APRIL 2004

Kid Rock

York student Daniel Stadnicki remembers the high life with hit teen band Serial Joe

Understanding chronic dieting ${\bf n}$ The rescued apes of Borneo

....





redefine THE POSSIBLE.

Behind our fight song contest. BY BERTON WOODWARD

Winning Ways

T'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE getting a phone call from Seymour Schulich. He's such an upbeat person that his energy, wit and positive spirit crackle down the line. So when he called late last summer about a story we were working on, it just seemed natural to go on chatting, during which time he managed to note that

Could an editor ask for more? York's

biggest benefactor, after whom the busi-

ness school is named, was suggesting we

could give away some of his money. To

students. In a contest of creativity. We

didn't have to be asked twice, and in

December's YorkU we issued the chal-

lenge. Contestants sang their songs into

our voicemail and e-mailed the lyrics.

The last entry came in at five minutes

before midnight on New Year's Eve, the

Now the judges, representing $\gamma_{ork}U$,

Sport York and the York is U student

pride group, have spoken, and the winner

is - honestly, we didn't plan it this way -

an absolute poster guy for the interna-

tional recruitment program of, yes, the

Schulich School of Business. Winner

Martin Lainez is a 26-year-old former

marketing executive from Lima, Peru,

now studying for a Schulich MBA and

living in residence. He chose the school,

he says, due to its strong rankings in the

international lists published by the

Financial Times, Forbes et al. Its return

on investment rating was notably high,

he points out, as were chances of landing

contest deadline.

person who wrote the best one.

he'd long thought York should have a full-blown fight song. And, he added,

a job afterward. And he loves the campus: "I'm really having a good time." he had an open offer of \$1,000 for the

> Lainez wrote some jingles back in his marketing days, and has always played guitar. Unfazed by composing in a second language, he entered our contest with a catchy, traditional-style melody and lyrics that go like this:

When the Lions get going, the going gets rough

Our contenders get nervous, they know that we're tough

Astounding, majestic, terrifyingly loud

The Lions of York U! Hear the roar from the crowd

The Lions of York U! Hear the roar from the crowd

So we march down the road with our banners held high

Hear the roar of the Lions coming into the fight

Shout it loud, stomp your feet, raise your fist to the beat

Of the song that will lead us to sweet victory.

Seymour Schulich was tickled that a biz student won, but his biggest hope is that the song gets sung – heartily. "What do you remember about university?" he asks. "You remember the fun times."

Send letters, submissions, comments and ideas to editor@vorku.ca.



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E A D I N G E D G E

How the University reaches out. BY LORNA R. MARSDEN

York's Community

HEN YORK WAS FOUNDED IN 1959, the Glendon campus was right in the middle of the GTA; today, at our Keele campus, we are again at the heart of the GTA. In both settings, our role in the community is very important to us. Our mission statement declares that we are dynamic, metropolitan and multicultural. And it's true! We try to be good neighbours and help develop the community wherever we are.

An urban community revolves around the relationship between two main elements: built space and the people who live and work in it. As you will undoubtedly have noticed, York is enjoying something of a building boom right now. Indeed, by the time the Accolade project is finished, the Keele campus will have added 43 per cent of built space in just seven years. What is not commonly known, however, is that York has a

The Randal Dooley bursary

Master Plan – a template governed by a guiding principle on our campuses. While the vide shelter and quiet amid the

is a shining example of the that applies to development **local community joining** Glendon plan has been to pro- forces with the University.

hurly-burly of the city, at Keele the plan has been to create urban density, to make the campus a beautiful and busy centre for research and teaching in the northwest quadrant of the GTA.

The most recent of the Keele developments is The Village at York University, now under construction on the Southlands. This privately owned residential project is the most dramatic evidence of physically bringing the community closer to York. It is also fully in accordance with the principles of the Master Plan. From the start, the Board of Governors saw the revenue from these lands, when developed, as building the endowment for academic projects at the University.

The other large project underway, at the west side of the campus, is the construction of the new Tennis Canada stadium on Shoreham Drive. Apart from providing a spectacular summer event each year, the new National Tennis Centre will provide tennis courts for the use of people from the

Lorna R. Marsden is York's president and vice-chancellor.



surrounding neighbourhoods and the University.

But buildings alone do not make a community. For 27 years now, the York Youth Connection summer camp has provided programs in music, science, film, theatre, sports and games for local children, as well as those of University people.

Good neighbours make good students. The Westview Partnership and the Teacher Education Program in Regent Park, originating from our Faculty of Education, are designed to enhance the academic success of students in our surrounding area and beyond. At the Keele campus, the Randal Dooley Memorial Entrance Bursary, given to young people from the Jane-Finch area coming into our Faculty of Arts, is a shining example of the local community joining forces with the University to help local students achieve their academic dreams.

At Glendon, the athletic facilities on campus are used by students from the surrounding schools, as well as retirees through the Living and Learning in Retirement programs. These are all truly community-based partnerships and the input of residents is actively sought.

With our energetic outreach now well developed in a number of communities, all of us at York are trying to be builders of good relationships. That in turn will help foster good research, good teaching and good years ahead.

UNIVERSE

Breaking Up Is Hard to Do

or most teen girls, boyfriends come and go. But sometimes the going gets tough. Teen romances last an average of four months and give girls a chance to learn about what makes a good relationship. Usually the partings are amicable.

"Some will weather a breakup fine," says York psychology Professor Jennifer Connolly. "But for a small number – whether they or their boyfriends initiate the end of the relationship - the breakup leads to serious depression and even suicide attempts."

Determining why these adolescents suffer so much is what interests Connolly, director of York's LaMarsh Centre for Research on Violence & Conflict Resolution. Along with York Professor Debra Pepler and Queen's University Professor Wendy Craig, Connolly is studying girls and boys from Grades 7 to 12 over an 18-month period to find out how young people deal with dating relationships and cope after breakups.

Connolly hopes her findings on dating and its problems may one day help promote positive relationships and understanding between the sexes. "Girls' perceptions are heavily influenced by the media," she says. "They think all their peers have boyfriends and they have unrealistic expectations for those relationships. In reality, less than 20 per cent of 13- to 15-year-olds have a current romantic partner, and most relationships are based on companionship, no emotional closeness. Kids need a perspective on what's normal and what's reasonable for relationships at this age." W



рехсногосу

Dog Gone?

Dealing with a pet's passing

elly McCutcheon's choice to do her PhD dissertation on pet grief seems almost a given since she comes from a tradition of animal care. Her dad, a veterinarian, has been voted "best vet in Toronto" by NOW magazine and McCutcheon worked part time at his clinic for years.

"I got to see first-hand how people dealt with their pet's death," says McCutcheon. "Unfortunately pet grief is often not taken seriously by society. We think serious grief should be reserved for people, not animals. Psychologists call it disenfranchised grief."

As a psychotherapist herself, McCutcheon often sees clients who are grieving pets and haven't had the support of family or friends to get them through it in a healthy way. "That's when problems occur," says McCutcheon. "When grief becomes complicated grief it begins to affect how you relate to people, your job and all the relationships you're in every day."

чнотодкарну ву **NANCY MERCAD**O

When the research is complete she hopes to write a book about her findings. "I want to help other health care professionals and psychotherapists deal with a client's pet death experience," she says. "Many therapists don't know what to do when they're confronted by someone who is grieving a pet. They've only been trained to deal with people missing people."

Eighty per cent of respondents to her study's survey have been female, spanning the ages of 25 to 83. Pet grief stories of all kinds are represented, including bunnies, dogs, cats and rats. "We even had geckos," says McCutcheon.

NEIGHBOURS

Calls of the Wild

Songbirds use the campus for migration stopovers

he Keele campus is a natural for migrating songbirds. Every spring, scarlet tanagers, Nashville and yellow-rumped warblers, and the Swainson's thrush all stop off for a few days' R&R on their way to points north, east and west. "York woodlots and open fields are a good choice for these songbirds to eat and rest," says ornithologist Bridget Stutchbury, a York biology professor.

York benefits from being on the Toronto ravine system, too, she says. "The advantage of being near Black Creek is that the extensive natural habitat attracts large numbers of migrants who may move into natural areas on campus." Stutchbury says migrating birds don't usually stay to nest on campus because there isn't enough forest cover. "Some species are literally 'passing through' because their breeding grounds are north of us. For other species, the woodlots are too small and isolated to make them attractive breeding sites."



INNOVATION

Keys to Success

Text messaging made simple

rtyuioplkjhgfdszxcvh

Pavlovych has tapped into something that saves wear and tear on your thumb, as well as time, if phone. The York computer science most frequently in messages (for in-"Less-Tap".

cellphone keypad, and slightly rearranged them," says Pavlovych. On the standard keypad, you have to press number 7 four times to represent the letter S, but with Pavolvych's configuration you only

have to press it once. That's because he has changed the order of letters PQRS to SRPQ.

Pavlovych used research that you text-message on your cell- indicated which letters got used PhD student calls his invention stance, the vowel E). He tested 12 people for an hour in three differ-"I've taken the usual letters on a ent sessions, and found they did 26 per cent less tapping – and had happier thumbs – using his new keypad arrangement. "Once people get used to my system," he says, "I expect they'll be able to send messages about 35 per cent faster."

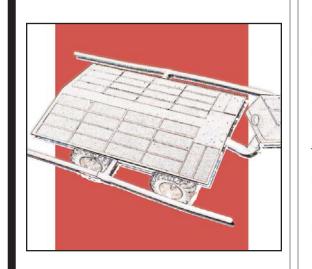
SPACE Leave It to **Beaver**

A Canadian-made robot may explore Mars

o doubt about it, says York scientist Brendan Quine: Beaver, the Martian robot rover being designed and tested by York scientists, is "eager" to get sniffing the extraterrestrial environment in 2010. That's when Quine hopes yet another Mars mission, the Northern Light project, could get off the ground.

Beaver is the product of 50 scientists at 12 Canadian universities, led by York, as well as a consortium of companies. Quine, a physics & astronomy professor, is principal investigator of the project developing Beaver, which is no bigger than a sheet of typing paper (plus wheels) and weighs six kg. Nine other York scientists are members of the team. After a nine-month cruise through space, Beaver would explore Mars daily and send data back to Earth.

Equipped with ground-penetrating radar and digging and rock-grinding tools, Beaver can look for signs of water and hematite, a semi-precious mineral. Its other task would be checking Martian radiation levels for future development of mannedmission spacesuits. "For a bargain-basement cost of only \$200 million, we can do this," says Quine, who is seeking financing. Sadly, Beaver can't survive beyond its 90-day mission because of cold Martian winter temperatures and frequent dust storms, but its data would live on.





Low Tech

Why small business and e-business aren't talking

7 hy aren't more small and medium-size businesses (SMEs) on the e-commerce uptake? A recent survey done by Ron McClean, Schulich School of Business professor, and the Canadian e-Business Initiative suggests one reason may be many SMEs simply can't find enough technology workers with business skills they can trust or understand.

"Most IT workers can't walk into an office and explain how technology will improve business," says McClean, an information systems professor. The survey found only 30 per cent of Canadian SMEs had plans to implement e-biz strategies, yet firms of 50-500 employees generate 85 per cent of all new jobs in Canada. "SMEs are the ones that need to be targeted if you want to help the economy," he says.

"Our focus groups found almost no SMEs had really moved much beyond a Web site. They didn't know what they wanted to do; didn't trust the talent; and didn't know how to access the right talent." McClean says of students: "We've got to give people more critical and hands-on skills." V

"It seems like a condition of life that we always complain about our students' writing. I don't know that there is any major evidence that it's better or worse than it's been before."

> VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC SHEILA EMBLETON, commenting on concerns in British Columbia about students' writing, in the National Post

GRAPHY BY RICK REID

UNI<u>VERSE</u>

Off Beat

IT'S PROBABLY NO SURPRISE THAT MARCUS BOON, YORK ENGLISH PROF AND AUTHOR OF The Road of Excess: A History of Writers on Drugs (HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2002), IS HIP TO THE WEB'S MORE OFFBEAT SITES. HERE'S A SAMPLER OF BOON'S PERSONAL FAVOURITES, WITH HIS DESCRIPTIONS.

WWW.LIBILCOM

THE WEB'S PREMIERE RESOURCE FOR RESEARCHING SOUND AND CONCRETE POETRY, WITH A VAST MP3 **RECORDING ARCHIVE** REACHING BACK TO THE DADAISTS AND BEATS, AND FORWARD TO CONTEMPORARY POETS LIKE YORK'S OWN CHRISTIAN Вöк (above).

RIVERBENDBLOG.BLOGSPOT сом

THE MOST INTERESTING BLOG (WEB DIARY) FROM IRAQ. CALLED Baghdad BURNING, IT'S WRITTEN BY A WOMAN LIVING THERE, DESCRIBING EVERYDAY LIFE UNDER OCCUPATION.

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MY FAVOURITE PIECE OF INTERNET POETRY. A STUNNING, RAW MULTIMEDIA ASSEMBLAGE, SHOWING WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH HYPERTEXT-BASED POETRY.

PUBLIC SPEAKING



A Beautiful Mind

Paper models of a geometry genius

orn in 1907, geometer Donald Coxeter called luminaries like Buckminster Fuller and M.C. Escher friends (they looked to him for advice on their own geometric creations). Absent-minded about most things except work, an accomplished musician (he composed an opera at 12), he was also a genius happy to share his knowledge. Coxeter died last year in Toronto at 96. But some of his archival material – articles, books, portraits and a series of geometric paper models that illustrate his theorems – lives on at York, thanks in part to Asia Weiss, York mathematics professor and Coxeter's last PhD student at the University of Toronto.

The Coxeter Library collection housed on the sixth floor of the Ross Building has 23 intricate paper models of stellated icosahedra (from stella meaning "star") that look like origami gone wild. "They were folded by an admirer of Coxeter's, a dwarf. They're so small and complicated you needed someone with hands the size of a child's to fold them," says Weiss. That these exquisite mathematical sculptures are beautiful, as well as concrete expressions of Coxeter's mind, would probably be music to his ears. **M**



all it the wheel deal: York has received the City of Toronto's 2003 Bicycle-Friendliest Suburban Business Award. The University was nominated for its commitment to reducing singleoccupant vehicle traffic, for promoting cycling, increasing bicycle racks on campus, making change and shower facilities accessible to cyclists for a nominal charge, and creating an info e-mail list for York cyclists (100-plus members so far). York acknowledged the help of the Black Creek Regional Transportation Management Association in winning the award. Other York bike highlights:

- 2003 was the third year of the University's involvement in the City of Toronto's Bike Week.
- In spring 2002, York installed 40 new bike racks, each with a capacity of 10 bikes.
- An indoor bike cage is available for 50 bikes. Located in the Arboretum Lanes Parkade, it is locked and monitored by security. ₩

PHOTOGRAPHY BY

HOTOGRAPHY BY NANCY MERCADD; BANKNOTES USED AND ALTERED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE BANK OF CANADA

Working Knowledge

Inside the real 'new economy'

UNIVERS

he "new economy" is more than simply a shift to new technology in the workplace. It has restructured the way Canadians work and live, says Norene Pupo, director of York's Centre for Research on Work & Society. Combined with the forces of globalization, it has transformed communities and created new challenges for labour unions accustomed to the stability of the "old economy". That's why 11 of them – including the Canadian Auto Workers and the Canadian Union of Public Employees – are collaborating with scholars from across the country in a three-year study Pupo is leading.

With \$900,000 from the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada, she has commissioned studies on the growth of part-time and temporary work and its impact on family life; burgeoning telemarketing services and cultural production (musical festivals, museums, crafts) in regions abandoned by industry; how unions have changed their organizing strategies and developed training programs to adapt to workers' changing needs; and how privatization has affected work and workers' health within the public sector. By 2005, Pupo and her team will have an in-depth profile of the real "new economy", one that will help policymakers respond to the changing needs of working Canadians.

UNIVERSE

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Student **Bodies**

FROM A 2002 SURVEY OF YORK UNDERGRADUATES:

n Almost all York STUDENTS (96%) OWN **OR HAVE ACCESS**

> T0 A COMPUTER AT HOME; 92% HAVE INTERNET

n 41% GREW UP SPEAKING A LANGUAGE OTHER

THAN ENGLISH AT HOME. IN TOTAL, RESPONDENTS LISTED 68 DIFFERENT

LANGUAGES.

n STUDENTS WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN BACKGROUNDS (ESPECIALLY ANGLO-IRISH) HAVE BEEN

> DECREASING, WHILE THOSE WITH ORIGINS IN EAST AND SOUTH

ASIA AND EASTERN EUROPE ARE ON THE RISE.

n PARENTAL EDUCATION **OF YORK UNDERGRADS HAS** DEEPENED IN THE LAST 10 YEARS. THE PROPORTION OF FATHERS WITH A UNIVERSITY DEGREE HAS GROWN TO 38%

FROM 21%, MOTHERS TO 30% FROM 22%.



ver blank out on an exam? Brian Poser has, but he knows how to beat it, too. Poser, learning skills counsellor in York's Counselling & Development Centre, offers these tips for calming down and making stress work for you at exam time.

• Attend the last class before an exam. Some professors give detailed reviews and hints about what vou'll need to know.

• Be as prepared as you can be. Don't underestimate how much prep you will need to do to score well.

• Have a game plan. Focus on the job: you're there to answer the questions, not to focus on how poorly

f there's one thing the world would seem to have enough of, it's self-help books. Just take a look through any bookstore's pop-psych section. But changing the way you act or think isn't a quick fix, says York psychology Professor Emeritus Neil Agnew. Ironically, Agnew's new book (co-authored with colleague John L. Brown) may join its cousins in the selfhelp section. Finding the Real You: Meeting the Most Important Person in Your Life is, however, an advice book with a difference.

"I actually started this by making fun of the fringes of psychology," says Agnew with a grin. "I was as surprised as anyone that people would want to read it. Truthfully? What mainly motivated me to write the book was the failure of most self-help programs."

Agnew says self-help results are usually shortterm at best. "A change of environment will do more than any 'self-help' regimen," he says. "What will happen is, you'll change your behaviour or thinking as a result of changing your environment. We call it changing your context."

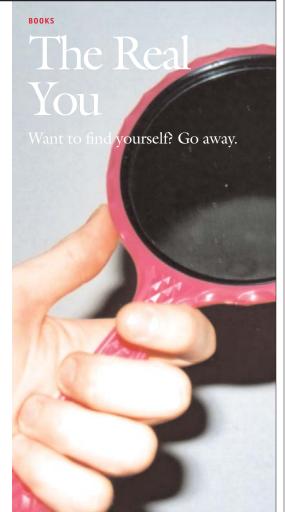
His professional advice? Forget the path to selfenlightenment. (You're more trapped than you think, you just don't realize it.) Says Agnew, "The best way to find the real you is to get out of your 'box', for a day, a week, a month, whatever you can afford." If you do take that four-month trip to Italy, bring his book along to read on the beach.

you think you're doing, how fast a classmate is writing or what the result of the examination means for your future.

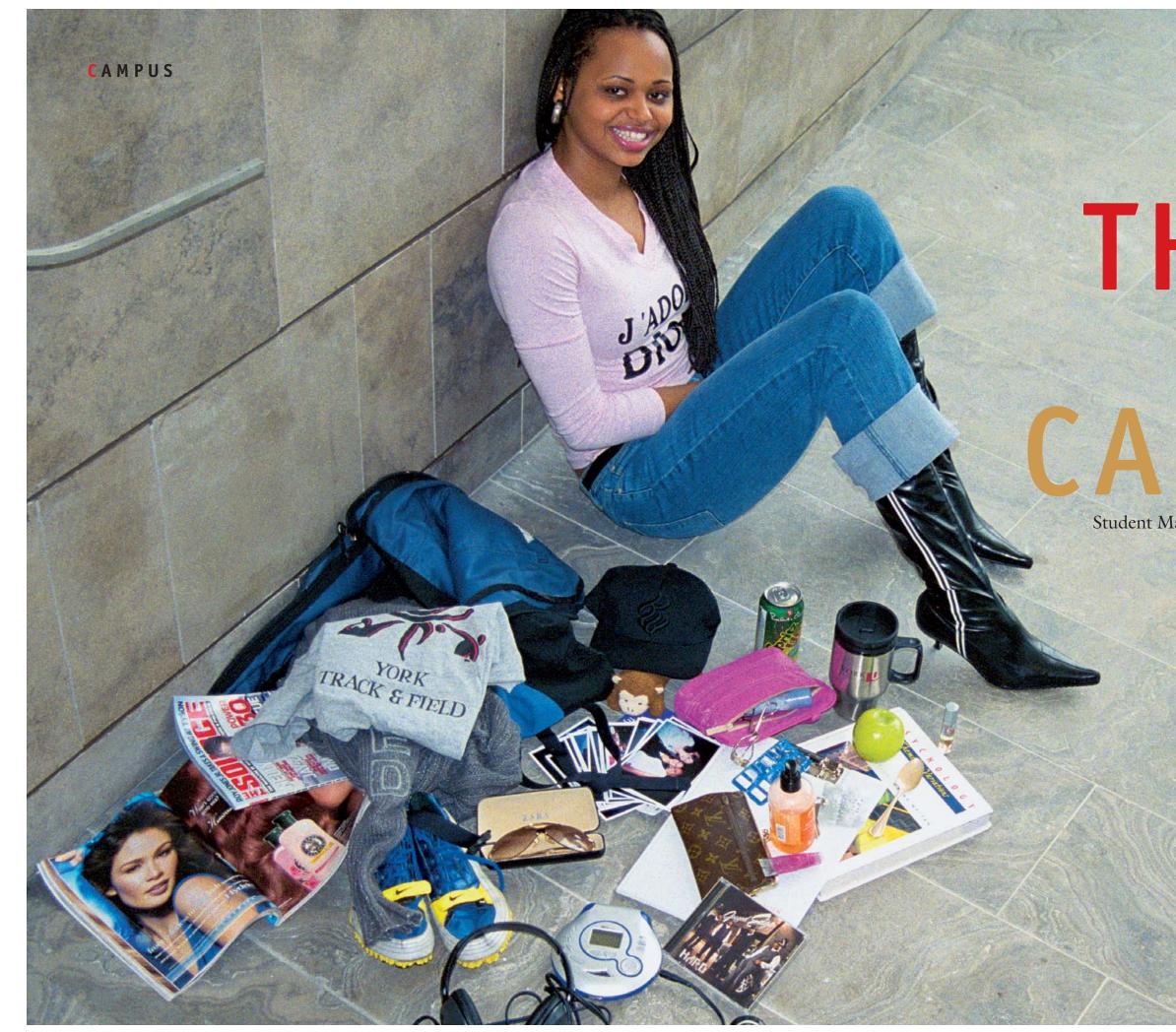
• Plan to use the entire time allotted. Think your way through each question. Remember: answering all the questions and getting 75 per cent correct is better than answering half the questions and having them 100 per cent correct.

• Bring your own "relaxers" into the exam. Having "quiet" food, juice, good-luck charms, extra writing tools etc. can help you feel more comfortable.

For more tips, check out York's Counselling & Development Centre at www.yorku.ca/cdc/lsp. ₩







THE THINGS SHE ARRIES

Student Mandy Upuu fits it all into her busy schedule.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICK REID



VER WONDER what commuting students carry

in those bulging backpacks? *York U* did. So we asked York Faculty of Arts student Mandy Upuu to spill the beans (and the contents) about the necessities of life that she personally schleps to York from her downtown apartment.

As you can see, Mandy's prepared for any eventuality – from working out with York's track team, to spinning a few tunes while perusing the latest fashion mags. An apple a day keeps her healthy after a hard day on the starting blocks. Shades and a makeup bag go everywhere, while a collection of photos completes the picture.

Mandy's advice to would-be backpackers? "Go small. I used to have a small one and then I got a big pack and now it's full of all sorts of junk. Also, I wish someone would create a feminine backpack. The only ones you can get are really ugly – and the colours are terrible." Worst thing about backpack commuting? "Definitely smacking into others and being smacked. It's worst on the bus." M

KidRock

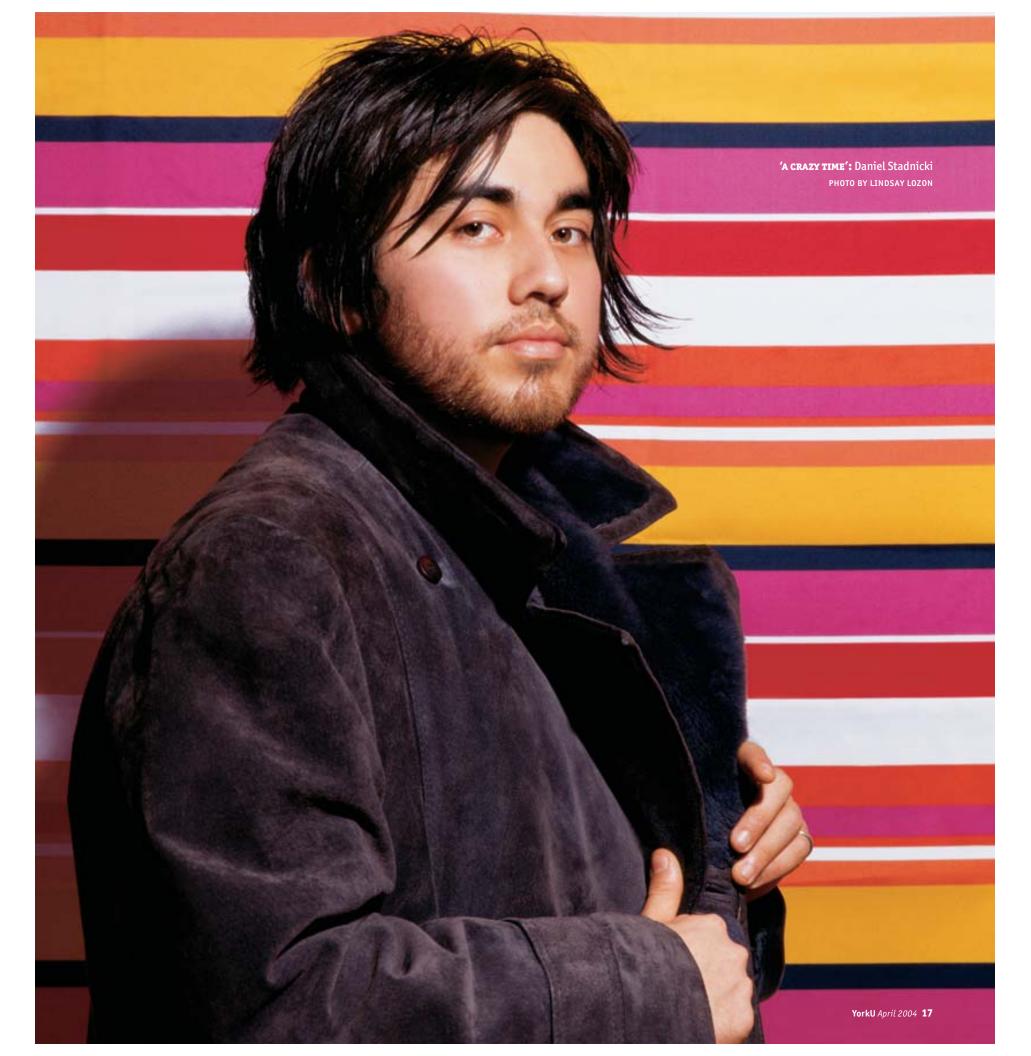
York music student Daniel Stadnicki looks back on the highs - and lows - of life with teen band Serial Joe. BY MICHAEL TODD



F YOU'RE A 14-YEAR-OLD GUY, it's hard to imagine anything better than playing in a successful rock band, having so many girls call your house you have to get an unlisted phone number, attending wicked road parties, scoring free drums, touring across Canada by bus with your teen buddies and meeting rock legends like Courtney Love and KISS's Gene Simmons. But the dream happened. This and more was part of the adolescence of first-year York student Daniel Stadnicki – drummer and former member of late-90s hitmakers Serial Joe.

Stadnicki came by his musical interests early. His parents, who both work at York, were big pop music fans, and his Japanese grandfather is heavily into jazz. That nurturing environment seems to have paid off. By the time Stadnicki hit junior high he had got together with singer Ryan Dennis. They went on to form Serial Joe (named, as all the fan sites repeat, for a little girl on Dennis's street who pronounced the name "Sergio" as "Serial Joe") and added guitarist Ryan Stever and bassist Jon Davidson. They were all friends in and around Newmarket, Ont., playing quintessential rec room rock that eventually caught the notice of big-time producers at Aquarius Records/EMI. By the time they were 16, they were opening for the likes of KISS and appearing at festivals with other internationally-recognized acts like Live and Smashmouth.

Stadnicki, who's a Winters College student but lives in Calumet, was on tour an



average of two months a year, he says, but still managed to get all his homework done. In fact, he finished Grade 13 with an 87 per cent average. "I work best under pressure," says Stadnicki, now 19. "If I had to be away for a couple of weeks or more I'd just go to my teacher and get all the homework for that period. I worked on assignments on the road."

EVERYTHING HAPPENED SO FAST. Serial Joe first came to the public's attention through the release of their self-financed 1998 independent EP *Kicked*, which contained six songs, recorded when some members were still 12. The indie went the rounds at a Canadian Music Week and piqued the interest of music industry execs. By then the band had also released an independent video based on one of the tracks on *Kicked*, Skidrow. The video netted them Best Independent at the 1998 Much-Music Video Awards, helping cement their career rise. Then came their first commercial release, *Face Down*, in June 1999, a debut full-length album for Aquarius Records/EMI. It was produced by Dave "Rave" Ogilvie of Skinny Puppy fame and producer of such artists as Marilyn Manson, Jane's Addiction and Nine Inch Nails. The album went on to sell so well (more than 50,000 copies) that it was certified Gold.

The infectious single, Mistake, from *Face Down* familiarized the band to fans across Canada and earned them the 2000 Canadian Radio Music Award for best song. "Mistake" also made it onto MuchMusic's *Big Shiny Tunes* #4, alongside top international stars like Lenny Kravitz and Blink 182. As their fame soared, Serial Joe became the youngest band to play at Woodstock '99, and they appeared at both Edgefest 1999 and 2000.

"Edgefest was the favourite because I hung out with Ben and Chris from Silverchair the whole time as well as the drummer from Finger Eleven. There were lots of parties on that tour – dangerously fun," says Stadnicki. That's where

> the band met Courtney Love, the ultimate partier. But because Serial Joe members were so young, Stadnicki says a lot of the bands were like older brothers. "The Edgefest bands' guys were really extremely nice, especially Gob, Vertical Horizon and a bunch of the others."

> > Was playing Woodstock a defining moment for Stadnicki? He says it had its own "special kind" of euphoria. "I wasn't expecting to see hippies or

anything. But I saw acts like Rage Against the Machine on the side stage and the infamous

Limp Bizkit concert, which didn't look that violent from where we were. My favourite moment, though, was seeing the Mini Me guy [Vern Troyer] from *Austin Powers* sitting atop a large black man's shoulders. He kept making the rock sign with his hand."

While Serial Joe achieved critical and financial success during their career, like any venture where there's money to be made (and adults involved), what the public saw was often different from the reality of making a buck off the talents of the young. By the time the band's final album – (*Last Chance*) At *The Romance Dance* – was released in 2001, listeners were hearing a very produced sound which seemed to have lost the original spirit.

"Toward the end of Serial Joe we were getting further and further away from what I felt made us such a successful band when we were kids," Stadnicki says. "Our early albums had an edge. We were experimenting. We weren't even that good as players really but we were the right sound for the time and things just kinda took off."

Stadnicki's early interest in alternative music is a pattern he seems to be continuing. And it's one reason he chose to come to York for music (in the Faculty of Fine Arts) rather than enrol in more traditional music programs at other universities. "My tastes have always been alternative," he says. "Coming to York was perfect for me because the program here lets me explore a lot of different musical genres which I couldn't do at other schools. My experience is performance. I found at York I could explore the performance part more than I could elsewhere."

These days, when not studying for exams or writing papers, Stadnicki is busy rehearsing with his new Ottawa-based band, Channel One (which has already had a number one place in the hard rock category on garageband.com). As if that weren't busy enough, Stadnicki gives drum lessons and regularly works as a session musician.

He looks back on the Serial Joe years with mixed emotions. The band did its fair share of pro bono concerts, donating its time to fundraisers like the Walkerton Benefit and the Summerfest Benefit for Kids as well as the White Ribbon campaign. He got a lot of free equipment from drum suppliers. But while he banked a fair amount of money during those years (he won't say exactly how much), the stress of being in the spotlight began to take its toll.

"It was a crazy time," says Stadnicki. "At first it was fun, but then it became too much about money. We were being exploited because of our age. We became a gimmick. And our music changed. The tunes became more 'hit' oriented. There were many compromises and decisions being made beyond my control, and I felt I got short-changed creatively on the last album."

But Stadnicki waxes philosophic about it all: "You know, in the final analysis, it was the fans and performing I loved. Some of the guys were getting sick of signing autographs and talking to the crowd. But I enjoyed it. I mean, these were the people who were making it all – us, the parties, Serial Joe – possible."





YORK WAS PERFECT FOR ME': Playing in Toronto PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEOFF GEORGE

Ape Escapes

After 16 years studying orangutans up close, York's Anne Russon has become an international advocate for their survival. BY MARTHA TANCOCK

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEOFF GEORGE

'THEY'RE LIKE FAMILY': Anne Russon



OU COULD CALL ANNE RUSSON an accidental primatologist. A university math whiz who excelled as a computer programmer in the 1970s, she decided she didn't like either subject and started studying psychology. A chance encounter with four baby chimps at research labs in Montreal turned into her doctoral thesis. "I didn't intend to study primates," says the psychology professor. Now, they're practically her whole life.

Since she began tracking orangutans in the rainforest of Borneo 16 years ago, Russon's social life has suffered. "About all I do is work," she confesses. "But that's what I like best." Every year, she teaches at Glendon for eight months, then packs her binoculars and flies to Borneo for four. This sabbatical year – *quel luxe* – she is spending eight months with her simian "relatives" at Wanariset, an orangutan rescue and rehabilitation centre that has become her home away from home.

Wanariset is one of five orangutan rehabilitation centres in Indonesia where fragmented populations of about 25,000 of these tree-living red great apes still survive in the wild. From this base, Russon follows young orphans, rescued from captivity, as they struggle to re-adapt to the forest they scarcely knew. Most were abducted from the wild as babies and sold overseas, sometimes for thousands of dollars, to unprincipled institutions and to individuals who disowned them once they grew out of the cute toddler stage. Interested in their cognitive skills, Russon is observing how they learn to feed themselves. She'd rather track ex-captives than wild orangutans because they are conveniently close by and bicultural – "they understand something of the human world."

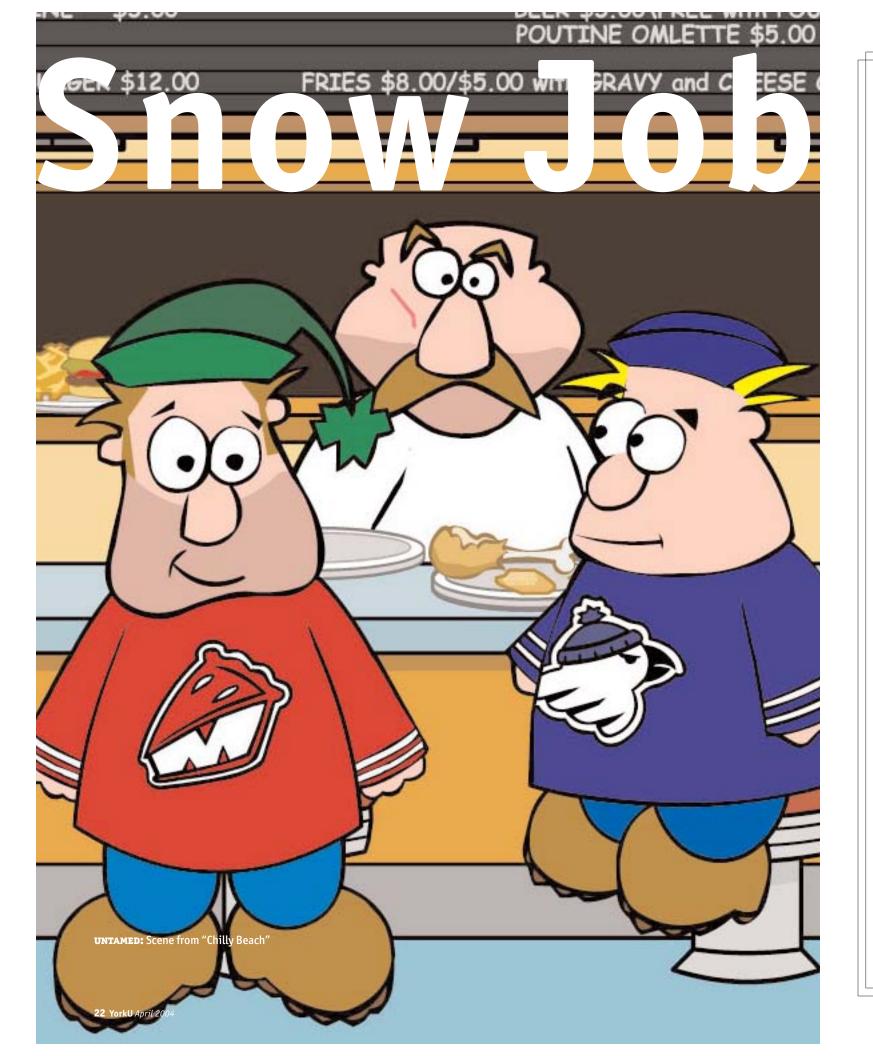
Tracking is hardly arduous. From early morning to late afternoon, Russon watches her subjects swing lazily from tree to tree looking for, then fastidiously eating, fruit, bark and termites. Red apes rarely venture far from sunrise to sunset and usually travel alone. "Once in a while, an orangutan will meet another orangutan – then there's sex, a chase, a fight or play." By about 4:30pm, they begin building their nests for the night. Boredom can be an occupational hazard, admits Russon, who often waits for hours on the ground to catch a glimpse of orangutans 30 metres above in the canopy. She daren't make a peep, even when she breaks for lunch, unless she wants company. "Orangutans are food addicts," she says, "and ex-captives know what the sound of rustling plastic means."

When she first started following juvenile returnees, Russon was shocked "to see how little many of these orangutans know about the forest when they first head out." Sometimes she's had to rescue them from near tragedy. Last summer, the primatologist and her Indonesian assistants carried one weak little five-year-old female back to camp. The young one had spent the day lying on the ground, too dehydrated and discouraged to look for food she hadn't the skills to find. On another occasion, Russon's crew rescued Victor and Rudy, two "know-nothings" who'd ventured too close to loggers and their chainsaws. "They're kids, just kids, and they normally would have a mother around to make decisions and steer them clear of danger."

Being around orangutans has changed Russon's life. "I am probably less impatient and confrontational," she says. "Where we humans sometimes fan the fire, they often calm it down." Red apes shrug off problems they can't solve. Good-tempered and laid back, they love to clown. In the wild, young orangutans spend eight to 10 years with their mothers before setting out on their own. They learn, like human infants, by mimicking and can even communicate by miming. Though they learn slowly compared to humans, they are very clever. In her book *Orangutans: Wizards of the Rain Forest*, Russon fondly calls them "arboreal wizards in drunken slow motion."

Orangutans have captured Russon's heart as well as her mind. Twenty years ago, she was interested mainly in the pure science of ape intelligence. Now, she's travelling the world as an advocate for this endangered species, giving talks, lectures and interviews. Red apes could be extinct in 10 to 20 years if humans continue to destroy their habitat, she says. "Studying them gives me ammunition to try to convince other people that orangutans are worth protecting." Russon has published that ammunition in her book and on her Web site in her biggest rescue attempt yet of the great apes who have touched her heart and her soul. "They're like family," she says. "Unless we can convince humans to leave them alone or help them, then they are surely doomed." M

FIELDWORK





MAGINE "SOUTH PARK" meets Bob and Doug's "Great White North". Add a soupçon of "This Hour Has 22 Minutes" and garnish with "Kids in the Hall" and you have some idea of what the Webtoon and CBC TV show "Chilly Beach" is like.

The cartoon was originally developed by York film & video grad Doug Sinclair, 32, and business partner Dan Hawes as a Web demonstration of the bells and whistles of their former high-tech company, Infopreneur. When Infopreneur launched "Chilly Beach" in 1998, streaming media, which supplies continuous TV-quality graphics over the Web, was brand new.

So what and where is Chilly Beach? Here's how its authors describe it: "Somewhere between New England and the North Pole lies a vast, untamed Arctic wilderness known only as Canada. Here in this frozen wasteland lies a place where time stands still. Where proud traditions like hockey brawls and Canadian beers are cherished and passed from one generation to the next.... Where moose and polar bears roam free and devour the local population as nature intended.... This is a place called Chilly Beach."

The twist is, the location isn't a beach at all, it's an ice floe. The show features a motley assortment of quintessentially Canadian stereotypic characters who star in episodes with names like "Shut Your Space Hole", "Slack to School", "The Beer Hunters", "Out of Thin Ale" (sponsored by Molsons) and "Poutine on the Ritz".

"Chilly Beach" ran on the Web (www.chillybeach.com) for six years before it caught the CBC's eye (13 episodes aired in the fall, and another 13 will start showing in April – 5:30pm on

ACHIEVERS

It's a Webtoon. No, it's a CBC TV series. Behind the scenes of "Chilly Beach" with co-creator and fine arts grad Doug Sinclair. **BY MICHAEL TODD**

> Wednesdays, right after "The Simpsons"). For Sinclair, who is the show's head writer, it's been an astounding journey. "We just put together episodes with Leslie Nielsen and William Shatner. They do some character voices. And I thought, 'How amazing is that? I'm actually working with these guys!' "

> Creating a Webtoon was not something Sinclair (BFA '93) ever thought he'd be doing with his film & video degree. "I always saw myself as doing serious films, or working on Hollywood stuff. A lot of us dreamed about that when we were in film school. But I can honestly say there's no place I'd rather be at the moment. I love this. And I'm able to write more these days rather than doing the animation - I'm not really an animator. It's where I want to be."

> The toon's two main characters are Dale MacDonald and Frank Shackleford, who insult and berate each other, drink beer and play hockey - in other words, act like typical Canadians. There's a host of other characters, too, including a polar bear that regularly chows down on tourists and kills Santa Claus each Christmas episode. ("It's kind of a CB Christmas tradition now," says Sinclair.)

> Now that "Chilly Beach" is on television, does Sinclair have to curb the violence and potty mouth? Yes and no. "We weren't sure the CBC would let us kill Santa this Christmas," says Sinclair. "But it didn't seem to be a problem. On the Web anything goes, but here we're aiming at a 'tweenage' audience. CBC gave us some guidelines. No one seems to have an issue with beer drinking, for instance, but we were told no large pools of blood. When we killed Santa there was no blood."

> What about showing hockey violence? "Oh, that's OK," says Sinclair. W

TECH

unplugged

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICK REID

Would you like e-mail with that? You can log on without wires in a lot of places at York. BY CATHY CARLYLE

HIGH MOBILITY: Bonnie Tse



IOLOGY PROFESSOR LOGAN DONALDSON loves being wireless at York. "It gets me out of my basement office and into the sunlight and fresh air." Third-year law and MBA student Bonnie Tse thinks it's great, too. "It's convenient being wireless during

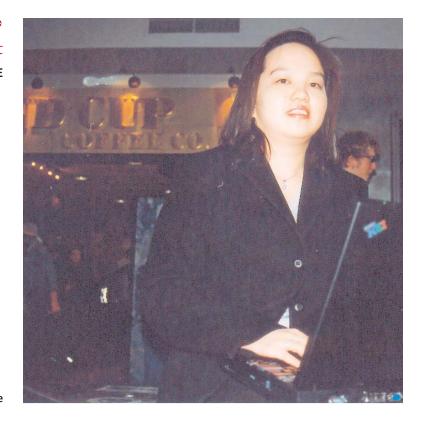
group projects, because we can work easily in many locations, and post information or e-mail it."

What they're talking about, of course, is wireless computing – being able to fire up a laptop and get onto the Net without a wired connection. That can mean sending e-mails from the comfort of a coffee shop, or jumping instantly to a Web link a professor mentions in class. And at York, it's possible in a lot of places.

Over two years ago, York's Computing & Network Services group introduced wireless network connectivity in Osgoode Hall Law School as a pilot project. The idea caused such a buzz that the Air York wireless service grew rapidly and now features dozens of "hotspots" on the Keele and Glendon campuses, with secure wireless access.

"At York, we think of students as mobile workers," says Bob Gagne, York's chief information officer and executive director of CNS. "They haven't got an office, but they often need access to the Internet." Initially, CNS concentrated on installing Air York in public areas where students gather and study, particularly the libraries, as well as cafeterias, coffee shops and commercial areas. But within two years, large portions of York will be wireless.

Donaldson's two favourite spots to access the Internet are the lobby of the Computer Science & Engineering Building



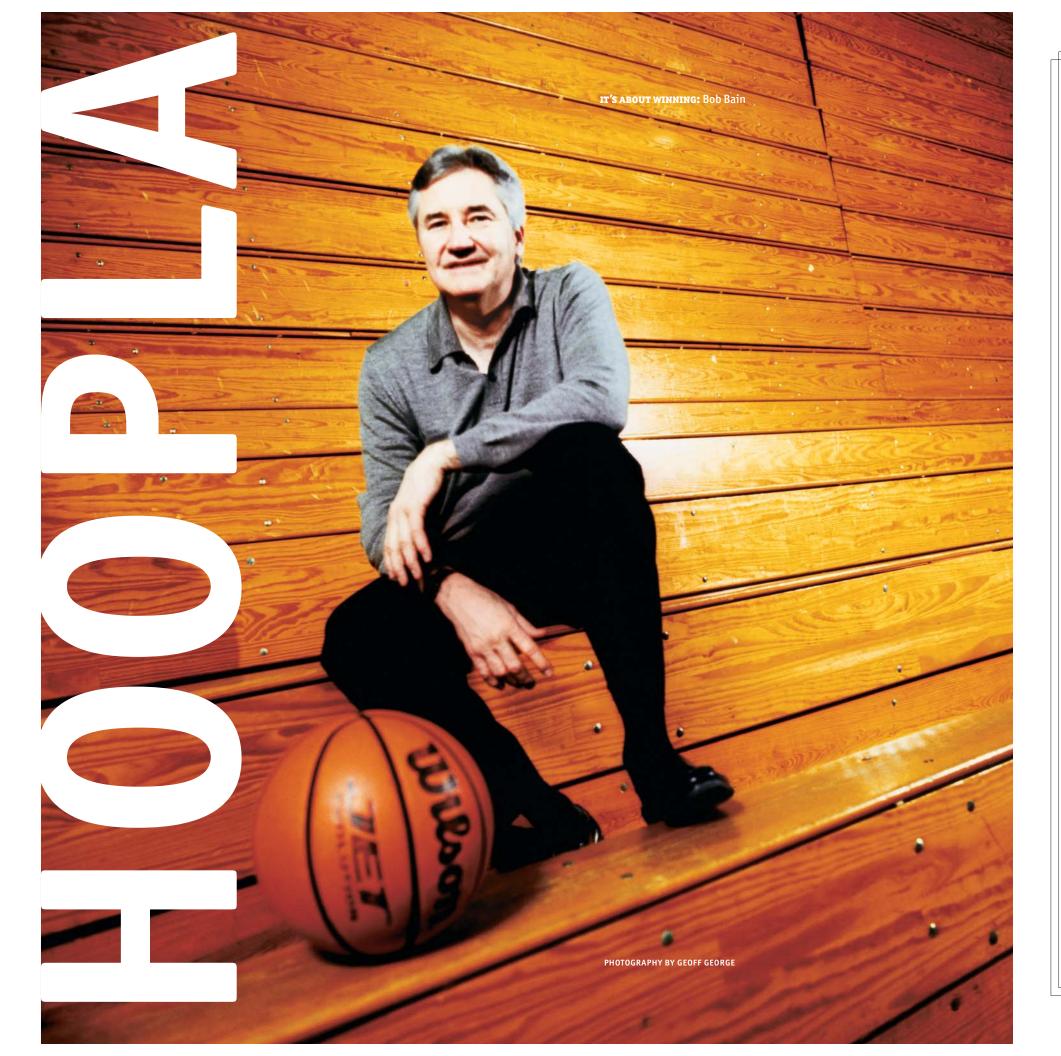
and the east side of York Lanes near Second Cup. He is a passionate proponent of Webcasting his lectures. "With my big classes, I love it. It makes sense," he says. He also uses his computer while teaching. "In my statistics class, I can access Web calculators and have the class watch the solution unfold on the overhead projector."

Tse (BBA '01), who studies at Osgoode and the Schulich School of Business, sees it from the student side. "Professors often go online during class to show links where we can access various material, and we can all follow along simultaneously," she says. "We can get the latest information available – instantly."

At the moment, Osgoode is tops in wireless use, though when the Seymour Schulich and Technology Enhanced Learning buildings become fully wireless in the spring, they'll be strong contenders for that title.

How do you join in? All you need is a compatible laptop (most are) and about \$50 for a wireless network card that you slip into a port on your computer. The network card is not much bigger than a credit card, and comes with a built-in rectangular antenna that searches for broadband signals coming from wireless base stations or "access points" at the University. A base station can typically handle from 20 to 30 users at a time.

A key priority for Air York is ensuring that the system is secure from "war-driving", a term used when people steal signals by piggybacking onto the system of someone who is using a wireless network card. To combat war-driving, you will need a Passport York login. Instructions for getting onto the system are at Air York's site, www.yorku.ca/ccsweb/airyork.



for it."

year and I dropped into the position."

jumped at the opportunity.

For Bain, part of coaching is about winning. He describes his coaching philosophy as one of competitiveness. "It's about being better than someone else. You see the fruits of your labours up there on the scoreboard. You live the highs and the lows, and ask anyone - you don't want to know me when we're in the lows. I'm terrible to be around when we're losing," says Bain laughing. So what makes for a good coach? "I guess being wholesomely obsessed is important," he says. "Coaches have to be somewhat driven and intense. But coaching is also about being part of the team - many people don't realize that."

A significant aspect of any varsity coach's job is also recruiting the best and brightest athletes. Definitely not a nine-to-five job. Coaches like Bain are constantly on the lookout for new talent - scouting games in distant cities and small towns, talking to players and their parents and trying to convince them to come to play for their university.

While coaching is intense work, it creates bonds with players that can last for years. Bain tells this story: "Last year a guy called me who'd only played for me one year. He invited me for a game of golf. I had a York team shirt in my trunk and I gave it to him. He'd never got one, you see. Well, you'd think I'd given him Fort Knox! This was a guy who'd just paid for a round of golf that probably cost 100 times what the shirt did. That's how much those York memories meant to him – 30 years later." ₩

SPORT

For more than three decades, Bob "Basketball" Bain has courted success. **BY MICHAEL TODD**

N A WORLD WHERE IMAGE OFTEN COUNTS for more than substance, it's nice to know principles and longevity still mean something. Call it tradition, institutional memory or whatever, York Lions basketball coach Bob Bain has paid his dues and can now happily count himself as the longest-serving North American coach in varsity athletics.

For more than 30 years, Bain has staked his reputation on York's men's basketball team, now the Lions, formerly the Yeomen. This year marks his 31st season at York, having coached more than 1,000 games with an average of 20 wins a year. In fact, Bain is one of only two active basketball coaches in Canadian Interuniversity Sport to have 600 wins, and he's led York to the playoffs 26 times. He's also an eighttime Ontario University Athletics Coach of the Year award winner.

Bain, who stands 6 feet 1 inches tall and played guard, helped his team win the national championship for Waterloo Lutheran University (now Wilfrid Laurier) in 1968. "Playing basketball was always a thrill for me," he says. "I seemed to have the right body

He's now a senior lecturer in York's School of Kinesiology and Health Science, and coordinator of the certificate program in coaching. Bain got the coaching call at 24, when he became head coach for the Golden Bears at the University of Alberta. "It was a case of being in the right place at the right time," he says. "The coach had just left for a

But Bain, who grew up in the Niagara Peninsula, wanted to get back to Ontario. He heard about a job at York teaching coaching, and sociology and psychology of sport, and

RESEARCH

Idealized media images have a lot to do with why people diet endlessly, says psychology Professor Jennifer Mills. She's even coined a word for it. BY CATHY CARLYLE

Thinspiration

RE YOU A CHRONIC DIETER? Do you endlessly try to shed kilos, only to see them return again and again? If you're confused about why, you're part of an erudite club. Chronic dieting has always been a puzzle to researchers. Why do people persist in losing weight, when they usually gain it back? There is no simple answer, says clinical psychologist Jennifer Mills, a psychology professor in York's Faculty of Arts. "Each person's pathway to dieting is unique," she says. "To understand it you have to look at metabolism, genetic disposition to weight-gain and psychological and

For one thing, some people suffer from "false-hope syndrome", which leads them into chronic dieting, says Mills, who has carried out several major studies about eating disorders. A lot of it has to do with the media. Mills has published three recent studies looking specifically at women ages 18 to 25 who are inspired to diet when viewing idealized body images in the media.

Often, dieters have bought into persuasive magazine and TV ads and features that tell them they'll be happier when they lose weight. For them, being thin holds the promise of becoming more attractive, popular, happier. In fact, just the act of going on a diet sometimes makes these women feel good about themselves, says Mills, whose current research subjects are undergraduates at York.

Sadly, the euphoria is short-lived, and this is how the cycle of dieting and weight-gain starts. When the hoped-for happiness melts away, dieters tend to take solace in food, and regain the kilos. But they believe the next attempt will work, because they buy into new ads that tell them their lives will be better once they lose weight again. Result? Chronic dieters are born. "They forget that the last time they did that, they were no happier," explains Mills.

There is an even more insidious side. Not only do many dieters regain the weight, they blame themselves for doing so. "They say, 'I wasn't disciplined enough. I didn't



social influences."

exercise enough'," says Mills. "They always bring their failure back to their own behaviour, because that is what is controllable. Their genetic make-up isn't."

Oddest of all may be a phenomenon Mills calls "thinspiration". Some women are inspired by images of slim models, despite their past failures at keeping the weight off. As unlikely as it would seem, these women have a temporarily enhanced self-image when they see their ideals, instead of realizing they can't attain that look. "But, when the cold light of day hits them, they tend to diet harder," says Mills. "Learning about 'thinspiration' was an important part of the chronic-dieting puzzle for me. It's similar to someone watching Serena Williams play tennis and believing they can be a better tennis player."

Mills says a psychologist can help educate people about what "normal" body sizes and shapes are and the supposed benefits of weight-loss. "Unfortunately, dieters don't usually seek

Behind Chronic Dieting

RISK FACTORS

- Early puberty
- Heavier than average weight
- Conflict in the family or a very emotionally constricted family
- Low self-esteem

TREATMENT

- Education on what really determines weight (metabolism, genetics)
- Cognitive behaviour therapy, helping dieters think more realistically about themselves

psychological help about their beliefs until they get into medical trouble or they are experiencing binge-eating, precipitated by dieting." Even worse, the average dieter doesn't see the need for psychological help. "They really believe 'It's not the diet that is the problem, it's me'."

Some suffer from cognitive dissonance – the belief that "If dieting is that important to me, then it must work – because I am working so hard at it. They are often very resistant to the idea that, in reality, they do not have a lot of control over their weight," says Mills. The factors determining a person's general weight and shape, she says, are approximately 80 per cent genetic.

Now, in collaboration with researchers at McMaster University's Department of Psychiatry, Mills is developing a questionnaire measuring the degree to which people think they have control over their weight and shape. "Our goal is to use it in a clinical context to predict which eating-disorder patients are more likely to relapse."

For dieters, Mills has this bottom-line advice: be realistic about your body size and shape and accept that some things just cannot be radically changed.

The Brenda File Feeling good and bad about yourself

THERE ARE STILL HUGE PIECES MISSING FROM THE CHRONIC dieting puzzle. Catalina Woldarsky (BA Hons. '03) discovered that when she conducted a study for her honours thesis on 170 York undergraduate psychology students, who thought they were being tested for memory. As part of the study, they were shown screen images of attractive, thin models.

First, though, the subjects were primed by reading and writing about a fictitious biography of "Brenda". Some subjects read about a "Brenda" who was fit, had lost weight and was happy, and then they had to write about a time when they felt fit, attractive and happy; others read about an overweight "Brenda" who was out of shape and unhappy, and they wrote about a period when they felt the same way; and the control group read something neutral about what "Brenda" had done in the summer and wrote of their summer experiences.

"What surprised us was the group primed to feel good about themselves – after all, they'd just written about when they'd been fit and attractive – responded more negatively after they'd viewed media images of models," says Woldarsky, who was one of psychology Professor Jennifer Mills' students at the time. "And the ones who read the negative 'Brenda' account actually felt better about themselves, in comparison to the 'positive' group. It's a paradox."

A theory she is tossing around for the findings is that the "positive Brenda" subjects hit reality when they viewed idealized pictures of women. "They might have compared what they'd said in their account of when they felt attractive and slim, to the screen pictures of beautiful women," offers Woldarsky. She and Mills are planning to expand the study and publish it.

YORK PEOPLE

Deanna Wolff Writer, globetrotter

Lone Wolff



TWO SUMMERS AGO, Deanna Wolff sealed her passport and mascara in Ziploc bags, tucked a blank diary into her purse, and headed for Rimini, Rome and Capri. Single, 30-something and travelling on her own, she fit the demographic she hopes will buy her new, self-published book *The Girl's Guide to Traveling Solo*.

Wolff is no stranger to new possibilities. A secretary from the age of 17, she started evening courses in English literature at York when she was 23 and earned her BA eight years later ('97). She always wanted to write a book but "never felt I had anything to say." Then she went to Italy for two weeks by herself. She turned her "incredible experience, packed full of adventure" into a 170-page book full of advice for singletons, including this: "Take that dream vacation and throw caution to the wind. You never know who'll call you 'bella, bella' and invite you in for vina rosa." **W**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY LOZON

YORK PEOPLE

IF THERE'S ONE QUALITY a good figure skater needs it's dedication (and maybe deep pockets). The hours of practice are long. And the sport doesn't come cheap. Skaters can easily spend upwards of \$1,500 for new blades each season.

Third-year York business administration student and figure skating champ Heather Geboers has certainly got dedication in hand. Each day she wakes up before dawn in her hometown of Bowmanville and drives to Mississauga for 7:30am practice. After that, she heads to York, then drives home to do schoolwork and coach other young people who dream of skating as well as Geboers does.

"It makes for a long day," she says. "I put in 18 hours a week for on- and off-ice training – including weights and ballet." Geboers, 24, gained a gold in December as senior ladies champ of Eastern Ontario in the BMO Financial Group Skate Canada Sectionals. She's won the title four years in a row. Despite the brutal regimen of balancing practice and school, Geboers still manages to have a life. She just got engaged and plans to tie the knot in the coming year. M

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUSAN KING

David Clink Poet, Schulich staffer

Free Verse

TO HEAR DAVID CLINK READ his own amusingly irreverent poems is to wonder if you haven't stumbled into a comedy club instead of a room full of serious poets attending the Tuesday night meeting of the Art Bar Poetry Series. Every week ABP versifiers converge in Toronto's Victory Café to read their latest. It's run by Clink, ABP's new artistic director, who, by day, works in the Peter F. Bronfman Business Library of the Schulich School of Business.

"Our mandate is simple. We provide a weekly venue for poetry that's inclusive and eclectic," says Clink, who has published many poems of his own in small literary magazines like *Descant* and *Grain*. "We usually get 50 people showing up – sometimes 100." It's free? "No charge," says Clink. "But we pass the hat and ask people to contribute what they can." M

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEOFF GEORGE

YORK PEOPLE

Heather Geboers Business student, skating champ

Good as Gold

YorkU April 2004 33

BACK TALK

I love books. I just missed a few. by JASON SHERMAN

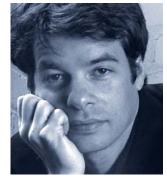
My Home Pages

Y GRANDFATHER ONCE TOLD ME you could tell a lot about a person by the content of his home page. Or maybe he said, "by the contents of his home." Either way, my grandfather was a wise man.

For a while, my home page was Google. Then Google took over the Net, its cute little logo and search box sprouting like the red weed in War of the Worlds. So I switched to Reference Desk, but found it too cluttered. The opposite was true of Oxford's Word of the Day. Then came the motherlode: Bartleby.com. When I noticed its ever-changing content

hope. Plato's The Apology, Epictetus' The Golden Sayings and Marcus Aurelius' The Meditations. Oh, I've never read these books, but at least I knew they existed

On and on the volumes went; greater and greater grew my despair. Sure, I'd read some Milton, a bit of Burns (even sung him once a year), a



couple of plays by Aeschylus. But I never did get around to Sir Thomas Browne's Religio Medici, Thomas à Kempis' The Imitation of Christ or Richard Henry Dana, Jr.'s Two Years before the Mast. I realized I hadn't read a single word of Dante's The Divine

I saw rows of great titles,

and poem-of-the-day) I was dream! "Sure I have an just have to read up on the life

(biography-, word-, quotation- all the authors I should be hooked. A procrastinator's familiar with, or at least impending deadline, but I once have stolen from.

of American jurist Learned Hand. For example: is that his real name?"

But I've had it with Bartleby. I've grown tired of the daily humiliation its content can bring. Case in point: the featured Harvard Classics & Shelf of Fiction.

Now, I'd never heard of the Harvard Classics before, much less the Shelf of Fiction. To my knowledge, there is no comparable York Classics & Shelf of Fiction, and we all know how the canon blew itself up not long ago and the word "classic" began to be applied to soft drinks. Still, there it sits, the dauntingly named Harvard Classics, with its claim to being "the most comprehensive and well-researched anthology of all time," daring you to click it open.

So I did. And what I saw were rows and rows of great titles, great authors, all the poets, novelists and philosophers whose work I should be familiar with, or at least once have stolen from. I began to go through the roman numeraled volumes of the collection, intent on placing an imaginary check mark next to each book I'd read.

Things got off to a bad start. Vol. I comprised Benjamin Franklin's His Autobiography; John Woolman's Journal; William Penn's Fruits of Solitude. Not only had I never cracked the covers of this trio, I'd never heard of them. Vol. II offered

Jason Sherman (BA '85) is the author of more than a dozen plays.

Comedy, one of the fundamental texts of Western literature. Or anything by Rousseau. Or Darwin. Or Anonymous.

Let's not even talk about the Shelf of Fiction. Except to say it's a very long shelf.

I tried a little experiment. To see just how far I'd fallen off the reading wagon, I looked at a comparable list of classic movies - the American Film Institute's selection of the 100 greatest movies ever made. To my shock, to my shame, I had seen every film on the list. Some more than thrice.

Sure, it's not a very inclusive list (only Yanks and Brits need apply), but the comparison is still there. I think of it as a wakeup call. A call to the kid who collected every book in the house and started a little library, alphabetized by author, dusted regularly, in the room he shared with two brothers. And to the university student who spent every minute of his three-hour York commute lost in the worlds of Thomas Hardy, Henry James and Margaret Laurence.

I can't blame the movies, really. Or a too-busy life. Or distractions. I can only tell myself that reading is a habit, developed in childhood and abandoned slowly, unnoticed. After taking the Bartleby-AFI test, I decided on the spot to dedicate more hours to reading, and fewer to watching.

Perhaps it's just as well I've left these books until now. Perhaps there's more to appreciate in them at 40 than there would have been at 20. I'll soon know. His Autobiography will tell me.