

THE RECORD WEEKLY



The bands are a-battlin'. Page 24

Help Joe the Toothless Hobo find study space. Page 11



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Sniper attacks students

Two suspects arrested on twenty-three charges related to string of pellet gun attacks

Stefan Sereda

In the wake of arresting the father-and-stepson sniper duo in the United States, WLU students are also being subjected to similar, though less dangerous, violence. Someone opened hunting season on students last week, forcing neighbourhood residents to dodge the pellets.

Suspects Emanuel Paulson and Paul Fitzgerald were arrested on Tuesday, after police received information that they were responsible for a pellet gun shooting spree which took place a week earlier. Currently, there are twenty-three charges being laid, some singular and some joint, with more to come.

Seven random individuals were injured in the off-campus neighbourhood on Tuesday November 19, the victims of drive-by pellet gun shootings. The seemingly connected shootings were reported to Waterloo Regional Police between 7:40 and 11:01 pm, and occurred as close to campus as the corner of King and Bricker. "These were unexpected shootings...a drive-by type of thing," commented Manager of Security Services Peter Jorg.

"It's kind of scary that you can't walk down the street without getting shot with a B.B. gun," said victim and WLU student Kristin Pomery. Kristin was walking home "around 8:30" after a night class, when she was shot twice in

the back of the leg. After removing and disposing of the pellets, Kristin phoned the police, who asked her to write a report of the incident, as four other individuals had reported similar incidences. The officer who responded to Pomery's call told her at the time that the pellets "were probably B.B.'s, as pellets would have most likely stayed in the leg."

Presently, the shootings have been attributed to a CO2-powered pellet pistol; two pellets were surgically removed from Roger Roberts, who had been shot once in the face and three times in the chest. One pellet impacted Roberts an inch from his eye, which he noticed after he discovered he was bleeding. Incidentally, this victim managed to get a look at the perpetrator's car, and his description matched some of the others received by police.

According to Sergeant Peter Russo of the Waterloo Regional Police Division Three Detectives Office, the car was first identified as an "older model '82 to '84 import, like a Datsun or a Toyota." Sergeant Russo also noted that the car was a four-door, and tan in colour. Presently, a 1998 Nissan, believed to be the car in question, has been impounded. The shots were apparently fired from the backseat of the vehicle.

There were also some descriptions of the vehicle that did not

match the one constructed by the detectives. A few victims described the vehicle as similar, but white or cream coloured. Sergeant Russo believes these descriptions to be inaccurate, as "tan can look cream at night if it is seen in certain lighting."

The Division Three Detectives Office faxed the application for a search warrant to obtain the pistol off to Newmarket on November 26. Other shootings took place on and around King and Erb streets, Albert Street and Seagram Drive, Victoria and Weber and Fischer-Hallman. While none of the victims were seriously injured, some surgical and non-surgical treatment was required.

In addition to the seven injuries were several reports of property damage to residential houses, car windshields, strip mall signs, and school windows. There had also been a previous pellet gun shooting reported on November 11, but the individual in question was not wounded.

Sgt. Russo also speculates that there "may be another victim out there." Police received information about another shooting, which they will be investigating further.

The main charges being laid against the suspects include pointing a firearm, assault with a weapon, possession of weapons dangerous to the public peace, and assault causing bodily harm.



Jennifer Asselin

One of the sniper's victims, Kristin Pomery, displays the scar left from the pellet that was embedded in her leg. Inset: A close-up of the wound.

Any charges relating to property damage are yet to be laid. Division Three Detective Office at 653-7700, extension number 333. Information can also be given to Crimestoppers at 1-888-222-TIPS.

Waterloo Regional Police urge anyone with information about the random attacks to call the

Students waiting for compensation

Bryn Boyce

Waiting... waiting... still waiting... It's been 23 days since the labour dispute called it quits and still no word on how the university is going to adequately compensate students. Moreover it's been 49 days since WLUSU first released its ten-point proposal designed to lobby the university for student reimbursement. Well there's good news and bad news.

Good news first.

The WLUSU initiative has more or less been fulfilled. Among others, convocation was rescheduled for December 8, there are no interest charges on outstanding bills during the

work action, midterms have been rescheduled with class input and there have been no labs or make-up classes during weekend or holidays. "The resolutions were designed to compensate undergraduate students for the services they are paying for and not receiving as well as addressing our academic concerns," said Ben Durrer, a Student Senator involved in the creation of the ten-point plan.

The shuttle service to U of W's Dana Porter Library has saved many a paper in the dying days of this fall term. Initially proposed by WLUSU and implemented by the Laurier administration, the service has run 12 hours a day since October 21 at great cost. The idea

sprung from two problems: the Laurier library's lack of completion and functionality due to construction, and the strike. Despite the speedy implementation and informal hiring procedure the shuttle service has operated effectively. "I think it's a nice gesture to the students for having put up with the ongoing construction," said Kevin McNeil, Hub Student Manager.

The speedy resolution of some of WLUSU's requests was encouraging early on but it's becoming more and more evident that the financially desirable resolutions are at risk of becoming fantasy.

(continued on page 2)

INSIDE

News	2
Opinion	6
Student Life	11
Feature	15
International	18
Sports	20
Entertainment	24
Business	26
Classifieds	27
Arts	28

Boisjoly's business ethics

Challenger Disaster 'Whistle-Blower' lectures Laurier on Business Ethics

Reed Curry

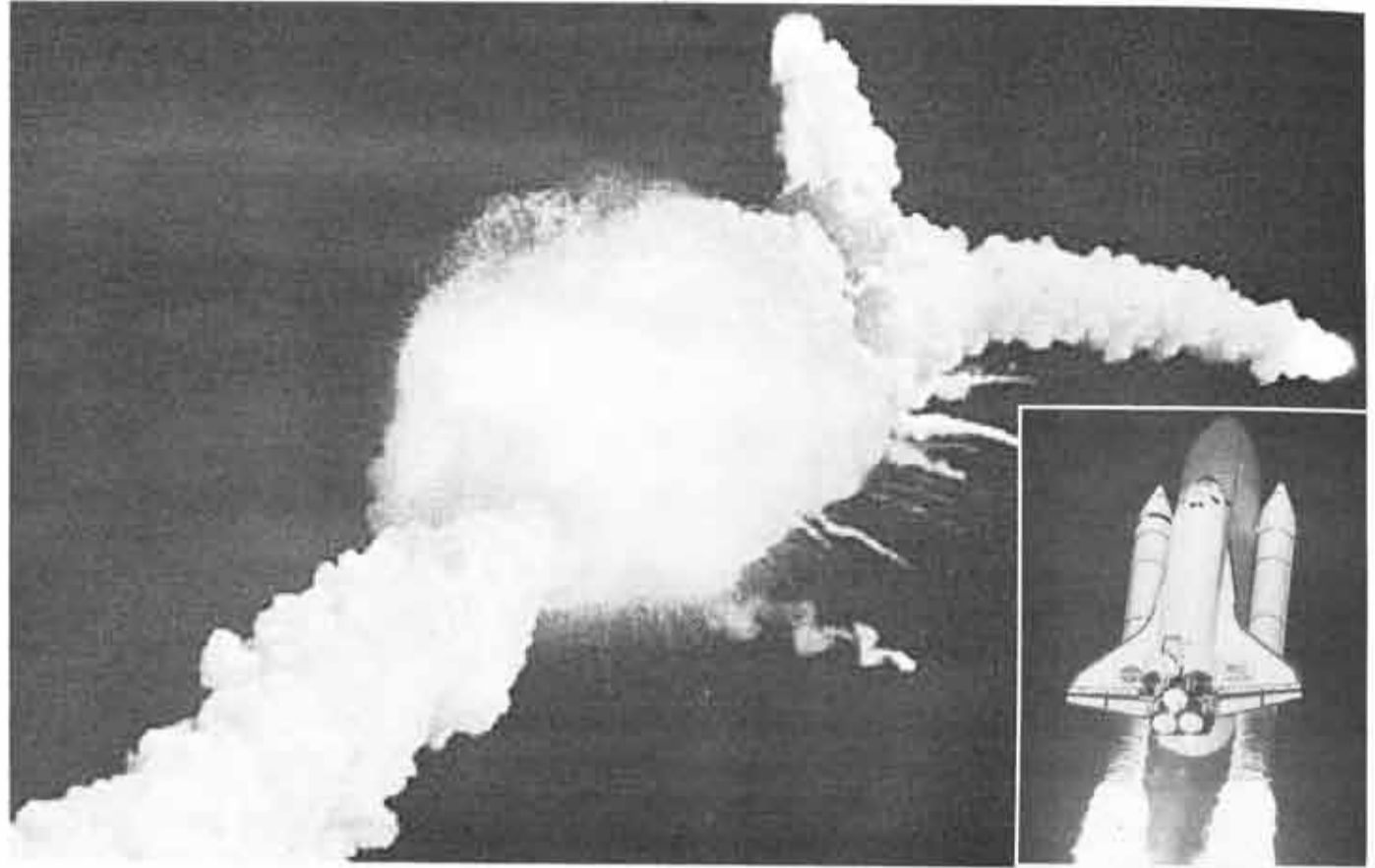
Aerospace engineer, Roger Boisjoly, renowned for his involvement in the 1986 Challenger space shuttle disaster, addressed members of the Laurier community in the Arts Building this past Friday.

Boisjoly was ostracized by his peers after the tragedy for going public with information pertaining to Challenger's faulty rocket booster design and his last minute attempts to avert its launch. "You're looking at a real life whistleblower," he told the audience. The importance of career ethics and individual morality was

discarded. The first shuttle, Columbia, was launched in 1981.

One year later, Challenger was completed, followed by Discovery in 1983, and Atlantis in 1985. Challenger flew nine successful missions before January 28 1986. On that fateful day, the world stopped for a moment when the shuttle exploded a little more than a minute after takeoff, killing the seven astronauts on board.

The twenty-fifth shuttle flight was to kick off the busiest and most ambitious year ever for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. No fewer than 15 missions were to be flown in



The tragic Challenger space shuttle disaster in 1986 brought new importance to ethical business practices



Boisjoly's lecture delves deep into "business ethics"

to form the basis of his discussion.

The U.S. Space Shuttle program was established in the early 1970's to create reusable craft for transporting cargo into space. Prior space craft could only be used once and were subsequently

discarded. The first shuttle, Columbia, was launched in 1981. One year later, Challenger was completed, followed by Discovery in 1983, and Atlantis in 1985. Challenger flew nine successful missions before January 28 1986. On that fateful day, the world stopped for a moment when the shuttle exploded a little more than a minute after takeoff, killing the seven astronauts on board.

The Challenger mission was unique, however, in that it was the first flight to take part in a program called TISP, the Teacher In Space

Program. Sharon McAuliffe, selected from more than 11,000 applicants, was chosen to be the first teacher in space. The immense publicity given to the new program turned the Challenger mission into the biggest space spectacle since the Apollo moon landings. As a result, NASA, already facing unforeseen competition from the European Space Agency, was under considerable public pressure to make McAuliffe an American hero.

Working as an engineer for Morton Thiokol, the company contracted by NASA to build the rocket boosters used to propel the space shuttles into orbit, Boisjoly first noticed a problem with the equipment during a post-flight hardware inspection in January 1985.

He found evidence that the low temperature on the day of launch, the result of what was then the worst temperature change in Florida history, had compromised the O-ring which was used to join the various segments of the rocket together, resulting in a gas leak. He claims that NASA management insisted that he soften this position for the final review board the following month. Later that year Morton

Thiokol conducted a number of experiments to test the resiliency of the O-ring material at low temperatures.

As Boisjoly expected, the results indicated that the rocket's structural integrity would be compromised at a temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit or less. He claims that this data was discussed with Morton Thiokol engineering management, "but was thought too sensitive by them to release."

Boisjoly suggests that Morton Thiokol was never willing to provide the resources necessary to address the problem. The company did not want to appear as if its products were flawed, so they insisted that he play down the O-ring problem; so did NASA, who Boisjoly alleges gave him "strict instructions not to express the critical urgency of fixing the O-ring."

It was not until the night before Challenger was scheduled to launch that any serious objection to the mission were presented. Florida weather forecasts indicated a hundred year low, 18 degree Fahrenheit overnight temperature. At the insistence of Morton Thiokol, NASA called an emergency meeting to discuss the former's recommendation not to launch. Despite their best efforts,

Boisjoly and a number of his co-workers could not convince NASA management to abort the Challenger mission. "I had to be able to prove it wasn't safe to launch," said Boisjoly during his lecture. "Could I prove it was going to fail? No. Could I prove it was going to work? No. It was a crapshoot!"

The first hour of his Laurier presentation was essentially a basic lesson in engineering and a technical explanation of what went wrong with Challenger. Nevertheless, the underlying theme is an important one, and especially relevant today considering the recent Enron and WorldCom scandals.

An advocate of strong business ethics, Boisjoly argues that the same moral values one uses to make decisions concerning their family should be applied to decisions made during their career. "Always tell your customers what they need to know, not what you think they want to hear," he said. "Abide by the Golden Rule; do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

...We're still waiting...

continued from cover

A nice segue into the bad news.

Both WLUSU issues pertaining to financial reimbursements or rebates are sketchy at best. The bookstore proposal, which would grant students a 25% discount off all course textbooks for their winter term, and the 10% tuition rebate are the two most beneficial proposals and therefore the most controversial. "It's been really frustrating because its taken a long time for the university to settle their accounts," stated WLUSU President, Andy Pushalik.

University policy does not permit the passing of deficit budgets, so whatever

does come of this problem it must fall under a certain range to be decided by the university. So don't expect wondrous returns for your patience, undergrads. Pushalik expects the official budget to be announced sometime in the coming week but said, "no matter what students get it won't be enough."

The university administration has been scrambling to get definitive statistics on the number of enrolled undergraduate students and the total funds available for compensation. President Rosehart confirmed that the strike has delayed the administration's accounting and hindered their ability to determine the total budgetary allowances.

Upon completion of this administrative process, the two proposals will be set for review by a Board of Governors sub-committee and presented to the Board early in December. The Board has the final say in tuition and bookstore discounts, like all financially-based proposals.

The talks between the university and the Student's Union have been bogged down in a debate about fair compensation. Students were affected and inconvenienced in varying degrees throughout the strike so the question remains: how do you proportionately recompense each student in one generic resolution? It comes down to fairness. "I don't think there's any mone-

etary compensation that will address every individual student's needs," said Dean of Students, David McMurray, "Will X dollars be a compensation or an insult?"

"There has to be some piece of the pie for the students because they are, in my eyes, the most important group on this campus," stated Pushalik.

They debate and we wait. And wait. Then wait some more. Luckily, time is running short, and a decision must be reached before the Board of Governors convene in December to decide precisely how much our patience and inconvenience is worth.

Student video production gets grant

Jacky Drouin

A new culture of independent and responsible media is on the rise in North America. As the Michael Moore's are putting gun laws, corporations, and the American government on the question stand, the documentary film of the 1999 Seattle protest, *This Is What Democracy Looks Like*, demonstrates the increase of politically active and conscious citizens within civil society. Something is going on, "a resurgence of public protest," as explained by Anthony Piscitelli, and this movement is being captured on film by: Voice And The Voiceless (VATV) productions.

"Mainstream media wasn't explaining the issues behind the protests," explained Matt Brodie, one of the originators of VATV. "They would capture the violence, the arrests, but never explained why people were there." Nearly nine months after the Quebec City protest in 2000, Brodie ran into Mike Brown at the public library where they wandered into a discussion about the role of media, what it captured, and what really went on in Quebec City.

"If you were there," tried to explain Brodie, "you would have seen that there were more people than the media estimated and that they were there for different reasons." A few weeks later, on New Years Eve, Brodie had the idea for a film to capture the issues surrounding protests.

The idea soon developed into a full-scale project, wherein people across Canada were interviewed on the topics of globalization, the role of civil society and "what makes people get out there to change things?"

"Our first project was the documentary film *The Resurgence of Public Protest in Canada*," explained Anthony, one of the core members of VATV productions. "There are two kinds of film documentaries: the first kind is like an essay, where you have a thesis and try to prove your point. The second kind is to examine what other people think, get them to convey the message and set the direction of the film. That's the direction we took."

In order to remain unbiased, the team



This subvertisement shows the tear-gas realities of recent economic policy protests such as those in Quebec City and Jakarta, Indonesia

reached out to as many different members of society as possible: "Groups at protests, businesses, the media, professors: we let them express the two sides, three sides, or all the sides of the issue."

"Close to 40 people have worked on this project," explains Matt, "putting in hundreds, some of them thousands, of hours." Matt is quick to point out that the progress of the film is due to the dedicated and strong vision of VATV productions, including the contributions made by the director Andrée Soulière, who has matched the vision of VATV.

The documentation began in Waterloo and slowly made its way to the G-8 Summit in Calgary last summer. The film is only a stepping stone, with the intent to develop a curriculum for Universities and high schools across Canada. The project has

been made possible by a grant received by the WLUSU and is still pending on the support of Roseheart.

"This hasn't been done on a uniquely Canadian scale," concludes Brodie, emphasizing the importance of portraying the Canadian protest scene as it is.

"We already looked at how this film could fit into the curriculum and to meet the provincial requirements," explains Brodie, pointing towards the civics classes offered in Ontario. While the film is in its final editing stages, the development of a curriculum including the history of public protest in Canada, on-line discussion tactics, and teaching tactics is still in the works.

"We're waiting on a couple of things," explained Brodie, noting the need for innovative volunteers to help direct the project and achieving charitable-organization sta-

tus. As an educational charity organization, the curriculum package will provide students with the experience in both writing and debating.

"The goal is to get students more well-rounded on debate issues," explains Anthony. "There's a whole history to public protest, and we've received a lot of positive support from the community and the people we've met along the way. This film will compel you to discover your own values and how they fit in to the bigger political debate."

People from Waterloo to Vancouver to Calgary have worked on the film: for those interested in volunteering, or finding out more about VATV, contact Lauren at (519) 884-6049, or info@vatv.ca.

Cord News Salutes: Francoise Ducros

Bryn Boyce

The beloved Francoise Ducros, with remarkable elegance, told George W. Bush what millions of people yearn to say. Despite her recent resignation, the ex-Director of Communication in the Chretien government belted out three earth shattering words, "What A Moron." Perseverant 'Jackass of the Week' and right-wing presidential candidate, Pat Buchanan, took this opportunity to call Canadians "spoiled brats." Despite the angry dissent from the far right, Ducros' fantastically sober statement deserves the inaugural position in the Cord's new "Cord News Salutes" section. Merci Francoise!

Judge For Yourself! Real Bush Quotes!

"It's hard to imagine Osama bin Laden understanding the joy of Hannukah"
 "A dictatorship would be a heck of a lot easier, there's no question about it."
 "I've coined new words, like, misunderstanding and Hispanically"
 "Rarely is the questioned asked: is our children learning?"
 "We're concerned about AIDS inside our White House - make no mistake about it"



It's 5:00am.

Fuck News.

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The Best New Movies in K-W!

Construction: It's fun, but it's not Lego fun

Stefan Sereda

As Laurier waits for the double cohort hammer to fall, further preparations are being made to expand the WLU campus. Although space for faculty and students to smoke is yet to be included in the building plans, construction on several other residential and educational facilities are underway.

Construction on campus is progressing forth steadily, with finishing touches being added to some projects, while more recent projects are developing speedily. According to the university's Assistant Vice President: Physical Resources, Ron Dupuis, five Laurier buildings, both old and new, are currently being erected or retooled.

The new Schlegel Center, a building wherein construction was rushed to completion for the opening of classes in September, is finally receiving minor finishing touches. Dupuis reports that "internal deficiencies" are being worked on and corrected, and landscaping is being done to the surrounding area.

Dupuis mentioned that the library renovations are undergoing a similar process of deficiency repair, with carpet being laid on the seventh floor. With books and shelves now moved back to the sixth floor, the seventh floor resources are soon to be returned. Work is set to begin on the new café located on the second floor, and it should be open for business in a few weeks.

Food services is expected to expand its capacity for the increasing number of WLU students as well, and is set to open a food outlet in Waterloo College Hall. This dining area, together with the residence's multipurpose room, are both months behind schedule, and set for completion in the new year.

However, as construction teams are working through the Christmas holidays, the building process for Laurier's new facilities remains on schedule. Two 'Sky' cranes have eclipsed the sun in the Laurier neighbourhood, as the new science additions and the King Street residence require such elevated construction.

The research expansion to the Science Building and the new teaching building are close to having first-floor concrete installed, a definite sign of progress. The area between Willison Hall, Bouckaert Hall and the Science Building has been fenced off for the past two months, and some minor landscaping outside of the fencing has been completed. This landscaping includes an addition to the Science Building's parking lot for accessibility. To accommodate the addition, a small area at the edge of Willison Field was paved over. Aesthetic improvements to the landscape outside of the Science Building were included as well.

Following the destruction of several wartime homes on King Street, construction on the new King Street residence has also begun. Set to house 300 incoming students in September 2003, footings are now emerging out of the



Matt Bernasi

Come Children... Play On Me... Climb Me... I Am Fun... I Can Break Things...

ground, with the first floor/parking garage ceiling to be poured in a month.

Both buildings are expected to be complete in September, for the influx of the double cohort.



File Photo

Can you spot Joe the Toothless Hobo sleeping in a window?

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For Cord News

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Crime of the Week

ASSAULT 2255 HRS MON NOV 11/02
An as yet unidentified male threw a knapsack at a multi-media student staff person when he requested him to vacate the room due to lock up time. The matter is under investigation.

FAIL TO REMAIN MVA 1700-2210 HRS TUE NOV 12/02

A WLU student reported that his vehicle had been struck by an unknown vehicle while parked in lot 3.

POSSESSION STOLEN PROPERTY 0305 HRS WED NOV 13/02

While on patrol, officers observed two males carrying computers on the north side of the Athletic Complex. When the officers approached, the two males dropped the computers and fled. They were chased but lost in the area of Marshall St. The Regional Police Canine Unit was called in but were unsuccessful in locating the suspects. Computers were recovered.

MISCHIEF WED NOV 13/02 - THU NOV 14/02

Bag o' crime



A WLU student reported that someone had smashed the window of her vehicle parked at 65 Lodge.

FALSE FIRE ALARM 0155 HRS FRI NOV 15/02

Person(s) unknown caused a fire alarm at the Science Building by activating a pull station. There was no sign of smoke or fire.

CAUSE DISTURBANCE 0330 HRS FRI NOV 15/02

Officers responded to a report of a fight at University Place. When officers arrived the fight had already stopped. The matter will be forwarded to the Judicial Affairs Council.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE 2040 HRS SAT NOV 16/02

Waterloo Fire Department responded to an alarm at Conrad Hall. No sign of smoke or fire was found.

MISCHIEF 2345 HRS SAT NOV 16/02
Person(s) unknown broke a window at one of the entrances to Little House.

MISCHIEF 0200 HRS SUN NOV 17/02
A male WLU student was observed kicking in a large window at the entrance to MacDonald House. The matter will be forwarded to the Judicial Affairs Council.

CAUSE DISTURBANCE 0120 HRS SUN NOV 17/02
A non WLU male was issued with a written trespass notice after being involved in an altercation at the Turret.

MISCHIEF 0013 HRS SUN NOV 17/02
A report was received that an unidentified group of males were throwing garbage cans and newspaper stands into the parking lot at University Place. Those responsible had already departed by the time an officer

arrived.

CAUSE DISTURBANCE 0210 HRS SUN NOV 17/02
Officers dispersed two groups of males who were yelling at each other in the Nichols Ctre Quad.

NOISE COMPLAINT 0305 HRS SUN NOV 17/02
A number of individuals were sent on their way after reports were received of excessive noise on Chancellor Dr.

NOISE COMPLAINT 2344 HRS SUN NOV 17/02
An officer responded to the area outside Little House after receiving a complaint of excessive noise. A number of individuals were spoken to and warned.



New Dean Of Grads

Bryn Boyce

Tack a new Dean to the list! Dr. Adele Reinhartz has taken over the role of Dean of Graduate Studies and Research from Dr. Barry McPherson. "There is a strong interest on the part of the institution to really grow, it's exciting to come to a place where you can help develop these things," said Reinhartz in reference to the graduate research.

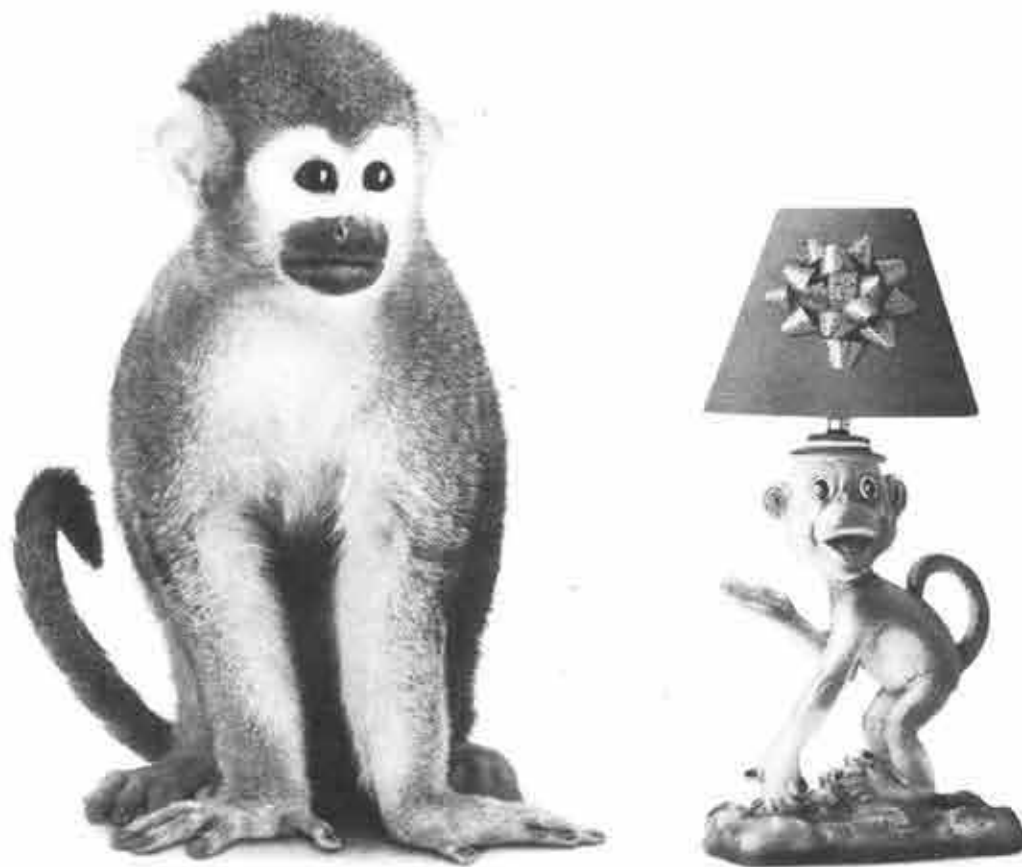
With an undergraduate degree from the University of Toronto and a graduate degree from McMaster, Reinhartz brings a good deal experience with her. She wrote her dissertation on the Gospel of John and was previously a professor of biblical studies at McMaster and subsequently their associate dean of graduate studies.

Her area of interest is Religion and Culture, and more specifically Judaism and Christianity in the Greco-Roman era. "Religion is fascinating, it is inherently multidisciplinary, incorporating language, art, music and culture," stated Reinhartz enthusiastically.

Her interdisciplinary interests are considered an asset to her new position which has kept her busy since July 1 this year. Unfortunately, Reinhartz was unavailable for Cord interview, undoubtedly due to the demanding nature of her new position.

Her passion for choir singing (she's a member of Hamilton's St. Michael's Church concert choir) and Canadian literature rides hand in hand with her fondness of religious studies.

She sees great things in the graduate program and is focussed on increasing the range of graduate programs being offered. She is anticipating growth in the Business, Science and Arts faculties and hopes to see a program open up in Music Therapy.



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Paul Tremblay, Chris Siemens, Jacky Drouin, April Campbell, Jessica McLaughlin, Joe the Toothless Hobo, Mary Hermesen, Reed Curry, Andy Owens, Justin Sharp, The Organics for continuity AGAIN, Regan for gisting bombed and leaving me to do the damage control, Caitlin - hope you feel better (we need your (pre-larges), Prince, Evie Costello and anyone who can't stand up for falling down, Nicole for all the jokes that are normally made at Stefan's expense (being made) at her expense, James Hivner, words that have too many vowels, dogs with wheels, faty-faty, Fight Club, the study space that provided the perfect context for unending jokes, enlarged heads that eclipse the sun, white people who love Public Enemy's *Fight the Power*, if P. Diddy wins the presidential race we won't call Jesse Jackson an international jackass for taking revenge, which is the better album: *Abbey Road*, *Sgt Pepper's* or *The White Album*? Brazilians in Brantford and in the shower, poets everywhere - except for Margaret Atwood, Happy Birthday Dan King, Tom Pale, Pipa, Stampy Jim, this contributors section for being bigger than dollface's head, Peter and Paul, cat tranquilizers, Special K, huffing exhaust pipes, cut members, Neil and Bob, the 6:00 o'clock news, brother Jim, Me, Me, Me, Me, Me, Me, Me, Nicole - were just kidding, we love your gunic.

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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 noon Tuesday on disk, or via e-mail at letters@wlusp.com. Letters must be typed or easily legible and may 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 not to publish material that is deemed to be libelous or in contravention with the Cord's Code of Ethics or journalistic standards.

Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editorial Board, WLUSP, WLU or Hamilton Web Printing.

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I am not John Lennon

Stefan Sereda



News Editor

I am not the next John Lennon. In all fairness to myself, this editorial is not even the next "I Want to be Vin Diesel." I would be embarrassed to advertise it as such.

That being said, the art world is plagued by marketing agents fresh from selling snow to Siberia, who seek to promote new pieces as "the next something or other." Constant comparisons to past achievements are being made: new horror movies are called "the next *Exorcist*," new science-fiction/adventure movies are called "the next *Star Wars*," new guitarists are the next Hendrix, new cartoons are the next *Simpsons*.

Alternatives to this sort of language include "a (insert classic reference here) for the new millennium" or "a (drop name here) for the next generation." You can guarantee to hear a variation of the former every decade, and the latter is just pathetic, considering artists such as Jon Bon Jovi will drop their own name to promote the same stale piece of excrement they dropped on the previous generations.

As much as this form of advertising is

used, the new art never lives up to the expectations. It is unfair to perpetually compare new art to its superior predecessors, no matter how sweet the money-making intentions are. In addition, original artists who choose not to go with the formula are ignored, because promoters have no frame of reference to work with if they can't call their latest prodigy "the next Elvis Presley." Worse still, most of the McArt served up recently does not deserve to

somewhere else. You do not put the same milestone down twice in the same place, as this is redundant, and only serves to remove recognition from the previous achievement.

A good example of this is calling Jakob Dylan "a Bob Dylan for our generation." Excuse Bob while he rolls over in the grave that he was buried alive in. Maybe you should excuse Jakob for inheriting big shoes that he could not possibly fill, but was expected to anyway.

When something finally sets a precedent, its respective industry bleeds it dry, and feeds the vampires that prey on quality art to feed their own pale, lifeless representations. Actually, this is how Yoko Ono manages to maintain a healthy diet on the blood of The Beatles.

If this may seem like the next petty thing to squabble about, just take this message into consideration the next time you see a commercial for a war movie that is allegedly "the next *Saving Private Ryan*." You know before you go to see it that it won't live up, so why bother? Never mind the products, don't buy into the ads themselves this *Buy Nothing Day*. Don't watch the regurgitated formula film, released by the studio for the sole purpose of using your money to make the next movie with the exact same intentions. The recycling bin belongs on the curb next to the garbage, dig it?

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

"Excuse Bob
Dylan while he
rolls over in the
grave that he was
buried alive in."

-Stefan J. Sereda

be associated with the classics. This is the equivalent of giving everyone and everything a standing ovation. If Carolyn Rhea's audience gives her a standing ovation at the beginning and end of every program, how genuine is this gesture when received by someone who is not such an appliance ready to be melted down?

Honoring the genius of previous generations is great, but milestones are called milestones for a reason: you recognize the ground that they covered, and you move on. You build on it, or go

LETTERS

Unjust rationality

I am writing this letter in response to an editorial "Rational Thoughts" that was published in The Cord last week. I personally believe that this editorial was an unjust attack on a group that was trying to bring change and awareness to Laurier. It is good to see that a group (no matter how small) is actually trying to alert prospective first years of potential issues they may encounter if they choose to attend Laurier. I find this a refreshing change from the trend of conformity that seems to breed here at Laurier.

Much like the author of that editorial has the right to express his opinion, these concerned students have the right to inform first years of what they see as problems here at Laurier. I will quote the author as saying, "They attempt to discredit what you stand for by confronting your guests with useless propaganda which serves no purpose other than to advance their own agenda..." I see many flaws with this statement. First of all, they were not trying to discredit this institution, they were merely trying to question practices they see as wrong. What kind of society would we live in if groups like this did not question establishment? What if Rosa Parks did in fact give in and go sit at the back of the bus? How would the moral fiber of society ever advance?

Second, by saying that they confronted prospective students with useless propaganda which only serves their own

agenda is ludicrous. What self-serving purpose were they trying to promote? They are all students here at Laurier and gain nothing when a grade 12 or OAC student decides not to come to Laurier, nor do they gain anything if they do decide to come to Laurier.

This agenda is not self-serving in the least, they too volunteered their time to offer a different point of view, and isn't that what democracy is all about? Letting the people decide for themselves by offering two or more points of view. I find it very ignorant of this author to dismiss these people's actions as pernicious. Pernicious is causing great harm or destruction, how were their actions pernicious in the least? Take your own advice, "If you don't have anything nice to say, please don't say it at all," and yes, no one reserves the right to rain on another's parade, so don't rain on theirs.

Curt Crossman

Smoking blenders

Everyday I see people smoking about three feet away from campus buildings (and as the evening comes on, directly outside.) Now, arguing about when one person's rights end and another's begin (especially relating to the smoking situation) is about as productive as sticking one's head into a blender, only messier. The point is this rule obviously carries no power in terms of possible repercussions when broken. Whether or not

you agree with this rule, or whether or not you choose to obey it, either have the rule and enforce it with some form of punishment or don't bother having it at all.

Evan Mitchell

Expensive jokes

Kudos to Ben Durrer's recent article titled "Faculty hide behind course evaluations." The current professor and current course evaluations on this campus are a joke! The punch line (the evaluations) are delivered by your professors in the final weeks of every term, but the true comedian in this farce is WLUFU who has fought arduously to keep the current impotent evaluations and the flawed process as is. Unfortunately, this joke falls at the expense of all students at Laurier and impacts the value of our degree.

Evaluations are an integral part of the learning process where, as a whole, we can see what is working and what is not. Not only in terms of just evaluating professors but evaluations should be designed to gain feedback from students in order to keep improving the level of learning in every program. For Laurier to offer superior programs in the ever-changing academic world, altruistic evaluations are a real, necessary and meaningful way to attain this objective.

However, true to form, antiquated unions, under the guise of protective

LETTERS

associations such as WLUFU, only wish to further their own agenda at the expense of students. The only way Laurier can excel and successfully compete is to have top programs, top students, and top professors. The last time I checked, our ranking has gone up along with admission cut-offs. What have remained unchanged in my four years at Laurier are those comical evaluations that WLUFU has barred the university and students from changing.

As writer John Ibbitson once said of unions in the education system: "They stifle competition, resist innovation and reward mediocrity. They are the greatest threat to public education in our time." This could not be truer in WLUFU's case and their self-serving ignorance only fuels and validates this sentiment.

Sadly, the inside joke continues...

Nicholas Avramis

Learning reviews

It's perhaps not surprising that as the term ends (especially this term) and finals loom an "Opinion" piece on our course evaluations appears. The thought that crosses my mind when the, to me, distasteful subject is raised, is that perhaps someone should devise a way of negatively weighting (or discounting) the responses of students

whose information on their instructor's classroom performance (and the handouts, etc, that may have distributed, including the Course Outline) is less than perfect. Indeed, perhaps interested parties should agree that only those students with an 100% attendance record (and who have digested the handouts and the Course Outline) should be casting "votes".

You wouldn't, methinks, attach much value to a review of "King Lear" by a reviewer who missed the opening scenes ("couldn't find the theatre"), dozed through much of Act Two ("had a heavy night"), was distracted during Act Three ("wondering what happened to Mrs Lear"), and missed most of the final scenes of the performance ("my spectacles got lost and then my hearing aid packed up")...and then composed a review trashing the bard (for not making the plot clear) and the players (for consistently late entrances and mumbling, or whatever) - and Mr Lear for unwillingness to give a private performance.

Or would you?

Good luck to y'all with your exams and Happy Holidays!

Bruce Young
Professor Emeritus

Business not all bad

"Business Eat World" - the title of the essay submitted Wednesday, November 13 by WLU's own school news editor: Bryn Boyce. After reading his views, such fiery expressions led me to believe this individual would love to get up and change the world, try everything in his power to eliminate capitalism, and ensure that the world's entire fortune is distributed equally among all of its inhabitants. In defense of the Laurier Business program, I have decided to compose a response to Boyce and anyone who supports him, so that perhaps I may succeed in aiding even a few individuals in recognizing that there are two sides to every coin.

When I read Boyce's article, I found his points completely bias "unrepresentative" facts. With regards to business, Boyce writes, "education will be nothing more than ...a profit turning investment." He adds, "What happened to self-improvement? Education for its own sake. As its own payoff?" As I read along, I couldn't help but laugh. He is attacking the entire Business program, not just a few bad apples. By doing this he is referring to all those enrolled in the program as money making machines. In Boyce's eyes biz students are eager to attend classes for the sole reason of raking in the cash. The heck with business ethics, morals, and productive goals! Right? - Wrong. Not all business stu-

dents come to universities to learn how to hoard the economy's money, to operate slave labor in third world countries, or to carry on financial misconduct. From a personal standpoint, I think Boyce's article was ignorant. I can say that I, for one, am not attending Business to sit in class for the next four years, remain oblivious to "the finer things in life," while feeding my brain technical knowledge until the day I become employed to function like some sort of heartless robot. Businesses, from production to distribution, make the clothing; the food we consume. Where would we be without businesses responsible for medical research, water treatment, and highway construction? There are several organizations who practice good business conduct, who give back to their communities.

I will not disagree with Boyce in one respect. It's true that there have been accounts when the hunger for fame and fortune has gotten out of hand. The WLU biz program, however, includes bright individuals with creative ideas. My case stands: business should not be regarded negatively. Boyce, you know as well as I that the owner of the corner store is surely not striving to be like Bill Gates, neither is he attempting to "employee him." Take a few bad business scenarios if you will, but those who attack business will not succeed.

Jennifer Steele

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Knee-jerk egos



Paul Tambeau

way for the Canadian Alliance to form a government is for them to either elect a levelheaded leader from the west, or elect someone from Ontario (like Tom Long). Either way, even if an Ontarian were elected to lead that party, I think the Reform party will resurrect itself and we would be back to square one in another decade. So what does the ring-wing in Canada need to do to fire the Liberals? I only see two options. The first would be for the Tories and the Canadian Alliance not to each run a candidate in a riding. In the last federal election, according to my recollection, there were roughly 35 seats in Ontario where the right-wing parties split the vote allowing the Liberal candidate to win. In that case, let the Canadian Alliance dominate the west, let the PC Party dominate the east, split up the Ontario ridings and only run one right-wing candidate. From there, there would likely be enough seats to form a strong minority government.

The second option, and the one I think is more viable, is to forget about the west. If Kyoto goes through, Alberta will see this as another example of the federal government taking advantage of the west for the benefit of Ontario and Quebec and they will never vote for a party from central Canada. In that case, we need to get a strong conservative like Mike Harris from Ontario, with a strong lieutenant from Quebec or New Brunswick (Bernard Lord) and take over the ridings in the Maritimes, Quebec, and Ontario. Conservatives like myself are fed up of the Liberals, and unless we get our act together they will be in power forever. We need a strong fiscal conservative who has a social conscious and a n aggressive plan to lead Canada in the right direction. Right now, we have Jean Chretien's ego running the place, and our citizens have everything to lose.

The country's health care system is in trouble, our economy is strong but needs a boost, our government is embroiled in bureaucracy and waste, our National Defence is weak and soon the Americas will stop involving us in the protection of our continent. I just hope that people like Mike Harris, Ralph Klein, and Bernard Lord will take an active role in finding some cohesion within the right-wing, and help us fire the Liberals.

What are the Tories to do?

Canada's right wing parties are in trouble, and there is no hope in sight for improvement. If things do not change quickly, the Federal Liberals will be in power for a long time and our country will continue to be led with knee-jerk policies and egos. In the meantime, the Liberals are being torn apart with Jean Chretien holding on to the Prime Ministers Office to spite Paul Martin. So even the only party that seemed to have its act together is in disarray.

The PC Party of Canada is in chaos. Joe Clark was a poor choice for leader to begin with, and now that he is leaving, there is only one candidate who has officially stepped forward to lead the party. Heward Grafftey was a Minister of State for Joe Clark, and it is very unlikely that he will make it very far.

The other hopeful is Peter MacKay, an MP from Nova Scotia. The only problem with him is that he is from the east, and I don't foresee a day when right-wingers from the west would vote for someone from the Maritimes. Also, when I spoke with him at a recent Ontario PC Convention about how he might bring the Canadian Alliance and the PC Party together, his answer was quite poor and it appeared as if he never thought about the issue before. He threw out the idea of having a mediator or an arbitrator to come in to resolve the problems. I am sure he has had much more experience dealing with the Canadian Alliance on this issue, but I certainly would not put trust in a leader who needed an arbitrator to get a group of politicians to agree on a matter of principle. The other right-wing alternative is the Canadian Alliance and the only way they will form a government is if they win a large number of seats in Ontario. Practically, under Steven Harper's leadership, there is no way that levelheaded Ontarians would vote for a socially conservative idealist from Alberta. In that sense, the only

French Bench

Get what you need



Jackie Drouin

The lessons that matter in life are the ones you'll carry to the ends of the earth. At least they'll be the ones you'll remember when you're standing at a train station in Frankfurt and not knowing a word of German. With nothing more than a knapsack filled with books and a pocketful of Euros, the innate desire to buy a hot pretzels from a street vendor made me realize that I should have paid more attention to my German lessons and less attention to the Cat Stevens albums I fell in love with last summer.

But we as human beings must learn to deal and work with what we have and know. I'm a pretty slow learner but I eventually catch on to things here and there. I know that despite my half-hearted attempts to recall the German phrase for 'pretzel', I'll continue to be my own personal self-distracter, humming along to Cat Steven's "Father and Song," noticing shiny objects and discovering that amidst it all music is truly

awesome.

Music is awesome, but why? I think it has something to do with the fact that it's a unifying force; it breaks through borders and overcomes languages. The Rolling Stones, U2 and the Beatles, having achieved international fame for being rock stars, are more widely known and loved than most rocket scientists and dictators. Some of these bands are probably closer to achieving any kind of world peace than some international organization just because people are actually listening to their lyrics.

Not everyone knows who Samuel Huntington is and his "Clash of Civilizations," but everyone knows John Lennon and his famous 'give peace a chance'. Huntington was trying to point out the reasons for future conflict, while Lennon was saying that a world without conflict was possible as long as we were willing to take a 'chance' on it.

Even the Rolling Stones' frontman Mick Jagger was quick to point out that while we may not get everything we want in life, 'you get what you need'. Peace and sustainable development? Oh these rock stars, with their fancy moves and crazy notions! Who would have known that these rock stars were providing the world with more than just music, but a whole new way of looking at the world? But that's what art is supposed to achieve, inspiring us see

the world as it is, and how it could be.

Back to the train station I finally figured it out.

"I need help," a phrase I picked up in second grade, has been a friendly backup statement I use every now and then, in believing that people in general are pretty nice and willing to help if you're willing to ask. A less pride on my part, and a little more significant feeling on the part of someone else, is something I can deal with. We can't do everything ourselves and in having to overcome our pride and stubbornness by asking for help is a hard lesson to learn, but one that helps us see to that we're all in this together. Even the Beatles knew the value of 'a little help from my friends'.

It's all about evolving with one another, and knowing that if we can't rock together, we can't walk together. Maybe the lesson of the day is that we have to forget our pride, just chuck rationality out the door, put on our dancing shoes and just go with the music. Because all in all, we're doing all right for ourselves, we just need to dance a little more. And eat more ice cream.

THE CORD WEEKLY

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I'm going to cry

Build your own trite Cord column



Chris Clemens

If there's one thing I have learnt while writing for the Cord, it's that you can't humanly entertain or please every individual who lays eyes on this particular area of typographical real estate. This is unsatisfactory in my opinion, considering that the personal guarantee for this bi-weekly column is "100% Guaranteed or Wilbur Will Eat the Paper it's Printed On". To save poor Wilbur from ingesting any more newsprint, I have decided that this week will mark an important step in my journalistic career. I will pack so many commonplace opinions and overdone complaints into one piece of writing that the average reader has to identify or agree with at least part of the column. Choose the bracketed options below that suit your viewpoints best and enjoy a custom tailored opinion that nobody can hate.

As I sat in (a bar, my room, the Concourse) last night, I began thinking about how most people here at Laurier have no idea why they're even at school. It's completely obvious that the purpose of post-secondary education is to (get you a job, get hammered a lot, steal all of your

hard-earned money). Anyone who's here for a different reason is probably a (square, alcoholic, communist). My opinion is right.

On a related note, I really (despise, love) everything about (WLUSU, the Cord, my hair). It's plain to see that everything is (going wrong, perfectly fine) here, and people should just (loudly complain, shut up) about the way things are going. There's no way that (bias, equality, conditioner) has anything to do with this issue, so can't we please just all join arms and sing (Iron Maiden, Dave Matthew Band, church hymns) in the Quad as a symbol of our desire to create a (unified utopian, moderately content, anarchist) student body? My opinion is right.

Oh mercy, lets move onto social commentary. I think that people of our generation are too (inconsiderate, shallow, Xtreme). Fixing this is top priority for the future of humanity and (public floggings, psychological help, less Mountain Dew) is what's needed! Also, what's the deal with sex? University kids are schlocking (way too much, not enough) these days. Fix it! Now! Be a model student, go to the Boar's Head Dinner and as usual, my opinion is right.

Alright, that's enough of that. Sardonic writing aside, the point here is that trying to please everybody with your opinion is ridiculous. The more you try to homogenize your views to coincide with the rest of the world's, the less entertaining those ideas become. I've noticed a disturbing trend in individual opinions lately, in people who feel that recycling commonplace societal concerns as manifestations of their personal beliefs are satisfactory replacements for

genuine opinion. Sure, you may mirror the majority's attitude in certain aspects of life, but why try to pass off saying something like "Nobody liked the WLUSA strike" as a unique idea and tell people what they already know? It's not okay to be smug about being right if you aren't saying anything new.

I see this summarizing of popular opinion as a form of redundant cultural regurgitation that really isn't necessary. We're university students with a highly developed and specialized outlook on life and there's no reason at all that we shouldn't be able to devise our own concepts, or even a uniquely individual twist on a common viewpoint. Sure, not everybody is going to agree with you or like what you have to say, but there's a price you have to pay to be different. If things keep going this way, everyone's opinions will be capa-

ble of being neatly packaged into three or four rigidly overarching ideologies and Wilbur will eat this column no more because my views will be perfect duplicates of yours. Wallow in secure, uninteresting mundanity or take a chance on a fresh new idea, it's up to you.

Peaceful Respite

Bryn Boyce



News Editor

Ahh, Buy Nothing Day, a peaceful respite from our daily consumer grind. BND is a lot like winter really. Snow softens life so well. It quiets the world and calms the mind. Notice BND's convenient date, November 29. Only 27 shopping days left to fill the void in our lives! Take a day off!

I work at a mall book store during the holidays and it rapes your spirit. Poor me right. A bookstore. Well it's not the work that does it. It's the customers you deal with that push you. They're the most desperate and despicable people in all humanity. I'm one of them. Frenzied and rampant, we scavenge around the stores for what we need. It's the commercial scenery that jolts you. The ocular toxins, banners and billboards. Visual ejaculate at best.

Wait. This is the part where you scream "HYPOCRITE"! Because what right do I have to criticize if I'm part of the problem? Well you see this problem is bigger than just the individuals. It's about the whole, the broad principle of consumerism. As Jean Chretien put it, with trademark eloquence, the West is seen as "arrogant, self-satisfied and greedy and with no lim-

its." All of society plays a part in this overbearing consumer wasteland. Nothing changes unless everything changes.

So what's the solution? BND? This narrowly focussed event? One day? What difference does it make if we participate or not, it changes nothing. You're right, this action isn't going to be a consumer revolution. For better or worse tomorrow will appear the same. MacDonalds will still McHappily propagate obesity and Gap will still lash out against the principles of human dignity, "Everybody in Chains." BND may be a benign protest in its practical sense but it's a powerful symbolic gesture. If everyone gave up spending for one day, it would finally represent a true shift in attitude. Instead of unconsciously basing our lives around Ecko or American Eagle, we would set a new sustainable consumer precedent. Actions follow ideas and we need so desperately to change our ideas.

Some may disagree. This system works well all in all. Consumerism is a blessing not a curse. It fuels growth, prosperity and everyday low prices. Bullshit. This prosperity benefits a minority (conveniently to which we are all party) and it comes at a cost borne by blank and distant faces. Ones we do not care to see. Ever.

I only hope that at least BND will make people think about how we all live. That's all it was ever designed to do. Don't scoff at its practical impotency, instead take your day to think about the destructiveness of mass consumerism. Take a walk in the snow. It's so peaceful, so calm, so beautiful and best of all: it's free.

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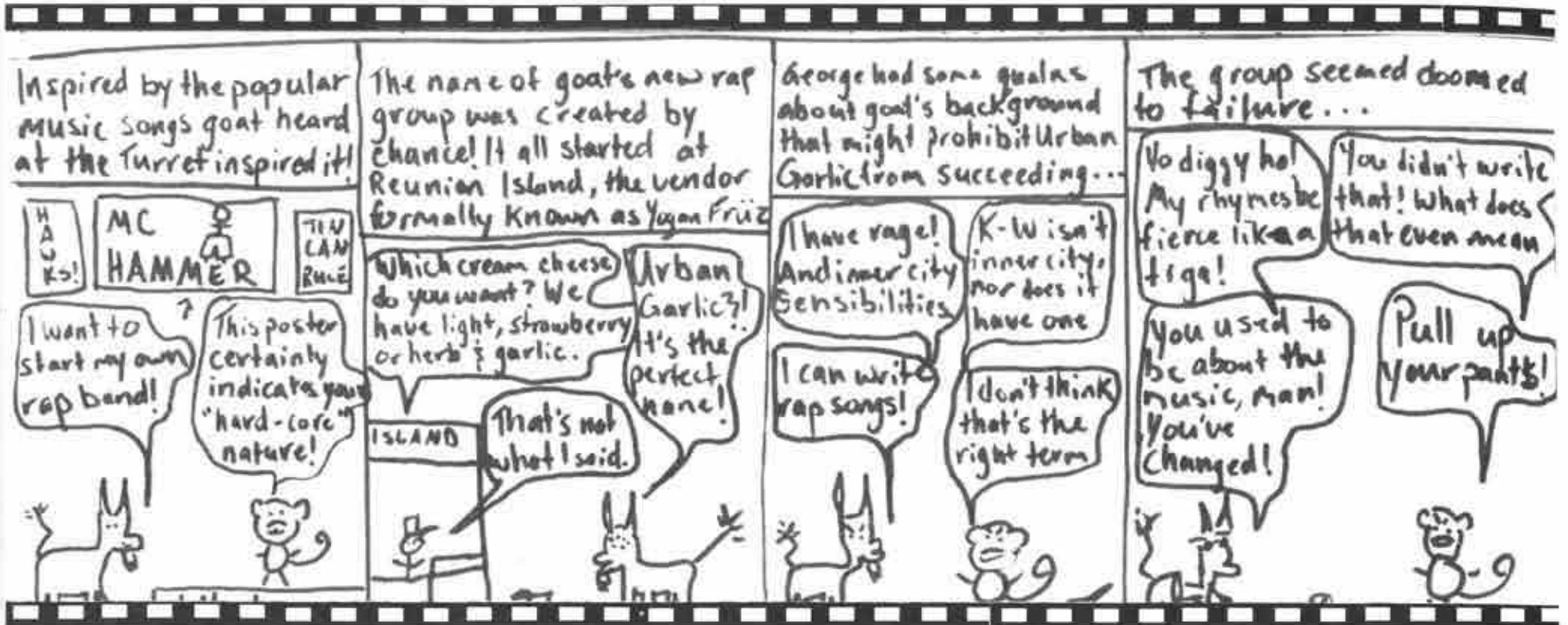


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You can't have it all

Christine Cherry



Editor-in-Chief

You can have it all - a great career, a happy marriage and well-adjusted children. You will never have to decide between the two. This has to be one of the most damaging myths in current circulation amongst women of my relative age group.

When I started here at Laurier I thought I was on the path to a bright future. I was going to become a lawyer and meet and marry a great guy who enjoyed reading Hemmingway as much as I do. After a few years, once my husband and I had established our careers, bought a nice house in the suburbs and purchased a sensible yet luxurious SUV, we would produce two neat, clean and highly intelligent children. This is where my planning stopped.

Even after I started to work at The Cord and my aspirations turned to journalism I failed to think about who would be there with my family while I was out chasing down the next story? Journalism doesn't allow you to keep regular hours, so who would tuck my children and husband into bed each night? Would I be willing to forego exciting assignments because they would separate me from family for too long?

It wasn't really until this year, with graduation looming in front of me, that I finally began to do some rational thinking and plan-

ning. If I have determined that it is not really possible for me to have it all, did I make an unconscious choice when I started at Laurier? Without knowing it at the time, had I already decided to place my career first?

This question began to trouble me as I took a look at the accomplished women around me. Not too long ago, The Cord staff went to the Toronto Star for a workshop that included three speakers on the career of foreign correspondents. Two of the speakers were male: they both had wives and two young children. The woman was single and childless. Maybe this was just a fluke. It doesn't prove my theory, I thought.

I then looked around our WLU community. The majority of female professors I have met are unmarried and without kids; the

A friend of mine was told by a guy that he wouldn't date her because she makes more money than he does. She was shocked. I wasn't.

exact reverse stands for the male profs I know. Of the married female professors, the majority had to, at one time another, postpone their education, often their Ph.D., while they cared for their small children. Not that there is anything wrong with staying home to care for children, but how much did these women suffer professionally to do this?

From my observations, most professional women seem to sac-

ribose their personal lives. A good friend of mine was told flat-out by a guy that he would not date her because she makes more money than he does. He wanted a girl who was willing to stay home and look after the household. She was shocked. I wasn't. I wonder if all men were honest with themselves, how many would realize that they too feel this way.

Simple biology determines that women will be the ones to bear children; it's not fair but it isn't going to change. Women have just become so used to getting everything they want that I think most believe they can overcome this biological hurdle. More women my age are under the impression that they will be able to establish their careers first, delaying having children until well into their late 30's and early 40's. The honest truth is that older women have a much harder time conceiving. Regardless of advances in fertility treatment I wonder how many of my friends are going to be devastated when they find out that they waited too long.

These same women, if they have children, may also be surprised to find out how difficult it really is to work and have children. The choices they will have to make, such as going to their daughter's soccer game or finishing off that project that their boss demands to be done for the next day, are going to be very difficult, and I think unexpected.

Like it or not, you can't do it all. Supermom. Superwoman. Supermyth.

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Just give me some space

With exams fast approaching, The Cord examines the quality of study space on campus

Jennifer Asselin

Distracting, small, loud, dim...no, I'm not describing the attributes of my last date although some of these may apply, but rather the conditions available on campus for studying. As most will attest, the study space available around WLU is very limited and with the university expanding at a rate beyond our control space is dwindling by the minute.

Although space is limited and the subject has been the topic of conversation among students for quite awhile there doesn't seem to be much going on to fix it. Basically students have to deal with what has been handed to them.

"It's not all crap," commented Jeff Latosik a fourth-year student big into the issue of study space. "There are very few good areas though. Places are overcrowded and there are always distractions," he continued.

Overall, the consensus is that the space available to students is not measuring up. For the most part students don't want to think about studying never mind study space but with exams looming in the distance the issue arises. After hearing a plenitude of complaints made on how unreliable study space around campus could be I thought I would check it out for myself and report my findings.



The library scores top marks as an on-campus study spot. Just ask Joe the Toothless Hobo. He knows.

Library

The library was my first destination since this is where I usually choose to study. I was interested in what all of these renovations had to offer. I was pleased to see the addition of new carrels to each floor, each equipped with their own power source, light, and eventually they will all have a data jack for easy access to the network for

those who have their own laptops.

Although there were many new carrels I found the large "clusters" of carrels located on a couple of the floors to be a breeding ground for distraction. Although at the time of surveying the situation there weren't many people around, I figured that closer to exam time (where more people are looking



Entering the Solarium is much like walking into a group of homeless people: you feel weird. Just ask Joe the Toothless Hobo.

for space) the carrels would probably fill up quickly. Having so many people in one tiny space directly next to one another even though each have their own "walls" to block distraction, just doesn't seem like a productive learning environment. This is especially true if you are one that gets easily distracted.

"I wish there were more tables, so I can see out the window and not get so claustrophobic," replied frustrated second-year student, Laura Milton. With the reconstructing of the library, it is apparent that those in charge didn't take into consideration this need for a larger workspace, as there are very few actual tables available on the different floors.

I also discussed study space in the library with the Renovations Manager, Michael Skelton. "Once construction is done we will have even more carrels available," he replied. "On floors four through seven we will have clusters which will seat 48 alone." He also went on to discuss the addition of "Grad carrels" that will be assigned to MA students, as well as "Ph.D. Study Rooms" that students will be able to sign out. I was quick to ask about undergraduate student and the options available to them, "Besides the carrels, there will be the group study rooms on the second floor as well as floors five through seven that seat eight to ten people each." Skelton commented.

For a school that is known for its excel-

lence in undergraduate studies, you'd think there would be a bit more available. Instead of having rooms for Ph.D. students, why not "undergraduate rooms"? With this question in hand I asked about whether or not students actually had any input on the renovations made with regards to study space. I was met with an unfortunate, "No." "Years ago we received input but for these renovations we asked a consultant that was knowledgeable in the library field," replied Skelton. My question is, if students are so concerned with study space and because it is such an issue here, why wasn't there any discussion between students and the renovations team?

Essentially the library as a whole does well in facilitating a quiet environment for those who need silence to study. The only problem is the construction. With all the hammering going on, it can sometimes be a bit distracting depending on the time of day you go. With construction, this also means that group study rooms are not always accessible and that only some of the floors are open.



The Torque Room is lacklustre in terms of a study spot, but if socializing or relaxing is your goal, it's a great place. Just ask Joe the Toothless Hobo!

Torque Room

Next, I chose to stake out The Torque Room. Since this is a high traffic area, in order to study, you need to pick and choose the time of day you come at. As second-year student Mike Morris said, "You build up the tolerance for the 'white' noise, that is the noise of other people's conversations and the little things that you could find distracting if you paid a lot of attention to them."

Basically this is an area to study only if



The Science building is not bad as a study alternative, especially if you want people to see that you actually study. Just ask Joe the Toothless Hobo.

you are quite disciplined and can separate

yourself from the hustle and bustle of the world around you. The social scene does let you "get it out of your system," replied Morris. "You come to socialize for a bit but then you just jump in [to the studying]."

Of course it's whatever works for you but for someone like myself who needs quiet and enjoys socializing way too much, this study space is not ideal.



Solarium

I then checked out the Solarium. As I walked into the area I felt like an outsider, as if I didn't belong. Everyone watched as I entered the window-encased room. I later realized that it is an automatic reflex, since the room is so quiet, to direct your attention to the door once someone has opened it as it disturbs the silence. Although I mentioned that I like quiet, this place was too quiet. Each foreign sound echoed and made the lack of noise eerie. Lighting is also a problem as much of the room's light is attributed to natural light and as the sun goes down so does the light available to students. I didn't stay long, as I did not like this atmosphere at all. To each his own I suppose.



Science Building

The Science Building was my last destination. Once again I experienced the echoes of conversations and small noises around me. The area did have low traffic at the time though which was good. This is a good place for students who do not have classes here as you are unlikely to know as many people and therefore won't get distracted as easily by passerby's. Lighting was poor though as once again a lot of the light comes from outside. This building is also home to a few rooms designated as "quiet areas" which are helpful to those seeking the refuge of a quiet space.



There are other spaces available that I only briefly checked out including student study spaces on each floor of the DAWB, residence study rooms, the dining hall and the 24-hour lounge. Although most of the areas I looked at seemed quite empty at the time, with exams creeping up I'm sure these spaces won't remain vacant for long.

Although our campus is expanding, and as it seems, space is shrinking, try to take advantage of the study spaces that are available rather than dwelling on those that have gone missing.

Smiling Jenn's study tips

(Because once smiling Jenn is better than none)

- Never study right before the exam - if you don't know it by then, chances are you won't ever know it
- Fish = Brain food - eat lots!
- Acronyms are your best friend. For example, if you were trying to remember "Jenn's the Best Student Life Editor" you would create the acronym JBSLE and you're good to go
- If you are a visual learner, rewrite important sections of your notes to refresh your memory. If you are an audio learner, recite important sections of your notes

MADD for BACCHUS bucks

Stefan Sereda

Usually when money is being exchanged in the Concourse the area looks like a market place, with corporate wares up on the block. Laurier's most recent deal did not require booths or haggling, just one oversized novelty cheque.

Residence Life and Laurier's branch of BACCHUS gave MADD Canada a cheque for \$1,730, at a reception in the Concourse of the Fred Nichols Campus Centre on Monday November 25. MADD representative Sandra Henderson was on-hand to receive the charity funds, which Vice President of Student Services Sophie Kotsopolous calls "an amazing accomplishment."

The money given to Mothers Against Drunk Driving was generated through two fundraising events. Residence Life and BACCHUS teamed up to host an on campus 'dry' night for first-year students and also ran the Inter-Residence Council Formal. Though they had set their initial goal at \$1,000, the events proved so suc-

cessful that the expectations of the two groups were nearly doubled. "It is a true testament of the dedication that these two organizations display as they surpass their initial goal of \$1,000 and break the limits for charity," remarked Kotsopolous, regarding the amount raised by BACCHUS and Residence Life.

The 'dry' event, this year's annual Freshfest, was held in The Turret and for the first time with no corporate sponsorship on November 4. The dry night provided a fun-filled evening, complete with prizes and a mocktail competition, which also addressed controversial issues. The event gave BACCHUS a venue to discuss the pressure on students fresh out of high school to indulge in the consumption of alcoholic beverages during their first year of college or university. BACCHUS also assessed the effects of drinking after a year or two of engaging in excessive liquor-swilling activities.

The event also included a Don auction, in which residence students placed bids on their chosen residence Don. This event alone proved to be a tremendous success, raising almost \$1,500 for MADD.

LUCK auction raises \$10G



Matt Benassi

Students get LUCKy at last weeks LUCK Charity Auction. If Paul Tambeau is up for bidding, then what the heck is this other guy pointing at?

Mary Hermsen
Jennifer Asselin

Four-leaf clovers ran amok last Wednesday as a bidding war went down between students at Wilf's. No, this wasn't some random evening of fun but rather it was the LUCK Charity auction that was the cause of all the ruckus. On November 22, LUCK (Laurier University Charity Council) held its 7th annual charity auction with proceeds going to the Canadian Cancer Society. Amy Pergolas, LUCK's coordinator, says the reason why LUCK chose the Canadian Cancer Society as opposed to other possible charities is because "Cancer is one of the things that effects everyone in some way." Cancer is something that is becoming so widespread that everyone knows at least one person who has had or who has been touched by its effects of.

Wilf's was packed as students were out in full force with only standing room available. At 5:30 participants picked up their auction paddles and by 6:30 the event was underway. Andy Pushalik, WLUSU president, started off the evening. Recognizable people from around campus were paired with charming prizes. Some of the prize packages included in the event were Mama Mia tickets which were paired up with WLUSU's very own cool cat Wilbur McLean, CN tower tickets, GoodLife Fitness Gold

Memberships and a whole lot more.

WLU students' generosity was endless throughout the evening and LUCK volunteers as well as those present were shocked at the outpouring of contributions. "It is a warming thought that people are so willing to open their wallets and their hearts to such a wonderful cause" states Nicole Wilker, an observer at the event. The piece de resistance of the evening was the much anticipated prize from the Dean of Students, David McMurray, who closed the auction at 9:30 p.m.

The crowd in Wilf's erupted as Dean McMurray's prize was announced. The prize included a home made breakfast at his home, a ski trip to New York, a spa package, plus a dinner at the famous Prince of Wales Hotel. This earned a final bid of \$1,220 and was purchased by a team of five. This trip came right out of "Daddy Mac's", as he is affectionately referred to as, pocket. There is one stipulation - both he and his family will be accompanying the winners on the trip.

Overall, there were many choices pertaining to the items students were able to bid upon with a student executive coming out with each item. The executives were chosen to accompany the prizes in order to help encourage bidding. "They are considered to be role models to many people," replied Laura Mitchell, a LUCK executive, as she explained the appeal of the student executives.

The LUCK team organizing the event included 40 volunteers and 4 executives. Many donated items sprung from the many volunteers who had contacted the sponsors on their own. Sponsors included local businesses such as the Green Monkey on King St. and Aesthetics located Regina.

The event also included a silent auction, the first of its kind this year. This is a direct result of the amount of prizes donated to the auction. The silent auction alone managed to raise approximately \$2,000 towards the cause.

This year's goal was to raise a total of \$10,000 for the organization. However, the auction was quite successful in exceeding their goal as they managed to raise \$10,164. This was a huge increase from last years effort which raised \$6,300. The money will go to improving Cancer treatment and helping to fund further research.

"I think everyone was surprised that we made and exceeded our goal made at last year's event," Amy Mallett, a LUCK member, said.

Most of the success of the event can be attributed to the incredible student support it received. "Wilf's was completely full the night of the event," Mallett pointed out. There was plenty of interest from student organizations, as much of the bidding came from other WLUSU-based clubs.

Organizers of the event look forward to upcoming activities as the student body continues to get LUCKy.



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- A cockroach will live nine days without its head before it starves to death
- Banging your head against a wall uses 150 calories an hour
- The male praying mantis cannot copulate while its head is attached to its body. The female initiates sex by ripping the male's head off
- The flea can jump 350 times its body length. Which is like a human jumping the length of a football field
- Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people.

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I wanna be the thimble!

Uncle Penny Bags brings life size Monopoly to the Concourse

Jessica McLaughlin

A giant hat walking around the Fred Nichols Campus Centre? A car driving through the Concourse? Students are getting sent to jail? Uncle Penny Bags keeping a watchful eye over Monopoly pieces come to life? Has our school gone mad you ask? Don't worry, it's just a giant board game.

Last week, the Concourse was host to everyone's all time favourite board game, Monopoly. You couldn't have missed it, as the game was life size. That's right, Monopoly momentarily changed from the days of sitting around the table in the den to a huge version decorating the Concourse floor. The ever-inventive members of the A-team presented this big event for the second year in a row, as the idea initially sprang from an A-Team brainstorming session last year.

Each time a player landed on a square their name was entered into a draw for a prize; each property was sponsored by a different business. The better the property the better the prize, with the main sponsor, Molson, taking over the always popular Boardwalk and Park Place.

Preliminary rounds were held on Wednesday as the participants played the original-sized board game. Four games were played with the winners of each moving on to the life size game. Those that made it to the final human round would then get the prize advantage, as they were able to have twice the chance at winning.

The big game took place in the Concourse on Thursday. Participants got so into the game that they went as far as to dress up as the pieces. There was the race car (complete with working headlights and turn signals) wheelbarrow, cowboy and the top hat. The four pieces were portrayed by Dan Chaput, Andrew Derlin, Kirby Schell, and Conner Donaldson. Uncle Penny Bags himself even made a guest appearance. A giant monopoly board including accurate properties and squares covered the floor in front of The Hub while real life pieces took turns circling the board, buying property and competing for prizes.

A prison guard was even present to escort some unfortunate players to jail, that is, unless they had a get out of jail free card.

The question that must be burning in everyone's mind though, is what exactly makes people act crazy enough to dress up in outrageous costumes in the middle of a regular day of classes? The answer is simply prizes, that's what. Prizes from sponsors included gift certificates for Loose Change Louie's, a hockey jersey and gift packs with miscellaneous items included. The top

prizes were a Sony Play Station 2 and a snowboard.

During the game, each player was given a scout to keep track of his or her finances since the A-Team was obviously not crazy enough to play with real money. The game was then given a time limit of two-and-a-half hours and the player with the most assets came out the winner. The game was met with student's enthusiasm as onlookers were aplenty and after all was said and done, Dan, AKA the race car, was given the coveted title of winner. Prizes were then handed drawn that evening at Wilf's.. The A-Team looks forward to more possible life-size events throughout the year. Let it be known though, if any educational value was to be gained by this activity, it that the race car always wins people, always.



Christine Cherry

Only Laurier students would find humour in sitting in a wheelbarrow in the Concourse.

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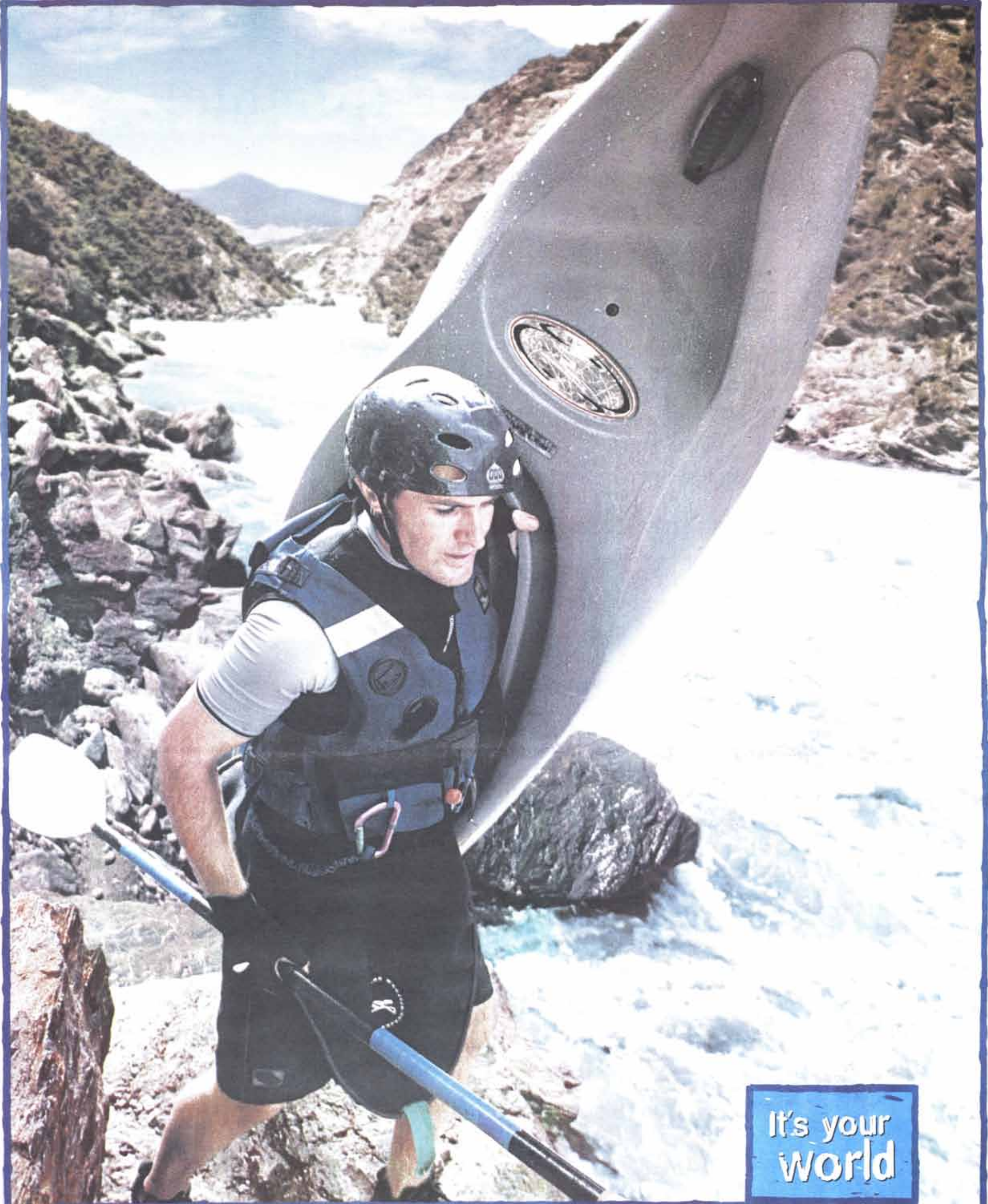
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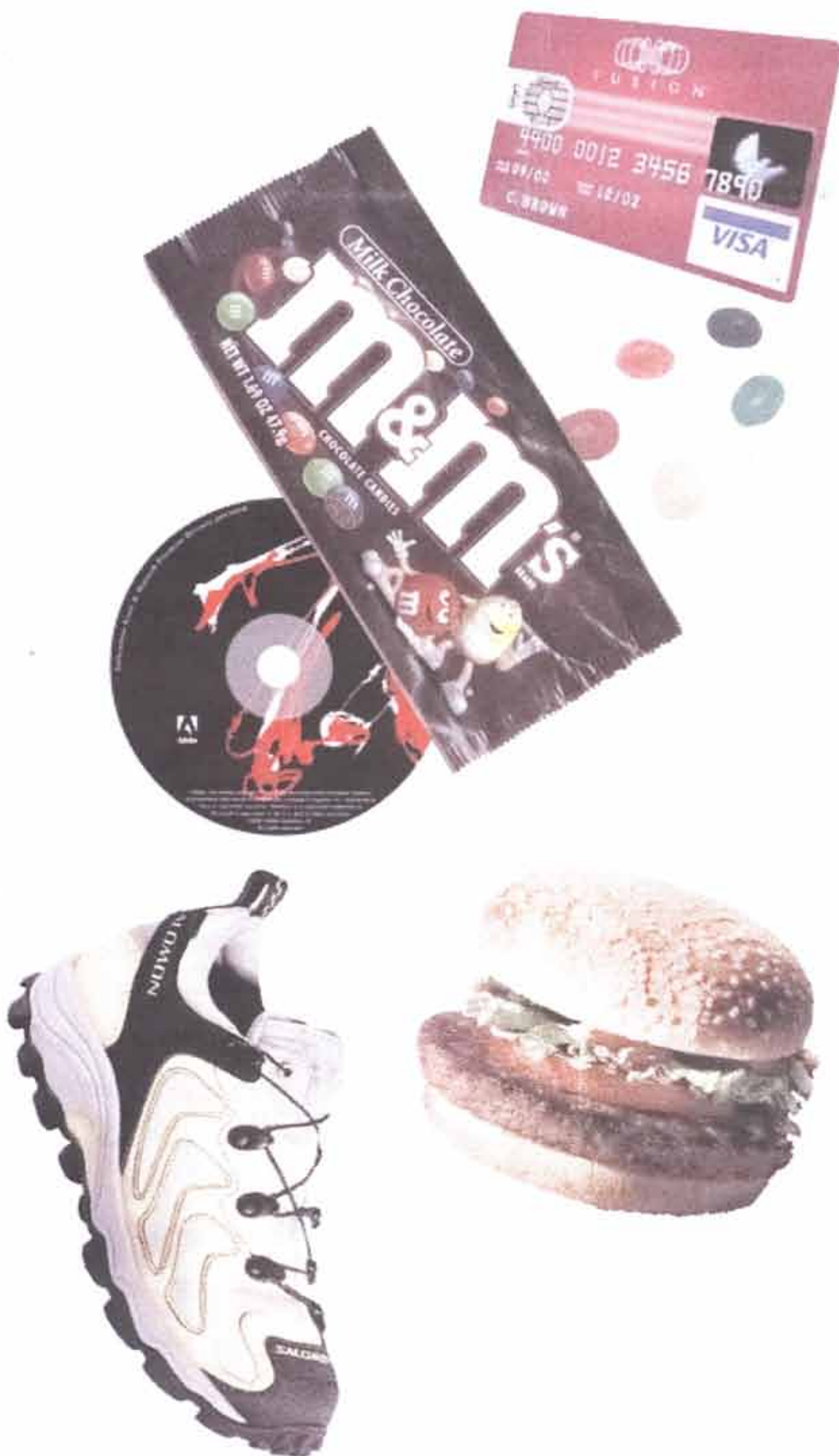


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Buy Nothing Day

Mike Borrelli
President of
Laurier Students &
Public Interest Research
Group



For 24 hours, don't buy a thing. This is the challenge presented to billions of consumers on Buy Nothing Day (BND), an annual tradition that highlights the dangers of a global economic system privy to mass consumption. The Media Foundation, an organization behind Adbusters Magazine and the promotion of BND claims that BND, is a "personal statement and public experiment." As such, they invite consumers to withdraw their purchases for a full day in an initiative dedicated to non-consumption and fighting the scourge of affluence common to North American society. Started 11 years ago in the Pacific Northwest, BND takes place on the day after the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday, the traditional start of the Christmas buying season. BND will be celebrated at WLU for the second time on November 29; the event is sponsored by Laurier Students for a Public Interest Research Group, Laurier Activist New Democrats, the Enviro/Human Rights Club, among others. This year, it is estimated that 9 million people in 30 countries will take part in BND by not participating in the free-market system for 24 hours.

Martyn Lee writes in the Consumer Society Reader that, "historians looking back at the twentieth century may well conclude that it was the century of the consumer society." Lee claims that the changes over the past hundred years - where we live, our forms of transportation, our food, how we spend our leisure time - all reflect the way in which mass goods have become available. This rate of consumption has not only changed our material wealth but the very way we conduct our lives. Consumer society in North America has its roots in the post-war credit-card revolution; credit was extended to consumers in the 1950's as a convenient time-saver. The ability to "buy now and pay later" led to an increasingly expanding consumer economy in the United States and most Western nations in general. It is only been recently that the consequences of a "consumer culture" have been seriously considered, but there are many: environmental degradation, poverty caused by exploiting cash crops in poorer nations, and creating a social atmosphere where people are constantly over-drawing, over spending, and overdoing.

On a global scale high levels of consumption are mostly seen in the world's richest nations. The Sierra Club reports that the US, with less than 5% of the world's population, consumes almost 25% of the world's resources. Other wealthy Western nations along with US, account for 20% of the world's population, but use more than 70% of the globe's resources. These figures point directly towards a crisis of consumption, resulting from an economic model that is hardly sustainable for most Western countries, let alone for all 6 billion of the earth's inhabitants.

It is this sense of economic deficiency that has led environmental groups, social justice activists, and concerned organizations to work for the education of citizens about the consequences of their consumption. For example, the Earth Day Network

(www.earthday.net) allows consumers to calculate their "ecological footprint", or, how many natural resources a person's lifestyle requires. Although our lifestyles seem mundane and our luxuries are taken for granted, many North Americans would be surprised at how big their footprint is. Even someone like me, who considers himself to be a mild resource user, was surprised to discover that it would require more than six planets worth of resources for everyone to live a lifestyle like I do. According to the site,

"Nature provides an average of 2.1 hectares of biologically productive space for every person in the world...On average, people use 2.8 hectares, but there is a wide range. In some countries, the average is as low as 0.5 hectares, while others use as much as 13 hectares per person" By these calculations, our world population is already suffering from an ecological deficit, and this will continue to rise with population growth and increased consumption.

Increasingly, the environmental consequences of unregulated consumption are becoming apparent. Pollution of the land, air, and water are now recognized as issues in need of attention, as more and more negative consequences of poor environmental management become evident. Besides the obvious environmental problems of solid waste disposal, fossil fuel emissions polluting the atmosphere, ozone depletion, and poisoned water supplies, the consequences of consumption can take years to show up. For example, on January 2, 2002, an orca whale was found dead in a bay on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. May 2002, scientists announced that the dead whale was possibly the most toxic mammal ever discovered. Levels of polychlorinated biphenyl's (PCBs), banned in Canada and the United States since the 1970's, were so high that Gina Ylitalo, a researcher for the National Marine Fisheries Service, told fellow scientists at a recent seminar that, "[the whale] basically knocked our instruments off. We had no idea we'd see these levels." The testing apparatus had to be recalibrated in order to read the results.

The cultural significance of a consumer society is perhaps best accounted for by Thorstein Veblen in The Theory of the Leisure Class, written in 1925. Veblen observed that the upper classes create a culture of consumption by constantly trying to one-up each other, buying more and more extravagant goods. This mindset is observable in the modern day obsession with always wanting, and sometimes having, more material goods than your neighbor. In a similar argument, Michael Argyle, author of The Psychology of Happiness writes, "Any relation that does exist between happiness and income is relative rather than absolute. The happiness people derive from consumption is based on whether they consume more than their neighbours and more than they did in the past." For many of us, who consider ourselves relatively easy to please and content with our lot, this notion may be sobering, to say the least.



Photos: Matt Benassi/File Photo



Research studies, however, have not only concluded that consuming has little to do with happiness, but also that the happiness consuming does offer is little more than a momentary euphoria. If anything, consumption is cyclical in nature: it creates what social scientists call a "hedonic treadmill," or, a desire to acquire more and more products no matter the ethical implications of attaining them. In addition, it is estimated that the pain caused by surrendering luxuries is twice as large as the happiness achieved by attaining them. This is a disheartening statistic for those who hope to convince Westerners to alter their consumer-driven lifestyles. There are other reasons it may be hard to eliminate a consumer driven lifestyle. On the one hand, the call for unnecessary consumption is ubiquitous in our society and sometimes hard to turn away from. And yet, consuming has little to do with need and more to do with want -

demands that can be created through media persuasion. When someone considers how often the promotion of goods comes into play in modern life, from simple TV and print ads, to event sponsorship and the universality of corporate slogans and iconography, it becomes readily apparent that leaving a lifestyle of consumption behind is not a simple proposition. On the other hand, in an economy built on a voracious need for consumer items, a sudden curbing of consumption would have high costs, especially in employment. Politicians on the right are already lined up against environmental agreements such as Kyoto as these agreements will have a serious effect on jobs. Efforts to reduce consumption for the environments' sake will continue to be an uphill battle.

The biggest problem is that a choice to consume less is becoming a less viable option; soon, however, it might be forced. A report by the Royal

Society and The US Academy of Sciences concluded that, "If current predictions of population growth prove accurate and patterns of human activity on the planet remain unchanged, science and technology may not be able to either prevent irreversible degradation of the environment, or continued poverty for much of the world." So like it or not, patterns of sustainable development will be required to guarantee quality of life on this planet.

The consequences of our North American lifestyle are becoming more and more inescapable, and sadly it has taken us this long to take notice. There are two choices facing you as consumers: To go about your everyday life like before, or to realise the wide-ranging effects of your lifestyle. November 29 can be the first step in a lifestyle change, one where consumers become citizens and we all collectively curb consumption.



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4th-year business

"No: I'm not against the way we live."



Laura Heidbuechel, et al
4th-year

"No... we're consumers. We think there should be a buy everything day... Charge it!"



Jayna Patel
2nd-year Political Science

"Yes, it's important that we be aware of it. We take advantage of everything that we have."



Jenn Brooks
2nd-year History

"No, I've never heard of it."



Alison MacDonald
2nd-year Psychology

"Probably, because I have no money."



Mike Wrobel
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"I will be participating in buy only what I need day."

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A week in the War on Terror

At home and abroad, President Bush is galvanizing support for his campaign

Brandon Currie



November 19 - The United States

The degree to which America's paranoia has been amplified since 9/11 has manifested itself in the greatest government overhaul in 50 years, as the US Senate voted 90-9 in favour of creating a Department of Homeland Security. The decisive vote will set in motion the merging of over 22 agencies with a combined budget of \$40 billion, and will encompass over 170,000 employees.

Although the bill contained controversial pro-corporate plans in the manufacturing of vaccines, it addressed the "the tremendous challenge facing the country to combat terror," said Democrat and Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle. The overwhelming support for the bill has been attributed to speculation that Democrats lost seats in the November 4th mid-term elections because of their flaccidness on homeland security.

The last time the Senate approved such a broad-based overhaul was in 1947, when American paranoia was last bureaucratized, forming the beloved Department of Defence.



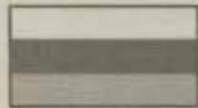
November 21 - Czech Republic

Although last weekend's meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Prague was host to world superpowers, it was Canada that made headlines as Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's press aide labelled US President George Bush a "moron". What's more, the PM has refused to accept the aide's resignation, setting off speculation that he does not necessarily disagree.

Despite the controversy over the remark, the meeting aimed to collectivize the anti-terror efforts of the 19 NATO nations and the 27 member nations of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. The meeting in

Prague was viewed by analysts as a beneficial breeding ground for co-operation that now stretches over three continents. The meeting closed with non-NATO nations pledging their support to help "fight the scourge of terrorism"

Not one to turn down an opportunity to advertise the War on Terror to a captive audience of world leaders, Bush used the conference as a forum to apply more pressure on Saddam Hussein who faces the first round of actual weapons inspections this week. Bush asserted that "Saddam Hussein has been given a very short time to declare truthfully and completely his arsenal of terror. Delay and defiance will invite the severest of consequences"



November 22 - Russia

As part of his sweep through Europe promoting his self-proclaimed War on Terror, President Bush met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in St. Petersburg to discuss the growing partnership between the former Cold War rivals.

While gaining Russia's Security Council vote on the final Iraq resolution took some convincing, Putin threw absolute support behind the need for Iraq to "comply fully and immediately" with UN weapons inspectors. Despite Russia's economic links to Iraq that were rumoured to be behind their initial decision to reject US demands, Putin now seems to fully support the Iraq objective, but made it clear that America needs a broader focus.

Of the 19 participants in 9/11 terrorist attacks, he said "we should not forget about those who finance terrorism...16 were citizens of Saudi Arabia. We should not forget about that." He also hinted that Pakistan, although a hesitant American ally, should not be ignored. "Where has Osama bin Laden taken refuge? They say he is somewhere between Afghanistan and Pakistan. They (Pakistan) are heavily armed, including with weapons of mass destruction and we should not forget about

that."

It is also clear that the people of Chechnya are not about to forget what they perceive to be state sponsored terrorism at the hands of Putin's regime. To draw attention to their struggle Chechens sent an open letter to Bush pleading for protection against "military aggression," and requested Bush act as a peace mediator.



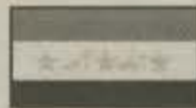
November 23 - Romania

A visit to historic Revolution Square in downtown Bucharest marked the final stop on Bush's visit to Eastern Europe to publicize NATO's historic expansion and solidify support for the War on Terrorism. Imparting his usual rhetorical dichotomy, Bush told an enthusiastic crowd "You value freedom because you have lived without it. You know the difference between good and evil because you have seen evil's face."

In fact, the theme of history ran throughout his speech, as he likened potential terrorists to Romanians former oppressors, the Communists. "Our alliance of freedom is being tested again by new and terrible dangers. Like the Nazis and Communists before them, the terrorists seek to end lives and control all life."

Broadcast on jumbo screens around the square, one journalist described the event as a "Hollywood type production," as the nation celebrated their acceptance into NATO and improved relations with the West.

As if Bush could control the weather too, a rainbow adomed the conclusion of his speech. He told onlookers that "God is smiling on us today."



November 25 - Iraq

The actual process of determining what comprises Iraq's ostensible "arsenal of terror" began on Monday, as United Nations (UN) weapons inspection leader Hans



File Photo

Above: American military personnel are amassing and training in Kuwait, just 30 miles from the Iraqi border. Below: On Monday, President Bush signed the bill to officially create the Department of Homeland Security



Blix and his 18 member inspection team entered what journalist Olivia Ward calls, "the eye of a global hurricane."

Adding to the surmounting pressure of President Bush and the potential cataclysmic consequences of a war in the Middle East, Blix and his team must determine in two months what arms Iraq possesses. This process usually takes well over a year. Saddam must declare his weapons by December 8, allow them to be inspected by the 23, giving the team until February 23 of next year to report their findings.

Although Bush has warned the Iraqi regime that any disobedience will result in their ultimate destruction, Iraq has not taken the sudden invasion of its sovereignty lying down. With American troops amassing in Kuwait, and preliminary plans in place for a military strike and post-war Iraqi government, Iraq drafted a letter this past Sunday outlining its position that the current UN resolution is a pretext for an American

assault.

This comes at a time when Iraq feels increasingly and unfairly cornered by an UN-backed American regime that will attack regardless of what weapons inspectors find. Iraqi General Hussam Mohammed Amin explains, "If we don't produce lists of weapons, we'll be attacked. And if we produce a list just to satisfy their (America's) demands, we'll be accused of lying, and bombed."

To somewhat confirm Amin's suspicions, it was leaked from Washington on Sunday that senior Bush administration officials have drawn plans for political reconstruction in a post-war Iraq. Comprised of three phases, the supposed plan proposes the initial institution of American military rule, followed by an international civilian administration under a diminished US presence, and finally after drawing up a constitution, a representative multi-ethnic regime.

Suicide bombing tragedy in Jerusalem

Dan Sennet

The morning of Thursday November 21 started like any other in Jerusalem, as commuters and students busily filed into buses to make their way to work and school. Although it had the appearance of an uneventful morning in the epicentre of Hebrew culture, around 7 am a horrifying blast penetrated the polluted morning air.

Hodaya Asraf's mother called her school on Thursday morning, just like she had done every morning, to make sure her daughter

arrived safely. Every other morning, she received the answer she had hoped for.

However, on this morning she heard the news that forever changed her life. The principal solemnly informed her that a suicide bomber detonated himself on the very bus that her daughter was on. Hadaya, just 13 years old, was buried that night.

Dikla Zino boarded the same bus as Hadaya and Nael Abu Hilail, the Palestinian bomber. Dikla, 22, had been released from the army four months earlier and was looking forward to the rest of her life. As a result of the

blast Dikla died on the operating table. She was buried the next day.

Most of the 11 victims have been laid to rest; of the 48 survivors, most were children, students or elderly.

The militant group Hamas and Islamic Jihad both claimed responsibility for the attack, although neither claimed they worked in conjunction with other. The attack occurred on a crowded bus travelling through the Kiryat Menachem district during morning rush hour.

Jerusalem Police stated that the bomber was carrying a five-kilogram belt packed with

explosives and shrapnel. He reportedly boarded the bus around 7am on Mexico Street. Before the bus reached the next stop, he detonated the device, killing himself. The shrapnel exploded in every direction, resulting in the need for 40 ambulances to take away the victims.

In retaliation, Israeli troops entered and reoccupied Bethlehem, bringing Israeli occupation to almost the entire West Bank in an attempt to reduce terrorism. Within these regions, Israeli troops are raiding and demol-

continued on next page

International Opinion

A good time to be Canadian

Robert Demille



When talking about personal faith, people don't normally ask what God you believe in or what religion you follow. Throughout my entire life in Canada I have known people to be very accommodating when it comes to different religions.

People of varying faiths are respected and treated just the same as anyone else; the same courtesies are extended to them at every level of society, or at least they should be. They are our next door neighbours, our co-workers and possibly our family members. They can be the fire fighters, or the police who protect the communities in which we live.

It does not matter what religion people follow, because they can relate to each other through other means. The international com-

munity should look to Canada where people, no matter where they come from, can have a home and live in peace.

It sickens me to think that the America has turned foreign governments against their own people, degrading democracy and civil rights. For example, in places such as Indonesia and Asia Minor, governments are putting new laws in place that allow them to violate basic human rights. Arrest without evidence, imprisonment on hunches and persecution because of anti-American beliefs are all becoming common.

What has happened to the world? Is this the life that our grandparents fought for in the first and second World Wars?

The constant deterioration of privacy and freedoms have degraded to such a point where nothing is respected. Muslims cannot live in peace anymore. Their lives are continually criticized in the media and their faith is equated with terrorism. The United States is now doing to Muslims what they did years ago to the Blacks.

Only in the America do television net-

works ask 'Why is Islam Evil?' in weekly polls. Do we see any polls entitled 'Why is Christianity Evil?' No, because anyone with money can spew propaganda against any minority they want. They talk so much about how great America is; why don't they shut up and keep it to themselves.

Personally it sickens me to see to what extent people are immersed in America ideals.

The people of the Islamic faith are better then the 'morons' who put on those stupid shows in the first place. I wouldn't want to lower myself to the level those American personalities do everyday of their lives.

I will have to define myself here so others will understand where I'm coming from. I do not condone the measures taken by the United States, though I also do not condone the measures taken by people defending the Islamic faith.

A road is being paved toward an inevitable global conflict, transcending borders and laws alike. Wars fought in the name of religion have happened many times in history and it was just a matter of time before something of this nature

engulfed every minute of CNN airtime.

Even in South America, the newest place to come under the watchful eye of the United States for its increased numbers of Muslim converts, people are scared because of the history of Christian influence and deep pockets of the US Government.

In fact, new believers have been the repeated targets of police raids, including several in the Philippines accused of running a military training camp with links to the al-Qaeda network. The Philipino government believes that new converts are more likely to become terrorists then those that have been part of the faith for a longer period of time.

In essence, these people are being robbed of their right to be proud of their ethnicity, heritage and nationality. They are being denied the feeling I get every time the Canadian anthem is played or each time Remembrance Day comes around. I wish everyone could feel the same way about their individual countries or religion. In this way I have some vague understanding how Muslims feel about their beliefs. I respect and understand their struggle for the right to practice without scrutiny, and their right to dream.

What has happened to the world? Is this the life our grandparents fought for in the two World Wars?

Jackass of the week: Michael Jackson

By S. Joseph Sereda III

Smooth criminal and self-proclaimed King of Pop, Michael Jackson has dominated the jackass charts since *Bad* was released. This week in Berlin MJ was photographed at the zoo with his children, wearing scarves to hide their faces from the media and kidnappers. While this may be seen as a tad overprotective, fans and various members of the media also caught a glimpse of Jackson negligently dangling his son over the railing of his fourth-floor hotel balcony. Jackson admits that this was a "terrible mistake," indicating that he "got caught up in the excitement of the moment." Hopefully, the *Bambi* Entertainment Lifetime Achievement Award Jackson picked up on Thursday does not celebrate his lifetime of "terrible mistakes," a list which includes marrying Elvis Presley's daughter for publicity, sucking up to Prince by naming his son after him, and his latest release, *Invincible*. Apparently, Jacko's sole weakness is his inability to prevent the media from finding fault in everything he has done since *Thriller*.



Continued from previous page
ishing the homes of suspected terrorists.

Citing a biblical reference, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon says that "anyone who harms Israel, a little or a lot, will have his hand chopped off." His policy to deter suicide bombings by punishing the bomber's families has had particularly devastating effects.

Abu Hulail, the bus bomber's mother, sat beside the rubble of her former home and said "I was left without a house for my children." His father was quoted as saying "our religion says we are proud of him until the day of resurrection. This is a challenge to the Zionist enemies."

Following the bombing, the first act of Israeli retaliation was to surround the Church of Nativity, the historical birth place of Jesus. The last time the Israel Army occupied Bethlehem, there was a one month standoff at the church because rebels immediately took shelter there. This time, the army cut off access in order to better seek out and arrest militants.

Israel's responses are limited by pressure from US President George Bush, as he has called for Israel to conclude their Bethlehem operations as soon as possible. Israel has stated that their goal is to leave by Christmas and to leave the area "completely safe" for tourists, despite the fact that



An Israeli bulldozer levels a Palestinian settlement on the West Bank, a source of hostility for potential suicide bombers.

last Thursday's bus bombing has been the eighty-sixth suicide attack in 26 months of fighting.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Ariel Sharon's main opponent in the upcoming elections has campaigned on the platform that his first act would be to expel Yassir Arafat. However, the US has condemned this course of action in an attempt to maintain friendly relations with other Arab governments while its feud with Iraq continues.

President Bush condemned the bombing, saying that the goal of the US is to see two independent states, Israel and Palestine, lying peacefully side-by-side. His goal is to see an interim state by 2003 and a permanent one by 2005. While Prime Minister Sharon has even offered a settlement to the Palestinian authorities, the fighting continues.



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Men split weekend series

Hawks maintain .500 record after tough pair of games

Shawn Parker

Set at a time of the year when most students are bearing down and preparing for exams, the Golden Hawks men's hockey team took to the ice this past weekend for a pair of regular season home games.

Friday night's game took place in a near empty Waterloo Recreation Complex against the number two-ranked team in the

UQTR 4, LAURIER 2

nation, the University du Quebec a Trois-Rivieres (UQTR). The Patriots also came into town boasting two of the OUA's top scorers, Jerome and Alexandre Tremblay, who have tallied eight and eleven goals this season, respectively.

The Hawks also have two scorers in the top ten, winger Kevin Corso and center Richard Colwill. While Colwill would score for the Hawks, it was Alex Tremblay that gave the defense fits on this night.

The Hawks came out of the gates slowly, but managed to keep the Patriots off of the scoreboard until Tremblay broke in on a breakaway off of an inaccurate Hawks' pass in Laurier's own end. The puck slipped past rookie net minder Justin Day, to put the Hawks down by one goal.

The Patriots went up two goals five minutes into play, when Martin Cote walked in past the Hawk defender and roofed his shot over Day's shoulder. The Hawks lethargic powerplay then gave the Patriots some

good chances, and eventually led UQTR's third tally on a partial breakaway by forward Alexandre Piche.

Laurier cut the deficit to two goals on a powerplay, with five minutes left, on a goal from John Jarram. If not for the stellar play of Day, the Hawks would have trailed by much more heading into the third period.

A different Laurier team showed up to play in the third. This was a motivated, intense team that came out skating around the Patriots. The Hawks applied pressure on UQTR for the first half of the period and generated chance after chance. The Hawks could not beat goalie Jean-Philippe Piche, who was equally as brilliant as Day at

times.

The Hawks held the opposition without a shot until sniper Tremblay tested Day again. However, Day came up big and the Hawks turned around to cut the lead to one on a goal by Colwill.

Late in the third, with the Hawks pressuring, both teams lost their composure and mixed it up in front of the Hawks' net. The end result of the fighting was game misconducts awarded to two players, and a four-minute powerplay for the Hawks.

Eager to get the game going, the referee dropped the puck with no Patriots on the ice, and watched as the Hawks skated in on Piche, only to be stifled by the net minder

again.

Tremblay would add an empty net goal to seal the win and give the Patriots their ninth win of the year. The Hawks fell to a

LAURIER 4, CONCORDIA 3

game below five hundred at 4 - 5 - 1.

In Saturday's game against the Concordia Stingers, the Hawks had a chance to even their record and split the weekend series. The Hawks were tested by one of the country's best teams Saturday night, and needed to come up big on Sunday in order to stay in the thick of the playoff hunt.

Concordia came in with a record of 4 - 5 - 1. Watching their Eastern division rivals the Patriots steal two points on Saturday the Stingers hoped to accomplish the same. The Hawks, however, would not have such an outcome. Laurier came out on top with a 4 - 3 victory, pushing their record again to five hundred.

The Hawks take on the Waterloo Warriors in their next game, Thursday night at the Waterloo Recreation Complex. Then it is off to Guelph, where the Hawks will participate in a tournament. The Hawks then play both home and away sets against the Gryphons.



Matt Benassi

The Hawks managed to defeat the Concordia Stingers but fell to UQTR.

Women's volleyball defeat cross-town rivals

Derek Iwanuk

The Laurier women's volleyball team avoided a potential upset by beating cross-town rivals, the University of Waterloo Warriors, three games to one on Wednesday night at the Athletic Complex.

The first set saw Laurier setting the tempo of the game. Although the first set was a close 25 - 23 victory for the Hawks, the margin for victory could have been much larger.

The Hawks missed a couple of scoring opportunities on offense and failed to capitalize on Waterloo mistakes. Midway through the first set, the score was 16 - 13 in favour of the Warriors, led by some solid offense from Waterloo. However, the Hawks did not lose focus and came back to take the set.

The second set was everything the first set should have been. The Hawks capitalized on mistakes by the Warriors. Excellent defense by the Hawks lead to offensive fireworks.

One of the standouts throughout the second set was All-Canadian player Cathy Ingalls, whose excellent play both on offense and defense lead to Laurier's domination in the second set.

The Hawks cruised to a 25 - 12 win in the second set, taking a commanding two game lead in the match. After such a dominating performance in the second set, the Hawks hoped to keep their concentration and focus up, in order to finish the Warriors off.

The Hawks got off to a slow start in the third set. The Warriors capitalized on some Laurier errors and took an 11 - 16 lead at break. Laurier players regained their focus and battled back to make it close but it was too little too late for the Hawks. The Warriors took the set

25 - 23.

Although this brief mental lapse cost the Hawks a set, Head Coach Dave McIntyre had some words of encouragement for his team. "I told them that the match did not represent the way we are. Also, I think determination had a lot to do with it."

"I told (the team) that the match did not represent the way we are. Also, I think determination had a lot to do with it."

-Head Coach
Dave McIntyre

lot to do with it," said McIntyre.

The Hawks regrouped and

LAURIER 3, WATERLOO 1

went out with a new sense of determination. They looked like the same dominant team that took to the floor in the second set. Again, Ingalls stepped up offensively and got some big points.

Amy Shipway and Ashley Millen also contributed to the win.

After a quick start in the fourth set, the Hawks never looked back and took the set 21 - 12, and the match three games to one.

The win brings the Hawks' record to 4 - 4 in a young season. "Give or take a win, 4 - 4 is where I thought we would be right now. Too many errors cost us that one game. It's a psychological thing

with this team," commented McIntyre.

Currently, the Hawks are riding a two game winning streak. Laurier takes it on the road to Ottawa on Sunday night, in hopes of continuing this pattern of success.



Matt Benassi

First year player Andrea Steacy spikes the ball through the Waterloo block

NHL's Colin Campbell speaks about hockey

Colin Duffett

Laurier was recently paid a visit by one of the higher ranking officials within the NHL. Colin Campbell, also known as the NHL's Top Cop, was on campus last Thursday as a guest speaker in Professor William McTeer's Sociology of Physical Activity course.

Campbell's career spanned 12 seasons and included a stint as assistant coach and eventually head coach of the New York Rangers. Campbell was a member of the 1993-1994 Stanley Cup Ranger team as assistant coach under 'Iron' Mike Keenan. As a head coach, Campbell ranks seventh all-time in games coached, games won and winning percentage among Rangers coaches. Campbell is the NHL's executive vice-

president of hockey operations.

Campbell, whose daughter attends Laurier spoke in the Kinesiology/Sociology course on a variety of topics including the business of the NHL, the proposed upcoming lockout in 2004 and of course his job.

Campbell spent a great deal of his guest lecture dealing with the business of hockey and its effects upon Canadian hockey and hockey in general. Campbell emphasized the struggling nature of Canadian hockey as a business, using Calgary and Ottawa as examples. Campbell himself admitted among other things that hockey as it stands now can't survive as a business and raised some valid points as to why a lock-out by the owners in 2004 is a very real possibility.

Campbell was quoted during his lecture as saying "Our game as a business is in

trouble." He pointed to the players and their huge contracts, the fans for not attending games and even laid some blame upon the owners and the league as a whole; Campbell himself admitted "I don't know why the heck they ever went to Nashville anyway."

For the remainder of the lecture he commented on his job, including his most prominent responsibility, justice. Colin Campbell is responsible for all the suspensions and fines that are leveled upon the players and organizations.

He entertained the attending students with funny stories about the 'Great One' Wayne Gretzky during his stint as coach in New York, the time defensemen, his experience with annual jackass Bryan Marchment who threatened to sue him, the debate over the Shayne Corson kicking

incident in the playoffs last year and my personal favourite, the time Leafs defenseman Jyrki Lumme called him "Judge Judy."

Colin Campbell provided those in attendance with a much needed but rarely seen view of the status of the NHL and the future of hockey. It's rare that anybody is exposed to a view like this in such a media oriented town like Toronto. His lecture was a refreshing look at the NHL from a former player/coach and current vice president of hockey affairs.

The matters that Campbell brought to attention surely can't be ignored by the hockey masses for long because if they are... in 2004 there might not be any hockey to enjoy.

Lady Hawks battle the Holy hockey team

The famous Flying Fathers hockey team will be facing off against the Golden Hawks women's hockey team on Monday December 2. The event will be the first time that the Flying Fathers face off against a women's hockey team, making the match-up between the Fathers and the defending OUA Champions a historical one.

The Flying Fathers consist of a group of Catholic priests on skates who play in hockey games across Canada to raise money for charities. The game against

the

Hawks is being played in support of both Laurier women's hockey and Anselma House.

Although the Hawks are a successful team, boasting a regular season record of 24-1-2 over the past year and a half, the Fathers also have an impressive record on the ice. The Fathers carry a record of 900-6-1 going into their game against the Hawks.

The puck drops on December 2 at 7:00pm at the Waterloo Recreation Complex.

Bronzin' blades

Marissa McIlmoyl

This past Friday at the Annual Queen's Varsity Skating Competition, WLU set a new standard for Golden Hawk skating. Laurier's varsity skaters claimed a third place finish overall, securing the bronze medal.

This is a significant accomplishment for this up-and-coming team, as they have never medalled in an OUA competition in the past.

This 16 member team competed in dance and freeskating events to finish behind two strong teams, Western and Queen's.

An important individual contribution to Laurier's medal finish came from the first place finish of Meghan Tallevi, a first-year student who skated a powerful and

flawless performance in the gold ladies freeskate event.

Another top performer was second year skater Natalie Palichuk. Palichuk placed second in the junior silver freeskate event. Veteran skater Shay-Marie Stacey also put on an impressive second place performance. Shay skated in the senior bronze freeskate event and had an outstanding program.

Finally, in the senior silver dance event, Meghan Sidler placed a close fourth helping the team to achieve their third place tournament finish. The team's next competition is on the weekend of January 31, right here in Waterloo at the Columbia Ice Fields.



Wilfrid Laurier Figure Skating

The figure skating team poses for a picture after their third place finish

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Men get spiked by Waterloo Warriors

Bernard Dawson

This has not been the greatest season in WLU men's volleyball history. In fact, this season has been far from it. So far this year, nothing seems to be going right on the court for Laurier.

The jinxed Hawks hosted their rivals from down the street, the Waterloo Warriors, last Wednesday. Entering the match with a 1 - 5 record, Laurier badly needed a victory to rally some hope for the rest of the year.

A medium sized crowd filed into the Athletic Complex to see the heated rivals go head to head. They saw the Warriors take an early lead over the Hawks in the first game.

Waterloo was unable to put away the Hawks right away, and Laurier made the game seem closer than it really was. But when the dust settled, the Warriors possessed a 25 - 23 victory and a one game to

trol.

Laurier was unable to put up a fight as Waterloo built a large lead. Near the end the Hawks possessed the deer caught in headlights look, as the Warriors cruised to an easy 25 - 15 win.

In between the second and third games many fans left the gym, believing that a Hawks comeback was impossible. These fans missed the most entertaining game of the evening.

The third game began the same way as the second had ended, with the Hawks on their heels. Waterloo jumped out to a huge early lead and to the remaining fans it looked like the match was just about over.

It seemed that no one told the Hawks that the match was done. With Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" blasting during every timeout, Laurier made a Rocky-like comeback. Playing with nothing to lose, the Hawks soon closed the gap and tied the match.

However, this was to be Rocky the original, not one of the sequels, as the Hawks lost the final match by a 25 - 23 score. The Hawks put forth a valiant effort, only to lose three games to zero to Waterloo.

While the Hawks were able to put up a fight, they lacked the ability to close out when they had a chance. Late in final game the scored was tied at 23 - 23 Laurier was



Matt Benassi

Number 11 Jordan Brennan went for the kill against the Warriors this past Wednesday

WATERLOO 3, LAURIER 0

none lead.

The second game was not as competitive as the first. It began as a point for point contest and ended as a rout. About halfway through the round, the Warriors took con-

on a hot streak. The Hawks had the serve; however, it was sent out by a country mile, giving the Warriors a 24 - 23 lead and serving for match point.

Small mistakes such as missed serves added up against the Hawks, and were the deciding factor in the close first and third games. The loss left the Hawks with a 1 - 6

record and in last place in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA).

The game was also the team's last home game until the New Year. The Hawks travel to York and Queen's this weekend in their last games before the December break in the regular season.

Hawks silver in cheering

The cheerleading team's visit to the Hersey Centre in Mississauga was a successful one. Laurier traveled to Mississauga to compete in the National Cheerleading Championships on November 23.

The first round of the competition saw Laurier in third place behind the University of Western Ontario Varsity Squad and the UWO 'X' squad. After the final round the judges were faced with a tough decision. For the first time ever, there was a tie in the competition. The

Golden Hawks were tied for second with the UWO 'X' troupe.

After deliberating on the situation, the judges decided in Laurier's favour awarding them second place in the national championships.

This year's performance was head and shoulders above last year's efforts. Their silver medal goes along way towards making Laurier an annual cheerleading favourite.

Kristen Lipscombe



Courtesy of Laurier Athletics

Laurier cheerleaders pose for the finish

Laurier swimmers make a splash

On Saturday, November 23 the Laurier swimming team participated in the Campbell Division Championships held in Guelph. The Hawks made a big splash, coming out of the competition with an overall fifth place finish.

On the men's side, Clayton Delaney won all three breast stroke events in convincing fashion, while rookie Hawk AJ Bakker placed sixth in the 100 free style event and eight in the 200 free

style swim. Mike Sax also performed well, competing in all the toughest events and swimming well in 1500 free, 400 free and placing eighth in 400 IM. Peter Blaskovitz and Rich Malepsky also performed well in the water. Additionally, the men had fantastic swims in the 200 Medley relay.

The women also made waves in the competition. Rookie swimmer Julie Babin scored strong, taking fourth position in the 200 IM, fifth in the 200 free style and fourth again in the 200 backstroke. Another rookie also had an outstanding swim; Christyanne

Neeley had three top eight finishes in breaststroke events. Tara Ross finished third in the 100 back and sixth in the 200 IM. Veteran Melissa Martin placed seventh in the 200 IM and fifth in the 100 butterfly event. The Lady Hawks also had a great day for relays, taking the seventh position in the 200 free and third in the 200 medley. The Hawks are currently sitting in the fifth position in the CIS (Canadian Interuniversity Sports).

Kristen Lipscombe

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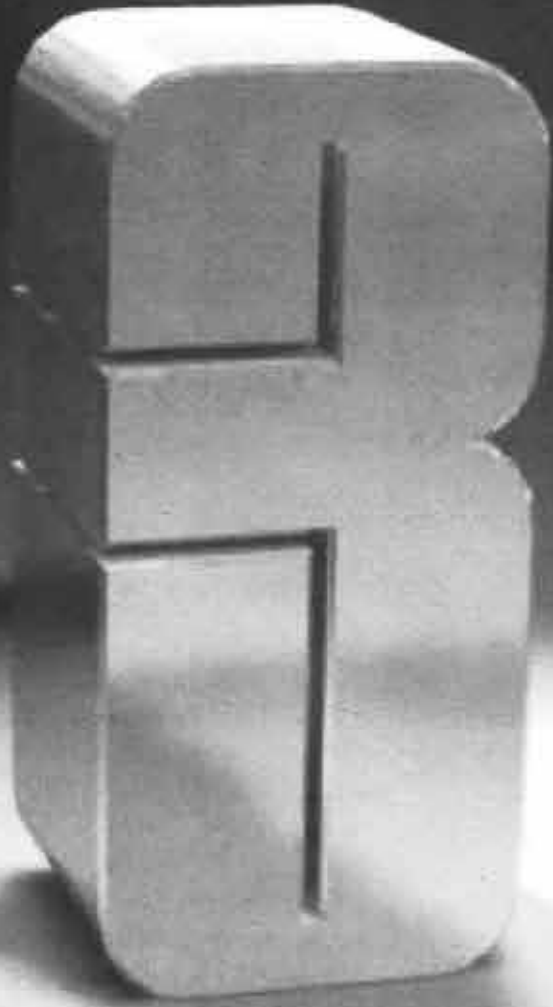


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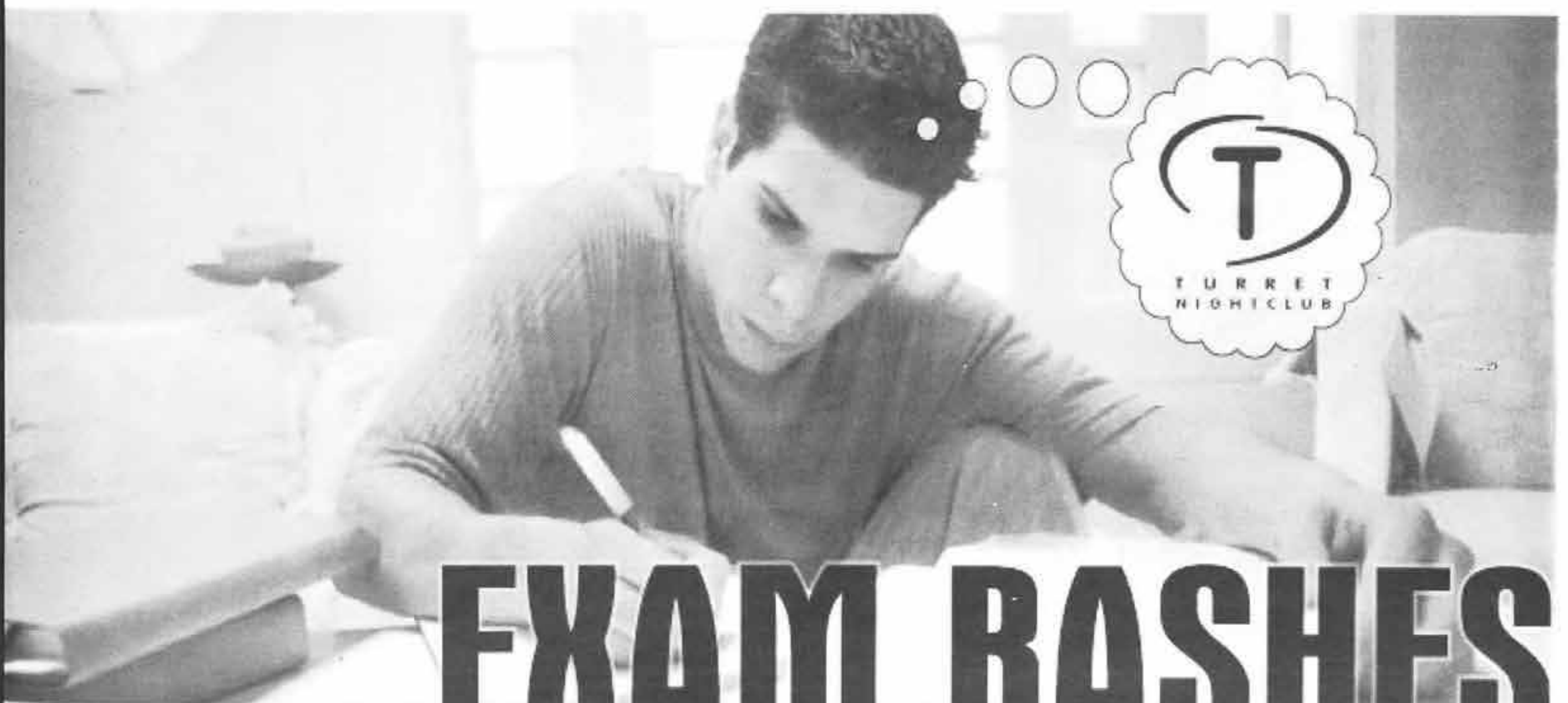
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Battle o' the bands

Chris Clemens

On an unusually frigid and bitter Saturday night, those looking for cheap entertainment needed to search no further than Wilf's. Enthusiastic cheering and quality live music echoed throughout the Campus Centre revealing that a furious Battle of the Bands was taking place. Hosted and promoted by Radio Laurier, the second annual Battle of the Bands was intended to highlight local talent and raise money for refugee students attending WLU through a three dollar cover charge. This event was far from a charity case though, as the winning act was slated to take home half of the door's earnings and play a 15-minute encore after the competition.

Although running quite a bit later than the show's slated 8:00 pm start time, the Battle of the Bands was kicked off by pop-punk act Unfair Advantage. With a sound that reminded me of Rufio or New Found Glory, Unfair Advantage performed with a fair deal of gusto and stage presence despite their excessively high bass levels and somewhat uninspiring lyrics. Their song "Wash Away" struck me as being full of potential and the band finished their set to a smattering of audience applause and general approval, a good opener for the evening.

As the night progressed and the audience, myself included, became more intoxicated, a wide variety of talent was displayed for the competition judges to critique. Although every act was worthy of consideration, several bands pulled away from the pack with their performances.

AT Power Supply, a Stratford ska band, performed my favourite



Matt Benassi

The competition was tough and varied in this year's Battle of the Bands contest.

set of the night with a solid performance of high energy music that got feet tapping and heads nodding involuntarily throughout the pub. Although very well polished, AT Power Supply looked like they were having a great time on stage and it reflected itself in the crowd's positive reactions. Of particular interest was the trombone player who was a constant source of amusement, attempting to coerce the Laurier crowd into skank dancing in front of the stage and playing her instrument on top of tables.

Soulution followed up on this great act later in the night with their wicked-good fusion of funk and rhyme which easily got the most audience appreciation to that point. Soulution kept stage banter to a minimum, allowing their intricate weaving of instru-

mentality and lyricism to do the talking. Soulution's performance was rife with solos from every member of the band, each individual temporarily taking the spotlight and later passing it along selflessly. Universal audience praise followed Soulution off the stage, and their diversity paid off as they eventually took home second prize.

Laurier's own Shem mixed up some electronica, which I'm told was a pretty good combination of hip hop and trance. My knowledge of the genre is limited but it sounded interesting and Shem seemed well at ease behind the turntables, joking around with the crowd. Masters and Moderns, a self-described emo band from the K-W area, were much like a blend between Saves the Day and Taking Back Sunday and were

catchy enough to attract my interest. Other bands included punk act Brave Dancing Sushi and The Warm.

Ultimately taking home first place in the contest was Damien Robataille, a name you may have seen plastered around the school or on flyers promoting his new CD, which is also available in the Bookstore. A pseudo-rock act with an interesting bilingual twist, Damien and his band carried a Weezer-esque appeal to match the music that wowed the crowd and won over the judges. By the time the judges inevitably awarded first place to Damien Robataille, who barely nosed out Soulution for the victory, I was long gone, partially wasted and content in knowing that my night had been well spent at the Battle of the Bands.

Ring is good

Mary Hermesen

In the American remake of one of Japan's highest grossing box office hits, the creepy factor is definitely high. The Ring stars Naomi Watts, Martin Henderson, and Brian Cox and is directed by Gore Verbinski.

The film is based on the novel "Ringu" by Koji Suzuki, which is supposedly based on an urban myth. This premise is followed through at the beginning of the movie, which opens with two teenage girls talking about the movie as if it is an urban myth. You soon discover this isn't the case, as one of these girls and three of her friends all die seven days after watching the video at the exact same time.

The movie follows the girl's aunt, Rachel (Naomi Watts), who is asked by her mourning sister to find out the truth behind the girl's death. In a case of 'curiosity killing the cat,' Rachel retraces her niece's steps to a retreat and finds the unmarked video and watches it. Rachel immediately gets a phone call that informs her she has seven days to live. With the help of an old boyfriend (Martin Henderson) Rachel has to find out where the video originated from and how to save herself and her son (who eventually sees this video too) before it's too late.

The Ring jumps out at you in the beginning, has a scary ending, but kind of falters in the middle. It has a vague creepiness that stays with you after it ends, but leaves you with a lot of unanswered questions. The supernatural might have to remain mysterious in this movie in order for it to work, but that didn't make it any less confusing. I could see no connection between the little girl (who is the supernatural villain in this movie) and a videocassette. How was it made? Where did it come from? The movie attempted to answer these questions but I found the answers too distant. In fact, this movie was so distant I wasn't very scared. There was the odd thrill factor where something jumped out at you, but otherwise I found myself trying to figure out why the characters were acting so stupid to be too upset.

I spent much of the movie groaning when Rachel did something foolish (like watching a video that was surrounded by a freaky urban legend, or making a copy of it and letting her ex boyfriend watch it, or leaving the copy out where her kid could find it, and then him watching it...hmmmm... pattern developing perhaps?). Don't get me wrong, I thought Naomi Watts did an excellent job of portraying a strong female character (which is rare in a horror film), but that's what made it all the more upsetting when she did something dumb.

To be fair I can say that the ending made an impression on me. I won't give it away, but it did some freaky supernatural stuff that made me jump.

The Ring is an enjoyable movie, but don't expect to watch something clear or straightforward. It has bleary explanations, but thrill-seeking entertainment is high. In other words this is a good date movie.

Pop music is "dirty"

Christina, Justin and Britney: You know you want them

Nilgun F. Erkoç

Has anyone noticed lately that the pop music pumping out of your local generic radio station is pretty good? And trust me, as the self-proclaimed music snob that I am, using the words pop music and good in the same sentence sends a shiver down my spine. Nonetheless, it is time to come clean people and share my dirty little secret with the world. Late at night when everyone is sleeping, I close my door and proceed to "get down" with Justin, Christina and Britney. There is no need to use last names. You all know who I'm talking about! And if you don't, well, you lie.

I'm not exactly sure when this shameful pleasure first started but I think Britney had something to do with it. Britney's a true pioneer in the pop field. Her music titillates young pre-pubescent girls and middle-aged men alike. However, what finally caught my eye (me being neither a pre-pubescent girl or a middle-aged man) was her song "Boys." The first time I heard this song I was loving it. "Boys" possesses this untamable hip-hop beat that I couldn't resist. It seemed like Britney was on a role. Unfortunately for Brit, the battle of the bottle bleach blondes continues as Christina fired back by unleashing her version of Redman's rap song "Let's Get Dirty."

Accompanied by a gratuitous and sultry video, Christina leaves Britney in the dust proving once again that she can do it bigger and better and for some reason she's still more respectable as an artist. Man if I were Britney, I'd be getting pretty tired of that Aguilera chick stealing my thunder all the

time. I mean Britney works really hard to maintain her skanky image and Christina out-skanks her with one video! In the words of the loveable Stephanie Tanner: How rude! As if that's not enough, let's add injury to insult. Justin Timberlake, Britney's boyfriend-no-more, released his new solo album and the first single "Like I Love You" has launched a

Staying true to its leech-like nature, pop music has taken what's popular and made it its own and for once it's not so bad.

successful attack on my cold anti-pop heart. We've all heard this song while in the car or at the bar and it's absolutely contagious. Justin has wisely recruited Pharell of the Neptunes and N.E.R.D. fame and rap group The Clipse to join him on this track. Throw in the former N'Sync singer's melodic vocals and not to mention his boyish good looks and you've got a hit. Seriously, point me towards the record store because I'm sold.

So what is it about all this pop music that makes it not only tolerable but also enjoyable? Simply put pop has gone hip-hop. Staying true to its leech like nature, pop music has taken what's popular and made it its own and for once it's not so bad. It seems as of lately, hip-hop producers like the Neptunes and

Dark Child can be found almost on every other song. The right producer on a track can turn a virtually talentless singer into a star. It's all in the beat and hip-hop reigns supreme in the art of beat-making.

It's not only that pop as gone hip-hop but also hip-hop has gone pop. I'm not talking about Will Smith's Wild, Wild, West genre of (c)rap music, which I never considered to be hip-hop in the first place but rather rappers like Nelly, Lil' Bow Wow, Missy Elliot and Eve.

These artists cater to the pop scene with their brand of inoffensive, radio-friendly rap while simultaneously providing the listener with those fresh head-bobbing beats. Even though it's pop, the music is still good. So learn from my mistakes and be a music snob no longer. Embrace pop music. It's okay to listen to it as long as you take it for what it's worth.

Don't look for deep meaning in the lyrics because you aren't going to find any that don't concern getting booty and partying. Just have fun with it. We've already seen the fusion of rap and rock and we all know how long that lasted. So let's enjoy this new blend of rap and pop music while it's still here because you never know when those 14-year-old girls may role out of bed and decide country music is cool. Kiss 92.5 will have to go honky tonk and I promise you it won't be pretty.

ear candy

Under Construction Missy Elliott



Missy's always been great. She can throw out an album with amazing beats and rhymes that shoot your toque off the ol' bean. Under Construction is no exception. Problem is, it's still not the Missy Elliott album. It's her fourth and none have really been classics. All of her albums have been a letdown because they only hint at the raw talent she has. They act as a fantastic tease with no payoff. This disc is just a slight disappointment because it's not the avalanche she can produce.

Anyways, all that talk doesn't matter because this album does produce some great tracks like "Bring the Pain," "Gossip Folks" and "Go to the Floor." The first two tracks are two of the catchiest songs she's ever done (with the only exception of "Get Ur Freak On" from her last album) and the latter is an utter surprise in content.

To explain my surprise: I hate songs that seem placed for obligatory reasons. Usually the addition of slow, sappy and just mind numbing emotionless love songs are placed, randomly tracked, into albums thus making the album not as good as it could be but making it more acceptable to suburban chicks with real no concept of real life. (Think Justin Timberlake's Justified.) "Go to the Floor" appeared to be this type of song and truly would have slowed down the album, but it turned out to be the complete opposite of any sappy preconceptions. Sure it's slow, but with the chorus containing lyrics like, "Pussy don't fail me now / I gotta turn this n**** out / So he don't want nobody else / But me and only me" it's clear that Missy's sense of humour and playfulness has reached a peak. It's also a decent love song. Vulgar yes, but at least it's not about beating up 'bitches' or cherishing, desiring, craving or any other cliché verb dealing with love.

Lastly a comment on the various spoken word pieces in between songs: They are the true jewels of the album. Through them Elliot is able to set her tone and explain why the songs exist. The spoken tidbits also give a great pause and pace to the entire album.

Justin Sharp

Riot Act Pearl Jam



I want to go easy on Pearl Jam because they are one of my favourite bands, and they have put out an enormous amount of great music over the past decade. Alas, Riot Act does not rise to the greatness of the Pearl Jam trinity (Ten, vs. and Vitology), or even the mediocrity of Yield. However, there is still good stuff here, and Pearl Jam remain better than their followers.

The band is in fine form; the production isn't as murky as it is on 2000's

Binaural. As their albums progress, the band seems to wear their influences on their sleeves. On this, their seventh studio album, Pearl Jam sounds like some hybrid of The Who and Crazy Horse. What also serves the band and album well is that they do not embrace 'modern' music aesthetics (i.e. electronic blips and over-polished production,) nor do they sound like anything else on modern rock radio, which is good.

This would be all fine and dandy (or if you prefer, wine and roses,) but the band's songwriting is just not what it used to be. Eddie Vedder is no longer the angry and frustrated young man he was, and his lyrics have suffered. This also takes away from the music, as it is not as edgy as earlier material, but perhaps that's due to an absence of uber-producer Brendan O'Brien, who helmed much of the band's great work.

Now, like I said, there is good stuff here. The first single "I Am Mine" is a quite good. The raging "Get Right" sounds as though Pete Townshend (circa 1968) and Eddie Vedder wrote a song together. The standout track though is the sweet and folksy "Thumbing My Way," a delicate ballad and their best song since "Light Years," which was their best song since "Corduroy."

Certainly not their greatest album, and not as disappointing as No Code, Riot Act does have enough good material to make it a worthy addition to a casual Pearl Jam fan's collection.

James Hrivnak

Days that Stand Still Vermieious Knid



Right now, I love Brantford's indie scene. Compared to big name album releases, Brantford is full of passion. These guys (and all Brantford bands) seem to really want to escape from the dead, lunch-pail town, and slamming on a guitar must be the most viable method. I praised Lemon Merchant's album Great Day for a Chicken Chariot Race for being total chaotic and completely tight simultaneously - the Vermieious Knid's Days That Stand Still is the exact opposite. Songs structure changes mid-way, dramatic openings (that slow beat and then smash of noise, which I usually hate because the smash of noise is only a whimper on other albums) is great and amazingly effective.

Their lyrics aren't the best and the sometimes bland vocals draw away from great guitar hooks but each song contains glittering nuggets of gold. For example, "Streets and Headlights" contains the line "our park is getting colder / I have no coat so hold me tighter," and although it's basic, sappy and somewhat stupid, the image hits like a wrecking ball and creates a world of beauty, honesty and passion: three qualities not found in many bands lyrics. This line may sound reminiscent of emo rock and it may be classified as emo under allmusic.com but that's only because the voices harmonize and don't screech like other "hard rockers" in today's pop music. Hank Williams sang about relationships and feelings too, yet he isn't emo! Besides, other than having a relationship, what else is there to do in Brantford?

Justin Sharp

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On-line shopping perils

Jennifer Wilder

As the year turns colder and we flip the calendar to its final, busiest month, stores rub their hands together in glee with the predicted sales that Christmas brings to the shopping malls. While store hours are extended in an attempt to give consumers more time to spend their money, there is a fairly new form of shopping that allows consumers to purchase products online.

This new wave of online shopping is sweeping through Canada. It was estimated that 1% of all Canadian transactions were completed over the internet last year, and this number is rapidly rising. According to Statistics Canada, more than \$2 billion was spent on online shopping last year in Canada, and this number is predicted to double for this year.

However, though online shopping is becoming more popular in our society, there is still a force that is holding Canadians back. According to the Leger Marketing survey released in August, while 60% of Canadians do go online, less than half of the internet users make a purchase. Canada ranks as one of the most connected countries in the world, however it ranks in eleventh place for online shopping.

Why do we Canadians not take advantage of online shopping? According to first-year student Jeffrey Birss, "it can be a risky thing to do. There are so many internet scams out there that are just waiting to latch

onto your credit card number". This feeling of uncertainty about the safety of giving out one's credit card number is documented as one of the main reasons why Canadians tend to avoid making purchases online.

It is important to recognize the signs of online fraud in order to avoid becoming a victim to it. Here are five signs that indicate you are logged onto a fraudulent site.

Flashy Advertising.

This gimmick is often used in an attempt to distract consumers from the scam.

High Pressure Sales.

This includes claims that there is a "limited supply" or demands for an immediate response. These types of pressure on the consumer are often a good indicator that you are dealing with a fraudulent site.

Requests for Cash Payments.

Never use cash when purchasing items online as this is usually a sign that the seller wishes to bypass postal fraud laws.

The Promise of "FREE" Items.

There are usually hidden costs associated with these claims.

Get Rich Quick Guarantees.

These scams usually involve a guarantee to make a lot of money through internet related businesses with a small cash donation.

It is not always enough to avoid websites that use the above gimmicks. Experienced con artists can create pages that

look authentic. The following steps should always be considered in order to avoid being a victim of online fraud.

Only deal with reputable companies that you've heard of before. Make sure that the company you are dealing with has a physical address and telephone number so that you can contact them if there are any problems. Also, to further check the legitimacy of an

the information that is required for your transaction, than either do not divulge that information, or phone the company and ask for clarification.

Ensure that it is an encrypted site. In order to find out if your information is encrypted, check to see if there is a closed lock, or an unbroken key at the bottom of the page. Also, if the URL address is https:// rather than http:// then the site is secured.

If it is your first time shopping online, begin with smaller purchases rather than larger and more expensive ones. This is more important if it is your first time purchasing items online from a particular company.

Create a unique password. Passwords that consist of birthdays, social security numbers, and telephone numbers are predictable and easily cracked. To ensure that your password remains secured, mix numbers with letters, and do not use actual words.

Never disclose the password to anyone! Do not even give your password out to a customer service representative. This is private information and they should not ask for it. Never send sensitive information through email; email is easily intercepted, so only give out personal information on a secure site, or over the phone.

Ensure that you are on the correct website. Some con artists create sites which have a very similar URL address as a legitimate company in order to fool consumers. If you are unsure whether you are on a legitimate site, you can check

the URL address on www.whois.net, which will inform you who has registered that site, and gives you the physical address for the company.

Check company policies, such as the return and cancellation policies, before you make any online purchases. Another thing you should check before you make any transactions is the delivery time, warranty information, and final cost, including shipping. It is important to print this information as you may need to refer to it later if there are any problems.

Print and keep information for your records. The order form and confirmation number will be needed if there are any future problems. Online orders are protected by the Federal Mail/Telephone Order Merchandise Rule (unless the site states otherwise), and as such all merchandise should be delivered within 30 days.

Never send cash. This form of payment cannot be recorded or proven at a later date if there are problems.

Regularly check your checking and credit card accounts after you make an online purchase in order to verify that no unauthorized payments have been made on your credit card.

Now that you recognize the signs of a fraudulent site, and know how to avoid being a con artists victim, you can feel confident and safe shopping online.

"...it can be a risky thing to do..."

—Jeffrey Birss

American online company, you can check with the State Attorney General for adverse reports on the company you are dealing with.

Read the website's Privacy Policy. This policy provides an outline that explains what information is required from the consumer in order to purchase a product online. The policy also describes how your personal information is used and what forms of security precautions the company has taken. The precautions that should be taken include encrypting your credit card number and other personal pieces of information, both online and in the merchant's personal computer.

Just give the information that is required for the transaction. If you are unsure about any of

Business Bytes

Credit Card Fraud

Three men were charged on Monday with massive identity theft in the U.S. The men were responsible for orchestrating the con where credit card information was stolen from approximately 30,000 victims. This is the largest recorded identity theft case in the history of the United States, with a recorded US\$2.7 million stolen from their victims. The victims reported seeing their bank balances dwindle, saw unauthorized credit card purchases, and allegedly had their identities stolen by these three men.

RRSP Contributions Down

The contributions to Registered Retirement Savings Plans declined by 3% in 2001. Statistics Canada revealed data that showed that the 6.24 million taxpayers contributed a total of \$28.4 billion this past

year to RRSP's, which was a decrease from the \$29.3 billion contributed the year before. On a province-to-province comparison Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick both had the largest percentage drop, while Quebec and Alberta were the only two provinces where RRSP contributions increased.

Foreign Investors Sell Canadian Stocks

This September, Canadian stocks held by foreign investors declined by \$1.6 billion. The stocks that were divested were secondary stocks, which has since led to the sell-off in that particular market. On the other hand, Canadians have invested in \$1.8 million worth of foreign bonds during the month of September. This is the largest investment made by Canadians in this market in the last 7 months.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Santa's Gilded Sleigh

A gold wicker sleigh holds a variety of fresh evergreens, gold holly oak and glittered gold branches. A gold taper candle surrounded by brightly wrapped miniature presents and ribbon complete the design. Delivered to your office. Price - \$30 (includes taxes). To order, please call Wendy at Scented Acres Flower Farm: 662-6951.

Holiday Candle Centrepiece

This large elegant design consists of a red candle in a glass chimney surrounded by fresh evergreens, carnations and ornaments accented with gold holly oak. Red velvet ribbon completes the design. Delivered to your office. Price - \$35 (includes taxes). To order, please call Wendy at Scented Acres Flower Farm: 662-6951.

PERSONALS

Bryn,

Be afraid, be very afraid. Sleep with one eye open buddy.

"666"

News,

You turned out well this week. Don't get too excited. Thanks to Joe the Toothless Hobo for his gummy appearance, Reed and Jacky, Andy for trying his best to fill the section, Thomas Thompson for the drywall, The Beatles, Cannonball Adderly for advice on how to deal with adversity, Brad Mehldau's piano playing, MACEO, Prince, the Stones, the Waterloo Regional Police for thinking I was a crown attorney, and the pop machine for giving me back a nickel. Once again, no thanks to B.P. Also, get well to Christine, who may be mono-ridden, and Caitlin. My sincerest apologies to Ryan's girlfriend.

Stefan

Where's the love?

The following people and things showed news NO love this week: everyone who skipped out on interviews, the essays that swallowed me into their gaping maw, death-metal, the pop machine, P. Diddy for running for president, then not running for president, then running for president again, Reebok, and all those who copped my *Full House* humour (though I appreciate your appreciation of my appreciation for Jodi Sweetin.)

Sereda

Pop Machine,

Where's our \$1.90? More importantly, where's the love?

Your Worst Nightmare

Warrior,

Next time open the friggin' chimney. You stink!

Jane...or is it Jan?

Boar's Head Gang,

Keep up the great work! Decorations look fantastic.

Regan

Buzzer 73,

If only you weren't so drunk...

Tempted

Sugar,

I miss you. Make love to me now. I can't take it anymore. Get sick again and we're through. Fine I don't care. Be that way.

Art Ensel

J.Asselin,

I think it would be wise to graciously decline all future editor of the week awards...

Angry Bryn

Mother Goose,

Where is that lazy cat? Where is that lazy dog? Who will help me crush the wheat? Who will help me bake the bread?

Yung Tug

Melissa,

Stop scaring me dammit.

Bryn

IKristen,

I am your sworn enemy. You can not defeat me. All attempts are futile. Middle fingers do nothing. I am unstoppable.

The Green Computer

Nicki,

Happy Birthday!!!

B9 for Life girls

Stefan,

Kindly stop monopolizing all of the personals space. Your thoughts are irrelevant and no one loves you. You and Bryn will never be editor of the week. That's not a promise, it's a guarantee. If you win, we will all quit (or get fired.)

The Cord Staff

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Hay comes to Laurier

Siobhan Bhagwat

A soft spoken woman dressed completely black, wearing a scarf that provided a splash of colour to her otherwise sombre attire in front of a rapt audience in the Paul Martin Centre on Tuesday. The mostly female audience had gathered to listen to Elizabeth Hay speak of her latest novel and herself.

Hay began reading from *A Student of Weather* almost immediately. The novel begins in 1930's Saskatchewan and

follows two sisters, the beautiful Lucinda and the ungainly Norma Joyce. The main character is Norma Joyce who, though homely looking, becomes a very dazzling character as the reader and male protagonist get to know her better. The novel follows the characters from the 1930's to 1972 as they travel from Saskatchewan to Ontario and on to New York.

Though Hay had been born in Ontario, lived New York, and her mother had grown up in the time of the Great Depression

and raised her children as if it hadn't ended she still had to do a lot of research for this novel. Many times readers are ignorant of the amount of research that goes into writing a novel. For this novel Hay had "to find out what Ottawa was like, what New York was like" at that time. In order to be true to history Hay lost one of her scenes since the National Art Gallery didn't open until the 1980's.

Many of the students present had read the novel and claimed they were unable to put the

book down. One young woman commented on the use of foreshadowing which is one of the novel's unforgettable novel.

Elizabeth Hay is a highly praised writer who was recently awarded the 2002 Marian Engel Award for women writers at mid-career. She is also the author of three non-fiction books *Crossing the Snow Line*, *The Only Snow in Havana*, *Captivity Tales* and collection of short stories *Small Changes*.



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Will you think it?

Looking for that thought that has never been thought,
Almost as hard as meeting someone that doesn't know the
colour of their own blood is red,
To plagiarize is to steal something someone else has already thought,
It seems sometimes almost impossible to come up with new thought,
Similar to meeting someone that didn't know the fate of the Titanic,
We'll it's common knowledge my friend,
Everybody knows she Sunk!

Thinking that epochal thought that could save the planet,
Is something sometimes that seems very hard,
Almost like searching for a glass of water in a desert,
Or learning to speak again or walk again after injury,
Even as hard as escaping from prison right under the nose of the guard.

But it can be done I promise you this,
We just have to sit quietly and allow our thoughts to turn inwards,
Analyzing who we are and what we are here for,
And when the answer becomes clear the feeling of accomplishment will
suffocate, and all you will experience is total Bliss!

By

Michael

Gardner

Fall from Grace by Lindsey Wain

There was a time when I could fly,
Above the clouds and sight of eye.
There was a time when I could fly,
The earth and back on heavens wings.
There was a time when I could fly
And up so high, glance the face of eternity.
There was a time when I could fly,
Without fear or thought to die.
There was a time when I could fly
And in that time my wings did fail,
I fell from grace
No longer to see eternities face, nor touch
heavens wings.
I fell from grace
To the earth so long ago seen and the waiting
arms
of what I'd been.
There was a time when I could fly
And see through thine universe silver eye.
In that time I fell from grace
And come to rest in a place
Where hopes and dreams may sail as high,
As my wings once did fly.

Eventide by Lindsey Wain

When once a day with holy pride,
Now retreat from eventide.
To behold a beauty as yet unseen,
To behold a magic that's not yet been.

Through the scarlet blood of time
I see the world I wish to find.
The silent presence of eternity,
With no words to speak the truth I see.

The Chains of Style by Adria Cehovin

Style is that which can sever,
Or BLEND a person into a crowd.
Like a drop of rain,
Into a pool of water.
Sometimes that drop r i p p l e s,
From one individual idea to another.
Until that same idea blinds us,
As does a cloud at night,
From the moonlight of individuality.