

## GIVING SOME GNP

New charitable challenge launched by international group ... **PAGE 7**

## ART ATTACK

Dave Shore suggests more interdisciplinary study for arts degrees ... **PAGE 18**

## VAGINA LINERS

Vagina Monologues returns to campus ... **PAGE 24**



# Hockey Hawks grab gold

Laurier picked up its sixth consecutive OUA Championship and seventh provincial title in eight years

**LAUREN MILLET**  
SPORTS EDITOR

In what unfolded as a race to the final buzzer, the second-nationally ranked Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women's hockey team capped an almost-perfect season with yet another trophy for their case.

After losing game one of the best-of-three series to the fifth nationally ranked Guelph Gryphons, the Hawks came back picking up a 2-1 victory in a must-win game two, then proceeded to conclude the series with a 3-2 win in game three.

"You know, the six pack feels awfully good," said Head Coach Rick Osborne. "This team has been special, I loved having rookies out on the ice in the last five minutes, they grabbed the tradition and they'll uphold it for years to come."



RYAN STEWART

**WINNING WAYS** - The women's hockey team took OUA gold on Sunday, concluding a hard-fought battle against Guelph that spanned three games.

- SEE HOCKEY, PAGE 11

## Students experience "Five Days" of homelessness

Three Laurier students have been living outside of the Fred Nichols Campus Centre with nothing more than sleeping bags since Sunday

**DEVON BUTLER**  
STAFF WRITER

Five Days for the Homeless is a national campaign to raise awareness about rising homelessness rates in Canada.

Participants Erin Jaczenko, Jonathan Tozzi and Daniel La Cute will sleep outside until Friday.

After two days outside, Jaczenko, a fourth-year BBA student, explained that the campaign had been physically and emotionally challenging. What surprised her the most, however, was the fact that, "It's been really mentally challenging."

Being unable to go home or to

call the people close to her - such as family - had a bigger effect than she expected.

The event at Laurier, organized by the School of Business and Economics Students' Society (SBESS), raised over \$8,300 last year. This year, the campus group's goal is \$12,000. Proceeds will go to the Argus Residence for Young People and Reaching Our Outdoor Friends (ROOF). Both organizations provide housing and life-skill training for homeless youth in the Kitchener-Waterloo region.

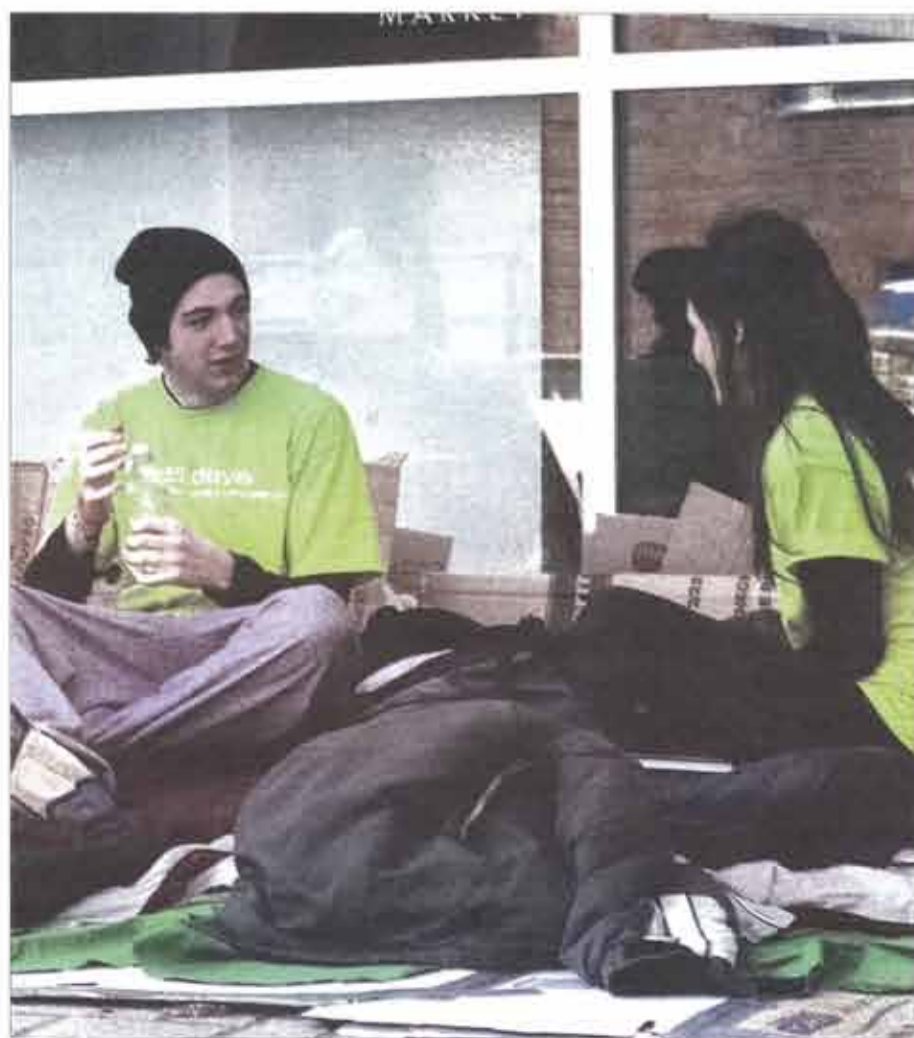
Jaczenko said that the support the project has received from students so far has been overwhelm-

ing, and she is excited to see the project's message extend beyond the five days.

Students participating will follow a strict set of rules, including having no food or drink other than those that are donated, no access to shelter, no disposable income and no access to showers or bathrooms other than those accessible through their student cards; meanwhile, they must fulfill all of their academic responsibilities.

Dean of Business and Economics Ginny Dybenko joined the campaign for the night yesterday.

- SEE HOMELESS, PAGE 5



RYAN STEWART

**DAY TWO** - Laurier students Daniel La Cute and Erin Jaczenko are living outside of the Fred Nichols Campus Centre until Friday.

## THE CORD WEEKLY

- The tie that binds since 1926 -

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I can do it orally, if you'd like."

- Opinion Editor David Shore,  
describing his favourite activity.

## WORD OF THE WEEK

libation - A beverage, particularly an alcoholic one or an act or instance of drinking.

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## COLOPHON

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

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

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

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

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

The only limits of any newspaper are those of the world around it,  
and 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.

University, staff  
association settle

As part of the agreement, WLU will donate  
\$10,000 to the staff association bursary fund

JEREMY TREMBLAY  
NEWS EDITOR

The 1,300 students employed  
by Wilfrid Laurier University  
will not join the Wilfrid Laurier  
University Staff Association as  
a result of a settlement reached  
between the union and the uni-  
versity over the weekend. Arbi-  
tration was scheduled to begin  
Monday.

The settlement comes in re-  
sponse to an association grievance  
filed by the staff associa-  
tion in 2007.

The grievance sought to bring  
office, technical and clerical  
jobs held by students into the  
staff association bargaining unit  
under its existing certificate.

As a result, students would  
not have been able to vote on  
whether or not they wanted to  
join the union. Students were  
not involved in the union's 1995  
certification drive, either.

"I'm happy no students will be  
unionized without them being  
asked to sign cards," explained  
students' union President Colin  
Le Fevre.

He added that, although the  
students' union did not end up  
participating in talks - it and the  
Graduate Students' Association  
had been granted intervenor  
status last May - he believes that  
pressure the union had created  
helped convince the two sides  
to settle early.

In exchange for the staff asso-  
ciation agreeing to not unionize  
student positions, the university  
agreed that no staff association  
layoffs will directly result from  
hiring students to perform work  
also done by members of the  
bargaining unit.

Additionally, "At the [staff]  
association's request, the uni-  
versity has also agreed to make  
a donation of \$10,000 to the  
association's student bursary  
fund," according to a statement  
the two sides jointly issued.

According to Sandra Castella-  
nos, president of the staff asso-  
ciation, the two parties agreed  
they would only speak to media  
together. Allison Roberts, AVP:  
human resources, was unavail-  
able for comment as of press  
time.

Laurier health  
research receives  
new funding

REBECCA VASLUIANU  
NEWS EDITOR

Three Laurier professors were  
granted funding from the Can-  
adian Institutes of Health Re-  
search (CIHR) for their research  
projects in healthcare and well-  
being.

With the money provided  
amounting to over \$422,000, as-  
sociate professor of social work  
Susan Cadell, assistant profes-  
sor of kinesiology Dawn Dalby  
and associate professor of psy-  
chology Terry Mitchell will be  
able to continue their ongoing  
research.

Cadell, who received  
\$348,000, will use the grant to  
transform her research on par-  
ents of children who currently  
have life-limiting illnesses and  
children who have died of such  
illnesses into a longitudinal  
study.

She explained that her re-  
search is helping to shed a more  
positive light on the experi-  
ences of parental caregivers of  
children suffering life-limiting  
illnesses or those who may be  
bereaved.

"We're just in the analysis  
stage right now," she noted.

"But what we can say is that  
there is growth among these  
parents. There are positive as-  
pects to this growth experience,"  
added Cadell.

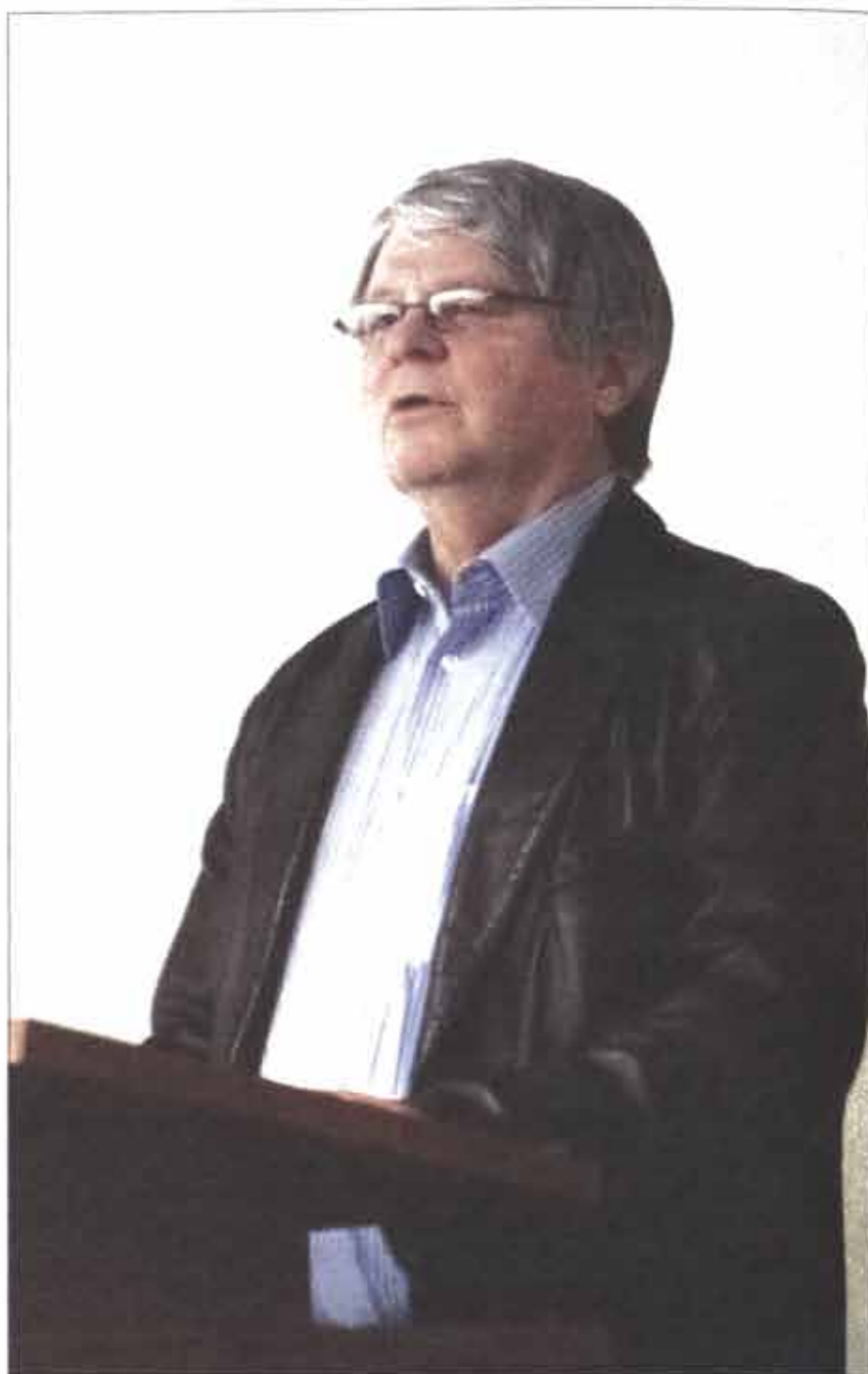
Dalby has been granted just  
under \$50,000 for a project that  
will look at getting home-care  
providers for seniors to utilize  
assessment information collect-  
ed by community care access  
centres.

"The research is about getting  
groups to use that assessment  
data to the fullest," she said.  
"There isn't the level of sharing  
of information that there should  
be."

Mitchell will receive \$24,741  
from the Institute of Cancer  
Research to host a conference  
to raise awareness and discuss  
cancer care resources among  
Aboriginal researchers.

Cadell noted her excitement  
about research in health and  
related services, adding that the  
three research initiatives reach a  
broad spectrum of the issue.

"I think it's very important to  
view health as a global concept.  
It's about mental, emotional  
and physical health," she said.  
"That's what I think this research  
really achieves."



RYAN STEWART

ON MEDIA - Professor Geoffrey Stephens, who teaches in the political  
science department, spoke on the future of media Monday night.

"The newspaper isn't  
yours anymore"

MORGAN ALAN  
STAFF WRITER

On Monday night, the Students'  
Union Academic Issues Commis-  
sion presented the first in an annu-  
al series of guest lectures titled "The  
View From the Gallery: Misspent  
Years in Political Journalism."

The lecture was delivered by  
Geoffrey Stevens, a professor in  
Laurier's political science depart-  
ment and former managing editor  
at *The Globe and Mail* and *Ma-  
clean's* magazine.

"THERE WAS ONCE A SECTION [IN THE  
NEWSPAPER] FOR EVERYONE IN THE  
FAMILY ... BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE ALL  
NEWS FOR ALL PEOPLE ANYMORE."

- Geoffrey Stephens

The decline of print media and  
the changing role of newspapers  
was the main topic of discussion in  
the hour-long lecture.

"Within your lifetime, we may  
see the end of newspapers," said  
Stevens.

He outlined a number of factors  
contributing to print news' down-  
fall, including the decreased num-  
ber of local newspapers.

"Local news is too expensive,  
[news companies] have decided  
they can't do it anymore ... if you  
lose your paper, there's not much  
left in your community," he said.

"There was once a section [in  
the newspaper] for everyone in  
the family ... but you can't make all

news for all people anymore," he  
added.

Mainstream television news has  
faced similar problems as viewers  
find their own communities not  
represented.

"Viewers are leaving major net-  
works to find programming that  
more closely reflects individual  
tastes," said Stevens.

These alternate news sources do  
more than simply distract viewers  
from print media, Stevens argued.

"As these viewers migrate, so do  
the advertisers," he said.

Stevens pointed  
out that media, es-  
pecially print me-  
dia, receive most of  
their revenue from  
advertisements.

In addition,  
other alternative  
news sources like  
the Internet are

"very successful at stealing adver-  
tisers from mainstream media"  
due to their low cost and general  
accessibility.

According to Stevens, the cur-  
rent global economic crisis has also  
negatively impacted newspapers  
and print news sources.

"This recession is not only hurt-  
ing news media, it is going to fun-  
damentally change the way it oper-  
ates," he said.

Despite the changes print me-  
dia is facing, Stevens believes the  
medium of news itself will remain  
consistent.

"News is never going to go away  
... but the way in which we receive  
it is going to change," he said.

## VOCAL CORD

What are you doing for St. Patrick's Day?



"I'm meeting friends and going to a day kegger, then going to the library because I have four papers. And hopefully I will make it to Wilf's around 11."

— Stephanie Land  
Second-year English



"Assignments!"

— Joanne Zambrzyck  
First-year psychology



"We are hammered! I'm going to a kegger, then to Wilf's. We had a pre-drink at our house."

— Krista Korhonen  
Third-year communications



"I'm going to a kegger later. I just came from Wilf's and it was great."

— James Choleris  
Fourth-year history



"Drinking a lot."

— Graham Hamilton  
First-year undeclared

Compiled by Jennifer Rae,  
Photos by Mara Silvestri.

# Campus Conservatives' event draws criticism

REBECCA VASLUIANU  
NEWS EDITOR

An event hosted on campus by the Ontario Progressive Conservative Campus Association (OPCCA) on February 7 is raising controversy after an article in *The Ryerson Free Press* alleged that the campus conservatives, the OPCCA and Waterloo Conservative MP Peter Braid are in a conspiracy to deride Ontario Public Interest Research Groups (OPIRGs) and "take over" students' unions at universities across the province.

Conservative MP Peter Braid and his campaign manager Aaron Lee Wudrick as well as members of the OPCCA, Laurier Campus Conservatives and other students attended the event, held in Bricker Academic Building.

According to the Facebook event page, the training session's intention was to "promote a Conservative agenda on university campuses in student elections and in referendum campaigns."

The accusations of conspiracy sprouted from several audio recordings, photos and files posted on wikileaks.org by an anonymous source.

President of the Campus Conservatives Eric Merkley who was

present at the event believes that the leaked documents came from a female from an OPIRG group.

"She did lie about her identity," he noted. "To invade the privacy of such an event I frankly think that's very immature," added Merkley.

Recordings from the event featured Wudrick and former Vice President of the Waterloo Federation of Students Ryan O'Connor, speaking about a variety of issues including ways to become part of a PIRG board of directors and affect the decision-making of the group.

OPIRGs "have built it in so you can't take over," said one of the speakers.

"If it's possible in one fell swoop to take over the board of directors I think it would be pretty impressive. You'd be a hero to the Conservative movement if you could pull that off."

One of the themes evident from the recordings was the illegitimacy of PIRG student fees, such as the Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group (LSPIRG) fee of \$4.75 per term.

"The equation is flipped for them. Most clubs are only as strong as the amount of support they get. But PIRG is the opposite. They flourish on apathy because they automatically get money," said a

speaker.

The speaker then added that one of the most effective ways, other than organizing large opt-out campaigns, to promote students to ask for refunds on the fee is to get campus conservatives on the WLU Students' Union Board of Directors (BOD) or appeal to members of the board with common interests.

Suggestions from others present included causing the board to reduce its minimum number of signatures for a mandatory referendum and then several years later calling the PIRG fee to referendum once again.

Another area discussed was the creation of "shell organizations" made of non-Conservatives as well as Conservatives to create more support and achieve campus conservative ends.

"Many say, 'Well isn't that a little disingenuous? Aren't you just inflating your numbers?' ... My answer to that is no, not really, because that is exactly what the left does.... It's the same groups of people that are just cross-pollinating," said a speaker.

These discussions have garnered controversy, particularly from people within LSPIRG.

"There [are] a lot of people who

are pretty worried about this. We're talking about what our response is going to be," said Jacob Pries, a member of the LSPIRG board.

"We might be holding a rally or something in the future."

Merkley, however, explains that the intention of the training session was completely misconstrued.

"The intention was to encourage Conservatives to get involved in campus life which is something we don't do enough," said Merkley.

"It was 15 people in a room listening to a couple of graduates talking about their experiences in campus politics. Anything else is just conspiracy theory," he added.

Merkley explains that while funding does remain a major point of contention, the campus conservatives do believe in free speech and that both left-wing and right-wing groups should exist on campus.

While many are upset that local MP Braid was present at the training session, Merkley insists that he did not participate in strategic discussion.

"All he talked about at the session was the importance of getting students involved in politics," he said.

Braid was unavailable for comment.

## Banning the bottle

REBECCA VASLUIANU  
NEWS EDITOR

After a presentation given at last Friday's board meeting, directors have informally agreed to assess the issue of bottled water and its elimination from students' union facilities.

The presentation was made by members of a social action class from WLU's Kitchener faculty of social work in an attempt to get the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union Board of Directors to commit to a ban on bottled water within the union.

While the board made no commitment on the matter, Chair Asif Bacchus explained that it is extremely likely that the board will draft general statements of the position by April 3, addressing a variety of issues, including bottled products in general.

"It'll be a broad statement of position on everything environmental," he said, adding that the statement will likely touch on a variety of issues including the recycling of props currently intended for one-time use at events as well as reusable containers.

"It would then compel at least WLUSU to wherever possible look for non-bottled products in negotiations," said Bacchus.

The students' union is currently in its eighth year of a ten-year agreement with Coca-Cola, who has the rights to all food services

and vending machines that operate under WLUSU.

WLUSU General Manager Michael McMahon explained that while he is in favour of a reduction on bottled products, there are issues that must be considered before bottled products would be removed and replaced by alternatives such as aluminum cans.

When the agreement was made, there was a commitment between WLUSU and Coca-Cola regarding the volume of product sales that would be made by the end of the ten-year term. If the volume is not reached until negotiations begin again in two years, the agreement with Coca-Cola would be extended another three years.

"We could take bottled water out of the building tomorrow as long as we didn't sell anybody else's product," said McMahon. "However, that would put the students and the campus in a position of not achieving the agreement."

McMahon noted that he would be glad to see a general statement of position on sustainability to guide the decisions and actions of management.

World Water Day is taking place on March 22. The Waterloo Region has banned bottled water in all of its municipal government buildings, as well as its public school board.

See PAGE 16 for editorial reaction to this story.



ELLI GARLIN

**NEW PACKAGING** - While water is the focus of attention, the board is also discussing increasing the presence of canned drinks.

# Eliminating discrimination

A task force on racism on campuses hopes to compile a document promoting policy change

LINDA GIVETASH  
STAFF WRITER

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) launched a new initiative to combat racism, the Task Force on Campus Racism, on February 18 at George Brown College in Toronto. The task force is continuing to hold talks at campuses across Ontario to address issues of racial discrimination and to pose solutions.

The task force is modelled after the former Task Force on the Needs of Muslim Students held in 2006 and 2007, which aimed to bring an end to Islamophobia. The issue was raised after posters with graffiti targeting Muslim students were seen across Ryerson University's campus in 2006.

Some of the recommendations produced after this task force included, "Halal food on campus, prayer space [and] religious observance holidays," according to Hildah Otieno, CFS National Executive Representative.

"What came out of the report was not only that there were instances of Islamophobia, but there was also issues about students being excluded in general," explained Otieno, which led to the new task force.

The CFS hopes similar recommendations and solutions to combat racism come out of the new racism task force, much like the one conducted in 2007. The report that will include the group's findings will be sent to various institutions and all government levels to promote policy change to make campuses more inclusive.

## Anti-racism day

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, recognized by the United Nations, is held on March 21. The International Day was proclaimed in 1966 in reaction to the apartheid laws in South Africa and aims to eliminate all forms of racial inequality.

## Slamming on racism

New York City slam poet Carlos Andrés Gómez will be holding a performance on March 18 at 7:30 p.m. in WLU's Turret Nightclub. The event, organized by Dr. Jasmin Zine, is in honour of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Gómez will address issues of racism, sexism, colonialism and injustice.

Hearings have been held thus far at George Brown College, Queen's University, University of Ottawa, Carleton University and the St. George Campus of the University of Toronto.

Otieno notes that the most important action students can take to eliminate racial discrimination on campus is open dialogue on the issue.

"As allies in a community we have to all come together ... we have to continue to take proactive approaches in talking about racism, because we shouldn't be just talking about racism when something happens, we should be talking about it in ways in which we want to make sure our campuses are inclusive."

Otieno also recommends "forming coalition groups on campus, because this is an issue that affects a lot of student groups and this is a wonderful opportunity for students to talk about this issue."

Coalition groups allow for the spread of responsibility among different student organizations and allow for a greater diversity of participation.

Although a hearing has not been organized at WLU, Otieno suggests that student groups contact the CFS for information on addressing racial discrimination and to organize a hearing with the task force. In the event a hearing is not held at WLU, the task force also accepts anonymous submissions regarding experiences of discrimination or proposed solutions. It can be contacted through their website [www.noracism.ca](http://www.noracism.ca).



GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION

# Diversity office welcomes new campus group

MORGAN ALAN  
STAFF WRITER

As of the end of April, the Association of Black Students will be transferred from the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union to the Office for Student Diversity.

The diversity office, which currently oversees services like the Women's Centre and Rainbow Centre, has worked in partnership with the Association of Black Students several times over the past two years.

The association, which operates currently as a campus club under WLUSU, will operate as an on-campus service within the diversity office.

"What [the Association of Black Students] does on campus is really already a service to students ... the events it organizes educate [students] and celebrate black culture

on campus," said Adam Lawrence, co-ordinator of the Office for Student Diversity.

Though the mandate and structure of the association will remain unchanged, the diversity office will assist the organization on issues of training, campus partnerships and funding.

"[The Association of Black Students] becoming a service isn't just going to affect our members and the school ... we hope it's going to change the whole city," said current President Jamessa Johnson.

According to Lawrence, the incorporation of the Association of Black Students is the first step in the future expansion of the Office for Student Diversity.

"We don't want to make other groups feel like we left them out ... we would slowly like to build the diversity office to incorporate

many groups that deal with equity, human rights and diversity," he said.

Johnson and Lawrence agreed that a greater focus on campus diversity will create a more inclusive campus.

"Although we live in the Laurier bubble, things aren't perfect. Oppression still exists," said Lawrence.

"We want to build an educated campus, a campus where we celebrate everyone," he added.

"People sometimes have this one vision of Laurier ... but everyone should have a voice, they should feel comfortable where they are," said Johnson.

The move will be finalized within the coming months as funding and physical space for the Association of Black Students is negotiated.

# Anti-racism advocate threatened

LINDA GIVETASH  
STAFF WRITER

On February 23, Hildah Otieno, national executive representative for the Canadian Federation of Students Ontario (CFS-ON), received a death threat in the mail. The Ryerson University student, although shaken by the event, continues to promote her cause with the CFS.

The mail contained two pictures

cut out of newspapers. The first was a controversial cartoon from the New York Post of a monkey being shot at by two police officers. On the backs of the officers was added "KKK."

Beside the monkey was written "Die nigger die" and the back of the clipping read "Kill all niggers."

The second picture was of Otieno, published in the *Toronto Sun*, at the media conference launching

the Task Force on Campus Racism. At the top of the clipping read "Refugee Dog."

"I'm more careful than before," explained Otieno concerning her safety, "but it's hard, you don't want to think about it too much and be paranoid, but on the other hand you don't want to take it too lightly."

Otieno has not allowed the incident to silence her on the issue of

racial discrimination. "When things like this happen to individuals it's really important for someone to speak out."

"When you speak out on an issue ... it becomes more empowering because when someone does whatever they did ... it's like they're trying to take that power away," said Otieno. "When you speak out it gives you strength and makes you realize you're not alone."

Despite the threats, Otieno is continuing her work with the Task Force on Campus Racism with vigour. She has attended many of the hearings, promoting more individuals to speak out about the discrimination they have experienced.

Regarding the hate mail, police are currently investigating the threat and have yet to name any suspects.

# Campaign hopes to raise over \$130,000

- FROM HOMELESS, COVER

The opening ceremonies for the campaign involved speeches from the Mayor of Kitchener Carl Zehr and Mayor of Waterloo Brenda Halloran.

Executive Director of ROOF Sandy Bell, who was also present, explained that she was impressed by the support from Laurier.

"A nation as rich as Canada should not have one single homeless person on its streets," she said.

"That is why this message is so important, it doesn't just extend over the five days but it provides awareness beyond." Bell added that the reason for the success of the campaign is the fact that it is young people speaking to young people.

Public Relations Manager of SBESS Jeff Martino described the issue of homelessness as beyond unstable finances. "Many homeless people are on the streets not just because of poverty, but because

of family issues, abuse and mental illnesses."

This is the second year the Five Days for the Homeless Campaign has taken place at Laurier. The campaign originated at the University of Alberta in 2005. This week, 13 schools from Victoria to Montreal will be participating in the event, hoping to surpass last year's national total amount raised of \$130,000.

Evan Thor, vice president of external relations of SBESS, explained that it is up to our generation to raise awareness. "We are the leaders of tomorrow and homelessness is an issue which will be in our hands," he said. "We are educated and it's our job to be a part of the change."

Students often get worked up over minor issues when many people live without shelter daily, explained Jaczenko. "I don't think we realize how fortunate we are."

- With files from Jeremy Tremblay.

# McGuire leaves student union board of directors

REBECCA VASLUIANU  
NEWS EDITOR

Taylor McGuire is no longer a sitting member of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union Board of Directors. According to Chair of the Board Asif Bacchus, McGuire stepped down from his position for "personal issues," which began at the beginning of second semester.

Bacchus explained that because

McGuire has been unable to attend meetings, it was unreasonable to expect him to catch up on the issues and debate in an effective manner. Thus, McGuire resigned from his role as director.

"We have not had a formal board meeting to ratify it but we do know that he will not be attending any other board meetings this year," said Bacchus.

# The Cord wins two national newspaper awards

On Monday, *The Cord Weekly* won two awards in the Canadian Community Newspapers Association 2009 Better Newspapers Competition.

*The Cord* took second place in both "Outstanding Campus Newspaper" for the 2008 calendar year

and "Best Campus Feature Story," for "Embracing the queer community" by Special Projects Editor Laura Carlson.

The campus division of the Better Newspapers Competition was introduced in 2006. *The Cord* won awards in both 2006 and 2007.

## BAG O' CRIME

### DRUGS

March 9, 2009 @ 1:51 a.m.

Special Constable Services (SCS) along with the on-duty RLAC attended in response to a strong smell of freshly cut marijuana emitting from a room on the second floor of a residence. The occupant showed signs of being under the influence of a narcotic; however, no drugs were located inside the residence.

### PROPERTY DAMAGE

March 9, 2009 @ 9:39 a.m.

A staff member discovered a broken window in her office at the Northdale campus when she showed up for work. SCS attended and it was discovered that a beer bottle had been thrown through the window overnight. No break-in attempts were detected.

### INJURED/SICK PERSON

March 10, 2009 @ 12:33 a.m.

A female student in a residence complained about having stomach pains and vomiting after having consumed food from several campus food outlets. SCS and Emergency Response Team (ERT) responded to assist. She was transported to Grand River Hospital for observation.

### INJURED/SICK PERSON

March 10, 2009 @ 8:49 p.m.

During the course of an intramural flag football game at University Stadium a male student dislocated his shoulder. Upon the arrival of SCS and ERT, he had popped his shoulder back into the socket. ERT

provided an ice pack to relieve the discomfort. Student was advised to seek medical attention.

### INJURED/SICK PERSON

March 10, 2009 @ 9:05 p.m.

During the course of an intramural flag football game two male students sustained facial injuries when they collided on the field at University Stadium. SCS and ERT responded. One party was treated by ERT for a cut above his left eye and was taken to Grand River Hospital for stitches. The other party also sustained a cut above his right eye but left on his own for treatment.

### INJURED/SICK PERSON

March 10, 2009 @ 9:05 p.m.

During the course of an intramural flag football game at University Stadium, a male student suffered a pulled hamstring. He was treated by ERT who were already on-scene for two other incidents.

### INJURED/SICK PERSON

March 11, 2009 @ 3:28 a.m.

A female student in a residence had an allergic reaction resulting in hives. SCS responded. She was left in her own care with proper medication.

### INJURED/SICK PERSON

March 12, 2009 @ 2:58 a.m.

A female student sustained an ankle injury while running up the stairs at the Seminary. She was treated by ERT in her residence with an ice pack and tensor bandage and advised to attend Health Services for a follow-up.

### PROPERTY DAMAGE

March 12, 2009 @ 10:35 a.m.

Sometime overnight person(s) unknown kicked a hole in the drywall separating two different classrooms in the Peters building. Damage is estimated at \$75.00. No suspects.

### DOMESTIC DISPUTE

March 14, 2009 @ 3:23 a.m.

SCS members responded to a report of a domestic dispute that had occurred in the parking lot at the rear of a residence between a female and male party. It was discovered that the female had terminated their relationship and a verbal argument then escalated into a physical one. No injuries were sustained. A member from WRPS also attended. The investigation is complete and no charges have been laid.

### INJURED/SICK PERSON

March 15, 2009 @ 11:24 p.m.

SCS and ERT attended a residence in response to a complaint of a female having bumped her head against a shelf in her room, requiring medical assistance.

Medical assistance rendered by ERT.

*If you have any information regarding these or any other incidents please call Special Constable Service at 519-885-3333 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. You can also report a crime electronically through the Community Safety & Security website.*

*The Bag O' Crime is submitted by WLU Special Constable Service.*

Bill Gates WOODY HARRELSON  
BARACK OBAMA

DR. STEPHEN HAWKING

Peta Grewal  
(Journalism Brantford)

Kassie Wright  
Brantford

Veronica Conte-Waterloo  
SBE- BBA

Alicia Sayers  
(Brantford)

Reyn' Born  
Michael Clegg  
Graham Edward  
Jeffrey Kroeker (Middle East)  
Nick Lazic  
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# "Troubles" continue in N. Ireland

Soldiers, policemen and pizza deliverymen were among those shot at in recent attacks

ALANNA WALLACE  
STAFF WRITER

Last week, three men were killed in what Prime Minister Gordon Brown has claimed will not be a "return to the old days" in Northern Ireland, according to the BBC.

Just 48 hours after two soldiers were shot at a base in County Antrim, shots were fired at policemen in County Armagh, fatally wounding one man.

Few understand the slow intensification that has occurred around the recently mounted "Troubles," a term for the era of violence in Ireland between Catholic Republicans and Protestant Loyalists that lasted around 40 years and left thousands dead.

*The Wall Street Journal* reported that the commission that monitors republican and loyalist movements had warned that tensions were mounting and violence was an immediate concern. This British-Irish commission highlighted groups such as the Real Irish Republican Army (RIRA) and the Continuity Irish Republic Army (CIRA), both of which oppose Northern Ireland's current peace process.

This most recent violence has created an unsure environment for the population of Northern Ireland, especially for those living in the counties surrounding the capital of Belfast.

On March 6, the speculations of violence became a reality at the Massereene Barracks in Antrim, just northwest of Belfast. Two British soldiers were killed and two Domino's pizza deliverymen critically injured when someone opened fire on them.

The Belfast office of the Dublin newspaper *The Sunday Tribune* received a phone call from a spokesman of the Real IRA, claiming responsibility for the attack.

Then, on March 9, shots were fired at policemen answering a call for help in County Armagh, and Constable Stephen Carroll became the first police officer

since 1998 to be murdered. The attack has since been linked to the Continuity IRA, according to *The Globe and Mail*. A man and a woman have been arrested and are currently being questioned about the attack.

Although recent acts of violence have left shopping centres empty as those of Northern Ireland fear attacks and a resurgence of the violent decades of the "Troubles" past, *The Globe and Mail* said the citizens of Northern Ireland have little to fear.

*The Globe and Mail* reported that, although some resurgence of violence has occurred, the political system of Northern Ireland has not been affected. Sinn Fein, formerly the political branch of the IRA, protests against the killings. Opposite Sinn Fein is the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), whose affiliated groups were responsible for killings by loyalists during the approximate 40 years of "Troubles." This type of parliament is unprecedented in peace agreements in the past and present.

Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, said the perpetrators of recent attacks "have no support and no popular will to back up their actions." Northern Irish Deputy Premier and former IRA Commander Martin McGuinness called the attackers "traitors to the island of Ireland."

However, at the bottom of the bureaucracy and history that surrounds the "Troubles," there is also a very raw, human element to the tragedies that have occurred over the last week and a half. The resurgence of fear amongst a people who believed the worst was over is perhaps one of these tragedies. There is also Constable Stephen Carroll's widow and family. "They have robbed my son of his father, my grandkids of their grandfather, my mum of her son and me of my life," widower Kate Carroll said in an emotional interview with the BBC. She concluded, "At the end of the day, I just hope Steve hasn't died in vain."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SCHOOL SHOOTING - Students mourn the loss of their friends after the German school shootings.

## Shooting sprees occur worldwide in 24 hours

PAULA MILLAR  
STAFF WRITER

The tenth anniversary of Columbine is nearly upon us and, a decade after one of the deadliest high school massacres in American history, blood continues to be spilled.

In one 24-hour period last week, two gunmen embarked on separate murder-suicide rampages half a world apart.

The devastation commenced March 10, as one man set out on a killing spree spanning two rural towns in southern Alabama.

CNN reports Michael McLendon shot ten people dead before taking his own life. According to CNN, the killer first shot his mother before embarking on the rampage. State authorities are calling the event the single deadliest assault in Alabama's recorded history.

In a press conference within the devastated county on Wednesday, Alabama Governor Bob Riley expressed the collective reaction of the ravaged community. "This doesn't happen in small towns," Riley said, "and all of a sudden you begin to understand that you really do have the same problems in some of these small towns you have in other parts of the country."

At the time, Governor Riley was unaware that he was foreshadowing another tragedy a world apart. Across the Atlantic Ocean, a similar horrific event was brewing and nearly underway.

The next day a German teenager opened fire at his former high school before hijacking a car in an attempt to flee the scene. The Associated Press reported that Tim Kretschmer's March 11 murder rampage claimed the lives of 15 people, in-

cluding several bystanders, before he ended his own life. According to the BBC, one of his victims was targeted outside the psychiatric clinic where Kretschmer was to be treated for depression. This attack is the second deadliest school shooting in German history.

Although a direct connection between the two incidents has been dismissed, these simultaneous attacks have reignited age-old debates.

"THE WHOLE SOCIETY HAS TO BE MORE INTERESTED IN THE PROBLEMS OF THE YOUNG."

- Erich Marks, German Crime

Prevention Congress

The same controversial issues resurface with each violent episode: gun violence and stricter gun laws, mental illness and forced psychiatric treatment and the perpetual argument of whether overly violent media encourages such violent behaviour.

In a discussion with the *Christian Science Monitor*, Erich Marks of the German Crime Prevention Congress in Hannover argued, "We don't need more laws, we don't need private security in schools - a school is a school; it isn't a castle." He attested that instead, "The whole society has to be more interested in the problems of the young."

In regards to the motivations of these individuals, CNN reported, the Alabama gunman was struggling with "failed dreams." According to Alabama police, McLendon's

hopes of a career as both US marine and police officer had recently been dashed. In a press conference, Colonel Chris Murphy of the Alabama Department of Public Safety revealed McLendon had left a letter detailing ill feelings toward family members due to a family dispute.

In the case of the German shooter, the teenager was reportedly suffering from depression. In a news conference, Stuttgart, Germany's district prosecutor Siegfried Mahler revealed,

"At the physical examination for the army, [Kretschmer] provided proof of an illness that required a psychiatric treatment." While the teenager had been offered further psychiatric treatment before the shooting, he refused it.

Refusal of treatment is not a new issue. In fact, it rings eerily reminiscent of Virginia Tech killer Cho Seung-Hui, who, after denying recommended psychiatric treatment, later embarked on the deadliest campus shooting in US history.

Regrettably, the violent attacks themselves are only part of the concern that arises in the wake of such tragedies. The "Copy Cat Effect" is often the feared aftermath of such randomized killing sprees.

In response to growing fears of a copycat and an ensuing blame game, Bavarian Interior Minister Joachim Herrmann said, in a statement released Thursday, that gun-control laws have already been made as strict as they can be; instead, he said, "parents must pay more attention to their children."

### CORD/ONLINE

> cordweekly.com  
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#### Internet/International blog

International staff writers share their thoughts on current news events around the world.

# Humanitarian career opportunities

Last Friday the Career Development Centre held a workshop to examine the pros and cons of international humanitarian jobs

**HENJI MILIUS**  
STAFF WRITER

Last Friday, an interactive, insightful and informative workshop at The Centre for Co-operative Education and Career Development allowed 28 students of different backgrounds and majors from Laurier to learn the ins and outs of an international humanitarian career with the United Nations and non-governmental organizations.

Tara Orchard, a career consulting co-ordinator, asked students why they would be interested in this career path and why they have considered it in the first place, knowing that money, lifestyle and being away from family were major aspects of this career to consider.

Laurier student Derek Spruce replied that he found it rewarding. "I worked in Southeast Asia for seven years and I loved it," said Spruce. "I taught English, math and geography to kids from shacks and affluent families."

Another student said he went to Kenya with his school in grade 11 and found it "pretty interesting," as he "learned a lot about this sort of career."

To everyone's surprise, the whole group was then asked to "get up and move to another location to sit." Noise suddenly cut through the silence of the room as people were moving around, deciding where to sit and waiting for others to leave their chairs.

The point of this exercise was to take students out of their comfort zone, knowing that they may be confused by their destination and giving them a real-life example of moving away. Also, Orchard said

that many times "a humanitarian career asks you to leave most of your things behind."

She also stressed that, aside from being prepared to move away and leave belongings and loved ones behind, the most important thing is to be self-aware. Orchard stressed the necessity of understanding the self, who we are and exploring ourselves first as individuals before moving into this kind of career.

On her slide presentation, five steps in the career-planning/decision process were displayed in a pyramid structure.

Most people "start at number five - planning - and they take it from there," said Orchard, when normally the right place to begin is at the bottom with self-awareness. "In North America, 25 percent of people are satisfied with their careers," meaning that more than "75 percent of the rest are not satisfied," Orchard said. Many have the chance of planning, figuring out and choosing what they want to do but, as she said, "most people do not do it."

The first step of the foundation is self-awareness. "It's not knowing what kind of activities or music you like, but rather it's knowing and understanding yourself by gathering information about yourself and your options." Most people do what she called "unconscious career decision-making" in that they "kind of go with something."

The second step is career awareness and not career research. Orchard explained that this is the level at which you need to be open-minded, judge whether traits such as being humble, persistent, independent, self-disciplined, deal-



ing with stress and seeing things that are difficult to digest are part of your personality.

Career immersion, the third step, has to do with researching and getting to know as much as possible about the international career you want to pursue. Talking to teachers and getting as much volunteer work and experience as possible are essential.

And, finally, planning is important. Knowing and figuring out which humanitarian services are available locally or abroad is crucial, as well as knowing if an inter-

national career requires a graduate degree.

Orchard tied these different steps together by suggesting that the whole process is circular and that the "more you know about yourself, the more you know about your careers; the more experiences you have, [will] improve your decision-making."

A portion of Orchard's slideshow displayed an interview with Sara, a former Laurier student who studied international relations and volunteered for World Accord in her hometown. She decided to volun-

teer, as a learning opportunity, to see how World Accord did development projects and operated on a grassroots level.

Also interviewed for the slideshow was Mona Lisa Wessel, who now gives talks to help students strategize ways to make their way into the UN or an international career, worked abroad spending time in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Haiti, as well as in Canada. She pointed out that a lot of sacrifice is demanded for whoever finds a calling in this career path.

## New initiative launched to support development in Sukudu, Sierra Leone

**JENNIFER RAE**  
STAFF WRITER

Living as a university student can sometimes feel like living in a bubble. It becomes easy to forget that there is a whole other world outside of the Laurier campus - a world where people live in circumstances far less privileged than our own.

The Global City Partnership (GCP) is a unique organization working to break that bubble by broadening the community's world-views while raising funds to support international development.

"We want to give people a bigger perspective. There is the potential to do good things, if we are able to make sure that people are aware of that potential," explained Sean Campbell, director of GCP.

The GCP is determined to build this kind of world awareness by

making the process of giving a more personal one, a goal accomplished by creating a partnership between two cities in different parts of the world. In this case, the partnership proposes to link Waterloo with the community of Sukudu, Sierra Leone.

"When you give to a blanket organization, you know they are doing lots of great things, but you don't actually see the end result. With the partnership, I can show you what state Sukudu is in now and where it will be in two years," described Campbell in an interview with *The Cord*.

Sukudu and Waterloo will remain connected until Sukudu is able to care for itself without sources of outside help. And the partnership will go both ways, with donors in Waterloo benefiting from a wider worldview and the potential to

learn about the impressive culture boasted by Sierra Leone.

As Campbell discovered, Sierra Leone and Canada are linked in more ways than one.

Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, was settled by slaves who had escaped from America through the Underground Railroad, initially finding refuge in Canada before going back to their home country.

So, by offering help to Sierra Leone now, as it attempts to rebuild after a devastating civil war, the GCP is "going into a country that epitomizes what our national identity can create, what our tolerance and freedoms once allowed for," said Campbell.

The GCP is currently in the midst of an ambitious campaign called the "0.7 Challenge." The inspiration behind this initiative stems from a promise made in 1969 by the de-

veloped states of the world, who, at the urging of former Canadian Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, pledged to donate 0.7 percent of their gross national product (GNP) to the developing world each year.

This promise was never fulfilled by Canada, who currently donates less than 0.3 percent of their GNP. "Canadians identify our country as a peace-keeper state, one that is willing to step up and answer the call for help," asserted Campbell.

"We are losing our Canadian identity by not meeting goals like this one. So as much as this is about helping others, it's also about reaffirming our identity to the world, because it is starting to slip away," said Campbell.

By donating 0.7 percent of their own personal yearly income, ordinary citizens can support a worthy cause. Because the target is not a

fiscal amount and is instead a percentage relative to one's financial means, the concept is especially interesting for students who want to contribute, but often don't have substantial incomes.


In an effort to launch the 0.7 Challenge, the GCP is hosting an event called Sukudu-Fest.

The event features guest speaker Marc Kielburger, executive director of Free the Children, as well as world-renowned hypnotist, escape artist and motivational speaker Scott Hammell.

The musical group Vacuity will also be performing. The event will take place on March 21 at 7 p.m. at the Athletic Complex; tickets can be purchased in the Centre Spot. All proceeds will go to Free the Children.

PAUL RUDD JASON SEGEL

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# Let the Madness begin...

Three *Cord* Sports writers make first-round predictions, each picking one upset of the week and highlighting a must-see match



**SAM RICHES**  
STAFF WRITER

**Upset: #11 Virginia Commonwealth Rams over #6 UCLA Bruins**

Led by 6'3" guard Eric Maynor, the Rams have a great chance to upset UCLA in the first round. The key to the victory will be in Maynor's ability to slash to the rim and distribute the ball on offence. Averaging 22 points a game, Maynor is the undisputed leader and one of the best guards in the nation.

He's supported by 6'10" centre Larry Sanders, an aggressive rebounding and shot-blocking presence. His hard-nose play sometimes leads to cheap fouls, an aspect of his game he must improve on. The Rams are a better team with Sanders on the floor, so if the big man can stay on the court and Maynor plays up to his abilities, VCU will move onto the second round.

**Don't Miss: #6 Arizona State Sun Devils vs. #11 Temple Owls**

The matchup of James Harden from ASU and Dionte Christmas from Temple will be one of the most intriguing storylines in the first round of the tournament. Both players will be looking to display themselves as team leaders and legitimate NBA prospects.

The key to victory for ASU will be in their ability to control the tempo of the game and the play of Harden. If Temple hopes to pull off the upset, their reserves will have to play well and Christmas must be strong under pressure.



**CHRIS BALUSCHAK**  
STAFF WRITER

**Upset: #10 University of Southern Carolina Trojans over #7 Boston College Eagles**

After a mediocre season, USC pulled it together and surprised many with a victory over #23 Arizona State to win the conference tournament. BC brings a youthful team to the big dance this year.

BC guard Tyrese Rice will be heavily relied on to get this team through the first weekend. Although a great distributor and a scoring threat, he will need offensive help if the Eagles are to succeed. USC, who have been inconsistent as of late, have had their last three victories over higher-ranked opponents (#10 Washington, #14 UCLA, #23 Arizona State).

**Don't Miss: #8 Ohio State Buckeyes vs. #9 Siena Saints**

A young Ohio State Buckeyes team will battle an experienced Siena Saints squad. Ohio State brings size in the form of substitute seven-foot, 275-pound B.J. Mullens. The Buckeyes have put together successful runs in the tournament in the past; however, Mullens is still underdeveloped and the team's youth may end up working against them.

Siena will be hard-pressed to deal with Mullens, as they are not a team of significant stature. They are aggressive, but terrible from the free-throw line shooting, a dismal 66 percent collectively. Expect a battle similar to David and Goliath in the post, and we will witness whether youth or experience will prevail.



**TREVOR SCHIEDEL**  
STAFF WRITER

**Upset: #13 Mississippi State over #4 Washington**

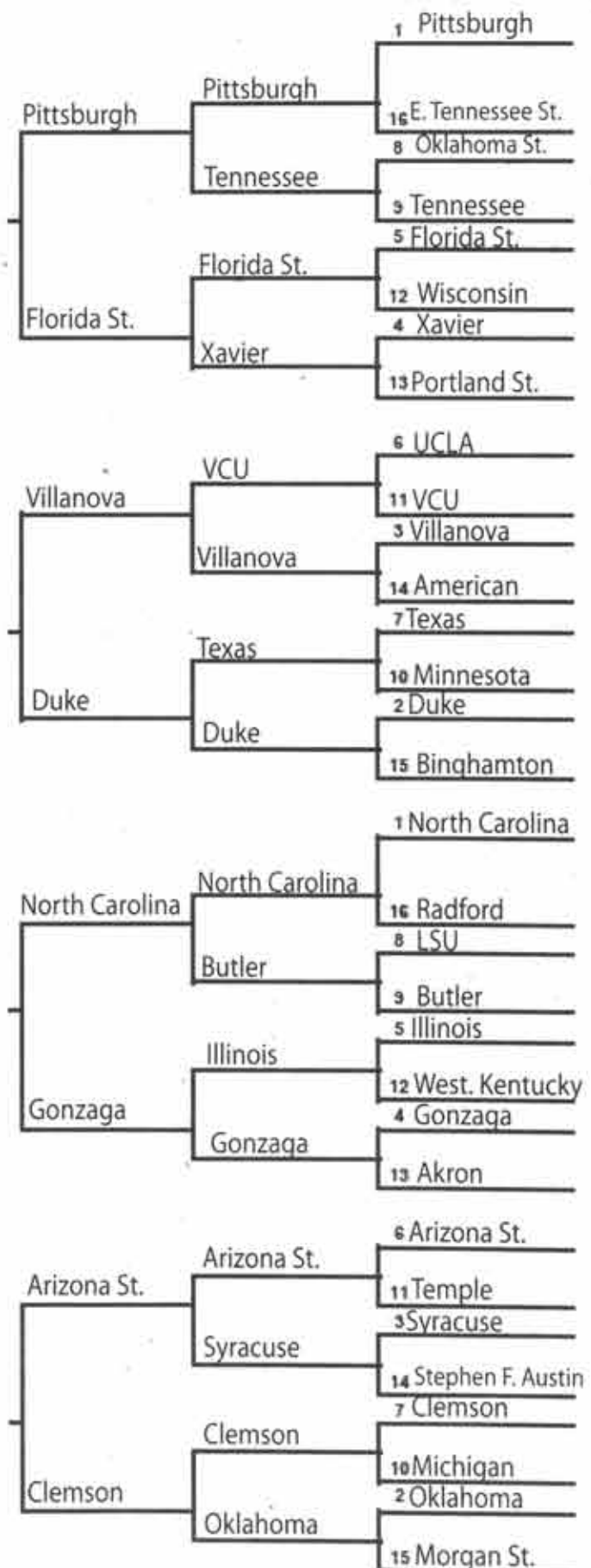
Mississippi State is coming into the big dance with a lot of momentum. Their only shot at capturing a bid was to win the SEC tournament. With their backs against the wall, they won four straight, including a win over Tennessee in the final game.

Centre Jarvis Varnado is the nation's top shot-blocker and can provide the type of lane intimidation that will make Washington hesitate when driving to the basket. If freshman point guard Dee Bost can play efficiently and make some shots, the Bulldogs have a great chance to get through the first round.

**Don't Miss: #7 California vs. #10 Maryland**

California has great experience in their starting lineup and excellent guards in Jerome Randle and Patrick Christopher. They can score in bunches behind their terrific three-point shooting. They lead the country from behind the arc, shooting a remarkable 43.4 percent.

Maryland is a mercurial team. They have beaten top-tier teams like North Carolina and Wake Forest but have lost some questionable games to Virginia and Morgan State. Guard Greivis Vasquez does everything for the Terapins, leading them in points, assists and rebounds. He is also a fiery and emotional leader. This one may very well go down to the last few seconds.



# Canada strikes out at World Baseball Classic

Canada put in a disappointing performance against Italy to get eliminated



**JAMIE NEUGEBAUER**  
STAFF WRITER

The 2009 World Baseball Classic – the tournament that was supposedly baseball's only international "best-on-best" tournament – was going swimmingly for Canada as of the morning of March 9.

The red-and-white sluggers opened up their tournament with a March 7 tangle with the high-powered Americans for a chance to repeat the magical "miracle-on-dirt" that occurred in the inaugural Classic three years ago.

While that ideal circumstance did transpire, the Canadians did what they counted on doing: competed.

The Canucks forced the Yanks to send out no fewer than seven pitchers while Canada only used five, only to fall by a score of 6-5 in the end.

The disappointment of losing to the Americans was only slight, and had been accounted for in the pre-tournament plans.

But what happened next in this unfolding drama was not seen in the collective headlights.

The expected loss to the US meant Canada had to take on the lowly Italians in an elimination game in order to play Venezuela to qualify for the next round (the Venezuelans had beaten the Italians and lost to the Americans already).

There was no way Canada could lose to Italy, and it was only an appetizer for the main course of a battle with the South American powerhouses – right?

While Italy had a few members of American-born MLB mediocrity, the majority of the team was either minor leaguers or, perhaps even more depressing for Canadian fans, Italian baseball league players.

Italy, bolstered by Oakland Athletics role-player Chris Denorfia's four-hit appearances, scored a run in each of the first four innings and the Canucks could not recover.

Canada started Vince Perkins, a man who used to be in the Blue Jays organization, but Perkins was nothing short of underwhelming.

In two innings he gave up a rough three runs on three hits and four walks and struggled to get outs.

Canadian Manager Ernie Whitt then started to replace Perkins with a steady stream of inexperienced and uninspiring youngsters, with the likes of Houston Astros double-A man T.J. Burton and Atlanta Braves single-A hurler Scott Diamond.

Finally, triple-A veteran Steve Green came on in the seventh – but he fared the worst of the relievers giving up two runs on two hits.

The Italians extended their lead to 6-2, a lead from which the Canadians could not recover.

So then what or who is to blame? True, Perkins struggled and was left in for two whole innings by Whitt, and the Canadian relief pitchers failed to shut the door after him – mostly against Italian-league and minor-league hitters.

However, upon watching this Canadian national team, pitching is not what stands out.

What is most notable is the other side of the ball: the hitting.

No fewer than seven of the nine starting hitters played consistent

MLB baseball last season and only managed two runs collectively on two out of three pitchers they should have dominated.

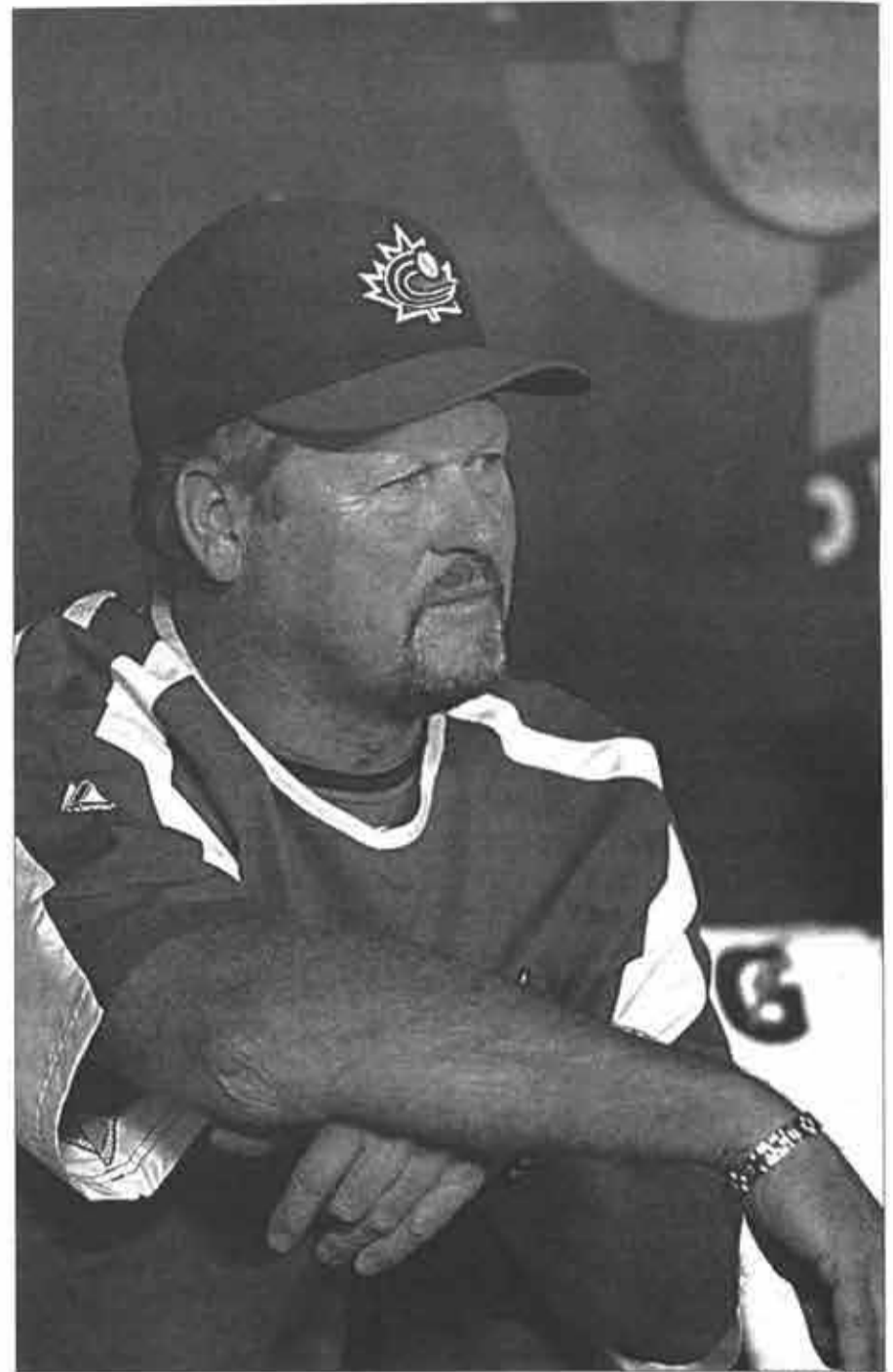
Italian starter Dan Serafini has not played professional baseball in two years.

The only one of the trio that should have given them problems was Colorado Rockies reliever Jason Grilli; but, in all fairness, it should not even have come down to the Italian closer.

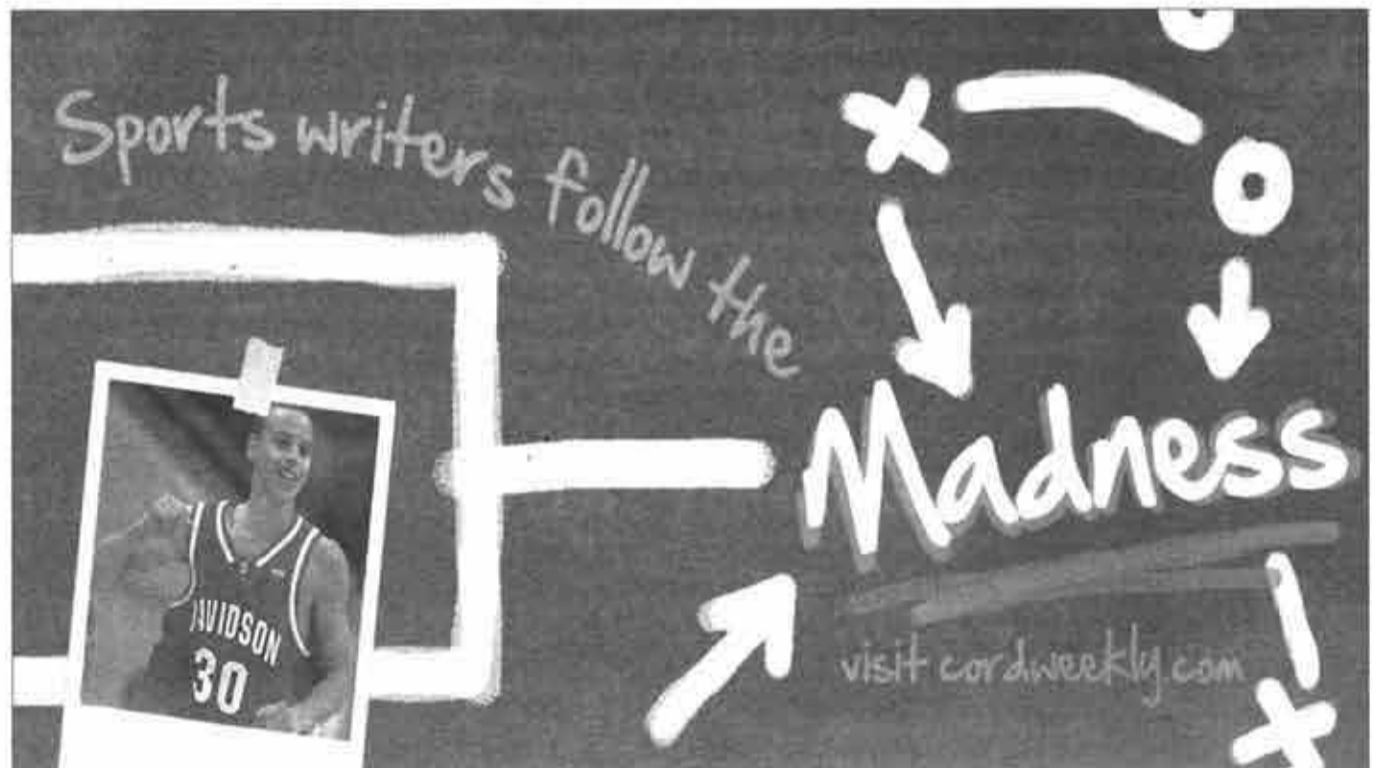
Additionally, much credit is owed to the Italians. The aforementioned Denorfia was outstanding, and Seattle Mariners minor-leaguer Alex Liddi had two RBIs on the evening.

Collectively, the Europeans managed ten hits in front of a hostile Rogers Centre crowd and eliminated a shell-shocked group of Canadians from contention.

So who was to blame for the disaster? Simple – Team Canada.



**WHITT'S WOES** - Canada's manager watches his team fall to Italy.



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Toronto's Christian University

# Hawks deliver sixth title

After an upset in game one of the series left the Golden Hawks facing a do-or-die game two, they battled back hard for the next two games, resulting in a championship win putting them one title short of the University of Toronto's record of seven straight

- FROM HOCKEY, COVER

Despite the Hawks outshooting the Gryphons 17 to 7 in the first period of the OUA final match, they were down 1-0 heading into the third period.

Fourth-year forward Lauren Barch netted an equalizer just a minute in; she followed this with a second goal eight minutes later, giving the Hawks a 2-1 lead with just over ten minutes remaining in the game.

"We were feeling okay heading into the third, and you know that when you've got Barch and Bevan on the team and they're ready to graduate, they're not going to go down without the fight of their lives," commented Osborne.

ributed to the consistency the team showed all season.

"We know [Guelph] are a big physical team and I think we needed to use our speed more than anything because obviously we're not as big as them," said Bevan.

"The girls stayed really positive, which I think was a key factor in just coming out and getting those three goals."

After Guelph upset WLU on home ice last Thursday, the Hawks went into Saturday's game with one thing on their minds: winning.

"We weren't dissatisfied with the effort of the team [in the loss], although looking at the films after the game there were some defensive breakdowns in the deep zone," said Osborne.

In game two, the Hawks seemed to be scrambling a bit in the first period, but second-year Candace Kellough gave the Hawks the lead just six minutes in.

The Gryphons equalized only a minute later, and the game would remain tied heading into the second

period. "My biggest concern was getting through the second period tonight," Osborne continued, referencing the previous game on Thursday when the Gryphons scored three goals in seven minutes in the second period.

"Psychologically, [Thursday night], the second period was something we hadn't experienced in a really long time."

Barch netted the winner just 11 seconds into the second and the scoreline would remain the same



RYAN STEWART

**SLAP-SHOT** - Kaley Powers fires a shot on net during the Hawks' win in game two against the Gryphons.

**"WE WEREN'T READY TO LOSE. IT'S MY LAST SEASON AND SO I WASN'T READY TO BE DONE TODAY AND THAT'S WHY WE KEPT PUSHING. I DON'T THINK ANYONE WAS READY FOR [THE SEASON] TO BE DONE."**

- Lauren Barch, Golden Hawks

"We weren't ready to lose," said Barch. "It's my last season and so I wasn't ready to be done today and that's why we kept pushing. I don't think anyone was ready for [the season] to be done."

Barch added that the team has trained for games like this all season. "Guelph gave us a really good game and their goalie was hot, we just had to get by her and we knew it was ours."

Team Captain Andrea Bevan said that commitment and dedication displayed by the whole team con-

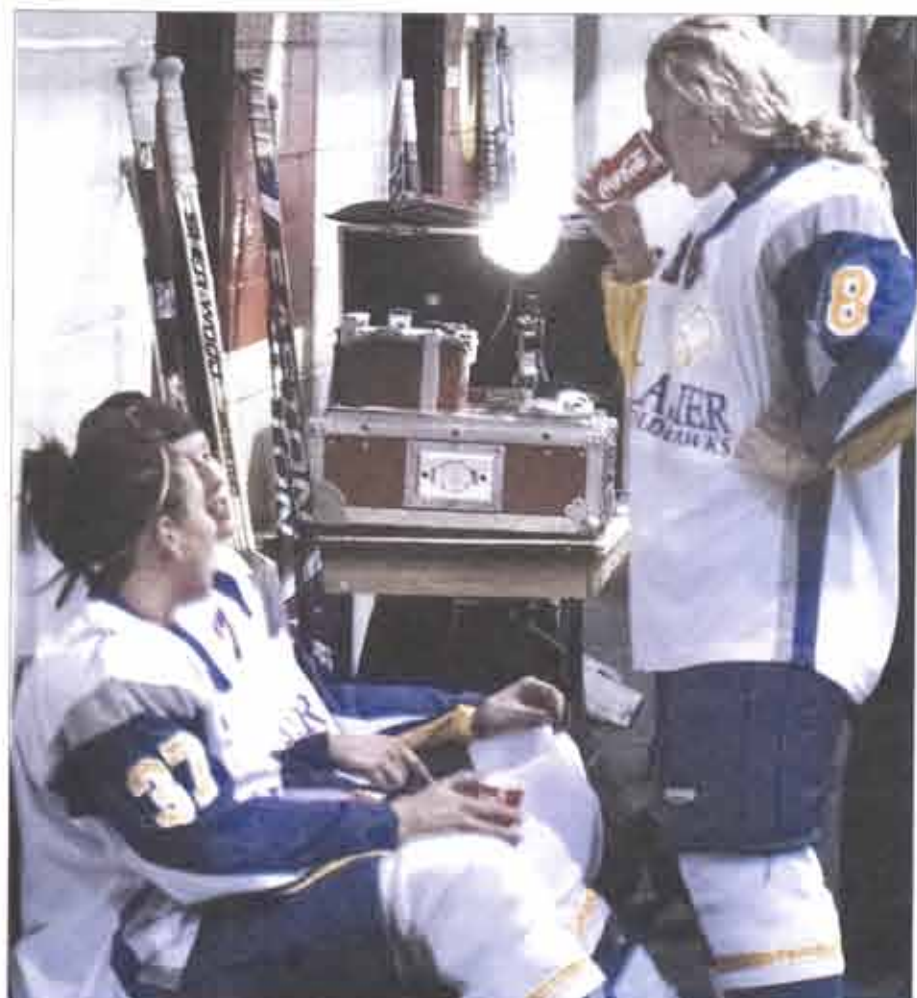
tributed to the consistency the team showed all season.

The Hawks now travel to Antigonish, Nova Scotia to compete in the National Championships hosted by St. Francis Xavier University.

Last year, the Hawks picked up the silver medal, losing 1-0 to McGill in the gold-medal game.

- With files from Andrea Millet

See PAGE 16 for editorial reaction to this story



RYAN STEWART

**CHILLIN'** - Alison Williams, Stephanie Crarey and Laura Bartolini sip their chocolate milk to rehydrate between periods during game two.

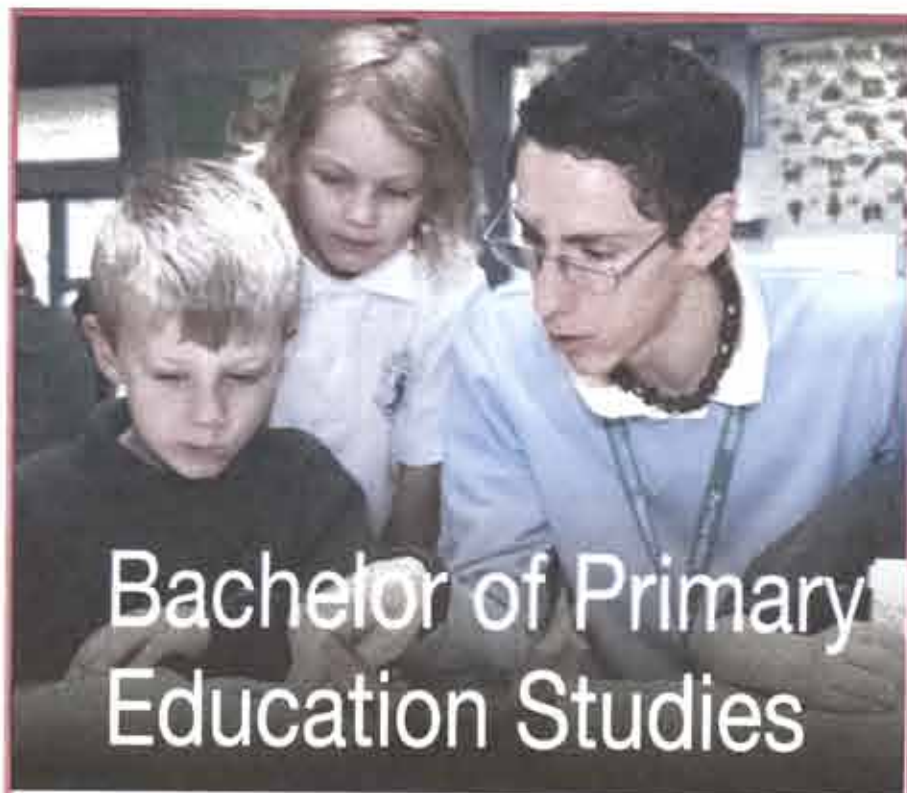
**Hawk Bites:** In order to replenish their energy for two intense back-to-back games, the Hawks filled up on chocolate milk and lasagna from Angie's Kitchen after game two.

**CORD/ONLINE**

> [cordweekly.com](http://cordweekly.com)  
> Sports

**Hockey Champs**

Check out Photo Manager Ryan Stewart's photo gallery from the weekend's OUA final games.



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# Women at WLU

For the issues women



JULIE MARION



**Ginny Dybenko**  
Dean of SBE

As an individual who has successfully climbed the world, Ginny Dybenko knows firsthand what it takes world."

Having started her career in information technology as being the first female vice president in high-tech-advanced Communications, and is also the first woman dean of the school of business and economics (SBE).

"I was a little bit of a trailblazer," said Dybenko. "It v sort of ended up in business before most women did."

For her success, this past December Dybenko was n try's 100 most powerful women by the Women's Exec

"It blew me away," said Dybenko of the award. "But been very, very active around supporting women."

Dybenko notes that having experienced incredible she now tries to focus on working with other women achieve. "It's really important for women as they be keep mentoring.... I talked to so many women who s can do it."

Dybenko recalls the strength she found from havi model - her mother was a professor - while she was was a really intelligent woman," said Dybenko. "Sh thinking individual."

Dybenko has tried to set a similar example for her found success in both a family and professional life.

"I was actually counselled at one time that I coul tion and have kids at the same time," said Dybenko. "I ... 'I'm going to give it a shot."

Though Dybenko has experienced a lot of success she also understands that limitations based on gende

From her experience, Dybenko notes that the "glass into effect at the vice president level, because that's w tend to reflect the status quo.

"The tendency is to hire in your own image," said D starts to tighten up and the old boys' network comes

Despite this reality, Dybenko sees the success ce experienced when they are innovative and encourag positions.

"I was just phenomenally successful at everything cause I was some super-human being," said Dybenko people.... I always had a confidence," she said.

"I've never been one that really identifies myself always did feel like just a person."

## Women in the workforce

The importance of women in leadership roles is a cause that individuals and organizations are currently seeking to address. One of these is Catalyst, a nonprofit organization that aims to increase the opportunities for women in business.

Laura Jenner, senior associate at Catalyst, explains that while the representation of women in the workplace is increasing, there is still a lot of room to move forward.

"The glass is actually half empty as we like to say," said Jenner. "We continue to see women face barriers when it comes to the leading roles in their organizations."

Jenner highlights factors that correlate to this such as limited access to mentoring and network- ing, as well as gender-based stereotypes.

"Having a high amount of women graduating [university] in a certain area is no guarantee that women are going to be able to advance in a company or firm," said Jenner.

"It takes thoughtful and strategic action, making sure you're breaking down the barriers that women face and advancing them through the ranks in your

organization."

Jenner notes that Catalyst has also found that women and men express similar aspirations in terms of both advancing within their companies and achieving work-life balance.

"They're both interested and inspired to advance and contribute to their organizations.

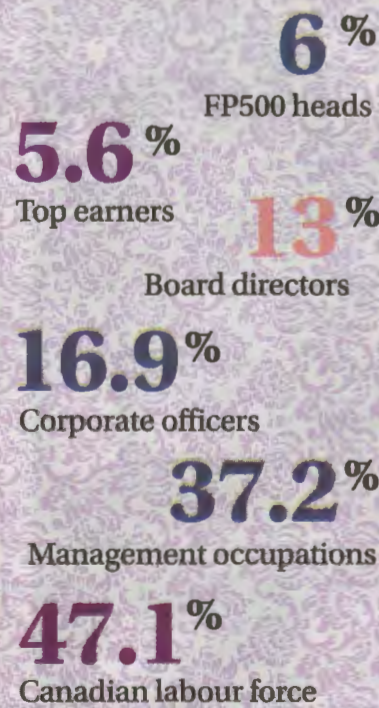
"At Catalyst, what we like to do is understand those barriers that women face that may be keeping them from advancing," she said.

Catalyst found that certain industries - such as accommodation and food services, finance and insurance, as well as retail trade - have the highest number of women in leadership positions, but that they also have the biggest female labour pool to draw from.

Jenner notes the importance in the type of gender-based research that Catalyst engages in.

"What gets measured gets done, so without these firm numbers it's very difficult to have a platform from which you can jump off and begin to advance women in business," said Jenner.

"It's critical that this kind of awareness is raised."



Statistics based off the 2008 Catalyst Census of Women Corporate Officers and Top Earners of the FP500.

For the past two weeks *The Cord* has addressed important events in WLU's history that progressed women's rights and outlined issues women still face. For the final story in the series **Special Projects Editor Laura Carlson** explores the importance of women in leadership and profiles three inspirational women in the Laurier community. Read the series at [www.cordweekly.com](http://www.cordweekly.com)



LAURA TOMKINS

**Dybenko**

... successfully climbed the ranks in the business world, Dybenko has seen firsthand what it takes to make it in a "man's world." ... in information technology, Dybenko is credited as vice president in high-tech industry, at Bell Canada and is also the first woman to hold the position of professor of business and economics (SBE) at Laurier. ... blazer," said Dybenko. "It wasn't ever a plan, but I was before most women did." ... December Dybenko was named one of the honorees by the Women's Executive network. ... Dybenko of the award. "But, that being said, I have enjoyed supporting women." ... ing experienced incredible amounts of success, ... working with other women to encourage them to ... tant for women as they become successful ... to ... to so many women who said 'I just don't think I can't.' ... n strength she found from having a strong female role model as a professor - while she was growing up. "My mom was a woman," said Dybenko. "She raised me as an all-female household." ... t a similar example for her children, and she has ... n family and professional life. ... ed at one time that I couldn't consider a promotion ... me time," said Dybenko. "I just sat there and went ... ot." ... perience a lot of success in the business world, ... imitations based on gender do exist. ... benko notes that the "glass ceiling" usually comes ... ent level, because that's where new hires typically ... o. ... n your own image," said Dybenko. "That's when it ... old boys' network comes back." ... benko sees the success certain companies have ... e innovative and encourage women in leadership ... ly successful at everything I did, but it wasn't be- ... man being," said Dybenko. "I sat and listened to ... n confidence," she said. ... at really identifies myself as a woman.... I really ... person."



RYAN STEWART

**Laura Sheridan**  
WLUSU President-elect

Next year, Laura Sheridan will become the seventh female student president at Laurier, and she will be filling a role that hasn't been held by a woman since the early 1990s. "It's something that's almost surprising to take a look at the previous years and see that there hasn't been very many female candidates or female presidents," said Sheridan. Sheridan explains that being a female did not contribute to her reasons to run for Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) president. "My gender ... didn't change my decision one way or another," said Sheridan. "But I do think it's very exciting for Laurier to have a female in this leadership position." Though her gender initially had no bearing on her plans for what she wanted to do within the union, she recognizes the external benefits that can come from her success. "If I can inspire a female on campus to go after a leadership position or if I can show them that females are capable of having a powerful position on campus then I think that a fantastic thing has happened." Sheridan notes that the low number of female presidential candidates in past years puzzles her, especially because she has never felt any barriers during her time at WLUSU. "If there are some barriers that women on campus are facing, that's completely unacceptable. So if me being a female president [next] year will open up more discussion on this issue ... I'd love to engage more in that." Though women haven't necessarily held many of the "high-status" positions within WLUSU in the past, Sheridan wants to highlight the incredible work women have done on campus in positions such as co-ordinator and vice president. "We might not necessarily see women in 'high positions' ... but it's also important to recognize the fantastic things women have been doing at our campus," said Sheridan. "The majority of people on campus are females and they're definitely accomplishing a lot, but perhaps it has to do with the recognition that's associated with the roles females are occupying," she added. When discussing leadership styles that women employ, Sheridan notes that it's often challenging for women to develop an approach that isn't stereotypical. "It's frustrating that women often have to choose between being the mean, controlling boss and getting the job done, or being the nurturing soft style of leadership and being everyone's friend." Sheridan sees her own style as a balance of both these approaches, something she has learned from the strong female role models she's had in her life such as her mother, grandmother and former employers. "It would be an honour to pass on to women what these women have passed on to me. So if I can be [a mentor] to someone else that would be absolutely incredible."

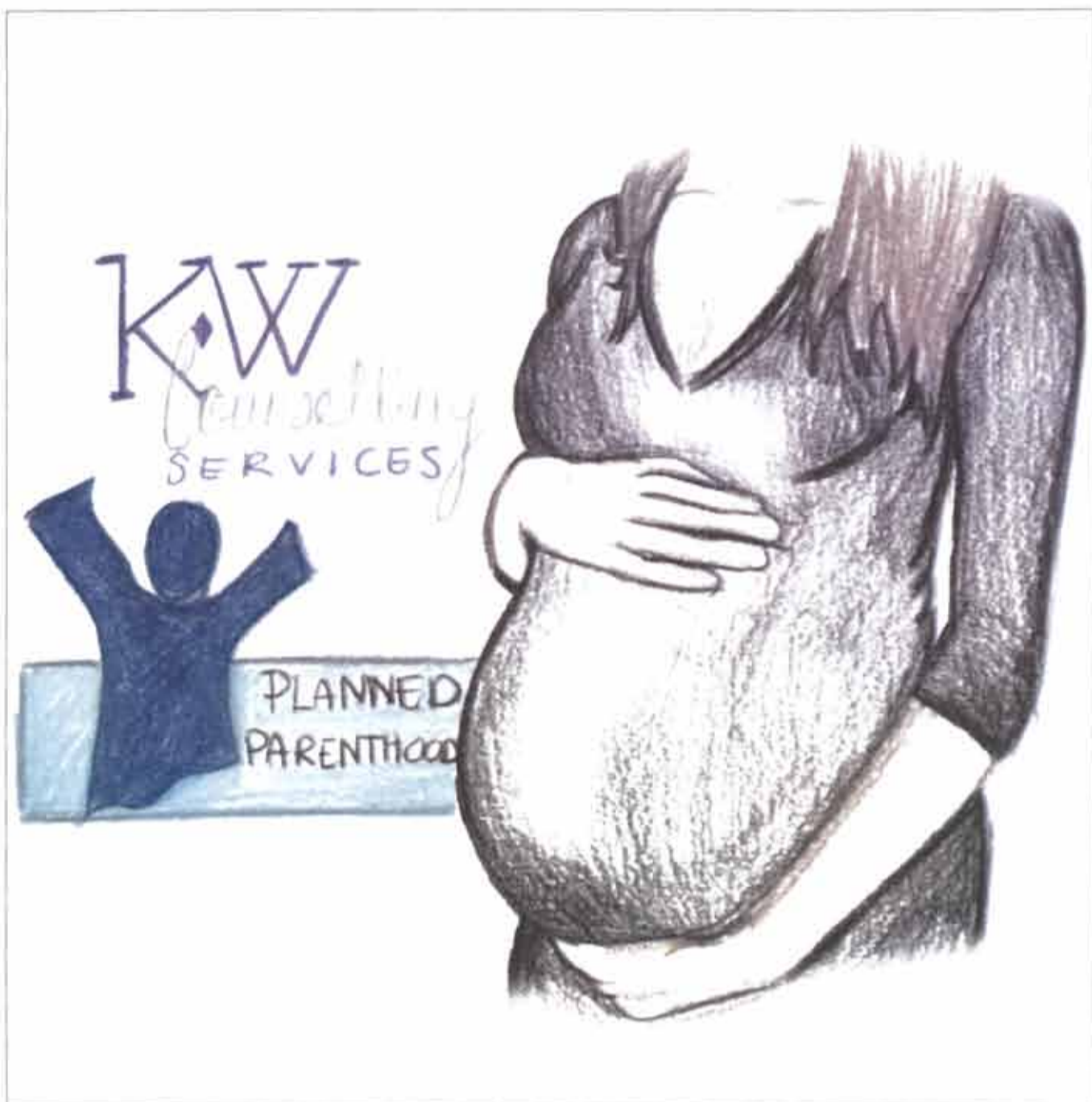


LYLA WILSON

**Laura McDonald**  
Nominated at [cordweekly.com](http://cordweekly.com)

Communications Master's student, Graduate Students' Association (GSA) executive and Women's Centre volunteer (and incoming events co-ordinator) Laura McDonald explains that within the context of her life, feminism is an absolute must. "It's so incredibly fundamental," said McDonald. "We do not have gender equality and we need to because [sexism] hurts so many people.... It's about basic respect for the dignity of half the people on the planet." McDonald explains that she started identifying as a feminist while doing her undergraduate degree because of the content brought forward in her communications, cultural studies and women's studies courses. "Understanding ... how people are represented is sort of an easy way in," said McDonald. "Once you tune into it it's so easy to deconstruct these ideas we have about gender." Since she started engaging with these issues a few years ago, McDonald has noticed the immense changes it has had on her own personal life and the perceptions she holds of herself. "I'm happier, life is easier," said McDonald. "You don't have to listen to all the shit that's out there anymore because you know how to deconstruct it, you know how to shut it out." McDonald also notes how important it has been for her to surround herself with others who identify with the feminist cause - such as male allies or individuals within the Women's Centre. "I tend to look to my peers over anybody else," said McDonald of her biggest role models. "Surrounding yourself with other people who get [feminism] is really, really helpful; it's so liberating." McDonald notes that while many of her peers on campus understand how important it is to fight for women's rights, she acknowledges more widespread societal problems, particularly double standards that exist. "It comes down to these fundamental ideas that we grow up with about gender," said McDonald. "It's about keeping people in their place.... When women are strong, independent and sexual they're breaking out of that place and that role that they're supposed to fulfill," she said. "What I really don't understand [is] why people can't handle that." Though she recognizes how important the feminist struggle is, McDonald says that, for her, feminism is about more than just gender equality; it is about anti-oppression in general. "All forms of oppression completely intersect and are completely inseparable." McDonald uses her feminism to guide other areas of her life, such as her involvement in environmentalism and her various campus involvements. "It's important to me that I'm not just focused on one thing," said McDonald. "I'm so busy and a leader in a lot of different ways. [Feminism] very much informs everything I do."

# Planning for the unplanned



LINDA GIVETASH  
STAFF WRITER

Whether it's your missed period, a "plus" sign on an at-home pregnancy test or a call from your doctor, finding out you're pregnant - without having planned for it - can be a terrifying ordeal. Luckily, there are many resources in Kitchener-Waterloo to help you make a decision that suits your needs and to support you along the way.

The majority of pregnancy resource centres in the area are pro-life. However, pro-choice clinics are available and offer support regardless of your decision. Planned Parenthood Waterloo Region (PPWR) and Health Services at WLU both provide counselling if you are struggling with a decision, as well as clinical support once a decision has been reached.

Both centres find that the majority of women who come in have a rather clear idea of what their decision is going to be prior to accessing their services. At PPWR, "A lot of women who do call us have already decided they want to terminate the pregnancy," explained Jess Crowe, counselling co-ordinator. Health Services Manager Karen Ostrander reported that, with their clientele of students at different points in their university careers, the women who come in want to pursue a variety of

options:

For women who are unsure of their decision, both centres offer an explanation of the three options women have: parenting, adoption and abortion. Both centres are incredibly knowledgeable on each option and can provide the necessary resources.

For women who choose to terminate the pregnancy, it is important to note that self-referral is accepted in the region, meaning you are not required to seek a referral letter from a medical practitioner. You can contact Grand River Hospital if you are interested in performing procedures locally, or contact out-of-area hospitals if otherwise.

PPWR can help women contact the hospital of their choice, or book appointments on their behalf. Health Services prefers to put their clients in direct contact with the facility.

There are two methods of termination a woman can pursue. The first is medical abortion, available to women under seven weeks pregnant. The earlier into the pregnancy, the more successful the procedure is. However, this procedure is not available in Waterloo Region and will have to be sought out in Toronto.

- SEE PREGNANCY, PAGE 15

THREE OPTIONS - There are ample resources in KW to help make a responsible and comfortable decision.

GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION

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LAURA TOMKINS

# Swapping knowledge

A new website compiles the collective knowledge of university students for specific courses

**ASHLEY BRADIMORE**  
CORD STUDENT LIFE

Have you ever wondered what students are being taught in other universities?

A new note-sharing website called UniversityJunction.com allows you to explore this question by providing an online academic community for undergraduate students across North America.

Currently, there are 1,200 registered users with 56 Canadian and American campuses listed such as Dalhousie, Harvard, McGill and, of course, our very own Wilfrid Laurier

University.

Members of UJ can upload notes, quizzes and course material and participate on discussion boards, asking questions and interacting with other students.

Communications Director Liz Mitchell states that the website's concept was "to provide a free forum where students could share knowledge. If your professor didn't explain a concept as well as you'd hoped, or research is taking longer than you wanted it to, UJ gathers information into one spot to help you with your studies."

Business, math and biology have the most

available material and UJ offers two search options to find it: globally, (a general search by topic), or by class, where drop-down menus let you select both school and course code to find the most specific and relevant information available. Members can also rank material according to quality, allowing you to easily identify which postings are worth your time and which should be avoided.

But what about concerns regarding academic misconduct? The idea that students can exchange lecture notes, essays and past exams online will undoubtedly make a few professors uncomfortable. Mitchell,

however, was quick to dismiss any suggestions that UJ acts as a cheating site. "During registration, every member must make an agreement not to violate their school's ethic policies or copyright laws. Any material that seems unethical is flagged and removed from the site." What exactly constitutes unethical material? Mitchell was unclear, but said "it is reviewed on a case-by-case basis and is carefully monitored."

Looking into Laurier's academic misconduct policies, UJ does not appear to be in violation. Since knowledge flows freely, the act of sharing resources is not itself a crime, but rather the question lies in how students use the material.

The bulk of Laurier's policies can be reduced to one concern: "The failure to recognize by due acknowledgement the substantive contribution of others." So, if you learn a concept from lecture notes posted by a student in Dr. Smith's accounting class at UBC, then source it appropriately. This simple act can help you avoid any accusation of plagiarism, cheating or misrepresentation.

The faithful Cord reader may remember a review for a similar site last year called Picklejar.com, launched by two students from the University of Waterloo. While the sites are comparable in their core functions (acting as a note-sharing forum), UJ offers some unique features that set it apart from the competition - the most notable is free online tutoring, a service that Mitchell herself is particularly excited about.

"Free tutoring is currently available on the website, and runs until the beginning of April," she said. "Students can post their questions and within 24 hours they will receive a response from a professional tutor."

As we enter into the home stretch of papers and final exams, the prospect of receiving free tutoring is particularly attractive, not to mention a great marketing tool to entice new users. And this is precisely what UJ needs to become successful: its ability to act as a student resource is highly dependent on student participation - and your notes.

# Options exist for pregnant female students; KW resources essential

- FROM PREGNANCY, PAGE 14

For medical abortions, the woman would receive an injection of Methotrexate and have to insert four suppository pills of Misoprostol once at home. For some women, the abortion will be successful after this first attempt. However, many women must make several trips to the clinic for additional injections. After 36 days, if the medical abortions are still unsuccessful, surgical abortion will have to be pursued.

Surgical abortions are available in Kitchener-Waterloo and are often the preferred method as they do not involve the same degree of cramping and discomfort associated with medical abortions. They also have a far greater success rate and only in rare occasions require more than one attempt.

Prior to any termination procedure, a woman must first have an ultrasound to determine her stage of pregnancy. How far into the gestation period she is can affect the methods available to terminate.

The surgical abortion is conducted in a hospital and only requires the patient to take a day off from any responsibilities. Women who

are more than 13 weeks pregnant will need an extra hour or so for additional preparations to dilate the cervix. Full recovery takes approximately two to three weeks; however, it should only involve some bleeding and not cause any great amount of disruption in day-to-day life.

Medical abortions have been noted by clinics to have a rather low success rate of "60:40, so 60 percent are successful, 40 percent are not" according to Crowe. Another factor that disfavours the medical abortion is that "it does tend to be a lot more uncomfortable than the surgical procedure. It involves a lot heavier cramping and a lot heavier bleeding."

According to the Canadian Medical Association, abortions can be conducted as long as the fetus is no more than 20 weeks old or weighs no more than 500g. In K-W, you can only receive an abortion prior to 13 weeks' gestation. Between 13 and 20 weeks, you will have to seek a facility in Toronto.

For women looking to terminate their pregnancy later than 20 weeks into the gestation period, they will have to be referred to a clinic in the

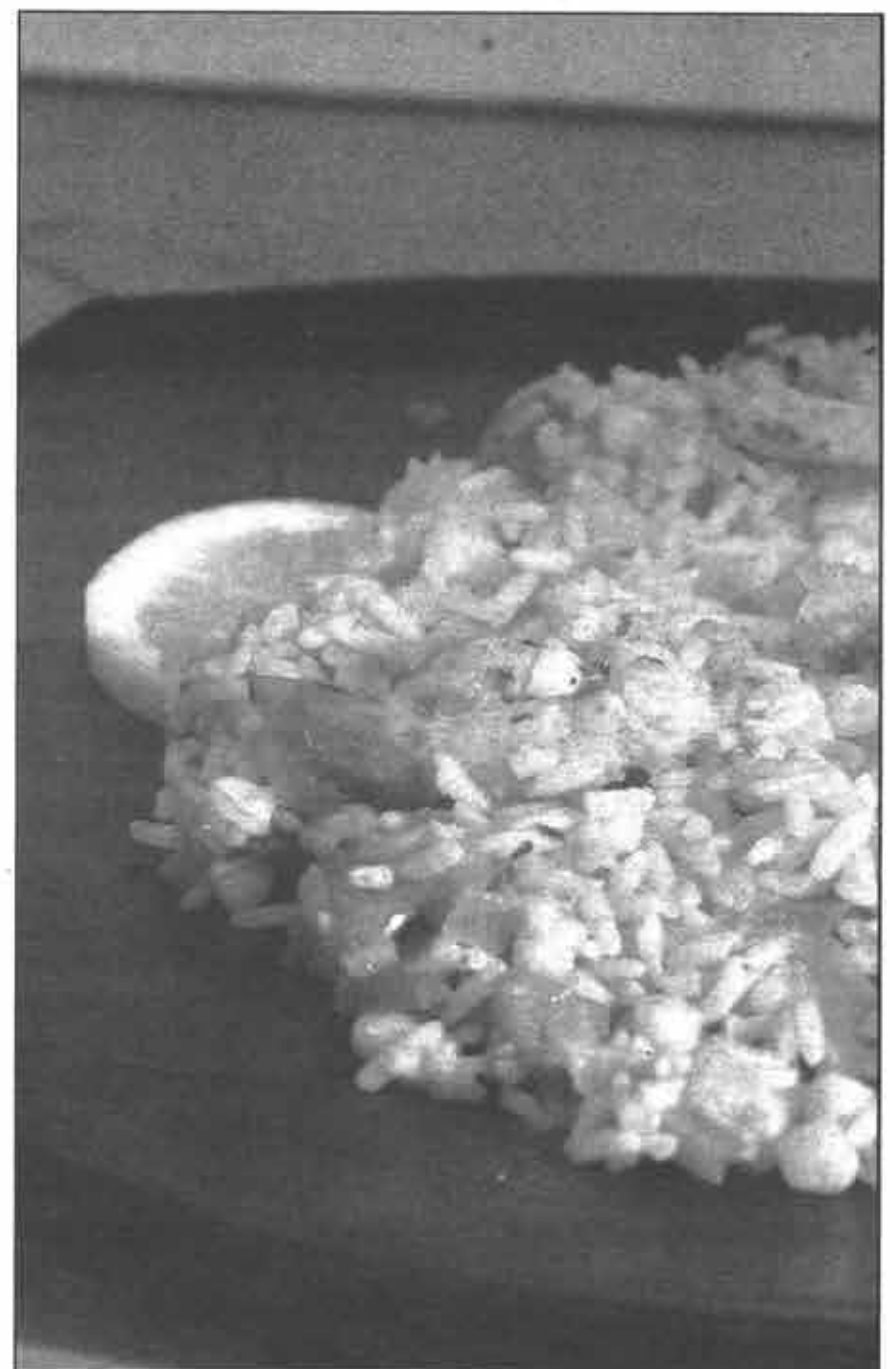
United States where it can be performed up to 26 weeks.

Important to note is that, in Kitchener-Waterloo, "Because it takes about two to three weeks to get in to the hospital ... if you call it in and you're around the 12-week mark, chances are they are not going to be able to accommodate you," explained Crowe.

Post-procedure care is also incredibly important. "2.5 percent of women might experience minor complications ... so overall it is a very safe medical procedure, especially if it's done in the first trimester," said Crowe.

Emotional problems may arise after the procedure as well, as it can affect hormone levels. Both Health Services and PPWR offer counselling for women who feel the need to discuss their experience. However, most women do not experience any difficulties; as Crowe explained, "maybe a handful have come back to see us for post-abortion care."

For more information on abortion laws or alternative options, visit [www.cmanet.org](http://www.cmanet.org) or [www.ppwr.on.ca](http://www.ppwr.on.ca). Planned Parenthood Waterloo Region is located at 151 Frederick St., Suite 500 in Kitchener.



RYAN STEWART

**SHRIMP N' STUFF** - Learn to make writer Priyam Bhargava's tasty Shrimp Paella by visiting [www.cordweekly.com](http://www.cordweekly.com).

## Hockey success should be shared

This past weekend, the Golden Hawks women's hockey team won the OUA championships for the sixth year in a row.

This brings them only one OUA championship away from tying the all-time record for OUA titles set by the Toronto Varsity Blues. There is no doubt that Laurier women's hockey has reached the level of a dynasty.

Yet, amidst all this success, not many Laurier students seem to notice. 697 fans attended the championship game last Sunday and just over 300 more streamed the game online.

How is it that Laurier's football team, which has won the Vanier Cup twice (1991, 2005), attracts crowds of at least 2,000 people per game, while a six-time OUA-winning hockey team barely attracts 1,000 viewers for its championship match?

After all, it can't be hard to encourage students to watch the games. With two current Golden Hawks having competed for Canada in the winter Universiade this past February, it is quite possible that some current Hawks will be on the Canadian team in Vancouver for the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Laurier is a university overflowing with school spirit - why is it that

students don't want to cheer for a team consistently dominating Canada's national winter sport?

Laurier Athletics should be doing a better job at promoting these games. During football season, Athletics bombards the campus with advertisements and posters for the games.

Hockey games have far less visibility. Many students do not know when they take place, and some don't even know where they are held. It is likely that if these games were advertised as aggressively as football, more students would attend them.

It is also possible that attendance is lower because the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Centre is a long way for students to walk to. Running buses from campus to the Waterloo Rec Centre would help alleviate this problem.

Of course, this is not to say that Laurier Athletics is not dedicated to women's hockey. Clearly, they have supported the team to their fullest.

However, the success that this team is enjoying should be shared by the entire student body. For this to happen, increasing efforts should be made to make women's hockey games bona fide campus events.



GRAPHIC BY MATT ENGLISH

## Private schools give no great advantage

Public high schools are less expensive, but equally effective institutions



RYAN STEWART  
PHOTO MANAGER

Parents these days want their kids to go to the best schools, get the best grades and do huge amounts of extracurricular activities and volunteer, or else they won't get into university and they'll have to work at McDonalds for the rest of their lives.

That's the preconceived notion. But does going to the best primary and secondary schools really increase one's chances of getting into a post-secondary school, and are the massive amounts of money paid for these private schools really worth it?

Universities these days are becoming more and more inclusive to the general population. That means people whose parents can't pay for private schooling have just as easy a time getting into these schools; they just have to maintain good grades and participate in some extracurricular activities to show they are well-rounded individuals. So what is the point of private schools?

I went to a private school in England for grades 10, 11 and 12. Quite frankly, if my father's company hadn't paid for it, there was no way I would have been able to go there.

The school I went to was extremely small in size, making for more focused, but challenging, academics. This provided a highly demanding environment where one could not escape the wrath of

teachers or administrators at any time.

The course material was intensive and the grading scheme tough. A "B" at the private school is actually an "A" at Laurier in terms of percentage. This grading is supposed to make students achieve higher grades and perform better.

However, in the long run, this grading scheme can backfire. When I got a grade of "B" at my high school, I got 83-86 percent, which here translates to an "A", so that means when I got "C"s, I was actually receiving "B"s.

This gave an inaccurate representation of myself as a student (only letter grades showed up on my transcript) that I feel hurt my chances when applying to schools here in Canada.

I was deferred from the BBA program into Honours Economics, whereas my former roommate who received similar percentage grades at a public school was accepted. Thanks, private school!

Private schools offer smaller class sizes and a higher teacher-to-student ratio. But does it offer anything else? In trying to think of any extra benefits that my school had over public school, I can't help but draw blanks.

Both systems offer academic (college) counsellors, and both offer a form of tutoring or academic support as well as the usual extracurriculars like sports or community involvement work. So why anyone would pay for a service that offers no distinct advantage other than smaller class size is beyond me.

However, while private high schools may not increase your

chances of succeeding, they do decrease the chance of failing.

Grade 10 was a rough year; I had just moved for the first time, overseas nonetheless. Subsequently, my grades suffered.

When my grades dropped, I was approached by various administrators and put on academic probation. They were always on top of me to make sure I was trying to receive better grades. Had this have happened at a public school here, I can only imagine that these resources might not have been available and I would have fallen under the radar.

This type of hand-holding helped me bounce back, which was a good thing.

Also, these "prep" schools definitely do prepare you for a post-secondary workload. Most of my high school friends, some of whom are now in Ivy League schools, are finding university extremely easy compared to high school.

On the other hand, I expect that students learn the same time management skills and work ethic at public schools.

So what is the clear advantage of prep schools? If you need help to prevent you from failing and desire extra preparation for university, a private school is the place to be.

However, in the end, when both students of public and private schools arrive at university, it doesn't matter how they got there.

Going to a public high school can not only get the job done, but does so on a bank-account-pleasing level.

letters@cordweekly.com

## Bottled water unnecessary

The Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union is right to be discussing the possibility of enacting policies to discourage the sale of bottled water from its establishments on campus, even in this early stage.

One of the largest criticisms of removing bottled water from businesses on campus is that students will be more inclined to buy unhealthy beverages instead.

This can be taken care of by providing more water fountains and water coolers around campus for students to fill up cups, much like the cooler that currently sits in the FNCC 24 lounge.

Creating this infrastructure would require time and collaboration with university administration, which is why the board should begin discussing this possibility now.

Aside from the savings for students and environmental benefits, the students' union should stop selling bottled water in order to send a message.

With municipal governments all over Canada - including the city of Waterloo - contemplating the idea of banning bottled water in municipally run establishments, university students should be doing their part to contribute to this movement as well.

WLUSU should show, on behalf of the student body, that the bottled water industry is unnecessary.

Last Friday's presentation to the board is a step in the right direction. A bottled water ban is a worthy policy goal for the students' union.

*These unsigned editorials were agreed upon by at least two-thirds of The Cord's editorial board and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Cord's volunteers, staff or WLUSU.*

## THE CORD WEEKLY

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# In praise of procrastination

Despite the general sentiment that saving work until the last minute is lazy, it can be an effective way to motivate students



**ANDREA MILLET**  
THE BRIGHTER  
SIDE OF LIFE

Sitting down to begin a task just a few hours before the deadline, when you've known about it for weeks, is something that many

people are guilty of, whether or not they want to admit it.

With procrastination being so common in the life of a student, I find myself trying to understand and explain it.

I'm considering the appeal of enjoying free time and putting off tasks until the last possible moment, and why so many of us find ourselves falling into its trap.

But is it really a trap, or do the last-minute pressures simply provide the motivation that we need to get our work done?

As we are approaching the end of term, and exams and final papers are looming ominously on the ever-approaching horizon, I find it hard not to question my methods of work. I, undoubtedly along with a large majority of the student popu-

lation, am guilty of procrastination.

I watch as the work piles up, as the deadlines for four papers due within one week get closer, and yet I cannot bring myself to get started until, at most, a few nights before the work must be completed.

While many would see this as a fault and most professors, parents and even a few other students would shake their heads in disapproval and agree that the best work comes from an early start, I have to disagree.

For me, procrastination is not an act of laziness and it is not a sign that I do not care about my work; it is just that my best work is a result of last-minute pressure.

The thrill of having a tight deadline and the excitement and tension as time runs down forces me – and I'm sure it's the same for many others – to focus solely on my task in a way that I could not otherwise have done.

Charged with sleeplessness and caffeine, we procrastinators sit awake at our computers at midnight, with a term paper due by eleven o'clock that morning, and it is only then that inspiration strikes and all attention is focused towards the assignment, because there is no more time to put it off.

If I have a week to do an assignment, I will never be completely dedicated to what I'm doing early in the week, because I can always convince myself that I have more time, that tomorrow I can get it done.

But the night before an assignment is due, there is no more time and that pressure motivates me not only to get it done, but to get it done

well.

I don't want to just finish the assignment, I want to prove to myself, and to everyone who told me not to leave it to the last minute, that I can do it. I want to prove that my procrastination is not hurting me, but instead forcing me to put forth my best effort.

There is something gratifying about finishing a paper just before it is due – a paper you only started the night before – and reading through it and knowing that it is good work.

Knowing that you can face the last-minute stress and pressure is comforting for those of us who procrastinate, and while the prospect of staying up all night doing work is not appealing, there is something enticing about the thrill that comes with it.

While I can argue that procrastination is not a bad thing, and that it can work very well for some people, it is understandably not for everyone.

As many people as I know that can complete an above-average paper at the last minute, I can also name a few that work better over several weeks, completing their work in small sections at a time.

So I won't say that we should all put off work until the last minute, or that if you're not procrastinating you're not doing your best work, but just because it's not your way doesn't mean that it doesn't work for some of us.

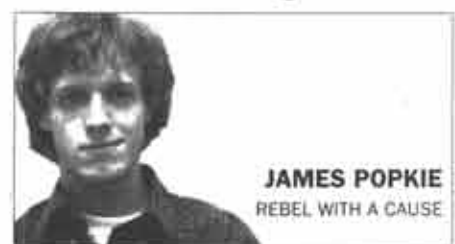
Procrastination can be a helpful tool – it's not a fault but instead a skill, a carefully perfected strategy for motivation and focus.

[letters@cordweekly.com](mailto:letters@cordweekly.com)



# Evenly applied stereotypes can be beneficial

Stereotypes can be harmful when used to target specific groups but, when used non-maliciously, they can be funny and useful



**JAMES POPKIE**  
REBEL WITH A CAUSE

Stereotypes can be cruel. They can be a catalyst for prejudice and discrimination, and can put people who are unjustly labelled with them at a disadvantage. They can offend. They can hurt. They can also be hilarious.

I am not an advocate of stereotypes when they are used maliciously to bully or demean people, or are used to maintain a prejudicial attitude.

Stereotypes should never interfere with one's judgment of people as individual human beings and one should never automatically assume that somebody lives up to a particular stereotype because of any real or perceived affiliation.

It is also wrong to make jokes that single out one or a few particu-

lar groups for stereotyping.

Instead, people who make these types of jokes should try their hardest to dish them all around to every conceivable target – equal-opportunity offending, one could call it.

Equal-opportunity offending is something that television shows like *The Simpsons* and *South Park* practice, and that is a big part of what often makes them so funny to watch.

Despite the fact that just about everyone has laughed at such light-hearted jokes, whether on television or elsewhere, many people still do hypocritically claim that stereotypes are flat-out wrong and should never be made.

By making such stereotypes untouchable, people put divisions such as race, gender and nationality up on a pedestal. Treating things like these as "sacred cows" only heightens divisions, rather than breaking them down and helping people simply see others as individual human beings.

If people stop defining themselves primarily along such lines, and start defining themselves by their own individual identity, then perhaps stereotypes will become a thing of the past.

The simple truth is that if people want stereotypes to end, then they should just stop living up to them, and stop giving in to pressure to do so.

There are many reasons why people would choose to embody these roles – it's easier to embrace a pre-packaged identity that others have prejudicially labeled you with, than to forge one of your own.

Finding your own individuality can be a long and difficult process but, in the meantime, there is no reason that you need to forego this quest and simply accept a label that others have provided for you, especially if it is a negative one.

Things such as MTV "gangsta" culture even go so far as to make negative stereotypes look appealing. Being a teenager or young

adult subjects you to a phase in which people who fit well-defined stereotypes not only exist, but are often exalted.

If stereotypes are questioned and made the subject of jest, perhaps those who embody them will step back and take a look at how silly these images really are.

Sexist jokes about females have gotten a lot of flak, and it seems that these stereotypes are quite prevalent here in university.

I do not believe it is inherently wrong to make jokes about the stereotypical slutty university girl who, certainly, does not constitute the majority of girls in Laurier.

However, it would be sexist for anyone to make fun of female stereotypes without also making fun of their typical male counterparts.

So, guys, don't throw away your gendered joke list. Just make some jabs at your own gender to add to the list. Trust me, there are so many aspects of prototypical chauvinistic "masculinity" that are so ridicu-

lously laughable, you'll be able to make an encyclopedia-sized list of man jokes in no time.

It is easy to poke fun at others, but it takes true courage to be able to poke fun at yourself.

Comedians such as Russell Peters and Dave Chappelle are good examples of people who have no fear in playing off stereotypes about their own respective racial groups, and they evoke laughter both from their own groups and others.

It can be good to have stereotypes out in the open so that people can discuss them and, hopefully, try to overcome them.

Equality cannot be found by eliminating stereotypes because, whatever the reason, people insist on creating them.

So, instead of trying to remove stereotypes from the equation, we must try our hardest to ensure that they are being dished out evenly and fairly all around.

[letters@cordweekly.com](mailto:letters@cordweekly.com)

# Arts degrees need more cohesiveness

Interdisciplinary assignments would increase the value of a Bachelor of Arts



DAVE SHORE  
OPINION EDITOR

In Canada at least, the term "March Madness" only brings up thoughts of college basketball for a minority of the student population.

A more apt understanding of the term would be the madness that naturally ensues from having to write a small army of term papers, labs, reports, presentations or what have you.

Whatever your area of study, the month of March is inevitably the peak of your academic obligations. The same clusterfuck of assignments hits us every November as well, but with fall semester already under our belts, March becomes that much more stress-inducing.

In a fit of procrastination for one of the many papers I have to write, I had a novel idea. Wouldn't it be great if undergrads (those in the

arts faculty, at the very least) didn't have to write final papers for each class?

Instead, we would have to write one really long final paper that encompassed all of the classes we had taken that semester – maybe one final paper for each department instead of each class.

In this paper, we would have to take the ideas and concepts from each class and tie them all together, proving that we had learned adequately in every course and could draw connections between them. The grading could be divvied up between professors.

I, for one, think this would be an ingenious way of student evaluation, and would cut down on students' stress levels.

Okay, I concede to the fact that, practically speaking, this idea isn't completely sound. In fact, you might even call it preposterous.

Besides, one could easily argue that the kind of stress students deal with is a necessary part of school – if we can't cope now, how will we

cope in a career?

So, I guess my giant essay idea is more of a fantasy than anything else. But, administrative nightmare aside, I think my daydreaming highlights an important criticism of the BA experience – possibly the undergraduate experience altogether.

**THE KIND OF EDUCATION ONE RECEIVES FROM AN ARTS DEGREE RIGHT NOW IS EXTREMELY INSULAR AND FRAGMENTED.**

This is that we are scarcely asked to perform the kind of task that this hypothetical super paper would entail: draw links between the various courses and streams of thought that we study.

The kind of education one receives from an arts degree right now is extremely insular and fragmented. The upside to this is that we are able to learn a wide variety of ideas and skills. The downside is that it is often hard to articulate

how this intellectual buffet has any relevance.

Perhaps one of the reasons that most people don't see the pragmatic value in a Bachelor of Arts degree is that those handing them out don't quite know, either.

The two political science courses I am taking this semester are a perfect example of what I am talking about. One course is on democratic theory; the other is about how Canadian public policy is formed.

The one class teaches us the way that institutional forces in bureaucracy and government create bills, acts and policies. The other class studies theorists, most of whom lament that democracy has been reduced to institutional processes. In essence, the two classes, both in the same department, are directly opposed.

So, how are we to justify this situation and the countless others like it in which most arts students find themselves? Most professors try to offer catch-all answers like learning "critical thinking" and "communi-

cation" skills. But come on; there's got to be a more concrete answer than that.

It's not as if solutions to this problem haven't been offered. Our very own Brantford campus, for example, offers a contemporary studies program that complements other degrees.

It doesn't focus on anything in particular, but rather attempts to equip students with the fundamental knowledge required to put any arts degree to good use in contemporary society.

I'm not suggesting that we dispose of our departmental system in the faculty of arts. And I'm certainly not proposing that we need to be more like Laurier Brantford.

I am saying, however, that we need to come up with a better answer for why arts degrees are valuable, and start reflecting this in the undergraduate experience.

And if this means scrapping class term papers for one hypothetical mega-essay, maybe this isn't such a crazy idea after all.

letters@cordweekly.com

## Letters to the Editor

### Cord needed to cover history conference

I am sitting here reading this week's edition of the Cord, and I am beyond upset and borderline livid at the almost complete lack of attention given to this past weekend's Tri-University Undergraduate History Conference, even after the History Students Association tried hard to make it clear to the Cord that this event was a big deal. I believe that this is yet another perfect example of the Cord not giving attention to things that are meaningful and matter to the student body. Someone please explain to me how a kid getting hit by a car on King st. at least gets a blurb, and all the conference got was a picture of someone who spoke for half an hour?

Ok, so the picture was of the keynote speaker, fine. However, what about the twenty-five students from Guelph, Waterloo, and Laurier who presented months worth of research and work at the conference? How about the months of work it took to organize and put on the event which is planned to be the first of many to come? Why is it that a major academic event that is hosted by our school and is the only one of its kind at any university in the region is dignified by only a mere photograph? Finally, why is it that no matter what lengths the HSA goes to in order to show that they are a legitimate and serious academic club on campus, the only time they get mention is when someone thinks a t-shirt they sell is controversial? What people don't seem to realize is that every year the HSA puts on a Writing Work-

shop, a Grad Studies Workshop, and beginning this year a Primary Source Workshop as well.

The point is that the Cord needs to get its act together and stop covering only those stories that are potentially controversial. A major event like this should not have been overlooked, and it is little short of insulting that it has been – particularly after the efforts made to communicate how important it was. How about the Cord showing a little interest beyond politics and scandal?

-Nathan Thomson

### Seminary takes gender inequality seriously

It should be first noted that talk of a "God with a penis" is little more than adolescent minded rhetoric designed specially to shock the faithful. God with a penis? How offensive! How shocking! How edgy of you!

He writes "If God exists, it can not be a man". Of course, Christians don't believe a gendered God, but I'll chalk this up, also, to rhetoric.

Now, Will opens with that "creepy old seminary building", implying that the existence of the seminary is somehow in tension with objectives of Women's Week. I think Will would have done well to speak to the Dean of the Seminary first, as this same edition of the Cord features Elizabeth May speaking as a female Christian as the seminary's special guest. Training to be an Anglican minister might qualify as being "religious". I am gambling that the leader of the Green party has notions of equality generally

acceptable to Will's standards.

Beyond that, he would have done well to investigate what theological tradition and emphasis the seminary gives and is working within. He might be surprised to see how seriously many members of the seminary take the problem of gender inequality and the theological resources they use to combat it. Christianity is not a monolith.

In fact, someone obviously so interested in the contribution of the Christian religion to cultural and political ideas would do well to investigate where his own notions of "equality" have come from and just how much they are in debt to his own Judeo-Christian heritage. It is not entirely a co-incidence that the dialogue of human rights and the equality of all human persons has first emerged in the Christian West, where the doctrine of the deity who became a human individual gestated for hundreds of years, and which reveres a sacred text, contrary to Will's reading, that teaches both men and women were created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27).

If you are around WLU for yet another year Will, I recommend picking up the seminary's course calendar!

-Jordan DeJonge

### Everyone should call themselves feminists

Apparently the definition of feminism used in Laura Carlson's special projects spread and Kimberly Elworthy's opinion piece last week needs some clarification. In Ms. Elworthy's view, the definition of

feminism as wanting women to have the same rights as men is limiting – and that's fair. But perhaps that's because it's a limited definition of feminism.

Feminism is about eradicating gender-based inequality. If the measure of women attaining the rights of men is used to simplify things, it is just that – a simplification. A useful way of explaining in relatable terms what the goal is, because, simply put, men have and are able to exercise more rights than women. I won't say that definition is wrong, because there is value in terms that name specific and widespread problems. But I do hope it is understood that the aims of feminism are much more complex than just "women" getting what "men" have, because these are not, of course, homogeneous categories.

Feminism entails recognizing that gender equality has not been reached, and working to reach it. Why anyone wouldn't call themselves a feminist based on that definition is beyond me.

-Laura McDonald

### Science program does prepare for real world

I am in 2nd year chemistry and I am writing in response to Laura Tomkins article about science students and volunteering at WLU. I want to clean up the tainted misconceptions that the article spread.

First of all, a science degree does prepare you for the real world. Above all else, it teaches time management and determination. We never have the luxury of three day

weekends and have upwards of 30 hours of class a week with weekly lab reports due for most classes. These labs prepare us for the real world, and actually teach us how to use real instruments that real scientists use to solve real problems.

The less technical skills are also gained through a science degree. Currently, there are about 35 people in 2nd year chemistry and I know every single one of them by name. These are the same 35 people I go to class with week in, week out. We communicate through lab work and learn to share ideas when working on assignments all while sharing a laugh and then enjoying a drink or two afterwards.

This is the kind of community you don't get by sitting in a lecture hall full of 200 people listening to a professor talk.

As for not having enough time to get involved – that's bull. Just because it may appear our numbers are lacking in WLUSU organizations doesn't mean we don't get involved. There are so many other opportunities such as varsity sports, science-oriented clubs (I.C.A. PHI, etc...), intramurals and IAing. Our 30 hours of class pales in comparison to the normal 40 hour work week of most adults, who also have to raise kids among other things.

And one last thing, I've never gotten the impression science professors think it's "...all about the academics". This comment makes me wonder whether or not you actually are in science.

-Greg Wentworth

- FROM LETTERS, PAGE 18

### Science students have opportunities

When I first read the article by Ms. Tomkins, I was offended by the portrayal of Science students as uninvolved academics having little or no 'street smarts' and interpersonal skills. The dominant culture at Laurier is 'fit in' and 'get involved,' but Ms. Tomkins, and everyone else at this school must realize that students attend university for education. Yes, education comes not only in the form of lectures and labs, but for science students, coursework is the biggest contributor.

Discussing this article with others from my department, I found many students equally offended. There are several student associations and clubs that are based within the Faculty of Science. Each department has its own students' association: The Laurier Chemistry Association, Biology Students' Association, Financial Math Association, The Psychology Society, and WLU PHI (Physics, Computing and Math Students' Society). These clubs organize several events every year, including inter-club baseball, department socials, Industry nights, paintball and laser quest outings, and each year, all work very hard together to present the Science Formal. This year marked the 3rd Annual Science Formal, held at the Walper Terrace Hotel just this past weekend.

We can understand this perception because these clubs don't get a lot of press. In fact, we get none. *The Cord* profiled several campus clubs this year, but not one from the Faculty of Science. There was no mention of the fact these clubs sponsor, support, and organize

teams for academic competitions such as ACM, The CS Games (WLU placed 5th overall this year) and the International Trading Competition. These competitions foster the kinds of interpersonal skills we science students are supposedly missing.

While Science Students do have large workloads, have to spend more time on campus to complete lab tasks, and may have less free time, there are lots of opportunities to get involved, and many students do just that. As with anything you read or see on TV, you should always do a little bit of research before you crystallize your opinion.

If you are a Science Student and want to get involved, contact your department office.

-Tyler Potter  
Operations Director, WLU PHI

### Christianity has long tradition of feminism

In the March 11 edition of the *Cord*, Will Main has a lot to say about the "finer points" of feminism, vis a vis religion. Unfortunately, instead of lending clarity or insight to the debate, Mr. Main offers up a litany of mistaken characterizations and theological ignorance.

For Mr. Main, Christianity and feminism are incompatible, and he enjoins his readers to pick a side, as if choosing a worldview was as simple as changing socks. Yet here I sit, writing this letter as a Christian chaplain, and a feminist, with a mind free of cognitive dissonance. And I'm not the only one. The last forty years have seen the rise of feminist theology in the academy, articulated by scholars with intellectual acumen and sturdy minds. It's not just a recent phenomenon,

either. Each one of these women (and men!) would certainly identify their intellectual/spiritual forbears in earlier epochs of Christian history: Julian of Norwich, Hildegard of Bingen, the Desert Mothers, and, no doubt, Jesus Christ, who elevated women to a status unheard of in the ancient world. Christian history is fraught with patriarchy, to be sure, but it's also filled with people who used the liberating message of the Gospel to challenge that status quo. It's still used for that purpose today, which is why it's good that we're not going anywhere, despite Mr. Main's desire for a "concerted effort" to "bleed our society" dry of religion (such chilling rhetoric...).

If Mr. Main still thinks the commingling of Christianity and feminism is problematic, then so be it. Christians are quite fond of paradoxes. I'd only ask that Mr. Main do his readers (and his editorials) the service of acquainting himself with recent (and ancient) Christian history and theology, if he chooses to once again to write on these matters.

-Rev. Brian Bork  
Laurier Chaplain

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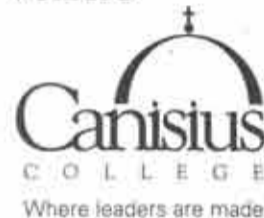
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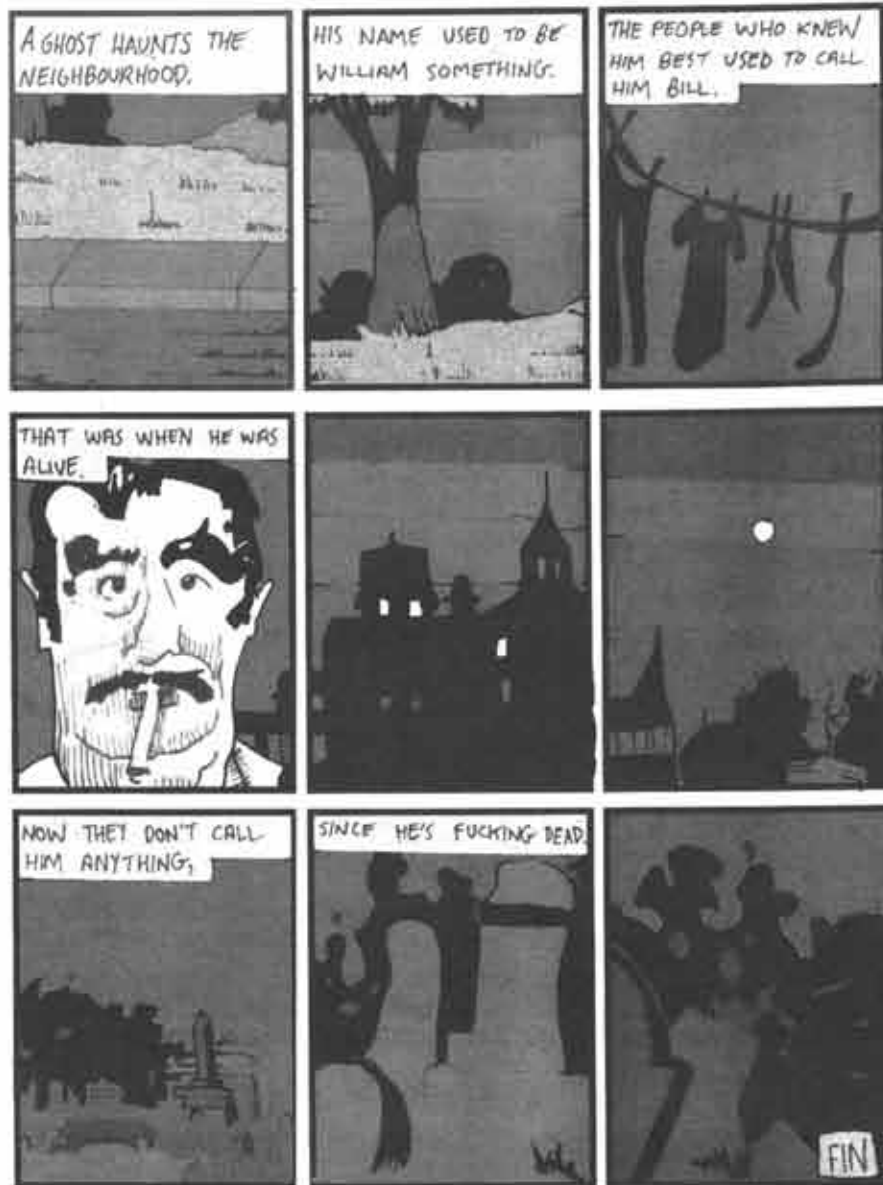
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# Don't be a rockist - or a popist

Cord A&E Editor **Daniel Joseph** argues against limiting schools of thought that discount the different genres of music



**DANIEL JOSEPH**  
A&E EDITOR

Recently, as a budding critic, I have discovered words for veins of thought that many - too many - people still cling to in their daily lives: Rockism and Popism. These are the veins of thought that quickly reject each other at the outset. Popists are critics who adore Britney Spears' "Toxic," but look with disdain towards bands with low production values and cryptic lyrics. They see modern pop and hip-hop music as the only real expression of mass culture.

Rockists, on the other hand, find themselves adoring the cult of the authentic lone musician and the guitar-bass-drum triumvirate. They look down on hip-hop as only "bling" and "bitches," and see pop musicians like Madonna as vapid and immature. Somehow, being mainstream means you are less "authentic" than, say, Lou Reed back when he hung out at Warhol's Factory.

Both of these are so wrong, yet I see both of them exhibited by so many people, so often, and that is troubling.

I, like many others, grew up liking certain kinds of music. I found some kind of suburban, white comfort in the heavy rock sounds

of post-grunge music. Honestly, it wasn't good music, but it was a rebellion against the pop of mainstream radio and MTV. When you're a teenager you have to rebel against something, right?

I - for some reason, hated hip-hop and rap. To sum up, when people said "can't spell crap without rap," I, with misplaced judgement - would agree. I felt justified in seeing pop music as somehow not real enough, not worth my attention. I was a rockist - nevermind that my record collection was filled with questionable music itself.

Thankfully, I got older. I matured. I felt less and less restricted to certain genres just because it wasn't rock 'n' roll. Hip-hop became an important part of my soundscape - as did pop hits of my childhood. In my life I had never thrown off the restrictive chains of a religion (I grew up in a pretty religiously neutral household) but I imagine the freedom from dogma feels similar.

Too often, however, I see those who still hold up the banner of the rockist - and often it can be critics that feel it necessary to malign the taste of the unwashed masses.

While not all pop music is good - it can and does have redeeming and, yes, even worthwhile, musical qualities. "Toxic" is a great song. Hell, the last Britney Spears album had at least one great pop gem - even if the rest of the album was uninspired.

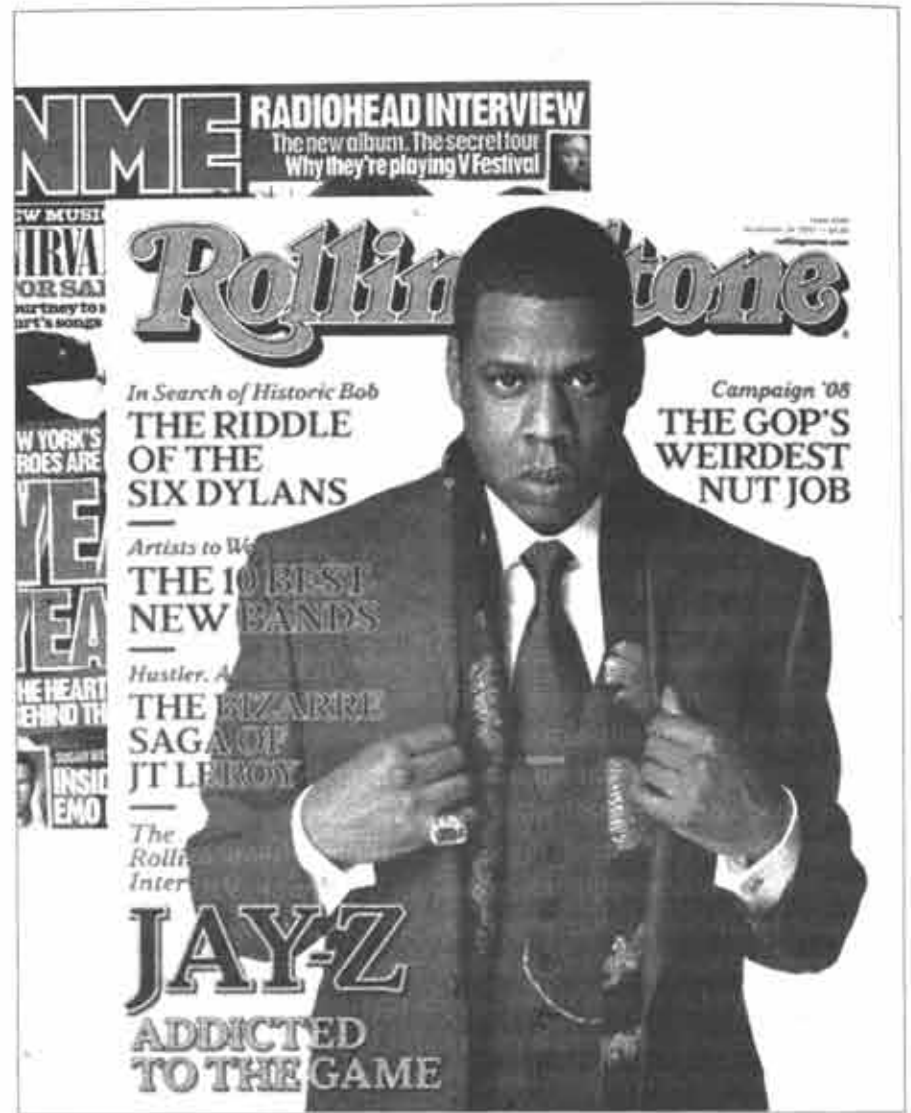
That said, the popists and pop-

timists have much to atone for as well. Those who reacted against the rockists, those who finally had a reason to say "fuck off" to those who said their musical lexicon was an inauthentic pile of rubbish, have gone too far.

Much of the avant-garde rock music tradition (think Thee Silver Mt Zion or Genghis Tron) continues to create music that is both beautiful and relevant - even if it isn't palatable to the masses. The rejection of the niche, the idea that it has to be accessible, is just as flawed. Popists also have to realize that not all pop music is good. Recent looks into music reviews on sites like Metacritic show a severe lack of critical thought on pop albums that probably don't deserve the positive reviews they receive.

There has to be critical thought: even if post-modern ethics dictate that one subjective position isn't better than the next, we still have to think critically. And we must let artists know when their effort leaves massive room for improvement. For all the hate that people pile on Pitchfork Media for being "pretentious," at least they have the confidence to give bad reviews to albums that they dislike. Strong opinions like this shouldn't be hated, instead they should be a jumping-off point for further discussion.

Ultimately, what this means is that one should look outside the box. Don't believe that you have to ironically enjoy pop songs - if you



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

**SLANT** - Many sources of criticism tend to fall in either camp.

actually listen and find it engaging, damnit, you probably like the song. Admit it. Find some solitude in the enjoyment of music - no matter the social connotations.

For the popist in you, reject the notion that some genres of rock music are "pretentious" or "full

of themselves;" something to be feared and despised. That voice is no better than assholes who look at abstract expressionist art and say, "I could have done that."

And lets be honest, you don't want to be that asshole.

## Gaming orchestra rocks Centre in the Square

- FROM VGL PAGE 24

*Halo* offered a highlight as Tallarico brought out his inner axe god and shredded alongside the chanting choir.

A *Castlevania* medley and a performance of *Final Fantasy VII*'s "One Winged Angel" proved definite crowd-pleasers towards the end of the night, as hardcore fans in the crowd roared and hooted in agreement.

The sombre, haunting *Bioshock* theme "Welcome to Rapture" stood out in the show, with the violin section perfectly capturing the mixture of beauty and horror that is evoked by the title.

Amidst all of the highs, though, there were certainly moments of disappointment.

*Kingdom Hearts*' epic feel was euphemized by a cheesy Disney montage and the confusing presence of a bubble machine. Still, the majority of the audience just shrugged and went with it.

The same couldn't be said for the *Need for Speed* segment, where

special guests Splitting Adam shared the stage and proceeded to out-lame Simba's crying scene with their angsty pub rock. Apparently, the band flew all the way from Vancouver for the show. They probably could have just stayed there.

The *Guitar Hero: Aerosmith* section was also underwhelming, despite involving a member of the crowd as a participant. As a skinny kid plonked along to the song "Sweet Emotion" on expert, the TV's volume vastly overpowered the orchestra - making the experience not incredibly dissimilar to just watching a friend play at home.

Crowd feedback provided the ultimate judge to the show, though - this is something Tallarico knows well. "I still get goosebumps and chills down my spine," he told *The Cord* backstage.

"I just love watching from the side of the stage and listening to people react.... It never gets old."

And if the crowd's reaction is judge, consider Tallarico and co. guilty of providing one night of ter-

rific entertainment at the Centre in the Square.

Playing a smaller venue that is "off the beaten path" is always a pleasure, says Tallarico.

"It's wonderful for us, it's great for the symphony ... it's a little special when we play the smaller shows," he said. "And I think the people here appreciate it a little more. Stuff like this doesn't really pass by Kitchener."

One of Tallarico's favourite things about this show was being a guest in the presence of the KWS.

"To have the homegrown, hometown folks doing-it-up brings a whole sense of legitimacy to the audience, to us, to the whole video game scene in general," said Tallarico.

In fact, the KWS asked Tallarico's troupe to come to town and collaborate, after watching a VGL show in Toronto.

A formidable "group effort" as described by Tallarico, VGL will certainly be welcomed the next time they collaborate with the symphony.



NICK LACHANCE

**THE CHIEF** - While the theme song to *Halo* was played, the game's protagonist Master Chief joined the orchestra onstage.



## Morgan Alan enjoys *RE5* for what it is, but laments the lack of horror

**MORGAN ALAN**  
STAFF WRITER

Whether the choice of entertainment is movies, books, television, video games or otherwise, everyone remembers that first good scare they had as a kid. Whether you stayed up late to watch *Are You Afraid of the Dark* or read a late-night Goosebumps novel, I guarantee that you remember the first time something really scared you shitless.

I personally recall playing the original *Resident Evil* as a youngster, alone in my room with the lights turned low. One second I'm walking down a quiet corridor in an abandoned mansion, the next, a horde of zombie dogs are crashing through a wall of full-length windows.

I had to take a week-long break before I could face the game again, but the experience ranks among the best scares of my life.

For those unenlightened, *Resident Evil* is to horror games as *Dawn of the Dead* is to horror films. Though later iterations of these franchises may be forgettable or just plain bad, we forgive these flaws for the simple timelessness of the series themselves. Though *Resident Evil* may have consistently clunky controls and laughably awful dialogue, these complaints melt away after we gun down our first zombie or are informed that we almost became a "Jill sandwich."

*Resident Evil 5* follows recurring protagonist Chris Redfield as he searches for his presumed deceased partner, series favourite Jill Valentine. His investigation has taken him to Africa, where he must again face his old foe Albert Wesker and the evil Umbrella Corporation. But no one plays *Resident Evil* for the plot – I just want to kill some zombies and get a few good scares.

The absence of these series staples is the fundamental problem with *Resident Evil 5*. We overlooked the flaws of past *Resident Evil* titles because they actually contributed to the game itself. Alongside the game's creepy atmosphere and feeling of helplessness required for any survival horror game, these faults added to the experience. But since *Resident Evil 4*, the series has strayed significantly from its roots in the horror genre. If you thought *Resident Evil 4* toed the line between horror and action, *Resident Evil 5* jumps right over it.

*Resident Evil's* control scheme, for example, makes it harder to aim your weapon or flee from an enemy. In the context of a horror game, the feeling of terror coming from the enemy itself becomes amplified by your desperate attempts to kill or avoid it. But now that you're

armed with powerful weapons and seemingly limitless ammunition, the dated aiming system detracts from the game rather than enhancing it.

*Resident Evil 5* disingenuously pretends to be a horror game for the first few hours before fully embracing the action genre. For me, the façade was destroyed at the end of Chapter 2, when you're pursued by a group of zombies on motorcycles swinging chain lassos. Later on in the game, zombies in full combat fatigues fire at you with ma-

chine guns and rocket launchers. I have similar complaints about the game's atmosphere – the endless savannahs of Africa may look beautiful in HD, but they don't manage to scare me like a run-down laboratory or a forgotten cemetery would.

This new run-and-gun style may betray the horror origins of the franchise, but the quality of *Resident Evil 5* is fortunately left untainted. Though *Resident Evil 5* may just be an action game, it is still a very fun action game. I was disappointed

that the game at no point scared me, but I did enjoy its graphics and production values that rivalled a full-out action movie. Frankly, there are few experiences better than taking out a giant zombie tentacle monster while a full symphony orchestra backs you up.

Speaking of backing you up, *Resident Evil 5* features an active support character to assist the player in their zombie-killing exploits – Sheva Alomar, an anti-bioterrorism agent. Sheva, who can be controlled by either a second player or the game's AI, is an extraordinarily capable companion. In contrast to *Resident Evil 4's* famously incompetent Ashley, Sheva is well-equipped to handle herself even when not controlled by a human player. Though I expected Sheva to be a wet blanket on solo gameplay, she was a capable assistant who got me out of a tight spot on more than one occasion.

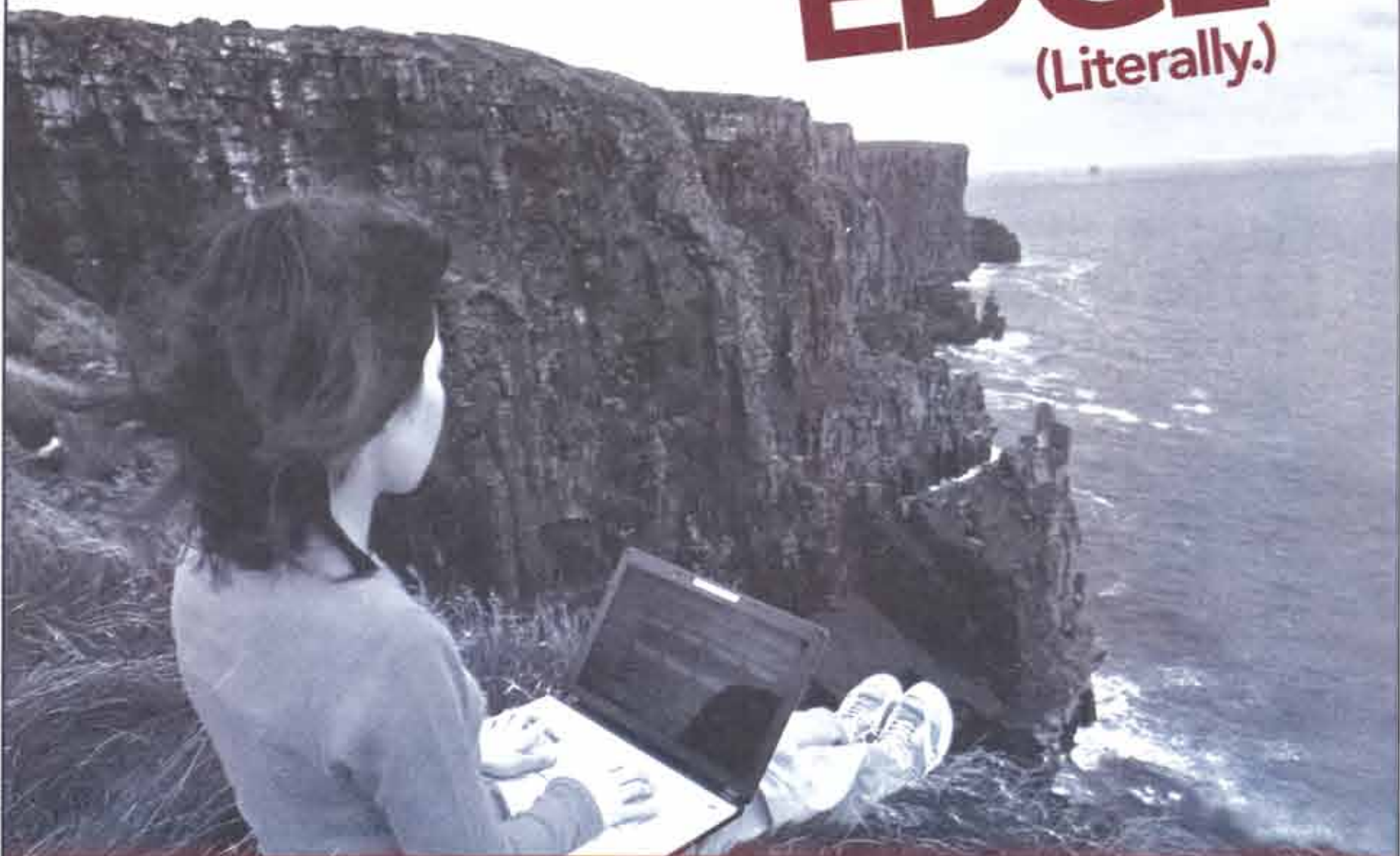
Though *Resident Evil* may have unceremoniously abandoned the horror genre, the excellence of the franchise itself remains. Though I

may miss the slow, laboured step of a zombie hungry for my brains, using a gatling gun to take out a man transformed into a giant mutant squid also elicits joy in the heart of this *Resident Evil* fan.



*Resident Evil 5*  
Developer: Capcom  
Platform: PS3, Xbox 360  
Release Date: 13/03/2009  
Rating: A-

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# Kitchener gets *VG Live*

*Video Games Live* at Centre in the Square blows away musicians' preconceptions of game music and entertains hardcore gamers

**ALEX HAYTER**  
CORD EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Most middle-aged people haven't taken too many jaunts in the mushroom kingdom, nor swam through Rapture's sunken halls. Take Tracey Poizner, for instance.

Poizner doesn't play video games and doesn't think that she ever will. But thanks to *Video Games Live* (VGL), Poizner, who plays viola with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony (KWS) orchestra, has a new-found appreciation for an emerging art form: popular video game music.

Like many of her fellow players, Poizner says that she hadn't heard a single song on the VGL setlist before - making this a first for both her and the community.

"I was a blank slate and ready to be open to whatever," Poizner told *The Cord* during the intermission to last Friday's event at Centre in the Square - the first live video game music concert to hit Kitchener-Waterloo.

"I think its just fantastic," she added. "It's a completely different audience than people who would normally come to Centre to hear a symphony."

The show's audience ranged from introverted teens dressed as Halo's Master Chief to hooting college fanboys, as well as entire families dressed up as Nintendo characters like Mario and Zelda. But one thing brought these varied revellers together: the booming, epic sound

of video game music adapted to a full symphony orchestra. The result was an energy-packed night centred around crowd participation and genuine fun.

"It's a really exciting thing to have an audience cheering all of the time," said Barbara Hankins, clarinetist with the symphony.

Unlike most of her fellow players

in the orchestra, Hankins had some exposure to the genre prior to performing with VGL.

During one of Hankins' instruction classes at Laurier, where she has taught clarinet since 1984, a student passed her a CD and urged her to listen to a clarinet solo featured on the soundtrack to a video game.

But little could have prepared Hankins and Poizner for Friday night's experience, where the KWS performed epic video game soundtracks alongside host Tommy Tallarico on electric guitar, conductor Jack Wall and the entire Grand Philharmonic Youth Choir. That's over 100 people on one stage.

Such numbers didn't go to waste

as classics both old and new were performed to full effect.

A medley including songs from *Pong*, *Frogger* and *Donkey Kong* began the show, superbly transgressing the show's sound from simple percussive noises to symphonic orchestral harmonies.

- SEE VGL, PAGE 22



**PONG ALONG** - Tommy Tallarico, host of Video Games Live, raises up his guitar to reveal a game of pong on its back at Centre in the Square.

NICK LACHANCE

## The 'gina dictates

*The Vagina Monologues* took place last week, showcasing female pride

**KATIE FLOOD**  
CORD A&E

Box, Coochie Snorcher, Cookie, Vajjayjay, Poonani and the Notorious V.A.G.; all typically hushed words for one body part were hot topics at *The Vagina Monologues* presented by the WLU Women's Centre on Saturday, March 14 at the Turret nightclub.

*The Vagina Monologues* are various stories told by women of all ages from a variety of backgrounds. Be it through sex, love, rape, menstruation, mutilation, masturbation, birth or orgasm, a recurring theme of these monologues is female empowerment through the vagina. Written by Eve Ensler, *The Vagina Monologues* are based on a series of interviews asking over 200 women anything from sex, relationships and violence against women to, "If your vagina got dressed, what would it wear?"

The realistic responses of *The Vagina Monologues* kept audience interest and amusement high in

the elegantly decorated Turret this past Saturday. Answers ranged from emotional and touching to, "If my vagina could talk, it would say, SLOW DOWN" and, "If my vagina got dressed, it would wear a giant sign saying 'closed due to flooding.'"

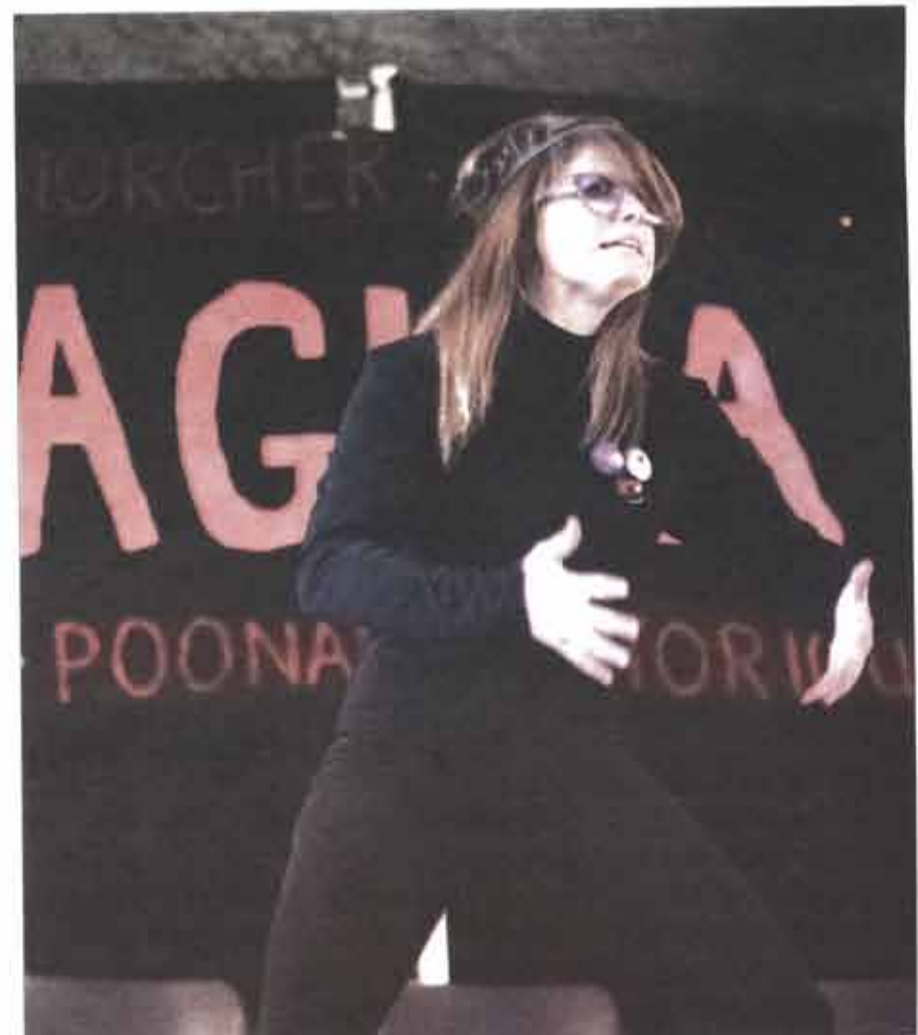
These outspoken expressions of female experiences continued exploring a number of different topics: from monologues of a sex worker who only worked with women, to exploring different moaning styles, an interview of a six-year-old girl, the changes brought through childbirth and the sad tale of a Japanese "comfort woman."

Cast member Hanna Johnston's involvement with this year's *Vagina Monologues* began with her dedication to WLU's Women's Centre. "Seeing as a lot of our campus is primarily female, I think it's very important for women to be aware of their body, be confident about their body ... be happy about being women, we're great," Johnston said.

Denise Garneau participated in *The Vagina Monologues* for the fourth time with this year's production; "That's why I've continued. It's just always been a really great experience, I've met some of my best friends doing *Vagina Monologues*.... Even though there are sad and angry monologues, still it's a very positive experience ... we get to be told positive messages about our bodies."

"It's amazing to see how someone takes a monologue and makes it their own," said this year's director, Laura Hutchinson. "We have women from all different disciplines in this production. Women that you wouldn't normally get to work with, and it's really great, just getting to hang out with a bunch of women and say vagina. It's so much fun!"

Featuring messages such as, "I will not negate my body, I will not negate myself," "I don't have a body, I am a body" and "Secretly ... women love to talk about their vagina," *The Vagina Monologues* un-



MILES WILSON

**IT'S THIS BIG** - So we're guessing that uh, something is big and uh...

doubtedly reveal important messages for women. The real stories staged by the Wilfrid Laurier cast of the *Monologues* presents issues that many women can relate to. This unique show leaves the women - and men - of the audience with an understanding of the common

bond that all females share - their vaginas.

Not only did the show contribute to the female community through the interesting stories of *The Vagina Monologues*, but also all the proceeds go to Women's Crisis Services of the Waterloo Region.