

# THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

Volume 52, Issue 3

Wednesday, June 29, 2011

thecord.ca

## Ready for the long haul?

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### Inside the frosh issue

#### Easing the transition

Faculties create new initiatives to help first-year students adjust to university academics, notably with the creation of seminar classes.

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#### Light rail debate finally over

After eight years of discussion and extensive research, regional council decided to bring light rail transit to Waterloo Region by 2017.

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#### Preparing for university

Part of an online series, this installment looks at extracurricular activities, from the ways to get involved to the long term benefits the experience will provide.

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#### A look ahead

Sports Editor Kevin Campbell, News Director Justin Fauteux and Staff Writer Chris Mander compile a season preview of Laurier's varsity teams for the 2011-12 year.

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## New plans for Terrace

Aramark to operate WLUSU food court

MIKE LAKUSIAK  
IN DEPTH EDITOR

In an email to all students June 9, Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union president Nick Gibson announced that, effective immediately, the Terrace Food Court would be operated by Aramark — the same corporation that currently manages the university's dining hall along with food service operations at numerous other campuses.

The Terrace, once it reopens in September, will feature a Spring Rolls Go franchise and a Subway will replace the current Mr. Sub location. While all current student employees will be retained in the changeover, four full-time staff members have been left out of the new agreement and student managers are not guaranteed to have positions come September.

Gibson said that WLUSU had approached Aramark during negotiations for the union's latest operating agreement with the university. "We were taking so many organizational resources away from direct student support and putting it into the day-to-day operations of a food service," he said. "It just drains resources and that's not something the students' union is here for."

"We really have got to a point in the Terrace where we would not be able to provide much more service than we already provide."

The agreement with Aramark means that WLUSU retains some

“We've committed to 100 per cent employment of existing student employees.”

—Mary Anne Thomas  
Aramark regional manager

measure of control over pricing and other aspects of the Terrace, while letting Aramark take care of the general operations. "We're in an enviable position because we don't have to deal with the day-to-day operations, but we're in a deal that's financially viable for us but also critical role," Gibson added, though he was unable to discuss specific financial details.

Aramark's Higher Education branch regional manager Mary Anne Thomas said that the arrangement, "Made sense for everyone."

"We've committed to 100 per cent employment of existing student employees they already have on board and we'll continue to add new employment opportunities for students as we go along," she added, noting that while Aramark currently

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NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Former Mel's Diner owner Jerry Smith displays a photo of Fred Nichols enjoying the first legal beer on WLUSU's campus, while preparing to open new burger venture Frat Burger located across from Laurier.

## Mel's revival on its way

JUSTIN FAUTEUX  
NEWS DIRECTOR

The morning of April 22, 2010 is one that Jerry Smith would like to forget.

Around 5:30 a.m. on the fateful morning, a fire broke out in University Avenue's Campus Court Plaza, destroying at least five of the mall's businesses; one of which was Smith's restaurant, an area favourite, Mel's Diner. In total, the fire caused nearly \$4.5 million in damages, but for Smith, the pain of that day went beyond dollar figures.

"The easiest way to describe it is watching your own house burn down. That's exactly what it felt

like," said Smith, who arrived at the scene of the fire before it had reached Mel's Diner, however was forced to watch it slowly be engulfed.

"Everything I've ever had, collected, did, everyday, day in day out, was all in that 'house.' Almost 16 years of my life was in there and that's why it needs to go back up."

Smith founded Mel's Diner along with his brother in 1995 and with its nostalgic, 1950's diner-style and being open 24 hours a day, it became a staple amongst students and locals alike. After the fire, both Smith and the restaurant's regulars were left in the dark on the future of the

establishment.

"It has been completely uncertain," said Smith of the roughly year and two months since the fire. "I just never knew one day to the next, who would own the property, what they wanted to do with it, when we'd be back in business, if we'd be back in business... I had to kind of get my feet on the ground and get going."

And now, that time for Smith to 'get going' has come.

In the next two weeks, Smith will open Frat Burger, located on University Ave. West at King St. North.

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Campus Plus is The Cord's national advertising agency.

### Editor's Choice

#### Athletes China-bound



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#### In defense of foreskins

“... young boys would be saved from an unnecessary procedure, which they are incapable of consenting to.”

Opinion, page 19

#### North by Northeast 2011



Gallery @ thecord.ca

## Photo of the month



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Waterloo citizens and their pets alike enjoyed the outdoors at this year's multicultural festival.

## This Month in quotes



“It's important to realize that the board should never just be a rubber stamping body.”

—Luke Dotto, WLUSU director

“They get noisy sometimes, but the parties are pretty interesting. It's a lot of table games and once in a while there's a true keg party, they get pretty noisy, but come nine or ten o'clock, everybody disappears. I guess they're going over to the more 'formal areas.'”

—Larch street resident Jim Facey on his student neighbours

“Some people's ability just doesn't leave them with the grades they expected. They could study and raise those grades but people aren't going to study 15 hours a day, they might be very unhappy.”

—Todd Stinebricker, University of Western Ontario professor of economics, on how some people just aren't cut out for university

“What people don't understand is that this is the largest multi-sport event next to the Olympics. There's going to 8,000 athletes, I believe that Vancouver had 3,000, so you can well imagine the size.”

—Peter Baxter discussing the FISU Summer University Games

## If we only knew back then ...

Tweets of advice to first-years from senior students and alumni

- @buddheather — Dishes can make or break friendships #wlu #laurier #advice
- @jordan\_epstein — Pissing off TAs is a bad idea. No matter how valid your reason. #Oops #WLU #Laurier
- @k\_walks — I wish I had known that it was okay that my residence room looked like an actual Ikea. Everyone had the same stuff.
- @sfranchetto11 — the support resources available at Laurier should be promoted more effectively. Also, I wish I had talked to my profs more often.
- @Lachancephoto — Don't worry about feeling awkward, it's a big change and everyone is going through the same thing.

Quote of the week:  
“I guess you do smell and photos will come out”  
—Photography manager Nick Lachance re: a certain, specific elderly faculty member.

## Vocal Cord

Did you do as well as you should have in first year?



“Yeah, I found university to be a pretty easy transition.”  
—Kathryn Lawler  
Third-year music



“Absolutely not. I failed a course in my first term. I was too wrapped up in other things, I had a new relationship, I was focusing on friends and res, and then I realized 'oh crap, you have to study?'”  
—Nicole Adam  
Alumna, music



“I didn't do well at all. I lived at home, so I didn't feel connected and I really didn't try at all.”  
—Jenni Van Rees  
Alumna, sociology



“Yeah I think I did pretty well. I went to most of my classes in first-year.”  
—Tyler Brakel  
Alumnus, history



“No. I didn't adapt to the way you're supposed to study.”  
—Victor Tom  
Fourth-year economics

Compiled by Justin Fautoux  
Photos by Nick Lachance

## NEWS

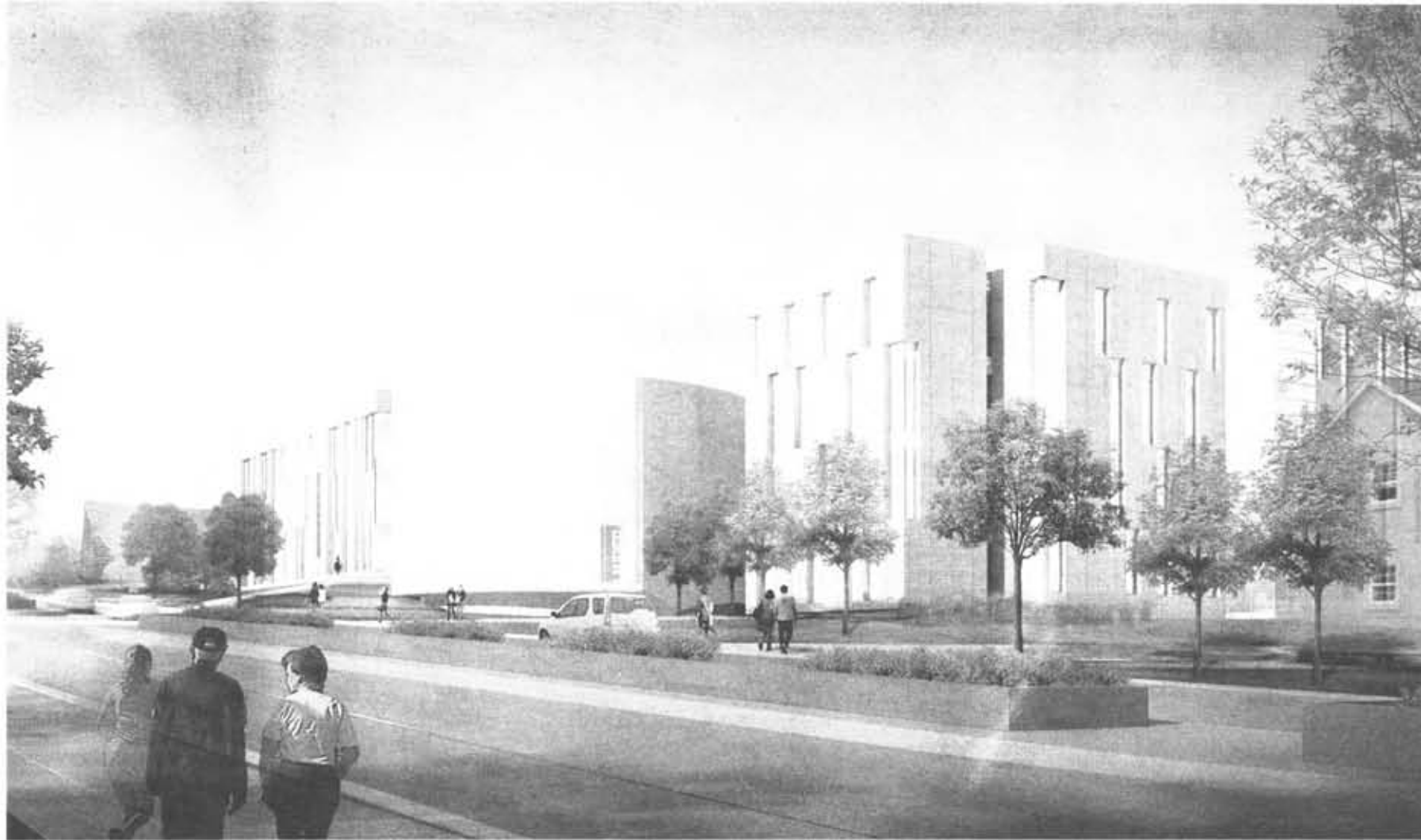
News Director Justin Fauteux • jfauteux@thecord.ca

## Inside

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# Ontario invests in Laurier

\$72.6-million investment to fuel construction of new building at St. Michael's site



COURTESY OF WLU PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A view of the Global Innovation Exchange building from University Ave. This new building will replace Laurier's St. Michael's campus.

LINDA GIVETASH  
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Since St. Michael's campus was initially purchased and renovated in 2001, the space has reflected the ever-growing student population at Wilfrid Laurier University. On June 20, the provincial government announced that it would be funding Laurier \$72.6 million to develop a more long-term building on the St. Michael's site: the Global Innovation Exchange (GIE).

The four-storey building, which will include seven lecture halls and a 1,000-seat auditorium, is set to house Laurier's school of business and economics, as well as the mathematics program, which are currently located in the Bricker Academic, Schlegel Centre and Peters building.

"One of the underlying principles this is going to address is integrating the business school much more into the community," said Ginny Dybenko, Laurier executive: strategic initiatives and former dean for the school of business, following the announcement. "The reason we called it 'innovation exchange' is to attract organizations and companies into the space so they can rub shoulders with the professors and the students."

To promote this dialogue between companies, professors and students, according to Dybenko, the GIE will also house a cafe equipped with white boards for patrons to write out ideas while meeting over food or drinks.

The investment in the GIE was the first of 12 announcements made over the course of the week by Liberal MPP and minister of training, colleges and universities John Milloy to improve the infrastructure at post-secondary institutions across the province as part of government's new Putting Students First plan.

In line with the plan to provide more spots in classrooms, the GIE is intended to support an increase of 2,000 students at Laurier, which university president Max Blouw explained will greatly be made up of international students and graduate-level students.

Pronouncing the focus the



COURTESY OF WLU PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Along with the courtyard depicted above, the GIE will feature a cafe and an atrium with a 'green wall.'

province is placing on students, Milloy, when making his announcement in Laurier's Senate and Board chambers, expressed, "The most important people in the room are students."

Further stating the Liberal government's vision, with a provincial election scheduled for this October, Milloy said, "We have a government that has put a real focus on education."

"We need a government that is going to challenge its citizens to think about the future," he later added regarding the provinces responsibility to keep taxes low but simultaneously contribute to long-term investments.

Following the funding announced for post-secondary institutions, on June 24 the province's Liberal minister of infrastructure Bob Chiarelli also announced a 10-year, \$35-million plan for Ontario. WLU stated it is welcoming this investment that includes commitments to universities and colleges.

While Laurier received the province's largest investment through the Putting Students First campaign, there remains a gap of

approximately \$30 million to complete the project.

Robert Donelson, vice president: development and alumni relations, who is overseeing the fundraising campaign explained the process for the months ahead.

"Phase one of our campaign is going to focus on the Global Innovation Exchange and the projects in the school of business and economics but primarily our focus will be generating the \$30 million to complete the construction," said Donelson, due to the urgency with the government's investment.

"We would be seeking financial support from both alumni and the corporate world, various foundations that would support these kinds of projects," he explained that will ideally fulfill the target within 18 to 24 months.

Further explaining that phase one of the campaign hopes to bring in \$55 million in order to also support scholarships, professorships and chairs within SBE, Donelson said that one of the opportunities for donors will include naming different spaces of the new building, from classrooms to wings.

"The other project that we want to focus on is the actual naming of the school of business and economics. Most major business schools in Canada — Ivey, Schulich, Rotman — they're all named for prominent donors, so we would like to explore the potential naming of the school as well," he added.

The project is the first of Laurier's master plan, which according to Blouw, will intensify by replacing and renovating spaces already existing on campus. Later fundraising initiatives will focus on other related projects across the university.

A timeline for building the GIE has yet to be announced, however the university does want the building to be complete in 2014.

The office of the registrar has already taken the precaution of moving fall and winter term courses and tutorials for the upcoming school year that were originally planned for St. Michael's campus to other buildings. According to registrar Ray Darling, the only students that may have been impacted by schedule changes were first-year students who had registered for classes earlier in June.

## News in brief

### Tuition fees on the rise

Last Thursday, the Wilfrid Laurier University board of governors approved the university's budgets for the 2011-12 year and included was a slight rise in tuition fees. According to WLU vice president: finance and administration Jim Butler, tuition fees will rise by an average of about 4.6 per cent. Butler also mentioned that the increase will fluctuate between regulated programs, for example a standard bachelor of arts in English, and deregulated programs, such as a master's program. Some deregulated programs, such as master's of business administration (MBA) will see a slightly lessened rise in tuition fees.

### Laurier student named to top 20 under 20

Earlier this month, WLU business student Corey Sherwood was named to the national top 20 under 20, presented by Youth in Motion. Sherwood, who is currently working in his first co-op term with Xerox Canada, was recognized for co-founding a mentoring and resource website for high school and also for fundraising initiatives for Haiti in the wake of the Jan. 2010 earthquake that devastated the nation. Sherwood, whose mother hails from Haiti, founded the organization We Love You (WLU) Haiti and has raised \$18,000.

### Biology prof wins research award

In late May, Laurier biologist Lucy Lee was designated the school's University Research Professor for 2011-12. This means that Lee will be able to devote more time to her research, which is rooted in cell biology. She will also receive funding to help with her research.

Lee has been a professor at Laurier since 1997 and has become an expert in the field of reducing, refining or replacing animals in assessing environmental risk. A large portion of her research during this year will be devoted to producing a lobster cell line, which will combat the threat of overfishing by making lobster farming more feasible.

### Laurier creates first chair in brand communication

Thanks to a \$1.9-million investment by 45 leading Canadian brands, Wilfrid Laurier University has been able to create the nation's first chair in brand communication. Marketing research expert Brad Davis will take on the role, which will require him to strengthen Laurier's relationships with the brand communication industry.

### Raffi, Lt. Gen. Dallaire receive Laurier degrees

This past month, Wilfrid Laurier University held its spring convocation and along with the 2,461 students who received their diplomas, the university award honorary degrees to noteworthy figures.

Among those who received the honorary degrees at the Waterloo campus were famed musician and children's activist Raffi Cavoukian, former UN commander the honourable Lt - General (Ret.) Roméo Dallaire, co-founders of Free the Children Craig and Marc Kielburger and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour. At the Brantford campus, H. Fisk Johnson, CEO of SC Johnson received an honorary degree. For more on these stories, visit [thecord.ca](http://thecord.ca).

—All compiled by Justin Fauteux

# CAMPUS

Campus News Editor Justin Smirlies • [jsmirlies@thecord.ca](mailto:jsmirlies@thecord.ca)

## Easing the transition

Faculties create new initiatives to help first-year students adjust to university

**JUSTIN SMIRLIES**  
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

As many students step into their first year at Wilfrid Laurier University, their academic experience may differ from students in the past. In particular, the arts faculty, for the first time, has introduced ten first-year seminars — something originally only offered in fourth-year.

These seminars range from a variety of topics and will be capped at 20 students each. While they only reach 200 students from the faculty, dean of arts Michael Carroll hopes to continue to change the face of arts education.

"There is now an immense literature on high impact teaching practises and when you go through that literature, first-year seminars are always mentioned," Carroll explained. "First-year seminars are always on the top five high impact teaching practises that are listed."

Carroll noted that he wanted to have these seminars in place last year, but the faculty did not have the funds to do so.

But this year, with funding from the vice president: academic budget, the faculty was able to direct \$75,000 into the creation of the first-year seminars.

The seminars, which will be offered in history, philosophy, communication studies and other arts programs, will be writing intensive

and research focused, with a high level of professor and student interaction. Faculty and professors, according to Carroll, were very interested to get involved in the new project.

In February, *The Cord* reported lower-than-average grades for first-year students, but Carroll stated that these seminars have been in discussion well before that was discovered. "In the fall term, we had a faculty working group, specifically discussing on what we can do to enhance the first-year experience," said Carroll.

But Carroll doesn't want to leave the number of seminars at ten, or have that be the only change to the first-year experience. "One of the suggestions, right from the beginning, was first year seminars [but] we're exploring other suggestions as well," said Carroll, noting that this is part of his strategy.

With hopes of receiving more funding for the seminars, Carroll also hopes to implement more residential learning communities. These will consist of 20-25 students living together on a floor who are all part of the same program.

Currently, there are residential learning communities in the school of business and economics (SBE) and one, for the geography program, in the arts faculty.

As well, one of the first-year seminars is linked to the geography



LIZZY COOK GRAPHICS ARTIST

residential learning community.

In the business faculty, which will gain 1200 first-year students, initiatives are being made to assist struggling first-year business students earlier in the fall term.

"Last year, we were proactive to begin with but didn't have a lot of people interested in it. This year, we're going to start really early, so it might have a little more of an effect," said Bill Salataka, the undergraduate business programs director, adding that the faculty will contact students

right after their mid-terms rather than at the end of the term.

The faculty will also incorporate the School of Business and Economics Student Society (SBESS) in the summer Headstart programs. According to Salataka, this will add more preparation to incoming business students.

Salataka also stated that minor changes are happening to the introductory business courses, "A lot of really neat changes are happening to that course, it will be evolutionary.

The changes that were proposed, [while] all can't be done at once, it will help students."

Both the arts faculty and SBE are working towards to enhance the first-year experience and will continue to work on it in the following years.

"Quite a major project with that volume of students," concluded Salataka, "We plan to keep trying, we definitely want students to get through. How that gets done, we're not sure yet."

## BOD approves three projects, rejects one

**LINDA GIVETASH**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The board of directors of Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union met on June 16 to pass three capital expenditures that were proposed and decline a fourth. In total the capital budget amounts to over \$140,000 that could increase if and when the declined proposal is amended and brought back to the board.

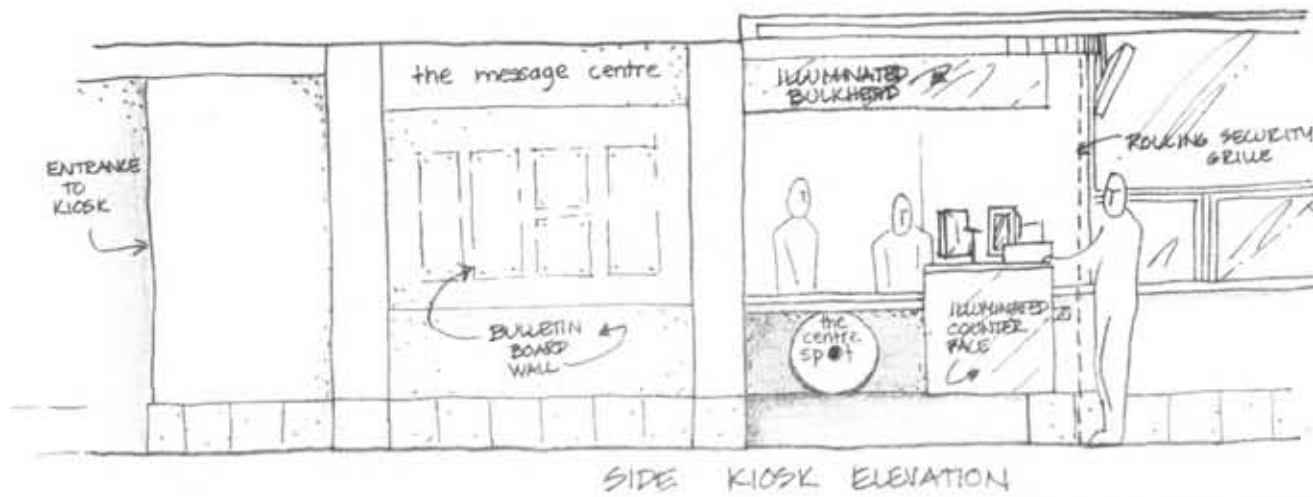
### Failed space

The first capital project presented to the board was to renovate the bar area of the Hawk's Nest, located on the fourth floor of the Fred Nichols Campus Centre (FNCC), for office space for the campus clubs and faculty associations depart.

Following much debate among the board about the \$60,150 project, proposed by Codi Costello, vice president campus clubs and faculty associations for WLUSU, the motion to pass it failed, with only two of the 11 directors present voting in favour.

Commenting on why he voted against the project, Chris Oberle, a third-time director, said, "When you're doing big money proposals you want to make sure you've consulted everyone that could be affected by it."

"They made suggestions on Facebook and Twitter, but it didn't seem that they made a really strong effort to talk to clubs about what they actually wanted," added Oberle, reiterating criticisms that were raised



SIDE KIOSK ELEVATION

COURTESY OF ELEMENTAL INTERIOR DESIGN

A mock up of the U-Desk, which will be located in the Hall of Fame, across from the entrance to Wilf's.

at the meeting that not enough individual campus club members were contacted about the potential office space.

The office was designed to include a large meeting table with a television screen able to hook up to computers, a comfortable seating area and a reception desk and computer. Costello did explain to the board that these items reflected recommendations from previous assistant-vice presidents that oversaw campus clubs.

"I wanted to see more resources that help campus clubs do their job better," said first-time director Luke Dotto, who also noted that many board members have also had experience being members and presidents of both campus clubs and faculty associations and overall felt that new resources were not adequate to

meet the needs of those groups.

"There's already meeting space on campus, there's already comfortable spaces on campus. I want to see actual resources in place, tools, utilities to allow them to reach out to students more, that allow them to run more effectively, to allow them to generate more funding," said Dotto.

Looking at the results of capital expenditure meetings in recent years, it is rare for the board to decline a project. When asked why the board showed such caution in approaching the 2011-12 proposals, Oberle said that the current board has learned from past mistakes of projects going wrong.

"We don't want to end up where we were last year and approve something that's at this cost and all of a sudden it ends up being

ballooned by almost 50 per cent of the original," he said, referring to the Terrace expansion that went over budget.

"If the board doesn't feel that it's within the best interests of students then there's dollars then we have to review that and think what is important for student dollars," Oberle added.

While this project will not be coming into fruition, both Oberle and Dotto were clear that they want a new proposal brought to the board to ensure that campus clubs will eventually get the space and resources they need.

WLUSU president Nick Gibson ensured that there will be a new proposal put together and for the interim, a temporary space will be put together. "We do have a few plans but it's a really small scale it's not a

long term plan," he said, highlighting the fact that Gibson and the management group still have a lot to plan in the weeks ahead to improve the proposal.

### Improved services

For the items that did pass, two of the major projects will include a \$40,000 upgrade of the union's website and a new member services desk on the second floor of the FNCC. Foot Patrol was also granted funds to upgrade their radio system.

The member services desk, or U-Desk, is intended to help students access the services the union and university have to offer.

With the Centre Spot becoming International News, items such as Greyhound and concert tickets and local transit information will be transferred to the U-Desk. The employees at the desk will also assist students with opting out of the union's health and dental plan and provide general information about the university.

"It's going to be offering a lot of new stuff as well," Dotto noted.

"Never before have we had partnership, I know there aren't many international students but as a student from out of province myself, I don't like always having to go buy a ticket online to fly back to Vancouver .... If I can buy it on campus, it saves me a lot of time and saves me a lot of headache, and it could also save me money."

The U-Desk is scheduled to be ready for the fall term.

The next issue of The Cord will be out July 27. Until then, keep up-to-date on campus news at [thecord.ca](http://thecord.ca).

# Students to keep existing jobs

— cover

employs a management team on campus for the dining hall, the Terrace will get a separate team to oversee it.

"We felt that it was probably needed for the first year," Thomas explained of the distinct managers. "There will be a lot of things to work through and we only have a short period of time this summer to make it all happen."

Gibson explained that there had been efforts made to ensure that the full-time employees being let go would be notified first and as soon as possible, though there was still little notice given due to the process of the negotiations. "I had to sit through those meetings, you look across the table and picture that being your parents or your dad there and it's difficult," he said. "Ultimately my role is to ensure that students at large are being served properly, and I think the student employees

have been served really well."

Fourth-year film and cultural studies student Jackie Twomey has worked at the Union Market in the Terrace since Sept. 2008. She was cautiously optimistic about the changeover, though she noted that employees were facing losing a promised 25-cent raise and were uncertain what would be expected of them from the new management.

"The Terrace for us isn't just a job," she said. "I've devoted so much time to the Terrace since first year because I love the environment and love working there — I'm just nervous it will be different."

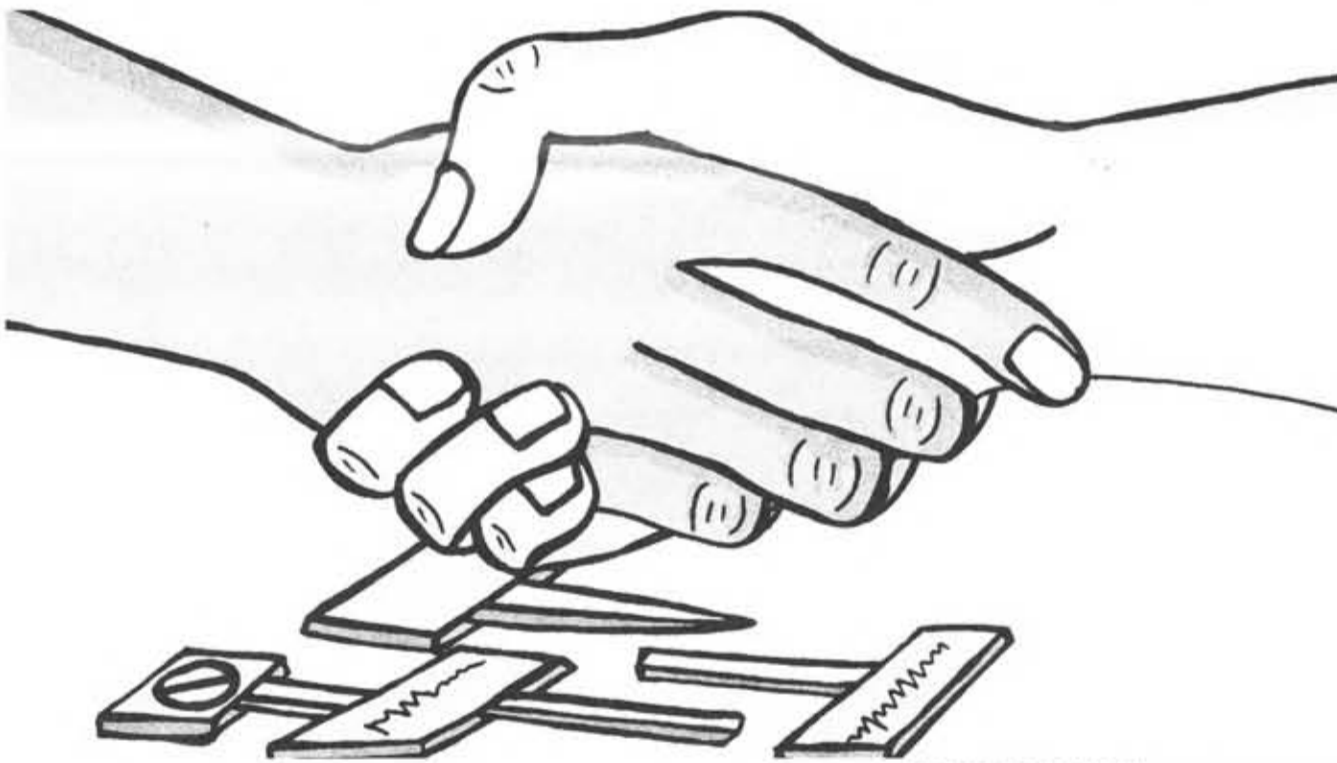
Gibson said that it was more than likely Aramark would retain the student managers, though nothing was being guaranteed. "Ultimately Aramark has expressed to us ... that they're very happy about how we go about our hiring so they'll see how these leaders work and they'll probably put them in the exact equivalent positions," he explained.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

The Terrace Food Court, which is under construction for the summer months will have some new additions, including a Subway and Spring Rolls GO, when it re-opens in September.

# CAS strike avoided



TAYLOR GAYOWSKY GRAPHICS EDITOR

University, contract academic staff reach tentative agreement

JUSTIN FAUTEUX  
NEWS DIRECTOR

In the winter of 2008, a large portion of Wilfrid Laurier University's classes and tutorials were abruptly put on hold as the university's contract academic staff (CAS) went on strike. However, a repeat of that situation has, for the time being, been avoided.

Early in the morning of June 16, university administration and the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA) reached a tentative agreement for a new collective bargaining agreement with Laurier's CAS.

"I would categorize it as very efficient set of negotiations," said Laurier vice president of finance and administration Jim Butler. "Any collective agreement that we have is important, and to have a deal that we hope will be ratified is excellent from our standpoint."

The bargaining period lasted 29 days and came to an end at about 3:00 a.m. June 16, after a marathon negotiation with a provincial mediator.

"We had a day of mediation on the 15th of June and we worked all day with the mediator who ran back between the two parties," said

geography and environmental studies professor Judy Bates, who serves as an Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations and Canadian Association of University Teachers representative for WLUFA.

"There were few meetings between the two parties at the negotiating table but the mediator moved between the two sides and finally we reached the tentative settlement at about 3:00 in the morning on the 16th of June. So it was a very long day, as we started around 9:00 in the morning."

According to Bates, while the negotiations never deteriorated to the point that they did prior to the 2008 strike, the two sides still faced difficulty in reaching this tentative agreement.

"There was never much discussion of the possibility of the strike but the negotiations were difficult there's no doubt about that," she said. "We struggled over a huge number of meetings and then we had conciliation over a four-day period and we made progress but there were still outstanding issues."

Following the four-day conciliation period, Bates said that the WLUFA negotiators requested a mediation-arbitration in which the mediator would become an arbitrator

after a set amount of negotiation and decide upon a settlement. However, the university did not agree to that step and the two sides opted for the mediation period that eventually produced the tentative agreement.

Since being reached, the deal has been ratified by the WLU board of governors, however, in order to become official it still needs ratification from the CAS union members. Until that point, the two parties are unable to discuss the details of the agreement.

"The board ratified the deal [last Thursday], but we're waiting on the ratification of the union," said Butler. "I'm told until they ratify, we're bound not to disclose the terms of the deal. As you can imagine, the members should be the first to hear what the terms are."

According to Bates, the union members will meet in the fall to discuss the ratification of the agreement, as the majority of the university's CAS are currently away from campus.

The university is now in negotiations with the Wilfrid Laurier University Staff Association, which encompasses Laurier's support and clerical staff. Bargaining with full-time faculty will begin in the coming weeks.

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"I'm just delighted, I love the institution, I think the faculty, the students, the staff are just fabulous."

—Laurier president Max Blouw on being re-appointed

## Second term for Blouw

Wilfrid Laurier University president and vice-chancellor appointed an extension until August of 2017

**JUSTIN FAUTEUX**  
NEWS DIRECTOR

For Wilfrid Laurier University president Max Blouw, the past five years have been all about planning and laying groundwork. But last Thursday, he found out that he'll be around to see plans be completed.

On June 24, the WLU Board of Governors appointed Blouw to his second term as Laurier's president and vice-chancellor, meaning he'll continue to serve as the eighth president in the school's history.

"I'm just delighted," said Blouw of his re-appointment. "I love the institution, I think the faculty, the students, the staff are just fabulous. The community is just a wonderful place where we've got an exciting future ahead and I'm just delighted to part of it."

Blouw's term as president and vice-chancellor began on Sept. 1, 2007 and is scheduled to end Aug. 31, 2012. His second term will officially begin Sept. 1, 2012 and last until Aug. 31, 2017.

Under Blouw, Laurier has grown from a school of just over 11,000 students to its current population of nearly 14,000. However, what the president is most proud of is the plans he and his team have put in place to handle that growth.

"What we've been trying to do and it's not just me, it's the senior team, is establish a clear sense of direction and priority for the university," said Blouw. "It's involved quite a bit of master campus planning, academic planning, financial budget planning that was more background that showed up in each budget since I've arrived here."

Establishing Laurier as a multi-campus university has been an area of particular interest to Blouw during his time at the university. Since 2007, WLU has expanded offerings and enrolment at both its Brantford and Kitchener campuses and has also established offices in both Toronto and Chongqing, China.

"I feel all that was laying the ground work for a new future in the new century of the university and that new future is explicitly as a multi-campus university," said Blouw. "I believe that here in Waterloo, the community needs to think of itself increasingly as a multi-campus university. Certainly in Brantford they do, in Kitchener they do, in the Toronto office, in the Chongqing office, they know they're part of a multi-campus entity. I believe also that we have a wonderful opportunity now to build some real excellence and areas of excellence at the university over an above what we already have."

One of the key projects of Blouw's first term was the establishment of Laurier's campus master plan, the first phase of which became tangible just last week. On June 20, Laurier unveiled its plans for a new building known as the Global Innovation Exchange, which replace the school's current St. Michael's Campus.

"That really is part of my excitement at being re-appointed," said Blouw. "We really have areas of excellence that we can pursue and clearly the Global Innovation Exchange building will help us in that. It's really exciting to now be on the implementation side of things and we'll see lots of progress over the next little while."

When it comes to his vision for his second term, Blouw sees the university continuing to expand in population, however he realizes the importance of being strategic with such growth.

"On the Waterloo campus, we hope to limit growth to some extent," he said.

"We will be growing, but hopefully more with international students and graduate students, less emphasis on undergraduate students. In terms of undergraduate enrolment, I think in Brantford we're developing a lot of good programs and there's capacity there to grow quite a bit."



MIKE LAKUSIAK IN DEPTH EDITOR

Max Blouw has been president and vice-chancellor since 2007.

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## WLU receives pension relief

**JUSTIN SMIRLIES**  
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

For the past few years, one of the major concerns for Wilfrid Laurier University's budget and staff was the ailing pension plan and its growing deficit. But on June 2, Laurier gained approval from the Ontario government to receive stage-one of the temporary pension funding relief.

"It buys us time," explained Jim Butler, VP: finance and administration. "We now don't have to file the 2010 valuation which if we had to file that, it would take the actuarial estimate to about \$67 million on a growing concern deficiency."

The solvency pension relief program from the government has exempted Laurier from making any special solvency payments for three years from Dec. 31 2009. This coming year, the special payments to the plan have reached an amount of \$6.4 million.

"So it's about \$6.4 million overall and this is an ongoing issue for the university," continued Butler.

"We're going to have come up with a solution to the potential plan that frees up those funds that could go into faculty hiring, class sizes, capital, there's a hundred different uses that we could make for that amount of money."

Budget cuts of 0.8 per cent and 0.6 per cent will be made to the 2012-13 and 2013-14 academic years to help aid the payments for the pension plan, but it has not been determined where those cuts will occur.

Butler also noted that the plan is currently only 80 per cent funded and hopes to make it to the 100 per cent mark.

With this solvency relief plan, the university does not have to file for evaluation until December of 2012. During those three years, since the first actuarial evaluation in 2009, the university has the opportunity to review their pension plan with its employees to come up with a more sustainable plan.

To receive stage-two relief, the university will have to demonstrate that substantial progress has been made towards their proposed sustainability plan.

"Government will review it and if it's acceptable then we're fine, if it's not fine then we revert back to the existing pension benefits act regulation, which means we'd have to file every year and start making increased contributions to the pension plan," said Butler.

"Which again takes money away from other uses."  
—With files from Justin Fauteux and Linda Givetash

**\$60 million**

Estimated cost of the 'on-going' pension plan deficit

**80%**

The approximate percentage of funding by the university for the pension plan

**2012**

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Proposed budget cuts for 2012-13

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## LOCAL

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# Student neighbourhood up for sale

Residents of Northdale, the area behind WLU's St. Michael's campus band together to sell homes

**JUSTIN FAUTEUX**  
NEWS DIRECTOR

The area dubbed by many to be the 'student ghetto' has become one of the most valuable pieces of real estate in Kitchener-Waterloo.

On June 17, 31 'for sale' signs popped up in front of houses on Hickory, Balsam, Larch and Hemlock Streets, a large chunk of the Northdale neighbourhood, which occupies the area behind Wilfrid Laurier University's St. Michael's Campus. Five days later, eight houses on Hazel Street joined the mass sale, bringing the total to 39 homes and making it a full two blocks that was available for a buyer with deep enough pockets.

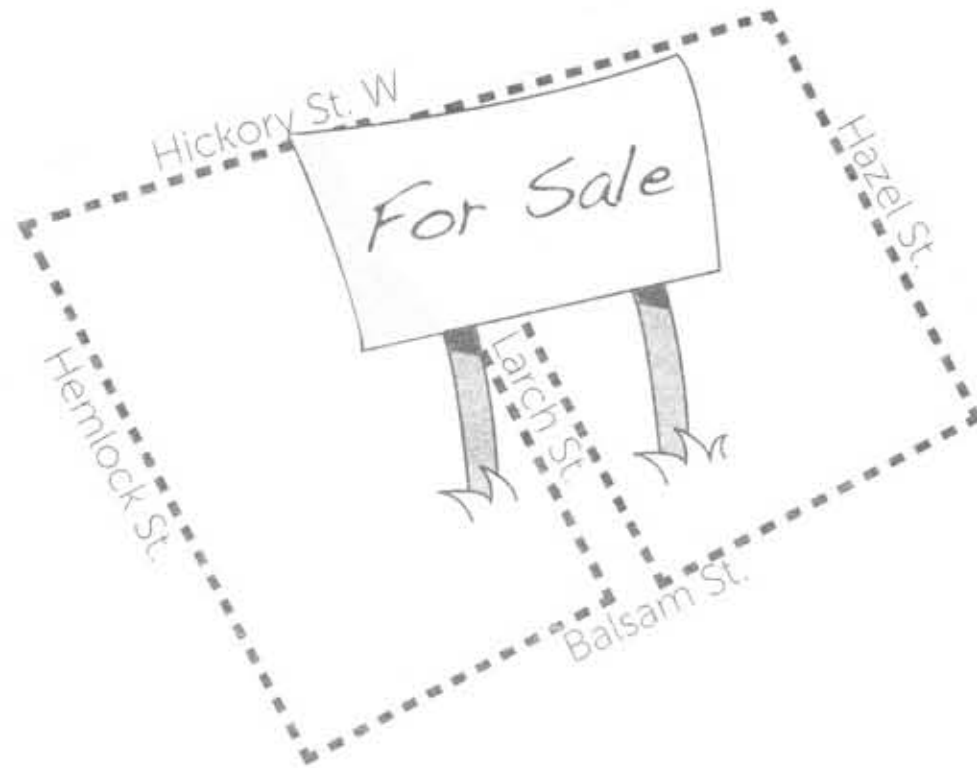
"It's two complete blocks right in the middle of Wilfrid Laurier's two campuses. It's an incredible piece of property and the interest in it is spectacular," said Paul Ellingham, the man who got this organized group sale off the ground.

"There are many parties in discussion [to buy the two blocks] at this point, I can't say much more because there are so many negotiations going on, but I can only say that I'm really excited about the opportunity of something great."

Ellingham, a chaplain at both WLU and the University of Waterloo lived in the Northdale for 15 years before he moved in 2010. He still owns a house on Larch Street, which he rents out.

He came up with the idea for the homeowners to sell their houses as a group, rather than individually, after their property values plummeted due to the influx of low-cost student housing in the area.

Those falling property values were combined with ongoing issues



## WLU St. Michael's Campus

WADE THOMPSON VISUAL DIRECTOR

The 38 houses involved in the Northdale sale span Hickory, Hemlock, Hazel, Balsam and Larch Streets.

with the City of Waterloo and in April of this past month, those issues with the city came to a head when Waterloo City Council passed a new rental bylaw.

The new bylaw, which will come into effect in April of 2012, limits the number of tenants in a rental unit to four, which in Ellingham eyes makes renting out a house in Northdale unfeasible.

"The policy of the city is

eliminating a whole level of our more affordable living space," he said. "There needs to be a variety of housing options... you can't find anything under \$500-600 in the highrise apartments but the city seems to have this desire to see all students forced into highrise buildings."

So Ellingham went around the neighbourhood asking the owners of the houses if they would be

interested in the group sale, with the hopes of attracting a large investment from either a developer or any institution with the money.

And in the end 38 houses were on board, of which about 12 are occupied by their owners and 26 are owned by landlords. For Jim Facey, who has lived in his Larch Street home for 56 years, this sale seemed like his only option.

"Families aren't going to move in

here with their children. There are no [elementary] schools, there are no stores nearby, so a parent coming in with little children is going to have a problem living here," said Facey. "Now with the restrictions on the new rental bylaw, you can only rent four bedrooms and a bedroom's worth about \$65,000 each... That's a far cry from the almost \$400,000 [that the house is worth]... It has devastated our property values."

While problems between students and permanent residents have been a well-documented problem in Northdale, according to Ellingham, they are not the problem.

"The people in Northdale are not against students at all. We wouldn't have been there for as many decades as we were if the students were the problem," he said. "The change at this point is the city's attitude. That's what causing us the grief."

Waterloo city councillor Jeff Henry, who has Northdale in his Ward 6, declined to comment, however he did say that the city would continue to work with the neighbourhood in the ongoing community improvement plan study.

As for the students and other tenants who have leases in the area, Ellingham urges that this is nothing to panic about.

"Anything of this magnitude and of this potential will take at least two years for anything to happen," he said.

The homeowners had originally planned on selling the land at auction, on June 26, however decided to postpone that date.

"We are still on track for the auction," said Ellingham. "We're still looking towards that, however, at the same time, other things could happen before we get to the auction."

# LRT debate finally over

After eight years of discussion and extensive research, regional council decides to bring light rail transit to Waterloo Region

**LINDSAY PURCHASE**  
LEAD REPORTER

In a momentous and visionary decision for Waterloo Region, years of deliberation and disjunction came to a close on June 15 with a 9-2 verdict by regional councillors in support of moving forward with a Light Rail Transit (LRT) system.

The decision has been a long time coming. The process began officially in 2003, when regional council adopted the Regional Growth Management Strategy (RGMS) to evaluate different transit options. A landmark came in 2009, when LRT was selected as the preferential option to consider over Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) or improving road infrastructure. Kitchener Mayor Carl Zehr commented during the monumental council meeting, "the preferred and recommended proposal may not be perfect, but if we wait until we think we have the perfect plan, we will never start the project."

Proponents of LRT believe it is a more environmentally friendly system than BRT and will aid in greater development of the cities' cores, in order to avoid further sprawl. Regional population is expected to increase by a massive 200,000 by 2031.

The original rail line proposal has been set to run from Fairway

Road in Kitchener up to Conestoga Mall in Waterloo, making 18 stops along the way. A rapid bus route will extend to the Ainslie Terminal in Cambridge, with plans to extend the light rail line at an unspecified date. However, a motion raised and passed by regional councillor Sean Strickland and passed at the June 15 meeting will have the region "explore the feasibility of changing the route ... along Caroline St. and also in Uptown Waterloo."

Waterloo mayor Brenda Halloran was vehemently opposed to any review of the proposed routing, claiming that the potential reevaluation "came as a complete surprise." Halloran feared that were the line to be moved, it might interfere with the newly constructed public square.

Although most councillors claimed they heard mainly positive feedback from citizens, the process has not been without its controversy. Many opposed the \$818-million project due to the annual property tax increases that will accompany it, beginning next year.

Halloran, who voted in opposition to LRT, was greatly impacted by the financial concerns voiced by her constituents throughout the process.

"I hear many of my citizens saying I don't know how we're going to afford to live in Waterloo anymore if

our taxes go up," she said. "I'm very proud that I stood firm for my campaign promise to tens of thousands of citizens who counted on me to be their voice, and I did it, and I didn't back down."

Community support has certainly not been unanimous for the project. Eric, a University of Waterloo student who declined to declare his last name, admitted, "The cost does have me a little worried, because I don't know, it doesn't seem as if we need it."

Explaining further, Eric said, "I feel as if we needed a better bus system, like the GRT [Grand River Transit] needed to get better."

This was in contrast with the viewpoint presented by Wilfrid Laurier student Gareth D'Costa, who voiced his opinion that it "makes more sense to do it now rather than later on."

D'Costa felt that the faster speed of the LRT as well as the reduced impact of sprawl to the Region's outlying farmland would be beneficial, but conceded that he is "... not really concerned right now because it's going to take awhile to implement."

Students attending Wilfrid Laurier in the fall can anticipate construction to begin in 2014, with the anticipated conclusion of the project scheduled for 2017.



NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO

Young and old came out to show their support for LRT during the contentious debate that preceded regional council's decision.

# Region's water supply could be a concern

AMANDA STEINER  
LOCAL NATIONAL EDITOR

Take the water out of the name "Waterloo" and you don't get the greatest image of this rapidly burgeoning city. However, if community members don't start taking water conservation more seriously, there might be a serious water problem in Waterloo.

Cathy MacLellan, who was the Green Party candidate for Kitchener-Waterloo in the 2011 federal election, stressed the importance of water conservation and protection.

"There are a number of strains on our water sources," she said. "The city is taking steps to find solutions but it's important that people become more aware of how serious this problem is." Once water is gone, she continued, it's gone.

"Waterloo is a rapidly growing city," MacLellan said. "With more people comes more construction, more pavement — cement industries use a huge amount of water. But we only have so much. Should there be limits placed on how many people can move here?"

Apparently not. Eric Hodgins, Waterloo Region's manager of hydrogeology and source water said Waterloo is "the up and coming city to target growth."

And in fact, since the implementation of the outdoor water use by-law in 2005 that limited people's lawn watering to one night a week, education programs and incentives for low flush toilets, Hodgins said that the region has "certainly seen decreased demand of water even with the increased population growth of the city."

"We are also looking for additional groundwater wells and have proposed a pipeline in 2031 that runs from Waterloo Region to Lake Erie as an additional source of water in the long term," added Hodgins.

MacLellan does not see the pipeline as a viable solution.

"Other communities are thinking the exact same way," she said. "What's that saying? There are only so many straws that can take from one source?" She continued to add that not only will multiple communities be using that water, but there is also climate change and storm water to consider as impacts.

When The Cord asked Hodgins what he thought about multiple communities straining Lake Erie, he said, "It's important to keep in mind that the great lakes are an extremely

“It's important that people become aware of how serious this problem is.”

—Cathy MacLellan  
Green Party candidate, 2011

large water system. Granted, there is also a great population around them, but our small contribution isn't going to have the biggest impact." He added that this plan was going to have to be assessed and tested.

As well, permission will be needed from the federal government before implementation.

"Water is such a precious source," MacLellan said passionately. "People are calling it 'the blue gold'. Other communities are starting to think ahead about protecting and preserving their water, and I think that's great. It's something we should be doing too."

Waterloo region uses approximately 180 million litres of water per day so it's important that citizens start paying more attention to their water usage and conservation. According to Hodgins, the region is already paying close attention. "Waterloo Region uses a multi-component system and it is the most advanced in Ontario for water efficiency measures," he said.

He went on to say that the city is working with industries to complete water audits and create low flow washing nozzles to reduce water use.

Though MacLellan was playing a little more to the side of devil's advocate for water conservation, she did mention that there were positive steps being taken.

"This all sounds so depressing," MacLellan said laughing. "So I want to add a little optimism. The city is taking steps and some people are starting to pay attention. The good thing is, since we waste so much, we have much greater room for improvement. I mean, if we were already doing the best we could and couldn't improve, then I'd be worried."



NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO

Mel's Diner after it was gutted during last April's Campus Court fire that destroyed several businesses.

## From breakfast to burgers

—cover

across the street from Wilfrid Laurier University. As he describes it, this burger pub will be a combination of two of Waterloo's most legendary eateries, Mel's Diner and Ethel's Lounge.

"Glen Smith who owns Ethel's Lounge came and found me and we worked out some details and this is his brain child really," said Smith. "It's a great location, a great concept and we're just really excited to get going."

In addition, Jerry Smith will resume his role operating the beloved Mel's Diner in the not too distant future.

"You won't even know there was a fire," said Smith of the re-opening of Mel's. "It'll be exactly what was there before. Except, with a three-year demolition plan."

"So the plan is to run for three years, take it down and then rebuild with the high rises on top," he explained.

While there is no set timetable for the rebuilding of Mel's, Smith said

the property owners are confident that they will be ready to go by September, though that may mean only having a building in place and not being able to open.

Smith has spent the year since the fire with a multitude of questions and since the new year, Waterloo Regional Police Services (WRPS) and the Ontario Fire Marshal's office have begun producing answers.

In early January, the Ontario Fire Marshal's office had confirmed the cause of the fire to be arson and in the following months, a total of four arrests were made in connection with the case. In April, Daniel Campbell and William Schneider of Kitchener and Lyntje Zinger of Hawkesville were arrested, while on June 22, Brent Campbell, who owns Titanium nightclub in Uptown Waterloo, became the fourth suspect charged.

WRPS is unable to release any details of the cases.

"I think it was pretty obvious right off the bat that it was arson. The fire marshals said 'we know what

happened here, we just have to prove it,' and that was within a week of the fire," said Smith. "I'm actually surprised they came up with it, to prove arson, you almost have to see the guy light the match."

According to Smith, these arrests and confirmations do provide closure, however they don't make what happened last April any easier.

"It would be like a family losing a child and never finding them," he said. "We found some people who were responsible for it but it doesn't make it any better. It doesn't make it any easier, it doesn't fix anything, it just puts closure to it, I guess."

Regardless of who or what was to blame for the fire, Smith's eyes are now only looking forward, both to the opening of Frat Burger and the return of Mel's.

"I'm anxious to get back to work, to open the doors, take the paper off the windows and say 'here we are' and see how the response is," he said. "Just start building that vibe again with the locals, I'm really excited to get back to that."

## WLU grad runs for office

Eric Davis acclaimed as Liberal MPP candidate for K-W

LINDSAY PURCHASE  
LEAD REPORTER

On June 26, in preparation for this fall's provincial election, Liberal supporters gathered in Waterloo to officially recognize Wilfrid Laurier University alumnus Eric Davis as the Liberal nominee for Kitchener-Waterloo's Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP). The nomination was presented by former Waterloo Mayor Herb Epp.

Kitchener Centre MPP and Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities John Milloy was also there to voice his encouragement. "The best sign that it all started well, I showed up and there was no parking," he began humorously. "Normally that's frustrating, but that says something really, really good."

While commending Davis as an "amazing" candidate, Milloy remained focused on the challenges of the upcoming election and the role political representatives would play.

"Government is every single person in this room, and every single person in this province," he commented. "It's all of us coming together and pooling our resources, pooling our responsibilities, so that we can work together for the betterment of the entire province."

For Davis, his interest in provincial politics began when he was a student at Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate (KCI), participating in the annual Federal-Provincial Conference simulation still held at the University of Waterloo.

There, a speech was made by politician Bob Rae regarding the importance of politics which inspired Davis to continue his involvement by joining the WLU Young Liberals. Davis explained, "... just being around a whole bunch of people my own age, sharing political discussions and ideas, it really encouraged me to get involved."

Davis has since been involved in numerous local volunteer opportunities, and considers his nomination another opportunity to assist the community.

"I've always believed that if you've been given opportunities — such as getting an education, it's important to give back to ensure that others are given the same opportunities," he said.

Davis is currently on the Board of Directors for United Way Kitchener-Waterloo (K-W), and is on the Federal-Provincial Affairs Committee of the Greater K-W Chamber of Commerce.

"It's been really great, because I've gotten to learn just about the

diversity of our community and how different things interplay on each other," he said of his volunteerism.

In regards to his vision for the area, Davis's focus appears to be on "strategic investment" in the region's growth.

While recognizing the authority of municipal governments over their respective affairs, Davis noted, "The provincial government has a role to plan in assisting municipalities and helping them make smart investments in order to plan for growth, in order to make sure that as we grow, we're going to grow sustainably and we're going to grow well."

Despite Davis's optimistic words, a glimpse into the intensity of the upcoming election came through in a discussion of Ontario Conservative Party leader Tim Hudak.

"Tim Hudak has a 14 billion dollar hole in his platform," he said scornfully, referring to Hudak's economic plans as "ridiculous." Davis continued, "He's not preaching the common sense revolution, he's preaching the nonsense revolution."

With new polls currently acknowledging Hudak as the clear leader in support, the Liberal Party will have to raise their campaigning to a much higher standard if they hope to overcome Conservative momentum from the federal election.



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NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

A young member of the Wilson family chooses her favourite flag at this past weekend's multicultural festival at Victoria Park.

# Celebrating multiculturalism

AMANDA STEINER  
LOCAL NATIONAL EDITOR

Despite the overcast weather this past weekend, Kitchener's Victoria Park was filled with hundreds of people participating in and celebrating the beginning of summer with the Kitchener-Waterloo multicultural festival.

For the past 40 years, KW has been hosting this fair, dedicated to ethnic diversity from around the world — and it has been nominated as one of the best festivals in the Waterloo region.

The streets around the park were blocked from traffic, so pedestrians could easily walk along the roads and sidewalks getting trouble-free access to the events happening in the park. A myriad of tents and booths lined the pathways, selling merchandise or handing out informational pamphlets dealing with topics ranging from religion to sexual assault.

"I've come every year," festival goer Catherine Kelly said. "It's really relaxing and it's family oriented which is nice."

Stephanie Hong, co-ordinator of the Buddhist Light International Association, said she's been promoting her booth explaining Buddhism since 1999. "We try to raise awareness," she said. "And the festival really helps us to connect to the communities here."

One of the many positive qualities of the event was that it not only celebrated diversity, but the different sectors of the multiple ethnicities. When Hong was asked whether or not all the Buddhist tents dealt with the same ideas and values, she said each tent dealt with different aspects of Buddhism.

This diversity within diversity was found to be true of other religions and groups as well. Not only was ethnic variety celebrated this past weekend, but the many strands

within these unique differences.

But the festival includes much more than just self-guided pathway sites and discoveries. A variety of performances were held at many locations throughout the park, representing culture from around the world. The Aboriginal Anishnabeg Outreach group held multiple tribal dances, that incorporated traditional attire.

Julie Snache, one of the organizers of the Aboriginal group, explained that one of the dances was "in celebration of the aboriginal people, which is similar to a traditional pow-wow. There is a host and co-host drum group which would sit in the middle of an arena and the others would dance around them." She continued to say that there are multiple varieties of songs that can be performed such as songs of honour or worship.

Other performances included dances from the KW Chinese School junior and senior folk dance groups, also wearing traditional Chinese costume for their performances, as well as a long list of others.

Another festival goer said that he liked the festival because, "it's important to celebrate multiculturalism in our region, and anyone that wants to be represented here can be."

The size of the park and the many sites to visit left many visitors and performers hungry but there was no question that food would be provided. For very reasonable prices, guests could choose from innumerable assortments of food from Ethiopian to Greek, and Vietnamese to traditional North American barbecue.

"You have to go at least once," attendee Henry Kidd said, enjoying a massive turkey leg from one of the vendors. "It's so worth it and this will sound so cheesy, but you'll probably even learn something new."

# G20: one year later

Activists discuss local impact of police brutality from summit

JUSTIN FAUTEUX  
NEWS DIRECTOR

While the streets of Toronto are no longer filled with riot police and protestors, for many, the effects of last year's G20 summit are still all too tangible.

So on Sunday, June 26, to mark the one-year anniversary of the G20, members of the Kitchener Waterloo Community Support group gathered in the Waterloo public square to remind the public that the impact of the summit and the charges and arrests that came out of it are still being felt, particularly by members of the KW community.

"The main thing for today is just to let people around here know that people in this community are still affected by [the G20]," said Laura MacDonald, one of the event's organizers.

"It's still going on, they're still looking at another year or more for the legal process, so it's really dragging out a lot and they have really restrictive bail conditions that prevent them from talking to their friends, they're not allowed to be here because it's a public demonstration."

Sunday's event featured live music, as well as the sale of food, books and buttons, aimed at raising money and awareness for the KW residents who still face charges.

According to MacDonald, there are still about six people from KW facing serious conspiracy charges, out of the approximately 25 local activists who were arrested at the summit.

According to Wilfrid Laurier University graduate Janice Lee, who was on the streets of Toronto during the protests, it is important to put faces and personalities to those who are still facing charges.

"I think what people misunderstand is that it wasn't just, as the media paints it, these thugs or hardcore activists," she said. "I would call them concerned community members. These are people that you

know. Especially in Kitchener-Waterloo, these are people that went to Laurier, these are people that went to UW, they volunteer, they're good community members, who were just trampled over."

While bail restrictions kept most of the KW residents who are facing charges from attending Sunday's event, Sterling Stutz was the lone co-accused who was able to be there.

Stutz, a third-year student at Laurier was arrested in Toronto on June 26, 2010 and after spending 10 days in jail was released into the custody of her parents and placed on house arrest.

She eventually got her house arrest varied, however, was living in Toronto and unable to return to Laurier and had to spend the past year as a visiting student at the University of Toronto.

Bail restrictions also prevent Stutz from associating with her co-accused.

"Every thing that's going on is really difficult to deal with but it's also

making us stronger," she said. "I miss my friends that I can't talk to, best friends, roommates, I can't talk to them right now but there will be a time when I can and it'll be awesome, and it'll be ok until then."

Stutz will be able to return to WLU this January.

While the accused still await trials and still deal with legal fees, according to Lee, the activists do not want to dwell on what happened in Toronto last June.

"We don't want to just hold onto all this anger," she said. "We're kind of over the sense of outrage I think, well maybe not completely, but we're trying to move forward."

According to MacDonald, the event received a generally positive reaction from the public.

"It's been a pretty good response, we've had one person who saw our signs and came out on his own and brought his own sign," she said.

"Everybody's been really supportive, but we're not really trying to pull people in today, today is mostly about context."



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Laurier student Evan Henry silently protests lack of G20 inquiry.

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## NATIONAL

National Editor Amanda Steiner • asteiner@thecord.ca

## OSAP changes raise concerns

JUSTIN FAUTEAUX  
NEWS DIRECTOR

On June 24, students at Wilfrid Laurier University received notice that there was a change in the eligibility requirements for the Ontario Students' Assistance Program (OSAP).

According to the notice, which was sent out via email by Laurier's student awards office, 'Post-degree studies', 'Qualifying Year studies' and 'Unclassified studies' are no longer considered eligible for OSAP funding.

This is in conjunction with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities directive that states, "OSAP's regulations state that a program of study must lead to a degree, diploma or certificate."

As a result, qualifying year programs which lead to admission to another program, Post degree programs and students in unclassified studies are involved in education that does not lead directly to a degree, diploma or certificate and as a result, these students can not be considered as eligible for OSAP assistance. It is imperative that the ministry consistently apply the regulations that govern programs.

The above was developed in co-operation with policy."

According to Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) president Sean Madden, this could mean problems for students.

"I'm a little bit concerned about the language that they use," he said. "I'm not entirely sure how they're going to define some of these categories of eligibility. I guess my number one thing is with concern to the qualifying programs. I'm concerned that that might put some groups at a disadvantage."

Madden also noted that the term 'unclassified studies' is also problematic as it is unclear whether or not it applies to students who are in undeclared majors, working towards a general bachelor's degree.

While this change could affect some students who currently receive OSAP, Madden believes it will be unlikely that a student could fall into a category that is ineligible for OSAP due to credit deficiencies.

"I wouldn't think in a situation like that, with a credit shortfall that it would be a problem," he said.

However, Madden is concerned with the potential problems that could arise when it comes to qualifying studies.

He noted that many students need to take 'bridging courses' which aren't directly related towards a degree, however, they set a student up in a position to have a greater chance at moving towards one.

According to Madden, OUSA will be investigating what this restructuring will mean for students in the coming weeks.



ELLI GARLIN FILE PHOTO

## Opening space for grad students

MARCIE FOSTER  
LEAD REPORTER

Putting students first: this was the message put forth by the Ontario government in the release of their new strategy to improve post-secondary education. By increasing spaces in master's and doctorate programs, and also improving access to education through better funding, the future of students in Ontario institutions is becoming a priority.

In a release from the Ontario University Student Alliance (OUSA), Sean Madden, WLUSU Vice President of University Affairs and President of OUSA, said that "Undergraduate students also have had concerns with the balance between teaching and research in our universities, and welcome the plan's emphasis on recognizing teaching excellence alongside research excellence."

As many students face barriers of funding and bureaucratic red tape, both the strategy and upcoming electoral promises seem to be brightening the future for all. The changes in funding to universities

is said to shift the focus from enrolment growth to quality education, by providing incentives to universities who choose to improve their institutional strengths.

More spaces in research-based and professional graduate programs in fields such as engineering, health and environmental studies will increase the province's competitive position globally, according to a news release from the Ontario Government.

To accomplish this, the Ontario government is creating more spaces for graduate students: 6,000 new spaces in master's and PhD programs in universities across the province by 2016. John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, said in a release from the Ontario Government, "In today's knowledge-based economy, it is vital that Ontario continues to support advanced research and develop a highly educated and skilled workforce. By helping more Ontarians pursue higher education; we can strengthen our economy and our future."

As an Ontario election looms this October, both the Ontario PC and

Green Parties have addressed the issues of higher education. Lowering the expected parental contribution amounts to Ontario Student Assistance Program applicants, increasing transfer credit co-operation between universities and colleges, and focusing on student employment seem to be the main themes between the two party platforms.

This is all good news for parents along with students, as the Ontario Government strategy includes a new initiative to develop programming in primary and secondary schools that will encourage and inform students through the transition to post-secondary education.

"Students have always believed that improving access to post-secondary education needs to begin early, and today's announcement signals that we will begin to directly address these challenges," said Madden.

"Undergraduate students also have had concerns with the balance between teaching and research in our universities, and welcome the plan's emphasis on recognizing teaching excellence alongside research excellence."



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# Postal employees forced back to work

Back to work legislation ends Canada Post work stoppage, which lasted nearly the entire month of June



STEPHANIE TRUONG GRAPHICS ARTIST

AMANDA STEINER  
LOCAL NATIONAL EDITOR

As a result of the back to work legislation implemented upon Canada Post this past Tuesday June 28, Canadians can once again open their mailboxes and find bills.

On June 14, Canada Post locked out its employees after they performed 12 days of rotating strikes. Gerry Deveau, Ontario's regional director of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) said that the rotating strikes were done in order to minimize any impact to Canadian citizens. "The lockout," Deveau said, "was implemented by management, not the workers."

Following the lockout, numerous bargaining sessions were held between Canada Post's management and its employees, but neither side made any sort of amendment to their position.

"They want to establish a two-tier employment system," Deveau said. "They want to change pensions and benefits and make an inferior sick leave system." He continued to say that Canada Post wants "to implement pay cuts because they say they're preparing for future projected losses — but our profits don't seem to show this."

Another reason Canada Post plans on making cuts to workers' contracts is because, in a rapidly growing technological world, the need for letter mail is decreasing thanks to e-mail, Facebook and other social media tools.

Bronwyn Corrigan, a third-year student at Queens University said, "The postal strike was just more of an inconvenience for me since I usually receive my bills in the mail. But I just set up payment online so it wasn't a big deal."

"We do honestly recognise that

letter-mail has declined," Deveau said. "But parcels have increased, businesses still heavily rely on Canada Post and we believe letter-mail will stabilize."

Larger corporations such as Sobeys didn't find the strike too problematic. Erin Reidel, administration manager of Sobeys Northfield Waterloo, admitted, "We weren't overly inconvenienced. We're covered by Purolator for many of our resources so it wasn't too bad."

She continued, "The only thing that was frustrating was customers who signed up for Club Sobeys cards. They were gathering points and bonuses but since we couldn't send their information to head office, they weren't receiving anything."

The federal government still insisted that an agreement be made or legislation would be enforced. While not every business relies heavily on Canada Post, many still do. Paper companies and stationary stores that mail out invitations would have lost business due to the strikes, as well as those that offer subscriptions, catalogues or online companies such as eBay.

When debate between the employer and union failed to move in any direction, the Conservative government stepped in, threatening that unless an agreement was quickly reached, back to work legislation would be passed in order to get Canada Post back up and running.

"The government should not be involved," Deveau said. "We should be permitted to engage in free, collective bargaining without any government influence." He continued to say that it's common for the government to side with the employer, which is what happened when Bill C-6 was passed in the House of

Commons last Saturday night.

According to Deveau, the union is obviously unhappy but is currently looking for ways to challenge this legislation in court. "We were always hopeful the members of the Conservative government would see how unjust it all was and would make amendments."

"Clearly, this is not a government looking for fairness," he added.

The New Democratic Party did stand up on behalf of the postal workers and delayed the passing of the bill for as long as they could. However, it wasn't enough.

The NDP tried to bring forward a final amendment to the bill dealing with wage cuts and pay-rates but the Conservatives defeated it, along with every other amendment presented on Saturday June 25.

Deveau also mentioned that management is refusing workers any overtime hours. The carriers are apparently willing to work longer hours to ensure that Canadians get their mail as quickly as possible, but this is being denied. They have been instructed to work eight hours and then leave the unfinished tasks until the next business day.

"If they were actually concerned about service to the public," Deveau said, "they would let workers stay longer. So this is yet another example of management having no interest in the public."

In other words, if workers were allowed to stay longer all mail could be out and resume normally by the beginning of next week. With this denied overtime, mail will take a few weeks to resume its normal pace.

"I would just like to say," Deveau added, "that none of this was intended to harm the Canadian citizens. We just wanted to bring attention to management, the unfairness of our situation."

## Canada in brief

### Ottawa to sell AECL to SNC Lavalin

The Harper Government is expected to announce the sale of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited to Montreal-based engineering group SNC-Lavalin. The Candu reactor sales and service division will be split from the Chalk River laboratory and its research reactor that produces isotopes for medical imaging and diagnostic procedures, which the federal government will continue to own but will be managed by outside contract.

—Compiled by Marcie Foster

### Woman accused of using child as weapon on TTC streetcar

According to Toronto police, a woman boarded a streetcar on Dundas Street East and Parliament on Friday, June 25 at 5:00 p.m. The woman then became involved in an altercation with another person on the streetcar, and began using the child she was holding as a weapon to beat the other passenger. Passengers were able to intervene, and the woman left the streetcar before police were able to arrive.

—Compiled by Marcie Foster

### Brandon Police subdue 14-year-old with taser

Officers were called to a laneway in Brandon, Manitoba after calls about a teenager damaging property. Upon arrival, the 14-year-old was found brandishing a piece of glass shaped like a knife and refused to drop the weapon when ordered to do so. The teen was taken to hospital to have the taser probes removed as per policy. The 14-year-old is facing charges of mischief to property and possession of a dangerous weapon.

—Compiled by Marcie Foster

### Vancouver riot investigations still under way

Police are still attempting to track down suspects from the Vancouver riots on June 15. Officers say they have approximately 4,000 e-mails from the public and have tracked down 1,700 of those potential suspects from separate incidents.

24 people have already turned themselves in, but more investigations are sure to follow.

120 people were arrested the night of the riots.

—Compiled by Amanda Steiner

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# No guarantees when entering university

In Depth Editor Mike Lakusiak delves into what high school students on their way to becoming Laurier students should keep in mind as the days count down to September

## Are you suited for university?

Last September, 3,842 students accepted offers of admission to attend Wilfrid Laurier University and among those, many will not be returning this year either voluntarily or due to insufficient grades. As another approximately 4,000 students are set to arrive this fall, the question lingers as to whether, however well intentioned, they are truly cut out for university.

Todd Stinebrickner is a professor of economics at the University of Western Ontario who co-authored a study looking at how learning about one's ability to succeed in university corresponds to the decision to drop out. While the study was conducted at a college in the U.S., he said there is no reason the findings would not apply to the Ontario post-secondary system.

Telling someone that university may not be the best avenue for them or providing information to support why they should not attend may not be very effective at all, he said.

"There's always this question of how much information would matter," he began. "How much information can be provided ahead of time or is the way to learn to just try it?"

Dropping out may be the right decision for some students, Stinebrickner said, noting that taking a shorter period of time to determine that university is not for them may be the mark of a good university. If students are able to "coast" through a program they're not suited for and leave with a degree, there is likely something wrong.

"It may make sense for many people who start university to become plumbers, they didn't know that when they started but they know that's the case later," he explained. "Maybe a good university is one where it doesn't take people three-and-a-half years to figure that out."

In general, his work found that students overestimate how well they will do in university coming out of high school. "What we find is that if you look at people that did poorly, about half of that is that their ability was just lower than they thought," he said.

Half of the remaining students that did poorly can attribute their results to just not studying enough, while the remainder was due to other factors.

One point Stinebrickner highlighted was a difference in students' performance based on gender. According to his research, men are more likely to study less than they think they will.

"Men tend to be over-optimistic relative to women, they have higher dropout rates than women, in large part because they overestimate their ability and how well they're going to do," he said, adding that there were indications that men were simply

more interested in doing other things than spending time focusing on coursework. "Some of the evidence is it's things like video games," he explained.

Laurier's dean of arts Michael Carroll told a similar tale, explaining the administrative work done after a high proportion – 43 per cent – of first year arts students last year did not attain the 5.0 GPA after first semester required to declare a major. In previous years the percentage has been in the low 30 per cent range.

"The investigations and interviews conducted by people in the dean's office make it clear that the most common reasons for failure are simply not going to class, not doing assignments and it turns out, literally, Facebook," he said.

"The proportion of students coming out of high school and entering arts at Laurier unprepared for university life or less prepared than they should be is high, that's true."

## Are you prepared?

The level of true preparedness for university among students varies though, according to the manager of Laurier's Study Skills and Supplemental Instruction Centre, Michael Lisetto-Smith, who was recently appointed president of the Learning Specialists Association of Canada.

"If you talk to most high school students, they're going to say they're well prepared," he explained. "Once actually attending university classes though, students change their stories. 'Very few would say they were well prepared,' he continued.

He listed off the examples of students copying overheads verbatim and reading in such a way to complete their assigned readings, but not retain the information.

Lisetto-Smith added that a semester passes so quickly that it is often too late before problems with study skills or strategies are addressed.

"By the time you get tested, maybe four or six weeks [into the semester], it's already too late in many ways," he said. "After the first exam, they'll realize they're in trouble but they'll say they need to try harder, which amounts to absolutely nothing."

"They haven't actually put forward a plan to change their habits, they just end up doing more of the same."

In high school, many students are able to do well simply by being good at memorization. Lisetto-Smith said this often applies when 'A' students are entering university. "A lot of high school tends to focus on memorization and regurgitation of data, so a lot of 'A' students are the ones that can memorize very well and then dump the data with no

analysis."

He added that the 'B' students have often worked harder to maintain those grades and accordingly bring better coping and studying mechanisms to their post-secondary education.

Unless those that got by on memorization are able to adapt, they risk rapidly falling behind. "Some of them end up leaving because of it," he said.

There were nearly 11,000 visits by 3,000 individual students to the Study Skills and Supplemental Instruction Centre last year, Lisetto-Smith said. "In the end, the responsibility to do the work, to learn and make sure you're meeting your progression requirements does lie on the students."

"The support services are all there, they have to just be aware of it and come out."

Carroll said that there seems to be more unprepared students entering the faculty of arts than in the past.

"There is a sense that there has been a sea change, there have always been problems, but something is different," he said of the trend. "There have always been students unprepared for university, the sense is that students are just less prepared than they used to be."

## What can you expect when you get there?

While perhaps undergraduate university students are less able than high school students to maintain good grades on memorization skills, Griffin Carpenter, who graduated from Laurier's politics, philosophy and economics program in 2010, had some thoughts on that subject.

"At Laurier I got by decently well on exams and tests by relying on some habits like mnemonics and acronyms, rote memorization," he said.

Now attending the London School of Economics (LSE) for his master's degree, he added, "That hasn't bode me too well because the questions asked of me now are at such a deeper level that memorization means next to nothing."

He also explained that in high school, he was made to believe that university would be far more challenging. "Graduating high school I was under the impression that university would be a lot harder than it was," he said.

"I guess I found that, at least for me, it was really easy to get B's at Laurier but it's really hard to get A's."

"If you want to get by and do decently well, you don't have to study that hard and I think that's the approach a lot of people take. In order to excel though, it's really difficult."

Kyle Gerow, who graduated from Laurier this spring with a degree in history and political science, said

that in his time completing his undergrad, there seemed to be a real emphasis on the time spent studying with students spending, for example, an entire Sunday preparing for one particular assessment. "At least from my experience that seems like the wrong way to go about doing it," he said, "it should be more focused on the quality of the studying you're doing."

Gerow said that the thing that helped him most with his coursework was clear impressions of expectations from professors. "Beyond all else, it's important that students understand precisely what the professor is looking for," he said.

"[It's] just about opening channels of communication with the professor and asking questions until you're absolutely sure on what you'll be tested."

"In my four years at Laurier I found that professors aren't shy about telling you how to do well in their course and what they look for when they're grading."

Carpenter, when asked about the culture surrounding academics at Laurier, said there seemed to be something lacking.

"I was disappointed in my experience at Laurier in that there really isn't a culture of learning," he said, noting that he notices a marked difference now, working on his post-graduate degree.

"That's what I expected university to be like out of high school: people saying that they want to keep learning more, that they want to develop greater skills," he continued. "Learning seemed secondary in a lot of ways."

Though this is not to say that he didn't benefit from his undergrad days, he explained, "I was enjoying all the other things that Laurier has to offer."

"My undergrad at Laurier was different than I expected, it was less of a culture of learning than I expected, but I'm not trying to frame that in too negative a light because it comes with maturity and I don't think that's always present."

Along with maturity levels being a consideration among the first year class at Laurier over the last several years, with the demise of Ontario's Grade 13 in 2003, the sheer numbers of students entering some programs in the arts was something Carroll pointed to.

"Clearly one of the drivers of what has been happening here in this faculty has simply been the dramatic increase in the size of our entering class," he explained, noting that while he had only been at Laurier as dean of arts for a year, extensive background research has been conducted examining the roots of the situation in the faculty.

"As we've increased the size of the entering class, the average entering grade from high school has gone down."

Ten years ago, Laurier's entrance average for the faculty of arts was over 80 per cent, but for the past two years the minimum high school average applicants can have to be accepted has been 72 per cent. Though Laurier's faculty of arts is not alone in this and similar to many Ontario universities, there may be reputational consequences.

"Clearly, past a certain point we're not able to attract the proportion of top students that we used to attract."

Since the faculty only receives more provincial funds if it grows, Carroll said, there are financial consequences to raising admissions averages initially due to decreased enrolment. "One of the things we're beginning to discuss is whether we should just bite the economic bullet and maintain a certain minimum average," he said. "That's going to be a major issue of discussion over this next year."

Carroll added that strategies including first year seminars and other initiatives are being put in place to confront the situation. "Hopefully over time as we add in programs that will attract better and better students and we hold our minimum average, that will start to change and we'll begin to attract students."

Ray Darling, Laurier's registrar, noted that those students that struggle to maintain passable GPAs in first year and beyond are often those who enter university with low admissions averages.

"In the faculty of arts, the students that were having the trouble were the students who came in below 75 [per cent]," he said.

"There is no surprise there, we have these students we've admitted between 70 and 75 and we know they're at risk, so I think they really need to take advantage of the services here or else they may not make it."

"In the end, the responsibility to do the work, to learn and make sure you're meeting your progression requirements does lie on the students."

—Michael Lisetto-Smith, manager of Laurier's Study Skills and S.I. Centre

"The support services are all there, they have to just be aware of it and come out."

—Michael Lisetto-Smith



TAYLOR GAYOWSKY GRAPHICS EDITOR

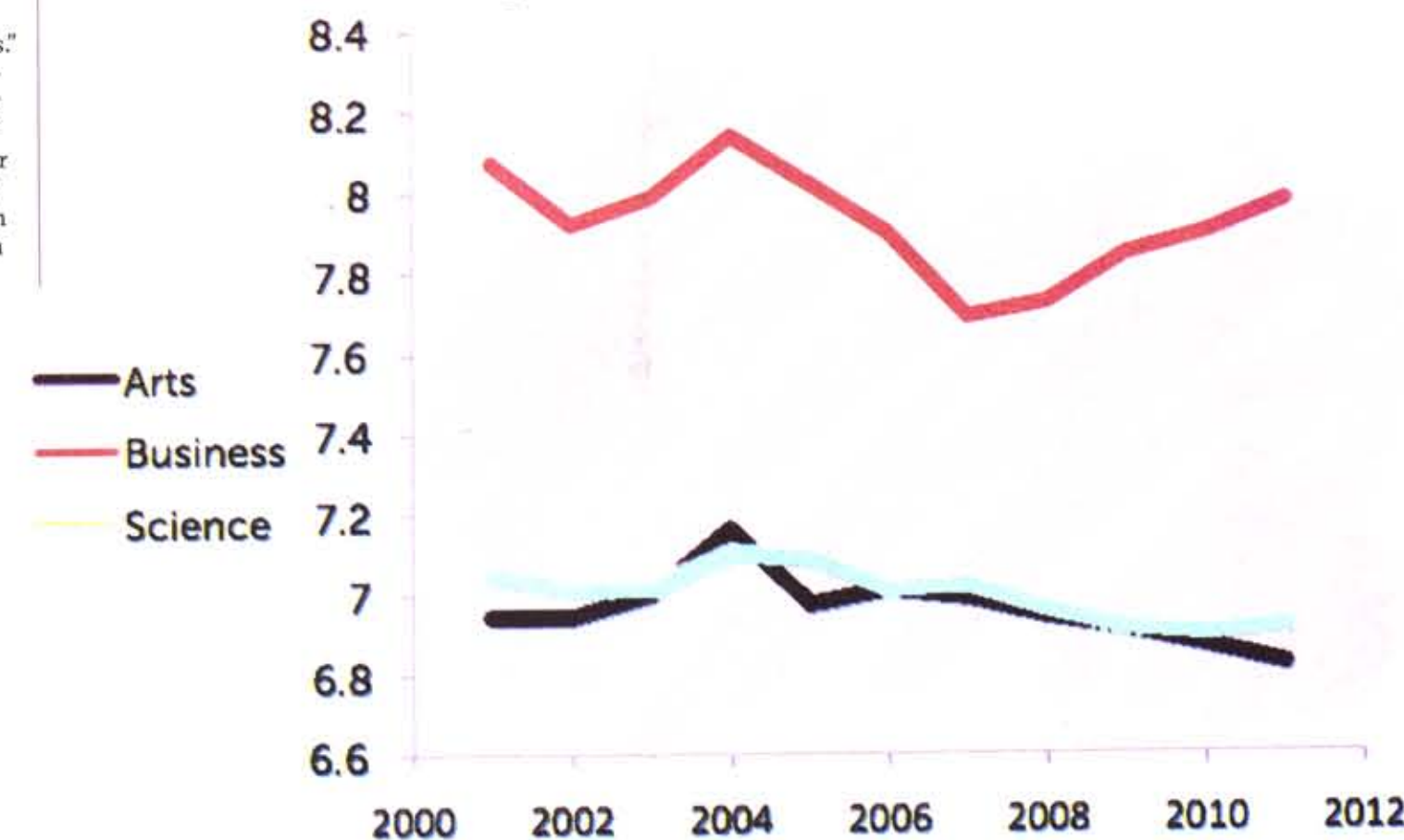
"It may make sense for many people who start university to become plumbers ... maybe a good university is one where it doesn't take people three-and-a-half years to figure that out."

—Todd Stinebrickner, economics professor at UWO

"There have always been students unprepared for university, the sense is that students are just less prepared than they used to be."

—Michael Carroll, dean of arts at Laurier

Average GPA across faculties 2001-2011 (Winter Terms)



The Cord obtained the average GPA across different programs for each of the last ten years. While there has been little variation overall, the fact that little has changed is telling in itself.

From 2001 to 2011, the number of students enrolled at Laurier jumped from under 8,000 to over 14,000 and the admissions averages for incoming students changed as well. Ten years ago, the minimum average high school grades a student could have for acceptance to the faculty of arts stood at over 80 per cent. Now a 72 per cent average will suffice.

This year's incoming first year students would graduate in 2015. What will have changed between now and then?

While there has been little variation overall, the fact that little has changed is telling in itself.

# New talent, old faves highlight NXNE

Cord alum Sarah Murphy and 300,000 others ventured to the Big Smoke for the annual film and music fest

**SARAH MURPHY**  
CORD ARTS

Taking over Toronto for the 17th consecutive year, the North by Northeast (NXNE) festival has expanded beyond a launching pad for new Canadian bands.

Boasting over 600 bands from all over the world, NXNE has more recently incorporated a film festival and for the second year, an interactive component. The concerts took place all over the city in every kind of venue imaginable. Bands played everywhere from bars and clubs to parks and city squares – this year there were even shows at Union Station.

Friday night at the Mod Club saw early, but nonetheless enjoyable, sets from three distinct bands. Openers Library Voices hail from Saskatchewan and fired up the crowd with a 40-minute set of bouncy, clap-along pop songs.

NXNE veterans the Most Serene Republic were up next with their attempt to do their hometown of Milton proud. "We represent the suburbs," said piano player Ryan Lenssen, speaking to The Cord before the show. Describing the atmosphere of NXNE, he stated, "It's kind of like going to Price Club on a Saturday and getting all the free samples, that's kind of what a festival's like. Except you have to pay for the samples."

Guitarist Sean Woolven chimed in, assuring the audience that they could expect "rainbows and happiness" from the set. Though no rainbows were reported, the set of Canadian indie rock, including material from as long ago as 2003, definitely left the crowd happy.

Far removed from the mild indie



Memoryhouse played Lee's Palace in Toronto, in a showcase featuring Twin Shadow and Wild Nothing.

sounds that kicked off the evening, the U.K.'s Art Brut took to the stage and delivered their brand of punky art-rock.

Frontman Eddie Argos delivered his hilariously clever lyrics in his unique half-talking, half-singing style. Openers from 2005's *Bang Bang Rock & Roll* "Formed a Band" and "My Little Brother" captivated the crowd before the band launched into "Axl Rose" from this year's *Brilliant! Tragic!*

A highlight of the show was undoubtedly during "Modern Art," when Argos hopped off stage and into the crowd to share an improvised anecdote about Van Gogh.

Speaking to The Cord about how the band has changed since its

inception, Argos said, "I'm probably less angry or something." He continued, "Not much has changed. We're ever so slightly more mature." None of this has compromised the live show, though, as the band put on a performance that the entire audience would agree was cut too short by the venue's time restrictions.

Saturday evening witnessed an absolutely packed to capacity crowd for the line-up at Lee's Palace. Wild Nothing performed a solid introductory set before Brooklyn-based buzz artist Twin Shadow took his turn on stage.

Bottle of rum in hand, George Lewis Jr. and his band through a killer set that included a climactic rendition of "Slow" and a

performance of "When We're Dancing" that got the excited audience members, well, dancing. He won over the crowd with his charm, jokingly confusing the festival for South by Southwest and later proclaiming that Toronto knew how to give off the feel of a New York summer more than New York did.

Grabbing a late, but definitely not the last set time, Ontario-based band Memoryhouse charmed the crowd with their indie pop sound. Guitarist, founding member and on-hiatus Laurier student Evan Abeele discussed his festival experiences before the show.

A NXNE rookie, he remarked, "We did South by Southwest, though. It was terrifying." Abeele

mentioned the American counterpart to NXNE's tendency to break up-and-coming bands into new markets and stated, "It would be cool if NXNE could do that for Canadian audiences and Canadian bands. Hopefully it does."

Speaking modestly about the band's recent signing to legendary label Sub Pop Records and their upcoming tours in Europe, Japan and Australia, Abeele mused on the band's future, "There's no real gauge to measure how far I see us taking it because every single new thing we do is just a complete shock to me."

Other notable names that graced the stages of NXNE this year included free performances by Stars, Fucked Up, Devo and Men Without Hats, as well as performances by the Dodos, AIDS Wolf and Shad.

The film element of the festival covered an expansive array of music-related subjects, featuring multiple documentaries about hip-hop and punk, as well as premiering a new Stars video and debuting short in-studio footage of City and Colour.

Finally, North by Northeast Interactive (NXNEi) celebrated its second year, hosting experts on the music industry, social media, graphic design and storytelling. The week-long panels and presentations provided Toronto with innovative ideas for the future of the arts in Canada.

Whether it was music, film or interactive ideas, many were given a platform for exposure once again at this year's NXNE. Art Brut's Eddie Argos summed up the message of the week perfectly when talking about the inspiration behind his songwriting: "I just want to share my passion with other people."



George Lewis Jr. of Twin Shadow and Evan Abeele of Memoryhouse took the stage at a packed Lee's Palace for Saturday of NXNE. The festival is in its seventeenth year.

## Arts bites

The latest news in entertainment

### Aww, sorry Lindsey Buckingham

*Rolling Stone* magazine released its comprehensive list of the "100 Greatest Artists of All Time" in its June edition. Artists gracing the top ten include The Beatles, The Stones,

Jimi Hendrix and Bob Dylan. Noticeably absent are rapper Notorious B.I.G., Fleetwood Mac, and Wilf's regulars Down With Webster.

### Bon Iver releases new album

Wisconsin cabin dwellers Bon Iver released their much-anticipated second album on June 22. Bon Iver frontman Justin Vernon, who collaborated with Kanye West on *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, has not weighed in on whether Beyoncé really deserved that award or not.

### In fact, hangovers are not funny

*The Hangover II*, now in theatres, has received lackluster reviews from critics since it opened. Despite the huge commercial success of the first installment in the franchise, *Hangover II* seems to have fallen short of expectations set by the original. In related news, if you drink the morning after, not only will you not have a hangover, you might even enjoy this film.

### Chris Brown is still an asshole, just to confirm

When being issued a parking ticket recently, Chris Brown launched into a tirade in which he called the individuals giving him the ticket "gay". Thankfully, Brown fixed the situation almost immediately via Twitter, writing "I have total respect for Gay community and my intention was not to insult anyone in it. #REALSHIT." What a nice guy, it's slipping my mind, but some #REALSHIT happened with him and Rhianna, right? Was that him?

### When my rap career tanks, I'm getting into real estate

Vanilla Ice, whose career had run its course before incoming Laurier students were born, is re-entering the public spotlight, this time as a real-estate guru. His site, vanillaice-realestate.com, encourages people to invest in real estate – because you can't live in your gold teeth when your career nosedives.

—Compiled by Mike Lakusiak



PHOTOS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT BY MORGAN HARRIS, JEFF KRAVITZ, C. TAYLOR CROTHERS COURTESY OF BONNAROO MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL  
Best Coast, The Decemberists, Eminem and The Strokes were some of the few artists that entertain the 80,000 patrons at this year's festival.

## Bonnaroo turns ten

SARAH MURPHY  
CORD ARTS

Since its inaugural launch in 2002, Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival has grown into one of the United States' most renowned and anticipated summer festivals.

Ten years in, the line-ups continue to impress and the painfully confusing stage names (This Tent, That Tent, The Other Tent, Which Stage and What Stage) continue to be hilariously bewildering. Located in Manchester, Tennessee and hosting some of the biggest names in music, film and comedy – not to mention countless up-and-coming acts – Bonnaroo is one of the few places one might find Eminem and the Black Keys sharing the same stage on the same night.

This year's festival, though marred by excruciating heat, uncontrollable dust clouds and the tragic deaths of two attendees, continued to provide what are surely some of the highest calibre performances of 2011.

### Thursday, June 9

Despite festival organizers opening campgrounds on Wednesday night this year, fans endured long waits to get past the gates, set up camp and hit the first round of shows on Thursday night.

Lo-fi California stoner rock provided the perfect opening to the weekend with back-to-back sets from Wavves and Best Coast. Led by sometimes-erratic frontman Nathan Williams, three-piece Wavves bounced through songs off their album *King of the Beach*. Highlights included "No Hope Kids," "King of the Beach," "Post Acid" and a snippet of an "I Don't Wanna Miss a Thing" cover.

Following Wavves and over at The Other Tent, Williams' girlfriend Bethany Cosentino took to the stage, looking adorable in a polka-dot romper, to lead her band Best Coast through one of the night's best sets.

The crowd jostled about, singing along to songs from last year's debut record *Crazy for You* like "Boyfriend," "Bratty B" and the title track "Crazy for You." The packed tent was also treated to a cover of fellow Bonnaroo performer Loretta Lynn's "Coal Miner's Daughter."

Closing out the night was one of Hollywood's most talented multi-taskers, Childish Gambino. Known to most as Donald Glover, writer for *30 Rock* or star of NBC's *Community*, his set on Thursday night ignited the crowd into one of the rowdiest of the weekend. His trademark blend of rapping over indie rock

samples came to life on stage, delivering characteristic tracks like "Do Ya Like" and "Bitch, Look At Me Now (Two Weeks)," featuring samples from Adele and Grizzly Bear, respectively.

Older songs like "Yes" made the setlist, as well as "Freaks and Geeks" from his latest EP. The live instrumentation on stage added to the energetic atmosphere, while Glover's onstage antics like climbing the speakers and jumping into the crowd sent the jam-packed tent into hysterics.

### Friday, June 10

Though there was no relief from the 94-degree heat or blistering sun, Friday afternoon did provide a stacked indie-rock line-up.

Brooklyn duo Matt & Kim absolutely annihilated their set at That Tent, blazing through tunes that included a cover of Biz Markie's "Just a Friend," after which Matt Johnson excitedly proclaimed: "Bonnaroo, you've got everything I need!" Closing out the set with "Daylight" was an incredibly well received move that got the crowd (which spilled out far beyond the cover of the tent) dancing and shouting along.

Bonnaroo veterans the Decemberists proved they deserved their spot on the festival's main stage with their early evening performance that featured a career-spanning setlist. Opener "July, July!" gave way to tracks off 2011's *The King is Dead*, though fans were most definitely catered to with the inclusion of songs like "We Both Go Down Together," "16 Military Wives" and "O Valencia!"

Frontman Colin Meloy implemented some serious charm and managed to get the tens of thousands in attendance to take a seat on the ground for set closer "The Chimbley Sweep" – with the crowd eventually rising and bringing the performance to a triumphant finish.

Arcade Fire closed out the What Stage on Friday night to make room for late night shows at the tents from Lil Wayne, Bassnectar, Pretty Lights and Ratatat.

The Montreal-based, Grammy-winning group powered through an hour and a half of old favourites from *Funeral* like "Neighbourhood #2 (Laika)" and hits from *The Suburbs* such as "Ready to Start" and "City With No Children." Indisputably though, the pinnacle of the night was the band's spectacular rendition of "Wake Up" as the first encore song.

*Honourable mentions:* Ray Lامتagne, Florence & the Machine, My Morning Jacket, NOFX

### Saturday, June 11

Despite a minor thunderstorm in the evening, Saturday's stellar line-up went off without a hitch. Plus, the Comedy Theatre gave attendees an opportunity to retreat from the heat and enjoy a series of side-splitting shows.

Donald Glover ditched his Childish Gambino alter-ego from two nights before to entertain with two presentations of his hilarious stand-up routine.

British comedian Bill Bailey warmed up the stage with his musical brand of comedy, showing off both his musicianship and ability to make people laugh.

Nevertheless, the combination of Glover's conversational style and ridiculous subject matter – from public pooping at Bonnaroo to having his glasses stolen by Reggie Bush to childhood trips to the Home Depot – secured him a spot as the highlight of the afternoon.

The evening got off to an explosive start at Which Stage with a powerful set from English darlings Mumford & Sons. A long way from last year's low-key set at That Tent, the four-piece played to an overwhelming crowd of 50,000. Hits like "The Cave" and "Little Lion Man" turned the audience into a frenzy of jumping and clapping, while the encore featured members of Old Show Medicine Crow and The Apache Relay for a mesmerizing rendition of "Amazing Grace."

Later on, the Black Keys proceeded to fill the What Stage surprisingly well for a two-piece blues outfit, playing tracks like "Next Girl," "Howlin' for You" and "Tighten Up." Though the limited between-song banter was fairly disengaging and half-hearted, fans didn't seem to mind. Then came Eminem. The festival's primary headliner, Marshall Mathers walked onstage at 11:00 p.m. and wowed an audience of ecstatic fans.

Repeatedly expressing his gratitude, the Detroit-born rapper's setlist featured everything from "Cleanin' Out My Closet" and "Stan" to "Sing for the Moment" and "Crack a Bottle." A medley featuring "My Name Is," "The Real Slim Shady" and "Without Me" appeared to be the high point of the night – that is, until Slim Shady walked back out for an encore of "Lose Yourself" that riled up the crowd for the rest of the night.

*Honourable mentions:* Wiz Khalifa, Buffalo Springfield, String Cheese Incident, Gogol Bordello, Girl Talk

### Sunday, June 12

Exhausted, dehydrated and crusted

in dirt from the never-ending dust clouds, those who made it through the last day of the festival were treated to fewer, but equally impressive shows.

Iron & Wine's afternoon set was laid back and provided the perfect soundtrack for 80,000 hungover, burnt out festival-goers.

Undeniably, however, the real gem of Sunday was garage-rock revivalist heroes the Strokes.

The five-piece band from New York City stumbled on stage a little bit late, with lead singer Julian Casablancas refusing to sacrifice any of his cool stage persona and donning black pants and a leather jacket in the 90-degree heat.

He later explained that the late start was a result of trying to catch the opening of Beirut's overlapping set across the grounds. But when they busted out the opening hook to "Is This It," nothing else mattered

– the Strokes were there to put on a rock 'n' roll show.

Heavily relying on back catalogue material, songs from this year's *Angles* served as filler to crowd anthems like "Last Night," "Somebody," "What Ever Happened?" and "Reptilia." As the sun set on the last night of Bonnaroo, Casablancas introduced the final song ("Take It or Leave It") with a string of incoherent mumbles about people wanting water before exclaiming "Take it or leave it ... all over my face!"

And with this frantically energetic track, the Strokes closed out The Cord's coverage of Bonnaroo 2011, leaving 80,000 Bonnaroo-ers to file their way out of Manchester, Tennessee until next summer.

*Honourable mentions:* Ryan Bingham, Robert Plant & Band of Joy, Robyn, Widespread Panic

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# Preparing for university: extracurriculars

Lead Reporter Marcie Foster investigates the reasons why you should get involved outside the classroom



NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO

It starts with O-Week. Your arrival at Wilfrid Laurier University begins with a blast of cheering, singing and highly recommended spirited involvement. From the first sing of "Happy First-Day" to the play of pomp and circumstance, your time here at Laurier can be and should be memorable and filled with life-changing experiences. Your extracurricular involvement is about more than just meeting people, it can steer you into a career or a life-long passion.

"It's often through our volunteering and our extracurriculars that we come to discover new skills and we solidify what things we're good at and what we're not, what things we enjoy, what things we that we do not and often times that insight or learning does not happen exclusively in a lecture hall," explained Stacey Campbell, career consultant at the Laurier Centre for Career and Co-operative Studies.

For others, it is about personal growth. Daniel Towers, former head icebreaker and leader of many other extracurriculars, said, "Getting involved is a life-changing experience. It opens you up to hundreds of friends, allows for you to meet people who can act as mentors for you, and allow you to be a mentor for younger students."

Whether your fancy is something active, and whether active to you means activism or athletics, student involvement is central to your academic career. It shapes you, it moves you to pursue your beliefs and make your beliefs a part of your goals.

"One of the reasons why I chose Laurier was for the opportunities that are available for students to get involved and develop themselves as leaders both with their academics and through extracurriculars," Towers mentioned in an interview with The Cord, "Being involved helps students to develop strong time-management ability and improves their communication and social skills. I encourage students to get involved as it allows them to make friends and network with those that have similar interests."

During Orientation Week there are an incredible number of activities you can involve yourself in; not all of them are obvious and not all are of the heavy spirited variety. Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group (LSPIRG) has offered an engaging 'alternative' O-Week which has benefitted the community year after year.

## Finding activities

Different on and off-campus centres offer student-welcoming events and the Get Involved Fair put on by Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union is a great chance to participate in on-campus lifestyle and awareness committees. Of course WLU Student Publications — The Cord, Radio Laurier, Blueprint magazine and Keystone yearbook — offer opportunities to gain experience in print and web media.

"I think the best thing if you have no idea is to look around for what looks interesting, because your degree alone won't necessarily help you figure out where you should be involved, extracurricular speaking, or volunteering-wise. At the end of the day, you have to start somewhere," Campbell said. "Education is only 20 per cent of the equation in terms of figuring out a career and the rest of it what we learned and who we met through our extracurriculars."

While most clubs and on-campus activities usually do their recruitment in the fall, you won't miss out if you transferred or have now just got the hang of being on a university campus. Campus groups recruit in the Concourse frequently throughout the year. The goal is to try what you like and find what fits you.

## Promoting diversity

The Centre for Women and Trans People\* is an incredible, supportive space where women and trans people can feel safe and together

challenge gender barriers that they face. The centre is run by an inspiring group who are always there to welcome you.

The Rainbow Centre is also here to support and enhance the lives of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer individuals at Laurier. Like the Centre for Women and Trans People, it's a safe and inclusive space on campus where queer-friendly or LGBTQ people can gather and provide awareness training and programming for the university community.

Within your new home, whether you are living off campus or in a residence, Residence Life is a great opportunity to get involved. Programs include house council, residence athletics, Arts Laurier, Diversity Council, Inter-Residence Council, Upgrade @ Laurier and also WLU liaison opportunities just within residence.

Laurier Off-Campus University Students (LOCUS) offers students the same residence-style activities such as First Year Formal and participation in O-Week and the support of an Off-Campus Advisor similar to a traditional Res-Life Don.

## Maintaining a balance

"The worst mistake a university student can make is choosing not to get involved because they don't want their grades to suffer. Because they come to the end of their four years with the profound smack of reality that good grades are not the only thing that opens up doors," said Campbell.

In addition, Barry Torch, president of the History Students' Association said, "I'll admit, time management can definitely be an issue, but if one manages not to sign themselves up for too much at a single time, the benefits from extracurricular activities will prove themselves through the friendships one builds. Looking back on it, had I not gotten involved with the campus life that I had, I would have had a completely negative experience from Laurier — one completely different from the one I have now."

Dan Towers also added, "Yes, university is about getting a great education, but you have four or more years in this amazing community and it is the best time to develop yourself as a leader. I've gotten all of my jobs (co-op and otherwise) due to my extracurricular experiences."

Get involved at university and you will go on to go great things in your career. The decisions you make can last a lifetime, so you might as well step outside of that comfort zone; leave it behind and start new this fall.

—With files from Linda Givetash

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*Preparing for university:*

Read the next two installments of this series and other online exclusives in the **Life** section at **thecord.ca**.

TRINA SCHMIDT

# CLASSIFIEDS

Advertising Manager Angela Taylor • [angela.taylor@wlu.sp.com](mailto:angela.taylor@wlu.sp.com)

## 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 [dearlife@thecord.ca](mailto:dearlife@thecord.ca) no later than Monday at noon each week.

**Dear Life:**  
Wouldn't it be nice if the library was open past 5 during the summer? You know, for those of us that are trying to complete our degrees and get the hell out of here?

On top of that, spirited Golden Hawks have torn off the signs that indicate what floor you are on in the stairwell, but those weren't really that important, so why replace them?

And why have a working website? It is not possible to "Get it! At Laurier!" no matter how many exclamation marks are applied. It's a damn good thing Google Scholar and Books are there to bail out this university's failures. I'll be sending my tuition cheques to them from now on.  
Sincerely,  
Trying to learn something at this "institution of higher learning"

**Dear Life:**  
Adele needs to release a new single, if only because I'm sick of hearing "Rolling In The Deep" everywhere I fucking go.  
Sincerely,  
Your Talent Is Eclipsed by How Irritating You Are

**Dear Life:**  
What the hell, Canada Post would go on strike the one time a year I decide to order something off of eBay. Why couldn't they use courier?  
Sincerely,  
I need my fucking power cord

**Dear Life:**  
Thanks for not offering the courses I need to graduate. Thanks again to both of my departments for not even answering any of my e-mails prior to registration night.

It's good to know that in the four years I've attended Laurier, that not once has this course been offered, and a substitute has not been made available.

I'm so thrilled to know that I can take any array of communication studies crap but the one I actually need seems to be irrelevant to the registrars office.  
Sincerely,  
Shoulda gone to U of T.

**Dear Life:**  
Thanks to the Ontario Government for dumping cash into the business and math 'buildings', thereby making my arts degree even more insignificant.

I'll have you know that more arts majors end up graduating with critical thinking skills necessary to succeed in entrepreneurship and professional degrees, and by shifting our focus from an arts school to a business school, we just look less like a decent arts school and more like a crappy business school.  
Sincerely,  
Change it from SBE to SAD.

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## LRT invests in the future of Waterloo Region

The June 10 decision by Waterloo Regional Council to implement light rail transit (LRT) represents progressive and forward-looking thinking that we should expect from our political leaders.

With an expected population rise to more than 700,000 by 2031, representing an increase of almost 10,000 annually, planning for increased congestion is necessary for building proper urban growth. From an urban planning perspective, LRT will concentrate development in the city cores, a step in the right direction of avoiding urban sprawl and unintelligent growth.

LRT is not a solution for immediate transit issues. Traveling at a speed of 30 km/h, LRT will run up to only five minutes faster than existing Grand River Transit iXpress buses. If LRT was available *today* as a transit option, it would be questionable whether it would be the most optimal current solution.

Yet, this is a decision for the future. It's about exercising the kind of strategic foresight that is so often lacking from politicians weary of making a decision that might frighten an electorate content with the status quo.

Waterloo Mayor Brenda Halloran's decision to oppose LRT is regrettable. Among her constituents are almost 40,000 students who rely on public transit and will be dealing with transit issues in the Region for decades to come should they decide to settle here. She took the politically-safe position, favouring a referendum instead to pass the buck along to the voters instead of dealing with the burden of governing herself.

Those citizens who are weary of the cost have valid concerns but must look not to their own wallets but to the future. The question was not whether the Region would need to act to implement a transit solution but when. The council's almost unanimous vote to pass LRT is to be commended as an investment in a future vision of Waterloo Region.

—The Cord Editorial Board

## Strike underscores irrelevance of Canada Post

The recent Canada Post strike has not done the organization many favours. The Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) has often been viewed as a union that is relatively demanding and inflexible.

Canada Post's relevance in today's society has been on a slow decline even before the strike. The strike has accelerated the perception in Canadians' minds that snail mail is no longer an integral part of their lives. While no one is expecting Canada Post to disappear anytime soon, the major role it once played in Canadians' lives is no longer.

For some students, a generation increasingly moving to electronic mail for bills and communication, the strike has made it clearer that Canada Post will not be the organization their parents and grandparents relied on.

Students sending packages back home or waiting for purchases to be shipped have discovered private couriers that they may not have used previously. Paying extra to be ensured that it will arrive within 24 hours has made students consider using the option more often.

As a solution, though, the Conservative back-to-work legislation offered some unfair compromises for CUPW. The bill included a 1.5 per cent salary increase to workers when Canada Post had offered the union 1.9 per cent. CUPW was looking for progressive elements like maternity leave and the Conservative government created a dangerous precedent by shutting it down.

At the same time, the authenticity of the NDP's attempted "filibuster" speaks more to the newly-elected opposition's motivation to keep the party in the headlines.

As has been suggested previously, there are no real winners in this strike. CUPW looked somewhat childish, the Conservatives offered up a petty back-to-work bill and the NDP looked less and less like a government-in-waiting.

The Canada Post strike was not a shining moment for Canada.

—The Cord Editorial Board

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

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# Life outside the classroom



LINDA GIVETASH  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After four years, dozens of essays and hours of research I find that the bulk of the knowledge I've gained through my university experience had nothing to do with my degree. This is no fault of my professors or the greater faculty of arts that I was in, but realistically when it comes to life-long lessons, especially the harder lessons, there's little anyone can teach you until you experience things for yourself.

A great deal of my education came from choosing to get involved in many ways with campus and the broader community. An eager first-year, with a history of being involved in extracurricular activities, I applied to write for *The Cord* within my first few weeks at Laurier. The decision, after choosing to come to this university, stands to be one of the most important I've ever made.

In my four years of writing and editing at the paper, I've not only found a career path for myself but learned an incalculable amount from my peers and those I had the opportunity to interview. The experiences, ideas and opinions of other people you're exposed to in being a part of an organization like *The Cord*, or any group in the campus or community, are far more available and diverse than what you will find in the classroom with one prof lecturing to students in the same discipline.

Most students and university administration at Laurier will tell you how invaluable it is to be involved with some form of extracurricular activity — and they're right. Balancing school with other activities, if you're responsible about it, will teach you a lot about managing your time. Late night productions for

The lessons that will affect your daily life for years to come won't be delivered to you in a lecture or a textbook.

The Cord's print paper challenged me to operate on little sleep and, more importantly, taught me to plan my time carefully. For the unorganized, you risk falling behind in your academics, which isn't an easy thing to fix when assignments can be worth 30 per cent or more of your total mark for a class.

Getting C-grades can hurt, and it's certainly an example of learning the hard way, but if you do care about your academic standing, you will make the point of improving your time management skills which will have its benefits years after you leave school.

Keeping a part-time job during the school year is a necessary reality for many students. As you discover your summer savings don't last very long into the school year, having a job will keep you afloat.

I became more conscious of my spending habits by working throughout the year. Having to fill out forms for my OSAP loans and completing my taxes, I became financially aware and for the most part, responsible.

Apart from the financial responsibility and typical job experience you get from working during the school year, it also takes you out of the campus bubble. Working in the community and befriending coworkers who aren't connected to Laurier will remind you that there is life beyond the university.

From apartment hunting, to bemoaning rent increases, to arguing with

roommates, there's plenty to take away from living on your own. Finding a place to live that's not falling apart but within your budget and close to campus is not the easiest task. Once you do find it, the interesting social experiment of living with friends or strangers will make for stories you'll be telling for the rest of your life.

Whether it's your roommate with a dramatic love life, or roommates with more serious issues like drug habits, negative body image or depression, the experience can be difficult to manage. You undeniably learn a thing or two, like how to be a supportive friend, keep the peace in a hostile environment and that some people don't adjust well to their new-found independence. I'm a firm believer in community engagement, not simply for what you can learn, but because it's a two-way street and there is much you can bring to the table.

Going to public lectures or listening to speakers, whether they're conveniently on campus or at venues like the Centre for International Governance Innovation, gives you insight on what's happening in Waterloo and around the world. It can provide you with the knowledge to make informed decisions when voting or bring ideas to community forums.

Especially when it comes to any election season, being engaged with the issues is crucial, because while you may say you don't care, you'll feel the effects if there are tuition hikes, increased transit costs or cuts to public programs you rely on.

While there is plenty to learn in the classroom, the lessons that will affect your daily life for years to come on being an engaged citizen, renting or becoming a home-owner and finding a career path won't be delivered to you in a lecture or a textbook.

You have to actively experience the opportunities that exist on campus and in the community, talk to people from different walks of life and fall on your face a few times in order to make the most of university.

# OPINION

Opinion Editor Joseph McNinch-Pazzano • jmcninchpazzano@thecord.ca

## In defense of foreskins

Cord Contributor **Amelia Calbry-Muzyka** argues that circumcision is simply mutilation and should be banned



**AMELIA CALBRY-MUZYKA**  
CORD CONTRIBUTOR

On Nov. 8, residents of San Francisco, California will be voting on an issue that has raised a number of strong voices and opinions. Since reaching the required 7,100 signatures in May, the November ballot is set to include a proposal for a circumcision ban, which would make it "unlawful to circumcise, excise, cut or mutilate the whole or any part of the foreskin, testicles, or penis of another person who has not attained the age of 18 years."

Anyone found violating this would face up to one year of jail time as well as a \$1,000 fine. The only exception to this rule would be for circumstances where circumcision is the last available treatment option in matters relating to the physical health of the individual. Should this ban take effect, young boys would be saved from an unnecessary procedure, which they are incapable of consenting to.

Unsurprisingly, however, this groundbreaking proposal has received a number of objections, all of which can be narrowed down to two main points — health and freedom of religion. Both of these objections provide insufficient reasons for maintaining the status quo and disregard the fact that circumcision, without medical necessity or the individual's consent, is nothing less than mutilation.

Routine neonatal circumcision

was adopted in the United States in the late 19th century as prevention or treatment for a number of health conditions, including everything from mental illness and tuberculosis to excessive masturbation and blindness. In present day, routine circumcision is generally performed for so-called hygienic reasons, with the perception that an uncircumcised penis is an unclean one.

While the uncircumcised penis does indeed require a slightly more thorough cleaning, there is no evidence that proves a circumcised penis is more hygienic than an uncircumcised one. In addition, studies that have been conducted to determine whether an uncircumcised male holds a higher chance of contracting penile cancer and/or urinary tract infections have been inconclusive. The only health benefit to circumcision was found in a 2005 randomized controlled trial in South Africa, where it was found that circumcised men in that area were 60 per cent less likely to contract human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) through heterosexual sex than uncircumcised men, results which have been replicated in similar trials conducted in Kenya and Uganda.

These trials only serve to show the potential benefit of circumcision in sub-Saharan African, where there are high rates of heterosexual transmission of HIV, partially as a result of low condom use, among many other causes. In industrialized countries, such as the United States, where HIV is not nearly as prevalent and sexual education and birth control are widely and easily available, the justification for circumcision in terms of health benefits simply does not hold.

The other objection to the ban

argues that a ban on circumcision would be a violation of the first amendment of the United States Constitution, which protects the right to freedom of religion from government interference. Circumcision has a long religious history, specifically with Jewish and Muslim individuals. As a result, some have come to view the ban as a direct attack on their right to freedom of religion, fearing that a circumcision ban is just the first step in an upcoming attack on their religious practices as a whole.

What these individuals fail to realize is that, rather than being an attack on religious practices, it is a step forward in recognizing an individual's right to his own body. A ban recognizes that a male should be entitled to protection from harmful religious traditions and unnecessary medical practices he cannot consent to. It is also an acknowledgement that using the argument that a practice is traditional, as the sole means of defending a practice, is invalid and does not make it right.

In the last hundred years, male circumcision in the United States has become the norm. It is seen as a harmless, routine procedure as well as an affirmation of "manhood." However, it is a mind-boggling double standard that the removal of sensitive tissue in females is regarded as atrocious, while the removal of the similar tissue in males is viewed as customary. This ban is not the result of overbearing government attempting to weasel its way into the private lives of individuals, but rather one which acknowledges that no one should be subjected to harmful and unnecessary medical procedures without their consent, regardless of tradition.



You know what yanks my Cord...

... smelly people on buses.

I mean, I thought everyone had this discussion in elementary school health class. When you sweat, you smell.

However, I have something to solve all your problems. There is this amazing solution on the market (I know you may not have heard of it) called deoderant. Also known as "letting the rest of us breathe."

Culprits are usually holding at least one of the following objects: backpack, purse, iPod, travel mug or other assorted bus-traveling accessories.

The last time I did a market analysis of deoderant prices, even the most questionable, cheap scents do not come close to the cost of any of

the aforementioned items.

Thus, please purchase one.

I am going to have a YouTube worthy freak-out if I have to keep standing beside somebody significantly taller than me who is holding onto the rail above me with their body odour drifting into my airways.

Today, I'm calling you out in a newspaper rant and saving you face by granting you anonymity. Tomorrow, I may not be so kind and will proceed to call you out in the middle of a crowded (and probably smelly) bus.

Please. I've plugged my nose and held my breath for far too long.

—Joseph McNinch-Pazzano

### Online Exclusive:

## The West's immoral crusade against Libya



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# Hurtful, hateful and homophobic

Tracy Morgan's violent rant against the gay community condones hate and NBC's lack of response did nothing to help



**BREE RODY-MANTHA**  
FEATURES EDITOR

Comedian and *30 Rock* star Tracy Morgan is undeniably a homophobe and should face consequences for it.

I'm referring, of course, to Morgan's recent rant on stage in which he stated that homosexuality is a choice, that gays should not be upset about bullying (which he called trivial) and that he would kill his own son if he acted gay.

First of all, Morgan's rant was homophobic. It doesn't matter if he was onstage or offstage. When the audience stops laughing and begins squirming with discomfort, it's no longer edgy comedy.

Now, obviously all comedians have some degree of artistic licence and political correctness and comedy definitely do not mix. However, it was obvious from Morgan's loss of composure that this was no longer part of his bit.

To actually say that you will "stab that little n\*\*\*er to death" about your own son undeniably crosses the line from taboo comedy to violence and hate.

I was one of the many eagerly

awaiting Tina Fey's response to the situation, as Fey is a well-known activist for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) community. In her June 10 statement, Fey said all — or most — of the right things. She acknowledged the extensive team at NBC and *30 Rock* who happen to be part of the gay community, whom Morgan owes a great deal of his success to.

She also acknowledged the horrible words Morgan chose to use but, in doing so, quickly accompanied this shaming with a half-assed defence of Morgan's character, saying that this was so out-of-character for him.

Her defence of his character is meaningless and an extra slap in the face to the gay community, who consistently face hateful remarks like Morgan's.

Additionally, her statement means absolutely nothing since Morgan will not be fired from *30 Rock*.

Similar rants in the past have been "career killers" for other celebrities — rightfully so.

In 2006, former *Seinfeld* star Michael Richards came under heavy fire for a racist rant onstage where he lashed out at two black audience members. Like Morgan, Richards was seen losing his composure, crossing the line from comedy to frightening and violent imagery.

The difference was that Richards

was so publicly shamed that he was forced to retire from stand-up several months after the incident. His career has been completely off the map since then.

Even more dramatic was Mel Gibson's fall from grace. In 2006, Gibson went on an anti-Semitic rant while being arrested for driving under the influence. Despite the commercial success of 2004's *The Passion of the Christ*, Gibson has not seen any form of success since then.

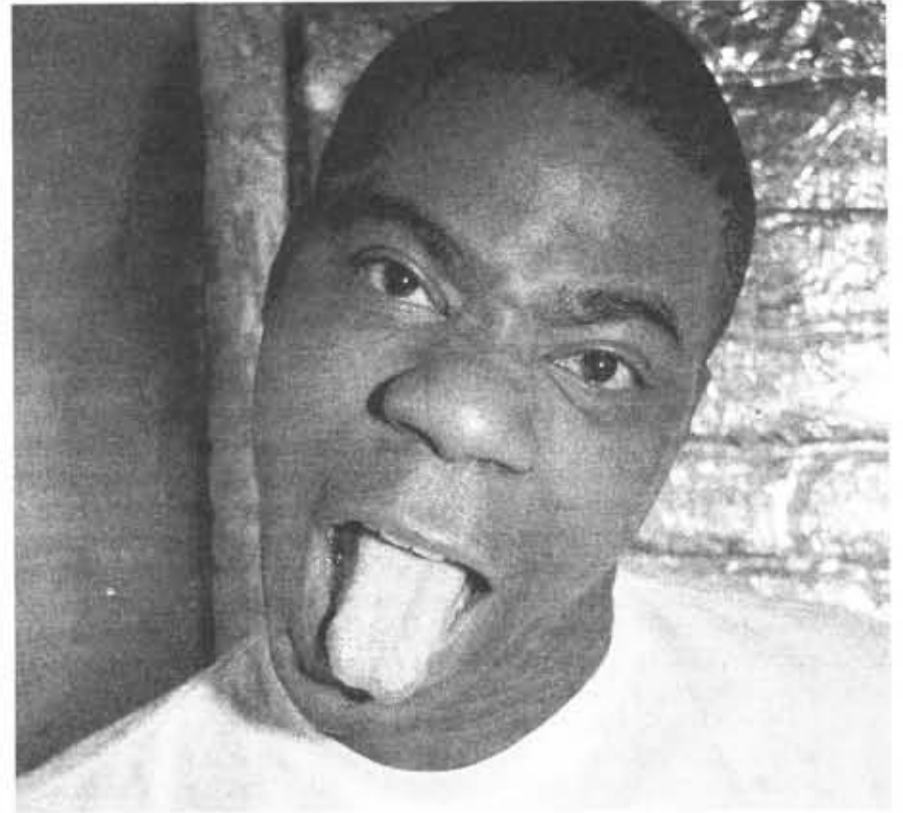
Gibson was even dropped from *The Hangover Part II*, which he was supposed to make a brief appearance in.

The move could have gained him some ironic street-cred a la Mike Tyson but cast and crew took a stand and objected to working with Gibson — something the *30 Rock* team should be doing.

No doubt Fey's words were well chosen. It was smart to remind the public that *30 Rock* and NBC employ a large number of gay individuals and are not afraid to let people know.

However, Fey's words chalk up to nothing in the end, since we know that Tracy Morgan's paychecks are still coming to him at \$75,000 per episode.

Now, with the actor revealing his true colours, would be the perfect time for NBC to set an example and show that they won't tolerate such behaviour.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO DRIVENBYBOREDOM

Instead, they let their least valuable player continue to slip by, while simultaneously sending the message that it's okay to say violent homophobic slurs as long as you issue a half-assed apology.

I would like to say that I am making a stand and will no longer continue to watch *30 Rock*, but I already swore off the show when it lost its edge a little over a year ago.

However, if anyone else wants to make a stand, I'd highly recommend not giving the show your time and attention.

## Tracy Morgan stand-up routine

"Gays need to stop being pussies and whining about something as insignificant as bullying."

If my son came out to me he "better talk to me like a man and not in a gay voice or I'll pull out a knife and stab that little n\*\*\*er to death."

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# Point • Counter-point: Public housing

**Keith Marshall** argues that Mayor Rob Ford's decision to slash funding to Toronto Community Housing Corporation is fiscally responsible while **Alex Reinhart** views it as uncompassionate conservatism



**KEITH MARSHALL**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

The Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC), an agency that manages all the public housing in the city of Toronto, recently released a report detailing nearly \$650 million worth of housing repairs in back-order.

With a city struggling to balance a \$750 million deficit this year, the interim-chair of the TCHC proposed the sale of up to 900 publicly owned houses to help pay for the cost of these repairs. The sale of this housing is in the best interest of the city, especially given their estimated property value of \$400 million. In fact, promoting a policy involving the gradual sale of public housing makes a lot of sense in a city like Toronto. Public housing is simply not needed.

Affordable housing is a requirement for any city. In Toronto, however, government ownership is not necessary to build and maintain it. Local charities like the Fife House Foundation, Habitat for Humanity and Tobias House have already

demonstrated that they have the ingenuity to deal with both temporary and long term local housing concerns without relying on the government.

The government would be better off decreasing zoning restrictions and decentralizing planning, particularly with respect to currently zoned residential and commercial land. This would go a long way to make it easier for charities to be able to afford increasing their supply of affordable housing. At the same time it would also help businesses locate where they feel they can be most successful, which would help increase the availability of jobs.

The other major issue determined by the audit of the TCHC was that it

**Municipalities would do well to consider lessening the role of government in the building and operating of affordable housing.**

had failed to keep its housing complexes full. The worst case of this was an apartment complex at 389

Church Street which continued operating despite being two-thirds empty. Most initially interested tenants had deemed its units — each of which had only a small bedroom and shared bathrooms and kitchen — too small for their needs and had gone on to arrange alternative living arrangements.

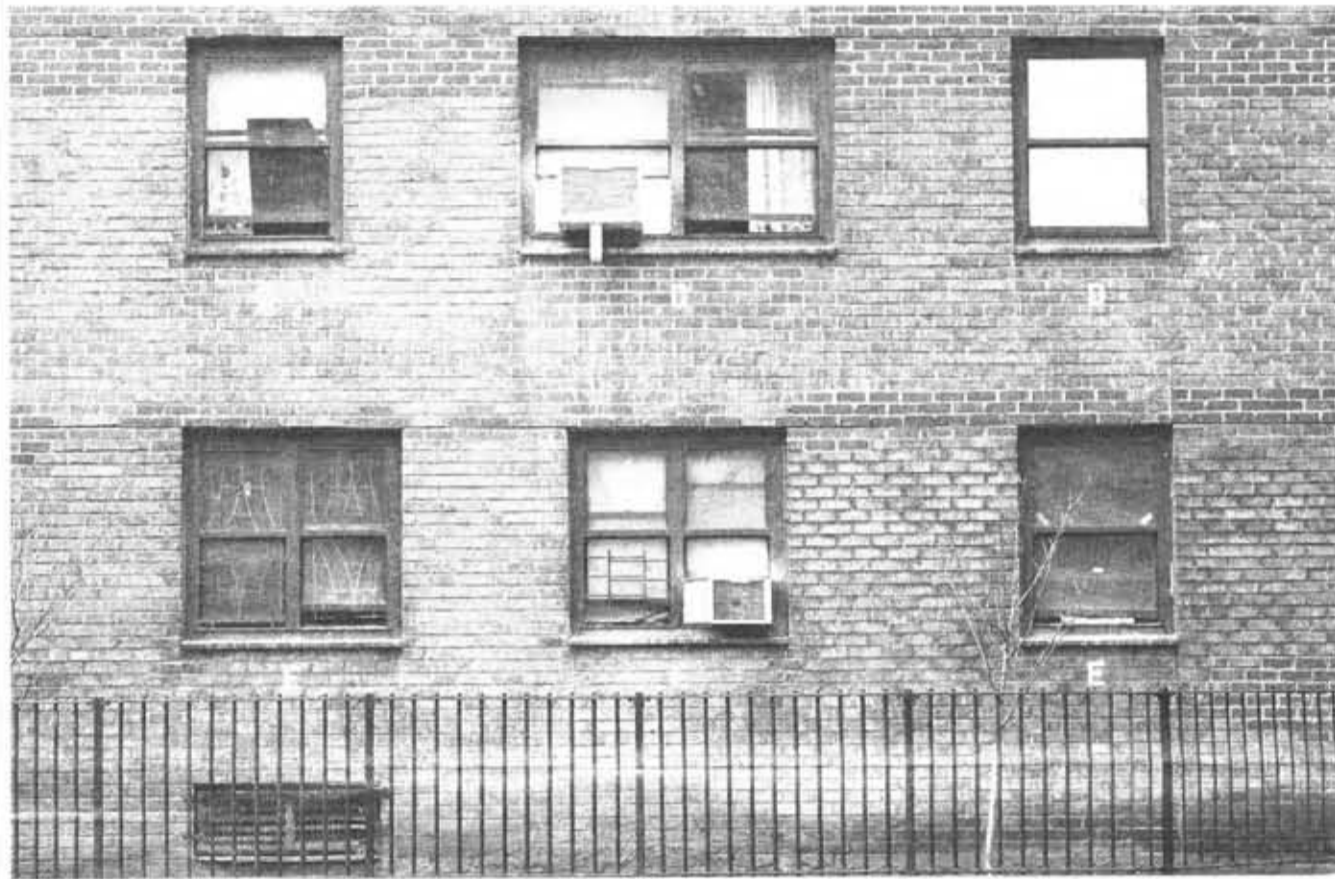
This is the problem inherent with public housing particularly in a large, well-developed city like Toronto. As neighbourhoods change, public housing projects rarely adapt to meet changing consumer demands. The revitalization of Regent Park is attempting to change this by providing a mixture of market rate and affordable housing units. Yet, at a cost of more than one billion

dollars, it's still unclear how successful the incomplete 15-year revitalization plan will be.

Although the problems faced in Toronto with respect to affordable housing may seem irrelevant to cities like Kitchener and Waterloo, the conditions that make housing unaffordable still exist in these cities. The shift in employment away from the manufacturing sector in favour of lower paying jobs in the service sector has had a negative impact in cities across Ontario. There is hope for alternatives beyond public housing, though.

One such example is the significant support that exists within the Kitchener-Waterloo community to see older buildings preserved. Older buildings are frequently used by small businesses, the biggest employer in any city. Kitchener also requires all affordable housing projects to delegate at least 20 percent of their units to market rate housing, a small start in making affordable housing more affordable for all involved.

Ultimately Toronto, Kitchener and Waterloo would do well to consider lessening the role of government in the building and operating of affordable housing. Charities are much better at adapting to the changing needs of residents which make them much more suited to provide housing in modern cities.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO ANDELUCA



**ALEX REINHART**  
CORD CONTRIBUTOR

Given the global financial situation we have dealt with in the past few years, it would be an understatement to say that most people been affected by the economic downturn. It has had an impact on all levels of government, all of which have instituted different measures in an attempt to balance their budgets.

Like all politicians, Toronto Mayor Rob Ford has been given the task of balancing the city's budget in light of tighter financial circumstances.

In a desperate attempt to prove he is "fiscally responsible" and in typical conservative fashion, Mayor Ford has decided pass the burden onto the people who can least afford it.

Ford's proposal to sell the homes owned by the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) is not only bad for the city, but will also

have a detrimental effect for those on fixed incomes, as well as low income families.

The cost of owning a home has been on the rise for the entire country. Excluding Vancouver and Toronto, the national average for home prices is up 3.7 per cent from May 2010. In Toronto, housing prices have increased a massive 9 per cent.

Home ownership has always been difficult for the aforementioned groups. The difficulties which they had previously faced have now been compounded by consistently rising housing prices.

Those in support of Ford are likely to argue that those who work hard make money and can therefore provide their own shelter. While there may be some merit to that, it fails to account for those Torontonians

**Subsidized housing is an integral part of community. Mayor Ford should consider what is best for the city, not what will get him more votes.**

who aren't using public housing as a crutch but as life support.

Ford's proposal to sell the properties of the TCHC is simply another conservative policy that will

negatively affect those who cannot afford it.

As mayor, Ford had the ability to make up the deficit in a number of ways. The easiest, most effective way to do this would be to increase property taxes, particularly in the relatively wealthy areas of the city.

This solution would be more effective over the long term, rather than the proposed short-lived solution that will have severe detrimental impacts on lower-income Torontonians.

There are numerous people who have shown support for proposal. However, I would attribute this to a misunderstanding of what exactly is meant by subsidized housing.

Subsidized housing is available in many forms such as public housing, non-profit housing, co-op housing

and rent supplements. It's not just "free housing."

While Ford's proposal may have the necessary political flashiness, it is not truly fiscally responsible. Ford fails to consider the economic spillover effects that will occur when people who can't afford public housing are forced to rely on others for basic necessities.

The situation is also applicable to the subsidized housing situation in Kitchener-Waterloo.

The co-operative housing in Waterloo has added a community building aspect to the city.

Not only does it allow residents to become members of the community, but it also allows previously displaced citizens to become reintegrated in society with ease.

Subsidized housing is an integral part of community building.

Mayor Ford's proposal is not good for the city of Toronto or for its citizens. Ford's proposal is simply an attempt to garner votes from those who will fall for his breed of populism.

Instead of burdening those who cannot afford it, Mayor Ford should consider what is best for the city, not what will get him more votes.

## Did WLUSU get the best deal for students?

Former WLUSU Director **Greg Evans** blasts the downfalls of the recently negotiated deal for the Terrace food court, pointing to the role of the board of directors as a rubber stamp on contentious decisions



**GREG EVANS**  
FORMER WLUSU DIRECTOR

What is perhaps most troublesome about the sale of the Terrace food court is not that there are several more full-time positions being laid off than are being publicized, which there are, nor that the ones who were immediately laid off were

given no notice, which they weren't, nor that student managers are not being guaranteed their positions, which they aren't.

What is most troubling to me is the way in which this sale was negotiated, by whom on our behalf it was negotiated, and most importantly when it was negotiated.

The idea to sell the Terrace was conceived well before Nick Gibson's election and had already been discussed at length and in great seriousness by high-level Wilfrid Laurier University Student Union (WLUSU) management before February. This is not to say he does not

deserve flak from opponents of the sale. He did have the opportunity to stop this deal at any time and chose not to.

Talks and negotiations with Aramark were well underway before May 1, when WLUSU's new board of directors had not yet taken their seats. With negotiations and talks with Aramark underway, this decision should have come to the 2010-11 board of directors.

A deliberate and conscious decision seems to have been made to wait to bring the decision to the new and less experienced board, as the chances of the sale being approved

improved significantly in front of the new group of directors.

The deliberate hiding of information and corporate negotiations from a corporation's board of directors is both ethically and legally questionable.

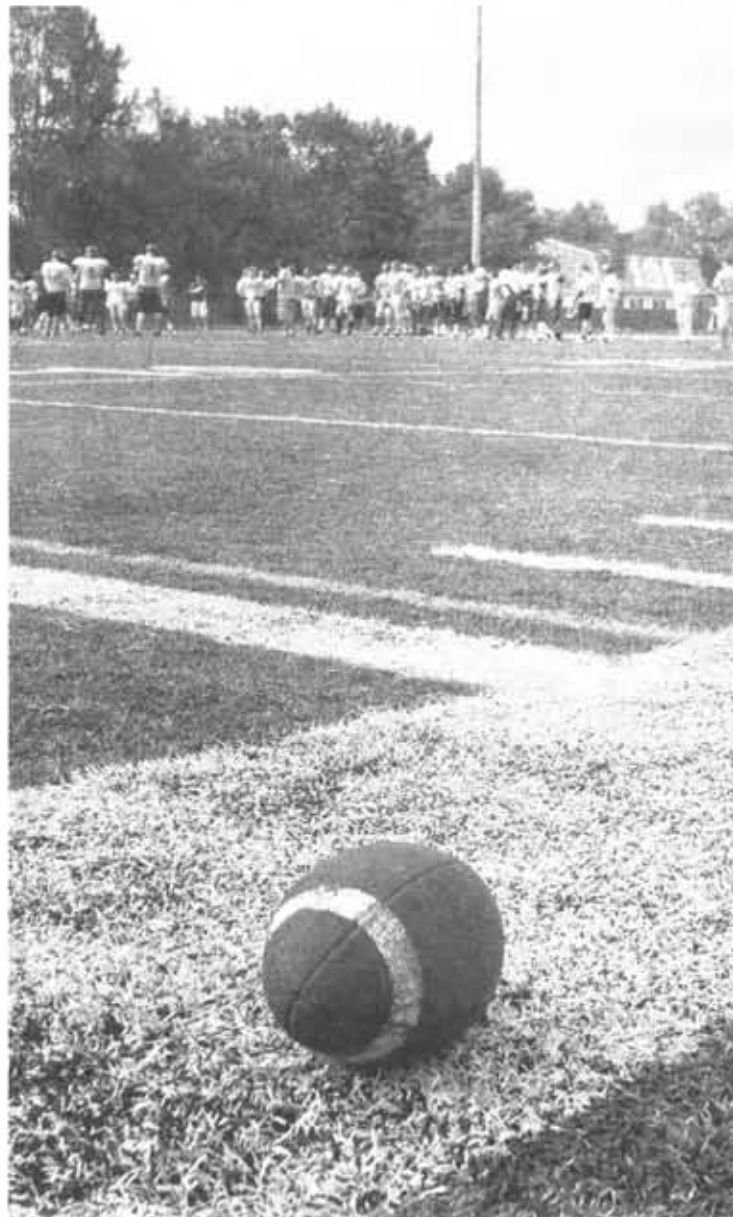
Perhaps I'm just angry because, as I've already been told, I'm going through WLUSU withdrawal and miss being important.

I regretfully must admit, however, that WLUSU's board of directors has simply been a rubber stamp for some time now and its members, myself included, haven't been important for years.

### The New Terrace Deal

- Aramark to oversee operations
- 24-hour access to food services, William's and Terrace Expansion
- Subway to replace Mr. Sub and Spring Rolls to be built in the lower level of the Terrace

# A look ahead to the 2011-2012 edition of the WLU Golden Hawks



Left to right: Men's hockey goalie Ryan Daniels meditates during a game, a lone football is cast aside at a team practice, point guard Felicia Mazerolle drives to the net.

FILE PHOTOS BY NICK LACHANCE AND ELLI GARLIN

## Men's Soccer

Head coach Mario Halapir returns with a slightly older and more mature cast of players who finished third in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) West last year.

The Hawks will lose some offensive firepower in the oft-injured Alex Doma, Spencer Cawker and ex-captain Ben Clifford, but Halapir will look to fill that scoring void with a greater role given to second-year Sandro Stojakovic, who showed an offensive flair in his inaugural year. Donald Chmura and David Corazola have also shown flashes of brilliance, but their chances were limited last year with a deep roster of older players getting the majority of the field time.

The Hawks' defence took a major hit with graduating players Matt Smith, Josh Moore, Eamonn Hardy and Zach Faubert-Tetrault leaving the purple and gold in 2011. Chris Walker will log huge amounts of minutes as he leads a very inexperienced group of defencemen on the back-end.

In net, the Hawks will continue to hand the ball to Jarrett Humphreys, with Martyn Hooker serving as a capable backup. Hooker showed the brass what he could do in the playoffs last year as he held his own when a concussion prematurely ended Humphreys' season.

—Kevin Campbell

## Women's Soccer

The 2010 season ended in heartbreak for the women's soccer Hawks.

After a stellar season that saw them record an impressive 11-1-2 (won-lost-tied) record and win the OUA championship, the purple and gold lost in extra time in the CIS championship to the Queens Gaels, the team they defeated for the provincial title just a week prior.

However, the Hawks seem to be in good position to avenge that gut-wrenching loss. Just two players

— forward Ali McKee and defender Erica Horner, were lost to graduation, which means the team's core, including the likes of former national team member Alyssa Lagonia, last year's OUA West MVP Tania Pedron and the 2010 Canadian Inter-university Sports (CIS) rookie of the year Kelsey Tikka, will all be back to make another run at the national title.

—Justin Fauteux

## Men's Hockey

Head coach Greg Puhalski's first season behind the bench reaped immediate dividends for Wilfrid Laurier University's ice-warriors.

An extremely young team surprised even themselves and, with the help of a standout performance by goaltender Ryan Daniels, shot up to 2nd place in the West. They later bowed out to Guelph in the second round of the playoffs.

Still, an incredible season can only be improved upon by Puhalski's troops with a returning Daniels and group of forwards with a nose for the net, Thomas Middup, Mitchell Good and Jordan Bonneville.

Gone are captain Jean-Michel Rizk, Ryan Bellows, Colin Williams and Laurier's own smooth-skating and hard-hitting Ryan Murphy in Ryan Bernardi. The defence looks strong with Garrett Sinfield and Zack Shepley returning along with Phil Magistrale. Filling Bernardi's skates will be hard to do but as long as the power-play remains sharp and the defence contributes some offence as a tandem, the Hawks should strive for at least another second-place finish.

A strong penalty-kill will also be crucial to the team's success.

Look for big things from this group, who should only get better as the season goes on.

—Kevin Campbell

## Women's Hockey

A powerhouse team which stumbled

late in the playoffs and in the national championships, this team will realize what they're made of after a season of devastation, losing the CIS bronze at home last year.

Within a growing and improving OUA women's hockey league, Laurier must now compose themselves and learn from their late-season tumbles as the bulk of the team is returning.

Iconic goaltender Liz Knox is graduated along with Erin Weber.

Katherine Shirriff, Heather Fortuna and Alicia Martin may return, and if they do, the Hawks will be in better shape, but there's no question the team went through growing pains last year.

With a better knowledge of coach Rick Osborne's systems, the team

has a core group of players who have grown together.

Rookie sensation Laura Brooker will lead the charge after taking the league by storm thanks to her deadly-accurate sniping abilities. The real test comes in goal as Kristen Kilgallen will try to fill Knox's enormous skates.

For the first time in a long time, there will be questions surrounding the most potent team on campus.

—Kevin Campbell

## Men's Basketball

The men's basketball Hawks were a pleasant surprise last season, losing to Carleton in the OUA semifinals, concluding what was one of the best campaigns in Laurier history.

This year's team looks to build on

that success with team MVP and superstar Kale Harrison coming back for a fifth season. Harrison will lead a team that is looking to mature and contend for a Wilson Cup, as reigning rookie of the year Pat Donnelly and blossoming star Max Allin look to improve on impressive campaigns.

Head coach Peter Campbell can also rest easy knowing rebound machine Matthew Buckley will also be back for a fifth season, giving the Hawks the physical presence they've grown accustomed to.

Campbell will also look for rookie standout Jamar Forde to continue his progression and capitalize on his athletic ability, which made Forde a

(Continued on next page)



ELLI GARLIN FILE PHOTO

Krista Cellucci will help lead a star-studded women's soccer team to defend their provincial title and claim the eluded national title that escaped them last year.

(From last page)

defensive asset last season when facing teams with a large scoring threat.

However, the key to this team's success falls once again on Harrison's shoulders.

He is one of the premier shooters in the CIS and in order for this team to meet the lofty expectations now set upon them, Harrison will need to match last season's scoring productivity.

While the team around him will no doubt be impressive, it is their MVP that makes them a legitimate contender. Anything other than an improvement on last season's finish can be considered a letdown as it is essentially the same roster, only improved and more experienced.

—Chris Mander

### Women's Basketball

The 2011-12 women's basketball team has a tough act to follow.

Last year's squad posted the best season in team history after a Cinderella playoff run saw the Hawks finish fifth in Canada, higher than any other Laurier women's basketball team.

And to makes things even tougher, the Hawks will have three gaping holes in their starting five left by the graduation of Megan Grant, Mallory Kohlmeier and two-time OUA West defensive player of the year Renata Adamczyk.

This means the Hawks will need a big season from fifth-year Christa Mancino and continued development of last year's standout rookie point guard Felicia Mazzerolle.

With around 10 first and second years on the team this year, the Hawks will be young and hard-pressed to repeat such a standout performance.

—Justin Fauteux

### Men's Baseball

A safe pick for a team to bounce back after a down season, Laurier baseball is looking to build on previous success under manager Scott Ballantyne.

One of the lone bright spots offensively for the Golden Hawks was rookie of the year Nathan Loehle, who led the Hawks in several offensive categories.

Third baseman Ryan Panas has also put up impressive numbers at the plate and looks to contribute to a team that as a unit, struggled to score runs.

The strength of the team for a few seasons now has been pitching, and this upcoming season looks to be no different.

The biggest question mark in the rotation is Steve Zagrodny, who will no doubt put up his usual impressive numbers if he is able to overcome a serious shoulder injury. The staff also features veteran Jack Malone, who has proven to be a consistent starter for the Golden Hawks as of late and will look to match last season's success, which earned him a comeback player of the year award.

The team also features an intimidating bullpen full of veteran pitchers looking to provide stability late in games. Team captain David Canavan will attempt to solidify himself in the closer role, along with becoming the anchor of a scary staff.

A subplot for the team lies in the two sets of siblings, with twin towers Brett and Trent Barwick looking to one up each other, and the same can be said for the Greenberg brothers (also pitchers) with Andrew already making a name for himself in the OUA.

It would not be surprising to see this team contend for first place in the OUA, as long as their bats are



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Linebacker Sydney Odum trains in front of some onlookers to prepare for the upcoming season.

able to come alive and find some consistency.

—Chris Mander

### Men's Football

Last fall was the first time quarterback Shane Kelly had played football north of the border and, at times, it showed.

To make matters worse, the former Columbia University star battled injuries, while he and his teammates had to deal with off-field

issues such as an eligibility ruling that forced Laurier to forfeit a win.

All this culminated in the Hawks falling in the OUA semifinal in a 32-31 thriller against the Ottawa Gee-Gees.

This season, Kelly will be back, not only with a year of Canadian experience under his belt, but also an arsenal of weapons that includes CIS all-star Dillon Heap, top CFL prospect Shamawd Cambers and former rookie standout Alex

Anthony.

However, the Hawks will suffer from the loss of six-foot-six, 350-pound left tackle Mike Knill who was drafted by the Toronto Argonauts last month.

On defence, the purple and gold will need some younger players to step up as they took significant hits with the graduation of defensive tackle Steve Cormack and linebacker Giancarlo Rapanaro.

—Justin Fauteux

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# World-class Hawks are China-bound

JUSTIN FAUTEUX  
NEWS DIRECTOR

Alyssa Lagonia and Kale Harrison are trading in their purple and gold for red and white. But thankfully for Golden Hawks fans, it's only temporary.

It was announced last month that Lagonia, of Laurier's women's soccer team, and Harrison, of the men's basketball team, would be a part of Team Canada for the upcoming International University Sport Federation (FISU) Summer University Games. The FISU games are the equivalent to the Olympics for university athletes, holding events every two years in both the summer

and winter, with this summer's edition taking place from August 12-25 in Shenzhen, China.

"I'm just so thrilled and excited," said Lagonia, a Kitchener-native. "Not only to represent my country but to represent Laurier and even Southwestern Ontario. There's only three of us from Ontario going on [Canada's women's soccer] team, so I'm just very honoured to be representing both."

For Lagonia, representing Canada is nothing new. The fourth-year business major has donned the red and white at the under-20 World Cup in 2008 and also with the senior national team. She returned to her studies at WLU right before the 2010

season, citing winning a university championship with her fellow Hawks as part of her decision.

In fact, this won't even be Lagonia's first trip to China, as she played an exhibition game against the Chinese national team with Team Canada last April.

Despite her previous international experience, Lagonia knows that the experience at the FISU summer games will be different.

"The atmosphere is going to be pretty special, something I've never experienced before," she said. "It's like a mini-Olympics, we're going to be living in an athletes village and going through opening ceremonies, so I'm just really excited for that, I think it'll be really special."

Lagonia is coming off a season in which she won her third Ontario University Athletics (OUA) all-star nod, while also being named a Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) All-Canadian.

Harrison will be representing Canada for the first time in his basketball career, after a season that saw him post the best season in Laurier men's basketball history, setting the single-season scoring record, while becoming the school's all-time leading scorer. He went on to win the President's award as the top male athlete at Laurier.

"Representing Canada is such an honour, I don't think I'll really know what it feels like until it happens," said Harrison. "That's probably the most exciting part and then getting to travel to a place like China and getting to experience a whole other culture like that will be really fun."

As humbled as he is by getting to play for Canada, the magnitude of the FISU games is not lost on Harrison.

"They've told us it's the second biggest sporting event in terms of number of athletes next to the Olympics, so it'll definitely be an incredible experience to just meet students from around the world," said Laurier's hoops star.

Harrison is also looking forward

to the world-class competition the tournament will expose him to.

"In terms of the competition, I imagine the U.S. will be really tough," he said. "They'll have all the [NCAA Division one] guys, guys you watch on TV, so there'll be some great players there ... Probably some guys who will be in the NBA in a couple years."

While Laurier has consistently sent both hockey players and curlers to the Winter University Games in recent years, the school's presence at the Summer Games has been lacking. According to WLU director of athletics and recreation Peter Baxter, Lagonia and Harrison being named to Team Canada signals how

far Laurier athletics has come.

"It shows that the talent we attract to Laurier now is not just in one or two particular sports, but it's really across the board," said Baxter, who will also be going to China for the games, serving as Team Canada's chef de mission.

"Not too long ago we were really just known as a football school, but by this new millennium, our athletes in every sport are showing prominence not only provincially, but nationally and now internationally .... And it's great because not only do I get to cheer on Team Canada, but now I get to cheer on our own Laurier Golden Hawks; that's a real privilege."



ROSALIE EID FILE PHOTO

Kale Harrison won Laurier's male athlete of the year in 2010.



ELLI GARLIN FILE PHOTO

Alyssa Lagonia has lots of experience donning the maple leaf.

## The shapeless mould of the NHL's best goalie



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I'll admit it from the get-go; I was never that enchanted with Boston Bruins' goaltender Tim Thomas.

Starting from the mere fact he wears a Bruins' jersey, all the way to the size of his gut, Thomas never endeared himself to this unfortunate Leafs fan who got burned by his impressive play time and time again during the season.

But maybe it was through his incredible road to the show, which saw the 37-year-old linger in the AHL as well as overseas in Sweden and Finland before making it onto the Bruins' radar and finally penciled in as their starting goalie in late 2007, that softened this writer's jaded heart of the Michigan-raised netminder.

Or maybe it was because Thomas became a more and more integral part of perhaps the greatest and most entertaining NHL playoffs in recent memory, consistently winning with no defined style of play, getting involved in the aggressive stuff with the unfortunate Canucks' forwards who dared cross his crease and obstruct his vision in the finals and defying his own age through the grind of a four-round playoffs in the quest for the hardest trophy to win in all of North American professional sports.

Whatever it was, the Conn

Smythe trophy-winning playoff MVP, who allowed only eight goals in seven games against the Vancouver Canucks, seemed to get better as the playoffs entered its gruelling stages of the later rounds.

No small feat for a 37-year-old.

But with the inscribing of Thomas' name on the chalice of Stanley and his admirable never-say-never ascension to greatness and hockey immortality, greater questions than these have arisen — ones that will shape the landscape of NHL goaltenders for years to come.

If someone (and this is no slight to Timmy) with Thomas' physique, age and unorthodox playing style can win the pinnacle of hockey's glory, who's to say there's a set definition of goaltending that can do the same?

Yes, Thomas' lifelong perseverance and (despite his large frame) cat-like reflexes contributed to the Bruins' win, but when the dust has settled, the \$156,000 celebratory bar tab is paid and it comes time for general managers across the league to devise their "Stanley-Cup blueprint", how do they decide who to throw in the cage?

In 2010, the Chicago Blackhawks shattered their 47-year Stanley Cup drought with a victory over the Philadelphia Flyers, riding sophomore surprise goalie Antti Niemi, the Finnish windy-city saviour who only wrestled the starting job away from Cristobal Huet as the playoffs began.

Niemi was cast off from Chicago just short weeks after winning it all, seemingly a disposable asset to the Hawks and a casualty of the salary cap era.

Opposing the Finn in the Flyers' net were Michael Leighton and Brian Boucher, two career minor-leaguers who together were making \$1.5 million between them — peanuts in professional hockey salaries.

Roberto Luongo, the Canadian Olympic gold-medalist who won his hardware in Vancouver under immense pressure in 2010 and lifted an entire country to euphoria, inexplicably unravelled in the 2011

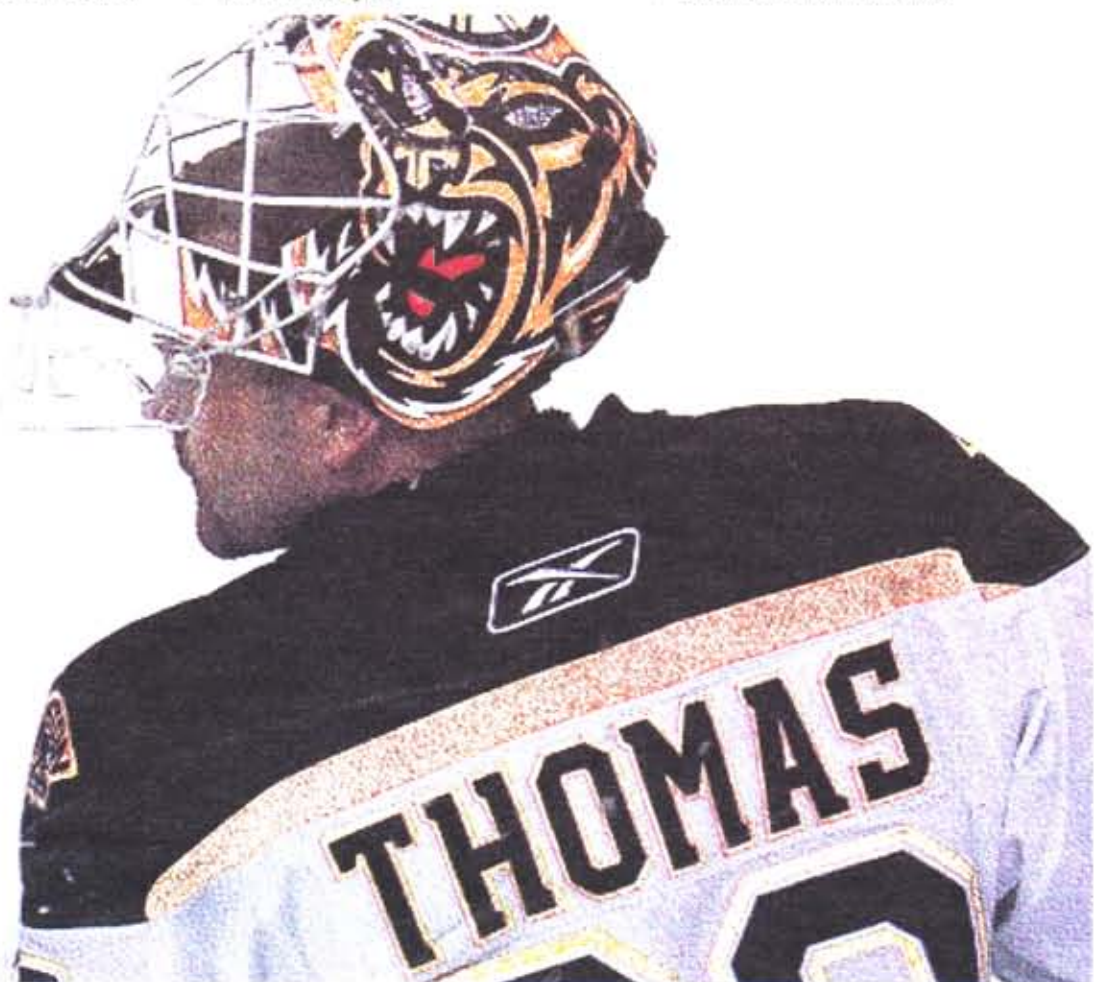
Stanley Cup finals with his Vancouver Canucks.

The Toronto Maple Leafs, ever the polarizing force in the NHL, received elite goaltending in 2011 for the first time in years, and it came from the 23-year-old minor league call-up, James Reimer, who either solidified his position as Leafs Nation's starting masked hero for years to come, or tantalized the Leafs faithful as a flash in the pan.

Goaltenders have always been enigmas in themselves, usually the strong silent types who can elevate or decimate their team's chances at glory all by themselves.

But a general manager who signs a goaltender to that big long-term contract might as well kiss those dice before he rolls them and throw that blueprint out the window.

It's an unstable world for the stable anchors of the NHL.



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The Bruins' Tim Thomas won the Stanley Cup without a defined style of play or traditional athleticism.