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## WLUSU board's big budget

Largest Board budget to date; majority spent on training and chair salary

**LAURA CARLSON**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

Fresh into its new term, the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) Board of Directors (BOD) has passed the \$252,037.53 interim

budget for the Students' Union. The BOD's own portion represents \$31,575.87 of the budget. "Interim budgets from the operations side are literally a budget that gets you through the summer," explained Colin LeFevre, president

of WLUSU. LeFevre noted that the President's interim budget is quite standard compared to those approved in the past, and within \$300 of last year's interim budget. "We don't have a huge cash flow

so really we just take whatever money we have in our bank accounts right now and spend as little as possible to get us through the summer, but still [allow us to] be a functional organization," he added. While departments such as Marketing, Brantford and Human Resources make up the largest percentages of the budget, having

received \$49,844.61, \$32,329 and \$32,091.50 respectively, this year 13 percent of the overall WLUSU budget went directly to the BOD. "This year's budget is definitely the biggest I'm aware of," noted Asif Bacchus, chair of the BOD, regarding the \$31,575.87 allotted to the board. - SEE INTERIM, PAGE 5



SYDNEY HELLAND

**UNION DUES** - Jobs in the WLU bookstore and Athletic Complex may become unionized next year.

## Student jobs may still be unionized

Laurier students will be allowed legal representation over the decision of whether or not to unionize all student employment on campus

**KEREN GOTTFRIED**  
STAFF WRITER

Do you want your job unionized? For 1,200 students employed at Laurier, this is going to become a very real question in March 2009. The Wilfrid Laurier University Staff Association (WLUSA) filed an official grievance against WLU that, if successful, would unionize many student employees on campus, such as those working at Parking Services, Athletics and Recreation and the WLU Bookstore. A seven-hour arbitration meeting on Friday, May 9 concluded

with an agreement by the arbitrator and the parties' lawyer to allow undergraduate and graduate students to hold legal standing at subsequent meetings, which will continue in March of next year. WLUSA initially attempted to pursue this initiative without the input of students. They filed the grievance last October with the university, stating that WLU has "improperly excluded from the WLUSA Bargaining Unit all office, clerical and technical positions at WLU that are being performed by registered graduate and undergraduate students."

Allison Roberts, Assistant VP: Human Resources at WLU, explained that "WLUSA seeks to represent [students] under the current certificate, so students will not get a vote." With legal standing at meetings, students will now have a voice through Andrew Camman, the legal representation for both the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) and the Graduate Students' Association (GSA). - SEE JOBS, PAGE 3

## WLU supports accused student

Laurier MBA student Suresh Sriskandarajah is a "role model," according to professors and peers

**KEREN GOTTFRIED**  
STAFF WRITER

Wilfrid Laurier University staff, professors and students are in strong support of the decision to award a prestigious new entrepreneurship prize to a student accused of acts of terrorism. The award winner in question is Suresh Sriskandarajah, a Masters of Business Administration Student, who recently completed his education in engineering at the University of Waterloo. "The university recognizes the principle in law of the presumption of innocence," explained Kevin Crowley, Associate Director of Public Affairs at Laurier. "As long as there's no immediate danger to surrounding students, the university assumes that the allegations are just allegations." The CIBC Leaders in Entrepreneurship is in its inaugural year, and is designed to recognize a student that "demonstrate(s) active involvement in entrepreneurial activity" with an award of \$5,000. The criteria also include academic performance and financial need. Dean of the School of Business and Economics (SBE) and Chair of the SBE Award Committee Ginny Dybenko said that he was selected because he met the strict criteria and was weighed fairly against the other candidates. "The individual that I have encountered is a person that's not only very intelligent, and very socially aware, but in addition to that he is applying energy to make the school a better place," Dybenko

explained. "He's just been an exemplary role model on all levels," she noted. Dr. Hugh Munro, MBA Programs Director at Laurier and one of Sriskandarajah's professors, describes the allegations as a "big cloud that hangs over him that is holding him back. "As an institution I think we have no other way to judge it other than what he brings, how he acts and behaves, and he has been nothing but professional with us and for us," said Munro. Dave Mann, an MBA student and friend of Sriskandarajah, said he and his peers have been helped by him even with simple tasks like setting up Internet and photographing their softball team, noting that when drinking events were held, Sriskandarajah always acted as the designated driver. "He's pretty much the link between the professors and the students," said Chris Dutra, another classmate. "You got a problem with anything, go see Suresh and he'll make sure something gets done about it." MBA student Ben Crane has heard of the alleged links of his peer to the Tamil Tigers, a militant freedom organization described as a terrorist group by many countries. "It's something that seems to be blown up, from what all the students are talking about. He's kind of caught up in something that didn't really involve him all that much," said Crane. - SEE SURESH, PAGE 5



## THE CORD WEEKLY

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I totally want to go down and look at beavers."

- A&amp;E Editor Daniel Joseph on the Waterloo Region's interesting wildlife.

## WORD OF THE WEEK

Ahoy-hoy - The greeting that Alexander Graham Bell deemed to be most appropriate for use over a telephone.

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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.

SYDNEY HELLAND

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS - Construction workers gutted the entire room, starting the renovations to Arts 1E1 from the ground up.

## Arts 1E1 renovations begin

In need of a "facelift," the infamous Arts 1E1 lecture hall is undergoing a complete renovation and the Arts building Tim Horten's has been removed, to be replaced by a new seating area

ALEX HAYTER  
CORD EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Built in the 1960s, the Arts 1E1 lecture hall has not seen renovations for at least a decade. But on May 1, Laurier Physical Resources moved in to revamp the entire room. The entire renovation will cost a quarter of a million dollars and is set to be completed mid-August.

New flooring, seats, lighting and décor will update the lecture hall thanks to funds received from the Ontario government.

VP: Academic Sue Horton knew that the renovations were a long time coming. "It was clearly dated, it's been clearly in need of renovations for a while," she said.

"It gets heavily used, it's one of the biggest classrooms we have, and it's in a very central location."

Gary Nower, Assistant Vice-President: Physical Resources, also recognized the need to upgrade one of the oldest sections of campus. "When I got here, 1E1 was something people spoke about as needing a facelift, so it seemed like a logical place to put the money," said Nower.

New to his position approxi-

mately seven months ago, Nower was unable to comment on why it has taken so long to update the lecture hall. "We're fortunate right now that we have some money from the province, and it's a priority for us to enhance student areas."

Horton had a simple answer for why it had taken so long for the room to be renovated: "Money."

**"IT WAS CLEARLY DATED, IT'S BEEN CLEARLY IN NEED OF RENOVATIONS FOR A WHILE... IT GETS HEAVILY USED, IT'S ONE OF THE BIGGEST CLASSROOMS WE HAVE, AND IT'S IN A VERY CENTRAL LOCATION."**

- Sue Horton, VP: Academic

"If we had the money before, we would have done it," she continued. "We were just lucky we got the money."

Horton explained that complaints had frequently been made about the quality of 1E1's seating.

As a staff member who has used the lecture hall herself in the past, she understood where complaints

were coming from. Now, in her final term as VP: Academic, the concerns are being addressed.

Bill Januszkiewicz, Coordinator: Renovations &amp; CAD Systems of Physical Resources at Laurier, explained the new upgrades in some detail. New solid-wood flip-up seats will be installed, coming fitted with folding tablets and improved ergonomics.

The lecture hall's seating capacity is increasing, allowing the hall to seat 300 seats instead of what was approximately 250. As Horton noted, the decision to expand the capacity was not a deliberate attempt to accommodate more students, but instead a way to hold the amount of seats that the room was originally designed for.

Upgrades to electrics are "minor", but there is the capability to eventually install more power outlets for students to use.

The entrance doors will also be replaced in order to comply with

fire safety regulations.

The hall's tiered steps will be finished with ceramic tile, and the seating area carpeted - a material used in lecture halls for its acoustic suitability.

Finally, the wall panels are to be replaced by "bamboo" style of layered panel material.

Another significant change in the Arts building is the removal of the Tim Horton's business located opposite the entrance to 1E1.

The coffee shop will be replaced with a seating area, serving to reduce the amount of traffic congestion in the narrow hallway.

A significant problem with the shop was that it was a safety hazard. Januszkiewicz explained that it was illegal to have the business located beside a utility cabinet on the corner-wall beside it.

Horton found it a "tough choice" to remove the Tim Horton's, but said that the franchise was losing money on campus and sacrifices had to be made.

The gym in St. Michael's Campus is also set to be renovated, according to Horton, to make it more suitable as a classroom.



## VOCAL CORD

"How do you feel about the rising price of tuition in Ontario?"



"It's a shame for students that can't afford it - but what other choice does the government have?"

- Louise Robert  
Third-year Global Studies



"You get what you pay for."

- Cam Smith  
Fourth-year Business



"They're going up with the cost of living - it's not an irregular increase."

- Stew McKendry  
Fifth-year Business



"I think they suck. It's hard as a student - the costs go up, but our wages don't."

- Sarah Zeller  
Second-year Business



"I don't think it's a big deal in comparison to the other fees."

- Peter Surey  
Second-year Economics

Compiled by Daniel Joseph  
Photographs by Sydney Helland

# Outstanding individuals honoured

At Laurier's spring convocation this June, six prominent individuals will receive honorary degrees

REBECCA VASLUIANU  
NEWS EDITOR

Six individuals will be awarded honorary degrees at Laurier's spring convocation ceremonies this year, set to take place from June 4 to 6 at the Waterloo campus and June 11 at the Brantford campus.

The six individuals include award-winning actor Graham Greene, former federal Cabinet Minister Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, composer John Kim Bell, former Dean of Students Fred Nichols as well as two of Laurier's former presidents, Dr. Lorna Marsden and Dr. Robert Roseheart former.

According to Associate Director of News and Editorial Services at WLU Kevin Crowley, each individual will receive a degree based on their profound contributions in a variety of areas.

"The university awards honorary degrees to recognize the contributions for a variety of things, such as outstanding creative, scholarly, or professional achievements or distinguished public and community service," states Crowley. "It's the highest honour that Laurier awards."

Crowley explains that anyone within the university or the community can put a name forward, and the list of names are given to the Senate Honorary Degree Committee which considers the names and forwards a list to the Senate Executive Committee and the president for final approval.

Marsden, current president of York University and recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the Faculties of Music and Science on June 5, stated her ex-

citement at the recognition.

"I'm absolutely thrilled; it's a really special honour," said Marsden, who served eight years on the federal Senate and is a member of the Order of Canada.

"I think Laurier is really a special place. The culture at Laurier is like no other I've ever been at, and it goes on year after year. It somehow just attracts nice people," she added.

Fellow honouree Bell is a composer and former conductor of the Toronto Symphony and several Broadway musicals, as well as creator of a charity called the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.

Receiving his Honorary Doctor of Laws on June 11 at Brantford, Bell explained that while this is his sixth honorary degree, he will still be excited to receive it.

"It's a wonderful honour and recognition of many hard years of work," stated Bell.

Nichols, an active member of the Laurier community for over 35 years who helped found the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) and Boosting Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students (BACCHUS), will be receiving his Honorary Doctor of Laws from the Faculty of Arts on June 16.

Thrilled by the recognition, Nichols explained that all of his contributions to the university are merely reimbursement for the great experience he has had at Laurier.

"Everything is kind of payback because the university has been so good to me for so many years," said Nichols. "The highlight of my life was when the students decided



SYDNEY HELLAND

ALUMNI HALL - Former Dean of Students Fred Nichols and two former Laurier presidents will receive honorary degrees.

to put my name on that building. These honours all just mean so much to me."

Rosehart, also a recipient, was president of Laurier from 1997 to 2007, a period of immense expansion and renovation at the university.

Rosehart, who will be awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the School of Business and Economics on June 5, explained how excited he is to have been part of Laurier's growth.

"I feel very pleased," stated Rosehart. "When I came, Laurier had one campus and about 1700 students. I'm still very interested in following what goes along in

terms of the future.

"Organizations do change, so I'll be watching from the sidelines."

Also receiving honorary degrees are Oscar-nominated actor Greene, who has starred in films such as *Dances with Wolves* and *The Green Mile*, as well as Axworthy, current president of the University of Winnipeg and a former prominent player in Canadian politics for 27 years.

Greene will be awarded an Honorary Degree of Laws on June 11 at Brantford and Axworthy will receive an Honorary Degree of Laws from the Faculty of Arts on June 6 at the Waterloo campus.

# Students may join WLUSA union

- FROM JOBS, COVER

"We're definitely excited about the fact that we were able to get intervener status," expressed Colin LeFevre, WLUSU president. "It was very clear that one side did not want it. The university supported us quite openly, but the Staff Association didn't want us to."

Keith Goulet, WLUSA president stated that he is also pleased with the outcome of the arbitration meeting.

"I'm glad that the employer, the union and the students were able to come to an agreement on how standing was going to work," explained Goulet. "I thought that was a really good step to coming to an agreement on things."

Only Camman will be permitted to speak during meetings, but he will be advised by the WLUSU Management Committee and GSA executives.

LeFevre explained that although



ALEX HAYTER

PUTTING THE 'YOU' IN UNION - The formal arbitration meeting took place May 9 in 202 Regina St. North.

WLUSU will not be taking a position about whether or not student jobs should be unionized at any point in time, the official position is that the grievance filed by the Staff Association should fail.

"We want the grievance to fail because we believe that the grievance going through would unionize a significant number of peo-

ple... that have never been unionized, that have never been given a choice," LeFevre explained.

"The students need a voice, and if the students want to be unionized the students will have a unionization drive and union cards," he added.

Undergraduate students employed on campus can have

their voice heard by speaking to LeFevre.

"Come talk to me at any time," he said. "If there's a large contingent of student employees that really want to have their voice heard, I'm here to talk... if [students] want to contribute information to us, we're quite happy to hear it."





SYDNEY HELLAND

**NO REZONE FOR THESE HOMES** - Common in the university community, lower quality student housing in Waterloo is the center of a controversial debate between city councillors.

# City council votes against rezoning

Despite a negative vote for rezoning the area surrounding the university, controversy still exists over "student slums"

**REBECCA VASLUIANU**  
NEWS EDITOR

In a 5 to 2 vote, Waterloo's city councillors elected not to rezone the area around Laurier and the University of Waterloo, despite desperate pleas from residents in the neighbourhood.

The area, which was designated for war veterans over 60 years ago, has become largely populated by students of both universities, which has left residents concerned about the reduction in property value, as well as the overall negative impact on the neighbourhood environment.

One of the city councillors who voted for rezoning, Mark Whaley, explains that the misuse of housing in the area has also created dangerous and sub-standard conditions.

"The veteran houses were already worn out by the time the students moved in and the students' use was not particularly conducive to the type of homes," explained Whaley.

"The city is responsible to provide adequate housing for our stu-

dents who play such a huge role in our city... and we're allowing our students to go into these terribly substandard places that are overcrowded and, in my opinion, unsafe," he adds.

Yet Jan D'Ailly, the councillor who is in control of Ward 5 of Waterloo, the area home to the "student slums" in question, believes there are other solutions to the problem.

"There are no student slums, but there is a problem," stated D'Ailly.

"Nobody denies that there is a problem, and this problem is a long time coming and there are going to be no instant answers and over the last year we did take a look at the fundamental strategies for land use."

D'Ailly explained that the city has come up with three methods to gradually solve the problem of student housing.

The first involves the development of more apartment-style student housing along the borders of University Avenue, Columbia Street, Lester Street and King Street to better accommodate students.

"It's certainly the expectation that over time students will find those more attractive than the ones inside that area," said D'Ailly.

Also, the provincial government has created a policy allowing the municipal government to license residential housing.

This means that student tenants will have to adhere to strict regulations in order to maintain their tenancy.

"The licensing bylaw has given us a tremendous hammer that will allow us to make sure that all the houses in the area are being used for appropriate means," D'Ailly explained.

Another action that councillors hope will assist in revamping the area is a low-tolerance policy that has been adopted by the Waterloo Regional Police, which should force student residents to adhere to firm guidelines.

Whaley, however, believes that these actions are passive and will not solve the problems at hand.

"The community and universities need to move forward to create dynamic new housing for new uni-

versities," explained Whaley, who believes this is all possible through rezoning.

"I believe we can create what I've called an 'ecotopia' there, a mixed-use housing forum that takes into account not just students but the professors who work there.

"All this is possible if we unshackle zoning from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It's all possible, but we have some convincing to do," Whaley added.

Many people, such as D'Ailly, believe a mixture of apartment and house-style homes would be more detrimental than helpful.

"When you build a community you want to have [similar] housing [throughout], and what's going to happen is that you're going to have a whole mishmash in there that'll make things worse off than they were," stated D'Ailly.

Laurier alumni and resident of the area Rob Smith who graduated with a Bachelor of Business and Economics in 2004 agrees that rezoning is not necessary because he likes the uniformity within the community.

"Someone who's old or profes-

sionals living in the immediate area - I don't think it's really appealing to them," explained Smith. "Otherwise I don't think it's too bad."

"I think the community atmosphere, the look of it, even if there might be a little more garbage, I think it's a nicer sense of community having the housing and the traditional homes," he added.

While rezoning will not happen in the immediate future, Whaley believes the problems are too great to be ignored forever.

"I do see it moving forward and here's why. The neighbours are disgruntled and dissatisfied. The schools, the churches — which are the cornerstones of any neighbourhood — are leaving," Whaley explained.

"The university leaders themselves have looked at the solution and said 'wow, we need to come up with a solution for the land between the two universities," he said.

Whaley added that he plans to continue networking and communicating about the issue.

## Business student wins award

"Campus Ink," a remanufactured cartridge business, beat five other entries

**JEREMY TREMBLAY**  
NEWS EDITOR

Christopher Carmichael, a second-year business student at the School of Business and Economics, won the Wes Nichol Entrepreneurial Award after competing with students from Acadia, Carleton, University of Guelph, University of Ottawa and University of Waterloo earlier this month.

Carmichael won the national award for "Campus Ink," his business model for remanufactured

print cartridges, which he explains hold three times the volume of ink that original cartridges do at a fraction of the cost.

"A lot of the other business ideas were very technically advanced," Carmichael said. "They were all tech ideas. I was just offering remanufactured ink cartridges."

However, Carmichael explains that feasibility was a large factor in the judging, and Campus Ink was more feasible than many of the plans that were presented.

"I've been developing the busi-

ness for two years," Carmichael explained. He says it took about two months for him to further develop the business plan that he presented.

The plan includes investing in businesses in developing countries through microloans and supporting the entrepreneurial development of students located at other post-secondary institutions.

"I was just really surprised... I ended up winning the whole competition," said Carmichael. "I was the youngest guy there."



SYDNEY HELLAND

**INK ENTERPRISE** - Second-year student Christopher Carmichael.



# Interim budget passed

- FROM INTERIM COVER

"The summer budget this year is bigger than last year's entire year-long budget already," he added.

Bacchus explained that the majority of the board's budget will be going towards professional development and training, which will include initiatives to expand the board's library and to facilitate two retreats focused on training, team building and outreach.

Bacchus sees the increase in the amount of money given to the board as a reflection of WLUSU's effort to ensure student input is adequately met by providing directors with the appropriate resources to effectively do their job.

"One of the big problems with the board in the past is you elect 15 people to be your voice, and those 15 people traditionally do not have the resources they need," said Bacchus.

"One of the things we've done

this year is we've rectified that."

Aside from training and resources, another large portion of the board's budget is going towards the summer salary for the chair, which is set for just under \$10,000.

Though this amount is only slightly higher than that paid to past chairs, Bacchus explains that one of the big differences this year is the addition of a tangible schedule of his research to be conducted over the summer, and the required bi-weekly reports submitted to the board.

"They have 18 projects which are on topic and on point with almost everything that's been happening at the Students' Union," said Bacchus.

These projects include revamping elections, looking at the roles of positions such as board secretary and treasurer, evaluating Human Resources hiring as well as more generally looking at issues relating to visibility and accountability to

students.

Though the \$10,000 salary is set for the interim period, the board will review this payment structure later in the summer, at which time they will decide how and if they will pay the chair throughout the course of the school year.

"I think as representatives of students they have the right to debate everyone's salary," noted Bacchus.

Bacchus also explained that during the in-camera session of the April 30 board meeting, the directors had a chance to set the salary for the president of WLUSU.

"There was an official ratification for the first time ever of the president's salary and a chance to debate that ... and on both of our salaries there was excellent debate," he added.

LeFevre explained that though the president's salary has not been discussed on the board level during the budgeting process in the past, after looking through the existing policies with Bacchus they discovered that there is a policy stating that the board sets the president's salary.

"It's a representative voice, the board is my boss, why should they not have a say in how much I make?" said LeFevre.

Though LeFevre was unable to disclose the exact amount of this salary, citing HR reasons, he explained that the board decided to keep the existing payment structure of the past several years, only increasing the salary by the rate of inflation.

"They voted to ratify it because it's standard," explained LeFevre.

"But again it's one of those healthy things... It says in the policy that it's the board that sets [the president's salary] and it actually puts a limitation on the president that they can't change their salary without consent of the board," he added.

WLUSU's financial considerations for the rest of the year will be decided upon at the operating budget meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for June 13.



SYDNEY HELLAND

**CHAIR BEAR** - Asif Bacchus officially became board chair on May 1.

# Suresh Sriskandarajah supported by Laurier

- FROM SURESH COVER

Sriskandarajah was contacted but would not provide a comment except through his lawyer, John Norris of Ruby and Edward in Toronto.

"He denies the allegations that are being made against him by the United States," said Norris.

"He intends to resist the request for his extradition and in the meantime, he has been dedicating his time to his studies," he added.

Although hesitant to speculate, Norris said that he expects the

proceedings to go on for possibly another year after the hearing in January.

"I think what we have to do is just ride it out, provide him [with] all the support that we possibly can, within the context of all that he's done for us," noted Dybenko. "It's a wait and see."

In the meantime, Dr. Munro stated he hopes it will all be resolved.

"If you were to think of the kinds of ways people can contribute, he's done them all," he added. "That's the Suresh I know."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**"ROLE MODEL"** - A young Suresh Sriskandarajah, MBA student.

See PAGE 14 for editorial reaction to this story

## NEWSIN BRIEF

### New dean of Brantford campus named

As of the end of May, Dr. Bruce Arai has been named Dean of the Brantford campus.

His four-year appointment begins July 1.

Arai has been Associate Dean of the Brantford campus since 2003 and Acting Dean since 2005.

### Laurier takes place in challenge to reduce emissions

For the seventh year in a row Laurier plans to engage in a national Commuter Challenge during the week of June 2 to 6 in order to create cleaner air and help the environment.

Those taking part will be encouraged to take the bus, walk, bike or rollerblade to work in conjunction with National Environment Week and Clean Air Day taking place on June 4.

In order to encourage participation, Grand River Transit will be offering a two-for-one discount on tickets on June 4.

As well, Laurier hosted a Hawk Walk on May 27 at noon, where participants walked for 30 minutes to support the initiative.

Laurier will also host a Commuter Challenge Barbeque on June 3 at 11:30 a.m. to inform individuals about the cause and support those taking part.

In 2007 Laurier came in third place in their category within the Waterloo Region and managed to reduce emissions by about 2510 kilograms. This year the university hopes to reduce emissions even more.

### Kitchener-Waterloo Greyhound ads an alternate location

Confusion has come to an end after many Kitchener-Waterloo residents feared that a change in Greyhound stations would inconvenience them.

Reports that Greyhound would change their central station to one at Kitchener's Sportsworld Drive in July came as a surprise to many in the city who depend on the Charles Street Terminal location for transportation.

However, Senior Vice President of Greyhound Stuart Kendrick announced that the news was a false scare and he apologized to those who were inconvenienced.

Kendrick explained that Greyhound intends to keep their central Charles Street location but has added an additional station at Sportsworld Drive near Highway 401 to make transportation

easier for commuters who can easily park there.

While tickets will no longer be sold at the Charles Street location, passengers can be picked up from there regardless of whether or not they have purchased a ticket or not.

### Uncertainty regarding proposed waterfall and skating rink in uptown Waterloo

The Waterloo City Council recently decided that the potential waterfall and skating rink in Waterloo's new square will have to wait.

The square however, which will be located at King Street and Willis Way, will be built without the additions.

With an estimated budget standing at \$3.4 million, the city council decided the skating rink and waterfall would have to be omitted until more money could be raised, which will save approximately \$906,529.

The square, which will feature coloured concrete, sitting areas and planters is expected to be finished by the end of the year.

Whether or not the square will include a skating rink and/or waterfall depends on the success of fundraising that the city of Waterloo will conduct.

### VP: Advancement no longer at Laurier

As of May 15, Scott Hayter has left his position as VP: University Advancement at WLU to become Executive Director of Advancement at St. Andrew's College in Aurora.

He had worked at Laurier as Assistant VP: Development since 2004, and was named VP: University Advancement last year.

His departure was announced in February of this year. The position of VP: University Advancement at WLU is currently unfilled.

- Compiled by Jeremy Tremblay and Rebecca Vasluianu

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# Worldwide wreckage



**CHILDREN PLAY IN DISASTER ZONE** - With 2.5 million survivors displaced, many have to sort through the wreckage for their belongings.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## 77,738 dead in Burma cyclone

Foreign aid slowly trickles in more than three weeks since the storm hit

**ASHLEY DOODNAUTH**  
STAFF WRITER

Estimates of damage are now coming in from the cyclone ravaged country of Burma. Over \$10 billion US is said to be lost from the natural disaster, Cyclone Nargis, that hit the south-Asian country over two weeks ago.

*AsiaTimes* has reported that 77,739 are dead, 55,917 are missing and another 2.4 million are living in poor conditions and are still waiting for aid.

The military junta ruling over Burma had stopped many aid agencies and countries from sending help to millions of homeless scattered throughout the Irrawaddy Delta - the worst hit area in the southern portion of Burma.

Many say that the junta, includ-

ing its reclusive leader, General Than Shwe, is committing crimes against humanity, as children and elderly alike are suffering with poor living conditions and a lack of water and food.

UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown has said that although the cyclone was a natural disaster, "it is being made into a man-made catastrophe".

*BBC News* reports the junta has recently started to unload aid from the US and UK which they were previously prohibiting entry to, showing a step in the right direction for allowing aid through to those in need.

A team of 50 Indian medical personnel have also been granted a pass into Burma in order to start relieving injured and sick Burmese citizens.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has recently met with the Burmese junta leader, General Than Shwe, and both have come to an understanding in which Burma would now allow delivery of aid "via civilian ships and small boats" reports *BBC News*.

It is still unclear whether the US, British and French warships waiting off coast with supplies will be allowed to enter Burmese waters.

The UN Secretary General was pleased with the talks he had with General Than Shwe, and the conclusion of letting all aid workers into Myanmar regardless of nationality.

Still, plenty of work is needed to overcome physical barriers hindering aid workers to access badly affected areas like the Irrawaddy Delta.

## Storms in USA bring damage

FEMA springs to the assistance of the hundreds left homeless by storms

**PAULA MILLAR**  
CORD INTERNATIONAL

A relief effort commenced May 12 after a weekend of storms spawned several tornado touchdowns and severe thunderstorms spanning four states in the American Midwest and Southeast.

Among the storm-ravaged states: Arkansas, Alabama, Missouri, and Georgia. *CNN* reports at least 23 dead and several hundred others left homeless in the wake of this most recent round of severe weather to pummel the region.

Such treacherous conditions in the infamously nicknamed "Torna-

do Alley' are not uncommon to the area or to those who reside there.

Over the last three years, an average of 539 tornadoes have been recorded between the months of January and May. However, The National Weather Service has received reports of 819 tornadoes so far this year.

This most recent destruction to the area is widespread and declarations of emergency have already been issued by all affected states.

Undeniably, the hardest-hit community is Picher, Oklahoma. The town, already a U.S. government-declared environmental disaster area because of toxic tailings from lead and zinc mines, is now home

to a new trail of devastation.

The new damage left behind by these storms is so extensive, many suspect the town to be abandoned rather than ever rebuilt.

This most recent series of natural disasters has garnered the attention not only of state officials but also of US President George W. Bush, who has stated, "The federal government will be moving hard to help."

While many Americans affected by the storm feel the federal government's goal here is redemption, after the large-scale criticism and well-documented mismanagement of Hurricane Katrina relief, the response was applauded.

David Paulison, administrator of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**TWISTER** - Storms frequently rip through open fields in the South.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), echoed this very premise to the people of storm-hit areas, "We'll be here for the long

haul. This is not a FEMA that you saw here two years ago; it's a FEMA that's committed to local communities, and that's what it's all about."

## Deadliest quake since 1976 hits China

Over 67,000 killed and \$9.6 billion lost in Sichuan, China; \$860 million contributed in foreign aid

**KEREN GOTTFRIED**  
STAFF WRITER

The earthquake that hit China's Sichuan province on Monday, May 12 is estimated to have killed 67,183 and injured over 361,822 people, according to chinaview.com.

Ranking 7.9 on the Richter scale, the quake shook central China for almost three minutes, affecting communities as far as Vietnam.

The earthquake hit close to the city of Chongqing, where two employees of Wilfrid Laurier University share an office with a number of partner universities.

"Everyone is safe but frightened by the experience," said Peter Donahue, director of Laurier International, as reported on the WLU website. "The night of the quake, many residents of Chongqing spent the night on the streets until the rains drove them back inside."

The country is estimated to have experienced an economic loss of \$9.6 billion in the province of Sichuan alone, stemming from damage to over 14,000 businesses.

The People's Liberation Army, typically mandated to efforts like relief work during times of peace, responded to the disaster almost

immediately according to senior officials in Beijing - with teams arriving to the disaster zone 14 minutes after the quake hit.

The international community is lending its support to the victims and their families, with over \$860 million in donations having been contributed by China and foreign countries.

Mudslides and tremors have impeded the progress of rescue work and shaken survivors. Hundreds of aid workers have been killed or injured from over 145 aftershocks that ranked over 4 on the Richter scale.

Although survivors continue to be found, the majority of relief work has turned to providing support for the millions of survivors instead of continuing an extensive search for less fortunate victims.

One week after the ruinous natural disaster, the country began a three-day silence to mourn the tragedy - the country's most fatal quake since 1976.

Entertainment websites have been redirected to pages paying tribute to victims and public entertainment has been called off, reported sina.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**RUBBLE** - Grasping for freedom through the debris in Sichuan.





SYDNEY HELLAND

**DIAMONDS ARE NOT FOREVER** - Diamond Development Initiative founder Ian Smillie seeks a worldwide end to conflict diamond trading.

**WALEED HAFEEZ**  
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR '07-'08

On Wednesday May 21, in a talk entitled "Blood on the Stone: War and Redemption in the Global Diamond Trade", the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) played host to development

expert Ian Smillie who discussed his work with NGOs and various world governments to end the proliferation of conflict diamonds and their use in war.

Smillie prefaced his talk by saying that what he was about to share with those gathered was a combination of a personal memoir, a war

# Conflict diamonds discussed at CIGI

Ian Smillie talks about his contribution to banning the trade of conflict diamonds and his new project, the Diamond Development Initiative

story and a murder mystery. He then asked how many people present had watched the movie *Blood Diamond*, something he referred to occasionally through his talk.

Smillie, well versed in countless statistics related to the global diamond trade, explained that 60 percent of diamonds traded in the world come from Africa but that the diamond trade is a global industry with mining, refining, cutting and setting carried out in different parts of the world.

"Conflict" diamonds, he explained, are those that are mined by rebels digging a few feet or sifting through riverbeds and in turn, are sold for arms and ammunition. These weapons were used to fuel the civil wars that many diamond-rich countries were suffering through, sharing examples of Sierra Leone, Angola and Liberia.

He spoke of the brutal violence that conflict diamonds had resulted in and the countless number of people that had been left mutilated by the violence to which they had been subjected to by rebels. Relaying anecdotes of people he knew personally, Smillie expressed the gravity of the issue and how it was exterminated.

He explained that through the banding together of the world's

leaders in diamond trade, countless NGOs and the UN, the Kimberly Process was established - a global rating scale for diamonds that assesses their legality. Through this process, the conflict diamond trade was effectively ended - something that Smillie said could not have been possible without the joint efforts of all the diamond producing and diamond-trading countries that ratified the Kimberly Process nationally and made it illegal to trade conflict diamonds within their countries.

In his talk, Smillie was sure to point out that he and his colleagues' intentions were never to hurt the diamond industry due to countless people, such as in India where the majority of the world's diamonds are refined and processed, who would be adversely affected by any such attacks. He went on to mention that although he doesn't own any diamonds himself, he has "nothing against them."

However, he did focus a major initial part of his lecture on DeBeers, the world's largest producer of rough diamonds, and its act of turning a blind eye to conflict diamonds until the Kimberly Process was established. Even after its inception, DeBeers continued to accuse those involved with attempt-

ing to hinder the progress of the diamond industry, something Smillie and his colleagues have vehemently denied as their intention.

Smillie then went on to discuss the latest initiatives he has taken up since the success of the Kimberly Process, the main one being the Diamond Development Initiative (DDI). The former, he explained, was a purely regulatory system and did not concern itself with the actual industry at hand, but solely with the phenomenon of conflict diamonds. The latter, however, is a developmental agency that aims to maintain a high level of diamond quality and to enforce labour quality and fair wage regulations for all workers within the diamond industry, specifically those who continue to mine for alluvial diamonds in rivers and riverbeds.

He outlined the challenges the DDI has been facing as mainly monetary, and expressed his dissatisfaction with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)'s decision not to provide funding to the DDI. He closed his talk by expressing that "as a Canadian it was disappointing not to receive support from my own government but to have to rely on a generous donation from countries like Sweden."

# Polar bears reach threatened species list

With merely 25,000 polar bears left in the world, global warming forces a new addition onto the threatened species list

**SHAGUN RANDHAWA**  
CORD INTERNATIONAL

The US Government finally decided on May 14 to list the polar bear as a "threatened" species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) due to the affects of global warming. This action, however, might not matter much since the Arctic sea ice (which is vital for polar bears' survival) is receding, according to the US Secretary of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne.

As per a CBC News article, Kempthorne commented, "Because polar bears are vulnerable to this loss of habitat, they are, in my judgment, likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. In this case, [in] 45 years."

A study by the US Geological Service estimates a two thirds deterioration in the world's polar bear population, which is currently estimated to be 25,000. By becoming listed as a threatened species, it signals a greater chance that the species will be in danger of extinction in the future.

The decision to list polar bears as

threatened came from the increasing pressure and multiple lawsuits from various wildlife and environmental groups. Nevertheless, the agreement poses danger for the sport hunt in Canada's North.

Inuit hunters, especially in Nunavut, profit from US hunters who come north for trophy hunts of polar bears. This has led the Nunavut government to oppose this listing, for fear of a potential ban on the import of trophy bear hunts and limited appeal of the hunt.

In consequence of listing the polar bear as threatened, all federal US agencies must make certain that any actions authorized that may affect polar bears must not jeopardize the bears' survival or their habitat.

Included in this consideration is oil and gas exploration, commercial shipping, release of toxic contaminants or climate-affecting pollution.

Despite this, Kempthorne insists that there will be no change in oil and gas operations by the US government. Instead, the loss of sea ice, rather than oil and gas development, is attributed as the real rea-

son why the bears are threatened.

Wildlife groups are not impressed. According to a CNN article, Carol Muffet, deputy campaign director for Greenpeace, said, "This changes nothing. They

simultaneously acknowledge that global warming is likely to lead to polar bear extinction, while ruling out any action to address that problem."

The Bush Administration is mak-

ing steps towards protecting the wildlife that is dying out because of the effects of global warming, but it is clear to wildlife groups that it is both not enough, and a little too late.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**THREATENED SPECIES** - Polar bears reach exhaustion after swimming for miles to find grounds for hunting.



# Baxter to lead Canada's athletes

The Director of Laurier Athletics will represent Canadian athletes at the World University winter games in China next February



**CAPTAIN CANADA** - Baxter will provide support to the CIS office.

**LAUREN MILLET**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Next winter, Director of Laurier Athletics Peter Baxter will be representing university sport in Canada as he travels to Harbin, China for the International University Sports Federation (FISU) Winter Universiade games.

The ten-day event, taking place February 18 to 28 2009, will feature university athletes in winter sports such as alpine skiing, snowboarding, speed skating and curling — featuring Wilfrid Laurier's own national championship men's and women's curling teams.

"It's a tremendous honour to be leading the support team of 180 student athletes from across Canada and some from the United States," commented Baxter on his selection.

The games are the second largest world championship event featuring winter sports, behind only the Winter Olympics.

Baxter's role will be to assist the Canadian Inter-university Sport (CIS) office; coordinating from the administrative side to organize the games.

"I am giving [the CIS] support in hiring a staff to send, such as sport information staff, medical staff and logistic staff," said Baxter. "There will be about five of us who will oversee the organization of the staff while in China."

"Another part will be to work

with the host committee. There is a lot of diplomatic protocol that goes along with that," continued Baxter.

"Helping to deal with the issues that might come up, such as technical, doping or other issues that might arise at a major games event will be part of my responsibilities."

Having worked with student athletes for over 20 years, Baxter says his main job will be to make sure everything goes smoothly so that coaches can focus on their athletes and their performance in order to get the best out of them.

**"I ALWAYS SAW SPORT AS A MEDIUM THROUGH [WHICH] TO TEACH AND EDUCATE."**

**- Peter Baxter, Director of Laurier Athletics**

The experience of travelling to a sporting event like this brings much more than just good competition. "It allows myself as well as the student athletes to make connections with people from other universities," said Baxter.

"I hope to meet colleagues from other countries and develop some exchange programs. We might even be able to at some point arrange an exchange between one of our teams or even student leaders, and send them over to experience sports on an international level."

"It's going to be a great benefit in terms of a personal experience, but what I really hope to achieve is the

groundwork so that student leaders and coaches can have an experience in the future."

Baxter also talked about how an event of this magnitude allows student athletes to compete at yet another level while also being able to learn about new cultures in different parts of the world. Living with fellow athletes from around the world allows them to interact and gain insight into different cultures.

"I always saw sport as a medium through [which] to teach and educate," said Baxter. "When students have the opportunity to study abroad, it can be the same experience through sporting events such as this one."

"The purpose of their travel will be sport, but it is all the other things and experiences they will come away with [that] are what truly matters."

While Baxter is the first director to be selected from Laurier for a leadership role, the curling teams are not the first Hawk athletes to represent Canada at the FISU games. Tara Ross will be making her way to the FISU triathlon championships beginning on June 28. Previously, soccer star Kenny Nutt, baseball centre-fielder Scott Smith and golfer Jim Zwolak all represented Canada in their respective sports at the FISU level.

## Hawk Luciani drafted into pro league

Receiver Dante Luciani becomes the 15th player to leave the purple and gold after he was drafted in the fifth round by the Edmonton Eskimos

**LAUREN MILLET**  
SPORTS EDITOR

April 30, 2008 marked a new page in Golden Hawks receiver Dante Luciani's book, as he was drafted in the fifth round of the CFL Canadian draft by Edmonton.

"I was really hoping to get picked up, I didn't care when," said Luciani. "It's something I have wanted for as long as I can remember."

"It feels pretty good," he continued. "The past couple years you see the other guys move on and you think - that would be nice if it was me. So now that it's happened it

feels really good."

Luciani played four years with the Golden Hawks, picking up a second team all-star nod in his last year. He also made the crucial third and 16 catch in Laurier's 2005 Vanier Cup win, giving them the field position needed to kick the winning field goal. He concluded his career in the purple and gold with 52 regular season catches for 678 yards and nine touchdowns. In the playoffs, he made 23 catches for 395 yards and one touchdown.

Reflecting on his time with the Golden Hawks, Luciani will carry with him "a very hard work ethic



**GOODBYE HAWKS** - Receiver Luciani leaves Laurier for a professional football career with the Eskimos.

RYAN STEWART

as well as good knowledge of the game."

"We run a pro-style offence. Coach Jeff and the other coaches run the team like a professional team would," said Luciani. "I've picked up a very professional approach to the game during my time at Laurier."

Growing up, Luciani has always been surrounded by a support system. "My grandfather was always a hard worker, I definitely got my work ethic from him," said Luciani. "Also, my parents and my cousins were always very supportive."

As for fellow athletes, receiver Andre Talbot provided the athletic

inspiration. "He's the kind of player I have always wanted to be like, so I've followed him a lot."

Luciani flew to Edmonton yesterday, and begins training with the Eskimos today. The only Hawk drafted this year, his contract will allow him to play with the Eskimos for one full year.





**EURO2008**  
Austria-Switzerland

Follow Sports Editor  
Lauren Millet's blog  
coverage of Euro 2008 at  
[cordweekly.com](http://cordweekly.com)

## Canadian paralympian cleared of drug charges

Athlete Jeff Adams has been found entirely blameless in previous drug accusations and will be allowed to compete



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**IN THE CLEAR** - The well-known athlete hopes to qualify for the Paralympics in China.

**KARI PRITCHARD**  
FEATURES EDITOR

Canadian wheelchair athlete Jeff Adams, winner of thirteen Paralympic and six World Championship medals, has been cleared of previous drug charges.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) came to a unanimous decision on May 16 2008 that the Canadian athlete was entirely blameless in the charges.

The CAS has concluded that Adams' positive results were obtained through misconduct, as a contaminated catheter was used in the initial drug testing.

The three judges on the CAS unanimously agreed that there was no prohibited substance in Adams' system at the time of the

testing, or during the competition.

Adams has been found entirely free of fault and as a result has had the prior consequence of being unable to compete for two years eliminated.

The CAS decision has also allowed Adams to be fully reinstated to be able to compete once again, giving him a chance to participate in the upcoming Paralympic games.

The previous suspension has hindered Adams' coaching and training, giving him less time to prepare to qualify for the close approaching Paralympics.

Although Adams is behind, he still intends to continue training to qualify and compete on behalf of Canada in the Paralympics this summer in Beijing, China.

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# A mounting slope:

## the Ontario tuition fee problem

**LAURA CARLSON**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

As tuition fees across the province continue to rise, undergraduate students in Ontario are faced with the burden of personally contributing the funds necessary to pay for the government's lack of investment in the post-secondary industry.

Though tuition fees have been subject to slight increases in the past couple of years, it was during the 1990s that tuition rates took a drastic jump. According to Statistics Canada, in Ontario tuition has risen by approximately 220 percent since the 1990/1991 operating year.

While a five percent increase cap exists in Ontario, most institutions are riddled with debt and are forced to raise their tuition fees by this maximum amount to remain functional places of learning.

### Increasing tuition in Ontario

While tuition at Laurier is quite standard compared to other universities across the province, Ontario remains the third most expensive province in the country from which to obtain a degree from, following only Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

According to a report issued by Statistics Canada, in the 2007/2008 school year tuition in Ontario increased 4.4 percent from the previous year, making the average tuition paid by Ontario's undergraduate students \$5,381. This is over \$850 above the national average.

VP: Finance at Laurier Jim Butler explains that the reason behind the drastic increase in tuition fees is a result of a decline in funding from the provincial government.

"Within a decade there has been a change, simply because governments weren't really interested in putting more money into the post-secondary system."

According to Butler, at the end of the 1980s government grants accounted for between 85 and 90 percent of university revenue and now it's about 50 percent.

President of WLU Max Blouw has also seen how the cost of education in Ontario has been shifting to a "user pay system."

Being in a position where he frequently deals with both the student body and the government, through his seat on the Council of Ontario Universities (COU), Blouw is constantly exposed to the multiple perspectives that exist on this issue.

"The real question of course for any government, and for students and for university administrators is 'what's a fair balance, what is an appropriate balance of costs to the public as opposed to the

individual?" asks Blouw.

"I'm not sure that we really have a way to find an absolutely right answer."

Catherine Fife, former MPP candidate in the Kitchener-Waterloo riding and current vice president for the Ontario Public School Board Association, feels that "downloading" the cost of university onto students is not the right answer.

"With a looming economic downturn this is the time to invest in post-secondary," said Fife.

"The connection between a strongly publicly funded education system and having opportunities to transfer that knowledge into the post-secondary arena is key to a healthy province," she added.

### The province's undergrad tuition fee framework

After a two-year tuition freeze, in March of 2006 the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities announced a new fee framework, which places limits on how institutions across the province can increase undergraduate tuition fees.

"The government put a cap on tuition over the past two years and they've come forth with a tuition fee framework recently," explained Greg Flood, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

While annual increases cannot exceed five percent, there are further guidelines applied to particular programs and years of study.

"It equates to ... about \$200 for about 70 percent of university students, is what you're looking at for a five percent increase," said Flood.

### Student response

In order to address the many concerns surrounding increasing tuition rates, several lobby groups exist on both the provincial and federal level, two of which Laurier is directly affiliated with: the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), which deals with post-secondary issues at the federal level, and the provincial lobby group Ontario University Student Alliance (OUSA).

Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) VP: University Affairs and president of OUSA, Trevor Mayoh explains the importance of having such groups acting on behalf of students.

"They lobby hard but what they actually do at the lobby meetings is provide solid research and recommendations."

Mayoh notes that OUSA has several conferences each year where they meet with MPs, MPPs, Ministers and other representatives from the government.

"We're actually sitting in there and coming up with real solutions.

"I think that's why we're being respected and that's why we're being listened to and I don't think it's a way we should break from," he added.

Mayoh highlights some of the successes of OUSA, including the current five percent increase cap, and the Liberals using solutions offered by OUSA in their most recent secondary education platform.

While Mayoh feels that professional conduct is the best approach for the organization to take, other student groups, such as the Association for Solidarity Student Unions (ASSÉ) in Quebec, have used a different method in dealing with issues surrounding student fees.

When Quebec lifted the province's 13-year tuition freeze last fall, advocacy groups across the province garnered national attention as thousands of striking students took to the street to protest the increasing cost of their education.

"ASSÉ represents a big movement in Quebec and it's kind of a radical vision," explained Hubert Gendron-Blais, ASSÉ's secretary for communications.

"Radical is just to go really deeply into problems ... it's just the way that we approach things."

Gendron-Blais feels the local culture of Quebec is simply more conducive to this type of movement than that of Ontario.

"I think that the global climate makes people in Quebec more willing to mobilize themselves," said Gendron-Blais.

"We know that students can obtain things for education if they mobilize."

### Tuition at Laurier

In the upcoming 2008/2009 academic year the tuition fees for all continuing undergraduate domestic students will be increasing by 4 percent, while those who are entering Laurier will see tuition rates rise 4.5 percent, with the exception of the business program which will be increasing fees by 8 percent.

This is the maximum increase permitted by the provincial government.

Butler explains that because the university is entering the fiscal year with a deficit of \$3.75 million, the school is now in a position where student fees need to be the primary source of revenue for the university's operating budget.

"If they don't give us money through government grants our alternative is to increase tuition," said Butler.

"If we didn't increase tuition that ... would result in budget cuts."

Butler went on to explain that government funding is dependent on a variety of factors, which account for things such as growth and the programs offered at the institute.

Under the current funding formula programs such as Science and Business receive more money than Arts, and with Laurier being a primarily undergraduate Arts school it doesn't receive as much funding as other institutions in Ontario.

"Because of the global climate makes people in Quebec more willing to mobilize themselves," said Gendron-Blais.

### The future

While the current undergraduate tuition fees until the government policy, the future in Ontario remains uncertain.

According to Ontario Confederation of University Students Associations, Ontario's second-lowest funding, at 25 percent of the national average.

While Blouw notes that there is a lot of government money being made on the terms of funding in Ontario, they've been in, said Blouw.

"It's a moving target, other provinces, other governments, other funding, other policies, other programs, other costs, other secondary is one of them,

"The government is not going to increase funding, they've been in, said Blouw.

"It's a moving target, other provinces, other governments, other funding, other policies, other programs, other costs, other secondary is one of them,





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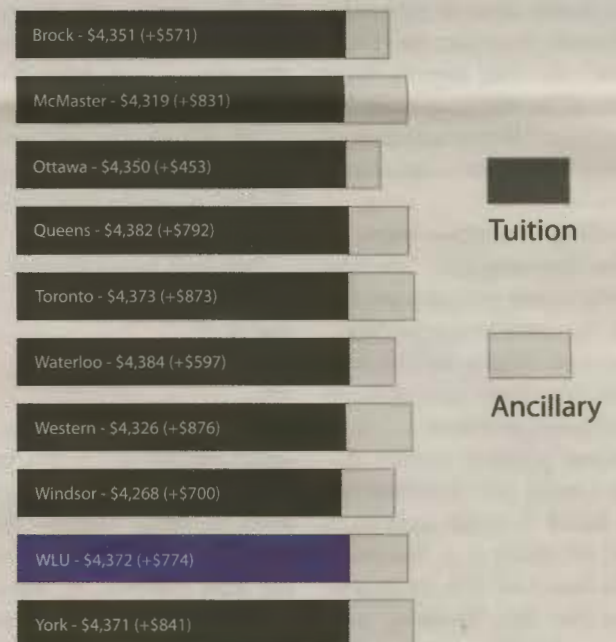
With the Board of Governors' recent approval of the 2008/2009 budget, students at WLU will once again see the cost of tuition increase. *The Cord* examines why the expense of education is rising and what is being done to combat this problem.

## Average undergraduate tuition fees for Canadian full-time students (2007/08):



Source: Statistics Canada

## Annual first-year domestic tuition in Ontario (2006/07):



Source: Common University Data Ontario (CUDO)

## The cost of one year of tuition at Laurier (Arts and Science):

1994/95  
**\$2,228**

2004/05  
**\$4,183.50**

2008/09  
**\$4,774.10**

\*The above rates are for Canadian undergraduate students in their first year taking five courses per semester

"Because of the program mix we have at Laurier we are one of the post-secondary institutions which receives the least amount of funding from the government," said Butler.

### The future

While the current five percent cap on undergraduate tuition will remain in place until the government announces a new policy, the future of the education system in Ontario remains uncertain.

According to a 2007 report by the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations, Ontario still receives the second-lowest amount of government funding, at 25 percent below the Canadian average.

While Blouw sees a considerable effort being made on behalf of the McGuinty government to invest in education he notes that there is still a ways to go before the province gets to where it should be in terms of funding.

"The government is doing a lot recently, they've been putting a lot more money in," said Blouw.

"It's a moving target though. Other provinces, other nations are investing in the post-secondary system.

"[The government has] a lot of costs and post-secondary is one of them,

but it's an investment in the future and I think a strong investment is appropriate," he added.

While there seems to be a consensus that an increase in public funding is necessary to ensure that the cost of education does not continue to increasingly fall on the individual, Mayoh feels that students must also do their part to safeguard the future security of Ontario's education system.

"The quality of education and the amount of tuition is all going askew ... We really need to solve this or we're going to be in a really rough, black circle," said Mayoh.

"The problem is [that] everyone agrees ... it's just getting them to act [that] is the biggest problem."

See PAGE 14 for editorial reaction to this story





# Computer clash

*The Cord Weekly* investigates which computer ultimately wins bragging rights in the great and increasingly common Mac vs. PC debate

**MICHELLE CALDARONI**  
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

Whether in the office, on campus, or in the world of computers in general, it's not uncommon to see this debate break out between seemingly friendly people: Mac vs. PC.

While users on either side of the argument are adamant about their loyalty to their computers, it seems that the discussion never progresses further than put-downs and name calling from each party. *The Cord* investigated the issue to get to the bottom of the Mac hype and PC persistence in the marketplace and on the Laurier campus.

## Mac

Mac computers by Apple Inc. are part of a close-knit family which encompasses the popular 13" black and white MacBooks and their superior counterpart, the MacBook Pro; the newly introduced MacBook Air, and the stationary home computer which started it all – the iMac.

Where the Mac wins hands down over PC is with its modern looking, user-friendly, simplistic user-interface and operating system. These features allow first-time users to fully embrace a technological experience with little prior knowledge or know-how.

According to Andrew Adams of Waterloo Networks Inc., "the Mac operating system compared to [Microsoft] Windows is more intuitive... it's a lot more friendly for first-time PC users. You don't have as many software based problems."

First-year political science student at Laurier and MacBook Pro owner Radek Domalik agrees, "I like the simplicity of it. The interface, the basic look of it. It's simpler to use a Mac than Windows, once you get used to it."

Aside from creating user-friendly machines, Apple Inc. has been successful in winning over frustrated PC users who are looking for an easy-to-use, reliable and stable computer. With all hardware and pre-loaded software originating

within the walls of Apple Inc., the Mac family seems to be more dependable than the PC.

Taylor Hoch, a first-year student of business administration at Laurier, and first-time Mac owner explains, "In terms of reliability...I don't think you can beat a Mac. With [new operating system Windows] Vista, there's been huge problems [for PCs], especially... people on the Laurier campus with the wireless [internet] had huge problems with Vista. With Mac you turn it on, and you're good to go."

"Earlier this year I had Windows, now I have Mac. Before I had a lot of crashes, and had to reboot in the middle of class. It's a big pain; now I don't worry about it," he added.

The final substantial point made by Mac enthusiasts that crushes the competition is the lack of viruses floating around cyberspace for Apple products to catch.

Because PCs still dominate the pie chart in terms of sales in the computer world, any virus created specifically for Macs would be nearly impossible to catch for the slim margin who do own one. It would simply not be worth the programmer's time to create a virus for a Mac.

"All the viruses and problems, malware and adware for Windows – it's basically non-existent in a Mac," says Domalik.

"I haven't heard of many people that try a Mac and go back," added Hoch.

## PC

The market-dominating personal computers – in this context, anything non-Mac that runs a Windows operating system – come in all shapes, sizes and colours. With the most common PC brands being household names – Hewlett-Packard, Dell, Toshiba, Sony, etc. – these are the computers that most students have grown up with and learned to love or to hate.

With customizable parts, software and configurations that can be set to the exact preferences of the user, PC tends to be more popu-

lar with those who want full control over the way in which their computer runs, and the hardware that builds it.

"You can make it the way you want to, both from a hardware perspective – you can build it from the ground up – and then once you've got it made the way you want it, you can use software on it the way that you want to. There's nothing on a PC you can't fiddle with," explained Adams.

Because the PC tends to be so flexible, the user who wants a specific experience from their computer can easily attain it by customizing and mixing software and hardware from different vendors worldwide. There is no mould that cannot be broken when it comes to a PC.

In the same vein, gamers favour PCs over Macs due to the ability to upgrade or personally choose the best video cards and other pieces of hardware suited to run the more high-end, visually appealing and memory-hungry video games. In addition, not all software and games are released for both operating systems – but are always released for PC. "The single biggest drawback of a Mac is that it doesn't have the applications that are possible on Windows," Domalik agrees.

Adams explained another strong point for the PC camp, "[PC] is common. You know if you send [someone] a PC file, they'll be able to open it. Having the mainstream product is to your advantage."

Most of all, the price scale for a PC can range from the highly anticipated \$100 laptop to the most expensive machines. There is a wide range of prices for a wide range of people who each want something different from their computer, unlike the standard configurations and price combinations from Apple Inc.

"I don't think Apple really hides the fact that there is a portion built into their price for the image. They have a very fancy package, they have a huge advertising budget that PC doesn't have because PC isn't one entity per se," Adams says.



SYDNEY HELLAND

**NICE MICE** – Microsoft and Apple Inc.'s unique mouse designs.

## In Conclusion...

Mac and PC computers each have their own merits and demerits, but are clearly winners in different categories. While the Apple Inc. family dominates the user-friendly domain, PC is the clear choice for consumers who wish to have a personalized experience with their machine.

Gamers consider PC the champion for their favourite gaming software, but Mac cleans up in the reliability and stability depart-

ment. For the more advanced user, PC allows for a customizable and powerful computer that can be built for specific purposes. Mac is a well-built computer that is perfect for the consumer who wants a pre-packaged machine that will look cool and handle anything the average user will need.

If you're looking to decide between the two choices, be clear about what experience you hope to have from your computer before you buy.



SYDNEY HELLAND

**YOGI'S CHOICE** – Pack up your "pic-a-nic" basket with this tasty salad.

# Picnic perfect mac salad

Magnificent macaroni salad makes for a delicious summer treat

**BRITTANY DA SILVA**  
CORD STUDENT LIFE

This summer promises to be the perfect relief from the long winter we've finally escaped. The summer offers a chance for a lovely picnic in one of Waterloo's many parks. Here's a great recipe for simple, easy to make macaroni salad you can try out when picnicking this year:

## Ingredients:

- 3 cups (750 ml) of your favourite pasta (macaroni, penne, etc)
- 2 whole peppers (green, red, yellow or orange)
- 1½ cups (375 ml) cubed cheese (mozzarella, cheddar or feta)
- 1 handful of cherry tomatoes, halved
- ¾ cup (175 ml) of Italian dressing
- 1 sprinkle of parsley

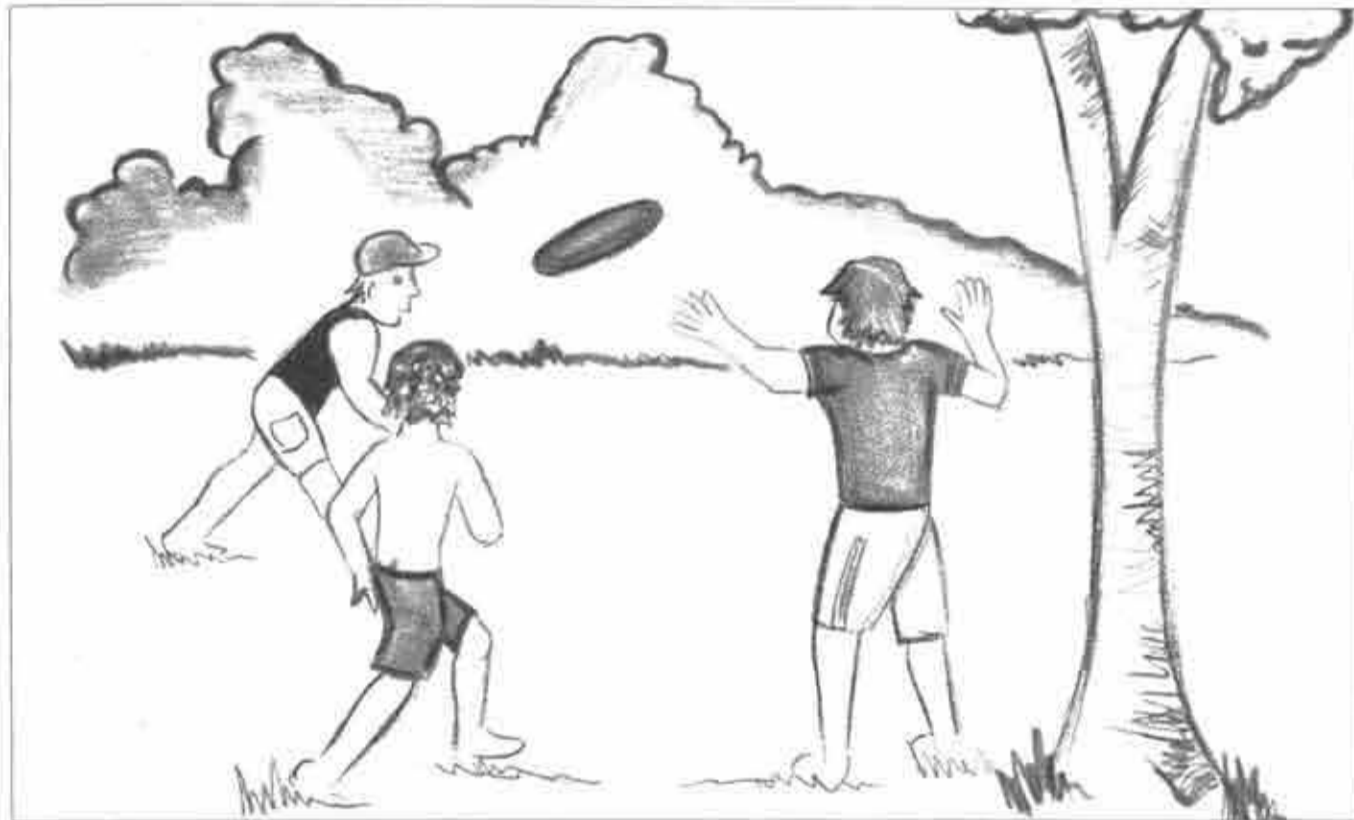
## Directions:

Cook the pasta of your choice in a large pot, following package directions. Drain the pasta and let it cool. Next, put the pasta into a large bowl, adding the vegetables and cheese. Add the Italian dressing to the bowl and stir it all together. Sprinkle the parsley over the pasta and stir once more. Finally, put the bowl into the refrigerator and let the pasta cool.



# Sunday makes a comeback in Waterloo

Local residents and Laurier students take back Sunday as a day of relaxation and outdoor fun with weekly get-together "Sunday Funday"



JULIE MARION

**ULTIMATE FUN** - Sunday Funday enthusiasts love their games of Ultimate Frisbee.

**KEREN GOTTFRIED**  
STAFF WRITER

Homemade hummus and pita is passed around a group of students while a friend on the guitar serenades them. A few yards over, a game of soccer reaches its climax, onlookers peer over a set of mesmerized chess players, and a new pair of friends sits on a hill watching a family of ducks make their way across the field.

If you stop by Waterloo Park on Sundays in the summer around 2:00 p.m., between the Young Street entrance and the cricket pitch, this is the sort of sight you can expect to see.

This new weekly event called Sunday Funday is drawing out Wilfrid Laurier University students and Waterloo community members to enjoy the summer weather. Opting to ditch the cinemas and video games, Sunday Funday participants are spending time outside, connecting with nature and with one another. On any given Sunday there are between a handful and dozens of attendees, depending on the weather.

Jacob Pries, a Laurier student of political science and global studies, started the initiative four years ago in Kitchener.

"Sundays traditionally have been a day of community and relaxing. For many people, that was done through church," Pries explained.

"I wanted to do something where we could have the things that I liked about church, which are the community and the relaxation."

Although for the first two years, Sunday Funday took place in Victoria Park, a number of factors drove Sunday Funday north. "That island gets covered in goose shit. Its goose poop island," Pries jokingly described. "And our Frisbees kept going in water. And I moved to Waterloo, so it seemed natural to move."

Josh Smyth, also a Laurier student, has been at Sunday Funday since the year they started. He looks forward to Sundays when he can "do something simple and relaxing outdoors, be with friends and forget about the week behind and the week ahead."

Since the original Sunday Funday at Victoria Park, Smyth has watched the project evolve. "There are more organized activities happening now. Music and games of ultimate Frisbee... whereas before it was more just sitting on the blankets."

"There's... more music involved now than there used to be," Smyth added. "There are more people in the group who come who have some musical talent or bring musical instruments."

Coordination and information sharing is done through word of mouth and a Facebook group page called "Sunday Funday @ Waterloo Park". The group has about 150

members and is open for anyone to join.

The list of suggestions Pries makes on the Facebook page of what people might bring includes friends, art, sports equipment, musical instruments and "what ever else will make the park even more fun."

This flexibility is what draws many people out and keeps them coming back each week. Janice Lee is one such participant. "You never know what's going to happen, but you know good people will probably show up, and that's good enough."

Whether you arrive with a group of friends or on your own, whether you are a weekly regular or a newcomer, expect to be immediately welcomed.

"It's a really friendly atmosphere," Pries explained with pride. "It really doesn't matter who you know. You just sort of show up and talk to other interesting people, even if you've never met them before."

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# CORD-O-SCOPES

**Aries**  
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19



You may not believe in love at first sight, but somebody is about to come into your life who does. That's not to say they'll fall in love with you - you're not nearly good-looking enough for their standards. But trust me, they believe in it.

**Taurus**  
Apr. 20 - May 20



You have been patient for a long time now, and you are starting to feel that you're due for a reward. Fortunately, this month the stars agree with you. Finally, Taco Bell will be introducing that two-for-one burrito deal that you've always wanted.

**Gemini**  
May 21 - June 20



The Gemini constellation is drifting dangerously close to Mars this month. This will have very significant implications in your life. But, it's summertime. Shouldn't you be too drunk to care? Start working on that.

**Cancer**  
June 21 - July 22



June is the perfect month to inform your "it's complicated" just how you feel. But, with your diverse and numerous emotions about them, it will be difficult to do so in writing or speech. Instead, give them a gift of a paper-maché baby ox. They'll understand everything.

**Leo**  
July 23 - Aug. 22



Lately, you have become obsessed with monetary success. It is important to remind yourself often that money isn't everything. If you don't start paying more attention to the other five percent of life, you'll never reach true happiness.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22



This month will bring strong feelings of loneliness into your life. Cope with them by taking solace in your friends. More importantly, quit complaining and put your life into context. Think of all the poor children in the world that can't even afford Facebook. Unlike you, they don't have the luxury of having 358 friends on their network.

**Libra**  
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22



Libra has moved squarely into the third quadrant of the night sky. The stars are telling you that it is time for you to make a big change in your life. Instead of using Listerine, start using Scope as your mouthwash of choice. It's okay to feel nervous, all big changes are intimidating.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21



The time has come for you to stop being a follower and take a leading role. Yes, that's right, soon you will become the leader of your clan in World of Warcraft. At long last, all your hard-earned failed classes and Friday nights all alone have paid off.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21



You have been living your life by a very strict moral code, but recently you have started to feel constrained by all those arbitrary rules. However, be careful how much you doubt your morals. After all, there's a word for people that think for themselves: Communists.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19



Cut back on red meat. That's it.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18



Your greatest desire is to always be the center of attention. This month, you will have to relinquish that goal, as everybody's attention will shift to somebody you care deeply for. Will you be able to still love them, knowing that they have taken your spotlight? Probably not, you selfish jerk.

**Pisces**  
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20



For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. Following this universal rule, screaming to your boss that you quit will clearly grant you a promotion and a hefty raise. It's foolproof; Newton thought it up, and he was a genius.

*Dave Shore travels to the future monthly in his time machine car to bring back his prophetic messages to the fledgling masses of WLU.*

*And no, it's not a DeLorean. It's a Nissan Altima. What is this, the '80s? Please.*

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# BOD budget large but responsible

To hear that this year's Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union Board of Directors' (BOD) interim budget is already larger than the entire BOD budget last year might raise some eyebrows as to how they are using their finances.

However, to hear what the BOD is spending their engrossed budget on should help ease one's doubts.

The \$31,575.87 that the board has received for its operation over the summer is mainly going towards enhancing the training and resources available to directors. After the numerous issues that last year's board encountered, this is a very good thing.

Already, the increased level of training amongst this year's BOD has shown to be advantageous. In their first official BOD meeting on April 30, directors were actively engaged in the debate and were able to critically look at expenses within the budget, such as the president's salary, which they ratified for the first time.

So far, this year's BOD appears to be more organized, professional, and critical.

Yet, even though the overall outlook on this year's BOD is positive,

it's hard to ignore the fact that they are spending such a large sum of money in this year's interim.

While spending on its own is not necessarily a bad thing, it is important that WLUSU seeks out the most appropriate and effective ways to use their money, which they get from the student population.

For example, are two summer retreats for the board really necessary? Can't some of that training take place more locally in Waterloo?

Taking a responsible attitude towards spending is something the BOD will have to take to heart as it approaches the formation of WLUSU's operating budget for the upcoming school year.

Just like past years, WLUSU is continuing to spend large amounts of money. This year though, the money is going towards training, which is something that will offer a great advantage to the BOD when they are faced with making important decisions in the upcoming school year.

With this training, let us hope that this year's BOD are able to better fulfill their duties.

## Tuition has to change

Students in Ontario are currently facing a frustrating situation.

Tuition fees are consistently on the rise from year to year, while the quality of education that we are receiving is not improving.

Paying increased levels of tuition every year is hard enough for students. Worse though, is that as universities rely more on student fees instead of government grants, they become increasingly like businesses instead of services — cutting expenditures to make profit and ultimately decreasing the level of education that they provide.

What is most frustrating, though, is that blame is not easy to place. It would be easy to accuse institutions for their climbing fees, but this would be pointless. The hands of universities are in most cases tied.

If we ever want to see tuition rates stabilized, students will need to play an integral role in the process. Students can pressure their MPP's, get involved in campaigns on campus, vote for parties that support tuition freezes, or become radical and protest the government outright.

Ontario, currently the province with the third-highest tuition rate in the country, needs to see a change in the level of government spending towards universities.

Hopefully this will happen before the quality of Ontario post-secondary education has diminished. This, the provincial government must realize, is bad for everyone.

*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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# 1988



# 2008



JULIE MARION

## Summer livin' is easy

Waterloo is at its best in summertime, says **Heather Macdonald**



**HEATHER MACDONALD**  
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

It's the beginning of my second summer in Waterloo and I couldn't be happier. With my hometown being Oshawa — best known for the GM plant, Stephen Colbert Day and the mullets and drug deals downtown — most cities are preferable.

Waterloo has Oshawa beat by a mile. While most students head home for the summer, I, along with an equally intelligent group of others, know that Waterloo hits its peak from May to the end of August.

As soon as exams end, most students go home for the summer months to catch up on sleep, family time or to make some cash before hitting the books again in the fall. The small group of students that do stick around have the advantage of exploring Waterloo with a limited number of people around — something we rarely experience during the school year.

The city is much quieter and the community becomes much closer. This time last year I was unemployed and starting to feel quite bored and lonely. The cure? A summer fling. Granted, that ended quickly, so plan B was to hit the bars with the few friends that were around.

Everyone in the city tended to gravitate towards the same bar on select nights so randoms quickly became familiar faces and famil-

iar faces turned into friendships... and yet another short-lived summer fling.

One great thing about walking home from a long night of dancing in Waterloo is doing so barefoot. Because so many people have moved out, there is a drastic reduction in garbage and broken beer bottles on any given street.

Throughout the school year, every food venue that stayed open past last call was packed with anyone in the city that was drunk and hungry. Walking into Pizza Pizza in the summer at 2 am with flip flops in hand, I was guaranteed a small line and a run-in with at least one new friend from that night.

The nightlife aside, there are tons of places to explore in KW, especially with wonderful weather. Waterloo Park and Victoria Park are always a good time but there are also many small parks, rivers and forests that can provide fun adventures if you're in the right frame of mind.

I've already been canoeing down the peaceful Grand River and can't wait to do it again. The first weekend the river was opened, the only people in sight were families we spotted walking the trails along the way.

Even on rainy days, there are things to do. The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery changes their exhibits every few months and consistently have a number of incredible pieces in the gift shop.

There are theatres and museums open all summer and many sports teams to join. I have yet to check out the Uptown Waterloo

Jazz Festival but it will definitely be on my list of things to do this July. Also, both the Kitchener and St. Jacob's Farmers' Markets are open and easily accessible throughout the summer.

If you feel ambitious, take a summer class to ease up your fall schedule. Or use the courses available at Laurier to catch up on failed courses from the past year.

Although last year proved for me to be very frustrating in regards to the job hunt, if you plan ahead and start looking early enough, landing a summer job can be very simple.

With a shortage of students in the area, many job opportunities surface pre-exam season in the Spring.

One downside to living in Waterloo can be a lack of transportation. If you don't own a car and relied on the bus pass throughout the school year, it is wise to purchase either a bus pass or a good pair of walking shoes.

Waterloo has a completely different feel in the summer months than what most students experience throughout the year. The dreary winter months tend to drag on, only forcing us to look forward to an exciting summer.

Many students chose Laurier for the sole purpose of being part of a close-knit community. To those people, I'd strongly advise sticking around town for the whole summer, keeping in mind that when all else fails, you can always resort to that summer fling, or two.



# Campus needs response to growth

WLU's booming population requires more students services



KEREN GOTTFRIED  
RESIDENT GADFLY

For the 2007-2008 academic year, Laurier saw the introduction of seven new graduate degree programs. With 700 full-time and 500 part-time graduate students, as well as full-time business co-op students, 2008 has set the record for the largest spring term population Laurier has ever seen.

Despite the volume of students who are studying on campus, food services are minimal at best. The dining hall, Tim Horton's, and Second Cup are open for a few hours each day, mostly in the mornings. The dining hall, for example, is open from 8:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., with a limited menu that is mostly composed of the meals being served to children participating in JUMP summer camp.

For students spending their full days researching and in class, this amount of service is frustrating and not conducive to an academic environment. Students cannot be expected to produce their best work under conditions where such a basic student service is absent.

The lack of food on campus is but a symptom of a much larger problem that we are all too familiar with: Laurier's incredible growth over the last decade. Led by the strategic initiative to develop our school into a comprehensive university, the past decade saw massive amounts of growth to infrastructure,

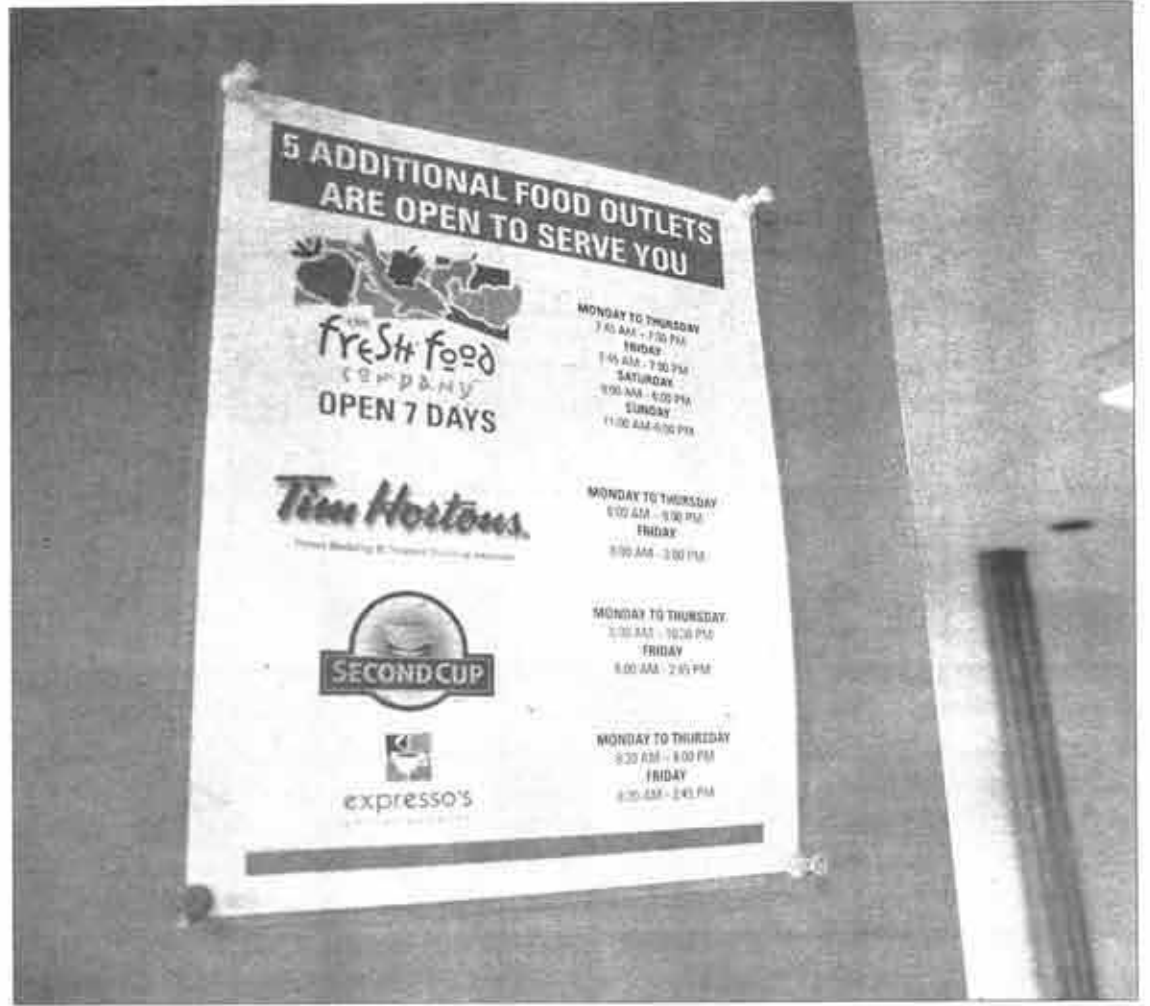
ambition and, of course, student population. Thousands of students choose Laurier each year on the basis of the so-called "small community feel." This song that Laurier sings is the legacy that remains of the days when we truly were a small institution. These days, our promotional literature no longer advertises the school as "small"; we have become more honest. We now sell ourselves as a "smaller" institution.

Laurier is not small or smaller. Laurier is a medium-population school on a physically small campus. The number of people occupying this campus has exploded without the response in additional support services that one would expect from such a jump.

Can our school be blamed for this unprecedented growth? Let me be clear about my charge. I do not think Laurier should have remained a small university. An institution expanding to meet the competitive demands of the provincial and federal university environment is only doing what it needs to do to survive.

In a *Cord* interview at the very start of his term, our President Dr. Blouw made this very argument, and rightly so. Laurier was a tiny school among rapidly expanding peers, and was at risk of falling behind. Although he argued for the inevitability of the massive growth of our school, he still acknowledged that student concern about growth was justified because of the disruption to the natural academic environment that it caused.

To call Laurier's growth a "disruption" is a gross understatement. We are not just experiencing a disruption on our campus. We are



SYDNEY HELLAND

**REDUCED HOURS** - A poster shows long hours for food services during the school year, but students studying at WLU over the summer have to put up with far less service.

experiencing uncontrollable density, as our spring term students are now experiencing with a lack of food services on campus.

The list of growing pains is exhausting. Anyone who has ever had a class in the refurbished elementary school that is the St. Michael Campus, or worse yet, the Northdale Campus, has felt the effects of a campus struggling to support the expanding population.

Our email servers slow down or crash from traffic volumes they cannot handle. Last summer, LORIS, the online registration system, consistently crashed each midnight when the next group of students was set to register. Many introductory courses either do not offer tutorials, or they are offered every other week. Many of our part-time faculty do not have offices. It goes on.

This year we have heard a lot about expand-

ing as a university through satellite schools, with talk of a Milton campus on everyone's lips. Let us make some conscious decisions before we pursue a new road.

The main Laurier campus is unstable. Either we move students and resources to another campus, Milton or otherwise, or we stop getting ahead of ourselves and focus on the bread and butter.

Dr. Blouw's efforts to engage in strategic and capital planning for the university are invaluable but ineffectual in the short term, as this process needs to be lengthy to be meaningful and thoughtfully strategic.

In the meantime, I'd like to be able to have something to eat on campus while I write this article.

letters@cordweekly.com

# The selfish motivation of foreign aid

With the people of Burma in need of relief from the recent cyclone, democracies and dictatorships have been slow to cooperate



MICHAEL KOCHEFF  
THE EVERYMAN

Placing the blame on why foreign aid has been too slow to get to Burma is no easy task.

In early May, Burma was hit by the cyclone Nagris. According to the National Post, 134,000 people have died or gone missing as a result of the cyclone.

2.4 million more people, many living in remote locations, were also affected by the cyclone. Unfortunately, the authoritarian Burmese government has hindered disaster relief.

The Toronto Star reports that American and French ships off the coast of Burma, carrying aid, have yet to make landfall. This is due to the fact that Burma's rulers are concerned that democratic aid providers could undermine their sovereignty.

It would be quite easy to blame all these troubles on dictatorial

rule.

A democratic Burma would likely receive and coordinate aid efforts with the United Nations, non-governmental organizations like World Vision and other states much more effectively.

Yet wealthier democratic nations also have blood on their hands. Burma is not the only country governing improperly.

As Simon Jenkins of *The Guardian* so powerfully points out, governments that were more than willing to intervene in Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan are all of the sudden mute on Burma.

Leaders in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Canada are waving their tongues, but don't expect them to aggressively intervene anytime soon.

It's all about management. Proper management entails nations looking at the world, individually or collectively, and setting priorities. Deciding what requires attention and what does not.

So clearly, the world does not have its house in order.

The way out of this and future situations isn't so clear. International and even national planning for massive human rights abuses is a very political affair.

Governments must decide where to allocate money and expertise because there simply isn't enough of each to fulfill every demand they receive.

Part of good management though is communication and a modicum of trust. Countries need to be able to rely on each other when solving global problems.

However, this is not the case, and the result is different strategies for dealing with disaster relief, which turn out inconsistent and often ineffective.

It's a nasty circle, the impact of which is usually felt the most by those who have the least control over the process. The residents of Burma and New Orleans are great examples of this.

Some don't think a solution exists; countries will just continue to disagree. By way of force, one nation or group of nations may cause another to curtail their ambitions.

Humankind's self-interested nature will always prevail.

This type of thinking should be welcomed. It is an honest appraisal of the world and human beings. We aren't as concerned with success or sound management as we are with glory.

Admitting that we have the wrong intentions is the first and greatest step towards a resolution.

This doesn't mean we can't condemn this country or that country. Neither does it mean that ideology and debate should be done away with.

After all, self-reflection does not automatically translate into naïveté. We can still speculate as to the objectives of other international actors and plan so that we aren't taken by surprise. However, in our own dealings with other nations our motives have to be pure.

This means more research, reflection and debate on the home front. More effort and concern for accountability from each and every citizen.

That is our duty to Burma. Our obsession should be considering

our own intent. We need to look for selfish motives to aid other nations and promptly weed them out.

As a society and a democracy we can't do anything more or less.

The dead and dying in Burma deserve justice. We can help deliver it by crafting pragmatic, yet compassionate and helpful foreign policy. Foreign policy that will hopefully induce worldwide cooperation, not conflict.

The same old question remains though: are we willing?

letters@cordweekly.com

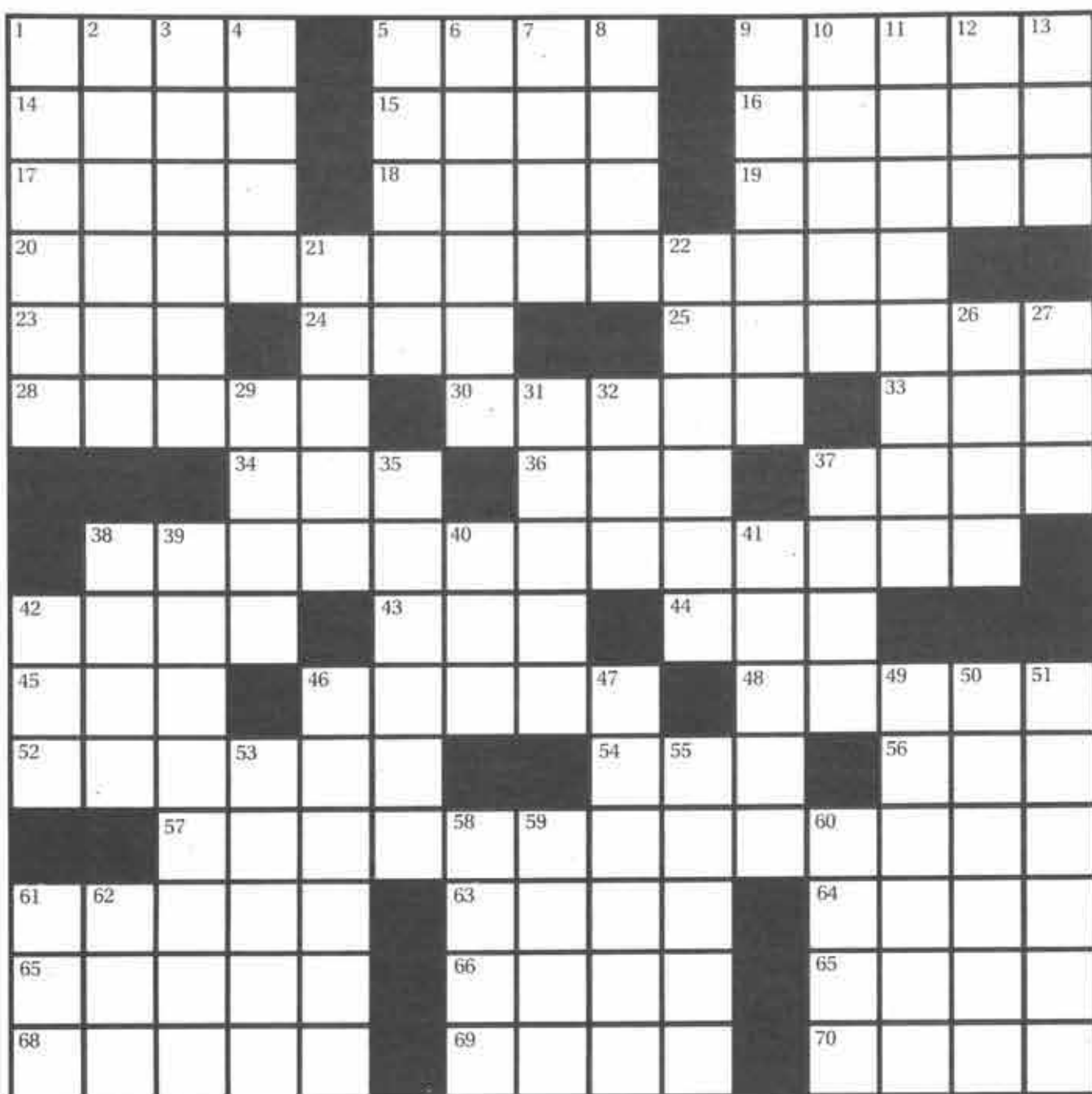
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# Crossword



**Across**

1. Bands (abbrev.)
5. The Emerald \_
9. Girder
14. Dynamic prefix?
15. Famous clinic
16. Brief fight
17. Stream
18. Who's calling?
19. Took part in the Ididarod
20. Famous Joyce novel (sans apostrophe)
23. GMT minus 5
24. Chase after
25. Took a breather
28. Stir up
30. Tripod
33. Off-the-wall comic Philips
34. Big bird
36. Start of a simple game
37. \_ La Douce
38. When to paint the town green
42. Sop up
43. Aviv
44. \_ nuff (indeed!)
45. Flange
46. Seawall
48. Pre-beta
52. More plentiful
54. Boat propeller?
56. Cereal
57. Slogan for March 14th
61. Posts
63. Seal's and porpoise's nemesis
64. Aware of
65. Arm bones
66. Signs
67. Stanch
68. Spinal parts
69. Not so much
70. Auld Lang \_

**Down**

1. Bloopers
2. Put a house back on the market
3. Without delay
4. Planted
5. Adult insect
6. Barbaric
7. French city noted for silk
8. Geological times
9. Zion
10. Bills
11. And so on
12. Took food
13. Up-to-date (slang)
21. Swelling, to a doctor
22. Totals
26. TV award
27. Got to a hosp. too late
29. Saved
31. Leaning
32. Urge a dog to attack
35. Mouths
37. Paragon
38. Thin
39. \_ County (home of Cornell Univ.)
40. Soak
41. Lambchop's Lewis
42. Bikini part
46. Owen & James
47. Holy Cow!, in the Bronx
49. Like toes on cowboy boots
50. Expedite
51. In
53. Pale purple
55. Hoard
58. Work hard
59. Common crossword bird
60. Betsy the banner sewer
61. Rainy day hazard
62. "The Greatest"

*Orange Juice*



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angela@wlusp.com

## SuDoKu

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



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# Lord of the Sims, Jeff Braun

The Cord sits down and chats with the co-founder of Maxis Software, the development studio that brought us the *Sim* games

DANIEL JOSEPH  
A&E EDITOR

If you've ever played a videogame, there's a good chance that you've played a game that was influenced in some way by Jeff Braun. Either you were like me, and played *SimCity* only to watch your beautiful metropolis fall into disrepair and despair after some terrible natural disaster, or, more recently, micromanaged your Sim's life to the point that you timed its bathroom breaks perfectly between cooking and having friends come over to flirt in your posh hot-tub.

Braun wasn't the creative talent behind either of these games, but he definitely was the business smarts. Back in 1987, he and Will Wright founded the legendary game studio Maxis, and began to

publish *SimCity* (funnily enough it was originally named *Mycropolis*), which then promptly sold over a million units. In 1997, Maxis was acquired by Electronic Arts (EA) and in 2000, Braun left EA to pursue his own interests elsewhere in the gaming industry. The guy has been around, and as somebody who has followed this industry for so long, it was very interesting to get chance for a rare glimpse into the inside of it.

If there is one thing that Braun exudes, it's enthusiasm and an overall air of friendliness. He smiles when he talks, and uses his hands to illustrate his points. He's articulate - and for such a heavyweight in the business world of games, doesn't come off as pompous in any way. Hell, you would probably like playing a game of *Team Fortress*

2 with him - which by the way, is something he has been playing for a while now. In fact, Braun's enthusiasm for Valve's entire lineup, as well as online distribution service, Steam, was a constant theme when

**"THAT'S MY QUOTE! VALVE IS THE MOST IMPRESSIVE COMPANY IN THE GAME INDUSTRY."**

- Jeff Braun, Maxis Software co-founder

we spoke.

"That's my quote! Valve is the most impressive company in the game industry," said Braun. If not for their great and innovative games like *Half Life* and *Portal*, then for their obsessive focus on the cus-

tomers. "I like their approach. It's really smart to bring in the customers early for beta-testing." For Braun, this attention to what people want coupled with a small studio committed to innovation - with services

like Steam - is what sets them apart.

You could tell that Braun envies the success of Valve, and

that in his new venture with Oddworld Inhabitants - the developer of classics like *Abe's Oddysee* and *Munch's Oddysee*, as well as the last-generation critically acclaimed X-Box shooter *Oddworld: Stranger's Wrath* - he hopes to one day do the same.

Speaking about *Oddworld Inhabitants* Braun noted that "They've come up with some really clever new ideas and I've been helping them for about a year to bring it to fruition." The glint in his eye says that while he is letting me in on a little bit of a secret, exactly what they are working on there is very different than what we in the public have seen before.

"The animation tools are getting so good that you can actually have pretty high quality animation and develop a video game that is 1:1 on the graphics." Braun said that "You're not just playing the video game of the animation - you are actually on the set of the animation." Such a statement can only lead to speculation, but this sounds almost like a game attempting to create a linear game with Pixar quality graphics - that has interactive elements? Braun continued; "I've been really intrigued with this idea of mixed media - there's an online component and a linear TV component." Oh, how the mind reels.

So, because Braun was so into Steam, the concept of letting the consumer go straight to the developer to get the game seemed like a

logical topic, and Braun definitely saw it as the future of the industry. He was definitely a supporter of the idea. Braun continued: "Their only problem is that they don't have a console solution ... There's nothing like that and they need to get into the living room."

He also figures that while many in the industry have shouted about the death of the PC as a gaming platform because of rampant piracy often attributed to universities around the world because of the fast networks available - as overblown nonsense. "It never really bothered me because I always thought of it as free advertising." Braun also noted the recent backlash against proposed copy-protection techniques to be employed by Electronic Arts on Will Wright's upcoming title *Spore*. He figured they were just too tight, "but that's EA."

*Spore*: a game about creating life itself, and evolving into a universe ruling species - itself seemed to interest Braun a lot too - not only because it's his former colleague and friend creating it - but also because it's somewhat of an experiment in what exactly the market is ready for. "I just don't know if it will be as popular [as] *Grand Theft Auto*. It really is getting into esoteric subjects that are definitely not on the top of people's minds - like evolution, biology and all the things he's covering in there. I think *The Sims* was a lot closer to home than building planets and universes."

In spite of this, Braun concluded that "I don't think Will cares. He designs it for himself and if everybody else appreciates it then that's great. If nobody else does, that's okay too. He's not trying to craft something for the market, he's crafting it for himself."

Visit [CordWeekly.com](http://CordWeekly.com) for a full transcript of this exclusive interview.



SYDNEY HELLAND

**STILL GOING STRONG** - Jeff Braun is happy to speak about his involvement with *Oddworld Inhabitants*.

## Rocking out for autism

KARI PRITCHARD  
FEATURES EDITOR

Tomorrow night at The Starlight here in Waterloo, three bands are on the bill to play a special awareness show: Rock For Autism.

You'll be able to catch The Stars Here, fresh out of Waterloo, and Toronto bands The Dunes and Seedy Ease. The night will be full of the sounds of rock, alternative and indie music - all for a great cause.

The show has been organized by Ian Kalau, husband of Stephanie Kalau and stepfather to Trystan.

Suffering from autism, Trystan created the inspiration behind the fundraiser.

Autism is "a neurological disorder, a mental condition, that can span into physical conditions based on each individual child's impact with it," described Kalau.

As treatments for autism can reach anywhere from part-time therapy at \$40,000 to \$820,000 for full-time therapy, the organizer hopes to use Rock For Autism as a way to raise funds as well as create awareness about the condition.

Kalau wanted to take a different

angle than usual to raise money for autism. Instead of doing a run or walk for autism, Kalau's idea was "to create an evening where people could come out and have a good time and donate to a cause at the same time."

Rock For Autism is Kalau's first time doing an event like this to create autism awareness, but if successful he hopes to make it an annual event. The goal of the evening is to contribute to Team Trystan's goal of raising \$15,000, which also includes other

- SEE AUTISM, PAGE 18

The Starlight plays host to a special show for autism awareness tomorrow night



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**EASE ON UP** - Seedy Ease will be opening up the evening of music.



# Maxwell is rockin' the Music House

The Cord sits down with the owner of newly opened Maxwell's Music House

DANIEL JOSEPH  
A&E EDITOR

"It's not so much about the rock, it's about people having fun with music," says Paul Maxwell, the owner of Maxwell's Music House — the newly opened music school/concert venue/bar here in Waterloo, located right next to the famous Noodle Hut in King North Plaza.

Simple words, and honestly — shouldn't music be more about the enjoyment of all involved? If that's the case then Maxwell has a good outlook on how to foster fun and, hopefully, talent in others. The Music House exudes an ambience that is neither pretentious nor threatening — or maybe that's just Maxwell's friendly demeanor. Either way, for the new or upcoming musician here in Waterloo or at Laurier, the Music House holds the possibility of growth for you.

"When you go to other music facilities like Long and McQuade — they are more based on the retail aspect and the selling," said Maxwell.

"It takes away a bit. So we wanted to bring about the service aspect of the business and not bring in the retail component."

Maxwell spoke about his full-circle concept of the business. He hopes that new musicians will find themselves learning the basics of something like the guitar and continue their education with workshops to iron out advanced techniques.

Hopefully then they will find a group of like-minded musicians and use the various rooms available for getting together to jam. Finally, maybe (just maybe) they can impress some people and open for

one of the bands that Paul plans to have come and play shows. At this point you might be skilled enough to want to bring this knowledge back to others, and maybe instruct at the school itself. See? Full circle.

Maxwell's Music House's second big selling point, other than its school, is clearly the venue. Maxwell explained that "for concerts we are trying to create a kind of Toronto atmosphere — not the club one — the concert kind. When you go into Toronto you are always paying a cover. They are really cool and eclectic, but it's a smaller venue so you get that intimacy."

He goes on to explain that there will regularly be a cover at Maxwell's; around 5 bucks. Considering that most shows at the Starlight run anywhere from \$8 to \$15 it's definitely inviting, if only for the reduced price.

One must remember, however, that the Starlight gets some of the best independent musical talent in the country and the Trepid House on King St. gets more local upcoming talent for their seemingly underground shows in a living room, all at a pay-what-you-can cover.

Maxwell hopes that his venue will pull in some of the best independent talent in Canada, so while it might not be as big-name, it will be just as good in quality. "Trepid House does independent bands like I want to do — but they can only hold about 40 people I think. And typically people don't know about them until you really get into the scene here in Waterloo."

Back on the topic of the school at Maxwell's — any person is reminded that the biggest barrier to a musician using such a facility is definitely money.



SYDNEY HELLAND

**A FRESH CUP** - Paul Maxwell shows off his brand new stage — as well as his funky new business t-shirt.

We are university students, and while we always find money for booze and food, everything else is somewhat hard to justify to yourself — or whoever funds your extended stay in academia.

Maxwell hopes to at least remain competitive to what we would consider an hour of entertainment. He uses the analogy of going to a film. The movie costs about 10 bucks, and maybe you get a popcorn. At the end of your approximate 2 hours of entertainment, you are

down of about 15 bucks.

Staying in line with this estimate, the Music House will rent out a jampspace for 7 bucks an hour per person. Seems reasonable — but as Eric Cartman says, anything that is fun costs at least eight dollars — and if you are practicing the onus is on you to enjoy yourself.

Costs for other activities like a private half-hour lesson will run you about 20 bucks, and if you do a group lesson with some friends you might pay a little less per person.

All in all, reasonable — but it's up to what your priorities are really.

At the end of the interview Paul wanted to make one thing clear to Laurier in particular — "there is a facility where you could go that doesn't just keep you here. We're basically trying to connect you with other schools, other institutions and venues to help you grow."

So the secret is networking! Business professors everywhere would be proud.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**THE STARS WHERE?** The Stars Here showcase their unique stage presence during a live show.

## Autism awareness show in Waterloo

- FROM **AUTISM**, PAGE 17

events like a walk, garage sales and raffles, all detailed on Team Trystan's website ([teamtrystan.blogspot.com](http://teamtrystan.blogspot.com)).

The blog was initially an easy way for Kalau to keep people informed about Team Trystan, but he plans to take it a step further.

Kalau plans to start a website on autism, to update, inform and stay in contact with people in order to educate them. "As much as the media publicizes [autism], I do get a lot of people who still question or

don't really understand what it is," said Kalau.

Hoping that the concert will be a success, Kalau's ultimate goal is "for the word to get out [about autism] much more and [for] people to start seeing this as a charity that needs to get a lot of recognition."

Rock For Autism is sure to be a happening night of music and fun at The Starlight, bringing in funds for a good cause. Doors open at 9 p.m., the music starts at 9:30 p.m. and tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.





CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**GETTING A STERN TALKING TO** - Indiana (Harrison Ford) gets chewed out by Irina Spalko (Cate Blanchett) - possibly because the film's plot gets progressively more silly.

# Indiana Jones: legend of the lost plot

*Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*: good actors stuck in an unnecessary rehash of a classic film franchise

**KIMBERLY ELWORTHY**  
STAFF WRITER

After months void of box office blockbusters, it looked like the stagnant film scene would finally get the dose of anti-depressants it needed. Movie goers at last face a real decision that could ultimately make or break their weekends: *Ironman* or *Indiana*?

The fourth instalment of the epic, series begins with a roll through 1950's Nevada with "Hound Dog" blaring in the background while various army vehicles hammer on through the open desert. Indy's iconic fedora and whip quickly make an appearance and one becomes ready to be whisked away into a world of adventure, treasure and forgotten myths.

Based on the confrontations between Russia and America in the 1950s it quickly becomes difficult to identify with the urgency and

importance of capitalist domination versus communism. Screenwriter David Koepp (*War of the Worlds*) and no doubt George Lucas (*Star Wars*) also add the "crystal skull" - a fairly unimpressive prop - to motivate the conflict between Dr. Jones (Harrison Ford) and Soviet mind reader Irina Spalko (Cate Blanchett).

Unfortunately, the quick and witty repartee between Indy and Mutt Williams (Shia LaBeouf) or even the comic references to 1950s USA cannot hide the catastrophe that is about to unfold in front of you. Instead of heading into something comparable to say, *National Treasure*, the film takes on a *Fifth Element* sci-fi experience.

More often than not the Russian militia are typecast as goofballs, incapable of even injuring Indiana and his comrades. Several times Indiana escapes captivity from the enemy and yet the Russians never

take more precautions to keep him locked up. Without any real feeling of danger it is impossible to understand why we are being led on this ridiculous two-hour charade.

The efforts taken to maintain the comic book illustration design of the 1980s series by cinematographer Janusz Kaminski is mercilessly butchered by the rare and pointless CGI effects littered throughout the film, gofers and all.

The typical traditional Indy motifs tend to fill in the holes of the two hours; the trademark theme song, costumes, art direction, etc. follow the past series religiously.

The casting and acting deserves recognition, though, as each character shines. Harrison Ford as Dr. Jones shows age from his last appearance; his fighting skills are still impressive but his quickness often fails him.

Shia LaBeouf graciously redeems the role of action hero and captures

this position perfectly. His character rescues what is left of the integrity of the *Indiana Jones* series. Mutt, a Danny Zuko-esque greaser, is willing and eager to kick Russian ass and take names. Here's hoping he will take the lead role in future instalments.

Cate Blanchett is also strong yet strangely beautiful and personifies the Russian femme fatale.

Overall, *Indiana Jones and The Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* leaves us wanting. The film dabbles in absurdity and strays from the tried and true stories of its past. A Steven Spielberg and George Lucas collaboration twenty years in the making demands attention; however, this film does not deserve it.

Stay at home, replay the old three and let your imagination create the fourth. You will be much more satisfied.



*Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*  
Director: Steven Spielberg  
Starring: Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett, Shia LaBeouf  
Release Date: 22/05/2008  
Rating: D

## THE BIG QUESTION

"Do you think a new Indy movie was necessary?"

Compiled by Daniel Joseph  
Photographs by Sydney Helland



"No. The first three were good. It felt like a money-grab."

- Stacey Cambell  
Third-year Business



"I guess. I liked the old ones, but I haven't even seen the preview for the new one."

- Sarb Cheema  
Third-year Economics



"No. I think its been too long since the last ones."

- Billy Denstedt  
First-year English and History



"I haven't even seen the old ones."

- Cayley Berouwer  
Third-year Business



"I didn't even know it was coming out until three days ago. It's probably a waste of time."

- Patrick Danielson  
Third-year Business





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### WLUSU Golf Classic

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### Faux Stag & Doe

Friday July 11 - Wilf's

### July Summerfest

Saturday July 12 - Turret Nightclub

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