

# THE CORD WEEKLY

The tie that binds since 1926

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Volume 49 Issue 15

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2008

www.cordweekly.com



SYDNEY HELLAND

## Pool's future bleak

**LIGHT FADING** - Should the WLU pool close, lifeguards will be laid off, recreational activities will halt and the swim team will be dissolved.

Unless \$2.2 million is raised in the next six weeks, the facility will be decommissioned in January

**JEREMY TREMBLAY**  
NEWS EDITOR

As the WLU pool enters the final six weeks before its December 31 closure date, the situation for Laurier's varsity swim team, intramural participants, lifeguards and the large number of community groups using the facility is beginning to look grim.

"It's difficult to raise money for what's essentially a band-aid," explained Peter Baxter, director of athletics and recreation.

The pool had initially been scheduled to close on August 31. The closure was delayed until the end of December to allow community groups to try to raise \$2.2 million - the amount necessary to prolong the facility's life for another five years.

However, community groups have been unable to secure funding from provincial or municipal governments, according to VP: Finance Jim Butler.

"To be fair, the financing of any extension can't be just borne on the backs of students and the university itself," said Baxter.

High community use of the pool means that several groups currently using the pool, including the Region of Waterloo Swim Club, KW Water Polo, two synchronized swimming teams and several other community users, will be forced

to look for water time elsewhere when little is available.

WLU will also feel the pinch. Recreational uses of the pool - such as intramural inner-tube water polo - will no longer have a facility and be forced to end.

Varsity swimming won't be far behind.

"We won't have a team next year if there isn't a pool," said Kailey Haddock, a third-year student and member of the university's swim team.

**"I AM [TRANSFERRING]. I HAVE TO.... I CAN'T QUIT SWIMMING, SO IT FORCES ME TO LEAVE."**

**- Whitney Rich, third-year business student and gold-medal swimmer**

In fact, the pool's closure comes with 45 days left in this year's season.

Dean Boles, the team's head coach, expects that team members will get about one-third of the in-pool training time they currently do.

"It's near impossible," he said, "for them to continue their training."

Several team members echoed their disappointment in Laurier for not making the reality of the situation known sooner.

"I came here because of the Olympic-level coach," said Nathan Frick, a second-year student and varsity swimmer who came to WLU from Bermuda.

Frick is now trying to decide whether he will continue to attend Laurier or transfer - possibly at the cost of friendships and credits - to another school.

"I am [transferring]. I have to," said Whitney Rich, a varsity swim member who won three gold medals at division championships this weekend. "I can't quit swimming, so it forces me to leave."

Members of the team voiced their displeasure with administration, suggesting that students should have been kept better informed earlier.

James Blaikie, a fourth-year history student who has been a lifeguard at the pool since the summer of 2006, agreed.

"There's been no information whatsoever on the state of employment," he explains, adding that lifeguards were, until recently, led to believe that funding would be found.

This week, Blaikie found out he will be laid off because of the pool's December 31 closure; in fact, all 30

lifeguards employed by athletics and recreation will lose their jobs.

Plans are currently being prepared to determine how the pool will be decommissioned. Following the closure, Baxter said that athletics and recreation will work with facility users to determine how the space can be used and possibly converted in the long term.

"It's too bad. [The community] won't really feel it until the doors are closed and the water's drained," said Boles.

Currently, members of WLU's varsity swim club hope to get the message out that the amount needed to do repairs is "not a lot of money," says Rebecca Cuff, adding that it works out to just a few dollars per resident of Kitchener-Waterloo.

A Facebook group entitled "Save Laurier Pool," which attracted over 100 members within hours of its creation yesterday, encourages people to contact city councillor and Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities John Milloy.

Baxter stressed the fact that six weeks remain before the pool is officially closed, saying that if the money is found before then repairs will take place.

"I never give up hope that somebody will see fit that this is a worthwhile facility and resource to the community."

## Laurier's deficit discussed

VP: Finance holds meeting about falling value of investments

**REBECCA VASLUIANU**  
NEWS EDITOR

At the first in a series of four town hall meetings held to address the financial concerns facing Laurier in the next few years, VP: Finance Jim Butler presented information about the repercussions of Laurier's falling investments to a concerned audience of staff, students and community members.

Butler reiterated the issue of WLU's pension fund deficit brought up at last Monday's Senate meeting.

Throughout the meeting, he also touched on various other issues facing the university.

He explained that Laurier has \$54 million in deferred maintenance - an amount composed of repairs and "housekeeping issues" that the university has not yet addressed.

In order to make sure the university's facilities are kept in good working condition, Laurier has to allocate \$15 million over 20 years towards repairs.

"You can't keep deferring it forever," he stated. "It's there, it's an obligation. You cannot do something for one year but then it just catches up with you. To cut back on the university when we've got deferred maintenance issues seems like a mismatch priority."

In addition, Butler raised the issue of Laurier's structural deficit.

Because Laurier does not bring in enough revenue to cover the university's expenses, the rest of the funding is provided through "year-end money" allocated by the provincial government.

However, Butler explained that this year Dwight Duncan, minister of finance and revenue, warned universities to "count on restraint," making it possible that this year the much-needed funding will not be supplied.

"What happens if government doesn't flow year-end monies is that all of a sudden it's a real deficit," he explained.

On the topic of Laurier's dwindling pension fund, Butler explained that there may be some hope of saving the university from spending cuts.

- SEE TOWN HALL, PAGE 2

**THE CORD WEEKLY**

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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2008

VOLUME 49 ISSUE 15

Next Issue: November 26

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"If there was a pole at a campus bar, I'd be kicked out of school. Or I'd make a lot of tips."

- Sports Editor Lauren Miller, commenting on her life.

**WORD OF THE WEEK**

**Bumish** - An onomatopoeic word that carries vaguely sexual connotations in the international world.

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The Cord Weekly is the official student newspaper of the Wilfrid Laurier University community.

Started in 1928 as the College Cord, The Cord Weekly is an editorially independent newspaper published by Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications, Waterloo, a corporation without share capital. WLUSP is governed by its board of directors.



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The Cord is created using Macintosh computers running OS X.2 using Adobe Creative Suite 3 (InDesign, Photoshop, Acrobat, Distiller and Illustrator) Canon Rebel XT 8.0 megapixel digital camera are used for principal photography.

The Cord Weekly is a proud member of the Ontario Press Council since 2006. Any unsatisfied complainants can be sent to the Council at [info@ontariopress.com](mailto:info@ontariopress.com).



The Cord's circulation for a normal Wednesday issue is 2,000 copies and enjoys a readership of over 10,000.

Cord subscription rates are \$20 (per term) for addresses within Canada.

The Cord Weekly is a proud member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), since 2004.



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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.

# WLUFA workload bargaining begins

REBECCA VASLUIANU  
NEWS EDITOR

After more than three months of negotiations, the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA) and university administration are finally moving towards the two biggest issues in the collective agreement - workload and compensation.

Both sides have been at the bargaining table since September 1 and, according to WLUFA Media Relations Officer Herbert Pimlott, the groups have tackled "over half" of the articles in the collective agreement.

WLUFA remains optimistic that both parties will reach an agreement before Christmas break, says Pimlott.

Kevin Crowley, director of news and editorial services at the university, commented that both sides are "still picking away" at negotiations, adding that bargaining is a timely process.

"The collective agreement is more than 130 pages long. There's a lot of detail in there and you want to get it right so you take the time and you work at it."

On Friday, the full-time faculty's bargaining team presented its proposal on workload.

"We're moving into workload, as well as pay and benefits. That means that we will be dealing with more substantial areas that are of great concern to our members," explained Pimlott.

As well, both parties are confident that full-time faculty negotiations will not be impacted by WLU's pension fund deficiencies and the possibility of budget cuts in the future. "We've heard the statements made ... they've made it clear that it's not a case that we're in a situation where we're facing a fiscal emergency," said Pimlott.

Crowley explained that VP: Finance Jim Butler made a presentation to the full-time faculty bargaining team as well as the university's bargaining team so that both sides are informed about the issues, which he explains are just "scenarios" at this time.

Negotiations will continue on Tuesdays and all day on Fridays; it is currently undetermined when negotiations will break for the winter holidays.

## Pension report to come

- FROM TOWN HALL, COVER

Because of the market crash, the value of the university's pension fund will not be sufficient to cover what it is legally required to.

The university would be obligated to pay back the funding shortfall or deficit over a period of five years.

These payments - which could be as much as \$11 million per year based on a zero percent rate of return - would require cuts from the university's budget equalling as much as \$21 million.

Butler explained that if the rate of return recovered to a number as high as six-and-a-half percent the university would still have to pay approximately \$9.1 million for each year.

"Is anybody fearless enough to think the world market is going to recover?" Butler asked an audience who responded with laughter.

At the meeting Butler announced that a crucial report on pension funds commissioned by the Ministry of Finance will be released this Friday, with the possibility of exempting Laurier from the annual payments.

The Ontario Expert Commission on Pensions, the first document addressing the Pension Benefits Act in 20 years, was started back in 2006 and Butler is hopeful that the report will provide some relief for Laurier's pension deficit.

"We've been waiting for them to put out the report," explained Butler.

"The government doesn't have

to accept it. It'd just be a recommendation from the specific panel. They make a recommendation back to finance ministry and he can pick and choose to implement some, all or none. When they would do it is another matter too," he added.

So far, Butler explained that a 0.5 percent cut built into the budget in May is already in effect. The university has started creating contingency plans to cope with the problem. These plans may be revealed in the next month.

While several WLU staff members expressed their concern at Monday's meeting, Butler said that he has received minimal concern from university employees.

"People have been reading the papers, and they know that there's been job loss, but this is just an early warning," he explained. "It's not on us right now and we're trying to problem-solve."

Laura Allan, assistant professor of business policy, expressed her faith in the university's ability to make it through tough times.

"Budget cuts are budget cuts. It's not like we haven't been through that before. Do I think the university will make it through? Of course," she explained, adding that she believes there is some good to be found in the situation.

"I think sometimes that good things come out of this. I think it's a chance for everybody to really look at what matters in their work lives, in their personal lives. Once you come out of it you come out of it better. So yeah I'm worried, but I tend to look at things as opportunities."



LAURA TOMKINS

**BUSINESS AS USUAL** - No cases of E. coli have been reported at WLU. Food Services is taking standard food-safety precautions.

# E. coli cases confirmed

Suspected source of infections is contaminated romaine lettuce; official cause not yet named

LINDA GIVETASH  
STAFF WRITER

The recent Escherichia coli (E. coli) outbreak that has hit Southern Ontario has begun to make its mark on Waterloo region. It has been confirmed that two students at St. Mary's High School in Kitchener have contracted the bacteria, with a third case being investigated.

Health officials closed the school cafeteria, run by Aramark Canada, on November 7 in an attempt to determine the source of the outbreak. Romaine lettuce has been named as the prime suspect, but this has not been confirmed by the Canada Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Kelly Ough, Director of Food Services at WLU and an Aramark employee, assured that the Fresh Food Co. is doing everything possible to ensure the safety of its customers. "We are doing our standard food-safety precautions ... avoiding cross-contamination keeping raw and cooked foods away from each other."

The Fresh Food Co. has not disposed of any suspicious products as of yet. Ough explained that they are "waiting to hear what the CFIA comes up with as a link to E. coli."

However, in light of the two ill students, St. Mary's High School has thrown out all romaine let-

tuce as a precautionary measure prior to the cafeteria's reopening on November 13.

The University of Guelph has also been hit by the outbreak. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health has reported seven confirmed cases of E. coli in the area, all students of the university. The University has stopped selling lettuce on campus until the exact source is identified.

In total, there are 140 confirmed and probable cases of the E. coli infection in Southern Ontario. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has released a statement that "laboratory testing has determined that cases ... have the same DNA fingerprint," implying that there is a common source for infection.

Karen Ostrander, Health Services manager at WLU, said that there are many products that the public should be cautious of and even avoid during an outbreak. The most common causes of E. coli infection are "the ingestion of ground beef products, such as hamburgers, that are rare or inadequately cooked ... [the] consumption of lettuce, alfalfa sprouts, unpasteurized juice, milk or cider and also person-to-person transmission."

Until the source is determined, ensuring food is thoroughly washed and cooked is the best means of avoiding infection.

## VOCAL CORD

"Are you worried about the financial crisis?"



"I still think I'm too young to worry about that kind of stuff."

- Jake Courtepatte  
First-year English



"Yes. Because I'm in business ... what will the world be like when I am looking for a job?"

- Vaishnavi Vivek  
First-year business



"Yes, because I am in Co-op, and they are worried that there won't be jobs available for students."

- Sam Sterne  
Second-year business



"Not particularly. I think as a student, right now I'm worried about other things."

- Casey DeGraaf  
First-year North American studies and English



"Of course I am. It affects everyone. I'm sure it will be a long-term thing."

- Peter Hanna  
Second-year business

Compiled by Jennifer Rae,  
photos by Mara Silvestri

# Challenging year ahead: panel



RYAN STEWART

**CANADIAN OUTLOOK** - Experts brought together by Laurier's School of Business and Economics to reflect on the global economic crisis concluded that it's not all bad news for the country. Canadian companies may be in a strong position to compete when the downturn ends.

## REBECCA VASLUIANU NEWS EDITOR

At an event hosted by the Laurier School of Business and Economics held last night at the Centre for International Governance Innovation, expert panellists came together to discuss and answer questions about Canada's economy, within the scope of the global financial crisis.

The annual event called "A Perfect Storm? Economic Outlook 2009," began with a keynote speech by Douglas Porter, deputy chief economist and managing director at Bank of Montreal Capital Markets.

Through a series of graphs, Porter tracked how Canada has been faring over the past few months in light of the global economic crisis, relating it to previous tumultuous times such as the 1970s oil shock, the technology recession of the 1990s, as well as the recession from 2000 to 2003; he noted that

through all of these crises Canada managed to avoid some of the negative impact.

Porter went on to relate this to Canada's current standing in the global crisis.

He noted that while the United States' vehicle sales have reached a 16.5-year low, Canada has reached a record high as consumers respond to price cuts.

As well, he explained that Canada's employment rate has stayed approximately the same while the US has seen a huge drop, stating "I don't think employment is going to deteriorate the same way as in the US."

Porter also noted that on the whole Canada has seen the greatest detriment to regional economies in the most booming areas of Canada, such as Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Toronto.

"Cities with the biggest pull-backs will be the ones that have seen the most progress," explained Porter.

Despite some promising patterns, he noted that Canada is not invulnerable.

"I do believe the Canadian economy is in for a very challenging year. The United States is in a recession and Canada will not be able to avoid [the] implications."

After Porter spoke, three panellists joined him to provide their own outlook and answer audience questions - President and CEO of CMA-Ontario Merv Hillier, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of MKS Inc. Phil Deck and WLU Economics Professor David Johnson.

Addressing the audience, Hillier noted that he thinks one of the major goals for Canada is to look past the US as the country's primary trading partner and "diversify our customers."

Deck also provided a positive outlook, stating that for many strong businesses the decrease in competition will provide them better footing for when the recession subsides.

"The winners are emerging from the losers and a lot of the companies that are strong are now realizing the prospect that a lot of their competitors are gone and are now looking towards how they will emerge from the upswing once things do turn around," he explained.

After the panel discussion, Associate Professor of Economics William Morrison, who organized the event, said he believed the discussion was ultimately positive, while many have painted it in a negative light.

"Timing is everything. If you look at the trend of long-term growth of the economy it's an upward trend. We've had downturns and this one is punctuated by the global economic crisis but if you look at trends we're going to rebound from this and we will hopefully come back even stronger tomorrow," he explained.

See PAGE 18 for editorial reaction to this story

# Shirt controversy boils down

History Students' Association and Student Diversity Office hold discussion with concerned parties

## MORGAN ALAN STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, the Office for Student Diversity held an open meeting to address the controversy surrounding the History Students' Association's (HSA) t-shirt campaign.

The meeting, which took place in the Macdonald House boardroom, was open to all members of the Laurier community who took offence to the shirt in question.

The incident occurred last week when the HSA faced complaints over the sale of a shirt that depicted former Soviet leader Josef Stalin with the text "Got Purge?"

Though the shirt was intended as satire, a large number of com-

plaints led to the shirt being pulled from public sale.

The meeting was intended to create an open discussion on the issue, where those in attendance could voice their concerns and the HSA could explain the shirt's message.

The Office for Student Diversity "wanted to bring people together, have a conversation, and become more educated about the issue," said Adam Lawrence, student diversity co-ordinator.

Lawrence stressed that the purpose of the meeting was not to censor the HSA or punish them for the campaign.

"The purpose of the meeting was to hear what people were saying,"

said Lawrence. "It was good that people who had concerns were able to share them."

Following the discussion, the HSA agreed to release a statement through the diversity office that explained the message of the shirt in question and the purpose of their campaign.

"All of our t-shirts are designed to be of a satirical nature and in no way should be construed to mean that we support any tragic event," the statement read.

John Kaye, a second-year languages student who attended the meeting, expressed concern over the message of the shirt in question.

The shirt "wasn't conducive to

a multicultural, accepting campus environment," said Kaye.

Despite his reservations, Kaye at no point wished for the HSA to be censored.

"I was glad to see that the Office for Student Diversity took a stance in favour of inclusivity, but didn't censor [the HSA]," he said.

Though Lawrence wished to avoid censorship, he made the Office for Student Diversity's stance on the controversy apparent.

"Do I promote [the shirts]? Not really. Do I think that the HSA is bad? Not at all," he said.

"The shirts have a satirical meaning. When [the HSA] explains it, you realize why they created them," Lawrence added.

**CANADA IN**

**Homecoming suspended at Queen's**

**KINGSTON, ON** — The Ontario university notorious for its rowdy Aberdeen street parties has cancelled homecoming events for the next two years.

This year, there was a crowd of approximately 9,000 individuals in attendance, 600 fines were handed out — mostly liquor offences — and there were 138 arrests.

The university will now hold a spring reunion in May for former Queen's graduates to replace homecoming.

**Concordia graduate's possible beheading**

**MONTREAL** — 23-year-old Concordia graduate Mohammed Kohail has lost an appeal for his murder conviction in the death of a 19-year-old student in a schoolyard fight.

Kohail faces beheading after the Saudi Arabian courts have rejected three appeals. He was convicted this past March.

The Canadian Embassy in Saudi Arabia says that the verdict is not final, a contrast to statements from government officials and media reports and, as of last week, the family has not yet heard from the government since the verdict was announced.

**McMaster student charged with arson**

**HAMILTON, ON** — A first-year student at McMaster has been

charged with setting fire to his residence building in late October.

Emerson Pardoe was arrested on November 3 for arson. The resulting fire displaced 580 Brandon Hall residents and sent four students to the hospital.

Pardoe has been banned from the city of Hamilton, suspended from McMaster and is not allowed to contact any students or staff from the university.

He was released on November 4 with \$50,000 bail and is currently staying with his parents in Scarborough until his next court appearance, which is scheduled for December 16.

**Professor accused of bombing synagogue**

**OTTAWA** — A sociology professor who teaches at both Carleton University and the University of Ottawa appeared in court on Saturday to face accusations against him for his connection with the bombing of a synagogue in France 30 years ago.

The 1980 attack killed four individuals and sparked an outcry in the Jewish community.

54-year-old Hassan Diab was arrested at his home in Gatineau, Quebec on Thursday and is claiming that this is a case of mistaken identity and he is in no way connected to the incident.

A publication ban is currently in place on the case and Diab will remain in police custody until his next hearing, which is scheduled for Thursday.

- Compiled by Laura Carlson, with files from Canadian University Press and The Globe and Mail



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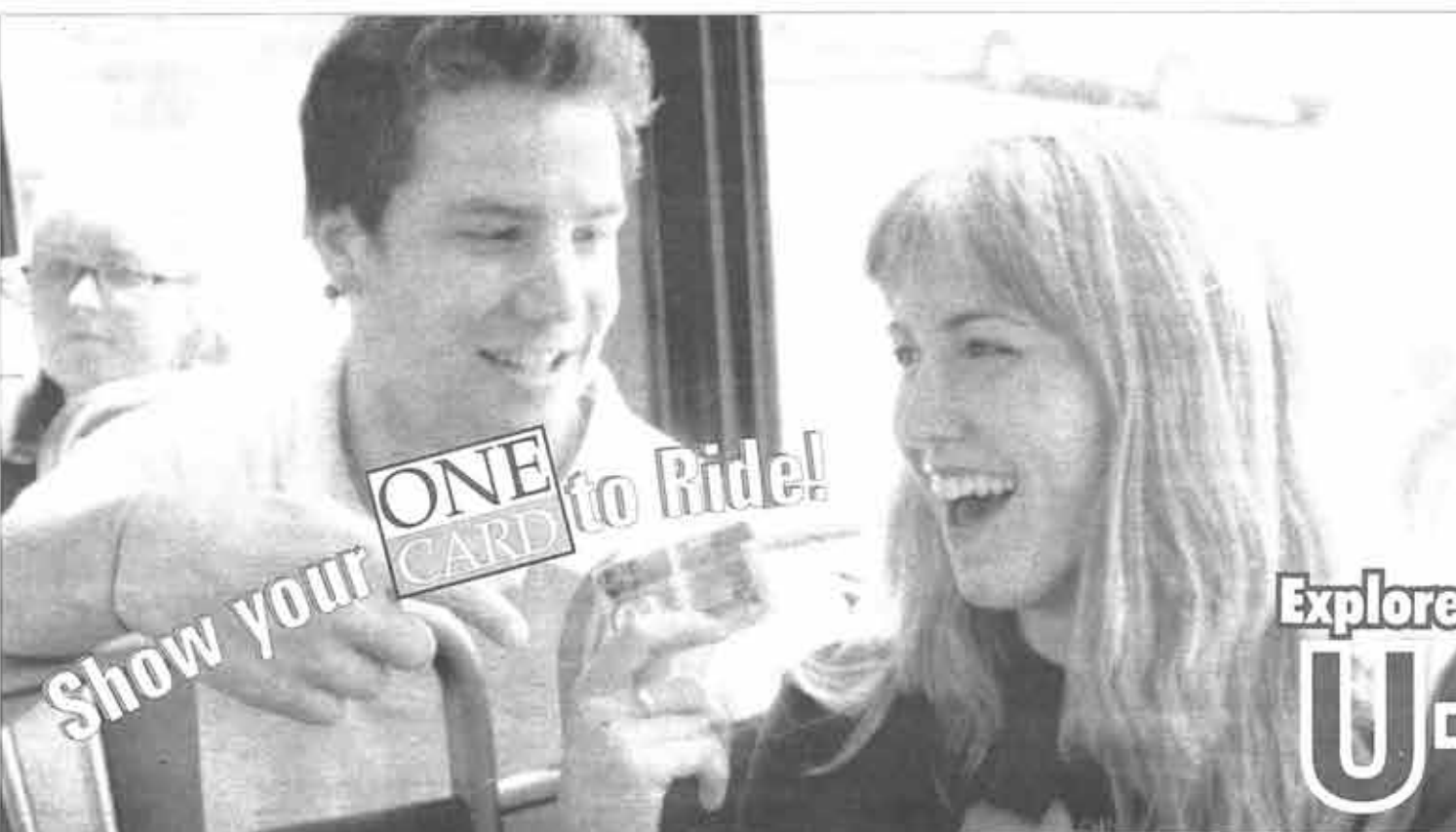
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## BIG BROTHER LAURIER

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# Civil disengagement

Ralph Nader spoke to students at Hagey Hall, UW about their role in politics

PAULA MILLAR  
STAFF WRITER

"To know and not to do is not to know." This ancient Chinese proverb captures the essence of Ralph Nader's November 13 keynote speech to a crowded theatre hall at the University of Waterloo.

Nader's visit marked the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group's (WPIRG) 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was a celebratory event for the very group whose creation he inspired while visiting, some 35 years ago.

"Our democracy is in danger, and a lack of civic motivation is at fault," said Nader. He streamlined the theme of the evening by saying, even 35 years later, "students are simply not interested in politics."

Canadian civil disengagement was evident October 14, as the federal election marked the lowest voter turnout since Confederation. Nader warned the audience about this sort of behaviour: "If you don't turn on to politics and the course of history, it will turn on you." The consequences of not participating, Nader elaborated, "are ever-increasing corporate control."

Nader explained the stranglehold American corporations have on the US government, and how damaging this pro-corporate relationship is for democracy today. "Democrats and Republicans converged on social power and sold government to big business." Nader referred to what he sees as a "duopoly of the Democrats and Republicans." It is what he called a "two-party dictatorship" in which it is "near impossible" for third-party candidates to acquire a spot on the ballot.

He also argued that proportional representation - in which parties are given power based on the proportion of votes won - is a viable option of government because it encourages people to vote for their party of choice. "Proportional representation gives more meaning to more voters," said Nader. Canada's multi-party system is closer to proportional representation than the US government, he argued. "Would you have gotten Medicare if it wasn't for the NDP?" asked Nader, encouraging Canadians to push for electoral reform.

Despite the end of the "Bush-Cheney regime," Nader said he

does not foresee real change anytime soon. In fact, he cautioned the crowd to "prepare to be disappointed" with an Obama administration. He called the president-elect nothing but a "corporate democrat" and even poked fun at Barack Obama's campaign of hope and change.

In the wake of the most recent credit crisis, corporate greed has been subject to harsh criticism. Nader's advice is to "turn [the economic] crisis into an opportunity." He sees the bailout as completely necessary because the companies affected are now "too big to fail" and "so much more will go with it."

"46 percent of Americans are living paycheque to paycheque," Nader explained. Therefore, he argued, "it does not matter how much workers produce ... the system is skewed in favour of corporations." The mere distribution of power is to blame and, while "we have plenty of freedom ... it is not civic freedom," Nader argued.

Nader believes civic engagement needs to make a comeback to thwart corporate control and rebuild our "damaged democracy." He urged the largely student-filled audience to "make the most of [their] 20s." He



RYAN STEWART

**DARTH NADER** - Students listened to Nader's views on global politics.

said that this is the time "you will be the most idealistic."

He called upon university students to "act now" because "post-secondary [education] allows you precious assets that you will not have in later years." He cited opportunities such as professors who are experts in their fields, science laboratories, or student news outlets. He explained that university students have "enormous venues [at their disposal] to practice de-

mocracy and develop civic skills."

Time and time again Nader referred back to this quote: "Without persons nothing is possible, without institutions nothing is enduring." He urged the crowd "to fight [corporations] on a field they cannot play on." Nader concluded, "You have votes ... corporations do not."

- With files from Morgan Alan

# Obama's duty to end wars

Tariq Ali lectured about the desperate need for change in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine and Israel

JENNIFER RAE  
STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday evening, Wilfrid Laurier had the pleasure of playing host to the remarkable Tariq Ali. Ali was introduced to the audience in the Theatre Auditorium as a historian, novelist, critic and filmmaker.

Ali is indeed a man of many talents and titles, having amassed a variety of notable roles since becoming a public figure in the 1960s while studying politics, philosophy and economics at Oxford. At the time, Ali led a passionate student campaign opposing the Vietnam War, which at its height saw thousands of protesters march on the American Embassy in London.

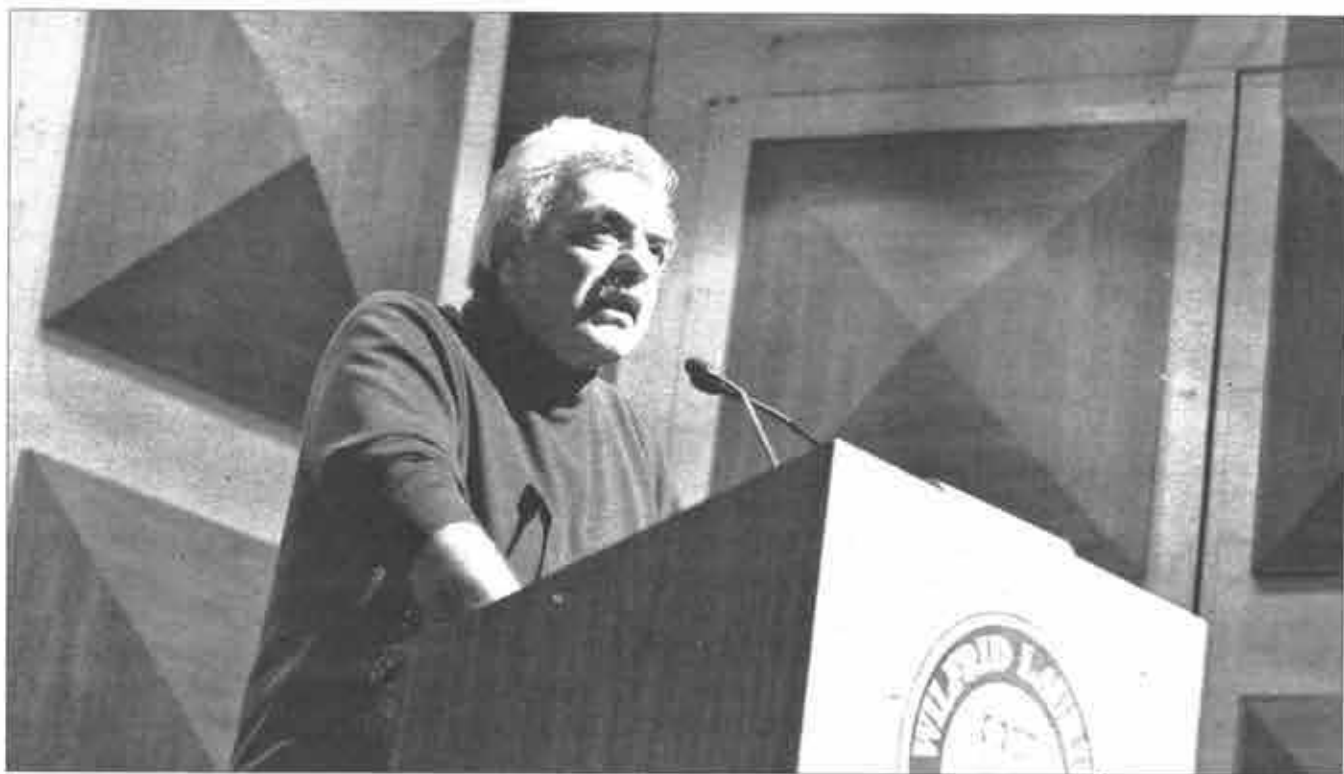
Ali was born in Pakistan in 1943, where he was raised by his journalist father and activist mother. As a young university student, he organized bold demonstrations against Pakistan's military dictatorship. In Britain, he was head of the Oxford Union, and was featured in televised debates with several prominent figures of the time, including Henry Kissinger.

Since his time as a student activist, Ali has gone on to become a respected novelist, writing both fiction and non-fiction books that ad-

dress his often radical political and global views. He has also written scripts, which have been presented on both the stage and the screen, and has worked as a broadcaster for Channel Four. Ali has even been rumoured as the inspiration behind the politically charged Rolling Stones song "Street Fighting Man". Today Ali continues to live in London, where he works for the *New Left Review*, a publication for which he was a founding editor.

Ali's captivating lecture delivered a humorous, satirical style that kept the audience engaged. He focused his talk on the three most dominant issues that he sees as facing president-elect Barack Hussein Obama, quipping that now it was safe to call the leader by his full name. According to Ali, Obama's foremost concerns must be to address the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the ongoing crisis between Israel and Palestine.

Ali began by noting the significance of Obama's election in itself, explaining, "Any talk about the world today must start with the recent events in the United States." Ali interpreted the election as being important on multiple levels, paying service to its ability not only to "end the isolation of the African-



SYDNEY HELLAND

**STREET FIGHTING MAN** - Ali drew from personal experiences to discuss the future of international relations.

American community from the higher seats of power," but also to "energize a new generation" and to effectively defeat and "punish the Republicans for what they have inflicted on the United States, and what they have done to the rest of the world."

Ali had harsh words concerning the war in Iraq, stating with disgust the astonishing statistics: one million Iraqis killed since occupation, 2.5 million forced to become refugees, a complete destruction of the nation's infrastructure, schools that can no longer function, shortages of potable water.

"The Western world does not understand fully the consequences of it all," said Ali, reminding the audience that Iraq was once seen as having the highest standard of living in the Arab world. "If it was any other country [other than the US] they would have been tried for war

crimes."

Ali's views of the war in Afghanistan were equally bleak, as he noted that the condition of women within the country has deteriorated immensely since occupation began nine years ago, and that heroin production has skyrocketed.

Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries in the world, with the average Afghani living on less than one dollar per day. There have been 30,000 civilian casualties over the course of the war - even though it was once stated that the main reason to occupy the country in the first place was to defend civilians.

"The idea that some good is being done is so crass, so crude, so idiotic, it's astonishing anyone still believes it," said Ali.

"We need an exit strategy from Afghanistan. This fact is crucial. There is a limit to what people can take. Generations after generations

are growing up in conditions of war."

Ali concluded his talk with discussions about the current situation in Pakistan, as well as the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Ali described conditions in Gaza as horrendous and comparable to a ghetto as desolate as Warsaw at the time of WWII. "It is a question of giving Palestinian people some semblance of dignity so the violence can stop," Ali explained.

Ali's last words were carefully placed. "Change happens when ordinary people are prepared to do something about it ... Obama's test will come. It is not just the US. Now the whole world needs a new deal."

As the audience applauded Ali's lecture, Laurier anthropology professor Andrew Lyons thanked Ali, stating simply, "I have been trying to get him here for five years. If you didn't know why, you do now."

# Marc Kielburger encourages social change

The chief executive director of Free the Children lectures to Laurier students

**MARA SILVESTRI**  
STAFF WRITER

On Friday evening, Marc Kielburger delivered a presentation as a keynote speaker at Laurier's second annual conference on Social Entrepreneurship. The conference was organized in conjunction with University of Waterloo, and entitled "Change the World."

Kielburger is the chief executive director of Free The Children, a non-profit organization that his brother started at the age of 12, which aids in eradicating social injustices through universal primary education.

The solution-oriented lecture focused largely on health leadership, education, and international development. The notion of young people finding meaning in life was explored by asking the question: "What type of legacy do you want to leave?"

Social entrepreneurship, defined in the presentation as trying to fix what is socially wrong with the available resources, was a topic Kielburger related to his own experiences. He spoke of his time spent in Thailand at the age of 17, conveying how powerless he felt in the midst of all the social injustice. What was intended to be a two-

week experience turned into a year-long journey, as Kielburger found himself learning "more from street kids in Thailand than any professor from Harvard or Oxford."

The initial reason Kielburger didn't honour his first plane ticket home was all due to one young street boy who had an immense effect on the social entrepreneur. He was able to convince Kielburger to stay for the collective birthday party that the street kids organized for themselves, as their true birthdates and identities had been lost in the midst of the extreme injustices endured. When Kielburger arrived home, he found himself angry with the North American lifestyle and began looking for ways to change it.

In order to fully express his message of taking action, Kielburger brought to the audience's attention a variety of social injustices that are currently circulating globally. This list included the statistic that a child dies over the effects of poverty every two seconds. He also spoke of the effects of global warming on the livelihood of Sub-Saharan citizens as hailstorms are destroying their crops.

As far as the reasons behind African social injustices, Kielburger believes that the children were sim-

ply "born in the wrong country." He expressed his belief that we are the first generation in history that could end poverty. He did this by encouraging students that young people are at the forefront of social change.

Kielburger brought the presentation home when he stated: "We vote every single day with our wallets," providing evidence with numbers in spending. Canadians spend 17 billion dollars on dog and cat food per year. Likewise, Europeans spend \$11 billion on ice cream. According to Kielburger, the amount needed to eradicate the HIV/AIDS epidemic does not even equal half of the combined amount of the spending in those two industries.

It became evident that our culture has skewed priorities in terms of the aid we are providing. "If we want to change Africa, we have to change North America," Kielburger suggested that the first change to occur must be the mentality of North Americans.

Kielburger ended his presentation with a challenge for the audience: to use their ideas, passion, vibrancy and courage in order to produce social change. With empathy being the root of social change, Kielburger ended his presentation by proclaiming: "Together we can change the world."



YUSUF RIDWAI

**KIELBURGER'S SOLUTION** - "Together we can change the world."

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**SPORTS BITES**



**Men's basketball**

The Golden Hawks men's basketball team played their fourth regular-season game on Saturday, when they travelled to Sudbury to take on the Laurentian Voyageurs.

The Hawks were led to a commanding 103-78 victory by second-year Kalé Harrison, who scored a career high of 31 points.

Harrison is ranked number one in the OUA for points scored, and the Hawks now have a 3-1 record and are tied for second in the OUA West division.

On Friday, the Hawks will host the Toronto in their first home game of the regular season and Ryerson on Saturday.

**Women's basketball**

Laurier's women's basketball team also took to the court last weekend in Sudbury, taking the game to overtime against the Laurentian Lady Vees before facing an 81-74 loss. The Hawks came out

confident after their win the previous week and took the early lead, holding it until the fourth quarter when the Lady Vees tied the game up and force overtime. The home team managed to outscore the Hawks in overtime and took the win.

Next up for the Hawks is a home game against the Varsity Blues on Friday, and Saturday against Ryerson. Both games are at 6 p.m.

**Swimming**

Making waves in the pool this weekend at the Campbell Division Championships in Toronto were Whitney Rich and David Hughes, who landed medals leading the Hawks to a fifth-place finish.

Rich secured three first-place finishes in the 100- and 200-metre breaststroke events and also in the 200-metre individual medley. She also played a key role in the women's third-place finish in the 200-metre medley relay event.

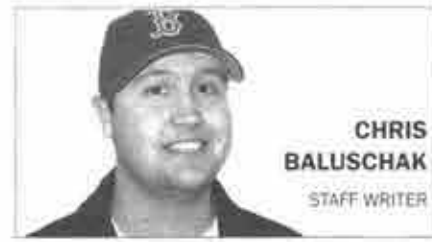
Hughes earned himself a place on the podium with two third-place finishes in the 400- and 1500-metre freestyle events.

The team will now travel to U of T next Thursday to take part in the SNC Challenge Cup.

- Compiled by Andrea Millet

# Disappointing starts heat up trade rumours

Chris Baluschak examines who will be shopping for whom in the NBA



**CHRIS BALUSCHAK**  
STAFF WRITER

On the heels of the first blockbuster deal of the 2008-2009 NBA season - which saw Allen Iverson, formerly of the Denver Nuggets, head to the Detroit Pistons in exchange for veteran play-caller Chauncey Billups - trade rumours are brewing across the league.

Dismal starts to the season and underachieving stars have instigated all the buzz.

Starting on the west coast and working towards the east, the Dallas Mavericks have had a terrible start to their season.

After barely defeating the lowly New York Knicks over the weekend, they find themselves sitting at 3-7. After finishing 51-31 last season, trouble seems to be brewing in Dallas.

Point Guard Jason Kidd is not getting any younger and Dirk Nowitzki can't carry the entire team himself. Owner Mark Cuban has expressed interest in disgruntled Knicks guard Stephon Marbury.

Marbury, along with Kidd in the back court, could be a deadly combination as long as Marbury is able to leave his ego and his baggage in

New York.

The Cleveland Cavaliers have also found themselves in a very interesting predicament.

After the 2010 season is complete, we can expect one of the most exciting off-seasons in recent history as superstar forward LeBron James will become a free agent.

Cleveland will most likely try to re-sign their franchise player but after failing to reach the NBA championships the past few seasons, they must make a conscious effort to show their commitment to him and to building a legitimate championship-calibre team.

They are getting close, but they need that one additional piece to complete the puzzle.

That piece could be New Jersey Nets forward Vince Carter. An interesting proposition for sure, as it may actually be a strategic move for the future. Carter in Cleveland alongside LeBron could resemble a Michael Jordan-Scotty Pippen relationship as long as Carter can accept a supporting role.

Although New Jersey may not get much in return, possibly some youth and draft picks, it is a ploy that will free up major cap room for the 2010 free agent summer.

That's right, going after LeBron James could be in the plans for the Nets, whose ownership partner, rapper Jay-Z, is actually a very good

friend of King James.

Rounding things off on the east coast are the Toronto Raptors who are in desperate need of a legitimate scoring threat.

Chris Bosh is the heart and soul of that team and the off-season trade that brought Jermaine O'Neal has taken pressure off of Bosh.

O'Neal helps on the defensive front collecting rebounds, but is still trying to find his form on the offensive front which had previously made him a six-time all-star. In the meantime, however, the three-player combination of Anthony Parker, Andrea Bargnani and Jason Kapono are not quite doing it.

Enter savior Bryan Colangelo. He has resuscitated the franchise and will do whatever is necessary, within reason, to bring that scoring threat to Toronto.

Some players of interest include Gerald Wallace of the Charlotte Bobcats and Al Harrington of the Golden State Warriors.

Both players bring that scoring option to Toronto, but it is rumoured that both franchises are extremely interested in Bargnani, whom Colangelo is reluctant to part with.

With one big blockbuster deal completed early in the season, it may have broken the ice for other general managers who may have been a little gun-shy.

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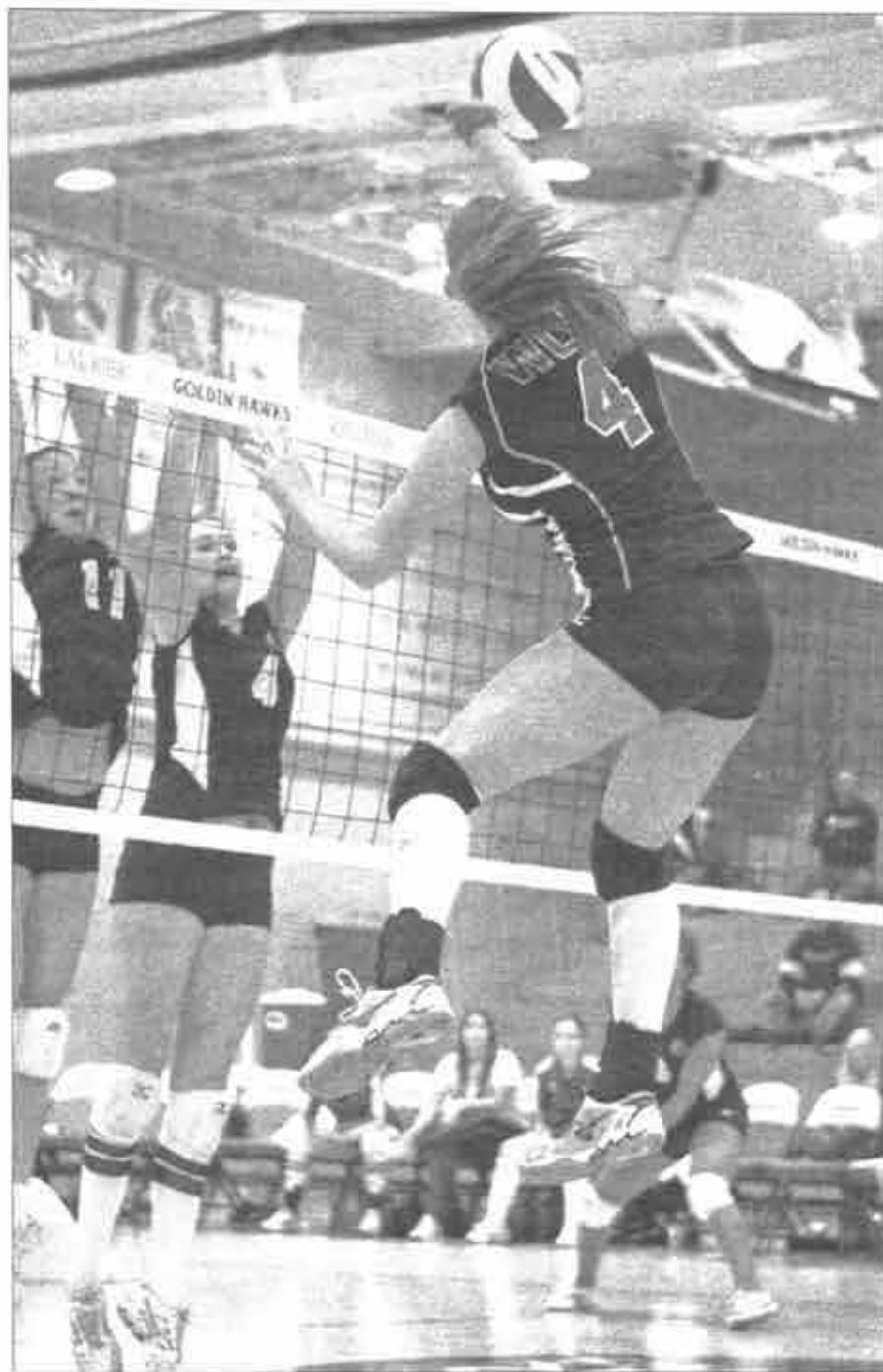
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**LEAPING LADY** - Tesca Andrew-Wasylik spikes a kill past Ryerson.

RYAN STEWART

# Ladies win exciting five-set match against Rams

**TIEJA MACLAUGHLIN**  
STAFF WRITER

The Golden Hawks women's volleyball team split points last weekend, dropping three straight sets to the Toronto Varsity Blues on Friday, before battling the Ryerson Rams on Saturday at the Athletic Complex. The ladies managed to beat the Rams in five exciting sets.

The Hawks came out strong, dominating the first set. Veteran hitter Teresa Wick and second-year middle Megan Gilmore made several strong plays contributing to the 25-17 final.

A few minor errors in the second set put the Hawks back, but it soon turned into a tight game with the Hawks coming from behind to win 25-23. "We came out and we were quite focused, and executed well the first two sets," said Head Coach Luke Snider. "We did a really good job of staying calm and doing the little things well."

Despite solid blocking from setter Brittany Brunt and middle Stephanie Schleiffer, and formidable smashes from outside hitter

Tesca Andrew-Wasylik, the Hawks lost their third set 25-22.

The fourth set of play was an intense neck-and-neck battle, with the Hawks looking desperately for the win, and the Rams hoping simply to tie things up.

Wick and Gilmore remained a dynamic duo, making more great plays and robbing Ryerson of several points. Andrew-Wasylik continued to hammer out hits into Rams territory, maintaining a very close game between the two teams.

With tight blocking at the net and great rallying overall, the Hawks secured another point going into the last technical timeout just shy of Ryerson 20-23.

Back in action, Gilmore found some open floor space with her spike to make it 21-23.

A fumble from Ryerson gave the Hawks an additional point, but Laurier slipped with a poor spike just outside the line. Luckily, Ryerson made another fumble at the net to make the score 24-24.

Wick, along with left-side Amy Cook, both executed good plays to earn additional points for the

Hawks, but Ryerson retaliated and the score settled at 26. Schleiffer made two spikes, but after another great rally Ryerson took the point.

Soon enough, the Hawks came back with two more points. Cook, with another tip, made it 28-27 for Laurier, but her out-of-bounds serve evened the score out yet again.

Setter Kristi Town faked out the Rams twice with a pair of backhands, bringing this nail-biter to 30-30.

The set finally came to an end with Ryerson earning the final two points and the win. "In the third and fourth set we ran into some trouble. We weren't handling the pressure that Ryerson put back on us well enough to finish them off in three," said coach Snider.

Laurier managed to seal their victory in the fifth set 15-6, thus moving their season record to 3-5. "I thought we showed our experience and talent," Snider commented.

The girls travel to Kingston this weekend, facing the RMC Paladins Friday and Queen's Gaels on Saturday.

# Men crush Blues, Rams

Hawks sweep three straight sets to pick up two victories and extend their season record to 3-5

**TIEJA MACLAUGHLIN**  
STAFF WRITER

The Golden Hawks men's volleyball team hosted the University of Toronto Varsity Blues on Friday and the Ryerson Rams this past Saturday at the Athletic Complex, and came out victorious from both matchups winning in three straight sets.

"We had a great character weekend, we won both matches 3-0," commented Head Coach Shayne White.

The Hawks dominated the entire first set against the Rams, with great defensive blocking coming from middle Matt Polley and left-side Derek Lapp. Second-year Lapp, along with rookie left-side Samuel Schachter, made several key hits helping Laurier take the set 29-27.

Ryerson soon changed the pace of the game and came out strong in the second set, but the Hawks fought back hard and it resulted in a 25-19 win.

Lapp, Schachter and right-side

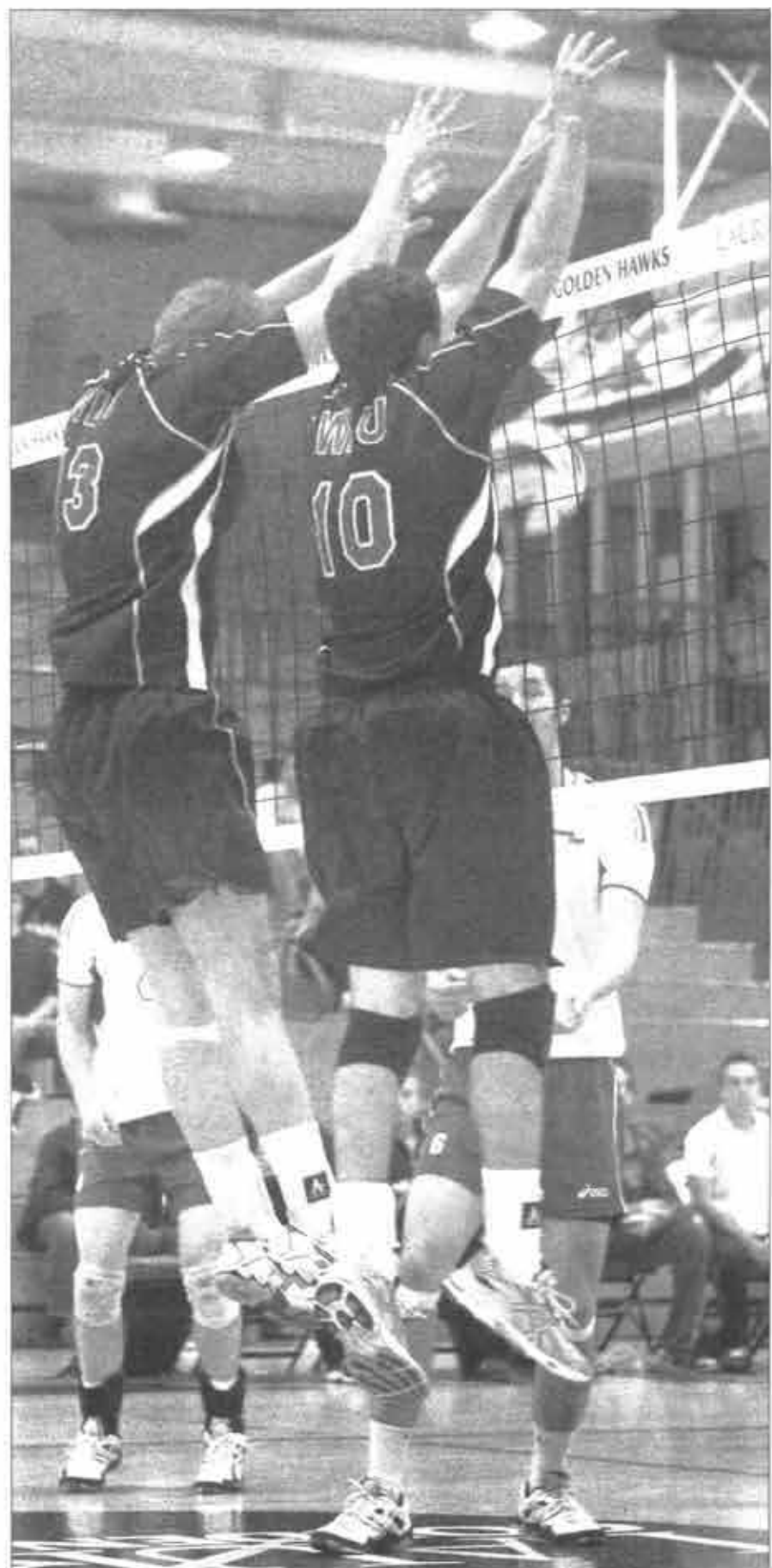
Greg Houston knocked back-to-back smashes, securing the Hawks lead in the third set, with great setting hailing from veteran Robert Vitullo.

"There's certain plays that always give us a lot of energy," said second-year Houston. "A block, or a kill, or a dig that they don't expect catches them off guard."

Libero Edward Lee served for game point, but couldn't clinch it. After a few exciting rallies, the Rams flopped with an out-of-bounds serve, giving Laurier the game point and 25-18 victory. Second-year Cameron Wheelan stood out with an overall solid game, contributing blocks and hits alike.

The win brings the Hawks to an even 3-3 for the season. "We're going into two away games next weekend, and we'll hopefully bring that to 5-3," said White.

Next up for the boys will be the Royal Military College Paladins on Friday and Queen's University Gaels on Saturday.



**HAWK BLOCKED** - Robert Vitullo and Matt Polley block a Rams spike.

RYAN STEWART

## GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of  
November 18 - 24, 2008

### RECENT SCORES

- 11.13.08  
M Hockey 3 - Guelph 2
- 11.14.08  
M Basketball 83 - York 81  
W Basketball 78 - York 71  
W Volleyball 0 - Toronto 3  
M Volleyball 0 - Toronto 3
- 11.17.08  
M Basketball 108 - Laurentian 78  
W Basketball 74 - Laurentian 81  
W Volleyball 3 - Ryerson 2  
M Volleyball 3 - Ryerson 0  
M Hockey 3 - Guelph 0
- 11.17.08  
W Hockey 4 - Guelph 0

### UPCOMING HOME GAMES

- 11.21.08  
W Basketball vs Toronto  
Athletic Complex, 6:00 p.m.  
M Basketball vs Toronto  
Athletic Complex, 8:00 p.m.
- 11.22.08  
W Basketball vs Ryerson  
Athletic Complex, 6:00 p.m.  
M Basketball vs Ryerson  
Athletic Complex, 8:00 p.m.

### LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

- Kale Harrison  
Men's Basketball
- Whitney Rich  
Women's Swimming

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LAURA TOMKINS

**HAWK HEAT** - Veteran forward Lauren Barch battles for the puck with Guelph's Patricia Harris during the teams' meeting on Monday night at the Waterloo Recreation Complex.

# Hockey Hawks remain perfect

The women's hockey team extended their season record to 11-0 with a 4-0 victory over the Guelph Gryphons on Monday night

**LAUREN MILLET**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Winning is becoming a regular occurrence for the second nationally ranked Golden Hawks women's hockey team. Monday night at the Waterloo Recreation Complex, the Hawks overpowered what appeared to be a tired Guelph Gryphons side, extending their undefeated season to 11 games.

The Gryphons produced many scrappy attempts to break the solid goaltending of third-year sensation Liz Knox, but the Hawks were simply too good, and skated away to a 4-0 victory.

"I'm pretty happy with the team so far," said Head Coach Rick Osborne. "We hung in there and took the game over."

While Guelph out-shot Laurier in the first period 12 to 7, they just could not keep pace with the Hawks for the rest of the game.

"Definitely credit Jamie Carlson, who is there every single day for us during off-ice training," said Captain Andrea Bevan regarding the team's fitness level. "Our team is really dedicated to make it out to every practice."

"We have found out in the past few years that any competitive advantage we can get the better. The difference between two and three seed is huge," said Osborne about the importance of finishing with a strong record.

It took the Hawks merely 3:45 minutes on the ice to get their first score, as rookie Vanessa Schabkar capitalized off of a pass from vet-

eran forward Lauren Barch. Four minutes later, fifth-year defensive powerhouse Bevan hammered home a shot top-left.

The second period belonged to the Hawks, as they put away the game. Out-shooting the Gryphons 11-6, the Hawks were simply too fast and too powerful for the visitors. Second-year forward Kaley Powers took a pass from centre Katherine Shirriff and made it a 3-0 game.

Powers leads the team in goals with nine, and points with 15, good enough to put her second in the province.

Just before the buzzer, veteran forward Andrea Ironside fired home the fourth goal for the purple and gold. The third period saw a last-ditch effort from the Gryphons

to get on the board, but Knox did not waver, making a total of 28 saves on the night and collecting her seventh shut-out for the season.

"It was 4-0 on the scoreboard, but I don't think it was a 4-0 game," commented Osborne. "We could have been a little hungrier around the net. They definitely had some great chances, but I was really pleased with Knox's play. [She] was pretty important."

Sitting as the only undefeated team in the province, Osborne says this is the hardest time of the year.

"This is the time of year, end of November, where we really get sick of each other. So there is always a concern there. But we cut back on practice times, on dry land."

Osborne went on to point out that while undefeated, the team

still needs to remain focused. "We have a pretty solid work ethic on the team, but there is always a tendency to be not as defensively responsible when you're winning all the time."

"We generate a good offence on any night, but anytime you're unbeaten, you have to make sure you pay attention to detail."

Bevan commented that it is important to focus on the simple things, like getting the puck out of their own end and to open players. "And try not to be nervous, that's always something that's hard to deal with [for the younger players]. It's the job of the veterans to make the younger players not feel nervous."

The Hawks will next travel to Toronto on Sunday to face the 5-7 York Lions.

Hosted By: Mic Tee and Simcoe

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# Embracing the Queer Com

A movement starting in the '80s saw the beginnings of a struggle for the establishment of a Queer community at Laurier. Now, 15 years later, individuals advocating for this group speak about LGBTQ inclusivity on campus: its current state and the direction they hope it takes in the future.



Sigma Chi President Roger Chabot. RYAN STEWART

So if you're different, having been born with a homosexual orientation, then don't come to Laurier. You're not supposed to exist here. It doesn't matter if you are honest, intelligent, studious, caring, hard-working, an asset to society and a wonderful person—if you also happen to be gay, WLUSU doesn't want you around. You're not human, obviously.

R.J.  
(Gay and at Laurier)

Letter to the editor that appeared in The Cord on January 21, 1982

**LAURA CARLSON**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

When the individual identified as R.J. walked the halls of Laurier 15 years ago the campus was a different place. LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) students did not speak openly about their sexual orientation and the Students' Union denied these individuals – then calling themselves Laurier Gays – the right to form a collective identity and establish themselves as a campus group.

Queer students in the 1980s strove to achieve equality with their peers and expressed feelings of isolation, exclusion and prejudice on campus: a drastically different experience than current music student and president of Sigma Chi fraternity Roger Chabot has had.

"I've never really had any problems in my four years feeling rejected or out of place, or anything like that," said Chabot.

"Everybody knew [I was gay], it was a non-issue."

Though on the surface LGBTQ individuals appear to have a similar experience on campus compared to straight ones, Maeve Strathy, literature and resource co-ordinator of the Rainbow Centre, notes that total inclusiveness has not been achieved.

"We're not to the point where all of Laurier is a safe space," said Strathy.

Citing instances on campus when individuals are forced to make decisions

that follow current gender and sexuality norms, Rainbow Centre Events and Activities co-ordinator Waleed Hafeez also feels that exclusive spaces on campus still exist.

"Where you have to declare yourself as something, whether it's [at] Health Services or whether it's even using a washroom... the most challenging thing ... is to find a place where you're comfortable and that's not always there."

To create a safe space on campus the university established the Rainbow Centre – a student service developed from the discussion group GLOBAL (gay, lesbian, or bisexual at Laurier) – three years ago, which addresses LGBTQ issues in the Laurier community.

"I see us as a multi-tiered service," explained Rainbow Centre Senior Coordinator Michelle Roberts.

"We provide a lot to students: resources and education ... we provide safe space ... [we] consult on diversity issues of all kinds...we also provide peer support."

The centre falls under the Diversity Office – also in its third year of operation – which aims to create a more inclusive atmosphere at Laurier.

Diversity Co-ordinator Adam Lawrence notes that incidents do arise on campus, which highlight that this has not been completely achieved.

Over the summer there was an act of graffiti, when "Kill Fagots," replacing the final s with a swastika, was found in a washroom of the Arts building.

"It frightens me that there's stuff like that that happens on campus," said Lawrence.

Director of Special Constable Services Rod Curran says that, while they have not found any suspects in this case, the university has a zero tolerance policy for hate crimes of this nature.

"We get the police involved and if we do find somebody they will be charged criminally," said Curran.

There have been two reported hate crimes against the LGBTQ community in the past two years, and several informal

acts of intolerance that have resulted in the Diversity Office working directly with students who have acted inappropriately.

"There are lots of incidents where you're just like 'wow, we're back to square one' but there are also tons of success stories," said Lawrence.

Citing the establishment of the Rainbow Centre as the primary example of such successes, Lawrence says the centre is now striving to change the perception the outside community holds of LGBTQ individuals.

"They're students first, and they're people first," said Lawrence. "They're just human beings."

Chris Klassen, a religion and culture professor, notes that while society has become more accepting of queer individuals, embracement of sexual diversity has yet to be achieved.

"We don't necessarily have a society yet that's accepting of any non-heterosexual relationships as normal. It's allowable, but it's not necessarily normal."

Klassen sees the university environment as a place in which working for such change should be encouraged, particularly because prior to their post-secondary studies most individuals have a perception that society is functioning naturally and without problems.

"Any social norms or any social assumptions need to be questioned in a university context," said Klassen.

"Issues of gender and sexuality are particularly important because most of the students are at an age where they are really shaping their own understandings of their own gender and sexuality."

Tom Howse, a fourth-year philosophy and global studies student, noted that the university atmosphere fostered a culture of acceptance, affirmed by Howse's experience with coming out in second year.

"I didn't have a negative experience with anyone ... and I think a lot of it has to do with the fact that Laurier does promote a positive environment."



ELLI GARLIN



Rainbow Centre Co-ordinators Waleed Hafeez, Michelle Roberts and Maeve Strathy.

LAURA TOMKINS



Diversity Co-ordinator Adam Lawrence.

# Community

ater,  
future

"[Coming out] seems like a monumental thing because it affects a huge aspect of your life, but when you tell somebody else ... it doesn't fundamentally alter their opinion of you," said Howse.

While Laurier is striving for an inclusive environment, individuals such as sociology professor Kimberly Ellis-Hale - who has sat on the Sexual Diversity Committee and participated in positive space training - notes that a commitment needs to come from both students and administration, especially because students cycle through the community at a rapid pace.

"Wouldn't it be great if [change] was top-down and bottom-up?" said Ellis-Hale.

"I think that it's certainly not something that we have achieved, but I think it is something that is achievable."

Specific initiatives, such as creating gender-neutral washrooms at WLU, have been a priority for the Rainbow Centre. Such facilities are something already present at some universities, such as the University of Northern British Columbia.

Currently, Laurier has a makeshift policy in place where any new buildings on campus will be equipped with gender-neutral washrooms; however, this does not include installing such facilities in older buildings.

Another long-term goal for the Rainbow Centre is reworking the residence system to make it LGBTQ-friendly - something achieved by York when they established a gender-neutral housing project.

Other post-secondary initiatives include embracing Queer studies as a part of formal education, similar to how women's studies has become an academic program at many universities.

For instance, the University of Toronto has created a program in Sexual Diversity Studies - now the largest of its type in Canada - which involves studying a wide variety of subject matter relating to the historic and cultural meaning of sexuality.

Acting director of the program Scott Rayter explains that this field offers students a chance to engage in this niche area

of critical thinking while altering the general perception of the Queer community on campus.

"That is sending a message out there to people that this is a legitimate field of study and that we won't put up with intolerance," said Rayter. "That does make a big difference [on campus]."

Rayter also feels the program highlights U of T's commitment to creating an open environment. This is something WLU's Diversity Office feels is happening on its campus.

This includes the establishment of the office itself, the space provided by Residential Services and financial support through the Dean of Students office.

With commitment from the university and volunteers, the Rainbow Centre feels they have had an increased impact on the community.

It now operates as a student service as opposed to an informal social setting, though the group still holds Thursday night discussions at 7 p.m. and is open during the day to all Laurier students (queer identified and straight allies).

The group also aims to advance its professional status through four annual campaigns which include Coming Out Week, Oath of Silence Day, Support Love and Trans Awareness Week.

Trans Awareness Week, which started on Monday and runs until Friday, featured a speaker and movie night, and includes educational booths in the Concourse, a candlelight vigil on Thursday evening and Friday's closing event: a Gender Bender wine and cheese in the Grad Pub.

"We just really want to, with this campaign, get people thinking about breaking down the gender binary of male and female; there are things that exist outside, around and in-between that," said Roberts.

"Gender is not a box to be ticked, but a way of expressing who you are."

See PAGE 18 for editorial reaction to this story



Fourth-year Laurier student Tom Howse.

RYAN STEWART



LAURA TOMKINS



LAURA TOMKINS

## 'Gender-fucking' the world

Second-year history student Donny Langley has been performing at Club Renaissance in drag since the age of 18.

Through the embodiment of different female characters, including current persona "Lady Jazz," Langley works to challenge current gender constraints.

"As a drag performer, we get to say things and do things that as men we generally wouldn't have the chance to do because we're taking everything that we know of the world and - pardon my French - we're gender-fucking the world."

Though the art of drag started for Lady Jazz as something fun (the aftermath of a dare from a friend), since then, perfor-

mances have become about questioning commonplace ideas and norms.

"If I can make a person laugh ... [by] putting on a dress and putting on heels, and make a person question and make a person think, I think I'm doing my job," said Lady Jazz.

"[Drag performers] really rock the boat because we are not women, we're men and we're comfortable with being men and taking that next step and taking it over the top."

Listen to an exclusive audio recording of Laura Carlson's interview with Lady Jazz at [www.CordWeekly.com](http://www.CordWeekly.com).

### CORD/ONLINE

> [cordweekly.com](http://cordweekly.com)  
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Read profiles of all individuals featured in this article online.

#### Sexual orientation: A non-issue

President of *Sigma Chi* fraternity Robert Chabot

#### A safe space on campus

Rainbow Centre Co-ordinators Michelle Roberts, Waleed Hafeez and Maeve Strathy

#### Working towards diversity

Diversity Co-ordinator Adam Lawrence

#### No tolerance for hate crimes on campus

Director of Special Constable Services Rod Curran

#### An academic perspective

Religion and culture professor Chris Klassen

#### Coming out: A positive experience

Laurier student Tom Howse

#### Exploring diversity in the classroom

Sociology professor Kimberly Ellis-Hale

#### An inclusive initiative at the University of Toronto

Sexual Diversity Studies Director Scott Rayter



SYDNEY HELLAND



Coffee is essential to the university experience, but the same old hot beverage conglomerates can get quite tiresome day in and day out. Venture out and try new things with this great guide to unique café experiences in the Kitchener-Waterloo area

**WHITNEY MCLACHLAN**  
CORD STUDENT LIFE

If it's time for a new coffee place and you are sick of Tim Horton's and Starbucks, Waterloo has a lot of comfortable neighbourhood places to grab a good coffee. Whether to study or go on a date, Waterloo has many places to feed a caffeine craving.

**Williams Coffee Pub**

If you're looking for something that is "bank account-friendly", Williams Coffee Pub on University is on WLU's OneCard roster. Williams is a casual, cozy meeting place that offers a variety of delicious paninis, desserts, gourmet coffees and teas. Williams is famous for their blend of Arabica beans from Brazil, Kenya and Costa Rica.

The restaurant offers specialty coffees, including their delicious Chai Latte. They also have a wide selection of teas and other beverages.

Williams has wireless Internet for the convenience of the students in the area, so you can bring your laptop.

No one will bother you, so order a coffee and get away from the distractions of your roommates. The comfortable booths are perfect for hours of studying or reading, but I would suggest bringing an iPod to drown out noise of other customers entering and leaving the coffee pub.

**Raintree Café**

If you're looking for something different than your average Second Cup, Raintree Café on King is

a great environment. More a restaurant-style establishment, it was originally a bakery/café, so their desserts and coffees are top-notch.

The seating is comfortable and casual, and their cakes are amazing. Laura, a first-year university student, said Raintree was "more dinner-appropriate than a study environment, but delicious just the same."

Though it would be a quiet place to do some reading if you need a place to focus, it would also be a great date scene later in the day when the café opens itself to live music by local talent.

**Sweet Dreams Teashop**

Aside from your everyday coffee shop, Sweet Dreams Teashop on University near UW is very unique. They are well-known for their bub-

ble teas (amazing!) and their loose-leaf tea, with plenty of selection.

Lots of comfortable seating means you can curl up on couches with your laptop or textbooks and do some reading. There are magazines, newspapers and even board games to keep you and your friends occupied while enjoying a beverage or meal. They also have merchandise on display such as purses and teapots. It is a very modern, comfortable space.

**Symposium**

Symposium Café on King Street has both a bar/restaurant area in their establishment and a quieter section in the back of the café. Cozy seating makes it a great place to sit and relax or go for dinner with a friend.

**Whole Lot-A Gelata**

If you're looking for a unique environment, Whole Lot-A Gelata in downtown Waterloo on King is a very relaxed modern café and restaurant.

The two levels separate the less cozy atmosphere of the lower level from couches and quieter environment of the upper level. There are organic options on the menu, delicious house coffees and many flavours of yummy gelato to choose from.

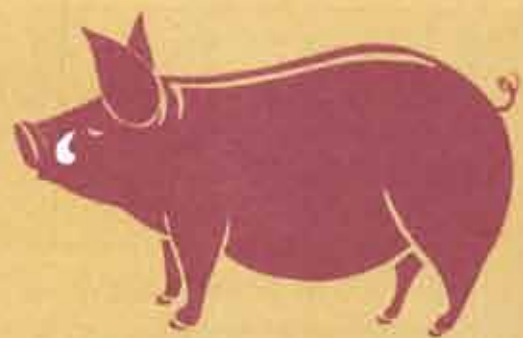
Whole Lot-A Gelata has "Waterloo's best lattes" according to an older female customer. I must admit, my chai latte was delicious.

So if you've got time to spare and want to avoid the coffee-crazed crowds, try finding a more laid-back place to read, study or take someone on a date. Everyone enjoys tasting a new flavour!

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# Legally speaking, help!

When roommate drama goes too far, legal action may be the necessary avenue for solving the tough issues. Whether you are a student living on campus or off, there are simple steps that can be taken to make your living situation a lot more pleasant

**ANDREA MATHIESON**  
CORD STUDENT LIFE

Everybody knows that having a roommate is a hard part of university; living with someone and sharing space 24 hours a day is bound to cause problems. But where can the line be drawn between a simple clash in personalities and more serious issues? It is important to know the protocol to follow when

roommate issues surpass a simple messy room and start to become a violation of your rights.

At Laurier, more than 1,800 people on campus share their room or suite with at least one other person. When accepted into a campus residence, an agreement is signed, outlining the rules to living in such a close community. This agreement is meant to serve as boundaries for all residence life.

According to this agreement, "Behaviour considered harassing or violent as determined by the Residential Services Department will result in immediate eviction from residence."

Chris Dodd, the manager of housing services and residence life, has had a lot of experience with roommate issues. Dons are an important part of residence life, and many issues go through them.

"We do roommate conflict-specific training as well as conflict mediation and conflict resolution," explained Dodd.

If issues are reported to a don, it is their job to help fix them. Depending on the severity of the situation, they would try to mediate the conflict. They might also file a report and get in touch with the residential co-ordinator. This would be responded to as soon as necessary. One of the problems residential services faces is that students do not speak out when experiencing problems until the issue becomes unmanageable.

Disciplinary measures for these types of situations differ depending on the case; sometimes roommate counselling is suggested, or individual counselling if residential services believe there is a psychological component to the individual experiencing or causing the problem. Other issues do end in a roommate change or residence change; really severe situations can end in suspension or expulsion from residence.

Temporary suspension from residence is usually the punishment for getting caught with drugs for the first time, followed by expulsion from residence if caught again. Chris Dodd explained, "Two years ago there was zero tolerance, so if you were caught with drugs you're gone."

"We've relaxed it a little bit because we like to give people the chance to maybe learn from their mistakes, understand what it

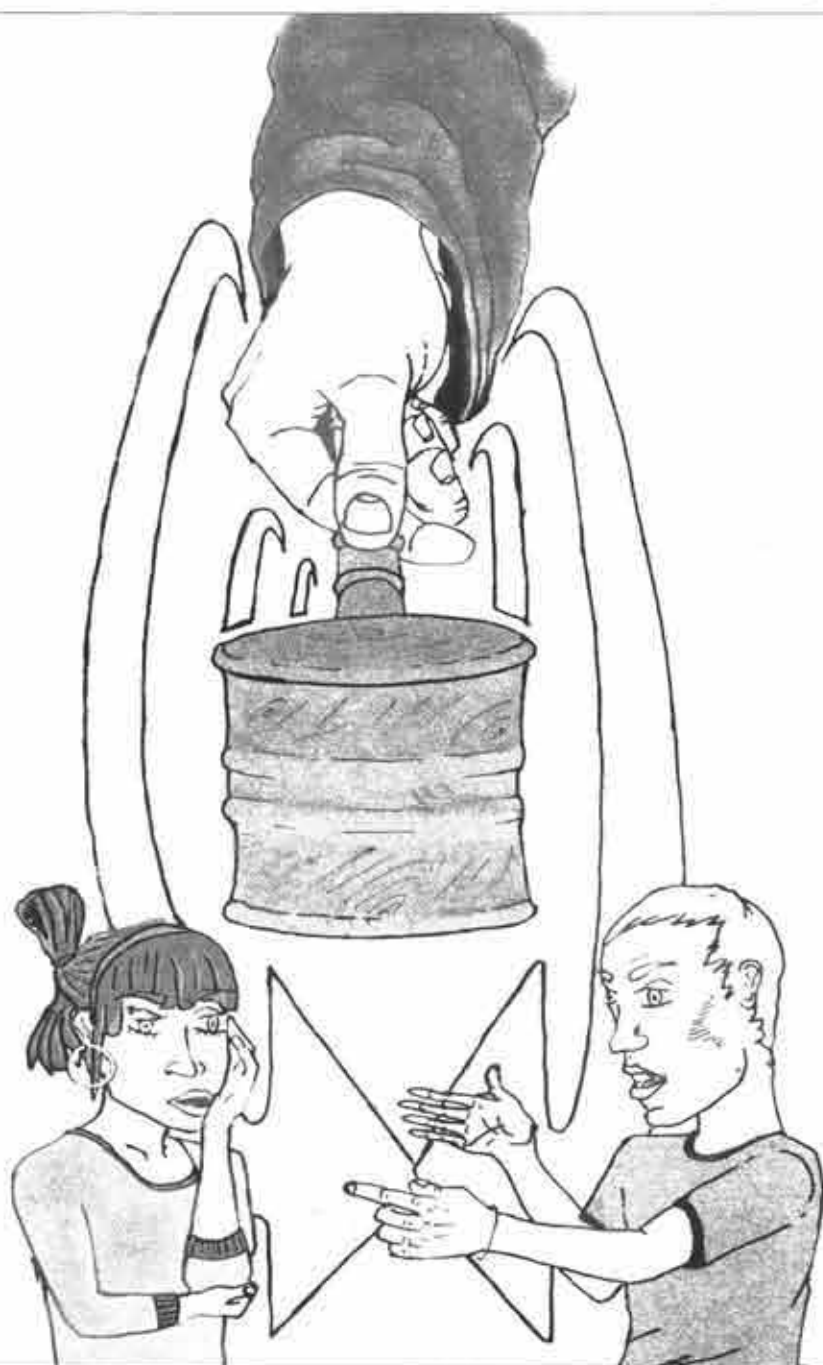
means to live in a community, what it means to live by the contract that you sign, give them a chance to have another crack at it," he continued. Life in residence is kept completely separate from academic life: when an issue occurs in residence, the punishment is kept there; there are no academic ratifications for those who may have been punished in residence.

As far as living off campus goes, the legality differs depending on the lease and the landlord. However, basic rights do not differ. The difference is that a service is not as easily accessible to report these issues, as it is in residence.

Depending on the severity of the situation, certain steps can be taken to find solutions to the issues. A landlord is a good resource; since leases can differ in specifics, a landlord will be able to tell you whether or not they are willing to help with the situation or if outside help should be sought out.

Laurier also provides a service called Legal Municipal Resources. Trained volunteers can answer legal questions to the best of their ability. They know a lot about the Residential Tenancies Act, which outlines important information on landlord and tenant relationships. Through using this service, students can be pointed in the right direction based on their case.

There is also an e-mail address you can contact if you have a legal question, which can be easily accessed through their website at [www.wlusu.com/ua/lmr.htm](http://www.wlusu.com/ua/lmr.htm).



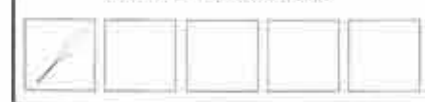
GRAPHIC BY ALEX FILICE

**GETTING JUSTICE** - When serious roommate issues arise, take advantage of the legal resources available.

## Calling all chocoholics

Chocolate lovers rejoice! A perfect dessert to make during exam crunch time

**Difficulty Level:**  
Chocoholics Cake



**JACLYN STIEF**  
CORD STUDENT LIFE

Chocolate. Soft. Rich. Melted pockets of chocolate chips. Velvety smooth. Need I say more? If that made your mouth water with delight, read below to find out how to make a cake for those people in your life who live for chocolate, or just to satisfy your own sweet tooth.

Whether you are a master baker or new to the kitchen, you will not have a problem baking this cake. It is super easy and really fast to make, but don't be surprised when guests come back and ask for seconds!

### Chocoholic's Cake Ingredients:

1 pkg chocolate cake mix  
1 pkg vanilla instant pudding mix  
1/2 cup safflower/canola oil  
1/2 cup water  
4 eggs  
1 cup sour cream  
6 oz semisweet chocolate chips

### Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.  
Using a hand mixer or a wooden spoon, mix all the ingredients except the chocolate chips together in a large bowl.  
Add the chocolate chips and blend together.  
Pour the batter into a well-greased bundt/tube pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes.  
Let cool and invert onto plate.  
Enjoy!

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# LAURIER



## Be prepared

NOVEMBER 26, 2008

### Critical Incident Simulation

Wilfrid Laurier University will be staging a critical incident simulation exercise on the Waterloo campus between 8 a.m. and 12 noon on Wednesday, November 26 so that officials and emergency personnel can rehearse Laurier's emergency lockdown procedures.

The simulation will involve an armed intruder coming to Laurier's Waterloo campus and taking hostages inside Willison Hall. There will be a strong police and emergency services presence for this exercise and teams of tactical officers will be on campus with emergency vehicles and full gear. Please stay clear of the Willison Hall area from 8 a.m. until 12 noon to ensure that the exercise can run as smoothly as possible.

A lockdown simulation will be initiated for the rest of the Waterloo campus community on the same day, starting at 8:30 a.m. All staff, faculty and students on campus at this time are asked to participate by taking a few moments to review and discuss the university's lockdown procedures, and to consider what the nearest safe room might be for you and your colleagues to gather in if there was a critical incident taking place at that time.

#### The basic lockdown steps are:

- 1 | Immediately move to the nearest room you feel is safe with as many people as possible
- 2 | Lock and barricade the door
- 3 | Turn off the lights or maintain minimal lighting
- 4 | Close all windows and blinds
- 5 | Lie flat on the floor or take adequate cover out of sight
- 6 | Turn off cell phones unless you need to report injured people
- 7 | Remain calm and quiet, and do not attempt to leave the room until police arrive

Laurier's Special Constable Service will be in the Concourse on the Waterloo campus over noon hour on November 19<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, and in the lounge of the Odeon Building on the Brantford campus on November 20<sup>th</sup>, to provide information and answer questions about Laurier's lockdown procedures.

For more information about Laurier's lockdown procedures and emergency plan, visit the website at [www.wlu.ca/emergency](http://www.wlu.ca/emergency)




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Don't blow out the candles yet, Will!



We apologize for an error printed in the WLU on Nov 18th. Laurier's birthday & Laurier Bookstore sale is Nov 20th, not the 18th.

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*lɪˈspɪrɪŋ* [el-es-purg] (ēl-ēs-pūrg)  
abbr. Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group; a student-oriented organization that provides opportunities for its members\* to be agents of social change.

*Got an idea?* LSPiRG encourages members to initiate events, activities or campaigns in pursuit of a just world. Applications to start a working group available online.

\*All undergraduate students are members of LSPiRG. Community membership available!

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## WLU can be more LGBTQ inclusive

It's astonishing how much the mentality of the WLU community has changed towards LGBTQ individuals since 1985.

With the creation of the university-funded Rainbow Centre three years ago, this mentality has changed even more rapidly.

WLU should be proud to be an institution that has begun to break down the barriers of the male-female dichotomy and make the school a place where Queer students feel safe and welcome.

But along with this pride, WLU students should also feel that there is much more work to be done. Religion and Culture professor Chris Klassen was right in observing that homosexuality is "allowable, but it's not necessarily normal."

Initiatives at other universities, such as gender-neutral washrooms at the University of Northern British Columbia and gender-neutral housing units at York University, would help further inclusiveness at Laurier as well.

However, the most important change that needs to be made at Laurier is still a change in mentality. The best thing a Laurier student

can do to create an inclusive space on campus is to become an ally.

Becoming an ally does not mean you have to attend every Rainbow Centre event or publicly protest in support of LGBTQ issues.

What it means is that you should be knowledgeable about Queer issues and be sentient about the ways the outdated male-female dichotomy still affects daily life on campus.

After all, university is the time to begin questioning norms and values in society, and few norms are causing more prejudices today than those regarding the Queer community.

Often students coming into university haven't previously thought about problems with the way society functions. Before graduating, it should be every student's responsibility to understand the reality behind what it means to be Queer.

One day, when Laurier is a school with fully inclusive practices, when hate crimes no longer exist and when the student body is one of allies to the Queer community, we will have even more reason to be proud.



GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION

## Students must be aware about state of economy

Being in university, it's easy for students to feel that they exist inside a bubble, that the outside world won't have any effects on the world inside campus boundaries.

The current financial crisis that is affecting the United States, Canada and most of the world is one very good reason to start thinking otherwise.

We all need to be aware of the fiscal issues Canada faces, as they will have a direct impact on a number of aspects of university life.

Most acutely, the financial crisis will have severe impacts on the university's staff pension fund, which is tied up in investments, and will likely lead to millions of dollars in deferred maintenance, leaving the university in poor repair.

It could mean a weaker job market upon graduating university as well. Also, if there was any hope of funding renovations to the university's Olympic-length pool, it drowned with the onset of economic downturn.

This crisis will also play a part in shaping the current full-time faculty negotiations.

Granted, Pat Bolland, moderator of yesterday's panel on the economy at CIGI, said that the crisis is not as bad as the media is making it out to be.

Indeed, there is no reason to be overly cynical. There is, though, a need to be informed about the state of the economy, so that we can plan ahead for what the future holds.

*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 WLUSP.*

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DAN POLISCHUK  
WEB EDITOR

I admit - I'm a little jaded.

Starting off my fifth and final year at Laurier, I was looking forward to my one last chance to get that coveted purple and gold t-shirt with the words "Intramural Champions" printed across the chest.

Well, I'm sorry to say that those plans didn't exactly pan out. It hurts a little more though that it was the Laurier intramural program executives that not only let a long-time participant down, but a team of 14 players made up of current students and alumni.

As a member of the B-Sharps co-ed slo-pitch team, it's safe to say that we played with a target on our backs; having a WLU staff and Board member that was good for a couple of homeruns a game will do that to you.

Sure, teams have raised eyebrows at our team - by the amount of runs we scored, etcetera. But not once did we break the rules. Not once did we exceed the boundaries of the Fair Play Rules outlined by the Athletic Department. We were simply there to win.

And the intramural organizers took that away from us.

After winning a crucial play-off game, we were accused of

cheating - apparently for having skipped an individual in our batting order. The victory was almost immediately ruled null and void and we were dropped from further competition.

For how things are done at Laurier (recall the slogan "We Line Up"?), that judgment seemed to come a little too quick.

The fact that the program contradicted its very own rules and regulations makes me wonder where the league's leadership was throughout the entire process.

For instance, the formation of a team with only one female player on it - which is blatantly forbidden in the rules - was permitted. Funny enough, that was the same team that protested our "cheating" ways and inevitably was allowed to challenge for the championship. In reality, this whole mess wouldn't have occurred had organizers known their own rules.

Like I said before, I know that I probably come across as a little bitter. But when you front \$30 to play - and have that taken away from you unfairly - I think a little bitterness is justified.

Some will argue that there's a grudge being held and that "we're all there just to have fun, anyway." My argument, in that case, is that if we're there "to just have fun," then why are students paying the \$30 that inevitably goes to paying officials, staff and other facility fees? We're paying school fees already - so why pay more for hav-

ing "fun?"

Also, if we're there for the aforementioned reason, then why doesn't the intramural program have teams pick representatives from both squads to act as officials? It would certainly bring down or eliminate registration costs altogether not having to pay for an official.

If we're there "just for fun," why are standings kept? Why are scores even recorded?

What I - along with the dedicated participants who dropped a solid amount of money - wanted was some decent competition against like-minded athletes who may have played sports growing up and didn't have the chance to do it once they graduated from high school.

So forgive me if I feel like I was robbed - due to the incompetence of a few.

Just this past summer, Laurier's Athletic and Recreation Department was awarded with the Outstanding Intramural Achievement Award by the Canadian Intramural Recreation Association (CIRA) for its excellence in intramural programming in 2007-2008.

Kudos to them.

But it would certainly bode well for them, and ultimately the student body, if they learn from negative experiences like this one so they can actually maintain an award-winning tradition.

letters@cordweekly.com

## Point/Counterpoint:

## Should you follow the law?



The law exists in instances where people can't agree on norms, and needs to be respected



**ALLIE MAXTED**  
RESIDENT CYNIC

You are heading to class and waiting at the pedestrian crossing in front of St. Michael's. A crowd begins to form as you wait. All of a sudden, one person starts to cross the road, and then everyone follows.

You look up and see that the light is still green but cars are being forced to stop, notwithstanding their right of way.

A small minority of people never cross the street when the walk sign isn't there. I intend to speak up for that minority.

This minor case of law-breaking probably does not seem like a big deal to you. In fact, many of us break the law every day. Everybody knows that a 100km/h speed limit really means 120km/h.

Minor regulations such as traffic laws come with social norms that routinely break them.

Why, then, do I refuse to cross the street during a green? The difference between that and going 20km/h over on the 401 is significant.

With the case of speeding, it is a norm deeply entrenched in society and it holds consistently true. Both the police and all drivers have the same expectations about how people should react to speed limits.

With the case of the St. Michael's crossing, the expectations are less clear. Drivers have the expectation that green means go, and yet pedestrians have established that a large enough group justifies an exception to this rule.

But the size of this number could depend on the time of day, the weather, the location of the crossing, etc.

Because of this the threshold is left to subjectivity, and there is no way to establish it as a commonly held norm.

What is important is not necessarily following the laws, but following the reasonable expectations of others as governed by social norms.

If society can agree upon a behaviour outside of the law which does not result in conflicting expectations, like speeding 20km/h over, this is of little concern; but this kind of agreement is rare.

The law still stands as the best representation of a society's idea of fairness and justice.

In a liberal democratic society like Canada, the law serves as an objective arbitrator when expectations conflict.

And because the laws are agreed upon by a majority, the norms which become entrenched into law live up to a standard of fairness and justice.

In law, pedestrians only agree not to cross when the light is green so they can be assured a chance to cross when the light is red.

These kinds of agreements begin with traffic laws but extend into acts as serious as murder.

Because there are so many different conceptions of right and wrong and so many times when our interests conflict, to live together in a peaceful and ordered society we need an objective standard to apply.

As a society we have declared that murder

is wrong, as we have done with every other law.

If you find a law to be unfair or unjust then you cannot simply elect not to follow it, just as you cannot break a contract without first renegotiating with the other party.

Becoming involved to change the law is a way to voice your discontent in a way that respects it.

This is not a blind adherence to the law, nor is it a conception of the law as something which is up to you alone to decide on.

When you choose to interpret the law as something which may be left to subjectivity, you risk breaking the law at a time when others expect you to follow it.

Not only does this undermine the fairness that the objectivity of the law ensures, it also threatens the very norms which hold a society together.

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



A sense of morality should guide our actions rather than blind adherence to written rules



**JAMES POPKIE**  
REBEL WITH A CAUSE

If you have ever criticized someone for breaking the law, ask yourself this: have you ever jaywalked? Have you ever done drugs or drank underage, or illegally downloaded music off the internet? Have you ever ridden a bicycle on the sidewalk, or without a helmet while under the age of 18? Have you ever driven above the speed limit?

If so, then guess what - you're a lawbreaker too. Regardless of how much our society loves to advocate the values of law and order, in one way or another just about all of us are lawbreakers.

Certain laws - like those against murder, rape, theft or assault - should be viewed as moral rules that we should all follow. Nat-

urally, it's good that, as a society, we do not collectively tolerate such infractions against humanity. In fact, if anything, the Canadian justice system doesn't deal out strong enough punishments for many such acts.

However, it is because they are infractions against humanity, not because they are illegal, that such acts should be viewed with contempt.

On the other hand, smaller and more insignificant laws that regulate victimless crimes should be viewed more as guidelines than anything. In some cases, it makes sense for the laws to exist, but it does not make sense for them to be followed all the time - this should be left to one's discretion.

Anyone who holds the law in such high esteem that they would deem it morally wrong to walk across a street while the light is red with no cars approaching, or to hang laundry in one's backyard where it is prohibited, is foolishly devoted to a belief in the virtue of all-encompassing lawfulness.

I would even say that this level of adherence to the law is downright irrational. Sometimes, such as when one adheres to the law by riding their bicycle on a busy road instead of the sidewalk, it can be dangerous as well.

If the world had no people with a defiant disposition, we would not have had all the instigators of revolutions who questioned established norms and laws when those rules reeked of injustice.

We would not have the people who saw oppression and rose up with a resounding "no." We would just have a world of people who are reduced to little more than complacent sheep.

We must always question the law and never have blind faith in the system. This is necessary to keep authority in check and ensure it doesn't run amok on a power trip, as it often will when people are willing to be apathetic about it.

After all, our leaders and law enforcers are human too. They have every bit as much of a capacity for committing infractions against their fellow human beings as the rest of us.

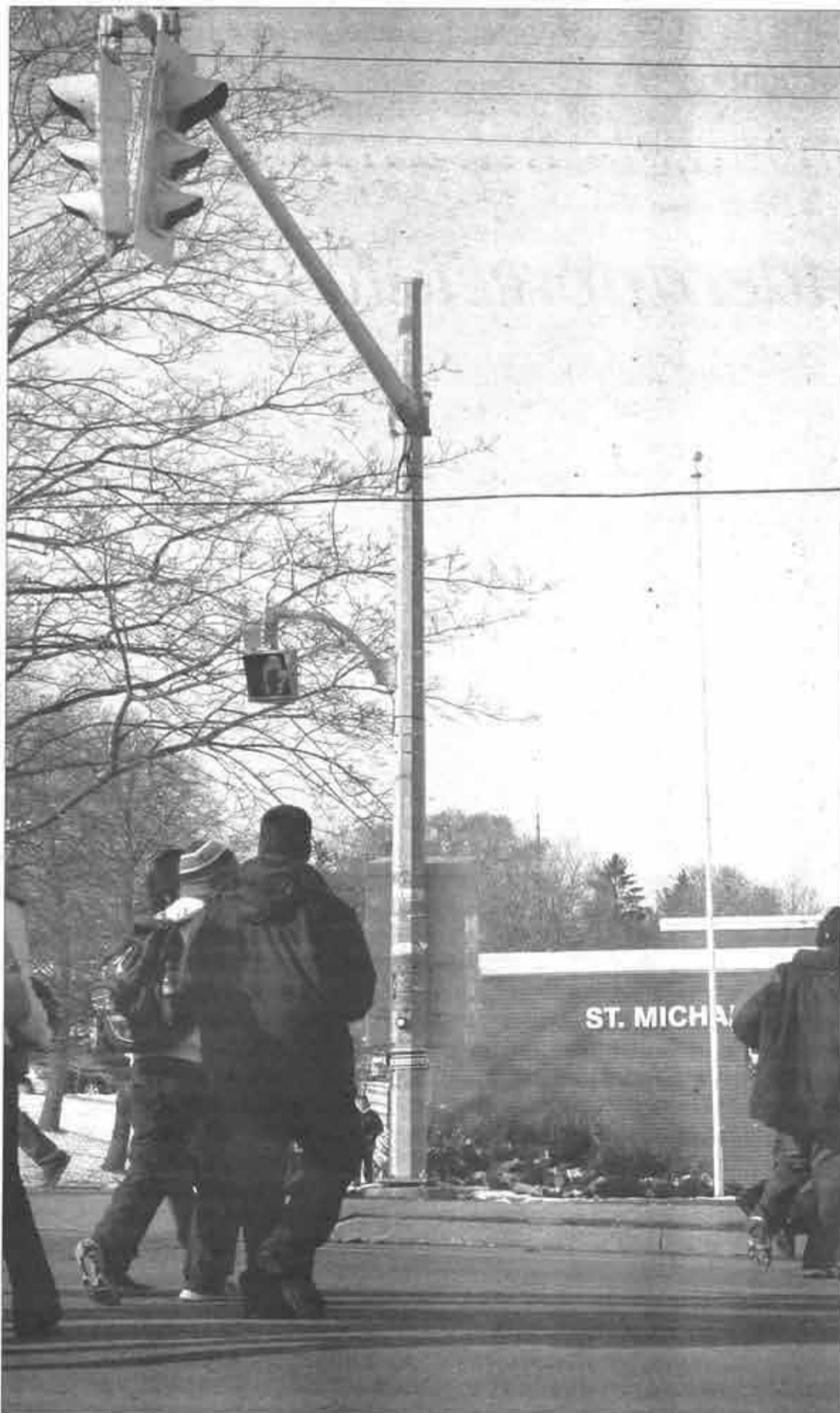
It is true that a society without laws of any sort would collapse upon itself, and there are certain aspects of human behaviour that are so atrocious they must be regulated.

However, the absurdity of many rules helps explain why some people have a negative outlook toward the law, creating an oppositional reaction that will drive them toward a totally deviant standpoint.

If the law was more reasonable, then the populace would take it more seriously and would be less inclined to veer in the direction of criminality.

Although not all laws are widely enforced, the fact is that even in "free" countries, a wide array of draconian laws exist that are intent on regulating not only the horrific, unjust and cruel aspects of human behaviour, but just about every other attribute as well. There are a great deal of "crimes" that are truly victimless in every sense of the word.

A well-intentioned feeling of adherence toward the morals that keep society together shouldn't necessitate total obedience to every single ridiculous rule in the book.



LAURA TOMKINS

**DON'T WALK** - Students often jaywalk while crossing the street to St. Michael's Campus.

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

# Letters to the Editor

## Defending activism

I would like to defend activism in light Allie Maxted article last week, "Activism is Only One Means of Change."

Activism by its very nature employs a certain dynamism of its own. Activism is not merely a checklist of ideas, beliefs and actions with which you must operate within. Activism is fluid, amorphous and has, and continues to shape society. Last week's article reflects Ms. Maxted's own disposition rather than fact and presents only half truths which continue to muddle this very serious debate. The following will deconstruct the problems with the article.

Activism is not defined by undergraduate student protestors. While undergraduates have traditionally played and continue to play a major role in fighting for Social Justice - the simple truth is that activists exist within all elements of society: government, academia, business, religion, industry and the complex of other institutions which drive society. Activism finds its membership amongst people of all ages, ethnicities, nationalities and genders.

Activism is not defined so narrowly by protests and your participation in them. Traditionally activism has included: signing petitions, attending lectures, being involved within the community socially, politically, economically

and culturally, writing letters to government officials as well as educating and empowering yourself with knowledge in order to act as a good citizen.

Activism is not merely an Identity or way of life. Defining activism in terms of its countercultural context is only one-dimensional. By suggesting that in order to be an activist you must subscribe to certain sets of ideas and that an activist cannot hold conflicting views reflects Maxted's opinion. In fact, activists are perhaps some of the most critical amongst themselves and of the tactics with which they employ.

Finally, in terms of setting priorities - this was Maxted's focal point and it detracts from the entire argument. Ms. Maxted, what you are referring to is radical activism and not the sort of progressive reform activism with which you so readily apply as a counterweight to your narrow definition of activism. Just because you do not listen to activists does not mean they do not make an impact.

- Luke Stewart

## Thanking my ancestors for fighting

I never thanked my grandfathers for being in the Second World War. One escaped with the Dutch army

while his family starved under German occupation. Another barely survived a sinking ship in the Atlantic and served behind the lines in the Provost Corps. Neither saw combat, but they were still willing to fight.

One cannot dismiss soldiers as individuals. They cannot be grouped into one idea; one set of values; one meaning. Many veterans will admit that taking someone's life is the most horrific act they have ever committed. War is a tragedy; war is evil.

And worst of all, sometimes war is necessary.

To maintain that pacifism is the only morally acceptable position, that killing is never justified, is hard to accept. Pacifists argue that the right to life is absolute and killing is always morally wrong. What then, if you are attacked and have no choice? Whose life has more value? Victim or Aggressor? Pacifists argue that killing is wrong as it objectifies human life to be taken without thought. But the refusal to intervene when a victim can't fight back expresses more about relationships with other beings than the willingness to kill. Denigrating your own sense of self and disconnecting from those lives is just as appalling.

We are not thanking veterans for killing. We are thanking them because they broke that ultimate moral maxim of their own free will. It is insulting to think that it is so

easy to kill. It is insulting to not respect that decision. They willingly gave up their lives and the luxury of moral superiority.

On Remembrance Day, we thank veterans because we will never have to kill. Because we can afford to make that choice. For my generation, Remembrance Day should not be solely about veterans. It should not be about war or peace. It should not be about politics. It is about remembering that we are living the lives we are for a reason. Be thankful for that. I never thanked my grandfathers for what they did. That's why I like to wear the poppy.

- Geoff Keelan

## Poppies symbolize more than violence

I sensed a couple things in last week's Remembrance Day opinion piece: anger, despair, and some confusion. Confusion? Well I think that's something we all deal with, especially when talking about violence. But confusion should be no excuse to try and limit one's own understanding or make sweeping generalizations. This is especially true of Remembrance Day.

In Ypres, Belgium, the locals have held a ceremony at the Menin Gate for the soldiers lost in the First World War every night since 1918.

I don't see that as problematic or celebrating war, I see it as an appreciation of peace and a sign of respect.

Critics should ultimately realize that this is one day a year. One day to remember, reflect, and apply the lessons of our past to our futures; not apply the lessons of our present to our past.

I understand and commend those who want to speak for the victims of war who do not have a voice, but I think we have 364 other days of the year for that.

I suggest that those who loathe Remembrance Day should step down from their soapboxes some day and walk the battlefields as I have, touch the shrapnel still churned up in farmers' fields, gaze in horror as you are surrounded by the headstones of thousands of lost soldiers (some as young as 15 and 16 years old) and seriously contemplate what Remembrance Day is all about. To negate their experience is to limit oneself to foresight. The process of remembrance is much more complicated than issues of violence.

I have never seen war, nor have I ever been in war - I think that is probably the case for the majority of students at this university. There was a time when I too questioned 'why should I care?' I encourage everyone to ask themselves the same question, you may be sur-

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# Feminism underappreciated

Women with passive mentalities set back the women's rights movement



DEVON BUTLER  
HYDE PARK CORNER

Sometimes I am ashamed to be female. Ashamed that the past 100 years of the women's rights movement is lost on today's generation of women.

Restrictive expectations of a woman's role in society have always existed. It was assumed that women were not educated or knowledgeable in worldly matters, but in affairs of housekeeping and caring for the family.

The transition to the 1700s saw the birth of the "accomplished" woman; one who was educated in fine arts, literature and manners. The purpose of such an education was not to liberate women, but to make them more desirable to men so they could find a suitable husband.

It is impossible to sum up the last century in women's rights in only a few sentences. These years, however, saw women gaining the right to vote, to own land, to attend university and to enter the workforce.

Now, in 2008, women in North America are closer than ever before to achieving equality. However, there is still a long way to go, with

new obstacles presenting themselves. This time, the obstacles are not due to male oppression, but women oppressing themselves.

In 2007, Pink released a song entitled "Stupid Girls" which condensed the issue of the "female stupidity epidemic" into a catchy tune. Lyrics such as: "What happened to the dreams of a girl president?/ She's dancing in the video next to 50 Cent," question this generation's values.

This idea of a "stupid girl" is not to say that girls are inherently unintelligent, but rather that they dumb themselves down. It's possible that some females think passive "damsel-in-distress" behaviour catches male attention. Are women content to play into such stereotypical roles?

Young girls are being constantly influenced to behave in this manner. The question is how and why? Is it for male attention? Is this what has caused this common affliction of so many young girls?

Perhaps seeming passive and ditz is just a façade to appeal to males - but it escalates further. This widespread personality that has received male attention has become the goal of so many other envious girls.

Where did this cycle begin? I'm getting tired of the predictable "blame the media" mentality, yet

there is truth to it. The media is doubtlessly a contributing root to this behavioural pandemic.

Prime examples are popular television programs such as *90210*, *Gossip Girl* and reality flicks such as *Paris Hilton's My New BFF* and *The Hills*. These programs consist of beautiful women who are void of obvious intellect, yet somehow have everything else - money, popularity and men.

These ditz, cocktail-swilling, trend-setting, boy-obsessed, gossiping characters have defined young girls and women.

It can be argued that at most Canadian universities, student populations are around 60 percent female, therefore women must be intelligent.

I have no doubt that these women in university and the women on television screens have intellect. The root of the problem is cultural: that in a capitalist society, stupidity sells.

Women today are given countless opportunities that were unavailable to women even fifty years ago. When girls act superficially, it is disrespectful to the hard work of the women's rights movement and the progress made. Feminist movements still have a long way to go.

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# Use academia for practical purposes



**KEREN GOTTFRIED**  
RESIDENT GADFLY

Ralph Nader, American activist and (unsuccessful) Green Party presidential candidate, lectured to a full house for over two hours last Thursday at the University of Waterloo.

More than any particular political recommendation or commentary he prescribed, it was his *raison d'être* that impressed me.

Nader went to Princeton and then Harvard for law school, later working as a lawyer and professor. Despite a successful academic life, the 74-year-old man is far from the "ivory tower" type, not to be found avoiding the light of day in a dusty library.

Ralph Nader is an activist. He is a public intellectual who thinks knowledge is at its best when it is put to practical use.

"To know and not to act is not to know," he insisted, quoting a Chinese proverb.

He urged the people sitting in the audience to do something with the knowledge they have acquired.

And now is the time to do it.

Never will we have the same freedom to mobilize and influence as we do while at university, Nader said. The sheer amount of resources at our disposal now will simply never be surpassed.

When I reflect on my experiences as a student politician and journalist, I cannot agree with him more.

I am constantly amazed by the near fantasy world within which campus media and politics operate. I wonder why my peers do not take more advantage of it to be controversial and challenging.

Consider our campus newspaper. We are backed by a steady stream of advertisers dying to get to the student market, unlike real-world print news sources that are shrinking in size and revenue sources and are looking for new ways to survive.

Our writers are rarely censored and are allowed to take whatever political position they choose. You will never get this sort of editorial freedom in the "real world."

Our student politicians have so much power at their disposal it is almost frightening. WLUSU is a multi-billion dollar institution with policies that are written and enforced by students.

We create our own Campus Clubs, we make policies, we hold rallies and so much more, all for free.

The best part is just how easy it is to use these resources. If you don't think so, you're not talking to the right people. Approach any seasoned school activist and they will help you.

I can't describe the volume of drool they produce when they are approached by someone who says, "I want to get involved in your cause."

If you want to share your ideas, or rally people for a cause that moves you, there is no more motivating or encouraging place to get it done than right here, right now.

Nader also advocated using your research opportunities for practical good. He published several articles while at Harvard Law School on automotive safety, eventually leading to the United States adopting the 1966 National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

When was the last time you wrote a paper about social justice? Or something that actually mattered to the larger population?

University students are encouraged to pursue knowledge for knowledge's sake. This is a culture that any thriving democracy should actively promote.

But we have as much a responsibility to fuel that democracy as we do a right to enjoy its luxuries. We have a professional obligation, derived from the fact that we use public funds, to take our ideas and use them to promote public discourse on social issues.

Socrates was described as a gadfly to society because he made people challenge the status quo in ways they didn't want to, annoying them to a point of forced awareness of their own biases.

He didn't just pursue academia among the elites of society, speaking in an alien, hyper-theoretical language only intelligible to that small community.

He took his ideas to the streets, shaping society by acting without compromise on his values. He was the epitome of the public intellectual.

Ralph Nader has done the same. He represents a style of thinking and living that every person who gives a damn about the world should embody.

You are in a position of privilege. By pursuing an undergraduate education, you are already in the upper echelon of the global class system.

What have you done with that privilege to benefit the world around you?

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

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prised at how difficult it can be. For myself, however, I think over these last few years I've been able to make better sense of it all. And because of this, every November 11<sup>th</sup> I wear the poppy.

- Kellen Kurchinski

## Josh Smyth disrespects our veterans

Josh Smyth is a genius! Mr. Smyth believes that 1.1% of Canada's GDP is too much to be spent on the military. Instead he would rather the government spend it on "improving human welfare". He would like everyone to believe that spending the extra money on social improvements in Canada would have stopped Hitler and the holocaust, and that making sure no one was hungry in Kosovo would have stopped the events that happened there. As he so eloquently put it, "bullshit".

The purpose of our military is not to subjugate other countries and "put bullets into someone's brain" but to help and protect those that cannot help themselves. The Canadian Forces does more than teach people proper combat strategies. It includes search and rescue, and providing care for those who need it. Maybe Mr. Smyth does not know that The Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) is part of the Canadian Forces and

would like DART to be shut down as well. DART is the team that was sent to Sri Lanka after the hurricane in 2004, and to Pakistan after the earthquake in 2005 to provide medical care, clean water, and to repair infrastructure. Mr. Smyth I congratulate you. Without your insightful knowledge of the Canadian Forces I would not have known that an organization that provides clean water to children could possibly be evil.

The purpose of Remembrance Day, and the meaning of the poppy, is to remember the men, women, and children that worked, fought, or died not only in the defence of themselves and their country but other people as well. While we acknowledge the deaths that have occurred in our past, Remembrance Day is not a celebration of those deaths, rather it is an honour for the people that made the sacrifice that we did not and should never have to make.

To the member of the choir that was wearing a sweater that read "Military Free Zone" during the ceremony and Mr. Smyth: Just remember who fought and died so that you could wear that sweater or write that article.

- Alexander Canavan

## Remembrance Day article offensive

I am just writing to express my shame and disgust in the article "Why I don't like to wear a poppy". The article was totally offensive. I don't know why someone would want to demonize something like the poppy. If he cannot see how poppies are representative NOT of the glorification of war and killing people, but of honouring all our veterans and soldiers who put their lives on the line (and continue to do so) for the sake of humanity, then I suggest he pick up a history book and get a reality check. The fact that he says war is not necessary is completely absurd. The least he can do is wear it one day out of the year to show some respect for all our soldiers. He wouldn't last a single day in the battlefield.

I hope no veterans read his article.

-Raena Dempsey

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CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

**STOIC** - Olga Kurylenko and Daniel Craig looking bad-ass in black.

**KEVIN HATCH**  
STAFF WRITER

It would seem that Bond, James Bond, has yet to tire of reinventing himself. After the critical and commercial success of precursor *Casino Royale*, one would have expected producers to take the safe route of carrying on the franchise with the same self-reflexive yet supremely entertaining tone.

But far be it from 007 to settle for the safe option, as *Quantum of Solace* showed fearless confidence from day one, from the tongue-tripping title (referring to Bond seeking emotional closure after the death of the one woman he allowed himself to love) to being the first direct sequel in the series (picking up only a matter of hours after *Casino Royale* finished). The final film encompasses this tone, simultaneously returning to the more fun spirit of earlier Bond outings while paradoxically proving to be one of the least "Bond-like" films in the series.

This curious hybridity of tone can likely be attributed to unconventional director Marc Foster, more renowned for harrowing character studies like *Monster's Ball* or *Finding Neverland*. But while not versed in action credentials, Foster cannot be faulted for lack of ambition, kicking off his film at a frenzied pace which seldom slows, cohesion cast aside in favour of sheer energy and movement. As such, the film never quite gels as a whole, but the sum of its fragmentary parts proves too entertaining for one to mind.

Aiming beyond the superficiality of the traditional Bond film without sacrificing its gleeful escapism, *Quantum of Solace* proves the most overtly politically and socially topical Bond film to date. In lieu of the usual oversimplifications of global politics, this Bond interacts with a world where major governments lend support to corrupt dictators in exchange for oil, and the villain is frightening - not because of a laughably over-the-top scheme to rule the world, but for

# Bond's solace

Daniel Craig reprises his role as James Bond in *Quantum of Solace* - a film that continues to redefine Bond as an introspective, yet still bad-ass spy

playing upon valid environmental concerns.

Foster's knack for credible characterization also makes the film the rare exception to the action movie rule, and the quiet character moments peppering the pyrotechnic mayhem prove among the film's most fulfilling points. As Bond - his soul as ravaged and barren as the desert setting symbolically chosen for the film's climax - desperately pursues either vengeance or peace, the film is given a crucial emotional core, with enough substance to make the film far more than an explosion-riddled guilty pleasure.

However, Foster knows his demographic, and almost over-compensates for the film's surprising complexity on the action front, saturating his film with enough viciously intense fistfights (though complaints may ensue over coordinator Dan Bradley over-recycling his distinctive style from the Bourne series), explosions and various vehicular chases (car, foot, motorcycle, boat and plane respectively) to enthrall even the most jaded action junkies.

Once again, Daniel Craig as 007 proves the high point of an already impressive film, masking Bond's

raw, seething emotions under a carefully cultivated shell of grim stoicism, making his inner turmoil all the more affective. Conversely, Craig is given more of a chance to exercise his suave wit this time, proving just as adept at wry quips as at heavy dramatic scenes or bone-crunching fights.

Olga Kurylenko's fierce simmer makes her a wonderfully compelling female lead, even if her chief motivation is overly familiar, and Mathieu Almaric is deliciously slimy as villainous Dominic Greene, all the more effective by how eerily plausible his character is. As usual, Judi Dench shines as Bond's superior M, providing a welcome burst of perfectly curt authority and class. However, despite her best attempts at a charming performance, Gemma Arterton's throwback to the "traditional" (i.e. more passive) Bond girl proves a misfire, her brief and uneventful role marking how unnecessary and out-of-place her inclusion was in the first place.

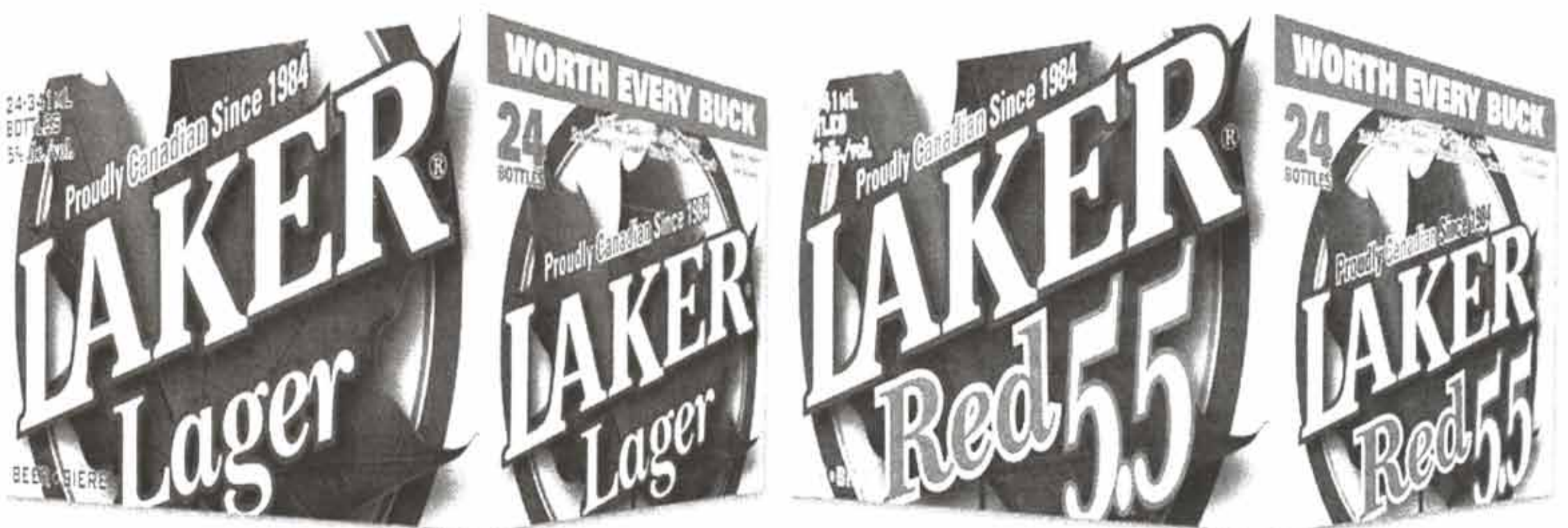
Despite the myriad of its exceptional parts, *Quantum of Solace* never quite convenes into a cohesive whole, giving the impression of a collection of subplots thrust together and shot off at high octane,

as heavy on political commentary and emotional drama as on action. An oddity for a 007 film, to be sure, but one so enormously entertaining that fans of the series and those unfamiliar with Bond alike are sure to be swept up by its gleefully mad-cap grandeur.



*Quantum of Solace*  
Director: Marc Foster  
Starring: Daniel Craig, Olga Kurylenko  
Release Date: 14/11/2008  
Rating: A-

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# A night at the Opera... Excerpts

*The Cord* hit up last week's Opera Excerpts in the Theatre Auditorium, a vibrant collection of the best scenes all of opera offers



NICK LACHANCE

**FROWNS ALL AROUND** - These actresses might be frowning, but the Opera Excerpts were a big success.

## GENEVIEVE RUSHTON-GIVENS STAFF WRITER

As I sat down in the auditorium on Friday night, I wondered if I'd ventured into the wrong place. There were a few black blocks sitting on a black wooden square, a few chairs and a piano off to the side. Where was the orchestra? Where were the costumes and elaborate sets? The answer to all the questions was simple: not needed. At the end of

the evening it was obvious that the performance was dramatic enough without the usual visual pomp of an opera.

The Opera Excerpts were performed on Friday and Saturday last week, from 8 to 10 p.m. in the Theatre Auditorium. The operas were musically directed by Sabatino Vacca and Elvera Froese.

The program consisted of *Cendrillon* (based on Cinderella) by Jules Massenet, *Regina* by Marc

Blitzstein, *Dead Man Walking* (based on the book by Sister Helen Prejean) by Jake Heggie, and the "arguably perfect opera" *Il Nozze di Figaro* (The Marriage of Figaro) by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. However, they only presented the highlights of each opera - the best parts.

The performers stood in rows to recite the dramatic introduction to the excerpts. Each performer had a few lines, finishing each other's

sentences. We were told that "this evening will be ... is ... magical," "we are the players ... this is the stage" and "something is about to happen," each line adding a bit of suspense.

The evening took us to fairyland, the Deep South in 1900, Louisiana in the '80s and Spain during the Renaissance, in the order of performance.

Co-director Sabatino Vacca felt that the program was appropriate for a diverse audience. "There is a wide variety of subject matter and a full gamut of emotion."

Watching each opera excerpt, it felt as vivid as changing the channel or watching the fragments of a dream. The performers had very few props, but enough to identify the character they were playing and the era of the opera. In *Regina*, all of the costumes and props were black or white, making it monochromatic, like a classic film. A character in *Dead Man Walking* even toted a Starbucks coffee cup as a prop.

One of the more interesting aspects of the excerpts was the light bulb. After each opera, a character would quietly turn off the light bulb hovering over centre stage as if it was symbolic. According to the stage director Joel Ivany, the light bulb was used "to somehow tie all the scenes together. With just the light bulb, the performers have nothing to hide behind," he added.

But the performers seemed very comfortable onstage. The whole

performance felt like a real opera. Samantha Lee, a first-year music major, had no trouble understanding the emotions conveyed by the excerpts. "You can really relate to the characters by their facial expressions even if you can't tell what they're saying when it's in a different language." *Cendrillon* was performed in French and *Il Nozze di Figaro* was performed in Italian.

The music was excellent. It was hard to pick the best moments out. If pressed, they would be Cinderella's opening aria about her missing slipper, performed by soprano Andrea Shea; the Rain Quarter (from *Regina*) featuring complex vocal arrangements; Birdie's aria from *Regina*, performed by soprano Nicole Dubinsky; and the sextet from *Dead Man Walking*. I liked the gradual dramatic build-up of this piece as more voices joined in, getting angry at the nun, making it a very intense scene.

Overall the performances were very theatrical, even including a backhanded face-slap in *The Marriage of Figaro*, delivered by the Count, and human statues that changed poses when performers weren't looking, which prompted belly laughs throughout the audience.

With a different cast for the Friday and Saturday performances, Mr. Vacca was unsure how one performance would compare to the other. "In a way, it's like doing it for the first time all over again."

## Cutting close

Libby Hague's emotional *Cut/close to home* shows at the Langen Art Gallery in the John Aird Centre

## ANNE DONAHUE STAFF WRITER

*Cut/close to home*, an installation piece by Canadian visual artist Libby Hague, opened at Laurier's Robert Langen Art Gallery on November 12 and will run until December 6.

An exhibit that depicts "when love goes wrong," *Cut/close to home* features a video loop of a man and woman boxing that is projected onto several layers of plastic curtain strips with which visitors are encouraged to interact. As the video plays, visitors walk through the strips and break up the cycle of violence, arriving at a bed on the other side.

"It's a complicated piece," explained Hague. "It's called '*Cut/close to home*' because it's projected on a screen that's cut ... and it's also called that because it's a segment from a larger film that was called *Close to Home* that I did, so that's one scene from it. And this was the scene that kind of worked as a loop and would stand alone."

Hague's piece shows the female boxer's size quickly growing to become equal to the man - and to demonstrate the psychological trauma of the relationship, the man himself appears worn out.

"In a way, even though she lost - he beat her up - she had stood up for herself," said Hague. "So I saw in a strange way as a kind of victory for her and she had far surpassed - in the context of this fight - what she thought she could do."

Hague's film is based on a true story of domestic violence that she read about. "It was a story of a family ... of an infanticide where a woman's child was killed by her husband and she had run away from the house. What interested me was the idea that this really very basic bond - the parental bond - was broken ... so that really was the essential thing for me and I kept wondering, 'What was it like to be her? When did she run away?' [Because] if she ran away while the child is alive, then the guilt that she bears and the responsibility is greater than if she left not know-



LAURA TOMPKINS

**BOXING** - A husband and wife box on a cut-up screen in Libby Hague's *Cut/close to home*.

ing or just what was her complicity in the whole scenario? So that was bothering me and made me want to go back and keep looking at it."

Hague's pieces are renowned for being dramatic and for addressing social and environmental issues and incorporating elements of disaster with elements of hope. The viewer feels empowered as an individual: "It's sort of a theme of a lot of my other work is what impact do we have; how can we change things as individuals? And that's why I liked the idea of being able to walk through this curtain, because I kind of thought of it as breaking a cycle of violence."

In addition to the visual aspect, the jazzy and emotionally

charged score - commissioned by Hague - offers another important element to the exhibit. "It's really sexy; the saxophone solo is haunting. So it almost to me suggests ... the love and attraction that had been there in the beginning. It sort of brings the early part of the relationship up." The bed also represents lost love and attraction, which she explains is "that sort of submerged sexual longing that happens in the score ... it also connects the fighting and the sexual tension. So it's all kind of mixed in the way real life is."

The balance of disaster and hope is important to Hague, who hopes to inspire her audiences. "You see [disaster] over and over and there's

a feeling of just, hopelessness that I want to fight against because I think it's just paralyzing," she explained.

"It's important to believe in the next step that we can take as people to try to effect change. It's basically trying to move towards making the world a better place, you know? And that's why I want people in it. So people can recognize what they can do to make a difference.... I think it's important to try and take that next step ... to try and do something and not give up."

The first version of *Cut/close to home* appeared at the Gladstone Hotel during Toronto's Nuit Blanche festival in 2007.