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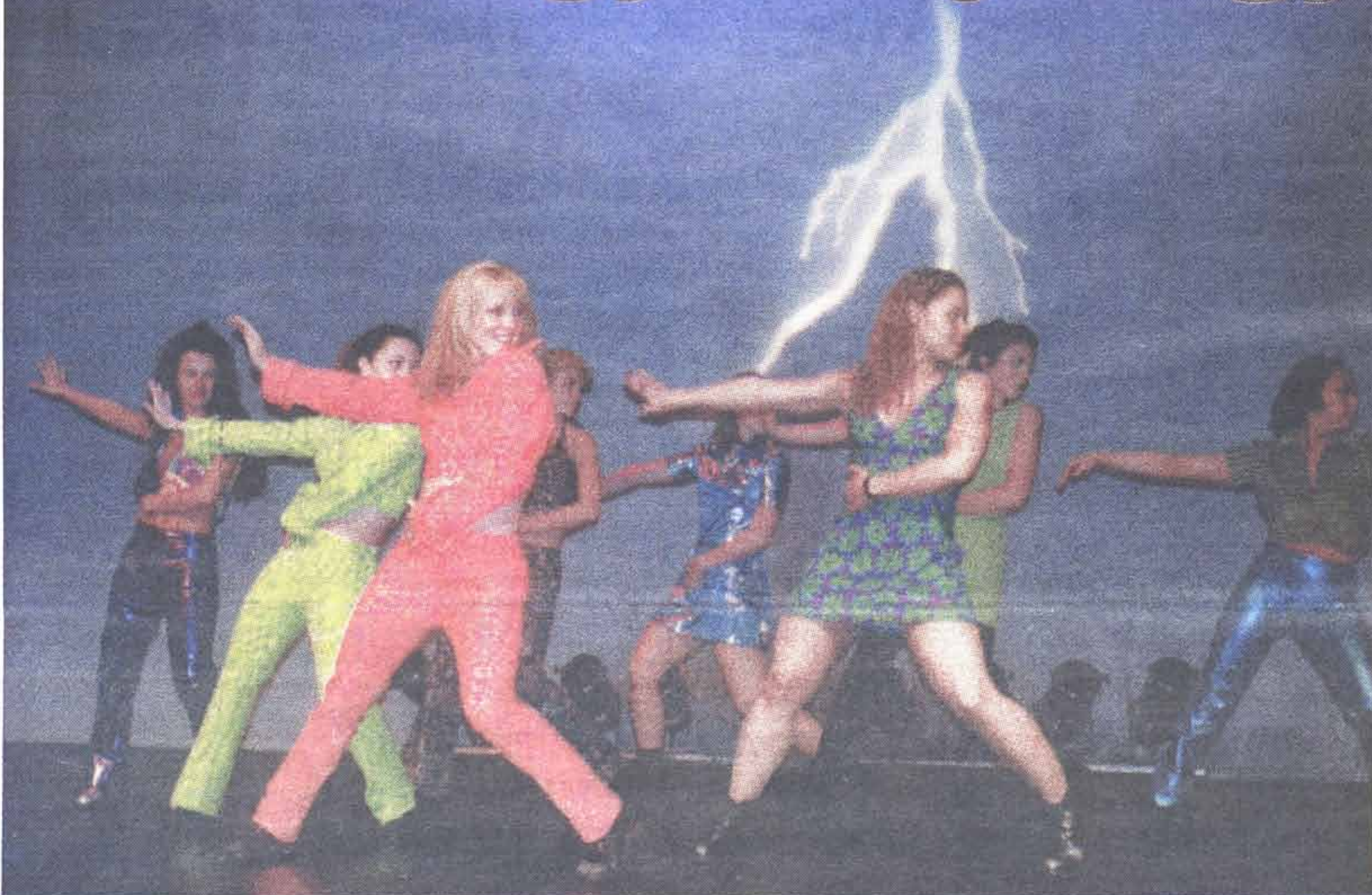
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The energy of Synergy



LORI DYSIEVICK CORD ENTERTAINMENT

The moment the lights went down, the crowd went crazy. WLU's annual high energy charity fashion performance entitled **Synergy '97** was met with enthusiastic anticipation from an ecstatic crowd on Saturday night. The crowd's expectations were completely catered to - the entire show was filled with crowd pleasing touches. More props, special effects, experimental stunts and excellent staging made the show exceptionally creative and original. An especially nice touch was the move from two MC's to four. With their theatrical and entertaining dialogue, the MC's pushed the show over the edge, from great to fantastic.

The opening scene featured all sixty-four cast members on stage (which was a feat in itself on a stage that small) dancing together and establishing the infinite level of energy that continued throughout the entire show. Many members came on the stage through

the crowd, a practice that would be repeated throughout the night. This was the first crowd-pleasing technique that was used to bring the audience into the show.

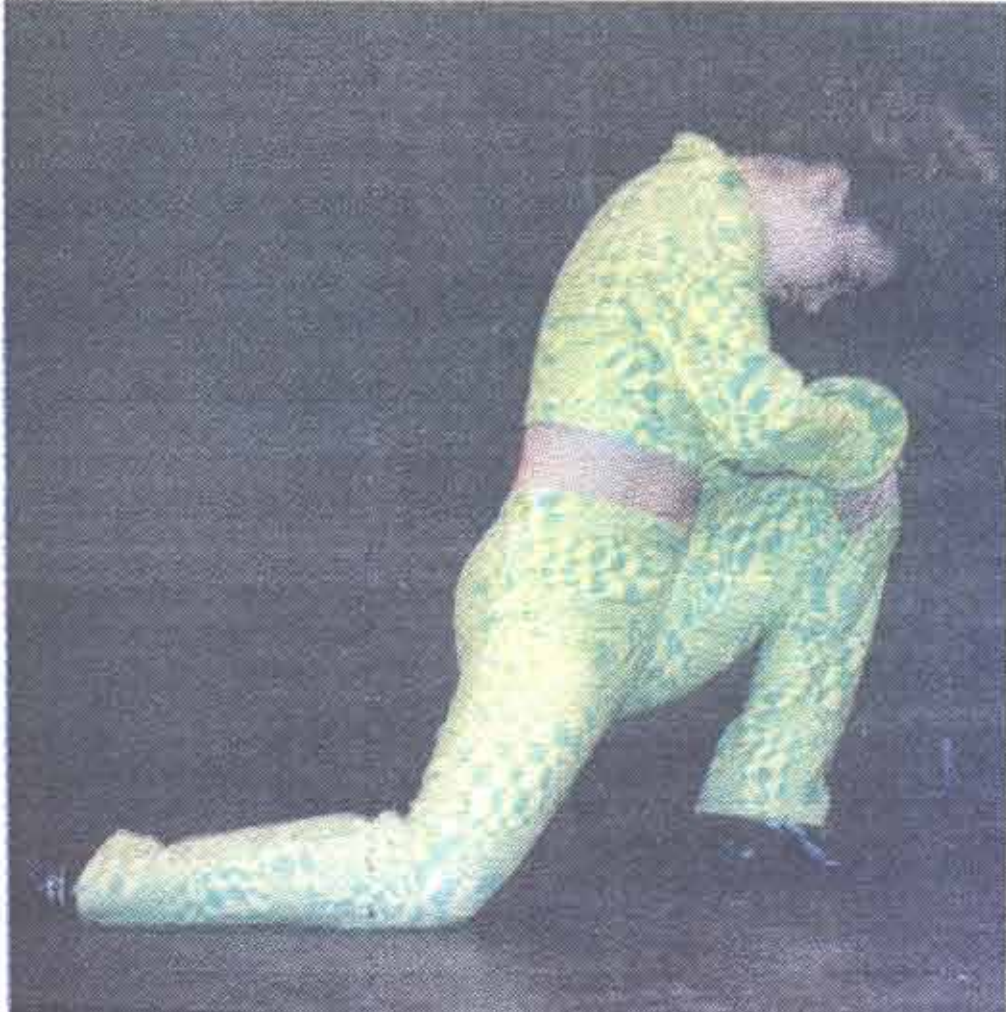
Next, a hip-hop scene, "Hip-Hop, Ya Don't Stop," featured the dance leader wearing a microphone to interact with the audience and eventually run in and pick out a girl to dance with. "Margarita", the third scene, gave some female models the opportunity demonstrate their strength by holding difficult poses and prove that they aren't afraid to kick up their skirts. The "fitness" scene followed, in which the models wore a great selection of workout wear and zipped with unbroken energy through boxercise, cardio-funk, and step aerobics.

The formal scene to Madonna's "Material Girl", was very theatrical. The models threw fake money into the audience and floated around with feather boas and fans. Three female models dressed in tuxedos blended in

amongst the tuxedo-clad male models until the end of the scene when they seductively untucked their hair and literally ripped open their shirts, (they were wearing black tops underneath).

Synergy '97 featured the annual event's first bathing suit scene in a few years, with models dancing around in bikinis and wraps. The seventh scene opened with models whisking through the crowd with flashlights and sunglasses up onto a stage sheathed in smoke while the theme song to **Mission: Impossible** played. Then the curtains open partially to reveal sets of models working the runway to U2's "Discotheque". Yet the real work came in the following scene, "Men At Work", the all-male scene in which the models 'sort of' wore overalls and coveralls. The models redefined the meaning of the word "provocative" with their push-ups and proved that yes, real men can dance.

-Continued on page 20



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WLU students 1st place winners at Queen's

LORI DYSIEVICK
CORD NEWS

This past weekend, four 2nd yr. Business students, Leslie Berger, Stefanie McIver, Joe Thompson and Reagan Ruslin placed first out of 24 teams from across Canada in the Queen's Entrepreneur Competition. The competition, sponsored by Coopers & Lybrand and Canadian Business Magazine, is open to any full-time under graduate student in Canada. Nine teams were selected from across Canada to travel to Kingston to present their business plans for the final round of competition.

The presentation is made in front of a panel of five judges, a partner from Coopers and Lybrand, a partner Deloitte & Touche, representatives from Scotiabank and the Royal Bank of Canada, and a writer from Canadian Business Magazine. The students have thirty minutes to make their presentation followed by a question and answer period in front of an audience and then a less formal debriefing session.

During the debriefing session, "the judges feel you out, see how well you know your business and



From Left to Right: Stefanie McIver, Leslie Berger, Joe Thompson and Reagan Ruslin pose with their \$3,500.00 cheque, the reward for winning the Coopers and Lybrand Gold Medal for Entrepreneurial Excellence, they sport tuxedos to promote their tuxedo agency firm proposal.

how committed you are to your idea," said team member Reagan Ruslin.

When the team arrived on Thursday evening there was a wine and cheese held, at which the teams learned the order of the presentations. There were two teams from

Queen's, two teams from Western, one from Brock, one from RMC, one from Saskatchewan and one from St. Mary's. The Laurier team presented on Friday.

Professor Barbara Rice first told the students about the business competition in her Business 211

class for which the students had to develop a business plan as a term project. As soon as the students heard about the competition, they were interested. "We had our sights set on the competition from the get go," said Ruslin, "and Barbara Rice really pushed us and believed in us.

She deserves a lot of credit."

When asked for a comment Rice said, "I am so proud. I am so happy to work with such a hard working bunch of students."

The team's plan was for a business called "Custom Fit Creations," a tuxedo business that brings formal wear, including fitting and rental, directly to the customer's location. All four team members dressed in tuxedos to present their plan to the panel.

"The skills we learned competing against 3rd and 4th year business students across the country is unmeasurable. Being number one in the country is a huge honour, but beating both Queen's and Western was most rewarding for me," said team member Joe Thompson.

Overall the competition was a huge success for the team. "The thing that I enjoyed the most about the weekend was meeting the teams from other schools," said team member Leslie Berger. Ruslin added, "I hope that next year WLU does send teams to (the competition), we hope that we have started a winning tradition."

Donna French visits WLU

Kristin French's mother delivers poignant message

ANGELA ORTICELLO
CORD NEWS

One in four females will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. From 1982-1994 violence against women increased by 60%. It was with facts such as these that Donna French began speaking last Wednesday when she visited Laurier to raise awareness about not only violence against women, but violence in general.

Donna French, mother of Kristin French of St. Catharines, stressed that the impact of violence cannot be understood until it is experienced. Unfortunately by then it is too late. French knows this only too well, as her daughter Kristin was sexually assaulted and murdered in April of 1992.

French hopes that her story will encourage those who hear it to take a stand against violence.

Donna French hopes that her story will help motivate people to put an end to these faults. Throughout her speech, she continually mentioned how she felt betrayed by the media. When Kristin had first been missing, the

media was supportive and understanding.

When Kristin's body was found, however, the media became very aggressive and insensitive toward the French family's feelings. French felt betrayed, disgusted and her faith in the media was shattered. The entire case was sensationalized as

people, dying to hear gruesome details of the case, lined up days in advance to get into the courtroom. Books focusing on the case became number one sellers.

Recall the constant sensational coverage of the story in the paper

and on the evening news as the media profited on the French's tragedy.

We can say, thank God this is not happening to me, but as Donna French stressed, "The difference between you and a victim is one second."

The justice system also failed in

maintaining French's faith in justice being served. Section 486 of the criminal code came very near to allowing the tapes to be viewed in court. French considered the footage was blunt child pornography.

At the "indulgence" of the court, it was decided that the videos would be visible only to those necessary, but that the audio portion of the tape would be aired in court. A copy of the audio was given to the media to review in a different room.

French was appalled by how the justice system was failing to protect

her victimized daughter. It is against section 486 and section 745 of the criminal code, which allows first and second degree murderers to apply for early release, that Donna French would like people to take action.

Through petitions, phone calls, and letters, French encourages the public to contact MPs MPPs and the justice minister. French feels justice will not be rightly served until the public's voices their unhappiness with the current system, which is more concerned with the killer's rights than the rights of the victim.

Donna French is determined to make a difference. She asks her audience if her daughter fought for her dignity during every moment of her painful abuse why can't we? French dramatically stated, Kristin's eyes are closed, ours are not."

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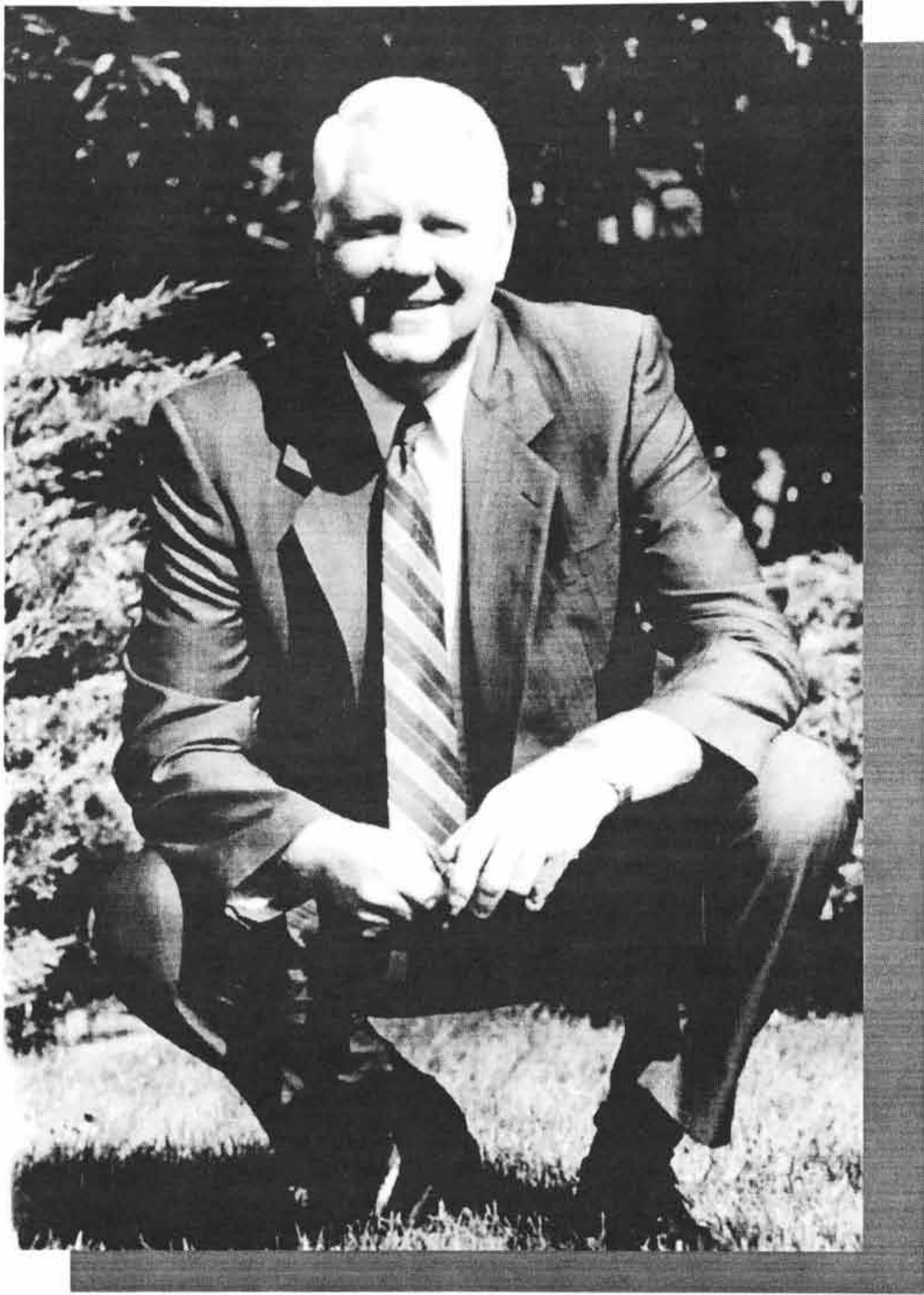


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Irish eyes smiling on St. Patty's Day at Wilf's

JENNIFER CLARKE
CORD NEWS

There could have been green alligators and long-necked geese March 17 at Wilf's during their St. Patrick's day celebrations, but few people were in a position to make a confirmation. With the green beer starting at 11:30 a.m. and lasting until 2 a.m., patrons were greeted with free green paper hats and tiaras, song sheets and every fifth person received a t-shirt.

The Student's Union estimates that nearly a quarter of the campus' population came through the doors of Wilf's, resulting in record food and drink sales. The enthusiastic party-goers were asked to leave the pub for half an hour at 7:30 p.m. in order for staff to restock supplies, change kegs, and allow for a short break. Immediately filling up afterwards, the line-up outside of Wilf's lasted until 12:55 a.m., at one point

reaching down to the first floor bank machines.

There were no calls for WLU security involvement on campus that evening. However, one of the few altercations of the evening at Wilf's occurred around 7 p.m. when one or more overzealous male patrons damaged most of the ceiling tiles in a bathroom stall.

Yet, still pleased with most of the patron involvement Wilf's Bar Manager Dave Playfair stated, "St. Patrick's Day celebrations have previously had some pitfalls, but this year they were just friendly with a lot of Laurier spirit."

Third year Sociology student Gail Longley said, "It was a fun and friendly atmosphere. By the end of the night most of the tables just became one great big table."

Prizes were drawn nearly every twenty minutes with the support of corporate sponsorship from the

Brick Brewery and Labatt's. Patrons were treated with live Irish music from the Leprakrauts, also known as Riverworks, as well as face-painting, and free mugs with each Irish coffee purchase.

Owner and founder of Brick Brewery Jim Brickman, came to Wilf's during the afternoon, was very impressed with the decor and staff.

Playfair attributes this year's success to "innovative marketing, strong word of mouth, strong support from the breweries, and an appropriate band, the Leprakrauts and especially the hard-work of all the volunteers"

Playfair continued by saying, "this year's St. Patrick's Day shows the potential of similar events to be held at Wilf's." In addition, money was raised for Muscular Dystrophy through the "Buck for Luck" promotion at the door.



PHOTO: ANN HUSKINSON

Erin Go Bragh! Green beer, Irish Coffee and green accessories brought out the Irish in everyone at Wilf's on Monday.

OUSA at WLU

LORI DYSIEVICK
CORD NEWS

This past weekend approximately 22 delegates convened at WLU for a conference of OUSA, the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance. Representatives from Brock, Waterloo, Western, Windsor and Toronto met at WLU to discuss policies specifically regarding student financial assistance and recent changes to federal and provincial budgets.

According to VP:University Affairs George Raptis, the weekend was productive. There were three issues on the table, the loan forgiveness schedule included in Paul Martin's federal budget that was released in February. The delegates discussed how it will affect students and what OUSA can do to better represent the students.

The second item was a proposal from the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. Representing the AUCC was Alex Usher, who explained the proposal and what it meant at a federal level.

Thirdly the delegates discussed grants in the AUCC proposal. The proposal included deferred grants and special opportunity grants and included new tax incentives, work

study programs and rebate programs.

Raptis was especially pleased with the opportunity to convene and discuss the issues in person with his fellow OUSA representatives. "You don't always pick up everyone's concerns, in the general assembly you can bounce ideas off people."

The delegates attended Synergy '97 on Friday night after the end of their first discussion. On Saturday evening they enjoyed a dinner at the Olde English Parlour and listened to keynote speaker, David Scott, representative on the Council of Ontario Universities, speak on effective lobbying, then went to Wilf's Comedy Night.

"I think it was a very productive meeting," said Raptis. When asked about the delegates' impression of WLU, Raptis glowed. "We totally showed Laurier off. They heard all this stuff about WLU being such a friendly school. When they got to WLU they couldn't believe how true it was." One delegate had even commented to Raptis that they wished they had considered WLU when choosing which university to attend, "but you can't say which one," Raptis smiled, "that person would kill me, but what a compliment!"

Culture Shock

ERIC HENRY

CORD NEWS COMMENTARY

Feminism has been on my mind recently. In my education, I have written from every theoretical background except for this one. It's bothering me because I don't know if I can. Think about it. I'm a guy. What am I supposed to know about feminism, and yet, it has a large place in anthropology. A full half of another culture is experienced by women. But in the past, their experience has been marginalized.

Traditionally, a man will go to study a foreign culture, write about it, and then later a woman will arrive and study a foreign culture from a female perspective. The man's book is entitled "The Strange and Amazing Culture of Laurier" and the woman's book, "The Women of the Strange and Amazing Culture of Laurier".

We have long recognized that

the experiences and perspectives of women are valid, but they are often treated as something different from the main body of theory. Feminism is a subcategory, something that is acknowledged, but shoved into a separate chapter. Feminism is treated as a critique of theory, and not theory in itself.

All of these thoughts came at a time when the traditional stereotype was expressed as "Men do theory". Women do something else. Women write feminism. As far as I can tell, there is a boundary yet to be crossed. Women have subsequently "done" theory. But can men "do" feminism?

That's my question. As a man, am I capable of, if not experiencing a woman's perspective, at least conveying that perspective? Am I qualified to write about a woman's experience? Can my testosterone ridden mind, reeking of sweat and alcohol, even hope to be so inclu-

sive.

Surely if I want to write about the strange and amazing culture of Laurier, which has always been my attempt in this column, I need to include more than half the student population. Culture is inclusive, and I need to include both men and women. Is it possible? Or should the Cord recruit a female counterpart for me?

I'm hoping that I never exclude women from my thinking, but I'm sure that my male bias occasionally creeps in. I must constantly evaluate my work from the perspective of the other gender.

As Fox Mulder once said, "I'm told that even though my deodorant is made for a woman, it's strong enough for a man." Likewise, even though feminism is made for women, its theory is extremely relevant to both genders.



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West Virginia visits WLU

LORI DYSIEVICK
CORD NEWS

For the past seven years, WLU's Dean of Students Fred Nichols, has taken a group of student leaders from WLU on an annual trip to his alma mater, West Virginia University.

After inviting the students who hosted them for seven years to WLU, a group of 19 finally made the trip to WLU this past weekend to compare the differences between American and Canadian universities.

Luckily the group beat the bad weather to arrive Thursday, just

before the snowstorm started. "They were so excited about all the snow" said Dean Nichols in an interview. "We hate it, but they don't get to see snow like that in West Virginia."

The group consisted of nineteen people including 13 students and six faculty members. Most of the group stayed in the Comfort Inn on Weber.

On Thursday night, Dean Nichols entertained the group in his home and then the party was moved to Lucinda House where University President Dr. Lorna Marsden was hosting a social night for various student leaders from WLU.

On Friday, the group visited the Robert Langden Art Gallery, met with representatives of the Student Union departments, the Office of the Registrar, The Cord, Student Publications, Wilf's and the Turret.

The group attended "Synergy", WLU's annual Fashion Show on Saturday afternoon and then had a full course dinner at Wilf's on Saturday evening, (complete with strawberries with WVU engraved in them the Dean noted,) and then partied the Turret on Saturday night.

"The students were so impressed that the fashion show was done completely by students,

directing, choreographing, everything. They hire people to do that stuff in West Virginia. They thought that our students have so much autonomy, are so responsible and mature. Our students do all the things that their administrators do at WVU," said Dean Nichols.

"The drinking age in West Virginia is 21, so they were amazed that our students not only had bars on campus but actually ran the bars too," Nichols chuckled. "It was a real eye-opener for them."

"I think that they had a great time," said Joel Lynn who entertained the students for most of the

weekend. "It was their first time here and it was a different experience for them. They were really surprised by the spirit in the community at WLU."

"We were proud to host them. They have been hosting us for the past few years," said Lynn.

The group called the Dean to let him know that they got home safely. "I can't thank the Students' Union enough for how well they entertained the group," said Nichols. "What a treat for me to have the two universities twinned up. They definitely want to come back."

• Newsbites • Newsbites • Newsbites •

Squabbling at the Senate meeting

MELANIE SEAL
CORD NEWSBITE

At the University's Senate meeting on March 10, members voted in favour of a motion that "the Senate request the Presidential Search committee provide a public forum in which the entire community can discuss the direction of the University in relation to the selection of the University President." Dr. Peter Eglin, who seconded the motion, started the debate by introducing concerns he had about the university's financial involvement in various corporate committees, and the direction of the University.

Betty Sims, chair of the Presidential Search Committee stated that the committee had already been very open with the Laurier community.

When Eglin continued to question the University's involvement in external committees, David Lennard said, "you can't shove your head in the sand - those corporations are paying your salary."

Dr. Jenna Mather, another member of the Presidential Search Committee said, "we have sent out constant letters, clippings in the review process. I have yet to see a letter... And this fascinates me." Mather expressed her concern that if the Committee's progress was delayed, it may be another year and half before they are ready to select a new president.

Eglin stated that he had recently finished a twenty-one page report. He said that he came to the Senate with his concerns, "because the Senate advises the Board of Governors about what our opinion is."

"I can't wait to dust my cap to the Royal Bank... and feel so grateful for the things they've done for this university," Eglin said sarcastically.

"it's the mission [of the University] that bothers the hell out of me."

21 Senate members voted in favour of the public forum to discuss the direction of the University, 11 were opposed, and 5 members abstained from the vote.

Used Books Issue Continues

LORI DYSIEVICK
CORD NEWSBITES

Bill C-32, An Act to Amend the Copyright Act, returned to the House of Commons for further debate last Thursday and continues to cause an uproar amongst student leaders. The Bill was originally proposed by the Minister of Heritage and concerns the copyrighting in libraries and archives. However, an amendment was introduced in December that would impose a restriction on the importation of used books to be sold in Canadian university bookstores.

The Association of Canadian Publishers stated that the problem is that, "foreign-located used text dealers in effect force-feed the Canadian marketplace with used textbooks that may not have been first sold here as new. That's different from recycling texts that the Canadian publisher first supplied to its own market."

However, the National Director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, Matthew Hough, claims that, "American publishers would in fact be the greatest beneficiaries from this motion, because students will be forced to buy new texts - texts that are published by American companies."

The only group that has expressed support for the students thus far is the Reform Party. On Monday, March 17th, the government explained that their intent was not to restrict the availability of used textbooks, but only to regulate the

used book market. The debate continues in the House of Commons.

Freezing Rain does not deter Laurier applicants

MELANIE SEAL
CORD NEWSBITE

Despite freezing rain and winter storm warnings, around 300 prospective students and parents arrived at Laurier's Athletic Centre on Friday, March 14 for what was scheduled to be Laurier Day.

Jennifer Casey, manager of liaison services for Laurier said that although only 20% of the expected number attended, she was "thrilled" that people had challenged inclement weather conditions from as far away as Kingston and Ottawa.

"I wouldn't have ventured out if I didn't have to," Casey said.

About 300 Laurier volunteer tour guides did make it to the AC, hoping for the opportunity to show off their school.

On Thursday, March 27, prospective students will be given another chance to tour Laurier. Casey hopes that volunteer tour guides "will find it in the goodness of their hearts" to come and help out again.

Although university applications from high school students dropped 2.5 percent, applications to Laurier rose 7.5 percent, the second highest increase of applicants this year. The number of students who selected Laurier as their first choice rose 13.3 percent, the highest increase in the province.

New OMB

LORI DYSIEVICK
CORD NEWSBITE

WLUSU has announced its appointments for the Operations Management Board for the 1997-98 academic year. The OMB is the senior executive board for the Students' Union. The positions are decided through a hiring process conducted by the elected members of the WLUSU for the coming academic year. There is a unique portfolio for each position.

The Operations Management Board are as follows; VP: University Finance, Gareth Cunningham, VP: Student Activities, Julie McCallum, VP: Student Services, Renee Pelletier, VP: Marketing, Michael Keriakos.

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The view from here

Dr. Marsden reflects on her years at Laurier, and what the future may hold

MELANIE SEAL
CORD NEWS

After leading Laurier as its president for the past five years, Dr. Lorna Marsden finishes her term at the end of July. The Cord asked her to give her thoughts on Laurier, the past, and the university's future.

Cord: It's 1992. Why did you choose Laurier and what drew you to Laurier initially? Why the move from Politics?

Marsden: For over a year I sat in parliament very concerned about universities... The university just didn't surface on the agenda of public political attention... I just came to the interview, I wasn't particularly going to come. I didn't know about Laurier at all. But when I did the background reading, I just couldn't believe what a gem it is - and it is - I mean I couldn't believe my eyes... excellent students, very strong faculty, no deficit, do debt, a very balanced budget. It is just an amazing place, and people don't know about it and what they wanted done was somebody to raise the profile of the university, etc., and I was delighted when they selected me.

Cord: What were the major goals that you set up for Laurier when you arrived at the University?

Marsden: I wanted to raise the profile, maintain and strengthen the academic side of the university, raise money, and in effect really work in the University Advancement area - the alumni side of things, the student selection side of things, the fundraising side of things - do what in fact, we've done... So that was one large set of goals.

Cord: It's been said that Laurier is a bit of an old boys club. Do you think the fact that you are a woman affected people's expectations of you and reactions to you before you came?

Marsden: Oh, I'm sure. I'm not sure that Laurier was such an old boy's club... most universities are. But, we all carry our gender with us. And so certainly it did. And, people have been extremely.. I've never been, you know... people don't directly raise this question, they really don't, and it's been a pleasure working with people here, it really hasn't been a big problem. But I'm sure people have different expectations of men and women.

Cord: Looking back, what do you feel is your major accomplishment over the past five years? Is there any event which stands out in your mind?

Marsden: Many events stand out in my mind. It's probably too soon to say, you know, it's easier when you look back, I mean I'm still discussing with the Chair of the Board the twelve projects I have to finish before I go... The Operating agreement, not that I did it, Dr. Berczi [VP: Finance/Administration] did that, the code of conduct, the really good relationships that we have with both the graduate and the undergraduate students. I'm very happy, I think the students are wonderful, and that kind of good relationship allows us both to win. I'm very happy about the faculty that we've developed and acquired, and the new science building, and the whole building of the academic side of the university I think has been tremendous. And I'm very happy about the success of

Campaign Laurier. It's been a great experience and I think it's really helped the university.

Cord: Is there anything you wish you or the university had done differently?

Marsden: It's a long list. There are lots of things I wish I had done differently, I mean you learn, you know, you burn bridges all over the place (laughs). Well, I don't know it's hard to say, at the time you make decisions about various things...

Cord: I guess hindsight is 20-20.

Marsden: Hindsight is a big advantage, but it's much too late to do anything. There are all kinds of



"I'd like to see Laurier the number one small primarily undergraduate university in this country. And I think it will be."

things that I would have done differently, there's no, sort of, one big mistake, that I can think of, but there are many things I would have done differently. I would have approached problems in quite a different way, under other circumstances, but by and large I don't think we've had any major mess-ups... There's such a good spirit at Laurier you know, that you overcome a lot of difficulties, and of course we've had the genius of Andrew Berczi, I mean he is a brilliant problem solver, and I'm really grateful, to have the vice-presidents, all of them for what they've done. They've really done a lot. And many others too, I mean the Deans, and all the staff and faculty but certainly Andy Berczi, Don Baker, Rowland Smith, and Arthur Stephen have gotten me out of a lot of trouble.

Cord: What do you remember most vividly when you recall the student governments over the past five years?

Marsden: Well I keep saying to all the Students' Union Presidents I'd like to have, you know the kodak baby picture. Going from Nick Jimenez to Stewart Wong, a Kodak photograph because each one of them has been so different. Each of the executives have been so different. Each of them has contributed something to the university, and it's quite fascinating to work with them, I mean everybody poses a problem of a particular kind. I remember them all very vividly. I really do, there were great, great leaders in that group... I have really enjoyed the association with students, it's

just been tremendous people. I love teaching. The first year I taught. The second year I taught again.

Cord: Why did you give it up?

Marsden: Well, because of the Campaign. Because of the campaign you can't set your schedule. You have to go to the donors, and so were I staying another five years I'd be back in the classroom because I really, really enjoyed that a lot.

Cord: Would you like to do that at York?

Marsden: I don't think that's practical at a place like York. But, Laurier students are so demanding, I really enjoy them. They're much harder students to work with in a sense that they're really very bright, very demanding. They're fun.

Cord: Where would you like to see Laurier go in the next millennium or decade?

Marsden: I'd like to see Laurier the number one small primarily undergraduate university in this country. And I think it will be. Because that will increase the value of your degree and everybody else's. I'd like to see it not become huge, not become a large university, but maintain the sense of community that is so extremely rich and valuable. I'd like it to be more outward for people, looking at what it is that they do so well in other countries and other universities, more international, more externally oriented. I think that would be a tremendous advantage to the students, and the faculty.

Cord: Do you have any concerns for Laurier, especially when faced with budget cuts and fee deregulation?

Marsden: One has to have. These are difficult years, and fortunately the Laurier budget is in good shape comparatively speaking... that's why keeping strong links with the community and the alumni is so important because you need to understand the special goal and mission of Laurier. You have to actively understand it, and persuade others of how important it is. It's in constant threat of so-called rationalization. I think one of the great things we've accomplished over the past five years is to increase the number of matters that we deal with the university of Waterloo and Guelph, thereby reducing everybody's cost. The library project is the big one. But there being many, many others we have to keep that up in order to preserve Laurier's autonomy. It's very important.

Cord: Why York? What about York appeals to you?

Marsden: York is totally different, completely and utterly different. I had no reason to go to a university that was in any way similar. It is very used to making change, it is a very nimble university. It is not bureaucratically ridden, it's a lot of innovation... I think that's very attractive. But, the only thing that it has in common with Laurier is that it's undervalued just as Laurier was. The students and faculty here are much, much better than the world knew. And I think that's true of York as well. But the real reason for making a change is I think a university President has about eight years. After that, they stop listening to you... And I think now is a really good time to make a change for Laurier.

Cord: A lot of university professors don't have an active role in the gov-

erning and even the social events that go around on campus. Why do you think that you wanted to be involved in Laurier so much?

Marsden: Oh well, why wouldn't you? I mean it's great, I love the things that go on around campus. I wish I could be at more of them. I love going to the concerts and the faculty of music is wonderful, and even though I don't know much about them I love the athletic events, I like the alumni, the political issues, I think it's all great. I love being a part of it. It's really fun.

Cord: Do you think you'll be as active at York?

Marsden: It's totally different, when you've got all those people, they won't even notice me. Here, it's been very nice in that many students knew who the president was, whereas at York they won't know who I am... York will be really different, because it's situated where it is in Metro. It will be very different but I'm looking forward to that too.

Cord: Does it bother you that many

people judge you or talk about the amount of money you make?

Marsden: Well, I'm sort of ambivalent about it. Of course I would prefer that it didn't happen, on the other hand, I've always been a great fighter for women's pay equity and it just tickles me that the highest paid president is a woman. I think that's just wonderful. I hope that every other woman notices, every other woman who wants to be in university administration. It always distressed me at U of T when I discovered my pay was so much lower than men with the same qualifications.

Cord: What will you remember most about Laurier?

Marsden: Oh, the spirit of the place, unquestionably. It's a unique spirit. I can't imagine another university on earth like this. It's really wonderful. It's really worth doing a lot to keep. And I think it just shows up in everything that goes on around here... It's wonderful. Laurier is a way of life... It's more than just a university.

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Teaching in Korea



PHOTO: SHELDON PAGE

SHELDON PAGE

SPECIAL TO

CORD INTERNATIONAL

(Chonju, ROK) Teaching English in Korea can be both rewarding and frustrating. So far I have experienced both of the above mentioned situations. Readers must keep in mind that this article represents what I have learned and experienced in five months living and teaching in Korea. In no way do I claim to have experienced all the highs and lows that are associated with teaching in Korea nor do I claim to understand the Korean culture. An acquaintance of mine once told me that after living in Korea for

four years he is just beginning to understand the culture.

Requirements of Finding Work

There are generally four types of organizations for whom one can be employed as an English teacher. Work can be found with the large corporate groups like Hyundai, Samsung and Daewoo. Hours can be long, but the pay and benefits are reportedly well worth one's time. Universities are also excellent places to seek employment. The hours are low and the pay and living conditions are excellent. For people with Master's degrees (preferably in

English or teaching English as a second language) universities should be one of the first places one looks. Presently, there are many new opportunities for employment with the Korean Ministry of Education as well. Try giving the Korean Consulate in Toronto a call about the EPIK program for more information.

The easiest place to find work is at one of the thousands of private language institutes or "hagwons" that are in all Korean cities. If you have a university degree and a pulse you have a good chance at finding a job with a hagwon. I worked at a hagwon or five months before land-

ing my present university position, therefore, most of the information I pass on in this article will be related to hagwon teaching.

My old hagwon primarily offered classes in elementary schools. These classes are held before and after regular classes.

What You Should Expect When Teaching

My first day of teaching began with being left on my own in a classroom filled with screaming grade one students. Being on your own in a classroom, especially an elementary school classroom, makes controlling the students next to impossible. The younger the students are, the harder they are to control. Korean teachers strike their children as a method of control. The children are very aware of the fact that foreign teachers do not have this power and act accordingly.

Teaching in the elementary schools is especially challenging because the children are in very familiar surroundings. With no assistance from a Korean teacher, it can be very difficult to teach. I have taught some classes in cooperation with a Korean English teacher and have found this to be incredibly valuable. The children understand what I am saying (via translation) and are very well behaved. I left those classes feeling that the children actually learned something.

The problem with some English hagwons seems to be that they only care that the students are happy - not that they are learning English. It can be very frustrating to realize that you are nothing more than a well paid babysitter. I emphasize that this is not the case with all hagwons. Many hagwons genuinely care about what the children are learning.

I have found that children's classes that are held at a hagwon are far better controlled. To truly test your teaching skills and patience, try a few classes in the elementary schools.

One of the most enjoyable teaching experiences that I have had is teaching adults. These people are in your class to learn - not to be babysat. I always look forward to my adult classes. There are many

times that I leave the class feeling that I have learned as much from my students as they have from me.

If you are like myself and are fond of writing in your resume that you are flexible and willing to adapt to challenging situations, teaching in Korea will make you put your boasting to the test. Teaching schedules can change at a moments notice. Classes appear and disappear. You might have five minutes notice before being shipped off to a different city for five to six hours of classes. This is not necessarily a bad thing, but just something to prepare yourself for.

Depending on where you work, you might find yourself preparing and creating all your lesson plans and materials. Many hagwons supply their teachers with all necessary materials and information. Many do not. If you have some favorite teaching aides, bring them with you. It is more likely than not that you will need them.

How to find the best teaching contacts

Before I left WLU, Career Services had several ongoing postings by overseas teaching recruiters in the jobs binder. The large national newspapers also have many recruitment classified ads. You can also check out these two World Wide Web sites: The Korea Help Pages - <http://soback.kornet.nm.kr/%7Ewharrms/rok-help.html> and the list of WWW Servers in Korea - <http://www.dongguk.ac.kr>. There are hundreds of sites dedicated to teaching abroad on the web. Try using "teaching korea" as a search string for hundreds of hits.

Tips for success if you go

It is not difficult to find a position as an English teacher in Korea. However, it can be very difficult to find a good position and to actually get to Korea. In this article I will explain how I came to Korea and what to look for in a teaching contract.

In the summer of 1996, my girlfriend and I discussed the possibility of teaching overseas. We had heard from various sources that the money was good in Korea and we

Continued...

Living and travelling in Korea

Living and travelling in Korea was certainly a change of pace from life in Waterloo. The following is a quick introduction to living in Korea and if you are blessed with some spare time, travelling in Korea.

HOUSING

Most teaching contracts will stipulate that the employer will provide housing. Unless you have a place to stay, only sign a contract that gives you housing. If the contract states that you will receive a furnished room or apartment you might discover that your idea of furnished (or habitable) might differ from your employer's perspective. I know teachers that live in palaces while others live in hovels. It all depends on your employer.

Housing in Korea (for teachers anyway) comes in the form of apartments or traditional houses. Apartments are all relatively modern and you can expect a Western style bathroom and floor plan. Houses are another matter all together. Be prepared to sleep on the floor on a very comfortable sleeping mat. Since heat comes from hot water circulating under the floor, sleeping on the floor during winter is quite enjoyable. Washrooms can be inside or outside the house and showering is accomplished with a shower wand attached to the sink. Do not expect a tub. You might have a Western style toilet or the Korean version that we have lovingly dubbed a "squatter". It looks like a urinal laying on its back. Its name explains how it is used. Some people get used to squatters, some do not.

My girlfriend and I very quickly adapted to our Korean house. We have had little trouble except for hitting the language barrier every now and then. We once went two days without propane for our range as we could not figure out how to order more.

FOOD

Many Western groceries are available depending on how large a city you are living in. In Seoul and Pusan you can get just about anything. In my city that has a

population of about 500,000 I become very desperate at times for dill pickles and cheddar cheese. If you have favorite spices for cooking, bring them with you.

Korean cuisine is very interesting. Rice is a staple as is kimchi - a pickled cabbage liberally doused in hot pepper paste. Red pepper paste and garlic are found in almost every dish. Most Korean food is also very hot. If you love seafood and live near the coast you are in for a treat. We eat out most of the time as Korean food is very affordable while Western style food is just the opposite. We found that after our first month in Korea our palates adjusted quite rapidly to Korean cuisine.

TRAVEL

Travelling in Korea is wonderful. Every means of transportation is very affordable and readily available. A city bus costs about 60 cents, a 3.5 hour express bus ride to Seoul costs about \$11. Subways in Seoul and Pusan have plenty of English although they are very crowded during rush hours. Taxis are very cheap. A 20 minute ride across town rarely costs over \$5. Buses to other cities usually run every five minutes.

For such a small country there is a lot to see. There are hundreds of Buddhist temples and shrines. The mountains, while not being in the same league as the Rockies make up for their size by their sheer numbers. There are mountains everywhere. Most of the major mountains are designated as parks and have wonderful (and at times very dangerous) hiking trails. A Korean park trail that does not threaten your life at least once is not worthy of being called a trail. There are numerous scenic coastal islands and beaches as well as many national monuments and historical sites.

While living and travelling in Korea is not without challenges, after living here for five months I am looking forward to the next twelve.

If you have the desire to experience a new, challenging culture, and see some incredible sights, then Korea might just be for you.

• Sheldon Page

From page 10

wanted to travel. Using the World Wide Web I found many offers of employment for native English speakers. I also saw many ads in the classified sections of the larger Canadian newspapers.

I sent an e-mail inquiry to a recruiting agency in Incheon, Korea. I stated that we would be ready for employment in mid-September. We sent by courier (\$40) resumes, cover letters and certified copies (by the Korean consulate in Toronto) of our degrees and transcripts. Do not send original documents. Once lost, your degree can be very expensive to replace.

Leaving at a moments notice

During the last week of August, we received a phone call from the recruiter. They had positions for both of us as long as we could leave by the end of the month. In a blind panic we packed up our belongings, made arrangements to cancel my car insurance, etc. We moved to our parents' homes to await our travel arrangements. We waited almost two months before actually arriving in Korea.

A series of delays, contract changes and misleading e-mail messages led to spending several hundred dollars on faxes and couriers. At more than one point during our two month wait we were ready to give up. We were taken by surprise one Friday night when we were told to be at the airport the next morning. Be prepared to experience the "hurry up and wait" syndrome when waiting to come to Korea.

The Top Ten Things You Should Know and Expect Before Leaving For Korea to Teach

1. Don't be in a hurry to leave. Be prepared to wait two months or more from the time your contact in Korea tells you they have a position available.
2. Be prepared for a "hurry up and wait" experience. We were ready to fly on several occasions only to have flight plans cancelled.
3. Try to find a contact that has e-mail access. It will save a fortune in long distance fees.
4. Watch out for clauses in contracts referring to pay deductions to be given back at the end of a contract and pay deductions if your number of students drops.
5. 1,000,000 won/month is the low end of the scale in regards to pay. Hold out for 1.2 million or more.
6. If you have a MA degree, look at the universities or large corporations. Leave the hagwons (private language institutes alone).
7. Read as much about teaching in Korea as possible. There are many sites on the WWW with a great deal of information on teaching here. Some sites offer black lists that are very good to read.
8. Talk to people who have taught in Korea. Almost everyone I talk to from home knows someone who is either teaching in Korea or who once taught here. Pump them for as much information as possible.
9. Don't expect to dump your low paying hagwon job for a better one as soon as you land at Kimpo Airport. Changing employers needs the consent of your original employer - no exceptions - and involves a lot of red tape.
10. Don't sign the first contract that you get your hands on. Most will be open for negotiation. Shop around unless your are really desperate to get out of the country.

• Sheldon Page

McDonald's: A universal experience.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY SHELDON PAGE

The World in Review

KATHERINE HARDING CORD INTERNATIONAL Civil Unrest Continues in Albania

Durres-Chaos reigned in the streets and ports of Albania yesterday as tens of thousands of people attempted to escape escalating violence that has swept across that country.

Police in Durres used batons and fired on crowds jamming onto boats sailing to Italy. Desperate refugees charged towards American and German helicopters that were ferrying foreign nationals to safety. But soldiers beat Albanians with rifle butts to drive them off the aircraft.

The exodus reached a gruesome climax last Sunday as Albanians scaled the sides of boats and braved hazardous waters in an attempt to escape the country torn by anarchy, political violence and economic disaster.

This was a day after its government ordered police stations to pass out arms among its citizenry to shore up a police force weakened by civil unrest.

Speeding Up the Net

Kirkland, Wash.-Beginning in 2000, rockets all over the world will begin carrying car-sized satellites about 700 kilometers above the Earth. Over two years, 840 of them will be gently dropped into place, fanning out to form a constellation that covers the globe.

This \$12 billion venture that is intended to bring faster Internet service to the entire globe has been financed by Teledesic Corporation.

Its two prime investors being Bill Gates of Microsoft and Craig McCaw, formerly of McCaw Cellular Communications.

The idea behind Teledesic is simple. Most of the world isn't wired for the fast, heavy data traffic. But by using satellites messages can simply bounce up into space and then back down to receivers.

At this point, it's unclear whether the technology will even work. But if it does, Gates and McCaw will own a piece of the future.

Nazi Hunt Slowly Continues in Canada

Ottawa-Canada's hunt for suspected Nazi war criminals has been

seriously damaged by bitter bureaucratic turf wars and a go-slow attitude among some senior federal officials.

Bill Hobson, first head of the justice department's war crimes unit says he was unfairly branded a "zealot" because he wanted to push more Nazi cases to trial. "This is the single most important moral and human rights issue for any country and I never expected the attitudes that I was confronted with," said Hobson, who headed the federal team of Nazi hunters from 1987 to 1990.

Recently, Canada's problem of "harbouring" Nazis was brought to light when an American news show exposed several Nazi criminals still residing in Canada.



Restoring order: An Albanian pro-government supporter questions driver at a checkpoint

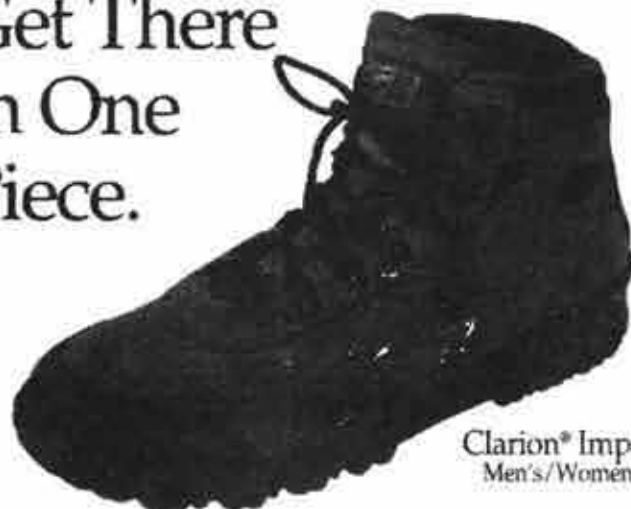


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Editorial

Snowshovels vs. urbanization

There's something to be said for living in balmy southern Ontario, the so-called "Golden Horseshoe" of Canada. There's a city every fifty feet, the temperature rarely gets extremely cold and there are a million universities all within an hour's drive of home.

I'm not from Southern Ontario, however. I'm from Northern Ontario, dammit, and after almost two years of living in Waterloo's subtropical climate I've come upon some spectacular revelations, not the least of which being that the north and south are as different from one another as snow is from sun.

Besides the obvious difference of climate, there are other, more disturbing distinctions. For one, the bottom half of the province is so heavily industrialized that on a bad day you can't see ten feet in front of yourself - it's almost a relief to drive south and get some of that comparatively clean New York state air.

People from Canada always talk about how ignorant some people from the U.S. are - how they show up at the border in the middle of June with skis, or look for moose on Yonge Street. People laugh at that, but unfortunately the same thing occurs here and it's not out of the ordinary. I'd like to believe differently, but many from the south know nothing about the northern half of their province.

"Do you guys have TV up there?" "Do you guys have hydro up there?" "Do you live in a log cabin?" - these are only some of the profound glimpses of wisdom I've received during my stay here. Of course, there's the granddaddy of them all; I once told someone I lived in an igloo and they believed me. It's upsetting that some people living here have such an ignorant, elitist attitude about life that if you're not from North York, Mississauga or some other God-forsaken level of suburbia then you're automatically classified as an outsider from the boonies.

I'm not saying that Northern Ontario is perfect, by any stretch of the imagination. The idea is almost laughable. One does, of course, get sick of seeing trees in all four directions, and for six months out of the year the weather absolutely sucks. On the other hand, when you walk through the park late at night in most Northern communities the most you have to worry about is being attacked by a squirrel. That's a comforting thought (unless you really hate squirrels).

Both areas of the province have their own strong and weak points, as does every spot on the globe. Southern Ontario is far better in terms of a stable job market, but on the other hand it's nothing but urban sprawl from one end to the next. Living in Northern Ontario is far better in terms of keeping one's sanity, but on the other hand you have to worry about being run over by rogue snowmobilers.

I guess it all comes down to what you like.

Editorial by Jim Donnelly, Assistant Sports Editor

The opinions expressed in this editorial are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Cord Staff, the editorial board, or Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications.

LETTERS
to the Editor

Indie bands at Wilf's

Dear Editor,

On Friday March 14, Wilf's had two amazing up and coming acts. Danielle French and the Jessica Scoenberg Band. Both were powerhouse singer's, had travelled from Alberta, had well produced CD's and tried their best at getting a crowd response. Wilf's works hard at getting you top notch entertainment and I don't think I have seen anything more frustrating than the less than welcome attitude a lot of you give the performers. Jessica has a very Amanda Marshall sounding voice and stage presence while Danielle is very Kate Bush-Tori Amos like. But they both were still unique. So what's the deal with going to the Turret on Friday night, listening to songs that you have heard a million times over? As a professional musician myself, we go through so much crap in the industry that it's amazing we stay in it. You definitely did not help Friday in supporting these performers careers.

Perhaps you never heard of these groups but did they have to be a recognized name for you to stay or what? So go buy and listen to your generic big dog record company crap that's shoved down our throats everyday. Independence is a strong willed approach and I'm sure some of you will support us. To those of you who stayed and had a great time Friday...May you Rock!
 Ian Graham

Turret Thief

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to tell everyone that my leather coat was taken from the Turret on Saturday March 15, 1997. I realize that it may have been a mix-up at coat check and that some-

one may have taken my coat by mistake. I do not know what happened; all I know is that I want my coat back. It is a black "biker jacket", 3/4 length with silver zippers and a belt.

It is not only the fact that my coat was stolen. If you want a coat that badly, then keep it. It is the fact that all of my I.D., my keys and other things were also taken. These things do not have value to anyone except for me.

Everyone is trying to cheer me up by saying "it could be worse, they could have taken you!" I know that it could be worse, but put yourself in my position. I am cold and I.D. -less. In a way, whoever took my coat HAS taken a part of me. They have taken the trust that I had in honesty of people at Laurier. I always felt as though I could leave my stuff in a classroom while I went to the bathroom or to do something else during a break. Now I will think twice. I hope that it is just a mix-up and that someone will be honest and return it. But, if whoever you are did it on purpose, I hope that someday you will get something that is important to you stolen.

No questions will be asked. If you like you can call me at home at 725-3450 or you can drop it off to the secretary in the Students' Union office. Please restore my trust in the students at Laurier.
 Jennifer Allchin
 Cold in Waterloo.

WVU writes

To Our Hosts at Wilfrid Laurier University:

On behalf of the West Virginia University staff and students who visited your campus last week, we would like to extend a warm thank you. Our visit was a tremendous learning experience for each of us.

This being the first of many exchange visits, we greatly appreciated the hospitality of Fred L. Nichols (Deano), President Joel Lynn and the various other members we met.

Along with our educational experience, we truly enjoyed the fabulous performance of Synergy '97 and the Turret. (You guys showed us how to party Canadian style!) During our visit, we were also wined and dined in the fine establishment of Wilf's. Everyone couldn't stop commenting on the fine cuisine prepared by your staff. We particularly appreciated our WV carved strawberries. For many of us, this will be an experience we won't forget, and we owe it all to the fine people at WLU. We look forward to your future visits to Morgantown and to our visits returning to Waterloo.

Sincerely,
Rachel Bott, City Editor of student newspaper Daily Athenaeum
Damon Carter, Student Administration vice president
Shannon Ross, Student Administration Elections Chair
Kevin Frazier, Graduate Student Congress Chair
Stephanie Garland, Student Administration Treasurer
Locke Wysong, Mountainlair Advisory Council Representative, Student Administrative representative
Jessica Spicer, Board of Governors member
Michael Ellington, director of the Mountainlair
Betty Bea Cox, Mountainlair receptionist
Bob McWhorder, Mountainlair founder and former director of Mountainlair and student activities
Katie McKeen, Mountainlair week-end manager

LETTERS to the Editor

Andrew Costabile, graphic artist for Mountainlair marketing
Parween Sultany, member of Mountainlair Advisory Council
Joe and Ann Hutchison, professor of recreations and wife
Pam Hagedorn, of student activities

Insight on Advertising

Dear Editor,
I would like to thank Mary Kate Sullivan for her insightful article on the advertising industry. In the article she raises two important points that I would like to expand upon: advertising in schools; and her "credit card conspiracy" theory.

The issue of advertising in schools is one of ethics versus money. Though I realize that selling space to advertising provides some much needed money to the Students' Union it is a pity to see that commercialization has crept its way into an educational institution. We as students are here to learn, not to be sold to. As if we are not subjected to it in almost every other aspect of our lives. It might be interesting to point out the two seem to almost contradict each other. Here at university there is an emphasis placed on critical thinking while advertising discourages independent thinking; it seeks to pacify our minds by stressing conformity to false standards set by them. An example of its power can be seen in the number of adolescent girls who are anorexic or bulimic as a result of trying to be like the Guess Jeans girl.

She is not far off in her theory about credit cards being designed to make people spend more money. Credit cards and direct payment render money to nothing but an electronic pulse therefore making it almost invisible. I do not have a credit card (and I don't want one) but have used direct payment a couple of times. I have noticed that when you pay with cash you physically detach yourself from the money so it gives you a better sense of how much you are losing out of your account rather than just seeing a number on a receipt or screen. This can have unfortunate consequences for students trying to pay for their education as it is very easy to spend too much and go into debt.
Jeff Grime

Enviro-Team thanks

Dear Editor:
The first annual environmental awareness week "enviro-week" was a great success! The WLU Students' Union Enviro-Team, and Campus Club Environmentalists worked together to bring an abundance of environmental awareness to WLU. All last week, the campus was provided with opportunity to get up to date on what to do to help the environment. Not only were the tables in the concourse jam-packed with pamphlets, brochures, flyers, posters, giveaways from World Wildlife Fund, but filled with environmental information to help make reducing, reusing, and recycling easier for everyone. Three prizes were also given away in the environmentally friendly draw - 3 mini recycling blue bins filled with all sorts of goodies were won by: Greg Thornton, Lina Jobanputra and Lauren Klump! These are just three

of the many students and staff who practice environmental friendliness on campus and off! Congratulations!

If you didn't get a chance to parouse the enviro-week facilities and have any questions or comments about your WLU environment, please contact Sonja Regier, environmental awareness coordinator, and the environmental awareness committee (3rd floor of the Fred Nichols Campus Centre - SUB)

Finally, a big thank you to all whose efforts, contributions and commitment to environmental friendliness were very much appreciated! Sarah Marlow, Scott Jorgens, Carmen Schultz, Diana Shepard, Sarah Crelin, Don Snow, Meaghan Brown, Brenda Clays, Sian Bowness, Holly Thompson, Forrest Walker, Nathan Hanes, George Raptis, Adam Hossack, Sean and Steve in the Marketing Dept. Sponsors: Purple and Gold Store, WLU Bookstore, World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace, Grand River Conservation Area, WLU Bicycle Users Group (bug), Physical Plant and Planning.

Thank-you to all for your continued support! Check out next week's Cord for the results of how much you recycle on and off campus and "what you want to see happen on campus" - environmentally speaking of course!

Sonja Regier

Fashion Show a puzzle

Dear Editor,
I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody that was associated with Synergy 97. From the cast who were incredible to work with, to the Pikes' endless help, to the lighting and sound crew, to the amazing audience we had. You could say that this production was like a jigsaw puzzle, all the pieces had to come together to make the end product. Again, I would like to thank everybody involved, but I would just like to let the cast know that the last seven months have been wonderful and that I wish each and everyone of you the best of luck in your future endeavors. Just remember, "hello... you are all most worshipable!!"
Alain Hamarian

French Seminar a tough lesson

Dear Editor,
re: Violence against women presentation, Donna French
I am writing this letter just having returned from a talk given by Kristen French's mother, Mrs. Donna French, in honour of violence against women. I felt proud to have participated in such a beautiful tribute; I felt hopeful as I counted more than a few men in the room; I felt peaceful as somewhere throughout the evening, for a few moments, the dichotomy of male and female became less visible, and we all became simply human.

Mrs. French said something that hit home for me right at the beginning of her presentation. She said, "we each have a responsibility to do our part in the fight against violence." I reflected on this comment for a moment, hoping every person there would take that thought away with them as I would, although the

responsibility of it feels enormous. But more than my pride, honour, solace and presence, I felt overwhelmingly humbled by Mrs. French's humanity. This woman had endured the most painful human experience imaginable; the awareness that her daughter not only had been murdered, but that spirit does not allow such indignation to be truly experienced, and that in some corner of her being, Kristen found a shelter of peace.

Having grown up in Kristen's community, I remember where I was the moment I first saw her picture in the local paper, with the label "missing person" above her face. I remember the grief I felt, sensing somehow that she would never again return home. Feeling sick at the realization that 15 years is bare-

ly any time at all, and that something must be terribly wrong with the world... with my own community. Yet in spite of the energy that I could feel looking at Kristen's mere photograph, I was not prepared for the experience I was granted sharing the same space with this person's mother. Mrs. French afforded us all the gift of sharing her daughter's life, and her death. And through the medium of a video screen, every person in that room could not help but feel honoured to now know Kristen's memory a little more personally.

I feel sad, however, that such an evening is necessary.

When I left Mrs. French's presentation, I felt such an overwhelming mixture of emotions: sadness, rage, confusion, respect, hope and

hopelessness. I believe there may have been a similar experience for most people present. But most of all I felt humbled by the strength of spirit, courage, humanness, faith and commitment of the French family. How somebody finds those blessings amidst the horror of such an experience is beyond my comprehension, as are many things about the human condition.

This letter is written with the hope that we can all, in our own way, find a moment in our busy schedules today to pause, be present, and be aware; of ourselves, our actions, our communities, and our need to do something, anything, to tip the scales in the favour of peace and goodness.

Anonymous

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Vegetarianism is the way to go

TONY WEIS

CORD STUDENT LIFE COMMENTARY
That we must urgently make changes in our consumptive behaviour should be obvious to anyone attune to the enormity of our environmental problems. While the scale and complexity of these problems may seem incomprehensible, the familiar mantra to "think globally and act locally" is more poignant than ever. And one of the most important actions anyone can take to protect the environment is simple: eat a vegetarian diet. Animal agriculture has levied a colossal environmental and human toll on this planet and can no longer be ignored as a fundamental environmental and social issue.

"Eating meat is a natural instinct," I'm told by many omnivorous friends. While this is highly contentious, it is a rather moot point in light of the fact that there is nothing natural about the way modern agribusiness has evolved. Today eating meat implicates one in a horrendously cruel, inhumane industry which not only kills over six billion animals a year in North America alone (over 500 million in Canada), but which denies most any semblance of a life. It is a truism "that if slaughterhouses had glass walls there would be a lot more vegetarians." The same might hold true for a factory farm.

Anna Sewell argued, "that if we see cruelty or wrong that we have the power to stop, and do nothing, we make ourselves sharers in the guilt." In this spirit, many vegetarians take on the responsibility to open eyes, minds, and hearts to the tragedy that is modern-day animal agriculture. In North America, over 50% of dairy cows, 80% of pigs and 95% of poultry hens are intensively confined. Thus, the mere act of being born condemns the majority of our livestock to a life-sentence in a virtual prison - a factory farm. In factory farms, animals are overcrowded, drugged, manhandled, mutilated (often without anesthetic),

force-fed and incessantly artificially inseminated, all of which causes intense emotional stress, sadness and pain.

So whether we consider the plight of: breeding sows, ceaselessly kept pregnant and confined in tiny metal stalls; male chicks, which are suffocated, gassed, drowned or ground up alive by egg-producing factories to which they have no value; the horror of a veal calf's life, confined in total darkness, inhibited from movement and fed a deliberately deficient diet; or an all-too long list of other abuses, we are looking at an industry that treats animals as inanimate objects rather than the sentient beings they are.

Whether or not God intended us to have dominion over animals or stewardship as many believe (see Genesis 1:29 and Exodus 20:13), it would be difficult to imagine Him accepting the atrocities inflicted upon members of Creation by the agribusiness industry. The sheer excess and inhumanity of modern agribusiness does not connote stewardship; rather, it suggests an arrogance so profound that some have argued it lies at the root of all human problems.

As Albert Schweitzer wrote, "until we extend our circle of compassion to all living things, humanity will not find peace." Before such an idea is dismissed as the view of 'bleeding heart' radicals, try to imagine a society that treated its animals with care and respect, and think of the implications for the treatment of women, children and all races. As Gandhi said, "the greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." Yet every minute 15,000 farm animals are killed in North America.

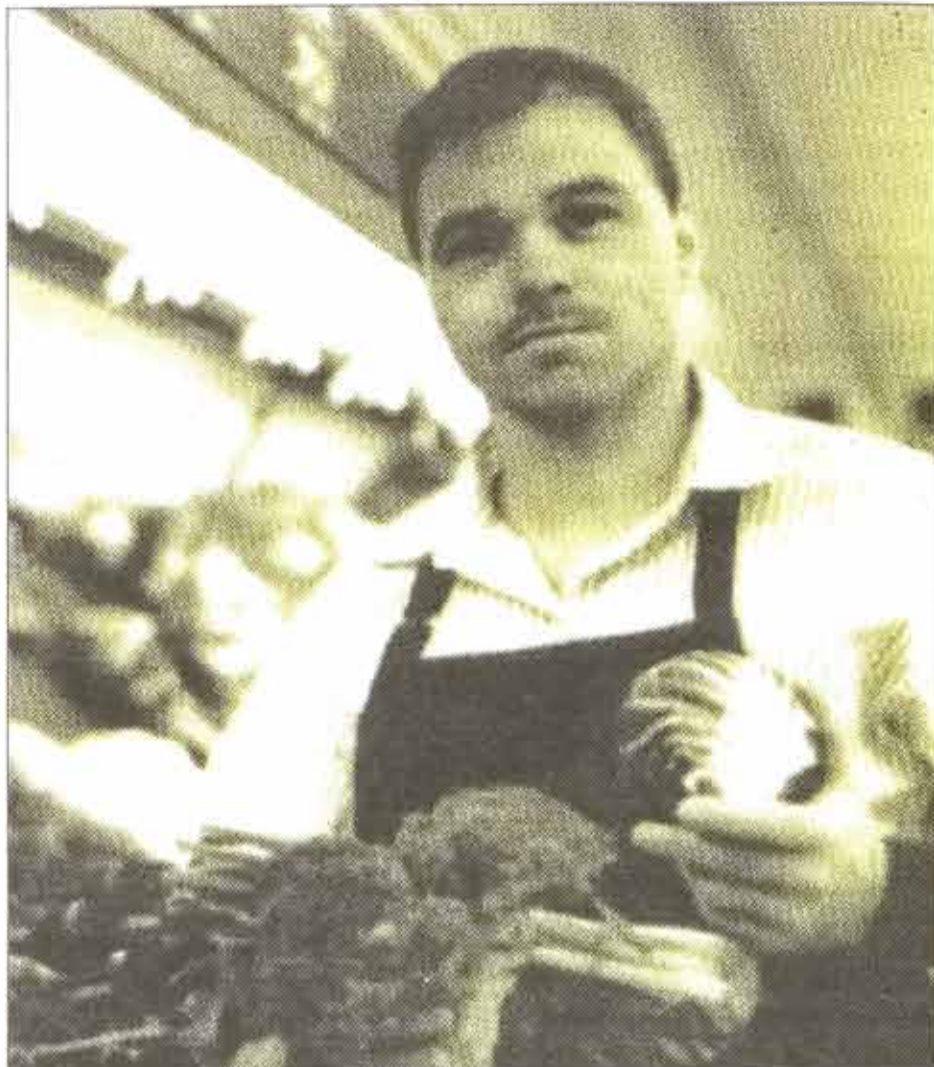
To those who would suggest we concentrate on 'human problems,' it should be understood that vegetarianism is an immensely human issue. Animal agriculture has a devastating impact on human health, food supplies, and the environment.

The North American meat-based diet is high in saturated fat, cholesterol, hormones, pesticides and nitrites, and has been linked conclusively to rises in heart disease, strokes, cancer and other debilitating diseases.

The inefficiency of animal agriculture becomes a critical human rights issue in the context of global hunger. A child dies of malnutrition every 2.3 seconds, 80 million people die from malnutrition or starvation every year, and more than a billion people go hungry every day. This enormous human tragedy is amplified by the massive waste of resources involved in the production of animals, consumed largely by the affluent. At the same time billions are going hungry, half of the world's grain harvest is being fed to livestock where the conversion to edible food is terribly inefficient: 90% of protein, 99% of carbohydrates, and 100% of fibre are wasted by cycling grain through livestock.

It is difficult to justify this terrible waste of food resources in a world of such extreme and pervasive poverty, suffering and hunger. Animal agriculture is responsible for a greater pollution burden than any other human activity. It is a principal cause of deforestation, topsoil erosion, water depletion and organic pollution, and is also a major consumer of fossil fuels. Cattle ranching is accountable for substantial deforestation, habitat destruction and desertification worldwide, a problem especially acute and urgent in the tropics where it is the leading cause of rainforest destruction. The land consumption of animal agriculture is so intense that 15 vegetarians can be fed on the amount of land needed to produce a meat-centered diet for one person.

Animal agriculture is also an enormous polluter and consumer of fresh water resources. Producing 1 pound of meat generates 100 pounds of manure, which in turn pollutes the water through leaching and run-off. A case in point is the



Veggies are good for you and are environmentally friendly too.

Grand River, this region's source of water, where the primary cause of pollution is organic waste from cattle. Livestock production is also the leading consumer of water in North America, and the enormity of this consumption is witnessed by the fact that if you gave up showering for one year, it would not save as much water as would be saved by not eating a single pound of beef. Additionally, enormous amounts of fossil fuels are consumed in the heating, transport, slaughter and refrigeration of billions of animals.

In sum, there are many compelling reasons to consider a vegetarian lifestyle. As Albert Einstein wrote, "the vegetarian manner of living... would most beneficially influence the lot of mankind." The devastating impacts of animal agriculture on human health, food sup-

plies, natural resources and animal welfare are well-documented, and worst of all, unnecessary. Lest such a stance is assailed as a 'holier than thou' attitude, I would suggest that it is better understood as one of humility and one which reflects the desire for a more humane and caring world.

The intimate link between vegetarianism and an environmental ethos is why Laurier's Environment Club urges everyone to come out this Thursday, March 20th (7:00, Science Building, south lecture hall) to learn more about this critical issue. The evening will include discussions on an array of topics related to animal agriculture from two renowned, dynamic speakers, and will also include free vegan snacks and door-prizes. All are welcome!

OutSpoken

CRAIG STEPHEN
CORD STUDENT LIFE

Inside and outside the gay community there is considerable argument and speculation about how many gays and lesbians are out there. Many claim 10% of the population, a figure that comes to us from Kinsey's famous study on human sexuality in the fifties. Others say it can't possibly be that high, citing surveys that have found gays and lesbians to make up as little as 2% of the population.

The debate highlights the difficulty in actually figuring out the frequency of homosexuality. First of all, the very way you choose to define homosexuality will affect your results. If you focus on actual behaviour, then you aren't counting those gays and lesbians who are not sexually active (most studies assume you're straight if you aren't having same-sex sexual contact). As well, asking people to label themselves is not terribly reliable since there are many "straight"

people open to gay sex, and many "bisexuals" who only date members of their own sex.

Most studies rely on self-reporting, and research subjects who doubt the confidentiality of the test or survey may not report homosexual behaviour. Since these difficulties tend to reduce the reporting of homosexuality, any number given probably represents an absolute minimum.

It's not surprising that there is little consensus on the issue - most studies in the U.S. show a range in the incidence of homosexuality from 4 to 17%. Even at the minimum, one out of twenty-five people is gay, which means that if you think you don't know any gay people, you're sadly mistaken.

GLOBAL (Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual at Laurier) meetings Thursdays. For information, e-mail OOGLOBAL@mach1.wlu.ca or visit our website at <http://www.wlu.ca/~wwwclubs/www/global.html>

Student Budget Menu Fluffy Rice and Chicken

LYNN PAULI
CORD STUDENT LIFE

- 1 can mushroom soup
- 1 soup can of milk
- 3/4 cup uncooked brown rice
- 1 cup mushroom pieces
- 1 envelope onion soup mix
- 2 chicken breasts or legs



Mix mushroom soup and milk. Reserve 1/2 cup. Add rice, mushrooms and 1/2 of the onion soup packet to the remaining mushroom and milk mix. Place chicken on top. Pour the reserved mushroom soup mix onto the chicken. Sprinkle the remaining onion soup mix on top. Cover and bake at 350F for 1 hour. Remove cover and bake another 15 minutes.

Best Buddies makes a difference

CAROLYN BOUIUS AND ANN HUSKINSON
CORD STUDENT LIFE

Best Buddies is a university and college-based volunteer program designed to promote friendships between university and college students and adults with developmental disabilities. The first Canadian chapter started in 1993 at York University, and this year saw the creation of a similar chapter here at Laurier.

The Chapter was organized through Extend-A-Family in Kitchener, who worked with Campus Director Carolyn Bouius to pair up Laurier students with their Buddies. A total of fourteen students have participated in the program this year, a number that will hopefully grow due to the large need in our community. Bouius noted that there were many more Buddies who applied than could be accommodated.

As well as the Buddy pairs meeting individually every couple of weeks, four group activities have taken place throughout the year. Among these was a bowling excursion, painting ceramic pots, and an everybody birthday party. Their fourth and final activity of the year was held on Sunday, March 9th, in the Hawk's Nest, where the group played pool and other games. It was an informal get-together for Laurier students to blow off some steam and for their Buddies to kick off their March Break vacation. This event was much anticipated by all; one Buddy even brought along his own pool cue.

The group events have been great opportunities for everyone in the chapter to get to know each

other better, and to have fun with a diverse and talented group of people. This last event demonstrated one of the main goals of the Best Buddies program as well, since the students were invited to bring along a few friends.

Programs and events such as this help break down barriers in society by providing a place where two groups of people can meet and get to know each other. Michelle Lawson, a Student Buddy, commented afterward that Best Buddies "is a fabulous program. You get to meet students from different years and faculties. Also, the Buddies are people we never would have had the opportunity to meet otherwise, and I just can't understand how they can be segregated from society, or why they are."

The group activities are testimony to the fact that attitudes towards people with developmental disabilities are changing, and these people are finally being recognized as valuable members of society.

For a first year on campus, Carolyn considers the group to have been very successful. "Friendship is so important to the Buddies since most of them are very isolated and didn't have any friends prior to the program. Most of us cannot relate to this, since so much of our lives revolve around friendships and relationships with others."

Please get involved with Best Buddies because everyone deserves to have a friend they can talk to and share their dreams, fears, tears and laughter with. For more information, please call WLU Campus Director Carolyn Bouius at 884-8970 or Heather at the Toronto Head Office at 1-888-779-0061.

Being a "Best Buddy" is an invaluable experience

ERIN HAWKER
CORD STUDENT LIFE

Before coming to Laurier and getting involved with Best Buddies, I had never been involved in a close relationship with someone possessing a developmental disability. This is quite true for many people who don't come into contact with such individuals very often, and who, in my opinion, are missing something very special. Simply put, my personal experience with Best Buddies has been one unlike any other.

Best Buddies offers partners in the relationship a chance to learn and grow together. Since the beginning of this school year my Buddy and I have, through various outings and get-togethers, gotten to know one another and built a friendship that will last for years to come.

Not only have I learned more about the disability my Buddy possesses, but I have also come to understand how he lives and deals with his physical and mental restrictions. I can more fully appreciate the strong support system that his family and school provide, and above all, I have come to respect and admire this individual for everything he has to offer, despite whatever obstacles may be placed in his way.

As most friends do, my Buddy and I talk on the phone and try to get together at least once every two weeks. Our outings have included going bowling and shooting pool, and whenever the Leafs are playing on television, we're right there with them. The nature of my role in the relationship as a Student Buddy is to act as a facilitator and help engage my buddy in social interaction when we go out into the community. Although at times I have been

discouraged at the responses from certain individuals in terms of their somewhat apprehensive attitudes when serving us in restaurants and stores, I continue to feel that only through increased interaction will such discriminatory behaviours be eliminated. Contact with others in the community who are open to people with disabilities has been satisfying for us both, making for some very positive and valuable experiences.

There is still an endless amount to learn about my Buddy, who is a uniquely honest and funny guy. His willingness to accept me for who I am (although he says that I talk too much!), has touched me on a level that few have. From the moment that I met him I could see that he held some very high standards for himself, such as those concerning his personal appearance and manners. As well, he likes to be very



Best Buddies can provide you with a unique insight into the life of another person.

punctual, making sure we are on time wherever we go. This is a completely good thing, since it helps keep me and my scatter brain on track.

I tend to view our relationship mostly in terms of what my Buddy provides for me, which may seem somewhat selfish. However, it is hard not to see things this way because of all that he brings to my life outside of the classroom. My university experience has been indelibly enriched by this program, and I fully recommend getting involved with Best Buddies to find that special someone who may be missing from your life.

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Happy to be part of the Laurier family

DAN TAPLEY
CORD STUDENT LIFE

When I first came to Laurier, everything seemed so foreign to me. Acronyms like A.C. and C.T.B. were all around me and seemed to belong to an unknown language. All I could do was say, "I don't care where the C.T.B. is, all I need to know is how to get to the Central Teaching Building!"

I was surrounded by a bunch of red buildings that seemed cold and threatening. I was Christopher Columbus discovering a brand new world, a world that I had never seen before, a world where things were done differently.

I used to think that there was no way in hell that I would ever learn my way around this massive school. To most people, Laurier seems small and unimposing, but I come from a town of 2000. Our high school is all on one floor, and in my town you can't help but walk down the street and meet an acquaintance. Being the small town 'hick' that I am, I was lost. How would I ever get to meet anyone?

It is now nearly two years after I was ready to ship back home to escape this alien land we call Laurier. Now I am a member of the acronym-spewing mob.

Laurier no longer seems so large and imposing; it has become

my home. I know how the room numbering system works; I have weathered the change from "what in the world is the C.T.B." to "I have a class on the fifth floor of the C.T.B." to "what the hell is the Woods Building?"

Laurier has become just like my small hometown to me. I can't walk across campus without running into someone I know (if I don't see a familiar face, I'm worried), the buildings have become my security blanket, and I know I am home when I'm on campus.

People here no longer seem foreign to me. All of us belong to the same Laurier 'family'; at least we all have that one thing in common.

The Laurier life has definitely had a profound effect on me. I never figured that I could make it through more than one day on less than five hours of sleep; now my whole routine is thrown off by sleeping eight hours.

After Laurier, the outside world will at first be scary and imposing. People will speak in 'languages' that we don't understand. The buildings will look like they want to close in on us. Soon, though, we will become one of the people speaking the 'foreign language,' and we will walk confidently in this new world.

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Guelph wins CIAU crown

MIKE MCKENNA
CORD SPORTS

After two unsuccessful tries in the last four years, the Guelph Gryphons finally reign supreme in the CIAU hockey ranks.

Lead with the stellar netminding of Matt Mullin, the Gryphons defeated the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds 4-3 at Maple Leaf Gardens on Monday night. The victory also marked the first championship by an OUAA team since 1988-89.

Brian Thompson opened the scoring for the Gryphs just under three minutes in on a goal mouth feed from Chris Clancy to give the Gryphs a 1-0 lead. The goal came much to the delight of the 5,776 fans who saw one of the better games to be played at the Gardens so far this season.

From there the Gryphons seemed to control the play for the rest of the first period and took a 2-0 lead into the dressing room after 20 minutes. The flood gates seemed to open up when Tim Spitzig scored a power play goal to make it 3-0 early in the second period.

The Varsity Reds who earned their first ever trip to the CIAU championship with a stunning 4-3 overtime upset over the number

one ranked University of Alberta Golden Bears didn't give up though.

They were finally able to solve Mullin when Pete MacKellar found the back of the net on what would prove to be the first of his two goals in the period. The rest of the Reds were not so fortunate though as they fired 16 shots at Mullin in the period and came up short as they trailed 3-2 when the horn sounded to end the second period.

The onslaught continued and so did the tough luck for the UNB squad. Ryan Bouman made it 4-2 for Guelph as he restored a two goal lead beating Frank LeBlanc for what would prove to be the winner, two and a half minutes into the third.

Yet again, the boys from out east wouldn't go away. They continued to pepper shots at the seemingly unbeatable Mullin. Finally with just over five minutes left Toby Burkitt, who Mullin had earlier stymied on a breakaway, scored on a power play making it 4-3. The goal restored hope that the Reds cinderella season would be culminated with a Canadian championship.

Though it just wasn't meant to be. Mullin stood on his head at times and kept everything out of the cage from there on in, sealing the



The Guelph Gryphons, shown in action earlier this year, won the CIAU title Monday night defeating the Varsity Reds 4-3.

victory and the games MVP award. He also won basically every other CIAU award that was given out this season. His MVP trophy capped off a season in which he was named

CIAU player of the year at last week's awards banquet.

The game also marked the last time that Toronto will host the Nationals for a while. Saskatoon will

host the CIAU Championships for the next three years. Organizers are hoping for better crowds out west.

Elite Eight set for Halifax

GREG CHOWNYK
CORD SPORTS

This weekend will mark the end of the varsity sports season for the CIAU when eight teams will battle it out for the National Championship in men's basketball. Halifax will once again play host to the event that gets underway Friday. Victoria, Brandon,

McMaster, Laurentian, Bishop's and St. Francis Xavier all enter the tournament as division champions, while the two wild card spots were both given to teams in the OUAA. The Guelph Gryphons and Toronto Varsity Blues will join the others in Halifax due to their strong seasons. Both lost in their respective division finals. McMaster, Victoria and St.

Francis Xavier have got to be the teams to watch. However the Voyagers from Laurentian can't be counted out as they held on to the number one ranking for a good portion of the year before losing two games in the last few weeks.

Women's champs crowned: The University of Manitoba successfully defended their National women's basketball title this past weekend as they defeated the York Yeowomen 73-62 in Thunder Bay. The number two ranked Bisons were led by Teri-Lee Johannesson, who not only contributed 19 points, but was named the tournament's MVP for the second consecutive year. Manitoba got to the final via their semi final victory over Western, while York upset the number one ranked Toronto Varsity Blues in their semi final matchup.

X-Country and Track news: Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Laurier cross country or track teams should attend a meeting March 21 at 5:30pm in the Wilf's Den. The team will compete next year with other universities and at the Ontario University Championships. For further information, contact Jamie at seah1050@mach1.wlu.ca.

More runners needed: A group of second year Phys. Ed. students are organizing the 19th annual 3K/10K WLU run for charity. The event is scheduled to go March 23 at 9:30am. Proceeds from the event will go to the United Way. Anyone interested in participating should meet at the A.C. on race day no later than 9am. The race will start on Bricker Avenue.

High expectations for new look Jays

JIM DONNELLY
AND GREG CHOWNYK
CORD SPORTS

After struggling through what was supposed to be a rebuilding year last season, the Toronto Blue Jays had a change of thoughts in the offseason. Instead of sticking with the youth movement, GM Gord Ash went out and added some experienced veterans that immediately put them back in the playoff hunt.

New faces for the Jays this year include pitcher Roger Clemens (from Boston), 2B Carlos Garcia, P Dan Pleasac and OF Orlando Merced (all from Pittsburgh), and C Benito Santiago (Philadelphia).

The biggest addition comes in the form of Clemens who will bolster the already strong starting staff, which will also feature Pat Hentgen, Juan Guzman, Erik Hanson and an undetermined fifth starter. Ash better hope Clemens still has something left in his arm, something many think he doesn't.

The bullpen doesn't look quite as strong as the starting five - Mike Timlin and Tim Lincecum both will be used as closers, but in the past neither has proven themselves capable of the job on a permanent basis. Pleasac will play a key role as the lefty set up man out of the bullpen.

The silver lining to the Jays' cloud last year lay within the pitching staff. Hentgen had spotless numbers in winning the Cy

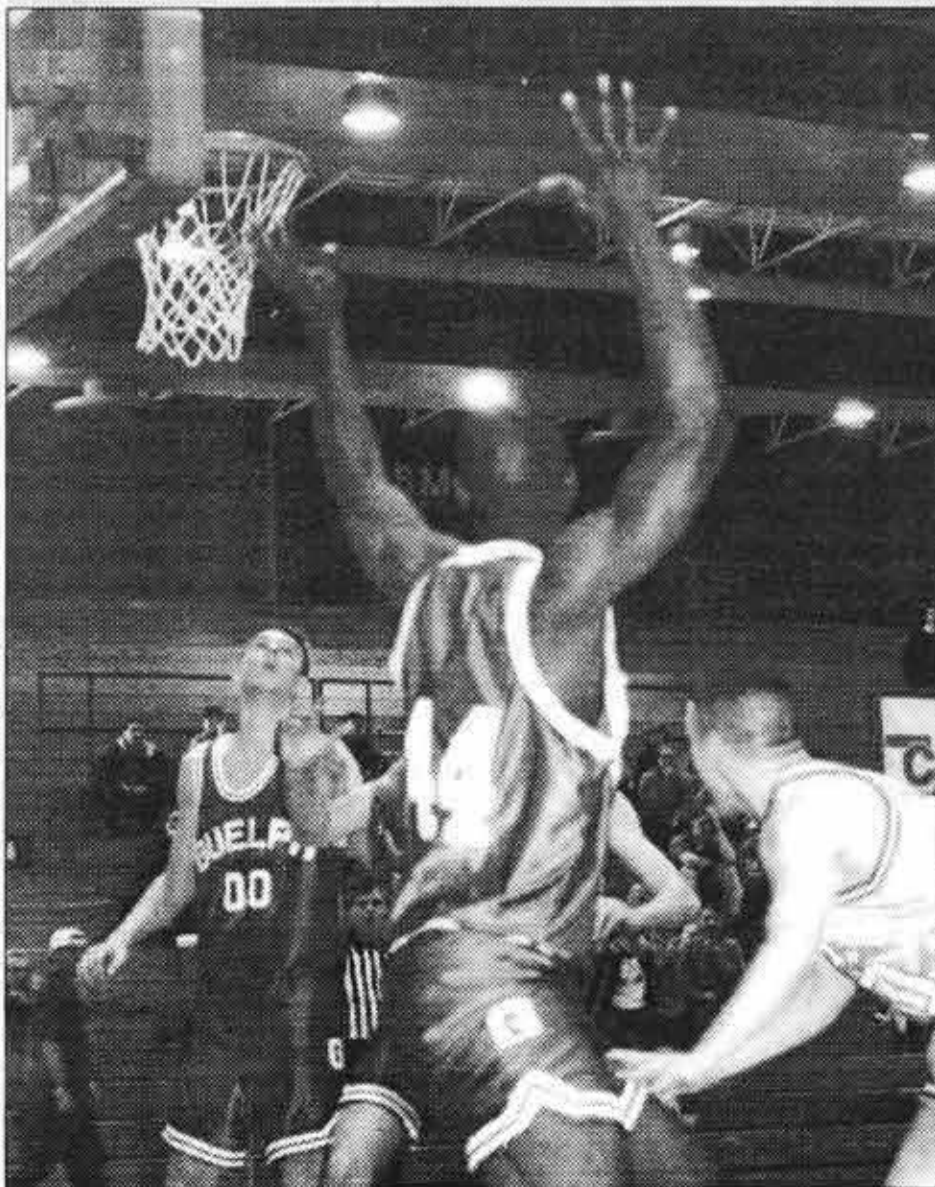
Young award (1st for a Blue Jay ever), and Juan Guzman led the American League in earned run average.

The infield looks strong all around. Garcia takes over at second, a problem spot for the team last year. Ed Sprague at third and Alex Gonzalez at shortstop will sure up the left side, although more will be expected from the bat of the young shortstop. It looks as though Joe Carter and Carlos Delgado will share the first base and designated hitter roles. Having both their bats in the lineup is a must for manager Cito Gaston. Charlie O'Brien and Santiago give the Jays a solid veteran duo behind the plate.

Otis Nixon, Shawn Green and newcomer Merced will get the bulk of the action in the outfield. Expect a lot from Merced who has been swinging a great bat thus far in spring training. Carter will see some action in the outfield as will rookie Shannon Stewart who appears ready to take the next step.

Interesting situations to watch for during the rest of spring training include the battle for the fifth starter position and whether or not veterans Mike Aldrete and Juan Samuel will be around to come off the bench, or will the team opt for younger players to fill this role.

The outlook does look good for the Jays. The new acquisitions have vaulted them into a playoff contender, although it will be tough in a division that also houses Baltimore and the Yankees.



Low-fat and no-fat foods really are too good to be true

SUZANNE HUNTIENS
CORD SPORTS

As I wander up and down the aisles in the grocery store, my roommate often wonder what I am doing taking so long when I only have a few things to buy. I push my cart by the cracker aisle and stop to take a look, in front of me is an array of chips, crackers and cookies that have LOW FAT plastered on their fronts in fluorescent writing. My stomach is shouting "those cookies are low-fat and are soooo good!" while my mind is shouting back, "it's a trap, don't do it!"

This is the dilemma many of us face as we step into the grocery store every couple of weeks. The

problem that we face is the gross misconception about low-fat and no-fat foods that are popping up all



over the place. Everything from low-fat yogurt to crackers to brownies to ice cream to mayonnaise to

chips. The misconception about these particular foods is that they are low in fat and are therefore a healthy alternative to their high fat versions.

People must first realize that any source of calories-whether it is sugar, protein or fat- can end up as body fat if you eat more calories than your body burns. In other words, you could end up gaining weight if you ate too many apples or oranges. The important ingredient to watch for in many processed foods is added sugar. When you eat too much sugar you end up tired and often more hungry because the sugar is quickly absorbed into your body and it causes your blood sugar

level to increase rapidly followed by a sudden decrease. Remember as well that added sugar has a nutritional value of zero, but that naturally occurring sugars (in a banana for instance) come packed with water, fiber, vitamins and minerals.

Most of the low-fat foods are highly processed, have a lot of added sugar and are very high in calories (and empty ones at that!). To avoid added sugar and high calo-

ries treats, stick with your veggies and fruit to fill your hunger spot or as a mid-day snack. If you have the will power not to eat an entire box of reduced fat Oreos and you can ration yourself to one a day, then all the power to you! If you are like the rest of us, those of us with an insatiable instinct to wolf down ten low-fat cookies because they are LOW FAT, do yourself a favour and resist the temptation.

Has Howe lost his mind?



Hoping for an April 1 return.

JIM DONNELLY

CORD SPORTS COMMENTARY

Just when we were beginning to think Bobby Hull was hockey's ultimate disgrace, Gordie Howe peeps his head out of the shadows and blows him out of the water.

Is this an April Fool's joke, or what? Is it possible that an NHL superstar from forty years ago has signed a contract with a second-last place American Hockey League

team to actually play hockey?

The man is virtually seventy years old. He's a legend. He's gained everything from hockey that he's ever going to. How is he going to be competitive in a league full of twenty year-olds trying deperately to make the big leagues? Sure, back in his prime he was known as Elbows, but no hard-nosed AHLer is going to be afraid of a senior citizen. The most damage Howe will be able to inflict is maybe the occasional stomach cramp.

It's impossible to understand what could possibly be going through Howe's head to make this kind of decision - after all, his son is retired - but ultimately it's not going to hurt him as much as the sport in general. Howe is already a legend; any mistakes he makes at this point in his life can be blamed on senility.

However, what is the AHL, and more specifically the Syracuse Crunch, thinking by allowing this? Sure, its giving them very cheap publicity now, but in the long run it

makes them look even more bush-league than they already are. Talk about desperation.

Even worse, how do the real players of the AHL feel about this? The league's only reason for being is to develop and groom young players for the NHL; more than a few AHLers must be bitter about being equated with a senior, no matter how much of a legend he is.

Reaction to the story around the NHL was one of amazement. Phil Esposito, GM of the Tampa Bay Lightning, recently told the Toronto Star that Howe's recent comeback is "...Amazing. What is he, nuts? Well, he is. I can't believe it. I'm going to make a comeback, too... next week."

It's sad that Howe feels he has to do this. He has everything to lose and nothing to gain, besides getting his name in a few headlines. Howe's personal whims are making a mockery out of the game.

Pray it's an April Fool's prank.

Surprising Sweet 16

GREG CHOWNYK
CORD SPORTS

After getting off to what can be considered a predictable start last Thursday, the remainder of the weekend was full of surprises in the NCAA basketball tournament. Surprises that have left the numerous poolies abroad shaking their heads.

Although all four of the number one seeds managed to survive the opening two rounds, many other top ranked teams were not as lucky. In total two number two seeds, all four of the number three seeds and one of the number four seeds fell by the wayside.

The upsets began Friday when Georgia, the number three seed in the Southeast fell to the upstart team from Tennessee-Chattanooga, who also went on to defeat number six Illinois in round two. South Carolina, the two seed in the East lost their first round game to Coppin State.

Even more teams felt the wrath on the weekend as big names like Duke and Wake Forest-complete with Player of the Year Tim Duncan- were sent home packing much before expected. Those loses combined with the early exits of Villanova, Cincinnati and New Mexico make for a very interesting second weekend of the tournament.

The prognosis looks good for all the number one ranked squad. North Carolina almost looks to be a

lock in the East. California, the fifth seed, is their next opponent and providing they get past them, the only other competition comes from Louisville who sits as the sixth ranked team in the region.

With Duke out of the picture in the Southeast, pre tournament favourite Kansas will walk through the rest of their competition. They shouldn't have any trouble against Arizona and the Cinderella team from Providence will soon come back down to earth.

Out in the Midwest number one Minnesota and number two UCLA are the two best teams left. UCLA is on a roll, but Minnesota has quietly put together a successful season. Throw in the upstart Iowa State Cyclones and this very well could be the most interesting bracket.

The only region that may offer more excitement could be the West. Defending national champs Kentucky are rolling as the number one seed and Utah has been steady at the two position. With the Stanford Cardinals coming alive, this weekend's action in San Jose could be quite the shootout.

Sure it is a little different Sweet Sixteen than some predicted, but the action looks as though it will be just as exciting as ever.

Final Four prediction you ask? North Carolina and Kansas are locks. Look for UCLA to come out of the Midwest and Utah from the West region in a close one.

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Raptors report card

CONOR MCCREARY

CORD SPORTS COMMENTARY

OK the halfway mark of the season has long past and now most teams are gearing up for the playoffs. The Toronto Raptors probably won't be around in the post season, so now is the time to look at how the year has unfolded for them. Their 23-42 record is good enough to put them ahead of seven other teams in the NBA. So, how have the Raptors done this year in a piece by piece analysis? Well lets see.

Centres: This department took a huge blow with the injury to Zan Tabak, and the indifferent play of Sharone Wright (to be fair he has been bothered by his back but still...). Acie Earl was Acie Earl, but with the recent additions of Cliff Rozier and the true round mound of rebound Oliver Miller, the Raps have gone a long way to shoring up this trouble spot. Still its tough to give the production out of this position more than a C.

Forwards: When Tracy Murray left last year, things looked bad for the Raps at this position. But with the canny free agent signing of Walt "the Wizard" Williams, and the trade to acquire Popeye Jones coupled with the emergence of Carlos Rogers, and the progression of rookie Marcus Camby the Raptors have but forward a nice little group here. Reggie Slater also has been a nice short term surprise. B

Guard: Quick quiz hotshot! What team owns the best rebounding backcourt in the NBA? If you said

Toronto you'd be right. Between Damon Stoudamire and Doug Christie the Raptors have one of the strongest backcourts in the league - no joke. Now if only Hubert Davis had been healthy, and Martin Whiteside competent the Raptors would have had a really strong set

The Rap's may be ready to start beating the bad teams as well as upsetting their betters.

of guards. John Long offers some minutes and veteran savvy. While Shawn Respert offers a wealth of talent - on paper. A-

Coaching: Darryl Walker seems to have done a good job. After all he has had to play without a centre for the majority of the season, yet the Raptors have still been competitive. However, Toronto still undergoes those maddening periods of sloppiness. To be fair to Walker though, this team would probably space-

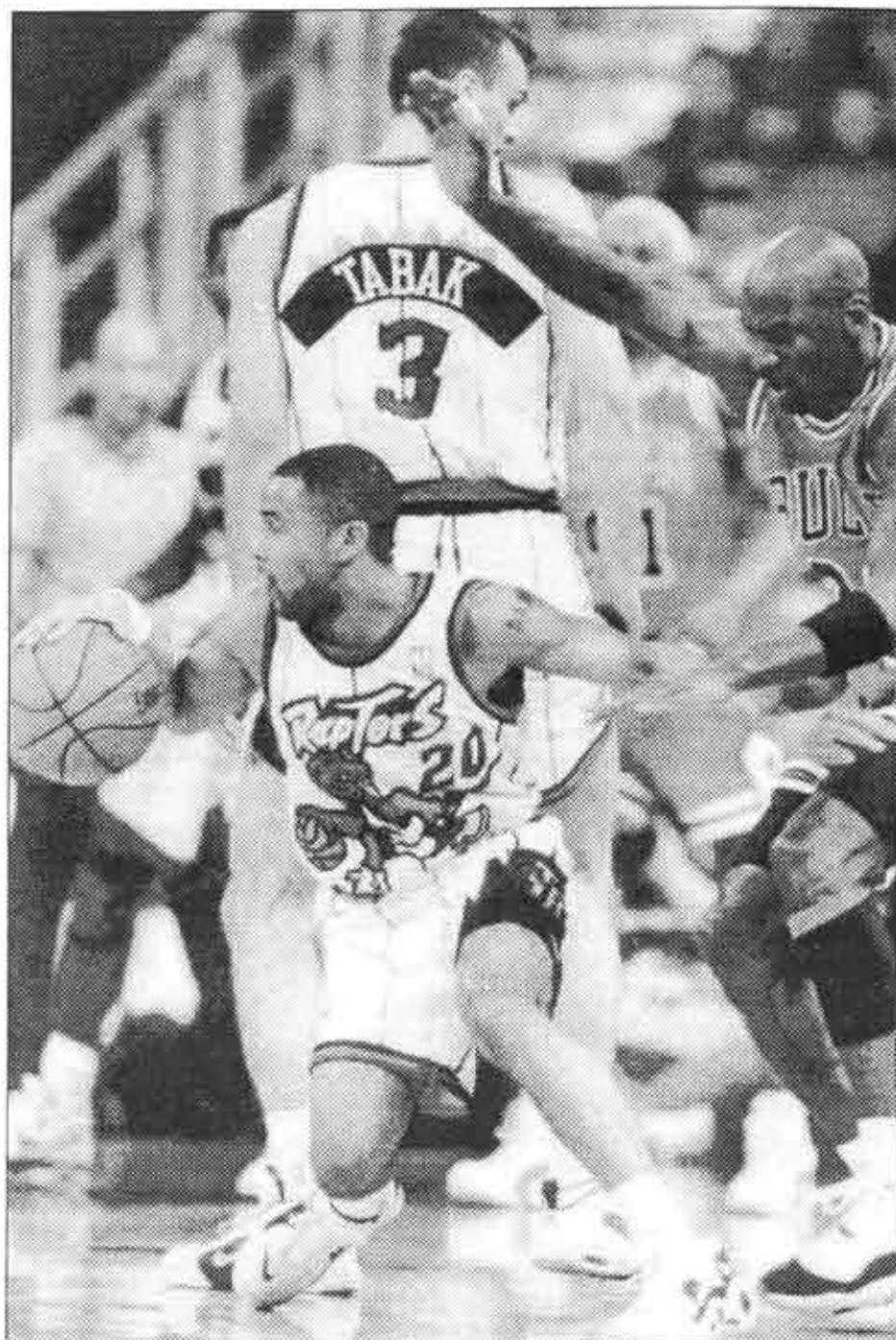
walk occasionally even under Pat Riley. Also look at how Doug Christie and Rogers have blossomed under Walker. B+

G.M.: How can one complain about Zeke? Isiah has taken several risks and so far has not lost one of them. The only deal that looks a little weak now is Hubert Davis for a first rounder. Besides look at the theft he pulled on Dallas, Popeye Jones and a first rounder for a second rounder and Jimmy King? And, the rest of the league is still buzzing over the Walt Williams for league minimum signing. Finally, Thomas has players wanting to come to a second year franchise in Canada, that is a hell of a feat. It is Isiah not Damon that is this franchise's best little man. A+

Biggest Downer: Tie - Oliver Miller's disappearing act in the off-season, and the injury/unimpressive play of Sharone Wright.

Biggest Upper: Doug Christie, Christie is finally putting the talent that made him a first round pick in '92 all together. Christie is now Toronto's best all around player. A defensive specialist, he leads all guards in the NBA in rebounding and has been the Raptors most steady performer. Oh, and his 30 point potential is kinda nice too.

Forecast: The Rap's may be ready to start beating the bad teams as well as upsetting their betters. If this is true watch the Raps to play close to .450 ball for the rest of the year. This team makes the idea of playoff contention next year look very very possible.



Damon Stoudamire has once again led the Raptors all year long. Last year's Rookie of the Year has shown he'll be an all-star very soon.



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BLUR: streamlined and unshaven



PHOTO: DAVE SCOTT

Blur wins mic-licking contest!

DAVE SCOTT

CORD ENTERTAINMENT

As anyone who has followed their career will know, **Blur** has been one of *the* bands on the British pop scene over the past few years.

Their fifth album, simply called "Blur," marks a new beginning after a year of self-imposed exile. Tired of the drudgery of being wildly famous, these four lads from Colchester, Essex, felt that they were deviating from their original credo - to be wilful, slightly out of control, and constantly changing. The mood within the band was that the new record should be unpredictable, and if necessary, uncommercial.

Inspired by fresh American talent such as **Beck** and **Pavement**, Blur took a much more instinctive approach to this album. As lead

singer Damon explains: "It's all about freedom, it's an attitude, and once you're in that frame of mind, you write songs that are a little less fussy."

This very un-British attitude has proved to be energizing for Blur and has resulted in an open and intimate album. Guitarist Graham Coxon added, "It's a lot rawer than our previous albums - soundwise and emotionally. It may shock some people, but a lot of people will really love it. It's a lot to do with our 'world'."

Refreshingly spontaneous, Blur is pushing the boundaries and avoiding the confines of the mainstream superlad phenomenon. Gone are the brass sections, transvestite bank managers, and social class commentaries. Here are fourteen tracks that share a new feeling of innovation. From the bouncy and spontaneous "Song 2" through to the folksy, acoustic "You're So Great," you never know what's coming next. I particularly enjoyed "Chinese Bombs" with its hard-core attitude, and "Movin' On" with its sleazy rock feel.

Anyone who never really understood the subtleties of English culture and references in the past couple of albums will find this one more accessible.

Blur is currently on the road touring the new album - this tour brought them to a sold-out gig at Toronto's Warehouse last Thursday. Unlike the **Stone Roses**, Blur is really good live, and they gave an animated, coherent performance.

Opening with the trio of "Beetlebum," "Song 2" and "Girls and Boys," the sound was as good as it can be at the Warehouse.

Damon led the band through a tight set that they clearly had fun with. Highlights for me were "Stereotypes" and "Parklife," which came across energetically and nicely unshaven.

Blur will return to play an as-yet unnamed outdoor venue this summer. Until then, we can listen to the new record and celebrate a fabulously varied and entertaining piece of work.

Synergy Laurier's Fashion Show

(continued from pg. 1)

LORI DYSIEVICK

CORD ENTERTAINMENT

After a fifteen minute intermission during which the MC's drew names for numerous prizes, the stage was then covered with smoke again for the ninth scene, "No Boyz Allowed." This all female scene began with the dancers being carried and laid onto the stage as the eerie theme to the **X-Files** played. With some great outfits and incredible dancing, the scene set the standard for what can only be described as an electric second half of the show. The talented display of amazing dancing only got better with the tenth scene, "Underground Vibes," which was impressive because it was difficult. The models, however, never lost their excellent synchronicity.

In the lingerie scene, different lighting techniques were used and the male models hid under props as female models sashayed to Bjork's Hyper Ballad. Then the dancing style changed (and grew very theatrical again) as the models danced to a selection of songs from the **Dirty Dancing** soundtrack. The audience roared as two models achieved a table top lift.

The dancing went beyond dirty to downright hot in scene 13, "Overt Seduction." Smoke covered the steamy stuff performed in the initial

lap dancing sequence of the scene, which grew even hotter when the models were up and dancing with each other on the runway. The models just kept giving it one hundred percent during the fourteenth scene, "Perpetual Motion".

Funk was revived in scene fifteen, and the models changed the

The dancing went beyond dirty to downright hot in scene 13, "Overt Seduction."

style of dancing again as the lighting went psychedelic. Then came the grand finale, "Roaring 20's". Dressed in tuxedos and flapper dresses, the models kicked the Charleston and the Two-Step.

Throughout the night the MC's were excellent, entertaining the audience with jokes, singing, dancing, and constantly changing their

costumes to keep the audience up with the rapidly changing themes of each scene. In particular, MC Chris Hewitt stood out, although it must be said that all of the MC's were very good. Each proved again and again that pride means nothing when raising money for charity. The MC's dressed in drag (sequined dresses, complete with polka dot boxers and really bad wigs) sang off key, cooed over attractive models and even each other. Unfortunately, when a personal insult was thrown at one MC, she had to prove that her wit was quicker. But hey, there's one asshole in every crowd.

Staging, backdrops, props, special effects, and obviously an enormous amount of work made Synergy '97 an exceptional performance of an annual show that we should be proud to say is unique to WLU. As usual, the show is more about giving a terrific performance than about the fashions that the models/dancers are wearing. (Not bad for a bunch of amateur undergrad students, eh?) This year's cast performed three shows (usually there are only two), therefore raising even more money for the Family Awareness Centre. I compliment the entire cast and crew for an incredibly professional, enthralling show filled with delightful originality. Congratulations Synergy '97!



Fitness model Ken Busby "boxercised" the night away at Synergy.

PHOTO: STEPHEN WILLIAMS

Mmmmoist...

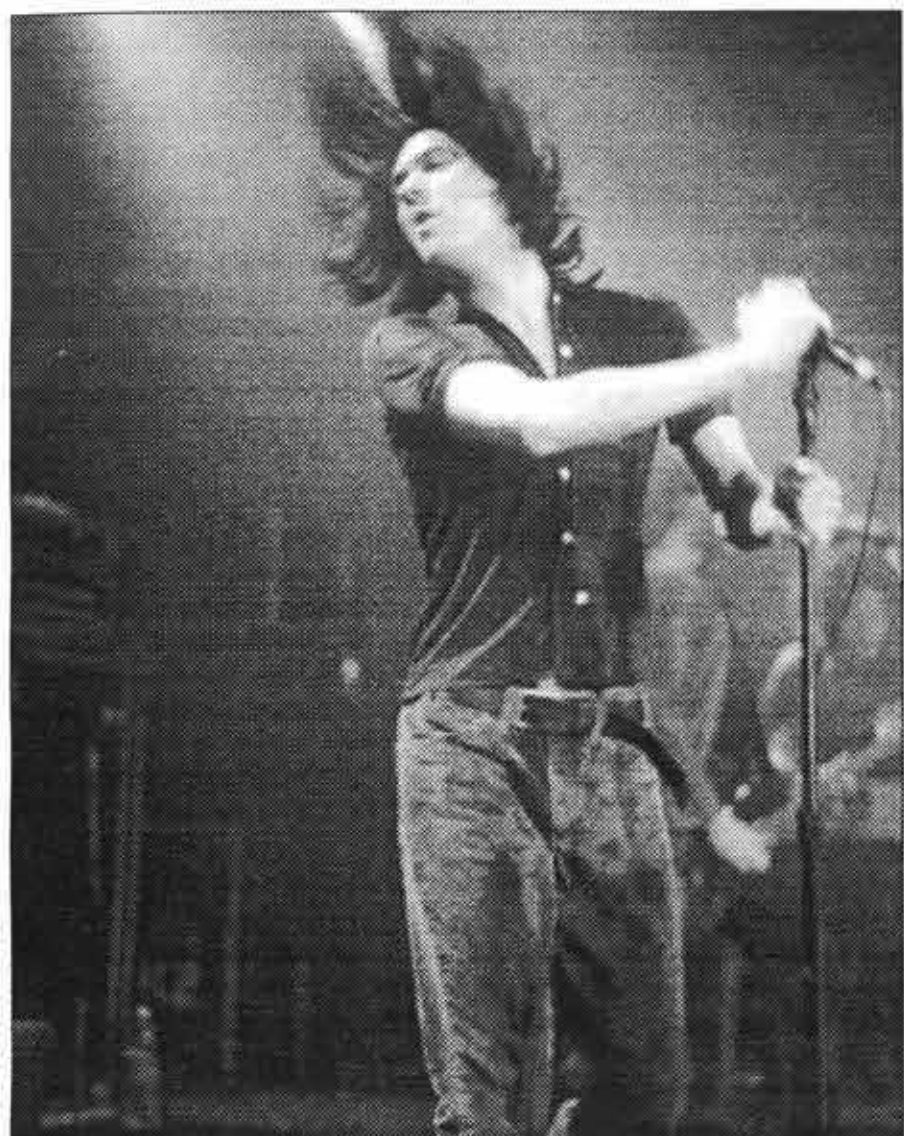


PHOTO: RACHEL BEYAN

Fed Hall played host to Dave Usher's hair in all its full-bodied glory.

MIKE VENCEL

CORD ENTERTAINMENT

To say I was honestly surprised with this show would be an understatement. After they cancelled out back in January, I was a little disappointed because it was sure to have been a good time. Then they rescheduled for last Saturday, and this couldn't have been a worse day. Everyone that was going to go with me cancelled out at the last minute because of the fashion show or ICE week. I was stuck going to the concert alone.

I arrived late, and by 10:30pm they were already on stage, so I decided to take a spot near the back of Fed Hall and watch the show unfold. The refreshing thing was that they played a mix of songs from their new and old albums. "Silver," "Push," "Ophelia" and "Gasoline" were all there. (I'm not sure about "Leave it Alone" or "Resurrection," but they could have played those before I got there.) The most amazing thing about this concert was not the music but the show they put on.

If one thing can be said about Moist, it's that they certainly know how to play a crowd. Watching from the back, it was amazing to see the mosh pit undulating in response

to the different songs they played. Crowd surfers were the norm in this venue, but unlike other shows I've been to, they were well supported. Flying from one end of the crowd to the other, the only way they got down was if they asked, not because they were dropped. The lead singer, Dave Usher, echoed this sentiment by urging the crowd to "make sure everyone's supported, we don't need any back injuries." Never one to be left out, Usher joined the crowd surfers and even sang a song while standing on the crowd, and then was tossed back and forth as he sang the chorus.

The crowd was eating this up and constantly clamoured for more. Usher and the rest were happy to please, playing song after song until they finally exited the stage. The crowd was in shock; after over an hour of constant music and excitement it was over. Or was it? Nobody was moving because they knew there would be an encore. After five minutes of the crowd shouting "Moist, Moist!" they came back on stage.

I think the encore performance was my favourite part of the show - it was just amazing. They came on and started playing a song I recog-

nized but couldn't place. As they played, I realized it was a cover but I didn't know of whom. I was humming along, almost subconsciously, when the chorus came up: "Billie Jean is not my lover..."

Yep, that's right, Moist was covering **Michael Jackson**, but doing so in a way that even the King 'o Weird would have been proud. Fed Hall was just loving this - the crowd was going wild and even Usher seemed to love the response he was getting. During the next song Usher told us that in the five years he's been with Moist, the bassist (Jeff Pearce) had never been crowd surfing. This was about to change and after some urging from Usher, Pearce got up on a speaker and fell into the crowd. They moved him back and forth until they deposited him on the ground so he could get back to playing. From the look on his face he had a great time.

As the old saying goes, "all good things must come to an end," and Moist was no exception. Usher said Waterloo was one of the best places to end the tour, and he was happy it was done. In his own words, "It's the last night of our tour and the first night of my drinking binge."

Conestoga rock show a bit rusty

BRANDON WATSON

CORD ENTERTAINMENT

Before the show, amongst the clutter of chairs and tables, the ragged headed members of **rusty** ponder what the evening will hold. If they had dreamt of body suffering and a restless teen crowd, they were sadly and horribly mistaken. The evening would be ruined thanks to a thankless bunch of losers.

It was a blustering, chilly Thursday night of March 13th at Mrs. Robinson's. Rusty had arrived early to setup and play videos and strutted like rock stars. There was also some preparation for a live to air connection with CKWR radio. Neat, real neat. At any rate, with the hype almost comparable to the OJ Trial, the show was bound to be a success.

Slithering amongst the losers I found a nice perch overlooking the stage. And shortly after, the opening act began. It was Toronto's own **Scratching Post**, and metal was the game. The singer was a genuine rock chick, complete with studded leather wristband and white-trash comebacks. The losers gave her the opportunity to exercise that virtue, by yelling: "Show me your tits!" In response she said: "Why don't you come here and say that ... if you

had any balls." But Scratching Post "rocked it off." They highlighted their metal set with **Metallica's** "Master of Puppets." Rock!

Rusty waltzed on stage to the theme of "Law and Order" (the "Doogie Howser" rip-off) after the opener had finished tearing down. They slumped into a slow track off their latest release, "Sophomoric."

It was then that I realized I was surrounded by losers.

Rusty was as good as usual. They played well and incorporated almost the entire new album into their set. They hopped and jumped - pretty intense-like. Some sloppy coordination gave the indication that rusty still stays at the "roach motel" religiously before every show. They were entertaining and worthy of a good review for their performance.

Nonetheless, three things were bitterly wrong.

The first problem was the event. Organized by Conestoga College, there was a shit load of thirty-year-olds trying to find a soul mate. They never glanced at the stage, they never left their pool table, and never had any interest in what was going on around them.

Secondly, the handful of kids that did come for the show were glued to the floor. Stated in their cross-

armed, straight legged stance. They didn't recognize any of the new songs and didn't get into the flow of the unknown. For Fluke's "Punk" there was some toe tapping and head swaying, but that's about it. The only one who appeared to enjoy himself was a forty-year old long-hair hippie whacked on goof-balls.

Finally, Mrs. Robinson's did not hold a "rock" environment. The house lights were on and the whole place was lit up. The only lighting effects on the stage were immobile spotlights. There were tables and chairs all over the place and there wasn't enough room for a comfortable dance floor (if anyone had wanted to liberate themselves). It sounds a little critical, but makes a great difference when it is done right.

I love rusty. I think the new release is better than the last, but still just straight forward rock n' roll. They show great potential for endurance in the industry. And furthermore the members agree that they are enjoying themselves thick and thin.

With that in mind, rusty will open an East Coast tour in P.E.I. and head inwards. Maybe they will attend a third Edgefest this summer, find an American label, or find a



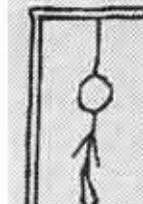
PHOTO: RACHEL BEYAN

A toque and a song at Mrs. Robinson's as rusty rides again.

crowd that is worthy of the quartet's aggressive atmosphere.

Sorry rusty. Will you please come again...?

Where to Hang



Wed. March 19

A concert by WLU composers at the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall. 8 pm - free admission.

Thurs. March 20

Reception at the Langden Gallery: Multi-media art by Students, Faculty and Staff. 4-6pm, free admission. The exhibition runs until April 4th. University Players presents Campus

Fringe '97 in the TA, 7pm. Tickets are \$3 per play (\$6 for a night). Call 884-0710 x4882 for advance tickets or buy them at the door. Campus Fringe continues on the 21st.

Fri. March 21

My Neighbour Ned plays at Wilf's

Sat. March 22

Wilf's hosts the Anselma House

Benefit: Musicians' Network feat. Anxious Blue, Squirm, Matt Osborne, Riverworks, Corduroy Leda

Tues. Mar 25

Amnesty International Benefit Coffee House at the Rain Tree, featuring Henry, Craig Cardiff, Sterling Lynch, Wilt, Chris Sonneman and Robin Whittaker

Wed. March 26 and Thurs. March 27

WLU French Drama students present "La Chambre Mandarine" (mature theme and content) in the Theatre Auditorium. 8pm - admission \$4 for students, \$6 for non-students. Tickets available at the door or by phone at 884-0710 x2398.

Awards that Oscar forgot

SEAN MOORE
CAESAR MARTINI
CORD ENTERTAINMENT

In lieu of the upcoming Academy Awards for motion pictures, we thought we might add some categories that the powers that be might have forgotten. Here goes:

Best patriotic propaganda film: "Independence Day" — Who else could save the world from an alien invasion? Those neutral Swiss? I don't think so. U.S.A. all the way baby!

Best film without any discernable plot: "Twister" — O.K. We'll get these tornadoes and idiots will chase them, then things will fly around and be loud. It'll be a hit with the trailer park population. Runner up: Independence Day.

Most annoying catch-phrase: "Jerry Maguire", for "Show me the money!" Okay Cuba, I'll show you the money...and then I'll show you a drop kick to the head. Enough already!

Best soundtrack accompanied by a backing motion picture: "Trainspotting" — Let's see...we'll get all this cool music together and as a backdrop we'll make a movie around it about heroin addiction or something. The kids will love it!

The one-trick actor award: "Chris Farley" — Congratulations, Tommy the Black Sheep Boy Ninja from Beverly Hills, for your persistent portrayal of a flailing simpleton in nearly every movie you star in.

Best actress in a typecast role: "Pamela Anderson" for "Barb Wire" — Hmm, let's try to keep her in that tight sort of bikini look. Uhh, try not to say much, Pam. Just shoot things and bounce around a lot.

Best piece of crap picture of the year: "From Dusk Til' Dawn" — Gee, someone really overestimated the popularity of pointless schlock horror, didn't they, Mister Tarantino? Still, any movie in which Cheech Marin plays three different charac-



Numb, but not numb enough: Anthony Minghella's "The English Patient"

ters can't be ALL bad.

Most ass-numbing movie: "Hamlet" — A tough decision in light of its competition with films like "Heat", "Casino", and oh yes, "The English Patient", but this one will definitely make your ass go to sleep. Sorry, Mister Shakespeare.

Most annoying interpretation of a regional dialect: "Fargo" — If I had to listen to a legion of idiots talk in that accent, I'd start killing people too.

Worst sequel known to man: "The Crow: City of Angels" — Apparently, L.A. has nothing but yellow and blue florescent lights in

stock. Oh, and sorry Monsieur Perez, you're no Brandon Lee.

Best screenplay intended for an adolescent audience: "Beavis and Butthead Do America" — How better to appeal to an immature audience than by including the word "butt" forty times every minute.

Singleton digs in

PETER SCHMIDT
CORD ENTERTAINMENT

Rosewood, the newest film from young phenom John Singleton, is the story of how an all black town was completely annihilated and its citizens murdered by a rampaging, white mob. Based on true events which occurred in 1923, this violence was in reaction to the assault of a white woman who had falsely accused a black man. Widely regarded for his previous explorations of inner city chaos, as exemplified by the powerfully constructed **Boyz 'N The Hood**, Singleton shifts his lens to the swampy outback of central Florida. This is a gripping, emotional drama, but its potential is constrained by a number of unnecessary scenes.

The first half of the film is outstanding, although it indulges in some stereotypical analogies. Singleton blatantly distinguishes the collective peace and prosperity of Rosewood with the filth-laden, obscenity-riddled bigotry of the

white town of Sumner. Rosewood's utopian serenity, the euphoric behaviour of the lynch mob and the terror of women and children as they flee for their lives are brilliant contrasts. Singleton's unflinching camera displays such horror to its fullest extent, providing some of the most harrowing scenes in recent memory.

Unfortunately, such riveting moments are hindered by the needless addition of typical, melodramatic devices. Instead of remaining with a powerful script, the second half of the movie often reads like an adventure, as it follows the escape of a small group of women and children. For example, the highly appropriate use of traditional, spiritual hymns is increasingly replaced by the highly unsuitable composition of unoriginal, "suspenseful" orchestra music.

Of course it always seems essential to have a larger-than-life hero, played here by the highly talented Ving Rhames, who miraculously

saves the group from certain extinction. While a refreshing change from Hollywood's usual infatuation with white Americans' role in combating racial injustice (see **Mississippi Burning**, **A Time To Kill**, **Ghosts Of Mississippi**, etc.), Rhames' actions are often unbelievable. In addition, the romantic subplot occurs in the usual, mindless fashion, another unnecessary exercise in conventional, script development.

Thus, **Rosewood** is a momentous film, providing a unique interpretation of an event which American history has conveniently ignored. However, its attempt to display the triumph of the human spirit is weakly fabricated, an annoying distraction from a highly provocative story. Fortunately, the subject matter is so appalling, and Singleton's visual images so unrelenting that such inconsistencies can be tolerated.

Three Sites of Conflict

ERIN KEATING
CORD ENTERTAINMENT

Last Saturday, when most intelligent people were content to huddle inside their homes rather than venture out into the cold stormy night, a small group of spectators in the Peters Building were being well rewarded for their bravery against the weather. Everyone came out for the opportunity to see the work of some of Laurier's own talented writers, directors and actors, showcased in **The Plays of March**, which were put on by The Laurier Theatre Collective.

The night was made up of three original plays and a guy with a guitar (Gordon Bolan). The first play was "Buckets and Mops" written by Sawatzky and Grondin, and directed by Beverly Grondin. Set in a coffee shop, it was that brand of 'realism' which I generally find very depressing but it was well acted and well received by the audience.

The musical guest, Gordon Bolan, followed with a very informal and yet very entertaining acoustic set of some original material and some Dylan covers.

After a short intermission and a

change of scenery, the audience was faced with two figures stranded on a deserted island. This was the setting for "Landed", a play that was written and directed by Robin Whittaker. The play explored the effects of a clash between utter despondency and extreme (in this case, comically exaggerated) optimism.

The final play of the evening was "The Root of All Squares" written and directed by Sterling Lynch and Sam Varteniuk. This was the highlight of the night for me. Both Lynch and Varteniuk were hilarious; much of the action was absurd, but they pulled it off perfectly. Unlike a lot of student writing, their play wasn't overpowered by its hidden agenda (although, it did come through loud and clear).

All in all, the Theatre Collective put together a great night of entertainment and I only wish that more of the Laurier community had come out to show their support.

The members of the collective deserve a lot of credit for persevering despite small audiences, and for keeping alive a place for student-run drama and original entertainment at Laurier.

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TIM DURKIN

CORD ENTERTAINMENT

The MTV mentality is so ingrained in our culture today that it is hard to imagine what it was like before the pre-packaged wonder bands existed en masse. Saturday night at the recital hall provided a glimpse of the artists who are not made for TV, but rather the artists who make music because they must. It's in their blood, and it's all they know.

Headlining the show was local guitar wizard **Shel Neufeld** who is touring across Canada in support of his new album "Call Of the Wild." Largely an acoustic soloist, Neufeld is an energetic performer who possesses amazing control of the guitar and the stage. His songs are tales of traveling, and the music really reflects a country that gets more expansive and intricate the more you travel it. John Williams accompanied Neufeld for a few songs on bass, and brought an equal amount of showmanship and professionalism to the stage. Williams also appears on the album. This type of music is rare today, making it a joy to hear and see performed.

Aaron Riches opened the show with some songs off of his debut "Over The Light Post." In setting the mood of the evening, Riches' acoustic set provided some truly moving songs, including "Typical Shade Of Grey," and the stirring "Unkind." His voice is so achingly emotional that it draws the listener

in and forces one to listen to what he has to say. While music is always entertaining, there is no denying his is music with a message. Riches' style is hard to pin down, but as a listener you know that it takes a lot of guts to play songs with that much passion.

Riki Gee took the stage next with his violin in tow. Barrett Lawrence handled the bass and guitar portion of the show for the most part, and the performers fed off each other wonderfully. Gee, a combination of both **Leonard Cohen** and **Johnny Cash**, has been touring for thirty years and certainly has a presence about him that tells you he's at home on the stage. His latest effort, of a thirty year career, is "Lonely City Cowboy." Although the focus is classic country, there is a range of sounds here including the very trippy "You are My Name," and the lonesome heart "Downtown Last Night."

It was a truly great night of music. First and foremost, the performers were top notch musicians and entertainers who really cared about putting on a good show. If you stripped away all the mysticism that makes stars what they are, you would be left with those who can play and those who are made. All of these guys are all the real deal, and it was an absolute pleasure to watch them perform.

A sentimental look at 'Jedi'

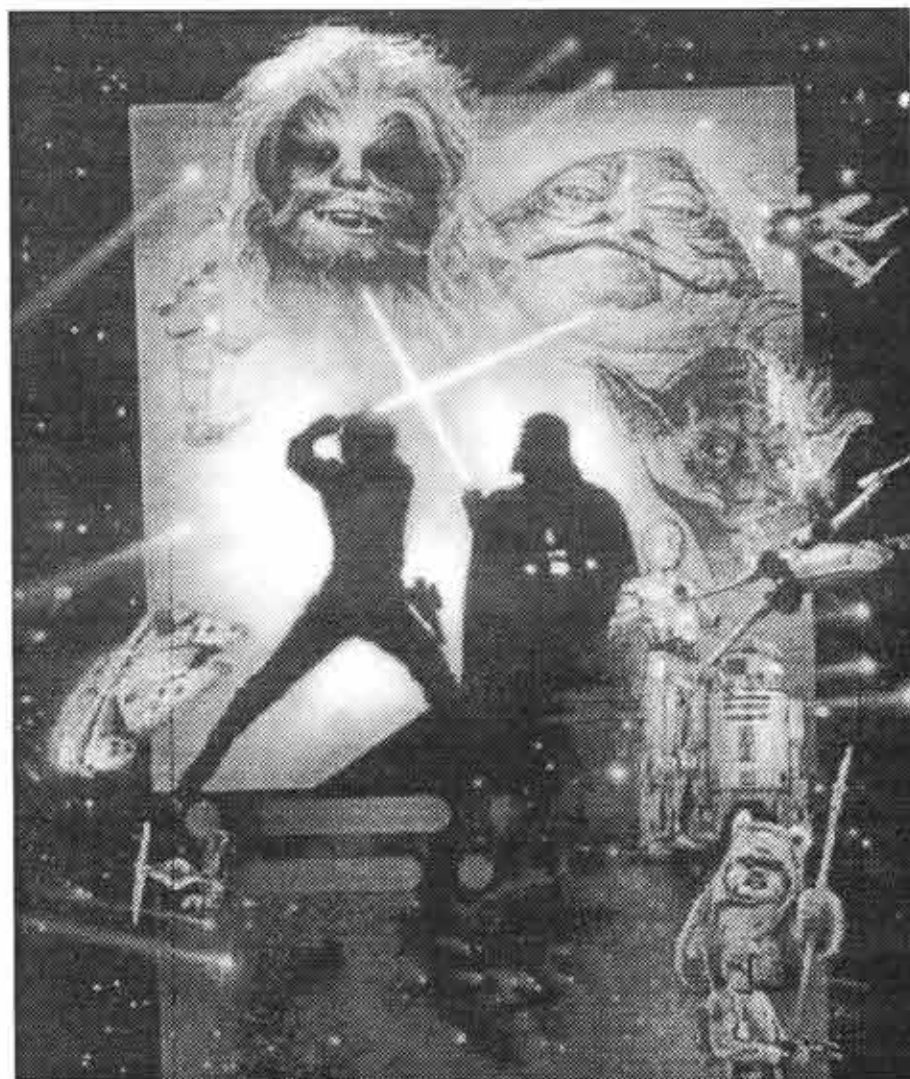
CAESAR MARTINI

CORD ENTERTAINMENT

Well, it's here, the final installment of the legendary Star Wars Trilogy, released on the big screen once more. Rather than bore you with a lot of details, I'll just say a few words about the theater experience of the Star Wars Trilogy. THANK GOD that Lucasfilms released the trilogy into theaters. I can't believe how much I enjoyed seeing it again. I was too young to appreciate them as a child, and it's amazing to see the movies as they were meant to be seen.

Return of the Jedi is probably my favorite of the three movies, mainly because Luke isn't such a dorky whiner like he was in the first two. "But Uncle Owen..." Yeah, shut up and learn how to use the Force, Luke. The added scenes were fantastic. I only wish that they had shot and shown footage of the original script's ending, where Lando fails to escape the Death Star explosion in time. That would've been interesting to see.

I can't imagine another movie (or set of movies) that would be more appropriate for a re-release. Twenty years later, Star Wars is still exciting, fresh, and still generates worldwide appeal. Though I'm sure nostalgia plays a large part in that, the special effects are still as good or better than a majority of 90's movies, never mind 70's flicks.



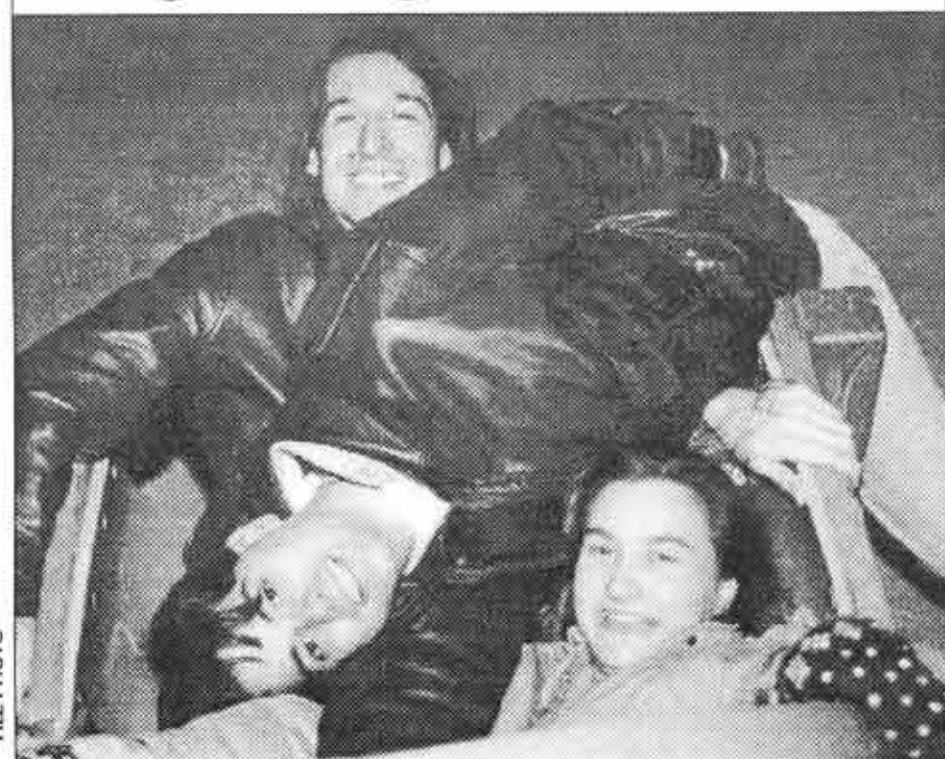
FILE PHOTO

Return of the Jedi benefits from a noticeably lower dork factor.

What sets these movies apart is the fact that they are only part of a larger story, with strong and likable characters (yes, I am aiming this at **Independence Day**). The re-release

of the Star Wars Trilogy is like re-living a monumental movie event. If you're a fan, go see it now, while you still have the chance.

My Neighbour Ned



ROBIN WHITTAKER
CORD ENTERTAINMENT

Hometown heroes **My Neighbour Ned** are set to play Wilf's this Friday. Led by exuberant frontman Mike Busseri, the trio brings their intelligent rock to a Laurier population that has been kind to them in the past. Rounding out the group are bass player Christine Bird and Matt Woodley. Singing about lesbian senior citizens and the like, you may hear echoes of **Dave Matthews** — or you may not. You'll likely enjoy.

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Ear Candy



Various Artists Lost Highway Soundtrack Nothing/Interscope

I hate soundtracks generally. They're usually lame collections of outtakes with little or no thematic relation to the movie or each other. Every now and then, though, a really excellent soundtrack comes along and shakes my cynical conviction. "Singles" was one such soundtrack; "Trainspotting" was another; this is not. The "Lost Highway" CD starts promisingly enough with an edit of **David Bowie's** "I'm Deranged," and moves quickly into the excellent "Perfect Drug" by **Nine Inch Nails**. Oh yeah, don't believe the hype about how this is basically a Nine Inch Nails album: "The Perfect Drug" is Trent Reznor's only fully formed song here. The CD really belongs to **Angelo Badalamenti** and his lame, arty, pseudo-jazz. Badalamenti's instrumentals (as well as Barry Adamson's) may be fine as background music in a movie, but foregrounded on CD they seem rather pointless. As for the rest of the album, the cartoon spookiness of **Marilyn Manson** and German metal band **Rammstein** pales in comparison to the genuinely scary "Eye" by **Smashing Pumpkins**. Actually, Manson's cover of "I Put A Spell on You" is well done, but it's less bewitching than the **Jay Hawkins** original. You'll have to wander a long time on the "Lost Highway" to find the few good tracks. There's too much mediocrity here to recommend it.

Lauren Stephen



The Trash Can Sinatras A Happy Pocket Go! Discs

Their music is the stuff of the eight-

ies. Good, but like a time piece. One could be reminded of **Pseudo Echo** through the whole thing, remember their "Love an Adventure" album? It had a couple of good songs on it: catchy. The older you got the less you liked it. Then it was banished to the "don't listen to any more pile" never to be heard from again. Don't care for it now, but boy oh boy was it good while it lasted.

This album makes you wish you were twelve again so you could like it. Not to say that it could not be enjoyed today. Not at all: for certain someone could slip it on during retro-night unbeknownst to the crowd. Listen for it, it'll be the one everyone is faking like they remember it.

Tim Durkin



No Mercy Self-Titled BMG

Marty Cintron, Ariel Hernandez, and Gabriel Hernandez, better known to you as **No Mercy**, deliver to fans as promised on their self titled album - no mercy. In most cases, you will find this album, or the CD single "Where Do You Go" in the dance section at your local record store. I recommend leaving it there.

Major hits "Where Do You Go" and "Please Don't Go," are very mainstream dance. We will hear them in the Turret on Thursday nights until the end of term, then they'll be off to the archives. Both tracks are catchy and demonstrate the potential of the trio's vocal abilities. The harmony is decent and the lyrics are moderately interesting given the current trend in dance music.

Then we get to the rest of the album - filled with generic lyrics and machine-shop generated harmony. Tracks like "Kiss You All Over," "My Promise to You," and "Don't Make Me Live Without You" sound like 90210 throw-aways, or better yet -

a 1990's rendition of a **Miami Sound Machine** collection. There is a total lack of diversity and imagination in both the song writing and the acoustical arrangements. The album recording is reasonable and an honorable mention should go to guitar player Roger Dalton for helping the cause. If you like "Where Do You Go," buy the CD single. Otherwise this album deserves no mercy.

Joel Lynn



George Clinton Greatest Funkin' Hits Capitol Records

Fans of P-Funk will agree that **George Clinton** has always been ahead of his time, and is one of the most creative and influential musicians of the century. This collection of remixed **Parliament**, **Funkadelic** and **George Clinton** hits is a sonic masterpiece that showcases Clinton's original production and innovative funk style.

Rappers **Ice Cube** and **Digital Underground**, who have built careers using P-Funk samples,

return the favour by adding lyrical support on the songs "Bop Gun" and "Knee Deep." Standout cuts are the updated classic "Atomic Dog" (featuring **Coolio**) and "Flashlight," which guest-stars **Busta Rhymes**, **Q-Tip**, and **Ol' Dirty Bastard**.

Unlike most greatest hits packages that simply recycle old material, this album is as much a retrospective look at Clinton's classic funk as it is a testament to his ongoing musical influence. "Greatest Funkin' Hits" is a remarkable tribute to one of pop music's most underrated figures, and I highly recommend it.

Brad Miller



Gary Numan/Tubeway Army Premier Hits Beggars Banquet

Although the airy synth-fest "Cars" was the closest **Gary Numan** came to having a hit in North America, he was a constant presence on the UK single charts for about five years during the late seventies and early eighties. In fact, of the eighteen tracks on "Premier

Hits," only three didn't make the UK top forty. This and the quality of these singles show that to label Numan a one-hit wonder would be terribly unfair. Actually, "Premier Hits" makes a strong case for Numan's place in the history of electronic music as a link from **Kraftwerk**, **Brian Eno** and **David Bowie** to the later work of **Depeche Mode**, **Soft Cell**, and **The Pet Shop Boys**.

Like many synth-pop artists, Numan explores the question/problem of human feeling in an increasingly technological world. The best thing about songs like "Are 'Friends' Electric" and "Cars" isn't the electronic chill of the music, but the stifled human emotion constantly struggling to free itself from the machine: in "Are 'Friends' Electric" Numan drops his affected robotic voice for a few moments to breathlessly whisper, "It hurts and I'm lonely...I missed you tonight...you see you meant everything to me," only to be drowned out by his own synthesizer. Great Stuff.

Lauren Stephen



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\$285/month, 1 year, beginning May 1, 5 min. walk to campus, call TREV @ 884-3189.

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Affordable 2 bedroom basement apartment near WLU. May to May lease. \$220 per month each plus share utilities. Cool in summer. Suit 2 students or a couple. Or single grad at reduced rate. Phone 886-4833. Leave message.

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Hey LAURIER come rafting this spring with WLUSU, May 10-11th high water discount weekend. Round up friends, good deals on 2 days rafting, food, and accommodation. Cost approx. \$190 for a killer weekend. Loads of group discounts and loads of fun! Contact Turret Manager Rob Cresswell x3582 or Mike McMahon at WLUSU x3375. An adrenalin pumpin way to start the summer! Round up the roomies!

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Brain Candy

control

• sam varteniuk

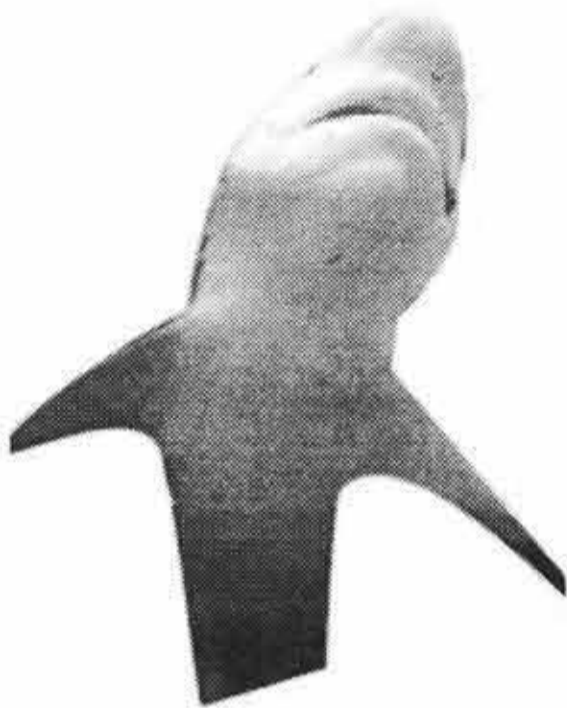
i found the beast within me

it was cowering and whimpering in a corner
 close to the appendix
 it peed itself to see me
 i took pity on it
 it was sort of cute
 in a poetic way
 i coaxed it out
 told it i was a big time Hollywood producer
 "you're gonna be a star"
 i said
 and i taught it puns
 and method acting
 and a song or two

now it doesn't cower or whimper
 controls its bladder quite well
 it asks all the time about being a star
 and once in a while i'll let it sing
 (i say it's an audition)
 it waits day and night for its big break
 i sometimes hint that a big deal's brewing
 but there never is
 and it'll never make it big

because, see:
 i've learned to control the beast within

sam varteniuk



A day of horrors:

Campaigning in the Concourse

• Lauralea Fox

Lauralea Fox

February 12th found me sneaking quietly up the stairway behind the Second Cup and slowly peering around the corner into the Concourse.

My heart stopped in terror, my worst fears had been realized. Election day was upon us.

Vote for this person, vote for that person; the pleases were never ending. Innocent students were being accosted by six campaigners at a time, all offering a different reward to support their candidate.

I took a deep breath; unless I wanted to be late for class, I had to cross the Concourse. My knees were weak, I didn't know if I could do it. From somewhere in the back of my mind came Obiwan's voice saying, "Luke, the Force will be with you." The only response I could think of was, "Too bad my name isn't Luke." I shrugged, it's now or never.

Straightening my back, I walked out of my hiding spot with my head held high. I was in luck, everyone's attention appeared to be elsewhere. Twenty feet left until the door, the course was clear, I was going to make it!

Then my hopes were dashed. Out of the corner of my eye I saw one of them turn and make its way towards me. The distance between me and the door was too great; I'd been caught.

"Are you planning to vote in today's election?" it asked me, its eyes telling me that I would receive a spiel no matter what my answer was. Luckily, I was only handed a pamphlet and sent on my way. Perhaps Obiwan had been right. Perhaps the Force truly was with me.

Then the sound reached my ears, a horrible, fatalistic sound. It was the sound of rushing bodies and stomping feet, and worst of all, it was heading straight for me. I swallowed hard. It was as if they had some kind of chemical signal indicating the exact position of their prey. I was a deer in the headlights, a rabbit in the snare; there was no escape. I was doomed. I slowly turned to face my captors.

Perhaps if I hadn't froze at the sound of them, I could have broke and ran for the door, but my fear got the better of me. The Force had abandoned me, and I had no Jedi mind tricks to save my soul.

At long last I clawed my way free of my accosters. I was covered in stickers and buttons from head to toe. As I slowly made my way back to class to lick my wounds, my only consolation was that I now had a bag full of pens, pencils, highlighters, suckers, stickers and best of all, chocolate.

I never crossed the Concourse again that day, for fear that this time I wouldn't be able to escape with my life. Election day, huh? More like the Lord of the Flies, civilized.

psyche -
 d e l i c
 m i n d -
 wave

Darren Winfield

• Darren Winfield

Watch the colours float by
 We follow but can never reach them
 we're just not fast enough.
 Red, blue, pink, silver
 every colour imaginable
 except black
 somehow I don't see any black
 and white, I don't think I see white
 maybe it's hiding from me
 O.K. I'll count to ten then come find you

I walk along the street
 and feel the strings attached to my
 numerous body parts being pulled
 the great puppetmasters want me to go here,
 no there,
 no over there
 I have no will.
 I look at the flowers
 they stop dancing and smile at me
 and say "How are you today, young sir?"
 Just fine, I reply
 and the flowers go on dancing

I sing and laugh
 as the rainbow colours float by

I sing and laugh
 as the rainbow colours float by
 and I fly towards the clouds to become
 one of the puppeteers.

Meaner Beasts of the Wood

• Robin Whittaker

Who knew why Rose couldn't think for herself? She was a bright woman, full of wit and charm, Brad thought; but no initiative. No free-will. She just was.

Brad was strong-willed, strong-minded, strong-hearted, and fresh. What he said went, and what went was what he wanted. Their jaunt through the forest Friday night meant everything to Rose, and nothing much to Brad. The turns they took were Brad's turns, of course. The musty old shack on the left; the wet- brown home on the right: these were interesting for Brad, and misquotes in the mist for Rose. She didn't care: and she wouldn't even remember why.

Something about a drug inspired him. Presented cordially by a man of letters (likely M-D).

Gallivanting aimless down the rolls of sod and moss, startled often by a rodent or other meaner beast of the wood.

Rose ignored and Brad changed direction. Faster, swifter, there was something to leave behind and neither remembered: Brad couldn't, Rose didn't.

Shift over some more. A noise to be ignored.

And run they did, and out of the forest and onto the gravel road: straight forever. Now Brad couldn't turn. And Rose followed incessantly. Didn't care who she was, but she followed.

Brad turning, and seeing a shadow in pursuit. Oh God, it's cold! A knife, no gun, no blade raised high! Must go faster.

But what if?

Brad stopping.

Rose evaporating.

Rose appearing as the shadow.

Brad and the Shadow-Rose struggling; the knife, no gun, no blade raised high above Brad's head. He screams, but can't hear himself.

Remember something.

Brad breaking free.

Brad turning.

Brad running fast. Sweating. Smelling. Tossing.

Turning into the forest.

Turning into blackness.

Rose beside him. He's relieved all over.

Into the woods with rodents and other meaner creatures of the night.

Rose evaporating Brad stopping. Panting.

Shadow-Rose grapples above Brad's head with the knife, no gun, no blade raised high.

Remember something.

Brad is stabbed. And starts.

Rose cares not, yet says "Remember the hands." Rose evaporates.

The hands. The hands. The hands. The hands!! The hands!!! Oh, yes!!!

Brad looks at his hands.

Awaking. Relieved all over in Dr. Franklin's office.

"What made you hollar so?"

The Lonely Hominid's Revenge

• Robin Whittaker

Carcinogenic drugs are making me high.
Asbestos-ridden foam is making me cry.
And all I see above me
Are the promises that shove me
Into the walls created at my sides.

Ubiquitous friends won't leave me be.
When all I ask is to be set free.
But all that doubt surrounds me
Like confounded outer-boundaries
And now I only ponder what I see.

Do you appreciate what I've gone through?
In my eyes do you not see my point of view?
So when I ask you quaintly
If I'm devilish or saintly
Will you answer me in riddles without
clues?

Into the lake I hurl myself down.
The sounds around the brown-crown
frowns abound.
When all the streams recede
And you ask me to believe
I'll shake my withered skull and pass it
round.

Amidst the mire I toil pensively.
No noise you'll hear, nor motional shall you
see.
My bones become encrusted
Eat my marrow like it's mustard
And remember me when you are 1-0-3.

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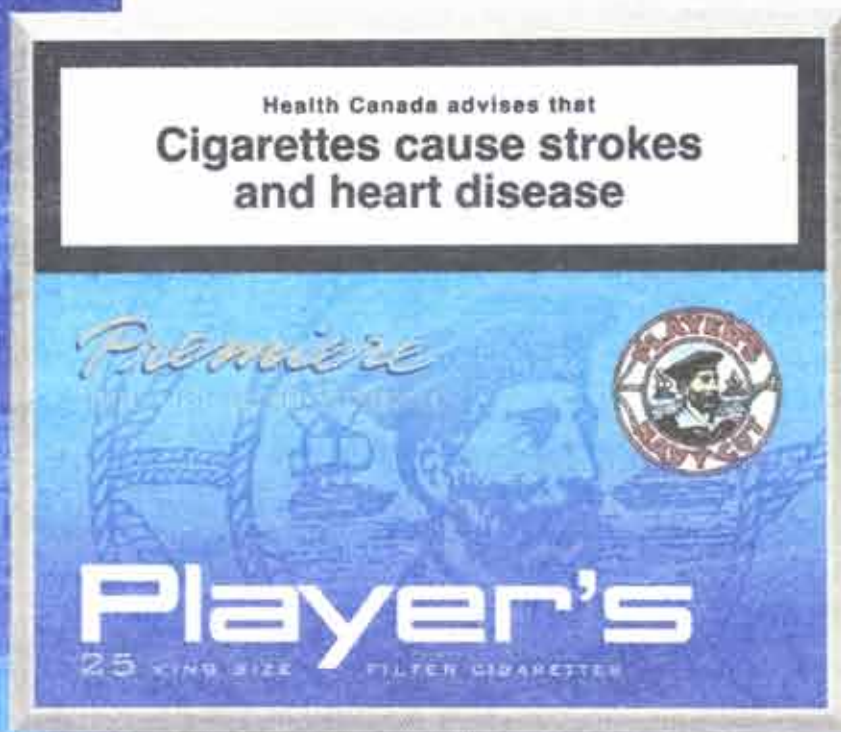
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