

THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

Volume 51, Issue 24

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thecord.ca

A weekend of highs and lows

Hawks find surprising wins on the court; letdowns on the ice

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

Over the weekend, four of Laurier's varsity teams added further evidence to the almost over-used adage that "anything can happen in the playoffs." In a weekend that was categorized by ups and downs for the Golden Hawks, the women's and men's basketball teams provided the ups, with a pair of shocking upset wins.

The women got things started on Saturday, knocking off the nation's number-three ranked team, the Western Mustangs, in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) West semifinal, making the division championship game for the first time in five years. Not to be outdone, their male counterparts came up with an upset win of their own, downing the Windsor Lancers, a team who had put up 109 points on the Hawks just two weeks prior.

"I'm tremendously proud," said Laurier's athletic director Peter Baxter. "Laurier was never a basketball school 10 years ago and with the efforts of coach [Peter] Campbell with the men, he's brought them into the national spotlight. And with [women's head coach] Paul Falco, being just in his third year and having us up there in the top 10 now for the first time in our history is

unprecedented."

On Sunday, the women's team lost the OUA West final to Windsor, however their win over Western had already qualified them for March 11-12th's regional playoffs, leaving them just one step away from the national championship tournament.

While the basketball Hawks were the ones doing the upsetting, Laurier's hockey teams were being upset.

The men's team were eliminated by the Guelph Gryphons in the OUA West semifinal, falling 2-1 in the series, losing both games at home. Laurier's perennially dominant women's hockey team, meanwhile, was swept by Queen's in two games — both going to double overtime — in their provincial semi final, ending a streak of seven straight OUA titles.

"The men had 12 rookies and for coach [Greg] Puhalski to work with 12 rookies it's an amazing accomplishment to come in second and lose a hard fought series with Guelph," said Baxter. "With the women, for seven years we've set the standard in the OUA and we've brought up the level of all the teams that are coming to get us and we lost in two games that could've gone either way."

Sports, pages 22-24

Post-season matchups

Men's hockey

Laurier 0 Guelph 3

Laurier 3 Guelph 0

Laurier 1 Guelph 2
(15-7-6) (15-10-3)

Women's hockey

Laurier 1 Queen's 2

Laurier 1 Queen's 2
(24-2-1) (15-8-4)

Men's basketball

Laurier 85 Windsor 82
(13-9) (16-6)

Women's basketball

Laurier 76 Western 74
(15-7) (19-3)



PHOTOS BY MEGAN CHERNIAK, ELLI GARLIN AND MIKE WHITEHOUSE

Inside

Academy Awards flop

This year's Oscars show was plagued with awkward banter, lacklustre hosting and predictable winners despite an attempt at catering to a younger audience.

A cultural mosaic?

In this week's point/counterpoint, opinion columnists discuss the positive and negative impacts that multiculturalism has on European nations like the United Kingdom.

Words that inspire

In light of the upcoming TEDx Waterloo event, Editor-in-Chief Alanna Wallace and Graphics Editor Wade Thompson highlight some must-watch TED talks.

Laurier students share their experiences abroad

Laurier International participants blog about their adventures while studying overseas in a new online feature — read their entries here first.

Former OneCard manager stands trial

Campus News Editor Mike Lakusiak investigates Nick Tomljenovic, who has pleaded guilty to charges of defrauding over \$30,000 from the university.

Editor's Choice
Failed election

Local, page 7

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Editor's Choice
Photo gallery: Strip the streets

thecord.ca

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THE CORD

The first and oldest student newspaper at Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

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The Cord is the official student newspaper of the Wilfrid Laurier University community.

Started in 1926 as the *College Cord*, The Cord is an editorially independent newspaper published by Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications, Waterloo, a corporation without share capital. WLUSP is governed by its board of directors.



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Preamble to The Cord constitution

The Cord will keep faith with its readers by presenting news and expressions of opinion comprehensively, accurately and fairly. The Cord believes in a balanced and impartial presentation of all relevant facts in a news report, and of all substantial opinions in a matter of controversy.

The staff of The Cord shall uphold all commonly held ethical conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or of commission has occurred, that error shall be acknowledged promptly. When statements are made that are critical of an individual, or an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity to reply at the earliest time possible. Ethical journalism requires impartiality, and consequently conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest will be avoided by all staff.

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

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

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

Quote of the week:
"Bitch and doggie style. You're right, I do like these breads."
-Arts Editor Sarah Murphy in an e-mail regarding a conversation overheard on a Waterloo bus.

Bag O' Crime

Theft Under \$5,000

Location: Residence
Reported: Feb. 26, 2011 @ 1:45 p.m.
A SCS officer on foot patrol discovered that person(s) unknown had stolen a 'Purell' hand sanitizer soap dispenser from the holder located inside the main lobby in the 'A' Wing portion of the student residence. There are no suspects.

Property Damage

Location: Residence
Reported: Feb. 27, 2011 @ 1:13 a.m.
A SCS officer responded to a complaint regarding damage to a vehicle located at Residence. The black, four door 2000 Nissan Altima had its side mirror knocked off the door and the driver's side wiper blade snapped off. There are no suspects.

Alarm

Location: Theatre Auditorium
Reported: Feb. 24, 2011 @ 7:15 p.m.
The SCS Dispatch Centre received a repetitive door alarm coming from the a/m location. SCS officers attended and discovered that the doors had been propped open in order to bring in equipment into the building to prepare for an opera performance.

Break and Enter

Location: Residence
Reported: Feb. 26, 2011 @ 11:17 a.m.
A student returning to his residence after being away for reading week discovered that his room had been entered and noticed a PlayStation and numerous video games had been stolen.
SCS attended and determined that entry had been gained through an insecure ground floor window on the north side of the building.
There are no suspects at this time and no CCTV camera coverage available.

For the rest of Bag O' Crime, check out thecord.ca

If you have any information regarding these or any other incidents please call 519-885-3333 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. The Bag O' Crime is submitted by WLU Special Constable Service.

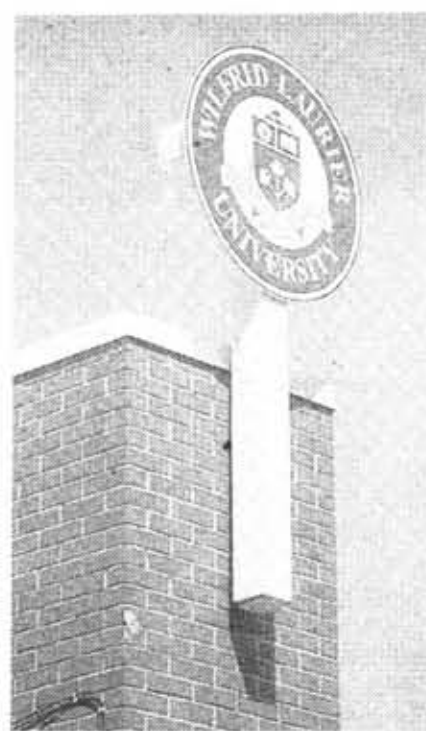


Photo: From the archives

11 years ago
The Cord published this photo of the cross that was once mounted on the St. Michael's Campus building in the Sept. 6, 2001 edition. The headline beside the photo read: "The New Religion. Oops."

This week in quotes

"I feel relieved that I have access to language to make a shape for it for myself, it's been profoundly healing for me to find a way to bring that out."
—Author *Charlene Diehl* on writing her memoir *Out of Grief, Singing*

"Most of the time — and this includes naps — I'm an F18."
—*Charlie Sheen*

"You have to have some conviction in your passion to stay out in February."
—*Scott Kemp*, an English teacher at Cameron Heights C.I., regarding the strength of the students participating in *Strip the Streets*

"We reacted like we had just won nationals."
—*Christa Mancino*, Laurier basketball player re: the team's win over Western



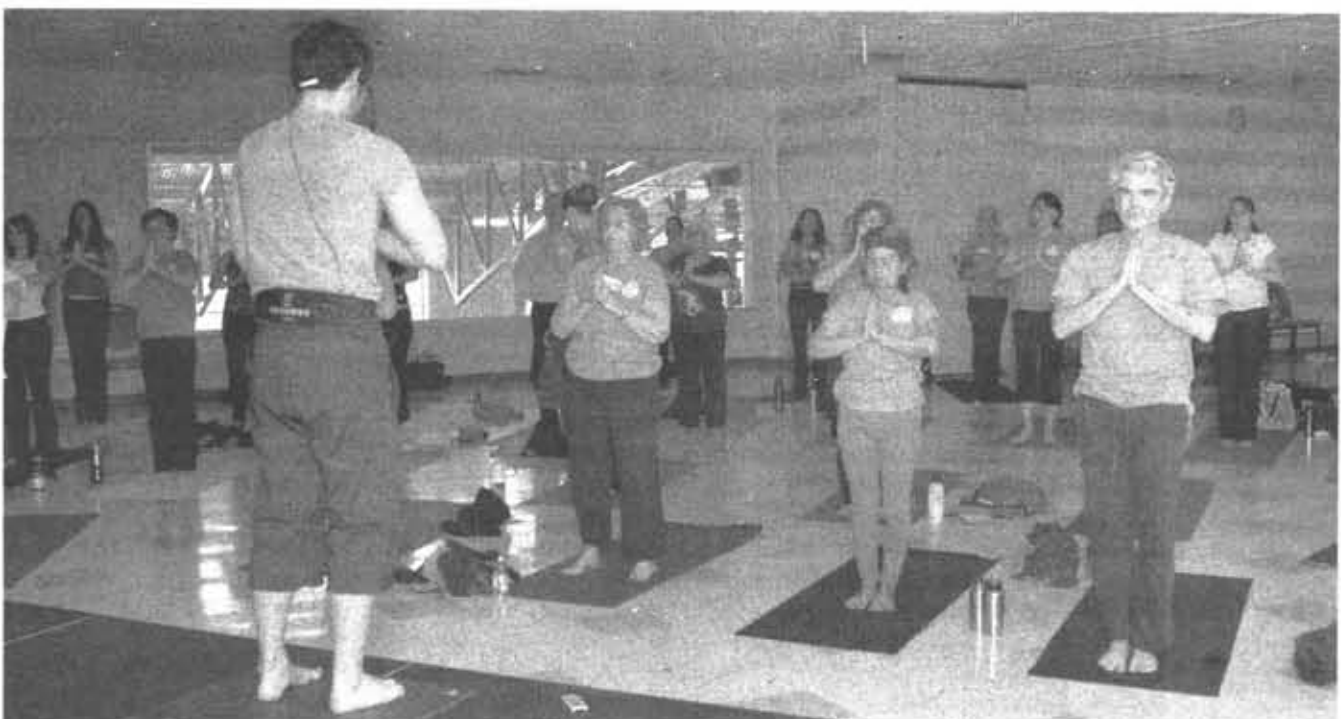
When I came here in the late 90s we were approaching Y2K and at that time everyone was concerned about the world coming to an end. Of course it didn't..."

—VP student affairs *David McMurray*
Re: The meal card in place before the *OneCard*, which would have apparently not worked after Jan. 1, 2000



Photo of the week

Community members gather at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex on Feb. 26 for Yoga for Hope, an event raising money for the local not-for-profit HopeSpring Cancer Support Centre.



ELLI GARLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Vocal Cord

What did you spend your reading week doing?



"I actually stayed here, my family lives in Manitoba."
—*George Robertson*
First year archeology



"I hung out with friends and family in Toronto."
—*Kristine Lippett*
Fourth year cultural studies



"Absolutely nothing, I went home and did a little bit of work."
—*Steph Valteau*
Third year psychology



"Went to Montreal with friends."
—*Sharwayne Sobers*
Second year biology & psychology



"Studied a bit, hung out with friends."
—*Ernest Chan*
First year arts



"I went to Ireland, visiting friends and exploring the country."
—*Wade Carey*
Third year religion and culture

Compiled by *Megan Cherniak*
Photos by *Elli Garlin*

NEWS

News Director Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca

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Future buildings showcased

MIKE LAKUSIAK
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

The tentative plans for the development of the St. Michael's campus site and substantial additions to the existing buildings along University Ave. were brought before two university committees and the board of governors before Reading Week. The plans featured floor layouts for the Global Innovation Exchange building to be developed on the St. Michael's site and the Campus Learning Commons proposed to be built between the Quad, Concourse and above the existing Paul Martin Centre to the edge of University Ave. If both proceed as planned, the projects would add approximately 10 acres of indoor physical space.

"I can't tell you how delighted I am that the plans have been approved," said Ginny Dybenko, Laurier's executive: strategic initiatives. "There's still a long way ahead of us because what gets serious now is fundraising for the entity. We obviously can't progress too much without a substantial amount of government funding and we're also looking for private funding."

"Originally I was hoping we could break ground in our centennial year," she added. "I would be delighted if we could lock in on the funding this year or early next year and break ground next summer."

The plans are for the Global Innovation Exchange, a four-storey 250,000 sq. ft. building to be built in the footprint of St. Michael's. The blueprints presented show one 1000-seat auditorium along with several 75 and 150-seat lecture halls. Over 100 faculty offices are proposed for the east wing of the building and an accessible green roof terrace area.

The school of business and economics (SBE) and the math department will be housed in the facility. Local tech companies and a bistro-type eatery could inhabit parts of the ground floor. Dybenko noted that local firms have expressed interest in the creation of such a place. "In the city there is no place where people can sit down and have a drink and just do some scheming around a particular idea," she said.

Assistant VP of physical resources Gary Nower explained that the centre of the building would feature a large central atrium for people to gather. "The atrium is a big open space with a living wall and open upstairs all the way around. There's lots of usable space for events and studying."

There is a possibility of a

pedestrian overpass over University Ave. as well as other measures to accompany the increase in people crossing the street.

Nower said the overpass as well as altering the streetscape have been the subject of talks with city and Waterloo Region. "The region, I think they're okay with traffic calming," he said. "It certainly will have lots of trees and landscaping and traffic calming. Their argument is that we've got to get a certain number of cars down this busy regional road and our argument is that we've got a thousand students an hour crossing."

The Campus Learning Commons is a proposed 190,000 sq. ft. structure that would connect to the Fred Nichols Campus Centre and Concourse spanning the area currently taken up by the Solarium and Health Services building, which would both be demolished. In addition to the common areas and services, the interior would eventually include the library, moved from its current location, student services, the bookstore and other services.

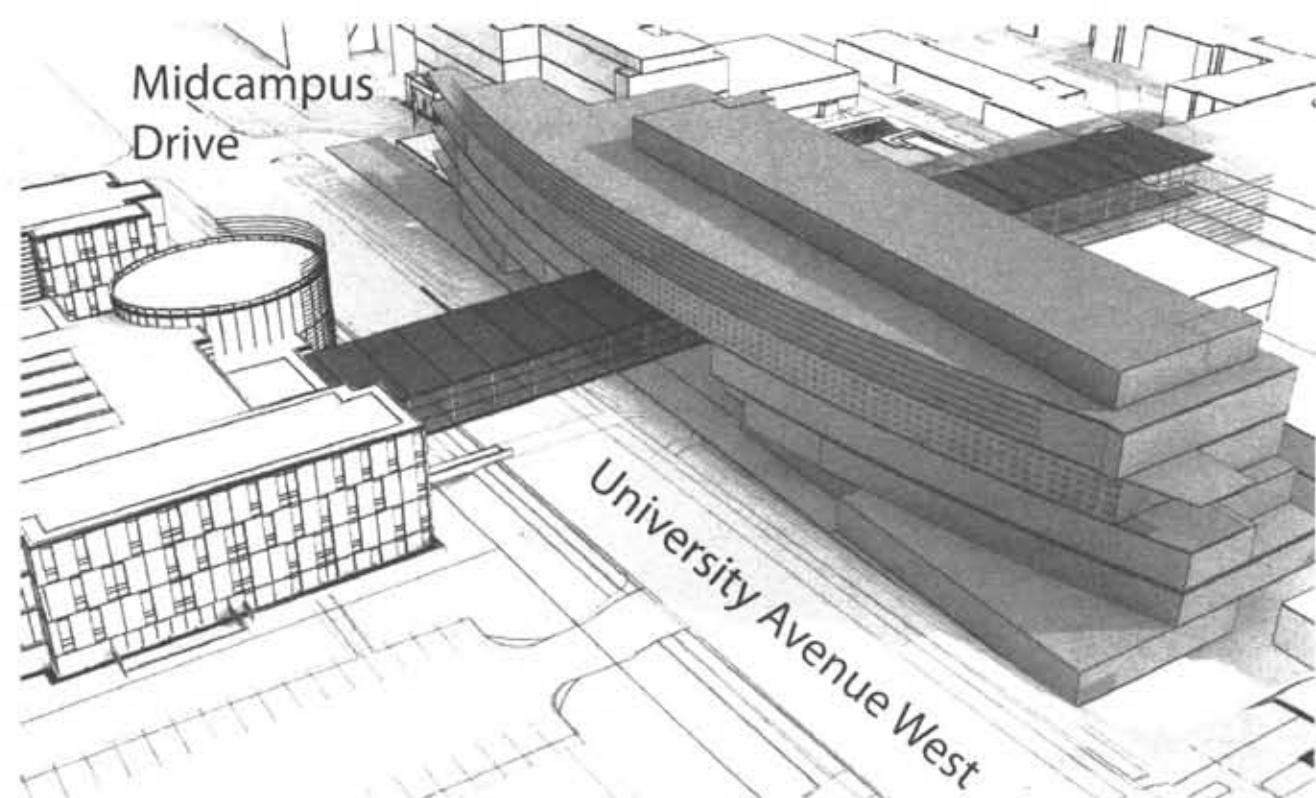
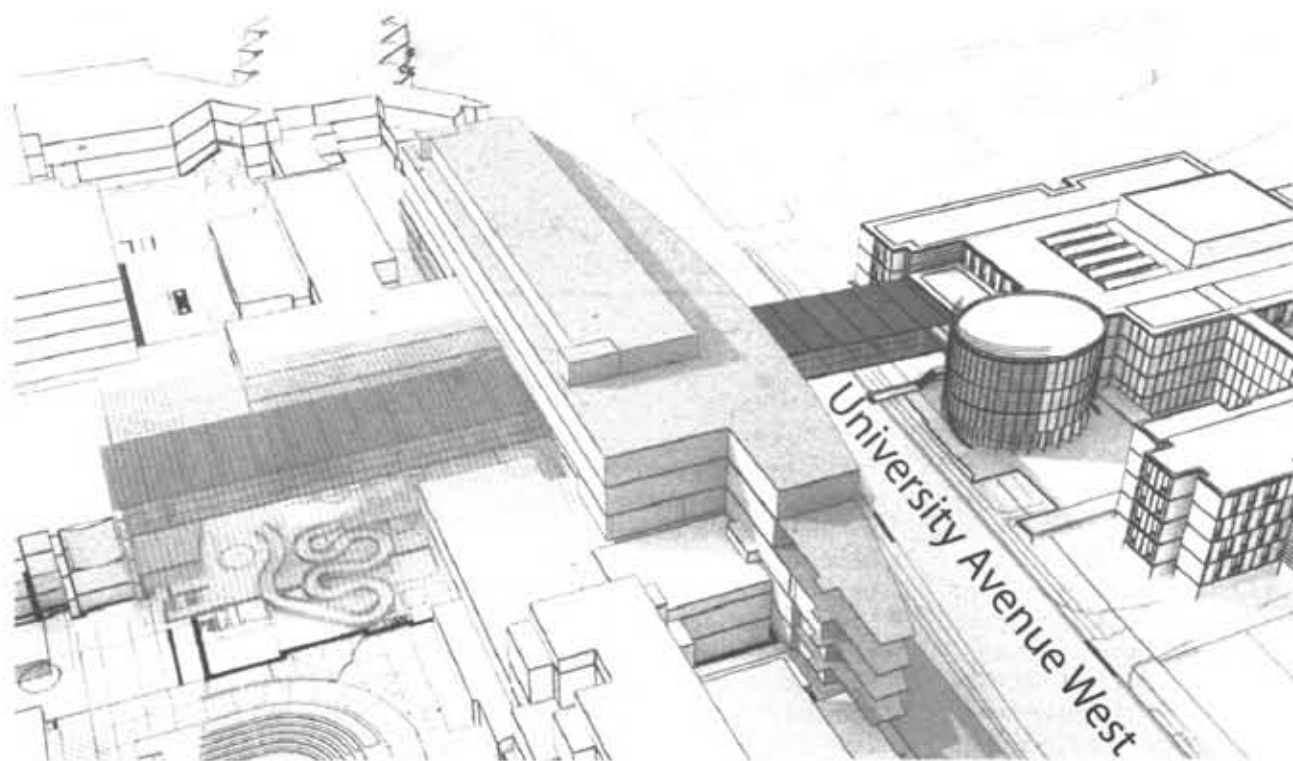
The two developments, projected to take a few years to complete if given the go-ahead according to Nower, would form the centerpiece of Laurier's Waterloo campus. "It's a priority with us so we took it to the province in December and showed them this," he said. "We brought the two buildings in really close to really let people know that this is Laurier and you're on our campus now. We want to take the street and make it part of the university."

Cameron Davidson-Pilon, a fourth-year math student was the only undergraduate student on a needs assessment committee created during the envisioning process. "Is it plausible? Definitely," he said. "It's supposed to be the center piece of Laurier, a showcase," he said, referring to the Global Innovation Exchange, which seems slated first for development.

"They'll have all their big conferences there so they'll want to make it very inviting to guests."

After he was allowed his input on behalf of math students, Davidson-Pilon gave his perspective on the project. "From my personal standpoint I'm a little jealous — whatever, I'll be an alumni I guess."

Details such as classroom space during construction remain as do questions of the timing and source of the funds to construct the buildings, planning for which has now stretched back more than five years. In spite of all the planning, the project still lacks a price tag.



COURTESY OF WLU PHYSICAL RESOURCES

Various views of the proposed Campus Learning Commons and Global Innovation Exchange buildings.

News in brief

Alum arrested in Toronto child porn sting

Robert Hagon, 27, who graduated from Laurier with a BA in Political Science and Philosophy in 2006, was arrested Feb. 16 following a search warrant being executed on his Danforth and Broadview home in Toronto.

Police seized computers and hard drives from the residence. He was

charged with possession of child pornography, four counts of make available child pornography and five counts of failing to comply with probation.

He appeared in court Feb. 17, though the proceedings are covered by a publication ban. "It was an undercover operation that resulted in us becoming aware of Mr. Hagon's activities," said Det. Paul Krawczyk

of the Toronto Police sex crimes unit. "He has been detained, he's not out of jail."

Hagon had similar charges brought against him in Feb. 2006 when his home was raided in another investigation.

Krawczyk noted that the matter is up to the courts now. "It's a long time away from being resolved," he said.

Students make presentation to high school ESL students

The Laurier Afghan Students Association held a presentation at Forest Heights Collegiate Institute in Kitchener Feb. 22. The group spoke to ESL students about post-secondary education and the programs in place to support them toward this goal.

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CAMPUS

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Conclusion in OneCard case

Former office manager Nick Tomljenovic pleads guilty to fraud for \$30,000 worth of food, and tanning starting in 2001



MIKE LAKUSIAK
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Former manager of Wilfrid Laurier University's OneCard office Nick Tomljenovic, 43, pleaded guilty Feb. 17 in Kitchener Superior Court to charges of defrauding over \$30,000 from the university through illicit OneCard use.

Currently employed in the United States, possibly California, Tomljenovic will return to Kitchener June 17 for conviction and sentencing.

An employee since 1999, Tomljenovic's thefts took place between April 2001 and November 2007, when he was suspended with pay by the university during an audit prompted by suspicious accounts and other activities in the office. After he became unco-operative with the university, his pay was cut and he was eventually fired in February 2008.

Initially, Tomljenovic charged food and services including tanning and regular trips to the Rude Native Bistro to his own OneCard. He would never pay the accrued bills and erase them from his account, according to assistant Crown attorney David Russell.

While current Laurier students are familiar with the OneCard for purchasing food on campus and off, in the past the program extended to Beach Bunnies tanning studio, Rude Native Bistro and other merchants. Employees of the university regularly use OneCards by loading money into their personal accounts.

"He was obviously using his own OneCard, yet there were never any payments on it," Russell explained. "He'd go to Beach Bunnies or the Rude Native, present his card and

Nov. 8, 2007
Audit commences after suspicious activity

Jan. 25, 2010
Pre-trial inquiry takes place with nine witnesses, committed to trial

Jun. 17, 2011
Sentencing to be handed down in court

Feb. 2007
Tomljenovic fired

Feb. 17, 2011
Tomljenovic pleads guilty in Superior Court

the bill would be paid for. The university pays the vendor, that's why the theft is really from the university because the vendors always had to be paid."

OneCard office employee Tanya Diriye discovered irregularities while examining OneCard accounts with outstanding balances in spring 2005. She found a suspicious identification number that didn't seem to match up with anything and was not found in the university's computer records.

Tomljenovic had created multiple OneCards tied to accounts with fictitious names, usually the alter egos of comic book characters.

"Jason Garrick was [the name on] one of the accounts," Russell explained. "There is no Jason Garrick at the university, but that is the alter ego of the DC Comics character the Flash."

"There was another one in the name of Thomas Wayne, who as it turns out is the father of Batman."

There were also accounts named for Richard Grayson, alter ego of Batman's sidekick Robin, and Remo Williams, the name of a rogue police officer in "The Destroyer" novels and comics.

There was no one to complain or notice the charges on these accounts, Russell said, because the university was invoiced by the

OneCard office and paid retailers.

"Because there was no student to complain and everybody got paid, the only people who weren't getting paid was Laurier who wasn't being reimbursed by anyone."

Tomljenovic, well known to the off-campus retailers involved in the OneCard program as the manager of the office, had OneCards with his name and a stick figure in lieu of an actual photo.

"He would go to Beach Bunnies [tanning], present his card with the stick figure on it, which everybody thought was funny," Russell said.

"The number on it would be in the name of Remo Williams."

"They knew who he was, he was the manager of the office so he was never questioned."

After Diriye discovered suspicious accounts, she examined the account registered to Tomljenovic himself and found that he had gone for long periods without using his card at all, unusual for the manager of the operation.

She was even more suspicious because she had seen him pay for drinks at Wilf's for the staff of the office using a OneCard.

A substantial charge was also found to coincide with Tomljenovic's birthday, an event held at the Rude Native. "It looked like he paid

the tab for his birthday celebration," Russell said.

Laurier assistant VP of human resources Allison Rawn said that Tomljenovic denied every charge against him since the suspicions were reported and the university began to examine the matter. "He was taking the position that there was absolutely no foundation to what we were investigating," she said. "That it was offensive and upsetting and unbelievable. He held to that right until last week."

The university brought in the accounting firm KPMG to conduct an audit at a cost of over \$149,000 in the wake of Diriye's findings. "They paid a lot of money to discover a \$30,000 theft," Russell commented, noting however that, "If they hadn't done that, there would not have been enough to go ahead [with the criminal investigation]."

"It probably would have gone on for a lot longer and been a lot more money. She gets a lot of credit for that," Russell explained.

VP of student affairs David McMurray said that the cost was justified. "In hindsight we're very thankful that we did this because it was based on our judgment at the time and the information that we had and we weren't going to walk away from it."

"These kinds of things are

expensive, there's no question about it," he added.

Asked what allowed the fraud to go on for as long as it did, Rawn speculated that because Tomljenovic had designed Laurier's OneCard system, oversaw it and few others had knowledge of its details, he did not face much scrutiny.

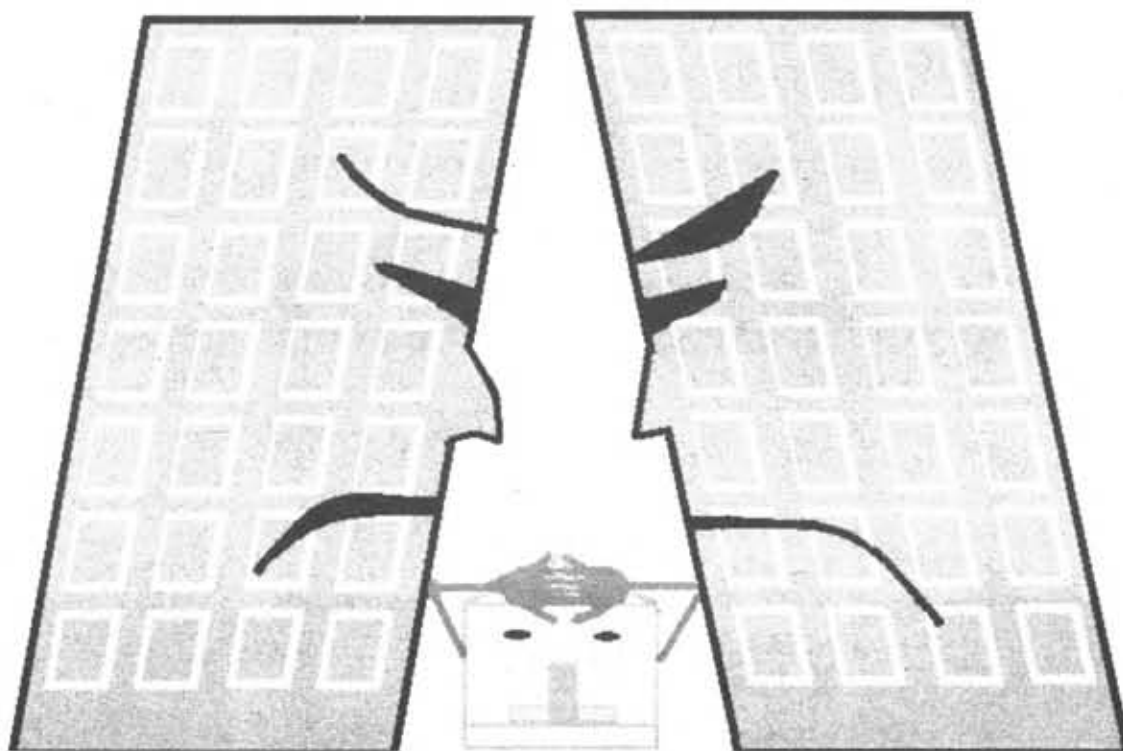
"He had some unique knowledge of the system and I don't know that there was enough expertise in house for the appropriate checks and balances as he built it, which allowed for vulnerabilities," she said. Tomljenovic had designed and overseen a similar system at the University of Guelph until 1999 when he was hired at Laurier.

She noted that the KPMG audit led to changes to the operational structure of the office and how employees access accounts.

Justice Robert Reilly noted the "egregious breach of trust" Tomljenovic had committed and explained that further information, including testimony from the senior vice president of KPMG would be entered on June 17 when the trial resumes for sentencing. Tomljenovic will likely be required to provide restitution for the missing \$30,130.74, the audit cost and associated legal costs as well as a fine.

Due to the nature of the crime and breach of trust, Tomljenovic could well have faced jail time. Russell said however that the Crown would likely press for some form of restitution - noting that the proceedings have been conducted in a fashion to allow Laurier to pursue a civil suit against Tomljenovic to recoup its expenses along with the money stolen.

GRAPHIC BY NICK LACHANCE



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The next senate meeting to discuss the Milton campus takes place March 3

No answers to Milton question

BREE MANTHA
LEAD REPORTER

Since the Jan. 31 presentation of Wilfrid Laurier University's pre-budget submission for 2011-12 to the Ontario Legislature's Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, the fate of the proposed Milton campus lies in the hands of the province.

"We're just in a waiting mode," said vice president of finance and administration Jim Butler. "We would need a commitment on the part of the province that they would want a campus there."

The university is asking for capital investment in infrastructure upgrades for the Waterloo and Brantford campuses as well as for the development of a Milton campus.

"What we expect in the 2011 provincial budget, which is likely to be delivered around the end of March, is a new ten-year plan for provincial capital for the public sector and the broader public sector," explained Laurier's director of government relations Brian Rosborough.

"In the past, post-secondary

education hasn't really received a large share of that funding," Rosborough added. "We're advocating for that to be increased ... We're taking steps to help the province understand the potential of investing [in Milton]."

The town of Milton has agreed to turn roughly 150 acres of land over to Laurier to construct a campus on in the event that the province agrees to fund the planning and construction of the university.

The new Laurier campus would be a vital part of the Milton Education Village (MEV), a project planned by the Town of Milton with co-operation from Halton Region.

"The beauty of the project is that it's an entire neighbourhood built around the university," said Andrew Siltala, town of Milton senior manager of economic development. "It is not one section dominating another, it is a neighbourhood that is complementary to a university."

The 450-acre area encompasses student and family housing, retail centres, restaurants and other amenities. "It also includes an area for business growth, and an area in

which a business innovation centre would be built," said Siltala.

Siltala went on to explain that the town of Milton was not only interested in the idea of a university for education purposes, but for the community growth the institution would bring.

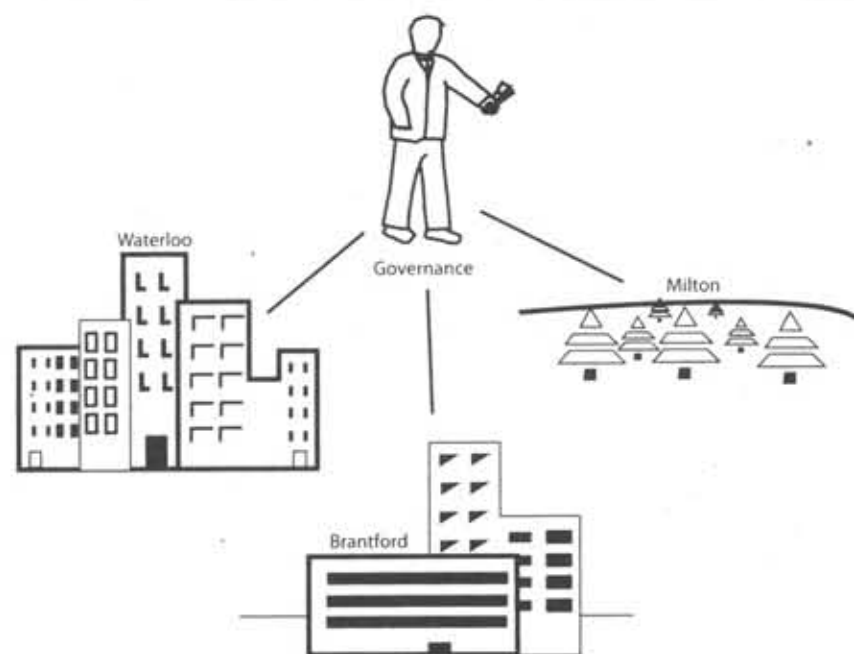
"The presence of a post-secondary institution adds to a healthy community," said Siltala.

Butler believes that the additional campus would benefit the region. "There's a projected shortage of university spaces in the Greater Toronto Area."

Rosborough added, "This tremendous growth in the GTA, and in Milton in particular ... It's currently not served at all by either a college or university."

According to the 2006 Census, Milton saw a 71.4 per cent population increase from 2001 to 2006, making it Canada's fastest growing community. The town also boasts one of the GTA's highest household incomes and is currently the westernmost point for GO Transit's commuter trains.

In March 2010, Laurier president



WADE THOMPSON GRAPHICS EDITOR

Max Blouw announced the establishment of the Presidential Task Force on Multi-Campus Governance. The group was created to examine all aspects of running multiple campuses effectively, including finances, student experience, and campus relationships with all levels of government.

Thus far, few concrete decisions or statements have been made, as the fate of Milton is viewed as

uncertain and dependent upon many factors. Grievances have continued to pile up from interested parties. An ongoing worry is fair representation for multiple campuses, as representatives from Laurier Brantford currently occupy only four senate seats. With growing concerns that one Laurier campus already suffers from under-representation, members of the Task Force remain tight-lipped on the situation.

Laurier personalities featured among 'Top 40'

BREE MANTHA
LEAD REPORTER

The *Waterloo Region Record* recently published its annual Top 40 Under 40, recognizing the achievements of community members in the tri-city area.

With many alumni, staff, and even current students making the cut, Wilfrid Laurier University received extensive exposure.

Tiffany Bradley, manager of communications and marketing for Laurier's centennial celebrations, was recognized for her dedication to philanthropy, specifically the Laurier "100 Hours for 100 Years" volunteer challenge she is spearheading.

"We're encouraging students, staff and faculty members, retirees, alumni, anybody that has an affiliation with Laurier to sign up and log their hours with us as part of this

program," Bradley told *The Cord*.

Bradley, who graduated from the University of Waterloo in 2000, has been volunteering with food banks for years.

"Sometimes you can come into the office and your phone never stops ringing and beeping, and you think you're not really making a difference," she observed.

"Then you get to be in the food bank for a day, you actually realize that you're making a difference by contributing."

Bradley also sits on the community advisory council for Oktoberfest, and the International Association of Business Communicators.

Another Laurier staff member, Megan Harris, was honoured for her initiatives for women in the community. In 2007, Harris started the Women's Leadership Exchange, annual meetings for professional

women in the Kitchener-Waterloo area.

"It's a luncheon series that's designed for executive women within the community to come together and network, to learn and share practices with their peers and also to listen to Canadian women who are at the top of their field," said Harris.

Harris is the vice-president of operations for the Laurier Alumni Association, and graduated from Laurier with a degree in history in 2000. "I was really involved on campus," she said. "My time at Laurier meant a lot to me. By taking part in the alumni association, it's my way of giving back."

Music education student Kari Kokko was recognized for her work with local youth through the Kitchener group Pathways to Education.

"[Pathways to Education] is a program that supports high school

students in graduating from high school and going on to post-secondary education," Kokko said. "It has a tutoring component, a mentoring component, an advocacy component and a financial support component as well."

Fourth-year history and political science student Erin Epp has been engaged in community volunteering since her first year at Laurier through several Laurier student working groups.

As LSPIRG's research and training coordinator, Epp focuses on uniting Laurier students with community members outside of campus through skill-building and training initiatives.

"In my job I do the Community Innovation Program which gives students the opportunity to build their skills outside of the classroom in areas like strategic planning,

communications, conflict resolution and all those things that are useful in the not-for-profit sector," Epp explained.

Epp's engagement with the Waterloo community led her to run for Waterloo city council representing Ward 7. Epp finished in third with over 20 per cent of the vote. "I can't even begin to quantify the amount that I learned throughout the five months of complete immersion in running for office," said Epp, who knocked on hundreds of doors within the ward to learn about citizens' concerns.

She emphasized the value of volunteer opportunities available to Laurier students. "Volunteering is the best way to broaden your network and get involved and learn about things," she said. "You have to get yourself out there ... you have to take risks."

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Failed election

GREG EVANS
CORD LOCAL

The annual general meeting held between Feb. 8 and 10 by the University of Waterloo's (UW) Federation of Students (FedS) witnessed only a 7.5 per cent voter turnout to elect their new student executive, faculty senate and faculty council positions. The low voter turnout, showing an increase of roughly 100 students from the 2010 election, was just one of the many shortfalls.

Election season was not without controversy, as a satire group calling themselves the Rhino Party slated candidates in many of the electoral races, amusing some and angering others.

The group is the namesake of another infamous political satire group, the Rhinoceros Party, which was active in Canadian politics between the 1960s and 1990s, ridiculing the Canadian political system and the politicians themselves.

The group, led by UW students Ian Charlesworth and Edgar Bering, fielded a full slate of candidates for all of the elected student executive positions, campaigning and taking full part in electoral debates.

Charlesworth, who ran as the Rhino Party's presidential candidate, maintained that although they were actively involved in campaigning, "the goal was never to win."

"FedS seems entirely irrelevant to a whole bunch of students," Charlesworth noted, adding that the Rhino Party's ultimate goal was to bring attention to student politics and increase voter turnout.

Among the campaign promises offered by the Rhino Party were to provide each undergraduate student with one roller skate to make walking to classes easier and to found a Global Alliance of Student Organizations with all other student government organizations around the world.

Charlesworth did admit that despite all their hard work, voter turnout only increased marginally. "It didn't work. People still don't care about the election."

Niall Wingham, another UW student, caused a stir when he removed several Rhino Party campaign posters on campus, publicly advertising his actions on Facebook.

This was one of two poster-related scandals on campus in the same week; many female candidates also found that anti-feminist posters had been placed on top of their campaign posters.

These posters featured an image

of Nobel Prize winner Marie Curie with the text suggesting that the chemist and physicist was "the mother of the nuclear bomb." This incident was unrelated to Wingham's activities and is still under investigation.

Reflecting on the election process, Wingham agreed, "There are a lot of problems with the system." Yet he did assert that satire is better suited in the media and that the way the party conducted themselves was "disrespectful to the student government." Nevertheless, he calls the members of the Rhino Party "good people."

Wingham has been arrested and charged with vandalism.

Regarding whether or not he would have removed the posters knowing the trouble it would cause him, Wingham expressed no remorse. "The fact is I don't feel a lot of regret and even if I wanted to lie about it, it would be difficult to lie about."

More controversy arose when Jordan Lui, a candidate for engineering senate, received a financial penalty from the FedS election committee for pressing "like" from his personal Facebook account on a post made by Wingham detailing plans to remove the Rhino Party's posters.

While Lui maintained in his unsuccessful appeal that he did not necessarily support Wingham's actions, he admitted that he did not believe the Rhino Party's methods were appropriate.

"They're trying to take advantage," Lui asserted, adding that many students were annoyed that the Rhino Party was wasting student money in yielding non-serious candidates who fully utilized their student-funded campaign budgets.

Matt Colphon, who won the presidential election with 1,425 votes, agreed that student apathy has been a problem at the university. "We've had a problem with voter turnout at Waterloo... [the Rhino Party's method] was certainly an interesting way to get people interested."

While calling the party's methods "extreme," Colphon praised the party for asking appropriate questions and challenging the status quo, noting that "they certainly did their research."

Charlesworth remarked that he would not be resurrecting the Rhino Party in next year's election, as the party's ultimate goal of significantly increasing voter turnout failed.

"It's not that [students] don't care," he said. "It's that they don't want to care."



ELLI GARLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Local citizens discover the power of yoga while providing support to local cancer centre.

Healing through meditation

BREE MANTHA
LEAD REPORTER

Dozens of local citizens gathered at Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex on Feb. 26 to learn different styles of yoga from eleven different yoga instructors.

The event taking place was Yoga for Hope, a charity event established seven years ago which has raised over \$60,000 to date. Proceeds from the event went towards HopeSpring Cancer Support Centre, a Waterloo-based not-for-profit organization that provides support and services for cancer patients and their families.

"HopeSpring is an incredible charitable community," said Barbara Wakai, this year's chair for Yoga for Hope. "It's for people who have been affected by cancer, whether they're family members or patients. They do counselling, there's wigs that get donated for HopeSpring that they provide [and] they have yoga classes there."

Beth Sukha-Barker conceived the idea for Yoga for Hope when she was working as a yoga instructor for HopeSpring in 2005.

Sukha-Barker had been teaching for HopeSpring for the past seven years and began the event when she found herself moving to Vancouver.

"I decided I wanted to leave something behind for my community and for HopeSpring," she told The Cord. "I rounded up a few of my friends — fellow yoga teachers in town — and everyone said it was a fabulous cause."

"I can't imagine how she actually did it from afar," said Wakai, "but it is a really good event."

Yoga for Hope has attracted many citizens around the Waterloo regions in previous years, but Wakai credits the organization's new web site for this year's huge rise in popularity.

Since 2009, the event has also featured a silent auction with many yoga and wellness accessories and gift certificates for yoga and healing

sessions. Participants could also receive Thai massage throughout the day.

Sukha-Barker said that beyond the charity aspect, the event also helped to expose the greater community to the benefits of yoga. "It introduces people who have never tried yoga to a whole bunch of different styles of yoga," she said. "It's the combination of a great cause and a really kind community."

She discussed the spiritual and physical healing powers of yoga, specifically for those affected by cancer. "The benefits of yoga are so well-known and scientifically proven to lower blood pressure," said Sukha-Barker.

She went on to explain that yoga is a suitable exercise for people of any strength level. "It's gentle enough, or it can be strenuous enough to meet anyone's needs so that if you're very compromised either from the disease or the emotions that come ... there's a place for you."



STEPHANIE TRUONG GRAPHICS ARTIST

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NICK LACHANCE VISUAL DIRECTOR

Students experience an Out of the Cold dinner at the Royal Canadian Legion (below) before setting up in the public square (top).

Students gain perspective wearing another's shoes

LINDA GIVETASH
NEWS DIRECTOR

On Feb. 25, over 200 local high school students braved the cold to sleep outside and raise awareness about homelessness in the community. In its second year, Strip the Streets challenged youth to put themselves in the shoes of the homeless while collecting donations to fund supportive programs.

"It's always just seemed to be our duty to do something like this and to make the change wherever possible," said Breanna Koehler, a grade 11 student at Forest Heights Collegiate Institute.

In helping organize the event, Koehler was part of the school's outreach group that met with partner high schools and informed students of the different aspects of Strip the Streets and prepared them for what they would need for the night.

A total of 15 high schools were involved in the event. Elisa Dorman, a grade 12 student at Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute, also took up a leadership role by connecting with area businesses and politicians to spread the word of their initiative.

"I think that when I see something like homelessness, you're not okay with it," she said. "It is cool to see something like this come together."

Organizers Arden Court, a teacher at Forest Heights, and Scott Kemp, who teaches at Cameron Heights, commented on how much

"I remember lying there last year and being so cold at night and just being so mad that we've let this continue to happen."

—Breanna Koehler
Forest Heights student

the initiative has grown from the group approximately half the size last year. Court explained that the idea came from a group of students who, after attending a We Day event in 2009, decided they had to find a way to improve their community.

The ability to involve an unlimited number of students was also an appealing factor. "Not every student can afford the \$5,000 outreach trip to Kenya but anybody can come here and take part and make the change locally," said Court.

Although Kitchener and Waterloo are rather small cities, the number of people affected by homelessness is still significant. "There's 1,000 to 1,200 people between the ages of 15 and 25 in the region who are homeless, not necessarily living on the streets but who don't have a place where they have their things and they can go each night," explained Dorman.

Apart from raising awareness through a rally hosted in the late afternoon at Kitchener city hall and the march into Waterloo, the students also learned a great deal through experiencing the elements

and meals from Out of the Cold programs.

"I remember lying there last year and being so cold at night and just being so mad that we've let this continue to happen," said Koehler.

The fundraising aspect of Strip the Streets provides immediate help for those who find sleeping outside a reality.

"Each school is committed to raising a thousand dollars so it will make a difference to the homeless," Dorman explained. In a followup press release from the teaching co-ordinators, they expressed that donations are still being accepted at Forest Heights and Lutherwood high schools until Mar. 31. The total funds will be divided amongst the local organizations ROOF, Safe Haven and Argus.

The contributions these students were making to the local community was acknowledged by Waterloo mayor Brenda Halloran who, in addressing the students as they ate dinner at the Royal Canadian Legion in Uptown, said, "You are going to be the change that we need in this world."

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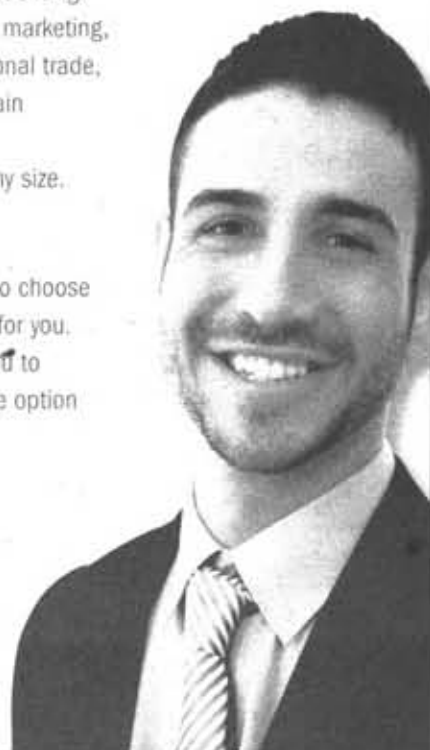
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FILE PHOTOS

Canada in brief

Ontario proposes changes to liquor laws

The McGuinty government has proposed an update on the existing liquor laws that would see a removal of restrictions on special events, festivals and licensed establishments.

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty suggested that people attending festivals should not be restricted to beer tents but be allowed to walk around the grounds freely with their drinks, including within festival retail booths.

At special events, the proposal notes that liquor should be served until 2 a.m. instead of 1 a.m. to be consistent with licensed establishments.

Additionally, McGuinty suggested that Ontario establishments should be allowed to sell all-inclusive vacation packages.

In a press release from the provincial government, Chris Bentley, attorney general, explained that the existing liquor restrictions are "outdated and they just don't make sense."

The aim in modernizing the province's liquor laws is to improve tourism and local economies.

Michael Chan, minister of tourism and culture, explained, "Festivals and events are powerful economic drivers ... We are making it easier for festival and event organizers to attract new audiences, and create more jobs while providing a more enjoyable experience for Ontarians."

According to the provincial government, Ontario festivals generate 22,000 jobs annually.

Tourism also contributes more than \$22 billion annually to the province's economy.

—Compiled by Nicole Green

Culinary or business school?

Entrepreneurs discuss what type of education will best prepare a restaurant owner

KARLENE OOTO-STUBBS
THE UNITER

WINNIPEG (CUP) — The task of opening your own restaurant is both time consuming and expensive. But when preparing for a life in the kitchen there are two distinct paths students usually choose — a culinary diploma or a business degree.

After recently opting out of the culinary arts program at Red River College (RRC) in favour of pursuing a business degree at the University of Winnipeg, aspiring restaurateur Max Frank has a fresh perspective on the choice.

"[At culinary school] you learn fundamental skills, but if you have those skills already you don't have to learn from an instructor at the college, you can learn from work — it's not necessary to pay money to learn to cook," he said.

Having cooked in a local restaurant for four years, Frank felt unchallenged by the first year of his experience at RRC. He believed that being better informed on the

business end of the industry would help him keep track of money while opening a restaurant or keep business decisions in check if he was cooking at one.

Chris Kirouac, the general manager of local hot spot In Ferno's Bistro, agrees that there are many paths that future restaurant owners can take.

"I never went to culinary school or business management ... [going to school] could be easier in some respects, but it's not necessary," said Kirouac.

For Taisa Antoine, a second-year culinary arts student at RRC, it's the final phase of the program that has taught her the most.

"First year is really basic, so it should challenge people who haven't been [cooking] before, whereas people who have [experience] might find it boring or slow," said Antoine. "By the time you get back from your first work term everyone is getting to the same level."

"The second year is a really an ass kicker and challenges you."

She believes taking the time to gain skills in culinary school is an asset, providing students with opportunities they may not normally have.

"You have free range, it's a lab and it's an experimentation to do whatever you want ... we also learn about planning menus and inventory," Antoine explained. "Those things you don't learn if you don't go to school."

Antoine notes that her bosses reflect the two sides of the debate, as one graduated with a culinary degree and the other did not.

Frank doesn't deny the benefits of culinary school, but said the program wasn't suited to him.

"I think the best thing you learn from culinary school is how to perfect everything, even if they're tedious tasks. It makes you a better cook in the long run," said Frank.

One of the biggest advantages to RRC's program is that it prepares students to write their Red Seal exam, which nationally accredits tradespeople. After their training, students are free to write the test

“
You can learn from work
— it's not necessary to
pay money to learn to
cook.”

—Max Frank
Aspiring restaurateur

whenever they feel ready, which tends to be different for everyone.

"I'm not going to go write my Red Seal test just because I have enough hours; I want to feel like I've earned it. You need to deserve to be called a chef," said Antoine.

Frank is hoping to challenge the exam within the next few years when he has the required number of hours training under a certified chef.

thecord.ca

Anti-Israel group advocates ethical investments at Carleton

Security called to council meeting after Students Against Israeli Apartheid angrily disagree with motions that were passed

ALANNA WALLACE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Tensions ran high last week at a meeting of Carleton University's students' association as members of Students Against Israeli Apartheid (SAIA) became heated when a motion put forward by the group was not accepted by council. According to witnesses, the crowd outside the council chambers became so unruly, pounding on the walls and floors, those inside felt the need to call campus security to see them out.

Three recommendations were being put forth by SAIA, including one that would see Carleton's pension fund immediately divest its stock from four companies that Reem Buhaisi, member of SAIA, said are "complicit in violations of international law in occupied Palestine."

The second and third recommendations included the pension fund adopting a socially responsible investment policy and that the university work with the Carleton community to ensure the recommendations be followed.

"The executive of CUSA wanted to introduce their own motion which

would ... not specifically target Israel," said Hashem Hamdy, a councillor representing the faculty of public affairs, regarding a new motion which was set to come before the original SAIA motion that had come to the attention of CUSA last month.

The motion calling for ethical investment put forward by CUSA was passed after an amendment made by members of SAIA to include the words "illegal occupation."

Seeing as SAIA's original recommendation was for ethical investment, the chair of the committee ruled their motion, which was next on the agenda, out of order.

It was at this point that Hamdy and Emile Scheffel, Israel Awareness Committee member and student senator, said the crowd outside was notified and began to allegedly become unruly.

"Unfortunately it seems as though there are groups on this campus or at least one group, SAIA, that is absolutely determined to discredit and delegitimize Israel any way they can," said Scheffel.

There have been allegations of homophobic remarks being said and intimidation tactics being used

by members of SAIA and those that supported the original motion they put forward, though Buhaisi denies that these events took place.

"If there is an actual validity to that statement we absolutely deplore that and we don't condone that whatsoever," she said.

Though the night's events are somewhat in question, Buhaisi assured that SAIA's goals for the meeting were met and the group was pleased with the results.

"We do claim [Feb. 17] as a victory specifically because the amendment was made to include 'illegal occupation' and their motion is actually part of our three recommendations for our entire divestment campaign," said Buhaisi, who explained that SAIA's next step is to bring their recommendations to Carleton's board of governors.

Hamdy, however, disagreed that SAIA gained anything from last week's meeting, saying they crossed a line with their actions.

"I think they're very radical and they think that you accomplish radical goals through radical action and their conduct last night proved otherwise," he said.



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WORLD

World Editor Alex Mitsopoulos • amitsopoulos@thecord.ca

We Day in the 'Loo

Brothers Craig and Marc Kielburger addressed thousands at the Aud, empowering young adults to fight injustice in the world

LINDSAY PURCHASE
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 17, the Kitchener Auditorium had the privilege of hosting 6,000 eager students from across Waterloo Region for We Day, an event run by international organization Free the Children aimed toward inspiring student leadership and action.

Founders Craig and Marc Kielburger shared their message of hope among other inspirational speakers, musical acts and celebrity activists such as former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, football star Mike "Pinball" Clemons and Reverend Jesse Jackson. Volunteers sporting "Shameless Idealist" t-shirts pumped up the crowd in between a whirlwind of speeches and musical acts delivered by Shawn Desman, as well as the Barenaked Ladies and Stereos.

Official We Day spokesperson Spencer West was one such speaker whose irrepressible optimism and unique story electrified the crowd with positive energy.

Born with a genetic disease that affected the muscles in his legs, by age five West was facing a mountain of adversity with the amputation of both legs just below his pelvis, and was informed he would be physically unable to lead a normal life.

Conversely, West's charismatic speech was animated with gestures, and his seamless ability to move about the stage, even to climb up

onto a couch using his arms, seemed a remarkable achievement to the mesmerized students.

However, truly moving was his life-changing experience on a Free the Children trip to Kenya.

There he encountered a young girl who, referencing his disability, said "I didn't know these kinds of things could happen to white people, too."

Seeing firsthand the hardship suffered by others inspired West to devote himself to helping others, a message of responsibility which he passed on to the enthusiastic student audience.

"For We Day to be held in a comparatively small city like Kitchener is a unique and fortunate occurrence that was made possible through the support of local business Research in Motion (RIM)", said Allison Sandmeyer-Graves, a Free the Children representative.

Additionally, RIM is providing the opportunity for fifty students between the ages of 14 and 18 to travel to Kenya or India this summer on a volunteer trip.

"We want to empower people at a young age," she explained, acknowledging that Free the Children was founded by Craig Kielburger at only 12 years of age. We Day's overarching messages carry a universality that makes them highly applicable to university or college level students.

"The power of young people to change the world" is what students

“
The more that young people start taking action now, the greater change we'll see in the world.”

—Allison Sandmeyer-Graves
Free the Children

are asked to carry back to their schools and communities, along with the idea that every action, no matter the size, can have a significant impact. "The time to take action is now," concluded Sandmeyer-Graves. "The more that young people start taking action now, the greater change we'll see in the world."

Students of ages ranging from elementary to university level left the day empowered and delirious with the endless possibility of their own actions.

As they were reminded by National Assembly of First Nations Chief Shawn Atleo, the responsibility to act does not await the leaders of tomorrow, because students "are the leaders of change right now."



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Craig and Marc Kielburger founded Free the Children in 1995.

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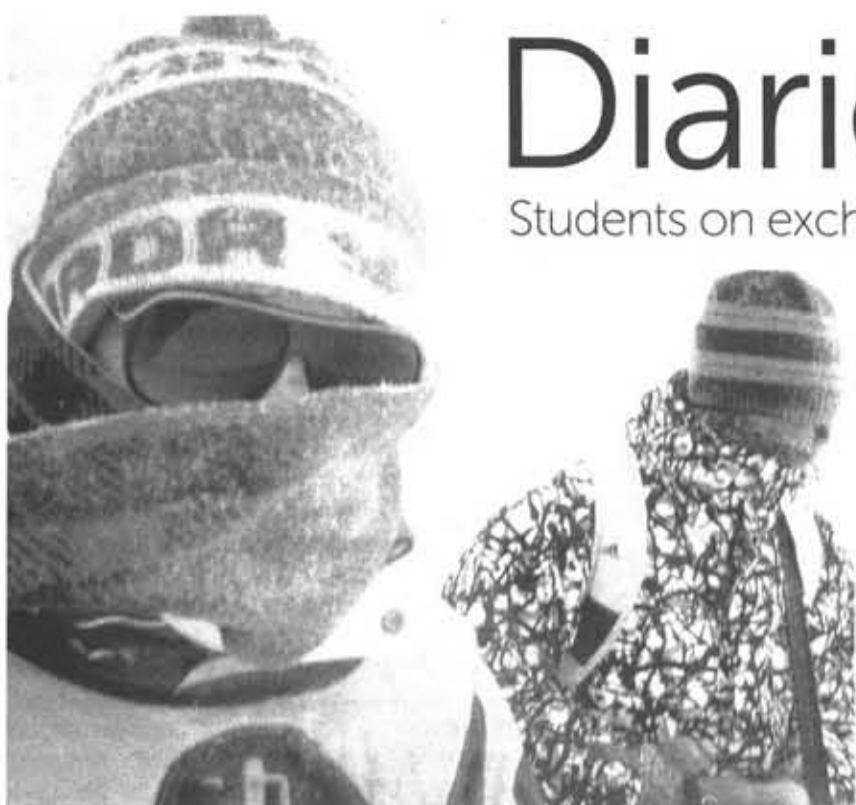


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Diaries from abroad

Students on exchanges with Laurier International share their stories of life overseas



JOSEPH WHITE CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

White and his friend Mike brave the weather in the Czech Republic.

Joseph White — On exchange in Germany

In between my two semesters of study in Marburg Germany, my good friend Mike came to visit me for 3 weeks of gallivanting across Europe, during which one of our more memorable stops was Bozi Dar in the Czech Republic.

Bozi Dar is a tiny hamlet on the border of Germany and the Czech Republic that revolves around its ski resort, and promised a cheap alternative to the crowded slopes of the Alps.

Mike and I had been in Prague for a couple of days and then we headed off to Bozi Dar, which meant a train and then a bus, followed by local transport.

Being such a small hamlet, English wasn't widely spoken, and upon

our arrival I asked the bus driver if he knew where the town was. He responded with a puzzled look. I then tried again in German with a similar result, after which he shrugged his shoulders, closed the door and drove off. Great.

Finding ourselves outside a small B&B we decided to see if there was anyone we could communicate with inside.

After a semi-coherent conversation in German, Mike and I had some idea of where to go. We were told it would only be about a 2 km walk to the ski village. We set off in the -20 degree weather with winds whipping in our faces and backpacks strapped to our fronts and backs.

After about an hour and half trudging uphill in ankle-deep snow we found the hotel at the top of the

ski hill. We were under the impression that it was ours. Of course this was not the case and yet again no one spoke English or German. Just as we were about to throw in the towel and give up, a maintenance worker on the lifts overheard us and approached us, asking if we needed some help in English. At last!

Unfortunately we were then informed that in fact the village we wanted was back at the base of the hill, about twenty minutes away from where we had started.

So nearly three hours later we finally were in the right place and proceeded to try and find a decent place to stay, and that's when we found out it was a holiday weekend in the Czech Republic and just about everywhere was fully booked.

After wandering the village for another half hour and ready to collapse from cold and exhaustion, we found somewhere to stay where we promptly cracked a beer, collapsed in our beds and proceeded to watch some terrible Czech TV and a movie about werewolves in German which I attempted (quite poorly) to translate for Mike's benefit. Though probably the most difficult/frustrating destination, the skiing made up for our trials and tribulations.

Though we both vowed that next time we decided to go to an "off the beaten path" town with a population under 1,000, perhaps learning a few key words like "Where is the..." might save us some sore muscles and cursing, but ended up being one of those experiences I'll always remember.

Steven Parker — On exchange in France

Europe does transportation very, very well: trains and parallel roads covered in tramlines above subway stops.

The amount of tourist and travel traffic means that they're always crowded. The European pension to strike over just about anything makes them even more popular.

Sew a big Canadian flag on your backpack and you're bound to meet people — mostly other Canadians.

There's some atavistic urge in us to escape our giant, empty country for the exotic hustle-bustle of Europe. You meet people in hostels, but you also meet them going to hostels.

Europe is a hub of tourists. Even the small, quaint villages usually have exchange students or backpackers getting off the beaten trail.

Everyone goes everywhere and they all speak English, or at least broken English that isn't as good as your French, but they'll insist on speaking it anyway.

Meeting new people while traveling gives a sense of moving forward, of exploring toward a destination. A feeling of accomplishment and possibility at the same time. At the destination you get lost in the crowd, but on the way there, you're a part of it.

I'm going to share with you the things that you may or may not experience while in transit in Europe.

During the French train strike we got on the only train leaving Geneva for Lyon that day. There was

only standing room and a crush of other young kids. A few sang traveling songs, more broke out booze and a few joined our card game which didn't work at all due to the train's jostling.

You'd take the metro in a new city and someone would shout out, "Hey, Canadian?" and they'd be beaming and usually from the Maritimes.

They'd usually know a better hostel than the one you were going to. Then when you were taking the tram or the bus to the bar later there would be someone speaking English with a large suitcase or bag and you'd get to talking to them, too.

They'd know a great bar or a party some Spanish guy invited them to that's at a strange club with photographs tiling the walls and people wearing strange, extravagant clothing. And you could get there because you can get anywhere on public transport in those tiny countries.

For some more insight into the travels of Laurier International students, check out their blog at:

<http://laurierdiariesfromabroad.blogspot.com/>

An epoch of unrest

Mass protests take place in North African and Mid-East countries

Tunisia

Considered to be the catalyst of the uprisings in Northern Africa, civil resistance sparked as 26-year-old Mohamed Bouazizi publicly lit himself on fire. Mass protests subsequently ensued following this act of defiance in the capital of Tunis calling for the removal of President Ben Ali from office. The movement was fueled over years of poor living conditions, food inflation and profound levels of corruption. Finally yielding to domestic pressures, President Ben Ali stepped down and fled the country on Jan. 14 after 23 years of power.

Jordan

Protests began in various cities around Jordan, including the capital of Amman, calling for the removal of Prime Minister Samir Rifai. Attempting to quell surmounting protests, King Abdullah dissolved the government and appointed ex-army general Marouf al-Bakhit to organize a new cabinet.

Yemen

Opposition formed around proposed amendments to the constitution and quickly escalated into major demonstration. Protesters called for the resignation of President Saleh. In response, Saleh announced that he will not run for re-election in 2013 and that the position will not be handed down to his son, Ahmed.



Estimated death toll from protests:

1,700- 3,700

Egypt

Demonstrations in Tahrir square in the capital city of Cairo resonated throughout the country as the epicentre of growing distaste for President Hosni Mubarak. Witness accounts estimated that a minimum of 250,000 protestors filled the square, with an additional million taking to adjacent streets. During the 18-day demonstrations Mubarak disbanded the government and introduced a vice president for the first time in almost 30 years. Following a meek promise to refrain from running for re-election, Mubarak finally stepped down as president and left executive power to the Egyptian armed forces. Temporarily suspending the constitution, the military is currently charged with drafting a brand new constitution with free elections set for the end of the year.

Oman

Unemployment and poor economic conditions inspired hundreds to take to the streets in protest. The Sultan of Oman, Qaboos bin Said Al Said, took to a cabinet shake up in hopes of pacifying growing unrest. Al Said has vowed to create an additional 50,000 jobs within the government while increasing unemployment benefits.

Lebanon

Spurred by the collapse of the government in early Jan., hundreds amassed in Beirut to oppose Lebanon's sectarian government, formally known as confessionalism.

Libya

Within three days of protest, Libya's second city, Benghazi, was already under opposition control, successfully repelling government forces. Domestic conditions quickly attracted international attention, deteriorating into mass humanitarian crisis. Many fear that Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi may launch airborne attacks to repel protestors as coalition forces debate the possibility of enacting a no-fly zone over Libya. In recent developments, the EU has announced the formation of a summit on March 11 to discuss how to proceed with developments in Libya and other nations in the Middle East and Northern Africa.

—Compiled by Alexandros Mitsiopoulos



AU student Kristy in Toronto, Canada

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The power of words: TED talks

The nonprofit TED, which is devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading, was started in 1984. It brought individuals from technology, entertainment and design together to discuss ideas and innovation. It has evolved into a biannual TED Conference in Long Beach and Palm Springs each spring and the TEDGlobal conference in Edinburgh. Other programs including the TEDTalks video site and TEDx programs have been created as a result. As you prepare for the March 3rd Tedx Waterloo event, we have prepared a list of our favourite lectures for you to explore.

Discover and motivate



ALANNA WALLACE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

My favourite TED talks instil a sense of urgency about the world around me and my place within it.

With a quick glance at my list it is clear to anyone that the lectures I tend to watch on repeat are those that touch me on a number of different levels.

I enjoy lectures by intellectuals on international subjects and on the evolution of our populations, may they be foreign or domestic. Most of all, I marvel at the way some speakers can alter my perception of the world issues I've learned inside the classroom. This is something integral for my favourite TED talks — they have to be about big ideas that subsequently change the ideals I hold in a big way.

Which brings me to my second kind of favourite TED talk: those that inspire me.

Whether it's a discussion on diplomacy, motivation or about how to live one's life, I like to be given information that will inspire me to do great things.

I hope the following nine TED talks will help you discover new ideas and motivate you to evolve with the changing of our world.

Stacey Kramer: The best gift I ever survived

Motivational in every way, Kramer's short three-minute video is a must-see. Using a cryptic message to tease the audience, she explains how a situation filled with uncertainty and fear can enlighten any individual.

About seizing the moment and making the best out of every situation, Kramer's lecture will surely inspire you to see the silver lining.

Best quote: "The next time you're faced with something unexpected, unwanted and uncertain, consider that it just may be a gift."

Hans Rosling on HIV: New facts and stunning data visuals

For most, statistics are the furthest thing from a stimulating experience. But with Rosling's animated powerpoint presentations, any TED talk he performs becomes an incredible experience.

Breaking down the barriers that surround our thoughts on HIV/AIDS and the continent of Africa it affects most profoundly, Rosling explicitly demonstrates that we know very little about the HIV epidemic and who it affects.

Best quote: "It's this terrible simplification that there is one Africa and things go on in one way in Africa. We have to stop that. It's not respectful and it's not very clever to think that way."

Randy Pausch: Really achieving your childhood dreams

Although it's simply been "adopted" as a TED talk, as it was originally a lecture at Carnegie Mellon, Pausch's lecture-turned-book was my first experience with TED talks.

Likely the most motivational of any of the TED talks I've picked, Pausch faces his imminent death by describing to the audience how he achieved his childhood dreams and how they can, too.

Best quote: "It's not about how to achieve your dreams. It's about how to lead your life. If you lead your life the right way the karma will take care of itself. The dreams will come to you."

Dan Pink on the surprising science of motivation

Turning everything we know about traditional rewards and how we run our businesses on its head, Pink explains why the reward and punishment approach often doesn't work and often does harm in the 21st century business world.

He calls attention to the changing of the business world in terms of right-brained, creative, conceptual kinds of abilities.

The whole lecture will make you re-evaluate your leadership skills and how you view yourself in the business world in years to come.

Best quote: "There's a mismatch between what science knows and what business does."

Arianna Huffington: How to succeed? Get more sleep

We've become a society where sleep is undervalued. But when the co-founder of the *Huffington Post* tells you to get more sleep — you best perk up and listen. She claims that not only would we be more productive if we caught more "Zs," but that we would also make better conversationalists at dinner parties.

Not only is Huffington hilarious and charismatic on-stage, her advice for the women of the world to get more sleep in order to be more productive is something our fast-paced society should really be taking to heart.

Best quote: "We are literally going to sleep our way to the top. Literally."

Sheryl Sandberg: Why we have too few women leaders

Every woman (and man) looking to motivate our generation of businesswomen should watch this lecture by the chief operating officer (COO) of Facebook.

Sandberg examines the sad statistics of women in the workplace and gives three very important ways that women can succeed in the workplace. The best part of this lecture for me is how applicable it is to our age group as those who are about to enter the job market.

Her funny, innovative lecture will motivate both men and women to reach for their full potential in whatever avenue they decide to pursue.

Best quote: "I think a world that was run where half of our countries and half of our companies were run by women, would be a better world."

Diane J. Savino: The case for same-sex marriage

Another talk that was one of TED's specially chosen web talks is New York Senator Diane J. Savino's speech defending same-sex marriage. Her well-articulated argument that heterosexual couples have ruined what ever sanctity marriage possessed could win over anyone.

Well-balanced between humour, real-life assertions and emotion, Savino makes a heartfelt stand for a current issue that has Americans split between two camps. If you're on the fence about same-sex marriage, this is the woman who will change your mind.

Best quote: "If there's any threat to the sanctity of marriage in America it comes from those of us who have the privilege and the right and we have abused it for decades."

Richard St. John's Eight secrets of success

Seven years in the making, St. John's lecture brings together the ideas of TED lecturers after he conducted 500 interviews with TED fellows.

He provides a short but insightful presentation of the eight secrets he discovered through attending years of conferences.

Every tip is just as important as the last and St. John cites the likes of Rupert Murdoch and Bill Gates to exemplify his point.

My favourite part is that St. John highlights the fact that those who are successful love what they do and should strive to work at something for which they have a passion.

Best quote: "They're not workaholics, they're workafrolics."

Madeleine Albright: On being a woman and a diplomat

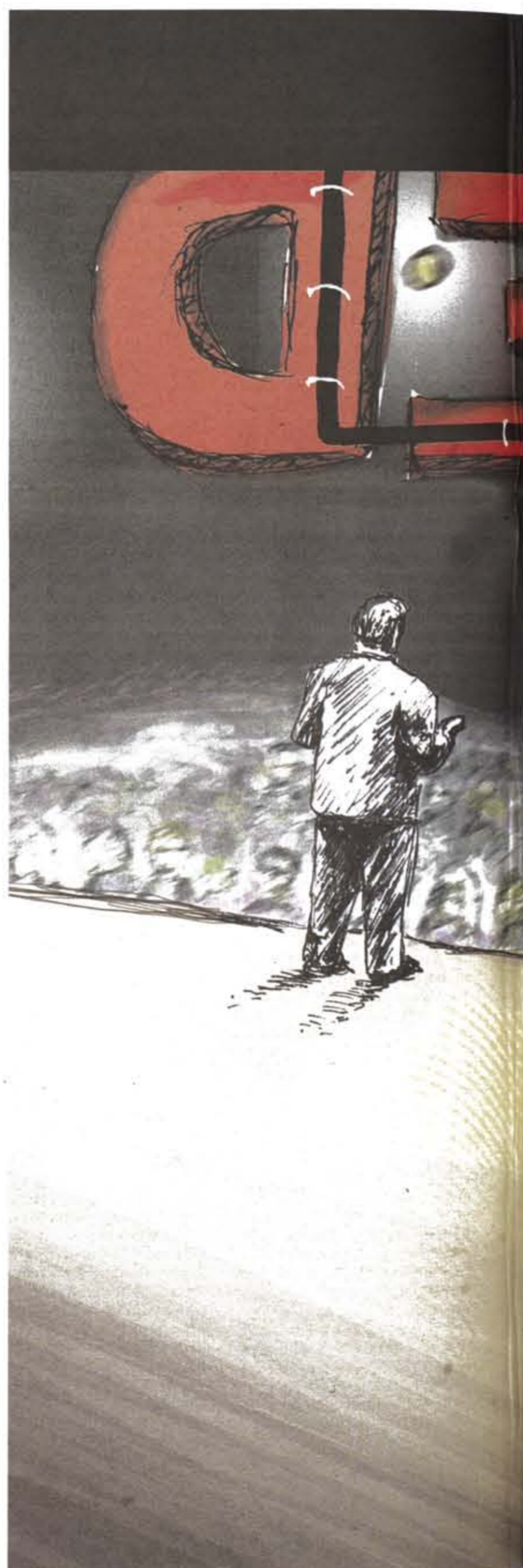
As former U.S. secretary of state, Albright brings an interesting perspective to the role of women in international relations.

She discusses the role of women in politics and the important part they can play in women's issues around the world.

Her anecdotal accounts of working at the UN while surrounded by men on the Security Council are both funny and enlightening.

I love that Albright considers the economic and societal roles of women a security issue and if you don't agree, she'll convince you otherwise.

Best quote: "It doesn't mean that the whole world would be a lot better if it were totally run by women. If you think that, you've forgotten high school."



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WADE THOMPSON
GRAPHICS EDITOR

The idea that really drives my interest in these TED conferences is the ingenuity behind furthering the creative mind.

It is inspiring to me to know that there is a forum in which great right brain thinkers can clearly express and explain their personal innovations through original thought.

As a person who constantly strives to find outlets to articulate my own creativity, I find these talks to be beneficial in the utmost way.

They help communicate an understood promise that we can continually develop new and exciting ideas, some of which will help us greatly in future generations.

Bruce McCall on faux nostalgia

Canadian illustrator and humourist McCall takes us on a tour of his vast portfolio, putting on display his unique artworks that re-imagine history with a completely new perspective.

This talk isn't great because it's inspiring, or because it has some deep message.

It's great because it's simple: an artist putting his work on display to speak for itself. McCall provides the perfect deadpan accompaniment for his slideshow, allowing the audience to see original thinking at its best, as opposed to just hearing about it.

Stew says "Black Men Ski"

This talk features one of the most unheralded musical talents working today, performing a song that encapsulates his prominence as an artist. Stew sings the very dry and satirical "Black Men Ski" in which he brings forward numerous misconceptions about race but is able to do so in the form of a ridiculously masterful movement.

The rather short performance by the Tony-award winning artist demonstrates TED's ability to acknowledge largely unknown talents and give

The Cord attends TEDx Waterloo

The conference, held on March 3, features a number of speakers including Roberta Bondar, the world's first neurologist in space, and Jean-François Carrey, the youngest Canadian to have climbed Mount Everest. Follow us on Twitter for updates and check out our website after the conference for stories and photos.

News Director Linda Givetash @lindagivetash

Editor-in-Chief Alanna Wallace @alannafwallace

Sports Editor Justin Fauteux @justinfauteux

You can crumple up certain unnecessary files. Hang important pieces on the desktop "walls." Create piles and flip through them like a book or any number of ways.

Watch it and see how even the simplest of things can be redesigned to become something even cooler.

Sarah Jones as a one-woman global village

For her lecture, Tony award winning performer Jones molds herself into a gaggle of original characters, fading so far into their skins that Jones herself gets lost and it begins to feel as though her fake people are instead giving the talk.

She goes from a geriatric old Jewish woman, to a fast talking Dominican grad student living in New York, to just about everywhere else around the globe in just her allotted time.

Jones' overall point is about the gift of creation and her interest in the "invention of the self."

Willard Wigan: Hold your breath for a micro-sculpture

Wigan is an artist who creates sculptures so small they are done on the head of a pin. He talks about having to slow his heart rate down so that he can work in between the beats, so as not to allow his hand to slip while carving his tiny models.

He also deals with controlling his breathing as to not blow his work away from right underneath him. This talk is a great example of discipline and originality coming together to produce a truly unique work of art.

Ken Robinson says schools kill creativity

The first TED talk that I ever saw was also the most inspiring lecture that I have ever seen. Sir Ken Robinson provides a hilariously insightful examination of creativity in society today and how, as children, we are taught out of our passions by the adults around us. He attains that "we have to rethink the fundamentals of which we are educating our children."

Honestly, Robinson is a voice to be heard. He quite vividly understands that TED stands for the "celebration of the gift of the imagination". So, if you're looking to be inspired by anything at all, drop this paper, and fire up this talk. You won't be sorry.

thecord.ca

ARTS

Arts Editor Sarah Murphy • smurphy@thecord.ca

Art exhibit challenges stereotypes

DEVON COOTE
STAFF WRITER

The Robert Langen Gallery at Wilfrid Laurier University has been visually and atmospherically transformed into an area of confrontation between Asian and Western cultures.

The exhibit *Pagoda Pads: Opium Den*, created by Karen Tam, displays many of the stereotypical assumptions of foreign cultural identity perpetuated by Western society.

Curated by Suzanne Luke, the exhibit depicts various objects and arrangements that display the typical appropriation of Asian culture, which is stocked full of misconceptions.

"While Asian culture has consistently been negatively stereotyped, people still try to incorporate their practices as commodities," Luke comments.

This practice suggests the colonialist tendency to dominate another society, in some form or another, is still prevalent.

When walking into the exhibit, visitors are transported into a dissonant environment that forces them to question the presumptions of foreign culture.

The installation plays upon

Westernized expectations of what a traditional opium den should contain, while also indicating the artificial nature of these expectations.

"I like working with installation and creating installations, it's challenging because you're creating an environment in a 3-D space that you can't completely see how it will look beforehand," says Tam. "It is really when you're there in the moment that it comes to life."

The installation itself contains a mixture of created, borrowed and purchased items that are intermixed into a single space.

There is a low table that contains two fake opium pipes, a tea-set and a perfume blend "Opium," still packaged in a flowery decorated box.

The hand-crafted wooden cut-outs and hand-painted scrolls, contrast items like the popularized style of kimono robe from Chinatown.

From the ceiling hang dimly lit lanterns and dark purple fringe curtains cover the side walls.

There is an overall mystifying effect, which ironically appeals to the sense of the romanticized Other.

Within the installation, items such as a gong stand from Ikea, terracotta warriors from Wal-mart and various figurines of "traditional" Asian icons.

Some objects, such as the glass dragon and "Opium" blend perfume, still have their price tags from Homesense and "Made in China" labels.

This aspect of the exhibit demonstrates the materialistic quality that Asian culture has been reduced to through subtle colonialist practices in popular culture.

"This is part of the Pagoda Pads series, which was partly inspired by home improvement shows and interior design projects, which tell you 'this is how to create an eastern flair in your home.' I am poking fun at that," Tam continued.

The arrangement has the overall effect of being aesthetically pleasing, with quaint mats and pillows, to reflect how notions of the infamous and provocative subculture of Chinese opium dens have been misunderstood and romanticized by the West.

"In reality, opium dens were not dainty and pretty the way it is depicted here," remarks Luke. This arrangement reflects Tam's criticism of the illusions of Asian culture.

"The exoticism of the Other, you cannot get away from. There is a fascination there, which is due to curiosity and repulsion because it is alien in a way. In today's



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

popular culture you still have that but it's definitely more subtle," Tam concluded.

Tam's exhibit successfully articulates the contrast between authenticity and artificiality, and the lack of distinction between the two in contemporary Western society.

The installation provides a unique way to expose the subtle workings of colonialism that still exist today.

Art installation "Pagoda Pads: Opium Den" will be open March 2 and will run until April 9 at the Robert Langen Gallery on campus.



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTO MANAGER

Author shares the experience of grieving

LINDA GIVETASH
NEWS DIRECTOR

"It's been a very interesting revision of me," professed Canadian author Charlene Diehl to a room of captivated Wilfrid Laurier University students, fans and friends as she presented a reading of her 2010 memoir *Out of Grief, Singing*.

Diehl's memoir reflects on her life-altering experience of becoming a mother and coping with the grief of losing her first daughter, Chloe, who was born prematurely. "That incredible little girl lived for six days and then she died and then I had to figure out: now what? It was all unclear to me," she said.

The first section of her book begins in the fall of 1995, presenting the whirlwind of being diagnosed with pre-eclampsia, a disease jeopardizing her and the baby's health, and having to deliver the baby the very next day. "I did not realize that I was becoming profoundly ill," Diehl

explained.

Living in Waterloo and working as a professor at the University of Waterloo's St. Jerome campus during this difficult period, Diehl found her return to the city to address the audience at Laurier's faculty of arts to be "a weird experience." Realizing the painful combination of the setting and the context of her memoir, Diehl chose to veer away from the early segments of the book and present the periods of mourning and revival. "The return has been long and surprising and strange and wonderful," said Diehl moments before turning to a passage.

She began reading a recollection of a nightmare, which would be one of many that she experienced in the first few months following Chloe's death. While maintaining an articulate voice, Diehl's emotions were revealed as the audience could hear her suppressing tears as she slowly described the frozen feeling of mourning.

What was visibly the most challenging passage recounted a conversation with her then seven-year-old son Liam whose innocent curiosity required her to explain the decision to have Chloe cremated. "There are many ways to respect the dead, I say to my son, curious and brave in the back seat," she read.

Although she struggled with the question of "how do you mother somebody that you never really got to hold?" Diehl noted that Liam and her daughter Anna have had no difficulty in understanding Chloe's place in their family. "It's perfectly obvious to them that they have a sister that is theirs, which seems to me quite remarkable because they both arrived after she had departed," she said.

In later speaking to an English class at Laurier, Diehl expressed how writing the memoir, while exposing her personal life to the world, helped her piece together the things she remembered and felt during

that time. "Stories about grief are the stories that scare the crap out of us all," she explained. "I don't think we've made room for these stories to be treasured."

Finding death and the loss of loved ones to be an expected part of life, Diehl shared that she doesn't believe in closure but rather making space to carry grief with her. "I don't feel impeded by it; I feel energized," she articulated. Moving to Winnipeg in 2000 and establishing a new career away from academics as a director for the international writers festival *Thin Air*, Diehl was able to tap in to her creativity and document and transform her experience.

Although the memoir was published more than ten years after Chloe's death, as Diehl admitted to struggling to find a conclusion to her story, she now reflected on the process of overcoming grief, revealing, "It is one of the most important things each and every one of us will do."



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"I should've got a haircut." —Luke Matheny, Oscar winner for Best Live Action Short



MEGAN CHERNIAK FILE PHOTO

Rainbow Reels returns to KW

SARAH MURPHY
ARTS EDITOR

Showcasing a variety of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer (LGBTQ) themed material, the eleventh annual Rainbow Reels Film Festival kicks off on March 2 at the Princess Twin theatre in Uptown Waterloo.

Originally launched on the University of Waterloo campus, the festival has found a new home and wider audience at the Princess Cinemas in recent years.

The event is organized through the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group and aims to celebrate diversity in the Kitchener-Waterloo community.

The Cord spoke with Laurier graduate student and project coordinator at Rainbow Reels Kate Klein, who has attended the festival before and "really loved it."

This year, a new process was introduced for selecting the films to be shown. A new "participatory process" was put in place, where audience members screened trailers and voted on which pieces should be included in the 2011 line-up.

"It makes me feel really happy that we did it that way, because it feels like a community selection process, so that was pretty cool," Klein said of the new approach.

Some of the highlights of this year's program include *8: The Mormon Proposition*, a documentary about the Mormon Church's involvement in California's controversial Proposition 8. Klein described the film as "a creepy, tell-all film" that reveals new documents detailing "how the

Mormon Church worked against queer rights in the state." It will be shown at Thursday night's gala event.

Klein also admitted to being "super stoked" for the few episodes of *Degrassi: The Next Generation* that will be screened on UW's campus. Some of the creators will be present to discuss the current storyline that involves a transgendered character.

The actress who portrays this character will also be sending in a video message so that audiences will "get to hear what her experience was bringing that character to life and making history, in a way."

The festival provides an important outlet for everyone to learn about diverse lifestyles. Klein explained, "It's really difficult to find good, queer representation in films these days in mainstream media," so Rainbow Reels provides the opportunity to "bring lesser known, newer, up-and-coming queer films to the forefront" of the KW community.

Further commenting on the impact the festival has on the community, Klein stated that even for those who don't identify as queer, there's "access to those kind of stories that you don't typically get to see."

She concluded, "Overall, these stories are important and it's important for people to have a space to talk about queer lives and identities and stories and issues. The arts and film are a really powerful way of doing that."

Rainbow Reels runs from March 2 to 6 and tickets are available through the Princess Cinemas and Encore Records.

Oscar show fails to impress



WADE THOMPSON
THE REEL WORLD

Last year's Academy Awards were not great. The teaming of Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin was not what it should have been and so, right from the ill-advised musical number that kicked off the telecast, the show steadily streamed into mediocrity.

So my thoughts for this year's show were "well, it can't possibly be worse than last year, right?" Wrong. Oh, so totally wrong.

The 2011 Academy Awards did start off better than its predecessor but not by a lot. In a montage akin to the openings of Billy Crystal, hosts James Franco and Anne Hathaway dove into some of the films nominated this year. More than a few jokes just didn't work though, and the unexpected appearance from Alec Baldwin hindered the hilarity more than helped it. That being said, Hathaway seemed really into it and Franco got a couple of pretty funny lines in.

It was all downhill from there though. Franco, who I don't like on a normal day, came out looking about as high as *The King's Speech's* Oscar chances, and acted throughout the entire night like he didn't even want to be there. Hathaway tried to do her best with what he was giving her, but his unwillingness really put a damper on their chances of winning over the audience.

After the rather disastrous opening monologue, Hollywood legend Kirk Douglas happened. Apparently he thought he should have hosted because he didn't want to shut up. Don't get me wrong, he was funny to start out with, but when you start to steal the spotlight from the person you're about to present the award to, you become really frustrating to watch.

The entire first hour of the show was actually really painful to sit through. There were no real interesting speeches, James Franco ruined a perfectly good, albeit random, musical number by Anne Hathaway, coming out dressed as Marilyn Monroe, and Melissa Leo dropped an F-bomb, which wasn't half as

shocking as it was made out to be.

Eventually, after what seemed like hours, the show started to flow a bit better. Presenters like Robert Downey Jr., Billy Crystal and Sandra Bullock were all charming and great to watch and some of the lesser category winners gave some great speeches.

It really makes me laugh to think how hard the Academy was trying to be hip and youthful this year and yet the older, more matured performers who had minimal stage time, were more engaging than Franco or Hathaway were. Again, I don't blame Hathaway as she was trying her best, and alone, she may have succeeded. But the dead weight of Franco was simply too much to overcome.

The two host thing is not working in my opinion. I hope they come to their senses next year and go back to one. Might I suggest Kevin Spacey who was fantastic in the little stage time he was given during the night.

As for the winners themselves, there weren't any surprises that surpassed the absolute robbery of David Fincher for Best Director. *The King's Speech* was bound to win Best Picture, I understand that, but there is no way that Tom Hooper, or anyone for that matter, directed a better picture than Fincher this year. That is one win that will be looked at down the road as a clear and vivid mistake.

Other than that, it was nice to see *Inception* take home four awards, and *The Social Network* prevail in the very

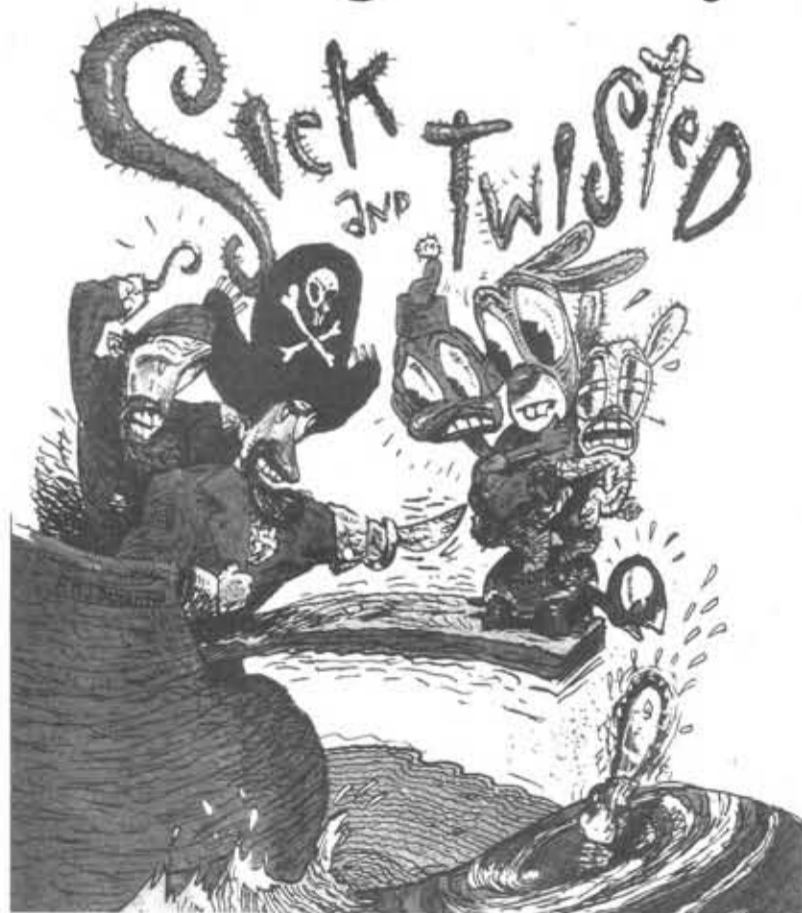
tough Best Original Score category. There were too few shocks in any of the major categories though, so that also didn't help with the stale taste of the show either.

Even this many days after the ceremony, I still find things to be disappointed about this year's Oscars. They were kind of dragging, had very few memorable moments, and were all in all, pretty hard to watch. Which is a damn shame because the stage set-up was one of the most gorgeous they've had in years.

Oh well. They will forget about the whole "hip and young" thing next year. The ratings dropped 10 per cent.



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EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • emerkeley@thecord.ca

McGuinty liquor law reform unhelpful

Recently, the McGuinty government has proposed the liberalization of Ontario liquor laws. Such changes would remove restrictions on special events, festivals and licensed establishments. It will allow special events to serve liquor until 2 a.m. like other establishments and allow all-inclusive vacation packages. Chris Bentley, attorney general for the province of Ontario, stated the changes were being made because the regulations were "outdated and they just don't make sense."

McGuinty should be wary of piecemeal reform of the system. Loosening regulations in one area of Ontario's confusing maze of liquor regulations can lead to conflict with other "outdated" regulations that McGuinty isn't bothering to address.

For example, if restrictions on special events and festivals are lifted and people are allowed to walk around with open alcohol, this may force organizers and staff to limit the age of attendance to above drinking age. They will legitimately fear losing their liquor license if minors consume alcohol due to lack of control of where the alcohol is being consumed. Will the Kitchener Blues Festival then only be open to those over the age of 19? This has the potential to end family-friendly events.

That is not to say that Ontario's current underage drinking rules are reasonable — they are archaic and do nothing to curb access to alcohol. In fact, they most certainly promote underage binge drinking. The entire regulatory regime and government mandated monopolies over beer and liquor can be called into question.

But if McGuinty is serious about reforming our liquor laws an overhaul is in order. Doing it piece by piece can make things worse than they already are for all Ontarians.

—The Cord Editorial Board

Mayor Ford gravy train wreck begins

In October, Torontonians elected Rob Ford as their mayor in a rage against the policies and financial stewardship of outgoing mayor David Miller. Ford promised to "stop the gravy train," was adamant that the city of Toronto had a "spending problem and not a revenue problem" and was always critical of Miller when he put his hand out for money from the provincial government without first getting the city's act together. He was going to be the saviour of partisan Conservatives.

How the mighty have fallen.

In order to balance this year's budget, avoid cuts and pay for his misguided property tax freeze, Ford had to raid the savings of the city for \$370 million. Now that those savings are exhausted, next year he faces a \$774 million shortfall with no easy exit.

It is becoming increasingly evident that the rampant waste predicted by Ford and his populist backers was more of a symbolic myth than fact. His rhetoric about cutting councillor office funding and food for council meetings among other things helped him get elected, but mean practically nothing in the grand scheme of things. Right-leaning councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon admitted that, "The gravy's not flowing through city hall like originally expected." How shocking.

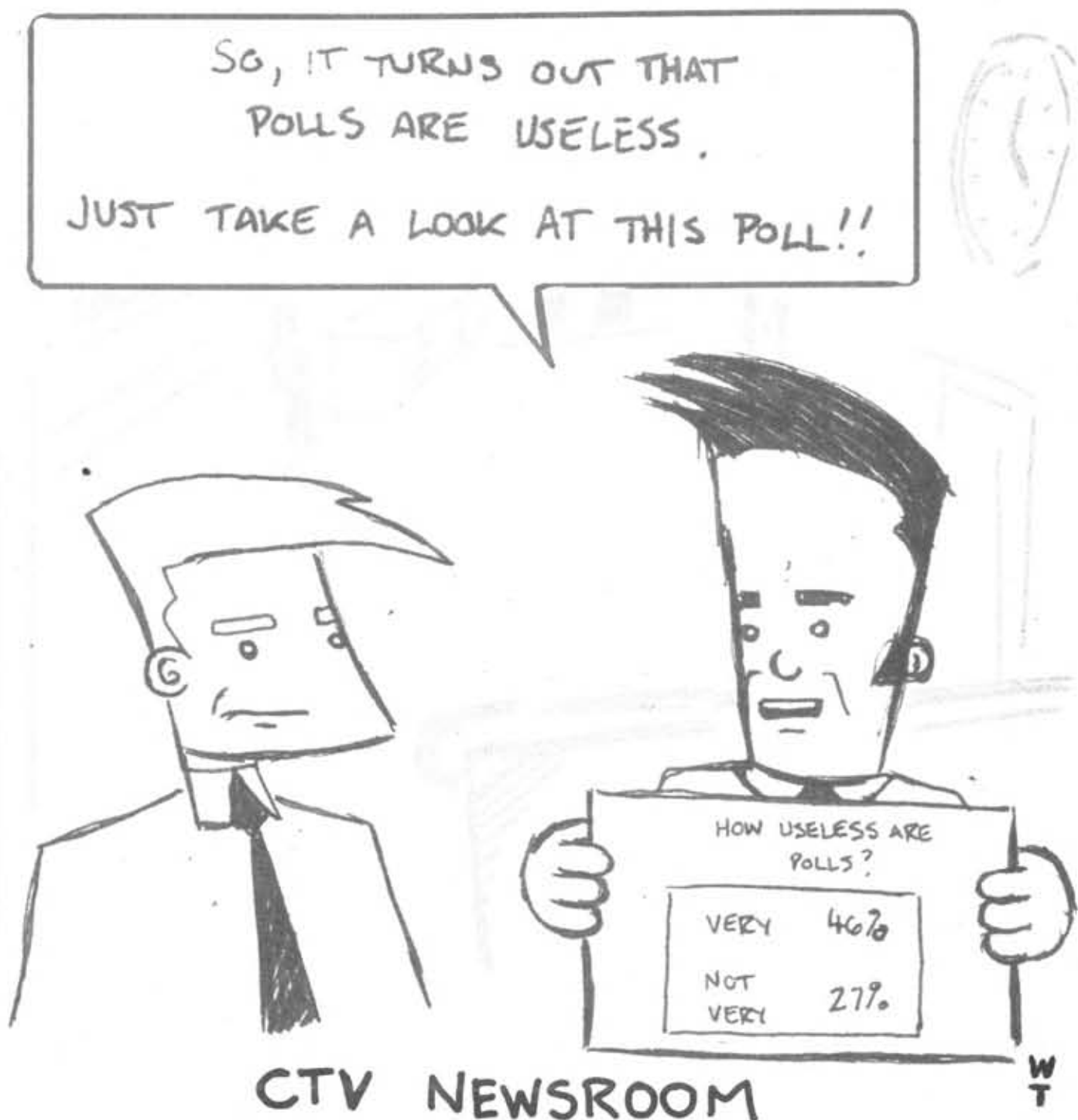
Waste and corruption were never the problem with the City of Toronto; it's the simple fact that the city's government does too much and has to finance the interest on an enormous debt. That Ford lacks the conviction beyond cheap soundbites to cut spending and pay down the debt is evident when he held out his hand this week for assistance in the amount of \$350 million from the cash-strapped McGuinty government, exactly like the mayor before him. It is quite clear Ford is in over his head as mayor and never had a plan to actually fix City Hall.

So get set Toronto. You are beginning to witness a four-year long train wreck. But you can't say that you're surprised.

—The Cord Editorial Board

This unsigned editorial is based off informal discussions and then agreed upon by the majority of The Cord's editorial board, which consists of 15 senior Cord staff including the Editor-in-Chief and Opinion Editor. The arguments made may reference any facts that have been made available through interviews, documents or other sources. The views presented do not necessarily reflect those of The Cord's volunteers, staff or WLUSP.

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Media polling a toxic addiction



ERIC MERKLEY
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Another day passed and another federal poll has been published along with endless speculation by the "experts" about what it may mean for the timing of the next election. It has become the same routine day after day, week after week. All major media outlets do it to varying degrees and frankly it is pushing me to want to find the tallest building in the city and take a leap.

It has gotten so bad that pollsters are beginning to bicker amongst themselves over the implications the media's poll addiction is having on democratic discourse in this country.

Pollsters like Allan Gregg of Harris-Decima and André Turcotte have warned that the basis of making conclusions about public opinion based on polling is faulty. The principle of random selection is violated as phone polls skew disproportionately to the elderly, poor and rural Canadians on top of plummeting response rates.

I don't share the pollsters' concerns on accuracy, at least for simple survey designs based on vote choice. Pollsters have been accurate in predicting elections by making corrections for the response bias they know exists.

They miss the main point: media obsession with polls and election speculation is crowding out debate on actual relevant issues and forcing parties to chase the polls.

Why does the media insist on continual focus on the "horse race?" I think this is because the mainstream media

is horrendously biased. And by biased I don't mean ideologically, but simply biased towards laziness and journalistic shortcuts.

There is an increasingly intense 24-hour news cycle. Traditional news outlets are under more competitive pressure than ever before, particularly from New Media sources.

This encourages them to churn out content quickly with no focus on quality or importance of the product. Gone are the days of quality journalism and in-depth reporting. It's a lot easier to spit out verbatim political party talking points or craft a template story around the most recent poll.

This becomes even more evident given how the press sensationalizes each poll that comes out regardless of whether the results are actually newsworthy. If one political party gains three points from the previous week's poll it's considered "momentum."

Yet in actual fact it simply lies within the margin of error and means absolutely nothing. Most polls taken in the past two years have shown a consistently deadlocked political landscape that fluctuates around a mean. Yet that doesn't stop the media obsession with weekly polling.

The media's practice of putting polls on pedestals has also altered how poll results are treated. The reality is that most Canadians do not have well-formed views on political issues for perfectly rational reasons.

Their responses on surveys therefore can be wildly skewed by things as subtle as the question ordering of a survey to word choice of the question. Studies using panel data have shown that individual respondents tend to answer a question one way one week and one way the next. This fact is masked to a degree by stability in aggregate results. It gives an illusion of a crystallization of public opinion.

The media, however, treats each poll

Pollsters sell surveys to the media like drug dealers sell crack to addicts. They need to stop.

as a snapshot of a concrete public opinion on any given issue. This hems political parties into backing the position supposedly taken by the polled public, which to the media is the "right" position to take. Parties begin to chase the polls when crafting policy. We see this time and again with the current federal government.

We also see the consistent mainstream media behaviour to be critical of any party that is offside with so-called public opinion. The media needs to stop treating polls as the sole measure in judging a policy.

The polling industry is being cheapened by this behaviour. They are no longer engaged in research or thorough analysis of public opinion on the issues. The industry needs to be upfront with the public and force the media to acknowledge the limitations of their methodology as a condition of its use. And they need to stop simply feeding an addiction with no worry of the consequences. Pollsters sell surveys to the media like drug dealers sell crack to addicts. They need to stop.

And for the media, Turcotte suggests they "should really consider what is the basis for [their] addiction and maybe enter a ten-step program."

I couldn't agree more.

THE FORUM

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • merkley@thecord.ca

OneCard sucks

Staff writer **Lindsay Purchase** highlights the faults of the current meal plan system



LINDSAY PURCHASE
letters@thecord.ca

Dear First Year Student,

The account balance on your OneCard is currently alarmingly high and we regret to inform you that unless you begin eating a Michael Phelps-esque 12,000-calorie-a-day-diet, we will be stealing a significant portion of your money at the end of the winter semester. Perhaps you should have considered changing your meal plan before the last business day in September.

Regards,

The OneCard Office

The process of applying to university sparks a chain reaction of confusing, fast-paced and often impulsive decisions. Meal plan selection provides another set of options for first-year students that can lead to dire financial consequences. There is a limited amount of money that can be transferred to the following year and students who have not spent enough on their meal plan simply lose any excess funds. What we're dealing with is legitimized theft. The just decision would be to eliminate the set limit on carry-over

money, but barring that, students should be given a longer time span to adjust their meal plan type.

Light, medium or hearty are the selections presented to the majority of students who choose to live in a dormitory style residence. Merely considering the language, light seems to imply that you do not eat a substantial amount, while hearty, on the other hand, calls to mind images of bulky football players throwing down bowls of Campbell's Chunky Chili.

And so, following the logic of nursery rhyme star Goldilocks, by process of elimination the medium plan must be "just right." But despite eating a healthy several meals a day plus snacks, I find myself opening my inbox to find chastising reminders to spend more. No other options are provided.

Now let's look at the numbers. The meal plan selector prompts you to determine your level of eating based on three square meals per day: \$15, \$25 or \$33 a day? Without knowing prices of Dining Hall foods or even your schedule, the decision is entirely arbitrary. It may be difficult to understand how it could be possible to under spend with the inflated cost of on-campus food services.

However, some students travel home more than anticipated, tire of the limited selection or wish to experience some of the local food



ELLI GARLIN FILE PHOTO

culture. But in order to spend, spend and spend some more on my OneCard, I feel I can't even buy any groceries or I risk losing a greater amount of money. And let's be honest, it's difficult to eat a healthy diet relying simply on cafeteria food.

The highly limited period for switching your meal plan is also problematic, as the cut-off follows only two weeks of school. Yet, it was not until the Nov. 16 email that students were informed they were under spending.

An extension of the September deadline to the end of the first semester would give students a

reasonable chance to determine the extent to which they will utilize a meal plan.

Additionally, the fine print reveals that only \$500 can be carried over to the following year. Squint a little harder and you see that this amount is only valid until the end of the fall semester.

Students are also prohibited from transferring funds to their limited convenience fund, so extra money cannot go toward next year's textbooks, but only to waste. Particularly for students who are funding their university career without parental assistance, this is a crushing waste

of their hard-earned savings. It is, quite simply, theft.

As a person who stands to lose money at the end of the year and sees many others facing the same problem, it's extremely frustrating to see many hours of hard work vanquished with the click of a button. The solution is evident. Eliminate inexpensive foods like salad, and bagels and replace them with more appearances by the king of expenses (and fat): the twenty-dollar prime rib meal. Students, loosen your belts and open your wallets; we'll eat through our money, one pound at a time.

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OPINION

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • merkley@thecord.ca



You know what yanks my Cord...

...Stupid celebrity comments — especially when they're baseless, uninformed or really just plain out of place.

Take Justin Bieber for example. In an interview for popular music magazine *Rolling Stone* he was cited taking firm ground against abortion in the case of rape and justifying it by saying "everything happens for a reason, I don't know what reason that is... but everything happens for a reason."

Other cases, like Mel Gibson's insensitive anti-Semitic comments, leave a lot to be desired and alienate as well as incite anger in large groups of people.

Celebrities, when not with a publicist or coach, should just learn to keep their mouths shut. They, like the Bieber, are in positions of influence and should really not use that pulpit to put forth any kind of agenda.

Most of these celebrities are in the entertainment business and that's what they should stick to—entertaining us.

As funny as it was, seeing Bieber mess up in *Rolling Stone* (I mean really, where was his publicist?), there are a lot of impressionable youth reading his words.

Of course, the Biebs is just an example. There are a lot of celeb flub-ups on a regular basis. And they're funny too, as long as they're taken for their entertainment value, rather than as legitimate and informed socio-political views.

—Marcie Foster

Check out Marcie Foster's blog "Searching for Moments" at thecord.ca

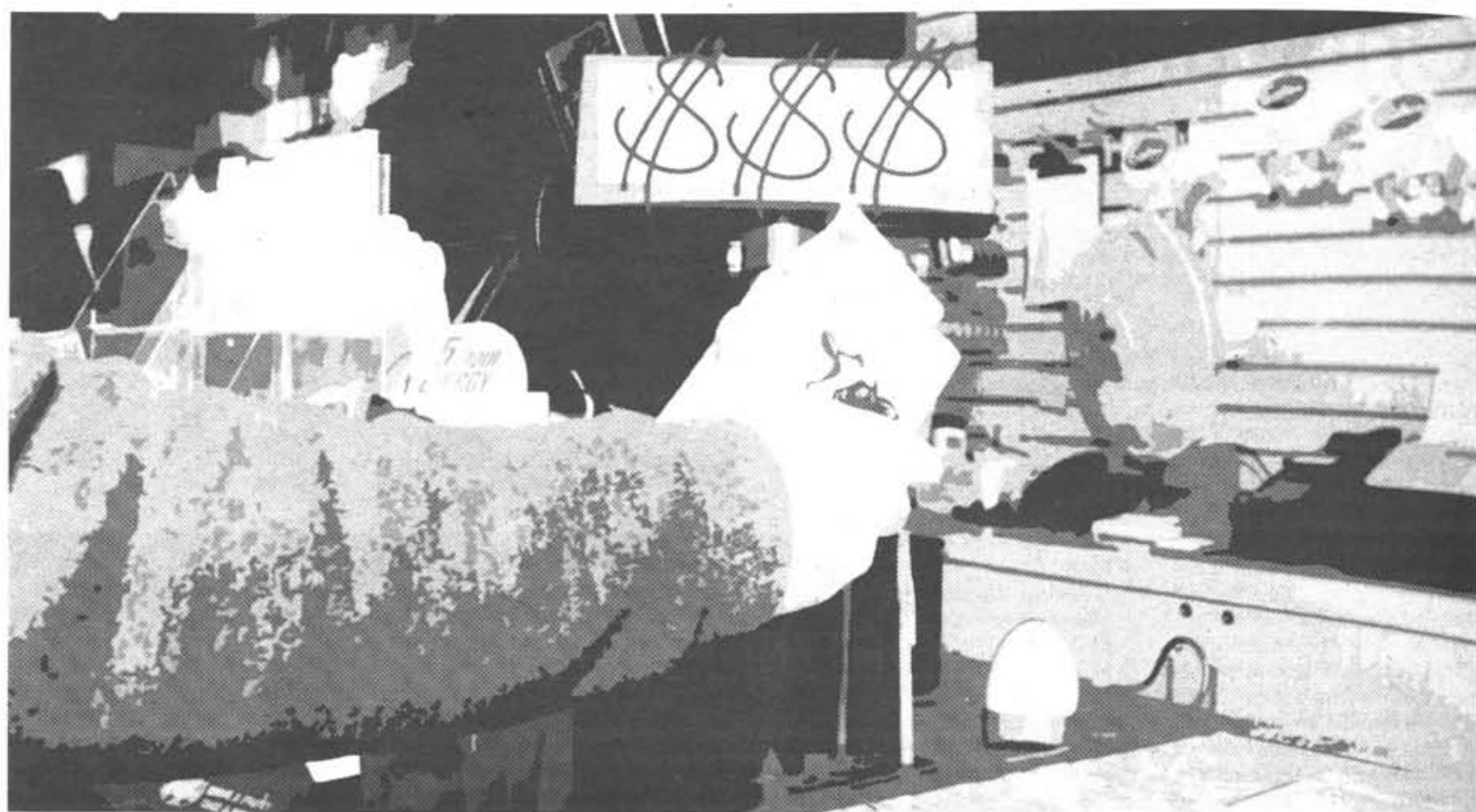


PHOTO BY MEGAN CHERNIAK GRAPHIC MANIPULATION NICK LACHANCE

Consumers milked by dairy lobby



NICK GIBSON

letters@thecord.ca

I love milk as much as the next lactose-tolerant guy, but my cereal habit is an increasingly difficult habit to sustain.

Not only are my beloved Cheerrios becoming more expensive by the minute it seems, but so too is the milk I pour all over said Cheerrios. Of course, I would love them both to be cheaper, but there is a reason why they are that expensive and I am sure that competition in the market will ensure that they remain reasonable in price, right?

Wrong. The Cheerrios are fine. It's the milk that I am worried about. Why is it that other countries can consume safe and quality dairy products without having to take out a second mortgage?

The fact is Canada has a very strong dairy-industry lobby. The lobby has pushed for and sustained

what is known as Supply Management for years and have not once loosened their grip.

Supply Management is an arrangement wherein an organization (in this case the Canadian Dairy Commission) implements a system that mandates regulated supply of products with the stated intent of "stabilizing revenues and avoiding costly surpluses."

Unfortunately, this manipulation of the market means that consumers are paying for these "stabilized revenues" and individual producers are boxed-in from pursuing expansion of their operations.

According to the Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO), the fixed pricing that is a result of supply management is meant to be based on production costs.

Using various indicators, including a representative sample of 100 Ontario dairy farms, provincial COP (Cost of Production) is determined which is done in other provinces and subsequently used to determine the national COP.

From there, the price is also buoyed by administrative costs including promotion of milk and milk products, transportation cost (from farm to dairy), administration of

DFO and for research. While these costs are not explicitly built into the price, they are inevitably paid by the consumer in the end—this is the only revenue stream in this process.

The results are profit margins that far exceed any other agricultural industry in the country, and even exceed the average Canadian small business to the tune of 200-300 per cent, according to the Consumers' Association of Canada.

The question that remains is twofold: firstly, why are we punishing consumers? Secondly, why is it that only the dairy industry is privy to this special treatment?

I have many friends who are farmers, as I come from a rural area of central Ontario.

Most are not in the dairy business and constantly struggle, while their colleagues in the dairy industry are given special privileges with supply management.

It appears to me that we need to make a decision: we either do supply management for other major agricultural sectors or we phase out supply management.

The fairness factor here is pretty clear; the government is picking and choosing who to support and who not to support.

With that said, it is pretty clear that a vote to expand supply management is a vote to further bloat bureaucracy and punish the consumer.

Bureaucracy is important, but we also know that it is inherently inefficient in many ways and we must be cautious when proposing major expansion of the bureaucracy.

This goes without mentioning the clear inconsistency with market principles that this practice promotes.

I see that there can be a place for regulation and for other government intervention into the economy, but we should err on the side of allowing the market to run its course rather than meddle in industry affairs.

This is especially salient given that other jurisdictions have functioning dairy industries that provide the safe and quality dairy products that we are all looking for. It appears that this government intervention is misguided.

Let's hope that our elected officials of any political stripe will start standing up for the consumer rather than the dairy lobby.

I don't want to be milked for another penny.



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"Condemning other cultures promotes segregation, rather than understanding and common ground. To equate certain immoral practices with multiculturalism as a whole is an invalid statement that can often make individuals feel more isolated in western countries." —Shagun Randhawa

Point • Counter-point: Multiculturalism

Columnists **Andrew Chai** and **Shagun Randhawa** debate whether or not multiculturalism has failed in the United Kingdom and Europe and what it would mean for societal pluralism and tolerance



ANDREW CHAI
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The reality of the situation is that we all have to live together.

Has multiculturalism failed? In Europe, at least, this appears to be the case. At the Munich Security Conference earlier this month David Cameron, prime minister of the United Kingdom, made a speech in which he criticized his country's longstanding policy on multiculturalism, which he believes has "encouraged different cultures to live separate lives, apart from each other and the mainstream."

Cameron's remarks echoed statements made last year by chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel when she also called multiculturalism a failure. These comments reflect a push by European governments to better integrate immigrants, given persistent domestic tensions between different cultures. In Britain, we see this policy most prominently in separate religious schools, which are all funded by the government.

Within such a framework children are taught to identify with their own ethno-religious groups. They are taught to hold certain beliefs and values important to their own particular sect. It is no wonder that there is a lacking in national identity. And not only have we seen the results of this policy in perpetuating the sectarian strife in Northern Ireland. It is also partly to blame for fostering Islamist extremism. Terrorism has been committed by people born and raised in the U.K. Young men deluded by a toxic form of Islam have been led down the road of domestic terrorism.

They have set out plans to kill and maim their fellow citizens and unfortunately some of these horrific plans have succeeded. Many of them are from middle-class homes and are university graduates who know no other home than the country they have been brought up in.

What then must we do? First of all appeasement has never been an effective policy. People of other

cultures who come to live in the West cannot expect to continue practices fundamentally opposed to the values we hold dear here in the West.

The practice of "hands-off tolerance" only breeds division. I think Nicolas Sarkozy, president of France, got it right when he said that we must all respect differences, but we do not want a society where communities exist side by side. The goal is not assimilation, but integration.

Liberal societies must stand by their roots if they are to pass them on to the next generation. Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the rule of law, equality before the law regardless of sex, sexual orientation or colour: these are some of the values that define us as a society. Failure to instil liberal values leads to a sense of marginalization that can breed sectarianism and lead down the road to extremism.

Nevertheless, we should not throw out multiculturalism altogether, nor should we succumb to xenophobia. The reality of the situation is that we all have to live together. Whether you were born a native, arrived as an immigrant or are the offspring of immigrants there is no difference.

For all these people to live together successfully multiculturalism needs to be redefined in a more harmonious way. This is not done by appeasing minority groups or by simply ignoring them. Instead there needs to be more of a dialogue and sense of understanding between cultures.

Ultimately people from different cultures in the West should be able to identify with both cultures. This is a healthy biculturalism that is missing in the U.K. and other European countries.



SHAGUN RANDHAWA
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Littered throughout British prime minister David Cameron's speech about the failure of multiculturalism were inferences to the extremism and radicalization multiculturalism has seemingly given birth to.

Although he spoke of a country with "common values" striving to relieve itself of separatism to achieve a national culture devoid of the terrorist threats, such words may have done more harm than good by encouraging blame to be placed solely at the feet of Muslims.

Multiculturalism is a policy Canada has abided by since the days of Pierre Trudeau. Even as residents of such a cultural mosaic, many individuals have mixed ideas of what multiculturalism is and have found themselves backing Cameron as well as other individuals such as German chancellor Angela Merkel and French president Nicolas Sarkozy.

The common theme is that multiculturalism has promoted a safe haven for those with anti-western viewpoints. It gives rise to extremists. What I find a little discerning is how many individuals share this viewpoint.

Multiculturalism has failed? What an incredibly sweeping statement that does a disservice to millions of immigrants to the U.K. who struggle to keep their cultures and traditions alive while embracing British values. Individuals can integrate while keeping their own cultures alive. Extremists exist in every cultural, religious and political viewpoint and they are adept at achieving publicity, stirring up division and achieving national unrest.

From my personal viewpoint, despite the fact that this entire debate has centred upon avoiding extremism and radicalization, multiculturalism has very little to do with these concepts. Terrorism is a political issue. Although labeled with religious

drivers, it is often political unrest that drives terrorism. A good example is the English Defense League (EDL), made up of violent extremists. However, the group is not a product of failed multiculturalism or its success for that matter.

Being uneducated about Britain's culture, the English language or western ideology is not a driver for terrorism. In fact, many of the worst terrorists in the world are very well educated.

Muscular liberalism did not help individuals like Mohammad Sidique Khan, a fully integrated Muslim who was the ringleader in the London bombings in 2005. He was a teaching assistant, smart and well educated, with his free time spent playing soccer with his friends. Prime victim for extremism? I wouldn't think so.


Western culture is a multicultural construct itself. The idea of one monogamous culture does not appeal well as our cultures include everything from deep conservatism to amoral self-entitlement. Condemning other cultures promotes segregation, rather than understanding and common ground. To equate certain immoral practices with multiculturalism as a whole is an invalid statement that can often make individuals feel more isolated in western countries.

One of the points Cameron made was about ethnic residential segregation as a negative outcome of multiculturalism, but did it cross his mind that this may be the result of fear of discrimination and not self-segregation? And since when is it a problem living with people you identify with? There are LGBT communities in downtown Toronto, New York and Brighton.


Talking about the level of tolerance we have for other cultures is worth having, especially when it comes to certain practices that are incompatible with liberal democratic values.

However, it should not be attached to a counter-terrorism agenda or a politically convenient way to define Islam as a root cause for our issues with cultural integration. Such a practice will only serve to further isolate cultural communities in a sea of hostility.



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WLU is 100 only in a technical sense



KEITH MARSHALL
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Walking around campus it's difficult not to notice the banners celebrating "Laurier100." This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary of Canada, which eventually led to the creation of Laurier's parent school Waterloo College in 1924. Given how little remains from that time, it's hard to see how Laurier is really 100 years old and as a school we shouldn't put too much consideration towards our early years.

For good or bad, so far these celebrations have put a heavy focus on celebrating our past. In a sense, celebrating our age as a university

is a bizarre concept, considering that unlike many older universities across Ontario none of our original buildings still stand. Walking across the Waterloo campus it's easy to see that our oldest buildings were built in the 1960s and 1970s, a long time after our original founding. Because of this, it is odd that we would celebrate a past that we are so far removed from, considering that despite our Protestant roots we have not been associated with any one religion since 1973.

Even our most cherished student traditions like the Boars Head Dinner, Shinerama, Winter Carnival and Homecoming were created in the 1950s and 1960s. From these facts it is easy to see how celebrating our 100th anniversary this year is a strange concept when, aside from The Cord, almost nothing recognizable remains on campus from the early 1900s. This is why as we celebrate this anniversary our university should focus on understanding how

our past has developed into the concerns of the present instead of dishing out of random irrelevant facts to students about our past.

For the majority of Laurier students the last 15 years have created the most recognizable changes. In that time we have redeveloped our main campus in Waterloo and added new campuses in Kitchener, Brantford and Toronto.

As a result in that time Laurier has experienced a doubling of our student population. These recent trends demonstrate how significantly we are changing as a university and should further encourage efforts by the university and our student union to preserve what few traditions we still have.

Although some efforts have been made to make our history more relevant this year, some of them are simply a waste of university funds and scarce alumni support. The statue of Sir Wilfrid Laurier itself is probably the silliest decision that

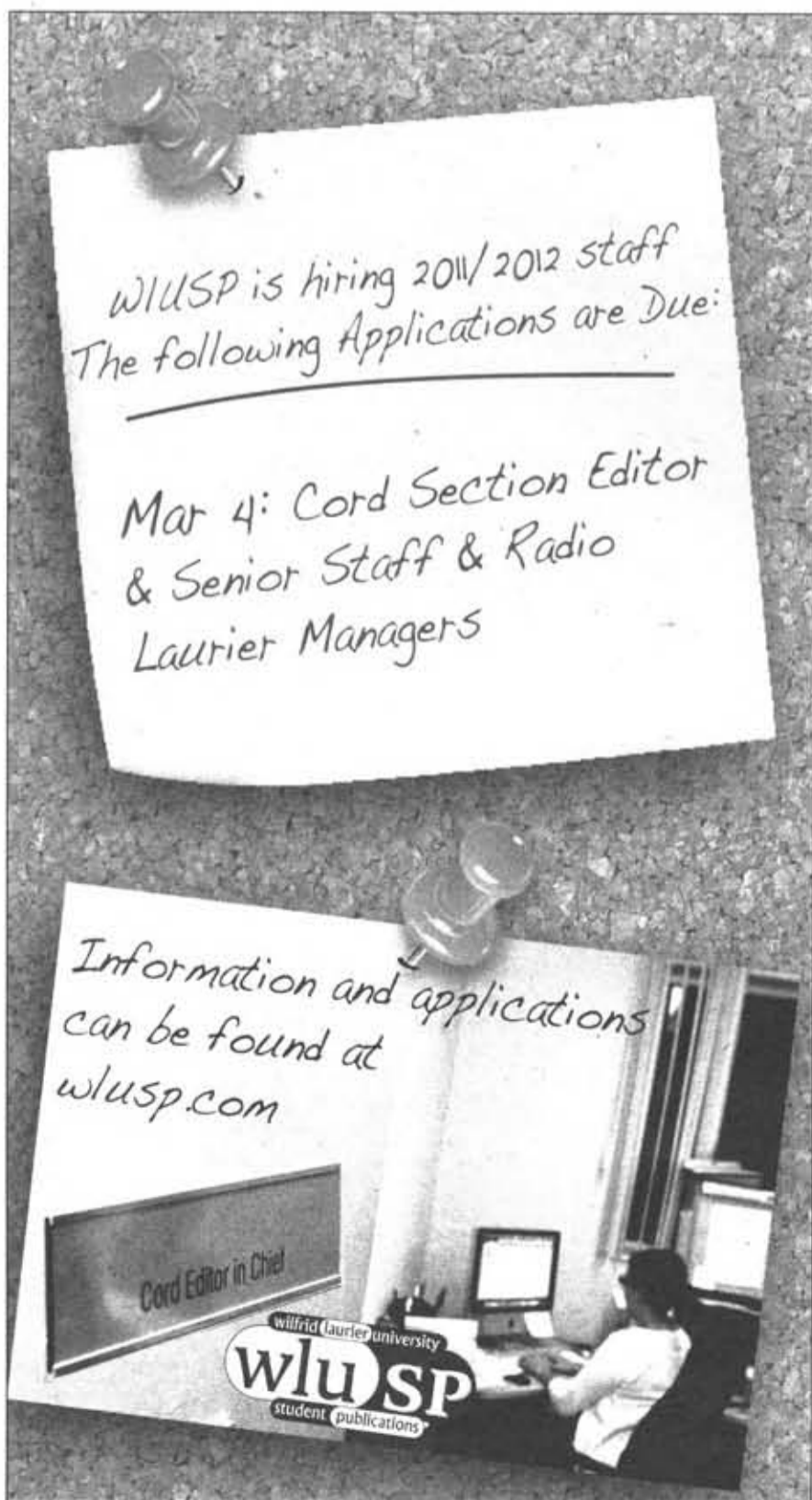
has been made, even given the university's claim that it will create a focal point on campus for students. It is unlikely to do this, considering that the statue is being placed outside. On a campus that is largely inhabited during the cold and wet seasons of the year, this exercise in spending carries little reasoning behind it.

Despite the fact that we are named after him, Laurier himself has nothing to do with our university history. Purchases like these only further demonstrate the problem faced with a lack of historical buildings and historical identity on campus and the need to involve students in community creating expenditures.

A centennial anniversary means nothing if we don't have traditions to stand behind and with most of our traditions stemming from the 1950s and 1960s it's important that the university and students act further to preserve them as

Although some efforts have been made to make our history more relevant this year, some of them are simply a waste of university funds and scarce alumni support.

our university experiences greater change and expands across Ontario. However, in promoting our history this year we should be focusing only on the aspects of our past that are and will still be relevant in the future and not on our increasingly irrelevant religious past.



Protests over DND recruitment based on ignorance and fear-mongering



MARTIN PINEDA
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The recent protests carried out by a group of students from the University of Toronto in response to Department of National Defence (DND) information session for master's and PhD students interested in a prospective career as policy analysts were absolutely irrational and uncalled for.

Students have been circulating a petition to the U of T administration calling for the campus to be a "military-free zone," shamelessly denigrating the important role that these employees of the federal government involved in national defence have in Canadian society. While freedom of speech and political activism are values that ought to always be championed, it is unethical for them to be abused by groups of ideologues who misrepresent facts in order to pursue their own agenda.

It is unacceptable for student movements that seek to completely remove any presence of the Canadian Forces or the DND at universities to use slanderous rhetoric that portrays these public servants as being on par with vicious killers and criminals.

Much of the reasoning behind these sorts of movements can be traced to an apparent ignorance of the military and national defence.

First of all, it is necessary to understand that the DND and the Canadian Forces are two distinct entities; the Department of National Defence being a civilian department concerned with national defence and the Canadian Forces being the armed institution of the federal government.

The policy analyst profession that was being advertised by the DND is held by highly educated civilians with graduate degrees who contribute to the knowledge base of our nation's defence through research and informational analysis, not as a soldier of the armed forces in a battlefield.

It is evident that an ignorant misconception that is widely held among such groups is such that all members of the Canadian Forces are employed in a combat arms role. They fail to recognize that there is more to a military than soldiers on the ground.

A state military is such that it requires the staffing of occupations that absolutely cannot be practiced without post-secondary education, such as engineers, doctors and lawyers as well as knowledge-based occupations like administrative personnel, intelligence analysts and scientists.

Military personnel come to university campuses to offer a respectable career option to future professionals, not to lure young men and women into violent and dangerous adventures. In addition to there being both a civilian and a military dimension of national defence, both of which being essential to national security, the Canadian Forces also

fulfill an imperative duty needed of any country to have an armed capability.

It is incumbent upon these individuals to look beyond the bubble of freedom and security for which so many have died throughout our history. They must realize that although we should always advocate for peace, we do not live in a perfect world without external threats. When the security of our country is legitimately jeopardized, it is necessary for the vital institution of the military to defend it.

What needs to be understood by those who oppose the deployment of our armed forces is that the institution of the military is not an autonomous actor and is legally obligated to act upon the orders of the government of the day.

If these groups have a problem with the way in which the military is being used, they need to take their issues to those holding political office rather than the neutral public servants our society trusts to act as an extension of public policy in our democracy.

Those that mindlessly seek to create a "military-free zone" on campus should take the time to actually engage in dialogue and properly educate themselves about the nature of national defence in Canada rather than acting on misrepresentative ideological propaganda.

They should realize that those holding careers in the defence department are in fact individuals of respectable integrity and decency who have selflessly dedicated themselves to a life of public service to their country.

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SPORTS

Sports Editor Justin Fauteux • jfauteux@thecord.ca



Post-season letdown

ELLI GARLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Inexperience, early collapses and a slumping powerplay cost Hawks in semifinal

JAMIE NEUGEBAUER
STAFF WRITER

The Laurier men's hockey team was really only the better team for one of nine periods in their Ontario University Athletics (OUA) Western Conference playoff round against Guelph, and they paid for it, as the Gryphons took the series two games to one.

"In the end we had a team that was a little bit young in experience," commented Laurier head coach Greg Puhalski after game three. "And it kind of showed throughout this particular series."

In game one on Feb. 24, the Hawks were completely devoid of any effort and frankly embarrassed themselves at home.

Outshot 38-24 and outscored 3-0, the purple and gold only kept the scoreboard reasonably respectable thanks to strong goaltending from Ryan Daniels and David Clement, the latter coming in for the third period to replace a shell-shocked Daniels.

Laurier came out desperate and hungry facing elimination in game

two in Guelph, and they were rewarded when captain Jean-Michel Rizk scored what will prove to be his last goal as a Golden Hawk.

Headed into the second period with the lead for the first time in the playoffs, the purple and gold fell asleep. Laurier only mustered two shots in the middle frame, and held the 1-0 lead only as a result of more remarkable play by Daniels.

Puhalski's boys came out much stronger in the third and rookie Zack Woolford tallied his third of the playoffs, tipping in Phil Magistrale's wrist from the point 8:12 into the period. The veteran Magistrale sealed the Laurier victory with an empty netter.

Despite staving off elimination with the 3-0 victory in game two, the Hawks were the second best team back at home in game three. Gryphons captain Kris Belan chipped the puck past Ryan Daniels 15:27 into the game, while Ed Gale snapped home a power play marker to double Guelph's lead 8:12 into the second.

The Hawks did get chances, but just couldn't finish on Gryphons'

backstop Andrew Loverock who made 28 saves.

"We got out to a little bit of a slow start again tonight and it put us behind the eight ball," Puhalski said. "After game two where we had such a good start and we were ready to play, we weren't able to carry that energy into game three."

Mitchell Good scored his first of the playoffs at the 15:08 mark of the third to give the Hawks some life but could not find the equalizer.

"We fell behind 2-0 but kept working and made a valiant effort in the end," said Puhalski. "Unfortunately we were not able to muster enough offence to make it even and force it to overtime."

With the defeat, the Hawks' season is over, as are the Laurier careers of forwards Ryan Bellows, assistant captain Colin Williams and two-year captain Rizk, as well as defenceman Ryan Bernardi.

"We lose some experienced players," Puhalski said. "On the plus side we have a good young nucleus and I'll be working to enhance our skill level and competitiveness. I believe we'll be able to find them over time,

maybe not all next year, but we want a championship. We want to bring a banner here for Laurier."

On the whole Laurier was outshot 98-72, did not score a single power play goal all series and only capitalized on one in 15 chances throughout the playoffs.

"We did not score a lot of goals in the playoffs in general," continued coach Puhalski.

"The power play was a big reason, it was very ineffective throughout the whole playoffs; it just wasn't very productive for us when we needed it in the playoffs, and I think was a very big reason we lost."

Yet it was getting behind early that truly killed the 2010-11 rendition of the Hawks in the playoffs as they lost game one at home in both series.

"We do have a young team, we're pleased with the results we had finishing second in our division and at least winning one playoff series," Puhalski finished. "We're still not happy with the way the season ended; some guys overachieved, some guys underachieved, but we're pleased with the overall outcome."

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of February 28 -
March 6, 2010

RECENT SCORES

02.27.11
M Hockey 1 - Guelph 2
W Basketball 59 - Windsor 65

02.26.11
M Hockey 3 - Guelph 0
M Basketball 85 - Windsor 82
W Basketball 76 - Western 74

02.25.11
W Hockey 1 - Queen's 2

02.24.11
M Hockey 0 - Guelph 3

02.23.11
W Basketball 73 - Guelph 47
M Basketball 80 - Guelph 72
W Hockey 1 - Queen's 2

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Men's Basketball

Renata Adamczyk
Women's Basketball

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Soccer team experiences real 'football'



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Behind the Hawk Ryan Daniels

JAMIE NEUGEBAUER
STAFF WRITER

It can be easily argued that Laurier men's hockey goaltender sophomore Ryan Daniels was the best net-minder in Canadian University Hockey this season. Among undisputed number ones in the country, the Pickering-native was among the nation's best in save percentage, saves made and minutes played. His performance this season also earned Daniels the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) West player of the year award.

"I've been given every opportunity a goalie could ask for this year," Daniels said. "They have played pretty well in front of me for the most part this year; but the thing I can really attribute [my success this year] to is confidence from my coach, and going out there to do the best that I can."

In the summer of 2006, however, Daniels had a very different future in mind than playing hockey for Laurier. After his dazzling third season in the Ontario Hockey League that saw him earn 38 wins and a solid save percentage of .907 in 60 games played for the Saginaw Spirit, the NHL came calling.

Daniels was selected in the fifth round, 151st overall by the Ottawa Senators (ahead of current Chicago Blackhawk Viktor Stalberg) and with the Senators desperate for goaltending talent at the time, it seemed like he had a chance to make it.

Yet after being cut without a contract by the Sens, and then two years later trying out and failing to stick with the Atlanta Thrashers, the 6-foot-2, and 215 pound backstop decided to take his chance to play in the CIS.

"I took it hard, and at the time I definitely saw it as a step in the wrong direction," he commented. "That is just the competitor in me. I am enrolled in business here, and I

have nothing bad to say about that program; but from a hockey sense I definitely saw it as a step back from where I wanted to be."

"But we have [Laurier head coach] Greg [Puhalski] at the helm right now; he is giving me a chance to play every night and that's all I could ask for," Daniels continued. "Right now I'm extremely motivated."

Like all student athletes, Daniels feels the weight of balancing school work and his sport, but he knows it was the decision.

"I'm glad I made that choice," he recalled. "CIS hockey has become a lot better over the course of the last two years, especially from the influx of major junior talent coming into the league."

Daniels, who took over the sole job of protecting the Golden Hawk net after long-time Laurier goaltender Jeff MacDougald graduated last season, looks specifically to three NHL all-star goaltenders for inspiration.

"You look at a guy like Carey Price who has mentally overcome much criticism in Montreal, and you look at a guy like Tim Thomas who has showed nothing but resilience to get to where he's at. Then you look at [Roberto] Luongo who plays great in big games, and gives them a chance to win every night."

At the training camps in Ottawa and Atlanta, Daniels was criticized for not having strong enough mental character to be a professional goaltender, and is out, like Price, to prove the critics wrong. Like Thomas, he was not seen as having enough technical ability to be an effective professional goaltender, and looks to be resilient for the Hawks going forward.

Though the Hawks' season ended earlier than they would've liked on Sunday with a loss in the OUA West semi final, 2010-11 is certainly a year Daniels can be proud of, and will look to continue his success next season.

"It was amazing to see the difference in culture compared to here. The passion they have for the game was unbelievable."

—Laurier captain Sadie Anderson on spending reading week in England

Gaels upset Hawks in OUA semifinal

KEVIN CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

For the first time in eight years, a brand new Ontario University Athletics (OUA) championship banner will not adorn the rafters of the much-decorated Waterloo Recreation Complex.

The number two nationally-ranked Wilfrid Laurier women's hockey team, the pinnacle of sporting excellence and consistency at a school known for its athletics, has finally been brought to its knees.

The culprits responsible for the momentous OUA shakeup of power were the Queen's Gaels, emerging victorious in two identical 2-1 double-overtime thrillers to mark the first time the school has beaten Laurier in a playoff series.

Earning public enemy number one honours is Brittany McHaffie, who scored both game-winning goals in the extra frames to send the seven-time champions packing.

The Golden Hawks, who had only lost three games all year in a stretch of 27 contests, were the overwhelming favourites to win the OUA and ride that expected momentum into the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) national tournament (which Laurier is hosting), as they have the past seven years.

Despite the Hawks sweeping the season series, the Gaels had played them close during the year, aside from an 8-1 thrashing on Jan. 9.

But when the stakes were highest, it was the women from Kingston who raised their game.

"We took a couple of days to sit on

it and then took to the ice [Sunday] and you could feel a sense of putting the past behind us, and trying to learn from our mistakes," said Laurier goaltender Liz Knox on Monday.

The Gaels exposed Laurier's defence with a relentless forecheck and received spectacular goalending from Mel Dodd-Moher who stopped 64 of 66 shots sent her way in the series.

The Gaels' pressure-intensive game forced the Hawks to turn the puck over on multiple occasions, and a defensive zone breakdown led to McHaffie's first overtime dagger.

The Hawks' powerplay fizzled in the post-season, going 0-6, and the team's seemingly endless well of goals dried up against Queen's.

The playmaking pizzazz of Katherine Shirriff, who finished the season with a league-high 25 assists was also nonexistent as the Hawks couldn't seem to buy a goal.

Brittany Crago and Paula Lagamba were the only scorers for WLU in the series.

Laura Brooker (who claimed OUA rookie-of-the-year honours with 19 goals, second in Canada only behind fifth-year Kelly Walker from Brock), was stymied on a penalty shot and rang a breakaway opportunity off the iron in game one.

Team captain Abby Rainsberry snuck one past Dodd-Moher but couldn't beat the post in overtime.

In game two, Andrea Shapero almost tied the series with a late-game laser that was snatched by the catching mitt of the Gaels' netminder.

"Give a lot of credit to Queen's,"

said Knox. "They were very well-coached, they executed well, and when it comes down to it, they had nothing to lose... they pulled it together."

If some of those Laurier chances weren't posts, would the story end differently, Knox?

"If we sat and looked at all the ifs, ands or buts, we'd be in a hundred different scenarios, so we had some missed opportunities, but... it's a game of bounces at that point [in double OT] and we just couldn't get one to go our way."

Despite the loss, the Hawks' 2010-11 season doesn't have to end in heartbreak.

As the host team, Laurier gains an automatic berth into the CIS finals and will face off against representatives from the three university conferences across Canada.

And wouldn't it be just grand if the Gaels showed up to the party?

"It would be good for a little redemption," said Knox. "Just ask our soccer girls... we'll be thinking of more than just our team out there."

In November, Queen's defeated the women's soccer team to claim CIS gold a week after losing to Laurier in the OUA final.

Currently, Queen's and Guelph are battling for OUA gold, with Guelph upsetting the CIS number five ranked Brock, and that's the way things should be, says the Laurier keeper.

"We don't want to be walking around the OUA like some of our teams used to in the past. It's good to have this competition and see the OUA strengthen."



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Basketball Hawks shock OUA

Laurier shakes up provincial playoffs with massive upset wins over highly ranked opponents



MIKE WHITEHOUSE LAURIER ATHLETICS

Women knock off third ranked Western

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

"It's always more fun being the underdogs."

That was how fourth-year Christa Mancino summed up the position she and her fellow Laurier women's basketball players were in on Saturday. Coming into their Ontario University Athletics (OUA) West quarterfinal with the number-three nationally ranked Western Mustangs, the Hawks' chances of advancing looked slim. Western, who was coming off a bye week, had won both games versus Laurier during the regular season and only lost three all season.

But the Hawks played the role of underdog to perfection and stunned the Mustangs, winning 76-74, scoring 28 points in the final quarter to seal the win.

"It was amazing, we reacted like we had just won nationals," said Mancino. "There's the big Laurier-Western rivalry, so it definitely went deeper than just the actual game itself. We came in looking to knock them off their high horses and we were ecstatic when we achieved it."

Mancino was the Hawks' leading scorer with 18 points, however not far behind her were fellow veterans Renata Adamczyk with 17 and Mallory Kohlmeier with 14. According to Laurier head coach Paul Falco that veteran group of Mancino, Adamczyk, Kohlmeier and fifth-year Megan Grant was the key to the Hawks pulling off the upset.

"Our three fifth-year girls have really been our leaders along with Christa [Mancino] all year and they came up big on Saturday," said Falco. "Megan, Mallory and Renata really showed their experience and played like fifth-years and Christa was a big influence offensively.... They've been a big part of us getting better every week, a month or two ago we wouldn't have won that game and to beat

Western in that situation is huge for the program."

The post-game jubilation Mancino referred to did not last long as 24 hours after their win over Western, the Hawks had to play the Windsor Lancers in the OUA West final.

"The quick turnaround definitely had some advantages and disadvantages," said Mancino. "On one hand we were still on a high from the night before but at the same time I think our starters were pretty worn down by that point. We had been throwing everything we had at Western, so that turnaround definitely took a bit of a toll on us physically."

On Sunday, the division-winning Lancers proved too much and despite a late comeback attempt, the Hawks fell 65-59 in the OUA West final, missing out on an automatic berth in nationals.

"We had played [Windsor] well in our gym about a month ago and on Sunday we played them even tougher," said Falco. "We had a better opportunity to knock them off but we had a couple of miscues in the last couple minutes and we weren't able to get over the hump, but we're hopeful we can get another crack at them back in their gym in the final eight."

Next up for the Hawks is this Saturday's OUA bronze medal game on the road versus the University of Toronto. A win will give the Hawks a chance at hosting a regional playoff on top of a higher ranking heading into the next round.

The next crucial test for the Hawks will come in the regional round, which takes place March 11-12 and will determine who gets the final three spots in the national championship tournament.

Three Hawks were also individual winners as Falco was named OUA West coach of the year, Adamczyk won the Joy Bellinger award and point guard Felicia Mazzerolle was given OUA West rookie of the year honours.

Men avenge blow-out versus Windsor

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

On Saturday afternoon, the Laurier men's basketball team was looking for more than an upset win over the hometown Windsor Lancers. They were also out for revenge.

Just two weeks ago, those same Lancers paid a visit to the Laurier athletic complex and steamrolled the Hawks, winning 109-76, showing little sportsmanship along the way.

"Late in that game Windsor put down a dunk and acted more like a high school team than anything else and I said to the boys, 'they're disrespecting you,'" said Laurier head coach Peter Campbell. "We talked about that beating they put on us and that [got the Hawks'] attention. They were all sitting there thinking 'that was embarrassing'."

With that added incentive, the Hawks knocked off the number-eight nationally ranked Lancers, 85-82 in their own gym in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) quarterfinal. The win not only lifts the underdog Hawks to the OUA final four, but also marks the first time Laurier has beaten Windsor since 2007.

"Last game got out of hand and coming into this game we knew that they weren't going to put 109 on us again," said Laurier guard Max Allin. "We knew they were going to come into the game a little over-confident and take us lightly but we knew that we were just as good if not better than them and we just came in and beat them."

Allin picked the perfect time for a career night, as the second-year put up 36 points, leading the Hawks' offence. Making Allin's performance even more crucial was the fact that Windsor held Laurier scoring leader Kale Harrison to just nine points.

"Kale was their main focus and they

were always looking to shut him out," said Allin. "His shots weren't falling as they normally do, so it was up to the rest of us to pick up the slack."

"That's one of the tough parts of being Kale Harrison, any time you come into a game the other team is focused on stopping you," added Campbell. "But Max stepped up and just made all the shots, especially at crunch time near the end of the game when things could've gone either way."

In addition to Allin, Campbell highlighted the performance of rookie point guard Jamar Forde, who struggled in his first career playoff game last Wednesday versus Guelph, only mustering four points. Forde was second in team scoring with 13 points, however Campbell was more impressed with the first-year's defence.

"Jamar did a great job on [Windsor guard] Isaac Kwon and that's a lot of pressure on a freshman to take on the best scorer in our league," said Campbell.

"He still had over 20 points, but Jamar really kept him in check for most of the game and showed a ton of growth."

As monumental as the upset over Windsor was, the Hawks will have to pull off an even bigger feat if they intend on moving forward.

This Friday at the OUA final four in Hamilton, Laurier will take on the nation's top team, the undefeated Carleton Ravens.

"They're the best team in the country, they've been number one since October and there's no argument that they shouldn't be number one," said Campbell.

"You can get up eight and it doesn't fluster them, they can get up eight and they don't stop. It's certainly going to be a tough match-up for us, but if we can match their focus and intensity, we'll give them a good run."