annual Amnesty International Canadian Universities Human Rights Festival at Mount Allison University last weekend in New Brunswick.

The conference, organized by a group of four students and carried out with the help of friends and volunteers, showed a high level of dedication and commitment to the cause of human rights and community activism.

From the open invitations to stay in student's homes and the locally-produced organic food prepared by the student volunteers, to the careful monitoring of the conference's impact on ecological resources, the conference was an enticing example of a grassroots initiative to promote ethical living on all levels.

The conference, more commonly referred to as the "festival", was a series of human rights lectures and workshops geared towards promoting activism among high-school and university students. The speakers, offering a wide range of experiences and coming from very diverse backgrounds, combined serious current issues with personal stories and enough humor to motivate and inspire all those in attendance.

The more politically charged lectures of the weekend came from David Morley, the Executive Director of Doctors Without Borders Canada, and Roger Clark, former Secretary General for Amnesty International Canada. While Morley discussed the delicate balance between working in vital human rights fields, such as health with the need to remain impartial in politically volatile areas; Clark emphasized the need to monitor both state and corporate policies to ensure that human rights come first and foremost on their agendas.

While Morley and Clark used controversial issues and dramatic facts to illustrate the need for human rights activism, many of the speakers also used a more personal approach in getting their messages across.

Entertaining us with African folklore and personal stories from Nigeria, Hafsat Abiola described her continued commitment to the cause of democracy supported by her father, former President of Nigeria, and her mother, both of whom were assassinated for their beliefs. Francisco Rico-Martinez, who spoke at Laurier's Human Rights and Responsibilities forum in February, gave a compelling lecture on his personal experiences as a refugee from El Salvador and his subsequent work as President of the Canadian Council for Refugees. The last speaker of the afternoon was Martha Kumsa, a journalist who spent 10 years as a prisoner of conscience in Ethiopia. Martha Kumsa testified to the supportive quality of the letters she received through PEN Canada during the darkest period of her prison term. Kumsa's testimonial was especially meaningful for Amnesty members because not only did the letters offer her hope, but they were also what eventually pressured the government into freeing her.

The keynote speaker on Saturday night was Stephen Lewis, former member of the Ontario Legislature, former UN Ambassador for Canada, former Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF and part of the international panel to investigate genocide in Rwanda. Lewis spoke to a full house about the importance of international action

against impunity and the recognition of human rights as indivisible. While maintaining an optimistic outlook for the future, Lewis did not ignore the realities of many of the international community's contradictory practices, especially those regarding foreign aid and debt forgiveness programs such as Jubilee 2000. Most importantly, Lewis urged the audience, mostly university students, to "give three months, six months, one year, two, ten, fifty to the international community".

In between lectures, the conference held workshops and discussion groups mediated by one of the guest speakers on such issues as landmines, child rights, mission work and refugee rights. Both the lectures and workshops were focused on stimulating creative problem solving in human rights activism and encouraged open commentary and debate.

There are many ways to get involved in human rights activism, ranging from simply becoming educated to working in the field.

If you would like to get involved in human rights activism and work, you can contact Amnesty International at www.amnesty.ca as well as the Laurier chapter at 00amnest@mach1.wlu.ca. Amnesty International will also be hosting a Human Rights College before the Annual General Meeting this coming June in Hamilton.

Crack, Contras and the CIA

JULIUS JONES

Most every American citizen knows that "crack kills."

This slogan possess an eerie ring that leads one to wonder not only how such a devastating contaminant is introduced into society, but also, how in the world it gets produced in the first place.

To the latter, the answer is simple but effective genius. Using baking soda, Cocaine is "cooked up" to create the extremely potent and addictive narcotic known as crack. So dubbed for its rock-like appearance, crack is significantly cheaper than cocaine and as such, has been abused primarily in economically repressed regions in the United States.

Ramon Rodriguez, himself a former money launderer for the cocaine dynasty of Pablo Escobar, surmised that "Unfortunately, crack is something which has attacked, mostly people of colour, and as far as I'm concerned, it's destroyed at least one generation of Hispanics and Blacks." Crack tears apart communities, families and lives, and generally degrades society.

The question of how Crack was introduced into the Los Angeles ghettos however, engenders a far more extensive

and complex response, which forces socially conscious American citizens to ponder the hidden agenda of their most elite security branch. Commonly known as the CIA, the agency has a history of subversive and conspiratorial activity against regionally centralized poverty in the United States. In an article written by journalist Gary Webb, discernible ties between the CIA and the cocaine trafficking schemes of the FDN (Nicaraguan Democratic Force) were documented, alleging that the CIA had used the FDN to supply Los Angeles-based gangs with cocaine.

The FDN was the anti-communist counter-revolutionary - or contra - organization operating under the auspices of the CI, and against the democratically elected Sandinista government in Nicaragua. In fact the CIA's involvement in the FDN is very-well documented and specific.

When the U.S. congress began to curb the CIA's activities during a crucial period of ideological struggle in Central America, the Agency began to look for new sources of fiscal support for their operations.

One such source of income was drug trafficking, as the FDN subsequently used the revenue from their cocaine sales to fund their counter-revolutionary activities.

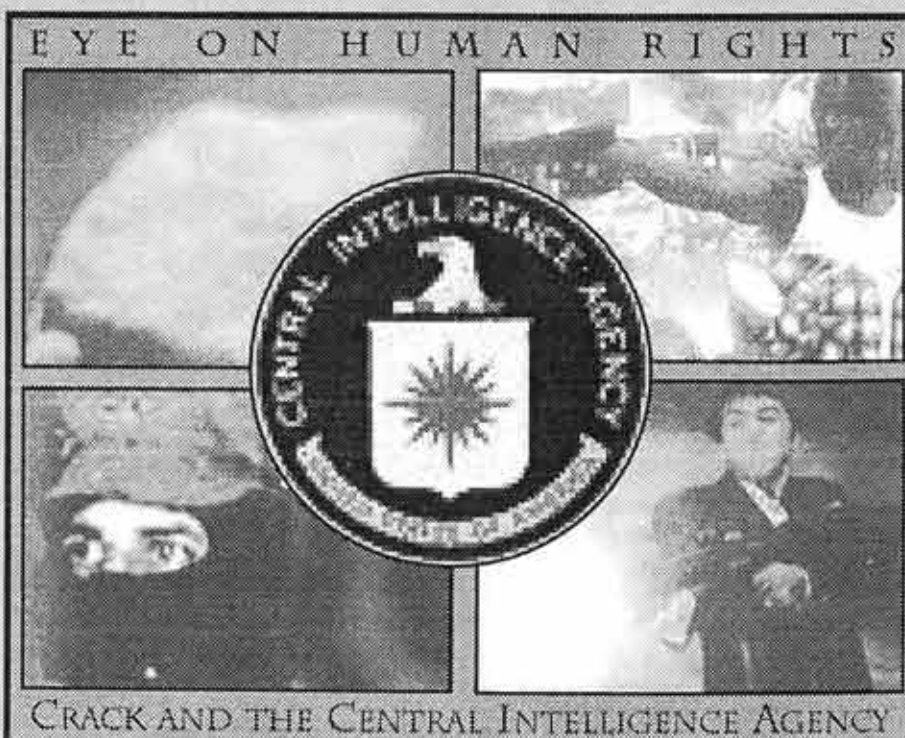
In a 1989 report, the special U.S. sub-committee produced an accepted agenda stating that "senior U.S. policy-makers were not immune to the idea that drug money was a perfect solution to the Contra's funding problems."

This is where the links become somewhat more complicated as they are based on the 'marriage of convenience' between drug smugglers and Contras. While the smugglers had plenty of cash and access to transportation, the Contras could supply intelligence, airstrips and free access to the

CIA should stand for Corruption in Action.

United States, an invaluable asset to any major drug smuggler for obvious reasons.

As the story goes, Ricky Ross, a high school dropout and petty criminal from South-Central Los Angeles, became acquainted with Danilo Blandon, an intelligent Nicaraguan exile with first-



hand access to cheap cocaine. Blandon got his cocaine from smuggler and fellow exile Norwin Meneses who had been trafficking drugs since the early

1970s, while serving as a fundraiser and recruiter for the FDN.

Ross became a virtual magnate selling the cocaine as Crack at cut-rate prices to L.A. gangs. Ross easily dominated the price war among suppliers, and by 1985, Blandon was supplying Ross with up to 100 kilograms of cocaine a week through Meneses.

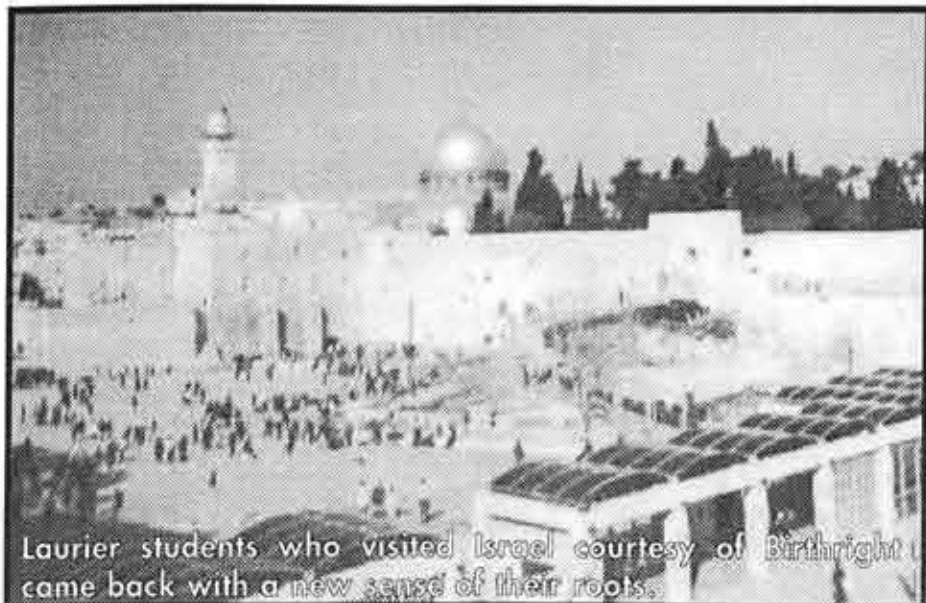
Blandon is now working as

an agent for the DEA, and testified under oath that "whatever we were running in LA, the profit was going to the Contra revolution."

Crack would become an epidemic in Los Angeles. Consequently, gangs used their new found wealth to buy guns, initiating a self-destructive war within minority communities.

While the FDN and the Sandinistas represent a vague and receding memory, the Crack war in California rages on. Alarming, it seems that as corrupt as the CIA is, it is just as effective. Without doubt, Corruption In Action would make a more fitting title for the CIA.

Birthright sends students to Israel



MIRIAM BERGER

Israel will be an experience to remember always.

Between February 9th and 27th, 2000, 1000 Jewish college and university students from across Canada were given the opportunity to experience firsthand their homeland, Israel.

This opportunity was offered through the *Canada Israel Experience Program* and *Birthright Israel*. The participants were chosen by lottery on the basis of this being their first organized trip to Israel. The trip represented a gift from one Jewish generation to its successors and included the flight, all accommodations, and food.

Birthright Israel is an initiative sponsored by philanthropists, the Israeli government, and various

Jenna Harris, Allen Teska and myself, Miriam Berger. Our group included 9 students from The University of Waterloo, 15 from Queens University, and 10 from Guelph. As a whole, Birthright sent students from all over Canada from universities that ranged from Lakehead to Saskatchewan.

The group saw and experienced sites that we could never have been imagined. When we stepped off the plane, we entered another world: a world rich in history and our roots. The days abroad were jam packed with education and excitement. Jerusalem - the Holy Land - showed us the plight of our people and religion, and the history behind it.

The lessons learned on this journey helped justify the need for Israel to protect its land in many minds. It helped explain why it is important to have the state of Israel, and why reaching peace is necessary for the Israeli people.

diverse backgrounds, our ten days linked us by one common thread: our history.

I know I have come back from Israel as a changed individual. I think this is true for many of us. The sites we've seen, the people we've bonded with, and the love we've felt will never be forgotten.

And now that I am back, and as much as I wish I was back in that holy land of Israel, I know that the memories and friends I have made will last forever.

For more information on this program and others, please check out: <www.israelexperience.org>.

Jewish organizations that see a need to educate Jewish youth on their roots and the role the state of Israel plays in their lives.

Two key donors were Charles R. Bronfman and Michael H. Steinhardt. Six students from Laurier went on the trip, included in this group were Beth Suraski, Michael Betsalel, Joel Rubinoff,

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A Conversation on Culture

We live in a culture defined by image, by the market, by what we buy. People are the bands they listen to, the movies they watch, the TV shows they're addicted to. We are our cultural references and increasingly those references are bought instead of made. At our core we have become a consumer culture. What consequences does this shift from a making to buying culture have? What place do "independent" artists have in society? Does "independent" even exist anymore?

THE PANEL:

Anthony del Col is a fourth-year film student trapped in a business program. Probably best known at Laurier as the producer of this year's independent student film *The Nature of Reality*, this self-styled film impresario intends on "revolutionizing" the Canadian film industry after graduation.

Ryan Lindsay is the hardworking producer, distributor, and marketer behind the Musician Network's last two Taster CDs (the most recent one being released in April). A fourth-year sociology and business major, he is also the Musician Network's president and treasurer. Despite his passion for music, he intends to travel after graduation and get a job outside of the music industry.

Amy Neufeld has spent her three years at Laurier as a member of the Theatre Collective and is the company manager. The third-year English major most recently appeared in "Restaurants and Restrooms" and has a hand in the Campus Fringe Festival being held from March 23 to 25 at the studio on Lodge Street. After graduation she intends to move to Toronto and give acting a go.

Aside from being a fourth-year political science major and next year's Student Publication's President, Chris Pearce is an editor and founder of Pound magazine. First published in December 1999, the urban cultural magazine has a distribution of 40,000 copies across Canada.

THE INTERVIEWER:

Drawn to communication studies by a life spent watching too much TV and an addiction to magazines, Patricia Lancia's background lies in the newspaper industry - her parents own a newspaper and she's worked for the Cord for four years. A few credits shy of graduating with degrees in comm. studies and philosophy, she plans on pursuing an MA in media and cultural studies.

Patricia Lancia: When you look at how "independent" culture has been defined, it has changed a lot, even since the early 90s. There was a time when, for instance, being lo-fi was really cool. Or you look at something like Sundance, which used to be about small movies and now it's a place where people shop their movies around to major studios. How has independent culture changed?

Anthony del Col: In terms of film, what happened was independent films really took off in 1987 with the release of *sex, lies and videotape*. It grossed \$40- or \$50-million at the box

office and it turned a lot of filmmakers' heads. Now business people look at [indie films] and think they can sell these things. It's like a cool label now to be an "independent filmmaker."

Miramax, which started out as an independent filmmaking production company, is now owned by Disney. New Line is owned by Warner Brothers. So you've got these independent films which really aren't independent, but like to be called independent.

Amy Neufeld: So it's almost like a buzzword.

PL: Like *Shakespeare in Love* or *The English Patient*.

AC: Yeah, those were made by Miramax which claims to be the greatest independent film company. Yet they are \$35- \$40-million films.

Chris Pearce: So is that then the long-term goal of an independent? To be picked up by a major company?

AC: Exactly. *The Blair Witch Project* was made for between \$35,000 and \$60,000. That was an independent film. It was picked up by everyone and then it made all this money, but originally it was an independent. I think that's where film's heading, that spirit of filmmaking where all they did was pick up a couple of camcorders and just went out and recorded it.

CP: What I like about that is that it really opens the door for people without those financial resources. As far as [Pound] went, we found that as students it was really, really difficult to get funding. But starting out on the scale that we did it was possible for us to come up with the resources independently. As we're moving forward it's becoming apparent that those resources are going to start coming in.

Ryan Lindsay: I think with music [the indie scene] really started in the early- to mid-90s. No one had even heard of Subpop before Nirvana signed on and then all of a sudden it was this great label. I think that at some point in the late-90s things changed and now there's a lot of music you won't hear about unless bands are on MuchMusic. It's always been there - bubble gum music and stuff like that - but it seems that in the last three or four years it has really blown up all over again. There's so much emphasis on that ...

AC: On bubble gum?

RL: Yeah, all marketing, no music. There's no room for the media to pay attention to smaller stuff, whereas before they reported on more diverse stuff. Now there's so much tension with this crap.

AC: Why is that?

RL: Why?

AC: Is it marketing and research and maybe they think that's what viewers want?

RL: I think it has to do with what you were saying - it's all about the business. It's the bottom line. They want sure fire hits, so if they have a formula and it's proven to work, they're going to do it every time.

AC: And that's what the bubble gum [music industry] is essentially - it's packaging.

RL: It's all about marketing. It's not about music because they know [the formula] will work. And some of the crap that's out there ... that people are buying it ...

CP: That's happened to a lot of music these days. I mean, it's taken over hip hop.

PL: Do you think that's to say that a band that's independent and doesn't serve the marketing machine is necessarily going to be better?

RL: No. There's always room for opinion, but a band that's trying to do something that hasn't been done before doesn't necessarily have a good chance because they're original. Whereas, a band that actually isn't doing anything, they just audition for a formula that's already in place ... [indie bands] don't have a chance because the record companies aren't looking for [originality].

AN: A friend and I were talking about how any band with five guys will be a success. Put five moderately attractive guys together singing kind of neat harmony and the girls go crazy.

CP: I think in a lot of cases it's the A&Rs who are putting these groups together instead of the groups coming to the A&Rs as a unit.

PL: Is it all that different, though, from the late-80s when the New Kids on the Block, Boyz 2 Men and all those groups were around? It seems rather cyclical.

RL: It's the exact same thing, but that's what I'm saying. I don't know whether [pre-fab bands] actually disappeared or whether the media just stopped paying attention and started focusing on the independents. A few years later it's completely backwards again.

PL: Do you think this is going to switch again and there's going to be another emphasis on people who are doing stuff independently?

AN: It's interesting what Anthony was saying, that independent becomes popular and then it becomes not-independent. So the stuff that is

indie in fact isn't because it's being picked up.

RL: It's interesting how stuff with integrity gets completely ruined. Like the whole "grunge" era. There's no such thing as the grunge scene, but there was a certain kind of sound - a Seattle sound or whatever - that was independent and sort of underground. Then Nirvana came in, the media moved in, blew it up and they became this huge band. Then the media was done with it and moved along and now it's back to nothing again. It was like the media wanted to blow it up, make money off it and then move on to the next thing which was New Kids on the Block except now it's BSB.

CP: It's sort of along the same lines as what happened with hip hop. There were artists in the early-90s like NAZ who came out and [companies] found them straight off the street. They had a really original flavour, but what happened was the big companies got a hold of this music and they found out how much money it could make. So the emphasis was not on maintaining the integrity or quality of music, but putting out as many albums as quickly as possible.

PL: You were talking a little bit earlier about how it seems like the goal of an independent is to become non-independent. So how do you define independent then? Is it defined by a movie budget? Is it defined by a Seattle sound? Is it defined by a really edgy publication?

RL: I think the terminology is wrong. The goal isn't not to be independent, the goal is to have the cash. If you talk to any band and say "you get paid like a major-label artist, but can still be independent," they'd be, like, "yeah."

PL: So what defines "independent" then?

CP: Is it possible to remain independent without giving up control? My experience thus far is that it isn't. The head of our magazine, he said, "I've completely sold out." Because basically that's been what's necessary to keep the magazine going - it's to give in to the demands of the advertisers, the people paying the bills.

AC: I know it's tough. As a business student I've taken courses on how to approach venture capitalists or people who have money, and it's interesting. Obviously, you have to give up some control, but there is a certain line that you cross. The perfect example is an Internet venture. You have to approach an incubator and you give up maybe 49 per cent of your company, but you still have 51 per cent. Without that money you wouldn't be able to

I think that's really where the difference lies - between creating culture and buying it.

The main idea behind independence is to maintain the integrity and quality 100%, not 51%.

have something or create something. He says he sold out, but some of his original vision is still there.

CP: The vision is still there, but ...

AC: So the vision is still there, and there are some things he maybe wanted to do, but he may have to compromise. That's something that all artists have to do - compromise a bit.

RL: Well, if you want any level of financial success, then absolutely.

CP: But the main idea behind independence would be to maintain that integrity and that quality 100 per cent, not 51 per cent.

AC: See, it's my goal as a producer to give my directors as much artistic leeway as possible. Then I can take whatever his or her vision is and try to market that.

PL: Would you say Stanley Kubrick is the ultimate example of someone who could maintain their creative control, yet still have the big box office budget?

AC: Yeah. Stanley Kubrick is a bit of an anomaly. His name and reputation was enough. *Eyes Wide Shut* took \$60-million and two years to make and it did okay.

CP: Is that all? \$60-million.

AC: Is that all? That's a lot for an artsy film.

AN: *Eyes Wide Shut*, I don't know if I'd say that was mainstream.

PL: Well, that's what it comes down to. There's someone like Kubrick vs. a P.T. Anderson. I mean even P.T. Anderson ... I wouldn't consider *Magnolia* an independent movie, but those are really where the vanguard are.

AC: [Anderson] did have artistic control. After *Boogie Nights* they told him "you can have total control, directorial cut. All we want is that it's less than three hours." So he handed in a movie that runs two hours and 59 minutes. I thought that was hilarious. Is that an independent film? It was produced by New Line, but it has an independent feel to it, all the actors worked for scale, small budget, and he had control. Would that be an independent film? I don't know.

AN: I think independent is moving away from an actual structure, toward a feel. You call a certain type of film an "artsy" film because it doesn't have big explosions or a lot of special effects. I don't know if the technically "independent" films are being seen by people.

AC: No. And that's why I mentioned *Blair Witch*. I think that's the first of what you're going to see as a big independent movement in film. I mean truly independent - small films made with camcorders. I wouldn't consider *Magnolia* independent.

CP: From what you say it sounds like *Blair Witch* is the benchmark for other films.

AC: It's not the benchmark, but it's the beginning for new independent film.

CP: On what basis? Just the low budget?

AC: Low budget, but more the tools. They shot it quickly and they shot it on materials that are readily available at low cost. That's what I mean by independent film. That's why you see the whole digital movement, because you can edit a film on a PC or an iMac.

PL: Chris, being from the publishing side, how does all this translate into print? Is there something that defines an independent publication?

It seems a little more ambiguous where the line is between independent and not.

CP: Yeah it is. I was trying to think about how we define an independent publication and again it comes back to where your revenues are coming from and the influence of those revenues. I don't think there really is such a thing as an independent publication because no matter what scale you're on you're always going to have the influence of your advertisers.

PL: What about people who say, "I'm not going to do advertising. I'm just going to put together this little zine in my basement on my laptop (or whatever) and just Xerox it and hand it out?" What about something like that?

CP: That's as small scale as you get. I don't think that would even qualify as a publication. What scale are we talking about here?

RL: What about a publication that runs without advertising? What if you get cash from sales?

CP: That's the other option, but as far as publications go, something as small as what Patricia is talking about isn't really a valid publication.

RL: Why is that not a valid publication?

CP: Just because I don't think it's hitting the numbers of people that you'd expect the average publication to hit.

RL: Isn't that really an independent publication?

PL: Lets go back to one of the original things I was saying before we started - about producing our culture rather than buying it. We have come to a point where what you said is rather indicative of our culture. We buy our culture, and if it isn't out there being bought then it seems somehow not to be relevant. Is that just the way our culture is now?

RL: That's the disgusting side of it. I don't like that stuff, but at the same time I'm not happy to sit there by myself and play guitar and have that be it. I think a lot of people that are artists need a little bit of both. They need somebody else's music. So I think the buying of the culture will always be there.

I don't personally agree with why it happens on such a large scale. There's so much out there that we could be choosing from, but we're not because the media doesn't make us aware of the selection. The Internet is supposed to be eliminating that, but people aren't downloading MP3s as much as you would think. They're still going to HMV and buying whatever big band is out there.

AN: Sometimes I think there's just too much on the Internet. I get on it and I'm off in 15 minutes because I don't know what I'm looking for. I don't even know where to begin.

CP: There's also a question of time too. Some people would rather just go and buy it.

RL: It's just odd. People could wait a couple hours and it's there and they can save \$20. And yet I'll do it myself; I still go to HMV.

PL: Do you think that's going to change? When you really think about it, the Internet and MP3s are still new for a lot of people.

CP: I think as it does change you'll see corporate intervention in the process at some level. It's already happening.

AN: If people see where they can make money, they'll make it. The Internet is already a forum for advertising.

RL: [Music companies] tried to ignore it, tried to say it was bad. Then they decided they had to

embrace it and now they're working with the technology to make sure people can download stuff, as long as the money is coming in.

PL: So where do the options lie for people who are making their own music and they want to get an audience? Or people who are making their own films at universities? People who are publishing their own stuff? Where does the forum lie for these people who are out there doing it themselves and aren't part of the big marketing, sell-sell-sell machine?

AC: They might not be a part of the big machine, but they have to create their own sell-sell-sell machine. Artistic projects are meant to be shown. Some people create art just as a form of self-expression, but the majority of artistic endeavors are meant to be shown. So why not show it to as many people as possible? From the very first day you should always be thinking about your audience and will they enjoy it.

RL: I don't know how some Waterloo band ... are you saying "how can they become known internationally?"

PL: No. I don't know whether the difference between indie culture and the rest of it is a matter of scale or a matter of budget, but that's what the discussion is about. You look at someone who is out there expressing themselves or saying, "I'm creating this, this is part of our shared culture and we're doing it ourselves. This isn't something I have to go to a marketing machine to buy." This is an expression of what is going on at the level people live on.

I don't know whether it's a matter of priorities in terms of what we consider our culture, but just that [the independent level] is more real, it's more in touch with who people really are. Instead of something like an SClub7 which is this insanely tied-in product. It just seems a little more real to me, people who are doing it themselves. People we know, bands who are at Laurier or someone from Student Publications making a movie. I think that's really where the difference lies - between creating culture and buying it. I don't know whether you notice that

Blair Witch Project was shot quickly on materials that are readily available at low cost. That's independent.

more with theatre because a lot of students do their own theatre.

AN: With theatre there has always been the independent side and the big budget side, and in some ways the independent side flourishes. I can go out on a street and perform a piece of theatre with no budget and nothing and I'm still doing it. That, I think, is the most base form of independent artistic expression.

Specifically for Laurier, there is tons of independent theatre going on because now that we have our own space we can do whatever we want, whenever we want. It's hard to get into a discussion about movement away from corporate influences with theatre because they've always existed together. Some shows have ads on the programs and others are programs on a piece of paper that someone photocopies an hour before the show.

PL: What would you say is more important? Is it the independent? Is it the big-budget stuff? Or is there room for these two things to co-exist and they both have a lot to offer?

AN: I think it's about getting whatever it is you have to say out there. I think the way you do it,

unless the means are subverting your message, as long as you're getting your message out there ... In some ways an independent does want to just be bigger because then you can get to more people with your message.

RL: I think they can co-exist, but sometimes it doesn't seem fair. I go to the movies twice a year because I wait for movies that seem realistic or apply to my life. But you're not going to see *Nature of Reality* at Silver City. Maybe someday you will, but how hard you have to work to get that compared to Bruce Willis's new movie, which we know is going to suck before we even watch it. I thought *American Beauty* had some cool themes to it, but movies like that are shown way less.

PL: All of you have experience in producing your own stuff. For people who want to do this and think it can only be done at a music studio or wherever, it can be very intimidating. What kind of advice do you have for these people?

CP: Are you talking grassroots?

PL: Totally grassroots.

CP: The big thing I would say is that you really have to work 10 times as hard to prove yourself because you are a student. One of the big things we had to do was get financing and nobody wanted to put the faith in us. Nobody wanted to take a risk and it had a lot to do with the fact that we were students and we hadn't proven ourselves yet. It's kind of a reverse logic: in order to get the money you need to get started you already have to have done something, but people aren't willing to give you the chance.

AC: I'm glad you asked that because that's the whole theme in *Nature of Reality* - find your passion and pursue it. There are tons of obstacles, but go out and do it. It's going to be really hard, but in the end you're going to enjoy it.

AN: I think that's exactly it. You have to be willing to put in the time. It's a huge sacrifice and if you don't believe in it you won't do it.

CP: I agree you have to be dedicated, you have to be willing to sacrifice everything else.

AN: Just do it and keep at it. It sounds like pretty simple advice.

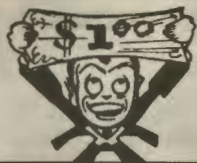
RL: I think everyone's mentioned it - you're not going to do it if you don't really want to. If you

hit the first roadblock and you quit, then you really didn't want to do it anyway. Ultimately it pays off because you're doing what you want to be doing. It isn't necessarily work if it's fun. It might be hard fun, but ...

CP: I was thinking there's something that ties into the whole issue of independence, and that's origins. Having a strong idea of how things work and a broad knowledge of what you're getting into.

PL: You have been talking a lot about the industry and the product. You also mentioned it's not worth doing unless you get it out to an audience. Do you really think it has to be about the industry or about putting out a product? Or can it just be about "I'm doing this as a form of expression and I might share it with a few people," but it fosters a sense of reaching out to other people?

RL: That's kind of what I was trying to get at. If you're really into it then maybe the results aren't the important part. If your band never makes it out of the basement, but when you get together and you're playing and you like it, then keep your day job, but you still like it.



Get some sleep you



Having trouble sleeping? Try reading some of the required textbooks around here.

YVONNE FARAH

Trying to get enough sleep is one problem all students face. Between academic, professional and social commitments the average student has difficulties finding the time to get the proper amount of sleep.

However, there are those stu-

dents who are able to catch an appropriate amount of sleep each night but still are tired throughout the day.

For those people, here are a few strategies that may up your energy without the aid of stimulants.

Firstly, you might be getting more than six hours of sleep every night

but that may not be enough for you. Try to figure out how many hours of sleep you need with the following method.

On the first night get 10 hours of sleep and then on each progressive night sleep one less hour until you figure out your sleep set point and then stick with it.

UW Professor to kick-off annual Peace and Conflict Studies conference

AMY JOHNSON

On Thursday, March 16, the University of Waterloo's distinguished Political Scientist and professor Dr. John McGarry will present the keynote address at this year's second annual Peace and Conflict Studies conference entitled, 'Ethnic Conflict: At Home and Abroad'. Dr. McGarry's insight and expertise will be a fitting introduction to the ambitious March 17th conference which will bring together a host of dynamic speakers and participants from around the Great Lakes region.

The conference, which runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., will focus on a wide range of ethnic conflict issues in its many forms around the world and in our domestic backyard.

Some of the areas being explored include: Ghana, Chechnya, the Middle

East and Aboriginal issues in the Canadian context. Conference organizers invite any interested community members to attend.

The conference includes a free lunch and will be held at Conrad Grebel College with a modest "pay-as-much-as-you-can" registration fee of up to \$10.


Dr. McGarry's March 16th address, which starts at 7:00p.m. in Grebel's Great Hall, is free for all who would like to attend. There will be a brief reception following Dr. McGarry's address.

Registration for Friday's event will take place from 8:30a.m. to 9:00a.m. on March 17, outside the Great Hall at Conrad Grebel College.

For further information, please contact Victoria Kellett at (519) 746-9276 <vkelllett@excite.com> or Chris Bjornestad at (519) 884-2373, <cdbjorne@artsmail.uwaterloo.ca>.

Strange But True

1. Money isn't made out of paper; it's made out of cotton.
2. A bee's wings flap 250 times per second. That's what makes the buzzing noise.
3. Snow is technically considered a mineral.
4. In Casablanca, Humphrey Bogart never said, "Play it again, Sam."
5. In Yakutsk, Siberia, the average winter temperature is 46 degrees below zero. It's so cold milk freezes as soon as it comes out of the cow, so it is delivered in round chunks, not bottles.
6. Ancient Egyptians believed cats were sacred. When a pet cat died, the bereaved owner shaved off his eyebrows as part of the mourning ritual.
7. Dead Egyptians were buried with bread, wine, fruit and nuts so if they got hungry in their tomb they'd have something to snack on.
8. There are one hundred septillion possible ways to play the ten opening moves in a game of chess.
9. The most common name in the world is Mohammed.
10. A whale penis is called a dork.



Everyone who keeps telling you to drink a minimum of eight 250 ml cups of water is right. It keeps you hydrated and, therefore, more energetic.

Even if you are not thirsty all the time, if you drink at least two litres of water a day you will be replacing all the water you lose during the day. If you can not tolerate the idea of drinking all that water in one day, there are tricks you can use.

Try putting lemon or lime in your water to give it a fruity taste.

Carry a bottle around everywhere you go. This way if you get thirsty between classes or during a meeting you will have something on the ready and you will not have the urge to stop at the pop machine.

Although other beverages, such as juice, tea and coffee, will give you a similar level of hydration, carbonated drinks will not.

With drinking the right thing comes eating the right thing. So that

means starting the day with a well-balanced breakfast. This can include a wide assortment of foods but it does not mean things such as donuts, chips and chocolate or nothing at all. Your body needs something healthy to start off your metabolism for the day. As the day goes on lunch and dinner are both important meals. However, snacks throughout the day can be just as crucial to your daily diet as long as your snacks are healthy and in small quantities. This means any-

thing from fruit and vegetables to protein and carbohydrates all of these are alright as long as they are in small amounts.

A good night's sleep, a lot of water and the right types of food, these can all lead to a more energetic person. So the next time you find yourself needing to take a nap a few hours after waking up from a long sleep, then try one of these suggestions.

Try to figure out how many hours of sleep you need.

Luck of the Irish Drinks

In honour of St. Patrick's Day here is a wide assortment of beverages for the day that are not green beer. Enjoy them!

- 1 1/2 oz. Sugar syrup or to taste
- 3-4 dashes Orange bitters

Mix all ingredients with cracked ice in a shaker or blender and strain into a chilled glass.

Irish Canadian

- 1/2 oz. Irish Mist
- 1 1/2 oz. Canadian Whiskey

In a mixing glass half-filled with ice, combine both of the ingredients. Stir well. Strain into a cocktail glass.

Irish Eyes

- 1 oz. Irish Whiskey
- 1/4 oz. Green Crème de Menthe
- 2 oz. Heavy Cream

Shake well with crushed ice. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a cherry.



Irish Magic

- 1 oz. Irish Whiskey
- 1/4 oz. White Crème de Cacao
- 5 oz. Orange Juice

Pour all ingredients over ice in a glass. Stir.

Irish Surfer

- 1 1/4 oz. Irish Mist
- 3 oz. Orange Juice
- Sugar
- Club Soda

Shake Irish Mist, Orange Juice and Sugar. Pour into a glass and fill it with Club soda.

Irish Dream

- 1/2 oz. Irish Cream Liqueur
- 1/2 oz. Hazelnut Liqueur
- 1/2 oz. Dark Crème de Cacao
- 1 scoop Vanilla Ice Cream

Combine ingredients in a blender with ice. Blend thoroughly. Pour into a tall glass. Serve with a straw.

Irish Frost Shooter

- 1 shot Bailey's Irish Cream
- 1 splash Cream of Coconut
- 1 splash Half & Half

Shake and strain. Garnish with cinnamon.

Irish Kill

- 1 oz. Irish Whiskey
- 1 oz. Scotch
- 1 oz. Lemon Juice



NOW

HIRING



4WLUSP

All positions will be closed on Friday, March 17th.

Place completed application forms in WLUSP President James Muir's mailbox in the Cord office on the 3rd floor of the Fred Nichols Campus Centre.

Managers...

Production Manager
(\$5,000 honoraria)

Advertising Production Manager

Cord Staff...

News Editor(s)
Copy Editor
Opinion Page Editor

Entertainment Editor(s)
Sports Editor(s)
On-Line Editor
International Editor

Features Editor
Student Life Editor
Arts-Page Editor

Production Assistants
Advertising Assistants
Circulation & File Manager

Administration...

Information Technology Team
BOD Secretary

PR Manager
A/R Clerk

Keystone...

Assistant Editor
Sports Editor
Residence Editor

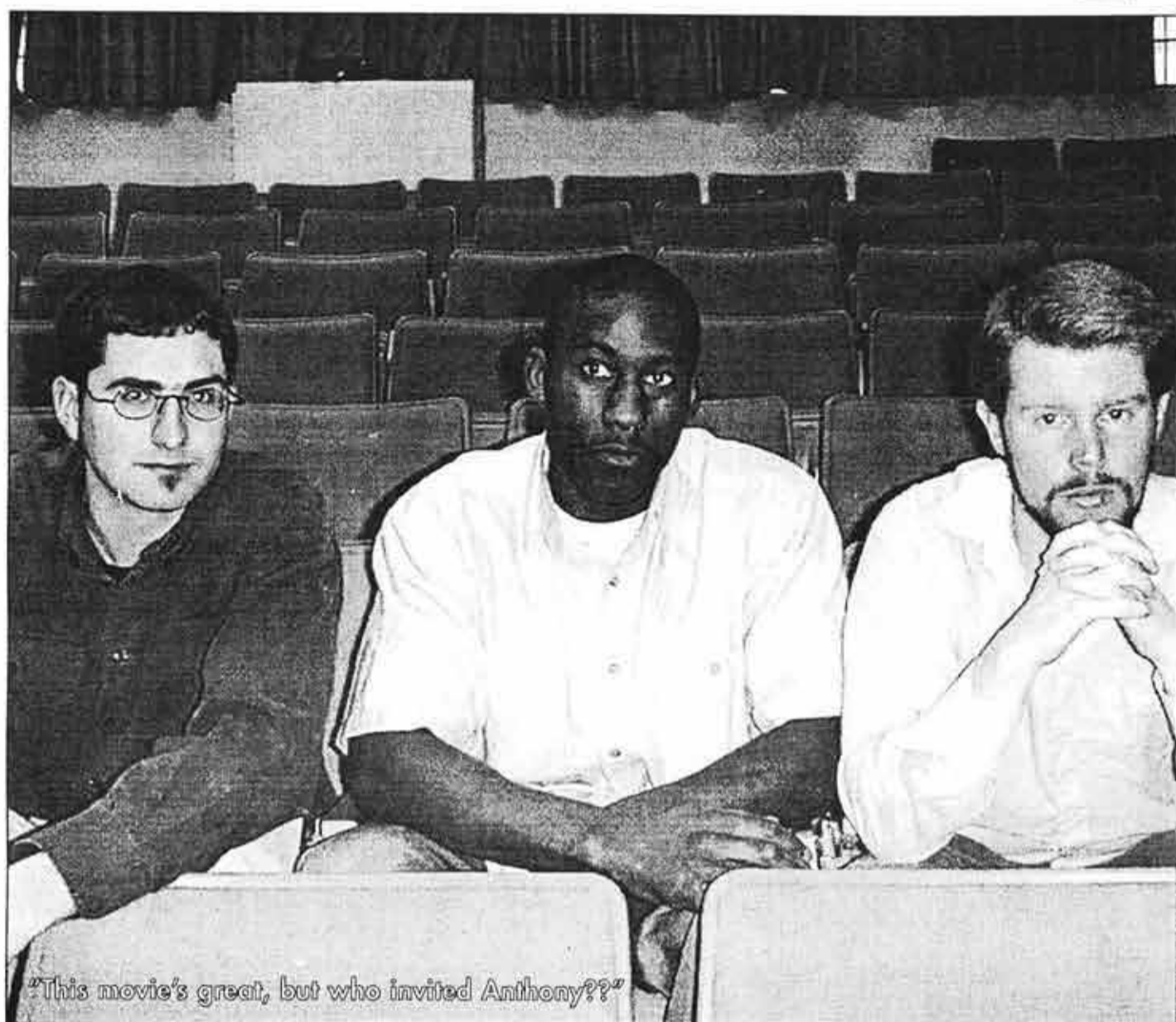
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The nature of philosophy



"This movie's great, but who invited Anthony???"

MARTIN KUEBER

BLAIR MILLER

When Mike Forler, the photogenic and charismatic actor playing the main role in James Muir's *The Nature of Reality*, introduces himself as Naz (short for Nazareth) I couldn't help but smirk. Naz fills a very Christ-like role within the film, both as a charismatic philosopher of the people, and as someone whose moral conviction leads him to go against the seemingly misguided

people around him.

For Naz, the university is like the desert. Moral calamity beckons at every corner and all he can do is hold onto his doubt and trudge forward trying to get through his business degree. After a philosophy class where Naz's professor explains the typical Descartes 'ball of wax problem', the spiral begins. If we can't tell if this ball of wax is 'real', how can we be sure of reality in general?

How do we even have 'owner-

ship' of our own reality, as Naz puts it, if we fail to be sure of its existence? Make no mistake, these are very important questions.

The imposing importance of these questions places Naz amidst a valuable crisis as he becomes a student in the wrong department and decides, as so many of us do, to comment against his surroundings by flaunting responsibility in a way that indicates concern for the more important things in life.

As a sort of existential rebel who can't put up with the pragmatic undertones of a business degree excluding what is truly meaningful to him, Naz wants to avoid the dull repetition many people call 'life'. It would seem as though philosophy class has awakened within Naz an awareness of the precarious nature of our reality.

Now he intends to live life to the fullest instead of "working [his] ass off at a gas station to buy things he doesn't need," as his comrade-in-wandering Tyler Durden says in *Fight Club*.

Those are the things you get from the story - if you are interested in philosophy like I am. If you don't happen to understand a lot of the language in the vacuous soliloquies that are imposed upon you throughout the film, then, well, you get lost. (Even

frivolously to wax philosophical about his role in reality.

Surely, many of us have trouble searching for the answers Naz is searching for, but the quest strikes us more emotionally than this film does.

Concerned with philosophy, *The Nature of Reality* comes all too close to the typical philosophical trap: It fails to link its well-worded aphorisms and theories to our meaningful lives.

I must admit I hope someday to be a filmmaker myself. And, as a philosophy student, finding a way to bring important moral issues into films is a predicament for myself as well.

The overall point gets lost on overly lyrical aphorisms.

But the way to join the two isn't to make 22-year-olds in business speak as if they were world-weary philosophers. In such cases, the overall point gets lost on overly lyrical aphorisms that

I got lost, and I understood all the dialogue - when I could hear it.)

As free individuals, we all have control over our realities. We have a say in what becomes important to us, but it isn't easy. Other values compete with us, trying to impose views. Muir makes an attempt to show us a person at the center of these competing forces, trying to preserve his uniqueness.

But when Naz isn't talking like a student, his dialogue becomes the inane lingo of a public speaker trying

end up being poetry only for the sake of itself.

Not only does Naz's pivotal statement, "nothing is just philosophy" greatly misunderstand the task of philosophy itself, but by saying as much, the film fails to connect Naz's theory with real-life emotions that would make the film meaningful to the audience.

Because of this misguided aphorism, the film - like Robert's limited scope of understanding - is indeed 'just philosophy'.

Hannibal eats it up

ALEX PFEIFER

New in bookstores and on its way to the big screen is *Hannibal*, the sequel to 1992's *The Silence of the Lambs*. *Hannibal* is not just the inevitable manhunt that would ensue after Dr. Hannibal Lecter's fantastic escape at the end of *SotL*. Nor is it just about the danger in trying to escape a psychopath's revenge. *Hannibal* is about the influence of Lecter: The ways in which he has controlled and often destroyed the lives of everyone he's met.

The villain of *Hannibal* is Mason Verger, a former patient of Dr. Lecter and a former victim as well. Not a victim in the way you would think but in such a manner almost more horrifying than cannibalism. The condition of Verger will be a feat of movie-magic for his skinless face and lack of eyelids.

Verger is, unfortunately, a weakness of *Hannibal*. The only way to make a suitable enemy for Dr. Lecter is to make someone who is just as warped but in an entirely different way. His scheme for revenge isn't even all that creative in as much as it is gory. Wild pigs chew off Lecter's feet and

then the next day, eat the rest.

But Lecter is artistic in everything he does. His love of the arts dominates much of the book and his character. It creates his false-identity, it gives him his elegance and it even brings about his capture.

Hannibal is not exactly one of the great books of western civilization, yet at the same time it's perfect. It shocks, excites and terrifies. It has everything you could

It is an extremely good sign when a director of as much talent and work behind him as Scott would so readily take the helm. He's never been out of work and he must see a great deal of potential in the book for something he can expand upon.

Two screenplays were written based on Thomas Harris' novel. The first met with little acclaim among the film's producers. The second, written by Steve Zaillian

Hannibal done: rights bought.

want out of it and it even provides the kinds of sudden twists that made me swear out loud as I read. As soon as author Thomas Harris finished writing *Hannibal* (he previously wrote *Silence of the Lambs* and *Manhunter*, which both involve Lecter) the rights to the film were bought and pre-production began.

Jonathan Demme, who directed *SotL*, showed no interest in *Hannibal*, saying it was too violent for him. Shortly thereafter, Ridley Scott (director of *Alien* and the upcoming *Gladiator*) took the job.

(*Schindler's List*, *Mission: Impossible*) has been very popular and is said to be even better than the book. Anthony Hopkins eagerly signed on to *Hannibal*. However, Jodie Foster declined to return to the role of FBI agent Clarice Starling. Some thought she was concerned with the violent content but she revealed she will be directing her own film this summer.

Angelina Jolie, Cate Blanchett, Kate Winslet, Nicole Kidman, Hillary Swank, Calista Flockhart, Helen Hunt and Gillian Anderson

were all among the young actresses rumored as replacements for Jodie Foster. Anderson was the overwhelming favorite among those interested in the sequel. However, her *X-Files* contract actually states she cannot play another FBI agent so long as she is still on the show.

Eventually, Julianne Moore met with Scott and was given the role of Clarice Starling within 24 hours.

In my opinion, Moore is the perfect person to replace Foster. She has the talent and the aged dignity needed to make the bizarre twists of *Hannibal* credible. When I first heard about a sequel to *Silence of the Lambs* my first thoughts were of the impossibility of a repeat of its Academy Awards sweep in 1992.

What will eventually either make or break *Hannibal* is the ending. If it can be pulled off, not only tastefully but also believably the film will be absolutely incredible. It will require phenomenal acting, dialogue, special effects and makeup.

When you see it in a theatre for the first time you will hear people's jaws hitting the floor in the last 10 minutes of the film. Some with awe, but most with disgust.

an entertaining reminder...

The 2nd Annual Awareness Through Arts Gala

Just a "heads - up" about Laurier's annual celebration of multiculturalism taking place in the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall at 8:00pm tonight. There will be a variety of artistic performances reflecting Multiculturalism and diversity including guest speaker T. Sher Singh, who will offer insights into multiculturalism in Canada as well as art and dance exhibits. The event is free and will include a reception catered by the Rude Native on King Street with food representing different ethnic backgrounds.

Maneesh Candy



Oasis
Standing On The Shoulder Of Giants

Oasis finally returns with what they claim to be a new direction for the new millenium (the one that doesn't start for 10 months...). The claim is a valid one, however, since most of the songs are laid back and rely heavily on rhythm- a change from their walls of guitars sound. There are also several instruments that would have sounded completely foreign on previous releases but seem to work quite well on this release, such as the violin, sitar and flute. The album contains Liam Gallagher's first Oasis song "Little James." It fits in quite nicely among the other songs and successfully avoids the overkill dominating several of the other songs. Overall, the album is quite an enjoyable listen, showcasing a different

side of Oasis. It comes with great timing too, just when some may have thought they had nothing new to offer. They prove they do indeed have more ideas and from the sounds of it, have more to offer. I'm not quite sure of this but the two songs Noel sings seem to have that stupid vocal effect Cher now uses to fool us into thinking she can still sing. It's quite a frightening development.



The Smashing Pumpkins
Machina/The Machines Of God

No one was sure what to expect with this album. Would it be back to basics or experiment more? Well, about half of this album is their same old tired My Bloody Valentine sounding material. So tired that it's hard to listen to the 73 minute album without getting extremely bored. A problem Billy Corgan has is stretching his

songs out way too long. "Raindrops + Sunshowers" and "Blue Skies Bring Tears" are both excellent and original songs that run far too long. Both songs use the same rhythm over and over and they lose their impact quickly. Most of the songs on this album suffer from a similar fate. Yet those that do not are usually the better songs. Corgan is developing a knack for writing songs with unexpected arrangements that frequently surprise the listener.

For example the almost 10-minute "Glass And The Ghost Children" sounds the same for the first part, then goes off into a completely different direction. This is something Corgan does well and should stick with. Lose the heavy guitar attack and develop his broadening sense of arrangements that is showcased so well on much of this release.

The Unband
Retarder

While The Unband has the energy of most punk bands, they combine it with blistering guitar solos and rhythms. This is nothing new because that just puts them in with the sea of other loud blistering guitar bands dominating the Grade 10 scene. You know, the bands who have somehow become 'alternative'



when they would have been called 'heavy metal' five years ago..? The album is filled with energy, as is any album by similar sounding bands like Korn or Limp Bizkit. However, that style has been succes-

fully saturated and no one needs to hear more of it at this point. Unfortunately, The Unband will never be noticed in the large sea of similar sounding bands out there today. Most likely the only reason why they were signed was because they fit this trend quite well. However, they do have their moments with amusing songs such as "\$#@?!!" (yes, that's the title of the song), "(Sure Do Feel Like A) Piece Of S**t," the touching ballad "Cocaine Whore" and The Cord's party anthem: "Drink And Rock." Also interesting is a cover of a personal theme song of mine, Billy Squier's "Everybody Wants You."

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A Big Dance Lesson



Stewart Hare and UNC Wilmington look to upset Cincinnati in the first round... don't bet on it, though

MATTHEW CADE

Everyone's favourite month of the year is here again and what's important is not who wins, but how much money you can make picking those winners.

For this reason, the Cord has decided to offer their thoughts on this year's field of 64. You have less than a week to decide the outcomes of 63 games, and if you don't know which of those countless analysts to trust with your money, here are a few tips to remember before you finish filling out those brackets:

1) Who's hot, who's not

Although the tournament takes three full weeks, the eventual champion only has to win six games. For this reason, teams who are hot or who are streaking at this time of year can be expected to continue rolling.

In 1997, the Arizona Wildcats (a four seed in their bracket) defeated three #1 seeds on their way to winning the national championship. Look for schools who have played well to finish their seasons to carry that momentum into the tournament.

2) Strength at the point

The Chicago Bulls may be able to win six NBA titles without a true PG, but the college game is different. Point guards are crucial in March as they can often have significant control over the tempo of the game. The ball will be in the hands of the playmaker much more often and an intelligent floor general can be the difference in games. Last year's final four teams were run by four outstanding point guards: Khalid El-Amin at UConn, William Avery at Duke, Mateen Cleaves at Michigan State, and Scoonie Penn at Ohio State. Upsets are often a product of a

strong backcourt, so look for that when searching for your Cinderella. 3) That's a nice record, but who did you beat?

There are always questions over how teams are seeded by the selection committee, and controversy over the teams who are in and the teams who are out. The committee answers many of these questions by playing the "tough schedule" card. For example, if Team X beat Team Y during the season and finished with a better record but Team Y faced and beat a couple of top 25 teams, Team Y gets in and Team X does not.

The tough schedule argument should also be considered when picking teams in your pool. For example, six teams from the Big Ten were ranked in the top 25 at one time or another. All these teams have played a higher percentage of their games against quality competition.

4) What do the rankings mean, anyhow?

To start, no #1 seed has ever lost in the first round, and in the last five years, only one #1 didn't make it through to the Sweet 16. The #2 vs. #15 matchups are almost as certain, as a #15 has defeated a #2 only three times in the history of the tournament.

After that, things get a lot more interesting. Eights and nines are pick'em's - pay no attention to who's who. The results are historically similar for sevens and tens. Last year, three #10's won their opening games.

The most fun comes from the #5 vs. #12 contests. Since the field expanded to 64 teams in 1985, only once have all four #5's advanced to the second round. Four times in the last 15 years two went down in the first round, including last season when Detroit topped UCLA and the South West Missouri State Bears beat Wisconsin.

In fact, since 1985, 18 #12's have made it to the second round, and 10 of those 18 advanced to the Sweet 16, including the Bears last year.

5) What matters is that nothing really matters at all

The great thing about all the speculation is that, come Thursday, none of the talk really matters. You can look at the brackets and the individual matchups and rationalize all you want, but there will still be surprises, there will still be close calls, and there will still be upsets.

As well, there is a flip side to every one of these factors, and they will inevitably come back to haunt you. For example, despite our insistence that streaking teams will fare well in the tournament, conference championships (which teams have just finished playing) have historically meant nothing. Since 1980, champs from four of the strongest conferences in the U.S. have made only average performances. Half (24 of 48 teams) lost on the first weekend, while the other half made it to at least the Final Four. In fact, of the

Knights' team this year and is picking the Hoosiers to make a little noise in the second round when they upset Oklahoma State.

Other things to watch for:

Cincinnati is known for going down early. Without their leading scorer, Kenyon Martin, watch for this Bearcat trend to continue.

St. John's has proven this year that they can play with anyone in the nation, but recently strife has hit the Red Storm. Most important is the possible absence of point guard and team leader Eric Barkley. With him, the Storm will go the the Final Four, but without him, watch for Gonzaga to sneak through into the Sweet 16.

The Final Four

Michigan State - The team with the best shot at winning the tournament, the Spartans have experience, leadership, chemistry, size and Mateen Cleaves.

St. John's - With Barkley, if the Johnnies can make it past a scary Gonzaga squad, they'll make a run and should survive their bracket. Arizona will give them their only

trouble.

Temple - Duke is good, but the Owls are older and their tenacious match-up zone defense

Strength at the point is crucial in March

will cause everybody problems. John Chaney's team is also arguably the best team in the tournament behind the Spartans.

last 13 NCAA Champions, only four were also conference champs. So who do I pick? The field's wide open this year, and all the # 1's are vulnerable. Furthermore, seven of last week's top 16 teams did not make it past their conference tournament quarterfinals while another two lost in their semis. With all this in mind, here are the Cord's Sweet 16:

Duke, Temple, Stanford, UConn, Miami (Fl.), Tulsa, Indiana St., Purdue, St. John's, Michigan St., Syracuse, UCLA, Iowa St., Illinois, Fresno St. and Indiana.

The experts are watching for both Indiana and UCLA to fall in the early going, but the Cord like's Bobby

will cause everybody problems. John Chaney's team is also arguably the best team in the tournament behind the Spartans.

Stanford - Cincinnati is untested without Martin and UConn just has been too inconsistent. A sleeper in the South is Miami (Fl.), but the Cardinal will prove too strong.

So there it is. Whether or not you pay attention to any of this poppycock is your own business, but make sure you get your money down. Be it careful consideration or just flipping a coin, there's no time like March for having a reason to cheer.

Let the Madness begin.

WWF vs. WCW: Ratings is War

MANEESH SEHDEV

Professional wrestling is the subject of constant attacks from the media concerning its content. It has changed drastically from the days of 'good guy versus bad guy' in the 80's.

It all started when the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) began airing Monday Night Raw on cable television in America. No longer was wrestling syndicated and only seen on weekend afternoons with crappy matches. Now it offered high quality matches and a more cohesive style of program, much like NBC's Saturday Night's Main Event did in the 80's. It seemed like a good idea at the time, giving wrestling fans something they could enjoy on a regular basis.

But it would all change once the WWF's rival, World Championship Wrestling (WCW), brought their own Monday night program to the airwaves called Nitro. This began the war between the two corporations which continues today.

WCW became as prominent as the WWF and could be seen just as easily, something that had not been the case for several years. The war between the two promotions was now in

full swing, and consisted of each constantly trying to outdo the other in the quest for higher ratings.

The questionable content we see in today's wrestling is due completely to the promotions war between the two corporations. However, this only occurred once wrestling had once again become part of mainstream entertainment. Arguably, this occurred when WCW debuted the NWO. The NWO were a group of mean wrestlers who went around beating up anyone who got in their path and interfered in the matches of others just so they could beat up some more people. The key part of the NWO's success, however, was the fact that the whole story involved Hulk Hogan transformation into a 'bad guy'.

Previously, Hogan had always been a good guy and most of us remember how he told us to take our vitamins and say our prayers in the 80's. But we've all grown up since then and Hogan saying all those things just seemed cheesy in the 90's. So WCW took the biggest name in the game and turned him into a bad guy. Now that he was being a general badass, fans were loving him. Those who enjoyed Hogan's antics in the 80's had now grown up

and wanted to see him do something more rebellious. Hogan did this quite well.

Soon after in the WWF, the same change occurred. Wrestling fans wanted someone more radical, someone who they could admire for his bad attitude. The WWF found this attitude in 'Stone Cold' Steve Austin.

Austin provided an excellent starting point for the WWF's new direction. He swore, beat up just about anyone, drank beer in the ring and didn't seem to give a damn about what anyone thought. He became hugely popular with the fans and was catapulted into superstardom. Eventually the WWF started gearing Raw towards a more mature audience by including sexual overtones in many of their storylines. The new direction caught on well with most fans and the WWF had returned to the mainstream.

Raw became a huge ratings grabber, beating many other Monday night shows from other networks. This was most likely due to their edgy style of programming, something that mirrored shows like the Jerry Springer Show. Trash TV was the hottest thing going and the WWF cashed in on the trend by having matches such as ones in which one woman

would be required to tear the clothes off the other one in order to win.

The rise in sexual overtones also brought a rise in violence. Fans now needed more than a simple technical wrestling match to keep them entertained. Both promotions began using gimmick matches, adding the use of foreign objects so the competitors could literally beat each other bloody. This trend hit the big two promotions after Extreme Championship Wrestling (ECW) introduced the technique a few years earlier. The growing number of bloodthirsty fans led to ECW being brought to TNN. Their Friday night program displayed their product quite well, showing wrestling fans a completely new style not seen before. ECW matches are quite violent, involving the use of just about any foreign objects such as tables, glass bottles, thumb tacks and even fire.

Professional wrestling's popularity seems to be at a decline but it has earned and kept many loyal fans. It's been cleaned up well with the sexual overtones kept at a minimum and the violence toned down. This is a step in the right direction since no one seems to be complaining anymore and we can all just sit back and watch men in tights beat the crap out of each other.

Warren to represent Canada

JULIO McALLISTER

As a member of the Laurier Women's hockey team for six years, Heather Warren has represented the Hawks both on and off the ice and accomplished numerous goals.

This season, Heather led Laurier to a bronze medal at the OUA championships. In her final year at Laurier, Warren has now accomplished her ultimate goal: this Spring

she will represent her country.

Heather has been a WLU student for six years and will be completing her third degree this summer. Throughout the years Heather has been an active member in a variety of activities ranging from varsity hockey to Women's Athletic Association President to residence life as a Don.

As well, she has worked many jobs, both paid and volunteer posi-

tions all over campus. But now she will shift her focus to representing Canada in the near future.

Heather has been chosen out of 2,000 applicants to be one of 500 Canadian youths to become an "official Canadian Tall Ship Millennium Challenge crew member in an international competition billed as the 'race of the century'."

To apply, Heather was required to submit a two-page essay describ-

ing why she felt she should represent her country. She submitted the essay over the summer and did not find out she had been accepted until the beginning of February. Her selection fulfills a life-long dream to represent her country and to communicate her proud feelings of being a Canadian.

The race will set sail in various ports of call including the Netherlands, Spain, UK, Bermuda, Canada and the United States. Warren has been chosen for the longest leg of the race which begins in Cadiz, Spain on May 6th, and finishing in Hamilton, Bermuda on June 11th.

During her 37-day trip, Heather will be learning every aspect behind the role of crewmember - cooking, cleaning, hauling lines and raising sails. Another of her tasks is to keep a daily journal.

At the same time, she will also be competing in individual and team races, sharing Canadian culture with youth from other countries as well as developing human relations skills, not to mention gaining the experience of a lifetime.

Tall Ship Millennium Challenge, a not-for-profit organization, is a partnership between the Millennium Bureau of Canada and corporate sponsors. Having been selected to represent Canada on board "Eye of the Wind," Heather is to fundraise enough money to cover participation costs including transportation (flights there and back), insurance, travel kits and uniform.

To be successful with this venture, Heather is now busy trying to secure sponsorship to help support herself financially in her dream to represent Canada.

Hawks to CFL camp

PRESS RELEASE

Four Wilfrid Laurier University football players will show CFL coaches their stuff at the Pre-Draft Combine on March 31st and April 1st in Winnipeg. Defensive ends Kojo Millington, and Eric Schwab, offensive tackle Rob Vickers and linebacker Dino DiMarino each received an invitation to the combine. Impressively, there were only 40 invitations sent out.

DiMarino has declined to participate for professional commitments. Also, defensive halfback Donnie Ruiz has signed a contract with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

The following is a 1999 season review on each player:

Kojo Millington

6 sacks, 52 tackles (30 solo, 22 assisted), 2 forced fumbles, 2 fumbles recoveries, 2 interceptions

Named First Team OUA All Star and first team All-Canadian

Recipient of OUA J.P. Metras award for Outstanding Lineman

Selected to play for the East-West Shrine Bowl All Star game

Eric Schwab

Led the team with 8 sacks, third on the team for tackles with 66 (43 solo, 23 assisted), 1 forced fumble, 1 fumble recovery

Named Second Team OUA All Star

Rob Vickers

Named Second Team OUA All Star

Donnie Ruiz

Led the team in tackles with 97 (61 solo, 36 assisted), 1 forced fumble, 1 fumble recovered, 3 interceptions, 1 sack

Named First Team OUA All Star and First Team All-Canadian

Recipient of OUA President's Award for Outstanding Defensive Player

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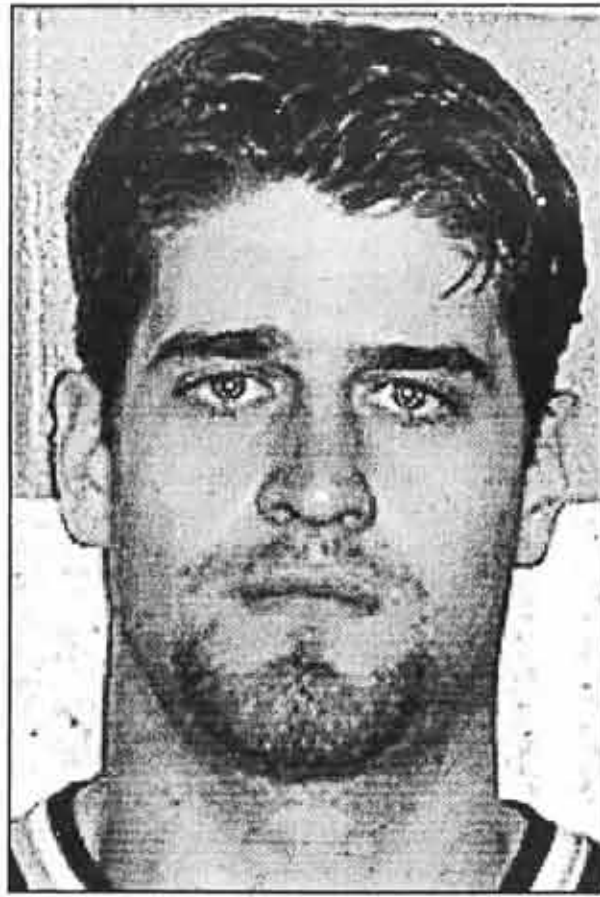
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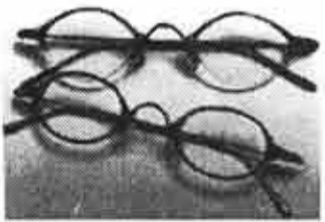
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-Maneesh

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If you're 15-29 and returning to school, the Student Venture Program is designed for you. Apply to Royal Bank for a short-term capital loan this summer. If you're 18-29 and in your last year of school, or attending part-time, the Young Entrepreneurs Program provides training along with a 5-year capital loan.

To find out more, call (416)387-5656 in Toronto or 1-800-387-5656. Or contact Royal Bank at 1-800-769-2511. You can also visit www.ontario-canada.com/sv for Student Ventures or www.ontario-canada.com/yep for Young Entrepreneurs.

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