

THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Plants and Animals headline Ontario tour with Karkwa.

Canadian bands team up for tour

SARAH MURPHY
ARTS EDITOR

Plants and Animals' latest tour kicked off on the night of March 3rd at Starlight, with the help from supporting band Karkwa.

Speaking to *The Cord* before the show, Karkwa's lead singer Louis-Jean Cormier remarked, "We already know each other, but we don't know what is going to happen tonight."

What happened was a stellar indie rock concert.

Karkwa started the night by powering through a strong opening set.

The Francophone band delivered songs off their latest album *Les Chemins de Verres* like "Le Pyromane" and "Moi-Leger" to a delighted crowd.

With guitar, bass, keyboards and two percussionists onstage, the music's complexity and band's attention to detail were expertly showcased to the eager audience.

Having garnered much acclaim for *Les Chemins des Verres*, including 2010's Polaris Music Prize, Cormier noted that other than a few "isolated

dates and festivals," this year marks the band's first real tour of the province.

He continued to say that the Polaris Prize provided Karkwa with the opportunity to expand their fan base beyond countries like France, Switzerland and Belgium — and of course, their province of origin, Quebec.

Cormier believes that the prize helped the band gain more international recognition, but Karkwa hasn't experienced any overwhelming transformations since the award.

"We don't have any castles in Spain, we are not millionaires," he joked.

Plants and Animals took to the stage shortly after Karkwa's set to rapturous applause.

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Board bails out business

Since its opening, the Williams Fresh Café located in Brantford has accumulated a deficit of \$655,398

BREE MANTHA
LEAD REPORTER

After the Mar. 4 meeting of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) Board of Directors (BOD), WLUSU has set in motion a plan to bail out the ailing Williams Fresh Café outlet it operates at the Laurier Brantford campus.

The Williams, which was opened in Nov. 2008, has thus far accumulated a deficit of \$655,398 and is projected to add another \$150,000 on to that amount by the end of 2011.

Mike McMahon, WLUSU general manager, presented the BOD with a proposal to redirect funds reserved for the creation of a food service business in Brantford into the Williams in the hopes that the business will get back on its feet. The motion passed after some deliberation.

"What we want to do is stabilize Williams and not have the burden so unfairly rest on an operation in Brantford that's very popular with students," McMahon explained.

Originally set for construction in 2009, the food services building plan was never put in motion.

With approximately \$271,000 available in reserve funds, McMahon also hopes that other factors will increase traffic to the café, including a 500-employee call centre,

which may be moving into the Market Square Mall where Williams is located.

Though McMahon heavily emphasized the call centre's potential for an increase in traffic to the café during the meeting, he later disclosed to *The Cord* that there are no confirmed plans for the call centre to move into the mall.

"That is certainly speculation," he said.

During the meeting the call centre was presented as a catalyst for the café's improvement. Director Jonathan Collaton expressed some skepticism.

"We're just hoping the call centre shows up and stops us from losing money?" he asked during the meeting.

During the café's first year of business, a different call centre was operating in the Market Square Mall. Despite its presence, the Williams still operated at a deficit of \$202,626 in 2008.

Vice chair of the board Chris Walker supported the reallocation of funds, which he explained was possible by way of a majority vote by the board.

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2008

The Brantford Williams opened in November.

The store operated at a deficit of \$202,626.

2009

The food services building in Brantford was originally slated to begin construction.

2011

By the end of this year the Brantford Williams is projected to have a deficit of over \$805,000.

WLUSU board of directors sets a plan to reallocate funds to the business.

Inside

Lady Gaga: Analyzing a superstar

It seems like every move Lady Gaga makes is a calculated attempt at blending cryptic messages with pop movements and current controversies, making her so much more than a blend of Madonna and other former stars.

Staff writer Colleen Connolly examines the genius behind the famous pop star, who played a sold-out show in Toronto on March 3rd.

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Perks for employees

Staff writer Justin Smirlies investigates the perks of having a family member who works at the university.

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Sizing up the competition

Contributors from newspapers across the country give a synopsis of their women's hockey teams competing in nationals this week.

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Hawks end season on a high

Despite leading going into the fourth quarter of their game against the nation's first-place team, Laurier's men's basketball team falters in the OUA semifinal.

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Editor's Choice
Canada's best come to Laurier
Laurier
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Editor's Choice
Q & A with Joannie Rochette
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Colophon

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.



Opinions expressed within The Cord are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board. The Cord, WLUSP, WLU or CanWeb Printing Inc.

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The Cord has been a proud member of the Canadian University Press (CUP) since 2004.



Campus Plus is The Cord's national advertising agency.

Preamble to The Cord constitution

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

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

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

The Cord has an obligation to foster freedom of the press and freedom of speech. This obligation is best fulfilled where 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 repercussions, 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 newspapers.

Cover art by Stephanie Truong

Quote of the week:
"All you factors look the same to me."
—World Editor Alex Mitsopoulos re: BlackBerry Messenger

This week in quotes

"I was creating my own reality. I was creating what I believed was possible and that's why I believe I was successful."
—Vicki Keith, marathon swimmer who holds 16 world records

"I have no idea what I'm doing most of the time, folks."
—Ben Grossman, musician

"If there was one time that the [responsibility to protect] principle should be applied right now, is in Libya."
—Lloyd Axworthy, Canadian politician, scholar and statesman

"Life is uncharted, we all get hit with rogue waves, what are you going to do when yours comes?"
—Abby Sunderland, 16-year-old Canadian who attempted to circumnavigate the globe solo in her sailboat

"Don't be scared, even if we sing in French."
—Louis-Jean Cormier, Karkwa

"There's no doubt in my mind that one of the reasons why, to the surprise of a lot, we lost our election for the seat to the Security Council just this last year because people didn't think we cared much any more about the ambitions and objectives of the United Nations."
—Lloyd Axworthy, Canadian politician, scholar and statesman

"Keep Phil's going."
—Mayor of Waterloo Brenda Halloran re: students aiding the municipal economy

Bag O' Crime

Disturbance
Location: FNCC
Reported: Mar. 5, 2011 @ 11:45 p.m.
SCS responded to a Disturbance in the stairwell of the Turret Night club. The stairwell was packed with students attempting to get in to the club. Apparently many people were shoving their way to try to get up the steps, which resulted in two parties (non-students) becoming agitated and throwing a couple of punches. Neither party wished to press charges in the matter. Individuals involved left without incident.

Disturbance
Location: FNCC
Reported: Mar. 6, 2011 @ 2:28 a.m.
SCS officers responded to a disturbance in the Hall of Fame. Turret staff attempted to prevent an escalation in a disturbance between two parties, and while doing so pushed a male into a glass door. This resulted in a broken window, and minor injuries were sustained to the male. The male was transported to GRH for treatment via ambulance. WRPS assisted in the investigation.

Property damage
Location: Residence
Reported: Mar. 5, 2011 @ 10:57 p.m.
Physical Resources called to repair the window. Unknown suspects threw a beer bottle through a window. No injuries sustained.

Injured/sick person
Location: Residence
Reported: Mar. 5, 2011 @ 6:22 p.m.
SCS officers and ERT members attended to the student residence in response to a call for medical assistance.
A 19-year-old female student was complaining of numbness in her feet. She had been playing flag football on Alumni Field all day for the Residence Life 'Hawk Day' tournament. It had been raining all day and the field was saturated with water. She was treated for hypothermia by ERT.

Liquor offence
Location: Mid Campus Drive
Reported: Mar. 5, 2011 @ 1:22 a.m.
A SCS officer dealt with an intoxicated 18-year-old male student staggering on Mid Campus Drive. He was taken home to his student residence and left in the care of his Don. He will be dealt with by Residence Life staff for the alcohol infraction of under-age drinking and public intoxication.

Property damage
Location: Residence
Reported: Mar. 5, 2011 @ 12:20 a.m.
Persons unknown had ripped a number of posters and photos from a bulletin board and strewn them about. Identity of the person(s) responsible is unknown.

"I'm a former print girl so I come with dead trees."

—Shelley Ambrose
Co-publisher of The Walrus re: bringing notes instead of slides to her TED talk



Vocal Cord

Will you be attending the CIS women's hockey championships this week?



"Probably not, I completely forgot about them."
—Judith Lebrun
Third year psychology



"No I won't, I didn't even know about them."
—Raoul Chopra
Second year economics and accounting



"Yeah for sure, we lost in the final last year."
—Elias Dadoush
First year chemistry



"No, I'm not, I didn't actually know about them."
—Ericha Regio
Fourth year environmental studies



"I haven't got tickets yet, I might though."
—Joe Steckley
First year archaeology

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.

From the archives

Cord cut by WLUSU
After reprinting an article originally published by Memorial University's the Muse entitled "A gay man's guide to erotic safe sex," an article meant to romanticize safe sex, WLUSU president Stuart Lewis shut down The Cord.

The suspension of the weekly newspaper, published on campus since 1926, was the "last straw" in a line of libelous and factually incorrect content. The decision only lasted four days and The Cord printed the following week.
—Printed: March 14, 1991



Compiled by Megan Cherniak
Photos by Nick Lachance

NEWS

News Director Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca

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Earning free tuition

\$756,000 in waived tuition given to Laurier employees, families

JUSTIN SMIRLIES
STAFF WRITER

To offer their employees opportunities for professional development and to attract prospective students, Wilfrid Laurier University offers a full-tuition waiver to full-time employees and faculty members and to the spouses and dependents of those employees for undergraduate and graduate programs. Part-time employees are eligible to receive 50 per cent of their tuition waived, whereas spouses and dependents of part-timers are eligible to 35 per cent.

"It's part of the total compensation package that we offer to our faculty and staff, and it's a very common benefit in the post-secondary education sector," said Pamela Cant, the acting assistant vice president of human resources. "It allows us to maintain competitiveness with other institutions and obviously a greater attraction and retention tool as well."

Cant also said that this program had been in place well before her initial employment with the university in 2005.

Over the past year, there have been 68 employees who have taken courses themselves. As for the dependents, there have been 150 students who had their tuition fully or partially waived. These benefits only cover tuition and no other financial aid is given for books, residence and other school-related fees.

Compared to other schools

When compared to some other universities, it appears that WLU is slightly more generous in the tuition benefits it offers.

"Historically [at Laurier], it has been 100 per cent [free tuition] and it's something that has been negotiated, it is a benefit that is in the various collective agreements on campus," added Cant.

While some institutions including the University of Toronto and York University mirror the benefits of WLU, institutions such as the University of Waterloo and Carleton University are not as magnanimous.

Wayne Steffler, the assistant vice president of administration at WLU and an employee who took advantage of tuition benefits, was attracted to Laurier for these specific options. "I used this for myself. I got my MBA while I was working part-time, so that was definitely one [factor] that I was considering coming to Laurier," he told The Cord. "That was something I was looking at and my current employer at the time didn't pay for that level of education."

Brock University and University of Western Ontario, who also offer tuition benefits, actually monitor the grades of those privileged with tuition waivers. If they fail to pass a course, or did not reach the minimum grade, then the student would be responsible for payment.

Sam Robinson, who received a dependent tuition waiver when he attended WLU, noted that the school did not follow his grades. "There's no requirement or sort of average you have to keep in order to do that," he said.

An appealing benefit

According to the business office and human resources, tuition waivers are funded by general university revenues and the government. Over the 2009/10 fiscal year, \$756,000 was paid out for these tuition waivers.

In 2009, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), due to challenges from university employees, revised the tuition benefit policy for dependents of eligible employees so that it was no longer a taxable benefit.

While he did express some concern about the potential cost of these waivers, Robinson stated that, "Honestly, I would say it's a good

thing, it's probably a good motivator for parents to bring their kids there."

When asked for her assessment of tuition waivers, Cant said, "I guess philosophically, it certainly encourages the pursuit of higher education as well."

"It helps us attract and retain great faculty and staff."

Other schools

University of Waterloo
UW only offers the 100 per cent tuition waiver to full-time employees, depending if they have full benefits with the university. Dependents instead receive a maximum of a 50 per cent tuition waiver, but these numbers can fluctuate depending on which benefit package the employee has. No benefits are applicable to spouses.

Brock University
Brock only offers tuition benefits for undergraduate classes, not graduate classes. Students are responsible for payment if they fail any course they are enrolled in.

University of Western Ontario
UWO offers tuition waivers, or rather a scholarship plan, for dependents of employees. The dependent of the employee can attend any recognized university, but must maintain at least a 68 per cent average.

Carleton University
For undergraduate and graduate courses, Carleton only offers a maximum of \$700 for the contract instructors or the dependents of those instructors. Some benefits may exist for full-time employees and permanent instructors.

Similar to WLU
University of Toronto, York University and the University of Guelph.



ERIN SCHUT CORD PHOTOGRAPHY

A performance by the Iroquois, Six Nations dance troupe Gadaihongwas opened the cultural awareness week at Laurier.

Aboriginal Awareness Week launches

OLIVIA NIGHTINGALE
STAFF WRITER

The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives (OAI) set out to create an opportunity for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Laurier students alike to come together and become educated about various aspects of Aboriginal cultures with Wilfrid Laurier University's inaugural Aboriginal Awareness Week.

Throughout the week, which began with the opening ceremonies Mar. 7, the OAI will host numerous events to promote Aboriginal culture and to increase awareness about the office's presence on campus.

The opening ceremonies held in the Science Building courtyard featured a lively performance by the Iroquois, Six Nations dance troupe Gadaihongwas. The impressive turnout for the occasion has the organizers hopeful that there will be similar attendance numbers at the rest of the week's events.

An "Aboriginal 101" session will be held in the Grad Lounge on Mar. 9. The event, fifth-year student and Aboriginal student intern Kandice Baptiste explained, "Will be an opportunity to ask everything you always wanted to know but never felt comfortable asking about Aboriginal cultures." The final event of the week will be a performance by renowned comedian Don Burnstick on Friday night in the Turret.

Between its Waterloo and Brantford campuses, Laurier has an ever-expanding population of approximately 350 to 400 Aboriginal students. In order to meet the needs of

the growing number of Aboriginal students, WLU formed the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives in Aug. 2010 as a means of introducing Aboriginal students to one another and offering support.

In the few months since the OAI was created, it has become a well-utilized resource for Laurier's student community. "We meet three new students a week, some who haven't even self-identified, but who have felt compelled to reach out to us," Aboriginal student support services co-ordinator Melissa Ireland explained.

Baptiste said she understood why Aboriginal students at Laurier have been so eager to get involved in the initiative and stated, "Prior to this, something was definitely missing." In her first four years at WLU, Baptiste was on the varsity women's basketball team. While she made lots of friends, she was, "surprised at how many of them thought that I lived in a teepee, or didn't really know anything about Aboriginal culture."

Ireland, who has been heavily involved in organizing Aboriginal Awareness Week, is hopeful that these events will "generate knowledge and awareness about the growing Aboriginal community at Laurier." She is optimistic that in coming years, the events will continue to improve and evolve with, "a greater focus on Métis and Inuit involvement."

"It will let people know that there is an Aboriginal population at Laurier, and will provide them with an opportunity to educate themselves."



IAN SPENCE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brenda Halloran discusses the importance of community involvement at an ACCESSU workshop.

Mayor meets with students

MIKE LAKUSIAK
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Waterloo mayor Brenda Halloran spoke Tuesday evening at Laurier for a workshop presented by the ACCESSU Laurier campus club.

Halloran gave those present an overview of her life before being elected mayor in 2006 and how students can get involved and make an impact in the community. Halloran, originally a nurse who grew up in Waterloo, fell into the mayoral role after a varied career path and legal battle after her home in Kitchener was found to have been built on

contaminated land.

Halloran tried to impress the importance for students to provide her office with feedback and dialogue on their place in the city. "I love to get feedback so I'm always looking for it," she said. "It is so important that we hear from you and it's definitely changing."

The massive student population of Waterloo should be more engaged in community issues, she said: "There's 40,000 of you and you're not engaged in our strategic planning."

"A lot of what's going on in there affects you and we need your voice."

She emphasized the capacity of the student community to help with community initiatives, volunteering and support services. "You've all done something that has brought you to this table," she said. "For those of us who can, we need to help those who need us."

She welcomed questions from students and was receptive to their impressions of the city and the initiatives they are involved in and noted after the presentation that two students had already made plans to contact her about contributing to groups that they are involved with on and off campus.

CAMPUS

Campus News Editor Mike Lakusiak • mlakusiak@thecord.ca

Students return to high school

Campus club presents post-secondary opportunities to local ESL students over Reading Week

MIKE LAKUSIAK
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Over Reading Week, a group of students from the Laurier Afghan Students Association made presentations to a large group of English as a second language (ESL) students at Forest Heights Collegiate Institute (FHCI) in Kitchener on the prospect of post-secondary education. Many of the Laurier students were returning to their high school after completing ESL programming and moving on to university.

Club president Khaled Wahab, a second year sociology and global studies student, explained that the club's mandate includes fostering awareness of Afghan culture along with ensuring that students who come to Canada and enrol in high school ESL programs see university as a possibility. "ESL students often think it's too hard," Wahab said. "We want to reveal to them the different ways they can still reach post-secondary education."

Noting that these students often don't attend presentations from university representatives, Wahab said that there was a need for an ESL-specific initiative of this sort. "To have a particular talk for ESL students to encourage them with first-hand stories of students that have been in that school and have been in their place — I think that made a big difference for them," he said.

Wahab noted that many of the 50 to 60 students present were in grades 9 and 10 and that it was

important to get them thinking of the possibility of post-secondary education early. "When I was in high school there were a lot of things that were not explained well," he said. "If I had someone like this come and talk to me when I was in high school I think I could have done a lot more than I have so far."

Bob Somerville, head of the ESL program at FHCI, said that there are approximately 250 ESL students at the school. "A lot of the students here or elsewhere think that they'll never ever make it to higher education, they'll never have those skills," he said, adding that the presentation was a great resource for this group and spurred questions and conversation among students even after the fact.

Somerville, who has been at FHCI for more than 20 years, noted that he had noticed a shift toward post-secondary education and university in particular.

"Mostly our students would have gone to Conestoga, but now a somewhat larger percentage of our students are going to university and have expressed a desire to do so. I don't have statistics for it, but generally speaking I think more students are going."

"Many of the students return and they have been very successful."

Wahab and the group plan on returning to FHCI as well as holding similar presentations at many other local high schools.

Emmy Misser, manager of Laurier's Writing Centre, said that high

“A lot of the students here or elsewhere think that they'll never ever make it to higher education, they'll never have those skills.”

—Bob Somerville,
head of the ESL program at FHCI

school ESL students face the same issues as their native English-speaking counterparts, with some extenuating factors. "The same standards are expected, so there's not a whole lot of leeway for them," she said. "That's a lot of pressure, and I can add that from personal experience ... you process intellectually more slowly when you are processing in another language."

However, after completing comprehensive ESL programs in high school, incoming students like the group at FHCI face the same sorts of issues as any students, Misser said. "Remember back to when you were a first-year student, you were probably confused by the academic lingo as well and abstract words that you had to master very quickly."



LIZZY COOK GRAPHICS ARTIST

Indebted Williams still open

—cover

"I voted in favour of freeing up the money because it makes good financial sense," he said, stating that what the funds were originally intended for, a WLUSU business in a university-funded dining hall, is no longer feasible. "Right now the union is not in a financial position to be creating another food service that in all likelihood will also be in a deficit situation," he said, noting that the fee had no other determined use at present or planned for the future.

In addition to the possible presence of a call centre, Brantford is introducing a new arts-based business information technology program, which hopes to bring over 100 additional first-year students in Sept. 2011.

Though the motion passed, many directors echoed Collaton's reservations. Director Seth Warren, who abstained from the vote, was doubtful of the fate of the business if the call centre did not materialize.

"Basically, it's throwing the money at it with a prayer," he said. "What sort of tangible action can we take?" Warren, who abstained from

voting, later expressed that he felt the solution was not a long-term one. "I feel like it's kind of a cover-up, a band-aid solution," he said.

While students at the Waterloo campus enjoy a variety of food options at its dining hall, and other food services, Brantford students have been left with a small selection of pastries, soups, sandwiches and salads to choose from at Williams.

"It doesn't provide the full dining hall scope of course, because the nature of the operation is that we have a menu that we can't deviate from as part of the Williams program," McMahon explained.

Despite the dire financial situation and the doubts that the business will continue to improve, McMahon was more positive about the environment that the café provides for students.

"Sure, you can criticize that there's not anything on the tables that's been purchased," he said, "but the tables are full, laptops are out, and it is the only study space that is provided by either the university or the students' union in Brantford that feels at all like a home environment."

Laurier Students!

LSPIRG IS HIRING

LSPIRG is seeking a team of exceptional individuals who are undergraduate Laurier students and are passionate about social change, to apply for the following positions for the 2011-2012 year:

1. Training & Resource Coordinator
2. Volunteer & Member Development Coordinator
3. Marketing & Communications Coordinator
4. Events Support Coordinator
5. Research Coordinator

For complete job profiles, visit: www.lspirg.ca

If interested in any of the positions, please email your cover letter, resume, and a list of positions you are interested in (ranked in order), to info@lspirg.ca

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Peace activist describes ordeal



IAN SPENCE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
James Loney spoke about his time captive in Iraq and healing.

OLIVIA NIGHTINGALE
STAFF WRITER

Organized by Wilfrid Laurier University's religion and culture and global studies departments, the "Narratives of Violence, Narratives of Healing" conference aimed to provide insight into conflict and reconciliation for attendees.

The evening began with a performance by community group the Radical Choir.

Peace activist James Loney knows all too well about the perils of war and effect of conflict on the individuals involved.

In his address on Mar. 3 at the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall to students, faculty and members of the community, Loney described the 118 days he spent held captive by insurgents in Iraq.

On the day of his kidnapping in 2005, Loney was on his third trip to Iraq, working with Christian Peacemaker Teams, which reaches out to individuals who have been directly affected by violence in regions entangled in conflict.

He had only been in the country for three days when, after leaving a meeting in Baghdad, the car he and three colleagues were in was attacked by armed men.

Driven to a house where they were blindfolded and handcuffed, Loney recalled, "The first few hours were completely surreal and completely terrifying."

The men tried to reason with their captors without avail, explaining that they were not there in support of war efforts, but instead to offer support to the civilians whose lives had been affected.

In what Loney called "a bizarre

practice," the hostages were invited on several nights to watch pirated movies including "The Transporter 2" with their captors. It was during these odd breaks from their kidnapper-hostage relationships, that Loney was able to see a "human side to the captors."

While the story of his kidnapping is both fascinating and harrowing, the focus of Loney's speech was on the narratives of violence: the stories that any individual who has experienced violence as victims or as perpetrators.

Notably, Loney and the other hostages publicly forgave their captors, and refused to testify against them in U.S. Federal Court.

"Violence is inherently traumatizing, even to those who do it," he said.

While he does not excuse the actions of the insurgents who held him hostage, he argued, "Narratives of violence create distance between individuals. There is no separation between human beings, we are the same when we harm each other, we harm ourselves."

Martha Kuwee Kumsa, of Laurier's faculty of social work, joined Loney onstage to share her experiences.

She was unlawfully imprisoned for 10 years beginning in 1980 for her political views while working as a journalist in her native Ethiopia. Kuwee Kumsa addressed Loney as, "My brother in violence, my brother in healing."

After thanking Loney for sharing his story, she echoed his sentiments about the interconnectedness of individuals, and reasoned, "As long as there is violence and someone in the world is suffering, I am suffering."

News in brief

Ginny Dybenko appointed member of research council

Laurier executive: strategic initiatives Ginny Dybenko was named a member of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Mar. 7.

The appointment recognized her time as dean of the School of Business and Economics and in the broader business community. SSHRC is an independent federal government agency that funds research in post-secondary institutions.

—Compiled by Mike Lakusiak

Senate meeting discusses multi-campus governance

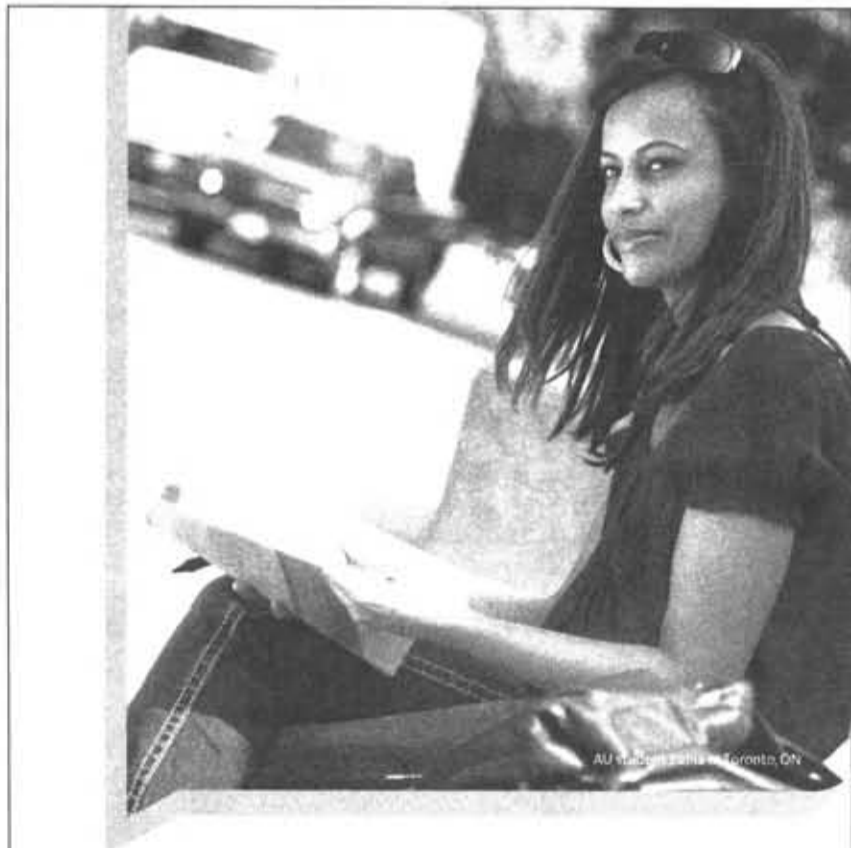
The Mar. 3 meeting of the Wilfrid Laurier University senate featured a prolonged discussion of the presidential task force on multi-campus governance established last year. The aim of the task force is to standardize university policies across all campuses, a mandate made more relevant by tentative plans for the creation of a Laurier Milton.

Laurier president Max Blouw explained that there will be a singular Laurier degree "across all sites."

Several representatives from the Brantford campus expressed concerns with the consensus points drafted by the task force, especially the way that departments and programs will be structured.

There was also an overwhelming worry that if departments were divided without taking geographic location into account, professors would be forced to travel between campuses to teach courses at multiple locations. The task force was eventually passed after over an hour of debate.

—Bree Mantha



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LOCAL

Local Editor Vacant • editor@thecord.ca

Two decades of comics

NICOLE GREEN
STAFF WRITER

When you walk into Carry-On Comics you can expect to find the owner, Andy Brast, making jokes with customers, a few posters and a lot of comic books.

Current owner Andy Brast bought Carry-On Comics Sept. 1, 1991. Brast had been managing a store down the road when he accidentally received a delivery addressed to Carry-On Comics. It was returning the delivery that inspired Brast to buy the business, which was slowly going bankrupt. Unlike the previous owner, who Brast described as "a jack of all trades," Brast emphasized that "we are just comics." Today, Carry-On Comics is run by Brast, Sherri Moyer, the manager, and Brast's son who works part-time.

With no formal business education, Brast was entering unknown territory when he purchased the store. He explained, "I had managerial experience but the hands on, learning how to do all of this [running a business], was learning from the mistakes of the owners I worked for." Despite Brast's success, he warns that in the comic book business it's not always easy to make a sell.



Carry-On Comics, located in Uptown Waterloo, offers endless options to suit customers' needs.

"The hard thing about this business is that," said Brast, "you've got to get people to buy things, if you don't have what they want they're not going to buy it."

Adding to experience of running the stores he said, "My analogy is always snow tires. If you need snow tires, you go to Canadian Tire and if they don't have the brand you want you buy another pair. But if you come here and I don't have the comic you want, you leave and I get zero."

When asked what makes Carry-On Comics different from other stores, Brast jokingly answered,

"Me." On a more serious note Brast explained, "You have to bring something different to the table then everybody else. In terms of comic books it's all about personality because you can't really offer discounts."

Carry-On Comics has created a community of shoppers. Brast explained, "I've got faithfuls that come here all the time and I've become friends with them. I know their names and for the people that have subscriptions, by the time they walk in the door I've usually got their comics on the counter waiting for them because I even know what car

they drive."

This is probably why the voters at Echo magazine awarded Carry-On Comics the award for "best comic book store" three times.

Brast's favourite comic of all time is *Batman, the Dark Knight Returns*. But his love for comics is deep-rooted. "I've been reading and collecting since I was six years old, I can't remember how it started, I just loved them and I never stopped. Every penny I had I bought comics." Don't expect that love to falter any time soon, as Brast jokingly stated, "This is what I like to do, my retirement plan is called freedom 85."

KW in brief

Location of telecommunications tower uncertain

To date, no decisions have been made regarding a location for the proposed 30-metre telecommunications tower in Waterloo.

The City of Waterloo, along with the office of member of parliament Peter Braid, Industry Canada and WIND mobile, are working together to find a solution to meet everyone's needs regarding the possible location of the tower. As more information becomes available, residents as well as media will be advised.

Equinox Summit: In search of young leaders

Waterloo Global Science Initiative presents Equinox Summit: Energy 2030 — a new strategy to help tackle our world's future energy crisis by collaborating between some of the world's greatest minds using cutting-edge science and technology.

They are accepting applications to develop a forum of future leaders to work directly with top experts and visionaries in the sciences, engineering, policy and industry from all around the world.

They are searching for young leaders in policy, politics, civil society and business aged 20 to 30 to attend.

The Summit runs from June 4-9, 2011. Applications can be found on the WGSi website.

—Compiled by Samantha Polzin

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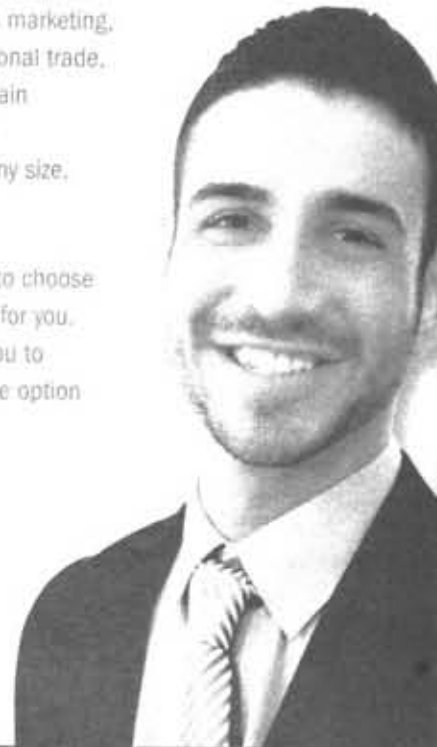
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"These days we need every reason to be optimistic about our future and I think an event like this does that for us." – Colin Ellard, University of Waterloo professor

Conference spreads new ideas



ALL PHOTOS BY MEGAN CHERNIAK AND ELLI GARLIN

(From left) Colin Ellard, Ben Grossman, Shelley Ambrose, Vincent John Vincent and Jean-Francois Carrey were among 12 speakers at the Mar. 3 TEDx event.

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

Last Thursday, Kitchener's Centre in the Square played host to the first Canadian female in space, a performance involving the hurdy gurdy and just about everything in between. What brought such a wide range of topics, which also included lectures by a man who climbed Mount Everest, one of the pioneers of virtual reality and the co-publisher of *The Walrus*, together? The second annual TEDxWaterloo.

TED — which stands for Technology, Entertainment, Design — is a non-profit organization that's main focus is promoting "ideas worth spreading." In addition to the extensive series of online videos, known as "TED Talks" and hosting conferences around the world, TED also supports TEDx events like the one in Kitchener on Friday.

TEDx events are locally organized conferences that still carry on the TED mantra of simply bringing together different people with unique ideas and promoting interaction and innovation.

"We're interested in bringing great ideas and experienced people to enlighten us with their experiences," said Alain Gaudrault, one of the event's organizers.

"We wanted to foster ideas and innovation and bring thinkers to our area."

This year's TEDxWaterloo almost tripled in size compared to

its inaugural year in 2010, with the number of people in attendance rising from approximately 300 to nearly 1000, making it the largest TEDx event in North America.

While an event such as TEDx seems more suited for a larger city such as Toronto, those in the Kitchener-Waterloo community aren't surprised that that theirs is the continent's largest.

"This is a community that's always looking for new ideas, it's never rested on its laurels," said Waterloo city councillor Jeff Henry, who attended the event. "I hope it will inspire everybody in the room to think new things, express new ideas and invest in innovation in Waterloo and Kitchener."

Ramy Nassar, the event's host and one of its lead organizers, echoed Henry's sentiments about KW being the perfect place to host an event such as TEDx.

"Waterloo's a community that's built around innovation," he said. "We thought it was the right type of event to have in our region.... And when we told [the conference's speakers] about what the Waterloo community is all about, it really got them excited about the opportunity to be a part of it."

The conference featured 12 speakers, who, staying true to the nature of TED, all came from various disciplines, experiences and backgrounds and instilled various messages into the attendees.

From experimental musician Ben

Grossman's unique performance on the hurdy gurdy, to Roberta Bondar recounting her experiences in outer space, to Jean-Francois Carrey telling his story of climbing Mount Everest at just 24 years old, there was, as Henry put it, "something for everyone."

In addition to higher profile speakers such as Carrey, Bondar and co-publisher of *The Walrus* Shelley Ambrose, there was also a local element to the lectures.

Virtual reality pioneer Vincent John Vincent, a University of Waterloo (UW) graduate, told the story of how he, along with his research partner Francis MacDougal essentially created modern virtual, reality simulation at UW in the late 1980s. Current UW professor Colin Ellard also gave a speech at the conference, discussing the psychological relations human beings have to the space they occupy.

As a professor, Ellard saw just how important an event such as TEDx can be to students.

"When I told people that I was doing this, the most excited have been university students, including my own children," he said.

"They use the TED videos for mining for ideas for papers, sometimes they use excerpts in presentations, so I think it's a fantastic format for inciting new ideas, particularly in young people.... And these days we need every reason to be optimistic about our future and I think an event like this does that for us."

TEDx Waterloo

x = independently organized TED event

For more photos from this event, check out thecord.ca



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Niagara school program helps at-risk students

New institution provides opportunities for students whose parents aren't post-secondary graduates

ALANNA WALLACE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Last month, two studies commissioned by the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario revealed that a student's family history of post-secondary attendance has a greater positive effect on their pursuit of higher education than family income does.

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) has begun to address this problem through the creation of the DSBN Academy — a school for students in grades six through 12 whose parents have not graduated from a post-secondary institution.

McGuinty's Ontario government hopes to make 70 per cent of the province's population college or university graduates and the DSBN Academy is just one way the Niagara region is addressing this objective.

"A program like the DSBN Academy is just another strategy that helps these students get to post-secondary and kind of makes the Niagara region a place where they're going to come back after graduation," said Tom Reynolds, the DSBN

project co-ordinator, who mentioned graduating students coming back and stimulating the region's economy.

"We must reach out and demonstrate that higher education holds value for [high-risk students] as well," said the region's director of education Warren Hoshizaki. "If we do not increase the participation of these groups we risk leaving them out of future prosperity."

The Niagara region has a number of schools that have been identified as priority schools and are now hosting special initiatives like after-school programs and full-day kindergarten.

This project is just another action the DSBN is taking towards addressing the needs of the students of the region.

Hoshizaki explained that Ontario universities house many programs that aid first-generation students in achieving their goals at their respective post-secondary institutions. By creating programs that begin this process sooner, Hoshizaki and the DSBN board believe they can increase the number of students in this high-risk group that are

successful in higher education.

Those wishing to attend the DSBN Academy must fill out an application and be accepted into the school, which is only taking applications for those entering grades six and seven.

If the program is successful, a grade will be added with each passing school year after the Academy opens next fall.

"We're looking at about 75 kids in each grade, just as a pilot so that we make sure that we do things right and correct the things that we're doing wrong," explained Hoshizaki. "We want it to be successful for the kids and their families."

The application process involves a section filled out by parents, including a question that asks: "What will you do to contribute to the academic success of your child at DSBN Academy?"

Hoshizaki explained that the increased involvement of parents as a component of students' schooling, coupled with resources such as tutors that will be available at the academy, will help ensure that the students succeed in pursuing post-secondary education.

“

If we do not increase the participation of these [high-risk] groups we risk leaving them out of future prosperity.”

—Warren Hoshizaki
Niagara region's director of education

The DSBN Academy is also discussing partnerships with post-secondary institutions such as Brock University and Niagara College. Both Hoshizaki and Reynolds believe building partnerships with these institutions as well as local groups will increase the support behind the school's students.

"Having those relationships with post-secondary neighbours in the Niagara region is really important because that's why parents are applying to DSBN Academy, that's what they're looking for," said Reynolds. "And if we can make those local links with Niagara [College] and we can make those local links with Brock as well it's going to help everybody."

Quick facts

The DSBN Academy is expected to provide the following:

- School-wide shared beliefs focused on post-secondary preparation
- Committed and motivated students, families and staff
- Single-track academic program
- Advisory program support
- After-school 'encore' programs
- Programming that encourages parent involvement
- Transportation

—Courtesy of the official DSBN website

Application Deadline: May 1



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Canada in brief

Cop's 'sluts' comment draws backlash despite apology

TORONTO (CUP) — A Toronto police officer's comments about sexual assault prevention set off a storm of controversy two weeks ago, but despite his apology, members of the York University community are still unhappy.

At a Jan. 24 safety information session at York, Const. Michael Sanguinetti recommended that women not dress like "sluts" in order to avoid sexual assault, a comment that inspired a faculty member at York's law school to file a complaint.

Sanguinetti apologized for the remark on Feb. 17.

However, the apology has failed to satisfy many York students. Groups such as Feminist Action @ YU are organizing protests and hoping to engage York administration and Toronto police in open student forums.

They have labelled the comment an "act of violence," and feel that accepting the apology would excuse such acts.

Another group, SlutWalk Toronto, is scheduling a protest march for early April. As of March 4, they already have over 900 Facebook followers and support is growing rapidly.

Const. Wendy Drummond, a Toronto police spokesperson, said she was unaware of the planned marches, and that protesters are entitled to express themselves in a peaceful way.

—Nicholas Maronese, the Excalibur

Recent arrests spark campus drug-use debate at UNB

FREDERICTON (CUP) — With the exception of the occasional drug bust, arrests at the University of New Brunswick aren't common.

But both Fredericton police and UNB's security director said that doesn't mean drug use is scarce.

Security director Bruce Rogerson said there have been very few complaints about people smoking marijuana in residences and there have been around five incidents in the year that he's been here.

However, he focused on the correlation between students' drug use and flunking out of university.

This is in light of recent arrests for robbery and drug possession on Feb. 17, when a male student flagged down a security vehicle because someone jumped him near the bookstore for his backpack. The student who had been robbed was also arrested and charged with possession.

Sgt. Mackenzie said he doesn't believe drugs on campus are a prominent problem, but said there has been an element of illegal drug use on the campus for decades.

The residential policy is zero tolerance, but Rogerson suggested that drug use on campus is covert and often hard to detect without information on who's selling them.

The court date for the students is March 30, and the students' names will be released once charges have been laid.

—Alex Kress, the Brunswickian



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WORLD

World Editor Alex Mitsiopoulos • amitsiopoulos@thecord.ca



ELLI GARLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Axworthy was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2003.

A new Canadian identity

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs speaks on Canadian imagery

ALEXANDROS MITSIOPOULOS
WORLD EDITOR

"The whole issue of how we perceive ourselves is translated through the eye of the camera. The question of how images really appear to us in many ways always fades into the archives of our mind," Lloyd Axworthy explained, appearing at Wilfrid Laurier University this past Saturday.

The event was orchestrated as the final instalment of the Global Citizenship Conference, held on March 5. Axworthy appeared as the key note speaker, sharing his perspective on how Canada's international image has changed in the years following the resolution of the Cold War.

"It's a very strange time. How does the image make for the reality and how does the reality translate into action? What is our global responsibility as a citizen?" Axworthy inquired.

"Canada is now number 58 in the roster of countries around the world that do peacekeeping. That

used to be our standard branding. If you wanted good peacekeeping come and talk to the Canadians. We don't do it anymore because we don't want to go there. It's not robust enough."

Axworthy explained that part of the Canadian image involved a long tradition of being involved in the protection of human life, not because there was anything tangible to gain from it. Rather, Canadian intervention abroad was a function of the belief that it was immoral to allow the loss of innocent lives to continue. However, "That has really seeped away from our image on the world stage and that area has become very faded," he added.

"I don't say that with glee, I say that with sadness," Axworthy continued.

"We have such an incredible and privileged opportunity to play the role. We have a highly professional armed forces, a very stable budget. And so we are expected to translate those advantages into a distinctive Canadian role. We should be able

to put in place the kind of effort and commitment to really respond to the pain of others."

When the Berlin Wall fell and the Soviet Union fell into dissolution, there was a realization that the old rules and wisdoms regarding the Cold War were over. Canada was charged with the responsibility of reinventing its global image.

During that time, a human security agenda took to the forefronts of foreign policy. This was followed by the assertion that "the protection against risk and threats to individuals and people is as important as the risks and threats of nations."

Axworthy explained that his administration was committed "to protecting people regardless of whether they have Canadian passports or not. One of the first examples of that is when we were approached to become involved in the campaign to ban landmines."

For the full story visit thecord.ca

The detriments of foreign food aid

AMANDA STEINER
STAFF WRITER

"I don't want your money for the people of Bolivia if it's for charity, that's disrespectful."

This surprising statement came from lead financial officer of MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates) Gerhard Pries last Tuesday night during his presentation for International Week on the harmful effects of food aid.

"My work," Pries said, "is to prove to money hungry Wall Street that investing in Bolivia and Ghana is a good thing to do. It's good for the world, it's good for the banks and it's good for you. I will not be able to move much money if it's all based on charity."

Pries claims that the most important form of aid is investing in that country's economy.

"We've done a lot of damage by sending used clothing to Haiti," Pries expressed.

"I've seen container loads of used clothing coming into the Haiti port and killing the business of local garment makers. Really, how stupid

can you be? They need jobs to create livelihoods to feed their families, to create local institutions. How do they do that if we keep stopping them?"

As a micro financier, it is Pries's job to invest in countries around the world and help them grow their local economy.

"I've created investment management companies taking private capital investment from Wall Street and Bay Street, from New York, Toronto and London, and moved into developing countries, Bolivia, Ghana and places like that," explained Pries.

"I aim to invest in these poor countries in order to create economic vibrancy and jobs for the poor."

Sharing another instance that exemplifies his philosophy, Pries discussed the work of the Gates Foundation which allocated \$2 billion to Pakistan following the flooding that occurred last year.

"They took the \$2 billion and they popped it onto debit cards and they distributed it to a whole bunch of people. What the people did then was go to their neighbour who runs a shop to buy what they needed.

What that did was re-inflate the economy," he said.

Pries could not stress this importance enough. In the kindest way he could, he laughed at charity groups building houses or sending food to countries in need.

"They're not helping," he said, shaking his head. "It makes them feel good, it makes me feel good, but in the long run, that's not what they need."

"People don't get fed through aid," Pries stressed to his audience. "You feed the person for a day but it doesn't provide them a life. For me it's about making business work for the poor because ultimately, business is what puts food on the table."


Pries finished his presentation by saying: "Food security comes through sustainable livelihoods. There is no food shortage in the world what there is, is a lack of money to pay for it."

"So those countries, they need economic vibrancy in their communities to pay for it. Many Africans I have talked to tell me, plead with me to tell people to keep the aid out, it's killing [them]."




MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Joining MEDA in 1993, Pries also works with Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity and the Latin America Challenge Investment Fund.



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Struggling to overcome the first-year obstacles

On Feb. 9 Cord News reported some alarming statistics regarding the academic performance of a

nts in first year. Since then, In Depth Editor **Rebecca Vasluianu** has investigated the issue's causes.

The problem

After closely monitoring their fall-term data for the first time in recent years, the faculty of arts has discovered an alarming statistic – out of five first-year arts students, approximately two are at a high risk of landing on academic probation or not being able to declare their major in second year.

"I think that it's important that when we look at this initial data, we understand that it's not that these students are definitely going to be on academic probation but that there are just large warning signs, sort of flashing neon lights that there are some challenges for these students," said VP: academic and provost Deb MacLatchy.

The data collected showed that 43 per cent of first-year arts students have an average GPA of less than 5.0. For those within the range of 2.0 to 3.99, they will be put on academic probation in year two. And for those with GPAs of 4.0 to 4.99, they will be forced to remain in an undeclared major.

Julie Pong, academic advisor for the faculty of arts, explained that there are many circumstances under which these statistics may not be as severe as they seem. For instance, some individuals can maintain a 4.0 to 4.99 GPA in an undeclared major and graduate with a general degree that may be perfectly suitable for their chosen career path.

And for others, the low GPA in their first semester at Laurier may signify an adjustment period.

However, she added that for a large portion of the 632 first-year arts students with GPAs below 5.0, this might be a manifestation of a severe problem that needs to be addressed.

"For some it's not as though fall term was a hiccup, it's that they were struggling," said Pong.

Pong runs peer-to-peer mentorship programs meant to address these problems. Specifically, the program BOOST is targeted to first-year students who have had a poor first semester.

Last year, Pong explained that her data has suggested that 13 per cent of arts students with GPAs below 5.0 who took part in the BOOST program have succeeded in raising their marks. 12 per cent with similar academic standing who did not participate in the program also achieved an increase.

"It's not as though we have 90 per cent of those who have their GPA below five bring those up," said Pong.

She also explained that this year she has seen a general increase in the amount of students who have withdrawn from study at Laurier.

"Whether it was just first-years or senior students, I don't know for sure. I just noticed that there was a time that I'd be signing one a day," said Pong.

She continued, explaining that for those with poor performance, the most difficult situation is when students come forward with concerns in early April.

Pong stated that there are many things that can be done to help students improve their skills, but "I'm not sure what I can do when they come in with only a few weeks left."

MacLatchy explained that while the number of students with a GPA under 5.0 is higher in arts, it's certainly not non-existent in other faculties.

"I don't think the numbers are as high [in other faculties], but they're certainly not at zero per cent or ten per cent," MacLatchy explained.

Anne Ellis, program advisor for undergraduate business, explained that the business faculty "does not have the rates that arts have right now."

Both Ellis and William Salatka,

undergraduate business programs director and associate professor of accounting, explained that part of the reason could be that the program is so structured, featuring fewer electives and a more strict focus.

"If they don't measure up they will have to go into another program.... It's more tightly woven than some of the other programs," said Ellis.

While senior administrative assistant to the dean of music Janice Dobbin stated that the music faculty has not seen a significant decrease in academic performance, undergraduate advisor and assistant professor of kinesiology and physical education Jill Tracey noted some trends in science this year.

"Every few years you're going to have an incoming group where the grades might dip a little bit," said Tracey. "And we so far are finding that to be the case this year. But again, overall our students do tend to do quite well."

MacLatchy explained that while dips can be concerning, they are also informative.

"Certainly we couldn't survive as an institution if almost half of every first-year class didn't succeed going forward. Are there concerns that the number is 43 per cent? Would I like to see it lower? Yes. But I think that what this does do is to give us an opportunity to try and get at some of the root causes ... and to use that as an opportunity to see what needs to be done to hopefully assist and support the students that are in this situation now but also perhaps put in earlier supports into the system prior to this being the situation," she said.

High school

When looking at why these first-year students face difficulties in adjustment, some trace the problem back to secondary education.

Nick, a first-year student who chose to have his last name remain unknown, is currently at risk of being on academic probation. He explained that he believes high school could have done more to prepare him for university.

"I think it could have done a lot better to prepare me, because just the content is a lot more diverse and a lot harder to comprehend here."

"The content I was going through last year was the kind of thing that I could have written an essay about without reading at all," said Nick.

Samantha Polzin, a grade 11 student at Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School – who is currently on campus doing a co-op term with Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications – explained that she wishes her high school had started preparing her for university earlier.

"I think they kind of spoon-feed you through a lot of it," she said.

"I think there's a little bit too much babying that's going on so people are probably quite surprised when they're on their own."

Pong told The Cord that when first-year students were surveyed in a session held by the arts faculty, many students had stated that they wished high school had provided more of a focus on time management.

In science, Tracey explained that often students perform poorly in the mandatory math courses in first year. She also stated that high school students sometimes do not get a realistic picture of how much work they will have to do in a post-secondary setting.

From the perspective of the business faculty, Ellis and Salatka both attested to the fact that they've noticed a difference since grade 13 was removed.



WADE THOMPSON GRAPHICS EDITOR

"I think we've seen a difference in the students who came in that had grade 13 who were 18 and 19 and the new students coming in," said Ellis, explaining that of-ten maturity and experience can help first-year students adjust.

"It's our job and everyone in the university who works with them to try and figure out how to compensate for that," she added.

MacLatchy explained that regardless of whether high schools are or are not providing certain skill development opportunities, the task for universities remains the same.

"We need to meet first-year students where first-year students are."

Program requirements

Tracey explained that while it is best not to dwell on students' secondary experiences, the entering grades of students might predict their academic success at university.

"Because they may be coming in with a higher average to begin with, that most likely has something to do with the fact that they tend to fare better maybe than some other programs," Tracey said of certain programs, such as kinesiology, which have entrance requirements of 80 per cent and higher.

Ellis agreed, noting the business program's entrance and progression requirements.

Students who wish to be accepted to the program need an 80 per cent or higher, and those looking to continue in the program need a 7.0 GPA in their business credits and a 5.0 in their electives, compared to the 5.0 average that arts students require.

"The program is very rigid. You have to meet a certain requirement to stay in the program and if you don't, you have to find another program," Ellis said.

And while the specific grades used to predict success are important, Ellis explained that business has changed its requirements for entering students in the past year to better reflect the skills necessary for the program.

For instance, English and math credits are being weighted differently for students who apply, which has actually made the requirements more rigorous.

"What changed was what they had to include in their marks from high school. And the upshot is it's more rigorous than it was before," Salatka attested.

For MacLatchy, changes like these are important because they better predict success in university.

"I certainly agree that we can use success in high school as one of the factors that predicts success but it's better understanding how those factors are predicted," she said.

The lifestyle

Another factor of academic performance touted unanimously is how well first-year students are adjusting to the unfamiliar independence of the university student lifestyle.

"We also need to understand where the students are emotionally and maturity ... understanding the pushes and pulls they have on them as individuals other than school and we need to put that altogether to understand. Because I don't think it's necessarily academic or academic ability that that 43 per cent represents," said MacLatchy.

She explained that the university is vigorously investigating ways to make the transition from high school to university as smooth as possible.

"Not having your parents looking over your shoulders ... I think it really gives

you a test of 'This is you now for the rest of your life'.... In first semester I didn't do well because I was either partying too much or didn't feel like doing my readings and I really got overwhelmed," Nick explained.

Pong attested to the fact that a huge problem for students seems to be time management.

"They get caught up with the activities on campus, all the people that are in residence.... If they're coming from a very structured environment in high school and then they're coming here that's not structured then there's that dissonance of 'What do I do?'" she explained.

Ellis and Salatka both noted that they feel as though students today are more than ever facing more stress due to non-academic sources such as debt.

Nick explained that for him, the stress caused by receiving an e-mail warning him that he may go on academic probation next year has prompted him to change his habits.

"It's hard because you're just so overwhelmed that you're on your own now.... It's hard to stay on track and it's hard to do work. It scared me half to death when I saw I was risk of being on academic probation last semester. So I thought 'Okay, I need to get in gear' so it motivated me to do better."

Solving the problem

While it is a process of transition for many, the fact that in the past only approximately 12 or 13 per cent of arts students have managed to improve their GPA after first year indicates there is work left to be done.

Along with the various available programs such as BOOST, Pong explained that individuals across the university are investigating ways to improve the situation.

"At this stage it's still sort of early with regards to what's going on and what's happening. But I know it's not something I'm ignoring," she explained.

Pong noted that she is looking into implementing a follow-up orientation week next year with academic sessions several weeks into students' first terms to ensure they are progressing well.

MacLatchy also mentioned other initiatives that are occurring, such as the university looking into the role residence life dons can play as academic mentors for their students.

While there are many factors at play, Ellis explained that the task of helping students improve their performance is attainable.

"I'm sure ... that the students who haven't been successful, it's because they haven't yet developed the skills, not because they can't be successful," she stated, continuing that the various services available to students can help them develop these skills.

Yet despite the various resources the university offers, Nick explained that in the end it always comes down to the students themselves.

"I think they give you ample opportunity to help yourself but it's just getting up from whatever you're doing and helping yourself.... It comes down to choice."

Pong agreed, explaining that often the problem is that while students face difficulty, they do not take initiative to read their Laurier e-mails and actually seek out the services available.

For instance, only approximately ten per cent of first terms facing difficulties in their first term took advantage of the BOOST program.

"One of the struggles we have is that students don't respond when we reach out to them."

FEATURES

Features Editor Vacant • editor@thecord.ca

The genius behind an icon

Staff Writer *Colleen Connolly* examines pop star Lady Gaga's inspiration and flair

Lady Gaga's bold and genuine style has had a tremendous effect on the fashion industry, but the statement behind her extravagance runs a lot deeper than a mere excess of makeup and lack of pants.

Channeling a similar persona to '80s icon Madonna through both style and message, Gaga is often regarded as a comparison to the legacy before her.

But this revolutionary artist stands apart from her predecessor in ways that cannot be fully understood in the standardized scene of stardom.

"The kinds of imagery that she draws on are a lot more nuanced and a lot more complicated than the kinds of imagery that Cher and Madonna are drawing on," said Laurier sociology professor Morgan Holmes. "What does Madonna draw on? Girly magazines and Marilyn Monroe and that's kind of it. But what's Gaga drawing on? German expressionism and early silent film and Marxist critiques of capitalism and industrialisation and disability studies ... and then she mixes it up with pop culture."

In this sense, Gaga is "a true post-modernist," stated Morgan. She is drawing from several different cultural forms and re-appraising modern conventions.

Even her name is derived from Queen's popular song "Radio Gaga."

Trevor Holmes, from the cultural studies department, agreed and offers a further analysis.

"I think that the way that she pulls together different strands of different art and

replays them for political reasons makes her a political postmodernist rather than just a surface, pastiche postmodernist."

Gaga is not just referencing through her work but commenting. Trevor suggested that "she has a kind of gothic valance ... I find that really compelling as a way of looking at the good and evil in culture."

Through this artistic significance of style, Lady Gaga is certainly not your average celebrity.

Even so, the media seems to insist upon fitting her into a common iconic archetype.

"They think she's just another in a long line of young women stars that are bad for girls because of the way that they portray their bodies," said Trevor. "But I would like to propose, and I'm not alone in this, that Lady Gaga is connecting to a rich tradition of arts and representation ... I don't think she's being played by ideology — she's playing it."

She may parade around half naked on a regular basis, but that doesn't portray the same sort of message that consumers have been conditioned to assume.

Instead, "the unifying idea for me is that the body isn't a prison," stated Morgan. Lady Gaga's body is actually an art piece. She is making a specific statement through her style.

"Her shoes are outlandish, sure, but she has people who pick her up and carry her around so it doesn't really matter if she can't walk ten feet in them," joked Morgan, who continued that Lady Gaga is "definitely situating herself not just inside of pop music but in performance art and in, very specifically, feminist performance art

"Lady Gaga is connecting to a rich tradition of arts and representation ... I don't think she's being played by ideology — she's playing it."

—Trevor Holmes
Laurier cultural studies instructor

that's really grotesque and highly sexualized."

In just a few short years in the limelight, Lady Gaga has been included in *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people in the world and placed seventh on *Forbes'* annual list of the world's 100 most powerful women.

As a former New York University student, there is a highly educated motive behind the nature of her style.

"This is why there are courses on her beginning to emerge in the academy and academic blogs devoted to analyzing every video she comes out with," remarks Trevor.

Each step Lady Gaga takes is a calculated one. There is no denying that she knows exactly what she is doing when she gets up on stage or films a music video.

In an interview with Anderson Cooper, Gaga clarified, "There's nothing that I've ever put on my body that I didn't understand where it came from, the reference of it, who inspired it. There's always some sort of a story or concept that I'm telling."



STEPHANIE TRUONG GRAPHICS ARTIST

Spring style

Outlining this year's must-haves for when warmer weather strikes

NATASHA TACCHI
STAFF WRITER

As the temperature becomes warmer every day, we begin to think about the freedom of clothing choices for the spring.

This upcoming season welcomes style for a wide array of consumers. The trends for the spring of 2011 season are full of 1970s vibes by integrating bold colours, flowy textures and the whitest of whites.

The main theme for spring 2011 is sense and sensibility for poised style. Eccentric trends are more than welcomed, but should be toned down enough for the modern made-moiselle taste.

Say goodbye to tired paisley prints and set into sexier, more minimalist ensembles. The sophistication of the 1970s introduces a sultry side of fashion by incorporating sheer and lingerie lace.

Stella McCartney produces lace pieces that prove to be both tasteful and classic. Set out of the house dressed to the nines in everything from underwear to outerwear by flaunting your bustiers, silk bar tops and corsets and never look anything but chic.

Stripes work their way into this season from the heavy influence of Givenchy, Pink Tartan and Jean Paul Gaultier.

Retire that boyfriend-esque style military jacket that was an extremely popular trend in the fall and invest in a safari-inspired piece.

Mix and match this jacket with heavy woven cotton pants that would make you look like you just stepped out of Africa.

The prints of this season show a softer side but are still bold and attention-grabbing.

Alexander McQueen's graphic prints are dynamic and showcase a new twist. Grab a tribal, bohemian-inspired dress and a fun pair of woven sandals and you scream adventure-seeker fashionista.

Accessories this season are fun and quirky. Don't bother spending larger amounts of money on them as they tire quickly.

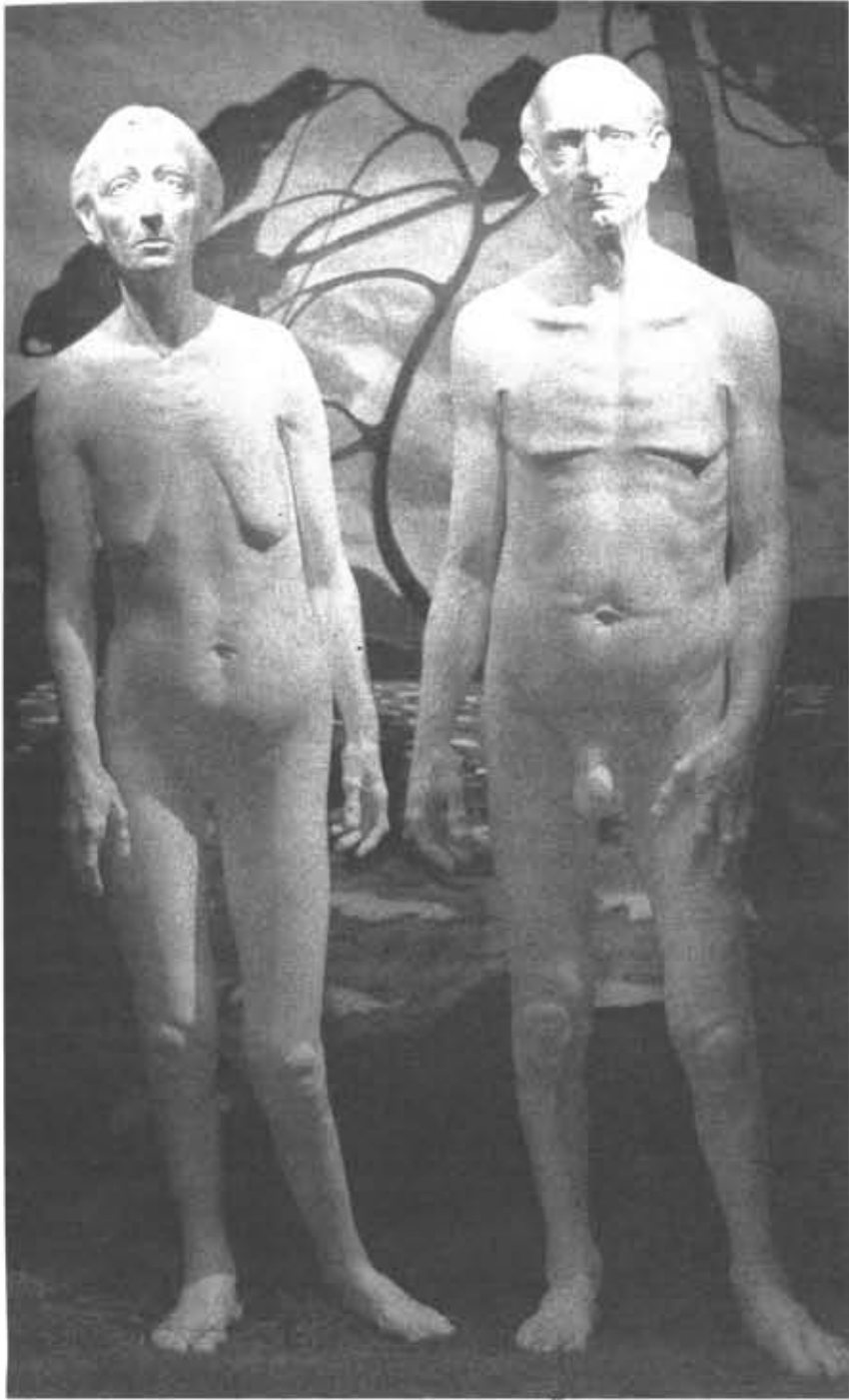
Wander the vintage stores in Toronto to discover some treasures that will complement your outfit by adding brash accessories.

Students have the opportunity to catch a glimpse of these trends in the upcoming first annual WLU fashion show on March 12th in the Turret.

This fashion show will allow you to witness these trends first-hand from nine different retailers around the Waterloo area. All proceeds will be going towards the Canadian Cancer Society. The event will also feature a candle memorial.

ARTS

Arts Editor Sarah Murphy • smurphy@thecord.ca



STEPHANIE TRUONG CORD PHOTOGRAPHER

Artwork by Thomson and others is on display at THEMUSEUM now.

Finding Tom Thomson

KATIE FLOOD
STAFF WRITER

Who is Tom Thomson? The sixth of ten children, a Canadian of Scottish descent, an influential artist with a mysterious death in 1917 who continues to keep Canadians curious almost 100 years later.

On an exploration of the Tom Thomson legacy, THEMUSEUM in Kitchener invites viewers to join in a pursuit of knowledge about the man and his myth in their latest exhibition *Searching for Tom*.

"As I personally start to learn more and more about Tom, I realized how iconic he is, how people know that name like Canadian hockey, or Tim Hortons. People know the name Tom Thomson," commented THEMUSEUM's CEO David Marskell.

Prominent during WWI when Canada was in search of its own identity, Thomson's landscape art introduced a uniquely Canadian style that would go on to influence The Group of Seven, Emily Carr and generations of artists.

Curated by Virginia Eichhorn, *Searching for Tom* hosts artwork from galleries all across Ontario with well over 100 pieces, including approximately 65 by Thomson himself.

Upon entering the exhibition, viewers are met with a room that introduces Thomson.

Displaying early sketches alongside a family photo and a

progression of his works throughout the years, viewers witness the development of his personal style.

Including works such as "Woods in Winter," "An Ice Covered Lake" and "April in Algonquin," a clear vision of Canada's landscapes of the early 1900s is formed.

Marskell discussed the growth of the artist, saying, "He's similar in the beginning to Homer Watson... and then boom, there he is. His colours, his sky, where the land meets sky."

He continued, stating that Thomson "has become instantly recognizable."

Thomson's influence is seen in works by other artists of his time, especially the Group of Seven.

Along another wall are works of art from the same period by female artists such as Emily Carr, Prudence Heward and Anne Savage.

"I do like to point out that there is a section of art that are women, who if you look at their style is very similar in ways to Tom Thomson and influenced by him.

"They should have been a part of the group of seven but women at that time, they weren't included," said Marskell, explaining the exhibit's layout.

Progressing from a time of separation between the sexes, the exhibition goes on to introduce artists from the last fifteen years that have been influenced by Thomson's work such as Panya Clark Espinal, Diana Thorneycroft and Brian Burnett.

Once again proving that

exhibitions are so much more than just paintings on a wall, *Searching for Tom* includes a video projection of famous Canadians reflecting on the mysterious artist.

The projection, centred on one wall of the exhibit, includes comments from news anchor Peter Mansbridge, author Yann Martel, comedian Rick Mercer and even Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The last wall of the exhibition features arguably one of the most captivating works, a colourful Warhol-esque piece by Dennis Tourbin.

Entitled "Canoe Lake," the ceiling-high painting tells an incomplete story of Tom Thomson's disappearance, ending with the haunting words, "Thomson's gone... Thomson's gone... Canoe Lake."

"It just puts an explanation on our title *Searching for Tom* because it's this huge thing that you have to hold your neck back for, looking reading from left to right and there's so many holes," said Marskell.

"There's so many missing pieces to the Tom Thomson story," he further explained.

Marskell concluded, "The mystique is just so important, and part of that mystique and that mystery will compel people to look at his work."

Searching for Tom is available for viewing until May 8.

Exhibit curator Virginia Eichhorn will be speaking this coming Sunday, March 13 at 1:30 p.m. in a talk entitled *Tom Thomson: The Man, His Art and Why He Means So Much To Us*.

30 Rock loses its edge

Former 30 Rock fan laments the loss of the show's originality and sharp humour

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

"Give me strength, oh Oprah."

The moment I heard those words, I knew it was over. I knew that *30 Rock*, which just a few years ago was one of the freshest, most unique and funniest shows on television, would never make me laugh again.

The joke (if you can call it that) I'm referring to was said by Tina Fey's character Liz Lemon in the show's most recent episode, entitled "TGS Hates Women." To provide a little context, in the episode, Fey's character hires a young female comic as a writer for her show to promote feminism. However, it turns out this comedienne is a stereotypical airhead.

As this premise, which is pretty weak in itself, unfolded there were few opportunities for laughter. But when the aforementioned "Oprah" joke came up, it pushed me over the edge.

First, the joke itself is so weak and obvious, it could've been written by Kathy Griffin. "Give me strength, oh Oprah," middle-aged women worship Oprah. Hilarious.

But more importantly, this kind of joke essentially represents the deterioration of this once hilarious, if not brilliant show.

So much of *30 Rock* now revolves around cheap, easy stereotypes. From the introduction of Danny, a Canadian actor, who struggled shedding his Canuck accent when saying the word "about," to Lemon's repeated failed relationships, the show reeks of obvious jokes and

I mean, we get it, she's a socially awkward 40-year-old. It got old after about a year and a half.

tired characters.

I mean, we get it, she's a socially awkward 40-year-old. It got old after about a year and a half.

When *30 Rock* was in its prime, it played on those stereotypes, rather than reinforcing them. Rather than being unrealistically pathetic, Liz Lemon was a lovable loser character, who couldn't seem to get things right. Like George on *Seinfeld*. But now, they've taken things to the point where the show is just no longer funny.

It's impossible to discuss stereotypes in *30 Rock* without mentioning the slightly insane movie star Tracy Jordan, portrayed by Tracy Morgan. In many ways, he's the show's most stereotypical character, however, in the past he was always good for a laugh or two, even if it was just about how ridiculous his character was.

But now, even Tracy's "off the wall" antics are predictable and stale and seem to suggest the show's



WADE THOMPSON GRAPHICS EDITOR

creative forces, namely Fey, have run out of ideas.

Forgive me for mentioning it again, but even the "Oprah" joke lends itself to the fact that the *30 Rock* staff have nothing left. In a season three episode, Lemon meets who she believes to be Oprah on an airplane, and the entire episode revolves around the same, tired "joke" that she as a middle-aged woman has been blessed by being in the presence of Oprah. Original.

Don't get me wrong, I still believe

Fey to be a great comedy writer and a truly funny person. However the premise, characters and jokes of *30 Rock* have simply worn themselves out. It's sad really, because the show deserved all the praise it got for being original and a less obvious, different kind of comedy in its first few seasons.

But I'm afraid the time has come to pull the plug on this once hilarious show. I mean, how long can it survive with Alec Baldwin providing three laughs an episode?

Quebecois bands kick off tour in Waterloo

—cover

The three-piece band played songs off their newest album *La La Land* including "Tom Cruz" and "The Mama Papa," as well as older tunes off their 2008 record *Parc Avenue* like "Feedback in the Field" and "Good Friend."

Also hailing from Quebec, Plants and Animals consists of both Francophone and English-speaking members, though unlike Karkwa, they write and perform in English.

When asked if there was ever a noticeable language barrier between Quebecois bands and their fans, Cormier said that singing in French hasn't been a problem.

"When you have musical language and people can groove on the beat, everything's okay," he quipped.

He also spoke about his peers in Plants and Animals, saying that they "represent very well what's happening now in Montreal."

Cormier believes that the mixture of French and English members "playing together and forming new bands" is a trend that should and will continue.

Despite the overwhelmingly English-speaking audience at Starlight on Thursday evening, it was clear that neither band's music went unappreciated.

Both Karkwa and Plants and Animals delivered tight, entertaining performances that will surely be remembered.

EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • emerkley@thecord.ca

WLU Brantford Williams an ongoing failure

At last week's board of directors meeting for the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union, the fate of Brantford's Williams Fresh Café was debated. Thus far the business has accumulated a deficit of \$655,398 and is projected to add to that by \$150,000 at the end of 2011.

In response, a proposal was put forward by WLUSU general manager Mike McMahon to draw money from funds originally intended for a food services building to cover the losses. It is hoped that increased traffic in the mall where the Williams is located caused by the possible installation of a call centre will boost sales further. However, when the Williams opened in 2008 a call centre existed in the mall and the café still lost \$202,620. This seems like a faint hope at best.

The state of the Williams on the Brantford campus is appalling. The solution proposed by WLUSU management is to toss more money at it and hope and pray that sales increase with possible changes. This is completely and utterly irresponsible. Forgive us for lacking confidence in the financial judgment of certain members of management (see Terrace expansion cost overrun fiasco).

Sadly the board of directors once again failed to protect students' money from the careless whims of management. Sometimes we can't help but wonder whether the board is simply a puppet to serve their masters in management. Kudos to the sole board member who voted against this absurdity, Ted Brown.

It is clear that it was a terrible mistake for WLUSU to get involved in the Williams. The café is renting at commercial rates and can't operate in a low-cost environment like other campus businesses in Waterloo. It also doesn't guarantee the hiring of students who compete with community members for positions. There is little to no justification for having to foot the bill for this failed business.

When the contract expires, WLUSU needs to pull out of the Brantford Williams and allow the private sector to step in and serve students properly. This ongoing embarrassment needs to stop.

—The Cord Editorial Board



DSBN pilot program to aid at-risk students a positive

This fall, the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) will open the DSBN Academy — a new school for students in grades six and seven.

Attendees will need to be accepted through an application process criteria, which includes that they be from homes where their guardians did not graduate from a post-secondary institution.

Recent studies have shown that coming from a first-generation home where one's parents did not seek education after high school is a substantial barrier for students to post-secondary education — even more so than family income.

It is for this reason that we commend the DSBN's implementation of the pilot program and their willingness to create programs at high schools that encourage aiding high-risk students.

Though we are wary of schools that segregate high school populations, the DSBN Academy, among other after-school initiatives created by the region, are forward-thinking and innovative.

Students who need extra encouragement to pursue higher education should be given every opportunity to do so and through tutoring, proposed partnerships with post-secondary institutions as well as pilot programs, the DSBN is beginning to address the problems that so often plague low-income, rural and first-generation students. Their programs should be closely monitored so they may be implemented elsewhere if they are successful.

—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 WLUSU.

Fight is far from over for women's rights and equality



ALANNA WALLACE
letters@thecord.ca

On Mar. 8, Charlie Sheen graced the cover of every magazine in the checkout line and had over two million followers on Twitter — just another example of our painfully short memory span in matters of violence against women.

In 1990, Sheen accidentally shot then-fiancée Kelly Preston in the arm. In 1994, a college student sued him after he allegedly hit her in the head when she refused to have sex with him, a matter he settled out of court.

More recently in 2006, Sheen's ex-wife Denise Richards alleged he threatened to kill her; in 2009, he did the same to then-wife Brooke Mueller, found guilty of holding a knife to her throat.

And just last week Mueller requested a temporary restraining order against Sheen after he threatened to cut off her head, "put it in a box and send it to [her] mom."

He's the Internet's newest form of entertainment — people think he's hilarious when a more appropriate attitude would be to find him repulsive.

On Mar. 8, two of Chris Brown's singles off his new album had broken through the top 20 on the Billboard chart, launching him towards a former glory that was largely lost after he pleaded guilty to felony assault when he beat then-girlfriend and singer Rihanna after a Grammy party in February of 2009. Despite a year or so of failed success with his last album having dismal

sales, Brown is again topping the charts despite still being on probation for the offence.

Mar. 8 is also International Women's Day. The sad reality is that we live in a society where "winning" overpowers the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day.

I'm unsure of when we decided our mission to empower women was complete — perhaps because to the naked eye our communities have a large semblance of equality.

In many ways, our war against inequality is over. In Canada, women live longer than men and earn three-fifths of all post-secondary degrees. Not one person came to the defence of Robert Dewar, the Manitoba judge who sentenced a rapist to probation — his sentencing was met with outrage not only from women.

And women have been unrelenting in their criticism of the police officer at York University who said women should stop dressing like "sluts" to prevent sexual assault on campus.

Not to mention all of the newspaper and magazine covers over the past months that have analyzed the pathetic and lazy nature of this generation's men. Women seem to be ruling the great white north, which is exactly why instead of taking that type of equality that we cherish for granted, we should instead be spearheading the closing of the global gender gap.

Globally, the fight is far from over. UN figures state that women do two-thirds of the world's work and produce half of its food, yet earn 10 per cent of its income and own one per cent of its property.

We can't forget that our attitudes towards those who act in an appalling nature towards women are an example of just how seriously we take our

If we fall victim to amnesia when it comes to those who have a history of violating women's rights, we undermine the global fight for equality.

commitment to closing the gender gap and how proud we are of our accomplished empowerment.

Be critical of just how far we've come in terms of women's rights and be wary of those who abuse the rights we hold for granted. We must be an example to those around the world who struggle every day towards equality — whether these individuals are men or women.

If we fall victim to amnesia when it comes to those who have a history of violating women's rights, we undermine the global fight for equality.

We cannot be expected to close the gender gap across the globe on the centenary of International Women's Day if we give people like Sheen the time of day to inflate an ego that has become larger than the crimes he has committed against women.

If we want to empower women halfway around the world, we must start at home.

Sadly, it looks like we have at least another 100 years to go before we start to remember the atrocities committed against women and take a stand against men who treat the rights of women so cavalierly.

THE FORUM

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • merkley@thecord.ca

Letters to the Editor

Corruption rampant in City of Toronto

RE: Mayor Ford gravy train wreck begins, Mar. 4

Whoever wrote this editorial obviously isn't a Torontonian nor do they keep up to date on daily municipal affairs in Toronto.

This was just announced on Monday with Board responses yesterday. But news of it was already known since last Thursday and Friday. Maybe more research should have been done into the "gravy train wreck" as you so call it before you start hating.

The rampant spending culture at Toronto Community Housing Corporation (THCH) has been a long time issue and only represents just a small facet of what illegitimate spending is happening.

The Auditor General reported that poor enforcement of THCH expense policy has led to inappropriate expenses being approved — as much as \$200,000 worth. These include a \$40,000 Christmas staff dinner, \$1,000 in Holt Renfrew chocolates and the services of four massage practitioners who offered "short relaxation massages for staff" at a summer picnic at a cost of \$800.

Additionally, a deal worth nearly

\$5 million was awarded to a Chinese bathroom fixture supplier. The agreement appears to have been sole-sourced and "completely informal." In another \$500,000 sole-source contract with a Chinese supplier, the overseas agent who facilitated the deal was a "long-time friend" of TCHC staff. The conflict was not declared in writing.

Finally, a \$25 million refurbishment deal was given to a vendor who put forward an unsolicited proposal. "Other contracts may have been able to provide similar or in fact additional benefits," Griffiths wrote. "It is not possible to determine this without a competitive process." The fact is that newly released information very much points out evidence of wasteful spending that the Cord editorial all but ignores and actually refutes in order to reach its conclusion.

—Tony Ho

Letter policy

Letters must not exceed 250 words. Include your full name and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00 p.m. noon Monday via e-mail to letters@thecord.ca. The Cord reserves the right to edit for length and clarity or to reject any letter.



NFL commissioner Roger Goodell and NFL Players Association head DeMaurice Smith at the 2011 NFL Players PULSE awards

NFL lockout for 2011?

Columnist John Kennedy believes the players are in the right in labour dispute. Check out his column online at thecord.ca

Online Comments

OneCard fails all students

RE: OneCard sucks, Mar. 4

I was in the first round of students to face the dreaded "no rollover" policy. I was lucky enough to be living in King Rez, so I actually ran out of money (as did most of the people I lived with) on the Hearty meal plan. I didn't eat any crazy amount of food, either. Just Tim Hortons, at least four times a day, three meals and probably brunch on weekends.

Other than the ridiculously high prices, mediocre service and sub-par food. Oh, and don't forget the fact I saved my entire summer's wage to pay for my meal plan.

As a third year who's lost her OneCard (I only use it for the bus) twice now, I can't get over how aggravating that stupid piece of plastic is. Those things hinder us rather than help us, and since the Dining Hall sucks the cash out of Laurier

and its students. It's just one big #\$\$\$&-up.

—I am not Michael Phelps

Brantford business unsustainable

RE: Board meeting discusses ailing Brantford business, Mar. 4

This is unsustainable. You can't control an almost \$700,000 growing deficit with a ~\$200,000 fund and some kind of false hope that a call centre will make up the \$400,000 or \$500,000 extra. If it keeps growing, you're not going to be dealing with a manageable amount and the rest of it will be on the backs of students.

—WLU student

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OPINION

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • emerkeley@thecord.ca

Want to be a teacher? Time for a plan B



BARBARA CIOCHON
letters@thecord.ca

So you want to teach in Ontario, eh? That, unfortunately, may not be such a good idea. Faculty of education grads in the province are finding it almost impossible to secure full-time employment as job openings dwindle every year within Ontario's school boards.

I sympathize with those who have always pictured themselves working with and shaping the minds of children and young people — the current situation is unfortunate and unfair.

Yet the sudden oversupply of teachers seems puzzling to many, as it was just a couple of years ago that a number of provinces in Canada prepared for a shortage. Now that shortage has been filled and then some. All explanations for this surplus of teachers point to one thing — demographics.

Indeed, it seems that demographics are against teachers in every way. Experts have been telling us for years that as baby boomers age the Canada Pension Program (CPP) will experience a substantial strain that will be felt by younger taxpayers. In fact, the fun starts this year as the first wave of baby boomers heads into its retirement years.

What is more, Canada's birth rate remains steady at a low figure of 1.5, whereas the replacement rate is cited as 2.1. It doesn't take a genius to put two and two together and realize

that Canada is fuc... er, not in a very good place. Canadians are having fewer babies than needed to sustain the population; the result is a greater proportion of individuals fall into an older age bracket and there will inevitably be a lower demand for teachers.

In 2009, the Ontario College of Teachers reported that there were about 12,000 new teachers in the province that year, but only 5,000 positions. Thus, teaching is quite possibly one of the most competitive careers out there.

Canadian universities continue to pump out new grads every year, many of which will not find full-time employment any time soon upon graduation. The reality is quite frustrating as it is clear that universities have chosen to capitalize on this very profitable situation rather than being honest with students.

Take Laurier for example — the fact that it opened its own faculty of education is rather pointless, given People for Education's report released in 2009 that found 172 elementary and secondary schools are closing or recommended to close between 2009 and 2012.

Schools have [quite strategically] failed to respond to the changing times because once students are enrolled in a bachelor of education program and have paid their tuition the universities' interests have been met. From then on they can wish their students good luck in finding employment after graduation, as they're laughing all the way to the bank.

Until Canada's birth rate increases — if ever — it seems that teachers college grads will continue to be stuck in this predicament. The proposition here is not for individuals

pursuing a career in teaching to flush that dream down the toilet, but rather to think of a plan B.

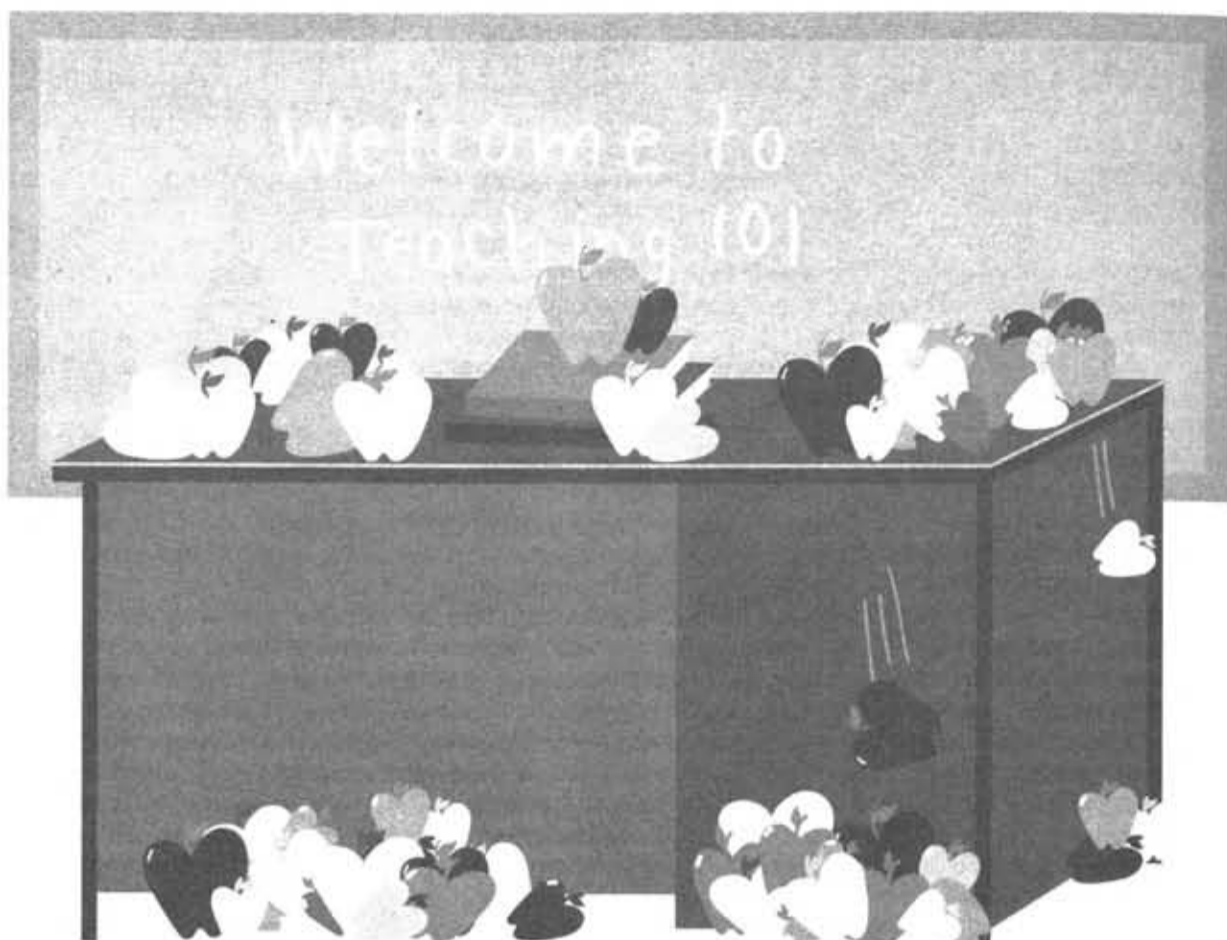
Taking a year to teach overseas is an option that new teachers should consider. Many have already jumped on the bandwagon, as there are a plethora of international opportunities that provide individuals with steady incomes and experience that may help these teachers find full-time employment in Ontario once they return.

For those who are not particularly keen on living halfway across the world for an extended period of time, a two-year study published in the Canadian Journal of Education in 2010 found teacher shortages in a number of school districts in Northern Canada in British Columbia, Yukon Territory and Northwest

Territories due to poor teacher retention. Many of these school districts are located in what some would call "undesirable" locations, but with the lack of jobs in urban school districts, what good is it to be picky in deciding where to accept a position?

New teachers with families and spouses may find it harder than others to relocate, but those who can should seriously consider the idea until the situation changes in Ontario.

Since Canadian universities will continue to maintain enrolment at current numbers and Canada's birth rate is unlikely to drastically change in the near future, teachers college grads must look to other opportunities if they wish to pursue a full-time teaching career any time soon.



TAYLOR GAYOWSKI GRAPHICS ARTIST

The reality is quite frustrating as it is clear that universities have chosen to capitalize on this very profitable situation rather than being honest with students.

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*** Please register for the session via the Events Calendar on the Career Centre website: <http://www.lauriercc.ca/career/home.htm> ***

You know what yanks my Cord...

...commissioned sales people at retail stores. Alright, I am fully willing to admit the extent of my disdain might be because I don't like talking to or dealing with people generally.

Maybe it is just a function of my cynicism and anti-social behaviour. But I know I am not the only one that hates getting swarmed by a cloud of overenthusiastic and irritatingly cheery sales people when I walk into a store.

You know the drill: keep your head down, walk quickly making it clear you know where you are going and never, ever make eye contact with one of them. If you show weakness they will strike.

And even if you make it clear you don't need help, they will hover around you like sea gulls at the beach hoping to capitalize on a potential purchase as long as you are in the store.

But is this really necessary? Is it too much to ask to be left alone when browsing? If we want help we will ask. But the reality is a lot of the time we know what we want more than some minimum wage high school student who in this day and age is quite possibly at the peak of his or her working career.

And sometimes we don't have the time to hang around as the salesperson spends a half-an-hour desperately trying to up-sell us pretty much entirely for his or her benefit.

This is not to say that having friendly, respectful sales people is a bad thing. But incentivizing nuisance behaviour is the wrong way to go for that goal. Companies should simply reward quality service with routine evaluations and provide adequate training.

Having worked in non-commissioned retail, not even those solutions are done satisfactorily. Sure, experiencing a sales rep with a bad attitude due to a lack of stake in completing the sale is a terrible consumer experience, but no more so than spending your time dodging detection like Snake in Metal Gear Solid. A better balance needs to be found between the two extremes.

So a tip to all those commissioned sales people out there. When you see a customer enter the store, don't pounce on them like artists on a subsidy. Give them some space and take a deep breath. Your customer will appreciate you for it.

—Eric Merkley



"To suggest that this movement is altogether racist does not move the conversation about Israel forward... It is important that we listen to the other side of the argument so that we do not blindly support Israel."

—Joseph McNinch-Pazzano

Point • Counter-point: Israeli Apartheid Week

Across the country this week rallies will be held to protest Israel's purported 'Apartheid state.' Columnists **Brian Shaposhnik** and **Joseph McNinch-Pazzano** discuss their legitimacy



BRIAN SHAPOSHNIK
letters@thecord.ca

Israeli Apartheid Week — doesn't it just roll off the tongue? That's what the organizers want anyway, because it's their only hope.

Seasoned activists, they know that since facts and logic aren't on their side, they must resort to slogans, buzz words and lies to win support. But at Laurier, even catchy slogans haven't won them any success.

The virulent anti-Israel movement seeks to isolate and delegitimize the Jewish state through promoting the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) campaign. After two years hosting the largely unnoticed week of protests and lectures at Laurier, this year the activists have given up. There will be no 2011 Israeli Apartheid Week on our campus.

There's no doubt that the organizers feel as strongly as ever about their cause, so why have they given up?

Perhaps they simply grew tired of being ignored. The Laurier community prides itself on academic integrity and doesn't put up with misinformation and propaganda. So when a small group of students came to our campus and attempted to demonize Israel by spreading hateful lies, that's exactly what happened — they were ignored.

The one area in which Israeli Apartheid Week organizers have found success is blurring the lines of legitimate criticism and racist hypocrisy. Some diehard freedom of speech proponents have been misled into supporting these activists because they support the right to criticize Israeli policies.

Of course, such criticism is completely legitimate and welcomed. However, the campaign crosses the line of legitimate protest in advocating the destruction of Israel,

supporting internationally recognized terrorist groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah in their attacks against Israeli civilians and setting double standards when judging Israel's actions.

The organizers are not shy of their motives — they readily admit that their mission is not to advocate human rights or peace, but rather to create a chorus of opposition to Israel.

They aren't interested in dialogue or open discourse — unsurprisingly, when I attempted to engage in civil discussion on the Facebook page of their event at another campus, my post was deleted and I was immediately banned.

Overall, the BDS movement and Israeli Apartheid Week have been utter failures on multiple levels. In terms of accomplishing the stated goal of pressuring Israel financially, quite the opposite has happened.

In the decade since the creation of the campaign, Israel's gross domestic product has nearly doubled.

The number of tourists visiting Israel has increased steadily each year, with an all-time record of nearly 3.5 million visitors in 2010.

The decade has seen dozens of

world-famous musicians hold concerts in Israel, including Madonna and Lady Gaga and, as if we could we forget, Justin Bieber, who will be met by thousands of gleeful Israeli teen girls at his Tel Aviv concert this April.

In terms of public policy, the organizers have only had one effect — receiving harsh criticism from all corners of the political spectrum across the Western world.

In Canada, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has harshly condemned Israeli Apartheid Week, stating that it is an attempt to "delegitimize a democratic state" and that "Canadians must stand against it."

Opposition Leader Michael Ignatieff was no less forceful, stating that they "exploit academic freedom" and "should be condemned by all who value civil and respectful debate about the tragic conflict in the Middle East."

Indeed, as peace-seeking Canadians and as intellectuals who value democracy, equality and civil debate, we must all stand strong against Israeli Apartheid Week and make clear that it will not be tolerated in our community.



JOSEPH MCNINCH-PAZZANO
letters@thecord.ca

Like conceivably every foreign policy issue, this counterpoint on Israel Apartheid Week is not black and white. I do not support the movement and abhor their tactics and I believe Israel has the right to exist.

Furthermore, I believe that any actions taken or comments made throughout the duration of these demonstrations that could be reasonably construed as racist and anti-Semitic should be dealt with.

With those disclaimers aside, there are two main points that I wish to make about Israel Apartheid Week. First of all, no matter how much one disagrees with the organizers of such an event, we have a commitment to freedom of expression in this country that needs to be fulfilled. As Voltaire once suggested, "I may disagree with what you have to say, but I will defend to the death

your right to say it."

To suggest that this movement is altogether racist does not move the conversation about Israel forward. While there may very well be elements that are unnecessary and without place in this society, it is important that we listen to the other side of the argument so that we do not blindly support Israel.

Secondly, I think we have to recognize that this movement, as radical and as offensive as it can be, does suggest why foreign policy toward Israel cannot ignore some of the questionable actions the state has taken.

In foreign affairs, even in the most seemingly black-and-white situations, it is extremely difficult to find one state that is ever 100 per cent correct or 100 per cent moral.

Just weeks ago, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) voted down a resolution condemning Israel's continued settlement in the West Bank, considered by many to be an affront to international law. The U.S. vetoed the resolution with Ambassador Susan Rice claiming that this did not mean that America supports the settlements, but that they thought it "unwise to attempt to resolve the core issues that divide Israelis and Palestinians."

Settlements have been an ongoing issue since 1979 when the United Nations (UN) passed Resolution 446, rejecting the legal validity of Israeli settlements. This has been an issue which Israel has ignored for some time, publicly accepting American and UN opinion on the issue, but then turning around and ignoring the resolutions.

So yes, without a doubt, Israel should have support of the West. But it is also important to be honest among friends. Israel may be in the right, but at times they have erred in the face of international law and their allies' wishes.

While Israel Apartheid Week takes this debate way beyond an acceptable level of productive discourse, it does underscore the fact that we need to start having a discussion about Israel that doesn't put blinders on and accept without question all actions of Israel.



NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO

Students protest as part of nation-wide Israeli Apartheid Week rallies at Laurier in 2010.



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DearLIFE

Dear Life is your opportunity to write a letter to your life, allowing you to vent your anger with life's little frustrations in a completely public forum. All submissions to Dear Life are anonymous, should be no longer than 100 words and must be addressed to your life. Submissions can be sent to dearlifethecord.ca no later than Monday at noon each week.

Dear Life,
Would the people in the one o'clock first year business class let me out of my sociology class before steam-rolling their way in? I know you guys get a boner from running in and getting your "favourite seat" but honestly there are plenty of places to sit. Grow some balls and sit next to someone you don't know, they're not going to give you chlamydia.
Sincerely,
Your Mom Hates When I Keep Her Waiting

Dear Life,
This super-smart Jeopardy computer is blowing my fucking mind.
Sincerely,
Robots Will Kill Us All One Day

Dear Life,
Why is it that my roommate doesn't understand that the walls are thin? She is so loud, I feel like I've had sex with her boyfriend.
Sincerely,
No, I Don't Like That. No, I Don't Want More. No, It Doesn't Feel Good

Dear Life,
Where were the Dear Life's last issue? Don't you know that's how I get through every Wednesday? Thanks, because now I'm dead on the inside.
Sincerely,
I Seem To Have No Life

Dear Life,
I love strangers and their acts of random kindness. I just hate how they will never know how much you really appreciated it.
Sincerely,
Thank You Thank You Thank You!!

Dear Life,
I am a mundane, pathetic and boring person... Until I saw the spectacular slow motion train wreck that is Charlie Sheen.
Thank you Charlie, thank you so much for all you have given us.
Sincerely,
Winning

WLU SP is hiring 2011/2012 staff
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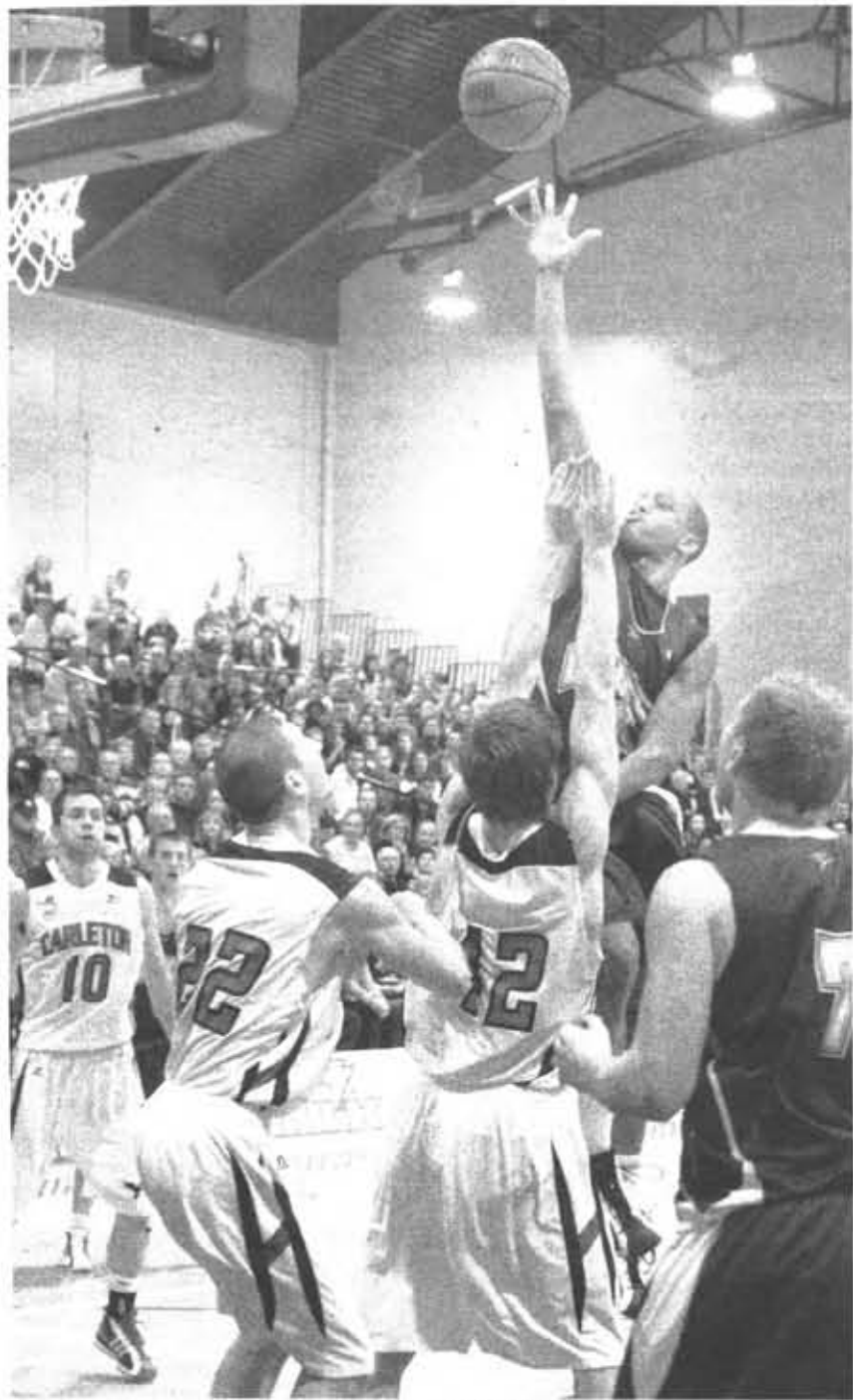
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SPORTS

Sports Editor Justin Fauteux • jfauteux@thecord.ca

'We can play with the best'



ELLI GARLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Laurier's Jamar Forde shoots over two defenders during Friday's OUA semifinal. The Hawks nearly upset the undefeated Ravens.

Hawks come within a quarter of shocking undefeated Carleton in OUA semifinal

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

HAMILTON, Ont. – On Friday night the Laurier men's basketball team was eliminated from the provincial playoffs one game short of a berth at nationals. But the way they lost the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) semifinal is, if anything, a cause for optimism.

The Hawks gave the undefeated, number-one nationally ranked Carleton Ravens all they could handle, leading for most of the game — even dominating it at times — only to be sunk by a fourth quarter in which they were out-scored 23-11 and fell 83-76.

"It just proves that we can play with the best," said fourth-year Kale Harrison. "Now we know that we played with them twice so next year, we know we can beat them."

The game Harrison was alluding to is an 88-80 Hawks loss at the hands of the Ravens on Nov. 12, which marked the first time all season that an opponent came within 10 points of the nation's top team. The only other time the Ravens beat their opponents by less than 10 was Friday night against those same Hawks.

To give a little more perspective, coming into the OUA semifinals the last time Carleton lost a game was the 2010 national championship game. And for three quarters of Friday's game, it looked as though the Hawks were going to break that streak.

"We played unbelievably well for three quarters," said Harrison. "At the end our inexperience showed

and their experience came through. They've probably played in 20 big games like that and this was our first so hopefully we can learn from it."

Harrison, the Hawks' leading scorer all season, once again led the purple in gold in scoring with 26 points, 21 of which came in the first half. The combination of OUA East player of the year Phil Scrubb's defence and some less than favourable calls from the officials saw Harrison virtually shut down after half time.

"[Harrison] didn't get any calls," said Laurier head coach Peter Campbell. "And I don't understand that. He's a great kid, he doesn't say much to anybody, he plays hard and the referees don't seem to respect his game."

Despite the Ravens keying on Harrison, the Hawks managed to dominate the third quarter, at one point leading by 12. However, according to veteran Matt Buckley, one simple thing proved the difference at crunch time.

"Poise," he said. "They don't panic when they get down and they showed that tonight."

Though the result was obviously not what they were looking for, their performance against the powerhouse Ravens showed how far the Hawks have come this season. And with fourth-years Harrison, Buckley, Connor Meschino and Matt Donnelly all returning, the team is excited for next season.

"This is the best basketball team I've coached at Laurier in the 11 years I've been here," said Campbell. "We're in [the semifinals] and we're starting two freshmen and a second-year, so the future looks good."

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
March 7 - 13, 2010

RECENT SCORES

03.05.11

W Basketball 54 - Toronto 62

03.04.11

M Basketball 76 - Carleton 83

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03.10.11

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Hawks head west

Women's basketball set for regional finals

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

Having already made it further than any other season in their history, the Golden Hawks' women's basketball team is one step away from achieving another first: playing in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Final Eight.

Despite losing to the University of Toronto Varsity Blues in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) bronze medal game on Saturday night, the Hawks still qualify for this weekend's regional finals and are just one step away from competing for the national championship.

"Our biggest goal was to try and go into [regionals] playing well," said Laurier head coach Paul Falco of the OUA bronze medal game, which was more about seeding for regionals than the actual medal.

"Our biggest thing was to try and go into round one of the nationals playing well. Obviously we wanted to win [OUA bronze], we still had a chance to host, but we really just wanted to play a little bit better than the week before and I thought for the first half we did that."

The Hawks came flying out of the gate on Saturday night in Toronto, out-scoring the Blues 20-8 in the first quarter. However, they would slowly lose their grip on the game, being out-scored themselves in all three other frames, leading to a

62-54 U of T win.

"In the second half U of T really tightened up their defence and our execution on offence got a little sloppy," said Falco. "On top of that we had a couple turnovers that led to some easy baskets for them and then they got transition game going.... It was a disappointing result, but now, we can just focus on what's ahead."

What's ahead for the Hawks is a trip to Regina, Sask. where the University of Regina will be hosting the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Western Regional finals. With the Hawks still not thought of as a basketball power on the national stage, Falco believes his team can play the underdog role perfectly once again, just like they did when they upset the number-three nationally ranked Western Mustangs in the OUA West semifinal.

"I think there's no pressure on us; we're not really supposed to be there," said Falco. "So we have a good opportunity to surprise some teams and I know we've got a lot of competitive people who love to go out there and prove people wrong."

The Hawks will take on the University of Quebec at Montreal Citadins on Friday night in the regional semifinal. Should they win that game they will play either Regina or the University of Victoria for the right to play in the CIS Final Eight, hosted by Windsor next weekend.



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Canada's best come to Laurier

As WLU prepares to host this weekend's CIS women's hockey finals, The Cord teams up with student papers from across the nation to provide a preview of the teams seeking the national title

McGill Martlets

Last year, the McGill Martlets lost in the national championship finals to the Alberta Pandas, ending their 86-game winning streak against Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) opponents and their run of back-to-back CIS titles.

The Martlets picked up where they left off this year, finishing the season undefeated against CIS opponents and earning the number one seed in the CIS women's hockey finals for the fifth year running. Returning this year, after spending the 2009-2010 season with the Canadian national team, are head coach Peter Smith and goaltender Charline Labonté, who won gold last year at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics. Labonté has

been a key player in the Martlets success, allowing only 12 goals all regular season.

Fellow national team member Cathy Chartrand also played a major role in the team's undefeated run this season, finishing the season with 29 points.

Forwards Katia Clement-Hydra — who finished 15th in the CIS with 26 points — and Ann Sophie-Bettez were also important contributors to the team, sharing the team lead for goals scored with 11 goals. The Martlets enter the tournament riding high off of an 8-1 shellacking of cross-town rivals, the Montreal Carabins.

—Stefan Goulet, the McGill Daily

ST. F.X. X-Women

The St. F.X. X-Women enter the CIS finals after dominating their Atlantic opponents throughout the season. The X-Women went undefeated in the regular season, before cruising through the post-season, out-scoring their opponents 24-5 over three games to claim the AUS title.

Second-year Janelle Parent and rookie Alex Normore led the potent X-Women attack, finishing second and third in CIS scoring with 44 and 41 points respectively. St. F.X. also got considerable offence from the back end as veteran defenceman

Suzanne Fenerty led all AUS blueliners with 22 points.

Between the pipes, the X-Women used a tandem approach with second-year Katie Greenway and rookie Kirsty Garrow splitting time. However, that didn't seem to hamper either goaltender as they both finished in the top three in the AUS in goals against average (GAA).

This year will mark the tenth appearance at nationals for the X-Women, who qualified for the previous two tournaments as the hosts. Despite so many appearances in the CIS finals, however, the X-Women have never finished higher than fourth, which they only did once in 2006.

—Justin Fauteux

Alberta Pandas

After falling to the Manitoba Bisons in the Canada West finals two weeks ago, the University of Alberta Pandas hockey team is looking to regain their footing on a journey to repeat as national champions and claim their eighth CIS trophy in team history.

Seeded sixth in the national championships this year, the Green and Gold are back-boned by Can-West coach of the year Howie Draper, who along with Pandas captain Leah Copeland, has guided an inexperienced roster to some unexpected successes this season.

In previous years the Pandas have dominated their western Canadian opponents. However, with Hayley

Wickenheiser suiting up in a Calgary Dinos uniform and the continued development of other women's hockey programs in the Can-West, the Pandas have faced some stiff competition this season.

The divisional parity seems to have better prepared the Green and Gold for the vigours that they'll face at the national championships. During the first half of the regular season, the Pandas had difficulties finding their defensive groove. But as the season progressed, the blue liners were able to shore up their presence in front of the net, something that has been critical to their success this season.

—Matt Hirji, the Gateway

Laurier Golden Hawks

This season was a bit of a strange one for the Laurier Golden Hawks. For starters, they lost three games, which is more than they lost in the previous two seasons combined. But things got stranger still in the OUA semifinals as the Hawks were swept by the upstart Queen's Gaels, ending a streak of seven consecutive provincial titles.

Despite a few more losses than they're used to, Laurier's 24-2-1 record was still good enough to put them first in the OUA, scoring 103 goals (16 more than any one else), while allowing just 30 (19 less than anyone else).

OUA Rookie of the Year Laura Brooker had a huge year for the

Hawks, scoring 19 goals, putting her third in Canada, while veteran forward Katherine Shirriff — who played a large role in Brooker's success — had by far the most productive season of her career, racking up 32 points. Meanwhile, Fiona Lester, Alicia Martin and Alannah Wakefield highlighted the stingy Hawks' defence, all taking home OUA all-star honours.

In net, reigning CIS player of the year Liz Knox was her usual self. A 20-2 record, five shut-outs, a goals-against average under one, she was still only an OUA second-team all-star.

—Justin Fauteux

Queen's Gaels

Coming into this season, the Queen's Gaels were able to take away many positives from 2009-10, namely the breakout performances by rookie goaltender Mel Dodd-Moher and forwards Brittany and Morgan McHaffie as well as significant contributions by veteran forwards Liz Kench, Kelsey Thomson and Becky Conroy.

The Gaels, however, didn't get the start they hoped for. Going 4-3-1 in October, the Gaels continued their season battling in the middle and only won two more games before the winter break.

But the Gaels emerged, along

Manitoba Bisons

Most of the pre-tournament buzz the Manitoba Bisons will generate will come as a result of being the reason four-time Olympic gold medalist Hayley Wickenheiser won't be playing in the CIS finals. The Bisons beat Wickenheiser's Calgary Dinos in the Canada West semifinals, but it wasn't exactly an upset as the Bisons finished ahead of the Dinos in the regular season. However, the Bisons would go on to pull off an upset win in the Canada West final, beating the conference's top

regular season team and defending CIS champions, the Alberta Pandas. The win marked the first conference title in the Bisons' history.

The Bisons' attack relied on a balanced approach, as leading scorer Addie Miles had just 19 points, good enough for 10th in the conference. However, three of her teammates were just behind as fifth-year Tammy Brade had 18 points, and second-years Nellie Minchull and Amy Lee had 16

After a mediocre regular season, goalie Tara Lacquette caught fire in the playoffs, facing nearly double the amount of shots of any other goalie in the conference, but finishing with the best post-season save percentage and second lowest GAA.

—Justin Fauteux

with Conroy who had been injured since the beginning of the season, reinvigorated and set off on a tear that vaulted them into the playoffs with momentum.

Queen's ended their season 9-2 and on a six-game winning streak during which they held opponents to one goal in each game.

Dodd-Moher has been the star of the postseason with a save percentage of 0.971; the best of the OUA postseason. She has faced 207 shots, allowing six goals.

The playoffs have been a battle for the Gaels as each game ended in multiple overtimes besides their series clincher versus Guelph.

Queen's rides into nationals on swelling momentum after thrilling sweeps of Laurier and Guelph.

—Kate Bascom, the Queen's Journal

Laurier pays tribute to 'oustanding women'

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

On Tuesday, Laurier athletics celebrated International Women's Day by paying tribute to some of its extraordinary female student athletes with the sixth annual Outstanding Women of Laurier luncheon.

The luncheon recognizes women who not only excel in both academics and athletics but are also heavily involved in their community. The event culminated with the presentation of the Outstanding Woman of

Laurier award.

This year's recipient was fourth-year swimmer Brittany Shaw, who, in addition to balancing being a team captain on the Golden Hawks swim team and a demanding double major in biochemistry and biotechnology, coaches with the Region of Waterloo swim club and volunteers with the Special Olympics swimming program and the Students Offering Support organization.

"It feels amazing, it's not often that other people are recognizing you, so it feels a little weird but it's a huge honour," said Shaw. "It really

means a lot to be able to give back to my community, I just really enjoy everything I do." Shaw remained humble, recognizing fellow nominees, Hanna Burnett of the women's lacrosse team and Samantha Schmalz of the women's rugby team.

"I'm so honoured to be standing among those two other girls," she said. "Sam and Hannah are both amazing, they're outstanding women as well, they give back to the community just like I do and they deserve their recognition."

While her schedule is busy, Shaw wouldn't have it any other way.

"I can't stand just sitting on the couch not having anything to do," she said. "All throughout my childhood, I was always busy, my parents always pushed to do as much as I can, as best as I can and I'll always love being busy."

Keeping with the theme of outstanding women, the event was highlighted by a keynote address from Joannie Rochette, who was one of the biggest stories of the 2010 Olympics after she won a bronze medal just days after the sudden death of her mother. Rochette gave a passionate speech, detailing her

journey from her introduction to skating at just 22 months old to the inspiring bronze medal win.

Despite her amazing story, Rochette had simple intentions with her speech. "I'm happy if the few words I can say can help in any way," she said. "It's great to meet [the nominees] and hopefully I can inspire them and also inspire the university to keep funding women's sports."

This year's event raised \$20,000 for female athletics initiatives. Read the full interview with Joannie Rochette on thecord.ca.