



NOZUKAMANIA

Toronto's Justin Nozuka makes a stop at Wilf's ... **PAGE 32**

ANIMAL HOUSES?

An in-depth look into Greek Life at Laurier ... **PAGES 16-17**

GLOBALIZATION

Global Studies matures into a full department ... **PAGE 8**

CCNA AWARDS
2007 WINNER
BEST CAMPUS
NEWSPAPER

Volume 48 Issue 6

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

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Student house broken into

A residence on Regina St. becomes victim of theft

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

Last Saturday, after attending a get-together in an upstairs apartment suite located on Regina Street North, a group of Laurier students returned to their own five-bedroom apartment, located within the same complex, as victims of a break and enter.

Upon their intrusion at approximately 11:00pm, the two male burglars stole five laptops, three wallets, an iPod, two backpacks and other personal belongings.

Chris Beech, one of the victims of the theft, and a third-year business student, expressed how taken aback he was after his roommate informed him that their house had been broken into.

"I was just stunned. I was just standing at my room for a while. I just couldn't believe it," said Beech.

Philip Portz, Beech's roommate and a third-year biology student, noted his shock in regards to the crime, especially because he and his other roommates never actually left the apartment complex.

"People were coming up and

down like every half hour. Our other roommate and his girlfriend were downstairs only 20 minutes before that, so within that window of time, which was like 20 minutes, they got into our place," said Portz.

Due to the fact that they were just upstairs and a key was needed to gain entry, the group didn't think to lock the front door or the doors to their own rooms – something they typically do when they are not in the building.

"If we're not in this [complex] we usually lock our doors, but all of our doors were open or at least unlocked," said Portz.

The suspects entered the apartment through the window in Portz's room, which was also not secured.

"I left [my window] open about 30 or 40 degrees and the guy, I guess, kicked in my screen," he said.

As one of Portz's roommates and his guest were coming back down to the apartment they noticed that the deadbolt was locked. They attempted to go around to the back door to get into the house, which is when the guest was able to get

- SEE **BURGLARY**, PAGE 3



Greg McKenzie

MIA - Philip Portz is without a laptop after it was stolen from his room.



Sydney Holland

WHY NO WI-FI? - A malfunctioning wireless Internet service left students in need of technical aid from the help desk of Laurier's Information Technology Services, located within the Concourse.

WLU's wireless woes

Laurier's campus-wide wi-fi project experiences "growing pains"; second server installed to accommodate high demand for Internet service

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

With monetary donations coming from the department of the VP: Academic as well as Information Technology Services (ITS), a free campus-wide wireless network was installed at Laurier's Waterloo and Brantford campuses this September.

Despite their efforts, however, ITS Help Desk attendants have been bombarded, in the first couple weeks of school, with swarms of students looking to conform their laptops to the new system.

Third-year communication studies student Kristina McCa-

hon is one of these students who are really hoping the process becomes less painful sooner rather than later.

Describing the online instructions as "very complex," McCahon expressed frustration because of all the time it has taken to try and install something so integral to her daily life.

"I only have a wireless network. I don't have a landline anywhere," she explained.

A Help Desk employee, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also expressed some frustration with having to deal with the same issue on a consistent basis, but did feel the online instructions "were

fairly clear."

Where the problem really lies, the attendant explained, is in the fact that each computer is installed with different settings. In this regard, they believe "there's nothing much [ITS] could have done [to improve the situation]."

"It's like any new system. You've just got to work out the bugs," they added.

John Kearney, director of ITS, acknowledged that they "expected some minor growing pains."

"We looked into what was the most simple [system] to roll out for

- SEE **WIRELESS**, PAGE 4

THE CORD WEEKLY

- The tie that binds since 1926 -

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WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"It's all like for the people, by the people ... and I was like 'shut up.'"

- International Editor Waleed Hafeez

WORD OF THE WEEK

Cacophony - A harsh, clashing noise or mixture of noises.

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COLOPHON

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

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

The staff of *The Cord* shall uphold all commonly held ethical
conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or of
commission has occurred, that error shall be acknowledged
promptly.

When statements are made that are critical of an individual, or
an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity to
reply at the earliest time possible.

Ethical journalism requires impartiality, and consequently
conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest
will be avoided by all staff.

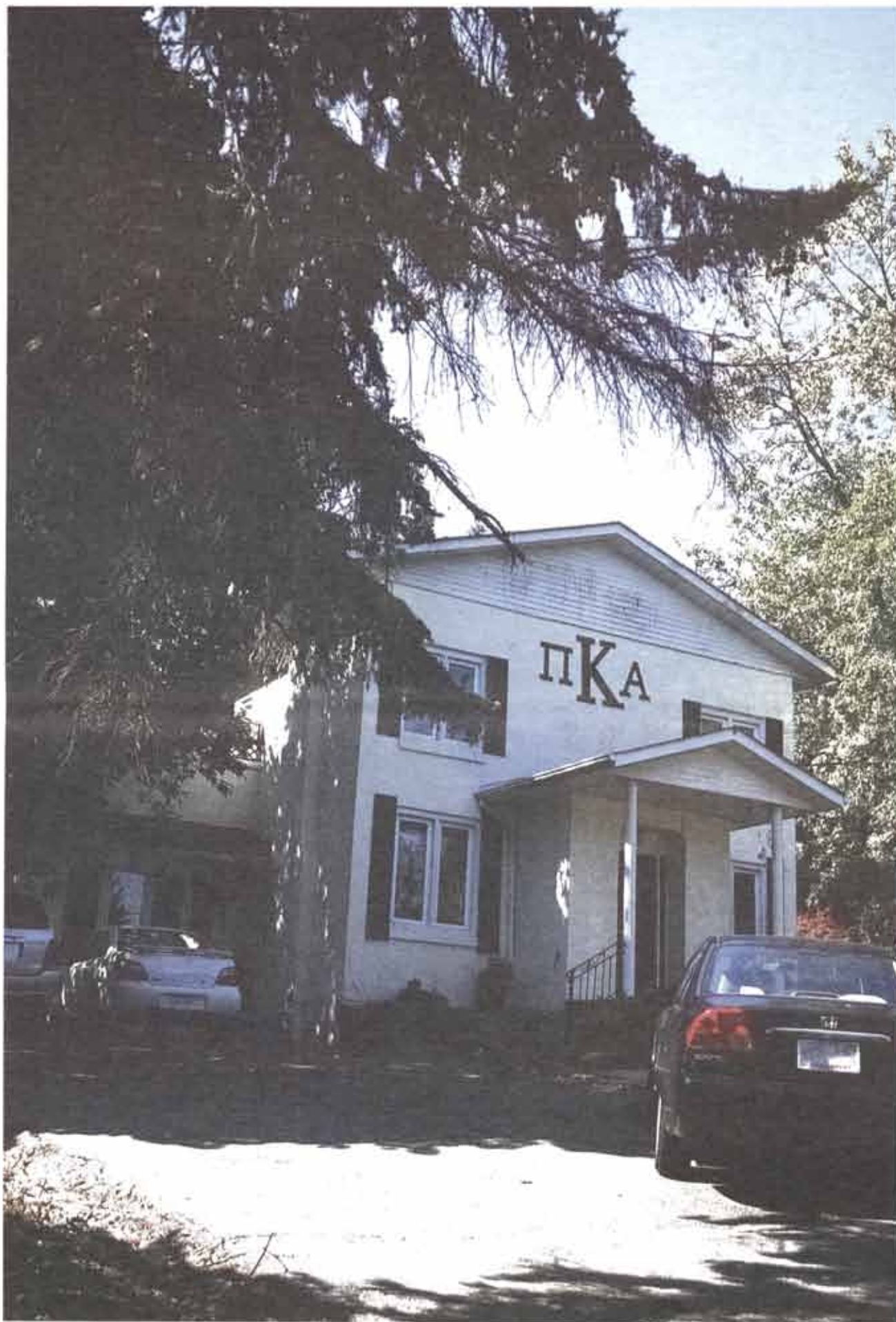
The only limits of any newspaper are those of the world around
it, and so *The Cord* will attempt to cover its world with a special
focus on Wilfrid Laurier University, and the community of
Kitchener-Waterloo, and with a special ear to the concerns
of the students of Wilfrid Laurier University. Ultimately, *The Cord*
will be bound by neither philosophy, nor geography in its
mandate.

The Cord has an obligation to foster freedom of the press and
freedom of speech. This obligation is best fulfilled when debate
and dissent are encouraged, both in the internal workings of the
paper, and through *The Cord's* contact with the student body.

The Cord will always attempt to do what is right, with fear of
neither repressions, nor retaliation. The purpose of the
student press is to act as an agent of social awareness, and so
shall conduct the affairs of our newspaper.

WLUSU grants approval to fraternity for Pikecoming

The annual Homecoming event receives official university support for the first time in four years; fraternity president hopes to eliminate 'negative stigma' that comes with Greek clubs



Sydney Holland

PIKE HOUSE - The frat house on Albert Street has been the home of Pikecoming for the past three years. With support from WLU, the event now moves to Bingham's in the form of an all-ages concert.

MELISSA DRANFIELD CORD NEWS

This weekend, as Laurier students begin celebrating Homecoming weekend, included will be Friday night's annual Pikecoming event thrown by Laurier's Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, better known on campus as the Pikes.

For the past few years, Pikecoming has been a fairly typical university-type party at the Pike House on Albert Street, and has not been affiliated with Laurier due to a past incident in which the behaviour of students attending a field party led to several issues with the university.

The incident of most recent

memory occurred during Homecoming Weekend 2003 when *The Cord* reported that, with approximately 1,650 people in attendance at the Rod and Gun Club in Elmira, a riot broke out.

LAURIER'S DEAN OF STUDENTS, DAVID McMURRAY, HAS BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED THIS YEAR IN THE EFFORTS TO HELP REVAMP THE IMAGE OF GREEK LIFE ON CAMPUS.

With the kegs having run dry earlier than expected, people began lining up for a ride back to campus on one of the 12 buses

booked by the fraternity.

Having to deal with long wait times and line-ups, impatient attendees began getting rowdy. This escalated to the point where Foot Patrol, BACCHUS and ERT mem-

bers were spat on and verbally abused.

On top of that, approximately \$900 worth of damage was caused through kicked-in bus windows.

This year, however, the Pikes are hoping to turn things around for Pikecoming. The event, which is to be an all-ages corporate-spon-

sored concert, featuring performers such as headliner Choclair as well as several supporting acts, including local punk-hop band Jen Militia and Toronto-based Red Light Riot, will be held at Bingham's in Kitchener.

Pike President Mike Perulli, who took over Laurier's Pi Kappa Alpha chapter in May, said that moving Pikecoming to a third-party location this year has been driven by several different motivating factors.

According to Perulli, these include "heightened by-law enforcement, efforts to appease disgruntled neighbours, and [most importantly] in hopes of building a more positive overall attitude towards the Pikes on campus and in the surrounding community."

Perulli, who has been a Pike for three years, feels that "there is a lot of negative stigma around Greek life on campus." Their goal this year "is to build a positive image for the Pikes - and for all of Greek life."

He added that "Pikecoming is to be a fun, safe event for Laurier students to enjoy." In order to reinforce the safety of concert-goers, off-duty police officers will be working the event.

Integral in improving perceptions of the Pikes on campus has been getting the university officially on-board with Pikecoming.

As a part of Greek Council, the Pikes are technically considered a campus club, and like any other campus club, they have to go through a formal approval process with the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU). This requires that an off-campus event form be signed by Michael McMahon, WLUSU's general manager.

Laurier's dean of students, David McMurray, has been actively involved this year in the efforts to help revamp the image of Greek Life on campus. McMurray stated that WLUSU's biggest concern with events like Pikecoming is safety, and he feels that this year the Pikes have done an excellent job ensuring that the event will be properly managed.

McMurray was also encouraged by the "extensive genuine effort by [Perulli] and the Pikes, as well as the leadership of other fraternities and sororities," to revamp their image on campus.

WLUSU President Dan Allison shares McMurray's confidence in the smooth execution of Friday night's event.

A Pike alumni himself, Allison stated, "I couldn't be happier than to see Pikecoming evolve into [a WLUSU-endorsed] concert at a trusted venue such as Bingham's."

> VOCAL CORD

How has your experience been with the new WLU wireless system?



"Setting up is easy but it cuts off once in awhile. It's not too reliable."

- Andy Tran
Third-year Business



"I had to reconfigure seven other laptops. It's horrible to connect to and it keeps disconnecting."

- Zabeen K.
Second-Year Religion & Culture



"I have a Mac and I don't know how to switch over. The instructions they give me for the new one don't work out."

- Ben Sehl
Second-year Communications



"It's hit or miss; everyday it's something new. I guess it's awesome because it's free."

- Megan Vandee
Third-year Geography



"It only seems to connect when it feels like it... which is not very often."

- Joseph Farag
Graduate of Cultural Analysis and Social Theory

Compiled by Kelly Moore,
photos by Riley Taylor

Students should secure homes

- FROM BURGLARY, COVER

a look at the suspects as they ran out the back door and up Marshall Street.

"As they were coming down, the girlfriend [of his roommate] saw two guys running out the back door; she got a pretty good view," noted Portz.

The witness described the two men as between the ages of 17 and 20 years, both about five feet, 10 inches tall, one with brown skin and the other with white.

Though they filed a police report

and the room was dusted for prints, Portz and his roommates feel as though they have little hope of recovering the stolen goods.

And with Portz's insurance deductible costing \$1,000 to get money back for any of his missing items, he is quite frustrated with his current situation.

"It's unfortunate that crimes like these go on and it's the sort of thing that goes on all the time," said Portz.

With 1,036 break and enters reported in the Waterloo region in 2006, Olaf Heinzl, the public af-

fairs coordinator for the Waterloo Regional Police, noted that students should be taking more proactive measures to safeguard their belongings.

ever building you're in should be secured properly when no one is there; even when they are there, it's not a bad idea to keep doors locked," he added.

Heinzl also suggests that students should be taking pictures of their valuables and keeping receipts for records of serial numbers, so that if police do recover any stolen items, you have a higher chance of getting them back.

"Protect your valuables is the underlying message," said Heinzl.

"AS THEY WERE COMING DOWN, THE GIRLFRIEND [OF HIS ROOMMATE] SAW TWO GUYS RUNNING OUT THE BACK DOOR."

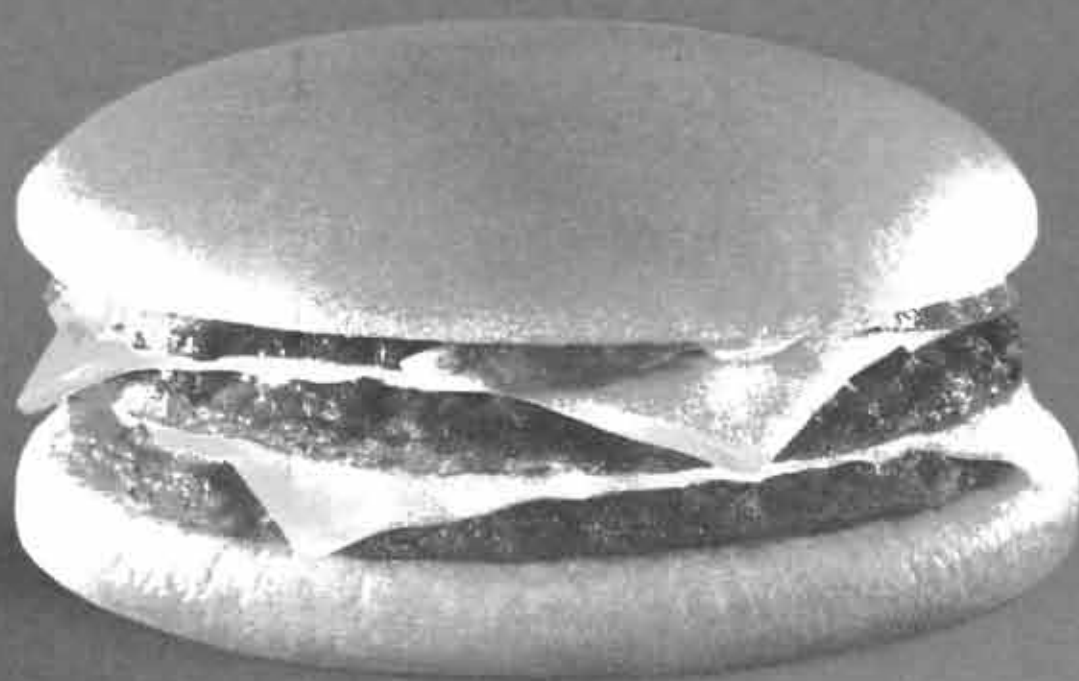
- Philip Portz, third-year business student and victim of break and enter

"A lot of these types of break and enters are crimes of opportunities," said Heinzl.

"The main entry" points to what-

See PAGE 24 for editorial reaction to this story

I like to study it with my mouth.



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i'm lovin' it

NEWSIN BRIEF

Toronto Star cuts distribution to campuses outside the GTA

Laurier students and faculty expecting to find the *Toronto Star* available around campus this fall will be disappointed to learn that as of August 31, 2007 the *Toronto Star* has cut its distribution to university and college campuses outside of the GTA.

According to Jacqui Tam, director of public affairs and publication at Laurier, the *Star* said that this decision was based solely on a lack of funding for continuation of the program.

The university has not been given any indication as to whether the *Star* intends to resume distribution at a later time if funding becomes available. In the meantime, the *National Post* will now serve as the only daily newspaper available on campus, available in the School of Business and Economics.

Laurier SBE creates international partnership

WLU's School of Business and Economics (SBE) has signed an agreement with the School of Global Management and Leadership (SGML) at Arizona State University.

Coming into her term as dean of SBE at Laurier, Ginny Dybenko has aimed to form more international relations between Laurier and other universities, and this is seen among the beginning steps of achieving such a goal.

The aim of this partnership is to form a strong bond between the two schools and there are plans to exchange faculty and students. There will also be collaborative teaching, quantitative research and sharing knowledge.

McGuinty in Waterloo

A crowd of over 200 people were gathered at the campaign office of Liberal candidate Leeanna Pendergast last Thursday for a rally with Premier Dalton McGuinty.

During his speech, the Premier spoke about education and how important it is to keep on the same path his government started. He spoke against Progressive Conservative leader John Tory's support for funding faith-based schools, and touched on the topics of health care and supporting Ontario's growing communities.

The rally also highlighted the importance of supporters getting active in the campaign.

Local candidates Louise Ervin, John Milloy, Kathryn McGarry and Liz Sandals were also present at the rally.

Strict enforcement for bylaws over Frosh weekend

While working to enforce the city's newly revamped by-law noise enforcement policy, the Waterloo Regional Police and Waterloo By-law officers have been dishing out high numbers of tickets.

The Waterloo Regional Police have recently released the statistics of how strictly this new "zero-tolerance" policy is being enforced.

The weekend before university students returned to classes, September 5 to 8, a total of 216 charges were laid. This included 14 criminal charges, 26 noise by-law charges, 20 public nuisance charges, 113 liquor-related offences, and the rest were other infractions such as traffic offences.

During this same period City of Waterloo by-law officers also laid 23 charges for breaking noise regulations (for a total of 49).

UW brand being sold at Conestoga Zellers

Based on an increasing amount of students, parents and other shoppers wanting to get their hands on UW apparel, Zellers at Conestoga Mall will now be selling items affiliated with the school.

According to *Maclean's* magazine, the exclusive line will feature men's and women's t-shirts, full-zip hoodies, coffee mugs, water bottles, pad holders, key tags and lanyards - all branded with a new Warrior's logo.

- Compiled by Melissa Dranfield, Laura Carlson, Dan Polischuk and Cassandra McKenna

Top teachers

Three Laurier professors win provincial awards for classroom leadership

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

The Ontario government has recently granted three Laurier professors 2007 Leadership in Faculty Teaching (LIFT) awards.



Shirley Lichti
Department: Business
Teaches: Marketing
Years at Laurier: 13
Background: Worked with IBM for 14 years
Plans with prize money: Attend conferences

After working first-hand in the marketing industry for over a decade, Shirley Lichti approached Laurier SBE and asked if they were in need of a specialized professor. Along with running her own marketing and consulting business, she teaches both third- and fourth-year marketing classes at WLU.

Lichti encourages students to apply all the theory they learn to real and current circumstances, and she doesn't believe in simply lecturing out of the textbook or having her students regurgitate the information back to her.

"It's not a matter of me just standing up there and talking to students. I try to just have a lot of discussion," said Lichti.

For Lichti, the most rewarding part of teaching is when students are able to take what they have learned in class and use these skills outside the walls of the university.

"[If I can teach my students to] apply everything you learn in this course to yourself, I figure that that's my job done, I've been successful," said Lichti.

Nominated through student and faculty applications, the three Laurier professors were selected along with 97 others from various universities and colleges in Ontario for their exceptional and motivational teaching styles.



Catherine Black
Department: Languages and Literature
Teaches: French
Years at Laurier: 13
Background: Professor at UW for 10 years
Plans with prize money: Organize workshops and attend conferences

Catherine Black came to Canada from France as a graduate student and has been teaching here ever since. After a high school English teacher suggested a career in teaching, she spent a term as a teacher's assistant in England. Black added that she "sort of stumbled into [academia]."

Black feels that her high standards, "wacky" sense of humour and passion for words all contribute to her successful teaching methods.

She expressed the immense joy she has received from teaching undergraduate students because she feels that when working with students at this level, students' development is a lot more evident.

"You nurture, you make them grow and you see the potential, and from there you push and it's just lovely to see them take off," she said.

"It's always worth it. Every single day, the moment you step into the classroom," she added.

As recipients of the awards, the professors are set to receive \$20,000 over the next two years, and the university plans to hold a reception later in the year to recognize this prestigious honour.



Thomas Fleming
Department: Criminology and Contemporary Studies (Brantford)
Teaches: Criminology
Years at Laurier: 4
Background: Has conducted research about serial murder, forms of homicide, life prisoners and mentally disordered offenders
Plans with prize money: Conduct more research

As a professor in the relatively new field of criminology, Thomas Fleming has had a very active role in advancing the industry within Canada. He has been involved in developing a national society in criminology and has conducted various types of research on a variety of subjects.

Fleming feels that these own personal studies have really allowed him to apply current events to classroom lessons.

"[My teaching style is] making theory come alive by combining it with the research I've done, so when I use examples for students they're not just drawn out of someone's book," said Fleming.

Fleming notes that he spends a lot of time with students both inside and outside the classroom, which he feels had a large factor in his nomination.

"I love teaching ... so an award is something that is wonderful," said Fleming.

Wireless to expand in 'second phase' next spring

- FROM WIRELESS, COVER

the beginning of the year," Kearney said.

Aside from having to wait in line-ups to link themselves to the system, many students are also being shut out completely, in terms of gaining Internet access, due to the huge demand on numerous "access points."

In response to this, a second server was being put into place yesterday afternoon, which Kear-

ney is certain would allow for larger sharing on the bandwidths.

"We tested it as much as possible during the summer ... but we can't mimic a full [student] load," commented Kearney on the implementation process.

Having been initially laid out as a two-phase project, the initial installation saw 60 "hotspots" installed for the Waterloo campus, 20 for Brantford and eight for St. Jerome's.

With an additional 20 access

points already purchased, in conjunction with the "second phase" outline, the department plans on expanding access to outdoor locales, including Alumni Field, University Stadium, the Quad and other locations that are brought up to the department through student requests.

See PAGE 24 for editorial reaction to this story

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CANADA
IN BRIEFBalsillie continues to
support academia

Toronto, ON

RIM co-CEO, Jim Balsillie, has recently donated \$1 million to a Canadian think-tank that will be run out of the University of Toronto's Munk Centre.

The Canadian International Council (CIC) will focus on Canada's role in the larger global economy.

Aside from this personal gift, Balsillie has also been very vocal in challenging and encouraging other corporate executives to shell out money to such research-based institutes.

This past summer, Balsillie also donated \$50 million towards a new academic institute, which will open in Waterloo September of 2008.

The Balsillie School of International Affairs, which will be run by Wilfrid Laurier University, the University of Waterloo and the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI).

No more tuition on
BC's adult education
classes

British Columbia

NANAIMO (CUP) -- The provincial government of British Columbia has announced that tuition fees will be eliminated for all Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes.

ABE classes provide primary and high school level courses to adults who hope to complete or upgrade their education. More than 70% of ABE students live below the poverty line.

According to Malaspina University-College's Students' Union organizer Patrick Barbosa, the September 7 announcement was largely in response to a massive lobbying effort from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) last spring and this fall.

In April, members of the CFS met with 61 members of the BC legislature, securing majority support for the initiative. Then, throughout the week of September 10, petition postcards from thousands of students also piled into the legislature.

"This was no natural evolution of the Liberal's policy," says Barbosa. "Students made it impossible for the government to not hear their call."

"Because of the hard work of students across this province, the [government] realized that their decisions were bad for B.C.," says Barbosa.

- Compiled by Laura Carlson and Emily Harrison (The Navigator)

Expert gives election insight

Dr. Steven Freeman breaks down the electoral fraud that has recently plagued the United States during an afternoon lecture yesterday for an audience of primarily Laurier communication students

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

With the upcoming presidential election on February 5, 2008, the notion appears to be that the American electorate want to get the 'right' results this time around – and in the eyes of some, 'right' appears to be anyone other than a Republican as their leader.

Appropriately enough, esteemed scholar Dr. Steven Freeman, affiliated faculty with the Center for Organizational Dynamics at the University of Pennsylvania, was at Laurier yesterday to present everything that the U.S. government has done wrong up until now.

At the top of the list, for Freeman, who was brought in to speak by the communication studies department, is the introduction of electronic voting machines for the 2004 election – which inevitably aided in the re-election of George W. Bush.

In a sit-down interview with the Cord, before speaking to a capacity crowd gathering at the 1E1 lecture hall, Freeman conveyed his "fascination" with how the Republicans were able to "pull off a charade of such huge magnitude."

The "charade" to which he refers is that of the exit poll results coming out of the last election. With the figures initially showing a definitive victory for Democratic candidate John Kerry, Bush was somehow

"IT'S AWFUL. WE REALLY NEED INTERNATIONAL HELP ... WE'RE CAUSING A LOT OF DAMAGE."

- Dr. Steven Freeman, Center for Organizational Dynamics at the University of Pennsylvania

able to recover and retain the White House.

Freeman went on to explain that, unlike a paper-ballot vote, there is no way to actually track an individual's selection once it has been put into the system. He defended this with an intense data analysis conducted on government-issued information – on top of the final results released by the media on Election Day 2004.

"The only explanation for the data is that this election was stolen," he summarized.

In addition to the lack of transparency with the new voting system, Freeman also pointed out that in one crucial state, specifically Ohio, the required recount was simply ignored and precincts were hand selected during a recount.

As a result, he came down with a conclusion stating the harsh reality – in his mind. "Americans do not own their elections ... like so many other things, [elections] have also been privatized," he said.

Using the fact that Diebold, a company known for constructing ATM machines, is the sole provider of the electronic voting machines, Freeman is disenchanted by the fact that with 300 million Americans there are only nine major media companies – which never, to this day, has reported fully on the discrepancies of the voting system. "In this case, the 'cure' was 100 times worse than the 'disease,'" he said of using voting machines to accurately vote tallies.

But with as much frustration as it has inevitably has caused, Freeman is optimistic that a move towards optical scanning paper ballots will be the method of choice after the upcoming election.

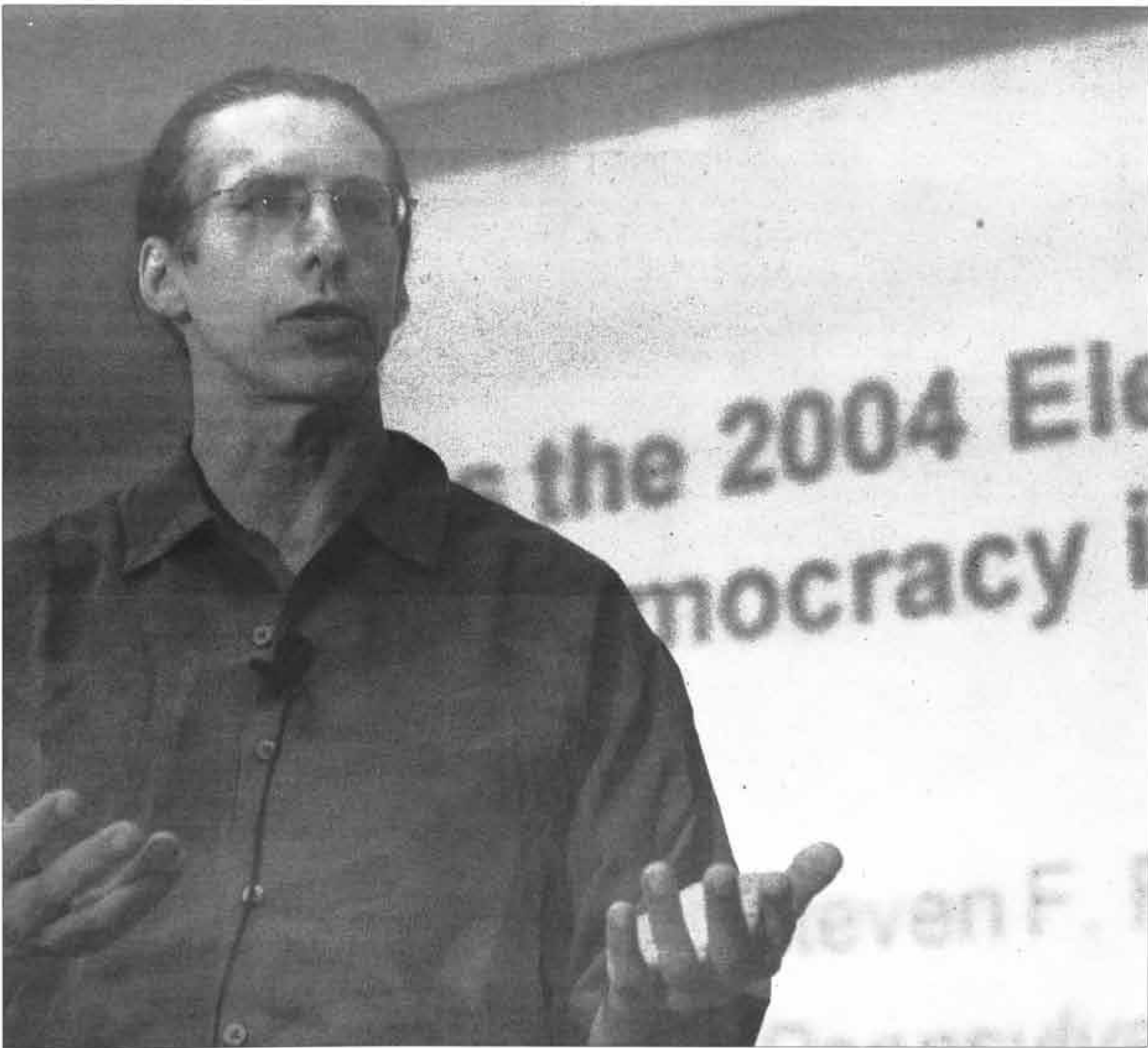
"If [electronic voting] can be done that quickly, it can be undone even quicker," he said with confidence. Aside from crediting Canada for having "the best voting technology: hand counted ballots," the professor conveyed his plea for more international pressure to be placed on the United States to fix things – and soon.

"It's awful. We really need international help," he said, adding, "We're causing a lot of damage."

All discrepancies aside, when asked for his prediction regarding the outcome of the upcoming presidential race, Freeman would not lean either way.

He did suggest that even if a Democrat does get into power, with the lack of action by a Democrat-controlled House of Representatives a change in office may produce no real effects at all.

"Let's just say I don't think we're seeing a need to fix an election in 2008."



LAYING IT ON THE LINE - Dr. Freeman explains how the United States are going down a dark path by using electronic voting machines.

Greg McKenzie

> BAG O' CRIME

INJURED/SICK PERSON

Location: Wilf's Pub

Reported: Sept. 10 @ 15:30hrs

Special Constables responded to Wilf's after receiving a report that a student was choking on her food. Another student had administered the "Heimlich Manoeuvre" but the student lost consciousness. The rescuing student was then able to clear the obstruction and the victim was treated by EMS personnel and released.

BREAK & ENTER

Location: Science Building

Reported: Sept. 11 @ 08:35hrs

Two rooms in the Science Building were broken into and attempts made on another two. Nothing appears to have been stolen, although a computer was moved.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Location: Little House

Reported: Sept. 12 @ 00:48hrs

Special Constables attended to Little House in response to a report of students causing damage. Two male students were spoken to. The matter is being dealt with by residence staff.

THEFT UNDER \$5000

Location: Wilf's Pub

Reported: Sept. 12 @ 23:21hrs

A patron at Wilf's reported that a \$100 bill he claimed to have left on the table to pay his tab was stolen. The matter is under investigation.

ASSIST OTHER P.F.

Location: Bricker Ave

Reported: Sept. 13 @ 00:23hrs

Regional Police requested assistance on Bricker Ave. regarding two intoxicated female WLU students. The students were observed by the Regional Police officer preparing to urinate on the lawn outside the Science Building by pulling down their skirts.

They were uncooperative and verbally abusive towards WLU Special Constables and Regional officers. They continued their verbal abuse as they walked off. They were charged by Regional Police and the matter will also be sent to the Judicial Affairs Council.

INJURED/SICK PERSON

Location: Conrad Hall

Reported: Sept. 13 @ 22:31hrs

A Special Constable attended Conrad Hall in response to a report of a female student who was unconscious due to excessive alcohol consumption. The student was transported to Grand River Hospital by ambulance for treatment.

FIRE

Location: St Clements House

Reported: Sept. 13 @ 23:38hrs

A Special Constable and Waterloo Fire Department responded to St. Clements House after receiving a report that some towels were burning. The occupants had placed some towels on top of lit light bulbs causing them to smolder. The towels were doused with water.

ASSAULT

Location: Alumni Field

Reported: Sept. 14 @ 01:07hrs

A WLU student reported that he was punched in the face by an unidentified male while he was crossing Alumni Field. A search for the suspect was conducted by WLU Special Constables & Regional Police but he was not located.

INTOXICATED PERSON

Location: University Place Residence

Reported: Sept. 15 @ 00:47hrs

An ambulance was called for a female student at University Place who had passed out because of excessive alcohol consumption. She was taken to Grand River Hospital for observation.

ASSIST OTHER P.F.

Location: Off Campus

Reported: Sept. 15 @ 01:00hrs

Regional Police attended at the Community Safety & Security office to advise of a male WLU student who had been involved in a fight at an off-campus bar where he was arrested for assaulting two bar staff. While being escorted to a police cruiser he spit blood into a Regional Police officer's face. The matter is also being sent to the Judicial Affairs Council.

DISTURBANCE

Location: Nichols Centre Quad

Reported: Sept. 15 @ 02:35hrs

Special Constables broke up an altercation between two males in the Nichols Centre Quad. Both parties apologized to each other and went their separate ways.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Location: Turret

Reported: Sept. 16 @ 02:18hrs

An unidentified male broke the glass in the entrance doors at the Turret and then fled.

DISTURBANCE

Location: Terrace Food Court

Reported: Sept. 16 @ 02:44hrs

Special Constables responded to a disturbance at the Terrace Food Court. Two groups of people were shouting at each other and officers and other security staff were unable to calm things down. The situation was deteriorating and Regional Police were called to assist. Food Service was halted in an effort to move the crowd out. They eventually dispersed, but only after a great deal of difficulty.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Location: Arts C Wing

Reported: Sept. 16 @ 08:14hrs

A window in one of the wood doors in the foyer between the Peters Building and the Arts C Wing was found smashed.

If you have any information regarding these or any other incidents please call Community Safety & Security at 519-885-3333 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. You can also report a crime electronically through the Community Safety & Security website.

The Bag O' Crime is submitted by Community Safety and Security.

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FOR MORE BAG O' CRIME VISIT WWW.CORDWEEKLY.COM

Last week it was reported that a student trespassing at King St. residence was a former resident, which he was not. The time of report also read 10:50 hrs when it was actually at 00:50 hrs. The Cord apologizes for these errors.

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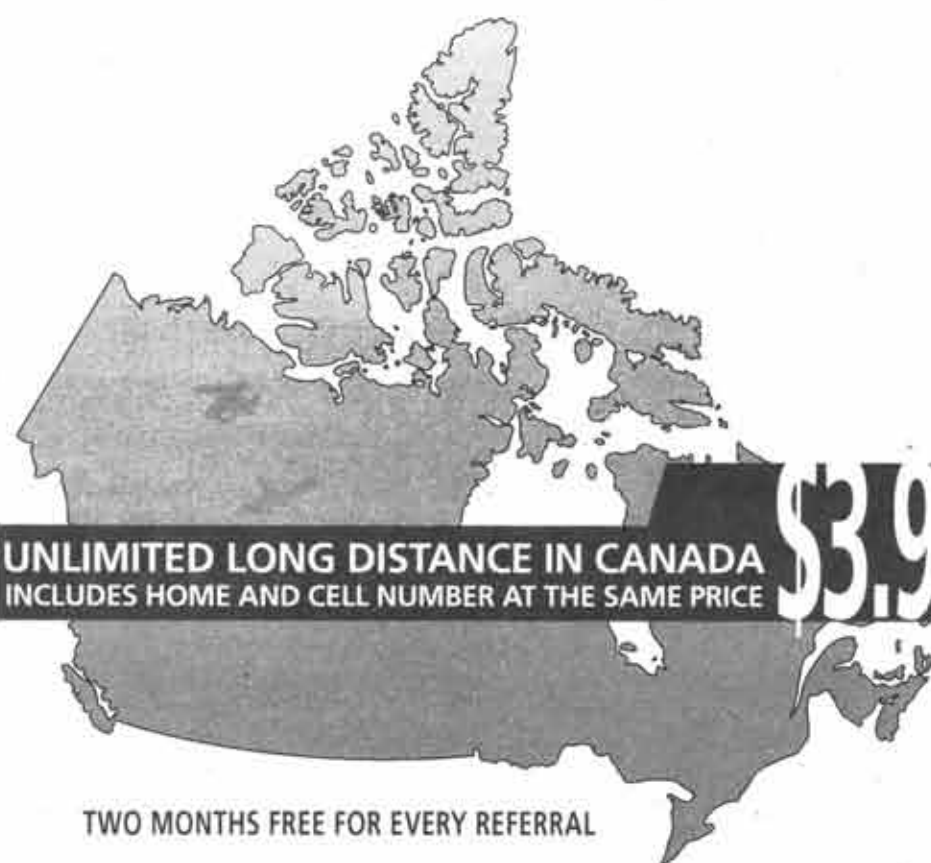
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Growth in Global Studies

A conversation with Dr. Boye Ejibowah, Chair of the Global Studies department and Dr. Alex Latta, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Program Advisor about the changes in the GS department and its future here at Laurier

WALEED HAFEEZ
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

The Global Studies program has come a long way since its inception. In July, Dr. John Boye Ejibowah was made chair and the program was officially made into a department.

Dr. Ejibowah, the previous Global Studies Experience (GSE) coordinator, feels that the department has gained considerably since getting the aforementioned recognition. This recognition allows them to award their own degrees, hence making the program a force to reckon with.

Although growth is inevitable, the department is currently understaffed. "Currently, we have around about 1,400 students who are taking our courses, and in terms of full-time faculty we have about six. So if you look at it that way, we are working really hard to meet the demands of our students."

It is important to note, though, that over the past few years a number of full-time faculty have been hired.

Dr. Ejibowah noted that "it is not that being understaffed was a conscious policy. It was rather that the department grew very rapidly and it caught the university unawares. We had the authority to hire, we hired, but still it isn't enough."

There has always been a sense of community within the Global Studies department. Global Studies students often take a number of courses with the same professors and form a bond with them that lasts until the time they leave the university.

One crucial aspect of the Global Studies program is the GSE portion of the degree. As a requirement, students must either complete an academic exchange, a co-op exchange or a volunteer exchange in

order to apply the theories that they learn in class.

Although many students have tended to go into the exchange with hopes of changing the world, Dr. Alex Latta, Associate Professor and the Undergraduate Program Advisor for Global Studies, was quick to note that "volunteer work is not a selfless kind of thing. In fact, our students probably gain more from their volunteering than they give back."

"VOLUNTEER WORK IS NOT A SELFLESS KIND OF THING. IN FACT, OUR STUDENTS PROBABLY GAIN MORE FROM THEIR VOLUNTEERING THAN THEY GIVE BACK."

- Dr. Alex Latta, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Program Advisor

Dr. Ejibowah added that "one positive side of a fieldwork is that before students go they have a notion that the developing world is where they can go to make a change. They go to conquer poverty; they're going to change the place. They go there to find that the place is changing them. The advantage is that they come back balanced; they don't have a one-sided view of the world any more."

Dr. Latta remarked that "we're also looking for students to reflect on their experiences. Not just in terms of 'I saw a different part of the world and things are different there.' But rather of being someone in a privileged position from the Global North, having the luxury of travelling to another place."

The Global Studies department has always encouraged student ac-

tivism. Even now, many of the campus clubs at WLU involved with social affairs are run by Global Studies students. Dr. Ejibowah adds that "by definition, Global Studies is part academic and part social work on a global scale. Those who look at the global arena tend to be socially conscious ... it's a part of the training. We're teaching our students to be global citizens; that's one of our goals."

Although the Global Studies department is still relatively small compared to various other faculties on campus, it is one that has been growing steadily for the past few years. Looking ahead, Dr. Ejibowah sees a department that will consolidate and grow exponentially.

Nevertheless, he reassures Global Studies students that "we do want it to grow out of hand. If it keeps on going that way we will lose that community structure." The department does have a graduate program in the pipelines, but "it will lose focus if it continues to grow."

One of the most important initiatives undertaken by the Faculty of Arts, School of Business and Economics and the University of Waterloo is the new Ph.D. in Global Governance. The Global Studies department is heavily involved in this new graduate program and Dr. Ejibowah spoke of the problems the department had been facing with it.

"Right now, we're having trouble finding the teaching resources to make our contributions to that pro-



MAN WITH A PLAN - Dr. Ejibowah discusses the future of Global Studies and student activism at Laurier.

gram; in the short term we do want to become more involved in the graduate program. But in the long term, we would like to have our own graduate program as well."

Overall, the Global Studies program is one that is defined by its students. As Drs. Ejibowah and Latta mentioned, social conscious-

ness is part and parcel of the program and its teachings. As Dr. Latta explained "I think one of the reasons we have a sense of community here is not because we're smaller but because our students are so active. I would certainly hope that even if we grow a bit we can try to maintain that sort of feel."

Student aids progress in Uganda

Ayiko Solomon returns to Western Uganda with his NGO, Peace For All International, to continue his work with refugees and displaced persons

ALEXANDER ARMSTRONG
CORD INTERNATIONAL

After twenty years of internal conflict, Western Uganda – specifically the Pader district and its surrounding area – has been left in shambles.

This is not to say that the beautiful landscape of the once-thriving country has been destroyed; it is the people who have been scarred.

In 1986, a group of civil activists led by westernized General Yoweri Museveni ousted Tito Okello, the president. This prompted the majority of Okello's supporters to flee the capital of Kampala to the

fringes of Uganda and the Sudanese border, in efforts to form an insurgency group dedicated to the dissolution of the new Ugandan government.

Nearly 20 years later, this plan to retake the government by force has left Uganda in a fractured state. Over 60,000 people have fallen victim to the brutal ploys of the Lord's Resistance Army, most of them completely detached from governmental affairs.

It is estimated that over 30,000 children have been abducted by the LRA and forced to serve under fear of death.

According to reports, these chil-

dren have been mutilated, raped, and forced to murder family members and commit crimes that no human should endure, let alone a child.

As a child survivor of the conflict in Uganda, Wilfrid Laurier student Ayiko Solomon had vowed to return to his home country to help those in desperate need of stability and peace.

Once a mere child living in poverty, with an unshakeable dream to study in Canada, Solomon recently formed a non-government organization called Peace For All International (PFAI).

PFAI consists of volunteers from

around the K-W community, as well as a number of WLU and UW students. The current focus of PFAI is the rehabilitation of the aforementioned areas of Uganda.

Solomon recently spent two months in the Pader district of Uganda. Bringing with him a modest budget of around \$6000, Solomon managed to spread this funding thin and complete an incredible amount of peace-building and volunteer support in the area.

The most successful endeavour, said Solomon, was to open a restaurant near the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, which was turned over to the local women to serve as both a self-sustaining business and a gathering ground for local inhabitants to converse and approach healing ceremonies in a new-found light. Another addition to the community was the pur-

chase, and upgrade, of a flourmill.

According to Solomon, PFAI's philosophy is to give people the means to be self-sufficient. Instead of constantly giving food or money, PFAI is determined to provide a means for people to attain these essential things themselves.

With this in mind, the women of the Pader district wanted Solomon to share this story with anyone who would listen. With absolutely no funding, the women of the district, with the help of the men and even some of the able children, built an orphanage out of traditional material (fire-heated clay and wood) meant to hold 60 children.

The orphanage stood three separate times. Each time, a violent rainstorm crashed their dream to

- SEE UGANDA, PAGE 9

FROM UGANDA, PAGE 8

he ground. Yet at each failure, the women did not give up. The mothers, grandmothers, sisters and daughters of Uganda built an orphanage for 60 children, three daughters of Uganda built an orphanage for 60 children, three times and did not give up hope or

determination.

They had only this message to pass on to those who had ears to listen, said Solomon: "Look what we have done with nothing. Imagine what we could have done with support. All we need is support." With a monetary sum of only \$1000, the orphanage could have been built of a sturdier material, say, brick, and

would have stood the first time, they reasoned.

Ayiko hopes not only to inspire people to get involved, but to also give hope to those with none. PFAI has done a lot of Uganda and with the support that Ayiko continues to receive it hopes to do so for many years to come.



MAKING CHANGE - Ayiko Solomon poses with a traditional justice committee after an agreement was made in conjunction with youth and PFAI members to resolve a murder case using non-violent means.

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Second major cartoon controversy

New offensive cartoon of Prophet Muhammad in Swedish paper renews freedom of speech debate

CARRIE JACKSON
CORD INTERNATIONAL

Swedish cartoonist Lars Vilks has gone into hiding Monday after a controversial cartoon degrading revered Islamic prophet Muhammad has caused a religious uproar across Europe and the Middle East.

The backlash has reached a boiling point and has now become a matter of life and death. According to an Internet audio broadcast, the head of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, has offered \$100,000 to anyone who kills Vilks, and even said the reward would be raised by 50% if Vilks were "slaughtered like a lamb."

Vilks' cartoon - published by the Swedish paper, *Nerikes Allehanda* on August 18 - depicted Prophet Muhammad's head on a dog's body and has upset many Muslims. In Islam, any visual representation of the Prophet is deemed blasphemous.

Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt met with ambassadors from 22 Muslim countries over the issue in late August. Reinfeldt explained to the ambassadors that under the Swedish constitution, politicians were not allowed to "interfere with how the media [works] and what it chooses to publish."

Vilks believes the whole matter has been blown out of proportion. "We have a real problem here," says Vilks. "We can only hope that Muslims in Europe and in the Western world choose to distance themselves from this and support the idea of freedom of expression." The *Nerikes Allehanda* newspaper is also defending the cartoon as an

"We know how to force them to withdraw and apologize, and if they don't, they can wait for our strikes on their economy and giant companies such as Ericsson, Volvo, and Ikea," he said. The Swedish population, therefore, is faced with the consequences of this uproar, often asking when to draw the line between free speech and blatant disregard and disrespect.

Last year, Denmark experienced a very similar backlash. Demonstrations were held around the world after a Danish newspaper, the *Jyllands-Posten*, published a cartoon of the Prophet in various demeaning situations.

The world-wide condemnation was followed by debate as to whether the cartoons were part of a plot to fuel war by making Muslims across the globe feel that their beliefs are still not respected. Since then, various reports of fraud by a Danish Muslim cleric have emerged where the accused is said to have fabricated many of the more offensive cartoons to create more of a stir.

This issue can even be related to a recent speech made by Kathy Griffin at the Emmy Awards this week. In her acceptance speech for her award, Griffin noted that "a lot of people come up here and thank Jesus for this award. I want you to know that no one has less to do with this award than Jesus. Can you believe this shit? Hell has frozen over. Suck it, Jesus. This award is my God now!"

Griffin's comments have angered a number of Christian groups, especially since she has proclaimed a number of times that she is a Catholic. She defends her speech by asking, "Am I the only Catholic left with a sense of humour?" While some argue the job of many comics is to shock and sometimes disturb, many say that Griffin took the joke too far since she was on live television and couldn't be censored in time to prevent anyone from being offended.

It seems freedom of speech and the imposition of censorship on it are constantly debated issues in today's society. Opposing beliefs and opinions are bound to exist, but many believe that the ideal compromise of mutual respect is the perfect solution.

Many feel that in the name of pushing the envelope, the matter often becomes more than just a joke and can be taken to a dangerous level, as shown by Al-Qaeda's reaction to these recent controversial cartoons.

THE HEAD OF AL-QAEDA IN IRAQ HAS OFFERED \$100,000 TO ANYONE WHO KILLS VILKS, AND EVEN SAID THE REWARD WOULD BE RAISED BY 50% IF VILK'S WAS "SLAUGHTERED LIKE A LAMB."

act of free speech.

Swedish citizens are left to wonder why Vilks' cartoon is representing the Swedish population as a whole. Divisions are only made more visible within the nation when Muslims, or any religious group, do not feel welcome or respected by others.

Swedish businesses have also been threatened by the Islamic militant group, with Al-Baghdadi saying that his group could attack major Swedish companies if Sweden did not issue an apology over the cartoon.

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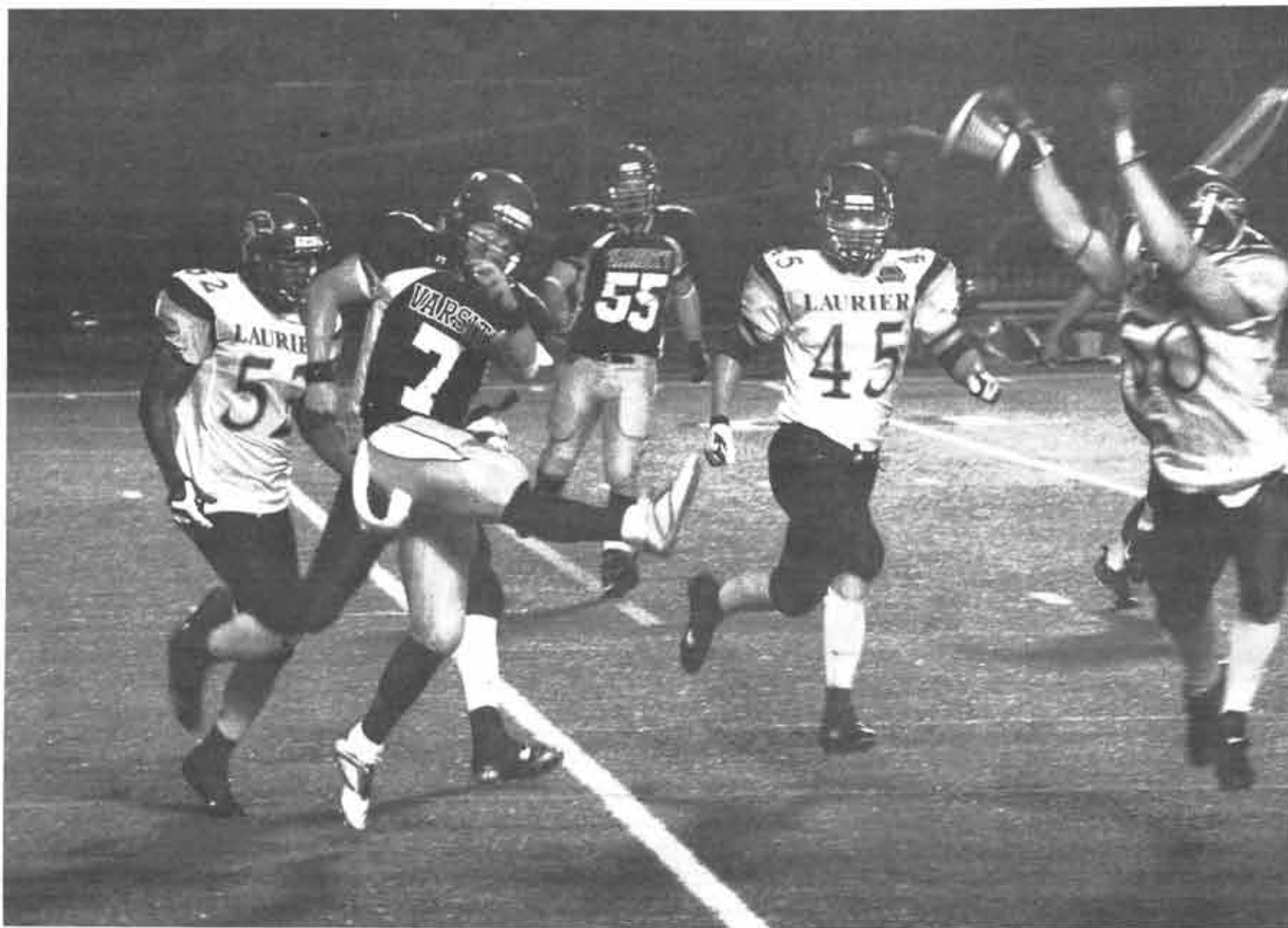
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Hawks handle Blues

Laurier conquers adverse weather conditions to drop the Varsity Blues 53-10



Sydney Holland

SMACKDOWN - First-year linebacker John Borden squashes the hopes of Blues kicker Mark Stinson as he blocks an attempted punt.

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

Last Friday, the 2-0 Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks traveled to Varsity Stadium to take on the 0-2 University of Toronto Varsity Blues. In front of their homecoming crowd and under merciless rain clouds, the Hawks devastated the Blues 53-10.

If the team's respective records and their history, dating back to 1996 and including eight consecutive wins for the Hawks, didn't provide enough foresight as to how this game would play out, then the first 15 minutes definitely cleared it up. The Hawks went up 28-0 in the first quarter, scoring four touchdowns on the ground.

"We just got up early and never looked back," said third-year starting quarterback Ian Noble. Noble was a perfect 4 for 4, passing for 56 yards before taking a seat on the bench in the second half.

"I thought we played real well under pretty bad conditions," commented Manager of Football Operations and head coach Gary Jeffries.

Running back Ryan Lynch scored three touchdowns, rushing for 73 yards on seven carries, putting him first in the nation in touchdowns and second in rushing yards.

His second score came from a 48-yard run into the endzone. The Blues were struggling to get a hold in the slippery conditions, as missed punts and sloppy passing resulted. Second-year defensive back Giancarlo Rapanaro

picked up a Blues fumble and ran it 22 yards to score the third touchdown. Lynch made it 28-0 with a 13-yard run near the end of the quarter.

The Blues finally got the ball down the field far enough to open the second quarter scoring with a 25-yard field goal. Hawks kicker Chris Mamo followed with two scores of his own, from 13 and 26 yards respectively.

"I'M REALLY PROUD. WE JUST PLAYED THREE GAMES IN 12 DAYS. THE KIDS CAME OUT AND PLAYED THEIR HEARTS OUT. IT WAS HARD TO PREPARE FOR THIS WEEK. WE HAVE A LOT OF INJURIES."

- Head Coach Gary Jeffries

The teams then sought shelter in their dressing rooms, leaving a score of 34-3 on the board. Coming back after the break, both squads took to the field while the unrelenting rain continued to drench them. Noble and Lynch did not return to action, and each took a seat on the bench to watch their younger counterparts tackle the gruesome conditions.

The Blues seemed to come out of the dressing rooms with renewed energy as they returned the kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown. Their momentum was short-lived, however, as running back Steve Turner shut them up with a 58-yard run into the endzone.

Third-year quarterback Ben Wil-sack was brought in for the third quarter, completing 1 of 4 passes for five yards. Mamo punished the Blues further by popping another between the uprights, giving the Hawks a 44-10 lead.

With the start of the fourth quarter, there finally came a break in the downpour. First-year quarterback Luke Thompson was put in to show what he could do, and

proved he can compete with the older guys. He completed 2 of 4 passes for 28 yards and rushed for 76 yards. His first play on the field was a 49-yard carry.

After another touchdown by Turner, putting

the Hawks up 51-10, the Blues conceded a two-point safety near the end of the game to spark the final whistle.

"I thought we played great," commented Turner, who after relieving Lynch in the second half, led the team with 144 rushing yards on 12 carries. "I was happy to see everyone executing well," he continued, referring to the amount of new faces that were on the field.

"It was good to get a chance to see a lot of the younger guys play," said Noble. He attributed the amount of fumbles throughout the game to the conditions. "The ball was wet. We had a lot of new guys

out there, so it took a while to get used to each other."

"I'm really proud. We just played three games in 12 days. The kids came out and played their hearts out," said Jeffries. "It was hard to prepare for this week. We have a lot of injuries."

Adding to the growing list of injuries were fifth-year receiver Andy Baechler and fifth-year offensive lineman Kyle Sanderson. Baechler went down from a tackle shortly before the halftime break and had to be helped off the field; however, he was able to walk slowly to the dressing rooms at the half.

"He's going to be okay," said Jeffries, referring to Baechler. "He hurt his ankle. Hopefully, he'll be alright for Waterloo. If not, I don't think it's any sort of season-ending thing."

Sanderson wasn't so lucky. After going down late in the third quarter, he was helped off the field, but couldn't put weight on his leg.

"He's had some real trouble with his legs. We're going to have to wait and see there," said Jeffries. "We're going to take a little bit of time off tomorrow. Get a little bit of a rest. We'll get right back at it on Sunday."

Up next for the Hawks, whose win this week moved them to fifth in the CIS rankings, are the 3-0 Waterloo Warriors, who upset Windsor 26-23 on Saturday. They will meet this Saturday at 2:00 pm at the University Stadium.

"It's our homecoming, it's in our house. We're definitely going to be ready," said Jeffries. "We're excited about it."

SPORTS BITES

Weekend split on the diamond

The men's baseball team took to the mound at Bechtel Park this past weekend against the two-time defending champion Western Mustangs. After losing the first game 4-1, the Hawks fought back in the second, taking the Mustangs down 5-4.

Rookie pitcher David Canavan stepped up to the mound and, after allowing four Mustang runs in the first inning, shut them out the rest of the game.

Last night, the Hawks fell to the Waterloo Warriors 8-0 at Jack Couch Park in Kitchener. This brings their record to 4-4.

Lady Hawks add four points

The women's soccer team entered the weekend hungry for victory over Waterloo. Striker Andrea Bettello gave the Hawks the first jump, slamming a rebound into the net. It was not enough to hold off the Warriors however, as they tied the game in the second half. The battle ended 1-1.

The Hawks then traveled to St. Catharines to take on the Brock Badgers on Sunday, in search of the season's first road victory. The first half ended scoreless, but both teams came roaring back onto the pitch. The Hawks went up 2-0, only to see the Badgers follow closely behind with two goals of their own.

Hawks' midfielder Monique Da Silva dug in hard to score the winner, giving the Hawks a 3-2 triumph. The ladies now proceed with a record of 4-1-1 to tackle Guelph this afternoon.

Men's soccer sees mixed action

The men's soccer team came into the past weekend's action seeking to improve their 2-2 record. The Hawks scored quickly, going up 2-0 in the first half against cross-town rivals, the Waterloo Warriors. Keeper Yousef El-Abbar was able to keep the Warriors out of the net in the second half to earn the shutout.

Looking to continue their success on the road, the team traveled to Brock to take on the Badgers. The Hawks struggled to keep the Badgers in check as they went down 2-0 in the first half. Their struggles continued into the second, losing 3-0. With a record of 3-3, the Hawks will travel to take on Guelph today.

Women's rugby start 1-1

The Women's rugby season kicked off last Wednesday at home on Knight-Newbrough field against the Toronto Varsity Blues. Coming back from a tough 0-5 season last year the ladies were looking to improve this season. The Hawks were able to put away the Blues 24-7.

On Sunday, the Hawks travelled to London only to fall at the hands of the Western Mustangs. The final score was 62-0.

- Compiled by Lauren Millet

Men's rugby recovers from opening loss

Laurier shuts out neighbouring Waterloo
17-0 to get first win of the season

ANDREA MILLET
CORD SPORTS

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks men's rugby team welcomed the visiting Waterloo Warriors to Knight-Newbrough Field last Friday, as they hoped for redemption after last week's 43-0 loss to the McMaster Marauders. The Golden Hawks proved ready for the challenge as they held off the Warriors for a 17-0 win.

"We worked really hard this week on defense and transitions and it showed today," said Head Coach Josh Windsor. "We're just going to continue to work on giving them the experience they need to get better throughout the year."

Friday's game was a perfect example of the Hawks' improvement through experience. Despite the Warriors' 43-10 win over Guelph last week, they were no match for the Hawks' unbreakable defensive line and their quick offensive runs. While still struggling on line-outs and connecting consistently with

passes, Laurier fought together as a team and showed that they are a force to be reckoned with.

The Hawks' defense came out strong and held back the Warriors, preventing their opposition from getting on the scoreboard.

Fullback Jeff Danko was the first to break the Warriors' defense and score a try for the Hawks. Although Waterloo pressed hard in the final minutes of the first half, WLU held them on the try line until the whistle, entering the dressing rooms with a 5-0 lead at the half.

Laurier came out determined and confident in the second half, hungry for a victory. They pressed on through exhaustion and rain, and the second half saw backrow Bob Elliott and scrumhalf Spencer Houlihan across the line for two more Hawks' tries.

Third-year flyhalf Jeff Cooper put through a convert on Elliott's try, bringing the final tally to 17-0 for the Hawks.

Windsor showed confidence and support for his team and revealed



Matt Symes

BREAK ON THROUGH - Hawks Steve Williams breaks a tackle from two Warriors en route to a 17-0 win.

his high expectations for the future. "I think we showed today that we're going to be a pretty solid squad and I think we can even come up with a win again," he said.

Next week, Laurier, now 1-1, faces the RMC Paladins, who opened

their league season with a 37-14 win against Toronto. The game will again be held on the Hawks' home turf on Friday, September 21 at 3:00 pm.

The tragedy of the Jays' mediocrity

After the Toronto Blue Jays' recent implosion, losing seven of nine through the beginning of this week, **Vivek Sarma** remembers better days and longs nostalgically for a return to MLB's elite circles



VIVEK SARMA
Staff Writer

I can easily remember when our Toronto Blue Jays were the talk of Major League Baseball. How about when the SkyDome was the marquee attraction in the city, bringing in 50,000 fans each night for the entirety of the regular season?

Or when baseball in Toronto meant playing well into September and October, and the sport remained the main draw even when the nights were cold and dark and hockey season was gearing up?

How drastically things have changed in a decade and a half. I was six or seven years old when Joe Carter hit Canada's most famous home run, when Robbie Alomar was a defensive all-star and when Cito Gaston was receiving accolades and year-round praise.

Baseball was an obsession for kids and their parents of that time, growing up in Toronto and its neighbouring cities.

I was surely obsessed, and found a way to coax my two immigrant parents, both of whom had no prior experience with or interest in baseball, into enrolling me into little league and watching countless hours of the sport on television. That's what winning teams do.

Not only has baseball gained my loyal following, but so too my parents' who would not have imagined being knowledgeable about a sport they once found so confusing.

Toronto hasn't seen such a baseball craze (or any other sports craze for that matter) since. It's a shame that an entire generation of children growing up in the city have yet to experience what a winning ball team can do for their youthful experiences.

My friends and I talk about it all the time. We discuss where we were

when Carter hit the home run, who our favourite players were and why they were so great, and recollections of visits to the SkyDome, many of which are some of the greatest memories I have as a child.

WE'VE SEEN 15 YEARS OF INJURIES, BAD CONTRACTS, STAR PLAYERS LEAVING OR BEING TRADED, CY YOUNG WINNERS ON BAD TEAMS, POOR MANAGEMENT AND A DWINDLING FAN BASE. NEED I SAY MORE?

The Jays have not been competitive since, a team slumped in mediocrity, not talented enough to surpass their formidable American League counterparts, but with enough talent to keep even their most loyal supporters frustrated. We've seen 15 years of injuries, bad contracts, star players leaving or being traded, Cy Young winners on bad teams, poor management and a dwindling fan base. Need I say more?

It hasn't been a graceful fall from atop the MLB perch we once held. Every year, as September draws to a close and pennant races heat up

and spark drama, not only is Toronto disappointed, but so is most of Canada.

You see, baseball was the one sport where most Canadians could cheer for the Jays. We don't have that luxury with the NHL, and only in recent years has basketball gained a tremendous following. The Jays need to be competitive, consistently and frequently. Whether that means new management, scouting strategies or an influx of cash from the Rogers Empire, I don't know. Yet no matter what, something must be done to right the ship that looked so good and promising only 15 years ago. Winning teams leave a lasting impression on generations of youth.

It was a memorable experience to have been part of the Jays' glory years, and to have been old enough to understand the significance of what I was seeing. It would be great if we could all experience that again. We'll just have to wait until next year. Again.

letters@cordweekly.com

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
Sept 19 - Sept 25, 2007

RECENT SCORES

9.12.07

M Baseball 4 - McMaster 5
W Rugby 24 - Toronto 7

09.14.07

M Football 53 - Toronto 10
M Rugby 17 - Waterloo 0

09.15.07

M Baseball 1 - Western 4
M Baseball 5 - Western 4
M Soccer 2 - Waterloo 0
W Soccer 1 - Waterloo 1

09.16.07

W Rugby 0 - Western 62
M Soccer 0 - Brock 3
W Soccer 3 - Brock 2

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

09.20.07

M Hockey vs Guelph
Brantford, 7:30pm

09.21.07

M Rugby vs RMC
Knight-Newbrough Field, 3:00pm
&
Hall of Fame
Induction Ceremony

09.22.07

M Football vs Waterloo
HOMECOMING
Knight-Newbrough Field, 1:00pm

LAURIER BOOKSTORE
ATHLETES OF THE WEEK
David Canavan
Men's Baseball
Monique Da Silva
Women's Soccer



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Looking deeper into the lives of sororities and fraternities

DAVID SHORE
FEATURES EDITOR

Fraternities and sororities are unmistakably a large aspect of the university environment.

They walk around wearing strange letters, they throw parties and they are always exceedingly polite while trying to convince you to join their clubs.

Some students see them as a great way to network around campus. Some see them only as people that need to pay money to make friends.

What is certain, though, is that Greek Life is a very emotionally and politically charged concept. Whether you love it or hate it, very few people are without opinions on the Greek Letter System.

Most of these opinions and preconceptions come from movies and television, or from stories we've heard from other people. Most people seem content to pass judgment on their existence without any real knowledge of their activities.

But what really goes on in a frat house? Is the accusation that they only just party every day a fair one? Does the existence of fraternities and sororities harm Laurier, or do we benefit from it? These are precisely the questions *The Cord* sought to answer.

"WE'RE ALL UNDER GREEK COUNCIL. IF ONE PERSON MAKES A BAD IMAGE FOR WHATEVER ORGANIZATION, IT'S GOING TO LOOK BAD ON ALL OF US."

- Mike Perulli, President of Pi Kappa Alpha

The Facts

Laurier is very unique in that it is the only university in Ontario to recognize its Greek system within its faculty. Greek Life is currently under control of the Dean of Student's office, ultimately the responsibility of Dean of Students, David McMurray.

Currently, the university recognizes six Greek organizations on campus: three sororities and three fraternities. The most recent of these organizations, the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, came into existence in 2005.

There is also one other organization, a Jewish fraternity of Laurier that is not recognized by the university.

The current Greek system at Laurier is relatively new, having only started in 1986. In only 21 years, it has already seen rapid expansion in the number of existing organizations.

All of the recognized Greek organizations at Laurier are affiliated under the Greek Life Council. The president of Greek Life at Laurier is Dan Hocking, two-time former member of WLUSU's management committee, and a Sigma Chi.

The other members of Greek Life Council include the six presidents of the fraternities and sororities on campus, as well as one other delegate from each organization.

Laurier also has had a Dean of Greek Life in the past, but after the most recent dean, Barry Gough, retired in 2005, the position has yet to be filled.

The Philanthropy

Philanthropy work is one of the ideals Greek Life was founded on, and today it remains one of the most significant aspects of every fraternity and sorority.

Fraternities and sororities spend a lot of time giving back to the community, despite how strained the relationship between the two can sometimes become.

"50 percent of our time is devoted to charity work, the other half is devoted to weekly meetings and social events," says Jacqueline Calverly, the President of the Alpha Omega sorority.

Calverly, as well as the other members of Greek Life Council, believes that the charity work Greek organizations do is one of the main selling points to potential members.

"A lot of the guys that join, they want to join to do charity work. Especially in the last two years, I think 50 percent of the guys that came in said they wanted to help the community more," says Mike Perulli, Pi Kappa Alpha's President.

"You do your community service in high school, and then it's over, and many girls come to me saying they want to give back," says Megan Amodeo, President of Alpha Phi.

Every fraternity and sorority on campus has one main charity that they donate to. These range from the Children's Miracle Network

(Sigma Chi) to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (Delta Gamma) to local women's shelters (Alpha Omega).

Generally, each organization runs one major charity event each semester to raise money for their cause. For example, Pi Kappa Alpha, more commonly known as the Pikes, pull a fire truck from the University of Waterloo to University Stadium to raise money

for the Big Brothers of Waterloo. In addition, some of the money raised from their parties is often donated to charity.

The Parties

While not everybody knows exactly how much effort goes into their philanthropy, everyone is aware that the fraternities like to party.

In fact, a common preconception is that parties are the sole focus of fraternity life.

"I think it's ... because in movies and television shows, good television and good entertainment comes from one segment of it, which is parties. And all of a sudden everybody gets the idea that that's what you are," believes Matt Park, President of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Though Park insists that there are many other focuses of Greek Life, such as education, leadership and philanthropy, he does not deny that the fraternities do throw parties. But he also notes that fraternity members are not the only students who throw keggers.

"The difference between our parties and a regular keg party is that ours are organized much better. By that I mean security, IDs are checked at the door ... brothers don't drink during the parties," explains Perulli. "It's a lot more controlled than a regular party, only because we are liable for what happens. If [something goes wrong], we could lose our charter."

This is something the Pikes are all too familiar with, having only regained recognition by the university this past year. They lost their

charter a few years ago after an out-of-control Pikecoming event.

This meant that the Pikes could not advertise on campus, hold meetings on campus, or rush on university grounds. Losing university support means losing a great deal of ability to attract new members as well as the ability to operate smoothly. Evidently, a slip-up for one of these groups can be very costly.

"We're all under Greek Council. If one per-

son makes a bad image for whatever organization, it's going to look bad on all of us Perulli.

"When there's so many of us, drama is to happen every now and then," says Calverly.

And though there are the inevitable that cast Greek Life in a negative light, fraternities and sororities strive to ensure their parties are safe and controlled.

That's why this year's Pikecoming is



ats

Cord Features talks to the presidents of the five long-standing Greek organizations at Laurier to determine whether or not Greek Life is as deplorable as pop culture would have you assume

held at Bingeman's, far from any other residents. Perulli hopes this move will help redeem the Pikes, and Greek Life in general, in the eyes of the community.

Brotherhood/Sisterhood

The words "brotherhood" and "sisterhood" are brown around a lot surrounding the discussion of Greek Life.

Many people say that it was brotherhood or sisterhood that attracted them to fraternity or sorority life, and most enriched their university experience.

However, it is very difficult to capture what exactly makes the bonds created between "brothers" and "sisters" different from the bonds other students make in university.

Part of what makes this definition so hard is that the distinctions between one Greek group

and another are small.

"People have this notion that the biggest difference between the Pikes and us is that they're the party fraternity and we're the leadership guys, and that's not true at all. The leadership program at Pi Kappa Alpha is a great program as well," says Park.

Park explains that Sigma Chi is looking for students with "different temperaments, talents and convictions."

The Pikes, on the other hand, are looking for "scholars, leaders, athletes and gentlemen," according to Perulli.

These vague descriptions hardly offer any

"PEOPLE HAVE THIS NOTION THAT THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PIKES AND US IS THAT THEY'RE THE PARTY FRATERNITY AND WE'RE THE LEADERSHIP GUYS, AND THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL. THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM AT PI KAPPA ALPHA IS A GREAT PROGRAM AS WELL."

- Matt Park, President of Sigma Chi

real insight into what distinguishes a Pike from a Sigma Chi. In reality, all fraternities and sororities are simply looking for new members that will fit in with existing members, and will reflect positively on their organization.

"We're not looking for the most guys, we're looking for the 'most best guys,'" says Perulli, as if this is a common mantra for recruitment.

There is also some disagreement between Greek group members on what exactly brotherhood and sisterhood means.

"Sisterhood is ... I would do anything for these girls. I would stand up for them whether I thought they were right or they were wrong," says Calverly.

Park, on the other hand, doesn't believe this is the essence of brotherhood. "You support your brothers, you educate your brothers, but you don't unquestioningly protect and defend your brothers when it's not valid."

Park explains that he would not have asked his brothers to vote for him unquestioningly last year when he ran (successfully) for Chair of the Board of Directors for WLUSU, and if he had, they would not have obliged.

In this sense, very little separates brotherhood or sisterhood from other strong friendships. Brothers and sisters are merely brought together by common interests, spend a lot of time together over their university careers, and develop close bonds.

There are two main things that distinguish brotherhood or sisterhood as unique. The first is that each member has knowledge of the secret rituals of their organization that are entirely unknown except for its members.

The Greek Life Council has a strict no-hazing policy that all organizations must adhere to. The rituals are simply something that bonds members together.

"You have to trust the girls ... it's just something special for that individual group," says Meghan Thompson, President of Delta Gamma.

The other thing that makes brotherhood and sisterhood unique is that all international fraternities and sororities (every group at Laurier except for the Alpha Omegas, who remain a local chapter only) are linked with other chapters around the world. This means that members can go to other cities and still have the support of their organizations, even after they have graduated.

Rushing

Rush is the period of time in which students attempt to be recruited by a fraternity or sorority, and the frats and sororities in turn decide who they want in their group.

The rush period lasts roughly two weeks in the first month of every semester, and consists of many free events that are geared towards having potential members, or rushers, meet with existing brothers and sisters, and vice versa.

Every Greek organization agrees that the only real way to grasp what Greek Life is like is to attend rush events.

"That's what rush is for. We have two weeks of free events that doesn't cost anything to the people that attend, and that's just to get a feel if it's for you or not," says Perulli.

"Even if you're concerned you don't have enough time, even if you're concerned about finances, even if you're concerned about it being a prep organization that's all about networking ... try to put all of that on hold for a bit and come see what it's like. And if you get your belief confirmed, hopefully you've had a good two weeks," urges Park.

While rushing will give you a feel of what Greek Life is like, what it won't do is give you an understanding of how you are being evaluated or selected.

"We have a deliberation process. I can't go into it very much because it's a ritual," explains Calverly. "They have to attend three to five events, and if they have, then they're usually offered a bid."

"It's called mutual choice. They choose us and we choose them," says Thompson.

Though there may not be any way of knowing exactly what will get you a bid and what won't, Park advises rushers just to be themselves.

"If you come in and admit yourself, faults and all, then this is going to be interesting. This is going to be somebody who is going to be committed to the process of understanding who they are," Park feels.

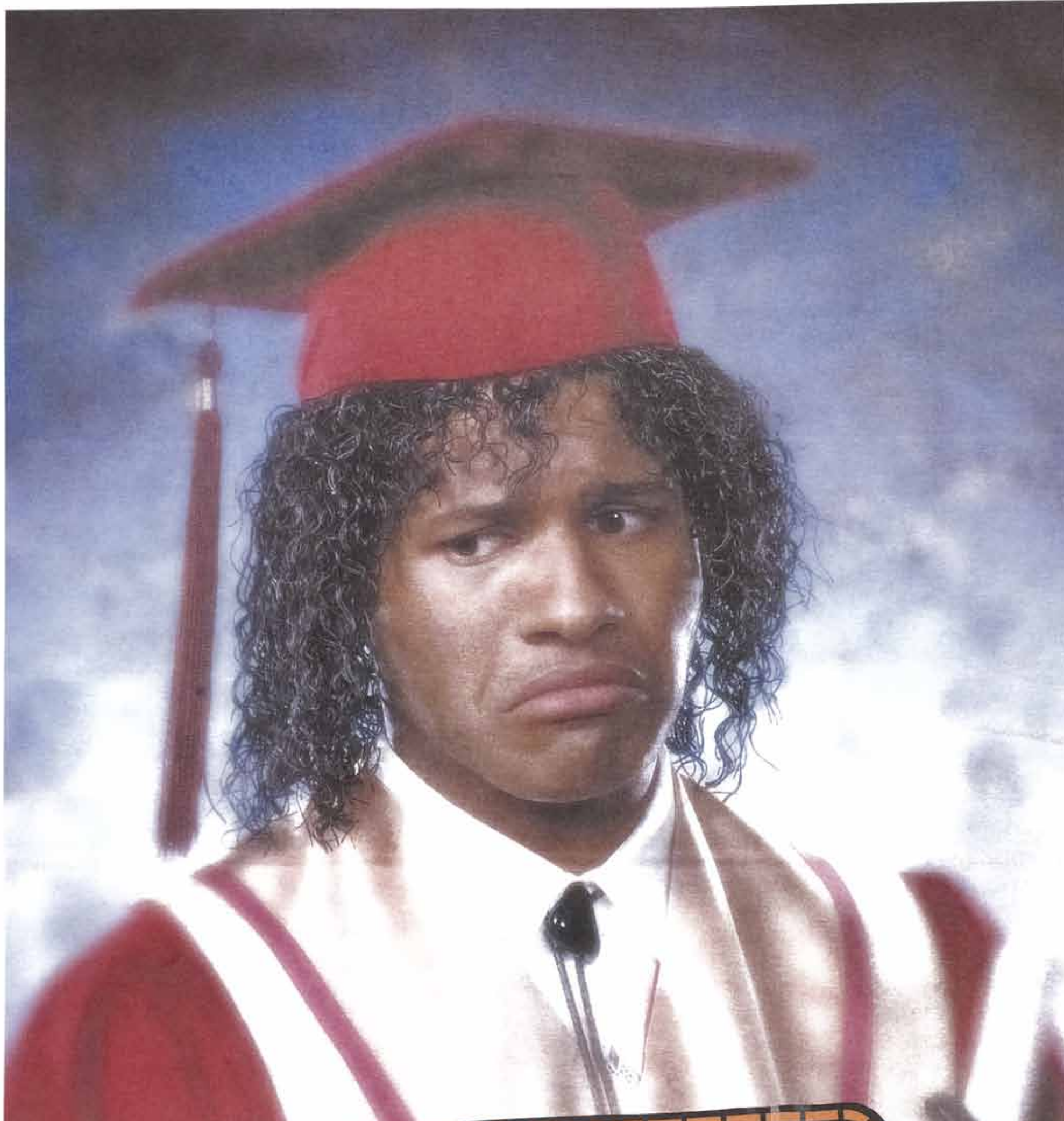
Even though most people who go out and rush are offered a bid to join at least one organization, the fact that selection processes are entirely secretive can give the feeling that fraternities and sororities are too exclusive.

Still, there is very little that is strange about Greek Life. They are nothing more than student groups that throw parties, do charity work, and have created social ties in a different way than most.

The perceptions perpetuated by movies like *Animal House* and *Old School* are largely untrue. While Greek Life is not for everybody, it can certainly be a worthwhile venture for many students.



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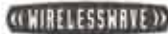
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Waterloo Nightlife: *Dance clubs*

The Cord takes an in-depth look into Waterloo's most popular dance clubs in the second part of our nightlife series

ASHLEY JANG
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

What better way to have a fun, care-less night with your closest friends than to go out and dance the night away? Waterloo has a great selection of dance clubs to meet your needs, so get out your dance shoes and get ready to shake your tail on the dance floor.

Philthy McNasty's *The Details*

Philthy's is part of a chain and has been around for 10 years, located beside the University of Waterloo. It functions as a sports bar and a family dining room, but to us students, it is known primarily for the nightclub downstairs.

The Crowd

On Mondays and Fridays, when the nightclub is open, the crowd is primarily UW and Laurier students.

The Music

The nightclub features primarily top 40 music, with a touch of dance and house. Starting this year, Philthy's will hold country nights on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Specials

Philthy's offers \$2.25 drinks on Mondays and \$2.75 drinks on Fridays before 11:00. They also have food specials from Monday to Friday, with a management cocktail party every Friday where free appetizers are given out.

The Lineups

Since the nightclub is only open twice a week, it tends to get pretty busy. "On Mondays it usually begins around 10:30, and on Fridays it would normally be around 10:00," said Jeremy Farwell, front-of-house manager.

Why you should check it out

"Our prices are cheaper than most bars and the crowd is definitely a lot more student-oriented," said Farwell.

Caesar Martini's

The Details

Caesar's has been open for a little over two years now and is located in the expansive University Plaza. "We're kind of a casual fine dining [place] with a wine bar, martini lounge feel to it," said owner Rob Howie.

The Crowd

Caesar's main crowd is young professionals and third- and fourth-year university students. "Probably about 65% of our clientele is female-based," said Howie.

The Music

On the nights Caesar's functions as a nightclub (Thursday, Friday and Saturday), the music is always a little bit different. On Thursdays you can expect top 40 and hip hop, on Fridays you can expect top 40 and old-school hip hop, and on

Saturdays you will probably hear a little bit of everything.

The Specials

Thursdays are martini nights at Caesar's, where more than 50 types of martinis are offered, and domestic bottled beer and bar shots are both \$3.00. On Fridays, you can get imported bottles for \$3.50 and if you get there early, they serve half-price appetizers from 4:00-7:00.

The Lineups

Anyone who has been to Caesar's knows that the lines can get a little ridiculous. They usually begin at 9:00 on Thursdays, 9:30 on Saturdays and it fluctuates on Friday, depending on the event.

The Dress Code

Caesar's has a dress code that they very strongly enforce. "Our dress code is basically no jerseys, no camouflage, tears in your jeans, no holes in your clothing, no profanity on your clothing," said Howie.

Why you should check it out

It gives you a chance to have a classy night out, and they offer bottle service, which is where a group of people can order a bottle of liquor in return for VIP treatment. Plus, they have a great food menu and half-price appetizers on Tuesdays.

FUBAR

The Details

Since opening three years ago, FUBAR has proved to be a very fun dance bar that is popular almost exclusively with university students.

The Music

"We do concerts once in a while on off-nights. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday nights we are top 40, hip hop, R&B, [and] classic house," said owner Jerry Smith.

The Specials

On Tuesdays, FUBAR offers all domestic drinks for \$2.50. Before 11:00 on Thursdays drinks are \$2.50, and after they go up to \$3.25. On Saturday nights the drinks are \$3.25 all night long.

The Lineups

Lineups usually start on Tuesdays between 12:00 and 1:00, on Thursdays between 11:00 and 11:30, and on Saturdays, the busiest night, between 10:30 and 11:00.

Why you should check it out

"It's constantly changing, we're consistently renovating, updating, offering a new atmosphere, [and we have] amazing service," said Smith.

Club Abstract

The Details

Located just up King St. towards Kitchener, Club Abstract is an al-

ternative dance club that has been in operation for 16 years. Its main attractions are a patio, a billiards room and a dance floor with a big screen TV.

The Crowd

"Thursday is a little bit of everybody, more of the regulars; it's a slower evening. Friday is really more of a mainstream crowd and Saturday is a little more of an alternative crowd," said owner Mike Ibrahim.

The Music

Thursdays at Abstract are all-request nights with free pool and no cover. Friday is retro 80s night and on Saturdays you can expect a mix of alternative music.

The Lineups

Friday is normally the only night that Abstract gets a lineup, and that starts up at around 11:00.

Why you should check it out

Every now and then it's nice to get out of the Laurier bubble. Abstract is a little further than the main bars that Laurier students go to, but it would make for a nice change of scenery.

The Vault

The Details

Once a TD Bank, The Vault has just reopened under new owner-

ship and is located on King St. "The vault is an actual titanium bank vault. It's a trendy nightclub with aquariums [and] leather couches," said new owner Brent Campbell.

The Crowd

The Vault's main clientele consists of young professionals and students in their third and fourth years at the universities.

The Music

They have a live DJ who plays primarily hip hop, rave, house, and a vast mixture of top 40 music.

The Specials

"We have deals on martinis, margaritas, mixed drinks, and shooters on the various nights," said Campbell. In addition, they offer bottle service, which, at The Vault, includes your own waitress and security guard.

The Lineups

Lineups usually start at The Vault between 10:30 and 11:00 on Thursdays and Saturdays, while Fridays usually aren't quite as busy.

Why you should check it out

The Vault just reopened last Thursday and has gone through a lot of interior changes. "People choose to go to the Vault because of the atmosphere; we supply more class than our competition," said Campbell.

Revolution Nightclub

The Details

Rev has been around for almost 10 years and is located on Marsland Dr., off of Colombia St. With a capacity of 1500 people, it is the biggest club in the Kitchener-Waterloo area.

The Crowd

Rev's main clientele is young adults, and many university students on Fridays, when it is 19+. "We try to inflate ourselves to a certain degree by doing 21 and over on Saturday nights," said Gary Stewart, the club's owner. This helps them ensure that they still get local business when students aren't in the city.

The Music

They have DJs on both Friday and Saturday nights. Fridays features primarily R&B and hip hop music, whereas Saturdays feature more classic top 40 plus house, hip hop, R&B and dance music.

Lineups

On Fridays, admission is free until 10:30, so lineups usually form close to that time. Saturdays as well, admission is free before 11:00 so it gets pretty busy around then.

Why you should check it out

It's a nice change from the little bars that most Laurier students are used to going to. Plus, for those students who come from bigger cities like Toronto, it's a little taste of the nightlife back home.



GROOVE IS IN THE HEART - Dance away all of that built-up stress by hitting up a dance club in the area.

Julie Marion



THE BIG BOSS - WLUSU president Dan Allison sits atop a lofty perch.

ASHLEY JANG STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

Every year a new WLUSU president is elected, with big dreams and big hopes for the Students' Union. This year, that lucky person is Dan Allison.

Allison, a fifth-year political science and global studies student, didn't plan on running for this position initially. "I didn't necessarily envision myself as becoming president of WLUSU; I just wanted to mean well and make the biggest impact possible," he said.

A day in the life of ... the president of WLUSU

Student Life Editor **Ashley Jang** sits down with Dan Allison to find out exactly what the Students' Union president does on a day-to-day basis

Despite the fact that he didn't have a background as a VP, Allison picked up on things pretty quickly with a bit of help from his predecessor, Allan Cayenne. "He was really good at letting me take on responsibilities early so I became comfortable in the position," said Allison.

Now that he has gotten into the groove of things, Allison has a pretty regular schedule. "I get up and have breakfast, go to the gym and come to the office," he said.

Allison has weekly breakfast meetings with Max Blouw, numerous meetings with Dean McMurray, and even meets with the mayor of Waterloo, Brenda Halloran.

True to his platform, Allison has been keeping his Mondays open so that he can interact with students. "It's something I committed to when I was doing the election. I said that I'm not going to stop walking around campus and talking to people and asking them what they don't like about what's going on around the school [and] what they do like."

According to Allison, his schedule is never quite the same from day to day. "It fluctuates all the time. I answer a lot of e-mails; they pile up pretty quickly, so that takes up a big portion of my day."

Allison is also taking one class per

semester. As if the presidency and class weren't enough, he somehow manages to go out and have a good

"IT'S SOMETHING I COMMITTED TO WHEN I WAS DOING THE ELECTION. I SAID THAT I'M NOT GOING TO STOP WALKING AROUND CAMPUS AND TALKING TO PEOPLE AND ASKING THEM WHAT THEY DON'T LIKE ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND THE SCHOOL [AND] WHAT THEY DO LIKE."

- Dan Allison, president of WLUSU

time. "I also have a fairly fruitful social life so I go out with friends. I consider myself a pretty average student; I never look at myself as president."

What are the best perks of the job? "The access to the university administration is definitely the best perk," said Allison. "For me, to have the ability to have these meetings with upper-level administration is going to be hugely beneficial to me."

Allison hopes to do some post-graduate work in the field of university administration or a secondary school board.

Ultimately, however, he hopes to get involved in the area of accessible learning. With attention deficit disorder (ADD) and a processing disorder that makes it difficult for him to get thoughts out, he was grateful for the help the university provided him. "The accessible learning office was a huge support for me over the years."

Allison insisted that his executive team has also been a huge help to him since his presidency began. "It just makes my life so much easier because I have such a strong support network with amazing personalities."

As president, Allison hopes to get students more informed of what happens at the Students' Union. "We just want everyone to know what's going on and where their student dollars are going."

As far as accomplishing his platform, Allison said it "has been great to get underway." It seems he has been having a good time so far. "My experience [as president] has been great."

Adjusting back to the life of a Laurier student

Getting back into the swing of things once school starts can be a bit tricky, so here are some pointers for a smoother transition

SARAH TOPPLE CORD STUDENT LIFE

Getting back into the groove, the swing of things, the daily grind – however you want to say it, summer is over and we're all back at school. Making the transition from summer life back to student life is never totally smooth, even for the seasoned, professional apple-polisher, so here are some helpful tips to ease the change from the summer you to the scholar you.

Getting used to a weird schedule

Chances are you have a night class, some really inconvenient intro class that goes right through lunch and maybe a class or two at the ungodly hour of 8:30 am. In order to fit in eating, sleeping and reading, make a schedule for the next week.

It may sound crazy and ever-so-micro-managed, but until you have your new schedule internalized (read: you don't need to consult WebCT to find out where you are going and when), it is a good idea to budget your "free" time. Set a bedtime (complete with milk and a

story if you so desire) and stick with it for the next week, until you honestly know how much sleep your body needs (generally between six and nine hours). Once you know that, you can play with your time.

During the summer, many of us have a regular job with daytime hours, so it'll take some time to get used to getting up early some days and late on others. One thing to avoid is sleeping in until mid-afternoon on days when you have a later class. That will likely make you groggy and unable to sleep that night and you'll have a hard time waking up early the next day.

Saying goodbye to summer freedom

It is often a little sad to bid farewell to the lazy summer lifestyle. Even the most work-loaded employee finds that summer just has a different vibe than the school year. If this is you, think about what made summer awesome.

Was it going to the pool three times a week? Watching *Dancing With the Stars* reruns while eating a DQ chocolate-dipped waffle cone? A weekly lunch date with a

friend? You don't have to give that up. Make time in your week for one or two summer rituals.

You may need to cut back on the time you devote to "chillaxing," but don't let your entire life be consumed by homework. Just like physical health, lots of work and

REMEMBER THAT YOU WILL NOT BE MAKING THE SAME KIND OF MONEY DURING THE YEAR THAT YOU MAKE DURING THE SUMMER, SO KEEP TABS ON YOUR SPENDING.

no sleep can wreak havoc on your mental health, so make sure you have some "you" time during the week.

Money, money, money

Another unfortunate consequence of ending that sweet summer job is the dent it puts in your funds. Remember that you will not be making the same kind of money during the year that you make during the summer, so keep tabs on your spending. That poster, those shoes, those four meals at the

dining hall – they will all add up. Which is not to say that you can't enjoy the finer things; just know how much money you have to enjoy them with.

Make a budget. Go through your bank statements and figure out how much you spend on a few key monthly categories like food, rent and bills. Then factor in less frequent costs, like tuition and books, and see how much you have left. There's your fun money.

It may be hard to stay on budget, but just think about what it'll be like in three months when you can't afford hot dogs because you bought a bunch of movies that you are now sick of.

The Student Awards website has a budget form for scholarships and bursaries that includes all the costs you could ever think of. Print one off and fill it out if you're stuck for what costs you money.

It's also a really good idea to establish a minimum balance for your account in case of emergen-

cies or unexpected costs. For more financial advice, see the good folks at the bank.

Bringing home the bacon

If you are working during the school year, chances are you know all about money. It may be tempting to take on as many shifts as your paper schedule will allow, but remember – school is your job. You are here at this fabulous university earning this fabulous degree in order to get a fabulous career.

Make sure you have enough time to earn the grades you need. Most bosses, especially in K-W, are really understanding of student schedules and can accommodate you; just make sure you let them know of any changes in your schedule as soon as you know.

If worse comes to worst and your boss is an absolute tool, make it clear that school is priority one and, if necessary, start looking for alternative employment.

Have a great year and just remember: though it may not be all fun and games, it certainly isn't all books and classes either!



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SHOUT-OUTS

Shout out to my sister Sarah who has just entered her first year of uni: have fun! Big thanks to Joe for coming into the office this week, you've been a big help. Finally: happy anniversary to Marion for 2 years and 11 months, love Al.



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Wireless lacking

At the beginning of this month, Information Technology Services made free, expanded wireless service available to Laurier students. The fact that this service, which used to be provided by the Laurier Bookstore for an installation fee, is now free and more widely available is excellent news.

Unfortunately, the new wireless functions extremely poorly when a large number of students log on. It's unfortunate that this is the case, as it should have been expected that a large number of students would log on now that the system has been made free.

Yesterday, ITS installed a second server to help alleviate the issues caused by a lack of bandwidth – though it's still a game of waiting to see if the problems will be solved.

A second phase of expanded wireless is planned, largely to bring coverage to outdoor spaces, to take place in the spring once the weather becomes good. While more expanded coverage is great news, the current system should be virtually error-free before further expansion is even considered. ITS should also take into careful consideration how much usage will increase when wireless internet coverage is further expanded.

The new wireless system was supposed to be simple to install. In a July interview with *The Cord* about the expanded wireless, Carl Langford, Manager: Network Technologies, explained that "the intent ... is that our own help desk will be able to do a lot of the troubleshooting. We're also expecting that there'll be very little of it; we've done a lot of testing."

A simple method to set up the new wireless would be great. But the 24 steps outlined for users of Windows Vista are less than simple, and the constantly long line outside of the ITS help desk in the concourse is far from "very little" troubleshooting.

Overall, this is one more example of Laurier dreaming big but bungling the execution. We're thrilled to see great plans for our campus, but it would be a welcome surprise to have the plans actually turn out well – from the beginning.

Finger-pointing isn't preventing robbery

Being robbed in Waterloo is, unfortunately, an extremely common occurrence for students to hear about, and many of us know someone whose home has been broken into while attending school.

Our common reaction to this is to blame our landlords – of course a student's home was broken into. The houses we live in are run-down, have doors that you can jimmy open with a credit card or just plain don't lock, windows you can lift from the frame from the outside and every other defect you could possibly name.

We shouldn't be so quick to lay the finger of blame, though. Waterloo Regional Police Public Affairs Coordinator Olaf Heinzel described many of the over 1,000 break-and-enters in the region last year as crimes of opportunity. Obviously, we need to think more about what

we're doing to protect ourselves from robbery.

Leaving windows and doors unlocked, let alone open, when no one is home is an unnecessary risk, and can easily be avoided. When the reason for leaving our homes unlocked and insecure relates to structural problems with the building, we have to make a point of talking to our landlords instead of just blaming them for the problem without giving them a chance to fix it.

Sure, some landlords won't do a good job fixing the problem, but the majority will. If your landlord isn't reasonable about making repairs, remember that you did sign a contract – repairs should be included in it.

Being robbed sucks, but it's time we put a little more effort into keeping our houses secure.

These unsigned editorials were agreed upon by at least two-thirds of The Cord's editorial board and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Cord's volunteers, staff or WLUSP.

THE CORD WEEKLY

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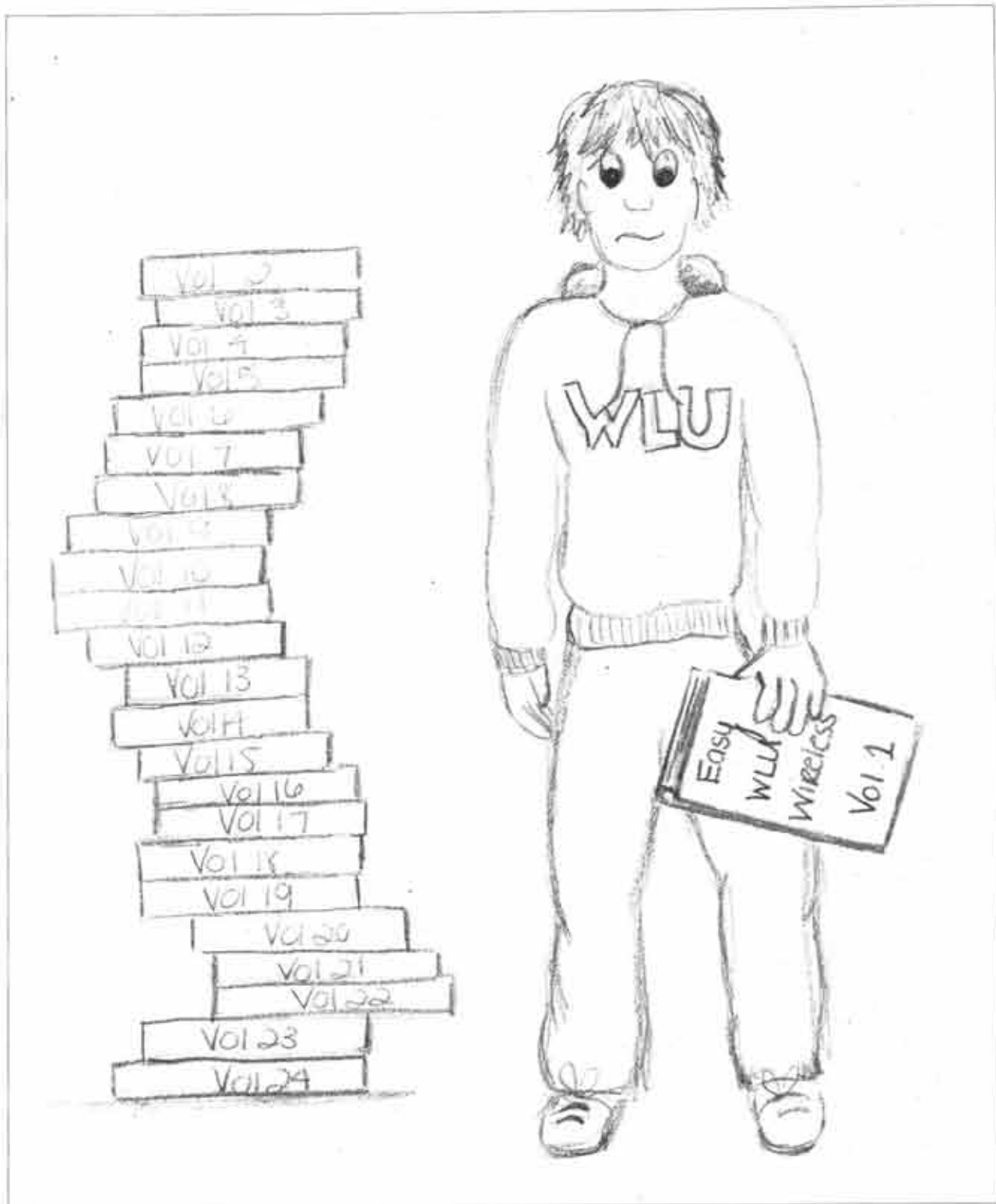
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Julie Marion

Fast food slowing down

Terrace Food Court's dismal service hurts customers and employees alike



SYDNEY HELLAND
PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Before coming to Laurier, the suggestion of visiting "The Terrace" would have personally inspired visions of sipping a demitasse of espresso at a teak table spread with an array of colourful tapas, while a fresh breeze swept through a nearby vineyard. However, after recently visiting Laurier's Terrace Food Court, my experience was very far removed from the majestic image I once had in my head. In fact, I would say that my experience was downright miserable.

As a former employee of the Terrace, I was disturbed to see the dismal state of a place where I once enjoyed working, socializing and (of course) eating.

What struck me first was the melancholy nature of the Terrace staff working at the various food stations. Those who were working where I decided to pick up a little sustenance all seemed to be contemplating suicide while processing customers through like cattle. They would take an order, ring through the transaction, make the food, hand it over to the customer, fake a smile (optional) and then repeat.

At first, I was amused by the

robotic behaviour of the food service staff, but after waiting nearly 15 minutes to even be acknowledged, I would have almost preferred real robots. At least the student feeding process would be done more efficiently and, in particular, faster.

That leads me to the second thing I noticed about the food court: the extreme sluggishness of service. Every action seemed to take an unreasonable amount of time to perform, while customers fidgeted impatiently in line.

FOR MANY EMPLOYEES, WORKING FOR THE TERRACE IS A FIRST JOB. AS A RESULT, COUNTLESS STUDENTS DO NOT DEVELOP A PROPER WORK ETHIC AT NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN.

Finally, the food that was churned out after 23 painful minutes of waiting was something that even a garbage-eating raccoon would find offensive. Okay, perhaps that was a little harsh, but assembling a sandwich/pita/sub is not exactly rocket science. Doing it with at least some form of friendly, human interaction also isn't that hard. Yes, I sympathize that work is sometimes a bummer, but you just have to do it anyway.

After this very frustrating lunch

break, I was left feeling embarrassed that I used to work at the Terrace, and also very distressed that all these businesses remain financially successful despite such poor customer service.

It really is a shame that several businesses not only continue to sustain themselves, but thrive, simply because of convenience and lack of alternatives.

On top of everything else, the last thing that left a bad taste in my mouth (other than my lunch) was the fact that for many employees,

working for the Terrace is a first job. As a result, there are countless students that do not develop a proper work ethic through no fault of their own, and will continue to

struggle at jobs in the future.

Therefore, I encourage the Student's Union and managers of the Terrace to sit down and formulate some kind of solution to address the issue of substandard performance. Speak with staff and customers alike to see what changes can be made in an attempt to improve the present hostile atmosphere that is negatively affecting both employees and customers.

letters@cordweekly.com

Welcoming the demise of the nuclear family

Children of single-parents more likely to have the knowledge and drive needed to be successful on their own than those from traditional families



ALLIE MAXTED
RESIDENT CYNIC

The 2006 Census was released by the government earlier this month. It contains some interesting information about the changing state of the Canadian family, most notably that households headed by heterosexual marriages are—for the first time in history—outweighed by their single, same-sex and common-law counterparts.

In the last two decades, the number of married couples has dropped from 80 to 68.6 percent. With the exception of commuter suburbs such as Vaughan and Aurora, the nuclear family has been nearly abolished in this country, now making up only 17 percent of all households. Single-parents experienced the most growth, now making up a record 25 percent of families.

There are many reasons suggested for the changing landscape of the Canadian family. In Quebec, the Quiet Revolution is a driving factor, as residents tie the rejection of marriage into their rejection of Catholicism. The immigrant population has brought with it a plethora

of various family units which differ from the traditional western nuclear family.

Evolving attitudes towards women, combined with the lifestyle of consumerism, have pushed most women into the workforce, placing added stress on marriages. The high divorce rate has meant more common-law partnerships, especially in older divorcees, and is the largest reason for the increase in single-parent families.

Because the current state of Canadian families has been steadily developing over time, we've come to accept it as normal. But with 2.1 million children living in single-parent households, it's important to distinguish whether the new norm is a negative or positive thing.

As someone whose family went from two-parent to single-parent at the age of 14, I have personally experienced both situations. Financially speaking, those living in single-parent households are clearly worse-off. The average income of a two-parent family sits at \$67,600, compared with \$30,000 for a single-parent family. That figure is even less than half the income of a two-parent family as women make up 80 percent of single parents, and on average get paid much less than men.

For my mother, part of this was a result of the time she took off work when my sister and I were young (a luxury she would not have had as a single parent at that time). Despite support payments, I felt the decline in standard of living.

While some children counted as part of single-parent families live in a joint-custody relationship (which has its own stresses on the child), many others do not. This means daughters without mothers or, more often, sons without fathers, and all the implications that may accompany those situations. The life experiences of both girls and boys generally differ, especially in the teenage years. This is something that makes parenting a child of the other sex difficult on a person. Emotionally and financially, single parenting is very difficult.

However, because of—and not in spite of—these adversities, the rise in single-parent families may be a positive change. While children in these homes are generally less affluent, this does not necessarily make them less happy. The result of affluence is often parents who cannot bear to see their children unhappy and thus work to provide them with all their wants.

The rise in this type of parental problem-solving has contributed



IN DECLINE - The nuclear family is no longer the majority in Canada.

to the growing number of young adults who feel they are not ready for the real world. The 2006 Census revealed that just under half of those aged 20-29 are living at home. Having grown accustomed to their cushy lifestyles, they expect the same standard of living throughout life, without the necessary values and knowledge of how to obtain it.

On the other hand, children from single-parent homes seem to better understand the sacrifices necessary to make a living, as they've witnessed their parent work two or three jobs to support them. After my dad left, I developed a greater appreciation for my mother and her strength, and the drop in living standards only made me recognize that money is not infinite. In this sense, less affluent, single-parent families may better prepare the child emotionally for the real world.

While parenting children without a partner is no doubt more difficult for both the parent and the children, this does not necessarily make it a bad thing. Many children of single mothers or fathers appreciate their parent more and have a better understanding of work ethic. The hardships which arise from lower incomes can lead to important life lessons for a child.

As such a lifestyle grows closer to becoming the norm, children in that situation feel less like they are missing out on something. This is a good thing, as they need not feel that way. What is most important is not whether a child has one or two parents, but that all parents are dedicated and committed to doing their best for their children, regardless of whatever sacrifices are necessary.

letters@cordweekly.com

> Letters to the Editor

Hawk unnecessary

Thank you Jeremy Carnegie for your opinion piece on the BOD's plans to spend \$10,700 on a marble hawk. I completely agree that there are much better uses for this money. Scholarships and bursaries are excellent suggestions, and I would like to put forth a challenge to the student body: Where do you think that money could be better spent?

Think about what your faculty, department or student group needs, or what could help improve Laurier's sense of community, and tell Dan Allison. Tell The Cord. Tell WLUSU. Tell the BOD. Be loud. Post suggestions to Dan Allison's door if need be.

Jeremy is right when he says that those who support this \$10,700 hawk are a noisy minority. I think it's time for the rest of us to speak up.

- Angela Shea

Russia no threat

The article, "Is the Cold War returning?" is a fairly far-reaching prediction. Not the farthest I've heard, but still likely far off the mark. Of course, we've all heard the news, the oil threats, the threat of redirecting nuclear missiles, or deploy-

ing a carrier in the Mediterranean.

While these seem like serious threats, they are merely Cold War threats, in a time now beyond that. The threat of ICBMs pales in comparison to the ability to park a nuclear sub, quieter than surrounding water, on a foreign country's coast. With the ability to lob a missile that can reach its target in a matter of minutes, rather than hours.

The aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean is just an empty threat. With the declining state of Russia's military, they lack proper air cover—without which, an aircraft carrier is just a hunk of floating steel. And lastly, though the threats against former Soviet blocs may seem threatening, they are equally hollow. Many former blocs such as Azerbaijan, Georgia, and not to mention Russians themselves, are members or partners of NATO. And while Russia has pulled from the CFE, the treaty was signed back in 1990, at the very end of the Soviet Union.

Due to the current state of the Russian military, conventional attack is no longer a threat. All of Russia's current threats seem to be an attempt to restore somewhat of that old Soviet power, though they no longer possess it.

- Chris Nyland

Canada not secular

I have to disagree with the comment that "Canada is a secular country" (from "Expanding public funding of religious schools half-baked plan" by Allie Maxted, Sept. 12, 2007) since 'secular' suggests no support for any religions or religious activities. In fact, Canada is a multicultural mosaic that supports and funds many religious and cultural activities (in contrast to the melting pot that exists in the US).

Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, BC and the Yukon all subsidize faith-based schools, while Newfoundland and the Maritimes do not. As noted in this article, Ontario is the only problem province that funds 650,000 students in public Catholic schools while refusing to assist the 53,000 students in other religious schools. As a graduate of a non-funded religious high school, my parents had to pay education taxes in addition to my school's tuition fee. Whatever comes of John Tory's plan, I can only hope that it results in an equal education system for all Ontario students, regardless of their religion.

- Jaclyn Milstein

Honour thy parents

I write to inform you of an event that occurred recently at the Adults Only Video store on the corner of Columbia and King Street.

As some of you may have noticed, the Adults Only store has displayed a large, prominent sidewalk sign that says, "Your parents will never know!!!" I feel it is highly inappropriate to advertise this way, to encourage first-year students to engage in behaviour that would dishonour their parents.

Last night, I confronted the owner about it. After refusing to take down the sign, citing 'freedom of speech', I decided to take action. With the help of my 18V cordless drill, I had all the letters down and stacked neatly in a matter of minutes, whereupon I was met by two uniformed police officers. After stating my case and waiting while they went in to talk to the owner, I was not charged but am now banned from the premises (which is fine by me).

So this letter is to warn all first-year students of the dangers and temptations you will be facing in your first year away from home. There will be chances to do many things that you parents 'will never know about', like drugs, abusing alcohol, vandalizing property, skip-

ping class, fornicating copiously, etc. Be very careful in the decisions you make and the friends you choose. Try your best to honour your parents by doing what would make them proud and avoid those who would encourage you to do otherwise.

I would also ask all WLU students over the age of 18 to keep an eye on the sign at Adults Only. If it goes back up, I call on you not to remove them yourself (if you did, you'd need a #1 Robertson Screwdriver) but to write a letter or even go into the store and voice your displeasure. Remember, the pen is mightier than the drill!

- Michael Flaman

Letters Policy:

All letters to the editor must be signed and submitted with the author's name, student identification number, and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00 pm (noon) Monday via email to letters@cordweekly.com or through our website at www.cordweekly.com. Letters must not exceed 350 words.

The Cord reserves the right to edit any letter for brevity and clarity. The Cord reserves the right to reject any letter, in whole or in part. The Cord reserves the right to not publish material that is deemed to be libelous or in contravention with the Cord's Code of Ethics or journalistic standards.



Sydney Holland

DISPASSIONATE CAMPUS - Despite being institutions of higher education, we still see deplorable incidents such as violence, racism and sexual assault take place at universities.

Learning from the past



DON MORGENSON
ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

Amid the rubble of Europe in 1945, the atrocities systematically committed by many came to light. At that time, historians, philosophers and social critics began to raise troubling questions, not only about the moral state of Germany but on an even more unsettling topic: "How could an educated people commit such atrocities?" Given the genocides occurring in our own time, such a question takes on a greater urgency.

George Steiner, writer and critic, refers to this as the "brutal paradox" - death camps in juxtaposition with high culture and a classical education. To put the question more bluntly, how was it possible that Adolf Hitler's elite SS troopers could carry copies of Goethe's poems in the pockets of their black uniforms as they daily went about

their dark deeds? How can we reconcile Auschwitz crematoria and Beethoven's string quartets? How could men and women violate other people, then weep over Rilke's Duino Elegies?

Hitler's Death's Head Division was led by an officer corps of which 23 percent were university graduates and 19 percent had Ph.D.s. All the while, a mere two percent to three percent of the German population had completed a university degree!

It was Matthew Arnold's hope that studying "the best that was thought and said in the past" would result in a humane and sensitive individual. Novelist Franz Kafka once said, "Books must be ice-axes to break the sea frozen inside us." Why didn't knowing the best that was thought and said break the frozen sea within the elite German corps?

The answer for the question posed in 1945 was that all the learning, the sophistication, the classical education of these individuals had absolutely no organic link to their daily lives. The classics they stud-

ied gave them no sensitivity to the needs of the "common people." Rather, their studies seemed to separate them from humankind.

While none of this is forgotten, it is of the past. But what concerns us today is that some of our university campuses are occasionally scenes of violence, vulgarity, racism, sexism and even sexual assault.

HITLER'S DEATH'S HEAD DIVISION WAS LED BY AN OFFICER CORPS, 23 PERCENT OF WHICH WERE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES; 19 PERCENT HAD PH.D.S.

Today, we may ask the same painful questions asked in the past: how can people exposed to Matthew Arnold's "the best," the privileged, intellectual elite, behave in such ways? How can such behaviors be reconciled with the fact that they carry Plato's Republic or Kant's Critique of Pure Reason in their backpacks? George Steiner's "brutal paradox" is faced once again.

In 1945, the explanation was that the studies pursued then had no connection with real, lived life, with the people. Rather, their education created an elite with a disdain for the masses.

Today, the causes may be elsewhere. We often speak of the need for "disinterested scholarship" and "dispassionate inquiry." This

may contribute to a fear that using our intellects to further moral ends is somehow improper. We remain subservient to the tenets of our professions or our disciplines although said tenets may violate our deepest feelings as human beings. Perhaps the traditional neutrality of the scholar is a disservice to the very ideals we teach in our classrooms.

Paulo Freire (*Pedagogy of the Oppressed*) argues that there can be no such thing as a neutral educational process. Education either functions to facilitate the integration of the

young into the logic of the present system and brings about conformity to it, or education becomes "the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women participate in the transformation of their world."

Some years ago, in a Harvard University report titled "General Education in a Free Society," then-President James B. Conant wrote: "Unless the educational process includes at each level of maturity some continuing contact with those fields in which value judgments are of prime importance, it must fall far short of the ideal. The student in high school, university and graduate school must be concerned in part at least, with the words right and wrong in both the ethical and mathematical sense."

With students of today, such a "transformation of their world" may involve a revolution in knowledge and a revolution in the missions of the university - lest we fail to learn painful lessons from the past.

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THE RECORD

Our food needs more thought



JEREMY TREMBLAY
OPINION EDITOR

In 2004, the American documentary film *Super Size Me* grabbed both media and public attention and spun much of society against the archetypal fast-food giant, McDonald's. Many people choose to avoid and denounce the restaurant despite a number of criticisms of the methods which Morgan Spurlock, the documentary's producer and star, employed in making the film.

Little criticism of the actual idea and industry of fast food beyond McDonald's stemmed from the film. It's now three years later and even the film's narrow message appears to have been forgotten. Nowhere is this more apparent than on a university campus, where fast-food wrappers can be seen strewn across tables and floors and overflowing out of garbage cans – McDonald's wrappers included.

Although we shouldn't have a fear of fast food, more than ever we should be paying more attention to the food we eat. The purchase of organic foods is on the rise in Canada, with 34 percent of Canadians purchasing organic foods, accord-

ing to a Nielsen study quoted by a Nutrition Action Health Letter. The primary reason for choosing organic is being cited as the fact that the products are pesticide-free.

Or so they appear. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced its organic food regulations in December 2006, which are being phased in until December 2008. At that point, all organic food for inter-provincial and international trade in Canada will have to be certified, and will bear the Canada Organic logo.

Despite this initiative, though, organic foods continue to become less and less of a solution as factory farms increasingly take control of the organic market. The cover story of an October 2006 issue of *Business Week* magazine, titled "The Organic Myth," tells how big businesses have strayed from the organic movement's roots to bring

organic to the mainstream.

"For some companies, it means keeping thousands of organic cows on industrial-scale feedlots. For others, the scarcity of organic ingredients means looking as far afield as China, Sierra Leone and Brazil – places where standards may be hard to enforce [and] workers' wages and living conditions are a worry." We're left to ask where to fill the hole that organic foods were supposed to occupy.

Back in 1986, Carlo Petrini founded the Slow Food movement in Italy. It became an international association in 1989. The movement is based on an idea it coined as *eco-gastronomy*, which looks to return the way people eat to an appreciation of tradition and local produce. The Slow Food Canada website defines the movement as one that, "supports a new model of agriculture, which is less intensive and

healthier, founded on the knowledge and know-how of local communities." It encourages people to shop locally, and re-discover the pleasure of food.

Growing all our food in local communities is, granted, an impractical proposition here in Canada. However, producing our own food whenever possible instead of importing foreign food, an occurrence particularly common in processed foods, simply makes more sense. In Canada, we have more control over food-safety. Fewer fossil fuels are needed to transport foods, which is good for the environment. A shift away from factory farming would benefit the quality of our food and help the failing family farm.

Indeed, Slow Food provides us the opportunity to reject the corporate image that food is merely fuel for humans. Standardization is not more important than quality, and

variety should be embraced. In fact, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs promotes many of the ideals of slow food with its Foodland Ontario program. The Foodland Ontario program brands and promotes Ontario products that are in season, and highlights the benefits of purchasing them.

We as students seem to be unlikely people to adopt this movement, as we live a life pressed for time, pressed for cash and in need of every convenience. But just because big companies tell us that's who we are doesn't mean it's true.

With Slow Food's growing presence and government programs providing us with knowledge of local foods at our fingertips, we owe it to ourselves to escape the convenience-food mentality. Slow Food is a welcome shift in a new direction.

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Shoot 'Em Up hits its target

Mike Lippert discusses why action movies are fun and should shy away from social commentary

MIKE LIPPERT
CORD A&E

Shoot 'Em Up is a film that promises violence and delivers it. A lot of it – which, in a peculiar kind of way, is sort of satisfying: there's nothing worse than broken promises.

But for those who wish to accept it, *Shoot 'Em Up* is a fierce and undeniable success. I can't say I liked it, but to strip it so easily of what it works so hard to achieve would be utter negligence on my part. It's shocking that, despite the fact that the majority of the film is all surface, all adrenaline and excitement, all gunplay and bloodshed, still, at a mere 87 minutes, it manages to capture interest.

Despite the lack of a coherent story, the film unfolds in a backwards manner, which is interesting; most action films separate drama from pyrotechnics. *Shoot 'Em Up* reveals itself to us slowly, starting with a random man in a random

situation and revealing details about both man and situation one at a time over the entire film's duration. Through some sort of insane logic, the film justifies its endless violence by making it seem as though the story is always advancing. It's a fantastic display of sleight-of-hand. Then there's the action.

The film constantly attaches itself to the tried-and-true conventions of the action film. How come hundreds of bad guys can fire thousands of bullets and never hit the hero who can pick them all off with one shot each?

But at the same time, writer/director Michael Davis goes to great, illogical pains to show us things we've never seen before. In *Shoot 'Em Up* we see a hero who impales a man's skull with a carrot, delivers a baby during a shoot-out, cuts the umbilical cord by shooting it off, jumps onto an oil slick and dispatches a dozen villains all while sliding on his back. And that's just the first 10 minutes.

The plot is simple. A stranger named Smith (Clive Owen) performs a birth for a woman who is being chased by the henchmen of Hertz (Paul Giamatti, who snarls through his scenes the way Dennis Hopper once would have). Why Smith decides to protect this woman and why Hertz wants her dead are among the many secrets that reveal themselves with time. I dare not give it away here.

The reason, though, allows the film to make for some insignificant social commentary on gun-related violence in America, which is awkward and unsuccessful.

How can a film talk down to its audience about the horror of gun-related violence while physically making it about as romantic as it has ever been this side of James Bond? *Shoot 'Em Up* is its own self-fulfilling prophecy.

There's not much more to be said for the film. I like the way Owen has the ability to enter scenes of incredible impossibility and violence while seeming completely de-



Contributed Photo

SEX AND VIOLENCE - This classic recipe for a Hollywood action flick bakes a bloody good 'cheese' cake.

tached from them: it's just another day's work.

I like how Giamatti as the villain is able to go over-the-top in just the right controlled amounts. It's not uncommon for an actor to sneer and growl and yell as a villain, but Giamatti never loses control of the character, playing him seriously in that unserious sort of way that villains always need to be.

Pay attention to how he handles the film's single best line after Owen saves the baby from a merry-

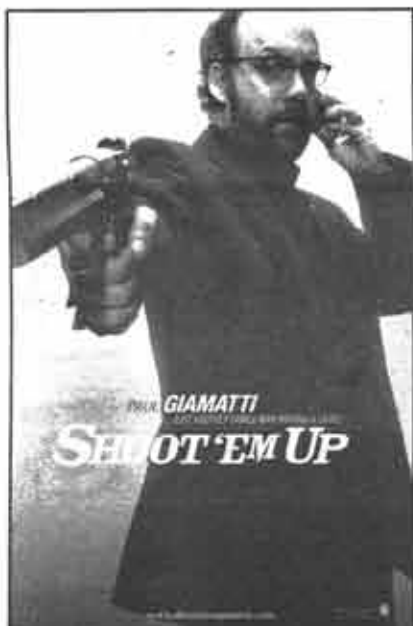
go-round while Giamatti is trying to pick it off with a sniper rifle.

Shoot 'Em Up is the kind of film that critics like to use as a scapegoat for the downfall of Hollywood. It is loud, vulgar, obnoxious, and in overall bad taste. It has no story, no well-defined characters and is simply a succession of over-the-top bursts of action for kids whose minds hold the attention span of a fly's because of their steady diet of video games and MTV.

It certainly makes for a stable ar-

gument: for every good film of this nature *Running Scared* you get two terrible ones *Domino*, *Resident Evil Apocalypse*.

Yet, while watching a film like *Shoot 'Em Up*, one realizes that there is a distinct charm to this sort of thing: it's a film of great energy, great excitement, great stupidity and great entertainment. If you find shooting and violence and explosions to be redundant, why go to see a film called *Shoot 'Em Up* in the first place?



Shoot 'Em Up

Director: Michael Davis

Starring: Clive Owen, Paul Giamatti, Monica Bellucci

Original Release Date:

Sept 7, 2007

Rating: 7.0/10

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Laugh your pants off

MuchMusic's resident pop-culture comedians Trevor Boris and Debra DiGiovanni help provide the laughs at Homecoming this weekend

PAUL ALVIZ
A&E EDITOR

You've seen his mug on TV. You've laughed at his silly sarcastic comments when it comes to celebrities behaving in their textbook, centre of the universe, completely over-the-top manner. With a name like Trevor Boris, he sounds more like he's a part of the Russian Mafia than a young, gay, farmboy comic from the small town of Selkirk, Manitoba.

The truth is, he's none of the former and all of the latter. Known by countless preteen girls and other faithful viewers of MuchMusic's most successful show *Video on Trial* as a judge, Boris's flamboyant attitude and caustic wit easily make him one of the highlights of the show.

Alongside the 28-year-old "boy," it's more than likely you've had a chuckle at the quips of his hearty Italian fellow judge, Debra DiGiovanni. Hailing from Tillsonburg, Ontario, DiGiovanni credits her twin sister's stunning good looks for the development of her self-deprecating comedic skills.

BEING COMPLETELY OPEN AND HONEST WITH HIS SEXUALITY HAS AFFORDED HIM SOME EXTRA ATTENTION AND IS EVEN THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND SOME OF HIS STANDUP MATERIAL.

"I didn't pretend that I looked like my sister. My whole thing was that I knew it and I was OK with it. I was funny for survival. Okay, I'm not the prom queen, but, hey, I'm fun to be around!" she explained in an interview with *Now Magazine*.

Being from the West, at one point in his life, Boris actually did toil in the fields like any hard-working all-Canadian farmboy would. Although his current lifestyle has put most of that past behind him, it hasn't prevented others from applying the label to him currently, even as nothing more than a joke.

Being completely open and honest with his sexuality has afforded Boris some extra attention and is even the driving force behind some of his standup material. It wasn't always that way though; at one point, discussing his orientation in public was the furthest thing from his mind. Nowadays, there is unending vindication available for Boris when he performs his regular "coming out routine" onstage to an accepting and usually giggling audience.

Similarly, DiGiovanni quickly found a passion for performance when she realized that she could hold the attention of an audience with relative ease. She credits this to her down-to-earth style and being able to identify with the audience.

"Can you name me one ultra-gorgeous perfect person who goes onstage making the haha?" she



Contributed photos

COMEDIANS ON TRIAL - WLU will see them live this Saturday.

challenges in the same *Now* article. "No. It's intimidating. Women especially hate really beautiful women. We don't want to listen to them. 'What does this bitch have to say? Oh, please!'"

Boris writes in the *National Post* of the surprise experience of coming out to his dad: "So, when I came out to my dad (he was the last to know), I wanted to make it as traumatic as possible so there would be no confusion. I did what any good gay son would do, and came out to him during one of my shows."

"I had been coming out in my act for almost a year without him knowing, when he appeared completely unannounced at a show I

was doing ... My poor dad, an agricultural engineer and farmer who is a great guy but very old-fashioned, came to some grungy little bar to support his son and had no idea he was about to get completely side-swiped. I've blocked most of that night out, but said something like: 'When I moved to Toronto, my girlfriend broke up with me. Although, I had a feeling it wouldn't work out cuz she worked a lot ... and I'm gay.'"

This weekend, he will be side-swiping Laurier Students and alumni alike for Homecoming's Rogers Evening of Comedy. Boris and DiGiovanni will be joined by veteran comedian Scott Harris and host Mike Bullard this Saturday, September 22 at the A.C. at 7:30 pm. Tickets are still available and can be ordered online at www.wlu.ca/comedy.

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Reggae vibe comes to Wilf's

O-Week performers return for extra dose of WLU

KARI PRITCHARD
STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday, reggae-inspired bands Walk Off The Earth and Staylefish played some kickin' tunes that not even Wilfrid Laurier himself, peace be upon him, would be able to resist busting a move to.

Both bands played during the O-Week Quad party, and returned to Wilf's on Thursday night to play for the rest of the Laurier community who had to miss out the first time.

Walk Off The Earth, a reggae/ska and little-bit-of everything band from Burlington, tore up the stage as the opening act. Having nailed down the patent reggae upstroke on guitar, as well as the catchy bass lines, they had people on their feet in no time.

The band especially enjoys rockin' out to university crowds. "University students are a lot more open to indie music and bands they might not have heard of," said singer/guitarist Ryan Marshall.

Although Walk Off The Earth is predominantly associated with reggae music, the band mentioned their interest in genre-bending. "I don't recommend anyone listen to just one genre [of music]; there's just too much good music out there," bassist Gianni Luminati said.

But they don't just dish out advice; they heed it as well. Their first album, *Smooth Like Stone on a Beach*, due out October 12, consists of 12 songs, "but they're all different genres... it's not just reggae-the bass is funk and jazz," described Marshall.

Gianni also notes a hip-hop feel being present on their new album, although "you wouldn't notice it as hip-hop," he modestly interjects.

After Walk Off The Earth's set came to a close, the crowd had a bit of time to rest and refill their glasses before the six-man Staylefish hit the stage.

As soon as they began their set, the crowd was once more in fused with energy, demonstrated by hip-shakin' and feet-kickin' dance moves, and smiles from ear to ear.

Staylefish, based out of London, Ontario, formed with the goal to bring the established warm and sunny reggae/ska scene of California to cold and snowy Canada.

Staylefish was on to something, as they were soon proclaimed the winners of the 2006 London Music Award and the Jack Richardson Music Award for best musical act. "We are really thankful that people have supported us the way that they have," said drummer Drake Goodwin.

Staylefish is not only spreading the vibe in Canada, but are also expanding their fan base to the Far East. An acoustic version of their song "No Ulterior Motives" was put on the *One Big Family* compilation, a disc released in Japan.

The band has no intentions of slowing down either. They've done

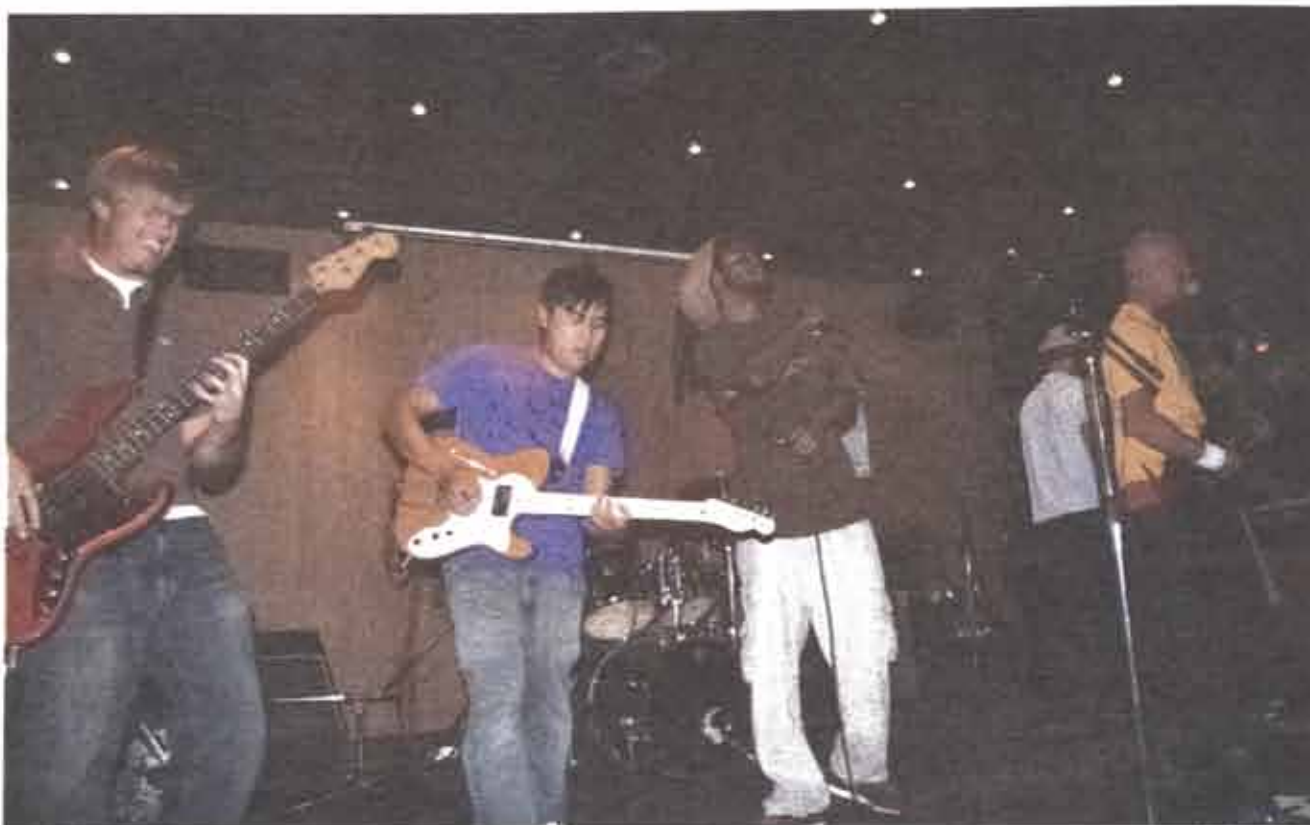
a few acoustic sets in a side project of Mista D's from The Salads, called Mob Barley.

The band realized that playing acoustic was "really sexy," according to Richard Howard, who sings lead in the side project.

As such, Staylefish plans to release an acoustic EP showcasing their double talent as an acoustic band in the spring, not unlike the Foo Fighters' double disc release, *In Your Honor*.

Staylefish ended their set for the night with a crowd-pleasing encore of "Déjà vu" off their album *Audible Addiction*.

By the end of the night, everybody was a little sweaty and a little tired, but that's a given when you're jiving on the dance floor with your fishy friends.



Sydney Holland

NOTHING STALE ABOUT THESE FISH - London reggae/ska group Staylefish takes the stage at Wilf's.

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Toronto sees star power

- FROM TORONTO, PAGE 32

Also, there is something to be said about experiencing a great film in the company of others that appreciate it. Nothing is more infuriating

IF YOUR TASTE IN MOVIES IS ANYTHING BUT MAINSTREAM, TIFF PRESENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO WATCH THE TYPE OF FILMS ON THE BIG SCREEN THAT WOULD MAKE CINEPLEX ODEON SHUDDER AT THE THOUGHT OF THE BOTTOM LINE.

than going to a film and sitting behind a kid that cries for the entire movie, or beside two teenagers making out. At TIFF, everyone that is there wants to be there (and for \$20 a film, they better).

Lastly, a lot of movies from previous years that went on to experience great success got their start at TIFF, like 2006's Best Picture, *Crash*.

It infuriates you that Princess Theatre is the only theatre around that plays non-English movies

If your taste in movies is anything but mainstream, TIFF presents the opportunity to watch the type of films on the big screen that would make Cineplex Odeon shudder at the thought of their bottom line. It's not that these movies aren't good; they are. They just, for one reason or another, fail to elicit the high sales of bubble gum pop movies like *Rush Hour 3*.

Don't take it personally, though. You know it's just because it's too "smart" for them. Also, it's a great chance to check out some good quality home-grown films, like the slightly taboo debut from Canadian director Martin Gero called *Young People Fucking*, which is similar to an equally controversial semi-pornographic Canadian film from last year's TIFF, *Shortbus*.

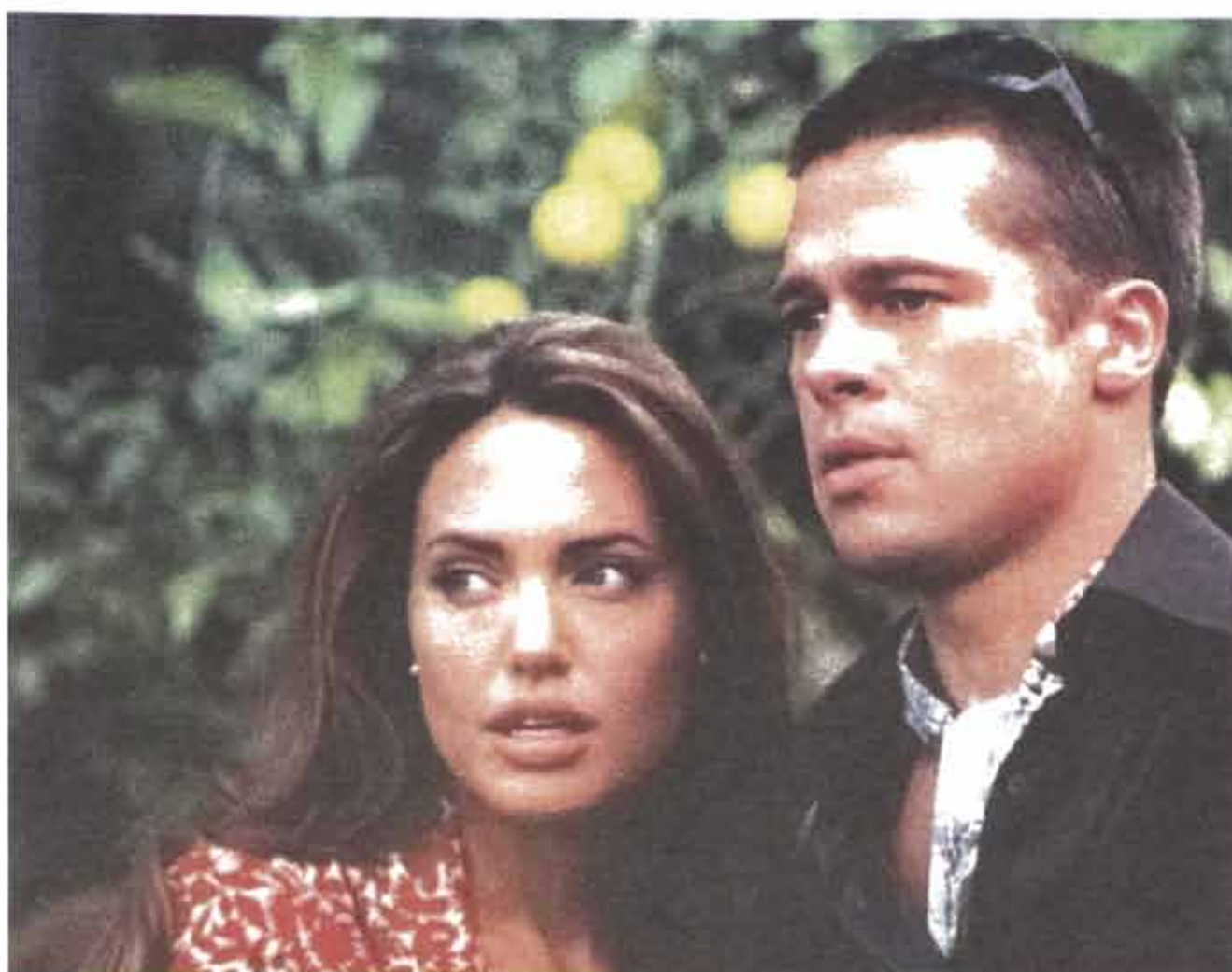
You want to party like a movie star

Toronto already has a pretty active nightlife all year round, but during the festival it is insane. The key to experiencing the festival from the VIP section of some of the hottest parties is - you got it - knowing someone. Unless you know someone who worked on a film or has connections to the industry (either film or media), you won't be on the dance floor with Brangelina.

But that doesn't mean you can't still have fun. With plenty of posh places filled with young people and after-parties for slightly lower-key films, opportunities to "get your drink on" are endless.

If you weren't able to make it out to TIFF this year, don't worry. A lot of films from TIFF will be hitting theatres before December. Some

top films from the festival that are worth checking out include: David Cronenberg's follow-up to 2005's *History of Violence* titled *Eastern Promises*; Jason Reitman of *Thank You For Smoking* fame's new film *Juno*; *Atonement*, which stars Keira Knightley and premiered at the Venice Film Festival a few short weeks ago; and the lovely *Married Life*, starring Rachel McAdams and Pierce Brosnan in a spectacular performance.



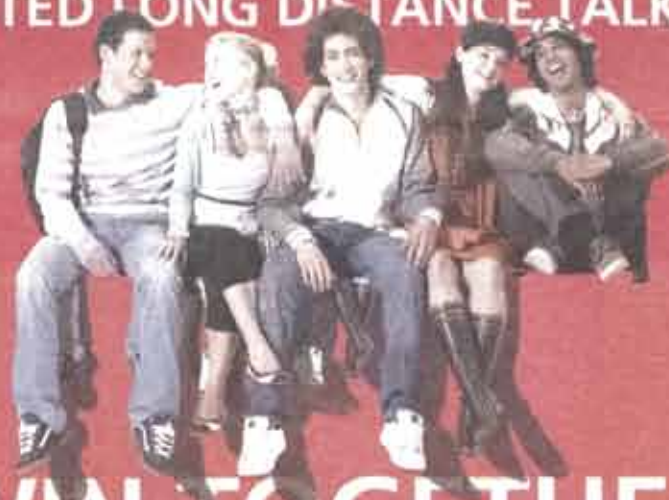
Contributed Photo

BRANGELINA - The couple was chased out of TIFF by crazed fans trying to catch a personal glimpse.

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Nozuka makes Laurier debut

At only 18, he's a seasoned songwriter with a full album and a video on MuchMusic. Jewel, eat your heart out!

PAUL ALVIZ
A&E EDITOR

A large blue van sits in the parking lot behind the FNCC, packed full of all the essential goodies: guitars, amps, mics and all the necessary sound equipment. It's dutifully unloaded by four young adults and their manager, and brought to the stage at Wilf's without notice from the patrons.

One of these young adults is named Justin Nozuka. Bright-eyed and shining a youthful vitality, the anticipation of a show in just a few hours has him practically beaming with excitement.

Hailing from Toronto, the self-proclaimed songwriter has been working at his craft since the tender age of 12.

Raised by his single mother, along with four other musically-inclined brothers, it's no wonder they support his current aspirations.

But that was forever ago, and Nozuka's genuine proclamation of "I've been wanting to do this for a long time" is all the more evident once he steps on stage. You may have recently seen the video for his song "Mr. Therapy Man" make its debut on the Muchmusic Top 30 Countdown.

"I never really expected that video to be on Muchmusic, so it was a pretty big surprise," he openly admits, with the classic modesty of a fresh new artist. Sure, it's only at number 30, with Soulja Boy's "Crank That" debuting at 29, but getting national recognition from Canada's most-watched music station is a big step when it comes to Canada's frigid music industry.

Local, talented musicians like Nozuka are all too often sideswiped for the sake of big-name cash cows from south of the border.

With a Myspace account serving as his primary Internet contact

and only the mini biography offered there to go on, accompanied by a brief Wikipedia entry, intrepid journalists are left with something to be desired.

One thing that struck my attention, however, was the surely mistyped birth year of 1988. After denying my suspicions of some kind of error and confirming his age of only 18 with a laugh, he adds "I've been doing overage gigs for a while."

One can't help but notice the irony in the fact that technically he's not allowed to see himself perform at the 19-plus venues which are common to his touring.

Despite what could be considered an age barrier, Nozuka's fan base is varied and continues to grow. "I've seen lots of different types of people at my shows ... older folks and younger folks." This is due in part to his style of music, but the tone and spirit of his songs can-

not be easily denied either.

"Right now, I would just call it soul music. I'm not trying to pigeonhole it; it's just music that I'm passionate about," says Nozuka, on the subject of where his full-length album *Holly* might be found on shelves.

As I arrived to see him performing on-stage, partway through his second song, I was immediately caught off-guard by the sheer transformation from timid teenager to crooning showman, holding control over the audience.

Nozuka's emotional (not to be confused with emo) and rustic voice punches through the fourth wall, offering the audience a sincere glimpse into the songwriter's soul.

This was especially evident during the song "Criminal," which harboured a halting crescendo on the chorus. With the help of his bandmates, improvisation is clearly No-

zuka's friend, as his live show sets him free from the constraints of a studio setting.

With a keen sense for bluesy acoustic melodies and the ability to blend with jazz and funk, "soul" truly is the best way to describe the music.

Unfortunately for *American Idol*, Nozuka has a mind of his own and is reluctant to stick himself in the cookie-cutter mold of some pop guru.

"Feedback means nothing to me, really. I think art in general is open to everyone interpreting it in their own way. Someone may not like it, but that doesn't mean I have to change it," reasons Nozuka. "It's my expression. It doesn't have to become 'perfect.'"

These days, with all the hype over record sales and celebrity drama, it's refreshing to hear from an artist who's in it for the right reasons.



MR. THERAPY MAN - Justin Nozuka sings his therapeutic hit single Saturday night at Wilf's along with other tracks from his debut album *Holly*, which came out in March of this year.

Hollywood takes it to Toronto

Carrie McNabb offers a run down of the celebrity-adored festival in our province's capital

CARRIE MCNABB
STAFF WRITER

The Toronto International Film Festival is a little like Disney World. No matter who you are and what your interests are, there is something about TIFF that you can en-

joy. Plus, everyone who lives even remotely close to Toronto - that's us, Laurier students - should check it out at least once in their lives.

You know you're TIFF material if...

You check PerezHilton.com more

often than your email

Toronto is crawling with celebrities during TIFF. You walk past the hotels and restaurants on Bloor Street and they are surrounded by paparazzi. It seems like every club/bar/lounge has a red carpet attached to it.

And if you're not very lucky with chance encounters (or frankly, really don't recognize celebrities in "regular-people" clothes), you are guaranteed to see celebrities if you

go to a film. Always had a major crush on Jake Gyllenhaal? Well, just figure out which movie he is in, and buy tickets to the premiere. There is a very good chance the stars (and director) of the film will not only be in attendance at their own films, but will help introduce the film and stick around for a Q&A.

You take part in Oscar pools (this is nothing to be ashamed about)

The great thing about film festivals

in general is that the screening is quite often the first time an audience has ever seen this film. There is something so superior and elitist about that, non?

Plus, the TIFF creates Oscar buzz. Before these films even come out in theatres, critics are already discussing the performances and films that may get nominated.

For example, Cate Blanchett's portrayal of Bob Dylan in Todd Haynes' spectacular pseudo-biopic, *I'm Not There*, has been garnering a good deal of praise.

- SEE TORONTO, PAGE 31