

# THE CORD WEEKLY

The tie that binds since 1926

## CABARET LAURIER

Assorted talents gather at WLU for a night of fun ... **PAGE 26**

## SEXUAL SAFETY

Student groups work to address sexual assault ... **PAGES 14-15**

## REPORT CARDS

The Cord looks at varsity Hawks' performances this year ... **PAGE 11**



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www.cordweekly.com

## CAS strike enters week two

On strike since last Wednesday, contract academic staff have yet to come to an agreement with WLU

**REBECCA VASLUIANU**  
STAFF WRITER

**LAURA CARLSON**  
NEWS EDITOR

After walking off the job last Wednesday at 6:01 am, contract academic staff (CAS) at Laurier have yet return to the bargaining table with university administration.

Though some part-time faculty have crossed the picket lines to continue teaching, the majority of part-time classes have been cancelled, leaving many students in the dark about what will become of the rest of their semester.

Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) president Dan Allison has recently issued a statement on behalf of the union, outlining their concerns with the strike.

"WLUSU's not taking a position on either side, but there was a lot of pressure coming from students and we needed to get something," said Allison.

The statement, which was signed by Allison and current chair of the WLUSU Board of Directors (BOD) Jon Champagne, demands that for the sake of students, the two parties return to the bargaining table immediately.

"This is ridiculous, from both sides. The students are being used as leverage," explains Allison.

He cites circumstances such as the fact that the strike occurred the day before professors were required to submit their final exams, and that administration is attempting to use student credits to put pressure on part-time professors to return to the classroom.

Though Allison has met on one occasion with administration, he



SYDNEY HELLAND

**SNOW STRIKERS** - Part-time professors and select students have braved cold weather on the picket lines.

has only just recently been in contact with representatives from the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA), and a meeting is planned for later this week.

"If you're not at the bargaining table, it's difficult to know all the information because the university doesn't want to do any bargaining in bad faith ... and the CAS is communicating to people who approach them," said Allison. "It's a little bit frustrating on that end."

Despite his frustrations, Allison sympathizes with part-time faculty on the issue of salary and explains that this seems to be part of a more widespread issue, because the university is experiencing a budget cut.

"It looks like the contract aca-

ademic staff all over Ontario needs a lot of assistance. It's brutal everywhere and not just here, so for one university to deal with it, it would set a nice tone," said Allison.

Nick Raats, a second-year economics student at Laurier who has recently created a Facebook group called "Students Against the CAS strike," which as of last night had 182 members, is also frustrated with the current situation at Laurier.

"The stance of the group is essentially that we don't necessarily care which side is right or wrong," said Raats.

"All we want, as students, is to get back to class, and basically prevent students from being used as a bargaining chip in this entire

process," he added.

As a fourth-year global studies and political science student who is set to graduate this spring, Andreea Dascalu is one of those students most affected by the strike.

Though she supports CAS and is satisfied with the way her part-time professors have been communicating in regards to coursework, she thinks that the student body needs to take a more active role.

"I think it will really come down to a collective answer from the student body," she said. "Many people have been quite ambivalent, and [the strike] hasn't been really long enough to affect the students."

- SEE CAS, PAGE 3

## Referendum questions GSA's future

WLU Graduate Students' Association poses three referendum questions, focusing on representation

**MELISSA DRANFIELD**  
STAFF WRITER

As next Monday's referendum approaches for the Wilfrid Laurier University Graduate Students' Association (GSA), the focus right now is getting the information out to the graduate student body so that they can make an informed decision on the three referendum questions.

The first question reads, "Do you approve of the WLUGSA membership becoming members of Wilfrid

Laurier University Student Publications (WLUSP) for \$13.16 per year (to be offset by a reduction in GSA fees); the second, "Do you approve of the changes to internal structure and representation?"; and the third, "Do you approve of the WLUGSA membership becoming part of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) membership?"

The most controversial of the three referendum questions that graduate students will be voting on is the third, as it seems to have the

most direct implications on graduate students in terms of representation and possibilities for campus involvement.

Should the GSA become part of WLUSU, the position of the GSA President would be replaced by a VP: Graduate Students - who would be at an equal level with the other vice-presidents within WLUSU.

The GSA Board of Directors would also be replaced by a newly-formed Graduate Advisory Council which would fall under WLUSU, in

the same way Brantford Campus Council does.

Campaigns have been set up to try to inform graduate students about how this question will affect them, with the "Yes" campaign advocating that the GSA join WLUSU, and the "No" campaign advocating that the GSA remain autonomous.

According to Melany Banks, the spokesperson for the "Yes" campaign, "this question came about because of need."

- SEE GSA, PAGE 2

## Laurier picks new chancellor

Local businessman John Pollock is set to succeed Bob Rae in the honorary position

**DAN POLISCHUK**  
NEWS EDITOR

John Pollock may very well be one individual who exemplifies the fact that age is only a number.

In addition to being the third generation of his family to run their locally-based company Electrohome Ltd., the 72-year-old Pollock has now added the title of WLU chancellor to his extensive work portfolio.

After the official announcement was made on Monday, Pollock said that he "was blown away" when he was notified that he would be stepping into the role left by the outgoing Bob Rae, former NDP Premier of Ontario, who held the position since 2003.

"I've got a lot of admiration for Bob's capabilities," he said.

Once Rae had stepped down after winning a seat in the House of Commons in a recent federal by-election, Laurier President Max Blouw felt that Pollock "deserved our highest consideration."

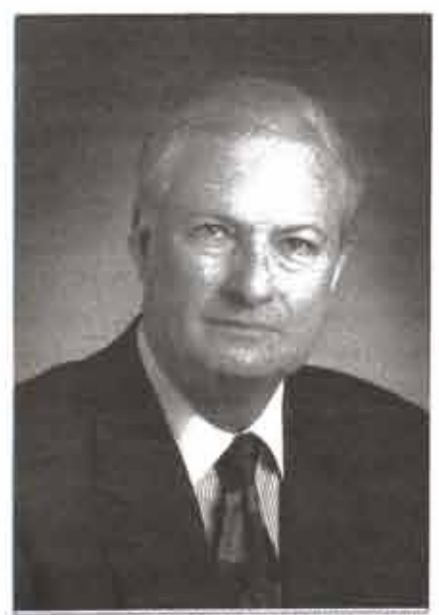
"I'm just delighted that he has accepted the position," said Blouw, adding he is fully confident that he will be an "engaged chancellor."

"He is very much looking forward to it," he said.

And telling by the eagerness in Pollock's voice, there is no doubt about that.

"I'm very honoured to be asked to join as chancellor," said Pollock. "I really have a long-term interest in the field of education."

- SEE POLLOCK, PAGE 2



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**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"Ohhhhhhh that's tight!"

Graphics Editor Julie Marion, after ogling Print Production Manager Alex Hayter's "goodies".

**WORD OF THE WEEK**

**Indisposed** - Sick or ill, as in the majority of the Ed. Board Wednesday morning at 3 am.

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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.

# Grad students vote

This Monday, graduate students will vote in a referendum which will decide the fate of the GSA; students will join the Students' Union and Student Publications if they vote "Yes" on their ballots



SYDNEY HELLAND

**MOVING OUT?** - The current office of the GSA, located in the Arts Building, may be moving if graduate students vote "Yes" to joining WLUSU.

- FROM GSA, COVER

Banks feels that the GSA is currently unable to fill its role properly.

She added that, in joining WLUSU, "Grad students will be able to share resources with WLUSU, which will increase efficiency, and dramatically decrease overhead costs."

On the other hand, Culum Canally, the foreperson for the "No" campaign, feels that this is not necessarily the case.

His main concern is that graduate students will ultimately lose their voice should the GSA become part of WLUSU.

"The reason the GSA was created in the first place back in 1995 was because WLUSU wasn't working [for them]," he said.

Canally fears that merging the GSA with WLUSU would be a grave mistake, mainly because the two organizations are "like oil and water" in that they function differently and serve different purposes.

Canally went on to explain that he feels that WLUSU has a "very corporate structure" that, in the end, would not benefit graduate students.

Among his concerns is that, should the merger be passed by graduate students, the VP: Graduate Students would be one of eight vice-presidents in WLUSU.

"This will give our representative to the university the same marginal voice as the undergraduates' VP: Marketing, VP: Student Activities, and VP: Brantford," said Canally.

But Banks disagrees, claiming that she doesn't "think [the

GSA] have a voice by being independent."

She feels that, in being overextended and under-supported, the GSA is unable to address many issues that affect grad students, and that they could do more if they had the support and the resources that joining WLUSU would give them.

In regard to Canally's concerns that joining WLUSU would be ineffective for graduate student representation, Banks noted, should the GSA become part of WLUSU, "we're not stuck. We have the option to separate [from WLUSU] again should it not work in our favour, and WLUSU knows that."

While both Banks and Canally are respectively for and against the merger of the GSA and WLUSU, respectively, they both agree that "there are a lot of 'ifs' involved," in Canally's words.

In regards to the other referendum questions, there does not seem to be much opposition to the first referendum question: that the GSA join WLUSP.

Steve Lafleur, the foreperson for the "Yes" campaign on the issue, commented that, "Frankly, I don't know if there's much of a case to be made against it."

Lafleur sees the potential merger as highly beneficial for graduate students, chiefly in that it would allow for printed copies of *The Gradvocate*, the GSA's monthly electronic newsletter, to be made available to students.

Ellen Menage, the Chief Returning Officer for the referendum, stated that, if nothing else, she hopes that graduate students

understand that "they have many opportunities to vote" and that it is important they do so.

Though polls will be open on Monday from 9 am to 5 pm, students can also vote in advance in the GSA office on Thursday, which will be open from 10 am to 3 pm.

Menage also noted that graduate students can cast their votes through a confidential e-mail voting system.

The GSA will be holding an Open Forum tomorrow evening from 6:00 to 8:00 pm in BA101, to discuss the various issues surrounding the referendum.

**CORD/ONLINE**

> cordweekly.com  
> News

**Open Forum**

The GSA will be hosting an Open Forum tonight from 6:00 until 8:00 pm, to discuss the issues on Monday's ballot. Check CordWeekly.com on Thursday for a recap.

# Chancellor Pollock

- FROM POLLOCK, COVER

In speaking about how he intends to balance his new responsibilities, which include signing honorary doctorates and attending convocations, along with the multiple community boards he sits on, Pollock did not express any concerns.

"I've taken this role knowing full well the responsibilities that it involves and I'm prepared to meet them," he assured.

When asked what was ultimately the most appealing aspect of taking on the role of be-

ing Laurier's seventh chancellor, the businessman - who lives in Cambridge with his wife Joyce - expressed how he felt it was such "an exciting time" for the school as a whole.

"I think Max brings a vitality to WLU that will make for some exciting times at Laurier in the next couple of years," he explained.

"The opportunities for Laurier are very significant."

Pollock will officially step into the new role on March 31 and will then be installed at the summer convocation on June 4.

**VOCAL CORD**

"How have your academics been affected by the strike?"



"I've had one lecture cancelled, and then some tutorials."

- **Kristen Saunders**  
First-year Business



"I have two classes instead of four. I'm supposed to be graduating this year."

- **Kaitlyn McQuaid**  
Fourth-year Arts and Women's Studies



"I will be angry if I lose my money, but if I lose my credit it wouldn't be such a big deal because I'm staying here anyway."

- **Jamie Richardson**  
Fourth-year Classical Studies



"I have one class cancelled, but I didn't really go anyway."

- **Andrew Tillmann**  
Second-year Business



"Not at all. None of my classes have been cancelled."

- **Hassan Baig**  
First-year Business

# CAS strike continues

## What students should be doing if their professors are currently on strike, according to VP: Academic Sue Horton

If professors have not been in contact with you and provided you with alternate arrangements, complete all assignments and submit them to the dean or associate dean of your faculty. They will be marked once the strike is complete.

- FROM CAS, COVER

Though some students have taken a stance on the issue, specifically following a protest last Thursday in which approximately 60 individuals went to administration offices to voice their concerns about the strike, there are still many questions left unanswered.

VP: Academic Sue Horton told protesters that there might be a possibility of a Town Hall open forum at which students could voice their concerns and ask questions.

However, after speaking with president of WLU Max Blouw, this will now be in a virtual format.

"That was the president's decision," said Horton.

"I did what I was asked to, I spoke eloquently about what the students wanted, but ultimately he's the one that has the direction of the university," she added.

Currently, Horton is working out a contingency plan with others from administration to set in place a guide for students as to what will happen to their term if the strike continues for an extended amount of time (see above).

Despite the differences of the two sides, Horton hopes that administration and the WLUFBA bargaining team will be able to work together to sort out the situation for the sake of the students.

"We're all part of the same community," said Horton.

"Both sides have to want to set-

## Students' options for CAS classes, according to VP: Academic Sue Horton

- 1) If professors submit their final exams, students may be able to write them during the scheduled examination period and professors will mark them once the strike is over.
- 2) Students' exams may be deferred to the next examination period and, depending on their availability, this could occur either in June, August or as late as December.
- 3) In special circumstances, such as for students that are graduating, they may be able to apply for aegrotat status, which means their coursework to date would comprise their final grade for the course. This would involve applying to the petitions committee, and submitting a request to the office of the dean of their faculty.
- 4) If a class is not being taught due to the strike, students may drop their courses through LORIS, between March 24 and April 9, and receive a portion of their tuition back.

\* Students should speak to their department dean or associate if the above options do not work for them.

tle, both sides have to make compromises ... and both sides are going to have to give something up," she added.

Michelle Kramer, a negotiator with WLUFBA and full-time faculty member, is feeling first-hand the difficulties of supporting the strike while adhering to her limited term appointment contract.

"That puts me in a really awkward position," said Kramer.

"On the one hand, I have to be out there and be really supportive of the strike and on the other hand, I'm out there doing a full-time teaching job," she added.

Kramer believes that students need to be informed about how the strike affects them.

"I think what the students need

is much more detailed information ... and no person on the picket line has it and no full-time faculty has it," said Kramer.

Despite all of the various issues involved, Kramer still feels that since the interests of the students are the number one priority for both sides, there is a lot of pressure on the bargaining teams.

"The thoughts of all the CAS [are] that it's unfortunate. I haven't spoken to anyone who wanted it to come this way," said Kramer.

"I honestly can't express to you the magnitude of our disappointment."

See PAGE 18 for editorial reaction to this story



SYDNEY HELLAND

**CROWD SUPPORT** - 355 protesters marched through the Laurier campus on Thursday afternoon to show their support for the striking CAS.

### CORD/ONLINE

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

#### Part-time faculty strike: Day 1

Hours after the CAS strike, **Laura Carlson** talks to administration, public affairs and picketers for updates and to see how the strike was effecting them.

#### Part-time faculty strike: Day 2

**Rebecca Vasluianu** attends an on-campus rally at which 355 activists provided their support for CAS, by marching through campus. A group of approximately 60 students then entered

administration offices for answers regarding their concerns.

#### Part-time faculty strike: Day 6

After the long weekend, **Laura Carlson** gets an update on the strike, and it was learned that no upcoming negotiations were planned.

Visit [www.CordWeekly.com](http://www.CordWeekly.com) for **Sydney Helland's** photo galleries of the strike.

All the latest strike news at **CordWeekly.com**

**CANADAIN BRIEF**

**CFS suffers setback**

**Burnaby and Victoria, BC**

Students at Simon Fraser University and graduate students at the University of Victoria have voted to leave the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

Though 66 percent of students voted to leave the CFS at Simon Fraser, representatives from the national student lobby group are calling the validity of the results into question, citing things such as ballots being found outside polling locations, people campaigning right outside of stations and people directing students on how to vote.

The group feels that a lawsuit may be the next step.

The graduate students at Victoria voted 58 percent in favour of withdrawing their membership from CFS.

**Cricket prank in St. FX residence**

**Antigonish, NS**

In a prank just prior to an inter-residence hockey game, 1,000 crickets were released into a student dormitory just before the Xavier Cup. St. Francis Xavier University's residence hockey tournament.

Members of team Chisholm and Gillis set the insects free in their rival team Thompson and Tompkins' residence last Sunday just two days prior to the scheduled hockey game.

One student of the residence was removed because she had a fear of crickets, and small sticky

pads were placed in each room to eliminate the remaining bugs.

According to the *Xaverian Weekly*, four individuals came forward the day after the prank admitting their involvement, where it was learned that the president and vice-president of the residence knew about the situation, though they had previously denied it 24 hours earlier.

The two house leaders were asked to resign, as they were told that they would face impeachment on behalf of the Student Union Council if they did not.

Both teams were removed from the hockey tournament and bonding activities are currently being scheduled between the two residences.

**Student protest ban met by rally**

**Montreal, QC**

A court-approved ban on student protests at l'Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) was responded to by approximately 150 students last Tuesday.

The group gathered to form a human chain representing their disapproval of the possible increase in tuition at the post-secondary institution.

Currently, the university is looking to finalize the plans to reduce its debt, along with revamping its budget and fee structure.

The ban on student protests, which was put forth by the school's administration, will last until March 27 and is intended to stop 14,000 striking students from protesting within 100 meters of cam-

pus as well as interfering with the regular class schedule. Any violations to the new policy could result in a fine of up to \$50,000.

According to *The McGill Daily*, two students have already been suspended this month for being involved with strike actions and many professors have been very supportive of the students by joining with demonstrations or writing letters of support.

**Ryerson student avoids expulsion for Facebook study group**

**Toronto, ON**

After facing off against the engineering faculty appeals committee, first-year Ryerson student Chris Avenir has managed to avoid expulsion for his involvement as the administrator of a Facebook study group established last fall.

However, the 18-year-old student will receive a mark of zero on the chemistry assignment discussed in the group, which was worth 10 percent of his final mark in the course.

Avenir will also be required to attend a seminar regarding academic integrity and his transcript will now carry a disciplinary notice. He originally faced 147 charges of academic misconduct, one for every member who had joined the Facebook group.

The group was originally formed with the intention of offering a forum for students to brainstorm and share advice about how to complete online questions assigned by the professor, who had stipulated

that the questions were to be done independently.

Because no full solutions were ever posted, controversy arose about whether or not the Facebook group was any different than other collective study tactics, like tutoring, mentoring or working together in homework groups, which are all permissible according to the university.

**Sit-in at University of Toronto broken up by police and security**

**Toronto, ON**

A sit-in at the University of Toronto ended with police and campus security forcefully breaking up the group of about 35 students, who had gathered outside the president's office and then moved to the university's vice-provost office.

The students were intending to hand over a petition, which spoke out against a 20 percent increase in residence fees, to the president of U of T.

Since they were told to disperse after they demanded to speak to the president, the protesters were unable to have any contact with representatives of the university administration.

The protesters made arrangements to gather outside of the University Affairs Board yesterday to put forward their demands regarding fees.

- Compiled by Laura Carlson and Jennifer Rae

**CORD/ONLINE**  
 > cordweekly.com  
 > News

**Harper met in Guelph by local protesters**

Dan Polischuk reports on an event in which activists, some from WLU, protested the opening of a new Conservative campaign office.

**Bag o' Crime**  
 exclusively online  
**Crime of the Week**

**Graffiti**

Reported: 11:02am  
 Tues. Mar. 18/08


Person(s) unknown damaged property by spray-painting graffiti on the wall in the Student Services building near the Paul Martin Centre.

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# Laurier Centre for Music set to open



GREG MCKENZIE

**JOIN THE CHORUS** - WLU students are encouraged to attend this weekend's opening of the Laurier Centre for Music in the Community.

**MADHAVI GANJU**  
STAFF WRITER

The Laurier Centre for Music in the Community is officially set to open its doors to the public this Friday and Saturday and will be marked with various kinds of performances to be held in the Theatre Auditorium.

Shows are held Friday at 8 pm and Saturday at both 3 pm and 8 pm.

Although the Centre has been carrying out other activities over the past year, this weekend will be their official opening to the public.

The director of the Centre, Lee Willingham, noted that the whole campus is invited to these shows.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors, which can either be purchased at the door or ordered in advance. The major sponsor of the event is the Musagetes Fund of the K-W Community Foundation.

There is also a special initiatives

grant from WLU, enabling the creators of this event to reduce what they have to charge for the show.

Any extra money made will be contributed towards scholarships for music students.

First-year music student James Dickie will be singing as a part of the concert, and he feels that it's "going to be a great program because they're going to reach out to the community and do a whole bunch of work with them."

Peter Hatch, a professor in the music department, has been commissioned to compose a piece for the show.

Willingham explained how "composers who create the scores typically don't work with anybody, like a painter or a writer."

In this case, however, Hatch is working with two senior students, Colin Labadie and Heather Olaveson, so it's "a beautiful thing they've done," Willingham said.

The showcase of the event is the performance of Carl Orff's famous *Carmina Burana*, which Willingham explains sets the poetry of fif-

teenth-century German monks to music.

The other significant piece in the event is *Imaginibus Mundi*, which is the new work created by Labadie and Olaveson.

There will be a candlelight vigil in the middle of the piece that, in principle, supports the Earth Hour initiative that will be taking place at various locales around the world on Saturday night and which aims to raise environmental awareness.

The Centre has also partnered with Motus O, which, according to Willingham, is a "very edgy creative dance troupe," to create an interdisciplinary performance.

Saturday will also see a special town hall meeting held from 10 am until noon, at which the Dean of the Faculty of Music, Charles Morrison, will be present.

"We want everyone to come, students and members of the community, to talk about culture, music and how our community lives as a creative community and how music plays a role in that," concluded Willingham.



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For more information about this program and how to apply for the August 2008 intake visit [www.charlessturt.ca](http://www.charlessturt.ca)

This program is offered under the written consent of the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities for the period from 24 December 2004 to 24 December 2008. Prospective students are responsible for satisfying themselves that the program and the degree will be appropriate to their needs (e.g. acceptable to potential employers, professional licensing bodies or other educational institutions).



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# A diverse new tradition

Winners of Laurier art competition announced; Kimberly Maruncic and Julia Westelaken were both selected for their artwork on diversity

**MARA SILVESTRI**  
STAFF WRITER

Laurier's first diversity art mural contest, which was held as a joint project with Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU), has recently announced its winners for their submissions of art that express diversity.

Coordinator of Student Diversity Adam Lawrence had a vision for the competition when the lack of liveliness in artwork at Laurier became evident to him.

"I love the idea of tradition at Laurier and I wanted to start some traditions by livening it up and allowing students to show diversity," said Lawrence.

Out of seven entries, the judging committee could not decide between what they viewed as two exceptional submissions - leaving two winners for the first year of the competition.

The two winners are Kimberley Maruncic and Julia Westelaken, who both wanted to send a message to the community on the topic of diversity.

The judges felt that both winners captured an important interpretation of diversity in the work which they submitted.

"It's diversity from a student's perspective instead of the administration telling us we have a diverse community," said Westelaken in regards to why she entered her piece in the contest.

Westelaken's co-winner felt the same way.

"I just thought it would be neat to incorporate everything. We don't really hear about a lot of that stuff, especially at Laurier, so I just wanted to be a part of it," said Maruncic.

Lawrence commented that the rules for the mural submissions were quite vague so that the artists would not feel restricted in what they should produce.

The main guideline, though, was creativity in conveying diversity.

"When we talk about diversity, we talk about the uniqueness of every person that attends Laurier," he said.

With the guidelines in mind, Maruncic's artwork conveys "something for every major that you can take at Laurier," because she believes there is no better way to represent diversity at WLU.

Westelaken's art piece, on the other hand takes the angle of why Laurier is home to her.

"We have people around in all shapes and sizes; [it] just represents everyone being accepted," she says.

Lawrence is hoping that the com-

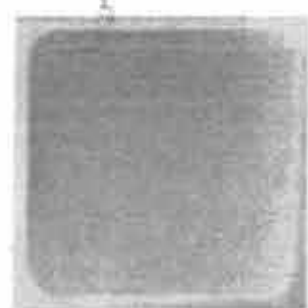
petition will extend into upcoming years, both to "liven things up" and bring awareness to diversity on campus.

Both Maruncic and Westelaken will produce a larger representation of their work on a canvas, one of which will be displayed in the 24-hour lounge in the Fred Nichols Campus Centre and the other in the Office for Student Diversity in May.

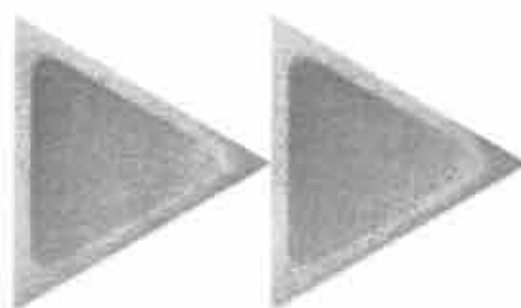


SYDNEY HELLAND

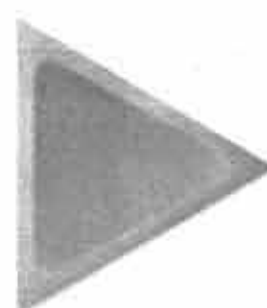
**PICTURE PERFECT** - Kimberley Maruncic's artwork was one of the two winning entries for the Mural Project.



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# Canadian tortured in Syria speaks out

Abdullah Almalki was detained in Malaysia, then held and interrogated in Syria. Canada could have ended his torture by sending a letter to the Syrian authorities informing them that there was no existing warrant against him, saving him months of abuse

JENNIFER RAE  
STAFF WRITER

As Canadians, we are accustomed to thinking of our government and intelligence agencies in a relatively positive light, regarding them as democratic, fair and legitimate.

Thus, the notion that the Canadian government is complicit in the torture of human beings around the world is not a simple truth to

accept. And when those human beings are actually Canadian citizens, the very people our government should be most determined to protect, the truth becomes even more complicated.

For Abdullah Almalki, who spoke yesterday night as part of an event called "Abandoned by Canada: Torture Survivors Speak Out", Canada's problematic stance on torture has had life-altering effects.

The event, co-sponsored by Anti-War @ Laurier and the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group, proved to be an invaluable experience for all in attendance.

Almalki talked candidly about his personal experiences as a Canadian citizen who was subjected to almost two years of torture and imprisonment in an overseas jail.

Though the torture took place in Syria, Almalki revealed the astounding extent to which Canadian authorities and intelligence agencies were not only aware of the treatment he was receiving, but were actually conspiring to prolong his detention and interrogation. Almalki explained that alarmingly, "Mine is not an isolated case."

It was in the 1990s that Almalki first encountered surveillance by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). He spoke of being followed by up to five vehicles at a time as he and his family went about their most basic of daily activities, such as grocery shopping or going to the public library.

He also explained that a camera was installed across the street from his home. The climate of harassment worsened following the 9/11 attacks, and eventually, Almalki and his family decided to temporarily leave the country and travel to Malaysia to visit relatives.

Almalki explained that at this point, the evidence gathered against him by Canadian authorities was most likely considered tainted, and could not be used for prosecution.

Instead, he spoke of a policy of "prevention," or the mandate that when information is not adequate,

and an individual cannot legally be detained in Canada, that individual is instead pushed outside of the country, where alternative measures can be pursued.

Indeed, when Almalki arrived in Malaysia, he was detained and questioned. The reason behind his arrest was reportedly the fact that the Canadian government had requested he be investigated, though Malaysian authorities determined he had done nothing wrong, and soon released him.

**FOR ABDULLAH ALMALKI, WHO SPOKE YESTERDAY NIGHT AS PART OF AN EVENT CALLED "ABANDONED BY CANADA: TORTURE SURVIVORS SPEAK OUT", CANADA'S PROBLEMATIC STANCE ON TORTURE HAS HAD LIFE-ALTERING EFFECTS.**

However, months later, during a trip to Syria in May 2002, Almalki was again detained. This time he remained in custody for 22 months, and was relentlessly tortured.

Almalki describes the first time he was ever hit, saying, "That slap took my humanity away. That really crushed by dignity. I feel the humiliation of that slap even today. It wasn't human beings just talking anymore."

After two months underground, Almalki was finally exposed to a few minutes of daylight when he was brought to a "breathing room", where he says, "I realized for the first time in my life how beautiful the sky is."

During his presentation, Almalki

described the many ways in which Canada was complicit in his detention and torture.

He asserts that he was essentially imprisoned by proxy, and that evidence shows the RCMP and CSIS were working alongside the Syrian Military Intelligence, formulating questions to be asked during interrogation, passing false information to prolong his detention, and doing nothing to prevent the torture that they knew to be occurring.

Almalki explained that the Canadian government did not demand a consular visit to check on his well being, nor did they demand doctor access. Furthermore, the RCMP repeatedly delayed the simple letter to the Syrian authorities saying that there was no outstanding arrest warrant against Almalki in Canada, which ultimately resulted in his release.

Following Almalki's talk, his legal representative Hadayt Nazami, as well as Matthew Behrens of the Stop Canadian Involvement in Torture organization, addressed the audience.

The pair provided further information about the secret Canadian inquiry that has been underway for the past year, supposedly investigating the charges against Almalki.

Thus far, 40 witnesses have been called and a total of 35,000 documents examined, yet Almalki and his lawyers have not been allowed to view a single piece of this evidence, for reasons of "national security."



RYAN STEWART

**BREATHE** - Almalki realized "how beautiful the sky is" after being sent to a "breathing room" after two months of confinement in Syria.

## WORLD IN BRIEF

### Khadr hearing begins

The Supreme Court of Canada has decided to hear Omar Khadr's lawyers' arguments about the alleged unfair treatment and legality of detention undergone by the Toronto-born male who was captured in Afghanistan in 2002.

At the time, Khadr was 15 years old; however, now he is facing charges for the murder of US Army Sgt. Christopher Speer and for other injuries he caused after throwing a grenade in a firefight between US forces and Taliban fighters.

Khadr survived serious injuries including two gunshot wounds in the back and shrapnel lacerations to the eyes, according to Reuters News.

Khadr maintains that he was unfairly treated while being kept in Afghanistan and experienced further abuse after being moved to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Threats of rape and harsh treatment made his detainment unlawful, according to his lawyers.

Khadr's US military defence

lawyer, Lt.-Cmdr. Bill Kuebler, also questions Canada's lack of advocacy for the then-teen in the international matter. He claims that because Khadr was 15 years old at the time, he deserves the "child soldier status," under which he would be reintegrated into society.

He was "a victim of al Qaeda, not a member," Kuebler said.

### Tibetans protest over Olympic torch

Anti-government protests are once again flaring up in Tibet, as the politically turbulent area riots in protest of China's control over the region.

On March 16, the Xinhua News Agency reported that Chinese police forces opened fire in Aba county, Tibet, on protesters "in self defense".

According to BBC News, China claims only 13 people have been killed during protests, whereas the exiled Tibetan government has

said that at least 99 people have died so far.

According to various news sources, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice advised the Chinese Secretary of State to show restraint and enter talks with the Dalai Lama.

Right now, riots in the capital of Tibet, Lhasa, led to calls for a route change in the Olympic torch procession for the Beijing 2008 games.

Initially, the route was to take the iconic torch through Tibet and then proceed to the summit of Mount Everest.

Matt Whitticase, a Free Tibet campaign spokesperson, said that a torch relay through Tibet would be an "abhorrent sight" and that China wants to use the Olympics as a tool for showing the world that Tibet is "complacent with their role in relation to China."

This, however, is not the case, he said, as Tibet views complete independence from China as their ultimate goal.

### New threats posed

The surfacing of a new Osama bin Laden tape last week marked al Qaeda's first for 2008. Despite being latent for months, bin Laden's newest audio release laid to rest questions that the al Qaeda leader was dead or ailing.

As reported on Fox News, on the five-minute tape, bin Laden directed threats specifically toward the European Union. He warned of retaliation for the reprinting of the infamous 2005 Danish cartoons, which controversially depicted the Islamic prophet Muhammad.

Suspicion over the exact date of the recording is debatable due to the generic nature of the tape itself, notably its lack of post-2006 references.

However, US intelligence officials agree there is no reason to doubt the voice on the audiotape belongs to Osama bin Laden and the threats, although unspecific, should be taken seriously by the European community.

### Progressive peace

Nigeria and Cameroon reached a peaceful settlement last week concerning long-disputed territory in the Gulf of Guinea. The dispute over an oil-rich peninsula in the Atlantic Ocean spanned decades and was infamous for occasional violent flare-ups with bloody repercussions.

Despite an International Criminal Court ruling in favour of Cameroon's occupation of the land in 2002, many native to the region felt an all-out war between the two nations was inevitable.

However, a Reuters news reports revealed that a March 14 agreement solidified peace on the issue and ensured the full withdrawal of Nigerian forces from the disputed territory by August 2008. For Africa, a continent where extreme violence is commonplace, the report reaffirmed that a contest being settled through mere dialogue would be a major step.

- Compiled by Ashley Doodnauth and Paula Millar



# China aiding world

Dr. Gregory Chin, an assistant professor at York University, spoke at CIGI regarding the billions of dollars given in assistance programs internationally

**HEATHER MACDONALD**  
STAFF WRITER

Yesterday, Dr. Gregory Chin teamed up with the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) to lecture on the motivations behind China's development on foreign assistance.

An assistant professor at York University and Senior Fellow at CIGI, Dr. Chin spoke on behalf of the Chinese government in Beijing, labelling them as "international donors."

China wants to be involved with foreign assistance to countries in need, but Dr. Chin states, "We are very careful about where we sit with global donors," adding that some assistance programs do not follow through on their promises, giving donor communities a reputation for being unreliable.

Prior to describing China as a poor nation, Dr. Chin discussed the billions of dollars in assistance China has put forth to developing countries in Africa. He spoke of a more grassroots approach prior to the lull in the 1980s as opposed to the financial support they attempt today, which he believes is more

effective.

The G7, a meeting of the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, is very critical of the actions taken by China and Dr. Chin doesn't understand why.

Dr. Chin explains the G7's approach to the war on terrorism, with "a lot of assistance pushed towards poverty."

The people of China challenge this thought because they feel Africans will only continue to feel as though the rest of the world is condescending.

Rather than seeing Africa as a burden to the rest of the world, Dr. Chin feels China is doing their best work to create partnerships with African countries.

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) partnered with 41 African leaders at the 2006 summit, showing China's efforts in creating partnerships that meet the needs of each individual country.

Dr. Chin doesn't feel as though the G7 would ever attempt to forge these types of personal relationships and believes the "European Union is threatened" by China be-

cause of this, as the EU has always had close ties with many African countries.

Between the massive wave of criticism towards China as a foreign aid donor and the large sum of money Dr. Chin says is pouring out of China, the Chinese government is being forced to become more transparent in their aid work.

Since there has been an increase in donations to African countries, all the incoming money must be tracked, essentially creating a more trusted image of China.

Dr. Chin described doing small community projects like building wells as a micro-level of assistance. He sees China as one to work towards macro-levels but recognizes that they have difficulties with aid management.

Because of this, China is interested in donor cooperation with Canada since the Canadian government has a long history with British banks, something Dr. Chin believes "China can learn from."

A colleague suggested to Dr. Chin that China and Canada go to Africa together to see the projects they are both working on. But Canada seems to be the least of their



SYDNEY HELLAND

**CHINA-A** - Dr. Chin believes that China has a more wholesome approach to foreign aid development and is more engaged in the needs of Africa.

worries in regards to reactions from powerful countries.

"How the US reacts to China's foreign aid will affect China's future assistance," he said, later comparing the US to a mother figure in that, "You never question the head

of the household."

Dr. Chin closed after thoroughly discussing China's desire to avoid becoming a traditional donor by saying that he "hopes China and traditional donors can build a constructive partnership."

# United States needs to be a better broker



**YUSUF FAQIRI**  
CORD INTERNATIONAL

We all expect to be treated with dignity and respect. But as most of us know, these basic rights of humanity do not exist in some areas of the world. In the West, we preach about preserving the basic necessities of life, yet it is this very Western entity, led by the United States, who espouses the greatest hypocrisy.

Now if we turn our eyes to America's oft-called - notably by the Ayn Rand Institute in California - "only true ally" in the Middle East, Israel, some of the greatest human rights abuses are being committed by this nation state.

I lived a good part of my life in the Middle East in a war-torn country, but even I cannot relate to the living conditions of the Palestinian people.

In the beginning of the first week of March, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's government launched a military operation on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip that included air strikes where 110 Palestinian people, the majority civilians, were killed and another 350 injured.

The Israeli government launched this military assault to dissuade the Hamas Islamist movement from firing rockets into Israel. I condemn Hamas for using these tactics

against innocent Israeli civilians. I understand that Israel has the responsibility to protect its citizens.

But at the same time, how can they justify the murder of mostly civilians, including women, children and disabled people? As far as I know, indiscriminate killings such as these are against international law.

But then again why would Israel care about international law? They have defied it since 1967 by occupying the Gaza Strip and the West Bank illegally.

For a people who do not have much, the Palestinian people have remained resilient with all the odds against them.

They have been abandoned by the many coward leaders of the Arab World who preach solidarity with the Palestinians all the while turning a blind eye to their situation, while at the same time the international community sits idly and watches the Palestinians suffocate in one of the worst human conditions in the world.

Currently, Islamist group Hamas has taken over Gaza while Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party maintains power in the West Bank. Both groups have brought harm to their people. Abbas has not turned out to be that unified leader that many touted him to be while Hamas has isolated the Palestinians internationally by stubbornly not recognizing Israel.

I have always believed in a two-state solution to solve the Arab-

Israeli conflict. But this conflict will never be solved without an honest broker.

The current American administration has become a lap-dog for Israel. Israel has been able to do virtually anything with the United States permission.

Furthermore, Israel seems reluctant to adhere to international law unless it is pressured to do so by Washington. Unfortunately, it appears this will not happen anytime soon.

The building of illegal settlements on promised Palestinian land by

the Israeli government undermines any future peace effort between the Palestinians and Israelis.

Just last week Olmert approved the building of 54 housing units in the West Bank, which belongs to Palestine as per prior agreement.

I find it quite amusing that Olmert, at the Annapolis meeting in November, pledged to work out a final peace plan deal with Abbas by the end of 2008; however, all the while he continues to build settlements on Palestinian land.

Israel will not achieve lasting peace if it takes a route like this.

For the Palestinians, they will never achieve peace if they let the rest of the Arab states speak on their behalf and continue to resort to means that aggravate the Israelis.

In addition to this, they need to unite under a leader who will genuinely speak for them. These tit-for-tat games between Hamas and Fatah are harmful to their cause. Palestinians and Israelis are rational people who can achieve peace if the proper mechanisms exist.

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# Will the upsets continue?

With one weekend of March Madness out of the way, the Cinderella teams now face the tests of their lives as the field narrows, weaning out the weak



**JOE TURCOTTE**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS  
EDITOR

## Sweet Sixteen

- (1) UNC over (4) WSU
- (3) Louisville over (2) Tennessee
- (12) Villanova over (1) Kansas
- (3) Wisconsin over (10) Davidson
- (5) MSU over (1) Memphis
- (2) Texas over (3) Stanford
- (1) UCLA over (12) WKU
- (3) Xavier over (7) West Virginia

## Elite Eight

- (2) Louisville over (1) UNC
- (3) Wisconsin over (12) Villanova
- (2) Texas over (5) MSU
- (1) UCLA over (2) Xavier

So, apparently the logic that I used when making the picks for the first rounds of this year's tournament was flawed. But, come on, who would have thought that *two* seven-foot players would get the best of *one* seven-footer — as happened when Stanford defeated Cornell? Luckily, this week I've learned from my mistakes.

That's why I see the fifth-seeded Michigan State Spartans upsetting the number one ranked Memphis Tigers. Of course, I realize that Memphis is on fire, but having barely squeaked by the eighth-seeded Mississippi State Bulldogs, the Tigers' deficiencies at the free throw line have been exposed.

Sure, Memphis is an athletic and gifted squad on the floor, but when it comes to crunch time and the game's on the line at the foul stripe, it'll be the Spartans who march on,

against another team that overcame the odds in #13 San Diego, who had a massive upset over UConn. Western Kentucky has been on a bit of a fairytale run thus far, so expect them to give UCLA a run for their money.

UCLA got quite a scare from Texas A&M, but I anticipate that Coach Howland gave them a lashing after the game. The team will rebound in a convincing manner with a statement game versus Western Kentucky.

Expect the UNC Tar Heels to continue their strong play into the Elite Eight and deep into the tournament. Tyler Hansbrough has been stellar for the Tar Heels, leading them to convincing victories over Mt. St. Mary's and Arkansas.

They will face their first "challenge" this week when they battle fourth-seeded Washington St. Don't expect a close game in this one, as UNC is on a roll. Oh, and I forgot to mention, the Tar Heels are averaging merely 110.5 points per game in the tournament.



**CHRIS BALUSCHAK**  
STAFF WRITER

## Sweet Sixteen

- (1) UNC over (4) WSU
- (3) Louisville over (2) Tennessee
- (1) Kansas over (12) Villanova
- (3) Wisconsin over (10) Davidson
- (5) MSU over (1) Memphis
- (2) Texas over (3) Stanford
- (1) UCLA over (12) WKU
- (7) West Virginia over (3) Xavier

## Elite Eight

- (1) UNC over (3) Louisville
- (1) Kansas over (3) Wisconsin
- (2) Texas over (5) Michigan St.
- (1) UCLA over (7) West Virginia

Definitely a surprise out of the West bracket has been #12 Western Kentucky. In the second round, they caught a bit of a break by facing off



**JORDAN VAN HORN**  
STAFF WRITER

## Sweet Sixteen

- (1) UNC over (4) WSU
- (3) Louisville over (2) Tennessee
- (1) Kansas over (12) Villanova
- (10) Davidson over (3) Wisconsin
- (1) Memphis over (5) MSU
- (2) Texas over (2) Stanford
- (1) UCLA over (12) WKU
- (3) Xavier over (7) West Virginia

## Elite Eight

- (3) Louisville over (1) UNC
- (1) Kansas over (10) Davidson
- (1) Memphis over (2) Texas
- (1) UCLA over (3) Xavier



SYDNEY HELLAND

## Sweet Sixteen

This is the most exciting game of the third round. Both teams have shown perks of absolute greatness and have both suffered lackluster defeats.

This game is going to come down to whether Tennessee's outside shooting game can defeat Louisville's inside presence of 6'11" forward David Padgett.

My prediction: Louisville knocks off a great Tennessee team and moves on to face the mighty Tar Heels.

## Elite Eight

UCLA will win their game in a close one. Xavier plays great defense, but when a player like Kevin Love is playing at his top ability, he cannot be stopped. Bad news for Xavier is that he is.

Anyone who saw Love absolutely dominate the end of UCLA's second round match-up saw how big of a factor he is in a close game. Who knew he had those fade away Js in him? Big players play in big games and that will be the difference in this one.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



**RAYMOND GU**  
STAFF WRITER

## Sweet Sixteen

- (1) UNC over (4) WSU
- (3) Louisville over (2) Tennessee
- (1) Kansas over (12) Villanova
- (10) Davidson over (3) Wisconsin
- (1) Memphis over (5) MSU
- (2) Texas over (3) Stanford
- (1) UCLA over (12) WKU
- (7) West Virginia over (3) Xavier

## Elite Eight

- (1) UNC over (3) Louisville
- (1) Kansas over (10) Davidson
- (2) Texas over (1) Memphis
- (1) UCLA over (7) West Virginia

## Sweet Sixteen

Fresh off their win over Duke, West Virginia seems to find ways to win

behind the efforts of Joe Alexander, and if WVU continually gets un-sung performances from their role players, they can defeat Xavier.

The other potential upset is Davidson, and if they keep the game close, Stephen Curry will single-handedly defeat them in the second half. Wisconsin will try to take advantage of their size, but the Davidson and Goliath story will go on for yet another round.

## Elite Eight

In the Elite Eight, I believe the first seeds will continue to reign supreme. However, Louisville might surprise UNC as they have had no trouble at all during this tournament. Still, UNC should be readily prepared for anything.

The only top seed that will be taken down will be Memphis by Texas. Led by one of the best point guards in the tournament, D.J. Augustin, Texas can beat Memphis with his ability to run the offense very efficiently.

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# Golden Hawks report: 07/08

Find out how your favourite teams fared in *The Cord's* evaluation of the success of Golden Hawk varsity athletics this year

## Women's Lacrosse: A+

The ladies secured their fifth consecutive OUA championship title this year, going undefeated all the way through the season and displaying complete domination over all competition. The Hawks picked up three of the five OUA major awards, with Kirsten Gerrie taking offensive player, Britt Boynton picking up defensive player and Jayme Beard taking home rookie of the year. Amy Fincham joined those four with OUA first team all-star honours. The ladies will be strong again next season as they seek to make it six in a row.

- Lauren Millet

## Men's Curling: A+

Winning a national championship warrants a great grade, and considering the men's team defeated three-quarters of the two-time World and Canadian Junior Champions, I can't really find any errors, or room for improvement. As the team heads to Beijing for the World University Games, they will be expected to bring back even more gold. Good job guys, now go kick some international university butt!

- Luke Dotto

## Women's Curling: A+

The ladies also won the big one, and in doing so they staged four monumental comebacks in the process. Not only did they need to come back in the OUA championships, but they also began the nationals 0-3, and then they had to win in a tiebreaker just to make the playoffs. Finding themselves once again in a tough position, they were then forced to take four consecutive ends in order to defeat Manitoba in the final. They were able to rise above their opponent every time and therefore deserve much praise.

- Luke Dotto

## Cheerleading: A+

These Hawks travelled to the Cheerleading Nationals in Brampton this year. They placed first in the Canada-wide competition with an impressive lead, their first and second round total of 862 points putting them 224.5 points ahead of the second place team. Go Hawks!

- Andrea Millet

## Women's Hockey: A

The Golden Hawks women's hockey team has been consistently strong for five years now, and didn't disappoint again this year. After sweeping the OUA with a 23-2-2 record, they headed into nationals hungry for more. After dominating their rivals from Alberta, the Hawks lost a tough battle to the stronger McGill squad but came home with the silver medal. The team showed strong depth and promising rookies, so losing a few key players shouldn't hinder their performance too much. Look for the Hawks at the top of the table again next year.

- Lauren Millet

## Women's Soccer: A-

The women's soccer team exceeded expectations this season finishing with a 7-4-3 record, leading to a first round bye and were a penalty shot away from the finals. Finishing with the bronze medal, the 2007 season was a significant improvement for the young team after finishing 5-5-4 last season and being ousted in the first round of playoffs as a fifth seed. With another full season of experience, the Hawks look well on their way as they inch closer to ending a 13-year championship drought.

- Raymond Giu

## Football: B+

The men had a terrific regular season, going unbeaten until facing the menacing Ottawa Gee Gees at home. Falling to them, they picked it back up to finish the season 7-1 with a win over York. The Hawks were faced with injury after injury; however, the younger guys stepped up and battled hard in every game.

Heading into the playoffs with many of their starters back in the line-up, they were looking for a second Yates victory in three years, but were stunned in the semi-finals by a quicker, hungrier Guelph Gryphons squad.

- Lauren Millet

## Men's Baseball: B

The men's baseball team finished the year with a 9-9 record for the second consecutive year. Although they lost to the eventual OUA champions from Western in the semi-finals, they accomplished several significant achievements. They earned their first OUA playoff victory ever, as they defeated Western in game two of their three-game series, 13-6. Also, four of their players made the all-star team with Scott Mahn making the first team, and Curtis Young, Damien Eccleton and Andrew Stevens making the second. Lastly, after serving as assistant coach for three years, Scott Ballantyne's first season as head coach was a success, taking home OUA coach of the year honours.

- Raymond Giu

## Women's Volleyball: B

The ladies saw an improvement from last season's record, finishing with 12 wins to only seven losses. The team continued their solid playmaking, despite star player Danielle Walker missing a good portion of the season due to a knee injury. The rookies and young team members stepped into her shoes, but it just wasn't enough as the ladies saw a premature exit from the playoffs at the hands of rivals Waterloo.

- Lauren Millet

## Women's Basketball: B-

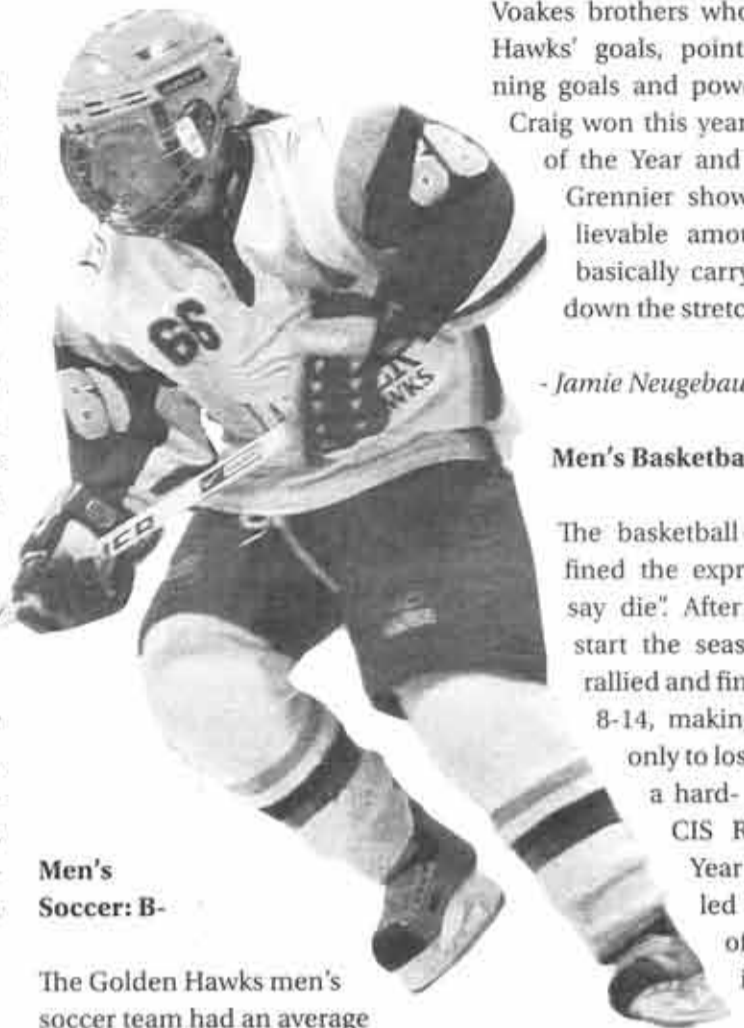
This season was a positive improvement for the Hawks female basketball program. After finishing 5-17 last year, they stepped it up to finish 9-13 this season, only to be dropped by Windsor in the first round of the playoffs. With some promising young players in the line-up, things can only go up from here for the Hawks next season.

- Lauren Millet

## Golf: B-

The Wilfrid Laurier men's golf team had a steady showing all season long, sweeping team gold and individual first at the Laurier Invitational tournament. The team concluded the year placing eighth overall at the two-day OUA championship hosted by Ottawa. Steve Tsandelis led the team throughout the season, claiming first overall at the Guelph and Laurier Invitational tournaments and finishing with an OUA first team all-star selection.

- Lauren Millet



Voakes brothers who were 1-2 in Hawks' goals, points, game-winning goals and power play goals.

Craig won this year's CIS Rookie of the Year and captain Matt Grennier showed an unbelievable amount of heart, basically carrying the team down the stretch.

- Jamie Neugebauer

## Men's Basketball: C

The basketball Hawks redefined the expression "never say die". After going 0-5 to start the season, the team rallied and finished the year 8-14, making the playoffs only to lose to Guelph in a hard-fought battle. CIS Rookie of the Year Kale Harrison led the way on offense, shooting a blistering 45.9% from the field.

Where heart was the team's positive, lack of depth and inexperience was their downfall. Of the 15 players who dressed on a regular occasion, no fewer than nine were first-years.

- Jamie Neugebauer

## Men's Volleyball: D

The Hawks men's volleyball team had an unfortunate season this year, opening with eight losses in their first nine games. Although the team made some adjustments and came back to win their three final matches, they ended their year with a dismal six wins and 14 losses. The Hawks finished in ninth place out of the eleven teams in the OUA and therefore did not advance into the playoffs.

- Andrea Millet

## Men's Rugby: D

The men's rugby team struggled this year, ending at the bottom of their OUA division with a 2-4 season record. After facing annihilation in their opener, losing 43-0 to the McMaster Marauders, the Hawks fought back and won their next two games. Unfortunately, the Hawks' last three games resulted in defeat.

- Andrea Millet

## Women's Rugby: D-

The women's rugby team also faced disappointment this year. After winning their season opener against the Toronto Varsity Blues they accrued four consecutive losses; finishing the season with a 1-4 record. The women landed hard at the bottom of their OUA division.

- Andrea Millet

## Men's Soccer: B-

The Golden Hawks men's soccer team had an average season this year, finishing off with a 6-5-3 record. This placed them fourth in the OUA West Division, and landed three of their players West Division second team all-star honours. The Hawks' play was enough to secure them a position in the playoffs, where they lost to the fifth-ranked Windsor Lancers in the first round.

- Andrea Millet

## Swimming: B-

Outstanding performances by Whitney Rich and Hilary Jackson led to the team finishing fifth overall at the OUA championships. Rich took home double gold in 100m and 200m breaststroke, while Jackson swam away with silver in the 100m backstroke. Veteran David Hughes completed the medal winnings with a bronze in the 400m individual medley. Rich and Jackson also took first team all-star honours.

- Lauren Millet

## Women's Figure Skating: B-

The ladies were consistently in the top half of the table for the majority of the season. Finishing third overall in both the fall and winter invitational competitions, they took home gold in the team synchronized skating event at the OUA championship. They proceeded to finish fourth overall in the OUA.

- Lauren Millet

## Men's Hockey: B-

The squad showed signs of brilliance and promise at home, where they went a remarkable 12-3-1 in the regular and post-season combined. On the road, Laurier was wholly uninspiring, dropping four straight crucial games near the end of the season. Bright spots were the

# Voakes takes top CIS rookie honours

Star rookie showed great speed, heart and goal scoring ability in his first season at Laurier

**JAMIE NEUGEBAUER**  
STAFF WRITER

Coming off one of their best finishes in recent memory last year – including a regular season that saw the Hawks tally 132 goals in 28 games, the second-most in all of Canada – the purple and gold saw relatively little need for front-end help.

Chris Di Ubaldo was the only real offensive threat to depart from a squad who showed themselves to be as offensively deep as any in the nation with a great third place performance at the nationals in Moncton.

Enter into this mix of veterans St. Thomas, Ontario's Craig Voakes. Voakes' scoring prowess was no mystery to anyone, as he had put up strong numbers in the Ontario Hockey League, despite a lack of size.

**NUMEROUS TIMES DURING THE YEAR, HE USED HIS ABILITY TO BEAT DEFENDERS ONE-ON-ONE – A SKILL NOT VERY COMMON IN THE OUA – TO GET TO THE NET AND SCORE SOME BREATHTAKING GOALS.**

In his last year in the league, he split his time between Windsor and Sarnia, scoring just under a point per game with 67 points in 70 matches.

Probably the greatest factor for Voakes' recruitment to Laurier was that his older brother, Mark, had himself been a force for the Golden Hawks for the previous three years as well as leading the scoring in the previous season.

At the beginning of the year, Head Coach Kelly Nobes was excited to see this dynamic offensive force in the purple and gold – and Craig did not disappoint.

In his first pre-season game, a 5-3 Hawks victory over Guelph on September 20, he scored two goals, setting the tone for the year.

During the season, Voakes was a consistent offensive threat and found himself at or near the top of the CIS in a number of significant categories.

He led the league in total goals with 23, finished eighth in points with 42, tied for third in power play goals with 10, second in game-winning goals with 5, and led the league in hat tricks with 3.

"I don't think you can expect that sort of production from any rookie," said Nobes. "He certainly exceeded our expectations."

These stats and the threat he posed to opposing teams earned him both the OUA and recently announced CIS Rookie of the Year awards as well as a place on the CIS All-Rookie team.

"It definitely is an honour to be recognized," commented the ever-humble Voakes. "I didn't come into the year with the goal of receiving these awards.

My brother [Mark Voakes] and I trained together this summer on the ice and I just worked hard. I guess it paid off."

Voakes' package is a formidable one, with a solid blend of

speed, quickness, vision and work-ethic. Numerous times during the year, he used his ability to beat defenders one-on-one – a skill not very common in the OUA – to get to the net and score some breathtaking goals.

Indeed, the Golden Hawks are fortunate to have a player of Voakes' calibre, as not only were his goals plentiful and beautiful, but they were as timely as he was, and it is this ability to produce in tough situations that makes him such a special player.

Craig Voakes' selection as the CIS Rookie of the Year is the second of the varsity athletic season for the Golden Hawks as Kale Harrison of the Men's Basketball team captured the very same prize.



MIKE WHITEHOUSE - LAURIER ATHLETICS

**VERSATILE VOAKES** - Rookie Craig Voakes showed superior promise in his first season with the Hawks.

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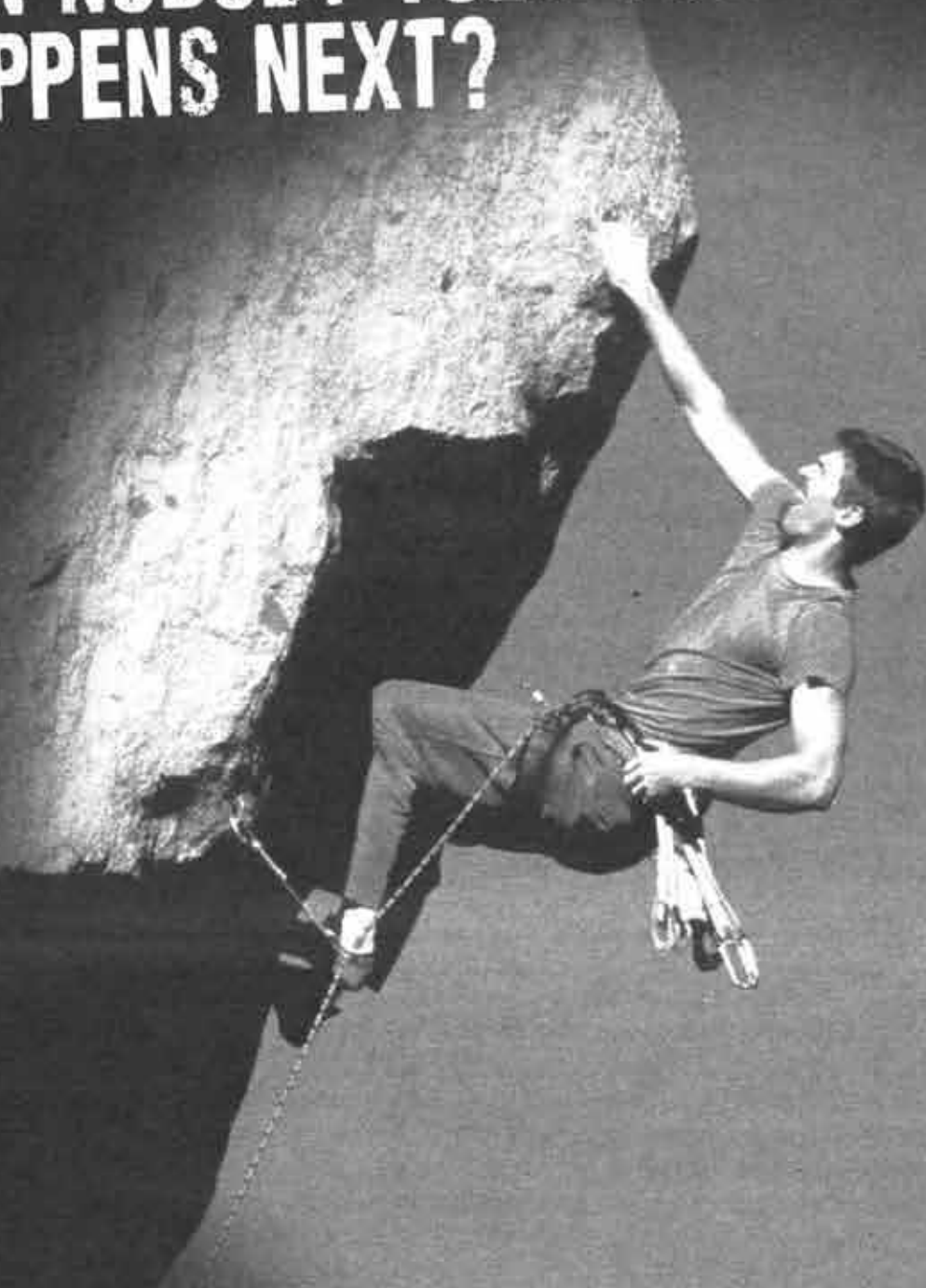
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# Stopping sexual a

**JOE TURCOTTE**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

Outside of the times when an attack is reported, sexual assault is a problem in communities and on university campuses across the country that often goes unmentioned; it is a topic that is rarely addressed in open and frank discussions.

However, due to the effects that these assaults create, they are an issue that impacts many.

Sexual assault is usually thought of in terms of forced sex or rape. However, Rod Curran, director of Campus Safety & Security, cautions that in the Canadian legal system, "sexual assault can be anything from unwanted touching to sexual intercourse, for both males and females."

Curran says that the Laurier campus has had three reported cases of sexual assault in the 2007-08 academic year.

However, Karen Ostrander, the manager of Health Services, feels that such cases often go unreported.

"One of the barriers to reporting is people's emotional distress; they're in a fragile state and all they want to do is make sure that they're okay, and I think that's the first priority," says Ostrander.

Due to the health considerations, Ostrander

encourages people affected by sexual assault to present themselves when comfortable.

"One of the first concerns that you have is unintentional pregnancy, so we can certainly provide emergency contraception and testing for any sexually transmitted infections," says Ostrander.

The safety of the person who has experienced sexual assault is of paramount concern for aid workers. But as Curran points out, individuals need to take responsibility for ensuring they're not putting themselves in compromising situations, which can often occur when excessive drinking is involved.

"When you're intoxicated, you're not making the right decisions and sometimes you make poor decisions," says Curran.

And though alcohol is not the only factor in such occurrences, it is the main contributor.

According to Joan Tuchlinksy, the public education coordinator at the Kitchener-Waterloo Sexual Assault Support Centre (KWSASC), in 80-85 percent of sexual assaults "alcohol has been involved in some way."

KWSASC is the Waterloo Region's source for helping women over the age of 16 who have been sexually assaulted. Offering free and confidential services, KWSASC provides a 24-hour crisis help line and emotional counseling support for the woman, as well as her family and friends. Group support and access to further

resources in the community are also offered.

Recognizing that after a sexual assault the person who has been assaulted may feel a loss of power, Tuchlinksy says that KWSASC seeks to reconcile this loss.

"Our support comes from an empowerment standpoint. We're not there to tell her what to do, how to feel," explains Tuchlinksy. "We're there to listen to her, validate what she's going through, validate the feelings that she's having."

Agreeing with Tuchlinksy, Dr. Helen Ramirez, a full-time women's studies professor at Laurier, feels that sexual assault should be viewed more in terms of power and control than in sexual gratification.

"Sexual assault is not about sex; it's about having some sort of control over another human being because you can do it, because you don't see them as your equal," explains Ramirez.

In this sense, sexual assault is not the result of an individual or group of deviants. Instead, sexual assault is the by-product of a culture that objectifies and devalues women.

"It's a culture where we don't understand [that] our own behaviours - how men think it's okay to have 'CEO and Hoe' parties - sets up a power hierarchy - and how women participating in that is no good either," says Ramirez.

"What's the point in dealing with the individ-

ual male?" she argues, clarifying that while it is necessary to punish the individual offenders, it is also crucial to investigate the root causes of these actions and correct them.

In order for such a change to occur, Ramirez says that both men and women must recognize their role in creating a climate where sexual assault is tacitly condoned. For the most part, sexual assault is caged in terms of the woman and her role in preventing such attacks from happening to her.

However, for Ramirez, men must also be brought into the equation in order for a solution to the problem to be created.

"We need to find a way to talk to men, to engage men in conversations. We need to give men a space where they can look at masculinity [in new ways]," says Ramirez, arguing for a more engaged community.

"You don't have to be considered a 'wussy' if you tell your buddies that they shouldn't talk to women that way, or that they shouldn't talk about women that way or that they shouldn't think that women are always available for sex," she says.

One way in which such a place is beginning to be created at Laurier is through the work of grassroots organizations, such as the Miss G<sub>2</sub> Project. As a provincial lobby group, the goal of the Miss G<sub>2</sub> Project is to work with the Ontario government so that tangible changes to



# ssault

Sexual assault is a complicated and troubling problem. *The Cord* looked into the services provided here at the Waterloo campus and to some of the people who are exploring ways to stop the violence

the curriculum will occur, including the addition of a Women & Gender Studies course to all Ontario high schools.

One of the members heavily involved with the group is fourth-year Women's Studies student Bryn Ossington.

For Ossington, the climate at the Laurier campus is one where men are encouraged that they "must have sex and go to every length to get it."

This, says Ossington, contributes to a place where sexism occurs, and it devalues the attitudes that people have towards women. As one of the few males involved in the project, Ossington finds it important for more men to become active in the process.

"If every man that was adamantly opposed to sexual assault spoke out against it, instead of just being silent when their friends make sexist comments ... if more people were openly opposed to that conduct, it would change the entire culture of the campus," says Ossington.

Recognizing the nuanced nature of such comments, Ossington feels that it is important to exercise judgment regarding the context in which comments are made.

"It's not a hard-ass line, it's not saying that everything we say needs to be censored now," explains Ossington.

"In fact, what it is saying is that people should be talking more freely and discussing

their ideas, and the one that I think will prevail is that everyone deserves the right to feel safe on our campus and everyone deserves not to feel as though they are prey," he continues.

Included in this group is a group that is often overlooked in discussions of sexual assault: the queer community.

"There's no real difference in the way that sexual assault takes place; there is a difference in the way that it's treated," explains the senior programming coordinator at the Rainbow Centre, TJ Naven.

"There are not very many organizations that do recognize same-sex partner violence or sexual assault," he continues.

The lack of recognition of the LGBTQ community can further the reluctance of people who have experienced sexual assault to come forward.

"Personally, I've seen a lot of people only come to the Rainbow Centre because they didn't feel safe going anywhere else," explains Naven.

In order to combat this, Naven feels that more inclusivity needs to be promoted by encouraging "safe and positive spaces, and language."

An upcoming conference at Laurier hopes to shed light on the many issues surrounding sexual assault and to promote changes. The Wall of Silence Conference, which takes place on May 2-3, will be a two-day symposium that

will feature the keynote speakers Pamela Cross and Jane Doe.

"At the end of the conference we want to develop a national body as a resource for universities and colleges to come to say, 'this is what's going on at our campus, how do we change it,

this is what's working at other places.' It's a very strong reference point," says one of the conference's coordinators, Kaitlyn McQuaid.

"What we're looking at is how universities are a climate for this to occur and how can we change that."

## WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

(FOR BOTH RECENT AND PAST ASSAULTS)

### At Laurier:

**Counselling Services** – Student Services Building (2nd Floor) or 519-884-0710 Ext. 2338

**Health Services** – Student Services Building (2nd Floor) or 519-884-0710 Ext. 3146

**WLU Rainbow Centre** – First floor Mac house (Room 104) or 519-884-0710 Ext. 3010

**Campus Safety & Security** – Student Services Building (First Floor) or 519-885-3333

**WLU Women's Centre** – Theatre Auditorium (TA 220) or 519-884-0710 Ext. 4444

### In the Community:

**The Waterloo Region Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre**  
– 519-749-6994 or 519-749-6884

**KW Sexual Assault Support Centre (KWSASC)** – 151 Frederick Street, Kitchener (Suite 201)  
or 519-571-0121

**KWSASC 24-hour Crisis and Support Line** – 519-741-8633

**Anselma House** – 519-742-5894 or Toll Free 1-877-419-1571

# Alternative summer job ideas

If you haven't got a job yet, here are some unique employment opportunities to enjoy your summer while making money too

**GILLIAN FARBER**  
STAFF WRITER

It is now spring and naturally students' minds turn to the last day of classes. Once that euphoria is over, reality sets in.

The old standbys – waitressing, sales clerks, etc. – are always available, but they seem to run out quickly, so students should be prepared to think creatively when it comes to job hunting.

Sometimes it is the unique industries that provide students with the necessary knowledge and experience to begin a career in the real world.

Suddenly, the thought of moving back home with your parents seems less and less appealing.

Fear not! Ski and beach resorts, cruise ships, airline jobs or even work overseas are some examples of cool summer jobs for students looking to pack their bags and escape.

International jobs provide a unique alternative to the suit-wearing desk jobs many students endure in the summer months and are relevant not only to future occupations but also to life in general.

As many of us view our schooling as an obligation, summer is the time to pursue jobs that embrace your skills, talents and interests – sometimes indirectly related to your course of study.

For example, teaching skydiving lessons, conducting tours around Canada or even becoming a youth counselor at a resort or summer

camp are all wonderful opportunities for students to make money in the summer and maybe even enjoy themselves.

However, enjoying yourself doesn't always translate into making a lot of summer money. Very often, students need a good summer job in order to pay for next year's tuition, books, food and rent. So, what to do? Think job creativity.

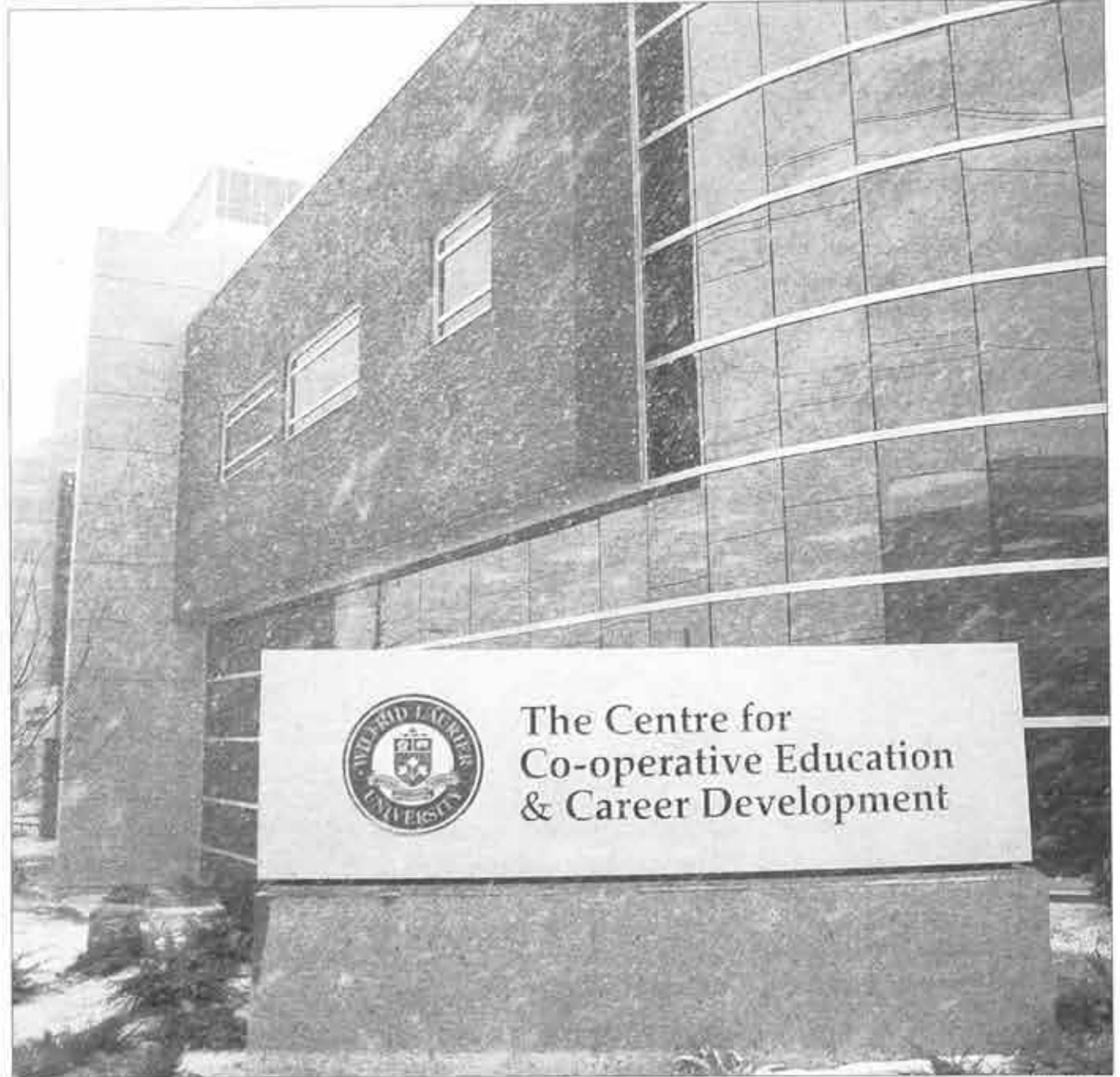
Using your imagination, doing your research and sometimes just having a little bit of luck can land you that summer job to ease the pain of your expenses.

Students are also generally computer-savvy. As our parents would have sought out newspaper want ads, we now have the pleasure and easy accessibility of the Internet. Simply typing "Summer jobs in Waterloo" into Google is one way to begin your search.

Other websites such as [www.workopolis.com](http://www.workopolis.com), [www.jobmonkey.com](http://www.jobmonkey.com) and [www.coolsummerjobs.com](http://www.coolsummerjobs.com) are also good places to search for a fun and unconventional but credible summer job.

If you are really stuck when it comes to finding a summer job, for any reason, you can seek out help in the Career Services department located at 192 King Street, right beside King Street Residence.

Keturah Leonforde, the graduate and professional program coordinator, explained, "Looking for a summer job is like looking for any job; you want to be targeted and the more work you put into it, the better the experience you will get."



SYDNEY HELLAND

**HERE TO HELP** - Laurier Career Services is available to students who need help finding a summer job.

In terms of those students who feel they may not have enough experience to pursue summer jobs related to their course of study, Leonforde puts your worries to rest.

"No need to worry," she noted. "Employees are aware of this and are looking for motivated people who are adaptable and ready to learn."

Living out your own adventure this summer by doing something different might be easier than you think. And who says different can't be cool?

## Don cuts off her hair for donation



SYDNEY HELLAND

**ALL GONE** - Gross shows off the braids that she had cut off for charity.

Bailey Gross cut off 11 inches of hair last Thursday for the Angel Hair for Kids Foundation and raised \$700, more than doubling her original \$300 goal

**LINDA GIVETASH**  
STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday, Residence Life don Bailey Gross cut off 11 inches of her hair to donate to the Angel Hair for Kids Foundation.

Gross' friends and family gathered in the Waterloo College Hall fireplace lounge to partake in the event.

In addition to donating her hair, Gross also collected monetary donations to give to the foundation.

At the event, before cutting her hair, Gross proudly announced, "My initial goal was \$300 ... and we've already surpassed that."

Gross received support and inspiration from friends who had previously made the donation.

"That was the most inspiring thing," explained Gross. "That other people had done it."

When the scissors came out, a very emotional Gross had to say goodbye to her long locks. As her two ponytails were cut off, Gross

was surrounded by cheers. She sported a big smile when she finally showed off her new, much shorter 'do.

Angel Hair for Kids is a not-for-profit organization that provides wigs, free of charge, to underprivileged children suffering from chronic diseases that result in hair loss.

**"IT WAS TOTALLY WORTH IT. I WOULD DO IT EVERY DAY IF I COULD."**

**- Bailey Gross, Residence Life Don**

It has been an active branch of A Child's Voice Foundation for four years.

When the foundation was contacted, Director of Marketing and Program Development Nicole Sykes said, "We are the only organization of our kind in Canada."

To produce one wig, the founda-

tion budgets \$800, and requires 10 to 12 donations of hair.

Hair that is donated cannot have been chemically treated and must meet the minimum length of 10 inches.

"We get hair mostly on a daily basis," said Sykes. "We appreciate every donation we get."

Once the event was over, Gross reflected on the experience, at first at a loss for words.

Tearful again, Gross then said, "It was totally worth it. I would do it every day if I could."

Gross was able to send in her hair with a total of \$700 she collected to Angel Hair for Kids.

If you have been inspired to hold an event to raise funds and donate hair to Angel Hair for Kids, you can contact them at 1-888-837-3354 or visit their website, [www.achildsvoicefoundation.com](http://www.achildsvoicefoundation.com).



# A day in the life of ... a Special Constable

*The Cord* takes a look at an average day for a Laurier Special Constable on duty and finds out some of the perks and disadvantages of the position

**ASHLEY JANG**  
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

Of all the groups of people that work on campus to help students out, there is only one group that is available at all times of the day. Laurier Special Constable Services are accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to meet all of our security needs.

Peter Jorg is one of the supervisors of the department and has, like many of the other constables, a lot of experience in the field.

"I started with the OPP, actually, so I spent a number of years with them, and then I came over here about 19 years ago," he said.

Jorg decided to come to work at Laurier for a change of scenery. He finds that the most significant difference between the OPP and Laurier Special Constable Services is the security aim: "We're not armed, and while enforcement is part of it, that's not the emphasis here; prevention is the emphasis here."

Jorg and his coworkers - eight

other special constables, four supervisors, one operations manager, one director and 16 student dispatchers - are responsible for ensuring safety on campus at all times.

"The university is divided up into two neighbourhoods and each officer has a responsibility for one of those neighbourhoods," said Jorg. While each officer is designated to a neighbourhood, they are able to cross into the other's territory if assistance is needed.

"There is communication between each officer as to what is happening in their neighbourhoods so the next person coming on shift is aware of anything out of the ordinary that is taking place," he added.

The officers on campus keep a close relationship with Waterloo Regional Police through regular contact. In addition, they are members of Neighbourhood Watch and have officers that are trained in violent crisis intervention.

What's the best part of the job?

"Interacting with students, probably," said Jorg.

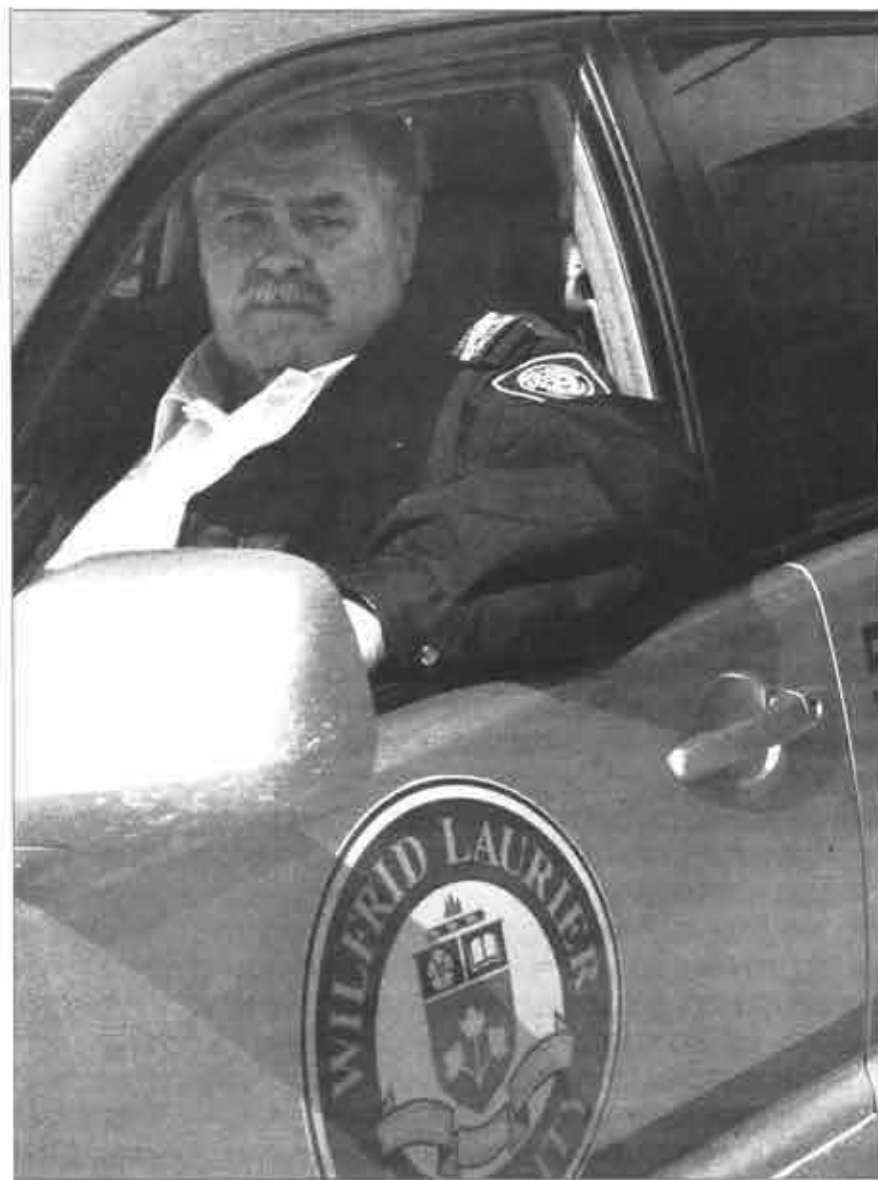
On the other hand, dealing with intoxicated students is not as much fun. "It may not necessarily be an intoxicated person, it may be something they did because they're intoxicated," explained Jorg, giving students the benefit of the doubt.

"A lot of the problem things we deal with on those nights are alcohol-related."

Most of the problems that Laurier special constable services deal with are minor crimes like broken windows and disturbances caused by noise.

For crimes like these, they often turn to the Judicial Affairs Council for help, which is a group of students who meet as a collective and decide the consequences for minor crimes that occur on campus.

"Alternative to laying a criminal charge, we can go through the Judicial Affairs Council for discipline, and that can range anywhere from disciplinary probation to writing essays, making people take alcohol



GREG MCKENZIE

**ON DUTY** - Jorg cruises in a security vehicle to ensure campus safety.

counseling or anger management," said Jorg.

According to Jorg, if the crime that occurred - or the people involved - pose any threat to Laurier officers or to other students, Waterloo Regional Police is immediately involved.

"If there's an officer safety issue or if there's a situation where our

numbers just aren't large enough to handle it and there is some kind of disturbance, we call the regional police," explained Jorg.

If you are ever in need of assistance from Laurier officers, visit the dispatch centre in the dining hall, the main office located at 232 King Street, or dial extension 3333 from the main Laurier line.

# Laptop use in WLU classrooms

With their immense popularity on campus, we take a look at the pros and cons of laptops and what students think overall



SYDNEY HELLAND

**A USEFUL TOOL?** - Laptops can be very useful for taking quick notes in class, but they're very distracting.

**MICHELLE CALDARONI**  
STAFF WRITER

Some university students would agree that laptops have become an integral part of the university learning experience, while others would shake their head at such a statement.

A simple glance around a lecture hall is evidence enough that laptops have become commonplace in the university landscape. However, the old-fashioned method of handwritten notes has not yet become extinct.

In the pro-laptop camp, WLU'ers state three main reasons for the proliferation of the computers in the classroom, on campus and in student houses around the city.

## Taking Notes

This defense has become popular, as many students feel that organizing their notes is easier and faster with a laptop. In addition, some students may use built-in microphones for recording their lectures in order to go over them again at a later time. Notes that are typed on the computer during lecture can

also be easily shared by students.

## Accessibility

Laptops make note-taking easier for students with disabilities, who otherwise would not be able to take notes the traditional way.

In cases where students cannot use a laptop due to accessibility issues, other students can use computers during lectures to pass on their notes as volunteer note-takers.

## Entertainment Value

There will come a time in all uni-

versity students' lives when, during a lecture, their mind inevitably wanders to other things, their eyelids begin to close and the lecture becomes unbearably long. Laptops are a good solution to this problem, as a ten-minute game of Tetris or Solitaire may be all they need to get back on track.

On the con side of the argument, other WLU'ers will counter with their own three points as to why laptops are not their first choice for note-taking, or anything else.

## Distraction

The number one reason that students complain of laptop use during lectures is the distraction for others around the user.

Blinking games, full-length movies, MSN Messenger and constant movement on the screen are the issues cited as being the most distracting for students sitting behind the laptop.

This can be extremely frustrating for those in the vicinity of the computer, who cannot stop looking at the screen while trying to pay attention to the lecture.

## Noise

While most people find the decency to mute their laptops before class, the inevitable Windows tune

that plays at the start-up on unmuted laptops may grind the gears of some in the classroom.

More commonly, though, the tapping of keys may be the more annoying noise as the classroom rings with the sound of rain on a tin roof.

## Inconvenience

The weight of carrying a computer around all day is a turn-off for some, as is the battery life of the laptop. As there are very few plugs available for power cords in lecture halls, students on the con side of the argument may forgo the notebook computers for the more traditional pen and paper.

While both sides have valid points in their respective arguments for or against laptop use on campus, it cannot be denied that laptops do come in handy for a variety of reasons.

Whether it's the ability to carry a year's worth of notes around campus, the ability to simply check facts or definitions during a lecture, or to pass time in the gaps between classes, laptops are undeniably a great resource for all university students - when used appropriately, of course!

Now the question remains ... Mac or PC?

# Strike must end

The CAS strike is now entering its second week, and for students things are looking pretty grim.

The Canadian Association of University Teachers presented a million-dollar cheque to WLUFA as part of the strike pay fund. Administration has extended the drop deadline for classes affected by the strike to after the semester ends. Negotiations have yet to resume between the two parties. Without question, we can see signs of a long strike.

As students, we need to wake up and realize that this isn't an "extended snow day." It's time to take control of matters to make sure that we don't get short-changed because of the strike.

Both sides of the negotiations need to get back to the negotiating table. Yes, WLUFA is serious about striking - we get it, now go negotiate seriously. Likewise, we understand that administration is willing to resume talks at any point.

However, unless they're willing to seriously negotiate - and VP: Academic Sue Horton's comment that both sides "are going to have to give something up" sounds like they are - there's no point in returning to talks.

Still, Dr. Blouw refused students' requests for a meeting to provide them with answers to their questions about how the strike will affect their academics.

Instead, a "virtual forum" for answering questions has been suggested. A virtual way of answering questions is a poor and, quite frankly, unacceptable alternative.

What would essentially become a list of "frequently asked questions" online is no substitute for an opportunity for students to have their questions asked, and an insult to the group of students who spoke to Horton about their concerns.

The fact that this request was made by a group of average students begs the question: where the hell is the Students' Union in the matter?

All kinds of protests, poster campaigns and even a discussion with Horton were organized by these students.

WLUSU - our student representatives - should have been putting pressure on both sides to prevent striking before it actually happened, yet a week after the strike, Dan Allison has only met with administration once and scheduled an appointment with WLUFA.

His comment that this strike is "ridiculous, from both sides" indicates his understanding of the severity of the issue, but the Students' Union needs to utilize the respect that their name garners and severely ramp up their pressure to get a deal done.

Students must begin to send the message that, despite the early and loud support CAS and WLUFA experienced, we will not put up with being used as leverage. Don't misconstrue that support as permission to stay out forever. If admin says they're willing to talk, why not at least have a meeting to see if they're willing to make real concessions?

As for students, while meetings, sit-ins and letter-writing campaigns can take place at a campus level, it's time to make more noise.

If this strike and the student response to it can attract national media attention, a great deal of pressure will exist for a settlement to occur.

At a provincial level, it just so happens that the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities is John Milloy - the MPP for Kitchener Centre. Perhaps a protest at his constituency office would garner attention.

Laurier is a university that heavily depends on its cooperative, community image. This strike marks a turning point for what was once a PR boon as students are beginning to find reasons to leave the "Go Laurier!" cheer-leading mentality behind.

Unfortunately, the last strike to take place at Laurier (in which members of the staff association were on strike) lasted two months. The school doesn't have a great track record for resolving strikes quickly.

With only a week and a half of class remaining, there's still time for students to make it clear to everyone involved in the negotiations that we will not tolerate being used as pawns, and there's still time for WLUSU to pick up its game. We have as much to lose as anyone else during this strike, so it's time we realize that sitting idly by is not an option.

*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.*

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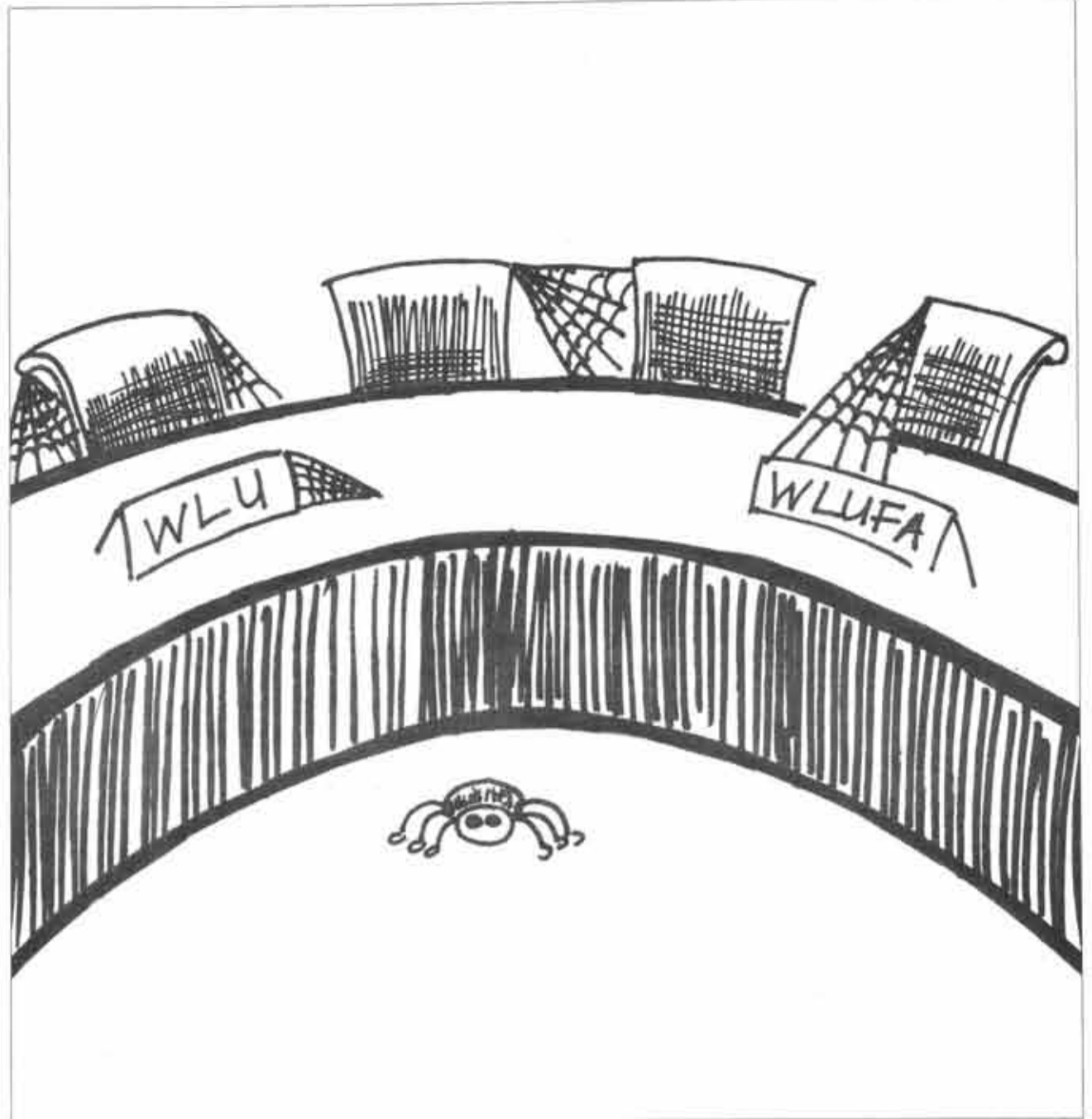
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JULIE MARION

## Entertainment big time

Dave Shore ponders whether or not K-W has finally made it on the map



When I heard last month that the legendary Sir Elton John would be gracing the stage of the Kitchener Auditorium, I nearly fell off my chair. Not because I'm a particularly big Rocket Man fan, but simply because I was so surprised that such a big-name act would come to Kitchener.

And then, as if one world-class concert wasn't enough, announcements of famous performers coming to Kitchener continued to flow in. First, famed folk singer Gordon Lightfoot has announced he will play the Centre in the Square in May, and then came the news that Canadian icon Leonard Cohen will be dropping by K-W in early June.

Maybe I just haven't lived in the area long enough, but when did Kitchener-Waterloo become such a musical epicentre?

Now, don't get me wrong, I've been thoroughly impressed by the amount of culture Laurier's surrounding twin city has to offer. Kitchener-Waterloo sports a symphony, an opera, multiple theatres, an impressive art gallery and a children's museum. And that's not to mention the Princess Cinemas, without question my favourite place in the whole city.

K-W has always been a great place for culture and the celebration of the arts. After all, with two universities, a highly educated

public and some of the most innovative businesses in the world, it's no wonder that the city we live in has a robust cultural scene.

However, the first half of 2008 stands out as a high point in K-W's artistic history. Having three colossal musical acts come to town in such close succession is something that, to my knowledge at least, hasn't happened in a very long time.

What is even more exciting, though, is the sheer unexpectedness of both the John and Cohen shows. Sir Elton came to Kitchener seemingly on a whim, having never been here before. An article in *The Record* reported that John enjoys playing in cities he's never visited before.

Cohen, it seemed, might not have ever toured again. He is coming out of his stay in a Zen Buddhist settlement to earn some money after his long-time money manager lost a great deal of his savings. He chose Kitchener as one of the destinations for his comeback tour.

All of these events happening in a five-month span prompts the question: Is K-W finally getting on the map?

There's certainly some other evidence to support the idea. Late in '07, sports pages around the continent were filled with speculation that an NHL team might come to Kitchener. And just this past summer, Waterloo earned the title of the world's most intelligent city.

With the international attention K-W has been receiving, it does seem hopeful that the city's gaining some prominence.

It's something that I really want to believe, but I don't entirely. The reason is that, despite having a large number of big events taking place either recently or very soon, none of them are relatively new acts.

Cohen, John and Lightfoot are all big acts of the '60s, '70s and '80s. Today, they resonate with a more mature crowd, being decades past their prime.

There's nothing wrong with this; it's still extremely exciting that these people have decided to play in Kitchener. But where are the big names of our generation? When will U2 come to Kitchener? What about Kanye?

Radiohead, for example, is coming to Canada this summer. They'll be playing in Montreal and Toronto - but despite being within an hour's drive, they won't be making the trip to K-W.

Rather than Kitchener-Waterloo becoming a place where things are happening, it is becoming a place where people that have already happened can come to make a buck.

It's definitely not the worst of situations. But in a city on the frontline of innovation in business and academics, it would be delightful to see that recognized by the arts.

Still, seeing people with such international reputations deciding to play in K-W is a great first step. With any luck, we just may see this culturally rich city finally get the recognition, and entertainment, it deserves.

# Big Give pushes misguided charity



MICHAEL KOCHEFF  
THE EVERYMAN

On March 2, *Oprah's Big Give* had its CTV debut. The show, according to CTV, drew an audience of 1.7 million Canadians. Although other shows like *Dexter* and *CTV News* boasted similar Canadian numbers, no one could beat Oprah.

At the beginning of the first episode, ten competitors were each given an envelope. The envelope, as the ABC website details, contained the picture and name of a complete stranger in need.

Each contestant, over the course of the following five days, had to raise money for that individual and devise an innovative way to give them the money raised.

At the end of each episode, the contestants come before a panel of judges. Included on this panel are world-renowned chef Jamie Oliver, football star Tony Gonzalez and Malaak-Compton Rock.

These judges are charged with the task of eliminating one contestant at the end of each show. The judging criteria are "leadership, accomplishments, creativity and presentation."

Of course, no reality TV show would be complete without a heavy dose of corporate America. Target, Ford, The Hilton Family of Hotels and Sprint are all listed on the ABC website as partners with contestants "in their acts of goodwill."

Oprah, in one final twist, will be awarding the last contestant remaining a \$1 million prize.

As the ratings suggest, a lot of people find *Oprah's Big Give* inspiring. For them, the idea of "competi-

tive compassion", as *The Winnipeg Free Press* calls it, stands in stark contrast to what members of society usually pursue.

The whole idea of "competitive compassion" is a little troubling, however.

Charity, as the old adage goes, is its own reward. On *Oprah's Big Give*, this is not the case. Instead, each episode is about gain and personal aggrandizement.

The first component of any "Big Give" is someone less fortunate.

Then, with an international audience, a group of ten individuals seek to please the judges. The focus at judgement time is on the quality of their actions.

Contestants, of course, desire to advance. Advancing is an assurance of the fact that you are just a little bit more driven for the cause of the poor than the person who was eliminated.

The eliminated person may have had a heart overflowing with love for the poor, but it wasn't enough for the judges. Their charitable act just wasn't up to the standards.

That doesn't leave much for society to emulate. All it does is bring competitiveness to the realm of charity. We begin to ask how much did he give, in what fashion did he give it and how excited were the recipients?

The sense of duty all but disappears, and what we are left with is a formula for rating acts of kindness. Perhaps several "scales of charity" will emerge to compete with the one *Oprah's Big Give* has invented.

Some hope that *Oprah's Big Give* will provoke a wave of charity. Not likely: the show attacks the very spirit and base of charity.

That is why, like so many other shows of its kind, *Oprah's Big Give* has wealthy corporate sponsors.

They are involved because they understand what it can do for their image. Make no mistake, corporations see the connection between charitable work and profit. This is not the fault of the corporate world, but the society from which its managers and employers are drawn.

*Oprah's Big Give* glorifies those who give and the response they receive from the poor. Charity under such circumstances is unsustainable.

Sustainable giving happens when individuals perceive what is right and do it. Not because they have been offered cash, fame or any other inducements. This may seem too pure or snooty even. If you find this to be the case, you can still catch the remaining episodes of *Oprah's Big Give*.

letters@cordweekly.com

## Letters to the Editor

### Embarrassed CAS member

As an undergraduate student at Trent University, I felt the anxiety of a faculty strike, wondering how this would affect my courses and my future. It seemed odd to me that of all the PhDs walking the line, no one could work out a solution that was better than this.

Now here I am, a faculty myself on the line (well, not really - I refuse to do so, but technically my union is on strike). Strangely, I am still wondering how all these PhDs can't work out a better solution than this. Only one party loses in the end of this strike - and we all know who they are.

Unions (and strikes) were originally developed to protect relatively unskilled labourers from the exploitation of their employers. Unionizing "sweat shop" employees was a way to protect them. They have come too far. Now, unions are very large and powerful political creatures who present adversarial negotiation tactics from the start - and have a vested interest in strikes (as they justify a union's existence). Make no mistake, senior union leaders are paid well (usually substantially more than the workers they represent) - and generally do not lose any wages during a strike. But what do I know? I am an unskilled labourer with four degrees, who is exploited by my rich employer - I don't think so.

So, I have vowed to my students that I wouldn't give them the same anxiety I felt as an undergrad during a faculty strike. I will keep teaching. I don't want students to be the ones who suffer in a ridiculous chess match between political parties. I find it hard to believe that union leaders are better at talking with my administrators than the many skilled faculty members we have on campus. Perhaps with a different approach and a familiar face, we might not have come this far. My apologies to my students - I

am embarrassed that we as faculty have not thought of a better solution to this than by marching around a garbage bin with a megaphone.

- Dr. Sean Cameron  
CAS Member

### Fair chance for fair trade

This semester I took the opportunity to learn about Fair Trade foods and products and would like to share a bit about what I learned in hopes of promoting sales in and around our school community. By buying Fair Trade, we create opportunities for economically disadvantaged people, help them earn a fair wage, help the producers gain independence by empowering them to organize and run their small businesses as well as promote gender equality, because no matter who you are, you will receive a fair wage.

I visited a couple of stores that cater to selling Fair Trade products in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. I highly recommend visiting Ten Thousand Villages. I initially went there to find out more information on Fair Trade and IFAT. The staff was friendly and very knowledgeable. Conversely, trying to contact Loblaws Canada, to inquire as to why all their grocery stores would not carry even Fair Trade coffee was a frustrating trial. I was sent an email informing me that I would not be granted even a phone interview so I took my inquiries elsewhere. Going to the retail level, I went to ValuMart in the Waterloo Town Square. The manager told me because their store caters to a higher end clientele they sold Fair Trade Coffee and Tea. They knew people could purchase it. She told me that grocers closer to the universities would be less inclined to carry products because they would not sell and could use the valuable shelf space for something that would be more marketable.

This to me is a very problematic

explanation because, as I am sure you have all seen, Laurier has Fair Trade and organics selling in the Concourse. The demand is there; we just have to put more pressure on our local grocery chains to shelve products regardless of the demographic. After all, it comes down to helping people in third world countries. The more exposure they receive, the more sales they generate and with their products in all the large grocery stores, it will help more disadvantaged people than ever before.

- Dominique Colucci

### Support the CAS

I write this with the presumption that *The Cord* has been flooded with dozens of e-mails from students complaining how their "education is held hostage" and how they are "the victims" of a power struggle between the CAS and the administration. I'm sure there were some letters among that number whose language is paramount to hate speech. That is a very parochial vision over an event which the CAS Student Solidarity Group has been trying to warn and prevent for some time.

While some in the student body can bemoan the CAS strike due to a possibility of lost money and credits, they fail to see the bigger implications that the CAS are fighting for. This is not just a struggle over which way a pitiful (less than a million dollar) sum will be shuffled or who gets to teach what course - it is a struggle over the livelihoods and careers of 365 people who wish to be treated like respectable academics. With that trivial amount, many of them can pay for their research and get some time to publish articles in order to move up into being full-timers. They could also use it to pay for their families' education and save for retirement that is not offered to the CAS profs. Further, they're fighting for the respectabili-

ty of Laurier as an academic institution in order to put it at a competitive level of other universities in the area - which in turn affects what sorts of educators Laurier would attract and how valuable our education and degrees will be. Despite all this, the administration refused to bargain with them and drove them into this desperate act even when a route for compromise has clearly been laid out of WLUFAs website.

For this, they need our support in this time of crisis. Join the picket lines, bring them coffee, wear the yellow pin, say a kind word - we're fighting for something greater than ourselves in this and I am proud to say that I stood on the picket lines with some of the greatest people in Ontario.

- Anatolij Venovcevs

### Vote no to WLUSU in GSA referendum

The referendum on March 31 is a vote to subsume the GSA (Graduate Student Association), a body elected by graduate students, under WLUSU (WLU Students' Union), a body elected by undergraduate students. WLUSU will appoint a student to represent the graduate student body. WLUSU represents 14,000 undergrads; the GSA represents a mere 700 graduate students. How can grads retain a voice under these proposed structural changes?

The GSA currently has a fund set aside that will allow it to purchase space exclusively for grad students when the opportunity arises. According to the Memo of Understanding between WLUSU and the GSA ([www.wluga.ca/content/documents/Link/memo.pdf](http://www.wluga.ca/content/documents/Link/memo.pdf)), if we become part of WLUSU, the GSA will relinquish any future prospect of an exclusive social space for grad students. Note that the Grad Pub will become open to undergraduate students.

The 'Yes' campaign says that sig-

nificant savings on health care are guaranteed. However, the Memo of Understanding states merely that our Health Plan will be re-evaluated "as previously planned." During the process of re-evaluation, there is a possibility that we will save money on our health plan without being part of WLUSU. Also, our current student fees will not significantly decrease if we become part of WLUSU. Counter to what the 'Yes' campaign will tell you, the \$7.00 fee per term that we pay the CFS (Canadian Federation of Students) will still be owed to the union.

If we examine the Memo of Understanding between WLUSU and the GSA, we see that there are few, if any, real benefits for being subsumed by WLUSU.

The 'Yes' side will tell you that grads will gain access to significant undergrad jobs and clubs. Is it worth giving up our autonomy in return for the ability to compete with undergrads for minimum-wage jobs and access to undergrad-focused clubs?

Over ten years ago, grad students struggled to create the GSA as an independent and elected body which was not at the whim of WLUSU.

Retain graduate student autonomy.

On March 31, Vote "NO" against joining WLUSU!

For more information, email [gsavoteno@gmail.com](mailto:gsavoteno@gmail.com).

- Michelle Zurbrigg  
For the NO campaign

### Letters Policy:

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

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

# Kosovo's independence wrongly attained



GREG SACKS  
SACKSUAL HEALING

Patriotism is a fairly widespread, if not universal, aspect of the human condition.

It is the source of a number of positive experiences for us, from cheering on the national team to uniting individuals who live hundreds of miles apart. Like most things, though, when taken to the extreme, patriotism can be dangerous.

For example, particularly throughout the early twentieth century, the concept of nationalism was used to justify all manner of destruction. The instinct of a nation to want to control its own fate is a natural one, but we've learned the hard way that such impulses must be curbed.

That's why, when the Canadian government decided last week to recognize Kosovo's secession from Serbia, I was a little perturbed.

I understand exactly why the people of Kosovo want to be independent. They have suffered greatly at the hands of the government in Belgrade, particularly under the reign of Slobodan Milosevic.

They have spent the last two decades watching other parts of Yugoslavia break away and become states in their own right. As I said before, the desire for self-determination is a natural one, and no one is blaming Kosovars for feeling this way.

By the same token, Serbia's claim to the province is a fairly weak one. Kosovo already operates fairly independently, so the argument that it needs the support of a larger nation is not one that holds a great deal of water.

The province's cultural significance – many Serbs think of it as the birthplace of their nation – gets more sympathy from me, but sentiment alone is a poor justification for political policies that will affect people's lives.

So at first glance, one might assume that I'd be fine with Prime Minister Harper's decision. Instead, I find myself in the company of countries like China and Russia – not my usual bedfellows of opinion.

The most obvious problem with Canada's position has to do with Quebec.

Fortunately, the separatist movement there has pretty much Heath-Ledgered itself, but even if that wasn't the case, I question just how similar the two situations are.

Quebec has not been subject to ethnic violence, and the differences between English and French Canada, while marked, do not run nearly as deep.

The bigger problem that I have with recognizing Kosovo is that it genuinely is a breach of a very well-documented and respected section of international law. The right to unilateral secession – and for the record, by definition secession is always unilateral – is only afforded colonies and other seized territories.

In other cases, negotiations must be held with the parent government and what takes place is not secession, but a devolution of power.

One of the key purposes of international law is to protect nation-states' territorial integrity. Recognizing Kosovo is a clear violation of this principle and sets a precedent for countless other independence movements across the world.

What's our plan if the Catalans and Basques in Spain, or the Kurds in Turkey get wise and declare themselves independent? Canada would find itself, along with anyone else who has recognized Kosovo, in a pretty tricky spot.

I must admit that I'm also frustrated by the decision from a political standpoint. I'm not an enormous fan of Stephen Harper or the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UPSET - Kosovo's independence sparked civil unrest in Serbia.

Conservatives, but neither am I their biggest detractor.

It seems to me that Harper had a golden opportunity to debunk a common accusation and set himself apart from George W. Bush and the United States on a symbolically important issue that nevertheless has little actual bearing on the home front.

Instead, Harper appears to have yielded to his inner convictions on this one, an annoyingly common feature of his tenure thus far.

But I digress. Really, what is most important is that Canada maintain a foreign policy that is consistent and relevant to the realities of the global situation.

The fact is that modern telecommunications technology has made the networking involved with an independence movement far simpler to achieve, and over the next century, we may see a rash of such organizations form.

Canada and the rest of the world needs to remain strong on this

point; until and unless we completely scrap the nation-state system, borders have to be respected and protected from threats both external and internal.

A better alternative would have been to put pressure on Belgrade to enter into bilateral talks with Kosovo's government to arrange a mutually acceptable resolution.

This would not only have been in line with the law, but would also have provided an example of measured diplomacy trumping the kind of bold, impulsive moves that can often lead to violence.

At the end of the day, my problem is not with Kosovo being independent, but with its method for getting there.

I really do wish them great success – I just hope that their decision hasn't put the rest of the world in a situation that will make maintaining order a tougher task than it already is.

letters@cordweekly.com

## Blueprint

students constructing culture

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# Strike reveals problems with WLU



ALLIE MAXTED  
RESIDENT CYNIC

I was among about 60 students who, on day two of the strike, took it upon themselves to march up to VP Academic Sue Horton's office and demand some answers.

From the discussion I heard there, I began to realize that the problems we are facing go far beyond what just a new contract – even a pretty good one – can fix.

One of the concerns a student identified was the labelling of the CAS. In the classroom, both Horton and the students agreed that CAS should be called professors. In fact, only recently with talk of a strike did some students begin to realize which of their profs are part-time and which are full-time. The job as it appears to students is virtually the same.

Officially, though, the CAS are referred to as instructors, and with good reason. Instruction is, after all, all they were hired to do.

This conflict between how we the students and the administration see CAS professors is indicative of the real problem we have on our hands.

The basis of the problem is that, while there are some who perform only teaching duties by choice, the

majority of CAS are forced into the position due to a lack of tenure-track alternatives.

At Laurier, the collective bargaining agreement of the full-time professors means that up to 33 percent of courses may be taught by CAS. The ratio is even higher in departments like anthropology, philosophy and communication studies.

This number is growing – part of a trend across North America – mainly due to the cost-effective nature of hiring more CAS.

Proponents of the move cite the lower costs, as well as an increased focus on teaching over research, as benefits of the trend. Rather than the 40 percent teaching – 40 percent research – 20 percent community service split for which full-time professors at Laurier are responsible, the CAS, it is argued, have the unique ability to focus 100 percent on teaching.

This is how the contracts and administration see it, but anyone who is a student or academic these days knows otherwise. The majority of CAS, after nearly ten years of paying for schooling, take the job as a stepping stone to tenure-track positions.

Full-time tenure-track positions hire mainly based on the research achievements of the applicant, and so most CAS are under pressure to conduct research anyway, for which they receive no funding from the university.

Students suffer from this arrangement in many ways. Anyone who has wanted to meet their CAS professor outside of class time knows how hard it is without office space, and when the prof is away working two or three other jobs.

The lack of funding for research means CAS professors have trouble keeping on top of their field, and we in the classroom fail to benefit from up-to-date research.

Fewer full-time professors means fewer official research projects for which Laurier gains a reputation, and on which students might have the chance to work with professors.

Unlike with full-time profs, relationships built with CAS professors are cut off when they choose to leave or are not hired back the following term. This is detrimental to the development of students, and reduces our chances of getting good reference letters for graduate or professional schools.

Fear of the repercussions coming with low job security means academic freedom is limited for CAS, which is why the concept of tenure was first introduced. A large enough proportion of CAS could mean the whole nature of a university would change, arguably for the worse.

All of these issues are the most fundamental that Laurier could deal with. It is, after all, a university. But Sue Horton refers to her job as a balancing act between competing

issues and stakeholders.

This is a fair interpretation, but it is obvious to me that research and teaching quality have not been given nearly enough weight on the scale. If they had been, there would be no way the ratio of full-time professors would be going down.

CAS across the country have recently been involved in labour disputes similar to the one at Laurier. Higher pay and seniority are the demands, in order to increase job security and the ability to stay on top of their fields with research.

This looks like an attempt to turn the CAS job into something it is not. For this, I understand why the administration may have called the

demands "unfair".

But the real issue here is more than just a fair deal for "instructors;" it is a need for the recognition that these "instructors" are not instructors at all.

The CAS are highly educated academics who conduct research to benefit the students and the community at large, and pass that expertise and passion on through their teaching.

The CAS are professors, and the sooner the administration comes to realize that, the sooner Laurier can become a leader in research and teaching across the country.

letters@cordweekly.com



SYDNEY HELLAND

PROTESTING - Students march in support of Contract Academic Staff.

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4	7	2	9	8	3	1	5	6
1	3	8	4	6	5	9	7	2
6	9	5	1	2	7	3	4	8
3	2	4	6	1	8	7	9	5
5	8	1	3	7	9	2	6	4
9	6	7	5	4	2	8	3	1
8	4	3	2	9	6	5	1	7
2	1	9	7	5	4	6	8	3
7	5	6	8	3	1	4	2	9

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# Ms. Pettigrew lives it up

An unlikely feel-good flick about a nanny who gets her knickers in a twist over the convoluted love life of her employer

ELISE COTTER  
STAFF WRITER

*Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day* is one of those films that didn't get much publicity, even if deserving. It is a rare film; charming, old-fashioned, yet not at all conservative, Miss Pettigrew just makes you feel good.

With most of the action taking place in one day, the film follows

Guinevere Pettigrew, a down-on-her-luck nanny who has just been fired from her latest job. With her own employment agent not wanting to help, she manages to steal a position as a nanny for certain Delysia Lafosse.

Expecting to have to take care of a mother and her children, Guinevere is surprised to find a young woman and her even younger lov-

er, Phil. Managing to get rid of him in time for her second lover Nick's arrival, Delysia quickly comes to depend on Guinevere for help with juggling her complicated love life. And so the adventure begins.

The sheltered and old-fashioned Pettigrew is thrown into Delysia's glamorous and youthful social life. She is quickly hired as a social secretary and proudly helps Delysia manage her three lovers.

Phil (Tom Payne) is the son of a theater producer; Delysia is seducing him in order to win the lead part in an upcoming play. Nick (Mark Strong) is the nasty club manager that allows her to stay in his nice apartment. Michael (Lee Pace) works alongside Delysia at the club, as her piano player, and is madly in love with her.

Michael is coming back after a year in prison for drunkenly stealing a ring big enough to propose to Delysia. Upon his return, he asks Delysia to go to New York with him the following morning.

In one day, Delysia needs to decide her entire future. Does she stay in London and gain success as an actress? Or does she go to New York to be truly happy with her best

friend? These are questions the audience is asking themselves up until the very end.

Along with helping Delysia discover her destiny, Guinevere is also experiencing a life-changing day. Delysia gives her a complete makeover, transforming Miss Pettigrew from "Oliver Twist's mom" to a beautiful woman who manages to catch the eye of successful designer Joe Blumfield (Ciarán Hinds).

The film is set in 1930s London and the costumes, dialogue and soundtrack are true to the era. Amy Adams plays Delysia with so much energy and effort that she carries the film.

Lee Pace is adorable and empathetic as the man trying to win Delysia's heart. Oscar winner Frances McDormand is lovely as the despairing Pettigrew who is starting to live her life again.

The onset of the Second World War does play a heavy part in the film. It is the return of terror that Joe and Guinevere remember well that pushes them and Delysia to stop playing at life, to not treat love like a game but to decide what is truly worthwhile and important in life.

The film realistically captures

the moment in time when Delysia Lafosse and Guinevere Pettigrew meet and manage to change each other's lives forever. In one day, the two manage to create a believable bond that helps guide them to each other's happiness.



OH DEAR - Miss Pettigrew has to help Delysia out of a twist again.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MISS PETTIGREW  
LIVES FOR A DAY

*Miss Pettigrew Lives For a Day*

Director: Bharat Naluri

Starring: Frances

McDormand, Amy Adams

Release Date: 07/03/2008

Rating: 7.5/10.0

## Are you listening to what Perez sez?

Infamous celebrity blogger Mario Lavandeira, a.k.a. Perez Hilton, might be more than just a sassy-mouthed gossip-queen



JILLIAN WOOD  
STAFF WRITER

Only one homosexual Cuban blogger, who calls himself the "gay latino Oprah," forces Hollywood's biggest celebrities and publicists to shake in their Gucci suits.

His real name is Mario Lavandeira, but the world mostly knows him as Perez Hilton. When Perez says that you were drinking backstage at the Oscars, while pregnant, your publicist immediately sends him a personal e-mail telling him two things: 1) His blog is "nasty" and is generally ignored by Hollywood, and 2) The story is entirely false.

His blog shot to fame through his trademark of drawing cocaine sprinkles under the noses of Amy Winehouse and Kate Moss (and a host of other doodles). It currently receives well over a million hits a day.

He is original, and completely biased, often offering celebrities such golden nuggets of wisdom such as "wear underwear" and "go to rehab!"

You may not care about celebrity news culture, but it is hard to deny the success Lavandeira has made for himself. He's received his own TV spot on VH1 called "What Perez

Sez," as well as a book deal and future film roles, and will most likely be getting his own record label to help sign the numerous under-the-radar artists he promotes on his blog.

And without him, I would never have known that the bassist who made the mambo had died last Sunday. Also on a sad note, Oprah's cocker spaniel, Sophie, died at the age of 12.

Before you think that all Perez's endeavours are shallow and for self-promotion, he does post links to charities such as the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program, Stop the Canadian Seal Hunt, and Not On Our Watch: Darfur, which would receive little traffic without his help.

He also talks politics, especially in terms of homophobic Congress members like Sally Kern and Gary George. Some claim his blog is responsible for "outing" gay celebrities like Lance Bass and Jodie Foster. Perez has said he does this because he believes that visibility is important to the gay community at large.

A lot of celebrities hate him, and even more hope to hell that he loves them, or else pictures of their cellulite become his latest blog news.

Yes, Perez can be a huge rainbow-haired meanie. One of his meanest moves is referring to Rumer Willis as "potato head." Perhaps he is ru-



QUEEN OF THE BLOGS - PerezHilton.com receives one million hits a day, and Lavandeira takes advantage.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ining the career of a girl famous for being Demi Moore and Bruce Willis' daughter, but look carefully ... her head does look like a potato!

I'd feel bad if he drove her to reconstructive head surgery, but I think if you're going to spend your life pretending to model and going to clubs, you've got to be prepared for some harsh criticism. My head is kind of shaped like a box, so I guess I better stay out of the limelight. (I hate you, mom and dad, genetically speaking!)

I think Lavandeira is a clever guy, cashing in on the obsession the public has with celebrity news

and gossip. He's more popular amongst teen girls than MySpace. (I don't even have a MySpace page.) Whether this demand was wanted or created is up for debate.

I don't think he is necessarily supporting the celebrity entertainment industry, so much as he mocks it. He'll call out most celebrities on their fake attention grabbing stunts and terribly Botoxed faces. You can call what Perez does shallow, or you can think that celebrities deserve to be laughed at.

If this kind of blog was made on a Laurier scale, I can imagine people wouldn't be as receptive. Think

of blog titles such as "Max Blouw - Worst Beach Body Ever" and "WLUSU President Gay Gay Gay!" Perhaps it is just the price celebrities have to pay for being rich and ridiculously good looking.

While his intentions may not be pure, his blog is purely delightful. If you're looking for a vapid and entertaining trip away from reality to Hollywood and the latest "entertainment" news, click away at [www.perez Hilton.com](http://www.perez Hilton.com) with guilty pleasure.

# Talent at the Turret

The on-campus benefit show featuring student and local talent raised \$1000 for Kitchener's Little Theatre to rebuild after a damaging fire

ELISE COTTER  
STAFF WRITER

This Monday, the Turret turned into a theatre house as it became the new home for the semi-annual Cabaret Extravaganza. For those who do not know, the Cabaret is a show that includes an array of musical performances by students, and new this year, by local talent.

The Cabaret is put on by the Laurier Musical Theatre (LMT). Organized this time by the talented Janice Lee, she explained, "We have so much talent in the club that isn't able to be showcased in the musical." The Cabaret thus becomes an opportunity for students to proudly demonstrate their skills.

Indeed, throughout the night, the crowd was treated to a variety of talent. Each performance was unique, as each one came from different musicals, something Lee was excited about. "The best part of the Cabaret is you get to hear such a variety of music from all these musicals you haven't heard of."

The night included numbers from famous musicals like *Cabaret* and *Wicked*, from new musicals, such as *Legally Blonde* and *The Wedding Singer*, and from little-known musicals, like *Vampire Prom* and *Reefer Madness*.

Although all performances were

great, there was certainly some highlights, such as "Die, Vampire, Die!" from *Vampire Prom*. Performed by University of Guelph's Curtain Call Productions, the number refers to vampires as any thought, person or feeling that stands in the way of creativity.

After their second number "Rules, Regulations and Respect", the troupe from Guelph proved that they are extremely gifted.

Laurier's own musical group also reminded us of their talent when they performed "Comfort and Joy" from last year's production of *Bat Boy*. It was indeed the best group singing of the night, as the cast belted out the song with their lovely voices.

After intermission, on behalf of LMT, Janice Lee presented a check for \$1000 to the Kitchener-Waterloo Little Theatre.

The organization promotes theatre by providing an opportunity for anyone from the community who would like to participate in their productions. The donation will help Little Theatre rebuild their theatre house, which burned down.

The second half of the cabaret displayed just as much talent as the first. Clara Hiltz and Maria Koomen were amazing in their performance of "Medley" from *Flight of the Con-*

*chords*. Their act was well executed, as they made us laugh, while still asking in song, "What is wrong with the world today?"

The crowd was also treated to the talents of the Kitchener-Waterloo Musical Production's professional cast as they performed two numbers from their upcoming show *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Lee was extremely happy to welcome outside talent. "We made an initiative to build partnerships in the community ... because we're not competing," she said. Instead, the troupes are helping to support each other with such promotions.

The night was hosted by Brad Mitchell and Dave Lahn. As MCs, they introduced each performance. Perhaps the weakest part of the show, the two seemed unprepared, having to improvise their skits. However, even if clearly not rehearsed, the atmosphere of the environment was so laid back that the audience did not seem to care much.

Certainly, the whole point of the Cabaret is not to judge but to encourage. The audience did not come expecting perfection; they came to be entertained, but more so they came to support the performers and to encourage them to continue practising and showcasing their talents.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTROL YOUR DESTINY - Could a future console be collaborative?

## One console to rule them

Could the future hold an open-source console?



DANIEL JOSEPH  
STAFF WRITER

Man, do I want a PS3. There are going to be a great amount of games coming out soon for the thing, not the least of which is *Metal Gear Solid 4*, Hideo Kojima's next in his epic series of post-modern romps of stealth action.

But I have a problem. I'm terribly poor, and my fiscal responsibility extends to me not being able to afford a brand new PS3. I sort of like eating food on a regular basis.

I think as students all of us have to exercise restraint when it comes to buying expensive cutting-edge electronics. I have my problems with consumerism, but when it comes to my video games, I'll make an exception.

I have a three-year-old computer when I would love a cutting-edge gaming rig. I have a 13" television that was probably the bee's knees eight years ago. I would much rather hook my 360 up to a nice HD flatscreen and play the games the way they were meant to be.

**SURE CONSUMERISM IS EVIL, BUT MAYBE ONE DAY THE FORCES OF COMMODIFICATION WILL HELP US ALL BY CAUSING CONVERGENCE IN THE CONSOLE WORLD.**

Sure, consumerism is evil, but maybe one day the forces of commodification will help us all by causing convergence in the console world.

Dennis Dyack, of Ontario's very own developer Silicon Knights, has brought the concept of a sin-

gle console future to the forefront in the past few months. One console to rule them all, if you will. No PS3, no Xbox 360 or Nintendo Wii.

Just one accepted standard of performance, with multiple companies selling the same product. They are all the same, so the only real difference is price. And if you want to differentiate your price, it's got to go down.

I'm not an economist, so I won't go into the details or pitfalls of such an argument, but the ultimate outcome has several really cool implications.

One: Really cheap hardware. Now we can all afford to get the best games on a budget.

Two: It's all about the games. If somebody wants to be successful in the video game industry in a one-console future, they have to make the games great to get sales. No more riding on the trapped consumer stuck with one console. That means more innovation, and a better experience for us all.

Of course, this future is in all likelihood a long way off, but then again, only 10 years ago there was Sony, Nintendo and Sega making consoles, and we were sure that wouldn't change.

Right now, the console holders have a vested interest to maintain their oligarchy, and I have a feeling fanboys the world over would take up their torch too, but maybe, just maybe, one day we can all have the same box in our living room, and all play the best games.

Until then, I'll just have to let Solid Snake battle Revolver Ocelot in my dreams.

letters@cordweekly.com



GREG MCKENZIE

BAT BOY LIVES ON - Not only a *Weekly World News* feature, it's also a Laurier Musical Theatre production.

# Penetrating the slash fiction world

Deep under virtual ground, a world of niche-genre would-be literary savants tell tall tales of fantastic fornicating fiction

**ASHLEY FLETCHER**  
THE XAVERIAN WEEKLY (CUP)

Antigonish, NS -- If you ever thought the sparks between Harry Potter and his peers were more than just magic, you aren't alone.

While browsing slash fiction, I read of the sex lives of Ninja Turtles, and Fred and Shaggy doing far more than solving mysteries.

This type of writing was more popular than I had anticipated. There are more than 87,000 sexual story creations starring Harry Potter at fanfiction.net alone. One author I found states that he enjoyed turning sweet, lovable Harry into a sexual mongoose.

Slash fiction is written predominantly about romance or sexual relationships between two or more male characters from cartoons, movies or real life.

Slash fiction about females is dubbed femslash. Slash was chosen as a label because online authors denote the pairing in the article by using a back slash, as in male/male. These categories all fall under fanfiction, written by fans of the shows they write about.

The genre is said to have originated following the original Star Trek. Fans envisioned what would happen next season, and what didn't happen at all between Spock and

Kirk.

St. Francis Xavier University honours student Clare Mulcahy is writing her thesis on slash fiction and indicates that readers have a number of different responses to the genre.

"Some, not surprisingly, have some pretty hostile and homophobic reactions," she said. "But there are others who love it."

The love for slash fiction seems to stem from the taboo of homosexuality. "You're witnessing something hidden, secret. You're the voyeur, and there's a lot of power and pleasure in being the voyeur," Mulcahy affirms.

When asked about the most interesting aspect of her research, Mulcahy answered, "I'm still somewhat stumped when it comes to figuring out why heterosexual women - which is how the majority of 'slashers' [writers] identify - would write primarily about two men getting it on."

An article written by Rochelle Mazar in the novel *The International Handbook of Virtual Learning Environments* may be the answer to Mulcahy's confusion.

Mazar writes that women don't do it for the money (because there's none to be had) and they don't do it for fame (because most writers guard their real-life story and iden-

ties carefully). Mazar concludes that they do it because they love writing their stories; they love the characters that are not theirs.

Mulcahy has a theory of her own. "Women have historically been discouraged from writing about sex, especially about same-sex sex," she stated.

**"WHEN THOSE CHARACTERS START HAVING GAY SEX, THE ISSUE BECOMES EVEN MORE HEATED, SINCE SOME OF THESE ORIGINAL AUTHORS ARE STILL UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE'S SOMETHING UNNATURAL OR SCARY ABOUT QUEER PEOPLE."**

- Clare Mulcahy, St. FX student

"That's a big generalization," she admitted, "but it's often been true, and I think it's thrilling for women to write about a subject that's still pretty taboo, in a way that's still pretty taboo," Mulcahy said.

The taboos in slash tarnish established media characters, portraying them in a way that was never intended. Original creators of the characters are often surprised and distressed that their characters are being depicted having gay sex.

Mulcahy suggested that authors

like to think they own their characters and often get upset when they see their characters re-appropriated. She feels that gay sex makes some authors even more upset.

"When those characters start having gay sex, the issue becomes even more heated, since some of these original authors are still under

the impression that there's something unnatural or scary about queer people," she explains.

Nevertheless, writers of slash don't generally worry about being sued for copyright infringement. For the most part, slash fiction doesn't in-

volve profit. Most copyright holders have expressed that as long as slash remains non-profit, they will not ban it. Slash authors also protect themselves by writing a disclaimer.

"You'll notice if you go to any slash sites, that each story has some kind of note saying something like 'I don't own these characters, I'm not profiting from this story,'" Mulcahy confirms.

Another group of artists who con-tort existing characters to suit their tastes are the creators of Manips.

Manips are manipulated graphics or photos which usually coexist alongside slash fiction. St. Francis Xavier University cartooning-art professor Brian Segal feels that the distortion of such images should not be practised by artists.

"The use of digital media to place people in situations that are not representative of reality, that suggest impropriety or even simply do not accurately represent them in any way are abusive practices," Segal asserts.

"Creators quite rightly get very upset when their intellectual property is appropriated, warped and/or otherwise used without their knowledge and/or permission," he continues.

"In fact, it is illegal to do so, but more to the point, it is a symptom of degraded values and a sad lack of intellectual and aesthetic rigour, without which, the arts are doomed to become irrelevant, undervalued and, ultimately, dismissed," Segal concludes.

Although they don't profit from their creations, slash fan fiction authors and Manip editors create a plethora of scenarios and images about every pairing imaginable. While unconventional, slash seems very popular. But perhaps you'll have to make up your mind on the matter for yourself.

## Message to the Community

Wilfrid Laurier University is experiencing a labour disruption. On Wednesday, March 19 at 6 a.m., our Contract Academic Staff (part-time faculty) withdrew their teaching services after six-and-a-half months of negotiation.

With two weeks of classes left in the academic term, this strike hits at a time when students are very vulnerable. Our students are trying to complete their academic year and senior students are working toward completing their degrees.

However, the majority of classes continue, and all full-time faculty and all staff are expected to be at work. The university is open and will continue to function at the highest possible level.

The university intends to do everything possible to ensure the completion of the academic year. We urge students and their families to monitor our website at [www.wlu.ca/negotiations](http://www.wlu.ca/negotiations) for the latest information.

Why is there a strike? Two reasons - money and job security.

Laurier, like every university, relies on part-time, or Contract Academic Staff, to complete the complement of instructors necessary to provide instruction in all the courses we offer. When an extra section of a course is necessary, when a full-time faculty member is on sabbatical, medical or parental leave, or when a faculty member is engaged in additional research, Contract Academic Staff fill the gaps. They are highly valued and respected members of our teaching staff.

However, unlike full-time faculty, Contract Academic Staff are hired specifically to teach on a course-by-course basis. They

do not have the same obligations of research and university service as full-time faculty.

The Contract Academic Staff at Laurier are paid a per-course stipend of \$6,001 per term. We have offered salary increases of 3.5% (\$6,212) immediately, and 3% in the second year and 3% in the third year. The salary offered at Laurier is competitive with that for similar work at other universities.

In terms of security, the current agreement with Contract Academic Staff has a provision for seniority. Part-time faculty earn a seniority point every time they teach a course. After accruing three "points", the instructor is eligible for seniority. Seniority status and accrued points typically determine who teaches an available course.

The Faculty Association is bargaining to add a new category of seniority - global seniority - which would add consideration of overall teaching experience at the university to experience teaching a particular course. The university wants to maintain its right to ensure that the best instructors for each course are teaching our students; the system being proposed by the Faculty Association could negatively impact academic quality.

The university is willing to return to the bargaining table at any time and awaits a full response from the Faculty Association to our last offer. We are hopeful that resolution can be reached quickly and will do our best to ensure that the needs of our students are addressed during this period of disruption.



*RetroRewind presents*

**Retro PROM**

**MARCH 28**

\*LAST RETRO REWIND - APRIL 4




watch him swallow  
**then regurgitate**



**STEVIE STARR**

**THE REGURGITATOR**

Tuesday, April 1 - Turret

Tickets at the C-Spot



**GOES**

**COUNTRY**

**THE SEQUEL**

**APRIL 2**