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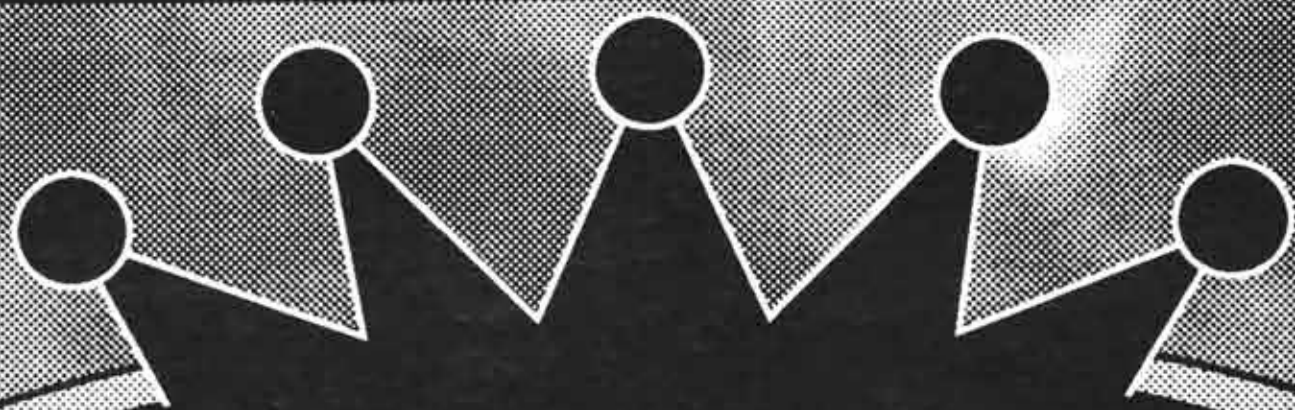


WLU: The year that was...



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Inside: Special disCord pull-out section



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SBE deals with budget cut challenges

Faculty budget must be cut by over \$300,000

ROBIN WHITTAKER
CORD NEWS

"Sometimes taking money away can be a real stimulus for creativity," commented Laurier School of Business and Economics (SBE) professor, Tupper Cawsey. Cawsey hopes increased creativity will be the flip-side of an SBE budget cut to the tune of well over \$300,000.

A ten-person planning committee within the SBE was formed to look at how the SBE would deal with the cuts. However, the Associate Dean of Business for academic programs, Howard Teall, stated that the cuts were ultimately the Dean's responsibility.

"The School is tightly managed; there's not a lot of fat," noted SBE Faculty Council member Jim Mantle.

Uppermost on the SBE's agenda for cost-cutting is a look at two particular courses: Introduction to Business Organization (BU111) and Functional Areas of the Organization (BU121). A meeting is set for April 4 to discuss how to finance these first-year courses, primarily in terms of their laboratory components and the Teaching Assistants who run the labs.

"Those labs are what makes the Laurier business program original," said first-year business student Greg Chownyk, expressing concerns about possible cuts.

"We're looking at how we might

be able to lessen the amount of TAs involved, and how we might offer the lab components in a different way," said Dean of SBE Alex Murray.

Murray suggested that there will likely be fewer Teaching Assistants within the SBE, though some areas may not lose TAs at all. Either way,

more sophisticated fourth-year course.

The move was in part the result of student demands.

"They were concerned that they weren't getting value out of the course material itself... By fourth-year, they're better able to take the course," said Teall, noting the limit-

stated, "We're not taking more additional students [next year]. Particularly in the first, second, and third years."

Increasing class sizes, said Cawsey, "doesn't lead you to saving quickly." Furthermore, he pointed out, "there just aren't enough empty classrooms to go around."

"TBES could be a real instrument for change in the school ... depending on the quality of student leadership," said Cawsey.

As well, Cawsey noted that the SBE is looking for a new Dean, and a new associate Dean. "The leadership of the School will undergo a massive shift," he said. "And that should have an impact."

In terms of faculty, Murray stated that the School will not have fewer professors next year. Early retirement was offered to two SBE professors, and accepted by one. His space, Murray said, will be filled, although maybe not by a tenured professor.

"You can't just say that because there's a shift from full-time to part-time faculty, that there'll be a drop in quality," said Cawsey. "Part-time faculty can enrich classes. But on the other hand, how much energy do we expect a part-time faculty [member] to give?"

The SBE is hoping that the cuts will be "largely invisible" to the students, said Teall, adding that much will depend on the outcome of the April 4 meeting, especially with regards to the BU111 and BU121 courses.

"What worries me," said Cawsey, "is that [with the cuts] we'd lose the slack in the system to experiment. Will [SBE] be given freedom, and can it develop this freedom to contribute to the university?"

"Part-time faculty can enrich their classes. But on the other hand, how much energy do we expect a part-time faculty [member] to give?" - Tupper Cawsey

he said, their pay "will probably stay standard."

SBE members will meet to discuss the future of the labs within the next two to three weeks. The School will be getting another computer laboratory as a result of donations from the Chartered Management Accountants.

"The CMAs came through when we needed new labs," Murray said. The alternative would have been taking money from operating expenses.

Another key issue, which has essentially been solved, affects the first-year course Data Processing and Information Systems (BU155). The course will now be taught as a

business knowledge of first-year students.

"A lot of people don't have much computer knowledge, but the lecture was really uninteresting and a waste of time," Chownyk agreed.

As well, Murray noted, students now acquire the skills from using PRISM.

Murray said other changes will include electives being offered in alternate years.

Laurier's Business Co-op program appears to be safe from the cuts. Murray commented, "We're very much dedicated to maintaining its quality... We don't want to lessen it at all."

In terms of class-sizes, Murray

Bouckaert pioneers recycling program

SONJA REGIER
CORD NEWS

Bouckaert Hall hosted a recycling project this year that could set an example for university residences across Ontario. Bouckaert established a comprehensive recycling system for its residents, which will soon be in place in all WLU residences.

Since October, a team of student environmentalists have been working to "green" the residence. Each floor has been set up with recycling containers for newspaper, glass,

plastics and metals, cardboard, plastic bags, and fine paper.

As well, a test project was conducted on one of the floors. Smaller, individual recycling boxes were placed in each room. These reusable cardboard boxes allowed the girls to throw their recyclables there, instead of the garbage can. Once full, the boxes were brought down to the lounge and the contents separated into the proper containers.

Organizers deemed the project "very successful in increasing recy-

cling habits and creating environmental awareness." They hope that next year each dorm-style residence will have a mini blue box system in place.

Last week, the Bouckaert Hall Enviro-Team presented "A Day in the Life of Bouckaert Garbage" to all five floors in the residence. The team hoped to increase environmental awareness and to promote the 3Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. They also explained how items such as yogurt and peanut butter containers, pop cans, glass bottles,

Kleenex boxes, and plastic bags could be reused or recycled.

Sonja Regier, Environmental Co-ordinator for the Students' Union, said she has big plans for all residences next year.

For example, she plans to conduct educational talks to all first year students in residence, hold games and contests to promote environmental awareness on the rest of the campus, and raise funds for the World Wildlife Fund.

If you have any enviro-friendly ideas, or wish to be involved in on-

campus environmentalism next year, leave a note in the Environmental Co-ordinator's mailbox in the Students' Union Offices, or watch for the posters in September.



KELLIE SEIGNER

LEGAL RESOURCES CONSULTANT

Last Saturday night, Terry Tenant and one hundred and fifty of his closest friends had a keg party. They had a great time ... until 11 pm, when it got "busted". This time is considered "quiet time" and any noise heard after this time can be considered "disturbing the peace." After 11 pm, the police have an obligation to act on complaints they receive, and as a result, break up noisy or rowdy gatherings.

Incidentally, as the organizer of

the "kegger," YOU are responsible for everything that occurs, either directly or indirectly resulting from a guest's attendance at your party. To ensure the safety of your guests, arrange for designated drivers or places for your guests to crash for the night.

If anyone drinks and drives, you as the host can be held partially responsible. (Just an aside: if the police catch you passed out drunk in the front seat of your car, they can charge you with impaired driving, even though the car is not in

motion!)

The typical, stereotyped alcoholic the "skid row bum" accounts for only 3-5% of true alcoholics. Six percent are those with a high school education, and 15% of alcoholics have a college or university education.

Problem drinkers are those who become negatively aggressive or "out-of-control" resulting from alcohol use. Ten to fifteen percent of university students are considered problem drinkers. Thirty to thirty-five percent of students admit to get-

ting "behind the wheel" after indulging.

Several aspects of alcohol should be considered before you pick up that one-too-many drink:

SPEED: if you sip your drink and limit yourself to one drink per hour, there will be only a minute amount of alcohol traceable in your bloodstream.

DILUTE: drink a lot of water to slow the absorption of alcohol into your bloodstream.

WEIGHT: as alcohol is fat soluble, your weight will have a great

influence on your tolerance level.

EATING: if you eat while you drink, especially carbohydrates, you will not get drunk as fast.

MOOD/ATTITUDE/EXPERIENCE: alcohol magnifies your emotions, both the negative and the positive.

Legal Resources is open 5 days a week from 10 a.m. Please drop by with any legal questions or concerns you might have. If we can't help you, we will direct you to the people who can answer your questions.

Planning a party? Read this

Tuition increases finalized

1996 - 1997 full time students will pay \$2,816 - an increase of \$366

KATHY CAWSEY
CORD NEWS

The tuition increases are now official.

Wilfrid Laurier University will raise its tuition fees by 15 % next year.

For full-time students, this means tuition will jump from \$2,450 to \$2,816. Part-time fees will rise to \$632 per credit from \$550.

As well, students face increased costs to pay for student services. The university and the Students' Union have agreed to combine the current compulsory fees for health services and athletics into one Compulsory Student Services Fee. This fee will

jump from about \$95 per year to about \$220 per year.

"We are pursuing 50% recovery from students," said Andrew Berczi, Vice President of Finance and Administration. "The rest [will be] paid by the university."

"WLU students realize they will have to help offset costs," said Joel Lynn, President-elect of the Students' Union. "But we're still one of the lowest in the province, in terms of student services fees."

The tuition and fee increases are a result of the 280 million dollars in funding the government removed from university funding this year. Laurier's operating grant was

reduced by 17.4 %.

"It will be interesting to see the impact of the tuition increases on enrollment," Lynn commented. "[The tuition increases] will really narrow the gap for students in the middle category, who don't get OSAP but aren't fully supported by other funding, like their parents. Those are the ones who are going to be hurt."

According to Berczi, most other universities in the province will be increasing tuition by the full 20 per cent allowed by the government. "[Laurier] managed to put together a balanced budget without needing to go beyond a 15 per cent tuition

increase," Berczi said. "We have been able to distribute the load among the members of the university community. We didn't want to put all the weight on students' shoulders."

Ten per cent of the tuition increase is to go into bursaries and scholarships to aid students in funding their education. Lynn said that the capital campaign of the Students' Union this year is also going to be put towards bursaries and scholarships.

"There needs to be an opportunity to help students pay for their education," he said. Lynn also suggested that the Union will be push-

ing the Ontario Universities' Student Alliance to lobby for other aids, such as income-contingent loan repayment plans.

Lynn said that students will play a more active role in their education in the future.

"Students are going to demand accountability and value for their money," he commented. "They will require the university to continue to provide value."

The fifteen per cent increase may not be the final figure, however. Berczi stated that if the government introduces another major cut, tuition may be raised again in 1997-1998.

WLUSP book drive helps hospitals and daycares

WENDY MILLIKEN
CORD NEWS

Wilfrid Laurier Student Publications held a used book drive March 19th and 20th to increase literacy in the K-W community, and raise the profile of WLUSP. The event was organized by Carla D'Annibale, the pub-

lic relations manager for WLUSP. This is the first year Student Publications has had a PR manager, and the book drive was the first event of its kind.

With the help of Laurier Students for Literacy, about 35-40 books were collected. These will be categorized

and then distributed around the community. Children's books will be given to day-care centres, while hospitals will get most of the fiction, and the textbooks will likely end up in libraries. The drive was considered a success, especially for a first time event.

Kathy and Tom want to thank all the news writers who contributed to their section this year. Your dedication and talent has made our jobs a pleasure. Thanks for your enthusiasm ... we'll see you in the fall!

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148 vote in BoG election

Voting for the student representative to the University's Board of Governors took place last week. The Board of Governors is the ruling body of the University. All full-time students were eligible to vote in the election.

The results were as follows:

Trevor Newell	53
Catherine Conrad	93
Spoiled	2
Votes Cast	148

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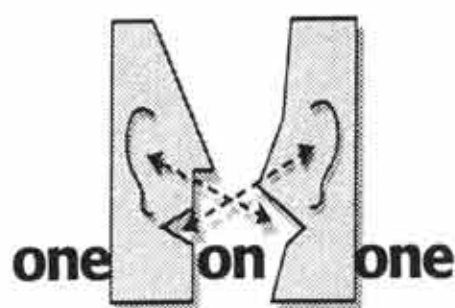
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East or West, home is...



TOM HRUBES

CORD NEWS COMMENTARY

Are you getting a little tired of cooking your own meals? Kraft Dinner tasted pretty good the first 400 times you made it, but now it's starting to become a little monotonous.

Are you getting sick of that palace you rented for \$285 a month (non-inclusive)? At first having a cockroach farm in your room was

pretty cool, but lately the novelty has worn thin.

Are you getting tired of paying all your own bills? Doing your own laundry? Do you miss that unbridled, condescending pity only parents can offer?

Then I have your answer - go home!

Sure it sounds crazy, but after eight months of living on your own a little bit of luxury never hurt anyone. Home may be where the heart is, but it's also where the free laundry, food, car, and room are. The first few days of living at home can be blissful, as parents cook your favourite meals and forget all the chores they were planning to make you do. They may even forget to remind you of all the mistakes you've made in your life - for a little while.

After a few weeks of course, the euphoria wears off. Suddenly your parents forget where you came from, and think you're still in elementary school. Then you get to start arguing with your parents! It's something we all miss and feel the need to do on occasion. There's nothing like your parents trying to impose a curfew on you after eight months of freedom.

If you're really lucky, then you have brother(s)/sister(s) at home. This provides a golden opportunity to rediscover the joys of sibling rivalry. Now that you're all grown up, it means that it's a fairer and more bruising fight. Siblings are also a useful source of financing for you cash-strapped students out there. If your younger brother is working at McDonalds, he can probably buy and sell you a few times over. Tell

them they're not loaning money to a brother/sister, but instead they're investing in the future of their family. If that doesn't work, beg. After that, threaten.

For many of us, summer is the only chance to see those elusive high school friends. There is nothing as thrilling as calling someone you haven't seen in a year, and discovering you have nothing to talk about. Home is also where all the gossip and rumours exist about the people you went to high school with. It's gratifying to hear about the class ass kisser who couldn't cut it at university, or the super athlete who put on 150 pounds. Then there is the handing out of the "first girl pregnant out of high school" award that is so popular.

Finally, there is the joy of having the family car. For those of you who

already have your own cars, this is a moot point. However, for those of us who are automotively impaired, this is a big plus. If you're lucky, your parents have passed through the mid life crisis stage and have compensated with a good sports car. Stake your claim to this car as early in the summer as possible. Mark your territory and refuse to back down. Be as unreasonable as necessary - a car is worth fighting for.

If I haven't convinced you by now, then it probably doesn't matter since most of you are going home anyways. Those of you staying over the summer through choice or necessity will be forced to be responsible for yourselves for another four months.

The rest of us would rather that someone else worried for a change.

ANN-MARIE SMITH

CORD NEWS COMMENTARY

Staying in town this summer? Think it's going to be boring because no one is going to be around? Think again - Waterloo has a lot to offer Laurier students in the warmer months.

First of all, you get to maintain that hard earned independence. There is no "getting used to mom's rules for 4 months" - you're still free to go out until all hours, play your music as loud as you want, and keep your room as you please. You are free of the burden of over-protective parents who want to know your every move.

Number two is you meet new people. Think that "no one" will be here? Ha! Everyone will be here, you just may not know them yet. Your social group will grow because people that you only just recognized as a Laurier student will now be part of your 'gang'. Everyone feels that they are the only ones here, so it is easy to bond with fellow summer people.

Remember that business co-op students will be here, as well as anyone else taking intercession or summer courses. The Students' Union is also open, so look for opportunities to volunteer with Foot Patrol or other organizations. I promise that people will be here - so emerge from that sublet room and socialize!

Speaking of subletting, another bonus of a summer stay in Waterloo is subletting. Perhaps you are the

subletter and get to enjoy a summer of cheap rent, or maybe you are living with subletters. You think that these strangers who move in with you to sublet will be terrible, but with peaceful living these people can turn into your closest amigos. They are people to go biking, riding, play catch, or hit the bars with. With a little sun, you may turn into one hell of a friendly person!

Another aside; Waterloo is damn pretty in the summer. Believe it or not, the campus has some beautiful trees, perfect to read under or just admire.

There are summer activities in Waterloo that you may never have thought of in your normal scholastic frame of mind: bike trails, rafting down the Grand River, walking through Waterloo park, tennis on Laurier's courts or at the many surrounding high schools. Perhaps you will be able to take advantage of that backyard your rented house has; plan a barbecue, have an outdoor party, or sunbathe.

When you now walk into Zehrs you will be able to afford the fresh fruit because it will be in season! Also, you won't even mind the long walk to Zehrs, because it will be warm. What a luxury!

The key to having a good summer in Waterloo is not to stay cooped up. Yes, okay - maybe you'll be here for classes, but it's different than during the year. The atmosphere is different. Know why? It's SUMMER!

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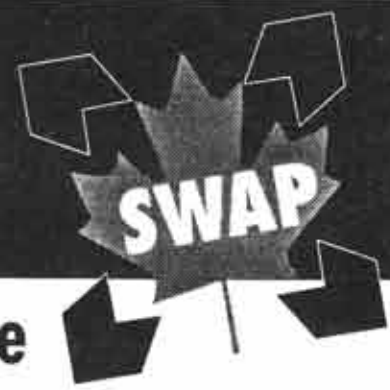
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Conestoga College

Public Notice

Anyone with exams scheduled for April 19th should check the exam schedule at the beginning of April. The exams may be postponed because of the labour rally coming to Kitchener-Waterloo on this date.

Sorry - I can only talk about English

KATHY CAWSEY

CORD NEWS COMMENTARY

Boy, did we ever push a button! I knew Arts students had an inferiority complex when it came to the School of Business and Economics, but I didn't know they were quite so defensive about it.

Two weeks ago, Scott Stinson and I wrote a commentary article on the proposed "two-tier" system the Arts faculty was considering. We were hoping to start some discussion about the proposal and the methods for making cuts in general. We succeeded beyond our expectations, as last week's Letters to the Editor section demonstrates.

We both believe it is extremely important to open the discussion of such issues to the university as a whole, rather than leaving it to the administrators of the university to make decisions behind closed doors.

Most people I heard from did not agree with our opinions. Good. Controversy will get the discussions started. I am not going to defend our position, or I will sound defensive; I am not going to explain our reasoning, or I will sound apologetic. However, there are a few things that obviously need clarifying.

First of all, let me introduce ourselves (something we clearly should have done in the last article.) Scott is a fourth year Business student who is considering a career in journalism. I am a third year student in Honours English and History, co-op option. And just so you don't think I am a disgruntled English student trying to get back at my faculty, I am an A student in English.

... so their opinions may be a bit biased). Great! I'm glad it's so wonderful. *But how come I never knew this before?* I have lived in Waterloo all my life, I have worked part-time for the university (including the English department) for several years, and I am an English major. Why did I never hear that Laurier English won this award or scored such-and-such on this evaluation? I chose to go to Laurier on the basis of Laurier as a whole - I knew nothing about Laurier's English department that would distinguish it from any other English department in the province.

I chose the School of Business to compare with the English department because, like it or not, that's what Laurier is known for. If I were at Waterloo, I would have talked about engineering; at Guelph, about agriculture and biology.

The second thing I need to clear up is that Scott and I started our discussion on the assumption that cuts were inevitable. We both believe in the ideals of a liberal, "renaissance" education, and we would love to be the ones to provide that kind of education for everybody. However, the government is not allowing us that option. We have a choice between

making cuts across the board, and making cuts to specific areas. We came down on the side of cuts to specific areas because we felt that cuts across the board would establish across the board mediocrity.

One more thing. Harold Remus made a good point at the end of his letter (see last week's issue). Cutting departments is going to hurt - terribly. We must keep that fact at the front of our minds throughout this whole process. However, cuts of any kind are going to hurt. Unfortunately, we can't prevent that. Our focus now must be on how we can least hurt Laurier as a whole.

I cannot say "cut your department," unless I am also willing to cut mine.

The one thing common to all discussions of budget cuts is turf protection: let's cut your department so they won't cut mine. I did not choose to "attack" Laurier English because I think it is not valuable. I chose to talk about it because it is *my* discipline. I cannot, with any validity, say "cut your department," unless I am also willing to consider cutting mine. I could have equally chosen history - however, because my co-op discipline is English, I consider myself more of an English student than a history student. I discussed the English department because I could not legitimately discuss any other department.

In the past week, I have been told more times than I can count how wonderful Laurier English is (although most of the people telling me were English students and profs

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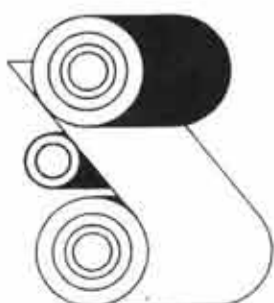
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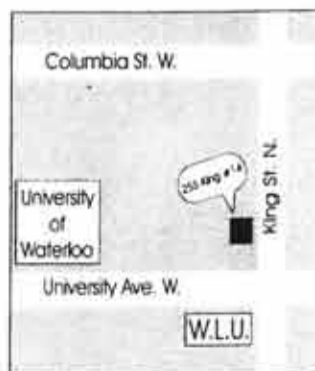
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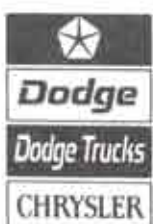


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Letters Policy

- All letters must be signed and submitted with the author's name, student identification number and telephone number.
- All letters will be printed with the author's name. Letters can be printed without the author's name only by permission of the Editor-in-Chief.
- Letters must be received by Tuesday at noon for publication in that week's issue in print, on disk, or via e-mail to: 22cord@mach1.wlu.ca
- Letters that are submitted on disk or via e-mail must be accompanied by a signed hard copy.
- Letters must be typed, double spaced, and cannot exceed 500 words.
- The Cord reserves the right to edit any letter. Spelling and grammar will not be corrected.
- The Cord reserves the right to reject any letter in whole or in part, that is in violation of existing Cord policies.

Editorial

Removal of valedictory address an insult

This being the last issue of the Cord this year, I was expecting to write some kind of reflective, retrospective piece. Wanted to go out on a happy note.

Then I learned that the Laurier Administration has plans to remove the valedictory address from this year's convocation ceremonies. So much for happy.

The mere notion that administrators would decide that the valedictorians will not speak at convocation makes me shudder. Who is convocation really for? I thought it was to recognize the efforts of the one thousand or so students whose years of hard work had earned them a degree. Apparently, it is not.

It comes down to this: Last year, Toby O' Hara gave a speech that some people apparently thought was embarrassing. He got everyone to shout "cheeseburger" and said some other light-hearted things. The ultimate result is that the Senate Ceremonials Committee decide to yank the valedictory address from the convocation ceremony. There is a student representative on that committee, but she was unable to attend the meeting when this was decided. It was held during Reading Week. She had asked the committee to hold off on their decision until she could be present, and she had other proposals ready, but the decision was made.

Some students are planning to petition the Senate to change that decision when it comes before the Senate on April 10th. Even if they are successful, the fact that they even have to ask is sad.

Valedictory addresses are an essential part of convo-

cation. It is a chance for one student to give the hundreds of parents and friends some perspective on what Laurier is. Sure, some speeches will be better than others, but one bad one shouldn't cause their outright removal. They give it a student touch.

Without them, convocation becomes a chance for the administration to hand out an honorary degree to someone who will give a tidy speech, unload a bundle of degrees, then send the students on their way.

And don't forget to send money.

The isn't the first time that graduates preparing to leave this fine institution have been slapped in the face. The class of '94 was deservedly angry when they received degrees about the quality of a photocopy. Quality degrees suitable for framing were available for a fee. Thankfully, somebody realized the mistake and real degrees were handed out last year.

Now this. Once again, the Laurier administration gives its graduating class the impression that it really doesn't care what they think. Of course, you'll sure get the impression that they care when they ask you for money next year, and every year after that.

I think the late Gary Lautens sums up their attitude much better than I ever could:

"Universities keep in touch with grads they didn't think would amount to anything by asking for donations to help educate students they don't think will amount to anything."

Well said, sir.

Editorial by Scott Stinson, Editor-in-Chief

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

Criticisms unjustified

Dear Editor,

When I read Scott Stinson and Kathy Cawsey's article "Laurier Needs to Specialize" (13 March) I was struck by the horrible, hack glibness of the piece. So much so that I initially thought Stinson and Cawsey were writing tongue-in-cheek, exemplifying a dense and thoughtless opinion in order to expose its inaccuracy. However, this kind of journalistic sophistication was too much to expect, for, hilariously, Stinson and Cawsey were serious (or else they've totally fooled me and have my undying admiration for it).

To summarize what they wrote takes far too much away from the stupidity of the piece, but in case some of you need a refreshment. Stinson and Cawsey supported the idea of specialization, largely justified by the notion that humanities courses don't qualify as one of those pursuits worthy of respect or recognition in the 'real world' (they singled out English, probably because it's the easiest faculty to target). It is not in the mere fact that Stinson and Cawsey support the specialization that I found misguided. It is the ignorant and wholly unjustified criticisms of the humanities course (i.e. English) that has me beyond irritation.

Obviously, Stinson and Cawsey have not the slightest inkling of what they're talking about, for if they did it wouldn't be difficult to come up with real criticisms, as opposed to this tedious and unfortunately typical banter. Yet perhaps the most misplaced idea that the article proposes is that an English degree is pretty well standard, regardless of where you go. I'm more than interested to know how Stinson and Cawsey have come up with this fact. I mean, if this were a real journalistic article, then they could have quite easily consulted some of the English faculty, or even English majors, in order to survey opinions on how Laurier fares. Yet to do so probably would have rendered the article - god forbid - respectful of the complexities involved. I mean, how can you offer a crudely oversimplified solution to a problem after acknowledging how ambiguous it is? This wasn't an article. It was juvenile pamphlet.

In order to support their precarious position they immaturely overstated themselves when there really

was no need to. I have talked to business majors who are taking humanities courses (either out of choice or necessity) and they clearly lack any desire to segregate faculties in columns of worthwhile vs. worthless. Unlike Stinson and Cawsey, they are capable seeing the notion of education as much more than what your future job title might be. Granted, Stinson and Cawsey claim to be responding to economic reality; yet this perceived reality in no way allows for the kind of narrow minded logic they offered.

Perhaps Stinson and Cawsey have pathetically tried to provoke people such as myself in barking about how horrible "business-types" are (thereby making it that much easier for them to solidify their opinion that Liberal Arts people are basket weaving losers who didn't have the grades for Business), but I have absolutely no intention of doing so. I recognize and respect the contribution that the business faculty can offer, and common sense dictates that regardless of what my degree offers me, as a citizen of this country I will need to rely on the skills acquired by business students in order to make my life more successful. It is sadly convenient for people like Stinson and Cawsey not to reciprocate this sentiment, but, for now, I'm hopeful that a significant number of people who work in the business sphere of this university do not see faculties such as English as instructions on "learning for the sake of learning". Anyone who offers this idea is ultimately advertising their ignorance of the faculty, and their intimidation by people who are capable of choosing to see larger pictures instead of bottom lines. Life is rarely simple, and it's oddly ironic that people like Stinson and Cawsey desire to make it so in a university atmosphere, an atmosphere that has the potential to provoke enlightenment and diversification, rather than shallow labeling and frankly embarrassing closed mindedness.

Jason Kalra

Disgusted with comments

Dear Editor,

I was disgusted and dismayed to read last week's article, "Laurier needs to specialize". What begins as a commentary on budget cuts turns into an assessment of the worth of a liberal education. Mr. Stinson and Ms. Cawsey take it upon themselves to define the goal of academic studies as employment. Apparently, my education is only valuable in so far as it gets me a job.

If learning for the sake of learning doesn't cut it anymore, why are any universities in Canada wasting their precious funds on such frivolous programs as

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More letters to the editor

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English? Universities should cut all programs that are not specifically career oriented. What a brilliant idea — it's too bad colleges and trade schools have beat us to it.

Of course, there is proof that English is a worthless degree: "Employers continually say Arts students are not learning the skills society needs." I find it disturbing that employers are the ones deciding what skills are needed for society in general. Can I offer nothing to the world unless I have the skills required by the Microsoft Corporation?

Come to think of it, a lot of what I'm learning will be valuable to potential employers. Granted, few jobs require intimate knowledge of allegory in "Piers Plowman", but the ability to analyze and communicate effectively, developed through study of such texts, is essential in any field. Ideas are nothing without expression. Perhaps that is why English is the only high school subject in which five credits are required in order to graduate. And all these years I thought it was just a conspiracy to provide teaching jobs for English graduates.

Anyone who has sat in an English class at Laurier knows that we are not "trudging along". English majors are excited about our field; we even (gasp) talk about our studies outside of class. Calling English a "genteel subject" is laughable. The burning and banning of books throughout history testifies to

the fact that those in power recognize language as dangerously powerful. It is mind boggling to consider the number of ideas sparked and lives changed by even one book on my shelf.

Perhaps this sounds rather idealistic. I am aware that in times of economic crisis, difficult decisions must be made. But scoffing at English, and Arts programs in general, is a cop out. We all need to look at why we're here. In the rush to earn a degree and start raking in the big bucks, I like to think there is still a place for actually learning. Can we biologically exist without poetry, music, and the exchange of ideas? Of course. But who would want to?

Mary Kate Sullivan

Laurier Incorporated

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article "Laurier Needs to Specialize" by Kathy Cawsey and Scott Stinson. The suggestion that it is time for universities to be more like corporations and less like public institutions deserves merit and warrants further examination. The notion that Wilfrid Laurier University and every other public (and private) learning institution in Canada is a "business" is important if Laurier is to survive in a time of severe budget cuts. The only significant difference between Laurier and IBM is the bottom line:

one organization is not for profit and the other is. One sells computers for profit and the other sells education for a degree. Every school competes for the best students to sell them what they think is a superior product. Laurier isn't any different. The reality is that we the students are the customers and the degree you're paying for is the product.

In the face of major budget cuts across the province, the Harris Government has made it very clear that all universities and colleges must make difficult decisions concerning program funding. As a result, Laurier's Senate Finance committee is considering cuts to the operating budget in the neighbourhood of 15 to 20 per cent. This means we need to start managing and prioritizing programs at Laurier. In order for Laurier to continue offering a competitive product (programs), I think the administration must not only decide on how the cuts will be divided, but must also decide which programs are worth offering. These are decisions that I am sure no one likes to make - but they must happen. With decreased funding, Laurier can not continue to offer all the programs it currently does without sacrificing quality somewhere. It is not realis-

tic to assume that if each department were to take a 20 per cent cut in funding that it could continue to maintain its quality level. I think given Laurier's limited resources as a small school, increasing competition from other universities for top students and scarce government funding, Laurier needs to do two things.

One, we need to focus on our core competencies to determine what we are good at. For Laurier, this means focusing on the programs that are competitive relative to other schools and eliminating ones that aren't. Programs like Business, Music, and Archeology, for example, have distinctive competitive advantages over other schools in Ontario or Canada because of their reputations, image and quality of graduates. And employers know it. If we all want a first rate education, then we must also decide which programs are first priority and second priority. I still don't understand why Laurier continues to offer science degrees such as physics, computing, biology and chemistry when we have a world class institution just five minutes down the street. How and why Laurier competes with U of W, U of T and Guelph for sciences is beyond me. It doesn't make sense.

Second, I propose a new way of offering programs for students in the market for a degree. Rather than competing for resources and students, schools need to start specializing. More and more universities are learning that they simply do not possess all of the knowledge, resources or skills needed to offer every program for every student at the same quality level. Successful organizations recognize that markets consist of buyers (students) that differ in needs, wants, attitudes and preferences. They also know that they can't appeal to all buyers in those markets, or at least not to all buyers in the same way. Each university has to identify the segments or parts of the market that it can serve best. Laurier can't be everything to everyone. Schools in the future will need to collaborate and build alliances with other schools to eliminate duplication. This would allow schools to focus on what they do best and offer only the best programs to students.

Budget cuts, economic uncertainty and political discontinuity are forcing how universities across Canada to look at the way they compete for students and the programs they offer. The end result will be schools that offer limited programs

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Even more letters to the editor

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that are highly specialized. Students will be assured of getting a quality education without guessing which school is better. It's time that we all stop fantasizing and start accepting reality. These are tough decisions and playing the waiting game won't make them any easier in the future.

Shawn Harvey

Reactions unjustified

Dear Editor,

No need for anyone who had a letter to the editor last week to go in to test their reflexes — their knee jerk reactions are in fine order.

The comments directed at editors Stinson and Cawsey are reactionary at best and foolish at worst.

Primarily I found the anti-business bias discouraging. Most of the authors assumed that the writers are business students. While it is true that the long suffering Mr. Stinson is a business student I'm sure it would surprise many readers to know that Ms. Cawsey is an honours English/history student. Apparently the opinions are ones not held solely in the Peters Building. As for Mr. Remus, his comments that US business hire non-business undergrad students are purely non-sensical. There is no undergraduate business program in the US. By the way, has anyone recently checked the placement rates for business vs. non-business

students?

Secondly, I believe that most of the writers missed the point of the original article. The thesis was that Laurier should concentrate on what it does best. A business student would call that a core competency. I call it smart thinking, proactive thinking. The writers did not call for the abolition of arts and science courses province wide, merely called for the elimination of those programs not well done by Laurier. Imagine the increased level of the Political Science program if the arts faculty had more resources to spend on it.

Most writers failed to think about the broader implications of the premise. If programs were only offered where they are offered best (assuming there are no fewer overall spaces) then all graduates would be of a higher quality. Ontario would become a hot bed of education. No more would Carleton be derided as a place you went as a last resort.

On the flip side, imagine the school envisioned by the letter writers last week. Not only would we be able to take anthropology, astronomy, computer science and Zen but we would start offering dentistry, engineering, medicine, law, journalism and concurrent education. We don't really have the resources or capabilities to do a good job, but in order to have a well-rounded student body we need them.

Laurier is small, that's why I came here. Most students can say

the same thing. I do not, however, want the reputation of the school to be that it does everything half-assed. I want the reputation to be a school of excellence. If that means tiering the whole school and eliminating programs we don't do well, then so be it. If you can't be good at the decathlon, at least win the gold medal in the high jump.

Darren Mahaffy

Schools have little choice

Dear Editor,

I am an Arts student, majoring in Political Science. It makes me sad to think that Political Science might someday be considered second tier. What makes me even sadder is imagining, having graduated, and not having a school to visit at Homecoming, because it went bankrupt. I'd rather see Political Science become a second tier faculty than lose my school altogether.

Many people wrote Letters to the Editor condemning the authors of "Laurier needs to specialize". One person asked, "Since when has a university become a business, rather than an educational institution?". Perhaps it's time for us to wake up and experience reality. Universities are not choosing to become businesses; they are being told to, by a government that has drastically reduced their funding.

If Laurier wants to be here in the future it has to start acting like a

business.

Sue Barry

Biz "arrogant"

Dear Editor,

Being a fourth year business student, and thus having personal experience with the SBE for four years, I cannot agree more to the majority of the articles published in response to Scott Stinson and Kathy Cawsey. I find that a majority of the business students graduating this April seem to be very arrogant in their views about life and only have something intelligent to say when it comes to the business world. In fact, the only really interesting conversations I have had in four years seems to be with arts students. I do not, however, solely blame business students for this dullness, as I find the business program here at Laurier encourages them to focus only on success in the business world and stops there. The superiority complex most business students have emanates from the fact that they are constantly being told that they will be making the most money of all graduates, and again we can blame the professors and the SBE for that. Having interviewed for many jobs in the "real world" (whatever that may be), I have come to the conclusion those that have the best chances are individuals with the best people skills, an area where the majority of SBE students are lacking due to their inability to have meaningful dia-

logue about anything but the standard pretentious business conversation.

Additionally, one of the main criticisms of Laurier (especially the business program) is that WLU does not get the recognition of some of the more established universities, such as Queens and Western gets. Scott Stinson and Kathy Cawsey's solution to this is to establish a two tier system in which Laurier would put more focus on programs that it is already good at. My response to this is that maybe the reason why Western and Queens have a better reputation than Laurier is the fact that they offer an excellent program in more than two or three disciplines. Students actually seem to have a university education rather than appear to have graduated from the Toronto School of Business. If Laurier seriously wants to compete with Queens, which is not significantly bigger than our own university, perhaps it should follow their lead rather than give up on programs such as English and Philosophy.

Ravpreet Bhatia

Try debating

Dear Editor,

I am writing on behalf of the Wilfrid Laurier University Debating Society. As a Society we represent this University in everything we do, from attending tournaments across North America to holding tournaments

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- 6 oz. Steak Sandwich.....\$4.50

Yes! More letters to the editor

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right here on campus. It is because we represent the students here at Laurier that I feel the students should know how we represented them!

Most recently, the Society held a High School tournament in November that attracted over 100 high school students from all across Ontario. After this tournament, Kitchener/Waterloo's high school debating co-ordinator contacted us to thank us for holding the event. The students of Laurier were well represented that day. However, that event would not have been possible without funding support. WLU's Alumni Association was very generous in their donation to our society, for which we are grateful. The Senate Committee for Cultural Affairs and the Dean Of Arts and Sciences also provided crucial funds. Also, the University of Waterloo's House of Debates provided some judges.

On a more personal level, I would like to thank Peter Hearty who did an excellent job as tournament co-ordinator, and Lori Dysiveck who managed to round up more people to help us judge. (And all Debating Society members who gave up their day to help us judge).

The Society has held two University level tournaments, two high school tournaments, won third place at Nationals last year, and placed in the top ten at over fifteen tournaments in the last three years. However, the Executive of the Society is graduating this year and there are only a couple of students willing to take the torch for next year. I mention this because if you have thought about debating, then perhaps the chance to get involved on the planning side of things will provide the initiative to give debating a try next year.

And, as a final undertaking as my position as VP: Administration for the Society, as well as on a personal note, I would encourage people to look into debating. Personally, I was terrified of speaking in front of others before I joined, now I feel much more comfortable (a little too comfortable at times!). On the other side, I have seen people with a flair for speaking (or for analysis) improve what they already to, well, be ranked third in the country.

If you have any questions about the Society, you can reach me through email at wint1455@mach1.wlu.ca, or drop a note in the Debating Society mailbox in the Campus Clubs centre.

Johnathan Winter
VP: Administration, WLU
Debating Society

Don't cut labs

Dear Editor,

I am sure that everyone is just as sick and tired as I am of hearing the word "cutbacks" on the Laurier campus. Ever since the Mike Harris government gained power, this seems to be the buzz word around all Ontario universities. As much as everyone dislikes it, people are slowly getting used to the notion that many integral parts of the university curriculum will be cut in the next few years in order to save costs. However, I was outraged to discover that the lab component to BU 111 and BU 121 may be downsized or eliminated altogether. Of all the possible ways they could think of to lower the operating budget of the SBE, this idea would have to be the worst.

Everyone who has been through the first year in Honours Business or Economics knows the importance of these labs. Of all my classroom experience in first year, noth-

ing was nearly as beneficial to me as my Business labs. I found them much more interesting and useful than sitting in a crowded Economics lecture and dozing off to the gentle sound of demand and supply curves. These labs give the students a chance to work with a small group and to get the personal attention that is just not possible in a lecture hall with 300 people. It also allows first year students to interact with a senior student who they can relate to and who they can feel comfortable asking questions about anything, whether it is business related or otherwise. By eliminating the lab component of BU 111 and BU 121, first year business students will not have the opportunity to work in groups and to apply the information that they have gathered from lectures.

It is things like these business labs which make Laurier's business program one of the best in Canada. By taking them away, you not only save money, but you also substantially weaken the program as a whole, not to mention greatly lowering the learning experience for the first year students in the program. Some of my fondest memories of first year took place in my business labs, and it was here that I learned my group-related skills and

how to apply the theory I learned in class. Cutbacks are a necessary evil of the '90's, but I don't see why they have to start with the best parts of the program. If anything has to be eliminated from the first year curriculum, I pray that it is not the lab component of BU 111 and BU 121.

Brent Reynolds

Footer thanks

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who used the services provided by the WLU Foot Patrol this year. As you know we will be open until the end of exams to help you get to your destination safely.

I would also like to thank everyone who worked on the WLU Foot Patrol program this past year. All of the positions on this team are voluntary and require a high level of dedication and commitment. Patrollers work their seven hour shift once every two weeks, and often go out of their way to do even more than what the job requires. These volunteers work through the rain, snow, sleet, wind and whatever else is thrown their way.

Those of you who I have worked with throughout the year, are the

most enthusiastic and dedicated bunch of volunteers I have ever had the pleasure to work with. I know that it is not often easy to walk in weather that is 30 below and work until 2:00 am often on a Thursday or Friday, but as Foot Patrollers you do it night after night and have a good time in the process.

I have enjoyed my time as a Coordinator of this program. Whether it was during the long hours put in on Orientation Week; or the early mornings doing parking for Laurier Day; or during one of our hmmm... social events; or putting up with my meetings (yes the differing room locations were a test); or just walking someone home late at night, it has been a blast.

However, without the enthusiasm of the patrollers there would not be much of a program to run. You as the volunteers make the program. As Foot Patrollers you should give yourselves a pat on the back. If you are not a Foot Patroller and you happen to know someone who is, or you see two of the blue and yellow jackets late at night, of you use the service, why not go up and thank them. After all, they are out there for your safety (and perhaps a little fun!). Thanks for the great year.

James Saunders
WLU Foot Patrol Coordinator

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Adventure Bound

In the 20th Century pirates have replaced sailing on the high seas with surfing on the net, maps to lost cities can be picked up at any gas station and saving the day means that there's enough change left for a cup of coffee. Does adventure still exist somewhere out there?

Endless possibilities

MIKE VENCEL
CORD FEATURES

A modern day adventurer in a modern world. I ask you my friends how is that possible? 'Been there, done that' seems to be the slogan for our world. What hasn't been accomplished? Antarctica has been crossed, Mount Everest has been climbed, a man has walked on the moon; what is left for the common folk to do? Nothing. Except for the bottom of the sea and other planets there isn't a whole lot left.

Look in the past. Medieval knights fought for the sake of king-

doms, there was adventure on the high seas where huge naval battles took place and men fought for their countries in muddy trenches.

Fast forward to the present. Sure I could strap a broad sword to my waist and mount a cannon on my Taurus, but what's the point? If I didn't get arrested, I'd be carted away to an insane asylum. How can someone in this day and age have adventure in their life?

The best advice was what mom gave you as a child. Picture this: Rainy day outside, you've played with all your toys and you complain to your mother that there was nothing to do. What did she tell you to do? Use your imagination.

Movies, TV and books all are popular because they serve as outlets for our adventurous souls. The motion picture industry rakes in billions of dollars a year offering people what they want, adventure.

How many guys have sat through a Segal, Schwarzenegger or Stallone movie and wished they were them? Who wouldn't want to be able to drive a great car, kill hordes of bad guys, get the girl and to top it off, save the day. Only a few. For the ladies, who hasn't dreamed they were Julia Ormond in *Legends of the Fall* and Brad Pitt, the sexiest man alive, fell for them. Not too many.

A movie's purpose is to place the viewer in a situation where they normally wouldn't be, and have them love it. In the span of two hours we can be in the future watching Luke Skywalker save the

universe or be placed in the past, with Bruce Campbell saving the world from armies of the undead. Movies serve as an outlet for us, with which we can satisfy the urge for adventure in our otherwise dull lives.

On the other hand there's the movie industry's little brother, TV. It offers you bite sized bits of reality that leave you hungry for more. In half an hour or an hour we can be presented with six 'friends' living it up in New York city or the heart wrenching drama of an emergency room. Unlike movies, TV's purpose is to grab your interest and hold it for the entire season. By offering small bits of reality, TV ensures that you've had your fill of adventure for that week and you'll eagerly await next week's episode.

Perhaps the most cruel joke that TV can pull on us, is the dreaded two-parter. How many people gnawed at their fingernails over the summer wondering if Mulder was going to live or die after that rail car blew up? From the amount of messages I read on the Internet, I'd say quite a few (thousand that is). TV is like a drug to us, without our weekly dose of *Melrose Place*, *Friends*, *ER* or *The Simpsons*, we'd surely go crazy.

In our mass media and visually represented society, many people tend to forget about books. With everyone on the go and no time to spare, who has the time to read? Other than textbooks, I haven't read a good novel since the Christmas break. Most people argue that they

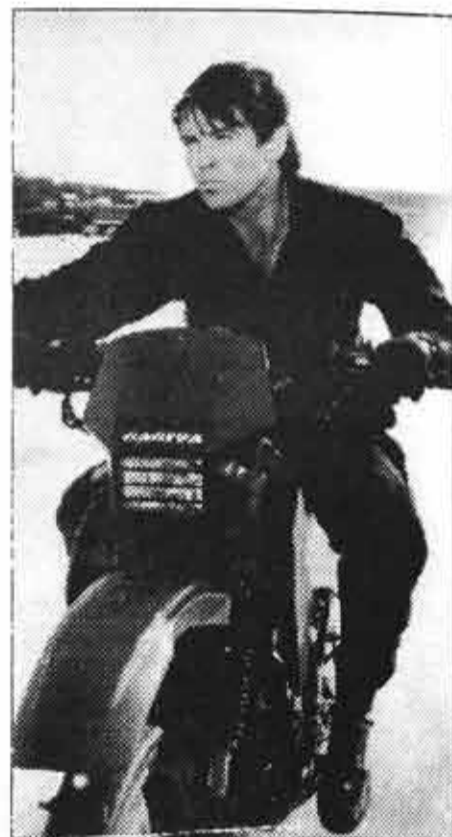
don't have the time to pick up a novel and devote hours, days, or weeks to reading it. Who can with essays, midterms and finals looming over us? Unfortunately we're missing a world of excitement by not picking up that novel. The difference between books and the movies or TV is the only limitations placed on books are the limits we have in our own minds.

You've heard the line, "books create pictures in your head"- it's really true. Movies and TV are limited by budgets and technical feasibility. Sure, they could create new races of people and other worlds but how much will that cost?

On the other hand books can run wild with sets and props because they have your mind to play around with. Often my friends and I have read the same book but we've come up with totally different mental pictures of what the main character looks like or what a particular vehicle is portrayed as.

There are no limitations on books other than the imagination of the author and the reader. Anything and everything is possible in a book. Travel to a distant galaxy? Done. Solve a murder? No problem. Sit at the Round table with King Arthur? Easy. Books are the only source of entertainment that can offer us adventure in ways we've only dreamed.

After reading this article you're probably wondering how I get my fill of adventure. It's a lot simpler than you think. With a job and tons of school work to do I don't have



FILE PICTURE

time to go to the movies, read a book or watch too much TV, instead I take a different approach. Every Wednesday, I drive over to my local comic book shop and plunk down my hard earned money for this week's comics. Comics are quick and easy to read and almost as satisfying as a book.

There's excellent storytelling, action, adventure, romance and more. All for just over three bucks a week. Maybe I never grew up or I want to be a kid again, but nothing beats reading about the Legion of Superheroes or Superboy every month. Plus reading them doesn't take that much out of my schedule as books, TV and movies would. They're my fix in this hectic world we call life. My suggestion to you is, if TV has let you down, there's no time to read a book and the movie choices are awful, try picking up a comic, you'll get hooked. I almost guarantee it.

Not quite love



FILE PICTURE

JENNIFER CLARKE
CORD FEATURES

Music is playing softly in the background. At first glance, he leans over and whispers in her ear, pulls her close, and then kisses her passionately. They go off into the sunset and drive across the country together, trying to keep one step ahead of the law.

Okay whatever, change the channel please. Love in movies is usually found against the back drop of gunfire, contempt, adventure and happy endings. Who could possibly live up to these plots? After all, hasn't everyone at one time wished

that their stereo had been set to that one music radio station without any commercials? It would be the perfect back drop for a classic NYPD Blue-like moment where arguing with your intolerable co-worker leads to falling helplessly into each other's arms and onto the desk.

Adventure in love doesn't have to include jumping from buildings. The face of contemporary romance lacks most elements of death defying adventure. Take the traditional date image for instance. Standing at the door with flowers and chocolates, he nervously meets her parents as she finishes getting ready. They drive off in his dad's Eldorado and go for sodas. Afterwards they go to Lover's Lane where he gives her his fraternity pin and asks her to go steady.

Today, a group of friends meet

at the theatre for "Die Hard with a Vengeance", go to the bar and then the two make out after last call.

How many kisses have actually made you swoon? The kind where your knees buckle and you feel dizzy? In reality, it's more like he kisses her between quarters of March Madness games while she wonders what time her dentist appointment is. Have we sacrificed any sense of adventure for security or did *Melrose Place* already kill it? Who can afford to be that care free with student loans, unemployment and the threat of AIDS? Is it any wonder that the idea of love often seems clichéd?

So how then can we have lasting love that is realistic and exciting without being monotonous? It's Cupid's version of the Caramilk secret.