

New students Discover Laurier

BEN HARRIS

Parents and new students left the Laurier Campus last Sunday after a weekend filled with workshops, good food, and friendly feelings.

Discover Laurier is a program offered by the University where incoming students and parents stay in residence for a weekend to get a more hands on feel for what the WLU experience is like. Sessions dealing with budgeting, course selection, and the Laurier social scene were offered, and from all accounts, everything went smoothly.

"This is the best turnout ever," says Vice President: Student Services/Dean of Students David McMurray, "We had two hundred and ninety participants last year, and this year we're up to roughly four hundred and fifty. I've never seen such a positive feeling about the place."

The weekend seemed to ease the minds of parents most of all.

"I've been really happy with it," said Doug Pounder of Oakville, as he lounged in a muskoka chair in the Quadrangle, taking advantage of some free time before the Saturday barbeque.

"From the parents standpoint" he added, "it's good to get a sense of the University, and it's a nice mix of social activities. It's been fun. It's not the Ritz Carleton, but it's good."

As always, volunteer presence was high as Laurier students eager to share their experiences came back to Waterloo to guide the registrants through the activities. Mainly acting as

crowd control, the "Purple People" were highly visible at all the events, and were well received by the crowd.

"The Purple People are very friendly and helpful," said parent Joan Nault, "I think that if the results of the student experience at Laurier is evident in this weekend, it speaks very highly about their schooling."

As a program designed to promote all the positive things Laurier has to offer, Discover Laurier also made an effort to inform parents and new students about the realities of University life.

Joel Lynn, Program Co-ordinator, shared with the students registered in Arts and Science tips on budgeting and acquiring the funding needed, be it student loans or bursaries, to survive at the post-secondary level.

Reaction was very positive for this session in particular.

An information fair was set up in the Concourse and the Torque room, with numerous campus services and groups represented. One suggestion from participants was that this part of the weekend be lengthened, possibly throughout a day for people to drop by if they wish.

Sessions were also offered on the Business and Economics program, Arts and Science at Laurier, and the Music Department. Faculty played a more active role this year, with professors on hand for the Saturday dinner representing their faculties and answering questions.

Unfortunately, the deadline for



Incoming students frolic at lunch on the last day of Discover Laurier

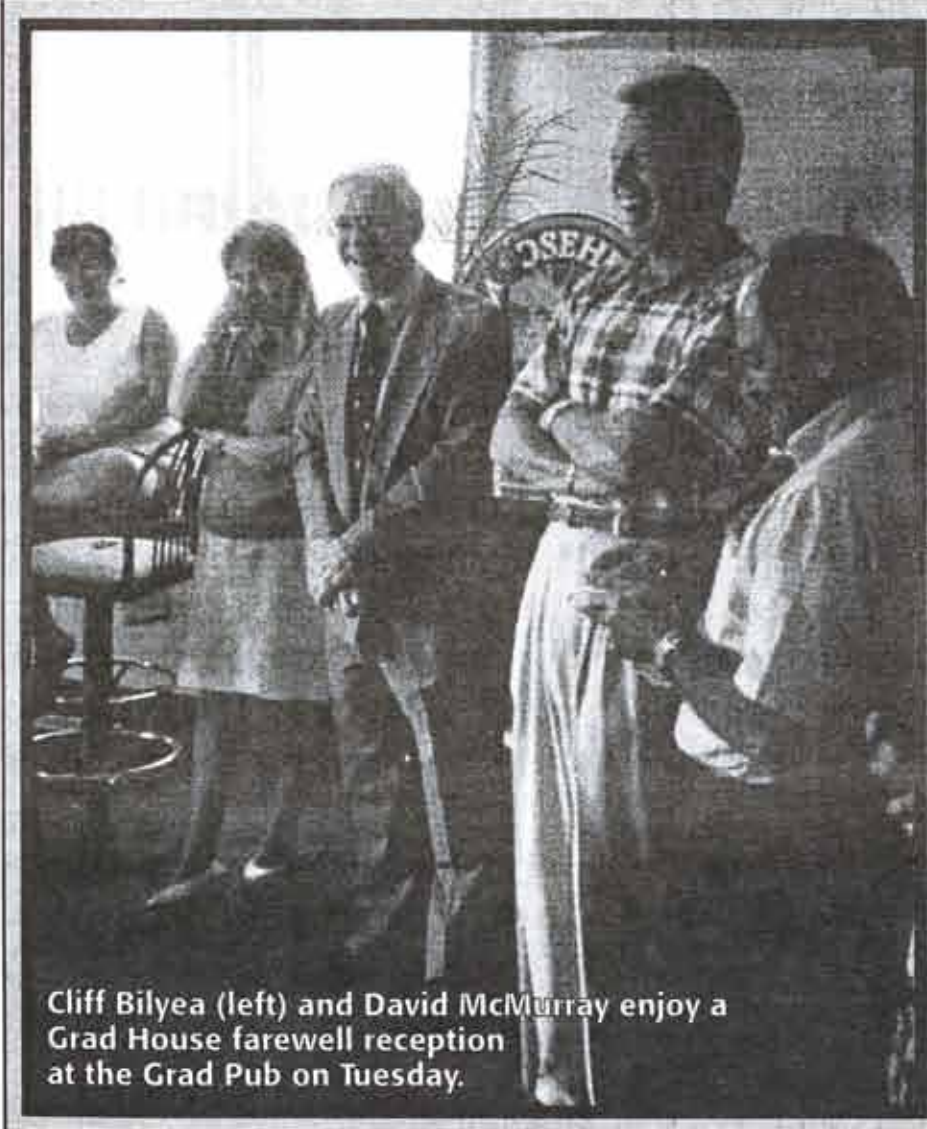
course selection was the Friday before Discover Laurier, so some of the sessions on courses were too late.

Many students remarked that after seeing the sessions on courses of study, they now wished to change some of the courses they had chosen just a day before.

This mix up in scheduling was noted by Dean McMurray, and steps will be taken to see that it doesn't happen again.

"I think that if the results of the student experience at Laurier is evident in this weekend, it speaks very highly about their schooling."

Joan Nault, New Laurier Parent



Laurier says goodbye to Cliff Bilyea

BEN HARRIS

On Tuesday July 21, the Laurier community said farewell to a unique WLU personality.

Cliff Bilyea, Director of Ancillary Services retired recently after nearly twenty-eight years of service in a variety of departments, from teaching, personell, to business management and finally the ancillary area.

"I think everyone in the room acknowledges the innovation and the ability to do things differently and to get the job done" said President Robert Rosehart, "no matter what area Cliff has been in here at Laurier, there has been progress and there has been change."

In addition to Dr. Rosehart's speech, Dan Dawson, Business Operations Manager for WLU/SU, Bob Byron, Senior Assitant to the Acting VP: Finance and

Administration, and Bookstore Manager Shelley Worden gave brief and heartfelt thanks to Cliff for making the WLU environment richer and more interesting.

**"I'm retired!
I'm going to have fun!
You too!"**

As a student, Bilyea was the first student government treasurer to have a profitable year, "I was the first treasurer to have some money in the bank, and I remember going in fear and trepidation to the Board of Governors and saying 'I've got six thousand five hundred dollars, put that towards the

down payment on a future Students' Union building', and I'm just delighted to see that building there today."

In the light of the housing and food portfolios being shifted under the Student Services banner, Bilyea's departure seems strangely timed.

Nonetheless, the celebration of Bilyea's accomplishments was a fine tribute to a man who gave a great deal of his life to, as he puts it "making things better for the students."

Cliff Bilyea's personal remarks were at the very least a heartfelt thanks to everyone he had had the pleasure to work with, often displaying the kind of genuine love of family, life, and career that few possess.

Bilyea will keep busy writing a book, teaching part time, doing some work with a business development bank, and spending time with his ten grandchildren.

NEWS BITES

Study: women prefer RU-486

A recent study in the U.S. found that 90 per cent of women who had taken the abortion pill RU-486 would do it again and would recommend it to a friend or relative. 2,121 women participated in the study.

The two-step pill, which uses the drugs mifepristone and misoprostol to induce abortions, is often accompanied by side effects such as nausea, cramping, bleeding, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Study author Beverly Winikoff, of the Population Council in New York, found that half of the women in the study previously had surgical abortions and 77 per cent of those women rated the medical abortion with pills more satisfactory.

Bullying - the new workplace violence

An International Labour Organization report sites bullying as a growing and widespread form of workplace violence.

Bullying covers behaviours from shouting at staff to punishing people by giving them trivial tasks and includes cases of mobbing, where co-workers gang up on a target employee.

Research from more than 30 countries was used, but co-author Vittorio Di Martino admits that the report paints a "unique but limited vision" of workplace behaviour since data is gathered in different ways and since perceptions of violence vary across cultures.

In Canada, 3.9 per cent of men and 5 per cent of women believe they have been victims of violence in the workplace.

Lease denied by heartless board

A condominium board in Jupiter, Florida has voted against the sale of property to a family with a 12-year-old son with muscular dystrophy. The board cited 17 complaints about the child relating to his wheelchair.

One complaint was that he uses the whirlpool spa for relief from his disease, although the spa is off limits to anyone younger than 14. The boy's mother complained that security guards refuse to help him with the lobby door, once leaving him outside for 45 minutes. The condo board said the guard is there for surveillance, not assistance.

Homosexuality is not an option

The Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, said in a broadcast interview Sunday, that heterosexual marriage or celibacy remain the only options for Christians.

The Archbishop's statement followed vigorous lobbying by gay and lesbian Anglicans at a three-week conference of in Canterbury to change the Church of England's teaching on homosexuality. The once-a-decade Lambeth Conference is being attended by more than 700 Anglican bishops from around the world.

Canadian armed forces seeks more diverse recruits

The Canadian armed forces has launched a campaign to attract more visible minorities after surveys found there are too few of them in the ranks. Recruitment targets have been set at one-quarter of all new recruits, to try to satisfy federal employment-equity legislation.

Only about 1,100 of the 63,000 members of the regular forces are visible minorities - or only 1.8 per cent compared with 9 per cent of the national labour force.

Residence overflow moves to Richmond Square

SEAN GRIMES

The beginning of September looks to be the start of school for a few more students than was originally anticipated by the people at the university admissions office.

Reflecting Laurier's efforts to continue to attract increasing numbers of first-year students, some 1,950 offers of admission extended by the school have been accepted.

This number represents a substantial increase over the 1,740 students who responded in such a positive manner this time last year.

Taking into account the usual number of cancellations (around 3%) that normally allow for the offering of more spaces than the university can actually handle, this still leaves officials with some interesting dilemmas come September.

The main focus of staff, however, is to remain positive about the increase, and to solve any problems before September rolls around.

One of Laurier's biggest attractions to prospective students this past year was the university's guarantee of space in the residence system.

Rather than allow the increase to create problems along the lines of recinded offers the university has once again chosen to expand outward.

According to David McMurray, Vice President: Student Services/Dean of Students, new space will come primarily from recently secured units within the Richmond Square apartment complex, located at the intersection of Regina and Hickory Streets.

McMurray described these as something of a "hidden gem in terms of student housing." Residents of the

towering buildings will enjoy full use of an indoor pool, two international sized squash courts, and other recreational areas found in Waterloo.

The arrival of university residents will be accompanied by the placement of two Dons within the building to keep a strong link with the main cam-

Academics, is excited that so many students have chosen to come to Laurier.

"We're not worried about these numbers," Smith says. "Each field has definitely reached its goals in enrollment, while programs such as Physics and Computing have even surpassed

moderate such changes.

One possibility being examined concentrates on adding additional sections for courses such as Psychology 100 and Geography 100, as September enrollment dictates. The final decision, however, rests with the Deans of the various faculties themselves.



pus. The first year students will find themselves in apartments scattered throughout the building, a marked difference to the situation just one year ago when a similar increase caused the university to commandeer the bottom section of University Place. The result was something of an unregulated madhouse.

On the academic front, Dr. Rowland Smith, Vice President

their mark."

There are, however, other concerns facing both staff and students. For example, increased enrollment means a potential increase in areas such as class sizes, something that students heading to Laurier likely thought they would avoid.

In an effort to ensure that this does not become a headache for students, measures are being taken to accom-

modate such changes. If the funding for the extra classes is available, and the need is there, then Smith sees something being done to keep the students at Laurier.

Smith stresses that the situation is not a problem of over-enrollment, but rather an exciting increase in student base, allowing the school to continue to expand in a time when other universities regularly report decreases in numbers.

Management training program for managers in high-tech sector

The Laurier Institute and DALSA Inc. announced July 6 that they have signed a contract to create a customized management-training program for DALSA managers.

The agreement stipulates that the management development centre operated by the Laurier School of Business and Economics, in collaboration with DALSA executives, will develop a 40-hour intensive program for delivery in September.

Though the Laurier Institute has designed and delivered management-development programs to organizations throughout Ontario since 1984, this is the first contract that specifically addresses the technology industry's new strategic emphasis on business education.

Vince Schiralli, president of the Communitech Technology Network, believes the agreement reflects an emerging trend in the high-tech sector.

"Technical skills are a terrific base for success," says Schiralli, "but they must be combined with solid business know-how and leadership skills to ensure continued growth."

"We certainly see training as a strategic issue for high-technology firms," Schiralli continued, "and we're

seeing a growing interest in education among our members - especially management development and business training."

Jan Vamer, director of the Laurier Institute, added that progressive high-tech firms are quickly realizing that management skills are anything but 'low tech.'

Forward-thinking companies like DALSA are now looking at training in key business disciplines such as finance, marketing, supervision, and leadership as an investment in effectiveness.

"High-tech firms often find initial success by combining their technical expertise with a high demand for their products in the marketplace," says Vamer. "Firms fail - or fail to fulfill their potential for growth - when they do not give enough attention to key business skills."

For DALSA, a Waterloo-based manufacturer of image-capture technology that is now enjoying unprecedented growth, management training is part of the overall growth strategy. In May, company president Savvas Chamberlain predicted DALSA would quadruple its sales and more than double its staff by 2002. This growth

would put sales at the \$100-million mark and see DALSA's workforce increase from 200 employees to 500.

"We expect that this training program will help us manage our growth effectively by training our managers to manage DALSA's productivity and performance," says Chamberlain.

Because of its affiliation with the Laurier School of Business and Economics, the Laurier Institute can offer clients a strong team of facilitators with a wealth of practical knowledge and teaching experience. While the details of the program are not yet finalized, professors will design and deliver the program along with the program coordinator.

Courses incorporate the theoretical, applied, and practical aspects of business, so participants can immediately use what they learn. The Institute offers public certificate programs in management, finance, and marketing.

I.C.E. Week Winners

The Cord would like to congratulate this term's winners of the Integrated Case Exercise (ICE) week:
Jean Lamb, Jason Chad, Scott Jackson, Andrew Pace, Robin Deering, and Jan Valiech.

This term's case involved a non-profit organization called Canada's Technological Triangle Accelerator Network. Their goal is, funnily enough, to accelerate growth in Canada's Technological triangle (Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph and Cambridge).

congratulations!

University to expand to satellite campus in Brantford

JAMES MUIR

Monday, June 29, marked an important step in the expansion of Wilfrid Laurier University.

University President Dr. Robert Rosehart travelled to Brantford to sign a declaration of intent with Brantford Mayor Chris Friel and Grand Valley Education Society Chairperson Colleen Miller.

The document commits the university to install a WLU satellite campus in Brantford.

The selected site, the Carnegie Library building, will act as a temporary location until interest builds in the com-

munity and warrants a permanent location.

If the required renovations are completed on schedule the temporary location will be ready to accommodate students in September 1999.

The five-year agreement covers only the period when WLU will operate out of the Library building, not any subsequent development of a permanent facility.

Rosehart has been eager to expand Laurier's services for some time.

After reading reports from university organizations and hearing about the GVES (Grand Valley Education Society) drive Rosehart began to look favourably on Brantford.

"Constantly business-like," said Friel of Laurier's commitment to the project

We are building and planning for many generations.

while Miller praised Rosehart as a "forward-thinking president."

Friel was very excited about the unique nature of the project.

"This is a kind of initiative unlike roads and sewer systems," said Friel. "We are building and planning for many generations."

Not commented upon was the recent decision by the Provincial government to alter the legislation concerning casino policy.

Brantford city council had planned to use proceeds from the sale of the i-comm centre to RPC Anchor Gaming to finance the building of a permanent campus.

In answer to a question, the Brantford Mayor said that the recent

decision would not affect the situation in the short run.

This is because monies have already been allocated from the municipal budget to cover the initial expenses associated with the development of the satellite campus.

The Brantford campus will offer a three-year general arts program.

Dr. Roland Smith, Vice-President: Academic at Laurier, explained that the university would listen to the needs of the community and that they will also prepare a new curriculum which is not simply a "watered-down version" of what is offered at the Waterloo University campus.

Famished thief steals lunch bag and too-loud musicians allowed to play on

False Fire Alarm

0103 hrs., Thurs. June 11

Person(s) unknown activated the fire alarm in the Science Building by pulling the alarm. There was no evidence of fire.

Non - Reportable MVA

0945 hrs., Fri. June 19

A minor motor vehicle collision was investigated in lot 7. Damage was minimal.

Theft under \$5000

Fri. June 19

Three high school students attending a graduation party at the Turret reported that their purses had been stolen. The purses were later found in the garbage can in the mens' washroom but the money in them was missing.

Harassing Telephone Calls

2400 - 0500 hrs., Mon. June 22

A WLU student reported receiving numerous "hang-up" calls.

Mischief

0325 hrs., Sat. June 27

Person(s) unknown broke the window in the door leading from the Concourse to the Nichols Campus Centre.

Noise Complaint

1620 hrs., Sat. June 27

A complaint was received from a resident in the vicinity of University Stadium complaining about the Drum & Bugle Corps playing at the stadium. Due to the time of day, there was not much that could be done.

Fireworks

2205 hrs., Sun. June 28

Two non-WLU males were warned regarding setting off fireworks on Willison Field.

Assistance re: Missing Person

2005 hrs., Mon. June 29

The parent of a WLU student requested assistance in locating his son who he had not heard from for a number of days. The student was eventually located and has since contacted his parents.

Trespass

0150 hrs., Mon. June 29

A non-WLU male was charged with trespassing when he was found sleeping under a balcony at the residence of 50 University Ave.

Mischief

1700 hrs., Mon. June 29

Person(s) unknown ripped the thermostat from the wall in the mens' change-room at the A.C.

Robbery

0030 hrs., Tues. June 30

Two WLU students reported that two unknown males in a white 2-door sports car approached them on Bricker Ave. asking if they had any money. The stu-

dents ignored them and were then subsequently pursued by the suspects into lot 7 demanding money. The students were assaulted and the suspects fled the scene when an individual in a nearby parked vehicle was asked for help.

The two suspects are described as follows:

#1: white male, 20-25 yrs of age, 5'11", 180 lbs wearing a white baseball cap & a white T-shirt as well as denim overalls.
#2: white male, 20-25 yrs of age, 175 lbs wearing gray shorts and no shirt.

This information was passed on to Waterloo Regional Police. Investigation continues.

Theft under \$5000

1230-1430 hrs., Tues. June 30

A WLU student reported the theft of her lunch bag and \$20 cash from her knapsack which was left unattended in the TV lounge at Bricker Residence.

Theft under \$5000

Tues. June 30 - Wed. July 1

Person(s) unknown stole a computer from the Student Publications office in the Nichols Centre.

Theft under \$5000

0230 hrs., Wed. July 1

Person(s) unknown stole the juice

machine from the Second Cup in the Concourse.

Trespass

1920 hrs., Fri. July 3

Two youths who had snuck under the fence at University Stadium were evicted and issued trespass warnings.

Medical Assist

1525 hrs., Sun. July 5

An ambulance was called for a student who suffered a seizure in the Peters Building.

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I don't want start my job tomorrow.
I hate pickles.
Sarah Schiefer

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Contributors

P. Verlaine, Maire Mardelle, Sterling Lynch, "Sterling, we lost your story when we threw out some stuff, where did you save it? In your computer at home?? Okay, we'll go get it, how's Quebec?" Sean Grimes, "Hey Sean, you're calling these people right now, and you're writing a story, for today, so hurry up.", Aaron Hunter, "Hi is Aaron there? Hi Aaron it's Ben, can you write something for the paper? Today, right now. Yeah, sorry. Okay great, thanks. E-mail it to us. Hurry up." "Hello is Lauren there? no huh...well when does he get off work? Okay, tell him to give Ben a call at The Cord, I need him to write an article. Make sure he gets the message or else. I'm serious. Okay thanks Mr. Stephen." Thanks to trees for paper, whatever ink and toner is made of, and the Coca-Cola Corporation, without whom I would be a healthy robust man instead of a blistered husk of a human being waiting to lurch into a coffin made of aspartame and caffeine.

Toking his way to the top

Reverend of pot seeks Federal Tory leadership

When Jean Charest abdicated his position as leader of the federal Progressive Conservative party to take charge of the Quebec Liberals, many were left wondering who would take his place.

After all, the leadership position hardly looked appealing; the federal Conservatives weren't exactly a political powerhouse, having only recently regained official party status after being reduced to two seats not too long ago.

Although a glut of individuals have declared their intentions of running for the top Tory spot, few, if any appear to have what it takes to revive the once proud party.

The two front runners, Hugh Segal and Joe Clark, seem to lack Charest's charisma and photogenic appeal. And that's putting it politely. Segal is a rotund backroom boy, whose close ties to the hated Mulroney government will work against him. Clark is considered a has-been, a man who had the top job in the country and lost it.

To put it mildly, the Conservative leadership race is not exactly the stuff that sets one's pace pounding.

Late last week, however, all this changed. On July 16, a fifteenth person declared his intention to run for the Conservative leadership. A man with vision. A man with integrity. A man with serious doobage.

Rev. Michael Baldasaro, from Cambridge, will run a campaign with one key issue: the legalization of marijuana.

Not surprisingly, it's an issue that the other

candidates haven't exactly rushed to cover; very few advocates of budgetary restraint and deficit reduction enjoy the herb.

Still, Baldasaro might just be the man with the plan that the Conservatives need. The public seems to have a hard time remembering the

It's unlikely that they'll forget some guy who looks like he stepped out of a Cheech and Chong movie.

race's front-runners, dubbing them "Who Segal" and "Joe Who", but it's unlikely that they'll forget some guy who looks like he stepped out of a Cheech and Chong movie. Who doesn't love those crusty remnants of a decadent drug culture?

Seriously, there might be some wonderful dividends to Baldasaro taking the Tory reins. The Conservatives are the party of choice for the rich and powerful; when these guys want things done, stuff gets done. It'll be suits and spliffs, all

the way.

After some midnight toking, it's inevitable that these buzzing businessmen will get the munchies. Once they've taken a gander at the outrageous prices at all-night convenience stores, their high-powered lawyers will make sure that Seven Eleven will never charge eighteen dollars for a tube of Pringles again.

More beneficially, the Baldasaro-led Conservatives might put a damper on the current pro-pot atmosphere. These days, everyone's advocating the legalisation of marijuana, citing it as a wonder drug with no serious after-effects.

Once these cannabis crusaders take a look at the good Reverend, a Rip Van Winkle-esque figure with irregular bathing habits, birkenstocks and serious head trauma (a work-related head injury, ostensibly the reason why he's been chronic for the past couple of decades) they'll rightly fear pot's long-term effects.

So here's hoping that Michael Baldasaro takes the top Tory spot. His THC-fueled antics would certainly heighten the excitement level in federal politics.

Besides, anyone who wants to be a Conservative, with their policy of stepping on the throats of the poor as they strain to kiss the behinds of the financial elite, has got to be smoking something.

R.W. HICKEY
OPINION EDITOR

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.

Guerilla tactics needed in campus 'culture wars'

AARON HUNTER

Monday's Toronto Star contained a moulful opinion piece written by Laurier professor Don Morgenson on the depressing state of today's university classrooms. Here are some of the highlights:

"Professors everywhere complain about... students who demand high marks for mediocre work; students who swear at and openly ridicule their instructors; students who menace and challenge professors."

"Many experienced professors are concluding that never before have classes been so unpleasant; never before have frustration and resentment been so distinct on campus."

"Under-exposed to adult authority and over-exposed to their peers and junk culture, the young are apt to become lazy, stupid, coarse, authority-averse, thrill-seeking nihilists."

I recognize that Dr. Morgenson's concerns are genuine and agree with many of his observations about rude and self-defeating student behaviour. However, I must take issue with his comments on the incompatibility of popular and academic culture.

In my experience, some professors drown under pop culture and some surf on it with tremendous success. English professor Gary Boire is very skilled at drawing out the interesting and important continuities (and breaks) between the eighteenth century and our own.

Madonna is one of his favourite cultural flash-points, sparking enthusiastic class discussion on

gender and power. In his other courses, he looks at film (David Cronenberg's Dead Ringers, for example) and music (Leonard Cohen, The Rolling Stones) as well as books. Advertising and political propaganda do not escape his attention, either.

A formidable scholar and teacher, his interdisciplinary approach does not water down the difficult core material on his course list. He stands it on its head, and the discoveries that come out of these sessions are often startling and useful.

I'm not suggesting that professors compromise the quality of their scholarship or put on puppet shows in a desperate attempt to get their students' feeble attention. Students must live up to the challenge of university-level study.

What professors need to do, however, is accept that the students' mediascape is not composed entirely of garbage.

Engaging with the smart and relevant parts of that world will increase class participation and help disarm those students whose "hostility" masks something else. Many of the surly baseball cap wearers lamented by Dr. Morgenson can be redeemed with such techniques.

Now for my second point. Dr. Morgenson's catalogue of unruly student behaviour includes the tendency to mock professors for the way they dress.

This mockery is not only cruel but ironic, given the terrifying fashion choices made by some of the students at Laurier. Many professors, however, do indeed need to give themselves a shake.

My first year philosophy professor must have slept in a ditch. He was always a wreck, wearing the same filthy sweater and crusty construction boots every day. Mysterious stains, possibly vomit, dotted his sleeves.

He lurched like a scarecrow around the course, frightening the younger and more sensitive students. Laurier security officers eyed him suspiciously as he smoked his cigarettes and put them out on his jeans. Brilliant man, visual disgrace.

Cultivated eccentricity aside, isn't the university a workplace as well as a forum of ideas? Shouldn't faculty members attempt to meet certain standards of neatness and grooming? I'm talking about minimal effort here. The ones with style should try to help the others.

Dr. Morgenson is absolutely right in his suggestion that students need to smarten the hell up. The student-teacher dialogue that marks university culture at its finest is seriously endangered by the carelessness he describes.

What he leaves out of his argument is a call to professors to adapt to students without lowering academic standards. Is that impossible? I don't think so. Use your imaginations. If we're "stupid" and "coarse," help us rescue ourselves. This isn't a "culture war"; it's a storm that surrounds us all.

Oh, and some of you better get some new clothes. You're just asking for it, you know.

Aaron Hunter is the first recipient of the Paul G. McLean Award for the Most Dedicated Cordie.

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Entertainment

Hanging out at Ben's place

TIM DURKIN

This past Saturday Matt Osborne, Craig Cardiff and Erica Knight staged the first ever "WoodSounds" at the K-W Little Theatre.

This evening of local folk acts was designed as an intimate showcase of their talents to an appreciative audience. After the show Ben Harris and I caught up with this threesome, along with Rachel Morris, and brought them back to Ben's pad. We chatted it up about the show, the entire KW scene and how we all fit in.

CC Let's give Tim the dirt. He wants it and he wants it bad.

TD First Question. How do you end up playing what you play? I mean, do you play what you listen to?

EK I don't know why I play what I do, because I love so many other things. No matter how much I love blues, funk or reggae, its not what comes out. Who knows, someday I'll be a reggae star.

CC I've started experimenting with sounds and it's made it exciting for me again. Tamara Williamson is an example of somebody whose doing interesting things with a very personal electric-acoustic sound but then sampling and doing beats with it.

(Somehow a discussion of professional wrestling breaks out, disrupting the creative forces at work).

BH So do you like my house?

MO I bet it's very cheery in the day time when the sunlight comes in.

CC What's the building like?

MO I think you smelled it in the stairwell on the way up.

(Laughter)

BH There's people who have sex too loud, sorority girls, a Witch, and the French Canadian couple who have sing-alongs.

RM Cool!

BH Yeah, it's an interesting place.

RM Better than Melrose Place.

CC We've wavered away here. This isn't going to turn into an article at all.

BH Tell us what you think of each musician on an individual bases; like 'he's a piece of shit.' Stuff like that.

(Laughter)

MO There all fuckin' great. In all honesty just about every musician I've seen play here is great. Yeah there's a few stinkers....

BH We want names Names. Names Names.

MO Well, musician X we'll call them.

they're great but I never get to see them because I'm always out chugging around when there playing. You gotta get outta town to get a good gig.

TD So why are there so many people that are just hanging out in K-W?

MO I don't know we're fucking losers. This town makes a great base of operations because it's a lot cheaper than living in a lot of place and it's till only an hour away from any major gig. I'm basically playing all the spots between K-W and TO.

(tape gets interrupted)

TD Okay Erika as fresh blood to ...

MO Compared to us relics...

CC Excuse me. Don't lump me in with all these dinosaur bones. (To Erica) What's it like coming to Kitchener from Cambridge? What do you see?

EK There's a lot more going on but, I see the same people all the time and sometimes that can get boring. You go to the Walper and you know who's playing each night of the week.

TD They bank on that too though.

EK Yeah...

MO Unless someone gets sick...

EK Or leaves town...

CC The lucrative leaving town gig... (sardonic laughter)

EK I find myself really inspired when I go to see Kitchener musicians. I just love the flow of music and the emotion they put into it. That could be anything, like the way their voice travels for example. I go home and I want to write.

MO There's little pockets of people that play together and that go to each others shows but, there's nothing cohesive and there hasn't been for a while. There used to be Phil's Grandson's Place and the Volcano (as venues for live music) but now it's all just splintered off. All the kiddies want to pay 8 bucks to see a guy playing records.

TD Would you ever use a sample or a drum machine in any of your songs?

MO Live it's different because you can just go up there with a DAT tape and hit play. In the studio there's experimenting and stuff like that might happen. I did a little of that last time out. Not with a sampler but I recorded radio static and played it over. Whatever strikes your fancy is what you're going to do.

CC Be honest, it's the budget too. You (Matt) had one of the most generous benefits but after production and recording that's not a lot of cash. The whole thing with sampling, to do it well, with some level of professionalism, you have



Craig, Erica and Matt take WoodSounds to a higher plain, in a sardine can. It's cuz their floatin' through space that they're so stretchy.

FILE PHOTO

to have studio time. It's to expensive to learn how to use it during your studio time.

(The entire group gets dazzled by our attempts to take 'natural looking' photos and again the lines of communication are broken)

EK Take a picture of my toe, I dropped a jar of peanut butter on it. It hurts.

MO (persevering despite the breakdown of proper conversation format) The same bands get rotated through each market. The jam nights (at the Raintree) are a great atmosphere, but you can predict exactly what's going to happen next. Maybe that's a good thing. Maybe that's why it's held on for so long, the popularity of it.

CC The music isn't in the bars. A very small part of what we learned from WoodSounds is happening in clubs. But it is nice to get paid, (ie. by performing

in bars), when you've spent so much time and energy into getting some reaction to your work.

EK I find that by the end of the night as long as one person comes over and says you were good then that's good enough. Just to touch one person.

TD Why not do more of these intimate performances.

MO There are some places that you know you can go and get people's attention. Places like the Raintree and Moondance, as soon as they opened up they had music in there. People know if they go there there's going to be a musician playing and they should respect that and pay a little bit of attention.

CC The thing about vibrant cultural centres (like New York City or Toronto) is that people are working on the art for the sake of the art itself, regardless of making any money off of it. What we did

tonight is create a venue. For the first time I had people listen and I wasn't fighting for their attention. I felt naked and it was the strangest feeling.

TD Any chance of making WoodSounds a regular thing?

MO I wouldn't mind doing something like that. The Theatre is cheap enough to rent...

At this point the sexual neighbours interrupted the great exchange of ideas we had going.

From here we went on to talk about magazines like Giant Robot, guitar riffs, kazoos, asses, and rules of decorum that audiences ought to follow. Look for all that in our special, "Too hot for the Cord" issue.

The Cord strives to appease its diverse readership and as such every week we will vary the focus of our feature story.

Co-op Shakespeare

STERLING LYNCH

Front Porch Theatre, in conjunction with the Waterloo Cooperative Residence

Incorporated, (WCRI) is preparing a unique version of William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. Described by the production team as "theatre for love of theatre," they promise the performance will be "cheaper than Stratford and way more fun."

Director Paul Moukperian, a University of Waterloo Math student, promises the final production will be worth the effort of coming out.

"It will be unorthodox. We are approaching it from a new perspective." Attracted to the play because of its fantasy elements, it is this quality Moukperian hopes

to exploit. "It's not suppose to be real, so you can have fun with it," he said. "There is a whole range of characters from real people to fairies to play with."

Stephanie Long, the stage manager, and Wilfrid Laurier University Business student, considers the play to be "one of Shakespeare's most accessible. It moves quickly and has good characters."

Nevertheless, the script has been trimmed so that the play will run no longer than two hours.

Faith Benvenuti, Event Coordinator, and WLU Religion and Culture major, said the WCRI decided to sponsor a summer play because "it's a creative way to contribute to the community and advertise the cooperative residence to people outside of the

immediate WCRI family."

Chris Hammer, a third year Chemical Engineer and WCRI resident, thinks the production is a great idea. "In the summer, it is hard to get people involved in social events and this play is doing just that. I don't know why something like this hasn't happened before." Adam Pollard, a UW graduate and WCRI resident, also supports the decision to produce the show because "it promotes community."

Front Porch Theatre's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream will take place July 25th and 26th.

There will be two shows beginning at 7pm and a 2pm matinee on the Sunday. It'll be an outdoor performance, taking place in the WCRI complex at 286 Phillip St.



The game? Find Webster. You didn't know he did Shakespeare, did you?

Who Knows?

BEN HARRIS

"I climbed Mount Everest eighty thousand years ago. I am the last supermarket trolley alive. Aloha." And so begins *Scepticism Incorporated*, one of the most hilariously frightening novels in some time.

What I hate most in books is predictability. Most authors who want to tell straight ahead stories don't have enough skill to make them interesting enough to stumble through. Telling a story "beginning, middle, and end" usually ends up sounding like a nursery rhyme, even if it's about bank robbery.

Point of view plays a key role in how the narrative unfolds, particularly for this novel. Told from the

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A JONATHAN CAPE
ORIGINAL

point of view of a talking shopping cart, the novel is a reflection of the most turbulent time in Earth's history.

Structurally, the book reads like a huge list, (shopping carts have limited conversational skills). There are no beautiful sentences here. Also, everything is revealed before you read about it, but what ever is lost in the surprise department is more than made up by Fowler's humour and originality.

Here's what happens.

As a baby, Edgar Malroy (the hero/villain of the story) was strapped to his mother's body as she went on a shooting rampage in a local church. Everyone was killed except him, thus Edgar grew up with a peculiar outlook on organized religion. His first words were "Who knows?"

As a young man, he sauntered into a church as the sermon was being delivered, sat down, and started yelling, "how much do you want to bet?" whenever the preacher said something religious. The preacher, stunned, and not wanting to look foolish, gave Edgar Malroy a small sum of money.

Later in the book, Malroy establishes a

"Metaphysical Betting Shop" next to every holy site on Earth, as well as the top of Mount Everest. This is how Edgar Malroy became the most wealthy man in Earth's history. It is also the reason why he was killed by an act of nuclear terrorism.

A funny book could have a few crazy things in it. This book is almost pure craziness: from religious nuts shooting tank guns into betting shops, to the "Great Mania" where we see all the appliances out-fitted with the Infinity Chip go berserk and cause thousands of deaths.

Maybe I'm a sucker for hyperbole, but the descriptions of George Milles Jr.'s funeral sent me to the floor.

He was buried in a rotating coffin, as if it were a spit roaster, "so it could be said that he was turning in his grave. Buried on Easter Island along with four hundred of his favorite wives....the next day everyone on Earth was sent a picture of the second wealthiest man on Earth."

This book has so many crazy things happen that a lot of them get left out; things that are just mentioned as matter of course. Things so nuts they make you shake your head at how nuts they are.

Among this insanity, there are real and important messages that do a world of good for swaying religious fence-sitters like myself.

The moral, as Fowler says in an Author's note at the end of the novel, is "people matter more than the truth". Why be religious when people are dying of starvation?

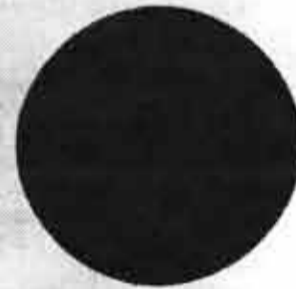
Nietzsche is all but worshiped, his quotable quotes being thrown around like paper airplanes. "Metaphysics, the science which deals with the fundamental errors of mankind — but as if they were the fundamental truths." Edgar Malroy has a Nietzsche quote from *Twilight of the Idols* tattooed on his ass, which he displays when someone around him says that they "believe".

I recommend this book, but before you read it please make sure you aren't too touchy about your religion, because every single denomination on Earth is made out to be strictly for the insane. It is a wholly funny piece of fiction; iconoclasm in a clown suit.

Ben reads comic books mostly. This is comical, about as comical as the grim spectre of death



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Nigeria's elusive democracy

OLIVER MARTIN

Early this week, Nigeria's interim military leader announced to his country and the international community that he had decided upon a series of plans to return the nation to civilian, democratic rule. As outlined in his speech, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, who took over when General Sani Abacha died of a suspected heart attack on June 8, ordered a purge of the country's political structure and the dismissal of all charges against political prisoners. These words however promising, were too little, too late.

Following the sudden death of Chief Moshood Abiola last week, the popular democratic leader detained since 1994, the country burst into civil unrest. With Abacha's death in June the promise of Abiola's imminent release and the revived democratic movement seemed promising. Chief Abiola had widely been believed to be the winner of the 1994

national elections. At that time, he had declared himself president with the firm backing of the country's democratic elite as well as a large portion of the population. With his death coming hours after his meeting with a U.S. delegation before his release from prison, the nation saw this as the last straw from the unpopular military government. It was suspected that he was poisoned.

To protect his non-existing credibility, military dictator Abubakar shrewdly allowed an international team of scientists to conduct an autopsy. Although the lab findings established that Abiola had died of natural causes, the population believed that the military had purposely denied him access to care, even though his health was waning in jail. This solidified their resentment for the unpopular military regime. Mass rioting and social unrest flared up, with most foreign embassies requesting their nationals to leave Nigeria.

What made matters worse, was that the civil disturbances threatened to engulf the ethnically split nation into a civil war. With the military power in the predominantly Muslim north and the oil resource base in the Christian south, the rioting took on an ethnic slant. Chief Abiola, although a Muslim convert, was from the Yoruba tribe in the south. This region for the past 20 years has been constantly fighting against the military strength of the northern Hausas. Last week and the beginning of this week saw Yoruba tribesmen, loyal to Abiola targeting Hausa Muslims heading to prayer and Hausas forming gangs, attacking Yoruba villages. International



Chief Abiola



Protesting Abiola's death in Lagos last week

observers immediately recalled the past history of Rwanda, and the disasters of ethnic unrest destabilizing the region.

Since October 1, 1960, when Nigeria achieved independence, a mix of democratic and authoritarian regimes has ruled the nation. However, the military governments have been in power for almost two thirds of the time. It is within this authoritarian context that corruption and social upheaval has proliferated. The Nigerian people believed that Abiola would be able to firmly entrench his political power and fight for democratic rule. With his death in the hands of the military, the population had no where to turn.

Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation and one of the richest on the continent. However, the majority of the 111 million people, discounting the military elite and the business class that deals with the oil companies, remain drastically poor. The average income per person in 1997 was \$380, a direct result of an economy in shambles. In 1985, the then military leader General Babangida adopted a World Bank supervised structural adjustment programme (SAP) in the hopes of improving the economy. With the SAP policies in place, the situation became worse because the economic solutions were fixated on the exchange rate of the naira (Nigeria's national currency), rather than on building investor confidence, integrating sectors of the economy and promoting growth and development.

The SAP was implemented without

any protection for the vulnerable population and as a consequence economic decline continued, resulting in increasing pain, poverty, social uncertainty and hunger for the Nigerian people.

With increasing oil revenues pouring into the oil-rich nation most believed that the economy would improve, but that was not to be the case. Recently, a survey conducted by the Berlin-based Transparency International rated Nigeria the most corrupt of 54 nations in the study. An audit of the 1991 budget showed that \$18 billion in oil revenue had simply vanished, believed by the poor population to have been funneled into the military accounts, to be used by the elite.

It is a direct result of these corrupt practices that the military has been able to secure its grip on Nigeria's governance. During the short independent 10 years of democratic rule since 1960, various scandals were uncovered, which bred mass public disillusionment, allowing the military to intervene on the public's behalf. After all three of the short lived democratic republics, military coups have taken place with the main reason to redeem the nation from corrupt political practices. However, the corruption did not end with the military. In the same manner of the democratic politicians who used corrupt economic and political dealings to protect their governing power, the military did also, and in most cases to more extent. It is within this corrupt context that democracy has failed on various occasions in

Nigeria.

So what of the future? With General Abubakar's commitment to civilian democratic rule by early 1999, the prospects seem promising. In his plan, Abubakar scrapped the country's discredited election body and set up an "electoral commission", equipped with a new law and necessary funds for effective, independent, free and fair elections.

The previous elections commission from the past military regime was discredited by Nigeria's democratic movements and the international community for turning blind eyes to the corrupt election processes of the military and allowing them to quash the 1994 election results which would have put Abiola in place as president.

The General also suggested that at every stage in the up-coming 1999 transition election that international observers from the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the Organization of African States and other groups would be allowed access to observe the elections.

On another note, Nigeria's military government vowed to reform the petroleum industry, improving the economy's foundation. This is key if Nigeria is going to reschedule its crippling \$35 billion (U.S.) foreign debt that is 140% of GNP. With these promises in place the future still does not seem clear for democracy. What needs to happen is a firm backing by the global community to hold Abubakar to his word, while supporting Nigerian democratic movements.

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PENSIONNAIRES.

THE ONE WAS FIFTEEN YEARS OLD, THE OTHER SIXTEEN AND THEY BOTH SLEPT IN THE SAME LITTLE ROOM. IT HAPPENED ON AN OPPRESSIVE SEPTEMBER EVE -- FRAGILE THINGS! BLUE-EYED WITH CHEEKS LIKE IVORY.

TO COOL THEIR FRAIL BODIES EACH REMOVED HER DAINTY CHEMISE FRESH WITH THE PERFUME OF AMBER. THE YOUNGER RAISED HER HANDS AND BENT BACKWARDS, AND HER SISTER, HER HANDS ON HER BREASTS, KISSED HER.

THEN FELL ON HER KNEES, AND, IN A FRENZY, GRASPED HER LIMBS TO HER CHEEK, AND HER MOUTH CARESSSED THE BLONDE GOLD WITHIN THE GREY SHADOWS:

AND DURING ALL THAT TIME THE YOUNGER COUNTED ON HER DARLING FINGERS THE PROMISED WALTZES, AND, BLUSHING, SMILED INNOCENTLY.

—P. VERLAINE

THE MAN. YOU KNOW HIM. HE REFUSED US ALCOHOL IN THE PROHIBITION. HE TRIED TO SOUSE THE BONFIRES BUILT WITH OUR BRAS IN THE 60S. HE KEEPS RAISING OUR TUITION IN AN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO PAUPER US. THEREOUX WROTE OF IGNORING HIM. ORWELL WROTE OF FIGHTING HIM, AND MANY HAVE CAUTIONED US AGAINST HIM.

OH, IT IS A SAD DAY, YOUNG LAURIER, A SAD DAY INDEED. DO YOU KNOW THAT THIS VERY MAN HAS QUIETLY SEIZED THE THRONE OF INTELLECTUALISM FROM UNDER THE NOSES OF ALL RIGHT THINKING PEOPLE? ARE YOU AWARE THAT BENEDICT HARRIS IS YOUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF?

THIS IS THE MAN WHO WANTED YOU TO ELECT HIM AS YOUR "STUDENT UNION PRESIDENT" SO HE COULD GO TO CONFERENCES IN ITALY. (IF HE COULD FIND ANY); AND IF HE COULDN'T, NEVER-YOU-MIND WHAT HE DID THERE. THIS IS A MAN WHO TAKES PLEASURE IN DISREGARDING THE PRIVACY OF SMALL PODS OF PRIMATES AND EXPLOITING FOR COMMERCIAL GAIN THE AUDIENCE THEY ALLOW HIM. THIS IS THE MAN WHO WROTE COUNTLESS LETTERS LIKE ARMIES OF AGGRESSIVE PICNIC ANTS, WHICH WERE ALL PUBLISHED DESPITE MY FRENZIED STOMPING ON THEM, AND WHICH ALL DENOUNCED TRUTH, JUSTICE AND THE TRAGICALLY HIP.

NOW THESE FIRST TWO ARE PIDDLING MATTERS, BUT MY GOD! THE TRAGICALLY HIP! THE MAN OBVIOUSLY HAS NO RESPECT FOR ANYTHING -- NOT THE SCHOOL, NOT THE STUDENTS, NOT THE NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS, AND NOT THE HIP.

I AM READY TO BELIEVE THAT YOU, GOOD CITIZENS OF LAURIER, WOULD NEVER HAVE ALLOWED THIS TO HAPPEN IF ONLY YOU'D KNOWN THAT THIS MAN WAS ONE AND THE SAME. AND, MY DEARS, I FORGIVE YOU FOR ALLOWING THIS TRAVESTY TO OCCUR, ALTHOUGH I DO THINK THE OBVIOUSLY FASCIST NAME 'BENEDICT' SHOULD HAVE RAISED YOUR SUSPICIONS. BUT NOW ITS TIME TO CLEAN HOUSE. OUT WITH THE TRASH, OUT WITH THE DEAD WEIGHT, AND OUT WITH THE HIP HATERS.

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS TASK MAY PROVE STICKIER THAN WE MIGHT WISH -- EVIL HAS A NASTY WAY OF TAKING ROOT. I PROPOSE A FULL-FLEDGED ATTACK EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. FURTHERMORE, I APPOINT MYSELF, "UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED LEADER", AND HEREBY DUB ALL OF YOU, "THE GOOD GUYS".

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS, THE CREATION OF A SECRET HANDSHAKE. I'VE ALWAYS WANTED ONE, AND WON'T SQUANDER THE OPPORTUNITY. SECOND, T-SHIRTS WHICH READ 'BEN SHMARRIS'. AND FINALLY, THE PLAYING OF THE TRAGICALLY HIP EVERYWHERE AND ALWAYS. WHEN WAKING AND WHEN SLEEPING, WE WILL GLUT HIS WORLD WITH THE VERY BAND HE WISHES TO DESTROY, AND IF NOTHING ELSE, HOPEFULLY CAUSE HIM TO GO MAD.

"THE GOOD GUYS" AND THEIR "UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED LEADER" WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY BOOKS, MY FRIENDS, TO BE READ, STUDIED AND REVERED BY POSTERITY. YOUR GRANDCHILDREN ARE COUNTING ON YOU, AND THEIR GRANDCHILDREN STAND BEHIND YOU. THE WINDS ARE IN OUR FAVOUR, THE TIME IS RIPE AND GOD IS ON OUR SIDE.

READY, STEADY, BEGIN.

maire mardelle