

THE CORD WEEKLY

The tie that binds since 1926

FRÉCHE PERSPECTIVE

Louise Fréchette shares her thoughts with Laurier ... **PAGE 9**

NEW HAWKS LAND

Meet the latest recruits to WLU's football squad ... **PAGE 13**

LUG-A-MUG

EcoHawks give away free thermos mugs ... **PAGE 18**

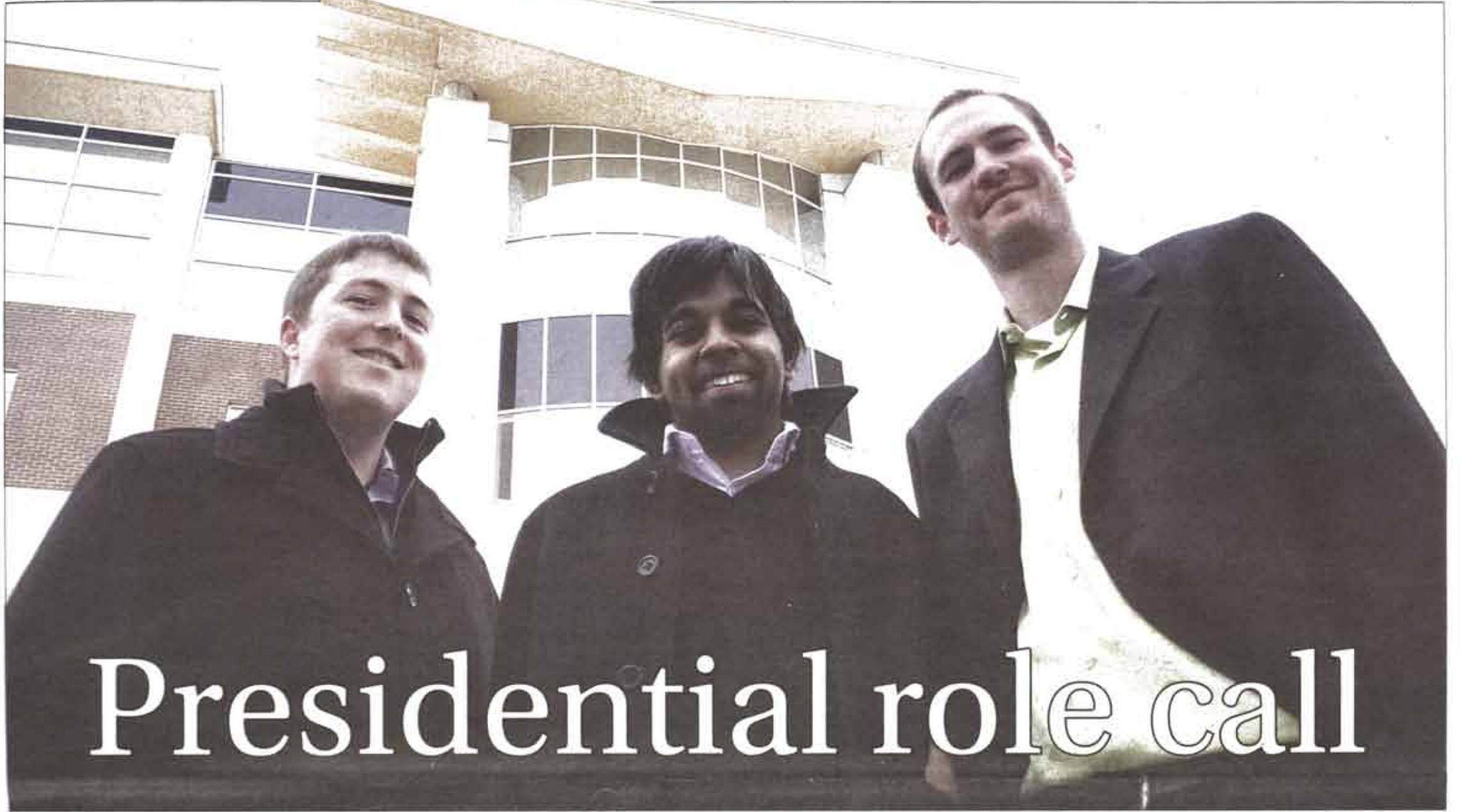


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Volume 48 Issue 21

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2008

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Presidential role call

SYDNEY HELLAND

RBC - (Left to right) Candidates Ross Fraser, Brian Punambolam and Colin LeFevre line up in front of the Student's Union building, the centre of WLUSU's operations on campus.

Yesterday's WLUSU Open Forum saw three presidential candidates take centre stage, followed by a slew of Board of Directors candidates

REBECCA VASLUIANU
STAFF WRITER

Yesterday's Waterloo Open Forum turned out to be an afternoon of intense debate and political discourse.

Taking place in the Concourse from 1 pm until about 4:30, the fo-

rum provided an opportunity for students to hear the platforms and opinions of candidates for the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) positions of President, Board of Directors and Board of Governors, in preparation for the upcoming election on Thursday.

Beginning the event, presiden-

tial candidates Brian Punambolam, Ross Fraser and Colin LeFevre were all asked to deliver a brief speech about their platforms.

Punambolam began by referencing his vast experience at WLU

- SEE **OPEN FORUM**, PAGE 2

WLUSU ELECTION CENTRAL

Understanding Thursday's referendum questions.

SEE **REFERENDUM**,
PAGE 3

Read student leaders' choices for President, BOD and BOG.

SEE **ENDORSEMENTS**,
PAGE 23

For interviews with the three presidential candidates,

SEE **THREE'S A CROWD**,
PAGES 14-15

Special Projects Editor Joe Turcotte on why we should care.

SEE **ONE-NIGHTER**,
PAGE 20

Sexy time with Sue

The infamous 77-year-old sex-pert came to Laurier last week to answer students' intimate queries and discuss sexual education in Canadian schools

ASHLEY JANG
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

Last Wednesday evening, 800 students filled the Theatre Auditorium to enjoy a hilarious and informative presentation given by the *Sunday Night Sex Show's* very own Sue Johanson.

Johanson has hosted two television shows, seeking to educate people about sex. She opened the first Canadian high school birth control clinic and received the Order of Canada in 2001 for her work in educating people about birth control and sexual health.

Since ending her Canadian show

in 1998, Johanson has continued filming her American show, *Talk Sex with Sue Johanson*, and giving presentations at various schools throughout Canada and five schools in the United States.

As part of her university tour, Johanson came to Laurier in an attempt to try and educate students about a huge part of our lives. "I'm so aware that although you got basic sex education in school, you didn't get in-depth sex education," she said.

Johanson stated her concern that schools aren't teaching as much as they could be in order to prepare students for sex.

"We avoided all the controversial issues in school and those are the ones where kids are getting into trouble and those are the ones where they don't have the answers and they don't have the information and they don't like to look it up or try and find the answer."

The event involved a presentation and a question period during which students could anonymously ask questions that were written down on "Dear Sue" question cards. This gave students the opportunity to ask things they might normally be embarrassed to ask.

- SEE **SUE**, PAGE 17



SYDNEY HELLAND

SEXY SUE - Sue Johanson answered students' anonymous questions.

THE CORD WEEKLY

- The tie that binds since 1926 -

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VOLUME 48 ISSUE 21

Next Issue: February 13

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"You're a slut, but I am too, so it's ok."

- Sports Editor Lauren Miller marvelling over information revealed by her highly intoxicated younger sister.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Hate - A feeling of hostility, such as that felt towards someone forgetting the actual word of the week.

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COLOPHON

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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

The Cord will keep faith with its readers by presenting news and expressions of opinions comprehensively, accurately and fairly.

The Cord believes in a balanced and impartial presentation of all relevant facts in a news report, and of all substantial opinions in a matter of controversy.

The staff of The Cord shall uphold all commonly held ethical conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or of commission has occurred, that error shall be acknowledged promptly.

When statements are made that are critical of an individual, or an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity to reply at the earliest time possible.

Editorial journalism requires impartiality, and consequently conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest will be avoided by all staff.

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

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

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



SYDNEY HELLAND

ANSWERING THEIR CRITICS - WLUSU presidential candidates listen to student questions at yesterday's open forum held in the Concourse.

Tension evident in debate

- FROM OPEN FORUM, COVER

- which includes working for WLUSU as a general volunteer, executive and currently as VP: Student Activities, as well as time spent with PP&P, Community Safety and Security and Residence Life Don - explaining the importance of students as a resource for the organization.

Fraser followed on a similar note, citing his experience as WLUSU VP: Marketing and as a Don, and referencing how impressed he was by the potential first-year students have shown thus far.

LeFevre closed on a different note, however, briefly citing his two years of experience with WLUSU on the Board of Directors, as the Chair of the Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications (WLUSP) Board, as well as sitting on the Laurier Students Public Interest Research Group (LSPIRG) Board and the Academic Senate.

He also referenced a need for more financial responsibility, communication with students and environmental sustainability.

As the question period began, candidates were immediately grilled with a series of comprehensive and, at times, pointed questions.

One of the huge issues discussed was that of office hours and connectedness with students. While Punambolam made promises of availability through being present on campus and LeFevre had previously presented the idea of designated office hours during which to speak with officials, Fraser responded, explaining that both of these ideas were not part of the President's job and were simply not time-efficient.

Later, Punambolam asked LeFevre why he had not raised the issue of office hours during his past two years on the Board of Directors.

A common theme of the afternoon, however, seemed to be a multitude of specific questions directed mainly towards Punambolam and LeFevre, as both tried to defend themselves.

One of most barbed of the questions was an accusation made towards Punambolam, stating that he admitted to being absent at a conference because of a hangover.

In response, Punambolam appeared utterly confused.

"I don't know of that circumstance," he explained. "I had been there that Saturday to help set up, but not on Sunday. But I had sent out an e-mail in advance explaining my absence."

Later, a question accusing LeFevre of conducting a slanderous campaign prompted a bewildered reaction, primarily from LeFevre's campaign team, as the questioner offered no specific examples. LeFevre answered with confusion, stating he'd "certainly never seen anything like that."

But the tension between Punambolam and LeFevre was evident.

"There's some campaign member on Colin's team that yelled a racial comment to one of my campaign members and that's the reason why I got a bit angered up there," explained Punambolam.

When asked about it after the forum, LeFevre responded stating that he knew nothing about the incident.

"It was something absolutely out of the blue for me. No one really knows where this is coming from so all I can say is for me it's unfounded," said LeFevre.

Coming forward later to explain, LeFevre stated that he discovered the incident was actually a grave misunderstanding in which a non-derogatory historical reference was interpreted as racism.

"I REALLY WANTED TO POINT OUT THE FLAWS OF THE PLATFORMS ... WHICH IS IMPORTANT FOR THE PUBLIC TO KNOW."

- Brian Punambolam, WLUSU presidential candidate

As the forum continued, the general dynamic became even clearer when candidates were asked to pick which of their fellow candidates they would want to win if they were not elected and state what they liked about each other's platform.

LeFevre and Punambolam both avoided each other as an option, choosing Fraser. Fraser selected Punambolam, however, due to personal experience they had working together on the WLUSU Management Committee.

Again, when explaining later which parts of their opponents' platforms they agreed with, LeFevre drew a blank when referring to Punambolam, stating he was "lost" on that question. Punambolam immediately answered back sharply, stating, "Unlike Mr. LeFevre, I've done my research."

On the whole, the question period took a departure from cutting aggression back towards the issues at hand when the three candidates were asked what WLUSU's greatest mistake of the year was.

While Punambolam stated that there needed to be more representation for elected officials, Fraser brought up the fact that certain issues don't get adequately discussed. LeFevre then brought up the lack of proper financial allocation to certain issues.

When speaking with the candidates afterwards, Fraser and LeFevre both seemed to agree on one thing: the focus of Punambolam's answers on attacking his fellow candidates.

"I think at times some of the answers were directed backwards more than I'd expected," explained Fraser, adding that he wasn't particularly upset by it. "I think it's the job of candidates to be critical and prove that they are the best one. That's how he chose to go about it and that's fine."

In regards to his approach, Punambolam said he felt it was important for the audience to know more about the issues being brought forward.

"I really wanted to point out the flaws of the platforms. I did make a lot of comments regarding their platforms, which is important for the public to know," he explained.

Still, LeFevre felt Punambolam "took a slice" at him during the open forum, but said he didn't think it affected his campaign.

Following the Presidential forum, WLU President Max Blouw spoke briefly on the role of governing officials. Next, Dean of Students David McMurray and current WLUSU President Dan Allison touched on the issue of ancillary fees and the referendum Laurier students will be voting on this Thursday.

Afterwards, the candidates for Board of Directors delivered their speeches and answered the many questions that were asked. With 25 of the 26 in attendance, candidates were desperately vying for speech time through the chaotic mess created by the sheer size of the group.

Following the Board of Directors debate was the Board of Governors forum. Candidates Jon Champagne and Bryn Ossington presented their extensive experience to those in attendance, while the final candidate, Sean-Mui Tummers, was grilled with questions about his lack of experience as a first year.

Unable to name any of the committees he would join on the Board of Governors, Tummers was eventually asked why he chose to run in the first place.

"I thought I had a lot to offer," explained Tummers. "New students will feel the brunt of the changes and they might as well have a voice."

The vote is set to take place tomorrow, with the polls open from 8 am until 7:30 pm. Arts students can vote in the Concourse, Science students in the Science Atrium, Music students in the Music Building and Business students in the area between the Peters and Schlegel Building.

VOCAL CORD

"Who do you think performed best at the Open Forum and why?"



"Colin and Ross performed really well because they kept it about their campaigns and platforms."

- Amber Tah
Fourth-year psychology



"Ross. He was able to answer a lot of different questions."

- Bethany McGlynn
Fourth-year history and communication studies



"Ross in his response to his questions. At the same time Colin was asked a lot of difficult questions and performed well."

- Kale Boehmber
Third-year cultural and film studies



"Pun. I really like how he nailed that we have a specific culture at Laurier."

- Michelle Carvalho
Third-year political science



"I'd say Pun because he seemed to answer every question accurately."

- Peter Surey
First-year economics

Referendum breakdown

Students to vote on the restructuring of faculty-specific fees as well as undergrad representation

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

With the annual Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) elections to be held tomorrow, undergraduate students will have more to vote on than who will be their elected representatives for the 2008-2009 school year.

Two referendum questions are being placed on the Waterloo ballot, which ask students if they support a \$15 per term "Undergraduate Faculty Student Association Fee" to replace all current faculty-specific student fees, as well as if they wish to remove the word "undergraduate" from the WLUSU letters patent and by-laws.

Since a referendum is not typically a large part of Student Union elections, Dan Allison, president and CEO of WLUSU, explained that "this is an exceptional year for referenda questions" and it really gives students "more to look at."

Both questions have been in the works throughout the course of the year; the fee issue, specifically, has been a pressing concern in the Students' Union since the summer.

"There was that \$200 million class action lawsuit against the colleges in Ontario that sparked the interest, in the first little bit, to explore the fees at Laurier," said Allison.

After initially freezing the funds of the faculty-specific groups on campus, which includes the Arts Students' Advancement Program (ASAP), the Science and Technology Endowment Program (STEP) and SBE Student Council, WLUSU, school administration and the various groups involved agreed to let

the students vote on whether they wanted to continue to pay any sort of faculty-specific fee.

"We're starting from zero. The current fee structure is not going to exist as it is now," explained Allison.

If passed, full-time undergraduate students would see a \$15 fee on their tuition bill each semester, while part-time students would see a fee dependant on how many classes they were enrolled in.

If the question does not go through, students will no longer pay any sort of fee to support faculty-specific events or initiatives.

Allison sees various benefits in bringing all the faculty fees under one umbrella, and stresses that, if passed, WLUSU will not be involved in deciding how the various groups can spend their money; it will simply "standardize" the fee collection process.

In regards to the second referendum question present on the ballot, which proposes the "removal of any reference to 'undergraduate' students from the Letters Patent and By-Laws of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union so that the Students' Union can represent all students," Allison explained that he has been in contact with the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) over the course of the year regarding the benefits this would have for both organizations.

"Laurier's going to be expanding its graduate student population naturally over the next few years and to help the graduate students spend their time more efficiently in lobbying, for them to be part of one students' union would help," said Allison.



SYDNEY HELLAND

BREAKING IT DOWN - Current WLUSU President Dan Allison informs those at yesterday's open forum of the referendum questions.

Allison continued by saying that, if passed, this would not necessarily have any direct impacts in the near future - as any restructuring would have to be approved by the GSA (through a similar type of referendum) before there would be any further talk of the relationship between the two groups.

"What this is is a necessary first step," said Allison.

"There's no decision that's been made ... There's a lot of different spin offs that could happen but all that's way down the road."

Though the GSA was reluctant to comment on the situation specifically, because of it being an undergraduate students' referendum, Eric Sadowski, Vice-President of Internal Affairs for the GSA, did offer his insight into the potential of possibly incorporating the two groups on campus.

"We do have a different voice and we are unique, though we do share similar interests as students," said Sadowski.

"It's like we're comparing apples to oranges right now ... For the same reason we meet together to discuss common interests, at the end of the day, I don't think there ever will be a unified graduate and undergraduate voice because we

have to maintain our own voice," he added.

Allison noted that, though he feels that graduate students may see more increased resources in the near future if the referendum passes, undergraduates will also see benefits by "increasing the body of stakeholders."

While students at Laurier's Brantford campus will also be voting on this referendum question, they will not have the proposed restructuring of faculty fees on their ballot, and will instead see a proposal for a \$15 per-term (for full-time students and pro-rated for part-time students) "Dining Facility Fee" until 2018, to support the construction of a dining facility on campus.

After doing a lot of background work on the issues at hand, Allison is hopeful that students will educate themselves and understand the importance of their vote in this referendum.

"These issues affect every student, especially the fee issue, the graduate students issue. It will have a major impact on how things exist in the future."

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story

Referendum Questions

Waterloo Only

(1) "Do you support a new 'Undergraduate Faculty Student Association Fee' of \$15.00 per full-time student per term or pro-rated per part-time course, that will replace the defunct STEP (\$25.00/term), ASAP (\$15.33/term), and SBE Levy Fees (\$15.00/term), to support Faculty-oriented student associations and events and to provide resources for other student clubs?"

Both Campuses

(2) "Do you support the removal of any reference to 'undergraduate' students from the Letters Patent and By-Laws of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union so that the Students' Union can represent all students?"

Brantford Only

(3) "Do you support a new 'Dining Facility Fee' in the amount of \$15.00 per full-time student per term or pro-rated per part-time course for all Brantford Campus students, which will be levied until September 1, 2018, to support the construction of a new dining facility?"

CORRECTION

Unfortunately, Rob Williamson's platform was not included in last week's *Cord* due to no fault of his own. In the interest of fairness, it is being printed this week, in accordance with the wishes of the election's Chief Returning Officer.

In addition, the photos for Jacquelyn Morton and Mieke Barrette were reversed, though the platforms listed are accurate. *The Cord* regrets these errors.

Follow Thursday's WLUSU election results as they occur at www.CordWeekly.com



Rob Williamson

As a 4th year student completing a Bachelors of Science degree in Kinesiology, I feel there is a lack of representation on the Board of Directors for students in the sciences. Therefore, if elected to the BOD, I will provide a unique and often under-represented voice. Furthermore, I will investigate various ways for WLUSU to increase the environmental sustainability on our campus. Finally, as a Director of the Board, I will work on developing relations between the students of the Waterloo and Brantford campuses. I believe I can provide variety and bring a fresh perspective to the Board. Feel free to send any questions or comments to robw08@gmail.com.

Holocaust Awareness Week under way

JENNIFER RAE
STAFF WRITER

The first event of Laurier's Holocaust Awareness Week was held Monday evening, featuring a lecture and a question and answer period presented by Holocaust survivor Jack Veffler. He spoke to a captivated audience comprised of about 100 students, faculty and community members.

Veffler, the author of the book *Through the Eyes of the Child: Survival of the Holocaust*, was born in 1940 in Amsterdam, Holland. His informative lecture dealt with the historical facts of the Holocaust, while the question and answer period that followed pertained mostly to his personal experiences both during and after the war.

He spoke in an even, methodical tone, his voice faltering only once as he explained to the audience gathered, "My story is but one, as seen through the eyes of one child. There are millions more."

Veffler lost both of his parents to the Nazi violence and remembers well the harsh time into which he was born.

From a young child's perspective, he recalled the bewilderment of watching his apartment being raided by neighbours only moments after his parents had fled. He talked of the pangs of shame and confusion

felt as a result of anti-Semitic comments made towards him. He also recounted the suffering brought on by extreme malnutrition and near-starvation, experienced as he was shuffled from place to place.

Veffler described himself as one of many "hidden children" - Holocaust survivors that managed to evade the concentration camps, but who suffered just the same.

His talk is one of several events to be held over the course of the week, which include various speakers, films, remembrance ceremonies and a display booth set up in the Concourse.

The entire week has been organized by WLU's German Culture Society (GCS), a group comprised mostly of history students.

"It is a hard thing to understand," acknowledged the Vice President of the GCS, Nathan Pascoe. "We are trying to provide a contextualized basis so that people can understand the humanistic side that we feel is missing."

During the opening comments at Monday's lecture, the President of the GCS, Ken Robinson, explained, "Our goal has been to offer an intimate connection with the truth of the Holocaust. The experience in organizing the week has been emotionally draining, but it has greatly increased our understanding."

Robinson and the other mem-

bers of the GCS appreciated the importance of initiating a dialogue and continuing to discuss the Holocaust in general, in order to inspire compassion.

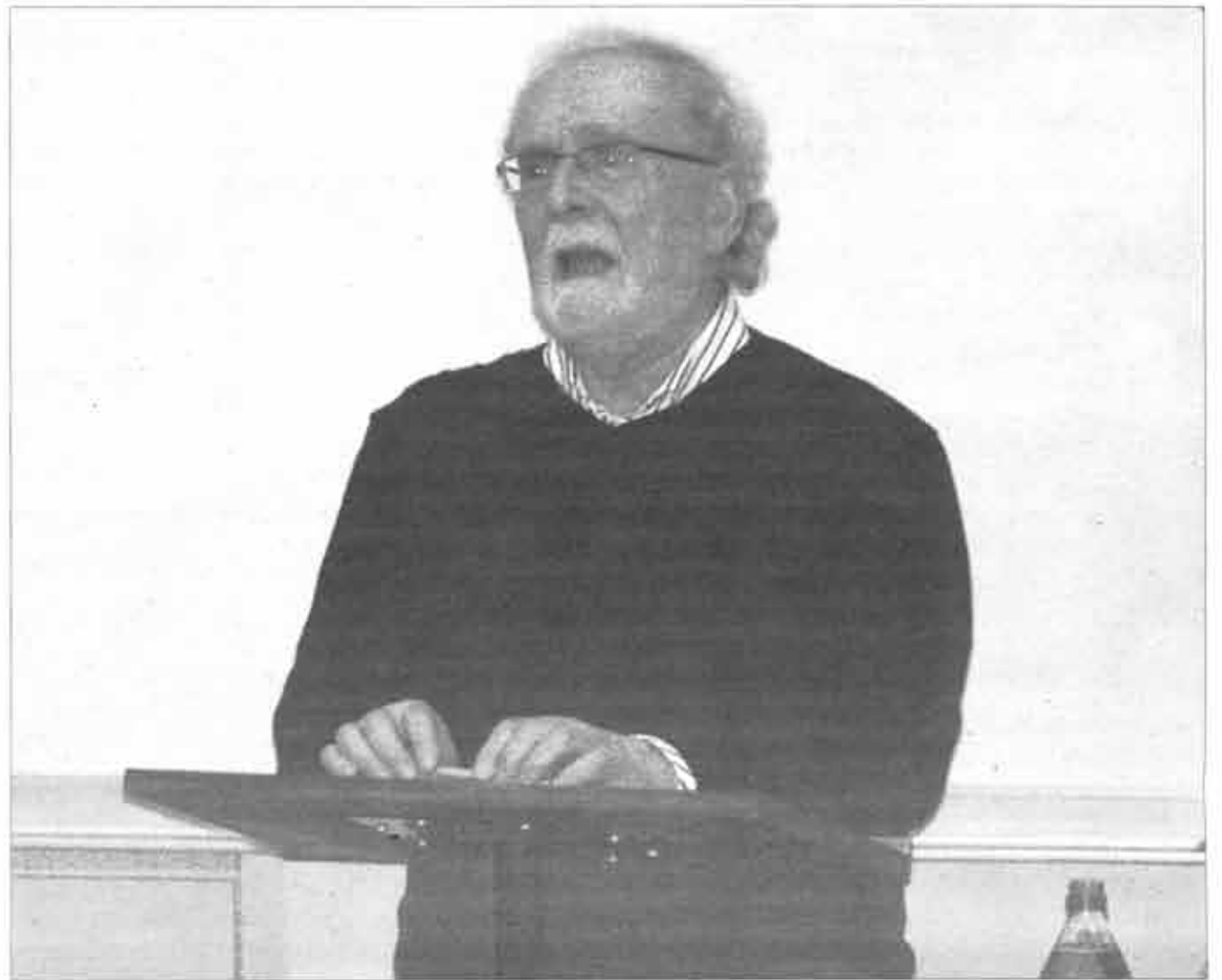
The group asserts that the Holocaust is a part of German culture,

and should never be forgotten. Robinson spoke to Monday's crowd about a particularly significant German phrase meaning "coming to terms with the past."

Events Coordinator Mark Jacoby summarized the upcoming week

well, saying that "in history class, we learn the facts."

"We end up knowing the perpetrators, yet not the victims. But we want you to have the faces. We want to give the people, the victims, a face and a continued existence."



NATHAN PASCOE

A 'HIDDEN CHILD' - Holocaust survivor Jack Veffler shared his emotional tale with individuals from the Laurier community at a lecture on Monday night as part of Holocaust Awareness Week.

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Club rejection garners attention

A 'miscommunication' regarding the denial of club status to a WLU atheist group comes under scrutiny in the blogging world

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

A recent controversy regarding the denial of the Laurier Freethought Alliance (LFA) for official status by Campus Clubs has garnered heated debate and frustration in the freethought blogging community.

With various atheist websites and media sources across the country picking up the story after the vice-president of the LFA, Anatoly Venovcev, posted a blog regarding his frustration with the group being denied status last week, all parties are now working together to resolve the "miscommunications" between Campus Clubs and the LFA.

Venovcev posted that he felt the group's club rejection was based on the principle of their atheist beliefs, which he called "absurd".

The president of the LFA, Tyler Handley, explained that it was never the intention of the group to create this type of attention, though the initial and later blogs posted by Venovcev did call on freethought groups to discuss this issue online and express their concerns to the university.

"We underestimated that things can get out of hand when you post something to a blog and things can get blown out of proportion; that's what happened in this situation," said Handley.

After the blog was posted last Friday, the university and Campus Clubs in particular have been receiving a lot of negative press and a flood of angry e-mails.

"There have been many things said about the Campus Clubs department and about Laurier in general on these various websites," explained Campus Club executive member Lisa Timoshenko.

"Unfortunately, they do not have access to all the information or all the facts."

Timoshenko was the individual who initially rejected the LFA's club

status, because of an issue she had with a particular phrase in the proposal regarding the club's vision of promoting "a fulfilling life without religion and superstition."

"Campus Clubs is in no way opposed to the possibility of having an atheist or agnostic association on campus," explained Timoshenko.

"Our only stipulation as we explained to Tyler was the phrase that implied indirectly a negative stance towards religious beliefs," she added.

Currently, Campus Clubs represents about 90 clubs at WLU, nine of which are affiliated with religious groups, which Timoshenko notes all have to be approved on a manner which ensures they are not disrespectful of other religions.

Though Handley feels that the

mere fact that his group was atheist may have had something to do with the initial rejection, which he says "seemed hasty," he doesn't think that the issue of free speech and other concerns which have been raised are the underlying issues.

"I think people are predisposed to think that atheists are evil people ... but I don't think that was the case in this situation," said Handley.

He also feels that the simple subject nature of the situation is what caused this to turn into such a big issue.

"It's definitely why it garnered so much attention because the atheist religious debate is such a hot topic right now."

With all parties having met yesterday to discuss the current situation and the future of the LFA as

an official campus club, Handley is particularly pleased with how the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) has handled the situation.

Specifically, the group has been speaking with Sanjay Ojjo, VP: Finance for WLUSU, who noted that the LFA is planning to re-submit their application today, as long as they add some statements which reflect that the group will be tolerant and inclusive of all groups on campus.

"Given the circumstance, it should be done by the end of the week as long as they fulfil their requirements of putting in their proposal to be respectful of all while engaging communities in meaningful debate about God," said Ojjo.



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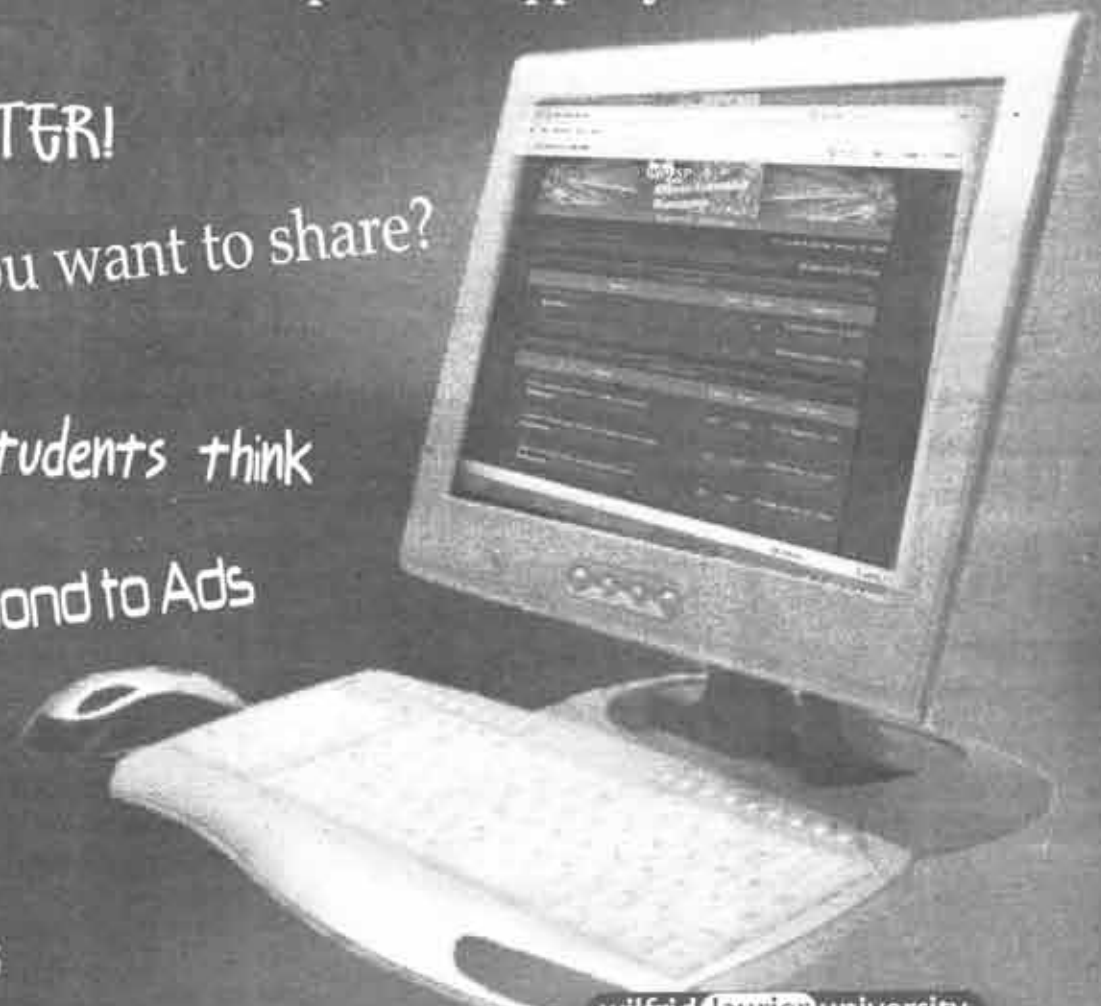
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WLU denies professor tenure status

Grievance filed on behalf of chemistry professor Dr. Stephen MacNeil by WLU Faculty Association

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

Having been integrated within Laurier's Faculty of Science community for almost five years, it seemed like an opportune time for Dr. Stephen MacNeil to make his case for being granted tenure.

Apparently, that wasn't the case, as MacNeil was denied the opportunity after filing an application before the September 15 deadline.

He explained that, while he had full support from his colleagues, it was essentially the University-wide Committee (made up of seven Senate members) that rejected his request.

"The [chemistry] department supported me unanimously. But it was a campus-wide tenure committee that did not support my application," said MacNeil.

When asked to give his perspective regarding the situation, the professor remained tight-lipped.

"The whole thing is ongoing and that's all I'm willing to say at this point," he said, adding that, "What's happening is the Faculty Association has filed a grievance on my behalf and that's about as far as things have gone."

Handling MacNeil's appeal is Dr. Joyce Lorimer, Professor and Department Chair.

While acknowledging that it's "very hard to tell at this stage of the game" when the whole issue might

be resolved, Lorimer took a stance similar to her client.

"I don't think I can ... talk about this at this stage," said Lorimer.

"I feel that, at this point, if I talk about it, I could prejudice the prosecution of the grievance."

Shedding light from the administration's side of things, VP: Academic Sue Horton explained that the situation has been classified as a "Step Two Grievance" and that, she herself, is "not allowed to comment" on the case, specifically.

Generally speaking, however, Horton commented that any applicant for tenure must have "satisfactory performance" in three categories, which include teaching, research and service to the university.

She continued by saying that, while a meeting date for both sides has yet to be determined, the proceedings will be ongoing for quite some time.

"It's not something [the university] takes lightly ... It's a big responsibility," she stated, especially when it's a person's livelihood that is being critiqued.

Whether his view of Laurier has changed now (having started at Laurier in July 2003 and teaching for the first time in Winter 2004), MacNeil only provided a laconic response.

"That's something I don't want to comment on."

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Crime of the Week

Assault
Reported: Feb. 03, 4:24 am

A fight between several Laurier male students erupted in residence, resulting in an assault of one male being kicked and punched. The investigation continues.

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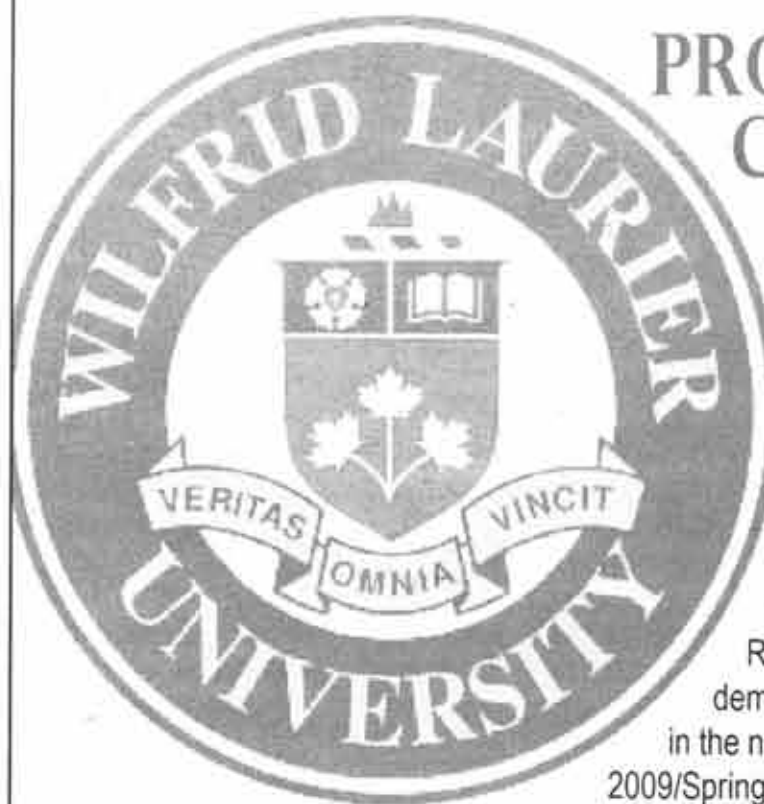
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AW@L protests Grand & Toy

A group of Anti-War @ Laurier members take a stand against the the company's clear-cutting policy in native treaty land, writes **Michelle Caldaroni**.

Murals to cover Laurier's walls

Adam Lawrence, Coordinator at the Office of Student Diversity, is looking to beautify the campus with the 'Laurier Mural Project', writes **Dan Polischuk**.



PROGRAM CONFIRMATION NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR STUDENTS!

New this year, all registered students will automatically be confirmed by the Registrar's Office in their current academic program on LORIS, for registration in the next academic year - Fall 2008/Winter 2009/Spring 2009.

For most **Year 2, 3 and 4 students - no further action is required** until the course registration period in June/July 2008. If you wish to make a change to your program, you may do so by linking to the LORIS account between March 1 and April 30, 2008. Your program change will then be reviewed by the Office of the Registrar and a decision recorded at the end of the Winter 2008 term.

SPECIAL NOTE: Current Year 1 students who have not declared an honours specialization must do so by linking to their LORIS account between **March 1 and April 30th, 2008**. Students who do not declare an honours specialization will be unable to select courses.

If you are unable to use LORIS for any reason or the program you are requesting is unavailable on LORIS, print off or submit the appropriate 'faculty-based' online Program Selection Form to the Office of the Registrar which will be available on March 1, 2008.

☉ CANADAIN BRIEF ☉

STU strike comes to an end

Fredericton, NB

Yesterday, students and professors at St. Thomas University (STU) returned to the classroom after a month-long faculty strike against university administration by executives from the Faculty Association of the University of St. Thomas (FAUST).

According to the *Aquinian*, the student newspaper at STU, this binding arbitration agreement signals that most issues have been resolved, though a labour lawyer will decide upon the remaining ones - which include salary, benefits and compensation.

The labour dispute began in late December when the university locked professors out of the school and they were not allowed to return to work.

Since students have missed just over a month of the winter semester, university administration is also looking for a way to compensate students - though nothing has been decided upon yet.

Alberta post-secondary institutions raise tuition

Edmonton, AB

Students at the University of Alberta will see a slight tuition increase for the next academic year.

Last Friday, the university announced the approval of tuition and residence fee increases. Tuition rates will go up by 4.6 per-

cent, as per a regulation that does not allow the increase to exceed the province's inflation rate, and residence fees will see an increase of 8.75 percent.

The Canadian University Press reported that while students are generally displeased about rising costs for their post-secondary education, the university administration insists that the increases are necessary for maintenance of the campus and will benefit students in the long run.

Grant MacEwan College, also in Alberta, has likewise increased tuition at a rate of 4.6 percent; however, the College is directing \$1 million of the profits from the increase towards financial needs bursaries for students.

Saskatchewan universities face legal battles

Regina and Saskatoon, SK

Steve McNamara, the owner of an online advertising firm based in California, has launched a lawsuit against the University of Regina for copyright infringement.

According to *The Carillon*, the University of Regina's campus newspaper, McNamara filed the suit in mid-January, insisting that the university has engaged in unethical practices. The case will not be heard in court until later this year or early next year.

Elsewhere in the province, the University of Saskatchewan is being sued by a real estate development firm, P.R. Developments Ltd., for purportedly contaminating property through a landfill formerly owned and

operated by the school.

The landfill has not been used since 1988 and *The Carillon* reports the university insists that the operation and closing of the site followed government standards. The lawsuit was launched last summer and has yet to be heard in court.

ASSÉ Students 'Organize Day of Protest in Montreal'

Montreal, PQ

Last Monday, an economic disruption was organized by a radical student organization, the Association pour une Solidarité Syndicale Étudiante (ASSÉ), in Montreal.

The aim of the protest was fighting against the Quebec government's lifting of the provincial tuition freeze. Students of the organization occupied the office of Gerry Sklavounos, vice-chair of the Committee on Labour and the Economy and a Liberal member of the national assembly, as a signal of resentment against the government for allowing companies to have power over education.

Local institutions, such as the Economic Institute of Montreal (IEDM) and a Bank of Montreal, were also under attack by students.

According to *The McGill Daily*, when in the office, the students did not engage in any violent or unlawful behaviour, and chose to take impromptu votes to approve negotiation time and to elect two representatives.

The police, however, were forced to initiate an eviction notice to the students, who left the building after approximately three

hours.

Toronto District School Board approves Afrocentric school

Toronto, ON

Toronto District School Board (TDSB) trustees narrowly approved a proposal on Tuesday that will allow the creation of Toronto's first all-black school. This controversial vote - which opponents deem as "segregation" - is a measure that some are hoping will curb the school dropout rate among English-speaking Caribbean students.

It has not been decided if the proposed school would be an elementary or high school, or where the \$820,000 initial cost would come from. However, it has been agreed upon by the TDSB that it is necessary for an all-black school to be established, considering the 40 percent dropout rate among English-speaking Caribbean students, compared to the 23 percent dropout rate among those with non-Black Canadian roots.

According to the *Toronto Star*, 200 people attended the meeting, along with the media and 20 speakers. Supporters of the vote - which passed 11-9 - argued that black students would do better in an environment where their teachers are able to relate to them, and with a curriculum that includes the role and culture of blacks in history and society.

The alternative school would open in September 2009.

- Compiled by Laura Carlson, Victoria Kennedy, Gourav Sathe and Michelle Caldaroni

NEWSIN BRIEF

Collision on King Street

A woman sustained minor injuries in a collision in front of King Street Residence on Thursday, January 31 at approximately 3:30 pm. The crash occurred between a white minivan and a Honda Civic, and one of the parties involved is known to be a Laurier student.

While a full report has not been filed at this time, police have charged a 42-year-old male in relation to the incident, according to Olaf Heinzl, Waterloo Regional Police Public Affairs Coordinator.

"The man from Milverton, Ontario was charged with impaired driving, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and failing to remain at the scene," stated Heinzl.

The man is scheduled to appear in a Waterloo court on March 4.

Job Fair at RIM Park


The 15th annual job fair will be held today at RIM Park in Waterloo from 10 am to 3:30 pm. It is open to students and alumni from Conestoga College, Wilfrid Laurier University, the University of Guelph and the University of Waterloo.

Admission is free for everyone with a valid, current student or alumni ID from the aforementioned institutions.

There are currently over 250 employers listed for the event, including Research In Motion (RIM), RBC Insurance, Sun Life Financial, Ontario Power Generation, Canada and the Stratford Shakespeare Festival.

- Compiled by Rebecca Vasluianu and Madhavi Ganju

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EU and strategy discussed at CIGI talk

Guest speaker Sven Biscop explained the EU's holistic approach to international governance and the security measures it is taking

STEPHANIE MCENERY
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, February 5, the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) hosted guest speaker Sven Biscop for a lecture entitled "The EU and European Security Strategy."

Biscop, a senior research fellow at Egmont – the Royal Institute for International Relations in Brussels, Belgium – explained that the EU is taking a "holistic" approach to international governance.

The EU works to guarantee that its member countries are providing their citizens with rights and public services, which Biscop feels everyone is entitled to.

Physical security and freedom from fear, access to health services, development projects, and human rights are among the civil liberties the EU is striving to ensure.

Biscop feels that in order for the EU to be successful with its holistic approach it needs to better advocate these aspects. He wonders if people working in the EU, in the military or trading markets in particular, think about this holistic method.

Biscop explained that it is crucial for the EU to make every attempt to close the economic gap between citizens. "If you don't do anything about the gap, it will only get worse

[...] the consequences will become difficult to manage, then you can end up with a failing state," Biscop said.

The need for a balance between human rights and security is something Biscop deems necessary.

In regards to the EU's security policy over the last four years, Biscop said, "It's not that the strategy is no good, it's that we haven't implemented it properly." He feels that the EU needs to focus the military efforts on contributing to "global peace and security."

"MONEY SHOULD BE SPENT TO INTEGRATE DEFENSE CAPABILITIES AND TO SET UP MILITARY TRAINING SCHOOLS."

- Sven Biscop on the pooling of assets within the EU

Money being spent on the military was another issue raised by Biscop, as he feels that there have been instances where military funds could have been put to a better use.

To resolve these issues, he calls for a pooling of assets within the EU, stating "Money should be spent to integrate defense capabilities and to set up military training

schools."

As Biscop discussed the EU's relations with neighbouring countries, in particular Mediterranean countries, he stressed the need for an action plan to ensure the stability of the EU and to maintain good external associations.

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership is an existing collaboration that Biscop sees as a good start, although he advocates for the necessity of a more defined strategy.

Some of the requests of neighbouring countries include free migration within the EU and access to the EU's agricultural market. Due to the security and economic risks these requests pose, Biscop believes the EU must develop a strategy for external interactions.

Biscop commented on the EU's strategic partners – countries such as Canada, Japan, China, India and Russia. He stated that the EU has relations with these countries and discusses global issues with them, but they do not act together to carry out plans or strategies.

Biscop believes it is important for these countries and the EU to start "working together to create building blocks and give substance to international relationships."



ELISE COTTER

THE EU'S BISCOP - Dr. Sven Biscop visited CIGI yesterday evening.

Biscop also spoke of a need for the EU to work on a common foreign security policy. He explained that, in the past, if an agreement could not be reached, the main country involved dealt with the situation while the EU stepped back.

Often in both crises and economic situations, one country would act independently instead of the EU acting as one.

The major issue that Biscop feels is clouding the EU, as a national actor, is its reliance on the United

States. He states that the EU tends to watch the US and join their international endeavours or do nothing. He sees the EU as "a pillar in a multi-polar world," a pillar for NATO, the UN and the US.

Biscop also believes the EU needs to "move towards a more flexible model of decision making." Decisions of when to act and when not to act should be based on a case-by-case basis and need to be discussed with the countries involved, the US, and NATO, he said.



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Vice President Brantford

Applications are now available in the WLUSP office, located on the bottom floor of MacDonald House Residence for students at the Waterloo campus. Brantford students can pick up application forms from the campus manager office.

Applications will be due on Friday, February 8th, 2008 at 4pm. Waterloo Interviews will be held on February 8th-9th

Any questions should be directed to Greg Sacks at greg.sacks@wlusp.com.

Louise Fréchette at Laurier

Former Deputy Secretary-General of the UN discusses the role of the UN and her new position as a distinguished fellow at CIGI

WALEED HAFEEZ
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

Wilfrid Laurier University was privy to an intimate conversation with one of the most influential women in Canadian history. On Monday, Former Deputy Secretary-General of the UN Louise Fréchette was invited to Laurier as part of the Laurier Lecture series moderated by Dr. Patricia Goff, an associate professor in the political science department.

Mme Fréchette was both the highest-ranking woman in the UN and the highest-ranking Canadian.

Dr. Goff asked Mme Fréchette a number of questions during the initial Q&A portion of the night

before audience questions were taken. Among topics covered, Mme Fréchette shared her thoughts on the Iraq occupation, Canada's mission in Afghanistan and the overall functioning of UN and the various criticisms it often receives.

One of the questions Dr. Goff posed was whether the UN is still relevant and effective. To this, Mme Fréchette said that the UN remains extremely important as it is the only real universal organization and a universal body is "irreplaceable."

She added that the UN is a very diverse organization whose operations are so widespread and far-reaching that it cannot be disregarded based on the apparent failures of just a few of its many

branches.

The main criticism the UN receives often revolves around the Security Council and the exclusivity regarding the countries making the most crucial decisions regarding the fate of the world. She noted that there are often "many, many disagreements" but that the real accomplishment is not "to make peace among friends, but to build bridges between states who have different values, different interests and different visions" that is the challenge and one that can only be achieved by a universal body.

Later on, when asked what she would change in the UN given the chance, she was quick to answer that she would restructure the

Security Council and expand the power of the General Assembly.

Mme Fréchette then discussed Canada's role in the world of diplomacy and its perceived identity of being a "happy helper" of peace. Mme Fréchette explained that she believed that Canada is vital in its role as someone whose interests lay in the interest of the collective.

Also, she said that the diplomatic arena has many parties who can effectively identify a problem, but "few that can create solutions," a job Canada appears to do well. She also added, "Luckily, Canada's role in Afghanistan does not conflict with Canada's historic happy-helper role."

Mme Fréchette's latest role is a lot closer to home for us in the Laurier community, as she has been named a Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) located in Waterloo.

THE REAL CHALLENGE IS NOT "TO MAKE PEACE AMONG FRIENDS BUT TO BUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN STATES WHO HAVE DIFFERENT VALUES, INTERESTS AND VISIONS."

- Mme Louise Fréchette on the reason why the UN is still relevant.

As Dr. David Docherty, Dean of Arts, pointed out in his foreword, having Mme Fréchette bring all her invaluable experience to a local think-tank like CIGI is an extremely proud accomplishment for not only the members of CIGI but for

the community in general.

Over the next two years, Mme Fréchette will chair a research project on the political and economic issues arising from increased nuclear energy use, a topic that was discussed at length in the first third of her conversation with Dr. Goff.

On the topic, Mme Fréchette remarked that a major part of the research project would focus on identifying if "we're well equipped globally" for the shift towards a greater acceptance of nuclear energy as a sustainable source of power.

Dr. Goff brought up events such as Chernobyl as historical examples that present the evident dangers of nuclear power. In response, Mme Fréchette explained that safety measures, industry regulations, proper disposal of uranium, avoiding nuclear proliferation and many more protective measures are a main focus of what the research project will attempt at formulating.

Lastly, she focused on the fear of nuclear proliferation, adding that this would be the "one thing that will keep me awake at night is if we have no basic rules on nuclear weapons."

In her talk, she noted that all countries have the right to develop nuclear power as a feasible source of energy for their people.

However, without regulations and restrictions on the enrichment of uranium to the level needed for weaponry, countries with opposing values could "do the unthinkable."



FACE TO FACE - Dr. Patricia Goff (left) and Mme Louise Fréchette (right) discuss the latter's UN career.

Canada fourth in Global Integrity survey

An independent survey by the non-profit organization, Global Integrity, ranks various countries based on issues of governmental corruption, transparency, commitment to the ideals of democracy and a good environment for media and civil society

JENNIFER RAE
STAFF WRITER

Canada has been ranked as a leading country in a recent survey assessing the integrity of some 55 nations around the world.

The final results found Canada in a tie for fourth place on the index, having been beaten out by three other countries - Latvia in third place, and Bulgaria and the US bound in a tie for first place. Canada was joined by Spain, Japan, Italy and Romania in the tie for the fourth-place position.

The survey in question was conducted by an independent, non-profit organization called Global Integrity. The organization is based in Washington D.C., and concerns itself with monitoring important issues of governmental corruption.

The survey itself was comprised of a total of 15,000 questions, posed to groups of experts within each country. The appraisal took place over the summer of 2007.

After the results of the survey were ana-

lyzed, Canada was deemed to have an overall "strong" rating, committed to the ideals of democracy.

The summarization report described Canada as a country that "offers a good environment for media and civil society, as well as inclusive and well-regulated elections," as explained in a *National Post* news report.

However, the reports also presented several harsh criticisms, expressing concern over faltering levels of legislative and judicial accountability within Canada.

For example, there are currently no established rules governing gifts and hospitality offered to Canadian judges. Similarly, assets valued below \$10,000 are not required to be declared by legislators, and even further, assets of Senate members remain undisclosed, as outlined in the *National Post's* coverage of the survey report.

In addition, there are presently certain government programs that are audited on a five-year basis. This is a system that the report would like to see improved upon, stating

that government oversight could be lowered.

In light of the report's findings, experts are calling for the Conservative government to follow through on the election promises made in 2006.

Duff Conacher, the co-ordinator of Democracy Watch and head fact-finder for the section on Canada, asserts that improvements to the Access to Information Act, combined with the proposed appointments commission, could improve Canada's current integrity rating.

Canada's governance performance has been called into question over several specific instances of corruption that have occurred in recent years, a timeline of which is contained within the Integrity report and further explained in the CBC's report.

The misplacement of funds in the federal sponsorship scandal, the tainted blood scandal, and the deportation of Canadian Maher Arar and subsequent RCMP raids on the home and office of *Ottawa Citizen* reporter Juliet O'Neill have all served as examples of

governmental mistakes within Canada.

In comparison to the Canadian rankings and results, the US was found to be deserving of praise for its anti-corruption laws and legislations, yet was scrutinized for several shortcomings.

It was noted that the US lacks a true ombudsperson, and that the agencies currently responsible for monitoring certain aspects of the government may not be entirely independent.

Also observed was the fact that US presidential appointments have increased 33% between 2000 and 2005. Such appointments occur without congressional approval, a criticism reiterated by the CBC news report.

The lowest ranking country in the report was Lebanon, attacked for the political interference, partiality and discrimination that regularly takes place within its government bodies, and for its poorly monitored elections, lack of ombudsperson and poor protection for whistleblowers.

Death for blasphemy

Balkh University journalist Pervez Kambaksh sentenced to death for anti-Islamic distribution

MARA SILVESTRI
STAFF WRITER

23-year-old Balkh University student and journalist for *Jahan-e-Naw* Pervez Kambaksh has been charged with what the Senate calls "distribution of anti-Islamic articles," reports BBC News.

Although Kambaksh denies the charge himself, he has been found guilty of downloading and distributing an article insulting Islam, a crime deemed blasphemous in Afghanistan.

As of last Tuesday, Kambaksh was sentenced to death because the articles he obtained from the Internet were a direct critique of the Qur'an and its view of women.

Jihad Watch reports, "Kambaksh discussed the paper with his teacher and classmates at Balkh University and several students complained to the government."

His death sentence is not final and cannot occur until President Hamid Karzai gives his consent, or, as the US is advocating, Karzai forgives Kambaksh.

According to the UN, Kambaksh is stated to have misused the judicial process by failing to have legal representation. Kambaksh is appealing to higher courts with the support of his family, who claim that the trial was unfair due to the lack of defense counsels that Kambaksh was given.

The secretary of the Senate, Aminuddin Muzafari, is defending the Senate, claiming that it did in fact permit Kambaksh the rights of a defense lawyer. The case is now undergoing an extensive appeal process, which the US State Department plans to look at "very carefully," according to BBC News.

The Afghan Senate issued a statement saying, "The upper house approved the death sentence conferred on Mr. Kambaksh by a city court in Mazar-e-Sharif," as reported by the BBC. The statement was then criticized by legal experts, who called it "unconstitutional."

It was then reported that the Senate claimed the statement to be a "technical mistake," at which point it was withdrawn, likely due to the great opposition it faced.

Both the United Nations and the US State Department are requesting that Afghanistan review the case, as neither is in favour of the Senate's decision to order Kambaksh to a death sentence. The UN and US State Department both wish to look at the case more deeply.

The situation has the US troubled, and the US ambassador in Kabul intends to intervene by raising the issue with Afghan authorities, reported Reuters.

"Critics say that the Senate's intervention interfered with the judi-

cial process," reports BBC News.

US State Department spokesperson Tom Casey has expressed that the issue is "deeply concerning," with the major issue being that Kambaksh is being sentenced "for basically practising his profession and we wouldn't want to see any actions taken that would limit his or anyone else's freedom of the press or freedom of expression," reported Reuters.

It has been reported by *Jihad Watch* that gatherings of Afghans have indicated that they do not wish for Kambaksh to be released, thus creating more controversy, and even more for Afghan authorities to dispute over.

The US hopes to see another outcome besides a death sentence, but multiple Afghan judges have said that Kambaksh violated tenets of Islam, and is therefore disregarding Afghan moral and social behaviour.

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The National Survey of Student Engagement (or "NSSE")

First-year and upper-year Laurier students will be receiving an email invitation in February to participate in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).

This is the second time Laurier, as well as all other Ontario universities, will be participating in this important survey initiative. The survey provides university administration with valuable information about what you think of your experience here in such areas as curriculum and campus life. It also plays a role in the provincial government's accountability measures for improving post-secondary education in the province.

The NSSE survey invitations are being sent to your Laurier email account. If you don't check this account regularly, please do so in February to see if you have received an invite. And if you do receive an invitation, please complete this survey – your opinion is valued!



SPORTS BITES



Ladies continue to dominate OUA teams

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women's hockey team hit the ice twice this past weekend, first on Saturday against the third-place Guelph Gryphons, and again on Sunday when they travelled to St. Catharines to meet the Brock Badgers.

In their first match-up, the Hawks took a close 2-1 win, with both goals coming in the first period. Defender Andrea Bevan opened the scoring with the Hawks' first goal, and was followed by fellow defender and team captain Lauren Meschino, who capitalized off a Hawks powerplay.

In their second match on Sunday, the Hawks blew away the eighth-ranked Badgers with an 8-1 win. This brings their record to an impressive 22-2-1 and lands the Hawks first in the OUA and third in all of Canada.

The ladies have two games left in the regular season, which will take place this coming weekend.

First on Saturday, they travel to face off against the second place Toronto Varsity Blues at 4:00 pm, and on Sunday they face the Windsor Lancers at the Pillars Ice Rink in RIM Park, where the puck drops at 7:30 pm.

Men brave storm; lose twice to Lakehead

The fourth-ranked men's hockey team headed to Thunder Bay this past weekend, where they faced off twice against the Lakehead Thunderwolves, who currently stand first in their division.

After facing one of the worst winter storms of the year, a delayed flight and a slippery runway, the men were not left with much time to recover before their first game on Friday, which was delayed by one hour to accommodate their travels. The Hawks

fought a tough battle, but came out just short with a 3-2 loss.

Saturday's game was filled with action as the score climbed to 7-5 - unfortunately, not in favour of the Hawks. Going into the last minute of play with a score of 5-4, the Thunderwolves put two in the Hawks' empty net, while the Hawks rallied back with a goal of their own to keep the gap to two.

This weekend will be the last of the regular season, as the Hawks travel down University Ave. to face off against local rivals the Waterloo Warriors tomorrow at 7:30 pm, and then to Windsor on Saturday to face the Lancers at 7:05 pm.

Waterloo to build their own CIS stadium

The start of the next football season will also see the start of a new tradition, where the Waterloo Warriors will host their home games on their own new field.

Previously, the Warriors bussed across the road to play their home games at Wilfrid Laurier's University Stadium, where they had to perform in front of home fans on the purple and gold decorated Golden Hawks field.

The stadium will be complete with bleacher seating for about 1500, a scoreboard and a press box, but most of all it will be home for the Warriors. As the only team in the CIS currently without their own field, this opportunity will give the Warriors their own place, with their own colours and a chance to build their own pride.

The new home for the Warriors is set to be up to CIS standards for the upcoming season, and their first game at home is scheduled for September 6, when they will face the McMaster Marauders.

- Compiled by Andrea Millet

CORD/ONLINE

> cordweekly.com
> Sports

Picture Perfect: view **Ryan Stewart's** women's volleyball photo gallery exclusively online.

NHL: Mid-season report

Luke Dotto examines the state of the NHL at the season's midway point



LUKE DOTTO
STAFF WRITER

How do you know that it's spring? The Leafs are out. It has been a tough season to this point for hockey fans in Toronto. Their team's downfall and inevitable restructuring highlights the mid-season report, along with super rookies, big injuries and ludicrous contracts.

To begin the year, Leafs fans were as optimistic as any fans in the league; a new goalie, some new firepower up front and a system that players were buying into meant the Senators may have had a fight on their hands for the division title. But those hopes fizzled and were eventually snuffed out.

The duo of Toskala and Raycroft looked at times dynamic, and at others dreadful. The addition of Jason Blake drew wide praise in hockey circles, but it quickly turned into widespread ruin, and Bryan McCabe's continuous failed attempts to impress have all contributed to the Leafs falling off the tree.

With the addition of Cliff Fletcher to the front office and the hope of a top-five pick (Steve Stamkos anybody?); the Leafs fans' woes and newfound hope have highlighted the opening stanza of the NHL season.

Not to be outdone by their fellow original six brethren, this season has been a rejuvenation and revolution for the Chicago Blackhawks.

The super rookie tandem of Pat Kane and Jonathan Toews has set the windy city on fire.

No fans in the league should be as hopeful for the future as the tribal ones, and with strong goaltending from the Bulin wall, Chicago fans are looking for a playoff spot like a heat-seeking missile.

IT HAS BEEN A TOUGH SEASON FOR HOCKEY FANS IN TORONTO ... THEIR TEAM'S DOWNFALL AND INEVITABLE RESTRUCTURING HIGHLIGHTS THE MID-SEASON REPORT ALONG WITH SUPER ROOKIES, BIG INJURIES AND LUDICROUS CONTRACTS.

The success and growth of the NHL in the United States relies heavily on the success and growth of the game in such hotbeds as Chicago and New York, and with Chicago teetering precariously on the edge of a playoff spot, all hockey fans should be pulling for the Hawks this season. They should be ecstatic at the opportunity to see the Kane-Toews duo light up the scoreboards for years to come.

The aforementioned Blackhawks' season would have been greatly aided by the ongoing health

of superstar winger Martin Havlat. Sadly, his groin got overworked one too many times and he found himself on the IR again.

Lengthy injuries to superstars have been an ongoing storyline this year. From Joe Sakic and Ryan Smyth going down at the same time to potentially end the season for the Avalanche, to the first lengthy injury of Sidney Crosby's budding NHL career, fans across the continent have been robbed of seeing the premier players showcase their skills.

Who would have ever thought that Rick DiPietro's current contract (15 years, \$4,500,000 per year on average) would seem like a bargain?

Thomas Vanek (7 years, \$7,142,857 per year) got an overly hefty payday from the Sabres after the Oilers made an offer sheet. Mike Richards (12 years, \$5,750,000 per year) will be a Flyer for life thanks to his latest extension.

Alexander Ovechkin, the Capitals' franchise player, received a king's ransom (13 years, \$9,538,462 per year) and the gross overpayment of Dustin Penner by the Oilers (5 years, \$4,250,000 per year) after they lost out on Vanek all shed light upon a new syndrome befalling NHL General Managers: lock-everyone-up-longterm-itis.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HURTIN' - Crosby out indefinitely.

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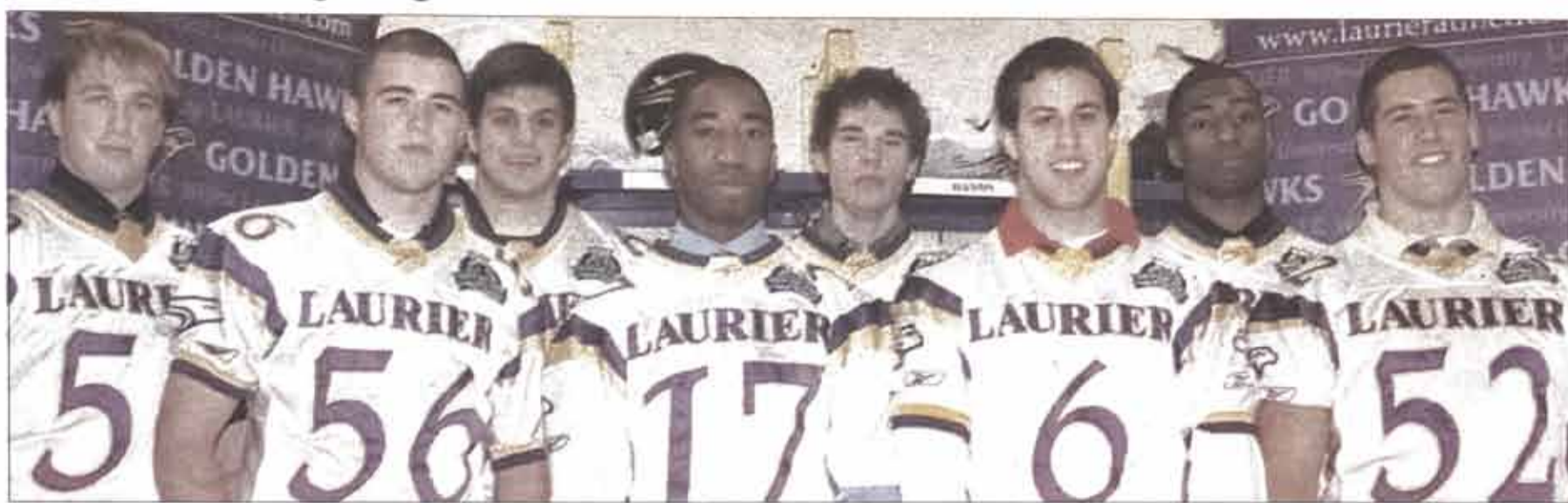
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Recruits say yes to WLU career

Laurier's football program introduces the newest Hawks to the community during a press conference last Wednesday afternoon



ARI GROSSMAN - LAURIER ATHLETICS

FRESH FACES - Drew Galpin, A.K Heffernan, Greg Borovilos, Ryon McCalla, Nathan Hawkes, Chris Rossetti, Courtney Stephen and Daniel Bishop.

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

During the off-season, football offices are anything but quiet. Looking at the holes that need to be filled is a job that cannot be taken lightly by coaches, and bringing in the best recruits is just as important as a winning season.

Here at Laurier, a lot of hard work paid off last Wednesday, when the Golden Hawks' coaching staff announced 10 recruits who have agreed to play in the purple and gold.

"We're extremely excited. We recognized quite a while ago the hit we were going to take with 16 kids

moving on," commented Manager of Football Operations and Head Coach Gary Jeffries. "It's imperative that we have a great recruiting year."

"It's so competitive out there," said Jeffries. "With 27 schools in the country, a lot of them are looking at the same kids."

Brampton native Courtney Stephen is one of the country's most wanted recruits, due to his athleticism and his ability to run 40 yards in 4.5 seconds.

"Every year, the team is good. I was thinking about a couple schools, but none of them had the football aspect, the education aspect, along with the overall lifestyle that Laurier has," commented Stephen, who comes in as a defensive back.

Quarterback Chris Rossetti, from St. Mike's in Toronto, comes in as one of the top-ranked quarterbacks

in the province.

"The winning tradition here is definitely a plus for me," says the winner of the Metro Bowl, the Ontario high school championship.

"The coaches here build a winning attitude in all the players. They motivate the players excellently. They're great coaches."

The welcoming atmosphere of Laurier is a huge pull to athletes.

"I felt at home when I came for the visit," said Rossetti. "The players were very welcoming to me and my family, and that's very important to me. Being away from home, I'll have another family to come into."

Linebacker Daniel Bishop from Mississauga follows in the footsteps of brother Josh, a wide receiver with the Hawks, and will wear the purple and gold proudly come September.

"The coaching staff is great. The amount of linebacker positions that are opening up pretty much

guarantees me a position in the line; plus my brother is here," said Bishop. "We have a great relationship; I am excited that I accepted here, and he is too."

Another big recruit comes in the form of a running back from Brampton. Ryon McCalla brings with him the ability to sprint 40 yards in 4.35 seconds, and will be a much-needed breakaway runner for the program.

"We have to get quicker, we need more breakaway kids," said Jeffries.

Four local boys will be putting on Hawks jerseys next season: tight end/slotback John Wickens and kicker Nathan Hawkes from Cambridge, Kitchener-Waterloo all-star linebacker Drew Galpin, and offensive lineman Greg Borovilos from Waterloo.

Other recruits include linebackers Marlon Dixon from Ajax, who comes to Laurier from recent

state champions North Cobb High School in Georgia, and Team Ontario player A.K Heffernan from Markham.

"Our focus has been different this year," said Jeffries. "We're virtually coast to coast - bringing in kids from BC, and looking into Vanier College in Montreal and the CEGEP programs, which is imperative because there are a lot of good kids down there. And we're really hopeful of landing a lot of these kids."

"And we're really looking, like never before, at Toronto kids, and we're realizing great dividends because of it."

"I'm really excited," said Rossetti. "The team that's coming back are young and talented, and there are some big recruits in this class. When I look at the next four years, we're going to have a powerhouse team in the OUA, and even nationally in the CIS."

Women dominate RMC in straight sets

The volleyball Hawks inch closer to third place in the OUA West despite losing star player to injury

CHRIS BALUSCHAK
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday afternoon at the Athletic Complex, the Wilfrid Laurier women's volleyball team handed the RMC Paladins their eighteenth loss of the season. The women played exceptionally well, winning in straight sets, 25-12, 25-15 and 25-12. The Hawks improved their season record to 10-7 with the win.

In the first set, the Golden Hawks jumped out to an early and dominant 8-3 lead. The women's playing was very fundamentally sound, with great ball control and emphatic finishes. Unlike the Paladins, the Hawks were digging the ball well and kept their composure, while setting up powerful kills from third-year outside hitter Teresa Wick and second-year Leanne Crampton.

The second and third sets saw much of the same great play from the WLU squad. RMC was able to squeeze a few points out of Laurier; however, many of their points came from miss-hits or balls hit out of bounds by the Golden Hawks. The women's team showed great life and consistency throughout the match, which more than pleased Head Coach Luke Snider.

"The girls played very well today.

Similar to our Lakehead match, we executed the basics very well, and that's exactly what we had to do to win this match," said Snider.

One notable change to this afternoon's lineup was the absence of fifth-year left side player Danielle Walker. The Hawks team suffered a major setback earlier this week when they lost her to a knee injury. Walker, a team leader in kills, total attacks and points, left very big shoes to fill. With the playoffs just around the corner, losing a top player is a cause for concern for the squad.

"It's a big loss for the program and a disappointing one for her being a fifth-year player," commented Snider.

Wick will be asked to continue her great season. "We'll need her to play well like she has throughout the whole year," said Snider. He also implied that it will be left to Crampton and rookie Tesca Andrew-Wasylik to handle the left-side duties.

The women rounded out their weekend with a 3-1 win in a rescheduled game against the Queen's Golden Gaels, and will finish their season next Sunday at 2:00 pm in the Athletic Complex against the Waterloo Warriors.



RYAN STEWART

ARMS UP - Third-year Teresa Wick attempts to push the ball past RMC.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE
Week of February 7 - 13, 2008

RECENT SCORES
02/08/08
M Basketball 72 - Guelph 67
W Basketball 83 - Guelph 84
02/11/08
M Hockey 2 - Lakehead 3
02/12/08
W Hockey 2 - Guelph 1
M Hockey 5 - Lakehead 7
M Basketball 69 - McMaster 57
W Basketball 65 - McMaster 99
M Volleyball 3 - RMC 0
W Volleyball 3 - RMC 0
02/13/08
W Hockey 5 - Brock 1
M Volleyball 3 - Queen's 1
W Volleyball 3 - Queen's 1

UPCOMING HOME GAMES
02/16/08
W Basketball vs Western
Athletic Complex, 2:00 pm
M Basketball vs Western
Athletic Complex, 8:00 pm
02/19/08
W Basketball vs Windsor
Athletic Complex, 2:00 pm
M Basketball vs Windsor
Athletic Complex, 8:00 pm
M Volleyball vs Ryerson
Athletic Complex, 8:00 pm
02/20/08
W Volleyball vs Waterloo
Athletic Complex, 2:00 pm

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Kaitlin Sauder
Women's Volleyball
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Three's company

With this year's presidential election shaping up to be one of the most tightly-contested races in recent memory, *Cord* Editor-in-Chief Mike Brown and Special Projects Editor Joe Turcotte met the candidates to see what they're all about



ALL PHOTOS BY SYDNEY HELLAND

POLITICAL COCKTAIL - (left to right) Candidates Colin LeFevre, Brian Punambolam and Ross Fraser serve up their recipes for the success of WLUSU.

Why have you decided to run for President?

Ross Fraser:

As the year kind of went on, and I saw the things that were available to get involved with outside of this little world of marketing, I started getting involved in different committees on campus ... but with all of the different committees that I got involved with and helping Dan [Allison] out with little projects, it was a lot of other opportunities that were available in the university, and it kind of opened my eyes to a bunch of different ways to get involved and that's what sort of spurred me to consider this.

Colin LeFevre:

I'm running because there are a lot of things that I've seen over the last couple of years through different groups that I've been involved with - a lot of things that I like, but certainly a lot of things that I believe need to be changed and things that are just not working so well, and things that are disadvantaging students, and things that are not allowing us to have the full access

to WLUSU that we really should be having. So I'm running, essentially, to ensure full access, full transparency - to ensure that everything truly is in the best interests of the students.

Brian Punambolam:

This is something that I've actually thought about since first year, as soon as I stepped onto campus. One of the things that I was really looking towards was the proper leadership that I'd want to see as a student, that I've talked to students about. I'm really just confident about my leadership style; I'm confident in the surveys that we sent the students, what they wanted to see from a President. I'm not ignorant enough to say that it's my platform; no, it's the students' platform that I'm running on.

What would you say is the biggest student need in this election and how would you provide for it, if elected?

Fraser:

That would have to be communication, and that's what, I think, all

three candidates are really talking about a lot, and I couldn't agree more. And as a marketing person now, it's something we really try to communicate with students, we really do, there's a lot of effort that goes into everything that we do.

LeFevre:

I think that the biggest student need is just financial responsibility; spending the students' money in a significantly more appropriate way. Whether that's reducing costs of food instead of doing aesthetic renovations, whether that's putting more money into our services, whether that's really just installing things like electrical outlets. We need to be ensuring that the money that we're spending is explicitly put in places that students are going to be able to take full advantage of, and will actually see their money in action.

Punambolam:

Just from what I've been seeing when talking to students ... The biggest thing that I say is that you just don't have a voice on February 7th, you have a voice all year long. And

that's not just me being a politician, that's me being a student and being a volunteer for four years here. So it's important that students know that they're shareholders in the company, that they should know that they have a say. Representation is key, transparency is key as well ...

So, what would you rate as the best and the worst decisions that WLUSU has made this year, and can you evaluate the performance of the Union this year and your involvement?

Fraser:

I think one of the best decisions was looking into the fee structure, the way it is, and taking a really proactive approach on it. Because we saw how other universities and colleges were dealing with it, and were having a hard time because these external groups were coming in and getting involved with it and causing a lot of lawsuits. So we took a really proactive approach on it, in terms of getting with the university administration and saying this is what might happen, so let's figure

out how we could avoid any major problems.

LeFevre:

Worst decisions: there's two of them, and that's the renovations of the Hawk's Nest and the Hawk on the floor in the Hall of Fame. Absolute wastes of money in my opinion. One of the best things we've done is expand the ERT service to 12 hours, with the plan to go 24 eventually. It's really been one of those things that's really been visible and it's actually done a really good service to the university, so that's one of the best decisions so far.

Punambolam:

I really think our management team, in comparison to other years, is very approachable in terms of Dan's position as WLUSU President. I think that's something that can be worked on ... building on Dan's experience, is representation. He's abroad at a lot of conferences; he's not here a lot, and he acknowledges that fact. Those conferences are really important to take experiences from other schools so that we can build on our student experience



Ross Fraser



Colin LeFevre



Brian Punambolam

here. But it's really important to be here for your students as well and I think that's something that needs to be worked on.

In your opinion, should WLU-SU operations (Wilf's, the Turret, Terrace, the C-Spot) be run as services or businesses, and why?

Fraser: Well, we have kind of a hybrid model right now: Wilf's is run as a business, obviously, because it's a business. If we run it as a service and say "fries are free", you know, "burgers are 50 cents", we lose a lot of money. People get cheap food, but at some point we have to make up for that in fees; there has to be money to pay for the costs of the operation.

LeFevre: Absolutely everything we run is a service. That said, we do make profits in a lot of our places, essentially to provide the services that we have, such as Foot Patrol, ERT, BACCHUS,

Peer Help Line, and those are very essential things to our Union ... so as much as I want to run everything as a service, we have to accept at the same time we must be making a profit in our businesses or we can't keep up the same level of service that we already have. But without a doubt, everything should be a service on every level.

Punambolam: In my opinion, the business operations are there to provide for the needs of students, whether or not you're looking for a good meal from Wilf's, a good memory from the Turret; I think that's what it's meant to be. I see it as, I think the Terrace should be a service, that's why I've created the "Value Menu" so items under five dollars, to highlight those kind of things, as a students' union we need to take care of our students. But in terms of Wilf's and the Turret I kind of see that as a split.

How do you envision the relationship with the Brant-

ford branch of the Students' Union developing in the future? Should it remain as is or be working towards greater autonomy?

Fraser: I see them as moving towards autonomy, as it sort of says in my platform. And we had a great conversation at Brantford yesterday; there were a lot of really good questions down there. For any one of us to go down to Brantford and say that we know what it's like to be a Brantford student is a lie and doesn't respect the students that go there, and it's the same thing - no student from Brantford can know what it's like to be a Waterloo student; the cultures are just too different.

LeFevre: The biggest thing for Brantford is, in my opinion and talking to many, many Brantford students, is that they want the ability to make their own decisions. Right now the Council - the Brantford Campus Council - basically has power over nothing.

They don't really direct too many initiatives. They basically need to be given the power to be the Board at Brantford. They are the elected representatives at Brantford. Why can't they make the same decisions our Board of Directors does and direct their Vice-President of Brantford Operations?

Punambolam: I really want to promote the independence of Brantford so that they don't compare themselves to Waterloo campus, so that they can grow in their own direction, which is very important. However, I feel as though, in terms of WLUSU, the Brantford coordinators can come up here and learn from the Waterloo campus coordinators, and definitely we can go down there and learn from them. So, I think we can definitely share our ideas together, in terms of leadership styles and give ideas on events, but I also think that they should grow in a different direction from Waterloo because it's not fair to compare.

Lastly, perusing the platforms for this year's Board highlights a trend in campus representation, which is a lack of female voices. This year, a campus that is predominately female has produced five female candidates out of 26. Do you feel that this is a concern? If elected, how would you work towards rectifying it?

Fraser: If you look at our coordinator base, the majority of it is female, so a lot of our student leaders are obviously female and the voice that they have as coordinators, you can't minimize it; they're so important just in running the Union. The fact that there are fewer females running for the Board and President is an interesting situation. Currently, I already work closely with Adam Lawrence on a lot of projects in the student diversity office, and see if there's a way of reaching out to the Women's Centre and helping work with them to see if there's anything that exists right now that there's a barrier that we haven't quite determined yet or if it's just a "communication in general thing" ... I would love to see our coordinators now, as a largely

female base, move into a responsibility as a director because they have the commitment, the drive, the passion and the knowledge of the union to take into that role and it would be amazing to see that.

LeFevre: I think the biggest thing we need to do, from the beginning of the year is getting more people informed of what's available out there ... There are a lot of people that probably want to be on the Board, probably want to run for these sorts of things, but just haven't had the chance. And it's because we always let people know far too late, and it just seems every year that it's more men running for things. But if we create the open marketing - and the open dialogue with people about the representational positions that are available - far earlier in the year, there'll be a lot more people interested because there'll be a lot more time to give the information.

Punambolam: I think that we have to give everybody credit. If they wanted to run for an elected position, they would. I really don't see it as male and female. But as WLUSU President, I would really work with the Diversity Centre, with the Women's Centre, to really see what we're doing as a management team, as what we're doing as a WLUSU to really suit the needs of all students ... it's really important that you represent all students. So I'd really work with the Women's Centre, Diversity Centre to really gauge that. But I can't really answer that because I give women credit. If they wanted to run for an elected position, they would. I give credit to the ones that are running.



CAMPUS OVERSIGHT - With the election looming, the three presidential candidates stand in front of Laurier's Waterloo campus, hoping that the school's undergraduate students will elect them on February 7.

CORD/ONLINE
 > cordweekly.com
 > Special Projects

Audio files of the complete interviews, including platform specific questions for each candidate.

Disclosure: Candidate Colin LeFevre is currently the Chair of the WLUSP Board of Directors.

Spicing up your typical night out

A little creativity and innovation can quickly turn a regular night out into an exciting new adventure that you won't soon forget

NICOLE WRAY
STAFF WRITER

While going to the bar is generally a good time, partying every week can result in remembering your university bar experiences as one night all mixed up together. For many people, bar nights are weekly and somewhat similar.

To spice up your night, keep in mind that the possibilities for a different and memorable night out are endless.

Here are a few suggestions to make your night at the bar not just another night at the bar.

1. Try having a themed pre-drink party.

Get your friends to dress up retro, dress as a team or dress up in pairs (not just for couples) and then go to the bar.

People will notice and want to meet Batman and Robin, Lucy and Ethel or Beauty and the Beast; this night will definitely be a nice change from the regular clothes you wear to the bar.

2. Have a balloon party before you go to the bar.

Write down some things that people will have to do at the bar then put them into balloons. This will get

your friends to do silly things that you imagine will be fun – things like introducing themselves as a character all night, finding someone with a certain item of clothing to dance with or kissing someone's bald head.

Make sure everyone gets a balloon and you'll have an awesome time watching your friends making fools of themselves while trying to complete their task for the night.

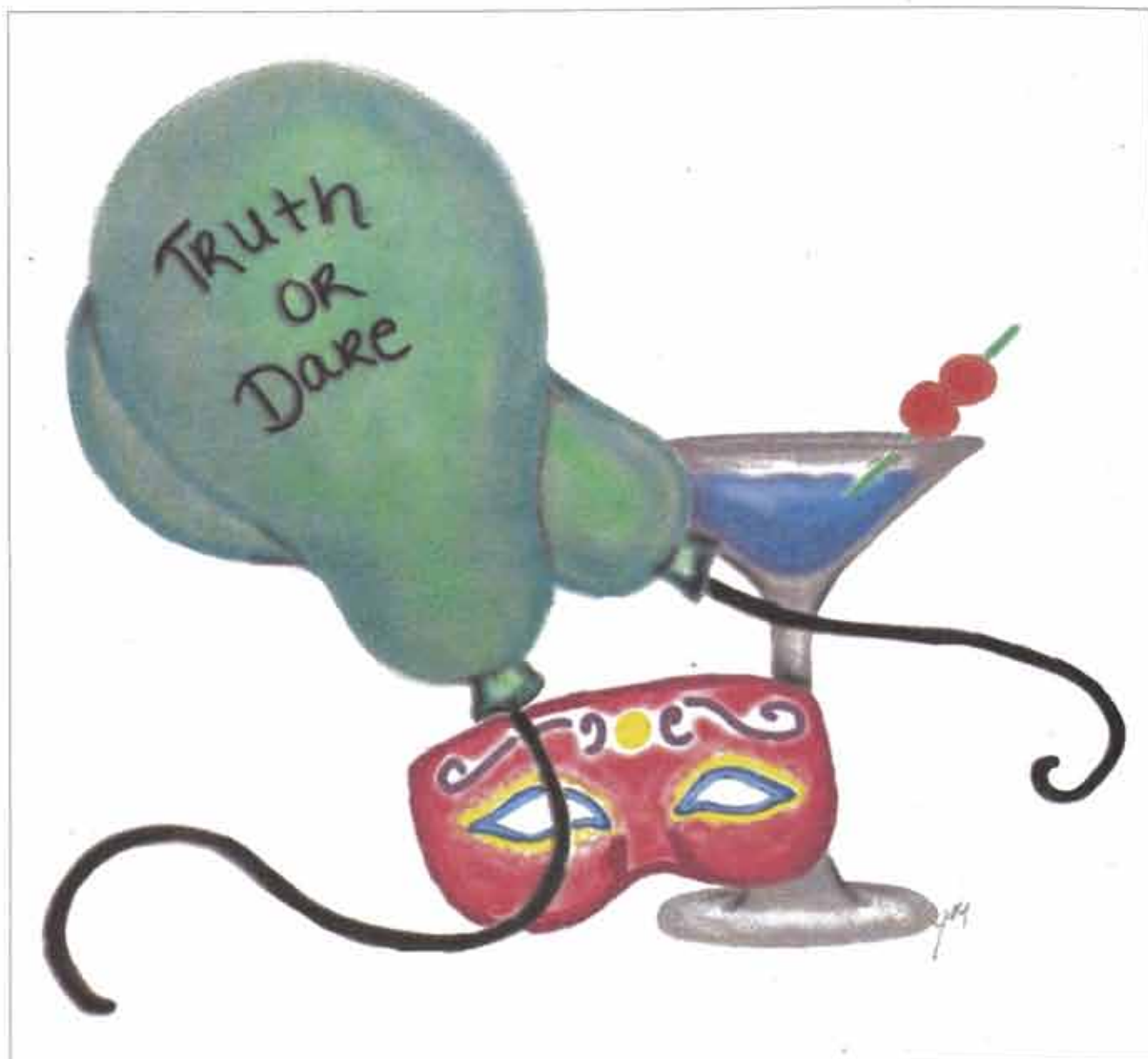
3. Try going to a town that is outside Kitchener or Waterloo.

You are much less likely to run into people you know, so go with a lot of friends and skip the pre-drink. Find a bar to go to and try to drink that unsuspecting small-town establishment dry.

4. Make your night more interesting by starting with making drinks you normally wouldn't.

Get friends to bring different bottles of alcohol so that you can mix drinks that you have not tried before or would not make on your own since they contain more ingredients than you usually have.

Before the pictures all blur into one, dress up, drink up and be creative to make each of your university bar experiences memorable.



JULIE MARION

PARTY TOOLS - You can make your nights out on the town more fun if you're not afraid to try new things.



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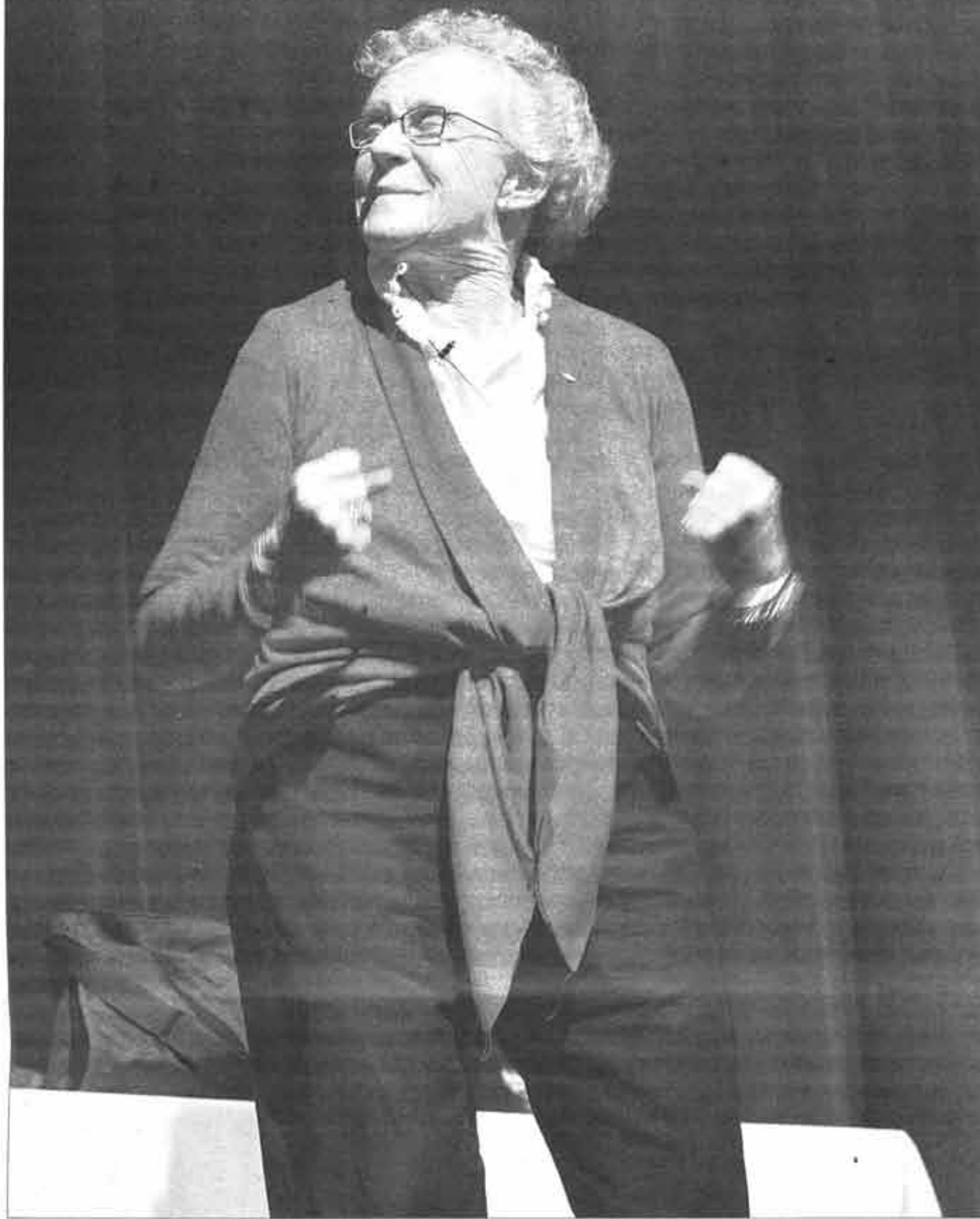


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Talking sex with Sue



SYDNEY HELLAND

LET'S GET IT ON - Johanson is very open when it comes to talking about sex and especially sexual health.

Sex expert Sue Johanson visited Laurier last Wednesday to give students advice on everything from masturbation to sexually transmitted diseases

- FROM SUE, COVER

Johanson feels that people are comfortable asking her these questions because of her age.

"I'm older, I'm safe [and] I'm harmless," she said. "I'm very comfortable with sex and so I can talk about it without being embarrassed myself."

"I WANT THEM TO BE NOT SO FOCUSED ON CURRICULUM AND BOOK LEARNING AND BE ABLE TO BACK OFF A LITTLE BIT AND BE MORE FOCUSED ON THEMSELVES AND SEEING THEMSELVES AS SEXUAL HUMAN BEINGS."

- Sue Johanson, sex expert

Her age gives her an advantage because she is not intimidating. "If I was a cute young thing or just glamorous with bodacious tatas, it would be seen as titillating, whereas I'm mature and wear flat shoes so therefore I'm not seen as a sex

object," she stated.

While some of the issues that Johanson discussed in her presentation are very serious, she insists that a sense of humour is essential when talking about sex.

"I do a presentation first and it's a combination of fact and humour because sex is funny and if you can't laugh at it, you shouldn't be doing it."

A number of important issues were covered throughout the presentation, including topics like sex toys, birth control, sexually transmitted diseases and masturbation.

Johanson did her presentation in hopes that it would

educate students in ways that lectures and textbooks can't.

"I want them to be not so focused on curriculum and book learning and be able to back off a little bit and be a little more focused on themselves and seeing themselves

as sexual human beings."

Tickets for the event were \$8 and were sold online and in the C-Spot. All 800 tickets were sold out within a day and a half.

Leah Verouden, president of the Laurier Student Alumni (LSA), invited Johanson to speak because of her popularity with students at other schools.

"I know that she's a huge hit with students and the Laurier Student Alumni wanted to do an event to give back to everyone and say thank you."

The money made from ticket sales allowed the LSA to break even.

"It worked out really well and I think that not only did people have a good time but there was so much knowledge behind it and people learned a lot as well," said Verouden.

While the presentation covered numerous topics, Johanson still feels that the most important thing she covered is the use of protection. When sexually active, students need to ensure "safer sex - that is no question."

CORD-O-SCOPES

This week, with Valentine's Day fast approaching, the Cord-o-scopes will predict how you will meet your one, true love.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18



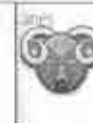
In line for a tuna melt at the Terrace, somebody will cut you in line. Initially meaning to fight them, you will become entranced by their deep blue eyes. You'll offer them a bite of your sandwich, but tragically, they will have an allergic reaction and pass away. Shortest romance ever.

Pisces
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20



After a string of heartbreaking relationships, you will come to the conclusion that true love doesn't exist. That same week, you will meet a charming, attractive stock broker who loves horses and exotic wines. After two years, this person will break your heart. Maybe true love really doesn't exist.

Aries
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19



While scuba-diving at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, you'll meet a beautiful mermaid and share a magical kiss. Then, finally waking up from your Novocaine-induced slumber, you hear your dentist tell you the root canal was a success. For the first time, you'll notice what perfect teeth your dentist has. It's love at first bite.

Taurus
Apr. 20 - May 20



Your wallet will be stolen by a pick-pocket during a trip to Paris. Finding one of your business cards in your wallet, he will call you asking for a date. Shocked by this bold move, you decide to say yes, and are swept off your feet by his total disregard for authority. That really turns you on, doesn't it?

Gemini
May 21 - June 20



During a flight to Connecticut, with a layover in New York, you ask one of your flight attendants to join the mile-high club with you. She is disgusted, though secretly intrigued. But mostly disgusted. Thus, you'll become the first solo inductee to this prestigious institution. After all, they say you can't love another until you love yourself.

Cancer
June 21 - July 22



You will gain the mysterious power to hear the thoughts of women, and, being inside their heads, you'll be able to woo any woman you please. But then you'll realize your feminine side and have a meaningful relationship with one of your colleagues. Wait! That was a movie. You'll marry a lawyer, or something.

Leo
July 23 - Aug. 22



Attending a weekend retreat in Northern Ontario, you will see a Sasquatch. Nobody will believe you except for one man who has dedicated his life to proving the beast's existence. You will marry and dedicate your lives together to tracking down Big Foot. But you'll never find him, because he isn't real. You really just saw a moose.

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22



You'll fall in love with the facilitator of a Pepsi taste-test booth, who will be impressed by your natural aptitude for identifying cola flavours. The two of you will fall desperately in love and honeymoon at PepsiCo Headquarters. After years of tooth decay, your hubby will finally leave you, making you wish you had lied and said Coke all those years ago.

Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22



You'll read the perfect profile on an online dating site, never once thinking it's too good to be true. All your friends will say that this person can't possibly make an eight-figure salary. You won't realize until it's too late that it was really just a creepy internet stalker. Turns out you're really into that sort of thing.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21



You will see an actor on TV and fall madly in love at first sight. You will then spend the next 30 years searching desperately for them before finding out they aren't real; they are just a product of computer graphics. You really should have looked them up on Wikipedia first.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21



While buying a puppy, you will hit on the clerk of the pet store and start dating. But she'll be way too clingy. The dog, on the other hand, will be the only living creature you will ever truly love.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19



One day as you are loafing around in your home, a door-to-door salesman will arrive attempting to sell you life insurance. Dazzled by his offer of low rates and comprehensive coverage, you will spend the rest of your life in comfort, knowing that should he die, you'll receive a large premium.

Dave Shore received his gift of seeing the future after studying Kabbalah, becoming a vessel of the divine to send the message of the stars to the herd of Laurier.

Lugging a mug can save you money

The Ecohawks are trying to limit trash on campus by giving away free mugs to students so they can receive a discount on coffee



SYDNEY HELLAND

LUG-A-MUG - Having one of these can get you a 10 percent discount.

LINDA GIVETASH
STAFF WRITER

The Laurier EcoHawks, an on-campus organization aimed at raising environmental awareness on campus, have, under the guidance of their executive Kim Wilson, launched their "Lug-A-Mug" initiative during this first week of February.

The plan will be tackling the issue of the amount of waste created by coffee cups that are not being disposed of properly, and therefore are creating litter around campus.

Throughout the week, the EcoHawks will be approaching customers at the campus coffee shops and giving them free travel mugs. In previous years, they had set up a booth where students could pick up their free mug.

This year they plan to give a fairer

opportunity for students to get a mug by actually approaching customers at shops all over campus.

The travel mugs were purchased by using a portion of this year's Green Fee, a \$1.50 student fee that appears on your tuition bill.

"WHAT WE REALLY HOPE TO DO IS TO INCREASE AWARENESS SO THAT [COMPANIES] CAN DO IT ON THEIR OWN."

- Geoff Keelan, EcoHawks coordinator

Only 140 travel mugs will be given out during the week. "It's only going to be a small minority of students that actually get one," said Geoff Keelan, the awareness coor-

dinator of the EcoHawks.

Although they are only affecting a small number of students, the EcoHawks hope that this will inspire others to bring their own travel mugs instead of relying on wasteful paper cups.

To increase the incentive to carry travel mugs, customers bringing their own travel mug will receive a ten percent discount.

Travel mugs are accepted at all on-campus coffee shops, including

Tim Horton's and Second Cup.

The EcoHawks do not try to combat each individual business on campus to ensure they use environmentally friendly methods.

"What we really hope to do is to increase awareness so that [companies] can do it on their own," explained Keelan.

The EcoHawks will be holding their Green Day, which will inform students of eco-friendly measures they can take to make a difference in the environment, in March.

They will also be visiting local schools in hopes of raising more awareness throughout the Kitchener-Waterloo community.

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Valentine's restaurant review series: *Charbries*

Part four of our review series takes us to Charbries, located at King and Erb

FOODREVIEW

Charbries: 5.8/10

ASHLEY JANG
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

In the heart of the uptown Waterloo bar scene sits Charbries, a quaint restaurant that offers a different menu for every season.

Entering the restaurant, I was surprised by how it felt like I was miles away from the bar scene. The

interior was decorated with a casual sophistication and a distinct art deco style. The music was jazzy; tropical fish aquariums and a fireplace gave the place an interesting feel.

The photographer and I were seated right away at a table in the corner by the window. The table was tucked away, but we soon asked to be moved because the draft from the window made it a bit too chilly.

We were then given water and a menu that presented appetizers and entrées reflecting the flavours of the winter season.

For our appetizer, the photog-

rapher and I chose to split the orange-infused crab cakes with tomato relish (\$11). They came out very quickly and tasted great with the tomato relish, but they were close to room temperature.

In the middle of our appetizer, our waitress returned to bring us complimentary bread, apologizing for not bringing it out before the appetizer. The bread itself was very good, though it too could have been warmer.

Shortly after our plates were taken away, we were brought a red wine sorbet which was supposed to cleanse the palate before the main course arrived.

The sorbet tasted pretty good but it was whisked away by the waitress before either of us were finished. I'm not sure how well it worked, as I could still taste my appetizer after a couple of spoonfuls of the sorbet.

For my entrée, I decided to go with the chicken voltaire (\$23), which was chicken stuffed with brie, pecans and sun-dried cherries in a burgundy demi and served with potatoes and vegetables.

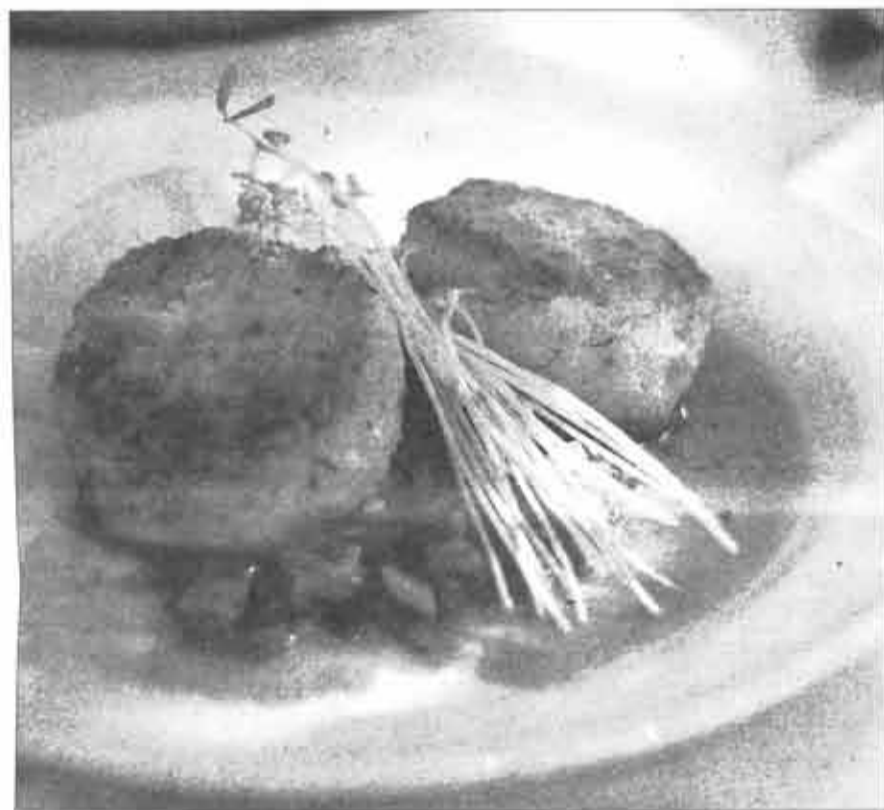
The chicken tasted great and the brie and cherries provided a twist that I had never experienced before. In addition, the pecans provided an extra unexpected crunch that was very appetizing.

Our photographer went with the Waterloo alfredo (\$18), which featured hand-made beet root pasta with tomato concasse and an apple



SYDNEY HELLAND

HERE FISHY, FISHY - The restaurant's fish tank created an exotic feel.



SYDNEY HELLAND

CRAB CAKES - The crab cakes were tasty but not quite warm enough.

cream sauce.

This option was one of the nine menu choices that were stamped with the restaurant's "taste local, taste fresh" motto. Charbries prides itself in providing a number of dishes that use only locally grown fresh products.


According to our photographer, the pasta was cooked to perfection and after a taste I felt that the apple cream sauce offered a different twist to the traditional pasta menu choice.

The entrées were both fair-sized,

but both of us chose to take the last bit to go so that we could save room for a dessert.

We split the chai crème caramel (\$7), custard infused with creamy chocolate-chai and drizzled with caramel and cranberry confit. It came out very quickly and tasted great, though the cranberries were a bit too tart for my taste.

Overall, our dining experience could have been a lot better. The food tasted great but it could have been warmer and our waitress wasn't very attentive to our needs.



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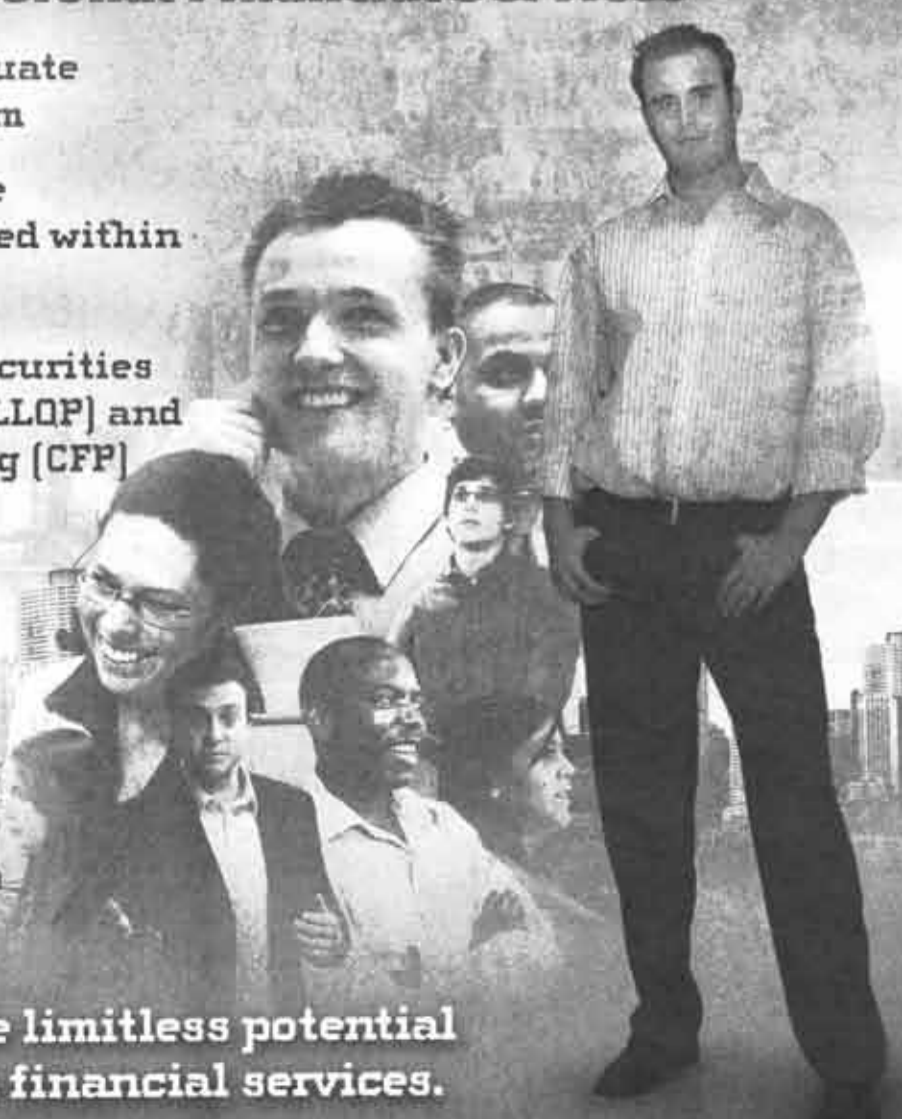
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Referendum neglected

Tomorrow, those of us at the Waterloo campus will be posed two referendum questions as part of the WLUSU elections.

One of these questions asks whether or not WLUSU should remove all mentions of "undergraduate" from its letters patent and bylaws so that the union has the potential to represent the interests of all Laurier students.

The other asks if students support a \$15 per term "Undergraduate Faculty Student Association Fee." Previously collected faculty-specific fees (such as ASAP and STEP) will no longer be charged regardless of this question's result.

The question about student fees is a big one and the Students' Union deserves congratulations for making it a referendum issue. The issue of faculty-specific student fees has been WLUSU's biggest this year, as Dan Allison and company have been working diligently on the issue since May.

The union was one of the first at Canadian universities to examine the effects of an ancillary-fee related lawsuit being faced by colleges. And they even had the wherewithal to put the issue to the students to decide.

However, months of work fell by the wayside as WLUSU failed to finalize the referendum questions until 10 days before the election.

The Students' Union's poor performance continued in the week preceding the election and referendum day as the information and awareness campaign that WLUSU said it would produce did not amount to much.

While the question regarding the letters patent and bylaws of WLUSU has less immediate impact, it is extremely important that any issue being voted on in a referendum is presented early on and explained clearly.

In the future, WLUSU must make a point of informing students about referendum questions early, rather than posing them out of the blue. However, this time the responsibility has fallen upon students to inform themselves. Make sure you learn about the referendum questions before voting tomorrow, as there are big issues at hand.

Open forum needs better structure

Yesterday's open forum, as is too often the case, turned into an opportunity for members of the presidential candidates' campaign teams to voice attacks on other candidates.

Despite this, the open forum is an important opportunity for students to learn more about candidates' platforms and have legitimate questions answered. And that certainly happened.

While it's obvious that the forum should not be cancelled, a means of stopping smear attempts is tougher to come up with.

Questions can't be screened ahead of time - that would amount to censorship. Similarly, not allowing people on campaign teams to ask questions would prevent fair questions from being asked.

The solution lies in the moderator and in creating more formal

policy surrounding the position.

To begin with, the moderator needs to be someone that commands the respect of students, so that students are unwilling to be seen making slanderous comments.

The nature of this person's position must guarantee impartiality. Indeed, we suggest that WLU President Dr. Blouw would best fit the position.

Also, WLUSU should formally outline what is and is not permitted during the open forum, investing a moderator with the understanding and means to cut off questions or comments that are unacceptable.

At present, the open forum's value is being compromised. It's time to make sure it's an informational event, free of rants and accusations.



JULIE MARION

More than a one-nighter

Serious dialogue about the election is vital considering its implications



JOE TURCOTTE
SPECIAL PROJECTS
EDITOR

This time next week, the face of student politics at Laurier will have changed, as all of the major undergraduate student-run organizations on campus will have found new leadership.

In particular, with the election of a new Board and a new President, the reins that control the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) will have been passed once again.

While for many students the thought of a WLUSU election campaign is like having to go to the dentist or, better yet, like having your teeth cleaned with a hammer and a soldering iron, these elections are important, necessary and worthy of attention.

Sure, they're not sexy, but, for the most part, democracy isn't and it really shouldn't be.

The democratic process is serious stuff: people all over the world live and die for the right to mark a box and choose who will represent their needs and interests.

And while it may be really easy as students to overlook the importance of student government and focus our attentions on other things, like classes, assignments, the Superbowl or *Lost*, these elections do matter.

Just think, if not for the competent leadership that the student representatives have shown this year, the ancillary fee issue could have been something that pro-

pelled this university into ugly and destructive litigation.

Thankfully, some people in the union knew what they were doing and were able to tactfully negotiate a deal with the school's administration.

But I know what you're saying. I know that you're cynical and you feel that no matter what happens in the upcoming elections, the good ship WLUSU will stay righted and all will be OK. *But is OK good enough?*

As a person, would you settle for listening to music that was only OK? Would you shell out your hard-earned dollars to go see a film if you thought that it was only going to be OK?

Would you stay with your boyfriend or girlfriend if you thought that he/she was OK, and not the best person for you? I know I wouldn't. And that's the way that you should think going into this election.

For the next year, for better or for worse, the men and women who are victorious on February 7 will be the people with whom you have to spend the next 12 months of your life.

For all intents and purposes, you and the members of WLUSU that will be running things in 2008-2009 will (hopefully) be locked in a committed relationship.

And unlike most relationships, where all you have to say is "good-bye" to end things, the relationship you'll have with your student representatives will be much, much harder to get out of.

So take voting seriously and don't abstain. It really doesn't take that much to put the necessary ef-

fort into voting. Take the time to read the platforms that were printed in the *Cord* last week, or go online and see the full platforms of your presidential hopefuls.

Read the question and answer section of this week's paper and read for yourself what the candidates have to say. If you missed this year's Open Forum, read up on that too. Or better yet, ask around and create a meaningful dialogue about this election.

But most importantly: choose the people that you feel best represent *your* interests as a student; choose the people who will take care of the things that *you* want to have addressed.

Read the platforms critically: remember that these documents were written in order to influence how you will vote this week. Take this seriously; your role in the electoral process is just as important as those chosen to govern.

Treat these elections as if you're courting someone, and trying to see if they match up with your set of beliefs. Because, come February 8, I'm pretty sure that you won't want to wake up in bed with student representatives that you don't think care about you, people who you don't think have your best interests at heart.

Democracy isn't a one-night stand that you meet at the Turret and never have to put up with again. Democracy and student politics is at least a one-year relationship, which has the potential for you to get screwed time and time again, and not in the ways that you'd like.

THE CORD WEEKLY

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Time to ban drive-thru windows



DAN KELLAR
BEING THE CHANGE

There is a growing movement in Canadian cities to ban the "drive-thru" window option at fast food restaurants, banks, coffee shops, beer stores, hair salons and university parking lots.

For instance, North Vancouver has been discussing a moratorium on any new drive-thru windows in their city. Though they only have a few to start with, city councillors do not want the service to proliferate, citing environmental concerns linked to vehicles idling for minutes at a time.

The cities of Mississauga and Hamilton are considering similar bans, and the city of Kitchener, a city notorious for drive-thru windows and poor air quality, has recently heard the issue at council meetings. A vote is expected after a fast-food industry-financed study is released. I fully support a ban on new drive-thru windows, but it is not a progressive idea: the city of Santa Cruz, California enacted anti-"drive-thru" legislation in 1979.

The City of Kitchener's planning department has already denied or reversed decisions on drive-thru locations on the grounds that they were not conducive to pedestrian

safety. Now, the city is looking at the larger picture of public and environmental health.

Kitchener has the opportunity not only to implement a ban on new drive-thru services but also to phase-out existing locations over several years. When combined with a program that will educate drivers about the negative environmental effects of idling (and the associated adverse health consequences), this wasteful use of finite petroleum resources will reduce beyond the drive-thru lane. A more aware citizen would be moulded and the city would become a cleaner and healthier place.

There are several main arguments against banning drive-thru services that have come up in the news and in popular discussion; these are listed below.

They are good for people with special limitations, such as the elderly, who often find it difficult to get out of the car and walk across a parking lot; cab drivers who apparently are not allowed out of their cars; parents with small children in the car who will eat with one hand, talk on the phone with the other and drive with their knees.

They increase safety for late-night eaters, who are comforted by being trapped in a drive-thru lane between a wall, two other cars and a curb.

Firing up a cooling engine is more harmful than letting your car

idle for ten minutes.

People are used to them. Taking them away would cause psychological issues; plus, they are responsible for such a small fraction of the overall emissions that it would not make a difference to the environment if we banned them.

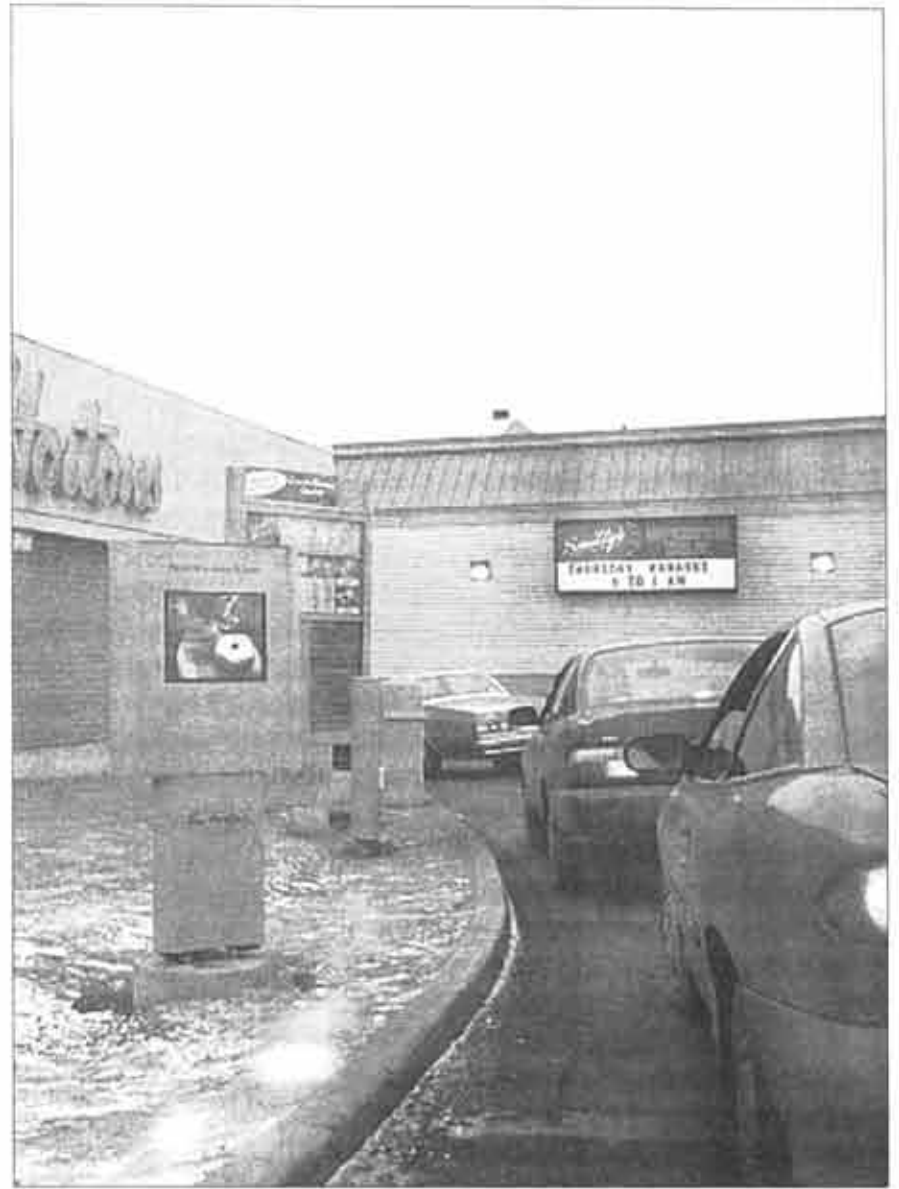
Drive-thru services reduce pollution, as people no longer have to spend time circling around the block looking for a parking spot.

These are not strong reasons to continue a wasteful and damaging practice. People adapted to the drive-thru; they can adapt to a life without them. Most of these reasons are not truthful: university-funded (as opposed to industry-funded) studies have found that idling your car for more than 10 seconds creates more pollution than does turning it off and restarting it.

We have to start somewhere, and something as easy as turning your car off and entering a store is a simple start that could help raise the level of ecological-system awareness in our society.

Of course, the issue of why we even need these unhealthy fast-food and drive-thru services instead of an appreciation for slowness and of real "slow-food" could be argued, though that is another point entirely.

A ban on drive-thru service windows would be a great complement to the anti-idling by-laws that are also gaining momentum in Canada



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IDLIN' - Vehicles waiting at the drive-thru are, alas, a common sight.

and the enforcement of such rules would be the next step in the battle. We cannot have a by-law that restricts something yet also allows the infrastructure for that activity to take place. A restriction on idling would, in all logic, automatically ban the drive-thru.

The only solution I can come up with to allow drive-thru services, while at the same time enforcing an anti-idling by-law would be to create a sort of conveyor belt - like they have at car washes - that could ferry turned-off vehicles through

the drive-thru lanes and still allow people their vehicular addiction.

It is up to the citizenry, and through them the governments, to stand up and enact rules that harm no one, but will save our limited petrol resources for driving (instead of just burning them away while sitting around), clean up our dirty and unhealthy air and free people from their vehicles.

letters@cordweekly.com

Letters to the Editor

Good deeds don't pardon wrongs

In Response to The Editorial, "Winter Carnival Coverage Biased:" when a person makes a statement which perpetuates a negative stereotype, it does not make them a "bad person". It makes them a person who has perpetuated a negative stereotype, and could perhaps think about the impact that this stereotype may have on the people who it affects.

The team, "Homelesswood" perpetuated negative stereotypes about people who for some reason or another have found themselves in an impoverished situation. This is unacceptable and should be considered more closely. The person who was upset about the "bad press" regarding this year's Winter Carnival made the statement that those who took part were kind, caring and good people, many of whom donated to charities as a part of their Winter Carnival activities. I'm sure they are very nice people. But donating to a charity or buying a goat for a family who needs it does not erase the fact that they have perpetuated a negative stereotype about poor people. Is it okay to use the "f" word in reference to a gay man, as long as you help put up

posters for the Rainbow Centre? It is okay to commit rape, as long as you donate to the KW Sexual Assault Support Centre? No, it isn't. Doing one good deed does not erase previous actions, and while all of these "good deeds" are great, they do not make up for their counterparts.

I truly believe that those who take part in the Winter Carnival are kind, caring, generous people. I just hope in future that we all think about the impact our fun has on the people around us.

- Kate Cooper

SHIFT sparks ideas for change

On January 23, Laurier administration and students met for SHIFT, an open discussion on WLU and sustainability. It was exciting to hear students put forth some great ideas and to see the administration writing them down. Part of the discussion was dedicated to weaving ecological consciousness into the fabric of Laurier identity. Orientation Week was proposed as an opportunity to do this, but was rejected on the grounds that it is too full. As an introduction to the values and mentality of Laurier, O-Week is a time for fostering school

spirit. Laurier values are currently shifting towards greater environmental awareness but if we want this movement to take root we need to present it as an important part of Laurier citizenship and pride. We would like to propose some practical ideas on how to integrate this attitude into O-Week.

O-Week is quite busy and we are not suggesting taking time away from existing activities, but that ecological consciousness become a part of established events as it should become a part of our daily lives. This can be accomplished by educating the Ice-Breakers and dons about responsible choices that can easily be made on campus. On the various tours there is an opportunity to advocate double-sided photocopying, scrap printer paper at the Hub, reusable dishware, and the discounts available to travel mug users. Public transit, local farmers' markets and the WLU Farm Market once underway could be promoted. There are countless ways to incorporate tips such as these into first years' introduction to campus.

The O-Week laundry bags are already a good resource for incoming students. We would like to see travel mugs, bus maps and recycling instructions included. We would also like to see O-Week set the ex-

ample through their activities and the serving of their meals.

O-Week is a great venue for implementing change and we would like to see this opportunity seized. Congratulations to the organizers and participants of SHIFT for kick-starting the process of making our vision of Laurier a reality.

- Angela Shea, Lauren Smee, and Linnea Thacker

Review incomplete

We just want to take a moment to remind *The Cord* that to do an "In-Depth" look at something, it generally requires an overview from which that depth may be viewed. As such, we will offer a review of the plays from the Thursday evening Fringe Festival that *The Cord* all but completely overlooked. "Pandamonium" was an excellent opener, but the in-depth review covered that, so readers are aware of its awesomeness. The second show to run on Thursday night was "Hotel."

It was an exceptionally witty romp written by, directed by, and starring one of the festival coordinators, Andrew Posen. The hilarious play was definitely one of the highlights of the festival. Another play to grace the line-up was "Lau-

rier 2084", directed by Leanne Richards. The play was a hilarious mix between life at Laurier and George Orwell's masterpiece *1984*. The play certainly struck a cord with Laurier students and parents alike. Also, that evening was "Project Shakespeare", written and directed by Meredith Brydon and Kyle Wood, who also wrote this letter. We won't say much, so as to preserve our integrity, but it was pretty good. Finally, we didn't see "Why I Hate Public Transit" as we had to prepare for our play, but we both heard it was good, so we will go with that. Some may say that such a statement lacks journalistic integrity, but we would simply remind them that we're already doing *The Cord's* job for them, that should be taken up with them.

- Kyle Wood and Meredith Brydon

Letters Policy:

All letters to the editor must be signed and submitted with the author's name, student identification number, and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00 pm (noon) Monday via email to letters@cordweekly.com or through our website at www.cordweekly.com. Letters must not exceed 350 words.

The Cord reserves the right to edit any letter for brevity and clarity. The Cord reserves the right to reject any letter, in whole or in part. The Cord reserves the right to not publish material that is deemed to be libelous or in contravention with the Cord's Code of Ethics or journalistic standards.

Minimum wage buys minimum life



DON MORGENSON
ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

A wage is payment for work that is done by you or by me, and the minimum wage is the lawful and legal but lowest amount an employer can pay employees. A minimum wage was first enacted in Australia and New Zealand in the late 19th century and currently 90 percent of countries have a minimum hourly wage.

The minimum wage here in Ontario is \$8.00 per hour and, even though our unemployment rate has remained remarkably stable (around 5.9 percent), there are many of us here in Ontario who work for minimum wage.

While some of them are teenagers working for pocket money, about 75 percent of minimum wage workers are adults and 40 percent are the sole supporters of their families. Minimum wage is not really substantial support.

A person working at minimum wage for 40 hours a week, all 52 weeks in the year, makes about

\$16,000 per annum. This means that a person working full-time, year-round cannot expect to support a family in "genteel" poverty. It means that in a country without a large number of low-cost housing units, a person working full-time, year-round, cannot afford to rent a two-bedroom apartment.

It means that almost 20 percent of children in Ontario grow up in poverty with all the attendant and long-term disadvantages - economic, educational, psychological and political - that grinding poverty inevitably brings, and Canada has one of the highest child poverty rates among industrialized countries.

Of course, the minimum wage is merely one of many ways of maintaining a consistent supply of people with insufficient funds, as sociologist Herbert Gans pointed out in his classic article "The Uses of Poverty". Gans argued that this population is particularly good for Ontario and Canada, as well as for the rest of the world.

Poverty provides middle Canada with a labour pool of people to do society's undesirable work - which often ultimately benefits the rest of us.

The working poor provide the labour force for many very profitable businesses that depend on low wages - fast food restaurant chains and childcare for the children of two-career families.

Poverty also creates jobs for middle-class professionals who "take care of" this population. Without poverty, there would be fewer social workers and welfare bureaucrats. Serving these poverty professionals provides even more jobs in supplying offices, desks, chairs, computers, software and on and on.

PEOPLE WITH INSUFFICIENT FUNDS ALSO PERFORM VALUABLE WORK TO SUPPORT THE VALUE STRUCTURE OF THE MIDDLE CLASS.

People who are financially strapped are also valuable consumers because they purchase products at the bottom of the consumption chain. Who else would pay for used cars, standard housing, second hand goods, day-old bread and pastries and groceries beyond their "use by" dates?

Socially, people with insufficient

funds also perform valuable work to support the value structure of the middle class. Their so-called "laziness" reaffirms our unshakeable beliefs in our "work ethic," thrift and honesty. Their seemingly broken family structure (often complicated by lack of money) legitimizes the value of the middle-class monogamy and the "stable" two-parent household. Their convictions for crimes may simply reinforce our idea that "crime does not pay."

And finally, their lower-class status gives us someone to look down

on, confirming our own class and status. In short, their status as "them" confirms our own status as "us." And then, if we are feeling generous and philanthropic, their

poverty can produce in us an occasion for feeling good about our superior location in a somewhat unjust social structure. Those working with this population refer to this as the "charity model" and advocate a "servant model" instead, where they walk with the other with no "us versus them" mentality.

But most importantly, Gans ar-

gues that those with insufficient funds provide a convenient scapegoat for our rather broad institutional failures, those many occurrences when the infrastructure is so bent out of shape that many of us fall between the cracks.

If we can blame the indolent for their indolence, if we can blame those without money for their poverty, if we can blame the victims for their own misery, we don't have to worry at all about an unjust economic and social system that fails to feed people, clothe people, or house those who need homes.

Obviously, these people deserve the circumstances in which they find themselves. It is very easy then, to excuse ourselves for having so much more than others have.

The Bible tells us "The poor ye shall have with you always." And we need to be reminded that such words were not spoken by a cynic, nor were they intended as a cynical remark. Such was said in Matthew's gospel, to remind us of the painful but urgent obligations we all share in taking care of each other, no matter who they are.

letters@cordweekly.com



LANDMARK - Toronto may soon be home to Canada's first afrocentric high school.

Afrocentric school issue being unfairly criticized



JEREMY TREMBLAY
OPINION EDITOR

An 11-9 vote by Toronto District School Board trustees in favour of creating an afrocentric high school within the board has sparked huge debate not just within Toronto but across the nation.

Proponents of the plan suggest it is the method that should be used to help curb alarming dropout rates. The dropout rate for English-speaking students of Caribbean descent is 40 percent. Students of Canadian descent have a dropout rate of 23 percent according to data examining the period from 2000 to 2005.

Community members opposing the plan were concerned by what they felt was a backwards move.

"Black school is segregation," said Loreen Small, mother of slain 15-year-old Jordan Manners, according to *The Globe and Mail*. "It's not right."

Today, slightly more than a week after the decision was made, the issue has become swept up by partisan politics. More attention is now being paid to how provincial leaders react than to what will help students most.

In response to the decision, John Tory, the leader of the Ontario Conservatives, released a statement

urging Ontarians to remember how the McGuinty Liberals campaigned against separate religious schools during the last election, saying that no children should be segregated.

"Yet all of a sudden, four months later they are willing to allow the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), a provincially funded body, to do so. What has changed?" he asks.

Dalton McGuinty, the premier of Ontario, responded to the decision by saying that he was disappointed by the choice but he would not overrule it.

PERHAPS BY NOT ALLOWING AFROCENTRIC SCHOOLS WE'RE NOT MOVING BACKWARDS, BUT WE'RE CERTAINLY NOT MOVING FORWARDS.

He continued to say that Toronto's school board trustees have the authority to create such schools and are responsible to the people of Toronto.

Elizabeth Witmer, the Progressive Conservative MPP for Kitchener-Waterloo, responded by calling McGuinty a hypocrite for saying he was unable to take action, according to *The Globe and Mail*.

"I think he has now opened the door to more segregation in the public system," continued Witmer.

On February 1 - three days after the trustees' vote - McGuinty

changed his mind. "We will be watching this very closely," said McGuinty, according to *The Globe and Mail*.

"If I get a proposal next week from Ottawa, and a week after that from Windsor, and a week after that from Thunder Bay, if something takes hold here that runs clearly contrary to our vision of publicly funded education in the province of Ontario, then we will not hesitate to act."

Within a week of the decision, comments had flown back and forth between political parties.

While the premier originally disapproved of the idea but said it was within the school board trustees' mandate, the opposition party's criticism pushed

him to say he would not allow other school boards to follow suit.

For the Toronto District School Board, this debate was about whether or not a new program should be founded to help a group of students that our current education system is letting fall through the cracks.

At the provincial level, the matter became a partisan argument about whether the people of Ontario agree with segregation.

Politicians did not suggest that the program be housed within existing schools as a new program to

prevent unnecessary segregation. Nor did they simply comment that the Toronto District School Board would need to address these concerns and make sure that an afrocentric school would fully comply with the provincial curriculum, as other specialty programs must.

Instead, some members of Ontario's parliament have responded with accusations of society moving backwards and the current government failing to uphold the wishes of the population.

These claims give politicians the perfect opportunity to remind the public that segregation isn't a policy they support and that the other parties should be held responsible for this decision, essentially saying "this is why you should have voted for my party."

Perhaps we're not moving backwards, but we're certainly not moving forwards. Rather than working to build upon and improve the plan presented - by ensuring afrocentric schools do not cause segregation or discrimination, for example - the pressure is on for the plan to be dumped.

A school board trustee has already proposed another meeting be held to vote on reversing the decision. Never mind the 40 percent of black students that currently dropout; obviously, our current system works.

letters@cordweekly.com

WLUSU election punditry

With tomorrow marking the big day for choices in student representation at Laurier, *The Cord* approached five engaged senior students and asked them who they supported for this year's major elected offices. Here's what they had to say ...



DAN SCHELL - WLUSU VP: BRANTFORD

President - Colin LeFevre

Out of a highly talented group of presidential candidates, LeFevre stands out to be one of the more rational and experienced options on the ballot this year.

One of the main reasons for this is his focus on the shifting of mentality of management within the Union. He may not hold the managerial background within the Students' Union that the other two candidates hold; however, this gives LeFevre a fresh perspective on the way things have been run this previous year and has allowed him to create a platform that directly relates to the students,



RAFIQ ANDANI - WLUSU VICE-CHAIR

President - Brian Punambolam

WLUSU needs a president that is both capable and experienced. A president who can lead with both wisdom and passion, but most importantly, WLUSU needs a president who has a clear, concise and realistic vision for WLUSU.

All three presidential candidates are more than capable and well versed in the workings of WLUSU as a corporation; however, with respect to leadership, passion and vision, it is Brian Punambolam whose vision I feel resonates more closely with student needs. It is Brian Punambolam whose leadership ex-



JEN MITCHELL - FORMER WLUSU VP:UA

President - Colin LeFevre

WLUSU President is not an easy job. Ensuring a balance of the management side of the role with strong student representation is a yearly challenge. Many people excel at one or the other, but Colin seems to have both sides (with some personality to boot). In a year where no other external representation is up for election, having a President such as Colin who understands the importance of WLUSU's role lobbying all levels of government is essential. On top of a wealth of WLUSU experience, his understanding in other



DAN HOCKING - GREEK LIFE PRESIDENT & TWO-TIME MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER

President - Ross Fraser

This was a tough choice for me; I know all three candidates quite well, and have worked with them enough to see their strengths and weaknesses. Ultimately, I have to go with Ross as my choice for WLUSU President.

In a year full of what I consider to be mediocre platforms at best, Ross' and Colin's rise to the top. I have ideological differences with some of Colin's platform ideas and I also feel that his assertive personality (while probably his best asset) may prove detrimental in his relations with senior administration and



MIKE BROWN - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, THE CORD

President - Colin LeFevre

Any of this year's candidates could very feasibly be our next WLUSU President and all would no doubt bring certain strengths to the role. Punambolam is extremely personable and cares immensely about WLU, but I feel that he lacks the nuanced understanding of the issues the university currently faces that Fraser and LeFevre possess. What separates LeFevre in my mind, though, is his proven pedigree for standing up for responsible governance. While Punambolam and Fraser are both members of a Management Committee

including things like the elimination of needless aesthetic expenditures and the STARR hiring format.

Also, his platform points for Brantford are immediately relevant to the needs of the student body here, from the OneCard program being brought to this campus and more Brantford Council autonomy. Change is needed, and LeFevre is the best candidate.

Board of Directors - Asif Bacchus

Bacchus offers two things the board will need next year: experience and change.

Bacchus has been a director before, and

experience makes him most suited for this role, and lastly is Brian Punambolam whose passion for WLUSU and Laurier is unsurpassed by any of the other candidates.

For these reasons, among others, I strongly urge the Laurier student community to recognize the talent and dedication that Brian embodies, and that he will without a doubt bring to the job of president and CEO of WLUSU.

Board of Directors - Jon Champagne

Experience, dedication and understanding are what make Jon the obvious vote for the

areas of campus, both in academics and student life will be an asset to him throughout his term. His platform is realistic, progressive and refreshing, understanding the value of WLUSU's volunteers and the need for environmental sustainability. A focus on campus clubs and bursaries - issues affecting thousands of students - are also home-runs.

Board of Directors - Jackie Dobson

With a mostly underwhelming, buzzword-filled batch of candidates, Jackie Dobson has stood out far above all the first-time Director WLUSU staff.

In contrast, Ross has been recognized as an excellent supervisor and co-worker during his time with WLUSU and has received the endorsement of his fellow candidates as their alternate choice. I feel either Colin or Ross would be an excellent choice, but my endorsement goes to Ross Fraser.

Board of Directors - Griffin Carpenter

I challenged Griffin on something he wrote off-handed on his Facebook group; within hours I had an extensive response from him,

that has struggled mightily to be transparent, LeFevre displays an acute understanding of the importance of full disclosure. LeFevre has put forth a platform that, while not flashy, understands the environmentally and fiscally responsible direction WLU must take.

Board of Directors - Paul Laanemets

Simply put, it would be a tragedy for the Board to lose Paul Laanemets. After working behind the scenes as one of the Board's most effective directors, diligent in finance and policy matters, he has found his voice in the

has witnessed the goings on this year from an educated distance. For WLUSU to improve, it will need Bacchus' critical eye to re-tool the Union towards representing students again.

Board of Governors - Bryn Ossington

The lone candidate to attend the Brantford Open Forum, Ossington seems to value the issues of the entire student body, and not just to those with whom he may hold connections. Ossington's experience will be beneficial when representing all students as a guaranteed voice for genuine concerns like environmental sustainability.

one of 15 Board of Director positions. Jon has proven his worth; his work this year has been outstanding relative to his rather lackluster fellow Board members.

Board of Governors - Bryn Ossington

Ossington is all that *and* a bag of potato chips. I could not think of a better choice for Laurier's Board of Governors than Bryn Ossington. Bryn's strength and experience are exactly what the students need in their corner when dealing with the issues presented before the Board of Governors.

candidates. With a strong personality and clear leadership abilities, I have high hopes she will be a strong advocate for Laurier students this year and in years to come.

Board of Governors - Bryn Ossington

Laurier's Board of Governors is an intimidating body that needs a representative who is not afraid to stand up for students in frequently-unpopular debates. Over the past few years, Bryn has shown he is a committed student leader with a wide range of experience to assist him in this position.

and we continued to exchange comments even though we had never met. His ability to engage students will make him an excellent representative, and an excellent Director.

Board of Governors - Bryn Ossington

A student Governor needs to be outspoken to make up for the very limited representation of students on the Board of Governors. The platforms are similar, but, through his time on the Senate and the WLUSU BOD, I feel Bryn will be able to make his voice heard.

Board room as well, making him a directoral prodigy just waiting to happen.

Board of Governors - Bryn Ossington

As a first-year student, Sean Mui-Tummers is badly outclassed by Jon Champagne and Bryn Ossington, two of WLU's most experienced student representatives. And while students would no doubt be well-served by Champagne, Ossington's passion for fairness and equality for all students coupled with his willingness to speak out when he sees injustice make him the best choice.

Disclosure: Colin LeFevre currently sits as the Chair of the Board of Directors for WLUSP; Bryn Ossington is the incoming Chair of the Board for WLUSP.

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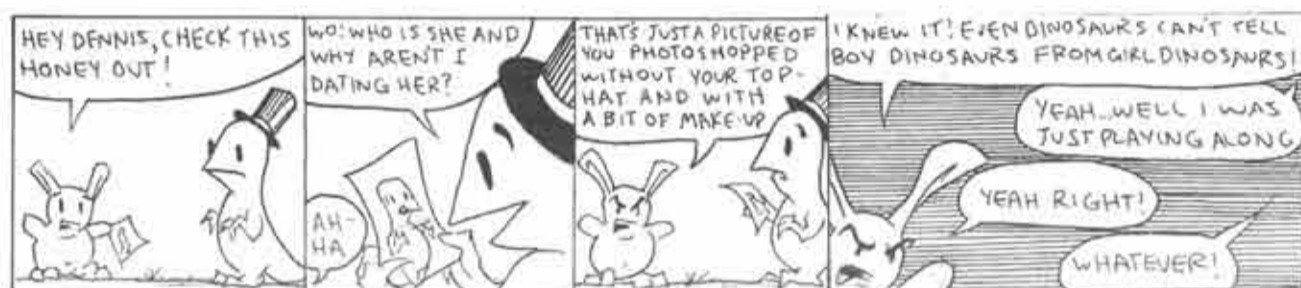
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Last week's sudoku

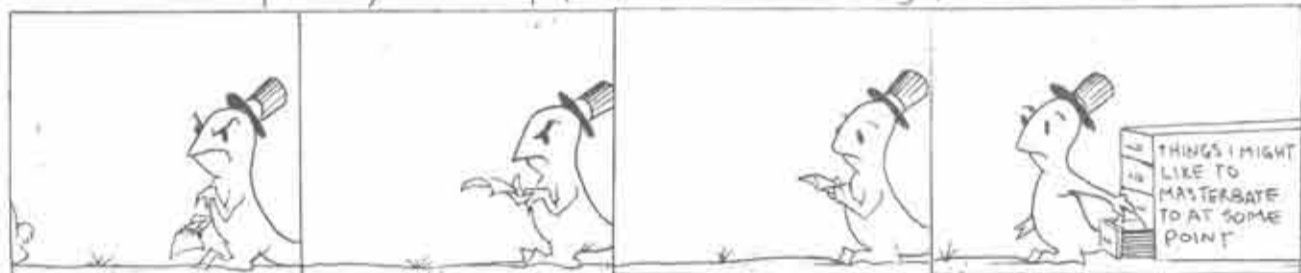
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Documenting change

The Neglected North America, a mini film fest with special guest Jill Friedberg, informs students about Mexican workers in Canada

JILLIAN WOOD
STAFF WRITER

The *Truth* is harsh, but inspiring. The documentary film fest in the Paul Martin Centre had very few students in attendance yesterday. The theme of the afternoon was the "neglected" North American country, Mexico.

Many may ask themselves how exactly films about Mexican tribulations have any relation to Canada or the US. Surprisingly enough, by the end of the films, the relationship became quite obvious.

The first documentary, *Un Poquito de Tanta Verdad* or *A Little Bit of So Much Truth*, focused on the Oaxaca state in Mexico, a place rich in resources, but in dire need of economic reclassification because of the tyrannical governor of the state, Ulises Ruiz Ortiz.

The Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca (APPO) is a

group formed initially of teachers demanding money for crumbling schools and students without proper food and clothing. It grew to include many indigenous groups who were fed up with the one-party state where the interests of the people are ignored.

Beyond the many peaceful protests the poor of Mexico have organized, APPO also utilized a new weapon: the media. By starting their own radio stations to voice their opinions, the group became much more organized, and quickly gained support.

Ortiz's government has tried to squelch free speech by attacking all media with political views contrary to his own party's, and all radio stations taken over by APPO.

Many have been killed in police attacks during peaceful protests or been detained and tortured. His government denies all of these things, and media funded by his party continually portrays APPO as violent and unorganized vandals to the rest of the Mexican population.

One of the most moving parts of the documentary is when thousands of women, banging nothing but pots and spoons, peacefully take over Channel 9, a state-funded channel, after being denied even one hour of air time to talk about what one woman calls "a little bit of so much truth."

This is not a sad documentary, leaving viewers with a feeling of guilt over their cushy North American lifestyles. This is a documentary about change and hope. Jill Friedberg, creator, writer, and producer

of the movie, was present to lecture on the documentary.

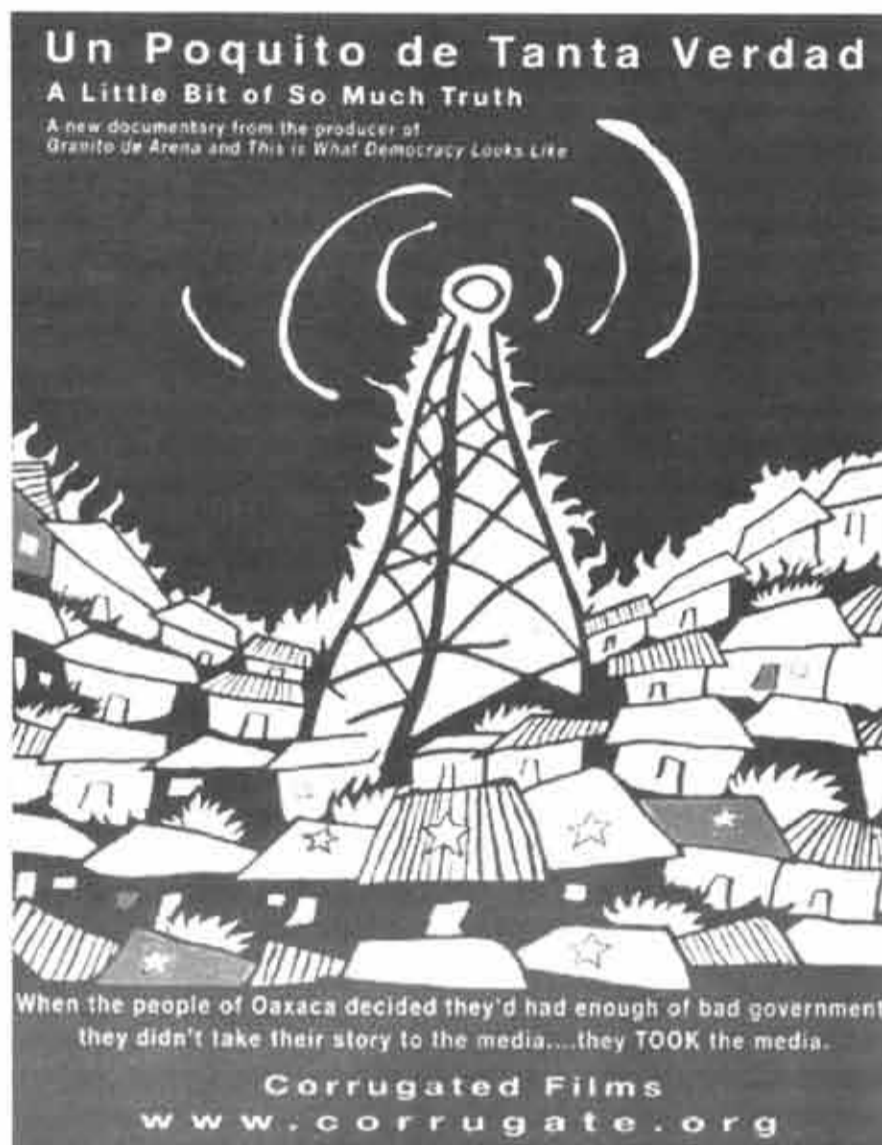
She began her work in the Oaxaca state in 2003 while filming a documentary about the Mexican teacher's struggle called *Grain of Sand*. She went back in 2006, to film what she thought would be a short epilogue to her first documentary, but was so inspired by the women's peaceful take-over of the TV station, that she decided a "new movie needed to be made."

Despite filming through tear gas and bullets, Friedberg felt she had to make this documentary because it held "important lessons for everyone" in terms of what can be done when the media is put into the hands of the people. She also stated that the media climate in the rest of North America is not so different from Mexico.

The other two films included *Los Mexicanos: Le combat de Patricia Pérez*, a documentary of the struggle of Patricia Perez to help immigrant workers (most of them Mexican) on Canadian farms from being exploited. She is the founder of a support group for these workers and organizes union drives for those who face language barriers.

Also shown was Aarón Diaz's film *Migrantes: Those Who Come From Within*, which focuses on the injuries, chronic illnesses and feelings of alienation that most migrant workers return home with after the farming season ends.

The issues with the dissemination of the media and political influence on every sector of economic growth are strikingly simi-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FEATURE FILM - *Un Poquito de Tanta Verdad* started off the evening.

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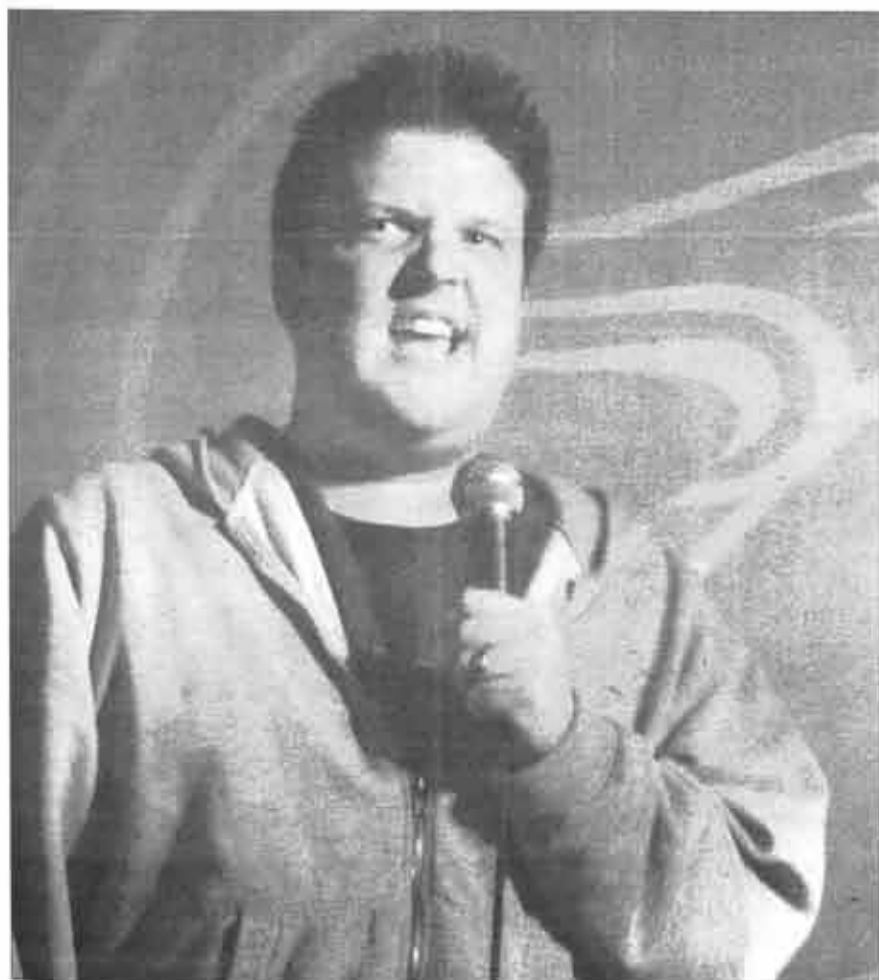
In Review

The ultra-hyped academically educated Vampire Weekend take a bite out of Geetha Thuraiajah's stereo.

Another comedy bust hits the screens in the form of *Strange Wilderness*, reviewed by Esther Wheaton.

A laugh here, an offensive remark there

The dual comedic stylings of Mark Forward and Eddie Della Siepe played at Wilf's as a part of A-Team's ongoing stand-up series



ELISE COTTER

FUNNY - Forward puts his mouth on the mic and words on the line.

ELISE COTTER
STAFF WRITER

At 9 pm on the last Wednesday of every month, insanity occurs at Wilf's. Insanity in the most comedic of ways. Nothing is off limits, as two talented comedians take to the stage to entertain a very eager crowd.

Last Wednesday, Wilf's welcomed headliner Mark Forward and just as talented opener Eddie Della Siepe. Forward is a writer and performer for the new Comedy Network program *The Jon Dore Show*. Della Siepe has appeared on episodes of *Video on Trial*.

Starting the night off a little late, at 9:45, Della Siepe began his act by addressing the crowd.

While wearing a scarf borrowed from one of the attendees, Della Siepe interacted with a table of girls that reminded him of *The Hills* and referred to A-team members as "a cult"; with every question he asked, Della Siepe turned the answers into funny jokes.

He proceeded to talk about how he stole from his old job at Zellers, his lack of privacy with his ex-girlfriend, different types of shits, and people with disabilities. Just as the crowd was getting offended, Della Siepe turned to the A-team for reassurance that he was allowed to say whatever he wanted.

Indeed, offending was the theme of the night. Forward continued the tradition with his energy-packed performance. His jokes consisted of aquadumping, Asians, hand puppets, sucking on "Gary's" nipples, and midgets.

At one point, Forward personally made fun of me, demanding to know why I was taking so many pictures. As I explained it was for the school newspaper, he asked who actually reads *The Cord*. He followed with asking a girl to look at his fake cock.

His content is offensive, but should we be offended? Forward doesn't think so. "You guys are afraid to laugh at anything."

Just as he started to win the

crowd with his humoristic obscenities, Forward lost them again when mentioning not just girl periods, but guy periods.

"You're young, and you're so offended," Forward responded to the shocked reactions. After the show, both Forward and Della Siepe explained why they become comedians.

Forward has only been doing comedy for the last seven years, simply because nothing else appealed to him. And now that he is part of *The Jon Dore Show*, being a comedian is paying off. "It's great... Jon's very talented," Forward says of the show.

Della Siepe, on the other hand, has wanted to be a comedian since seeing Jim Carrey on *In Living Color* at the age of 12.

Offensive or not, both comedians were very entertaining. They both have the skill and energy needed to constantly entertain a large crowd for a long amount of time. Smiling and laughing after every joke, the front section of Wilf's would agree.

New Jack Johnson record

The master of melodies gives in to his fans and makes some more of his soothing sunshine tunes

KARI PRITCHARD
STAFF WRITER

Yesterday, Jack Johnson's new album, *Sleep Through The Static*, was released to the public. His two most recent albums were *In Between Dreams* and *Sing-A-Longs and Lullabies*.



Jack Johnson
Sleep Through The Static
Release Date: 05/02/2008
Rating: 7.9/10.0
Check Out: "All at Once";
"Same Girl"; "Sleep Through the Static"

labies, the full soundtrack for the *Curious George* movie.

Now if you've heard Johnson before, you know what you can expect on this album: mellow tunes complimented by Johnson's soulful vocals.

Although Johnson is continuing down the same path sound-wise, this is not a bad thing because, damn - he's good at what he does.

On *Sleep Through The Static*, your ears are pleased with songs featuring a mix of both electric and acoustic guitar, bass, keys, drums and some sweet accordion features.

As well as resonating a similar sound to his last albums, some songs create flashbacks to other songs on different recordings.

"Same Girl" is a love song that could only be referring to his wife, reminding listeners of his prior love song to his wife, "Do You Remember", that can be heard on *In Between Dreams*.

Songs like "Hope" and "Enemy" hold rewarding, moral messages like the songs on *Sing-A-Longs and Lullabies*, which was directed to-

wards a younger audience.

Having said that, all songs on *Sleep Through The Static* are more mature and leave the child audience behind. The first song on the album, "All at Once", has an underlying message about our world and the irreparable damage the environment has suffered.

Johnson has started an "All at Once Online Community" on his website www.jackjohnsonmusic.com, dedicated to uniting those who are concerned about the environment and allowing them to discuss what can be done to help it.

The title track, "Sleep Through the Static", has a political message, addressing aspects of peace and war, Johnson's stance being summed up in the lyrically moving chorus.

Sleep Through The Static not only carries a message to bestow, or a lovely accordion intro, but sheer talent encompassed in Johnson's lyrical flow.

Seriously, his choice of words and powerful lyrics flow like a river in this one. The lyrics to each song are also included in the CD as an

added bonus.

This is great because you can see the genius and thought process put into some of the lyrics. Johnson likes to play on words, flowing some lines together using similar words, or subtly using the same word to connect thoughts.

Another small detail adding character to *Sleep Through The Static* is the scratching sound of Johnson's fingers moving up and down the fret board on his acoustic guitar. This may seem miniscule in the grand scheme of things, but if you close your eyes it's almost like Johnson is playing right next to you.

Not only has Johnson produced another sleepy-soulful classic, but the entire album was recorded using solar power and the album casing is made out of 100 percent recycled products, thus spreading the word of being environmentally friendly while being so himself.

Sleep Through The Static is an easily enjoyed album with a likeable groove, sure to please audiences and trees everywhere.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
WHO NEEDS SHOES? - Johnson lounges around in his flip flops.

There's something in my eye: it's a ghost!

Jessica Alba stars in another Hollywood remake of a popular Japanese film, only this time the departed haven't quite left yet



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BURNT MUFFINS MAKE ALBA ANGRY - The world just ain't that pretty.

PRIYAM BHARGAVA
CORD A&E

Less than eye opening! Another remake of a Chinese horror flick, *The Eye* is *Sixth Sense* meets *Final Destination*.

Sydney Wells (Jessica Alba) is given the gift of sight, but at a horrifying price in *The Eye*. It is fast-paced and relentless; however, too much time is spent on developing the story, forcing an expeditious climax.

Nevertheless, Moreau and Palud handle the scares in an effective manner, as they succeed in creating an at-the-edge-of-your-seat atmosphere that really sinks you into the increasingly disturbing events.

Blind since the age of five, Sydney, an accomplished concert violinist, undergoes a double corneal transplant, in hopes that this time the surgery will be successful.

Living with the guilt of blinding her younger sister, Helen (Parker Posey) pushes for the operation, as we learn later that it was her idea to play with fireworks when they were younger. Due to being absent for most of the film, she doesn't live up to the role of a sister.

Neural ophthalmologist, Dr. Paul Faulkner (Alessandro Nivola), comes to the rescue and helps Sydney adapt to the sight sensory overload in a short period of time.

Immediately after the operation, she begins to see dark, shadowy fig-

ures but shrugs it off, thinking she's dreaming. She is beginning to appreciate her new sight, and everything is fine and dandy.

That is, until things start to go haywire as terrifying images tear their way into her newfound vision. Apparently an eye transplant can not only restore eyesight, but also give one the ability to see dead people.

Haunted by ghostly episodes, she wakes up in the wee hours of the night with nightmares and sees her whole apartment transforming into horrific scenes. Soon she discovers she is experiencing the trauma of her mystery organ donor.

- SEE **EYEBALLS**, PAGE 27

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Authoring an adventure

Third-year WLU student Justin Donaldson sits down with *The Cord* to discuss his newly published book, *The Hounds of Salisbury*

REBECCA VASLUIANU
STAFF WRITER

While most of us are barely managing to get through our classes and maintain some semblance of a social life, Justin Donaldson has managed to write a book and get it published on top of all that.

After a year of being rejected by various publishing houses, the third-year historical archaeology major's novel, *The Hounds of Salisbury*, was finally picked up by a publishing company in the US called iUniverse.

"I'd heard that even the greatest authors got rejected so many times, so I didn't feel too bad about it," states Donaldson. "It didn't really matter. Even if it didn't get published, it was pretty cool and an adventure to do."

Donaldson's book is what he likes to call "historical adventure fiction" and tells the story of a group of students who go on a trip to Britain to get their history credit. When, one day, they go on a day-trip to Stonehenge, they are called back to the Iron Age of Britain, where they're looked upon as saviours and find themselves struggling to survive through the turbulent times.

While the story is obviously fictional, Donaldson explains that it was based on a few events that occurred when he went on a similar trip to Britain.

"I had actually gone on kind of an extra credit thing in England and all

of us had gone inside Stonehenge and once we'd gotten out of there, I had a bad headache and it just got worse as we got away," he explains.

"Somebody joked, 'What if the Druids are trying to call you back?' so I just went with that."

When asked whether any of the characters in *The Hounds of Salisbury* were based on real people, Donaldson points out that anyone who knows him well would see the parallels between him and the main character, Morgan, in the beginning of the book. As well, several characters in the novel draw on some of his friends at Laurier.

One thing many might notice is the resemblance of Donaldson's title to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's novel, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Yet to this Donaldson offers an explanation.

"Well, Salisbury refers to the Salisbury plains," Donaldson clarifies. "Somebody actually said I should change the title because it sounded like that. But no, in the Iron Age of Britain the term 'hound' was a compliment and a sign of warriors who were good at what they do. The main characters are seen as hounds."

Donaldson worked on the novel from his grade 12 year, including a year he took off after high school, until 2007, amounting to an impressive 503 pages. Yet despite his unconventional pastime, Donaldson is down-to-earth and humble.

Originally from Hartcourt, On-

tario, Donaldson notes some of his favourite authors are Jules Verne, Dan Brown, Michael Crichton, Jack London and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Other than that, he explains that he mostly reads history books, which have helped provide the inspiration for his book.

"What I tried to get with *The Hounds of Salisbury* was just raw adventure and trying to stay away from the clichés of all the other books of this type," explains Donaldson.

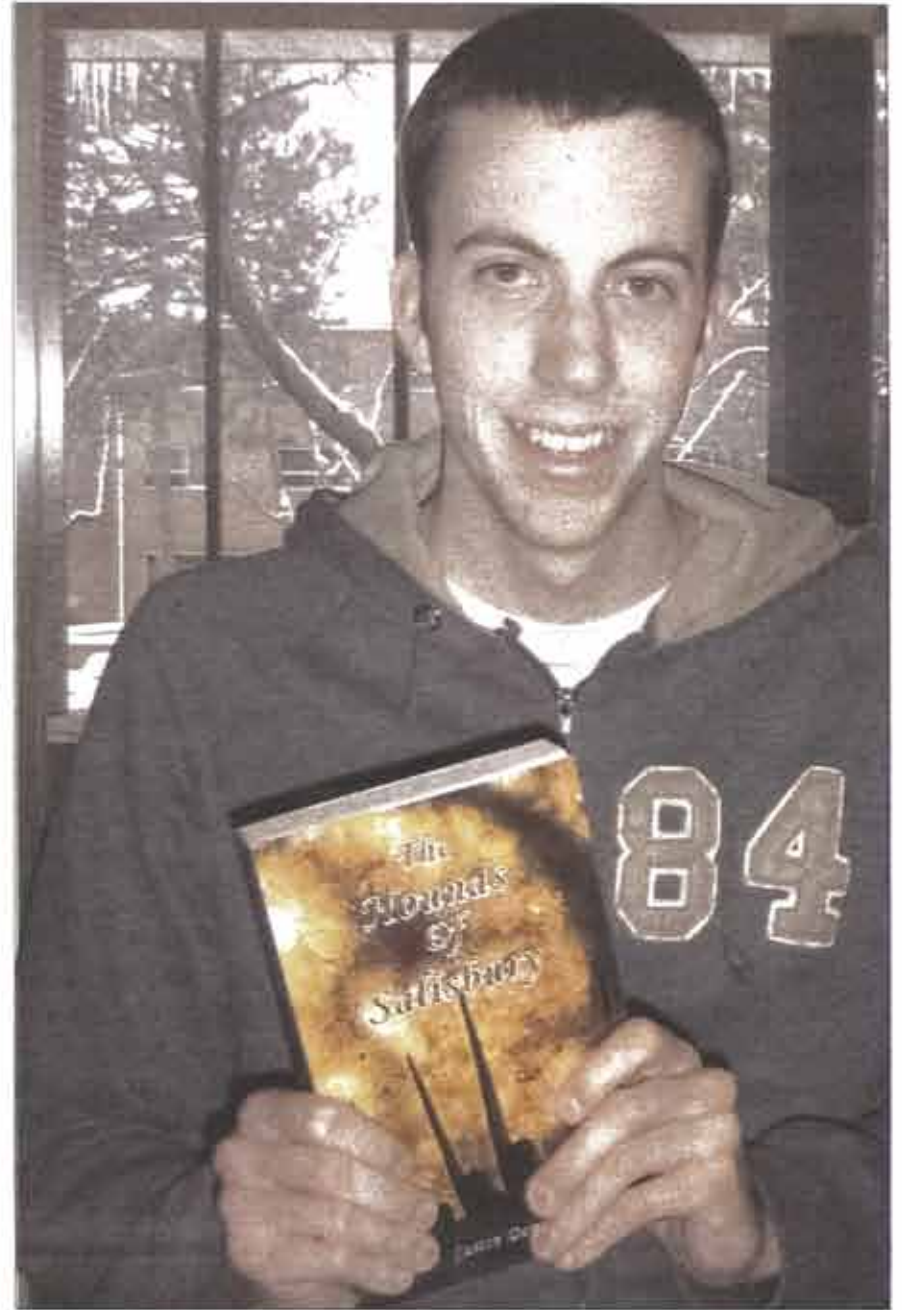
As of yet, only family and friends have read *The Hounds of Salisbury*, but Donaldson looks forward to getting more input.

"My brother didn't like the ending," he laughs. "On the whole, they said they liked it, but that doesn't really count for a review. They didn't say they hated it at least."

While he mentions that he hopes to continue writing along with his degree, Donaldson is currently not working on anything.

"Well, I was just going to see how well this one goes," states Donaldson. "But most likely I'll still dabble in writing. There are still some other ideas for stories."

For anyone who wishes to check out Laurier's very own published student author, you can order *The Hounds of Salisbury* online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble under the "New and Used" section.



REBECCA VASLUIANU
EPIC ACHIEVEMENT - Donaldson, proud author, holds his first book.

Seeing is believing

FROM EYEBALLS, PAGE 26

She finds inner strength in her character, recognizing that she needs to get to the bottom of what is happening to her.

The plot then follows a predictable storyline as Dr. Faulkner sees Sydney as gaining her sight but losing her mind. He theorizes that her visions are a figment of her imagination and that they are a product of stimuli overload.

She goes ballistic and attempts to shut out the world, then, out of the blue, he starts to believe her story, and offers to drive her all the way to Mexico to discover the truth.

I never thought the line "have you seen my report card" could be scary, and I didn't have to go much further to find out that this movie couldn't prove it either.

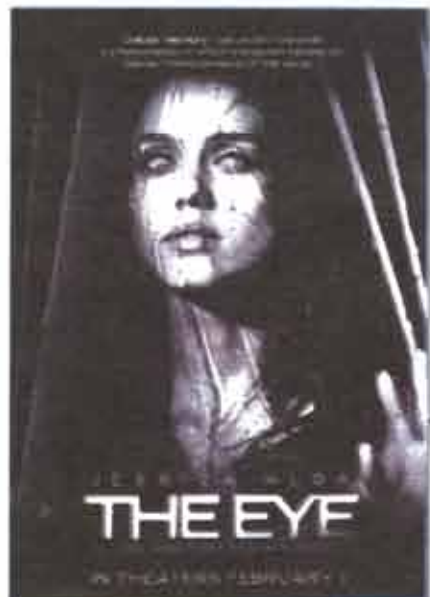
The most amusing scene is when Alba, a Latina herself (whose character's ethnic background is rather ambiguous), asks Faulkner to translate Spanish!

Although Nivola's character was flat and unable to mask his obvious affections for Alba, she gave quite a performance - most of which was in panic mode.

The concept behind the film was much more interesting than the

jump-out-of-your-seat scary moments, as it adopted a psychological approach.

The movie is not one of Alba's best, but is a refreshing change from the usual mind-numbing gore fests that horror movies have become nowadays.



The Eye

Director: David Moreau

Starring: Jessica Alba, Parker

Posey, Alessandro Nivola

Release Date: 01/02/2008

Rating: 5.5/10.0

Media Matters

The Technological Earth

Ramblings From National Affairs Desk

digital player HAYTER

Dan Belgue looks at how science and technology shape our earth



The Technological Earth

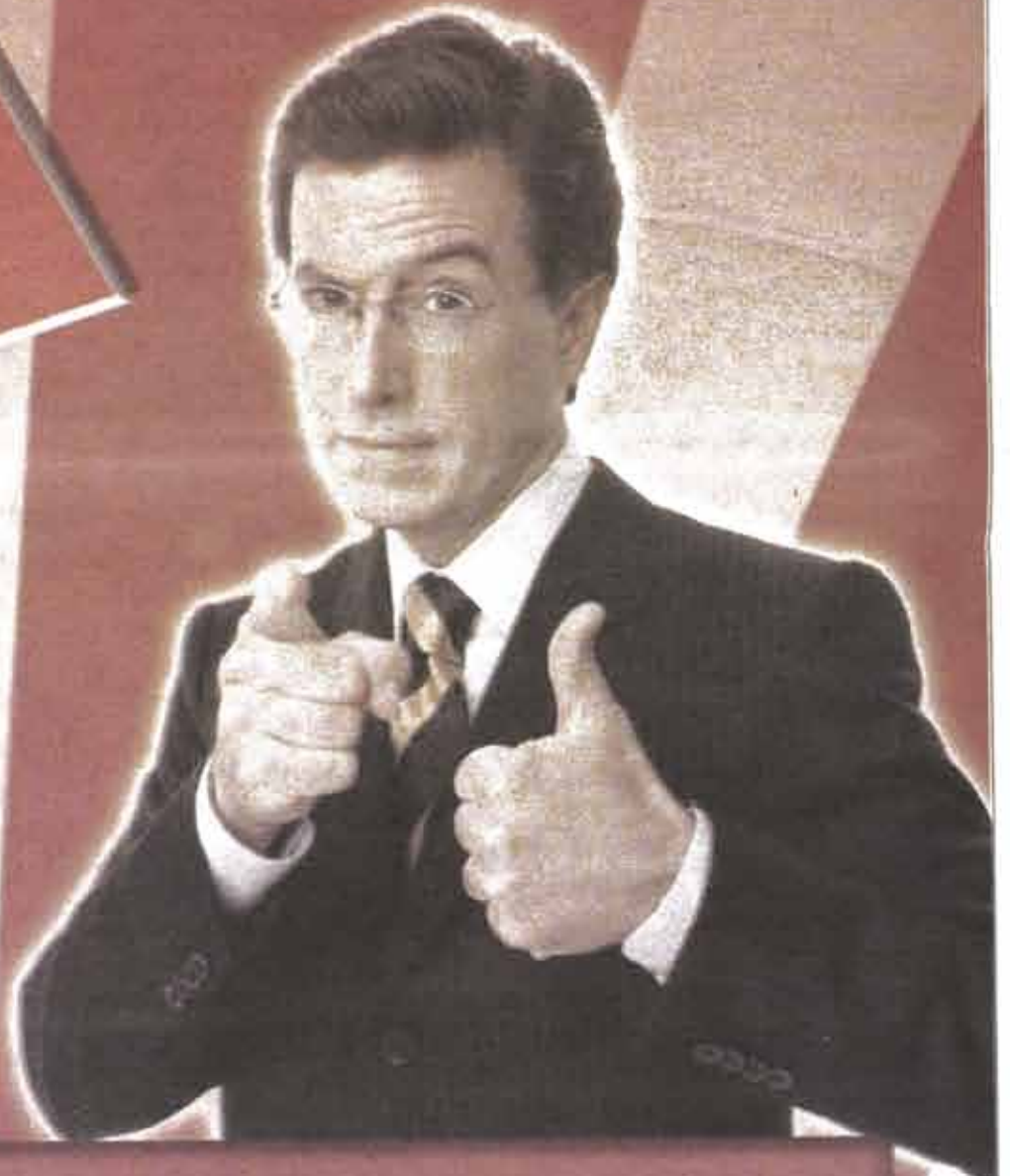
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CORRECTION: Laura Tomkins' LMT photo last week was wrongly attributed to Ryan Stewart. We sincerely apologise for this error.

TOMORROW Just Vote.

HE IS WLUSU
(AND SO CAN YOU)



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